

# Successful Youth



**FAIRFAX COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL  
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2012**

# “Successful Youth”



**Children and youth reach adulthood with the skills, interests, and motivation to lead productive, healthy lives in caring relationships with other people.**

(“Children and youth” are inclusive of individuals from birth through age 21)

# Influencing Factors



- **Access to basic life essentials for food, shelter and health care** across the continuum of need
- Supportive & emotionally **healthy families**
- **Absence of abuse, neglect & trauma**
- Skill building in areas related to self-sufficiency: **employment and financial literacy**
- **Quality education**
- **Safe neighborhoods**
- **Engaged communities** that support the healthy development and well-being of children and families

# System Targets Youth and Young Adults:



- With **developmental disabilities**
- With **chronic health and mental illness**
- Deemed in need of services due to **truancy and/or runaway episodes**
- With **delinquency issues**
- Using **drugs and alcohol**
- Who **engage in verbal and physical aggression**
- Whose behavior is **self-destructive and/or self-injurious**
- Who have **experienced trauma** (examples: parental neglect, domestic violence, loss of family member, victims of abuse)
- Needing transitional assistance into **independent living**
- Residing in **high risk environments**

# Key Points



- Fairfax County **population ages 0-21: 305,310** (source: 2010 Census)
- **In Fairfax County, children are more likely than adults to live in poverty** (source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2009)
- Nearly ***50% of all children residing in Fairfax county (ages 0-17) have at least one non-native born parent*** (126,864 children)
- **There have been across the board increases in the number of families with children seeking and enrolling in assistance programs to help them with their daily living expenses**
  - child care
  - food assistance
  - health care

# Key Points



- **Ensuring healthy birth outcomes** has a positive long range effect on a child.
- **Cultural beliefs/practices** significantly impact a women's view of the state of pregnancy
- **Obesity and a decrease in physical activity** among youth is a growing concern

# Key Points



- Over the past five years the **nature of juvenile cases has changed.**
  - Delinquency and CHINS complaints have decreased
  - Domestic relations complaints (most often custody and visitation issues) have increased
  - Efforts to divert youth with less serious offenses from formal court processing based on research that shows that, for some youth, **more intensive involvement than necessary in juvenile justice actually increases the likelihood of reoffending.**
  - While there has been a decrease in detention placements, those youth who are placed have serious behavioral health needs.
  - The average daily population of youth on probation supervision has also declined substantially.

# Key Points



- **Reduction in the number of referrals** for substance abuse services. However, youth referred are presenting with **more serious substance abuse behaviors and challenging behavioral issues.**
- **Demand for mental health outpatient services has increased** while capacity is decreasing
- Current allocation plan for ID waiver slots will not meet the current and anticipated demand
- Number of youth with **developmental and autistic spectrum disorders has dramatically increased**
- Growing demand for services – MH, ITC

# Key Points



- Reforms to the CSA service delivery model (**Systems of Care**) have resulted in improvements to our practice model and enhancements to our community-based continuum of care allowing staff to serve youth with intensive behavioral health care needs and multi-agency involvement more effectively and efficiently in our community.
- The county has seen a **reduction in out-of-community placements** into long-term residential and group home care.

# Key Points



- Foster Care entries have been going down over the past 10 years but those **children who are coming into care have significant/more complex needs.**
- For the first half of FY12, 62 entered foster care, compared with only 46 during the first half of FY11.
- 21% increase in CPS reports during the first half of FY12. A similar trend is being seen in surrounding jurisdictions as well.
- **Community School-Linked Services (CSLS)** is a partnership with the schools and other human services agencies to identify families in need earlier and provide services in an integrated, holistic manner.

# Key Points



- Can't forget the youth that are not in "the system"
- Pro-social activities are "protective factors" that reduce at risk behaviors and provide opportunities for the development of life skills.
  - Out-of-School Time Programming (afterschool and camps)
  - Youth sports
  - Career development
- The use of place-based approaches like "Opportunity Neighborhoods" create a **seamless continuum of services** for youth from "**Cradle through College to Career**"

# Working Together to Ensure Positive Outcomes for Youth



- **Strengthening links** between programs and services
- **Partnering with families** to strengthen, empower and support capacities for nurturing children
- **Engaging the community** as our partners in creating a network of support for children and the adults who care for them
- Continuing work to develop strong **linkages** for workforce development and planning opportunities between the **human services and the public school systems**
- Focusing on **development of community-based services** and programs vs. out of county placements/services

# Working Together to Ensure Positive Outcomes for Youth



- Identifying **risk factors** that lead to intensive, crisis-oriented or prolonged interventions later – prevention of more costly services
- **Addressing disparities** and ensuring accountability for achieving equity in systems, programs and family level outcomes
- Developing **prevention strategies**
- Identifying ways to help young people as they “age out” of systems into adulthood and need community supports to be successful – **Transitions**
- Promoting **healthy living strategies**

# Questions & Discussion