

AGENDA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AD HOC COMMITTEE

DATE: May 4, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

LOCATION: Wood County Health Department EOC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, River Block, Wisconsin Rapids

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Public comments.
3. Approve minutes of the previous meeting.
4. Election of Chair
5. Election of Vice Chair
6. Election of Secretary
7. Juvenile Justice Case Review/Discussion
8. Task Report from Family Services Staff on possible Residential Treatment in Wood County.
9. Discussion of information presented.
10. Assign tasks, if any, to be assigned between meetings.
11. Set date, time, and location of the next meeting.
12. Agenda items for next meeting.
13. Adjourn.

HHS Ad Hoc Committee on Out of Home Care Meeting Minutes

DATE: March 6, 2018

TIME: 12:00pm

PLACE: Wood County River Block, Conf Room 231A

PRESENT: Adam Fischer, Brad Kremer, Lori Slattery-Smith, Dawn Schmutzer, Tim McNaughton, Brandon Vruwink, Tom Buttke, Beth Ferdon.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Clendenning, Stephanie Wanserski, Jodi Liegl

Meeting called to order at 12:04pm by Chairman Fischer.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: motion by Kramer to approve minutes, second by Buttke. All ayes. Note: minutes for the Ad Hoc meetings will not be in the Supervisors dropbox, they will only be available on the County website.

Alternate Response: Alternate Response is a different way to approach families in crisis/need of our services. It works on engaging services with clients prior to actions taken (ie: removal of children from the home). Wisconsin has select counties included in an Alternative Response Study that will be ending this year. Wood County is in that study as a non-Alternative Response county. Family Services works toward the result of reunification with family if at all possible. Using the Alternative Response method can reduce costs and possibly the number of children in out of home placement.

Task Report: The closing of Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake will take place in 2021. The State will create smaller regional corrections facilities throughout the state. No locations set yet. Portage and Marathon counties have juvenile detention centers currently. Discussion about if Wood County would be interested in a facility in our county. There was a discussion around treatment vs corrections options/services.

Ongoing Unit Out of Home Placement: The standard goal for children in out of home placement is reunification with the family. Stephanie gave an overview of one case in the Ongoing Unit. Discussion about different facilities and how foster parents can decide to not provide care for child occurred. Discussion regarding early intervention, prevention, treatment options, partnerships (private/public), services that are voluntary for clients and need for more 1-on-1 parent teaching services. Discussion around making use of unused space at Norwood for a Residential Care Center. State sets the daily rate for the RCCs. Idea of kids using their social media skills on a safe Facebook page or chat room; how could this be implemented?

Motion: Kremer made motion to explore the options and have a cost analysis done for possible group home or RCC at Norwood. Slattery-Smith seconded. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Assign Tasks: Provide possible options and a cost analysis of group home or RCC at Norwood using TBI space/unused space.

Next meeting: April 17, 2018 at 12pm (noon), Wood County River Block, Conf Room 130.

Agenda items: group home, RCC and corrections placement at the Juvenile Justice level.

Adjourned: meeting was adjourned at 1:51pm.

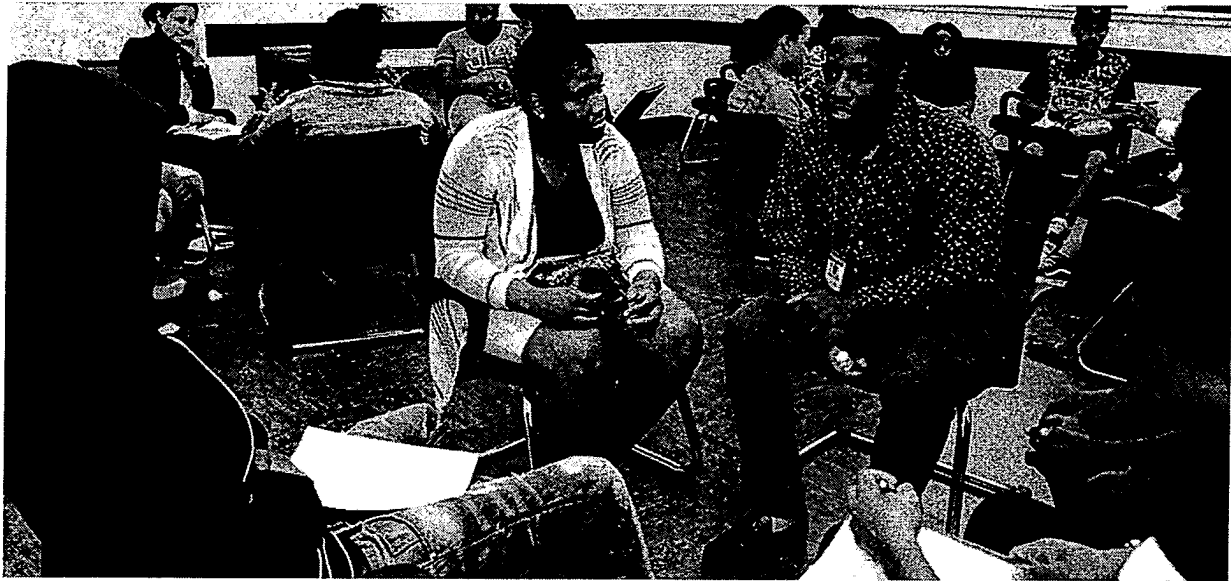
Recorder: Dawn Schmutzer

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange | (<http://jjie.org/2018/02/22/69-less-recidivism-in-ny-community-mentoring-program-report-finds/>)

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69% Less Recidivism in NY Community Mentoring Program, Report Finds

By **Clarissa Sosin** | February 22, 2018



Courtesy of New York City Department of Probation

NEW YORK — Youths on probation who participated in a community mentorship program run through the New York City Department of Probation had a lesser chance of recidivism than those who didn't, according to a study published this week.

Youths between the ages of 16 and 24 who went through the Arches Transformative Mentoring Program while on probation had a 69 percent lower recidivism rate within 12 months of starting their probation than youths who did not participate in the program, the study (<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/arches-transformative-mentoring-program>) said. After 24 months, it was 57 percent. The strongest impact was seen with participants ages 16 and 17.

"We've never really seen the effects of this magnitude, particularly for this population," said Carson Hicks, the deputy executive director of the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity (<http://www.nyc.gov/opportunity>), the city agency that commissioned the Urban Institute (<https://www.urban.org/>) to do the study.

The study, conducted between November 2015 and June 2017, looked into the impact of the program and how it was implemented. Researchers used data provided by the



Carson Hicks

"It was important to us to be able to, in the best of worlds, which has happened, prove that it works," said New York City Department of Probation Commissioner Ana M. Bermúdez about the results of the study. "And, in a less than perfect world, to learn from all of the findings of the evaluations so we can strengthen it."

Of the more than 70 city programs evaluated by the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity since its founding, Hicks said this evaluation had one of the best outcomes. Of the handful of projects related to criminal justice, it was the best, she said.

The Arches Transformative Mentoring Program was founded in 2012 as part of the New York City Young Men's (<http://www.nyc.gov/vmi>) Initiative with money from Bloomberg Philanthropies (<https://www.bloomberg.org/>). The participants in the program are at-risk youths, ages 16 to 24, who are currently on probation.

Upon joining the program they are assigned a mentor, known as a Credible Messenger, to work with one-on-one. They attend group meetings twice a week and complete the curriculum for a type of cognitive behavioral therapy done through workbooks called interactive journaling.

It is the one-on-one relationship that is the crux of the program, experts said.

"Just make sure that kids have positive experiences with education, with working, with relationships," said Jeffrey Butts, the director of the Research and Evaluation Center (<http://JohnJavREC.nyc>) at John Jay College after reading the study. "The relationship itself may be the principal rehabilitative force."

Credible Messengers are older adults who have either gone through the criminal justice system themselves or who have backgrounds that are easily relatable for the participants. They meet with their mentee at least once a week, accompany them to appointments such as court dates and meetings with their probations officers, and are supposed to be available at all hours.

"The level of engagement that these young people have with their mentors was something that I didn't expect," said Mathew Lynch, a research associate at the Urban Institute and a co-lead investigator on the study.

Department of Probation from nearly 1,000 youths who were on probation between January 2013 and October 2014. Of the group, 279 were enrolled in Arches.

Researchers conducted focus groups, surveys, interviews and observed group meetings at more than half the program's locations throughout the city.



Ana M. Bermúdez



This relationship created a support system and gave them someone to relate to.

For Antwaun, a 22-year-old from the South Bronx, it provided a sense of family, he said. When he first showed up at the program he was nervous and skeptical but once they sat down for group he found himself opening up.

"I didn't expect to open up the way I opened up," said Antwaun, who asked to only use his first name. "The accountability is there. The support, it's just there."

Now five months into the program, Antwaun is set to graduate in a few weeks. He wants to continue with programs such as Arches and become a Credible Messenger himself one day, he said.

It changed the youths' perception of themselves,

said Mia Legaspi-Cavin, the coordinator for a branch of Arches run by the Osborne Association (<http://www.osbornenv.org/>) in the South Bronx.

"That's what starts changing their negative behaviors," she said. "It's not only that they're not engaging in as many negative behaviors but they are engaging with more positive behaviors."

Scaling up?

Seeing the success of the one-on-one mentorship, Arches established the Credible Messenger Justice Center (<https://cmjcenter.org>) with the hope that they can scale up the program and provide training and resources for other jurisdictions that want to create their own programs. They see an application for a similar program in health and education.

However, the program faces challenges. The study found that many of the mentees didn't relate to the interactive journaling curriculum, something the Department of Probation said it's going to look into. And there is the issue of funding and making it financially sustainable for the Credible Messengers, who are part-time employees in a position that in reality is full-time.

"It's a passion," said lead mentor for the Osborne location in the South Bronx Theodore Haywood, known as "T."

Haywood, 70, said many of his mentors could be doing something more lucrative but chose not to. And he thinks the mentees know that.

"It's what we love doing, he said. "It's not a job."

Haywood said he sees another challenge: fear of change. As a formerly incarcerated person who grew up not too far from the Osborne location, he sees and understands the struggles that the mentees are going through. He thinks the program is great and likes the idea of scaling up but thinks there will be resistance.

"Change is scary for people," he said. "But the thing is, we were losing a lot of our youth and if we didn't make some changes, things were going to get worse."

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