

## Ark Division of Youth Services - Overview

- **Target populations:**
  - Youth ages 12-21 adjudicated as delinquent and committed to DYS and Juvenile Courts;
  - families of youth committed to DYS;
  - youth and families referred by Courts as diversion from incarceration or DYS commitment;
  - FINS ( Families in Need of Services) Interstate Compact for Juveniles;
- 400 youth currently in DYS custody, Secure residential treatment = approx. \$2338/day or \$87k year); 12,000 youth and families served in community = approx. \$4k/year or \$11 day)
- Private provider contracts in each judicial district for community based services to provide family and youth assessments, diversion, family reunification, family and youth case management, aftercare, and FINS services; service priorities determined jointly by Courts and Providers.
- DYS currently managing the 7 secure residential treatment facilities, plans to issue RFP for private facility management contractor(s), July 2019. Case Management provided directly by DYS.
- Reform efforts to shift service focus and funding allocations from high cost secure residential treatment to more effective community and family based services.

10/1/18BG

## Division of Youth Services - Youth Demographics

- 87% male, 50% African American
- Median age at commitment – 15 yrs
- Average length of stay (LOS) – 10 months; 47% stay longer than 12 months
- 85% below grade level in math/reading; IQ tests below average or lower
- 70% committed for property/drug offenses or technical probation violations
- 67% committed for felony offenses, 33% Misdemeanors
- 75% first time commitments; 25% recommitments
- 35% youth require special education services
- **Contributing factors:**
  - inadequate family support system or placement,
  - lack of access to mental health, DD and substance abuse services
  - commitment of delinquent (felony) act;
  - impulsivity aggression or other mental health disorder;
  - undiagnosed/untreated learning disorders

## **Community Based Supports for Youth and Families**

- Family reunification, and case management (for families and for youth)
- Validated Risk and Needs assessment for families and youth
- Individual, family and group counseling, Psycho-educational, parenting classes
- Electronic monitoring; Community Service Supervision
- Substance abuse treatment and drug screening
- Day and evening reporting centers
- Independent living skills; Job skills, vocational training and certifications
- Emergency shelters

## **Arkansas Juvenile Justice System Reform Goals in Arkansas**

1. Reduce secure confinement and DYS commitments of delinquent juveniles,
2. Right-size (close or repurpose) DYS secure residential treatment facilities and
3. Improve services within current residential facilities, including validated risk and needs
4. Increase availability and funding for evidence-based community services
5. Increase funding and support for Juvenile court staff
6. Enhance collaborative data collection, analysis, sharing, and reporting

10/1/18 BG

# Education and Juvenile Justice

## **Concerns/Issues while Youth in DYS custody:**

- DYS curriculum aligned with state standards,
- Educational/vocational opportunities for all youth
- Transferring credits to local school system
- Information/records exchange, at commitment and return to community)
- Re-entry barriers, Disruptions in education due to seclusion (due to behavior)
- Special education needs identification, planning, services
- Academic delays and progress

## **Improvements/Reforms:**

- Better coordination among schools, Courts and providers
- More diversion program/services
- Training on managing disruptive behaviors (schools, law enforcement, Courts, providers
- Community collaboration prior to re-entry
- DYS youth discharge planning to include education supports
- School liaisons for parents

## Arkansas Division of Youth Service

### Contact Information *10/1/18*

Betty Guhman, Director

[Betty.Guhman@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:Betty.Guhman@dhs.arkansas.gov) 501-682-8755 (o); 501-231-2302 (c)

Jon Brown, Deputy Director

[Jonathan.brown@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:Jonathan.brown@dhs.arkansas.gov) 501-320-6156; 501-413-0911

Marg Golden, Assistant Director, Operations

[Van.Golden@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:Van.Golden@dhs.arkansas.gov) 501-320-6106

Carmen Mosley-Sims, Assistant Director, Youth and Family Case Management

[Carmen.Mosley-Sims@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:Carmen.Mosley-Sims@dhs.arkansas.gov) 501-320-6295

April Hannah, Assistant Director, Residential Services

[April.Hannah@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:April.Hannah@dhs.arkansas.gov) 501-396-6081

James Walker, Clinical Director

[James.walker@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:James.walker@dhs.arkansas.gov) 501-320-6468 (o) 501-831-5453 (c)

Adam Baldwin, Reform and Community Services Coordinator

[Adam.baldwin@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:Adam.baldwin@dhs.arkansas.gov) 501-320-6127

