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CENTER PEACE

CENTERPEACE FOR YOUTH

CenterPeace for Youth

Youth Protection, Youth Justice, and
Family Engagement



*North Carolina State University
Center for Family & Community Engagement
and
Child Welfare Collaborative*

Sponsors

- NCSU College of Humanities & Social Sciences
- NC Division of Social Services
- Port City Java
- Center for Family and Community Engagement



Training Participants

- Social Services
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Mental Health
- Students
- Family Members
- Parks and Rec
- Others



Training Team

- **Joan Pennell**, MSW, PhD, Center Director
- **Kerry Graves**, MSW, Doctoral Candidate, Child Welfare Collaborative Coordinator, ECPI Criminal Justice Instructor
- **Elizabeth Meadows**, Family Partner Trainer
- **Anne Wakefield**, MSW, LCSW, Trainer
- **Kara Allen-Eckard**, MSW, Training Coordinator
- **Denise Garner**, MRE, MSW Student
- **Ashley Duncan**, Administrative Support Specialist and Registrar

Agenda

- Nicole's Story
- CenterPeace for Youth
- Collaboration
- Networking Lunch
- Family Connections Preventing Youth Offending
- Impact of Family Engagement
- Nicole's Story and CFTs
- Closing

Nicole's Story

- Seventeen year-old female
- Involved with Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare due to violence in school and possible neglect in home
- Talented artist who loves her family; often kind to others



“Child and Family Teams are family members and their community supports that come together to create, implement, and update a plan with the child, youth/student, and family. The plan builds on the strengths of the child, youth, and family and addresses their needs, desires, and dreams.”

*Endorsed by the North Carolina State Collaborative for
Children, Youth and Families, December 2007*

*Published in the North Carolina Families United Newsletter,
January 2008*

CenterPeace for Youth

The Vision

Youth are:

- In a place of pride
- Having a say
- Linked to family, school, & community
- Transitioning into responsible adults
- Creating a spirit of peace for all



CenterPeace for Youth

Youth Challenges

Cross-over cases: Victim or Offender?

- Histories of child maltreatment
- Behavioral and learning problems
- School retention problems
- Drug and alcohol use
- Associating with problematic peers

CenterPeace for Youth *System Challenges*

Two agencies with power to remove youths from homes:

- For their safety or safety of others
- Offer much needed services
- But disrupts connections to family, school, and community
- Identify with delinquent peers

CenterPeace for Youth *Fairness Challenges*

- Children of color more often placed in foster care (Magruder & Shaw, 2008)
- Black and Hispanic foster youth more often placed in detention than White (Ryan et al., 2007)
- Can't just attribute to poverty—In NC, former foster youth more often arrested for felonies than youth whose families on social assistance (Barth et al., 2010)

CenterPeace for Youth *Fairness Challenges*

Victims of youth offending need to:

- Understand what happened and why
 - Know that youths take responsibility
 - Aware families and services helping youths to get needed help and stop offending
 - Heal from harms
 - Restorative justice
- 
- The background of the slide features several sets of concentric circles in a lighter shade of blue, resembling ripples in water. These circles are positioned in the lower right and bottom center areas of the slide.

CenterPeace for Youth *Proposed Strategy*

- Re-engage youths with their families (including dads), schools, & communities
- Child & family teams in a system of care
- Youths having a say and sense of fairness
- Youths taking responsibility and getting back on track

CenterPeace for Youth *Collaborative Strategy*



- Cross-training for system of care
- Family and agency trainers for family-centered practice
- Preparation of students in multiple fields

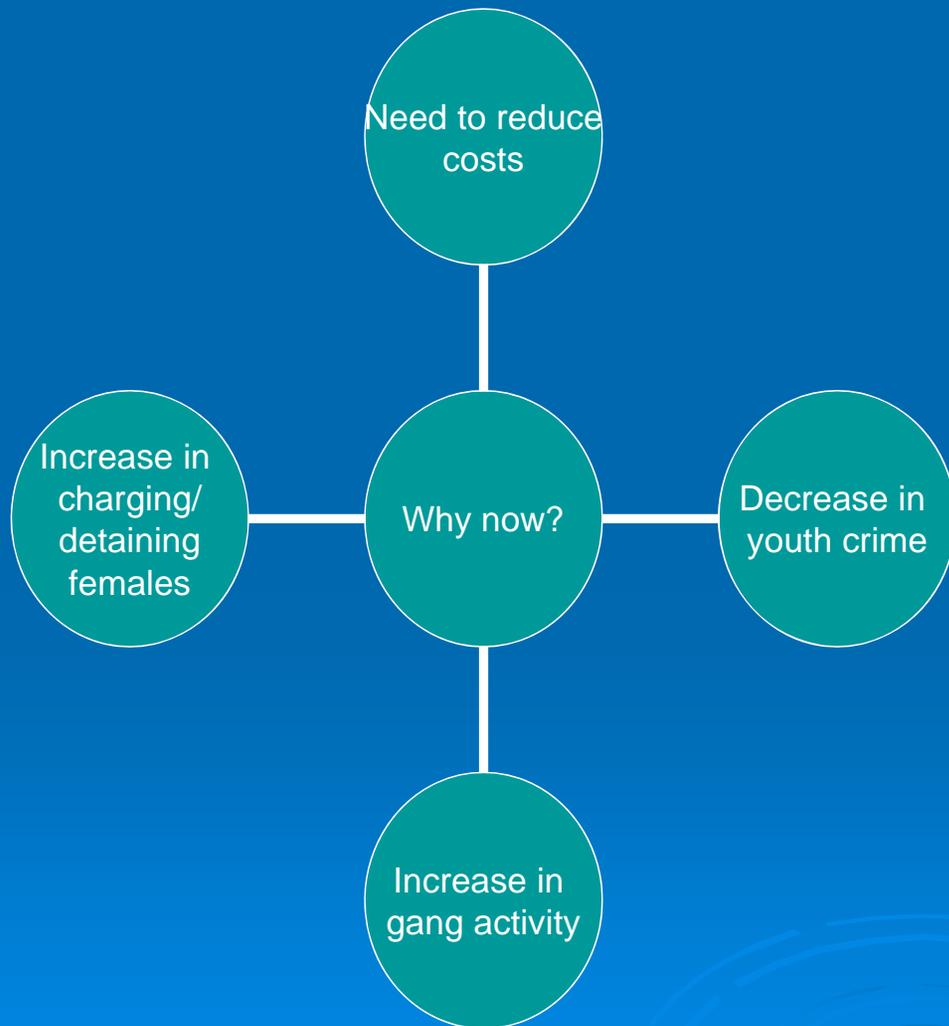
CenterPeace for Youth *Collaborative Strategy*



- Involving communities of place, culture, and faith in planning
- Redesigning policy and funding
- Evaluation and research to improve practice

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Why Now in North Carolina?



- Decrease in youth crime but
- Increase in gang activity in some communities
- Increase in charging and detaining female teens
- Need to reduce costs, including expensive residential care

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Why Now in North Carolina?

- Restructuring juvenile justice
- Increased collaboration among community agencies
- Legislation to raise age of juvenile offender to 18 years



Collaboration

“A process through which parties who see different aspects of a problem can **constructively explore their differences** and search for solutions that go beyond their own limited vision of what is possible.”
(Gray, 1989, p. 5)



Steps to Collaboration

- Understand each program and identify ways one program can build on the other
- Eliminate duplicative planning
- Include state child welfare directors, juvenile justice specialists, Children's Justice Act coordinators, and state court leaders on planning teams
- Participate in the training activities of OJJDP's Title V Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants

(Bilchik, 1995)

Successful collaboration entails:

- Leadership
- Trust
- Risk management
- Communication and coordination



Collaboration Link

- Because maltreatment and delinquency are linked, both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems aim to prevent delinquency
- When both systems successfully collaborate, they are able *“to interrupt the trajectory of juvenile and criminal offending that seems to be the destiny for at least some of these victims of child abuse and neglect”* (Wiig et al., 2003).

Barriers to Collaboration

- Different systems have different mandates and agendas
- Often, little communication and cooperation exist between these systems
- “Duelling case plans” can emerge, featuring “services and treatment that are at odds with one another”

(Seigal & Lord, 2004)

Four Barriers

- Lack of trust and respect
 - Poor communication
 - Misperceptions
 - Bias
- 

Networking Lunch



Attachment

- Attachment is an essential, lifelong human need
- “An affectionate bond between two individuals that endures through space and time and serves to join them emotionally” (Klaus & Kennell, 1976)
- Early childhood abuse and neglect can disrupt attachments and adversely affect brain development
- Poor attachment can disrupt the whole Family System

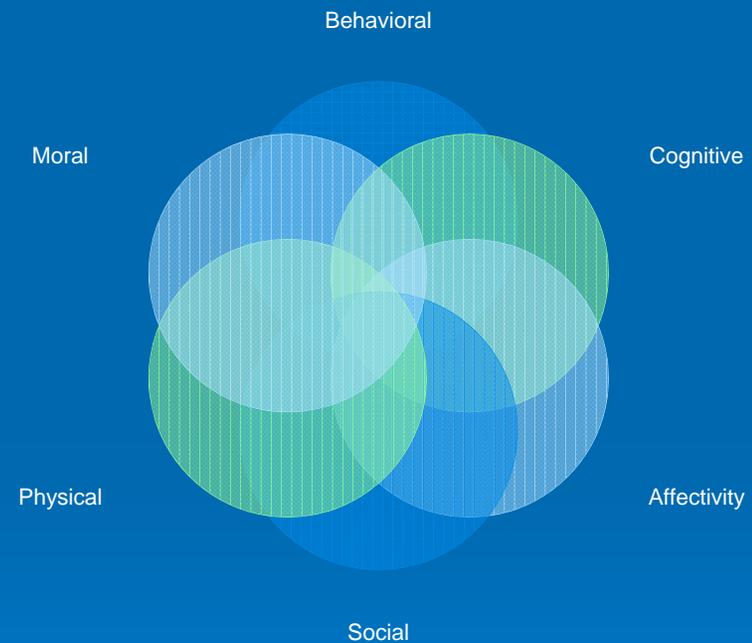
Arousal Relaxation Cycle



- Needs
- Displeasure
- Needs are met
- Trust

Attachment and Delinquency

- Behavioral issues
- Cognitive issues
- Affectivity issues
- Social Behavior
- Physical
- Moral



Crime Analysis

- Sampson and Laub found that parental rejection was a strong predictor of criminality.
- McCord retraced 235 members of the Cambridge Somerville Youth Study, finding that those who had mothers who were self-confident, provided leadership, were consistently non-punitive, and affectionate were unlikely to commit crimes.
- Negative parent-child relations appear to enhance the probability of delinquency, and parental affection appears to reduce the probability of crime.

Family Relationships and Crime - Parental Attachment And Crime. Retrieved from <http://law.jrank.org/pages/1175/Family-Relationships-Crime-parental-attachment-crime.html>.

Crime and Attachment

In a National Institute of Justice study, abused and neglected children were:

- 11 times more likely to be arrested for criminal behavior as a juvenile
- 2.7 times more likely to be arrested for violent criminal behavior as an adult, and
- 3.1 times more likely to be arrested for one of many crimes as a juvenile or adult

(Widom & Brandford, 2004)

Case Study

- M.L. Case Study
- M.L. was a 12-year old male who was a victim of child abuse and neglect.
- M.L. was sexually abused by his father.
- Attachment issues with mother.
- M.L. was a victim of poor attachment and poor collaboration.
- Transitioned into the juvenile justice system

Family Engagement

What is it?

Involving youths and their families in making and carrying out decisions:

- Planning in CFT meeting
- Including victims as appropriate
- Presenting plans in court
- Contributing to training, policy, and evaluation

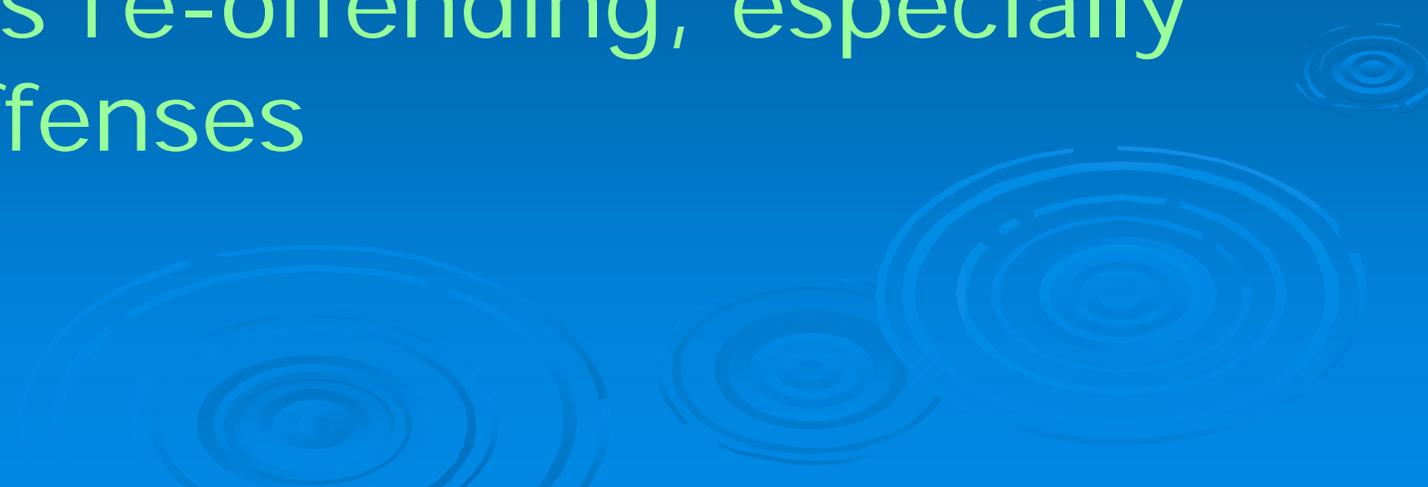
Family Engagement

Why do it?

- Creates plans that fit the family culture
- Facilitates earlier use of services by youths & families
- Improves relations among youths, their families, and involved agencies
- Lessens victims' post-traumatic stress

Family Engagement

Why do it?

- Keeps youth with family or kin and in own school and community
 - Increases fairness for youth of color
 - Reduces placements, court, and time with delinquent peers
 - Decreases re-offending, especially violent offenses
- 

Nicole's Story

- After Nicole's altercation at school, her court counselor suggested mediation
- Family and professionals had a CFT to discuss mediation as an option
- Penny (the victim) expressed her physical and emotional pain to Nicole in the mediation session
- The family created a plan that was safe, productive, and helpful to both Nicole and Penny

Family Engagement

Nicole's Story

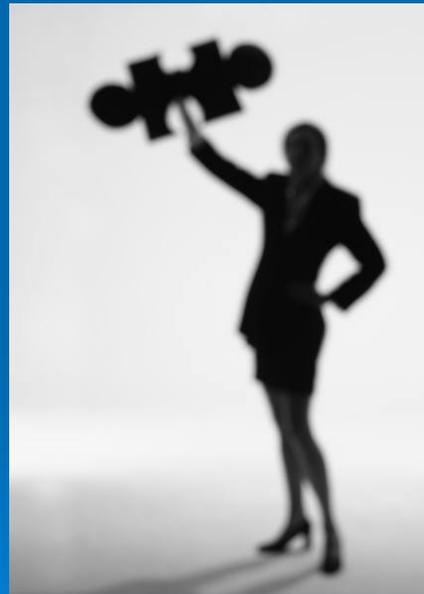
- **Family leadership** *(Jackie and Nicole drove the process)*
 - Families and youths central
 - Supported by communities and agencies
- **Cultural safety** *(the family group's norms were respected)*
 - Families speak in own language
 - Tap into traditions to resolve issues

Family Engagement

Nicole's Story

- Community partnerships (systems worked effectively together)
 - Local collaborations
 - Each partner has distinctive role and works on common goals
- Inclusive planning (family, social kin, supports, and victim all contributed)
 - Decision making involving wider family, victims, and community
 - With public agencies authorizing plan and resources

Questions?



*Thank you for your
participation and support*

- Training evaluation
- Consent to participate in post-training interviews
- Online forum in April elaborating on Child and Family Teams with dual jurisdiction youth

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