CENTER PEACE
CENTER PEACE FOR YOUTH
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
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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
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
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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
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*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)
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_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
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*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
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Collaborative Strategy

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

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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