

From Punishment to Prevention: Ending Youth Incarceration and Investing in Youth Development

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Juvenile Justice Reform

- Reduction in numbers of youth in confinement
- No significant reductions in the disproportionate numbers of black and brown youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Disparities and concerns for LGBTQ youth

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Growth in Knowledge and Research



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What Does the Data Tell Us?

Interventions that embody **therapeutic philosophies**, such as restorative, skill building, counseling, and multiple coordinated services are more effective than **deterrence-based programs** that embrace philosophies of control, coercion, and discipline” (Lipsey, 2009).

Incarceration

- Does not produce better outcomes for youth or their communities
 - Up to 58% of youth released from residential commitment are adjudicated or convicted for new offense (Mendel, 2011).
 - 86% of justice involved youth remained arrest free while in community programs and 93% were still living in the community (Evans and Delgado, 2014).

Incarceration

- Racially unjust
 - More youth of color in out of home placements*:
 - Black youth 4.0 more likely than white
 - Latino youth 2.0 more likely than white
 - Native American 3.7 more likely than white

(W. Haywood Burns Institute, 2016)



Incarceration

- Harmful to youth
 - Studies show they are often subject to sexual abuse, physical abuse and isolation and restraints
 - BJS found almost 10% of youth are sexually abused by peers or staff (Beck et. al., 2103)
- Expensive



Focus on high risk offenders

- Justice programs should only focus on high risk youth who offend
 - Focus on low risk youth who offend can heighten behavior
 - Only those who are a danger to society and self should be held in an out of home placement



Focus on high risk offenders

- High Risk youth who offend
 - A continuum of services can and should be provided to youth in the community
 - Interventions should include trauma informed practices that hold youth accountable while addressing root causes and repairing harm



Assets & Strengths

- Youth, families, victims, and communities have assets that can and should be built upon
 - Promote and help develop youth's interest, talents and skills
 - Engage and acknowledge families and community members as assets and credible messengers

Underlying Causes of Delinquency

- When juvenile justice systems address and sanction only the behavior that youth have exhibited, without addressing the fundamental causes of that behavior, it leads to the large rates of recidivism seen in most systems around the country.

Underlying Causes of Delinquency

Exposure to Trauma

- A majority of youth involved with the juvenile justice system have experienced traumatic events, at least 75 percent having experienced traumatic victimization (Sprague, 2008).
- Another study of youth in detention found that over 90 percent of youth had experienced at least one trauma, times (Abram et al., 2013).



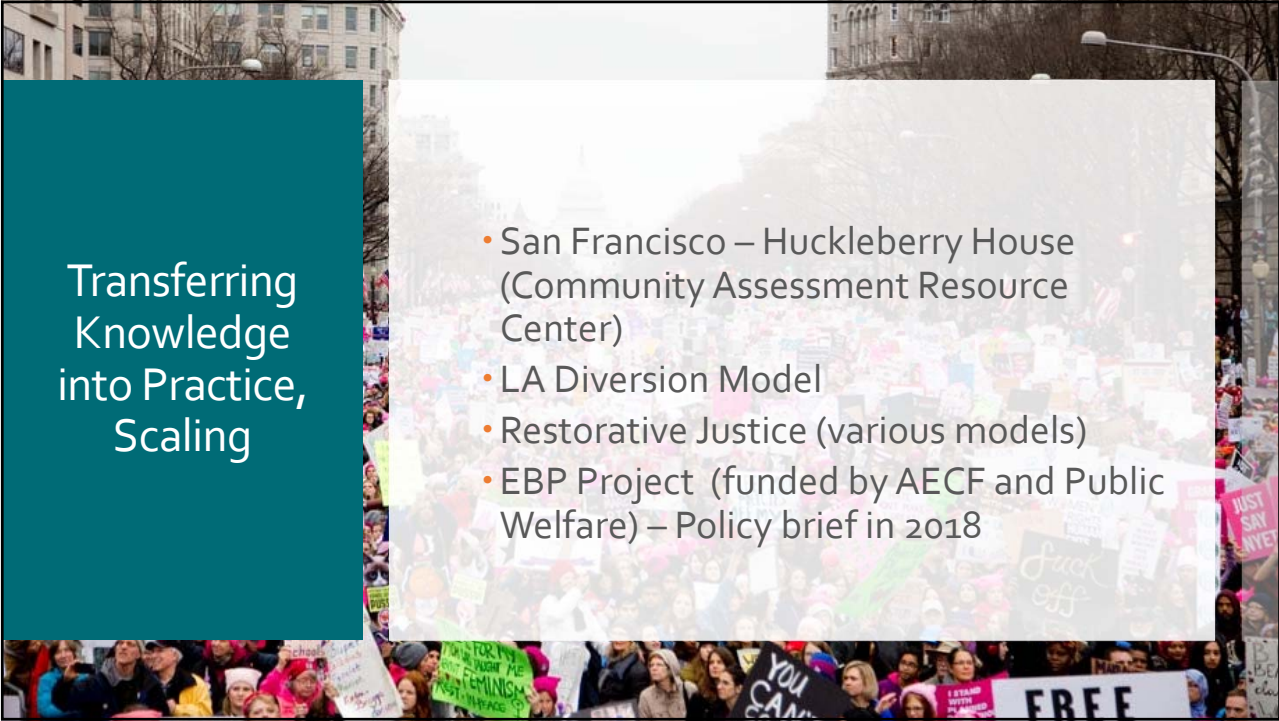
Expanding Measures of Success

- Expand measures of “success”
 - Health and Wellness
 - Transformative Justice
 - Connection to mentors/credible messengers
 - Connection to education, long term work and training



Challenge

- Transferring Knowledge into Practice and Scaling
- Appropriate response for youth with serious and/or violent offenses



Transferring Knowledge into Practice, Scaling

- San Francisco – Huckleberry House (Community Assessment Resource Center)
- LA Diversion Model
- Restorative Justice (various models)
- EBP Project (funded by AECF and Public Welfare) – Policy brief in 2018