

What is JDAI?

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) was launched in 1992 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The purpose of JDAI is to demonstrate that jurisdictions can establish more effective and efficient systems to accomplish the purposes of juvenile detention without jeopardizing community safety. JDAI is a process, not a conventional program, with a goal to make sure that secured detention is used only when necessary. In pursuing that goal, JDAI restructures the surrounding systems to create improvements that reach far beyond detention alone (Evening Reporting Center, Home Monitoring, etc).

JDAI Objectives:

- Reduce number of children unnecessarily or inappropriately detained
- Minimize number of youth who fail to appear in court or re-offend pending adjudication

- To redirect public funds toward successful reform strategies
- Improve conditions of detention

JDAI's 8 Core Strategies

- 1) Interagency **“Collaboration”** to improve planning and coordination
- 2) **“Use of data,”** including results tracking, to drive policy and program decisions
- 3) Reliance on **“Objective Screenings Tools”** to guide detention admissions and sanctioning decisions
- 4) New or enhanced community-based **“Alternatives to Secure Detention”**
- 5) **“Expedited Case Processing”** to reduce lengths of stay and speed resolution
- 6) Innovations to reduce secure custody in **“Special Cases”** (e.g. violations of probation)

- 7) Practices and policies to **“Eliminate Disproportionality”** as it pertains to Race, Class, Culture, or Gender.
- 8) Routine facility inspections to **“Improve Conditions of Confinement”** for youth in detention.

Successful implementation of these strategies should:

- a) Reduce inappropriate admissions
- b) Reduce lengths of stay in confinement
- c) Shorten case processing times
- d) Increase utilization of non-secure community based programs



**Experts and most professional standards indicate that secure juvenile detention should be used to accomplish two purposes:*

- 1) to ensure that alleged delinquents appear in Court
- 2) to minimize the risk of serious reoffending while current charges are being adjudicated

JDAI in Greene County, MO.

Greene County became a JDAI site in April 2006. A JDAI Executive Team and four subcommittees have been created to address each of the eight core strategies. Through effective implementation of the core strategies and judicial leadership, the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center has experienced decreases in the average length of stay, average daily population, failure to appear rate, and detention admissions.

Reference

www.jdaihelpdesk.org

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Updated
1/2009