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Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice - Education and Reentry Collaborative Programming

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Department of Juvenile Justice



Education and Reentry Collaborative Programming

National Youth At Risk Conference

Savannah, GA

March 11, 2020



Department of Juvenile Justice



Secured Campus DJJ

- 26 Facilities
 - 19 Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDC)
 - Pre-adjudication
 - 7 Youth Development Campuses (YDC)
 - Post-adjudication
- 757 Males RYDC
- 111 Females RYDC
 - 868 Total in RYDCs
- 330 Males YDC
- 38 Females YDC
 - 368 Total in YDCs

(02/13/2020)



Department of Juvenile Justice



Community DJJ

- 96 Community Services Offices
 - Juvenile Probation/Parole Specialist (JPPS)
 - Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO)
- Residential Placement
- Home
- Treatment Program
- School
- Out of School
- Approximately 9,000 students in the community



Department of Juvenile Justice



The **Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice** is the 181st School District in the state of Georgia

Georgia Preparatory Academy - School within district

High School and Middle School located in each facility

26 campuses

4 Education Transition Centers (ETC) – Augusta, Columbus, Macon, and Savannah

Pathway to Success – Adult Education (GED)

125 Students in GED

Connections Graduate Program – Students who have a GED or HS diploma – 72 graduates



Department of Juvenile Justice



- GA Professional Standards Commission (PSC) Certified
- Administrators – Principals - Teachers – School Counselors
- Year Round School – Fall and Spring Semesters (90 days each)
- DJJ Board/School Board
- DJJ Commissioner/School Superintendent
- Accredited by AdvancED (renewed April 2016 for five years)
- Enroll Students from all 159 counties and all school systems in Georgia



Department of Juvenile Justice



Curriculum is the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)

- Standards-Based Classrooms
- Odysseyware – online curriculum
- Carnegie Units Awarded-High School Courses

State Mandated Standardized Tests

- Georgia Milestones
- End of Grade – Middle School
- End of Course – 8 High School Courses

Full Continuum of Special Ed Services

- Individual Education Program (IEP)
- Psychological Evaluations
- Eligibility
- 25% receive special education services – 288 total



Department of Juvenile Justice



- Georgia Preparatory Academy partners with four technical schools to offer Career, Technical, Agricultural Education (CTAE) classes
- South GA Tech, Central GA Tech, Augusta Tech, and Oconee Fall Line Tech
- Courses offered are: Cosmetology, Collision Repair, Culinary Arts, Automotive Maintenance, Computer Applications, Horticulture, and Construction
- Students are dually enrolled and can receive a Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC)
- Offer Industry Recognized Certifications – Microsoft Office, ServSafe
- Instructors employed by technical college/full time on campus
- High School Pathways – Business and Technology – MOS Certifications – Microsoft Imagine Academy – Gmetrix
- Forklift and Welding Program – Atlanta Technical College



Reentry Improvements Within the GA DJJ

Juvenile Justice Reform in General and the Move to Evidence-Based Practices in Reentry

Juvenile Justice Reform- HB 242

Use of evidence-based practices *written into law*

- Removal of low risk/status offenders from placement in long term facilities
- Use only proven/researched/evidence-based programs and practices
- Focus on reentry- Office of Reentry Services stood up within the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice in late 2013, fully staffed by early 2015



Reforming Reentry Planning

Prior Reentry Planning Process

- Large number of staff; staff to staff report-out; professional language, jargon, acronyms, etc.; started late- no collaboration
- Focused on youth only, with emphasis on facility programming & issues; family rarely attended and mostly listened- no engagement
- Community case managers travel up to 4+ hours to the facility for a 10 minute meeting- had little input
- Bureaucratic drift- emphasis on efficiency, decreasing effectiveness
- Process design not based on evidence-based practice or the research literature



Reentry Planning Revised- Youth Centered Reentry Team

- YCRT, evidence-based reentry planning- continuous, comprehensive, start at entry, prioritize family engagement, emphasize ownership
- Focused Team- Youth, family, facility counselor(s), community officer, meeting facilitator/organizer (Reentry Specialist)
- Minimize jargon and speak directly to each other
- FAMILY & YOUTH identified as the most important people in the room- first source of information and decisions; Transition Plan created and agreed upon by all
- Guidance from NRRC, Dr. David Altschuler, Dr. Mark Lipsey
- Results finalized in a formal Transition Plan
- Satisfaction Survey- very high marks from staff and especially youth and family 2 consecutive years



YCRT - The Way Ahead



- QA continuity of care at youth & family level- Reentry Resource Coordinators
- Measure continuity of care at the system level
- Continue to improve family engagement- video conferencing, text and email usage, support for family post-release
- Outcome evaluation- should have recidivism data within the year
- Expansion of services beyond the reentry planning process- partnerships and resource cultivation
- The Reentry Task Force and Reentry Resource Coordinators



Reentry Staffing

Reentry Specialists

- Coordinate the YCRT process
- Facilitate the planning meetings
- Involved

Reentry Resource Coordinators

- Assist with finalizing the Transition Plan
- Follow youth and family post-release to ensure execution of Transition Plan
- Cultivate additional resources
- Add resources to Reentry Database for Resource Map



Resource Map & Database

- Grant funded effort- staff hired to develop searchable database
- Searchable- by county, zip code and service type
- Constantly expanding-
 - Deployed in early 2018 with 100+ entries, now has over 2600 entries at this time
 - Resource Coordinators constantly searching for new entries and can add and update entries directly
- Staff and families can search for and add resources to the Transition Plan prior to youth's release
- Feature allowing some resources to only be seen by staff-partnerships where DJJ is responsible for overseeing access to the services
- Mobile App- under development, for smart phones



Reentry Task Force

What, Who, and How

- SCA Grant- Task Force initial formation
- Task Force development- agency learning curve, division into subgroups
- Task Force membership- 120+ members, 60+ agencies
 - Working on barriers to reentry within the 7 domains of aftercare
 - Guidance from National Reentry Resource Center and nationally known subject matter experts Dr. David Altschuler, Dr. Mark Lipsey and Dr. Shay Bilchik
 - Multiple projects in various stages of planning and implementation



Completed Projects



- Movement 2 Success Program- in partnership with local chapter in Augusta of the Public Defender's Office**
 - Attorneys come to facility, teach public speaking, debating and self advocacy skills**
 - Program is ongoing at Augusta and is in planning to expand to other facilities**
 - Tremendously well received by the youth**



Projects In Progress

- Parenthood Project- joint project with multiple community partners. Includes Storybook Moms and Dads, Angel Tree, Ferst Foundation, Toy Carts at facilities, Nurturing Families Curriculum**
- Home Depot- job readiness class for facility youth; special consideration for employment for youth completing the class**
- Georgia Youth Mentoring Program- in-facility mentoring**
 - Underway for over a year at 1 facility**
 - Expanded to a second facility with a church partner**
 - Expansion underway to all long term facilities and some community locations**



Projects In Progress

- Job Fairs and Job Readiness/Soft Skills Classes**
 - Started in late 2017, job fairs held for community youth**
 - All of the 11 statewide districts within DJJ have conducted a job fair with local employers for the last 2 years**
 - Partnerships were many and various in each locality:
Department of Labor, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency,
Tech schools, businesses, youth serving organizations**
 - Partners provided most of the soft skills classes to the youth**
 - The fairs and prep classes will continue on an annual basis, with plans for improvements for each district event**



Projects In Progress



AT&T Academy

- In partnership with “Jobs for American Graduates” state affiliate “Jobs for Georgia Graduates”
- Pilot project of the company, to be expanded nationally
- Job Readiness class provided at the facility
- Graduates have access to employment opportunities

Project Safe Neighborhoods

- Partnership with US Attorney’s Office
- Targeting gang affiliated and violent youth
- Includes mentoring and programming



Projects In Progress (cont.)



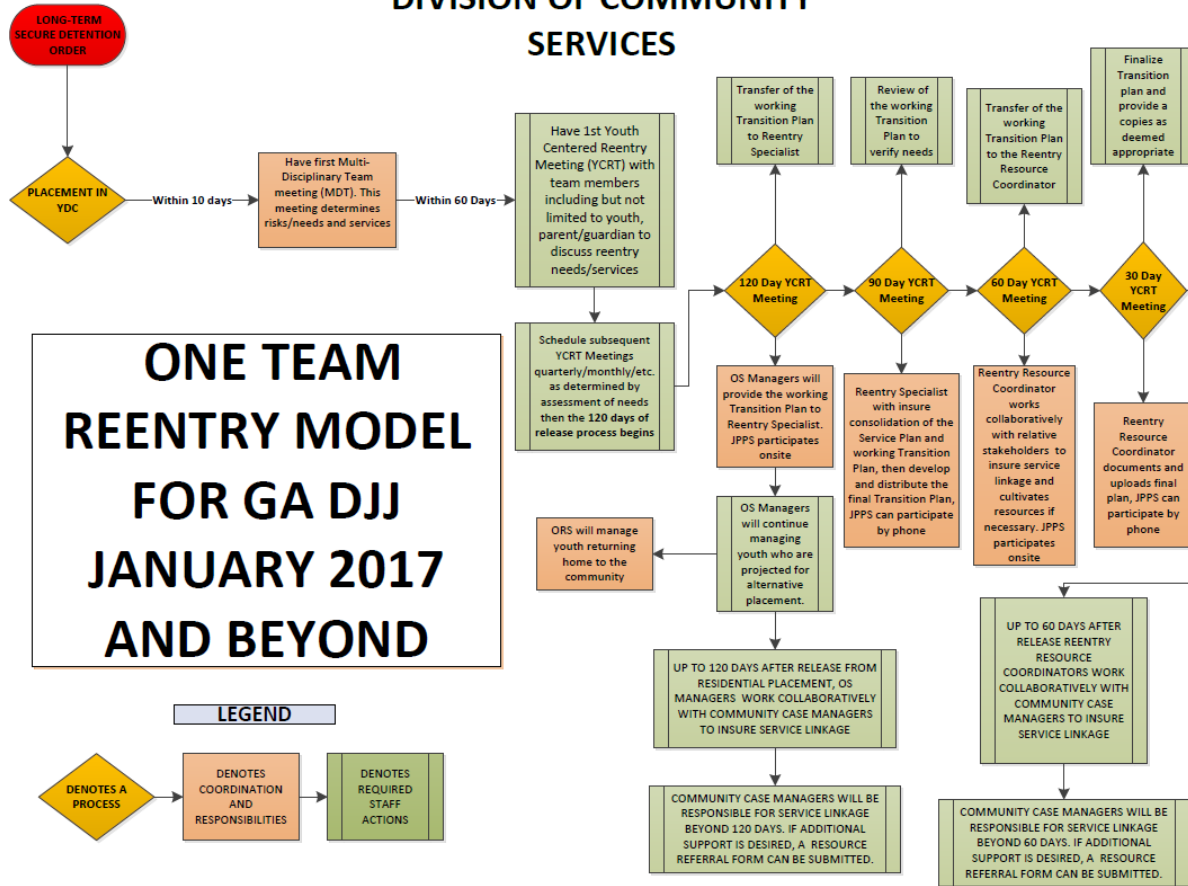
- Code Out- provider to teach coding classes to youth as a continuance of the AT&T Academy**
 - Graduates to receive industry certification and access to high high-paying coding jobs**
 - Code/Out is industry funded to increase the number of females in the computer coding field**

- School System Collaborations**
 - For returning youth, school system staff attend the youth's YCRT meetings immediately prior to release and provide for a "warm handoff"**
 - Multiple systems are engaged**
 - Other systems are in discussion regarding how and where youth are allowed back into their system**



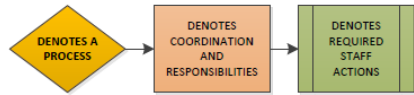
Department of Juvenile Justice

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



**ONE TEAM
REENTRY MODEL
FOR GA DJJ
JANUARY 2017
AND BEYOND**

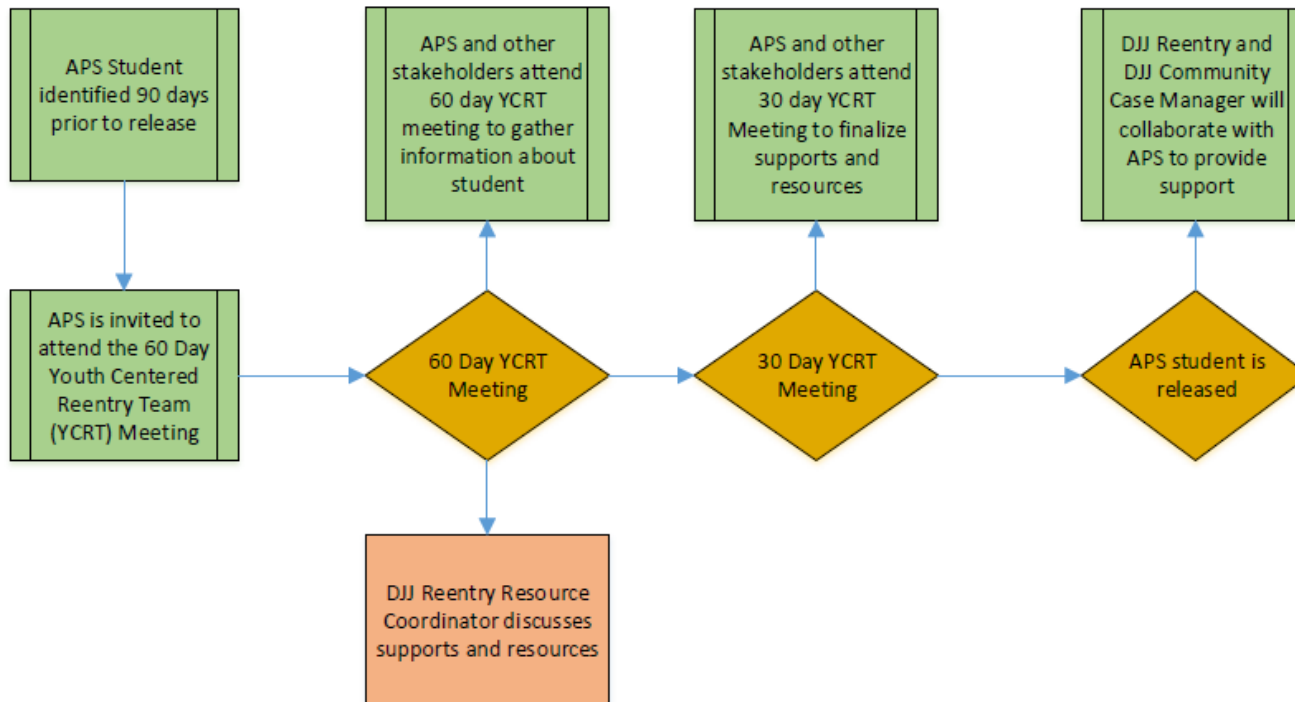
LEGEND





Department of Juvenile Justice

Atlanta Public School (APS) Student Leaving Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)





Department of Juvenile Justice

160-4-8-.17 CASE MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION FOR AGENCY PLACED TRANSFER STUDENTS.

(1) DEFINITIONS.

(a) **Case Management Consultation (CMC)** – a consultation by a school social worker or case manager in which a process is used to discover whether any transition problems exist and whether any services are necessary for a child placed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Department of Human Services (DHS), or Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). This process will be utilized each time a child, placed by one of the foregoing state agencies, enrolls in a new school.

(b) **Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)** – an agency which provides specified services for children who have been admitted or placed according to an individualized treatment or service plan directed by DBHDD.

(c) **Department of Community Health (DCH)** – the agency which provides Medicaid support for certain students remanded through DBHDD, DHS, or DJJ.

(d) **Department of Human Services (DHS)** – an agency which provides specified services and placement for children who have been remanded to the physical or legal custody of DHS either temporarily or permanently by a court or by voluntary agreement, or if the child has been admitted or placed according to an individualized treatment or service plan of DHS.

(e) **Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)** – the agency which provides supervision, detention and a wide range of treatment and educational services for youths referred to DJJ by the Juvenile Courts, and provides assistance or delinquency prevention services for at-risk youths through collaborative efforts with other public, private, and community entities.

(f) **Student Support Team (SST)** – an interdisciplinary group that uses a systematic process to address learning and/or behavior problems of students, K-12, in a school as set forth in State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.32 Student Support Team.

(g) **Transition services** – services necessary to provide a seamless transition to a DBHDD, DHS, or DJJ-placed child when he or she enters a new school.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Each school principal shall designate a school social worker or other staff member to act as case manager. The case manager shall be the point of contact for DCH, DBHDD, DHS, and DJJ personnel providing five-day advance notification of planned enrollment of a child pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-133.



Department of Juvenile Justice

160-4-8-.17 (Continued)

(b) Upon notification that a DBHDD, DHS, or DJJ child will be enrolled in a school, the case manager shall consult with the student, the designated counselor or caseworker assigned by DCH, DBHDD, DHS, or DJJ, and the parent/guardian/foster parent within five school days to determine whether transition or other services are necessary for the child. The child should be immediately enrolled in accordance with State Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.28 Student Enrollment and Withdrawal.

(c) If it is determined that transition or other services are necessary upon enrollment, such services may include any of the following.

1. Tour and orientation session
2. Introduction to buddy or peer to facilitate transition
3. Assistance with course selection
4. Referral to SST process
5. Referral to special education
6. Other services as needed, e.g., social services, counseling, community collaboration, parent/guardian meetings, etc.

(d) Documentation of CMC activities shall be maintained by the case manager in the student's file and shall include the following.

1. Student's name
2. Consultation dates
3. Identification of transition or other services needed
4. Recommended course of action (list of services, referral)
5. Monitoring of student progress
6. Date that services are determined to no longer be needed

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-240.



Department of Juvenile Justice



- DJJ Education and Reentry have met with:
 - Atlanta Public Schools
 - Fulton County Schools
 - Clayton County Schools
 - Rockdale County Schools
 - Troup County Schools
 - DeKalb County Schools
 - Cobb County Schools



Department of Juvenile Justice



- Fulton County Schools Process
 - Office of Student Discipline
 - Five Behavior Specialists – panel hearings
 - Principals, Counselors, Parents
 - Goal is to return to home school
 - Invite to Youth Centered Reentry Team Meeting
 - Inclusive approach instead of exclusive approach



Department of Juvenile Justice



- Education Transition Specialists
 - Linkage to community school system
 - Support to youth and parent
 - Participate in YCRT at 120 days
 - Two positions – north and south
 - Connections to school, resources, and job placement



Youth Reentry In Georgia



Questions?

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