



# MIND

(Males in Need of Direction)

# Court

Judge Daphne Previti Austin  
289<sup>th</sup> District Court



# Why?

- › Bexar County has had the successful Crossroads girls mental health court program for several years, but we didn't have a similar opportunity for boys.
- › We sought out a grant to start this program and were fortunate to be awarded the first grant for which we applied.



# Critical Issue

- › 1 in 5 children suffer from mental illness (CDC 2013)
  - Only 1 in 5 of those receive treatment
- › 65-70% of children arrested each year have a mental health disorder (National Conference of State Legislatures)
  - 25% of those children suffer from severe mental illness



# Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant

- › Justice & Mental Health Collaboration Program: Planning and Implementation Grants
  - 3 Year Grant:
    - › 12 Month Planning
    - › 24 Month Implementation
  - › 16 Communities Awarded - Totaling \$4 Million
  - › Bexar County
    - 1 of 2 Juvenile Justice Awardees



# Planning Process

- I. Getting Started and Identifying Goals
- II. Developing Collaborative Strategies
- III. Defining or Refining Your Target Population
- IV. Identifying Evidence-Based Services and Supports
- V. Data Collection, Performance Measurement, and Program Evaluation
- VI. Sustainability



# Getting Started and Identifying Goals

## MIND Court Mission Statement

End involvement in the juvenile justice system for boys with mental health needs through a comprehensive family and community response.



# Developing Collaborative Strategies

- › Cross Section of Child-Serving & Justice Agencies
  - 289<sup>th</sup> District Court
  - District Attorney's Office
  - Consulting Psychologist
  - Defense Attorney Representation
  - Local Mental Health Authority
  - Child Protective Services
  - Children's Mental Health Agencies/Providers
  - Educational Agencies
  - Children's/Family Mental Health Advocacy Organizations
  - Bexar County Juvenile Probation



# Defining or Refining Your Target Population

- › Age 10-16 (Starting Off with 11-14)
- › Mental Health Issues History or Diagnoses
- › Offense – non-aggravated
- › Moderate Risk Level
- › Academic Issues
- › Involved Family
- › Deferred – True 1<sup>st</sup> Time Offenders, 1<sup>st</sup> Time Failures?
- › Exclude Psychosis, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Solely Conduct Disorder or ODD, Severe Substance Abuse





# Identifying Evidence-Based Services and Supports

- › Smaller Workgroup Proposed Programming Components
- › Task Force identified Program Components
- › Request for Proposal led us to Southwest Key winning the service provider contract with 3 staff members, a clinician, a case manager and a parent liaison.



# MIND Mental Health Court

- › Specialty Court Model
- › Court convenes twice a month
- › Staffing occurs just prior to court
  - Discusses status of participants
  - Reviews possible candidates
- › Treatment staffing occurs on weekly basis
  - Treatment Provider
  - School
  - Probation Staff



# MIND Mental Health Court

- › Specialty Court coupled with Intervention
- › Intensive Treatment
  - Home-based
  - Case Management
  - Individual & Family Therapy
  - Parent Training
  - Group Therapy
    - › Substance Use Prevention/Intervention
    - › Life Skills Training

# Resources

- › Bureau of Justice Assistance – [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov)
- › National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice – [www.ncmhjj.com](http://www.ncmhjj.com)
- › Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration - [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)
- › 1in5 Minds - [www.1in5minds.org](http://www.1in5minds.org)
- › National Alliance of Mental Illness SA – [www.namisaat.org](http://www.namisaat.org)
- › Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health – [www.texasfederationoffamilies.org](http://www.texasfederationoffamilies.org)



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