

Allen County

Judge Glenn H. Derryberry

Program Name

Project Change

Program Intervention

Community-Based Violence Prevention

Primary Service Location

Community

Program Description

- The purpose of this program is to reduce weapons-related offenses and to increase school and community engagements.
- This project utilizes SANKOFA, a youth violence prevention program that embraces traditional African values of consciousness, caring, connectedness, character, competency, commitment and courage to minimize the involvement in gun-related violence and to promote resiliency.
- This program was chosen due to the propensity for gun violence among young African American males in our community, which has led to the disproportionate number of minorities committed to secure facilities.
- SANKOFA groups are administered once a week for 1.5 hours by a trained and licensed SANKOFA facilitator. To enhance SANKOFA services, C.H.O.I.C.E.S. Behavioral Health provides comprehensive case management and behavioral health services.

Outcomes

- Since the reporting date, 100% of the youth that completed the SANKOFA program have not recidivated with weapon related offenses or any other technical violations of probation.
- To increase school and community engagement – baseline data has been collected but comparison data cannot be collected until the fall of 2016.

Lessons Learned

Choose a service provider that fits the needs of your target population – This is imperative, and is our most salient lesson learned. While youth were all identified as high risk to re-offend, the extent of their needs were greater than anyone related to the project expected, (Ex. Homelessness, transiency, drug issues etc.). This resulted in a re-shaping of our services which also included a change in our original service provider.

Program Snapshot

(As of June 30, 2016)

Gender:

All Male

Race/Ethnicity:

100% African American

Age Range:

13-18

Offense Level:

Felony, Misdemeanor

Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

Moderate, High Risk

Screens & Assessments:

MAYSI-2, OYAS

Program Start Date:

August 28th, 2015

Received Services:

33 Youth

Program Completion Successes:

15 Youth

6 Youth Continuing into FY17

Average # of Service Units:

45 Direct Service Hours Per Successful Youth

Program Partners:

- C.H.O.I.C.E.S. Behavioral Health
- Tanja Nihiser-Independent Evaluator
- Dr. Paulette Hines
- Center for Healthy Schools, Families and Communities

Program Information Contact

Lachelle James

DMC Coordinator

Allen County Juvenile Court

Community Control Department

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Allen County Early Successes - SANKOFA

“Our experience with the first year of Project Change led us to make significant changes to the program. With this program, our hope is to reach minority young people who are at significant risk of becoming involved in serious, violent offenses. With the changes that were made to the program, we believe we are now more effectively reaching this population and that the program is having an impact in preventing or reducing these types of offenses.”

Honorable Glenn H. Derryberry
Juvenile Judge

Youth Success Story - “T” is a 17-year old who was originally placed on probation for aggravated robbery. After serving six months in a Community Correctional Facility, he returned to the community and had a subsequent arrest for domestic violence. T. began Project Change the day after his release from detention. Since that time, he has had no further violations of the law. The program facilitator notes he shows proper leadership in the group, models appropriate behaviors, and although he has had some minor issues in the community, he has begun to utilize the coping skills taught in group to avoid other negative situations.



“The program has helped the guys, not only get in touch with their own feelings, but the feelings of others. They now understand how their actions not only affect them but others. They talk about how they want their mothers to be proud of them. It has opened them up to their true feelings.” –

Jeff Kirkman,
CHOICES Behavioral Health

“I have referred 5 probationers to Project Change. Prior to the program, this group of young men had chronic school discipline issues and all continued to have positive drug screens. Since their involvement with Project Change there has been a noticeable reduction in school related problems, and none of the youth I referred have tested positive for substances in the last two months.” –

Lachelle James
DMC Coordinator

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