

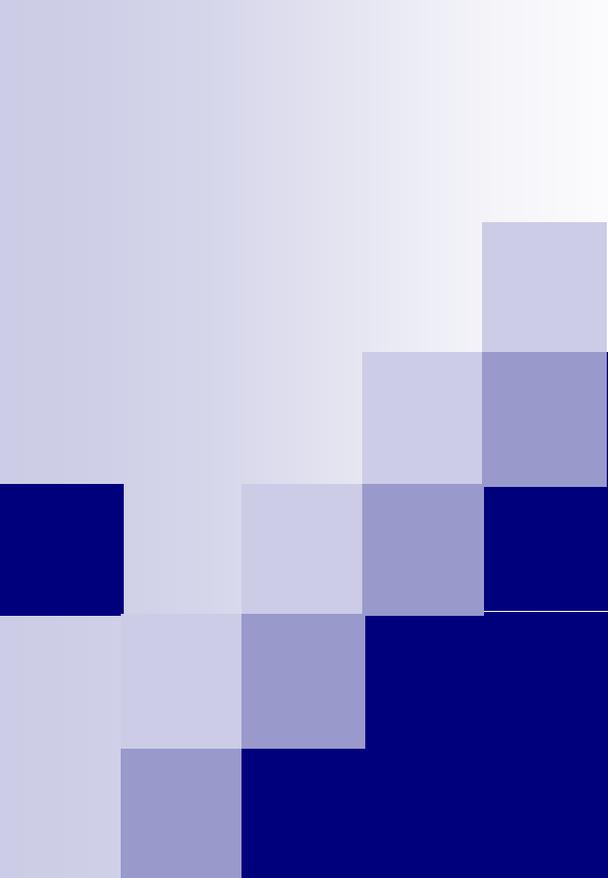
# Hennepin County FASD Program

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# Overview

- Hennepin County's FASD Program (Minneapolis, MN)
- Barriers & Unique Strategies
- Lessons Learned



# Overview

## Hennepin County FASD Program

# Hennepin County FASD Program

- It is one of 23 subcontracts funded to develop FASD prevention and intervention services.
- Juvenile Court Subcontract
- Screen, refer for Diagnostic and develop Interventions for youth in the Juvenile Justice System



# Target Population

- Youth ages 12 through 17
- Resident of Hennepin County
- Adjudicated delinquent

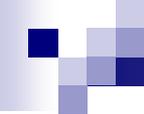
# Goals of the Initiative

The goals of Hennepin County's FASD Program are as follows:

- Juveniles with an FASD will reduce their justice system involvement (fewer and/or less serious new offenses and probation violations).
- Juveniles with an FASD will maintain more stability in out-of-home placements (no more than one change of placement per year).

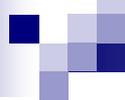
# Goals

- Juveniles with an FASD will increase their school successes (decrease suspensions, expulsions and/or incident reports; increase attendance and high school credits earned).
- Juveniles will improve their functioning as a result of receiving multiple interventions. These interventions will be developed by a multidisciplinary team based on recommendations from the FASD diagnostic evaluation.



# Task Force

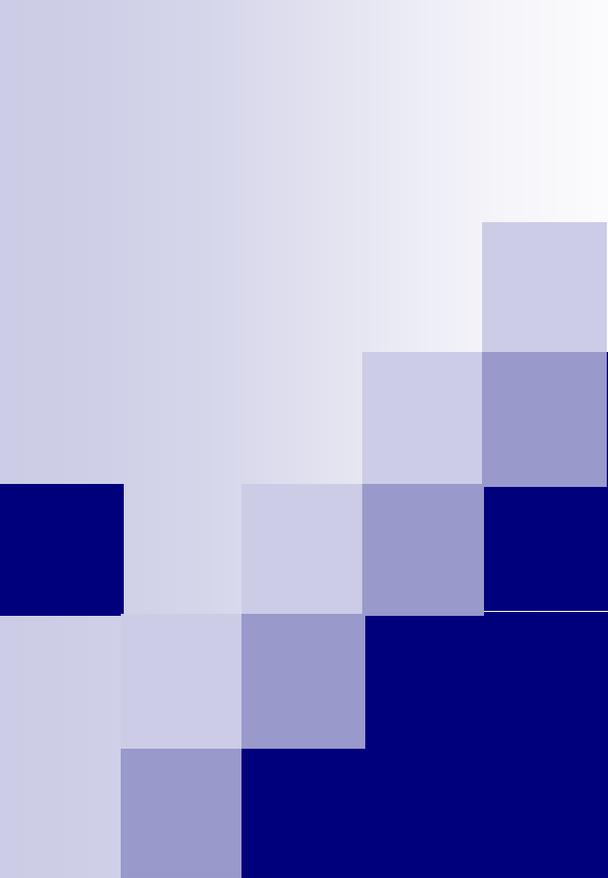
The Task Force is composed of a blend of Hennepin County Children's Services, Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation and Community Stake holders.



# Subcommittees

The Task Force is broken down into three subcommittees:

- Policy and Procedure
- Diagnostic
- Intervention



# Unique Strategies

## Overcoming Barriers

# What are we doing differently?

- Screen for prenatal alcohol exposure in juvenile probation
- Make recommendations to Court to fulfill the Courts needs
- Develop case plans specific to their disability
- Make referrals specifically to address their needs based on the FASD evaluation report

# Monitor Progress

- Collect Data

- Schools

- Probation

- Community Providers:

- Specifically, is it appropriate?

- Is it working?

- What are you doing differently?

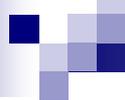
# How do we accomplish this in the System?

## ■ Partner with:

- Court
- County Attorney's and Public Defenders
- Probation Officers
- the School System's
- Community Providers
- Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (MOFAS)

# Court Officials: Judges & Attorneys

- Well known Program, due to diligent work by the previous project
- Court Officials serve on Task Force which provides ownership
- Make specific recommendations:
  - On how the youth can meet public safety needs
  - What the youth needs to achieve success



# Court Officials: Judges & Attorneys

- Encourage self education on the disability
- Attend Court with clients
- Program Director serves on multiple juvenile justice task forces:
  - Mental Health, Development Disabilities, Girl Specific Programming and Culture Specific

# Probation Officers

- Key to having success
- Provide them with knowledge
- Understand what their role is
- Partner to obtain same goal
- Invite to Diagnostic Clinic and School meetings
- Encourage self-education

# School Systems

- Minneapolis Public Schools
  - FASD Liaison
  - Connection with Diagnostic Clinic
- District 287 – Students Addressing FASD through Education (SAFE) Program
- Attend all school meetings:
  - Individual Education Plan meetings
  - Manifestation Determination

# Community Providers

- Key to the youth's success in the community
- Youth need connection in the community for when County services stop
- The Providers, provide services to meet the needs of the youth
- Provider Network

# Provider Network

- Developed by the Intervention Subcommittee
- Over 50 community providers including:
  - Chemical health, mental health, residential services, mentor, after school programs, advocacy groups, school professionals, truancy programs, etc

# Provider Network

- Topics have included:
  - How can providers work with schools to improve success for individuals with FASD
  - Effective chemical health interventions for the unique issues of individuals with FASD.
  - Foster community engagement and share options for appropriate and safe after school and leisure settings for youth with FASD

# Provider Network

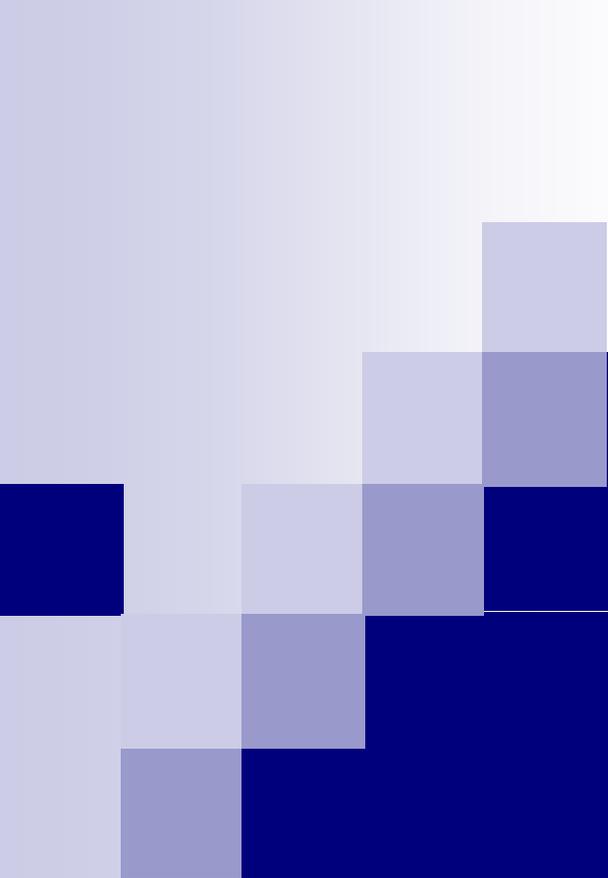
- Data collection
  - What interventions are being utilized
  - What is working and not working
  - Collect data to support findings

# MOFAS

- Connect families with support
- Refer all parents for education regarding the disability
- Use as a resource for new referrals in areas such as:
  - Mental Health, Chemical Health, Residential Treatment, Group Homes, Diagnostic Clinics, Trainings, professional education, etc

# Youth and Families

- Assist in all areas of obtaining an FASD Evaluation
- Develop intervention case plans
  - Invite multidisciplinary members to meeting
  - Feedback sessions, school IEP meetings or in probation office
  - Provide copies to pertinent parties (may include court)
- Monitor
  - Appropriateness of intervention
  - Barriers and challenges
  - Offer new ideas and supports



# Lessons Learned

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- Delay in youth receiving FASD Diagnostic evaluation appointments
  - Set dates for Hennepin County youth at FASD Diagnostic Clinic
- Inadequate communication among systems
  - Ongoing communication with Task Force members administration
  - Develop and maintain a flow chart for school systems

# Lessons Learned

- Youth with FASD that are on Probation take up most of a Probation Officers time
  - Assist in case management with Probation Officers and work close with caregivers and youth
  - Provide resources and updates for obtaining goals
  
- Some families & court officials may not comprehend an FASD Evaluation Report
  - Develop a “reader friendly” FASD Diagnostic Evaluation with the University of Minnesota FASD Diagnostic Clinic

# Lessons Learned

- The need for FASD specific interventions and services
  - Development of provider network
  - Monitor services being utilized
- FASD diagnostic evaluations can be overwhelming for families
  - Assist with all scheduling of appointments, paperwork, transportation, reminder calls, etc

# In Summary

- There is a need for innovative and individualized services to be provided to youth with an FASD. The FASD Program is partnering with Court Officials, Probation Officers and community providers to achieve successful outcomes for youth with an FASD.

# In Summary

- Based on these outcomes, the FASD Program will be able to sustain the screening, diagnostic and intervention services beyond the subcontract period.