



A Bridge to Somewhere: How research made its way into juvenile justice reform in Ohio

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**“Judges, Youth Corrections Experts, and Advocates Thank Governor Kasich,
General Assembly Leaders for Passage of Historic Juvenile Justice Reforms”
Governor Signs HB 86 into Law, Columbus, OH, June 29, 2010**



“This is a great story. Fewer kids in our institutions. More in community settings. What we know is if we can successfully apply community treatment, we have **much better outcomes** than when we lock people up and throw away the key. And that is what we are all searching for.”

—Ohio Governor John Kasich

(12:49 minute mark of Youtube, June 29 Kasich on Prison Reform 1.mov)

HB 86 (& Ohio State Budget)

Juvenile Justice Reforms

129th General Assembly	
Regular Session	Am. Sub. H. B. No. 86
2011-2012	
Representatives Blessing, Heard	
Cosponsors: Representatives Uecker, Slaby, Amstutz, Anielski, Antonio, Barnes, Beck, Blair, Boose, Boyd, Brenner, Bubp, Buchy, Carney, Celeste, Clyde, Coley, Combs, Derickson, Dovilla, Driehaus, Duffey, Fedor, Foley, Garland, Gonzales, Grossman, Hackett, Hagan, C., Henne, Luckie, Mallory, Martin, McClain, McGregor, McKenney, Mecklenborg, Milkovich, Murray, Newbold, O'Brien, Okey, Patmon, Peterson, Pillich, Schuring, Sears, Sprague, Sykes, Szollosi, Thompson, Winburn, Yuko Speaker Batchelder Senators Bacon, Beagle, Brown, Coley, Daniels, Hite, Jones, Kearney, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Niehaus, Obhof, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Smith, Tavares, Turner, Wagoner, Widener, Wilson	
A B I L L	
To amend sections 109.42, 307.93, 309.18, 341.12,	1
926.99, 1333.99, 1707.99, 1716.99, 2151.23,	2
2152.02, 2152.021, 2152.12, 2152.13, 2152.14,	3
2152.17, 2152.22, 2301.27, 2301.30, 2717.01,	4
2743.51, 2743.56, 2743.59, 2743.60, 2901.08,	5
2903.01, 2903.11, 2903.12, 2903.13, 2905.01,	6
2905.02, 2907.21, 2907.22, 2907.323, 2909.03,	7
2909.05, 2909.11, 2911.12, 2913.01, 2913.02,	8
2913.03, 2913.04, 2913.11, 2913.21, 2913.31,	9
2913.32, 2913.34, 2913.40, 2913.401, 2913.42,	10
2913.421, 2913.43, 2913.45, 2913.46, 2913.47,	11
2913.48, 2913.49, 2913.51, 2913.61, 2915.05,	12
2917.21, 2917.31, 2917.32, 2919.21, 2919.22,	13
2921.13, 2921.34, 2921.41, 2923.01, 2923.31,	14

- Promotes “research-supported, outcome-based” practices with RECLAIM & reallocation of institutional cost savings into evidence-based programs
- Creates a uniform juvenile competency law
- Increases judicial discretion in some instances
- Changes some statutory sentencing laws and adds a narrow reverse waiver provision
- Creates an Interagency Mental Health Juvenile Justice Task Force with child and adolescent development expertise

Vision to Action

- *“National Campaign to Reform State Juvenile Justice Systems”* initiated by MacArthur Foundation**
- JJ Stakeholders convened by Ohio Supreme Court Justices Stratton & McGee-Brown
- National-local strategy team:
 - funders
 - communication & media consultants
 - lobbyists
 - **researchers & policy expertise**
 - advocates
 - practitioners
 - etc.



Building the Bridge



- Research-informed
- Aligned with child & adolescent development principles
- Product of a collaborative, bi-directional process
- Relevant to current political climate

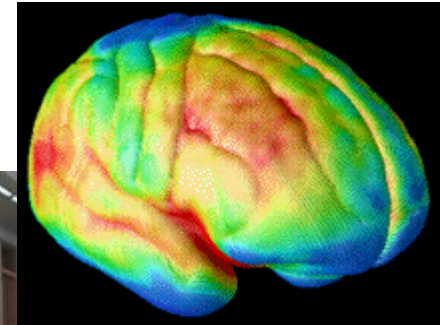
Policy Broker/ Bridge-Builder



- Dual coordination & translation roles
- Core policy team
- Key informants
- Shared Guiding Principles
- Research – Identify, Review, Present
- JJ as a “social problem”: cost drivers & benefits
- Policy opportunities & framework
- Political compromise

Research Translation: Juvenile Justice as a compelling social problem in Ohio

- Child well-being & outcomes
- System challenges
- Community impacts
- Cost drivers
- Effective alternatives to status quo



Policy Opportunity

Conceptual policy framework to address Juvenile Justice social problem (“Rightsizing JJ in Ohio”):

- 1)child development-informed**
- 2)research/evidence-supported practices**
- 3)expansion of judicial discretion and reduction of mandatory approach to justice**
- 4)diversion and prevention strategies**
- 5)consistent with public reinvestment and cost-benefit values**

Bridge-building continues

- Public education
- Implementation & Finetuning
- Future reforms



A Bridge to Somewhere

Patrick J. Kanary

The Role of Evidence Based Practices



CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



MANDEL SCHOOL OF
APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

What Do We Mean By Evidence-Based practices?

A **program or practice** that has been **demonstrated** through **scientific** studies to be effective in improving **outcomes** for a **specific population**.



What is the shared vision among multiple stakeholders?



- Cost effectiveness
- Relevant outcomes
- Community safety
- Meets common goals of multiple systems
- Solid research and evaluation activities
- Impacts a significant issue or population

What did we use to set the stage

- Gund Foundation Survey results
- Data from the Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice initiative
- Data from effective programs focused on the target population
- Cost benefit information from these programs
- Direct connection to Legislator's communities

Gund Survey

- 70% of key community stake holders indicated that diversion programs are seeing more mental health and substance abusing youth
- 80% of the respondents said they see an increase over the last few years in treatment referrals of youth to community programs
- 80% of the respondents expressed concern over resources, including not enough investment in evidence based programs

Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice Initiative (BHJJ)

- Strategically focused on the identification and diversion of **deep-end youthful offenders with serious** behavioral health needs from ODYS, based on needs as identified by the participating courts
 - Reliance on effective home and community-based interventions
 - Significant improvement in Ohio Scales from intake to termination
 - Significant improvements in Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children
 - Substantially reduced risk over time for out of home placement
 - Increased school attendance
 - Decreased contact with law enforcement

Cost effective

- Over **\$16.4 million dollars** in placement costs saved by investing **\$3 million dollars in intensive home based treatment**
- Total Cost Benefit over **\$13.4 million dollars** saved for 394 youth served
- The total cost savings per youth is **\$34,154**
- For **every dollar** spent in IHBT/MST, there was a return of **\$5.55** in placement costs avoided.



Information	Calculation	Cost	Benefit
86% of 394 youth served remained in the home (339)	339 youth X \$57,788 = \$19,590,132		\$19,590,132 Placement costs avoided
Average cost of placement \$57,788			
IHBT Grant FY 08 & 09 (394 youth)	394 x \$7,500 = \$2,955,000	\$2,955,00 Total cost of IHBT	
Typical Case Rate for IHBT = \$7,500			
55 youth placed	55 x \$57,788= \$3,178,340	\$3,178,340 Total cost of placement	
Average cost of placement \$57,788			
			Total Benefit
394 youth served in IHBT Grant FY 08 and 09	Cost saved minus cost of IHBT and cost of youth placed		\$13,456,792 (for all youth served)
	\$13,456,792 divided by total youth served (394)		\$34,154 (Cost savings per youth)
	Total Benefit (19,590,132 – 3,178,340)/Total Service Cost (2,955,000)	For every (\$1) dollar spent in IHBT	\$5.55 is returned in placement costs avoided

What spoke to policy makers: Key and relevant Outcomes

- Kids living at home and in community
- Attending and achieving in school
- Reduced court involvement
- Reduced substance abuse
- Increased family functioning
- Increased pro-social activities



Demonstrate Program Effectiveness

Ohio MST Dashboard FY 09, FY 10, FY 11

Indicator	Value (Target)
Total Cases Discharged	1598
Percent of youth at home	87.84% (90%)
Percent of youth in school	86.89% (90%)
Percent of youth with no new arrests	77.79% (90%)
Percent of youth completing treatment	85.39% (85%)
Average Adherence Score	0.703 (0.61)

Response from Legislators

“As a businessman I ‘get’ the attention to **quality assurance** and **outcomes**. That makes sense.”

Representative Ross McGregor in response to HB 86 testimony



How were outcomes achieved?



- Use of the **'right'** intervention
- Successful **implementation**
- **Dedicated** workforce
- **Ongoing** support, coaching, training
- Outcome **data collection**
- **Sharing** results with key **stakeholders**

Gund JJ Grantmaking:

Ohio & Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Reform

