

REDUCING THE SCHOOL-TO- PRISON PIPELINE

A Strategy to Serve High-Risk Youth

2nd Annual Statewide Summit on Juvenile Justice

June 7, 2018



WHO'S IN THE ROOM?

What brings you here today??



WYOMING AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE

WHO WE ARE

- WYAA is a Statewide Afterschool Network since 2007
- We support all afterschool programs in the state with:
 - ✓ Professional Development and Training
 - ✓ Annual Statewide Afterschool Conferences
 - ✓ Ensure that all children and youth have access to high quality programs in every community
 - ✓ Develop statewide initiatives that support positive youth outcomes, and success in school and life



JUVENILE JUSTICE IN WYOMING

- As of 2015, Wyoming ranks 1st in the nation for youth committed to residential placement by the courts.
- Wyoming also ranks 4th in the nation for school referrals to law enforcement.
- As of 2017, Wyoming ranks 1st in the nation for suicides among children and youth
- Research has shown that formal processing of youth through court systems does not reduce subsequent offending and probably increases the likelihood for *reoffending*.
- Both of these statistics are attributed *to lack of community-based options* and resources due in part to Wyoming's rural nature



HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

- In Fall 2013, WYAA became interested in understanding the School-to-Prison Pipeline and how afterschool and summer programs can help.
- *We know that afterschool and summer programs are important prevention and intervention strategies for at-risk children and should be referred to high quality afterschool programs.*
- Research shows that afterschool programs keep kids safe, support positive youth development, and help kids graduate from high school.
- In Fall 2015, WYAA received funding to begin efforts on Reducing the School-to-Prison Pipeline – a state initiative.



WHY AFTERSCHOOL IS A SYSTEM OF SUPPORT

- **Provide** expanded learning opportunities for children and youth during high-risk hours between 3-6pm and summer learning
- **Provide** activities that support positive youth development
- **Offer** least restrictive environments for at-risk youth
- **Employ** highly qualified staff who become positive and nurturing adult mentors.
- **DEFINITIONS:**
 - ✓ “At-risk youth” applies to those who are less likely to transition successfully into adulthood and achieve economic self-sufficiency



REDUCING THE “SCHOOL TO PRISON” PIPELINE: A STRATEGY TO SERVE HIGH-RISK YOUTH



A two-pronged strategy to help divert Wyoming children from formal juvenile justice systems through afterschool programs:

Area #1 - Primary Prevention

- **Work with elementary afterschool programs** to develop partnerships within their districts that help identify high-risk children. Those students will be given an opportunity to attend an afterschool program as **the first tier of service**.
- **Promote the inclusion of afterschool programs** as part of the school district Individual Education Plan (IEP) team, Building Intervention Team (BIT) team and a **partner with County Juvenile Service Boards**.
- **Provide professional development** to afterschool programs that better prepare them to welcome and **appropriately serve challenging children and youth in their programs**.



Area #2 - Early Intervention

- **Develop and implement a mapping project** to collect data on number of afterschool programs offering programming **for middle and high school aged youth in Wyoming**.
- **Provide Inventory services** to each age group.
- **Develop a framework** and policy recommendations that include:
 - Evidence-Based Afterschool Services that are **consistent with Wyoming resources and culture**
 - **Strategic guidance** on implementation and funding such as training, coaching and implementation of high quality curriculum

Intended Outcomes

- ✓ Reduce juvenile citations
- ✓ Increase school attendance
- ✓ Increase engagement in learning
- ✓ Improve grade performance
- ✓ Raise graduation rate



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SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN 2016

Afterschool
Program
Providers

Wyoming
Stakeholders &
Professionals

School
Resource
Officers

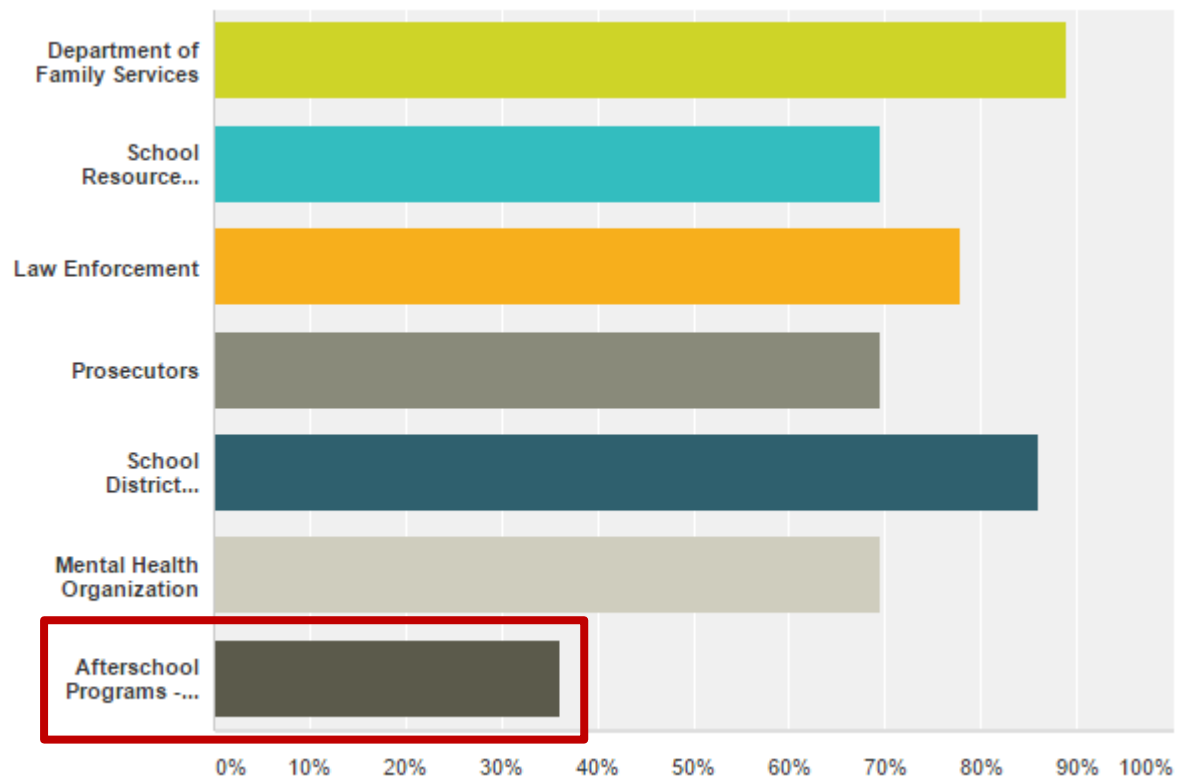


BARRIERS TO PROVIDING SERVICES TO AT-RISK YOUTH

- Access to IEPs for specific understanding of needs
- Other confidentiality issues such as parent communication, approvals, court orders, or custody
- Cooperation and communication with school districts
- Funding
- Staffing and professional development opportunities
- General lack of awareness of afterschool programs as a resource

Wyoming Stakeholders & Professionals

WYOMING STAKEHOLDERS & PROFESSIONALS



Afterschool programs are the least understood and/or under utilized as community partners for juvenile justice in Wyoming communities



School Resource Officers

DESCRIBE THE MAJOR CHALLENGES YOU EXPERIENCE WHILE WORKING WITH AT- RISK YOUTH

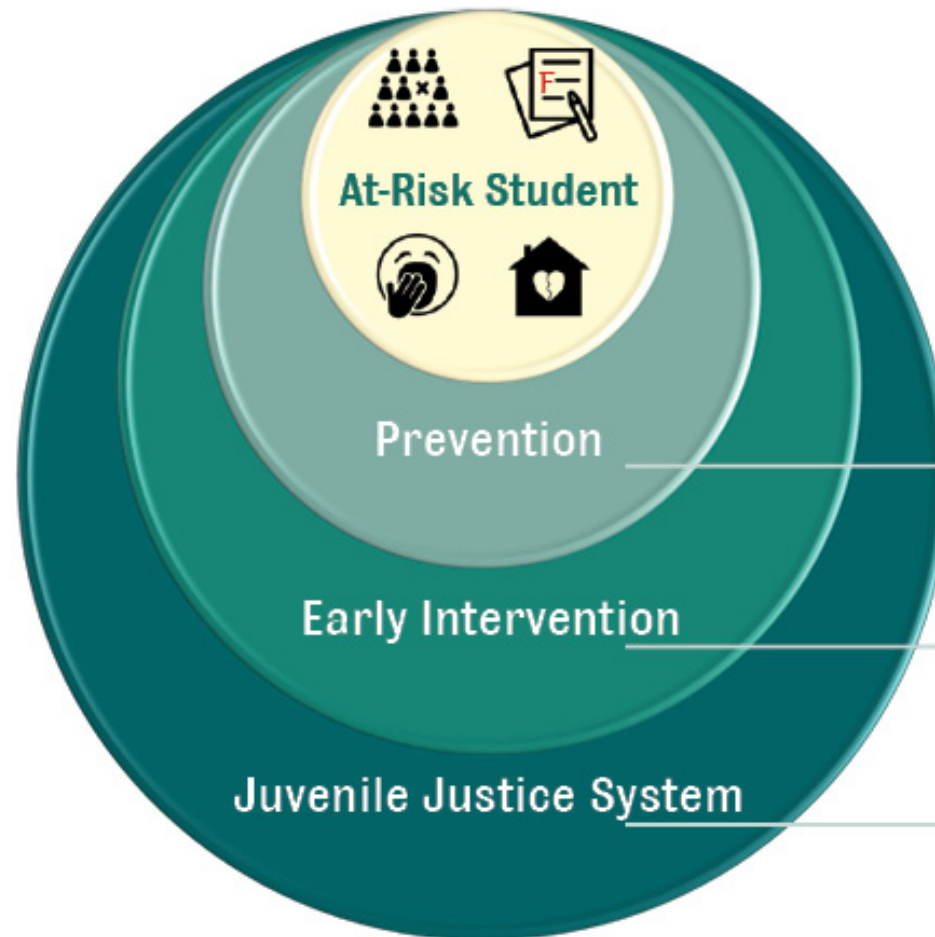
Number 1 Response: *“Behavior Issues and Attitudes”*
Let’s talk about this together.....

Interested in professional development opportunities:

- Confidentiality Laws and IEPs
- De-escalation Techniques and Strategies for Behavior Management
- Understanding Autism and Spectrum Disorders
- Understanding ADHD



The Juvenile Justice Ecosystem



At-Risk Children and Youth may be identified by...

- Chronic Absenteeism
- Low Engagement in the Classroom
- Behavior Management Issues
- Low Achievement Scores
- Family and Home Issues

..as early as kindergarten

1st Tier Services - \$

- School District, including Behavior Intervention Teams (BIT)
- Family Involvement
- **Afterschool Programs**
*\$800/child/year, serving >14,000 children in 2016**
- Special Education Services: Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Wrap-around services
- County Prevention Coalitions

2nd Tier Services - \$\$

- School District and Special Education Services: IEPs, BITs, etc.
- **Afterschool Programs**
- Wrap-around services
- County Prevention Coalitions
- Department of Family Services

3rd Tier Services - \$\$\$\$\$

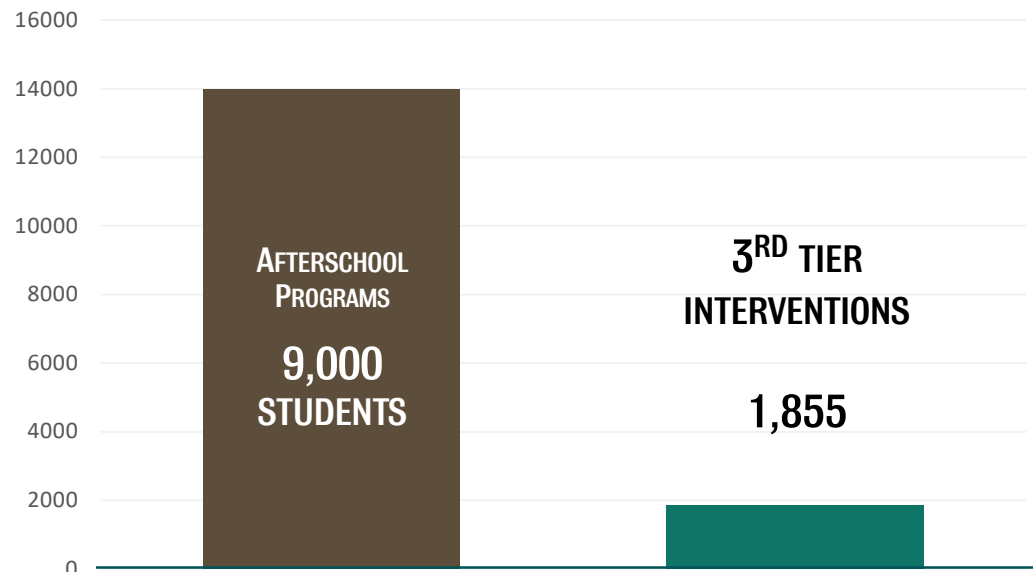
- Department of Family Services
*\$9,660/child/year, serving 1855 children in 2016**
- County Prevention Coalitions
- County Youth Services
- Law Enforcement
- Court System
- Residential Facilities

**average values based on data from 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool providers and Wyoming DFS*

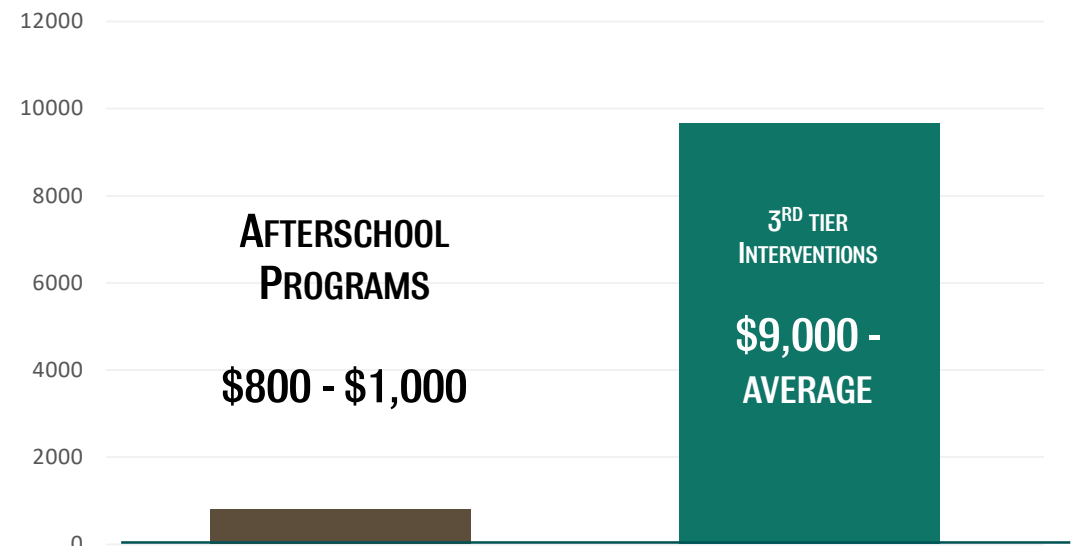
By The Numbers

SERVING AT-RISK CHILDREN & YOUTH

NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED*



COST PER CHILD/YEAR*



*Values based on 2016 data from Wyoming Department of Family Services and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

By The Numbers

ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT IT



Wyoming DFS Placement Type	2016 Expenditure	Children	Per Child Cost
Crisis Center	\$150,024.00	17	\$8,824.94
Detention	\$1,181,400.02	135	\$8,751.11
Foster Care	\$5,317,340.38	1,217	\$4,369.22
Group Home	\$3,608,379.00	279	\$12,933.26
Residential Treatment	\$7,192,653.18	187	\$38,463.39
Specialized Foster Care Non-Relative	\$176,639.04	8	\$22,079.88
Therap. Foster Care Non-Relative	\$295,211.89	12	\$24,600.99
2016 Total	\$17,921,647.51	1,855	\$9,662.70
21st CCLC Programs	\$5,800,000.00	9,000-10,000	\$800-1,000

*Values based on 2016 data from Wyoming Department of Family Services and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

“At A Glance” Resource Guide



WYOMING
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- 1. Locate and visit an afterschool program in your community.**
 - Statewide Map: wyafterschoolalliance.org
- 2. Identify and contact resources in your community such as**
 - Local DFS Office
 - Public Health Nurses
 - Americorps/VISTA - Volunteers in Service to America
 - Mental Health Professionals
 - Non-Profits that Support and Serve Youth
 - Local Juvenile Defenders
 - Community Prevention Coalition
- 3. Make connections at your local school district and afterschool program including**
 - School-based programs (those housed in school districts)
 - Community-based non-profit afterschool and summer learning programs (Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Parks and Recreation, etc...)
- 4. Contact the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance for assistance with**
 - Technical resources and training opportunities
 - Current research and data on best practices for positive youth development
 - Referrals, consultations and facilitation
- 5. Attend the annual WYAA State Conference each October.**
- 6. Refer a family to an afterschool program in your area.**
- 7. Stay in touch with WYAA!**
 - Subscribe to our newsletter at wyafterschoolalliance.org
 - Follow us at twitter.com/WyomingOST & facebook.com/WyomingOST



Notes



Prevention and early intervention strategies are crucial to keeping at-risk children and youth out of the school-to-prison pipeline. As you go through this summit, we encourage you to think about your own or your organization's role and make notes on the outline below.

STRENGTHS



- What characteristics give you and/or your organization advantages in supporting students?
- What do we do to support students with Prevention and Early Intervention efforts?
- What in-kind or financial investments has your community made that support students?
-
-
-
-

CHALLENGES



- What characteristics give you and/or your organization disadvantages in supporting at-risk students
- What resources are lacking in your organization? (i.e. training, funding, etc.)
-
-
-
-

OPPORTUNITIES



- Can new stakeholder relationships be strengthened?
- Could a local afterschool program be leveraged?
- Can existing partnerships be strengthened?
-
-
-
-

THREATS



- What are the obstacles?
- Do external threats (funding, changing political climate, etc.) exist?
-
-
-
-

<http://wyafterschoolalliance.org/publication-and-briefs/#1486744970722-386b1bc0-7112>



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Action Plan

Use this tool to identify your next steps.

How does this discussion align with your community's goals?

Ideas / Possibilities Sparked by this Discussion:

Collaborative Partners:

Suggested Work Group:

Action Item 1

Action Item: _____

Who/Lead: _____

Timeline: _____

Resources Needed: _____

Follow Up / Next Steps: _____

Questions / Challenges: _____

Action Item 2

Action Item: _____

Who/Lead: _____

Timeline: _____

Resources Needed: _____

Follow Up / Next Steps: _____

Questions / Challenges: _____

References and Citations

The Center for Public Integrity, A state-by-state look at students referred to law enforcement

By Chris Zubak-Skees, <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/04/10/17074/state-state-look-students-referred-law-enforcement>

Reference: Petrosino, Anthony, Carolyn Turpin Petrosino, and Sarah Guckenbug (2010). Formal System Processing of Juveniles: Effects on Delinquency. The Campbell Collaboration. Oslo, Norway: www.campbellcollaboration.org

Taking a Deeper Dive into Afterschool: Positive Outcomes and Promising Practices, Afterschool Alliance, 1616 H St., NW, Suite 820, Washington, DC 20006, February 2014.

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THANK YOU FROM WYAA AND NCPC!

Reducing the School-to-Prison Pipeline

For more information and to connect with us, visit:

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