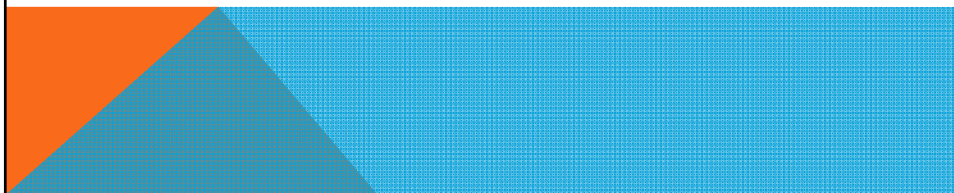


MADISON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

- Halfway between Memphis and Nashville
- Population of almost 100,000
- 2/3 live inside the city limits of Jackson.
- Appx 25,000 from surrounding counties come into Jackson each day to work and attend school.

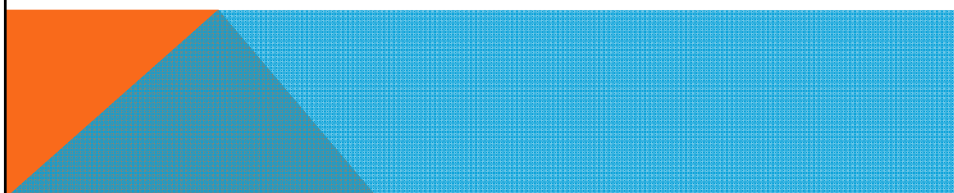
STRUCTURE OF THE THE JUVENILE COURT

- **General Sessions – Includes probate and civil dockets in addition to abuse/neglect, juvenile justice, child support, custody, and visitation cases.**
- **Elected Juvenile Court Judge & one magistrate**
- **Elected Juvenile Court Clerk**
- **Court Services Director appointed by County Legislative Body**



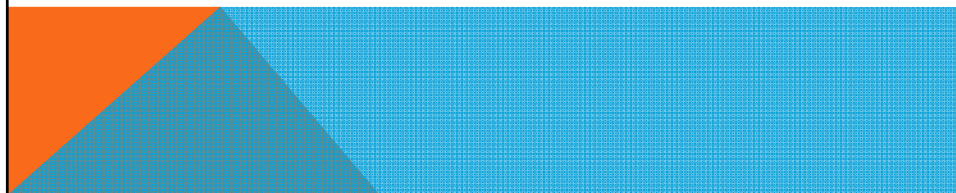
COURT SERVICES DIVISION INCLUDES...

- **8-bed Juvenile Detention Center**
- **2 Intake Counselors**
- **6 Probation Officers**
- **2 Victim Advocates**
- **Teen Court**
- **Evening Reporting Center**



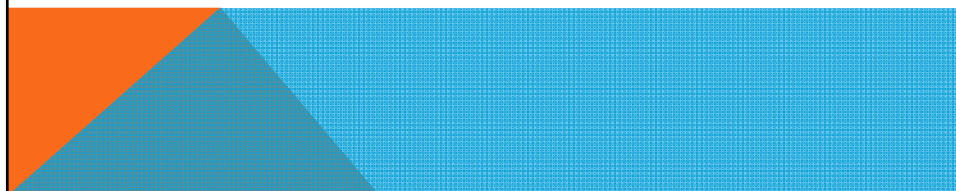
BY THE NUMBERS

- Appx 1,100 delinquency cases per year
- DMC concerns – More than 80% are youth of color, though the county as a whole is about 35% nonwhite.
- Trends over the last five years show a decline in the overall number of delinquent offenses, but certain categories of violent offenses involving weapons are increasing.



INITIATIVES BEGAN IN 2010...WHY?

- Statutory requirements for evidence based practice
- Outdated assessment instrument with no research base
- Inconsistency in services and recommendations due to lack of standardization



INTAKE PROCEDURES

- Youth charged with delinquent offenses come in for assessment along with a parent or guardian.
- Advised of their rights, petition is reviewed with them, and attorneys are appointed if qualified for indigent counsel. 97% of cases do qualify, and MCJC does not use the public defender's office.
- Court date set if not qualified for diversion
- Youth and parent/guardian asked to voluntarily participate in the CANS screener.

CANS SCREENER

- Grant partnership with DCS, DMH, and the AOC
- Child and Adolescent Needs & Strengths (CANS) screener is a 33-item modified version of the CANS used by DCS.
- Each item is scored 0 to 3 with 0 meaning "not an issue" and 3 meaning "youth in crisis".
- Connect the family with resources and services instead of waiting until court.

OBSTACLES TO THE CANS

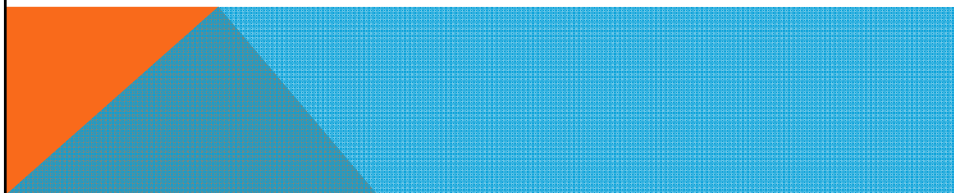
- People don't like change.
- Concerns from attorneys

PROBATION PROGRAMS OPERATED BY MCJCS

- TRIAD – Early intervention and education around drugs and alcohol
- Juvenile Court Monitoring – Middle school aged youth with nonviolent first offenses
- Child & Family Intervention – High school age youth with multiple offenses
- Intensive/Suspended Commitment – High school age youth with serious delinquent charges and multiple priors

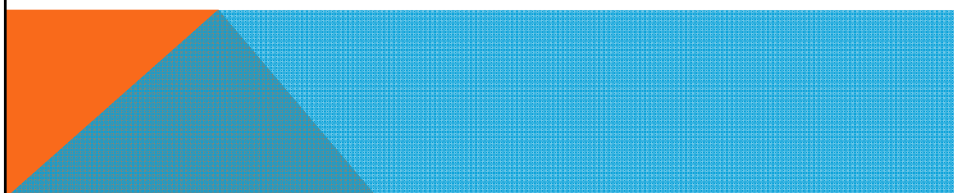
YASI - YOUTH ASSESSMENT AND SCREENING INSTRUMENT

- Used post-adjudication to develop the service plan for the youth
- CANS and YASI have different purposes. CANS is a mental health screening tool. The YASI is a risk assessment for youth already adjudicated delinquent to determine risk of future offenses.



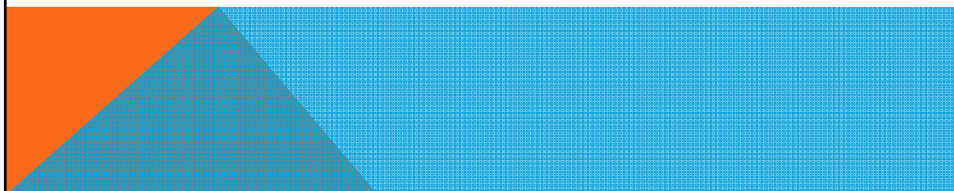
MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Recidivism is assessed at six, 12, 18 and 24 months past case closure.
- Defined as whether or not a youth incurs new charges in the juvenile or adult system
- Benchmark is 15%



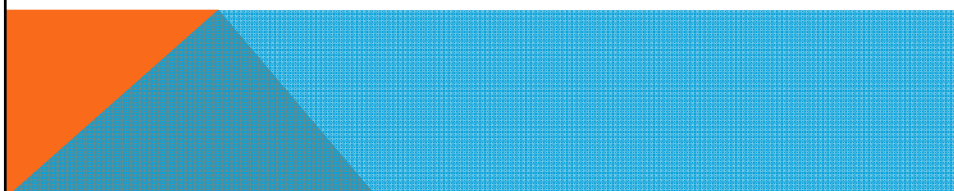
IMPROVEMENT DEMONSTRATED

- More accurate match between youth and family's needs and services rendered means better outcomes.
- Currently all levels of probation are under the 15% recidivism benchmark.
- More effective use of resources



WHAT WE LEARNED...

- Research carefully, commit to your plan and strive for fidelity to the instruments.
- Measure outcomes carefully and don't be afraid to make changes as you learn from the data.
- Know that it may take years to see the results of what you do today



STUMBLING BLOCKS

- Lack of staff – This process is driven by the initial intake. Getting that right is critical and takes time. Typical intake is 1 to 1.5 hours. Will be difficult for a county without dedicated intake staff.
- Ability to track data – You will need a reliable way to collect and measure outcomes data to know if what you are doing is effective.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Juvenile Mental Health Court to serve as a diversionary process for youth and families who follow through with mental health treatment plans.