

Research on Promoting School Safety by Addressing School Mental Health School Responder Model & AMHT-SRO

2019 Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health
November 8, 2019

NCYOJ

Research. Policy. Practice.

National Center for Youth
Opportunity and Justice

Behavioral Health, School and Justice Intersections



Students suspended or expelled are nearly 3x as likely to be in contact with the juvenile justice system the next year than their peers



Students with disabilities are twice as likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than those without disabilities



More than 1 in 4 boys of color with disabilities receive an out-of-school suspension

NCYOJ's NIJ School Safety Study

- ▶ January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2020
- ▶ To examine the effects of the School Responder Model (SRM) and Adolescent Mental Health Training – School Resource Officers (AMHT-SRO), both independently and collectively, on key outcome measures
- ▶ To measure any differences in outcomes due to local variations in resources

Acknowledgements

Assessing a School, Justice and Behavioral Health Collaborative Approach to Improving School Safety

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Partners

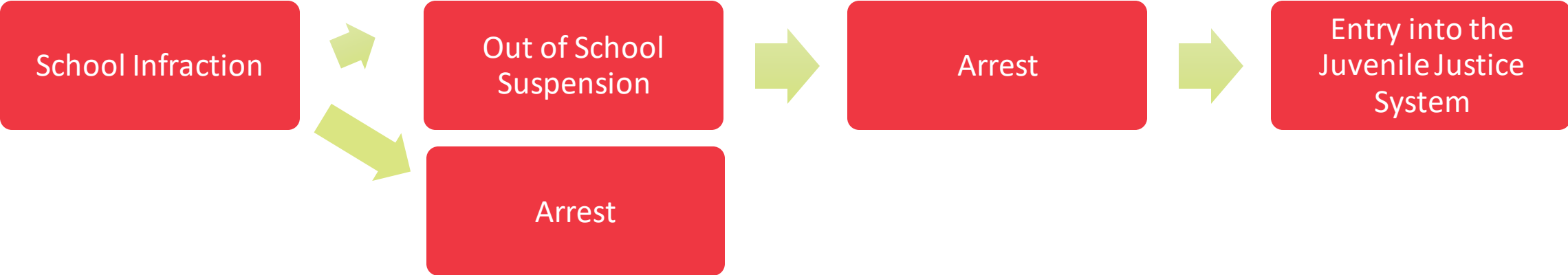
LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS

CHDI
Child Health and
Development Institute

School Responder Models

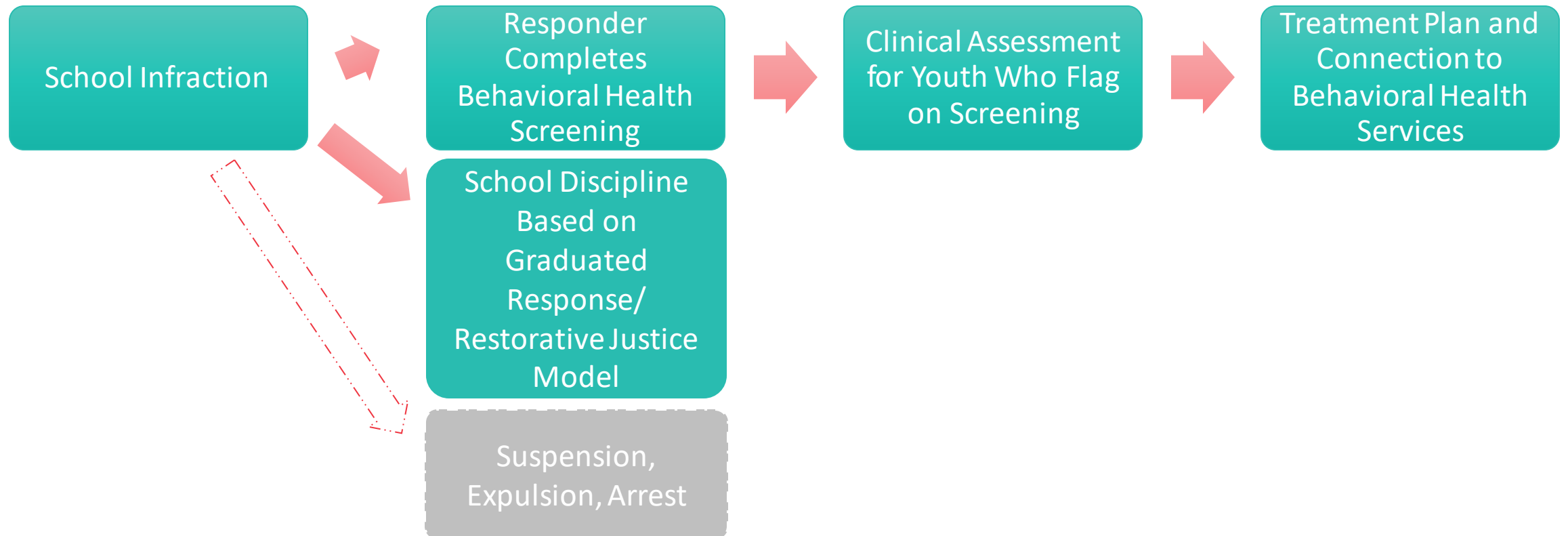
Typical Response Models

▶ Traditional School-Justice Pathway



Alternative Response Model

➤ A School Responder Model is a behavioral health response



SRM: Four Key Activities



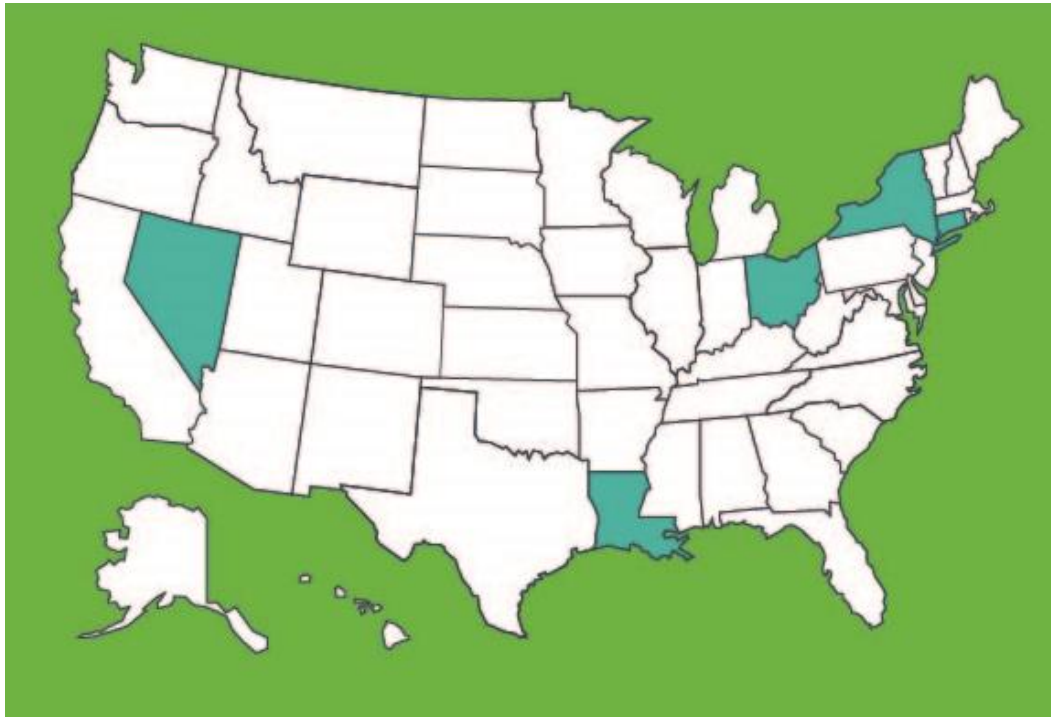
Form a Cross-
Systems
Collaborative
Team

Engage
Families and
Youth

Implement a
Behavioral
Health
Response

Create Formal
Structures

What We Know...



Connecticut

- 34% reduction in court referrals
- Connected 47% more students to behavioral health services
- 4300+ teachers and staff have been trained to recognize trauma and mental health concerns

Nevada

- 15% reduction in referrals to probation

Schenectady High School, New York

- 70% reduction in superintendent hearings in 2017-2018 when compared to the previous year

ReNew Accelerated High School, Louisiana

- 49% decrease in suspensions in the 2018-2019 school year when compared to the previous year

Adolescent Mental Health Training for School Resource Officers & Educators

AMHT-SRO

Overview

- 1.5 day training
- Audience: School resource officers and security, administrators and educators
- Focus on skill-building



Topics Covered

- Adolescent development
- Child trauma, historical trauma and intergenerational trauma, and the family experience
- Signs and symptoms of behavioral health conditions, neurodevelopmental disorders, and suicide
- Crisis intervention and de-escalation
- Roles and responsibilities
- Establishing community partnerships

Data and Methods



- ▶ Quasi-experimental design and a convergent parallel mixed method approach to data collection and analysis (data collection ongoing)
- ▶ **Quantitative**: youth-level administrative data from the schools, behavioral health providers, and law enforcement, as well as school-level surveys on climate
- ▶ **Qualitative**: interviews, focus groups, and observations with system professionals

Intervention Groups

- ▶ Group A:
 - SRM & AMHT-SRO
- ▶ Group B:
 - SJMHC Only
- ▶ Group C:
 - AMHT-SRO Only
- ▶ Group D:
 - Control Group



Overview of Data Collection

Quantitative Data Constructs

Youth-Level:

- Demographics
- Academic & Disciplinary Records
- Juvenile Justice System Involvement
- Behavioral Health Utilization

Organizational-Level:

- *High Schools*: Climate and culture.
- *NCYOJ Intervention Implementation Team*: Quality of intervention services (e.g. satisfaction and knowledge gained)

Community-Level:

- Measures of human, social, and financial capital

Sources of Quantitative Data

- Administrative data from high schools, and state-level agencies for justice and health
- School climate survey administered to school leadership, faculty and staff members
- Satisfaction surveys and questionnaires completed by those in participating organizations
- Community data from the American Community Survey (ACS)

Qualitative Data Constructs

Organizational-Level:

- *High Schools, Law Enforcement and Mental Health Agencies*:
 - Climate, culture and attitudes regarding discipline and mental health
 - Readiness for and managing change
 - Organizational resources
- *NCYOJ Intervention Implementation Team*: Quality of intervention services provided

Cross-Organizational Level:

- *High Schools-Law Enforcement Agencies- Mental Health Agencies*: Collaborative structures and practices

Sources of Qualitative Data

- Individual interviews with school and agency administrators/leaders, educators, law enforcement officers, mental health practitioners, and student support staff in schools
- Group interviews with educators, student support staff, and mental health practitioners
- School policies and procedures

Challenges

- Staff Turnover
- Transforming Culture
- Integrating into Existing Efforts
- Family Engagement

I'm at ground zero.
– SRM Implementation Site Staff



Students participate in a restorative justice circle. (Cliff Grassmick/Digital First Media/Boulder Daily Camera via Getty Images) | www.the74million.org

Challenges


- ▶ Existing Policies
- ▶ Few Community Champions
- ▶ Securing Buy-In
- ▶ Creating a Permanent Structure

If the hearing officer decides to expel, that's just what it is.
– SRM Implementation Site Staff



School staff participate in the NCYOJ Family Engagement Seminar

Lessons Learned



Construct Interdisciplinary Intermediary Team

Incorporate Peer-to-Peer Learning Opportunities

Mentor a Community-Based Intermediary Group

Questions and Discussion

Thank you!

Contact Us

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