

Centering Youth Voice in Youth Justice Spaces

UNO Juvenile Justice Certificate 2023-24 Cohort

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Shayla Trausch,



JJ Certificate Program Purpose

The program is designed to enhance participants' knowledge of "what works" and develop skills that can be applied directly with the youth they serve. The learning environment creates safe space for professional development by engaging in critical dialogue, self-reflection, skill demonstration, and exposure to experiential learning opportunities.



Goals of the JJ Certificate Program

The certificate program aims to impact Nebraska's juvenile justice workforce by:

1. Developing the capacity of current and future juvenile justice professionals to implement best practices in their organizations and Nebraska's Juvenile Justice System.
2. Equipping future juvenile justice leaders with the knowledge to lead Nebraska in an evidence-based manner.
3. Growing a statewide network of juvenile justice professionals who act as a resource and support to each other and their communities.





Capstone Project Requirements

To successfully complete the Juvenile Justice Certificate Program, each participant must complete a capstone project. The project chosen must:

- (1) demonstrate juvenile justice knowledge learned and
- (2) apply that learning to benefit your organization/community.

*Participants should utilize implementation science concepts to assist in successful completion of their project.

Hall County Youth Voice Survey

KaCee Zimmerman and
Shayla Trausch



Hall County Youth Voice Project

- Purpose
- Importance
- Need
- Personal Interest



Organization/ Community Goals

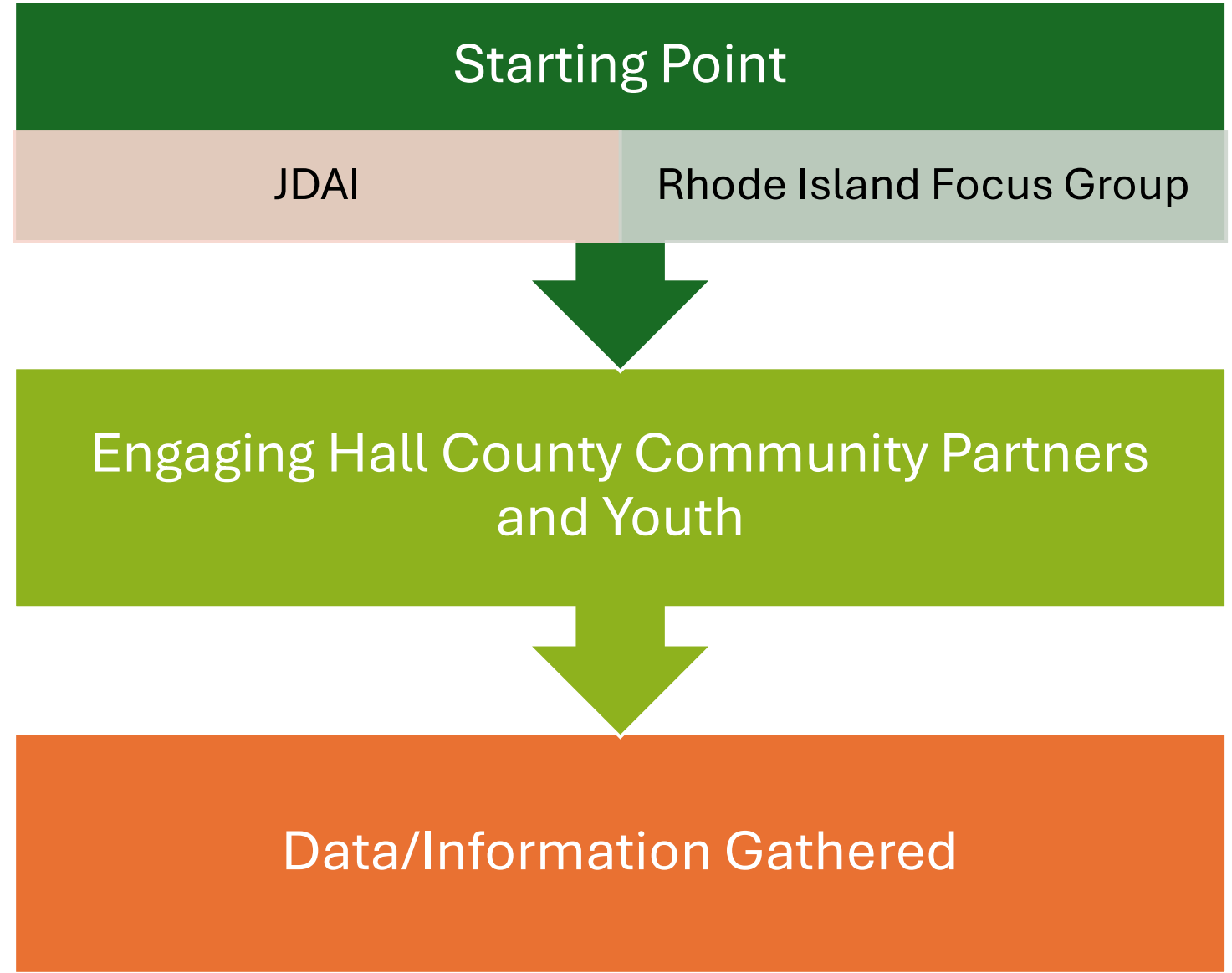
Strategic Plan for JDAI

Restorative Justice

Implementation Science

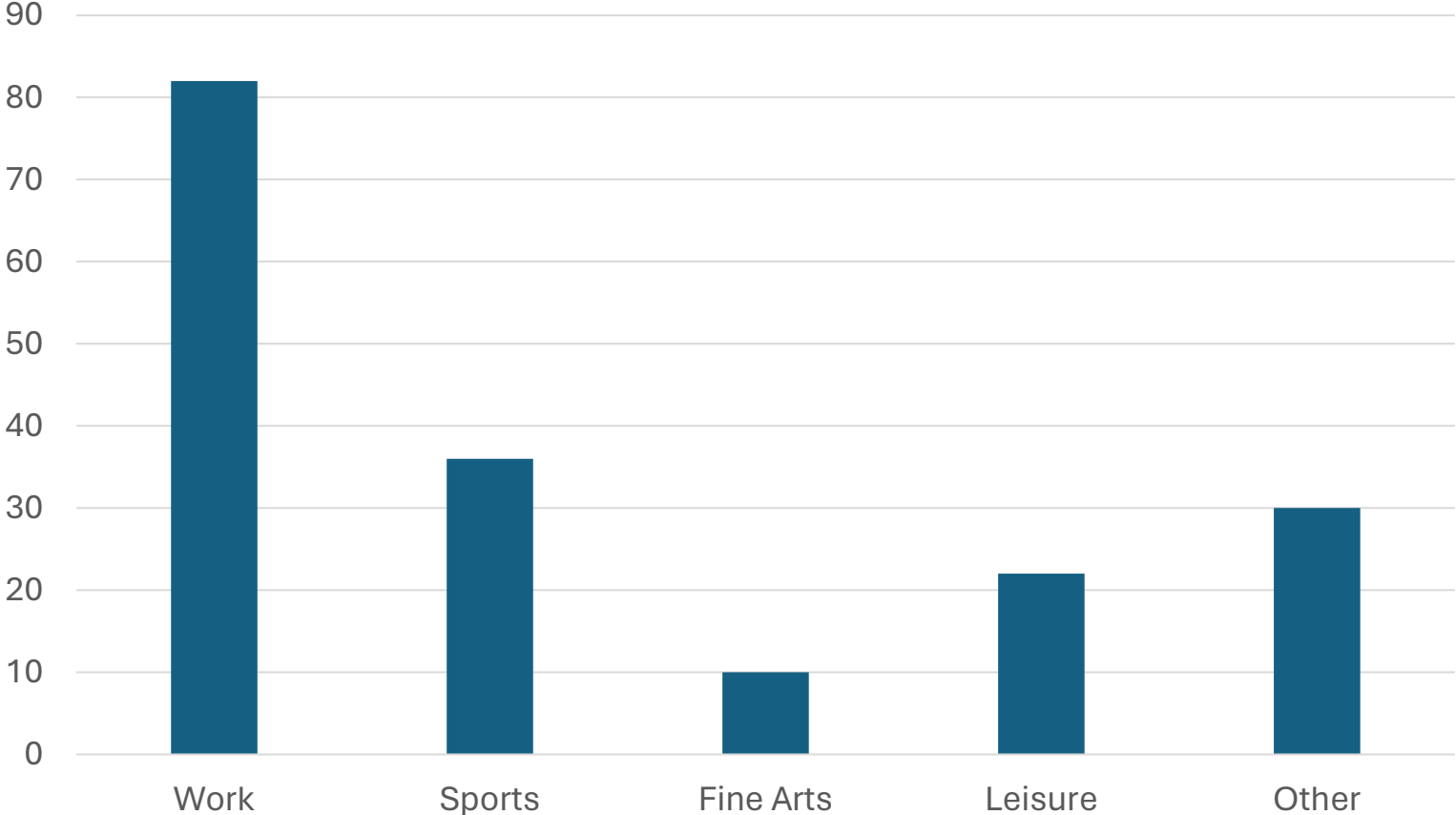
Surveying for Youth Voice

Project Design



Data Results

Youth Activities



What Else Would You Like In Hall County?

"Skate Park"

"Disc Golf Club"

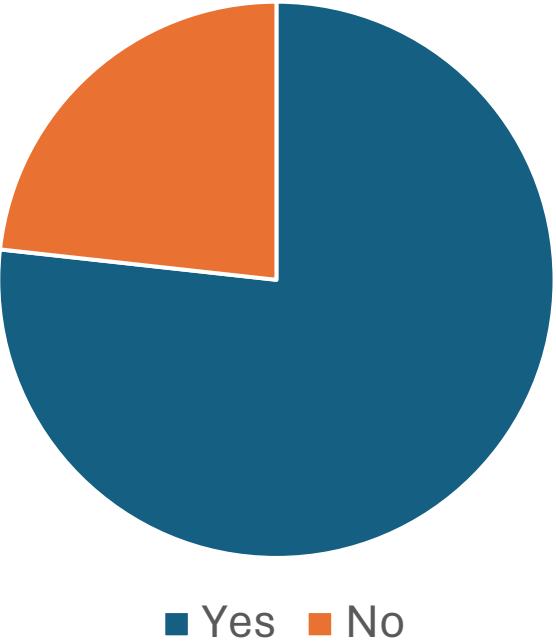
"More Community Activities"

"...Yoga or cooking classes, classes on how to do your taxes or repair things or something that will genuinely help students in the future"

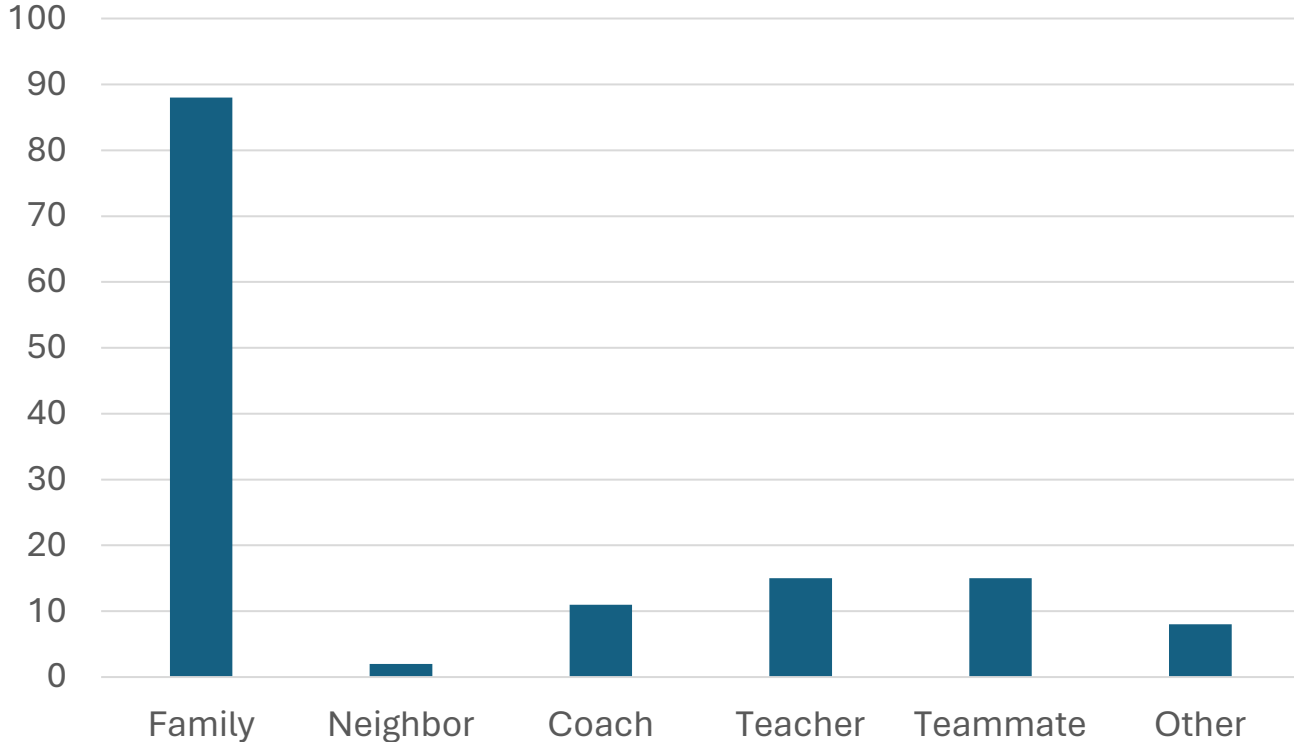
"More apprenticeship opportunities"

Data Results

Role Model?

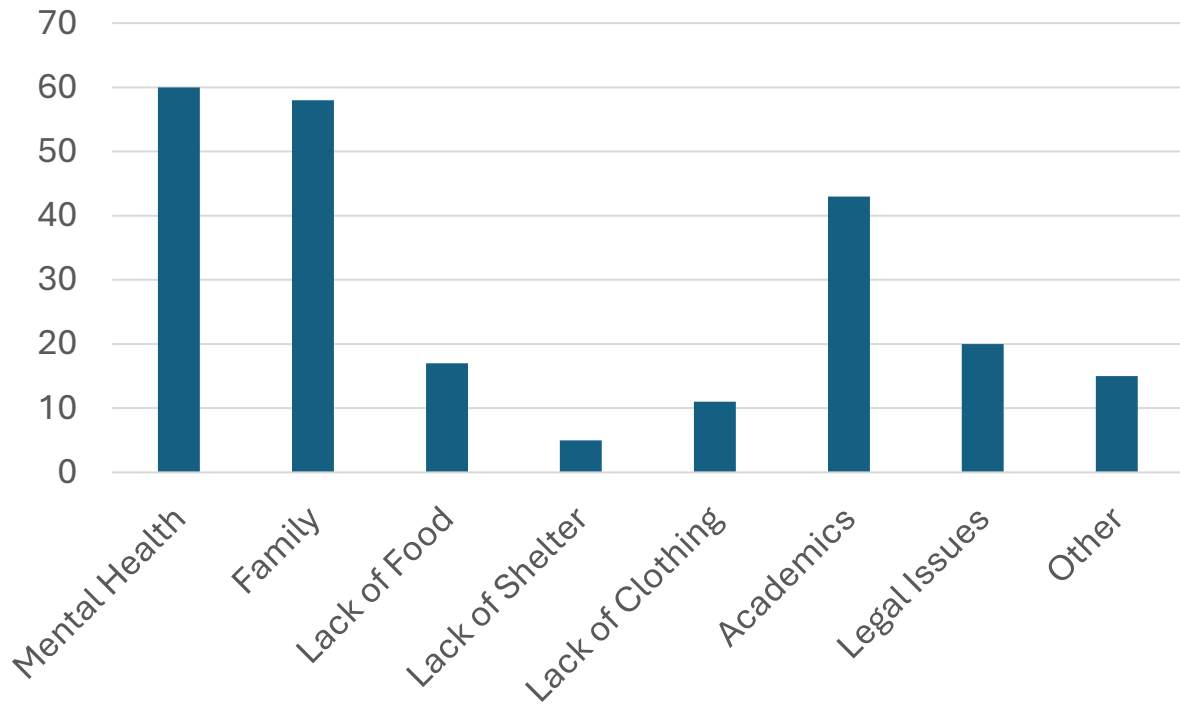


Who?

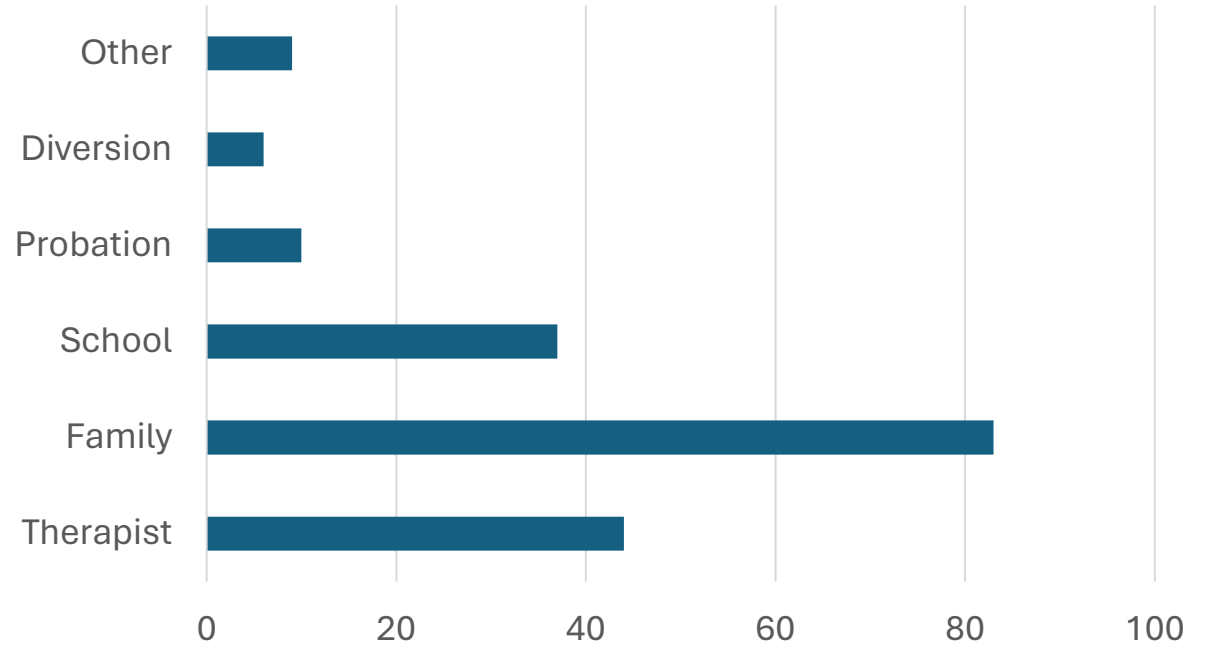


Data Results

Problems?

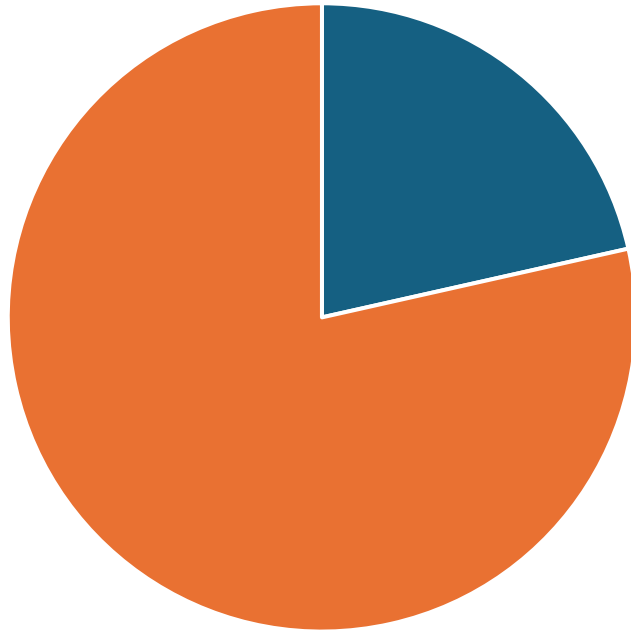


Who Helped?



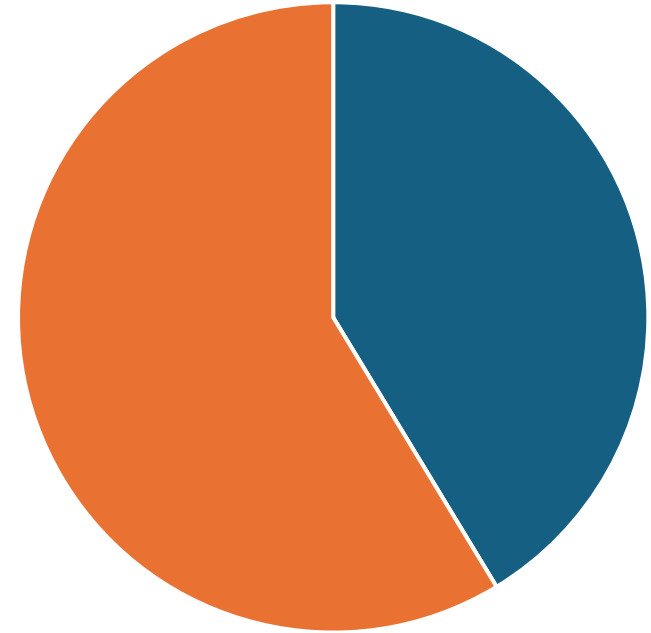
Data Results

Court/Probation Contact?



■ Yes ■ No

Law Enforcement Contact?



■ Yes ■ No

Was Your Experience Positive or Negative?

"Most are very helpful"

"They were professional"

"It can be scary and a wake-up call"

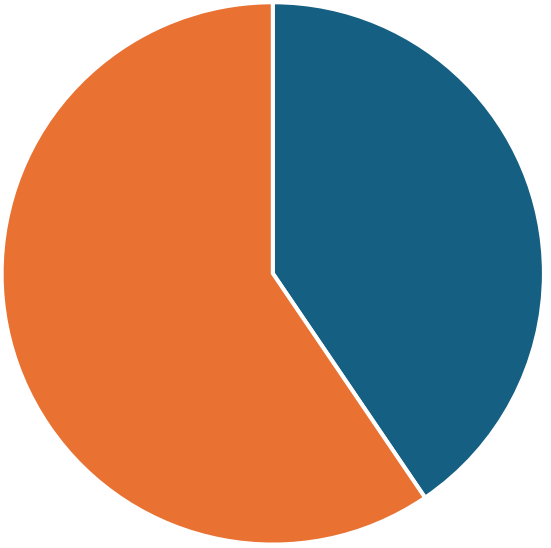
"Very respectful and understanding"

"Sometimes they only listen to parents and not to the kids"

"Got into a crash and officers were very nice and friendly"

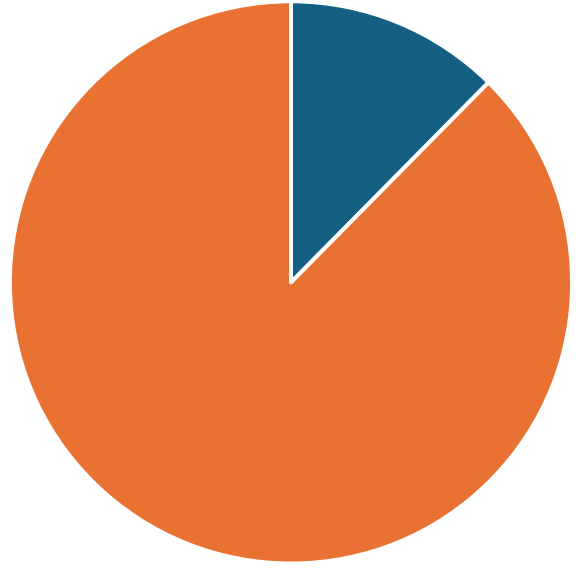
Data Results

Was Your Voice Heard?



■ Yes ■ No

Homeless?



■ Yes ■ No

How Was Your Voice Heard/Not Heard?

"My probation officer likes to listen"

"Some do and some don't"

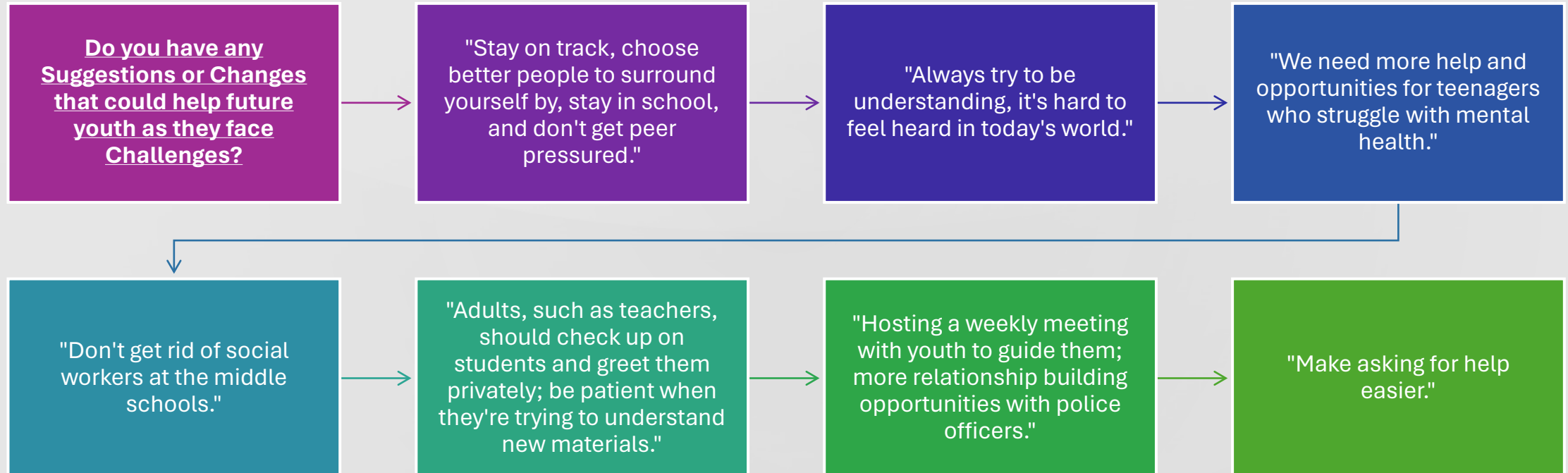
"They helped me clean my record"

"They let me...off with a warning...for being cooperative"

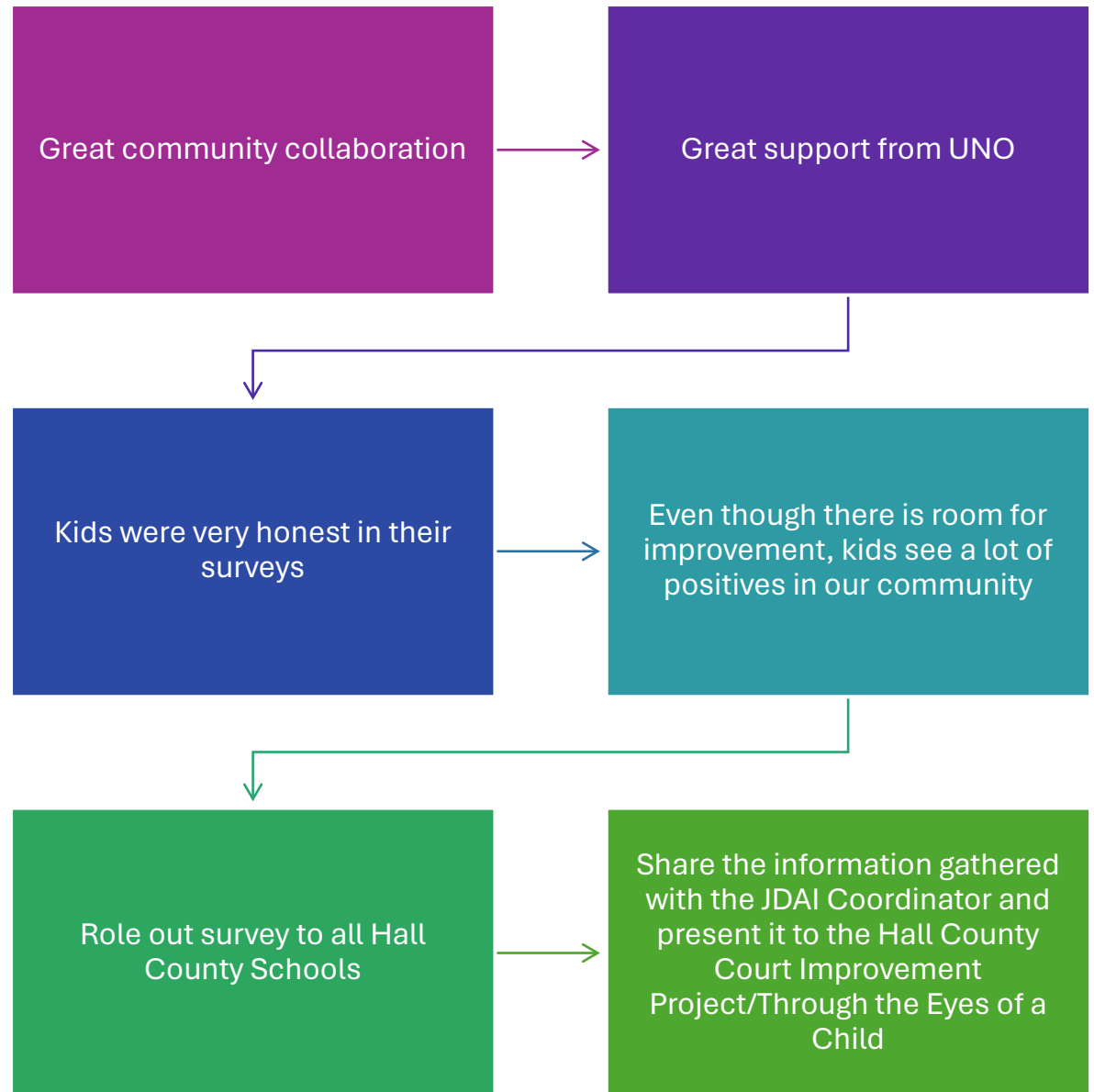
"I was able to tell my story without worrying about being in any danger"

"They didn't take my mental health concerns seriously"

Data Results



Lessons Learned/Next Steps





Arise Youth Advisory Board

Mark Kiepke

LSS of SD

Arise Youth Center (AYC)

Rapid City, SD

Services Provided:

- Reception Center
- Shelter Care
 - Pennington County Youth - Awaiting Court
 - Basic Center Program – Runaway/Homeless Youth
 - DSS/DOC/Tribal Youth – Emergency Placement
- Evening Reporting Center (ERC)
- Community Health Worker (CHW)/Outreach Case Managers



Project Goal

Engage youth and families in discussion to find better ways to serve youth in our Shelter and assist families while youth are in Shelter and after they discharge.



Project Goal (Continued)

- Youth and Family Voice –
 - Looking at ways to increase youth and family voice in our program.
 - Starting our own Arise Youth Council (AYC Group) to incorporate youth voice in our programming.
 - Update Parent/Guardian and Youth Satisfaction Surveys to incorporate more opportunities to gain youth and family voice

Project Objectives

- Start Arise Youth Council (AYC) Meetings in Shelter Care with current youth.
- Obtain staff (direct care, supervisors, program/agency leadership) buy in of the council, reason, and goals for the council.
- Plan and hold 1-2 AYC meetings per month with Shelter Care Youth.
- Track program changes that occur due to AYC discussion/recommendations.
- Update parent/guardian(s).
- Client Satisfaction Survey in looking for ways to better assist family's needs when youth return home.

Proposed Project Outcomes

- 1-2 program changes from the AYC (Arise Youth Council) recommendations per month.
- Increase in successful discharges from Shelter Care (currently around 87%) in the next 3-4 months.
- Increase parent/guardian Client Satisfaction Surveys received by 25%.
- Track # of youth who attend AYC meeting.
- Track # of parent/guardian surveys completed.



Outcomes so far.....

- AYC Successful Discharges – Since January 1st – 90% successful discharges.
- AYC Groups Held – 9
 - # of Youth – 61 youth
- Youth ideas implemented since AYC group started –
 - AYC Canteen
 - Later Bedtime
 - Job Application Resource
 - Community Speakers
 - New Recreation Items
 - New Shelter art ideas for the walls



Outcomes (cont.)

- Review aftercare options for youth
- Youth/Parent/Guardian Satisfaction Surveys Completed – 50 surveys
- Most noted services needed by youth/parent/guardian:
 - Mental Health Services
 - Educational Support
 - Chemical Dependency Services
 - Medicaid/Health Insurance
 - Housing Support
 - Food Support



Lessons Learned

- **Challenges:**

- Group dynamics shift quickly in shelter care.
- Group buy-in.

- **What's worked/successes:**

- Relationships built
 - Trust of adults when the youth see that their voice is being heard when changes are made.
- Successful outcomes
 - Youth discharging from the program successfully.
 - Youth returning or calling the Arise Youth Center for help/support.

Continued Plans/Goals

Moving Forward...

- Continue AYC Groups.
- Continue to implement ideas/activities youth feel will help them.
- Continue to track Satisfaction Surveys and begin to build programs/educational tools.
- Look at ways to support new ideas youth have around programming changes.
- Look at possible donors to assist with funding new aspects of programming




Project Impact: Youth Voice in Community Youth Coaching

LaDonna Strong



GOAL

To get a better understanding from youth regarding the support and services of Community Youth Coaching (CYC).





WHY

- Ensure the youth's needs are being met.
- Confirm the provider is supportive and services are effective.
- Listen and hear our youth (family) voices.
- Advocate for our youth (family) .
- Create stronger youth, families and a stronger community.

The WHY behind the WHY

- Individual - Working with the youth (family) to ensure their needs and goals are being met and the services are effective.
- Organization - We need to make sure we are being effective, accepting feedback and make the necessary changes if and as needed.
- Community - To ensure the North Omaha Community is receiving the appropriate services to assist with reducing recidivism and crimes in the community; while increasing positive behavior change and outcomes to make the community stronger.



Community Youth Coaching (CYC)

- Is a **youth-guided**, family driven service that provides an innovative, individualized **alternative to detention, strengthening community safety** and appearance in court through **intensive relationship building, skill building** and **positive youth development**.

(supremecourt.nebraska.gov)



Programming

- Mentoring
- Skill Building & Personal Development
- Positive Reinforcement
- Parent & Family Engagement
- Collaboration
- Leisure/Recreation/Employment
- Transportation
- Identify Positive Support System
- Community Resources



COLLABORATION

CHALLENGES

- Identifying youth with Douglas County Juvenile Probation (4J) who completed CYC services and willing to complete the survey.
- Getting a lot of surveys completed.
- Not being able to complete surveys with my youth at this time, due to this being my project.

WHAT WENT WELL

- 4J Probation was very supportive.
- JJRS identified/provided CYC with Specialized Probation Officers who have utilized CYC with CBS.
- Probation Officers were willing to assist with getting surveys completed.
- Youth were willing to complete the survey.
- The youth appreciated the gift card and the opportunity for their voice to be heard.
- Comments/feedback from the youth.



CYC Survey and Results



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?lang=en-US&subpage=design&FormId=YexRFaabe0Cs69rLklbJmAaFfyLZWwllotEuD1dMFexUNUU5QTRXWEI BR0dYS1A2N0dZVVU5MEVCMC4u&Token=1181f099214a4c318f98afcde7a94337>

Next Steps....

- Collect Data/Feedback.
- Share Data/Feedback with Juvenile Probation Administration.
- Make necessary changes, if needed.
- Get surveys completed with all Community Based Services youth who have completed Community Youth Coaching.
- Create family surveys.





Questions?

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