

Adolescent Diversion Parts Pilots-YASI Use Guidance

Intake

Complete YASI Pre Screen on all cases.

1. For cases scoring **LOW**, divert as soon as possible with minimal intervention.
 2. For cases scoring **MODERATE or HIGH**, complete a Full Assessment.
- On the Assessment Details/Case Information page under 'status', identify the Adolescent Diversion Part cases by using the 'Young Offender' category. This will assist with statewide data analysis of the initiative.
 - It is recommended that each county develop a policy and timeframe to address obtaining appropriate collateral information needed to complete the YASI Pre Screen and Full Assessment (i.e. information from school, family, law enforcement, services/interventions, social services, mental health, etc).
 - Cases scoring **MODERATE or HIGH in the Substance Abuse domain** (i.e. indicators that use either disrupts function or contributes to behavior) should follow with a referral for a more in-depth evaluation by a qualified professional.
 - Cases scoring **MODERATE or HIGH in the Mental Health or Violence/Aggression domains** should follow with a more in-depth evaluation by a qualified professional.
 - No assessment tool is ever 100% accurate in predicting future recidivism. Probation departments are encouraged to develop YASI over-ride policies, being mindful that over-rides should be the exception to the rule, the reason for over-ride should be clearly documented in the case record, and the policy should include supervisory approval.

Case Planning

When developing a diversion case plan, staff should

1. Identify the following:
 - priority targets which relate specifically to the presenting offense
 - the youth's level of motivation for change
 - Incentives for the youth to change behavior
 - barriers/disincentives which would prevent the youth from behavior change
 - specific responsibility concerns for individual youth in terms of using effective probation officer styles and skills
2. Establish a case Long Term Goal (a positive behavior change).
3. Establish a case Short Term Goal (to overcome a barrier/obstacle to achieve the Long Term Goal positive behavior change) for the current quarter and identify the priority areas for intervention to achieve this goal. Short Term Goals should adhere to the Need Principle: that the goal is both DYNAMIC and specifically related to the presenting offense.
4. Establish Action Steps per contact with the youth (small, incremental steps toward achievement of the current Short Term Goal). Action Steps should have clear roles and responsibilities (who will do what) and have time frames and target dates for achievement.
5. Incorporate use of protective factors in the case plan, to help overcome identified barriers/obstacles.

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6. Incorporate use of incentives in the case plan, to help the youth work toward something they want. Incentives should be utilized as rewards when the youth achieves the goal behavior changes outlined to reduce the risk factors.
7. Engage youth and family in case planning to identify strengths and challenges through the use of feedback and to work through the prioritization process.

Referrals for Interventions

- Probation should identify community interventions that meet the criteria for ‘evidence based programs’.
- Cases should be referred to interventions based on the youth’s risk level and based on the identified dynamic criminogenic needs of the youth.
- When making referrals, Probation should provide service providers with the YASI Full Assessment (Narrative, if available as well), Profile Wheel, and Case Plan. In order to address the risk factors, it is imperative that the service/intervention be fully aware of the specific YASI items (within the identified high risk domain) being targeted for change.

Reassessment

- Complete a YASI Reassessment at least every 90 days, more often if case circumstances warrant.
- The YASI Reassessment results should be a factor when considering a supervision level change for a youth.
- Each time a Reassessment is completed, modify the Case Plan as needed to reflect changes in short term goals, action steps, time frames, and strategies.

YASI Youth Score Summary

- Use the YSS function to monitor the numeric scores for the YASI domains, to compare results from the initial assessment to subsequent reassessments and case closure. As Low/Moderate/High risk levels are primarily based on static factors, using the YASI Youth Score Summary will drill down those categories which will better demonstrate quantifiable change to indicate progress being made.

Case Closing Protocols

- Complete a final Reassessment at the time of case to assess the impact of both probation involvement and of the interventions provided in terms of reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
- Complete a final Youth Score Summary to compare numerical results from the initial assessment as youth entered the probation system to the results when the youth exits the probation system.