



Neighborhood Conference Committee

Travis County Health & Human Services
Department
Community Services Division

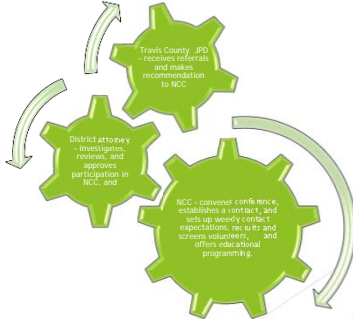
Who are we?

- ▶ NCC is a department in the Community Services Division of Health and Human Services.
- ▶ NCC is a community-based intervention program for juvenile participants as an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system.
- ▶ NCC a collaborative partnership between the Travis County Juvenile Probation Department (TCJPD), the District Attorney's (DA) Office, and Health and Human Services (HHS)

Program History

- Piloted in 1996 by the Travis County District Attorney, Ronny Earle, who sought to establish a deferred prosecution program that utilized volunteers from the community
- Piloted in the inner city zip code area of 78702.
- Accomplishing successful completion rates of >90% NCC has expanded across Travis County to serve the community at large.

Community Collaboration



Other partners...



Program Goals

- ▶ Prevent youth from subsequent delinquent behavior, to reduce the rate of recidivism, and to restore them to their communities as productive citizens.
- ▶ Plant seeds of self reflection and wisdom in the hearts and minds of youth that can assist them in their future endeavors.
- ▶ Indemnify victims' impact with apology letters and restitution as appropriate.

Target Population

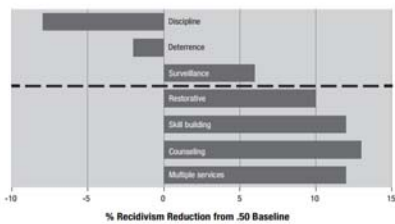
- ▶ Between the ages of 10-17 years,
- ▶ First time misdemeanor A, B, or C referral,
- ▶ Travis County resident, and
- ▶ Voluntarily agrees to participate.

Dueling Philosophies Which is more effective?

- ▶ Programs oriented toward instilling discipline (e.g., paramilitary regimens in boot camps)
- ▶ Programs aimed at deterrence through fear of the consequences of bad behavior (e.g., prison visitation programs such as Scared Straight)
- ▶ Programs emphasizing surveillance to detect bad behavior (e.g., intensive probation or parole supervision)
- ▶ Restorative (e.g., restitution victim-offender mediation)
- ▶ Skill building (e.g., cognitive-behavioral techniques, social skills, academic and vocational skill building)
- ▶ Counseling (e.g., individual, group, family; mentoring)
- ▶ Multiple coordinated services (e.g., case management and service brokering)

Improving the Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Programs: A New Perspective on Evidence-Based Practice

Figure 1. Mean recidivism effects for the program categories representing control and therapeutic philosophies



Mark W. Lipsey • James C. Howell • Marion R. Kelly, Gabrielle Chapman • Darin Carver

NCC Philosophy

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men" Fredrick Douglas

- ▶ Restorative Justices (e.g., restitution, victim-offender mediation)
- ▶ Skill building (e.g., cognitive-behavioral techniques, social skills, academic and vocational skill building)
- ▶ Multiple coordinated services (e.g., case management and service brokering)
- ▶ Counseling (e.g., individual, group, family; mentoring)

NCC offers

- ▶ Educational opportunities such as Character Counts, Juvenile Anger Management, Drug and Alcohol Awareness,
- ▶ Mentoring,
- ▶ Linkage of youth involved with area municipal courts and alternative education schools to community support services,
- ▶ Support for frustrated School Resource Officers and frustrated parents to community resources,
- ▶ Case management for justice involved youth, and
- ▶ Mediation, community service restitution opportunities for victim indemnification.

NCC moving forward

- > Review and open up to new geographical needs, we've added various municipalities,
- > Increase Program Volunteers
- > Increase aftercare support
- > Expand NCC outreach
- > Decrease recidivism
- > Add incentives for educational opportunities and successful graduation from NCC

Investments in Child and Youth Development

- ▶ Any Baby Can of Austin, Inc. -Professional Early Childhood Services
- ▶ Austin Child Guidance Center -Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Project
- ▶ Austin Community College District -Teacher and Director TRAC
- ▶ Austin ISD -My Brother's Keeper Success Mentor Program
- ▶ AVANCE-Austin, Inc. -Parent and Child Education Program
- ▶ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas -One-To-One Mentoring

Investments, continued...

- ▶ Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area -Great Futures Start Here
- ▶ Child Inc. -Early Education and Care
- ▶ Communities In Schools of Central Texas -ASPIRE
- ▶ Communities In Schools of Central Texas -Travis County XY-Zone Program
- ▶ Foundation Communities -Afterschool and Summer Youth Programs
- ▶ GENaustin -Long Term Program for Girls (clubGEN and 180)
- ▶ Goodwill Industries -Career Launch
- ▶ Capital Area Workforce Board -Continuity of Child Care System Services
- ▶ Capital Area Workforce Board -Quality Child Care Collaborative

Bibliography

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https://www.traviscountytx.gov/images/health_human_services/Docs/cir-2018/investment_overview.pdf
- ▶ Clark, P. February/March 2011 Corrections Today Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy: An Evidence-Based Intervention For Offenders. 62- 63. Reprinted with permission of the American Correctional Association, Alexandria, Va
