

The seal of the State of New Jersey is centered in the background. It features a blue outer ring with the words "NEW JERSEY" at the bottom and "1776" at the top. Inside the ring is a green field with a white plow and a sheaf of wheat. A red banner across the middle contains three white stars. The text "Department of Human Services" and "Division of Community & Youth Services" is overlaid on the seal in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Department of Human Services**  
**Division of Community  
& Youth Services**

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*Administrator*

# Detention Alternatives: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Juvenile Rehabilitation



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# Workshop Goals



- Increase your understanding of how a dynamic multidisciplinary team (MDT) functions and how you can assist as a team member to create positive outcomes for at-risk youth.
- Learn how a Detention Alternative program that includes community case management can be rehabilitative for at-risk youth.

# “People and Nature Together”



# History of Sussex County Juvenile Services



The 2006 Youth Services Plan, Detention Analysis data:

- **50% of the youth in detention on 4/15/05 had a history of DYFS [DCP&P] involvement.**
- *The committee and the Youth Review Team (Sussex County's MDT) have reported a gap in services for early substance abuse intervention, job readiness training, life skills training and a **lack of continuity of outside services upon exit from Detention.***
- *Overall admissions were down by half, but length of stay was up slightly. Therefore it appears that fewer juveniles are admitted but those who are admitted are staying longer.*

# What did this tell us?



- Detention numbers were decreasing.
- Length of stays were increasing.
- Juveniles in Detention were in need of services that could not be obtained while in detention.
- Juveniles that had a history of DCP&P [DYFS] placements were at risk of detention placement.
- Juveniles were lacking services after they were discharged from detention.

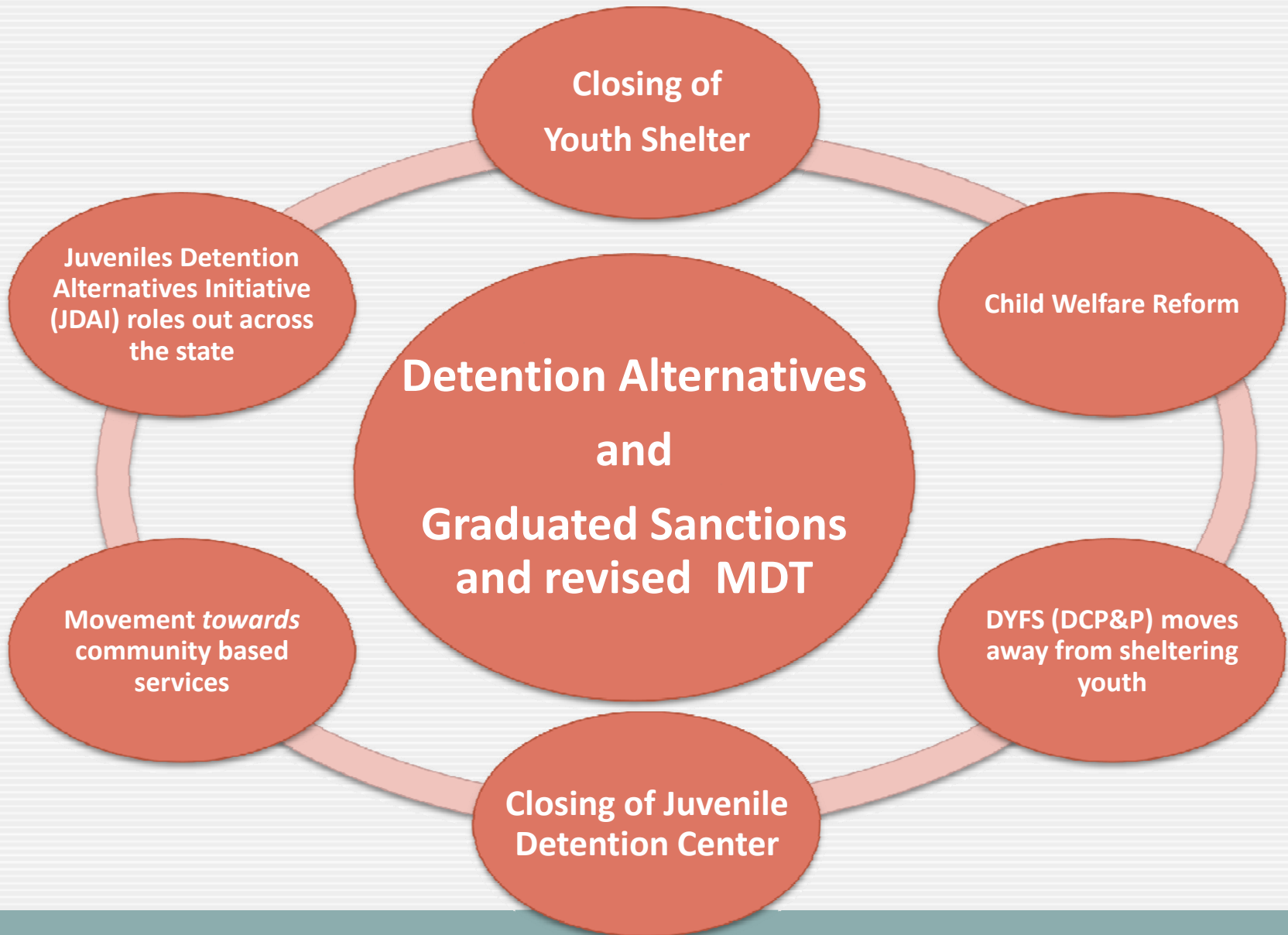
# Changing Environment for Youth Services in Sussex County



2008 Youth Shelter closes and is regionalized.

2009 Juvenile Detention Center closes and is regionalized.

# Why Detention Alternatives?





# Where we are now?



**WE HAVE REDUCED THE NUMBER  
OF CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH NEEDS IN DETENTION  
AWAITING PLACEMENT; WE  
MAINTAIN THEM IN THE  
COMMUNITY WITH SUPPORTS.**

# Youth Service Commission:



## Mission:

- To advocate for an accessible, responsive, integrated and coordinated system of care for the specific needs of youth and families residing in Sussex County
- To implement the duties and responsibilities set forth in Bring Our Children Home Act and Juvenile Justice Commission - Youth Services Commission.
- To serve the priority population of youth with special social and emotional needs and/or juveniles involved or at risk of involvement in the Family Court

# Youth Services Commission



## Partners:

### Juvenile Justice

- Family Court Judge
- Probation Department
- Public Defender
- Prosecutor
- Family Division/Family Court representatives
- JJC Court Liaison
- Juvenile Detention Center/Youth Shelter reps.

### Children and Families

- Child Protection & Permanency
- Mobile Response
- Care Management Organization
- Family Support Organization

# Youth Services Commission



## Partners:

### County Representatives

- Substance Abuse Coordinator
- Mental Health Coordinator
- Detention Alternatives Coordinator

### Community Partners

- JJC Subcontractors
- School Based Youth Services
- Child Advocate Organization
- School Superintendent
- Workforce Investment Board

# Detention Alternatives Programs



## **Mission:**

The detention alternatives programs provide intensive supervision, electronic monitoring (where applicable), community service and case management to court involved youth while maintaining the youth with his/her family within the community where s/he can maintain school involvement/enrollment, seek or maintain employment, and have access to local social services.

# Detention Alternatives at Work



Officer Turtur at work

# Background



## Detention Alternatives

- Minimizes costs to the county and maximize the county's ability to maintain youth in own community
- Provides continuum of care for youth involved with family court as an alternative option to detainment
- Provides electronic monitoring units (Tracker) for Home Detention and secure beds when needed contracted with Morris County

**“You should encourage other agencies to follow your lead.” Parent of 17 year old male**

# Detention Alternatives Programs



## Goals and Objectives:

- Minimize the number of youth needing secure detention
- Provide secure custody transports for Sussex County youth (staff are Certified Juvenile Detention Officers)
- Ensure court order compliance
- Ensure mandated court appearances
- Minimize the number of violations of probation that previously resulted in secure care detainment
- Connect youth with community resources that meet the youth and his/her family's individual needs
- Assist the youth in developing skills which empower and encourage constructive decision making
- Meet the JDAI core strategies

**“...The healthy bond that developed between the female officers and my daughter. They became a positive role model even in what began as unpleasant situation. I think it was a very valuable tool to help children who struggle.” Parent of 16 year old female**



# Levels of Detention



- Commitment to the Juvenile Justice Commission
  - Most severe
- Juvenile Detention Center
  - Secure Care
  - Pre/Post Disposition
- Home Detention Program
  - Electronic Monitoring 24/7
- Home Supervision Program
  - Community based supervision
- House Arrest
  - Parental Supervision

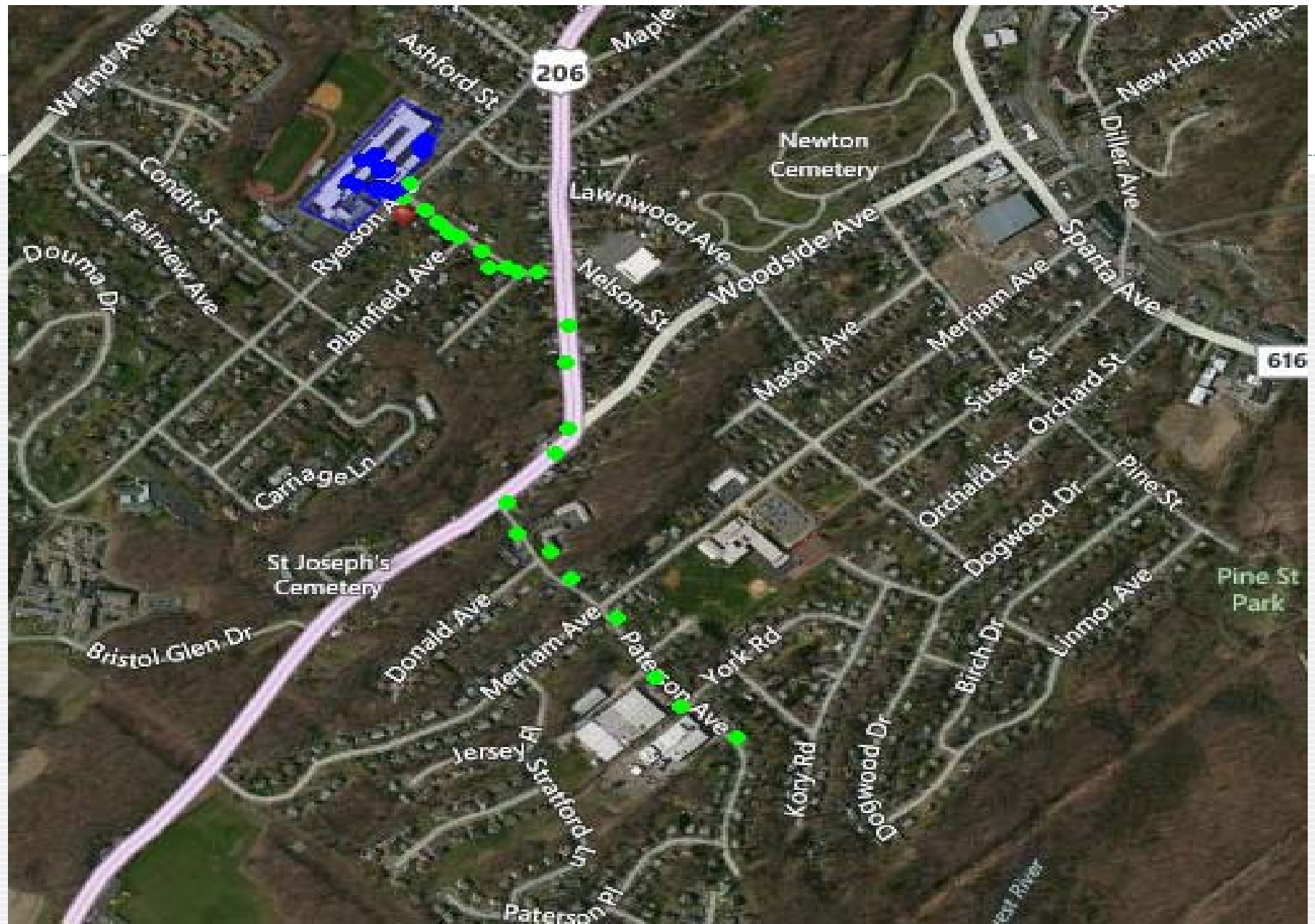
**“I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you did to help my son...I honestly believe that participation in this program was a benefit to my son. I hope that this experience has opened his eyes, and that he will think before he acts in the future.” Parent of 14 year old male**

# Home Detention Program



- Youth who would otherwise be detained in a secure facility
- Electronic Monitoring, GPS Tracking 24/7
- Intensive in home supervision
  - Home visits 7 days a week, random/unannounced throughout the day
- Random Urine Screens
- Assistance with seeking employment
- Court order compliance
  - Probation report
  - Connect youth to mandated services
- Supervised community service
- Case Plan implementation and compliance
- Assistance with constructive decision making skills
- Assistance with transportation to/from appointments if needed

**“He was home for 60 days and we formed a bond which we haven’t had in a long time.”  
Parent of 16 year old male**





Community service  
at the food pantry

# Home Supervision Program



- Intensive in-home supervision
  - House Arrest
- Face to Face or phone contact supervisions
  - (Supervisions lessen as case plan compliance is met)
- Supervised community service
- Court order compliance
- Treatment services compliance
- Case Plan implementation and compliance
- Assistance with constructive decision making skills

**“They were positive role models, demonstrated a good attitude, spoke with respect, but authority & interest in my child as a person.” Parent of 16 year old male**



Community service at the  
Andover Charity Garden

# Admission Process



Referral made to Family Court Judge by:

1. Assistant Prosecutor/Defense Attorney
2. Juvenile Probation
3. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)
4. Detention Alternatives Program staff

**“I just wanted to let you know things are going well. His attitude has changed a lot. We can actually have a conversation now.” Parent of 17 year old male.**

Judge orders youth on to a specific Detention Alternatives Program

## 1. Home Detention Program (HDP)

- Youth remanded to the Juvenile Detention Center; if qualified, put into the HDP\*\*
- Youth and parent are interviewed; if the terms of release are accepted, paperwork is completed and tracker installed before leaving courthouse
- Detention Alternatives staff transport youth home, complete a room inspection, and begin development of case plan

## 2. Home Supervision Program (HSP)

- Paperwork is completed before leaving courthouse
- Detention Alternatives staff transport youth home, complete a room inspection, and begin development of case plan

# Collaboration and Case Management



- Connect youth to local support systems
- Assist with constructive decision making skills
- Assist with removing barriers to services (transportation)
- Review weekly goals with youth and family
- Communicate weekly with school officials and providers
- Review each youth in all areas of the continuum bimonthly at MDT
  - Discuss compliance or lack of and make recommendations for additional services
  - Recommend youth return to court for review if needed
  - Recommend a youth move up or down the continuum based on his/her compliance



# Questions?





**THANK YOU!**