

Community-Based Juvenile Justice  
in San Francisco:  
Huckleberry Youth Programs'  
Community Assessment  
& Resource Center (CARC)

Denise Coleman, MSW, ACSW | Director of Juvenile Justice Programs

Hillary Buren MSW | CARC Program Director

Rachel Beach | Director of Research and Evaluation

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# CARC Overview

- **Single largest juvenile justice diversion program** in San Francisco
- **Unique on-site collaboration** of Police Department, Sheriff Department, and CBOs
- Provides youth, on the day of arrest, **with single point of contact** for:
  - Assessment
  - Service integration
  - Referral
  - Booking
  - Crisis intervention
  - Intensive case management
  - Counseling (as needed)

# History

- In the 1990s juvenile crime rates **were on the rise** and **juvenile hall was over-crowded**.
- San Francisco won a 1997 **California Challenge Grant** to undergo a comprehensive juvenile justice reform effort.
- Local Action Plan was **developed with over 100 participants** including probation, law enforcement, schools, health and human services, CBOs, youth, parents, clergy, and others.
- **Central to this reform effort was the establishment of CARC.**
- CARC began in 1998 by Delancey Street, **transferred to Huckleberry Youth Programs as lead agency in 2000** because of our specialization and reputation for serving youth and families.
- From the beginning, CARC has collaborated/partnered with all justice serving agencies in San Francisco and held sub-contracts with IFR and CYC for the past 15 years.

## A Community-Based Alternative

to juvenile hall, CARC has changed how youth are processed at front end of juvenile justice system. Eligible San Francisco youth detained by the police are brought directly to CARC, never to see the inside of a police station or juvenile hall.

Community-based programs are proven to reduce recidivism, promote positive life-outcomes for youth, improve public safety, and are more cost-effective than incarceration.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>"The cost of confinement: why good juvenile justice policies make good fiscal sense" May 2009 Justice policy Institute.

# CARC Expansion

- The District Attorney is diverting an increasing number of felony offenders to CARC, with the implementation of **restorative community conferencing** and **deferred charging initiatives**.
- CARC has expanded services to provide a **one-time, point of arrest intervention for out-of-county youth**.
- RESET (Restoring & Empowering Social Equity and Truth): provides circle conferencing for conflict resolution to CARC participants and youth referred by probation as a diversion from the tradition juvenile justice system.
- AFTER (Aims to Foster Transformation and Ensure Restitution): provides community-based programming for young people that have a financial restitution obligation to fulfill, while also supporting the person harmed to meet their financial and other needs following the harm. If youth participate the program the restitution owed will be paid.

# Results

- CARC is one of the programs credited with **reducing juvenile detention bookings** over the last 20 years.
- CARC has a **low (25-30%) recidivism rate** among clients who complete the program.
- CARC effectively **diverts about one-third of arrested youth** from detention and formal probation at just a fraction of the cost of detention.
- CARC clients **re-engage in school, secure jobs**, and participate in **positive recreational activities**.

# Eligibility

CARC serves **all youth, arrested in San Francisco, 11/12-17, for all misdemeanors and some felonies**, except youth who are on probation or who have been arrested for violent/serious offenses.

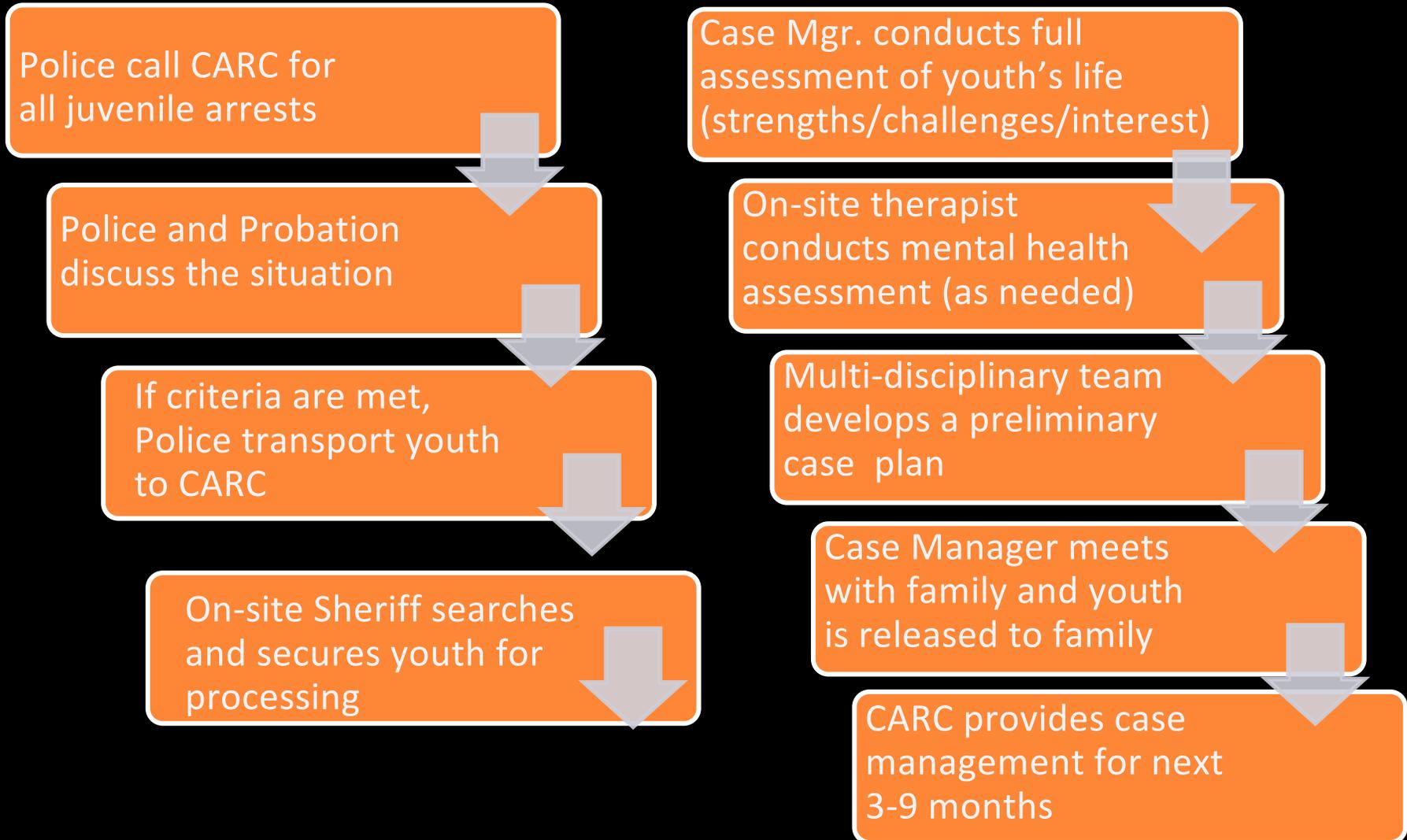
## Examples of Eligible Offenses

- Battery
- Assault
- Possession/Sales of drugs
- Theft
- Trespassing
- Stolen Vehicle

## Examples of Non-Eligible Offenses

- Assault inflicting serious injury
- Homicide
- Felony arson
- Forcible rape
- Warrants

# Basic CARC Overview



# CARC Provides

Legal Advocacy and System Diversion	Social Emotional Development	Academic And Vocational Support
<i>Supporting youth in completing the legal consequences of arrest</i>	<i>Creating individualized support plans for each youth and referrals</i>	<i>Connecting youth with positive educational and vocational opportunities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Work with a Probation Officer</li><li>● Develop a Case Plan</li><li>● Work with legal services</li><li>● Provide ongoing monitoring</li><li>● Educate youth and family</li><li>● Accompany youth and family through juvenile justice process</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Relationship development with youth</li><li>● Provide referrals to services and resources</li><li>● Foster relationship with family</li><li>● Ongoing case planning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Provide school-related support (referrals for tutoring, counselors, etc.)</li><li>● Create a vocational plan</li><li>● Connect youth with job opportunities, internships, etc.</li><li>● Support youth job readiness</li></ul>

# CARC Case Management

- **Every youth** is assigned a CARC Case Manager
- Case manager works with the youth and his/her family for **3-9** months
- Helps client **complete legal requirements, improve school performance, and connect** with helpful services

## Referral services include:

- Alcohol & drug intervention
- Mental health counseling
- Employment
- After school programs
- Academic support
- Mentoring programs
- Primary medical care
- Safe housing
- And much more...

# CARC Mental Health Services

- Often youth are more at-risk of contact with the juvenile justice system as a result of **unmet mental health needs**<sup>2</sup>
- CARC youth are referred to on-site counseling as needed
- Counselor works with the youth and his/her family for an average of **10-14 sessions**
- **6-week parent workshops** offered in English and Spanish are offered on-site

## Case Managers receive:

- Support for clients or families in crisis at point of arrest
- Consults on difficult cases
- Consults on filing abuse reports
- Promotion of self-care among case managers

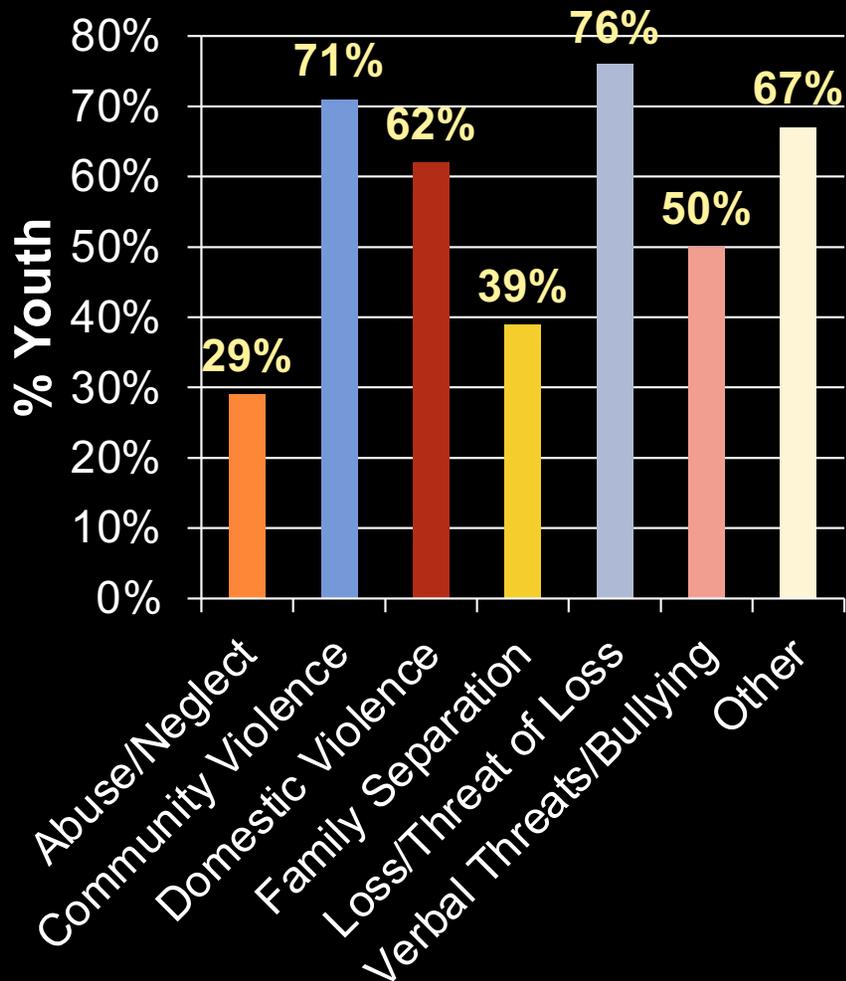
<sup>2</sup>Thomas Grisso, "Adolescent Offenders with Mental Disorders," *The future of Children* 10, no. 2 (2008): 143-164.

# Research & Evidence: Program Components

- **The Traumatic Events Screening Inventory for Children (TESI-C)**,<sup>1</sup> screens for a wide variety of traumatic experiences.
- Youth are screened for trauma symptoms **via Child Report of Post-traumatic Symptoms (CROPS)**.<sup>2</sup>
- **Social Skills Improvement System Assessment and Intervention Program (SSIS)**<sup>3</sup> informs domains of CARC's work with youth including social skills development and academic competence.

<sup>1</sup>Ford, J.D. & Rogers, K (1997). Empirically-based assessment of trauma and PTSD with children and adolescents. Proceedings from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies annual meeting. Montreal, Canada. <sup>2</sup>Greenwald, R., & Rubin, A. (1999). Brief assessment of children's post-traumatic symptoms: Development and preliminary validation of parent and child scales. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 9, 61-75. <sup>3</sup>Elliott, S. & Gresham, F. (2008). *Social skills improvement system (SSIS) intervention guide*. Indianapolis, IN: Pearson Education, Inc. <sup>2</sup> Impact Justice Report retrieved on 12/20,2017 at: <http://impactjustice.org/restorative-community-conferencing/>.

# TODO Trauma exposure for CARC clients assessed FYs 2015-2017 (3 years)



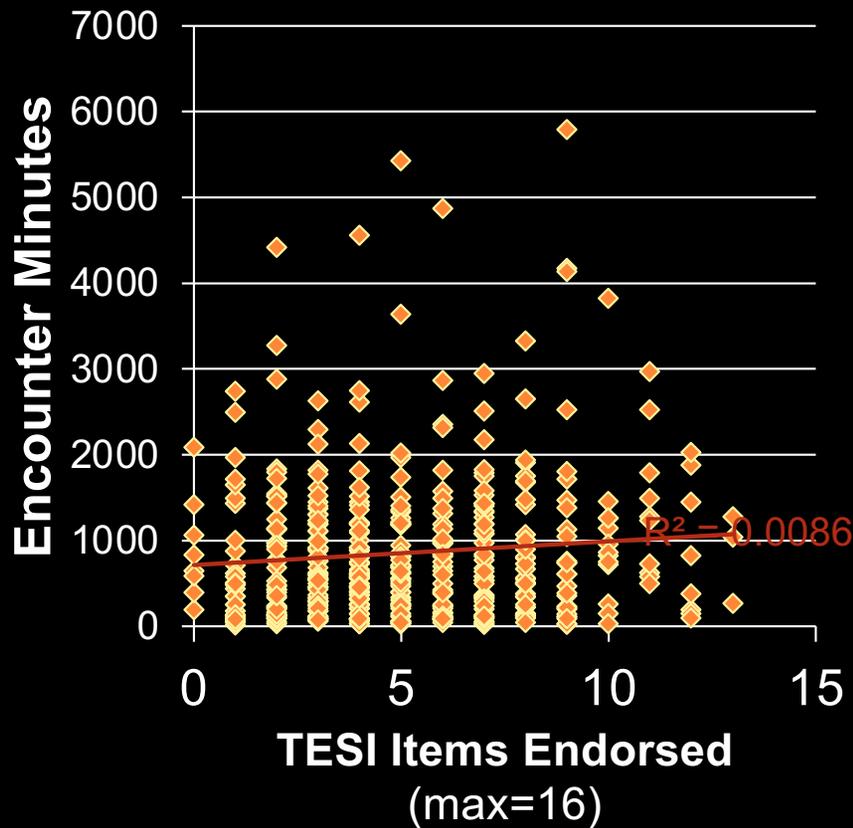
98% of 625 clients screened\* over the past 3 fiscal years reported experiencing at least one trauma type (91% reported 2 or more types; 79% reported 3 or more)

- **Abuse/neglect** = victim of child physical (6%) or verbal abuse (14%), neglect (13%), sexual abuse or assault (9%), or sexual exploitation (1%)
- **Community violence** = physical assault victim (32%), robbery victim or witness (30%), or witnessing community or school violence (53%)
- **Domestic violence** = witnessing physical (29%) or verbal (56%) DV
- **Family separation** = kidnapping (5%); parent incarcerated (5%); or other separation (35%), e.g., immigration
- **Loss/threat of loss** = someone close died/ was seriously ill/injured (72%) or suicidal (21%)

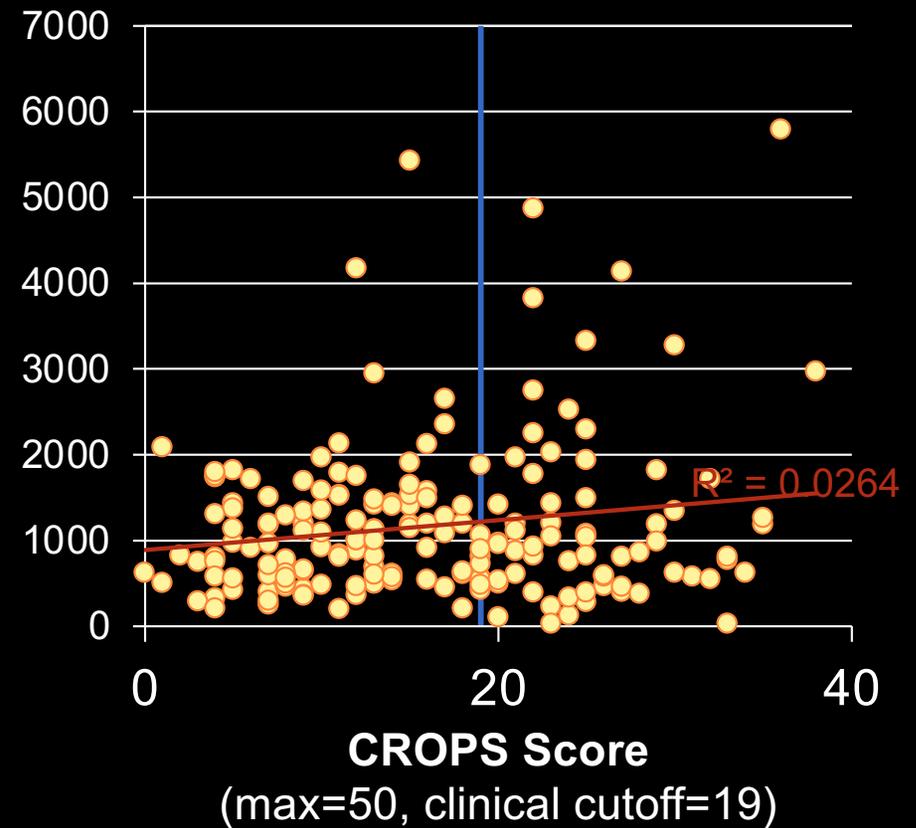
\* Clients were screened for trauma exposure via a modified version of the Traumatic Events Screening Inventory (TESI-C; Ippen, Ford, et al. 2002)

# TODO Case management time by trauma exposure & PTSD symptom severity per client FYs 2016 & 2017 (2 years)

Level of Trauma Exposure  
(N=464)



PTSD Symptom Severity  
(N=184)



# Program Outcomes FY 2021

- 89% of cases managed at CARC successfully **completed their probation requirements**
- 83% of CARC clients were **not re-arrested** within 1 year following program completion\* which is a rate much higher than comparable incarcerated youth (30%)<sup>9</sup>
- 77% of CARC clients identified as struggling in school **improved their school behavior/performance**
- 55% of CARC Counseling clients demonstrated **an improvement in well-being** during the course of therapy as measured by PCOMS, an evidence-based tool<sup>10</sup>

\* Of clients completing the program during the prior fiscal year

<sup>9</sup> Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) non-707(b)/290 youth: *California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation 2010 Juvenile Justice Outcome Evaluation Report*

<sup>10</sup> Duncan, Barry L. "The Partners for Change Outcome Management System (PCOMS): The Heart and Soul of Change Project." *Canadian Psychology*, Vol 53(2), May 2012, 93-104.