



Wake Teen Diversion Program

April 25, 2018

Background

- The Teen Diversion Program was created in response to the continued problem of Disproportionate Minority Contact in the local school system. In 2014/15 over 400 students were referred to the criminal justice system. Students of color continue to make up the majority of suspensions and arrests.

Background, cont.

- Judge Rozier, DA Freeman, WCPSS, law enforcement, and other community stakeholders formed a committee along with Alliance Behavioral Healthcare to develop a pre-filing diversion program.
- The diversion coordinator is a member of a county-funded School-based Care Coordination team.

How to qualify

- 1) Students, 16 and older, must be enrolled in WCPSS for offenses committed at school
- 2) NO pre-filing diversion for felony offenses, assaults resulting in injury requiring medical attention, assaults of school employees, assaults involving a weapon or sexual battery.
- 3) Students are only eligible for the program one time.

Referral process

- 1) Each student is referred by the school resource officer using a provided referral form to Diversion Coordinator.
- 2) The Coordinator sends the students information to the ADA's office to obtain clearance that the student can be admitted to the program.
- 3) The Diversion Coordinator will set a time to meet with the student and parent. As part of the meeting, and screening will be conducted in an effort to identify the root cause of the behavior
- 4) The student will be assigned to the Diversion Program based on guidelines provided by the District Attorney's office. Because students will not have been charged in adult court, they will be eligible to participate in JCPC programs that otherwise would not be available to them.

Referral process, cont.

- 5) Based on the evaluation/screening (MAYSI-Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument) of the student, other services will be recommended as needed and efforts to connect offenders with services will be made.
- 6) The Diversion Coordinator will track compliance throughout the 6 months with the program and report back to the District Attorney's office.
- 7) Students who fail to complete the Diversion Program will be referred back to the School Resource Officer who initiated the charge.

Data

- Since 2016, 131 students have successfully completed the program

84 Males

52 African American, 20 Caucasian, 11 Latino

46 Females

32 African American, 9 Caucasian, 5 Latino

1 Transgendered student

Data, cont.

- 29 students were unsuccessfully terminated from the program
- Currently there are 30 active cases, 19 males and 11 females
- Drug offenses, affrays, and simple assaults are the top 3 offenses
- Referrals to Behavioral Health agencies, Community Service/Restitution, JCPC programs, and other Community Programs

Program Contacts

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