



Crossover Youth Practice Model

Overview

Since 2007, the [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) (CJJR) at Georgetown University's [McCourt School of Public Policy](#) has worked with jurisdictions across the country on the unique issues presented by children and youth who are known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Often referred to as "crossover youth," CJJR's work in this area is designed to better address the issues these youth present and meet their needs. Based on a substantial and growing body of knowledge, CJJR developed the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) to help jurisdictions reduce the number of youth who cross over between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The CYPM includes evidence-based practices, policies and procedures and quality assurance processes. It provides a template for how sites can immediately impact how they serve crossover youth. Jurisdictions that participate in the CYPM are provided intensive training and technical assistance to understand the research, enhance policies and practices and improve outcomes for youth, staff and communities.

The Practice Model

CJJR's Crossover Youth Practice Model infuses values and standards, evidence-based practices, policies and procedures and quality assurance processes into each phase of its implementation. The CYPM helps participating jurisdictions create a nexus between research and front-line practice and offers a mechanism whereby agencies strengthen their organizational structure and implement or improve practices that directly affect outcomes for crossover youth. CJJR staff and expert consultants provide targeted technical assistance and support to help agencies design and implement practices that include:

- ✓ Creating a process for identifying crossover youth at the point of crossing over.

CYPM Target Population

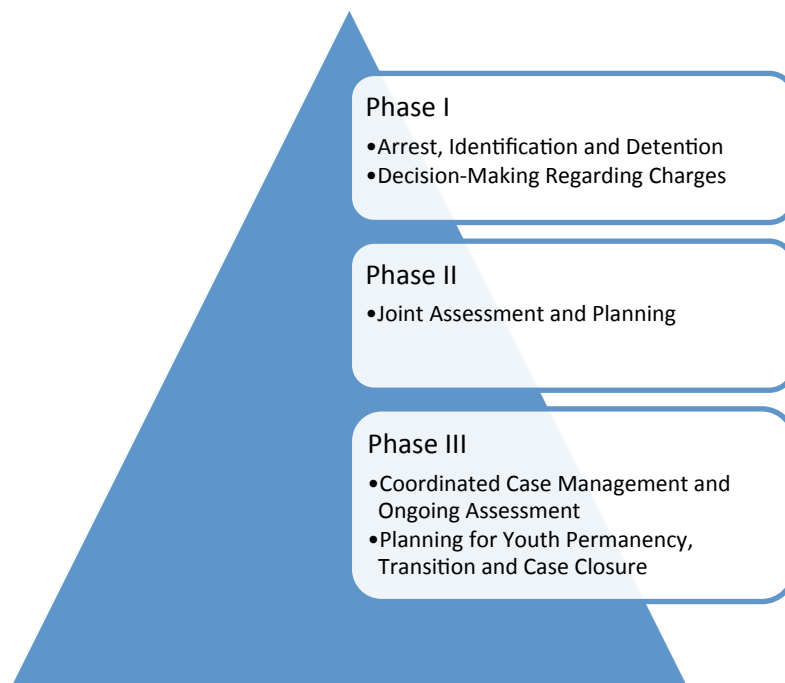
The target population for the Practice Model is crossover youth who have current and simultaneous involvement in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in the following ways:

- Youth initially involved in the child welfare system who are subsequently referred to and become involved in the juvenile justice system; and
- Youth who are initially involved in the juvenile justice system and are subsequently referred to and become involved in the child welfare system because of suspicions of abuse/neglect in the home.

Youth falling into these categories are dually-involved youth and may be dually-adjudicated youth depending on the level of involvement in both systems.

- ✓ Collecting data on crossover youth, practices relating to them and outcomes.
- ✓ Ensuring that workers from child welfare and juvenile justice are exchanging information in a timely manner and coordinating their case management and assessment processes.
- ✓ Engaging and including families in all decision-making aspects of the case.
- ✓ Identifying and using alternatives to detention or institutional care.
- ✓ Maximizing the services used by each system to prevent crossover from occurring.
- ✓ Creating a seamless process, including court processes, from case opening to case closure that improves outcomes for crossover youth.

The CYPM is designed to ensure that practices are consistent for all youth within a system and resources are shared between the systems to maximize their impact. To do so, the practice model is introduced to sites in three phases:



Proven Results

The CYPM aims to reduce the number of youth crossing over or becoming dually-involved. Data analyses of CYPM implementation have shown that the model:

- ✓ Increases the likelihood that:
 - Crossover youth will have their cases dismissed or receive diversion.
 - Youth will benefit from a promising or evidence-based practice.
 - Youth will remain at home as a permanency goal.
 - One or both cases (child welfare and juvenile justice) will close.
 - Youth will be identified at an early stage of their crossing over.
 - Families and parents will be involved in structured and extracurricular activities with their children.
 - Youths' mental health will improve.
- ✓ Decreases the likelihood that:
 - Crossover youth will be placed in corrections.
 - Youth will be placed in congregate care settings.
 - Youth will have an Alternative Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (APPLA) as a permanency goal.

Comprehensive, targeted training and technical assistance

Sites that participate in CJJR's Crossover Youth Practice Model benefit from a comprehensive set of evidence-based supports and technical assistance from experienced child welfare and juvenile justice CJJR staff and consultants. Each site:

- Is assigned two to three CJJR staff or consultants who work with them for one to two years.
- Receives approximately four technical assistance site visits per year from CJJR staff and/or consultants.
- Participants in monthly technical assistance calls with CJJR staff and/or consultants.
- Is offered opportunities for peer-to-peer exchanges with other participating and experienced CYPM sites.
- Is offered tools and resources developed by CJJR and more experienced sites to initiate and implement the Practice Model.

To Learn More . . .

If you are interested in learning more about the Practice Model or would like to inquire about becoming a participating site, please contact us at:

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To read more about the Practice Model's approach, phases, goals, outcomes or research base, you can also visit our website at: <http://cjr.georgetown.edu/our-work/crossover-youth-practice-model/>.