

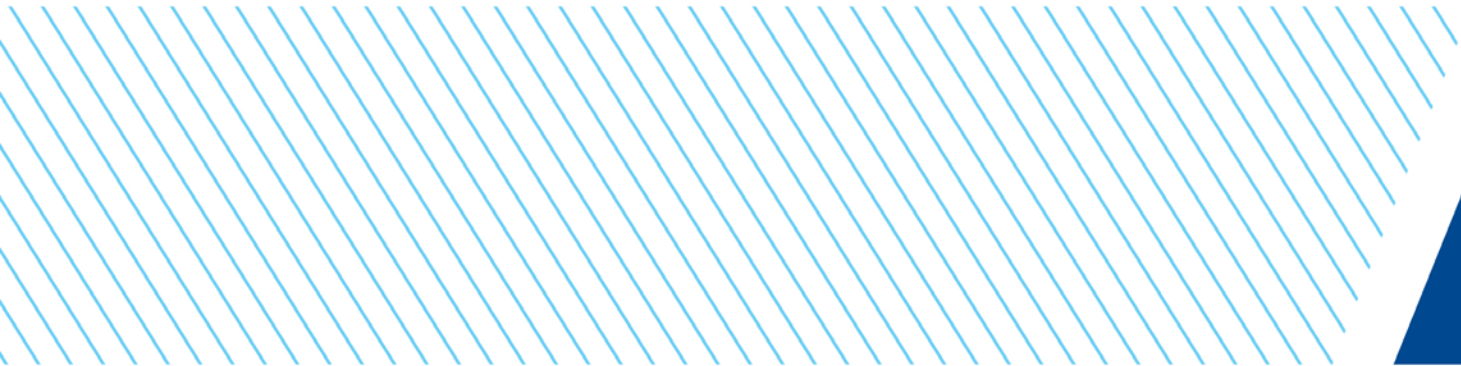
# **JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER FRAMEWORK CONCEPT: AN OVERVIEW**

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Dorcas Young Griffin

Deputy Director, Shelby County Division of Community Services

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# Why is an Assessment Center Important?

- o 4,829 juvenile summonses issued in 2015, 3,906 summonses were issued in 2016
- o 938 youth detained in 2015, 871 youth detained in 2016
- o 1,166 youth diverted from detention based on their Detention Assessment Tool (DAT) score in 2015, 1,085 in 2016
- o 4,684 of offenses in 2016 with eligible offenses
- o Cost of \$150.00 per day to detain of youth

# The Juvenile Assessment Center Model

- Provides critical prevention and early intervention assessment and case management services to youth and their families who are exhibiting at-risk behaviors at home, at school, and/or in the community
- Incorporates numerous services and programs in an coordinated effort by different entities
- Increases accountability of providers that serve justice involved youth and at-risk youth, their families, and the community at large
- Provides youth with a greater array of services, at a reduced cost to operate and with more positive outcomes



# Framework Foundations

- Juvenile Assessment Center, Youth Assessment and Resource Center, JAC vs. YARC
- Juvenile Summons Program
- Framework ≠ Plan

# Juvenile Assessment Working Group

- Formed January 2017; part of the Operation: Safe Community Crime Plan
- Includes representatives from various government, educational and community agencies serving youth and families
- Monthly meetings
- Extensive best practices research
- Site visits to model programs in other jurisdictions (including Miami, FL and Denver, CO)
- Engagement of other juvenile justice stakeholders and youth

# Goals of Assessment Center

To **divert** as many **youth** as possible, consistent with public safety, **from** entering or going deeper into the **juvenile justice system**.



# Goals of Assessment Center

To enhance public safety through **early intervention, comprehensive assessment, and referral** to supportive services and positive strategies tailored to address each **youth and family's individual needs.**



# Goals of Assessment Center

To increase **effectiveness in the use of limited community resources** through the elimination of duplication of effort and **enhanced accountability.**





# Goals of Assessment Center

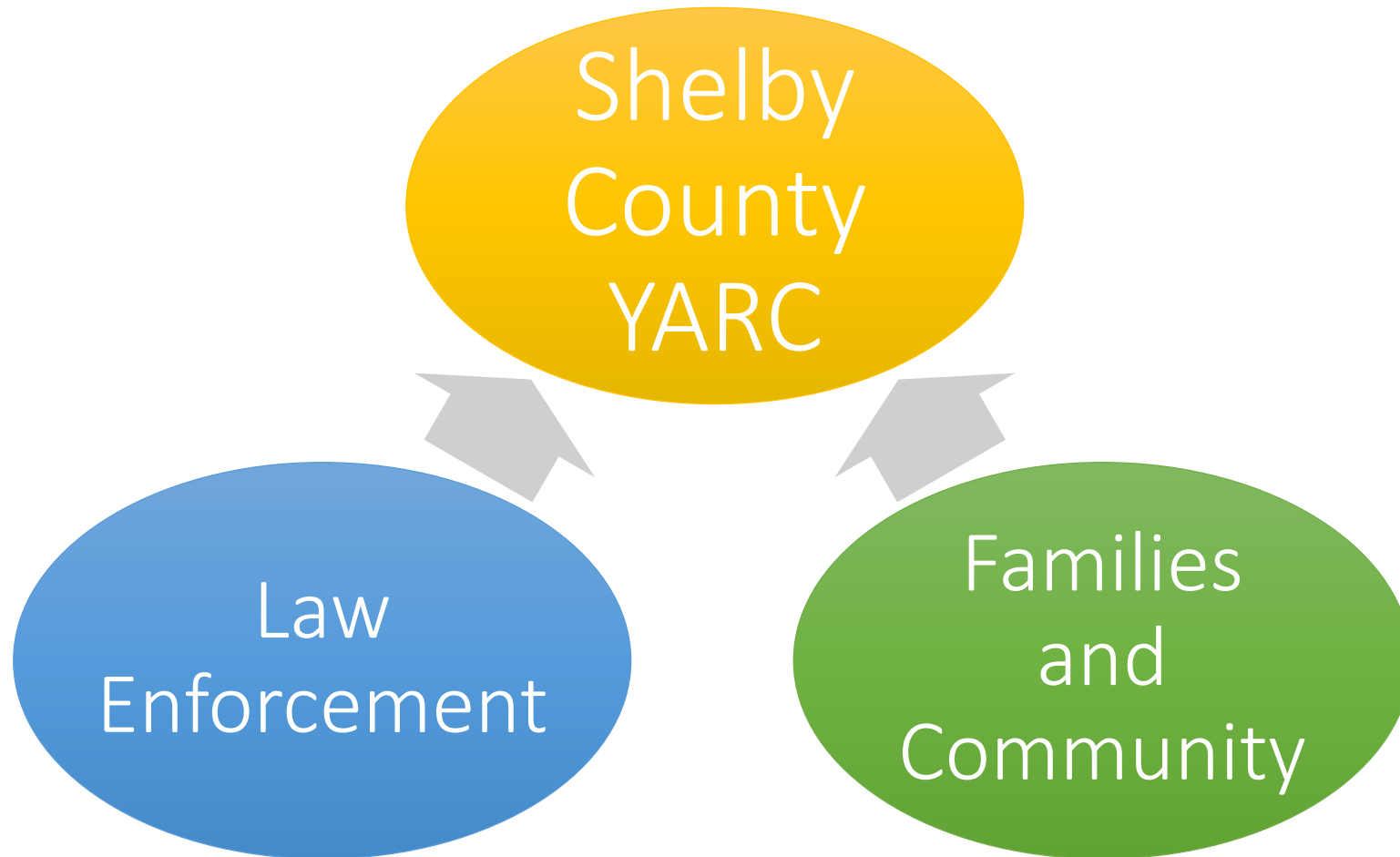
To provide a point of entry for justice-involved youth, allowing **law enforcement to return to their other duties in a timely manner** while ensuring appropriate follow up for youth.



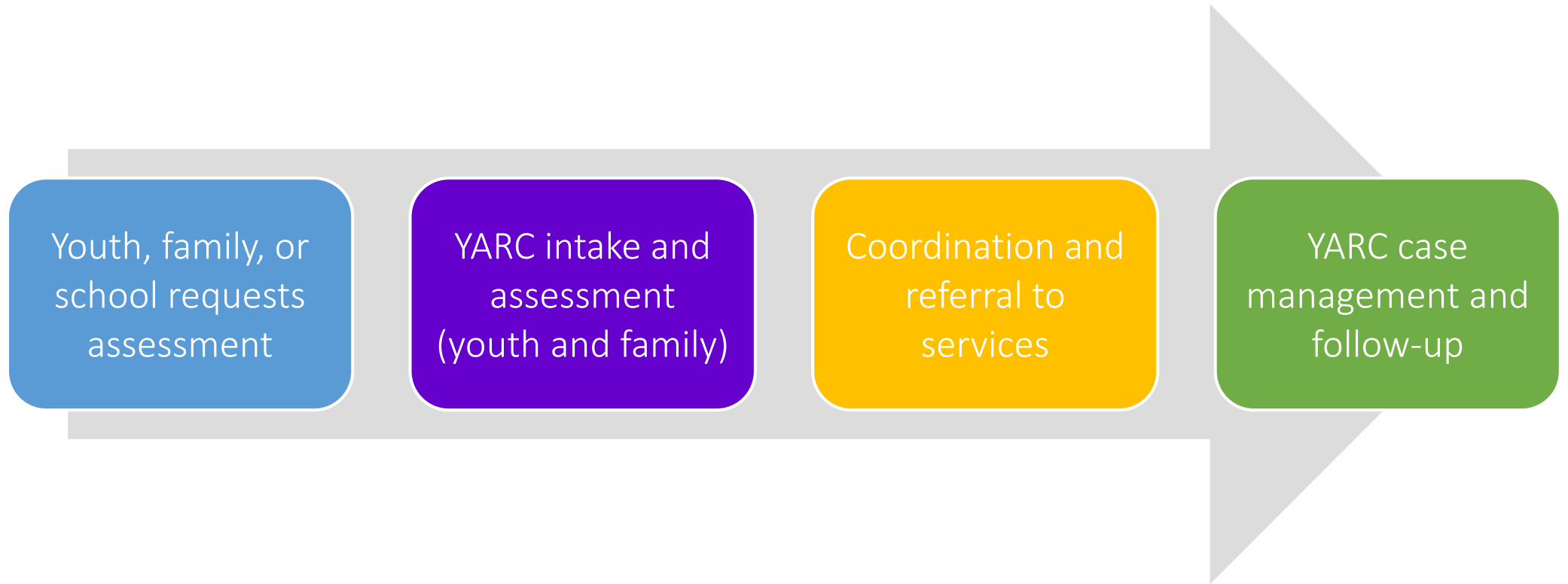
# Goals of Assessment Center

To serve as a **resource** and facilitate better relationships between **law enforcement, agencies serving youth, families, and the community.**

# Who Can Refer to the Assessment Center?



# Community Referral Assessment Program



# Law Enforcement Referral Program

Youth contact  
with  
law enforcement

LEAP to determine  
appropriate  
referral for youth

## No Referral to YARC

Youth is transported  
directly to juvenile  
detention  
(ineligible offense,  
DAT score >19)

## Level 1— Law Enforcement Referral – No Transport

Youth is advised of  
services and  
referral to YARC  
suggested within 48  
hours  
of contact

## Level 2— Law Enforcement Referral- No Transport

Youth is given  
summons (for  
eligible offense) and  
is given a  
mandatory referral  
to YARC within 48  
hours of contact

## Level 3— Law Enforcement Referral- Transport

Youth is given  
summons for  
YARC-eligible  
offense and is  
transported  
to YARC

## Level 4— Law Enforcement Referral- Transport

Youth does not  
commit YARC-  
eligible offense, but  
law enforcement  
determines need for  
DCS intervention

# Law Enforcement Referral Process

Youth presents to YARC  
(mandatory referral or transport by law enforcement)

Intake specialists  
(Sheriff's Office) verify youth's eligibility for YARC

Youth provided initial screening and assessment services

Youth and family refuse services

Summons Review Team processes summons for pending status until completion of assessments, intervention plan and follow up programming

Youth and family accept diversion services and develop intervention plan

Youth and family advised of options available to them through the YARC

Youth and family receive comprehensive case management and referrals to appropriate services (internal and external)

Youth follow plan to completion, receive ongoing follow-up by YARC staff

Summons status moves from pending to fully diverted

Youth receives follow-up supports by YARC staff up to 12 months

# Key Features of the Assessment Center

- Diversion of charges for assessment center eligible offenses, with no resulting court involvement or juvenile record.
- Mental health and trauma assessments for youth and families
- Individualized assessment of history and needs for youth and families
- Individualized intervention plans for youth and families
- Various co-located community-based services will be available on-site
- Peer supports
- Youth mentor opportunities
- Specialized reentry services for youth

# Benefits of the Assessment Center

- Offers opportunity to receive services that address underlying causes of delinquency
- Provides a nonthreatening, inclusive atmosphere for those parents and/or non-system youth simply looking for information
- Increases efficiencies for officers; custody exchange for law enforcement and other assessment center models ranges from 6 to 12 minutes
- Reduces recidivism of youth offenders
- Provides preventive assessment and services, as well as pooling of resources to save taxpayer dollars
- Offers trauma-informed, evidence-based programming resulting in better outcomes for youth



# How Will Success Be Measured?

1. Reduction in number of juveniles who repeat delinquency, status offenses, or criminal acts
2. Reduction in the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system
3. Reduction in number of juvenile court referrals
4. Reduction in the rate of juvenile disproportionate minority contact
5. Increase in number of juveniles and families connected to community-based services
6. Decrease in the time and cost spent by law enforcement related to juvenile delinquency or status offenses
7. Time (and cost) savings for law enforcement in processing youth committing delinquent acts

# Further Considerations

- **Youth advisory group**

How will the youth voice be formally integrated into ongoing planning and implementation of the assessment center?

- **Respite care for youth**

Could this space also include some respite housing for youth who need a cooling-off period, runaways, or those who are awaiting DCS placement?

- **Disproportionate minority contact (DMC)**

Are there any other implications of this center with the issues of disproportionate minority contact, due process, or equal protection that need to be considered before designing this center? Are there any potential unintended consequences or unexpected adverse impacts by the presence of the assessment center?

# Next Steps

- Schedule further community input opportunities for framework between October and December
- Establish new moniker for the YARC
- Implement legal authority or official policy change of law enforcement to bring youth with a summons to the assessment center site
- Identify funding sources and develop budget for assessment center
- Pilot implementation of assessment center in late Spring 2018