

From Intake to Impact: Bridging Systems and Transforming Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System

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Evidence-Based Informed Intake

- **What is Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)?**
 - **EBP refers to applying research findings to our work with youth, their families, and the communities in which we live.**
 - **EBP utilizes research evidence and demonstrates outcomes to confirm that Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system can achieve and effectively implement its Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) mission.**
 - **Proper implementation of EBP can lead to significant reductions in juvenile delinquency and recidivism.**



EBP Key Concepts

➤ Risk, Need, Responsivity (RNR) Principles

- The risk principle helps identify who should receive juvenile justice interventions and treatment.
- The need principle focuses on what must be addressed.
- The responsivity principle emphasizes the importance of how treatment should be delivered.

➤ Structured Decision-Making

- Ensures youth are treated equally under similar circumstances.
- Helps system professionals make consistent, appropriate, effective, and fundamentally fair decisions.

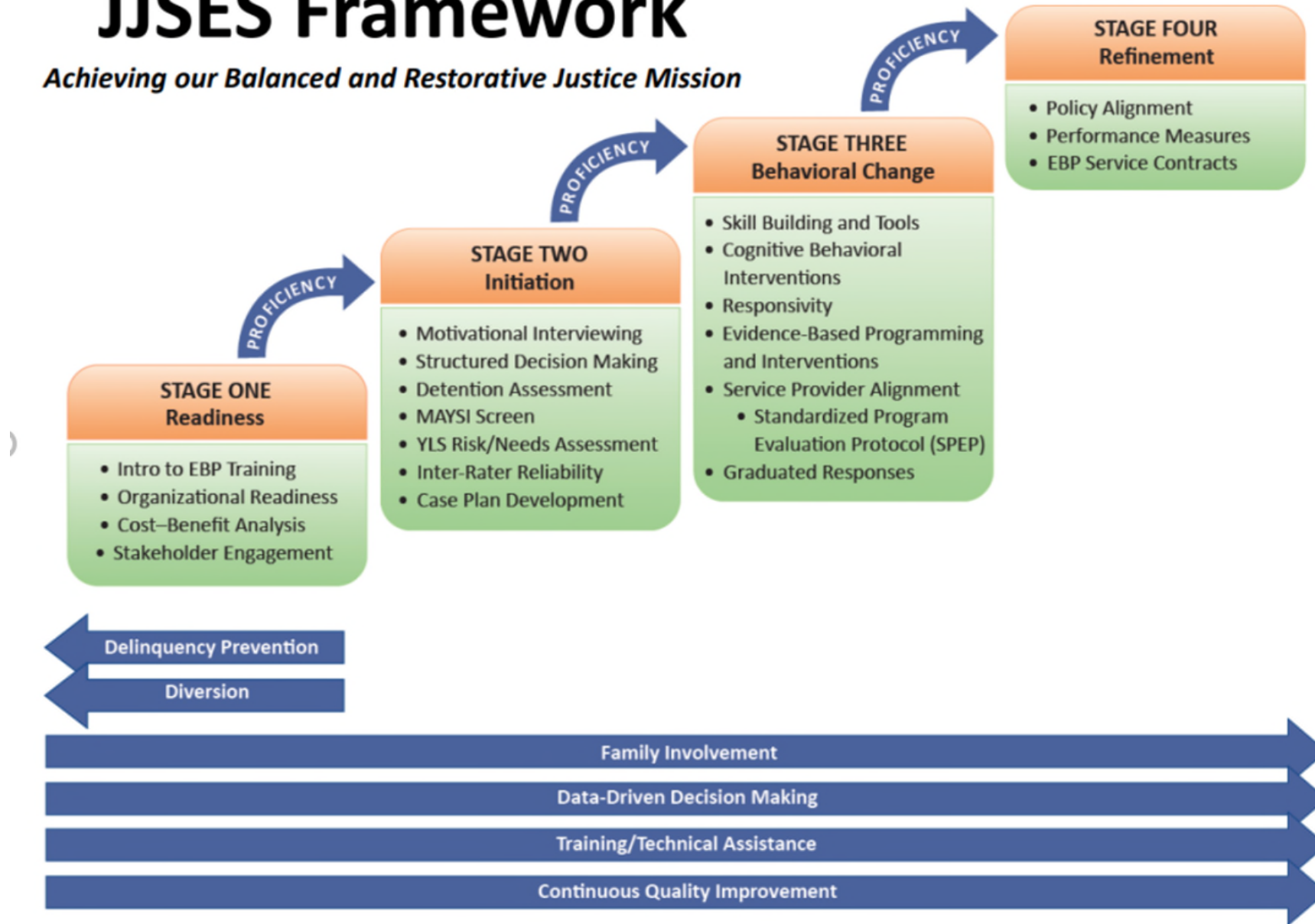
➤ Evidence-Based Informed Intake (EBII)

- Designed to protect the community, hold youth accountable, and address the needs of the victims.
- Involves the use of structured decision-making tools.



JJSES Framework

Achieving our Balanced and Restorative Justice Mission



Structured-Decision Making

- **What are the Structured Decision-Making Tools of an EBII?**
 - **Detention Risk Assessment Instrument**
 - **Mental/Behavioral Health Screening Tool**
 - **Trauma Screening Tool**
 - **Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory™ (YLS) Risk/Needs Assessment**



EBII Bench Card



EVIDENCE-BASED INFORMED INTAKE JUDGES' EDITION BENCH CARD

In general, intake decision-making guidelines should be designed to protect the community, hold youth accountable, and address the needs of juvenile crime victims while helping juvenile offenders grow into law-abiding, productive adults. An evidence-based informed intake involves structured decision-making tools designed to help system professionals make consistent, appropriate, effective, and equitable decisions. Based on research results, these tools provide a protocol and framework that every worker can use in every case.

Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI)

What a juvenile court judge should ask themselves:

- What were the circumstances under which the PaDRAI was completed?
- What was the indicated decision?
- Were aggravating or mitigating factors considered?
- Was an override necessary?
- Were alternatives to detention (ATDs) considered?



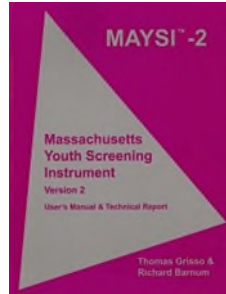
What a juvenile court judge should be aware of:

- Over-detaining youth due to subjective concerns (e.g., "gut feeling" rather than risk factors).
- Ignoring racial or socioeconomic disparities – ensure fair application across all youth.
- Neglecting to consider community-based alternatives that could be more effective and less harmful.
- Results should not be assumed to indicate a youth's risk of reoffending or failing to appear at a court hearing beyond the initial assessment for secure detention when the PaDRAI was administered.

Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2)

What a juvenile court judge should ask themselves:

- Was a caution or warning indicated on any scale?
- Was a second screening administered?
- Was further assessment recommended?
- Were the results of the MAYSI-2 shared and explained with the youth and parent(s)/guardian(s)?
- Were the results of the MAYSI-2 considered in the dispositional recommendation?



What a juvenile court judge should be aware of:

- Using MAYSI-2 as a standalone diagnosis – it's only a screening tool, not a complete psychological evaluation.
- Ignoring high-risk indicators could put the youth at risk.
- Automatically detaining youth based on results – mental health concerns should lead to treatment-focused decisions, not just punitive measures.
- Results should not be presumed to describe a youth's mental or emotional condition beyond approximately 30 days after the results are obtained.



EVIDENCE-BASED INFORMED INTAKE JUDGES' EDITION BENCH CARD

Child Trauma Screen (CTS)

What a juvenile court judge should ask themselves:

- Was a second screening administered?
- Was further assessment recommended?
- Were any referrals made as a result of the trauma screen?
- Is the youth safe?
- Were the trauma screen results considered in the dispositional recommendation?



What a juvenile court judge should be aware of:

- Ignoring trauma symptoms – untreated trauma can lead to recidivism.
- Assuming all trauma-exposed youth need the same intervention – responses should be individualized.
- Over-relying on the CTS alone – it's a screening tool, not a complete diagnostic assessment.
- Results of a trauma screen should not be considered valid beyond approximately 30 days after the results are obtained.

Youth Level of Service (YLS) Risk/Needs Assessment

What a juvenile court judge should ask themselves:

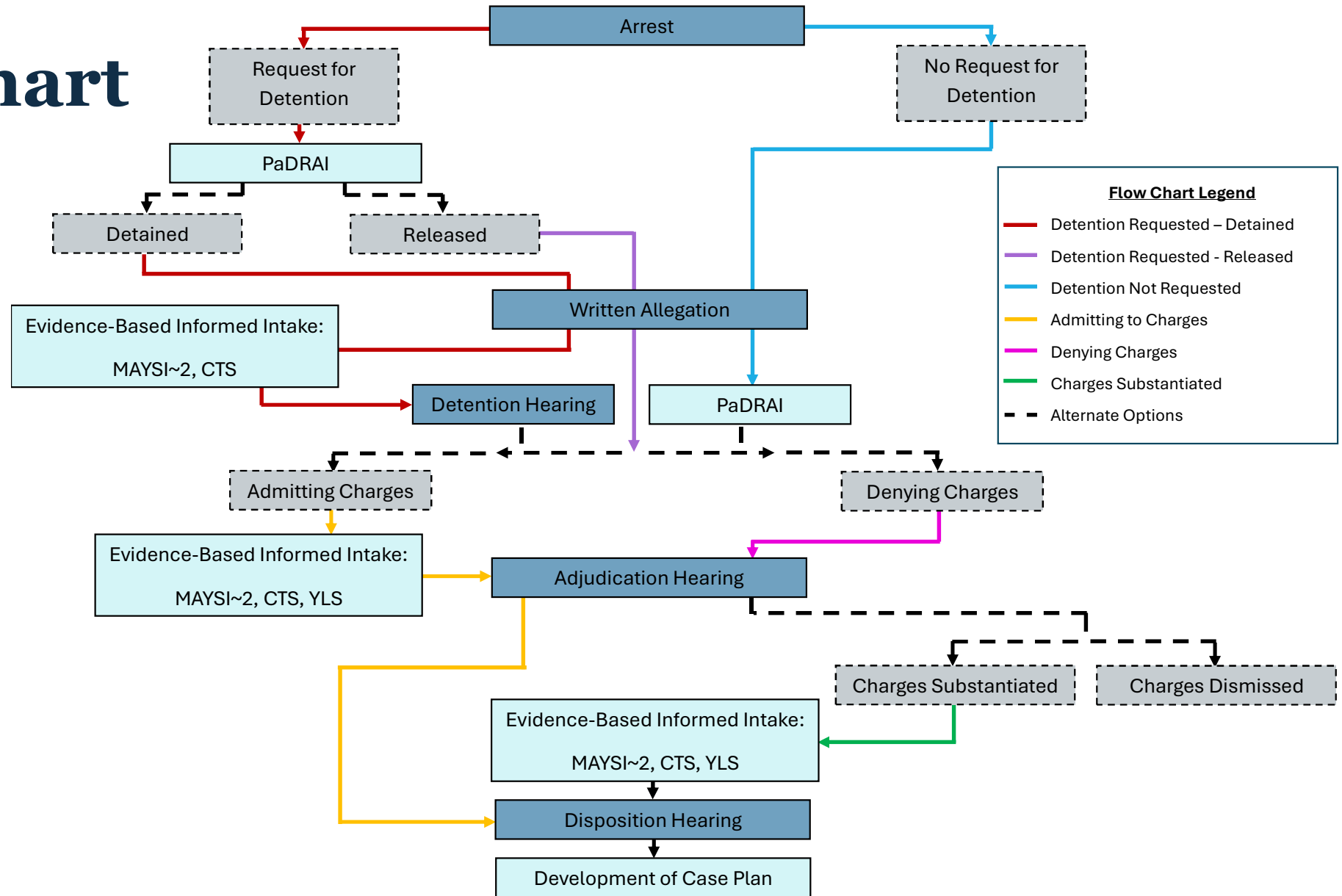


- Was the YLS completed with input from the youth and parent(s)/guardian(s)?
- Were the youths' top criminogenic needs identified?
- Were the youths' strengths identified?
- Were the youths' responsivity factors identified?
- Were the results of the YLS shared and explained with the youth and parent(s)/guardian(s)?
- What was the identified risk level?
- Was an override necessary?
- Were the results of the YLS considered in the dispositional recommendation?
- Were any referrals made as a result of the YLS?

What a juvenile court judge should be aware of:

- Over-relying on the score alone – the YLS should be used in conjunction with judicial discretion, legal considerations, and input from probation officers, psychologists, and other service providers.
- Placing low-risk youth in intensive programs can increase recidivism rather than reduce it.
- Ignoring protective factors – some youth may have strong support systems that can aid in rehabilitation.
- Except for the Prior and Current Offenses domain, which spans a lifetime observation period, the initial YLS assessment should consider the youth's current situation or the conditions present during the previous 12 months.

EBII Flowchart



*Please note: County practices may differ slightly, but generally follow this flow chart and must comply with the Rules of Juvenile Court Procedure and the Juvenile Act.

Detention Risk Assessment Instrument

- **Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI)**
 - **Structured decision-making instrument**
 - **Assists in secure detention decisions**
 - **Designed to assess youth risk**



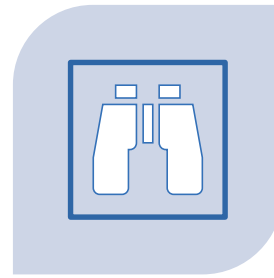
Purpose and Benefits of a Detention Risk Assessment Instrument



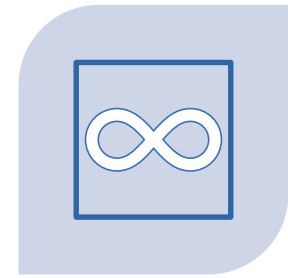
PROMOTES:
FAIRNESS,
CONSISTENCY,
EQUITY



ENHANCES:
ACCOUNTABILITY,
EFFECTIVE RESOURCE
ALLOCATION



ENSURES:
TRANSPARENCY



CREATES:
DEFENSIBLE,
RATIONAL SYSTEM

Alternatives to Detention

- **Most can be administered by juvenile probation departments or contracted out to private providers.**
- **Several ATD options are low-cost or no-cost but may require procedural adjustments.**
- **ATD examples include:**
 - House arrest, electronic monitoring
 - Calls or home checks
 - Expedited intake and/or court hearing
 - Day/evening reporting
 - Pre-disposition supervision
 - Alternative living arrangements with a relative or responsible adult
 - Shelter care



PaDRAI

PENNSYLVANIA DETENTION RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT
Revised 4.5.22

Docket # _____

Previous Sanctions Used: _____

Youth's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Town of Residence: _____

JID #: _____ Decision by: PO _____ Judge _____

Gender: Male Female (self reported)

PaDRAI Completion Date: _____ Time: _____ AM PM

*PaDRAI Type: _____

1. Most Serious New Alleged Offense (most recent Pre-Adj "open" charges) - Specify:		
Felony I.....	15	
Felony II or Felony Drug -Ungraded.....	12	
Felony III	7	= _____
Misdemeanor I.....	5	
Misdemeanor II or Misdemeanor Drug - Ungraded.....	3	
Misdemeanor III or Ungraded.....	1	
NO New Charge.....	0	
2 . Most Serious Additional Non-related Charges (on same allegation as above) or other Pending Allegations (include Allegations Pending Court Action or Allegations Pending at Intake- These are OPEN, Pre-ADJUDICATION) - Specify:		
Felony I.....	10	
Felony II or Felony Drug Ungraded.....	7	
Felony III	5	= _____
Misdemeanor I.....	4	
Misdemeanor II or Misdemeanor Drug Ungraded.....	3	
Misdemeanor III or Ungraded.....	1	
NO Additional Non-related Charges.....	0	
3. Current Status (Pre-Adj Status is captured in #1, since charges are still "open")		
Placement.....	7	
Aftercare Supervision (within 2 months of release from out of home placement).....	5	
Formal Probation	4	= _____
Pre-Adjudication Alternative to Detention	3	
Consent Decree.....	2	
Informal Adjustment.....	1	
NONE of the above.....	0	
4. Prior Adjudications or Consent Decrees (within the past 18 months/both open and closed cases)		
Multiple prior findings for Felony Offenses (all gradings).....	6	
One prior findings for a Felony Offense (all gradings).....	4	= _____
Multiple findings for Misdemeanor Offenses (all gradings).....	3	
One prior findings for a Misdemeanor Offense (all gradings).....	1	
NO prior findings.....	0	
5. History of Warrants for Failure to Appear for Court Hearing(s) (active within past 12 months)		
Two or more warrants for failure to appear in past 12 months.....	3	
One warrant for failure to appear in past 12 months.....	1	= _____
NO warrants for failure to appear in past 12 months.....	0	
6. History of Escape/AWOL/Runaway from Delinquency Placement (within past 12 months)		
One or more escapes from secure confinement or custody.....	4	
One or more instances of AWOL from non-secure, court-ordered, out of home placement.....	3	= _____
Two or more Runaways from home or voluntary out of home placement (For more than 24 hours)	1	
NO History of escapes/ AWOLs in past 12 months.....	0	

DETAIN = 15+

ATD = 10 - 14

RELEASE = 0 - 9

INDICATED PADRAI DECISION (WHAT DOES THE TOOL SAY TO DO) = _____ TOTAL SCORE = _____



PaDRAI

2

PENNSYLVANIA DETENTION RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT Revised 4.5.22

Mandatory Detention (MUST be detained)

- Bench Warrant
- Judicial Order – Please add Order details here: _____

Discretionary Warrant: MITIGATING FACTORS

(Please check the **ONE primary factor** below that informed your decision then describe rational in detail on next page)

- Parent willing/able to provide supervision
- Juvenile has no prior record
- Juvenile marginally involved in the offense
- Facts alleged are less serious than the offense charged
- Juvenile is 13 years of age or less
- New charge referred is not recent
- Juvenile is adjudicated dependent and C&Y agency has placement custody
- Juvenile has significant MH/MR problems or is in MH/MR placement
- Juvenile doing well on supervision absent this arrest
- Other – Graduated Response
- Other (examples: Attends work/school/counseling regularly, etc): _____

OR

Discretionary Warrant: AGGRAVATING FACTORS

(Please check the **ONE primary factor** below that informed your decision then describe rational in detail on next page)

- Parent/guardian refusal and no other resources available
- Parent /guardian unavailable
- Juvenile has **significant** substance abuse problems
- Juvenile has a history of violence in the home or against family members
- Victim of current offense resides in the home
- Unsuccessful ATD history (within the past 12 months)
- Juvenile refuses to participate/cooperate with ATD
- Victim / witness intimidation
- Other – Graduated Response
- OTHER:

Do not use "OTHER" for substance abuse issues or when there is a judicial order requiring detention for any violations.

3

PENNSYLVANIA DETENTION RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT Revised 4.5.22

Written Explanation, including any Additional Information must be provided for ANY Discretionary Warrant **Not to be used for Judicial Order explanation.**

Supervisory Approval is required for ALL Discretionary Warrants.

Approving Supervisor: _____

ACTUAL DECISION:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| RELEASE <input type="checkbox"/> | ALTERNATIVE (ATD) <input type="checkbox"/> | SECURE DETENTION <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> Serious Threat to Self/Others |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening/Day Reporting Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Monitoring | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Supervised In-Home Detention | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> House Arrest | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Expedited Case Processing | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify: _____ | |

JPO's original recommendation to the court:



Assessment Overrides

- **What if I disagree with the PaDRAI's recommendation?**
 - **Mitigating Overrides**
 - **Aggravating Overrides**
 - **Mandatory Detentions**



PaDRAI

Revised: 08.2024

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

PaDRAI

The Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI) is an objective assessment tool that helps probation officers and probation departments decide whether to securely detain a youth, release the youth to an alternative to detention (ATD), or release the youth to the custody of a parent or responsible adult while the youth is awaiting their juvenile court hearing. The PaDRAI is designed to minimize bias while promoting fair and transparent decisions for the use of secure detention and ATD. The PaDRAI generates a score based on objective, evidence-based risk factors. These six risk factors are: the most serious alleged offense, additional related charges or pending charges, current supervision status, prior adjudication or consent decree findings, history of failure to appear, and history of escape or runaway.

41 Departments
UTILIZED THE PaDRAI

94%
Detention
Admissions Were From
PaDRAI-USING COUNTIES

11,378
PaDRAI
in 2023

63% INCREASE*
Since 2022

91%

YOUTH

Released or on an ATD
per the Tool's
Recommendation Were
SUCCESSFUL**
in the Community

7% PaDRAI Resulted in a
**DISCRETIONARY
AGGRAVATING OVERRIDE**

5%
Override to
**SECURE
DETENTION*****

vs.

2%
Override to
ATD

Note: Data Reflects PaDRAI's Completed in Calendar Year 2023 and Entered into PaJCMS.

* In January 2023, Counties Were Encouraged to Administer the PaDRAI on Every New Allegation to Promote Fundamental Fairness, Resulting in a Policy Change in Some Counties, But Not All.

**Success Is Defined as the Youth Appearing for His or Her First Scheduled Court Hearing and Not Re-Offending While in the Community Awaiting the Hearing.

*** Best Practice Indicates That Override to Detain Rates Should Be 20% or Less.



2025 PaDRAI Revalidation Study

- **When used as designed, the PaDRAI is a valid tool.**
 - **The overall success rate for all non-detained youth was 89.5%**
- **Proper use of the PaDRAI promotes fundamental fairness and reduces bias.**
 - **The odds of a detention recommendation were nearly equally likely regardless of race, ethnicity, and gender.**
- **Dr. Carrie Maloney conducted the original validation of the PaDRAI in 2014.**
 - **Nearly 10 years later, in partnership with the PCCJPO Detention Committee and the JCJC, the PaDRAI was re-validated by Dr. Maloney.**

Mental/Behavioral Health Screening Tool

- **Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument - Version 2 (MAYSI-2)**
 - **Brief behavioral health screening tool**
 - **Designed for juvenile justice programs and facilities**
 - **Identifies youth who may have behavioral health needs**



Key Points of the MAYSI-2




Overview

The **MAYSI-2** (Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument, 2nd Edition) is a mental health screening tool designed for at-risk youth.

Its primary goal is to identify emotional and behavioral problems in adolescents involved with juvenile justice systems.

Purpose



Identify Needs: Early detection of potential mental health issues in youth.

Guide Interventions: Inform treatment planning and resources for youth.

Structure

- **Age Range:** Designed for youth ages **12-17**.
- **Format:** **52-item** self-report questionnaire.
- **Scales:** Assesses various domains, including:
 - **Suicidal Ideations**
 - **Substance Abuse**
 - **Anger & Irritability**
 - **Depression & Anxiety**
 - **Traumatic Experiences**
 - **Somatic Complaints**
 - **Thought Disturbances**

Administration

- **Duration:** Typically takes **15-20 minutes** to complete.
- **Setting:** Can be administered in various contexts (e.g., detention centers, probation offices, schools).

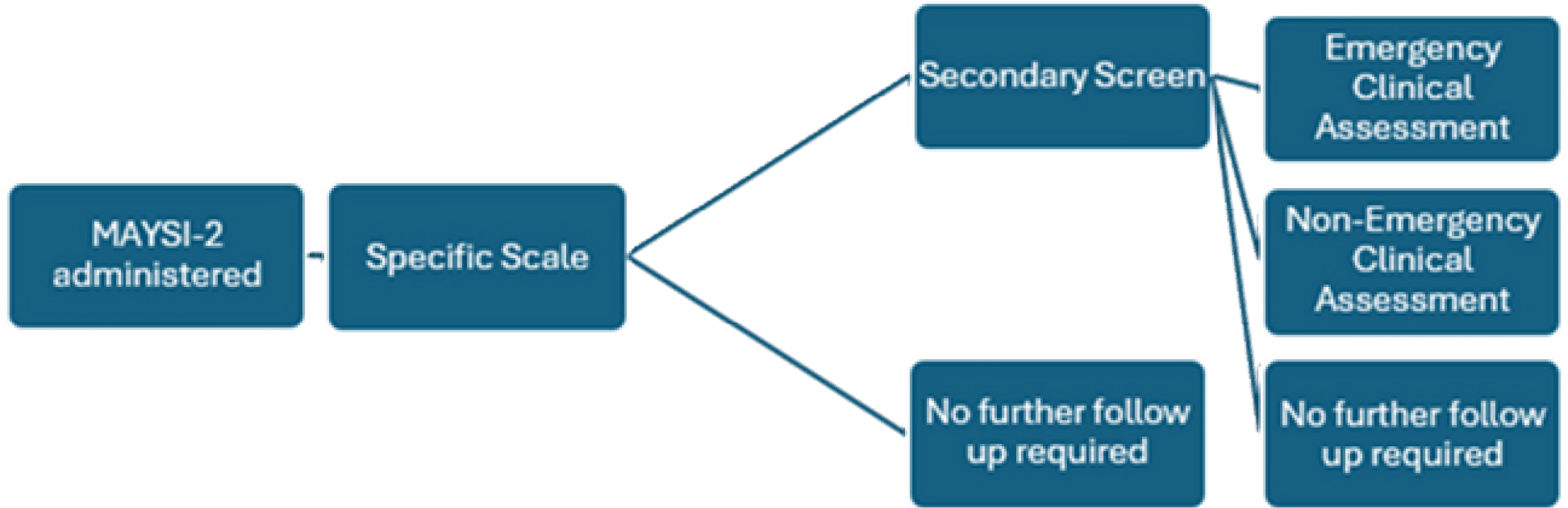


Cut-off scores

- Each scales has two cut-off scores: caution and warning
- **Caution:** Indicates scores of possible clinical significance.
 - Response = continued monitoring
- **Warning:** Identifies scores that are exceptionally high compared to other youth in the juvenile justice system.
 - Response = immediate attention; referral for further assessment/evaluation/treatment



MAYSI-2 Flowchart





Important considerations

- **Not a diagnosis:** The MAYSI-2 is a screening tool, not a diagnostic instrument. It does not substitute for a professional behavioral health assessment.
- **Follow-up is crucial:** Any score in the "caution" or "warning" range requires follow-up, including potentially using secondary screening questions to gather more information.
- **Traumatic Experiences Scale:** This subscale does not have caution or warning cut-offs; positive responses are simply totaled for information purposes.
- **Score validity:** The results are most valid for youth for up to four weeks after administration, as their mood and stress levels can change.

Implications for Practice

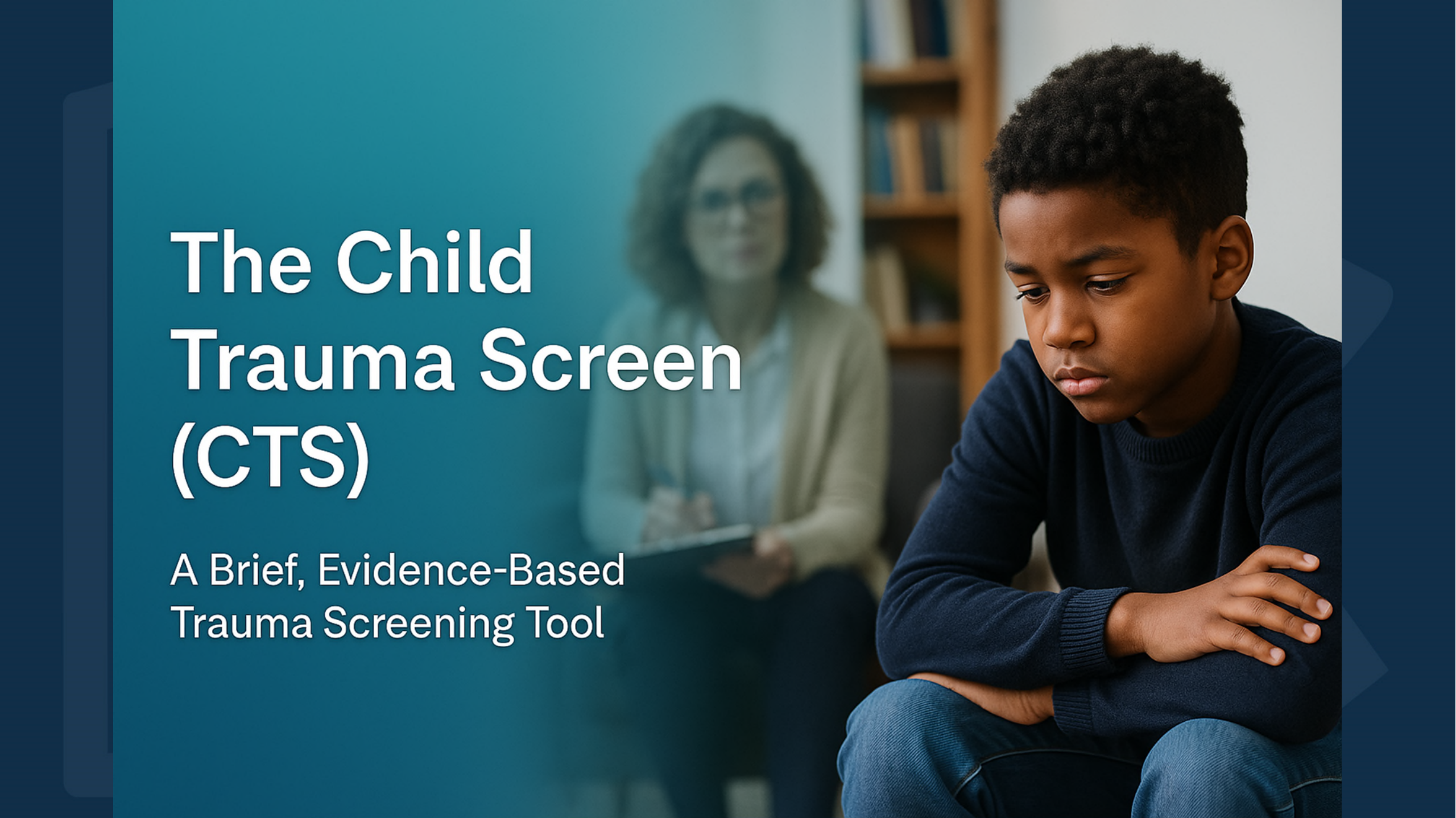
Supports **early identification** and intervention strategies.

Enhances **collaboration** among mental health professionals, educators, and justice systems.

Case planning – acknowledge and incorporate responsivity factors

Conclusion

- The **MAYSI-2** serves as a crucial tool in youth mental health, providing insights into behavioral and emotional concerns that can lead to effective treatment and support interventions for at-risk populations.

A young boy with dark skin and curly hair is sitting on the floor, looking down with a somber expression. He is wearing a dark blue sweater and blue jeans. In the background, a woman with glasses and a light-colored cardigan is sitting on the floor, holding a clipboard and looking towards the camera. The setting appears to be a room with a bookshelf in the background. The overall mood is serious and contemplative.

The Child Trauma Screen (CTS)

A Brief, Evidence-Based Trauma Screening Tool

Why Trauma Screening Matters

- High prevalence among system-involved youth
- Trauma fuels behavioral and emotional dysregulation
- Early detection improves safety, engagement, and outcomes



Child Trauma Screen

- **Brief, validated screen of lifetime traumatic event exposure and current trauma symptoms**
- **Ages 6 – 17**
- **10 items (4 exposure; 6 symptoms)**
- **Youth/Caregiver versions**
- **5-minute administration**



CTS Traumatic Event Exposure Items

EVENTS: Sometimes, scary or very upsetting things happen to people. These things can sometimes affect what we think, how we feel, and what we do.

	Yes	No
1. Have you ever seen people pushing, hitting, throwing things at each other, or stabbing, shooting, or trying to hurt each other?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Has someone ever really hurt you? Hit, punched, or kicked you really hard with hands, belts, or other objects, or tried to shoot or stab you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Has someone ever touched you on the parts of your body that a bathing suit covers, in a way that made you uncomfortable? Or had you touch them in that way?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Has anything else very upsetting or scary happened to you (loved one died, separated from loved one, been left alone for a long time, not had enough food to eat, serious accident or illness, fire, dog bite, bullying)? <i>What was it?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. **Witnessing violence (family, community)**
2. **Experiencing violence (family, community)**
3. **Sexual abuse**
4. **Coverage of multiple events (e.g., traumatic loss, neglect, serious accident/illness/injury)**

CTS Trauma Reactions Items

REACTIONS: Sometimes scary or upsetting events affect how people think, feel, and act. The next questions ask how you have been feeling and thinking recently.

How often did each of these happen in the <u>last 30 days</u> ?	Never/ Rarely	1-2 times per month	1-2 times per week	3+ times per week
5. Strong feelings in your body when you remember something that happened (sweating, heart beats fast, feel sick).	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Try to stay away from people, places, or things that remind you about something that happened.	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Trouble feeling happy.	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Trouble sleeping.	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Hard to concentrate or pay attention.	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Feel alone and not close to people around you.	0 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>

5. **Intrusive recollections**

6. **Avoidance**

7. **Negative Alterations in Cognition and Mood**

8. **Arousal**

9. **Arousal**

10. **Negative Alterations in Cognition and Mood**

CTS scores

- Score of 6+ on Reactions section (items 5-10)
 - Secondary Screen
 - Possible referral for further evaluation
 - Incorporate trauma needs into dispositional decisions
 - Apply trauma-informed approach to case planning
- Score of <6 does not mean youth is symptom free
 - Youth may not have experienced trauma
 - Youth is resilient
- Communicate results to appropriate staff



CTS Traumatic Event Exposure Endorsement

Traumatic Event Endorsement	(n = 1221)
Witnessed Violence	772 (63.2%)
Physical Violence	764 (62.6%)
Violence with Weapon	242 (19.8%)
Experienced Violence	414 (33.9%)
Physical Violence	397 (31.7%)
Violence with Weapon	96 (7.9%)
Sexual Abuse	125 (10.2%)
Sexual Assault	120 (9.8%)
Forced Sex	44 (3.6%)
Other	726 (59.5%)
Trauma Loss	653 (53.5%)
Neglect	64 (5.2%)
Other Trauma	283 (23.2%)
Total Traumatic Events Endorsed	Average = 2.17

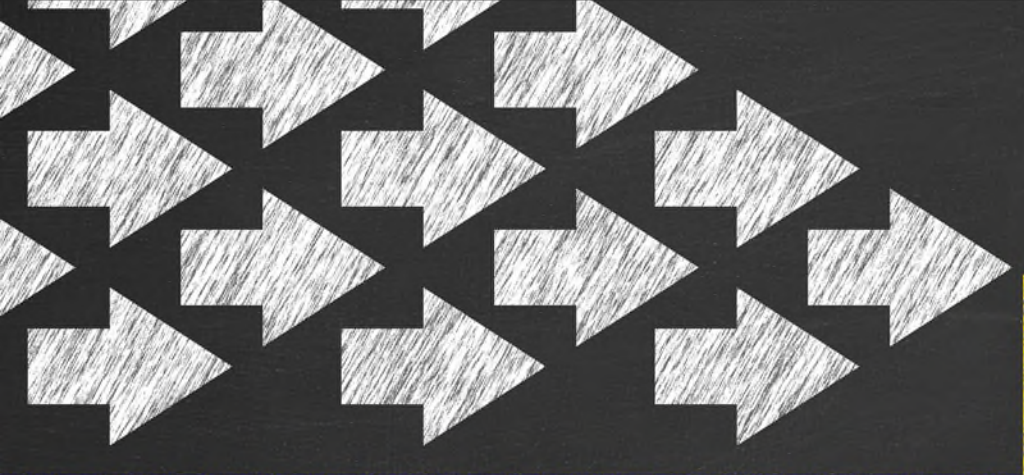
CTS Trauma Reaction Endorsement

Trauma Reaction	(n = 1221)
Strong Feelings in Body	173 (14.2%)
External Avoidance	184 (15.1%)
Trouble Feeling Happy	187 (15.3%)
Trouble Sleeping	321 (26.3%)
Trouble paying attention/Concentration	321 (26.3%)
Feeling Alone	321 (26.3%)
Total Traumatic Reaction Score	<i>Average = 3.97</i>
Screened In	370 (30.3%)

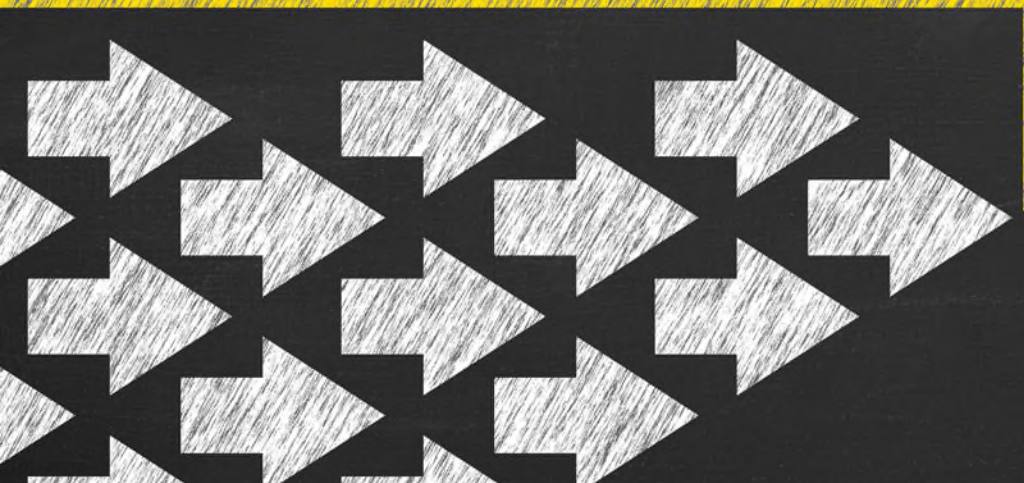
Important Considerations

- Probation Officers should provide the Court with a summary of the trauma screening process and decision-steps taken based on the screening
- Remember that the CTS is only a screen – it is not a comprehensive assessment of all possible traumatic event exposures and trauma-related problems
- Does not provide a mental health diagnosis of PTSD
- Research evidence indicates that when youth scores above the CTS cut score of 6 that this is highly sensitive in signaling (screening in) a youth who will likely show trauma reactions qualifying for a probable PTSD diagnosis
- Use of the CTS is an evidence-based approach that begins the process of identifying trauma-based needs that represent a specific responsivity factor that informs case planning





Risk/Need Assessment



Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory TM (YLS) Risk/Needs Assessment

➤ YLS

- Actuarial-based assessment tool
- Identifies risk, need, and responsivity factors
- Promotes community protection
- Facilitates youth competency development



Eight Domains for Identifying Risk

Prior and Current
Offenses

Family Circumstances

Education/Employment

Peer Relations

Substance Abuse

Leisure/Recreation

Personality/Behavior

Attitudes/Orientation

Risk Factors

The eight risk domains are made up of static and dynamic risk factors:

Static Risk Factor

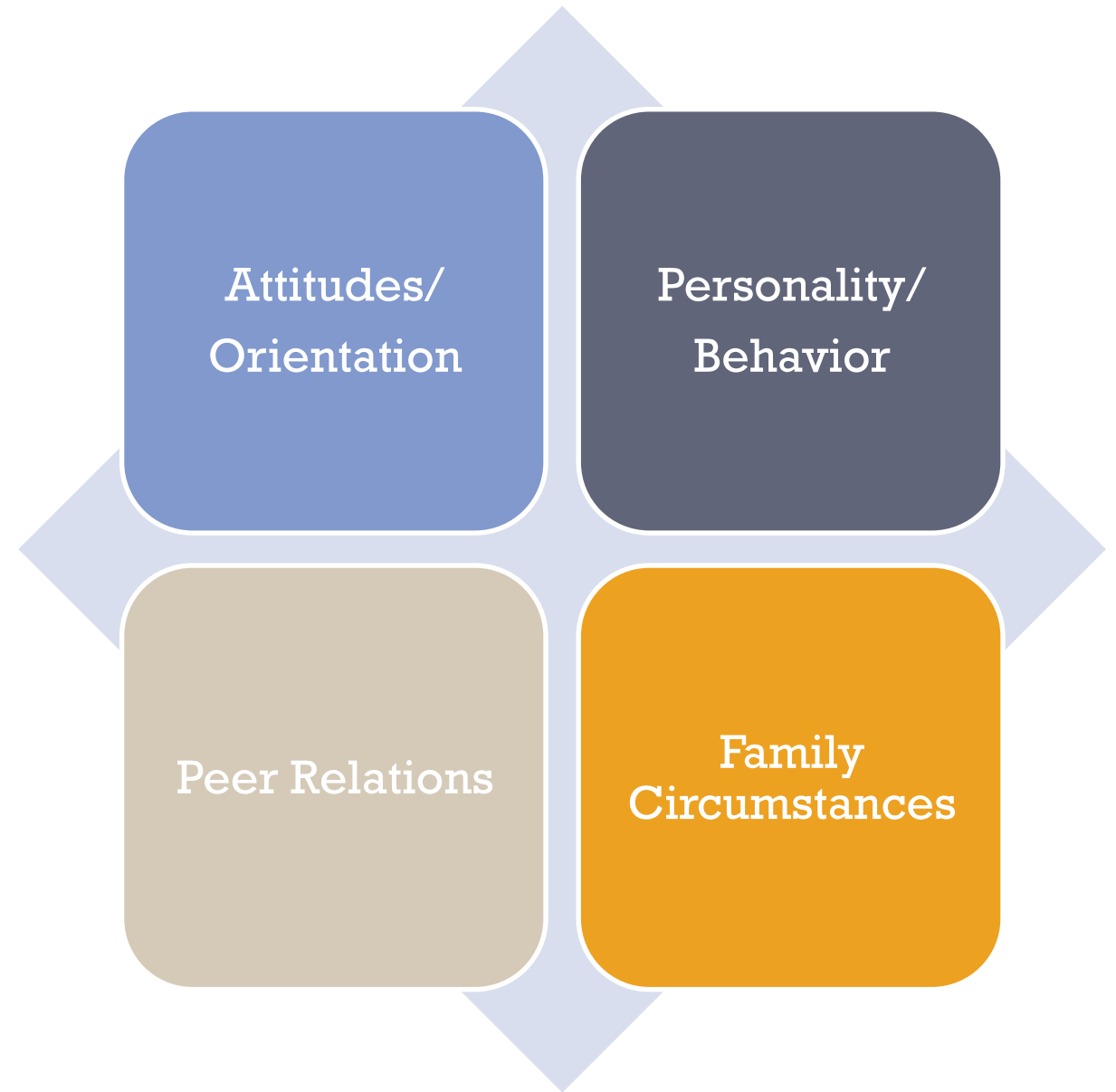
- Prior and current offenses

Dynamic Risk Factors

- All other risk factors



Strongest Predictors of Reoffending Behaviors





Responsivity Factors

- Learning
- Disabilities
- Mental
- Health
- Motivation
- Cultural Issues
- Trauma
- Experiences
- Gender
- IQ

Best Practice Principles

- Overrides
- Assessment Sharing
- Strengths
- Item Selection Justification
- Booster Training
- Quality Assurance/Continuous Quality Improvement
- Service Matrix

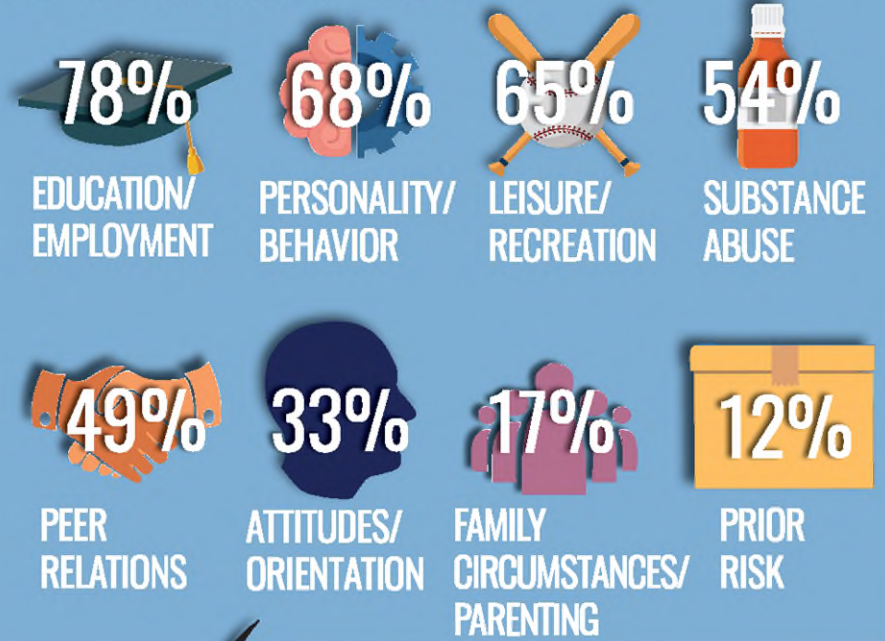
YLS

Revised: 08.2024

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM YOUTH LEVEL OF SERVICE

The use of the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory™ (YLS) is the cornerstone of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy. The tool, which is a validated research-based assessment, is designed to determine a juvenile's risk to reoffend and the presence of criminogenic needs. The YLS measures 42 static and dynamic risk factors, divided into eight domains, that have been identified as most predictive of juvenile reoffending. The eight domains are: prior and current offenses/dispositions, family circumstances/parenting, education/employment, peer relations, substance abuse, leisure/recreation, personality/behavior, and attitudes/orientation. Generally, juveniles are assessed at the time they enter the juvenile justice system. Upon completion of the YLS assessment, juveniles are assigned a numeric score and risk level (i.e., low, moderate, high, or very high) and their top criminogenic needs (those factors recognized as driving their delinquent behavior) are identified. These results assist juvenile probation officers in targeting a juvenile's specific needs through treatment, interventions, and services.

TOP CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS* of Initial YLS Assessments in 2023



2.4%

2023 Statewide
OVERRIDE RATE

MODERATE
84%

HIGH/VERY HIGH
86%

YOUTH

Had Lower Risk Scores at CLOSURE

94%

Most Youth Entering the PA Juvenile
Justice System Are Assessed as Either

LOW or MODERATE

RISK TO REOFFEND on the YLS

*Based on Youth Scoring Moderate or High on the Domain.



Stakeholder Engagement

- **The juvenile justice system is comprised of various stakeholders.**
- **JJSES success depends on aligning the missions, intentions, understandings and resources of system stakeholders.**
- **Outcomes improve when system activities are driven by a unified purpose through stakeholder collaboration.**



Stakeholders

- **Judges**
- **Hearing Officers**
- **Prosecutors**
- **Defense Counsel**
- **Probation Officers**
- **Youth**
- **Families**



Working Together

- **Safer/Stronger Communities**
- **Fewer Victims**
- **Reduced Delinquency Rates**
- **Improved Confidence in the System**
- **Reduced Taxpayer Costs**



Outcomes

- **How do we achieve these outcomes?**
 - **Sharing research that supports evidence-based practices;**
 - **Establishing a set of common performance measures;**
 - **Conducting a service gap assessment; and**
 - **Engaging in continuous quality improvement**



Now What?

- **Statewide implementation**
- **Training**
- **County support**
- **Stakeholder engagement**
- **Regional Planning Sessions**



Questions?

