Youth Prison OR A Youth’s Community

WHO CAN BEST HELP YOUTH IN NEED?

Youth well-being is best achieved in communities where young people can be safe, with their families and access services that address their individual needs. Communities can also hold youth accountable without resorting to incarceration. Anything that can be done in an institution can be done in a community, only better.

Unsustainable Improvement: temporarily removes youth from the community and the family

- Zero Tolerance
- No Positive Role Models
- No or Limited Opportunities to Develop
- Dependent on Uniformity
- Limited Education
- Isolated
- Poor Emotional Development
- Breaks Crucial Family Ties / Limited Family Contact
- Deficit-based
- Separation from Family
- No Family or Youth Voice or Choice

Sustainable Improvement: the community supports the youth and family to address youth needs and build on youth strengths and interests, in the context of their own homes and neighborhoods

- Civic Engagement/ Giving Back
- No Reject Policies
- Available, Accessible & Flexible services
- No Eject Policies
- Mutual Support
- Long-term Connection to Community Supports
- Cultural Competence
- Strength based Approach
- Access to Work
- Individualized Services
- Family Focus
- Youth & Family Voice, Choice & Ownership

RACIAL DISPARITY

- Black youth represent 15% of the population generally
- Black youth represent 60% of incarcerated youth
- Minority youth represent 68% of incarcerated youth

*Youth - 10-17

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