



Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

August 12, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

Courthouse Room 220

WORKSHOP

1. **Youth Justice Transformation: Centering Wellbeing, Prevention, and Restoration Beyond Detention Reform**

[2025-238](#)

Sponsors: Safety and Justice

Board Workshop / Discussion

Request for Board Action

Item Number: 2025-238

Meeting Date: 8/12/2025

Sponsor: Safety and Justice

Title

Youth Justice Transformation: Centering Wellbeing, Prevention, and Restoration Beyond Detention Reform

Attachment

1. Presentation



08/12/25

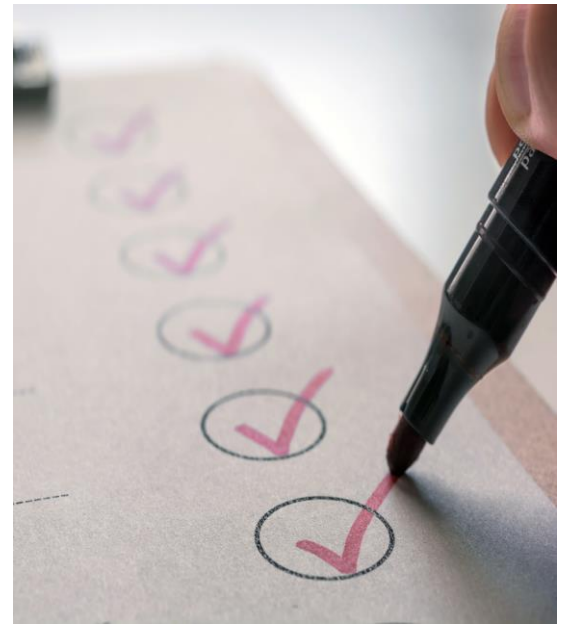
Youth Justice Transformation: Centering Wellbeing, Prevention, and Restoration Beyond Detention Reform.

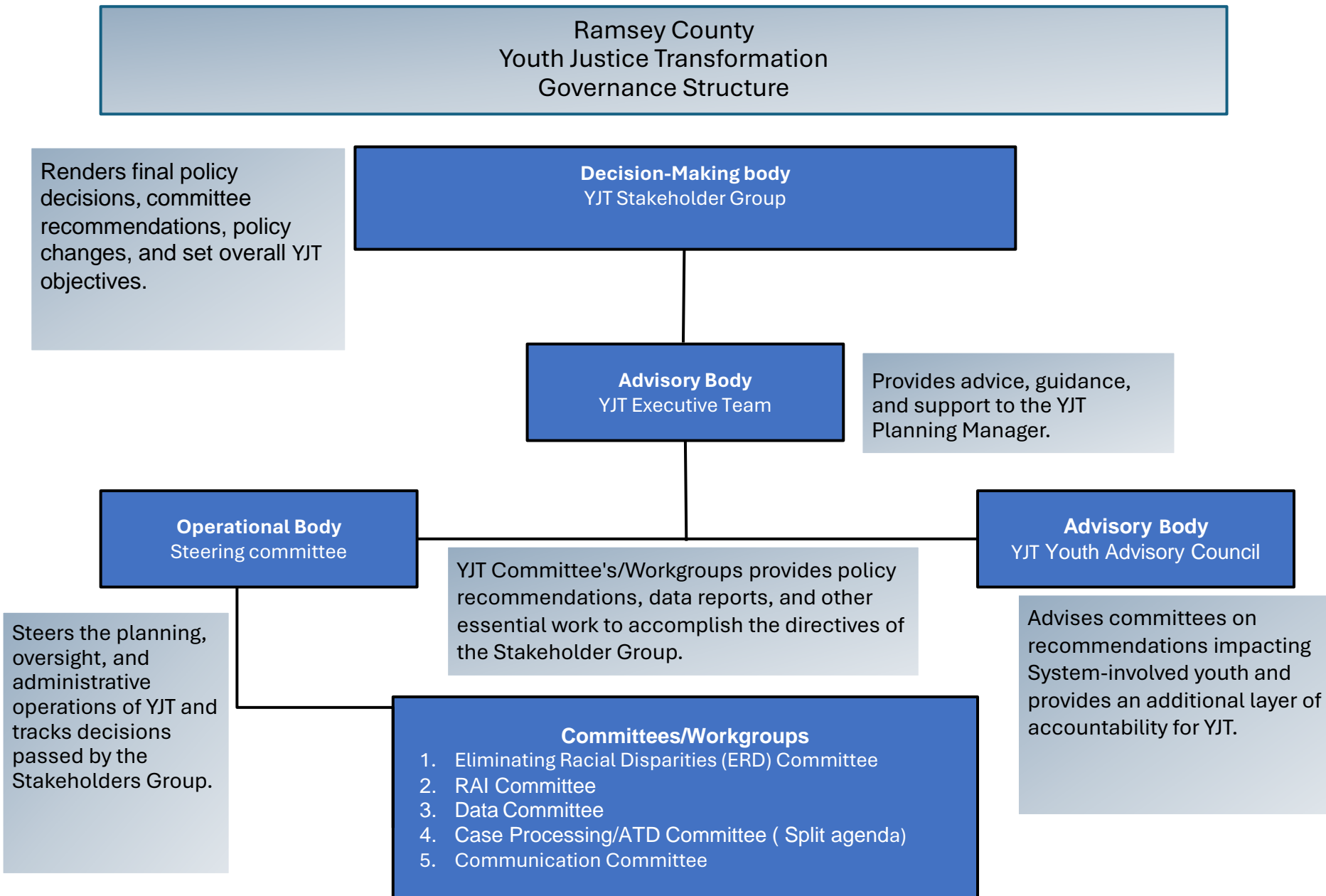
A Countywide Vision for Supporting Youth, Families, and Community Healing



Presenters

- ❖ Gloria Reyes, Deputy County Manager of Safety and Justice
- ❖ Nadir Abdi, Deputy County Manager of Health and Wellness
- ❖ Elijah Norris-Holliday, Planning Manager, Safety and Justice





YJT Partnership Eco System

◆ System Partners

- Ramsey County Community Corrections
- Social Services
- Workforce Solutions
- RCO
- RCO
- Public Health
- Public Defenders Office
- Second District Judicial Court
- Maplewood PD
- Saint Paul PD
 - Saint Paul ASPIRE unit
- Saint Paul Public Schools

◆ Community-Based Organizations

- Breakthrough wellness
- Face to Face
- Element Boxing
- Gen2Gen
- Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM)
- Urban Village
- Twin Cities RISE
- African-American Leadership Council
- Love Up, Guns Down
- Get It Right mentoring
- ECMC group
- YouthPrise
- Rebound
- Journey of Hope

◆ National/Network Partners

- National Association of Counties (NACo)
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)
- Annie E Casey Foundation
- Burns Institute
- Columbia Justice Lab
- Catalyze Justice
- National Parent Union (NPU)

Outcomes of Board Workshop

Historical Context	Evolution of JDAI	Goals of YJT	County Wide Alignment
Establish a deeper understanding of the history of Juvenile detention reform in Ramsey County and early efforts to support system-impacted youth.	Provide an overview of the transformation of JDAI to Deep-end transformation to expanding the scope of work to include prevention, intervention and transitional support for system-involved youth.	High level overview of the goals of YJT and current projects/initiatives that center well-being, prevention, and restoration for system-involved youth.	Articulate how the goals of YJT align with the County-wide strategic priorities.

History of Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative(JDAI) in Ramsey County

Youth Justice Challenges in Ramsey County

Double-bunking/Overcrowding

Community Concerns around disparities (DMC)

2800-3500 annual admissions

Lack of detention assessment tools

Detention for status offenses

In 2005, prior to adopting the framework of Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) detained all youth engaging in delinquency and annual admissions consistently exceeded 2,000.

Intervention from Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Under the leadership of Commissioner Carter, community leaders, and Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, Ramsey County adopted the JDAI national framework from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Board Presentation
& Resolution
(2005): Focused on
DMC Reduction

Readiness
Assessment:
Haywood F. Burns
Institute



Covenants

- ❖ Purpose: Reduce unnecessary detention & out-of-home placements.
- ❖ Establish alternatives to detention (ATD).
- ❖ Detention only for youth at risk of reoffending (public safety) or failure to appear (FTA).
- ❖ Prioritize public safety, positive youth outcomes and equity.
- ❖ Development of the objective screening tool risk assessment instrument (RAI) to assess appropriate setting for youth engaging in delinquency.

Early Stakeholders

Chief Judge/Judges

School Board & Superintendent

County Attorney & Sheriff office

Community Corrections

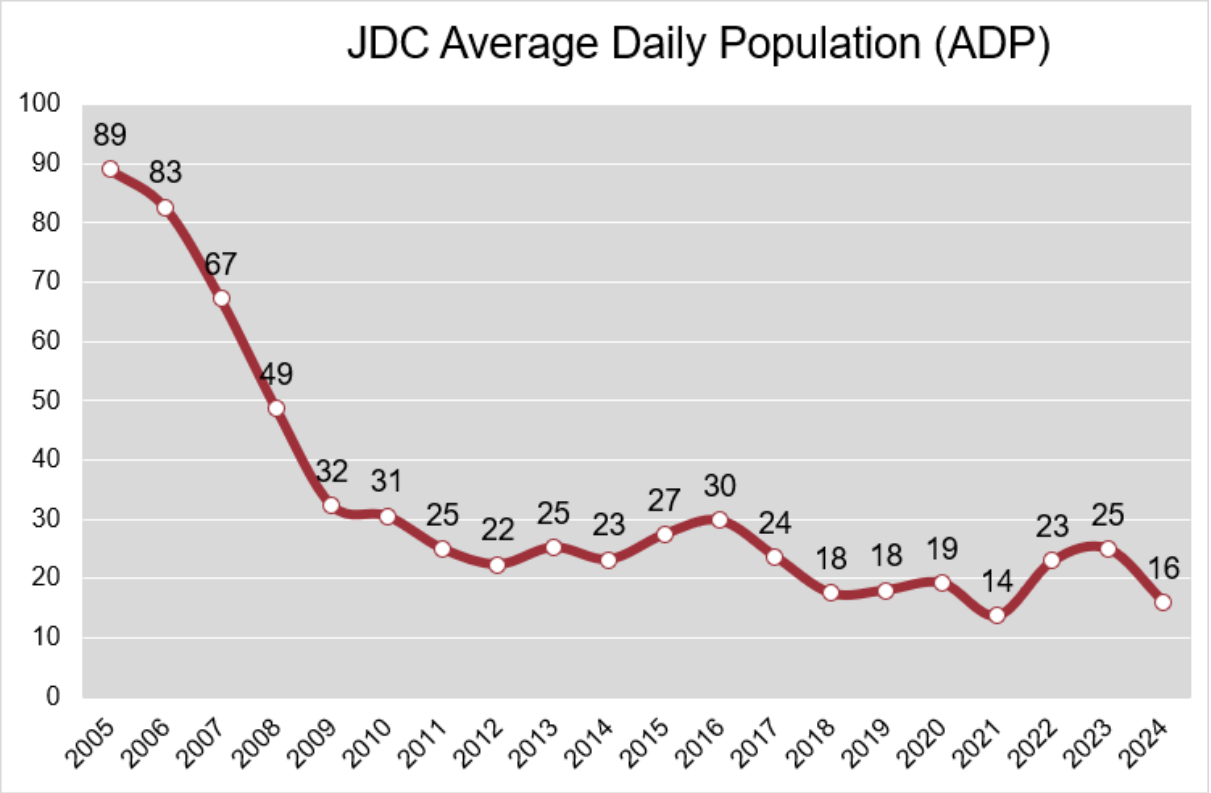
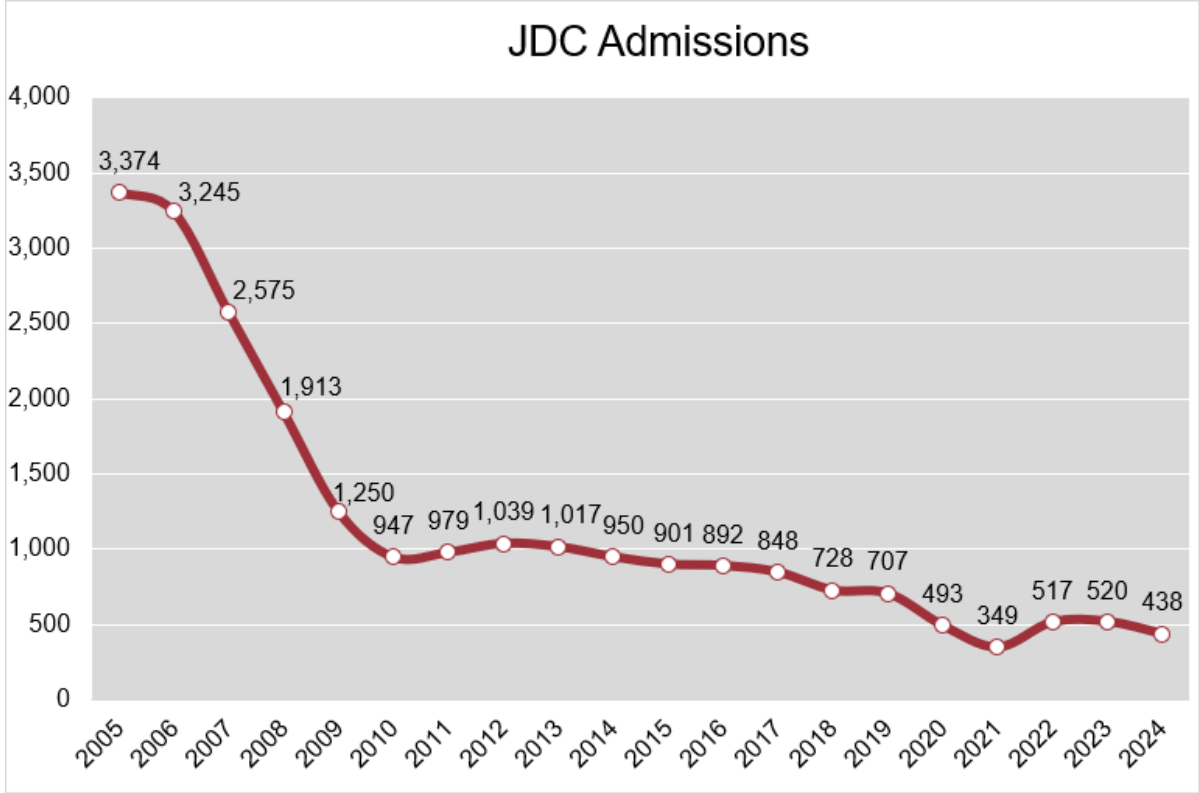
Community Organizations

Public defenders

Police Chiefs

Tri-Chair Leadership (Community rep, county commissioner, and juvenile presiding judge)

Start of Meaningful Reform





08/12/25

Expansion of JDAI to Deep End Transformation (2018)





Juvenile Probation

Provides a range of services to youth between the ages of 10-24:

- Risk Assessments (YLS/CMI 2.0 & LS/SMI)
- Cog Group Facilitation
- Case Management
- Mental Health Screening/Assessment (MAYSI)
- Service Coordination
- Crisis Management
- Family and Youth engagement
- Report on outcomes and progress

Specialized Case Load

Youth at Risk of Sexual Exploitation

Cross-Over Youth

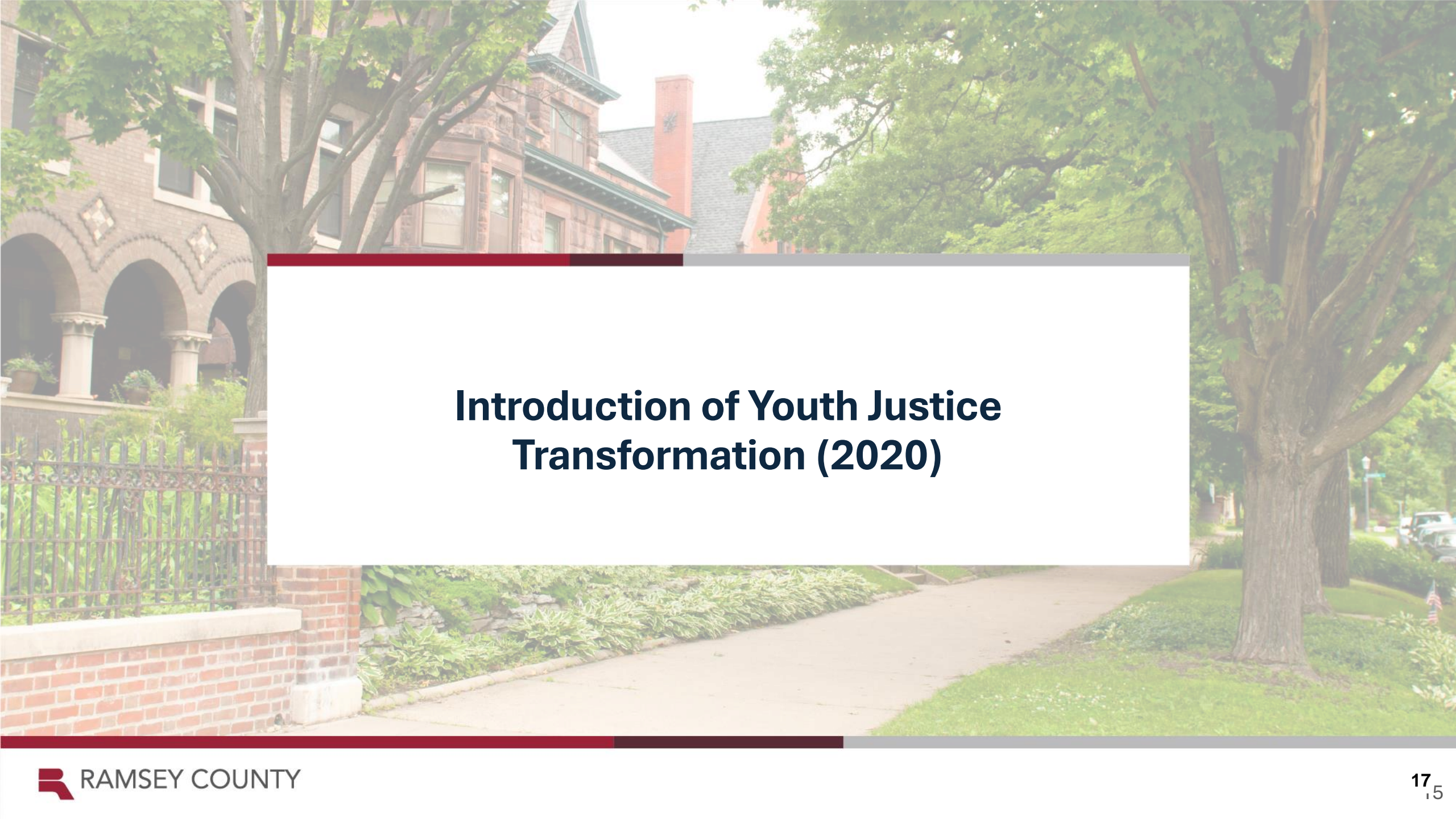
High-Risk (Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction (EJJ), youth with sex-offenses)

Low Risk Youth

Moderate Risk Youth

Transitional Age (18-24 years of age)



The background of the slide is a photograph of a historic brick building with arched windows and a red brick chimney. Large green trees are in the foreground and background, partially obscuring the building. A white rectangular box with a dark red border is centered over the image, containing the title text.

Introduction of Youth Justice Transformation (2020)

Ramsey County

Youth Justice Transformation

Vision

A vibrant community where all are valued and thrive.

Mission

Ramsey County will operate a fair, effective, and equitable youth justice system. Ramsey County Youth Justice Transformation promotes public wellbeing, positive youth development, and the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities by ensuring the use of effective alternatives to detention and out-of-home placement are available and utilized in Ramsey County.

Nine Core Strategies of Youth Justice Transformation

1. Collaboration.
2. Reliance on Data.
3. Eliminating disparities.
4. Detention Screening.
5. Detention Alternatives/Placements.
6. Probation Violations and Warrant Cases.
7. Case Processing (Detention Length of stay).
8. Confinement Conditions.
9. Community Engagement.



Youth Justice Transformation (YJT) Goals

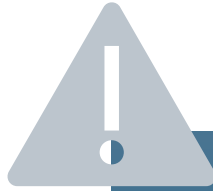
- ❖ Reduce secure placements and create supportive, healing environments for youth and families.
- ❖ Expand healing homes and violence prevention programs.
- ❖ Prioritize community-based, culturally responsive alternatives to detention.
- ❖ Address root causes of youth justice involvement.
- ❖ Emphasize holistic, equity-driven, restorative practices.
- ❖ Foster cross-sector collaboration.

Current Projects/Initiatives



Prevention

- Mobile RAI
- Saint Paul ASPIRE program
- Youth and Family support network
- Raise the Age of Delinquency



Intervention

- PowerWithinUs
- ATD Respite Shelters
- Restorative Practices and Diversion (RCAO)
- Participatory Defense navigator



Transitional Support

- Intensive Treatment Home
- Violence prevention funds
- Expansion of individualized Support Fund (ISF)
- Re-entry Court

National Peer Exchange



Ramsey County Hosted the CJJIN National Convening

- **National Network Engagement**

Participated in the County for Juvenile Justice Innovation Network (CJJIN), a national initiative by NACo and CJJ focused on local, community-rooted youth justice innovation.

Strategic Alignment with County Priorities



YJT framework support Ramsey County's commitment to

❖ Residents First

- ❖ Ensuring accessible, effective, and responsive services for youth and families at every intersection of the justice system.
- ❖ Building sustainable connections with areas of the county that invest and stabilize youth and families.

❖ Racial and Health Equity

- ❖ Addressing systemic disparities in the youth justice system at every decision point.

❖ Justice System Transformation

- ❖ Centering community and well-being in public safety.

❖ Holistic Support

- ❖ Strengthening youth and families with coordinated care across service teams.



Questions & Discussion