

A close-up photograph of two people fist-bumping. The person on the right is smiling and wearing large black headphones. The background is a blurred city street with brick buildings. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Everychild Restorative Justice Center - Pre-Booking Diversion

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## Centinela Youth Services

- Community-based diversion in partnership with LA County justice system since 1975.
- Nationally recognized (SAMHSA) evidence-based restorative justice.
- Over 30-year implementation of restorative justice.

# CYS Restorative Justice Diversion Referral Criteria



- Youth under the age of 18 at the time of the offense.
- Generally, no prior sustained felony petition. (i.e. no prior felony “conviction”)
- Qualified Misdemeanor or Felony.
- Must be **voluntary**, not court ordered.

**Pre-Booking Diversion** = No state record, fingerprints, photo.  
Diverted by Law Enforcement Agency.

**Pre-Filing Diversion** = In lieu of formal charges being filed.  
Diverted by Prosecutor’s Office.

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**Assault/Battery**; Assault on Officer; **Sexual Battery**; ADW

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**Threats**; **School Threats**

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Disturbing the Peace; Disorderly Conduct; Resisting Arrest

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**Vandalism** (no matter the \$\$ amount); **Arson** (not malicious)

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Drug Offenses, include possession for sales; **On campus**

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Petty Theft; **Grand Theft Person**

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**Residential** and Commercial Burglary

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**Robbery** (without a deadly weapon); **Weapons** (not gun)

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Drunk Driving; DWL; Car Theft; Joyriding

Generally, no violent felonies at the point of pre-booking.

Felonies approved for diversion are bolded.



**Eligible Offenses For  
Restorative Justice  
Diversion**

# What Can CYS Diversion Include?

Restorative Justice Mediation (VORS)

Youth-Parent Family Mediation (FARS)

Clinical Case Management/Service Plan

Counseling/Therapy

Financial, Housing, Transportation, Medical, Employment Assistance

Academic Support

Extracurricular Activities

Life Skills

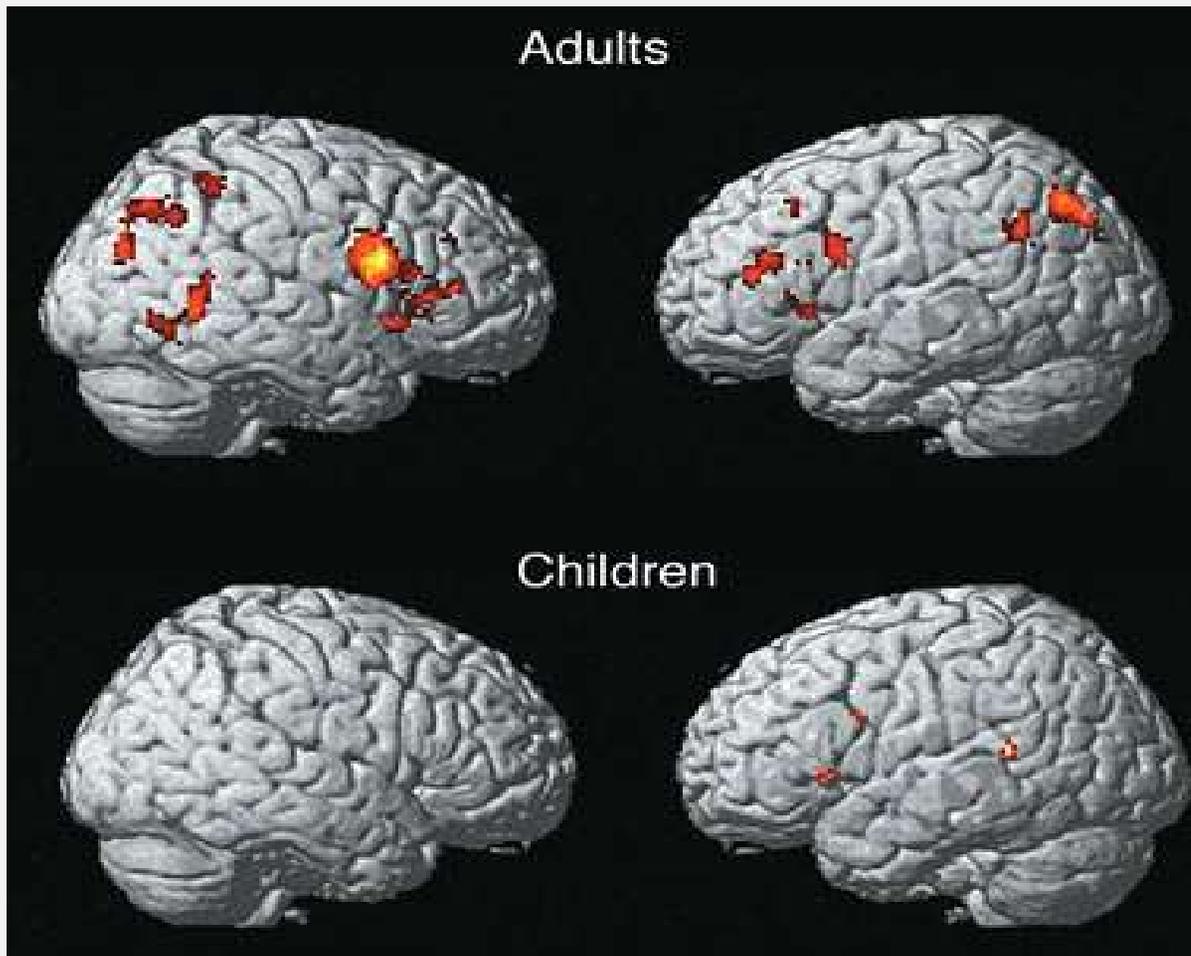
Mentoring

Victims are also connected to requested resources

## Eligibility & Considerations for Diversion Referrals



- Youth eligible only if the case would have qualified to be filed
- Includes assessments for appropriate “dosage”
- Involves meaningful accountability and treatment
- Must be applied with equity protections
- If completed, NO record NOR charges filed NOR sustained petition
- If not completed, further justice system consequences are possible



## Youth vs. Adult Brain Scan

Silvia Bunge, Ph.D  
UC Berkeley

[https://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2008/10/16\\_neurolaw.shtml](https://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2008/10/16_neurolaw.shtml)



# Two Pathways to Community Service



Court/Probation Ordered

Vs

Restorative Justice

**Public Safety** – Recidivism comparison. Youth service providers are Mandated Reporters.

**Meaningful Accountability:** Court ordered vs restorative justice and sense of agency. (Community Service example)

**“One bite of the apple”** – Be in alignment with youth development, brain elasticity, youth still growing/learning. Diversion to include service escalation to respond to behavior backsliding.

**Timeliness** – No need for physical assessment center for LE to drop youth. Assessment within a couple days is usually fine.

**Victim Needs** – Restorative Justice with fidelity leads to high satisfaction from impacted parties.



**What About...?**

# **RJ vs Court for those Who've been Harmed**

Timing of Appointments

Location of Appointments

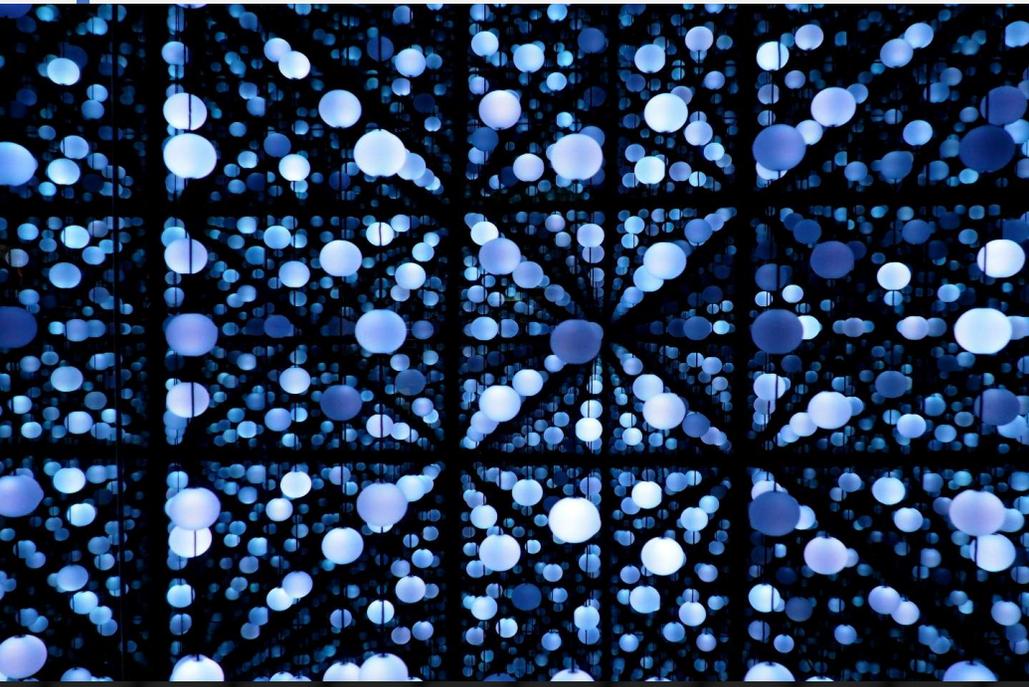
Active Participant vs Used as a Witness

Say in the Process

Restitution Completion Rates

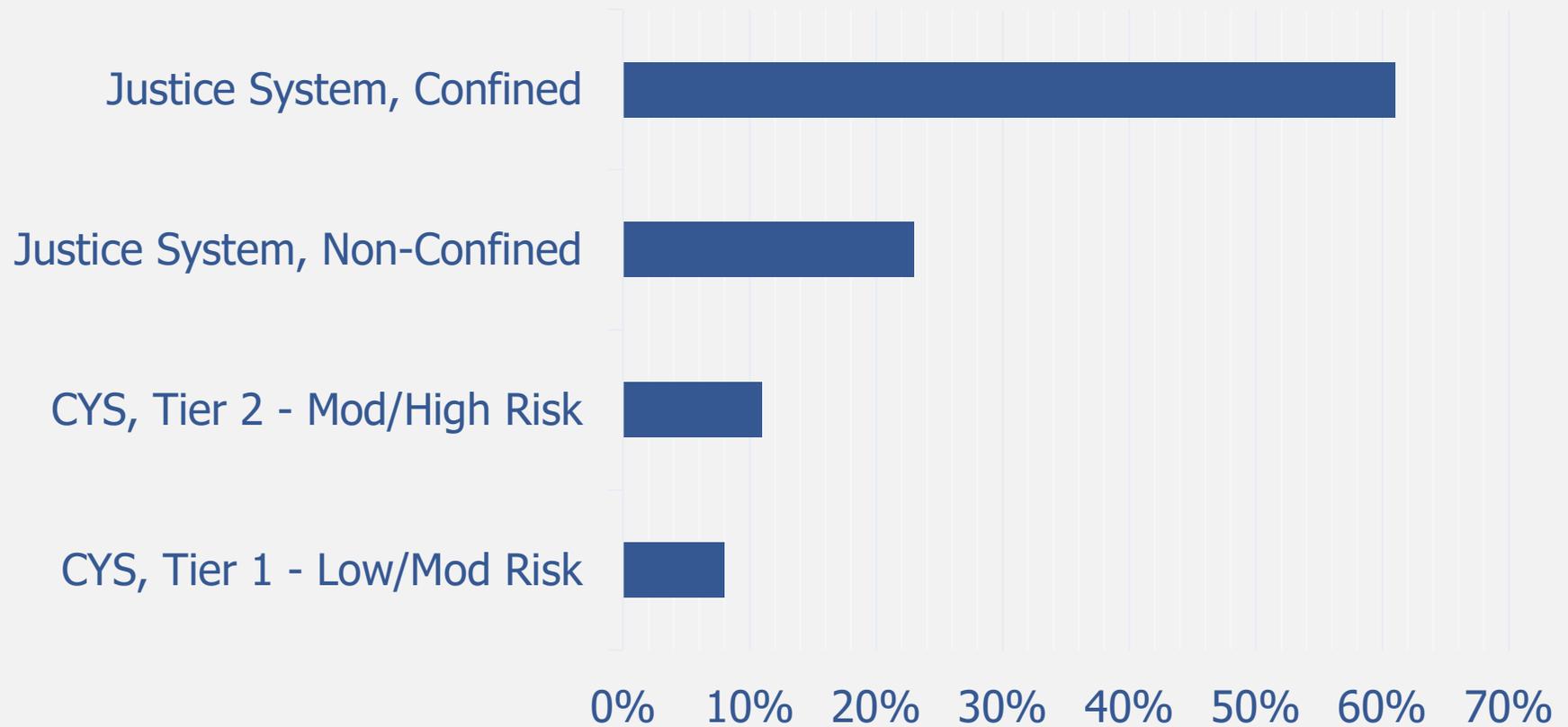
Emotional Repair

Satisfaction Rate



# **CYS Diversion Outcomes**

# Recidivism Comparison



Youth diverted to CYS complete **6 times** more community service hours compared to similar youth who received a court order to complete service hours.

A person with braided hair, wearing a light pink long-sleeved shirt, is seen from behind, holding a white rectangular sign with both hands. The sign is centered in the frame and contains the text 'Restitution Comparison' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

## Restitution Comparison

Youth diverted to CYS are **166 times** more likely to pay monetary restitution compared to youth who received a court order to pay restitution.

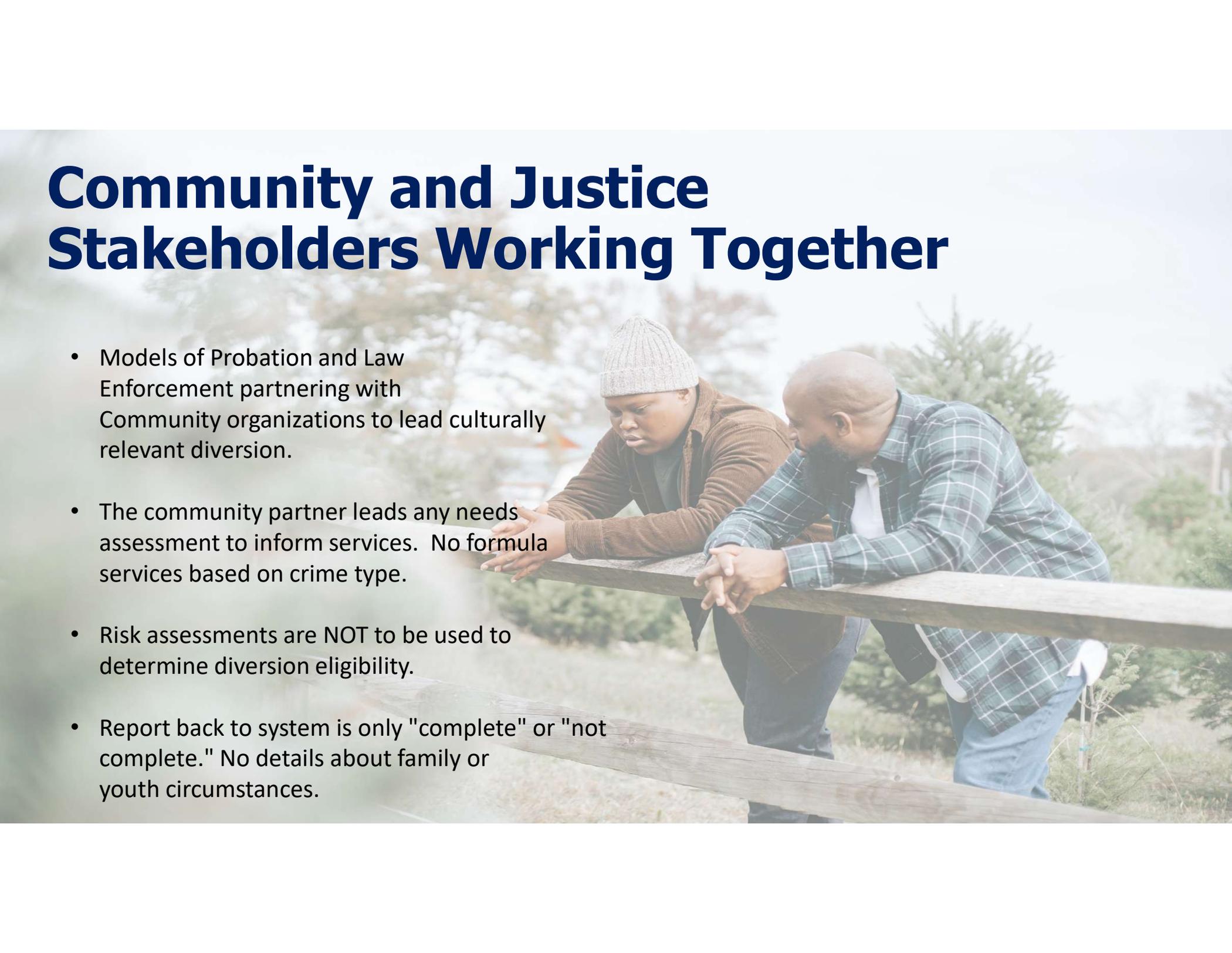


# CYS Diversion Program Outcomes

- % of Youth Who Successfully Complete All Services: 75%
- % of RJ Processes Resulting in Agreement: 99%
- % of RJ Agreements Completed in Full: 86%
- % of Persons Harmed Reporting Satisfaction: 98%
- % of Youth Reporting Satisfaction: 96%
- Cost Effective: \$4600 Diversion **Vs** \$280,000 Detention



# Community and Justice Stakeholders Working Together

A photograph of two individuals, a woman on the left and a man on the right, leaning on a wooden fence in an outdoor setting. The woman is wearing a brown jacket and a grey knit beanie. The man is wearing a green and white plaid shirt and blue jeans. They appear to be in a field with trees in the background.

- Models of Probation and Law Enforcement partnering with Community organizations to lead culturally relevant diversion.
- The community partner leads any needs assessment to inform services. No formula services based on crime type.
- Risk assessments are NOT to be used to determine diversion eligibility.
- Report back to system is only "complete" or "not complete." No details about family or youth circumstances.



# Key Components of CYS Diversion

- Clean Background Checks in Future
- Assessment for Right Dosage
- Individualized Case Plans
- Rooted in Youth Development
- Equity Protections & Avoids Net Widening

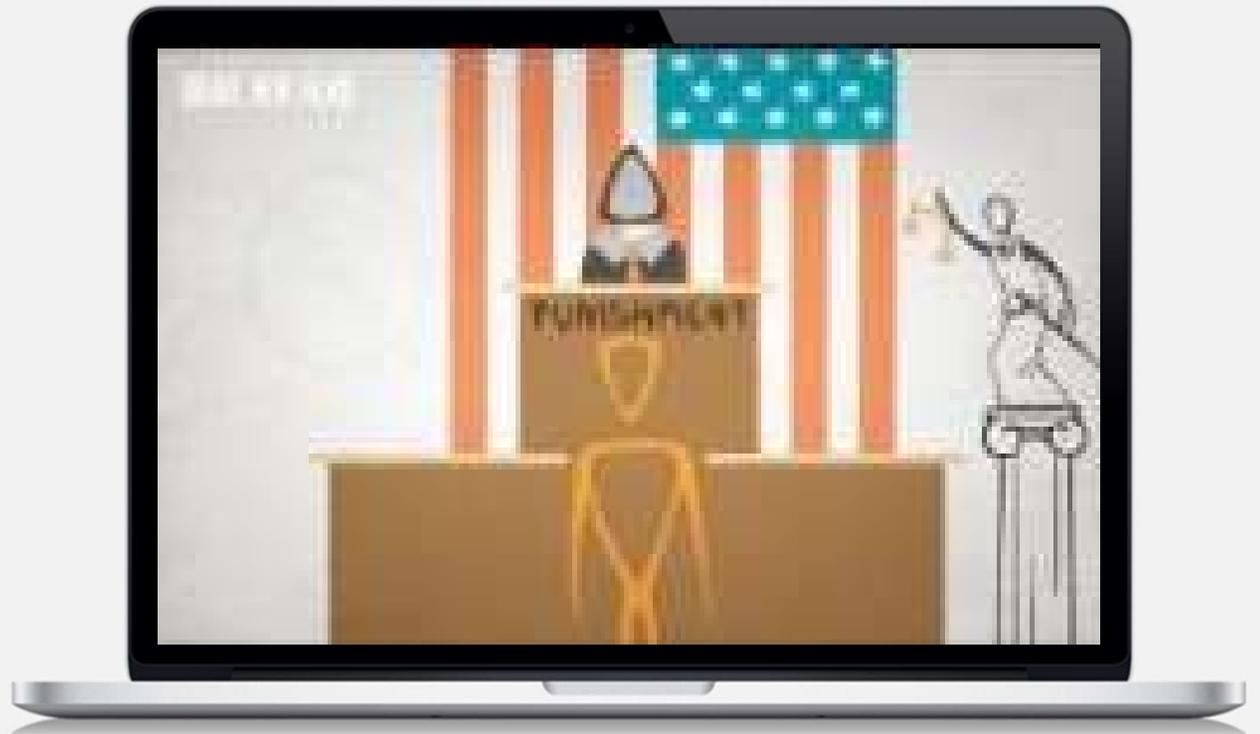
# Equity Protections

## Review crime report for potential concerns:

- Victim of bullying may finally be responding in self-defense.
- “Arrest-able” behavior was instigated or escalated by adult.
- Over-policing of Black and Brown youth – minor incidents that should not be elevated to that level.
- Patterns by certain schools calling police without providing their own support and interventions first.

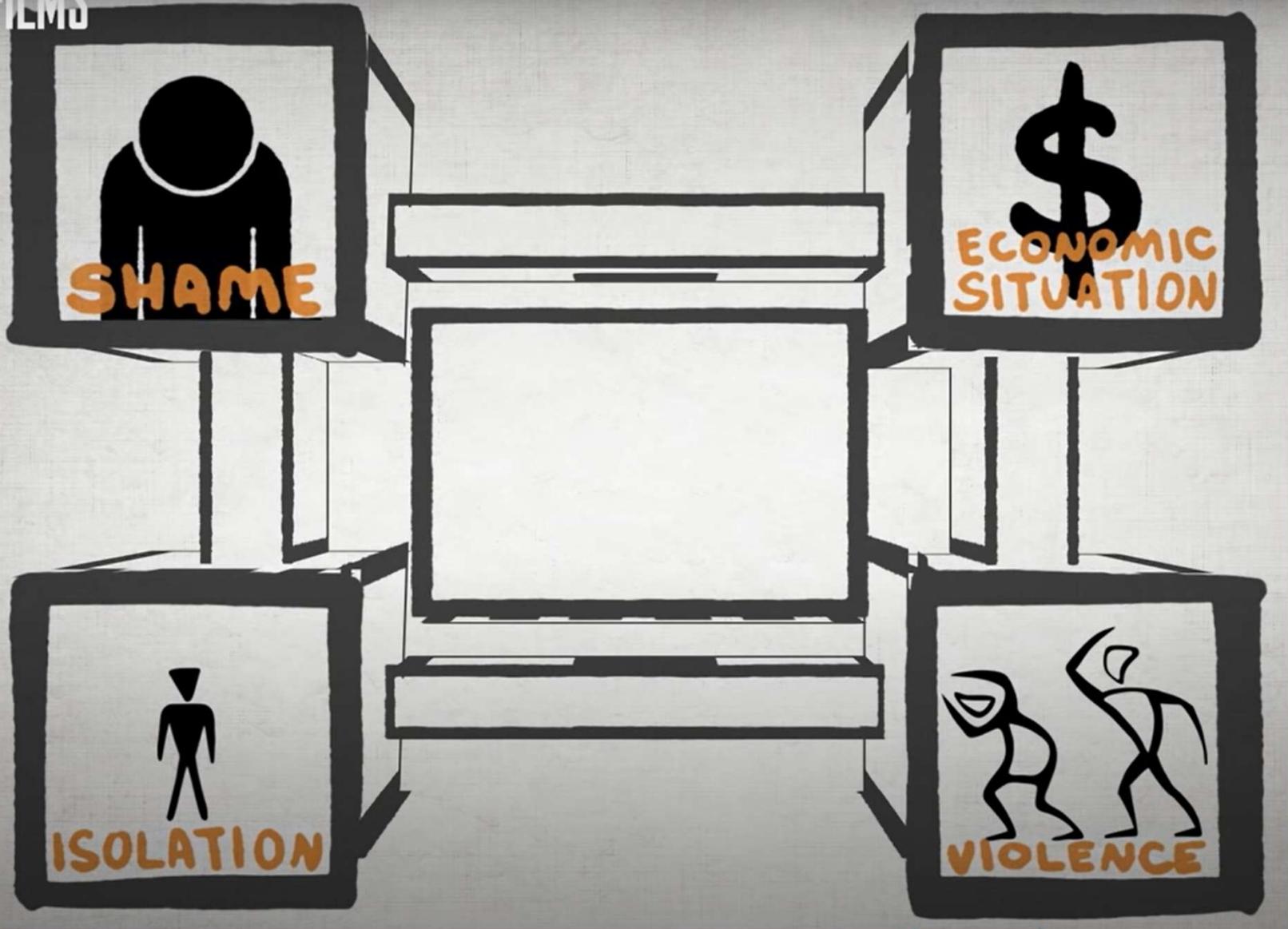
# What Works? Restorative Justice

The goal of restorative justice is to **change the mindset** of the misbehaving youth. It is **not to let youth off-the-hook**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N3LihLvfa0>

FILMS





School

- Improve school grades
- complete all homework assign.
- stay for tutoring M/W 3:30-4:30

Home

- clean my room every Sunday
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Want from Mom

①

\* Choice \*Empathy \*Agency \*Fairness

# THANK YOU!

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