



What is Juvenile Justice Ministry (JJM)?

JJM is one of six core programs serving youth throughout the United States with Youth for Christ/USA (YFC). The program's focus is to serve youth and their needs in a variety of youth-serving institutions (detention centers, probation, correctional facilities, group homes, residential treatment centers and emergency shelters). We put the highest value on continuum of care and sustainable services.

History of JJM

YFC began as a national youth movement in the 1940s with our first staff member as Billy Graham. JJM, formerly known as Youth Guidance, was established in the 1960s as a core strategy in reaching at-risk and juveniles in institutions.

What We Offer in Cooperation with the Facility

1. Weekly programming (could include):
 - a. Life Skills
 - b. Job Skills/Training
 - c. Mentoring
 - d. Tutoring
 - e. Recreation
 - f. Religious Services

How Our Program is Successful

1. We focus on the relationship not just program
2. We work together with the facility and other like-minded volunteers to meet the needs of the facility
 - a. Interagency agreement
 - b. Partner with existing religious services
 - c. Coordinate efforts for the facility to involve the outside
3. We are currently in 200 juvenile facilities nationwide
4. Continuum of care and sustainable services are our top value. We recognize the importance of building relationships with youth and ask permission to continue to follow up with the kids as they transition back into the community through the proper channels
5. We are a Christian non-profit organization that does not discriminate the youth we serve. We would like to invest more than an hour a week and be an active partner with your facility

Why with YFC JJM?

The author of Ecclesiastes proclaims in the first chapter that, "there is nothing new under the sun."

As a ministry leader, you are immediately further along in the development of the ministry God has called you to when you realize that you are not alone. There is a "great cloud of witnesses" that have, quite literally, walked the road ahead of you. This is an important reality for most ministry leadership opportunities, and none more so than in ministry to kids in the Juvenile Justice System.

YFC's Juvenile Justice Ministries has an army of ministry veterans spread out across the nation with thousands of hours invested in carrying the message of hope in Christ to kids in deep crisis. For over 5 decades, YFC staff and volunteers have served in every juvenile justice setting a person could possibly encounter. These warriors have a wealth of battlefield experience and an arsenal of battle-tested weapons that are available to you through YFC and JJM.

Benefits to consider:

- A bold commitment to youth ministry based on the Word of God.
- The credibility of YFC's 70-year history backing your local ministry.
- Benefits of the YFC leadership structure already in place.
- Access to established and innovative ministry resources and strategies.
- Availability of excellent training in evangelism ministry.
- Liability insurance to protect the local ministry and those involved.

Youth for Christ is a dynamic family of Christ-centered evangelistic ministries that will provide both the stability and flexibility vital for the growth of a brand new ministry effort.

Investigate

Thank you for taking the next step in starting up this JJM ministry site. By now you have:

- Learned about YFC and our JJM core ministry
- Assessed why you want to do ministry to high risk youth who have been in the system
- Want to fill a need that you see in your community that no one else is filling

Let's first get an understanding of the faith community around you and who is in the facility you are wanting to work with.

Step 1:

1. Is there anyone that is meeting any type of need in the facility (i.e. fatherhood groups, life skills, character classes, Bible studies or church services)?
2. Make a phone call to the facility or ask someone at your church that may already work at the facility. If you make a "cold" call to the facility, be sure to introduce yourself and make sure

you are talking to the right person. (i.e. Program Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, Assistant Administration).

Step 2:

1. Decide what you can offer based on the needs of the facility.
2. Are there other churches or Christians that could align with what you are wanting to do?
3. You may need to train volunteers on how to work with this population before you start any ministry or program inside the facility. *See our online training for volunteers.

Step 3:

1. You will need to get permission from the facility KEY person to start anything and go through their process to be cleared to come into the facility.
*See First Encounter document and role play.
2. One of the biggest needs in many facilities is a place for youth to have different pro-social connections with peers as well as with trusted adults. Keep in mind that your ministry inside a facility needs to reach outside the facility as well. What churches or like-minded organizations could partner with you?

Not only is it important to look into the facility's needs and others to partner within the faith based community, it is crucial to know the system in which you will be a part of working at the ministry site.

1. What are the other facilities a youth that you will work with go to?
2. When a youth gets in trouble with the law where do they go? Where are the diversion and probation offices?
3. How many counties does the facility that you will be working in service?
4. Is there one Judge or a number of Judges? Is there a chief probation officer you need to work with?
5. Are there Emergency Shelters or foster care systems in place for youth that are taken from the home?
6. Is your facility a short-term (22 days or less) or a long term (one year or more) facility?

The FIRST Encounter

You have finally gotten that appointment that you have been working on for months. You know that based on this meeting the facility will either open their doors wide to you and the JJM ministry or look at you just like any other religious group wanting to indoctrinate their youth. Preparing for this encounter is key. We hope this guide gives you some questions to be thinking about before you enter the doors of the facility. All the questions in this guide have been asked of our staff at one time or another.

BE READY, THEY MAY ASK...

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND YFC

- What is Youth for Christ? What is Juvenile Justice Ministries?
- What is your purpose for wanting to be in our facility? What is your agenda?
- Why do you have an interest with youth in the system?
- We already have volunteers running religious services, what makes you different?

QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY WHAT OUR "PROGRAM" IS LIKE

- What kind of program do you run?
- Is there another facility that we can talk to that already has your program in it? How about other community agencies that know you?
- Do you work with only "Christians," or other youth as well?

"HOW ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE?"

- What experience do you have working with these types of youth?
- Can you handle working with our youth? What if...they swore or threatened you?
- What do you know about confidentiality?
- What is your capacity? How often? How many youth?
- How do you recruit and train your volunteers?
- Do you work with youth as they transition back into their communities?
- How long do you plan on volunteering here?

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK...

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR FACILITY

- What do you feel are some of the best programs in this facility?
- What counties do you serve?
- What is the average stay of teens here?
- At some point, could I have a tour?

QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND THEIR HISTORY WITH "RELIGIOUS" GROUPS

- What are some of the volunteer community services already here (i.e. Boy Scouts, Cooking Classes, Knitting)? What is their view of them? Are they of value to you?
- Have you ever had churches/Christian organizations work with your youth before? Your experience?
- How do you currently meet the religious needs of the youth in your facility?
- Who can I meet that is already doing "religious programming" in your facility?

TRANSITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What do you know about Youth for Christ and its Juvenile Justice program?
- What are your biggest reservations about having YFC/JJM here?

"WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?"

- Can Youth for Christ and JJM be a part of your facility?
- How can we help serve the youth of your facility?
- How can we help you meet the goals of your facility?

Juvenile Justice Ministries Initial Game Plan

Thank you for taking this next step to develop an initial game plan for your ministry site. By now you understand ministry with YFC, you know why you want to be a part of this ministry, and you know who in your community is meeting this need or where the gaps are that you could fill. You also have a general understanding of the facility that you will work with and their faith based and justice needs.

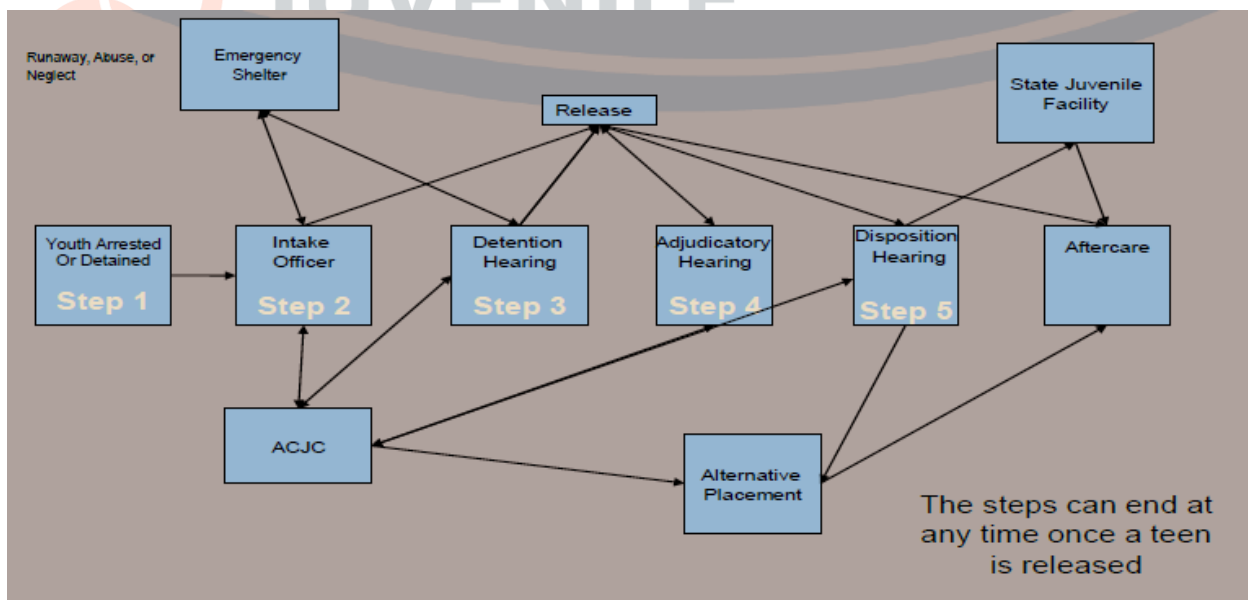
As you look at your facility there are 5 indicators or signs of a healthy ministry site. We would like you to consider these in developing your Game Plan.

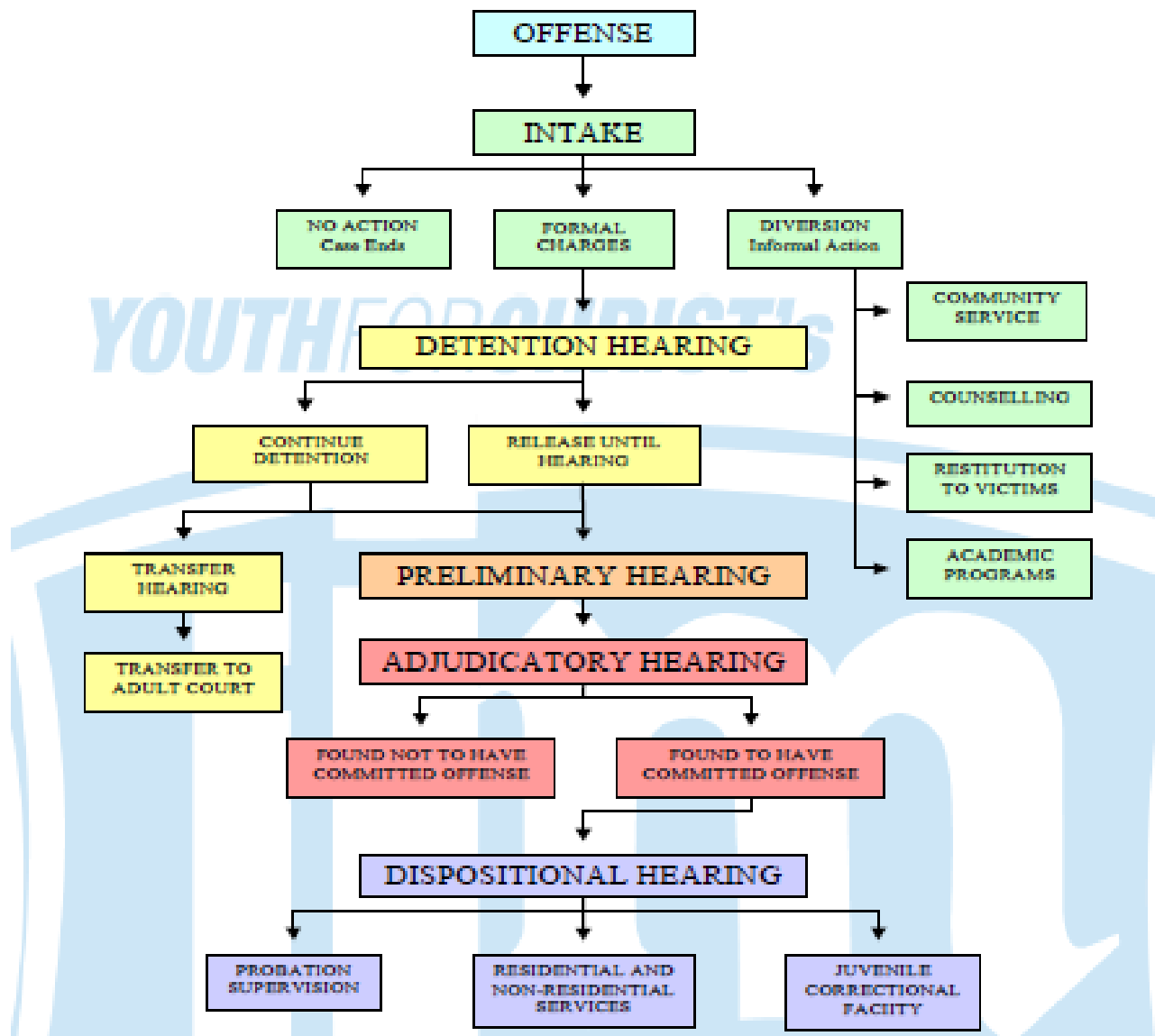
Sign of Healthy Ministry #1:

Understand the entire JJM System.

- By now you have an assessment of those in the community that are working with this population.
- You understand what is in the facility that is faith based and what is justice based.
- Do you know the flow of youth through the facility and in the state/county?

Example (2)





- d. Have key relationships with Judges, chief probation officers, clinicians, therapists, case worker, and parole officers.
*Create a list, who do you know and who do you need to know?
- e. Is your facility a residential, detained (short term), or committed (long term)?
- f. Where can you fit in right now? Where are the open doors? Where would you like to get involved?

Sign of Healthy Ministry #2:

Strong relationship with the facility.

*Watch "Meet Lonnie"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PI2j4HR1RKI>

- a. Get to know the administration and key leaders
- b. Sponsor Donut Days where you bring donuts to the staff
- c. Organize a cook "in" where you bring grills and food for the staff
- d. Show up before your program just to hang out or check in with key leaders
- e. How is your ministry being recognized as contributing to healthy youth behaviors?
- f. Will your presence at the facility be seen as a necessity? How will you know this?

Sign of Healthy Ministry #3:

Does your ministry site work with youth inside as well as outside the facility?

FIRST

As you learn the different facilities in your state/county, you will know where youth are transitioning to (ask the youth where they have been and where they are going).

- a. Is it another facility (state/county/detained/committed/residential)?
- b. Is it to a middle school or high school, maybe even an alternative school?
- c. Is it a foster care system?
- d. Are there other non-profits to partner with to help follow up with these youth?
- e. Are there churches that have a heart and ministry for this population of youth?

SECOND

- a. Do you know the young people's names? Do you have permission to get the young people's names?
- b. Do other volunteers or non-profits working in the facility know these young people's names and do they share that information? If not, how could you start sharing that information?
- c. Do you know when youth get out? Do you know where they could go when they get out? If they get out and go home, is there a church nearby that you could connect them with?
- d. Do you know where the youth is in their spiritual journey?

Sample Assessment:

Spiritual Needs Assessment for Residents

Directions for Use:

This brief Spiritual Assessment is to be given to each resident during the intake process and will be used to discern the spiritual needs of the resident while under the care and supervision of the facility. The Assessment is to be completed by the facility assessor. Do not allow the resident to complete this form. This information will be provided to staff as well as approved spiritual advisors.

General Information:

Name of Youth: _____

_____ D.O.B.: _____

Pod: _____ Case worker: _____

Name of Assessor: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Current Home/Community Support System: (check all that apply)

Parents Children Friends Other _____

Siblings Religious Community

Agency: _____

Spiritual Care Questions:

1. Does the resident have a religious preference? Specify:

2. Does the resident wish to attend religious services? Yes ___ No ___

3. Does the resident wish to have contact with the facility chaplain or other clergy? Yes ___ No ___

Questions relating to behaviors/feelings that may indicate spiritual strengths and needs:

1. I spend a lot of time just "hanging out" because there is really nothing that I want to do. Y___ N___
2. It is important for me to be a part of making life better for others. Y___ N___
3. It seems that other things and people control my life more than they should. Y___ N___
4. I have a lot of goals for my life. Y___ N___; Name one of your main goals: _____
5. It is hard for me to trust other people because they will probably let me down. Y___ N___
6. I feel out of control of my life. Y___ N___
7. I feel it is important to help other people even when they don't deserve it. Y___ N___
8. Growing up I often felt I could not do anything right. Y___ N___
9. Sometimes I feel all alone in the world. Y___ N___
10. I believe there is a God and I would like to learn more about him. Y___ N___
11. I struggle with addictions in my life, such as with drugs and alcohol. Y___ N___
12. I attend religious services on the outside. Y___ N___ If yes, where _____

Assessor Comments:

THIRD

- a. If youth are interested in getting plugged in once they leave a facility, where are you referring them?
- b. Do you have a program to connect them to? (i.e. tutoring, mentoring, community center)
- c. Who are the key people to talk to that could help you once a youth gets out?

Sign of Healthy Ministry #4:

Multiplication

As you build relationships inside the facility you will begin to have more favor and be a necessary part of the facilities programming. You will need to surround yourself with a team of people for prayer, to run ministry, and to follow up.

- a. Empower volunteers to use their gift sets and have ownership with their job description.
- b. Are your volunteers working in the right "spots"? *SHAPE Inventory (attached)
- c. Does your volunteer team represent the ethnicity of youth you are working with? (a youth should see someone who looks like them that volunteers with your ministry site)

Sign of Healthy Ministry #5:

Is your ministry site producing mature Christians that can teach and lead?

- a. Your program needs to meet youth wherever they are at in their spiritual journey.
- b. Do you know which youth have made a first time commitment to Christ or rededicated their life to Christ? Is there someone following up with them to talk about next steps?
- c. Can you suggest a church for them to attend when they get out?
- d. Is there a process in place to follow up with these youth at these churches? Would you know if they were going or a part of continued discipleship?
- e. Are we completing the mission of YFC? "YFC reaches young people everywhere working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up life- long followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.