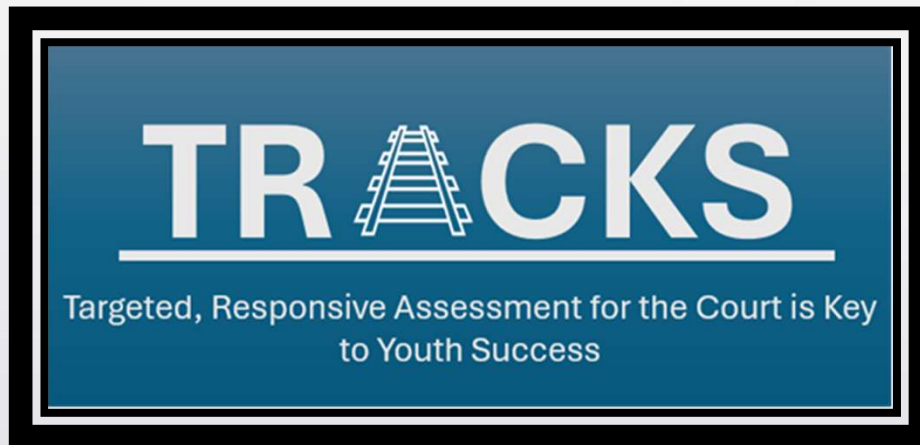




# On The Right "TRACK" For Youth Behavioral Health



**Amy Latshaw**, Investigations and Assessments Specialist, Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation

**Lindsay Meyer**, Juvenile Justice Reform Specialist, Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation

CIP Children's Summit September 24, 2025



Explanation of where TRACKS began



Introduce TRACKS brand



Overview of enhancements to our behavioral health screening and pre-disposition (PDI) process



introduce screening tools selected.



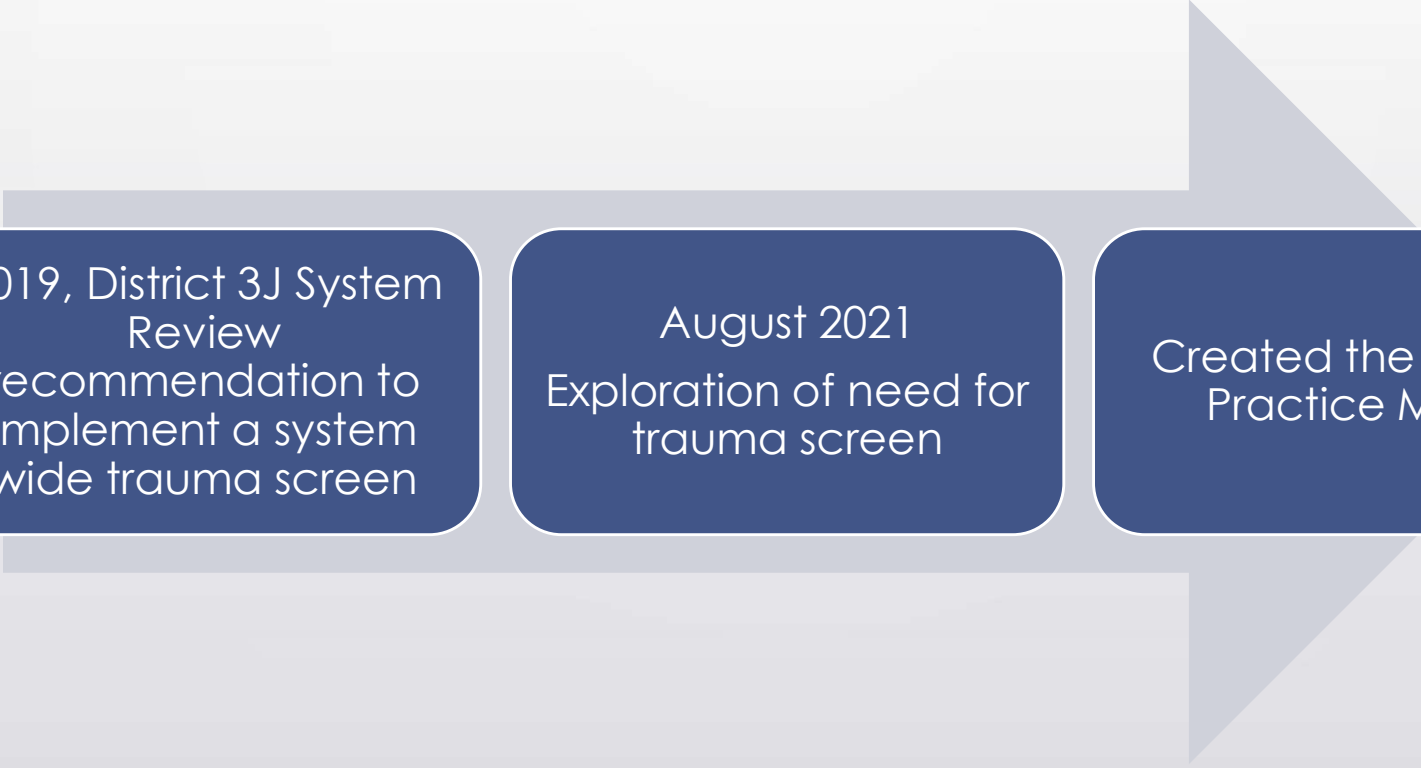
Share *Implementation Insights*

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## Agenda




## Where did we begin?



2019, District 3J System  
Review  
recommendation to  
implement a system  
wide trauma screen

August 2021  
Exploration of need for  
trauma screen

Created the TRACKS  
Practice Model



**TRACKS:** Targeted,  
Responsive  
Assessment for the  
Court is Key to  
Youth Success.

Guided by  
**implementation  
science!**

# Best Practice Guidance



National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners (NYSAP)

**Dr. Keith Cruise, providing technical assistance**



Trauma screening is a component of comprehensive behavioral health screening

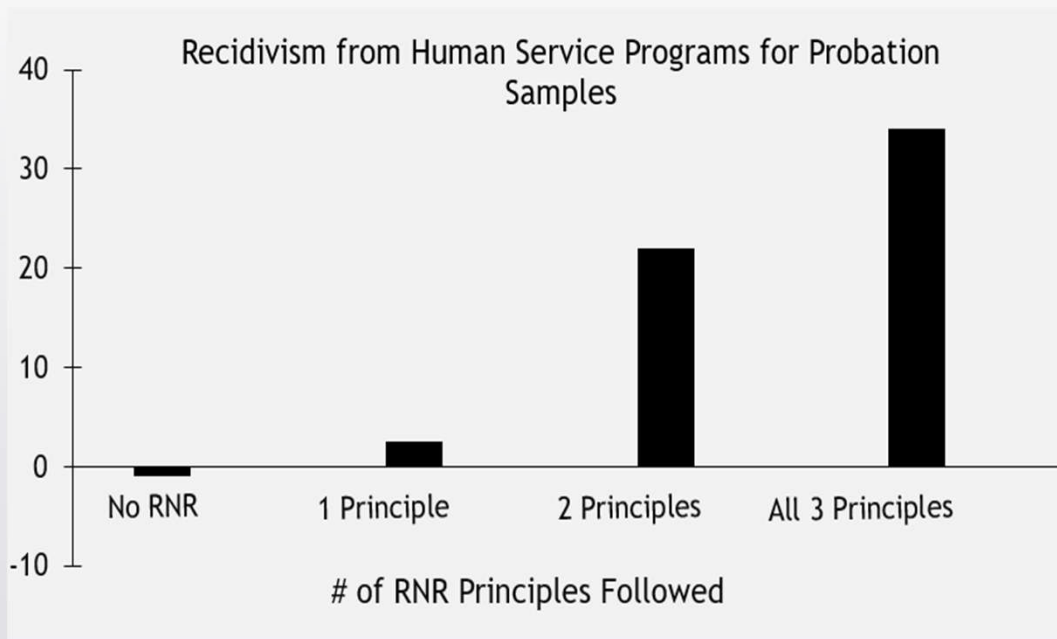
**Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument – Version 2 (MAYSI-2)**

**Child Trauma Screen (CTS)**



Results of behavioral health screening and any indicated evaluation provides a comprehensive understanding of a youth's risk/need/responsivity factors informing targeted recommendations to the court for disposition.

# Supporting research and data



# of studies (k) = 374 ; ES = .56

History of exposure to at least one *potentially* traumatic event is common (approximately 90%) among detained youth (Abram et al., 2004; Ford et al., 2008)



## Success statement:

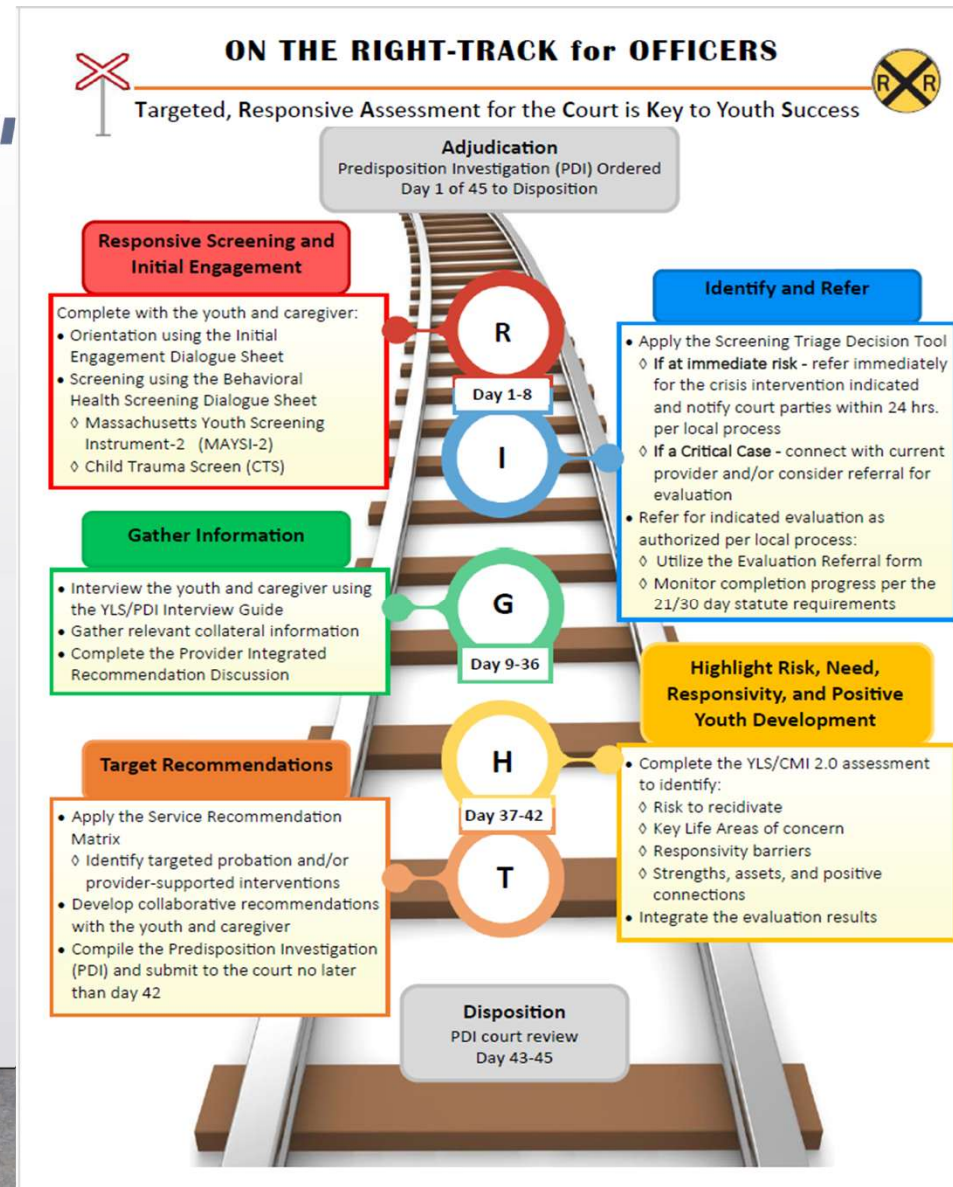
Successful implementation and sustainability of the TRACKS process will lead to greater engagement of youth and families in the timely identification and follow up of behavioral health needs. Thus, informing a comprehensive picture of the youth's risk, need, and responsivity factors which are integrated into targeted recommendations for the court at disposition.

**TRACKS: Targeted, Responsive Assessment for the Court is Key to Youth Success.**



# How we have put all of this into practice

Protocol and companion visual for probation officers



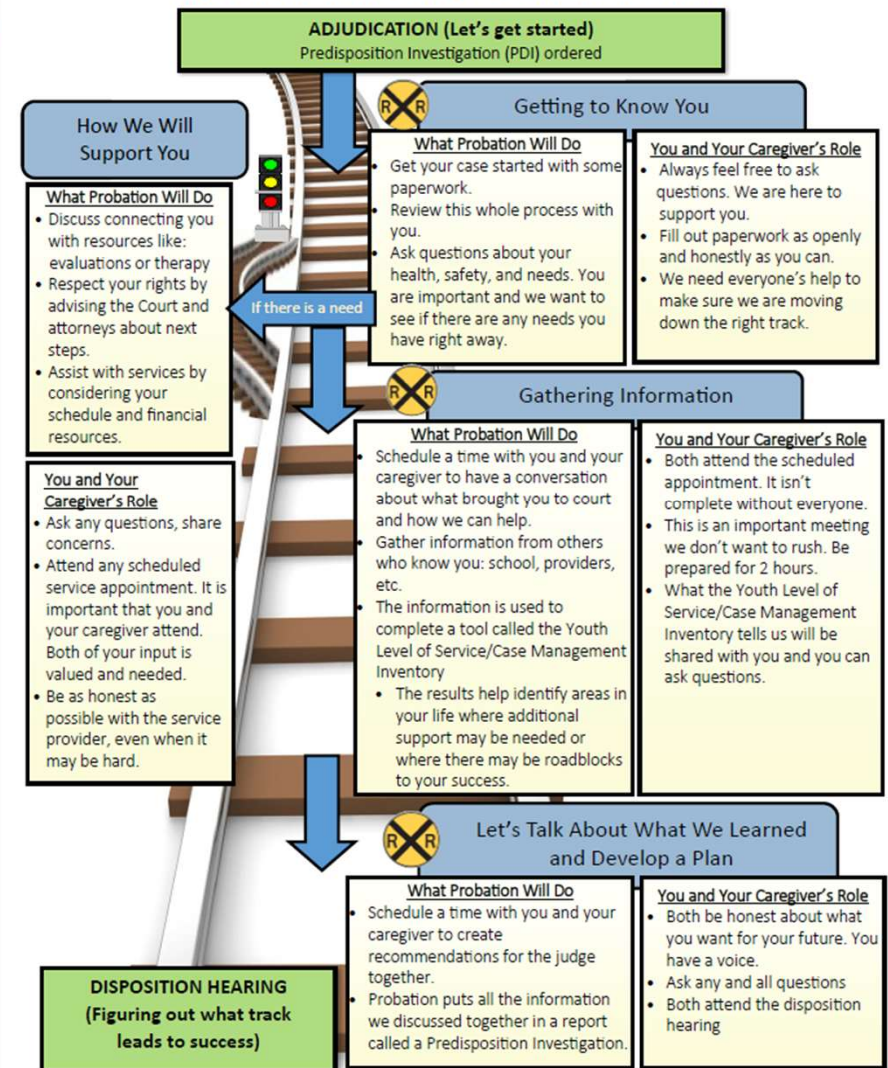


# How we have put all of this into practice

Companion visual  
for youth and  
families

## ON THE RIGHT-TRACK for YOUTH AND CAREGIVERS

\*HELPING YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON YOUR JOURNEY\*

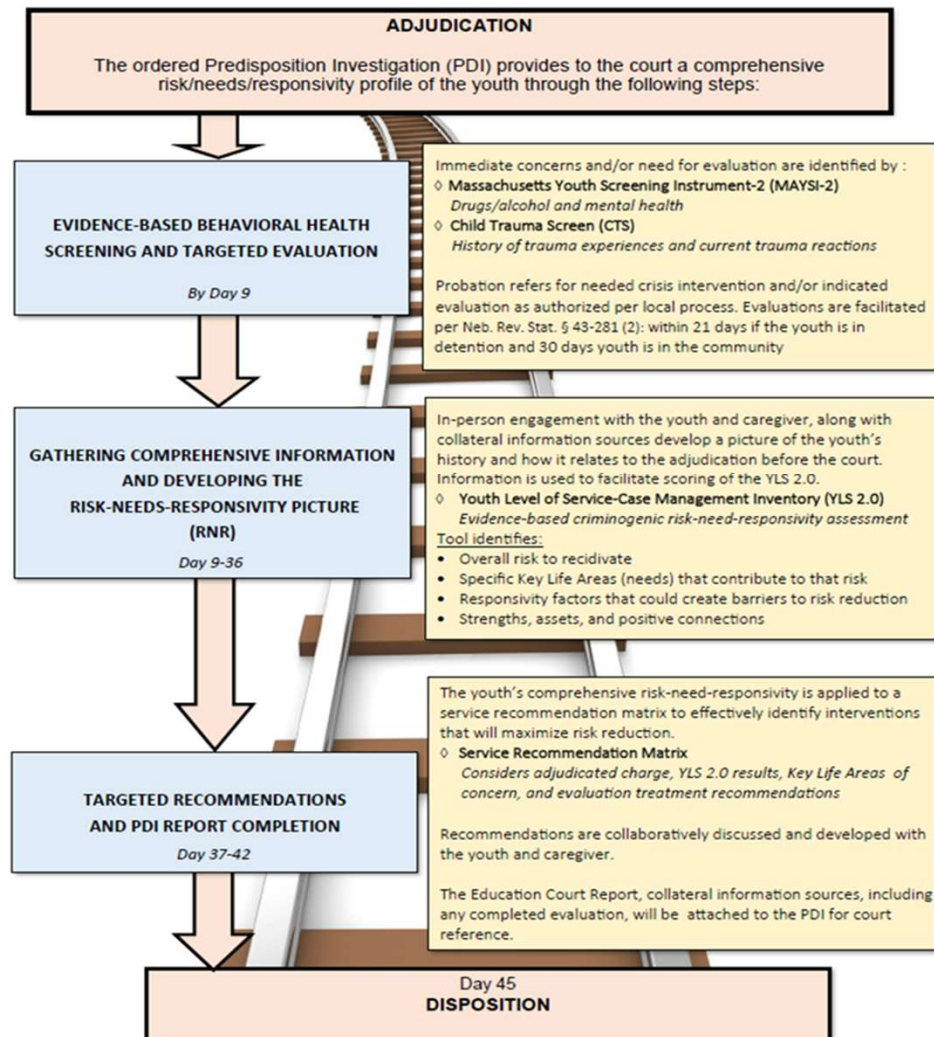


How we have  
put all of this  
into practice

Visual created  
specifically for court  
partners/stakeholders.

## TRACKS for COURT PARTNERS

Targeted, Responsive Assessment for the Court is Key to Youth Success



# TRACKS for COURT PARTNERS

Targeted, Responsive Assessment for the Court is Key to Youth Success

## ADJUDICATION

The ordered **Predisposition Investigation (PDI)** provides to the court a comprehensive risk/needs/responsivity profile of the youth through the following steps:

### EVIDENCE-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENING AND TARGETED EVALUATION

*By Day 9*

Immediate concerns and/or need for evaluation are identified by :

- ♦ **Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-2 (MAYSI-2)**  
*Drugs/alcohol and mental health*
- ♦ **Child Trauma Screen (CTS)**  
*History of trauma experiences and current trauma reactions*

Probation refers for needed acute services and/or indicated evaluation  
Due from referral date: 21 days in detention 30 days in community  
Per Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-281 (2),

# TRACKS for COURT PARTNERS

Targeted, Responsive Assessment for the Court is Key to Youth Success

## GATHERING COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION AND DEVELOPING THE RISK-NEEDS-RESPONSIVITY PICTURE (RNR)

Day 9-36

In-person engagement with the youth and caregiver, along with collateral information sources develop a picture of the youth's history and how it relates to the adjudication before the court. Information is used to facilitate scoring of the YLS 2.0.

### ♦ Youth Level of Service-Case Management Inventory (YLS 2.0)

*Evidence-based criminogenic risk-need-responsivity assessment*

#### Tool identifies:

- Overall risk to recidivate
- Specific Key Life Areas (needs) that contribute to that risk
- Responsivity factors that could create barriers to risk reduction
- Strengths, assets, and positive connections



# TRACKS for COURT PARTNERS

Targeted, Responsive Assessment for the Court is Key to Youth Success

## TARGETED RECOMMENDATIONS AND PDI REPORT COMPLETION

Day 37-42

The youth's comprehensive risk-need-responsivity is applied to a service recommendation matrix to effectively identify interventions that will maximize risk reduction.

### ♦ SERVICE RECOMMENDATION MATRIX

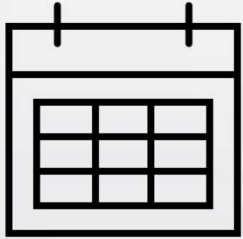
*Considers adjudicated charge, YLS 2.0 results, Key Life Areas of concern, and evaluation treatment recommendations*

Recommendations are collaboratively discussed and developed with the youth and caregiver.

The Education Court Report, collateral information sources, including any completed evaluation, will be attached to the PDI for court reference.

Day 45  
**DISPOSITION**

# Implementation Insights



## **Stage based implementation plan**

- Districts organized into cohorts who launched TRACKS at intervals beginning in December 2024 and ending in September 2025.
- Provided an opportunity to give intentional pre-implementation support from the administrative office to each cohort to support readiness, planning, and workforce development prior to implementation.
- First cohort provided invaluable feedback which informed implementation and support in following cohorts.



# Implementation Insights



## Training structure

- Four-part training structure for district staff
- Introduction videos before in person training
- Two days of in person training
- Certification session (role play) to demonstrate competency
- Information and data entry training
- Staff feedback overwhelmingly positive that they felt prepared to administer screens
- Common understanding of TRACKS philosophy

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# Implementation Insights

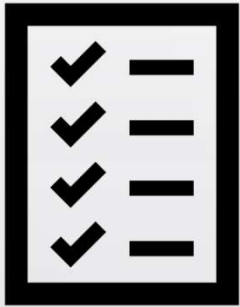


## Judicial engagement and feedback

- Judicial engagement was and continues to be KEY to successful implementation
- Began Judicial engagement with a judicial representative from each district in the first cohort to get feedback and build readiness
- Each district was empowered to approach Judicial engagement with a strategy that worked best for them
- Intentional engagement with local county attorneys, public defenders, and other court partners as necessary

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# Implementation Insights



## Process monitoring

- Sustainability planning key second phase of implementation
- Includes structures for CQI/QA, feedback, booster training, and data tracking
- Important to monitor and assure process fidelity before drawing conclusions or making outcome statements
- Data reports to support critical process points essential to support district management in monitoring implementation



# How its going and what we are learning

Since December 1, 2024:

**85%** - of all youth adjudicated received behavioral health screens (MAYSI-2 and CTS)

- **7** – Average days between youth being adjudicated and behavioral health screening process completed with the youth
- **42%** of youth screened recommended follow-up by a clinician (critical case designation)
  - Identified concerns were followed up by:
    - **46%** through the youth's current treatment clinician
    - **54%** through referral for a primary evaluation

In total, **23%** of the youth screened resulted in an evaluation referral



# TR CKS

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Targeted, Responsive Assessment for the Court is Key  
to Youth Success

QUESTIONS or COMMENTS

[amy.latshaw@nejudicial.gov](mailto:amy.latshaw@nejudicial.gov)

[lindsay.meyer@nejudicial.gov](mailto:lindsay.meyer@nejudicial.gov)