



Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Early Intervention & Diversion Center (EIDC)

What is the Early Intervention & Diversion Center?

Reforms in juvenile justice are underway across the nation. Research in the field of juvenile justice strongly supports the need to divert more youth away from the Court in order to reduce juvenile incarceration. The Annie E. Casey Foundation recommends juvenile justice agencies move toward diversion and treatment services for low risk offenders.

The Court recognizes that 60-70% of all youth involved in juvenile justice have a diagnosable mental health disorders. Many youth end up in the juvenile justice system due to untreated mental health and behavioral health disorders.

In an attempt to reduce incarceration and juvenile justice involvement for diversion eligible youth offenders, the Court worked with many partners to develop the Early Intervention and Diversion Center.

Through the EIDC each youth will be screened for potential behavioral health issues, such as trauma symptoms, substance abuse, depression, anxiety, or disruptive disorders. The EIDC will work hand-in-hand with mental health clinicians to develop comprehensive services to address identified needs. This will allow youth to be referred to appropriate services in lieu of formal court processing when community safety is not at risk. Some youth will be assigned to Court Diversion Staff to oversee the diversion referrals, with no formal court involvement.

The Court anticipates a tremendous reduction of low-level, non-violent youth being brought to Court, resulting in a reduction of juvenile incarceration.



THE GOALS

- Minimize court involvement for low level, non-violent offenders
- To identify needs of youth and families in order to link youth back to services needed
- Linking youth back to community supports
- Decrease utilization of secure detention

What should I expect if my child is referred to the Early Intervention and Diversion Center?

Parents are needed for the appointment in the EIDC. You and your child will meet with an Intervention Specialist. The Intervention Specialist will conduct a brief screening and interview process to help identify if your child is eligible for diversion services. The Intervention Specialist will make recommendations to the Prosecutor's Office and the Court. They can also link your family for services, if needed.

ASSIGNMENT TO AN INTERVENTION SPECIALIST

Intervention Specialists will oversee lower level diversion cases to ensure the youth is referred to community diversion programs. Cases assigned to Intervention Specialists will be identified through the screening process. Youth referred to this program will have minimal behavioral health concerns. Such diversion referrals may include community services, apology letters, or minimal restitution.

ASSIGNMENT TO DIVERSION CARE COORDINATOR

Diversion Care Coordinator that will ensure that youth and families are connected to appropriate behavioral health services. Care Coordinators will work with the youth and family to oversee successful completion of diversion programming in order to minimize formal court involvement.

FORMAL CASE PROCESSING

Based on the severity of the offense, the case may be forwarded to the Court for official case processing and the youth will have their case set for hearing. The youth will have access to legal counsel.

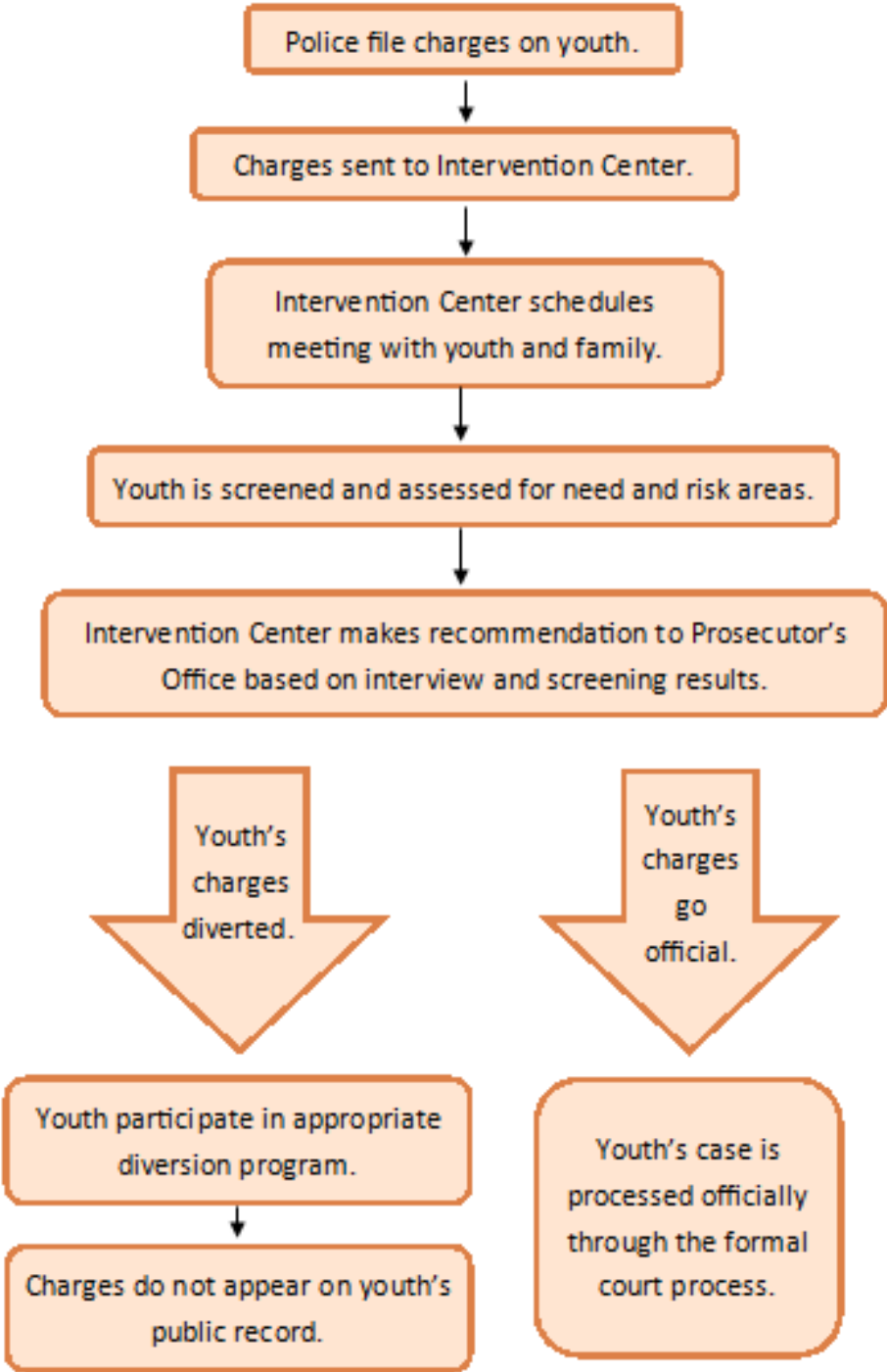
DECISIONS IN THE EIDC:

The EIDC employs Intervention Specialist. Intervention Specialists will work to ensure that appropriate decisions are made at the earliest point of a youth's involvement with the juvenile justice system. The Intervention Specialists use a behavioral health screener and assess for a youth's risk to reoffend, along with referrals to mental health, if needed.

Intervention Specialist will take careful consideration and collaborate with the Prosecutor's Office to ensure community safety needs are addressed.

At the same time, Intervention Specialists will work along-side the mental health therapists to ensure that the needs of the youth and family are addressed to minimize further court involvement.

The Early Intervention & Diversion Center Process



CONTACTS

Terence Palange
Intervention Specialist Manager

Angela Miller
Intervention Specialist Manager

Taronda Montgomery
Care Coordinator Manager

Sarah Pubentz
Deputy Chief of Intervention & Specialized Services

**Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Intervention
Center**

**3343 Quincy Ave
(216) 443- 8400 (mainline)**

