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Stan Hubbard

Signature of Camera Operator

5-29-2009

Date

4/12/07

**OVERVIEW:
RECLAIMING
FUTURES
PROJECT**

reclaiming futures

Communities Helping Teens Overcome Drugs, Alcohol and Crime



RECLAIMING FUTURES

Established in 1994
www.reclaimingfutures.org

A national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Reclaiming Futures is a new approach to helping teenagers who are caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime. The mission of Reclaiming Futures, a five-year, \$21 million initiative of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is to promote new opportunities and standards of care in juvenile justice.

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The goals of Reclaiming Futures

1. Reduce drug and alcohol abuse by teenagers in the juvenile justice system
2. Improve public safety, reduce corrections costs, and increase accountability among young people
3. Engage communities to reclaim teenagers and inform the public dialogue



Nationwide, nearly
TWO MILLION TEENAGERS
are arrested each year.
Up to two-thirds of them
test positive for drugs or
alcohol at the time.



Teens who enter the justice system with serious drug and alcohol problems rarely receive treatment. Few get connected to community services that could help them. Most end up back on the street, caught in a cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime, they don't know how to stop.



RECLAIMING FUTURES

Communities Partnering to
Overcome Drugs, Alcohol, and Crime

Teens need our help.

When Latisha's parents divorced, she lost interest in school and sports and started using drugs. The first time she was arrested for shoplifting, no one recognized her drug problem. The second time, Latisha was admitted to a drug treatment center. Her family received counseling, and her teachers helped her catch up at school. Now, Latisha is hanging out with a new crowd of friends and playing basketball again.



In most communities across America, juvenile justice systems aren't designed to help teenagers with drug and alcohol problems. When teens are arrested, their drug or alcohol use often goes undetected. Even if it is discovered, teens rarely get the treatment they need. Fewer than half of the juvenile detention facilities in the United States offer drug and alcohol treatment. Treatment services that do exist often are not designed to address the unique challenges teenagers face.

Teens with drug and alcohol problems are more likely to fail school, commit crimes and behave violently. We can't afford to give up on them. If they've broken the law, they need to be held accountable for their actions. But to help our teenagers break the cycle, we need to treat the drug and alcohol problems that helped get them into trouble in the first place. We also need to give teens and their families the community support they need to turn their lives around.

Reclaiming Futures is working to do just that.

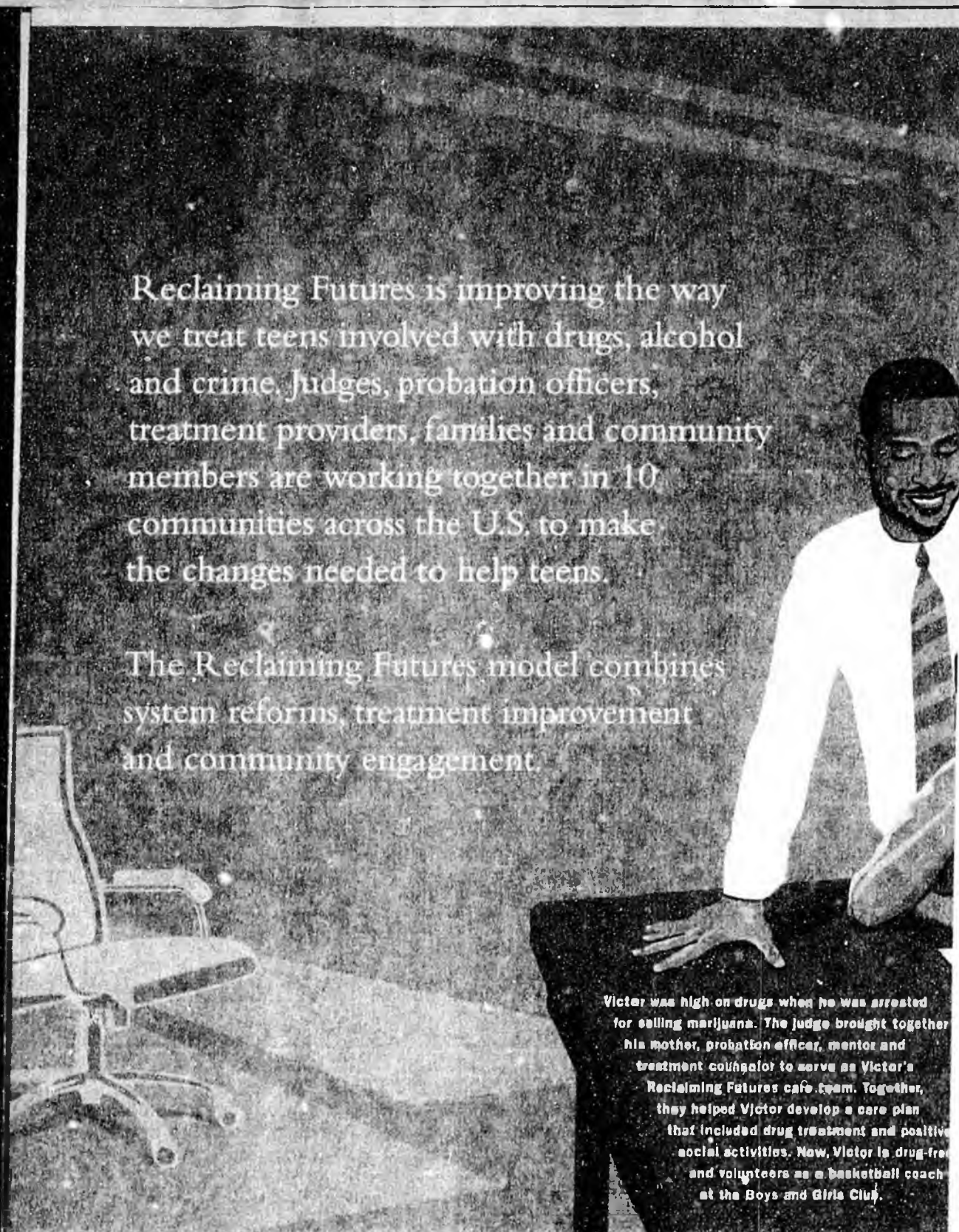
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Jason started drinking when he was 14. He was brought to juvenile court after getting pulled over for drunk driving. First, the judge took his license away. Then she connected him to a drug and alcohol counselor, who is helping Jason get sober. His probation officer helped him find a part-time job. Jason admits it's hard to change, but he finds support from other Reclaiming Futures teens.





Reclaiming Futures is improving the way we treat teens involved with drugs, alcohol and crime. Judges, probation officers, treatment providers, families and community members are working together in 10 communities across the U.S. to make the changes needed to help teens.

The Reclaiming Futures model combines system reforms, treatment improvement and community engagement.

Victor was high on drugs when he was arrested for selling marijuana. The judge brought together his mother, probation officer, mentor and treatment counselor to serve as Victor's Reclaiming Futures care team. Together, they helped Victor develop a care plan that included drug treatment and positive social activities. Now, Victor is drug-free and volunteers as a basketball coach at the Boys and Girls Club.



We can break the cycle.

These services are essential to the
Reclaiming Futures approach.

More treatment. When teens are first arrested in Reclaiming Futures communities, they are screened for drug and alcohol use. If a problem is identified, a team is pulled together to develop a care plan. The team usually includes the teenager, family members, probation officer, treatment counselor and community members who serve as mentors. Because the plan calls for a combination of drug and alcohol treatment, family support and community activities, more teens get the treatment and support they need.

Better treatment. Drug and alcohol treatment providers in Reclaiming Futures communities are trained in practices that are proven to work for teens. Treatment is tailored to the child's gender, age, family culture and unique needs.

Beyond treatment. Community members get involved to provide the support and role models Reclaiming Futures teens need when they return home. Teachers, employers, mentors, faith-based groups and others help teens do better at school, get a job, volunteer for community service, develop new friendships and find positive social and recreational outlets.

Community support is key.



Maria has a job, thanks to her Reclaiming Futures mentor. Now, instead of selling drugs, she plans to become an apprentice carpenter.

Reclaiming Futures communities are providing teens with positive role models, showing a safe path and hope for the future. Many teens are committed, motivated and happy.

Be a mentor. In just two or three hours a week, you can be a role model—someone who can help with school or social pressures, organize an activity, or just listen.

Make a donation. Some businesses and individuals provide food for teen dances. Others pay for tickets to movies, bowling or other rewards for teens who are meeting their goals.

Help them grow back. Many teens are eager to volunteer in their communities. Community and faith-based groups can help teens get involved in community service projects that allow them to help others and build their self-esteem.

Be a positive role model. Chances are, you know a teenager who's struggling with drugs, alcohol and crime. Listen to them, steer them in the right direction and help them find positive things to do.

Any community can help teens reclaim their lives, reduce crime, increase public safety and build healthier neighborhoods. Investing in drug and alcohol treatment and community programs also makes economic sense. Successful treatment can cost just \$3,000, while locking a teen in detention can cost \$40,000 a year or more.

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Facts at a glance

Teens, drugs and crime

From 1986 to 1996, the incarceration rate for youth ages 10-18 due to drug involvement increased 291 percent.¹

From 1992 to 2001, juvenile arrests for drug violations increased 121 percent, while adult arrests for similar crimes grew by only 33 percent.²

Adolescents who were arrested were three times likelier to have used alcohol in the past month than teens overall, five and a half times likelier to have used marijuana and 18 times likelier to have used cocaine.³

Juvenile probation departments cite drug and alcohol services as one of their top expansion needs.⁴

Treatment works

Youth in long-term residential treatment programs showed an 85 percent reduction in alcohol or drug use in the 90 days following treatment, and youth in short-term residential treatment programs showed a 71 percent reduction in use. One year later, the total reduction was 70 percent and 53 percent, respectively.⁵

Treatment outcomes for adolescents in the justice system who use drugs and alcohol indicate an overall reduction in drug-related crime one year after they are admitted to treatment.⁶

The gap in services

Despite concerted efforts to get drug and alcohol treatment to the youth who need it, estimates suggest that fewer than 10 percent of youth who appear to need treatment ever get it.⁷

Just 42 percent of all U.S. juvenile justice residential facilities report they provide on-site drug and alcohol treatment.⁸

Cost savings

The cost of outpatient treatment for cocaine use is about \$2,722 per year. The cost of residential treatment is \$12,467 per year. The cost of incarceration is \$39,600 per year, while the cost of untreated addiction is \$43,200 per year.⁹

In 1999, the estimated cost of one lost youth (evidenced by a juvenile crime career, adult crime career, drug abuse, costs imposed by high school dropout, and others) was between \$1.7 million and \$2.3 million.¹⁰

1) V. Schiraldi, P. Beatty, and G. Melara. *Poor Protection: The Costs of Imprisoning Drug Offenders in the United States* (Washington, D.C.: Justice Policy Institute, 2000); *Drug Strategies Update: Justice Policy Literature Review* (Sept. 2001), p. 2.

2) *Crime in the United States* (2001) Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002.

3) National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. "2000 Arrested Drug Abuse Monitoring Annual Report." Washington, D.C. April 2003.

4) National Center for Juvenile Justice.

5) Stevens, S.J. & Morilak, A.R. (Eds.). 2001. *Adolescent Substance Abuse: Treatment in the United States: Exemplary Models from a National Evaluation Study*. Binghamton, New York: Haworth Press.

6) Grillo, C.E., Heer, V.J., Jishi, V., and Reynolds, B.S. (Eds.). 2001. *Treatment outcomes for adolescents with comorbid mental and substance abuse disorders*. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 189(8): 184-92.

7) Dennis, M.L., Dowse, N., St. Michel, B.D., & McDermott, M. 2002. *The gaps in identifying and evaluating adolescent treatment models*. In S.J. Stevens & A.R. Morilak (Eds.), *Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment in the United States: Exemplary Models from a National Evaluation Study*. Binghamton, New York: Haworth Press.

8) *Juvenile Residential Facilities*, 2000. Census, US Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

9) *Substance Abuse: The Nation's Number One Health Problem*. Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, February 2001, p. 75.

10) National Center for Juvenile Justice. *An adaptation of Cohen's "The Monetary Value of Saving a High Risk Youth"*. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 14(1), reprinted from *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report* (Pittsburgh, PA: National Center for Juvenile Justice, 1999), p. 92.



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John, who has been arrested for the judge brought together with officer, mentors and other to serve as Mentor's program. John, together with other developing a case plan for drug treatment and recovery. John, Victor is also the director of the Justice Center for Boys and Girls Club.

3. V. Schiraldi, P. Beatty, and B. Henkens, *Peer Prosecution: The Costs of Impulsing Drug Offenders in the United States* (Washington, D.C.: Justice Policy Institute, 2000), in *Drug Strategies: Juvenile Justice Project Literature Review* (Sept 2004), p. 2.

21. *Crime in the United States* (2001), Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002.

22. National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

23. National Center for Juvenile Justice, *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

24. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

25. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

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27. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

28. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

29. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

30. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

31. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

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33. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

34. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

35. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

36. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

37. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

38. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

39. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

40. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

41. *Survey of Juvenile Justice Systems*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000 *Statistical Data Above* (Washington, DC: August 2003).

Ten communities are showing the way.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has provided five-year grants to 10 communities across the nation to implement the Reclaiming Futures model. The Foundation is committed to sharing this approach and the lessons learned in these communities. Feel free to contact our National Program Office or any of the 10 community leaders below.

RECLAIMING FUTURES NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE

1000 Lakeside Drive, Suite 1000
 Columbia, SC 29201
 (803) 792-1000
www.reclaimingfutures.org

THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

750 Broad Street, Room 1000
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Learn more about these projects at www.reclaimingfutures.org

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. Helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need—the Foundation expects to make a difference in our lifetime. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

About Reclaiming Futures

Reclaiming Futures is a new approach to helping teenagers caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime. The mission of Reclaiming Futures, a five-year, \$21 million initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is to promote new opportunities and standards of care in juvenile justice. Housed in the Regional Research Institute for Human Services of the Graduate School of Social Work at Portland State University, Reclaiming Futures also develops judicial and community leadership, offers training and technical assistance, and disseminates research findings. For more information, visit www.reclaimingfutures.org



RECLAIMING FUTURES

1000 Lakeside Drive, Suite 1000
 Columbia, SC 29201



RECLAIMING FUTURES

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Helping Anchorage Teens Overcome Drugs, Alcohol and Crime



Contact Us

Tom Begich, Reclaiming Futures Project Director
(907) 277-4177 phone, tbegich@ak.org email
www.reclaimingfuturesand.org web site

Who We Are Anchorage Reclaiming Futures (RF) is one of 10 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded projects across the country creating new approaches to helping youth caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime. Reclaiming Futures is promoting new opportunities and standards of care in juvenile justice. The Anchorage project has been awarded \$1.25 million in grant funds to reinvent the way courts, police, juvenile justice, treatment counselors, businesses, schools, families and others work together with substance-abusing teens who are in trouble with the law. The Anchorage

Reclaiming Futures project is guided by "Fellows," who are representatives from the court, juvenile justice, treatment centers and the community. These Fellows also are part of a larger governance committee, which also includes representatives from:

- Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice
- Anchorage School District
- Volunteers of America Alaska
- United Way of Anchorage
- Office of Public Advocacy
- Public Defender Agency
- Alaska Division of Behavioral Health



The Situation Each year, nearly 2,000 young people are referred to the State Division of Juvenile Justice System in Anchorage. According to a survey at Metropolitan Youth Center

"Reclaiming Futures is really a different way of thinking and acting. We're showing how mental health and substance abuse treatment providers can REALLY work together for kids. Add to that the probation officers, attorney, court, family, youth and community members who can help youth learn a skill or get a job — and you have a totally transformed system that helps reclaim young people while promoting community safety."

- Tom Begich,
Reclaiming Futures Project Director

What We've Done Anchorage Reclaiming Futures has helped to create a national model that brings justice and treatment systems together with the community to get law-breaking youth with drug and alcohol problems the support, treatment and accountability they need.

Specific Accomplishments include:

- Earlier screening of juvenile justice youth for drug and alcohol problems
- Conducting assessments in a timely manner of all juvenile justice youth who appear to have drug or alcohol problems
- Providing case management for all RF youth to offer a more individualized approach

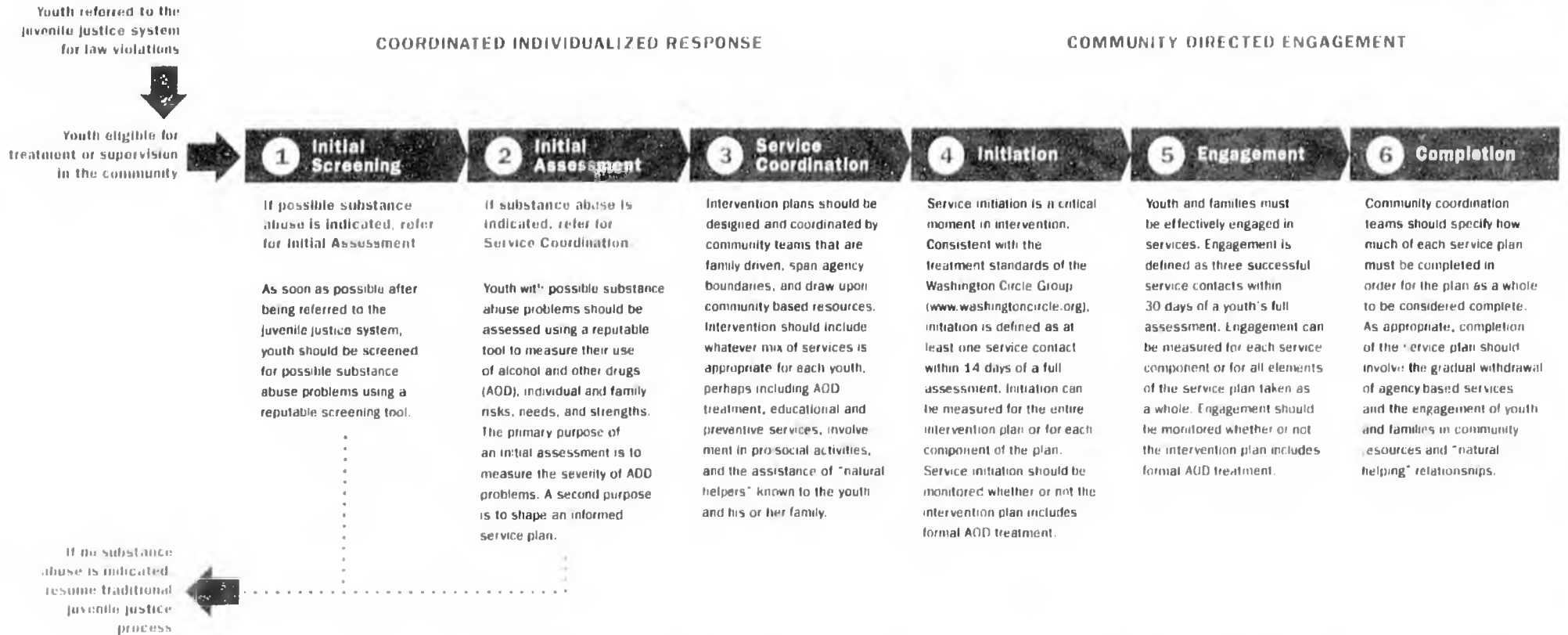
The Reclaiming Futures Model

www.reclaimingfutures.org



RECLAIMING FUTURES

Communities helping the youth overcome drug, alcohol and crime



Process Indicators

Of all youth identified with AOD problems at screening, how many get full assessments?

Of all youth identified with AOD problems at assessment, how many agree to complete an appropriate service plan?

Of all youth who agree to complete an appropriate service plan, how many initiate services as designed?

Of all youth who initiate a service plan, how many become fully engaged in services?

Of all youth engaged in services, how many complete the service plan as designed?



Reclaiming Futures and its National and Local Results

**Joint Hearing by the Alaska House
and Senate Committees on Health,
Education and Social Services**

RECLAIMING FUTURES

Thursday, April 12, 2007

*Learn about the program that
has helped thousands of youth
and young adults find a better future.*

**Laura Nissen, Ph.D.
National Program Director**

Youth referred to the
juvenile justice system
by law violations



Youth eligible for
the program or supervision
in the community



RECLAIMING FUTURES

Youth referred to the
juvenile justice system
for law violations



Youth eligible for
treatment or supervision
by the community



**1 Initial
Screening**

If possible substance
abuse is indicated, refer
for Initial Assessment

If no substance
abuse is indicated,
return youth to
juvenile justice
process



RECLAIMING FUTURES

rights related to the
juvenile justice system
or in situations

rights related to the
juvenile justice system
in the community

COORDINATED INDIVIDUALIZED RESPONSE



If possible substance
abuse is indicated, refer
to Initial Assessment

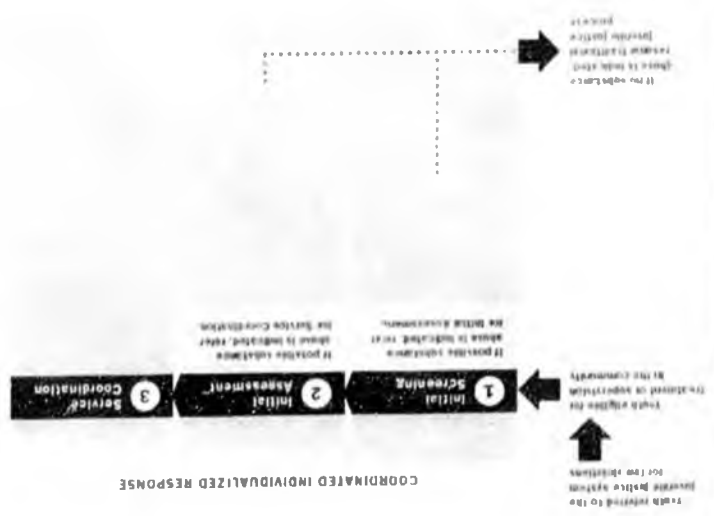
If possible substance
abuse is indicated, refer
to Service Coordination

If no substance
abuse is indicated,
refer to Initial
Assessment



RECLAIMING FUTURES

The National Alcohol Treatment Guidelines



COORDINATED INDIVIDUALIZED RESPONSE

Youth referred to the juvenile justice system for law violations

COORDINATED INDIVIDUALIZED RESPONSE

Youth eligible for treatment or supervision in the community



If possible substance abuse is indicated, refer for Initial Assessment.

If possible substance abuse is indicated, refer for Service Coordination.

If the substance abuse is not addressed, return to initial juvenile justice process.



RECLAIMING FUTURES

Youth referred to the juvenile justice system for law violations

COORDINATED INDIVIDUALIZED RESPONSE

COMMUNITY DIRECTED ENGAGEMENT

Youth eligible for treatment or supervision in the community



If possible substance abuse is indicated refer for Initial Assessment.

If possible substance abuse is indicated, refer for Service Coordination.

If substance abuse is indicated, refer to community treatment or supervision program



RECLAIMING FUTURES

Youth referred to the juvenile justice system for law violations

COORDINATED INDIVIDUALIZED RESPONSE

COMMUNITY DIRECTED ENGAGEMENT

Youth eligible for treatment or supervision in the community



If possible substance abuse is indicated, refer for Initial Assessment.

If possible substance abuse is indicated, refer for Service Coordination.

If no substance abuse is indicated, resume traditional juvenile justice process



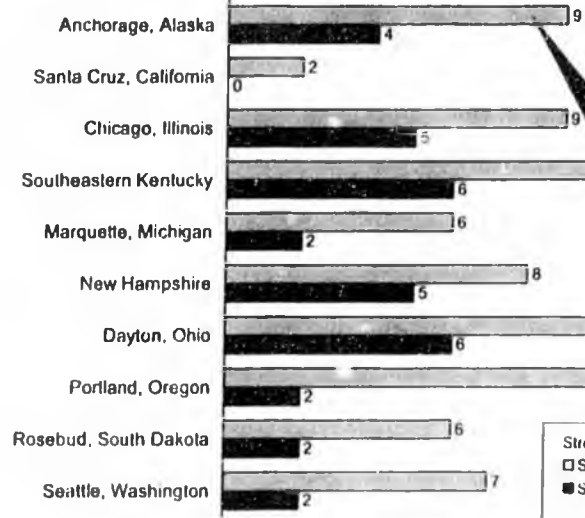
RECLAIMING FUTURES

The Urban Institute and the University of Chicago found that:

- Respondent ratings of local juvenile justice systems improved significantly between 2003 and 2006.
- Increases were statistically significant in 12 of the 13 survey indices.
- Improvements were especially dramatic in the ratings for:
 - treatment effectiveness,
 - the use of client information in support of treatment,
 - the use of screening and assessment tools, and
 - overall systems integration.
- These findings suggests that the coordination and quality of substance abuse interventions for youthful offenders improved during the RWJF Reclaiming Futures initiative.



Significant increases in survey indices by RF community, 2003-2006
 Number of Survey Indices Increased (of 13)



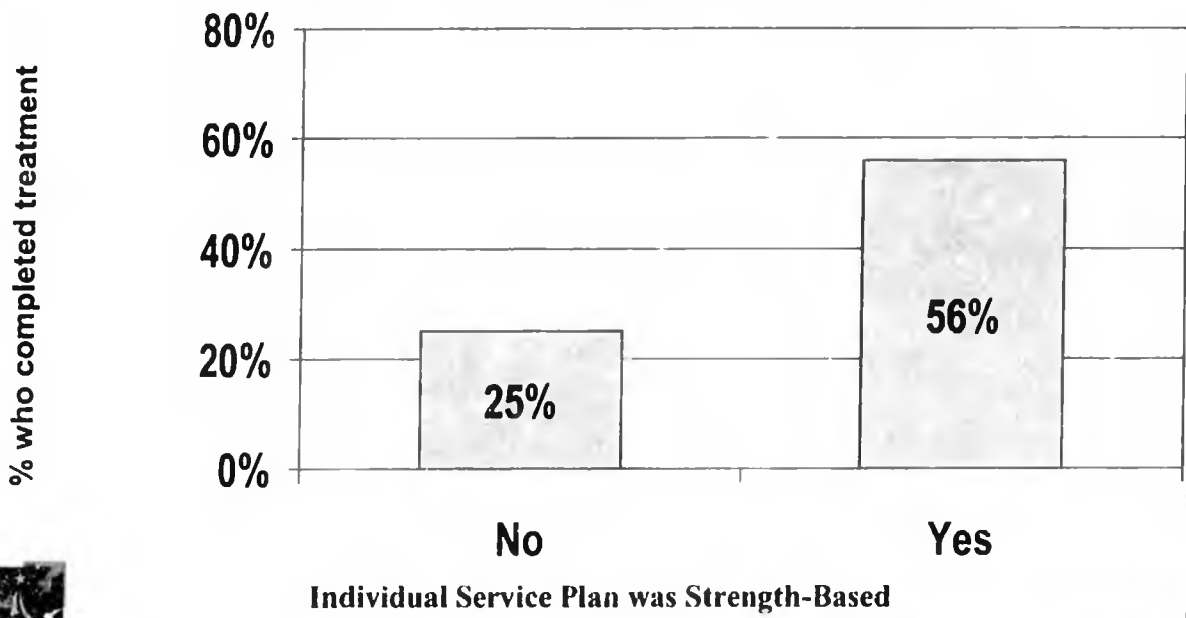
In Alaska, 9 of the 13 survey indices grew significantly, and 4 of these increased in a linear or consistent fashion.

Strength of Increase
 □ Significant
 ■ Significant and Linear

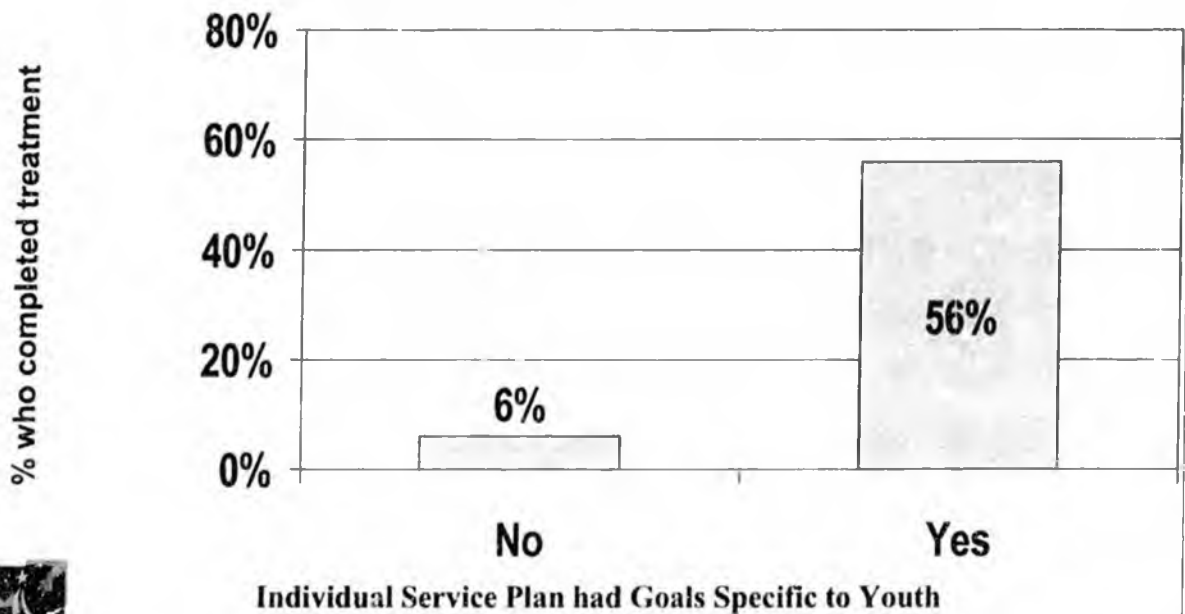
Note: Significant increases occurred when the difference in mean index scores on the first survey (December 2003) and last survey (June 2006) was statistically significant ($p < .05$). An increase was considered to be linear when at least 4 of 5 possible score changes between the six surveys were in a positive direction.



Youth were over two times more likely to complete treatment if their individual service plan was strength-based



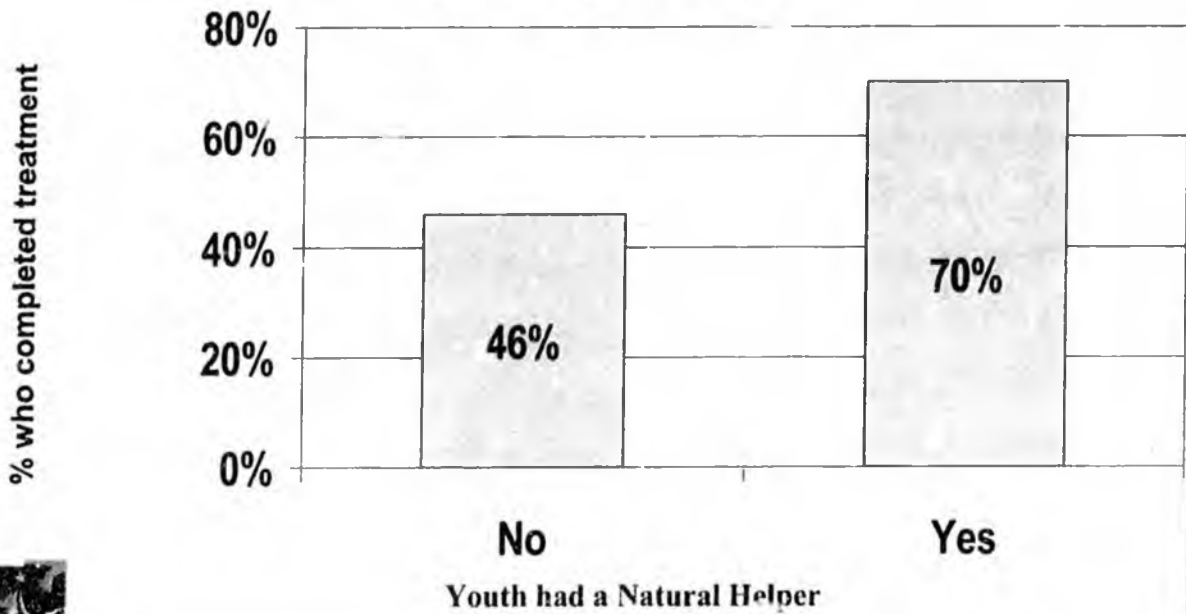
Youth were over nine times more likely to complete treatment if their individual service plan had goals specific to youth



RECLAIMING FUTURES

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Youth were 52% more likely to complete treatment if they had a natural helper



RECLAIMING FUTURES



RECLAIMING FUTURES

SPEAKER TEAM

Thursday, April 12, 2007

Tom Begich, project director

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TBegich@ak.org
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Tom Begich has worked in the field of restorative and community justice since 1994 and served as a volunteer in youth justice since 1986. Tom chaired the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice in 1997 and is also a nationally recognized trainer in strategic planning and community development. He continues to serve on a number of state and national boards relating to youth and juvenile justice issues. Tom is also a musician and has released 4 CD's of his original music.

Master William Hitchcock, judicial fellow

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Master William Hitchcock has been a presiding judicial officer for children's court in the Anchorage Superior Court since 1985. He is responsible for delinquency and child protection cases, as well as for administration and case management. Master Hitchcock is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He serves on the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee and is chair of the Anchorage Juvenile Justice Working Group, which is comprised of justice agencies and treatment providers. He was one of the original organizers of the Alaska CASA program. In 2002 he was awarded the Alaska Supreme Court Community Outreach Award.

Laura Burney Nissen, Ph.D., M.S.W., Reclaiming Future director

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Portland, OR 97207-0751
503-725-8911

Throughout her career Laura Burney Nissen, national director of Reclaiming Futures, has specialized in encouraging innovation through dynamic community and cross-agency partnerships. She was a member of the founding team of the Denver Juvenile Justice Integrated Treatment Network, as well as the Center for High Risk Youth Studies in Denver. Laura has worked with state and federal agencies to encourage system-wide recognition and utilization of strength-based methods in youth services. She is an associate professor of social work at Portland State University Graduate School of Social Work.

Nolan Ogle-Endresen is a graduate of the Reclaiming Futures initiative in Anchorage, Alaska.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE RECLAIMING FUTURES ANCHORAGE TEAM

Michael Kerosky, L.P.A., M.R.C., community fellow

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition.

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Michael Kerosky has served as supervisor of the Anchorage School District's (ASD) Safe and Drug Free Schools for the last 11 years. Prior to ASD he worked with Providence Alaska in their Inpatient Adult Addiction Treatment Program and Outpatient Adolescent Treatment Program as a psychotherapist. He has also worked as a trainer for the Alaska Institute For Family Therapy And Training. He is currently licensed with the Psychological Associate in Alaska (L.P.A.) and is on the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists. He is also one of the founders of the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition.

Linda Moffitt, M.Ed., juvenile justice fellow

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Linda Moffitt has worked as a state employee in child protection and juvenile probation for 28 years in Alaska. For the past nine years, she has supervised the Juvenile Intake Unit in Anchorage Juvenile Probation. She is a current member of the Anchorage Juvenile Justice Working Group and several other local task force groups that are addressing juvenile justice issues. Linda has been involved with the Anchorage Reclaiming Futures project since its inception. She serves as the justice fellow for Anchorage as well as being a member of the executive committee.

André Rosay, Ph.D., evaluation committee

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André Rosay is an assistant professor with the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He is nationally and internationally recognized for his work in the fields of juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, and violence against women. With local, state, and federal funding, he works with the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice, the Anchorage Police Department, the Alaska State Troopers, the Alaska Department of Law, and the Alaska Forensic Nurses Association. Current research activities in the field of juvenile justice focus on an evaluation of a targeted re-entry initiative at the McLaughlin Youth Center and an assessment of disproportionate minority contact in the Alaska juvenile justice system.

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Karin Schaff has 18 years of experience in providing mental health and substance abuse treatment to adolescents. For the past eight years, she has served as the treatment services director for Volunteers of America in Alaska overseeing residential and outpatient treatment programs for chemically dependent and substance abusing adolescents. Karin earned her degree in counseling psychology. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (L.M.F.T.) and a Certified Addictions Counselor Level II (C.D.C. II) in the state of Alaska.

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Victoria Shaver serves as the director of the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition and also acts as the deputy director of Reclaiming Futures thanks to resource sharing and collaboration between the two organizations. Victoria has worked in youth development since 1987. As a teen, she worked for the Alaska Council on Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Inc. as a trainer on youth health and wellness issues. Victoria is an advocate for meaningful youth involvement and youth voice on issues important to young people.

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National Program Director, Reclaiming Futures
A National Project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
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**Public Testimony before the Joint Hearing by the Alaska House
and Senate Committees on Health,
Education and Social Services**

**Thursday, April 12, 2007
3:00 P.M.**

Thank you for this opportunity to speak today. We know you are here looking not only for ideas, but also for solutions. We know that gangs are on your mind and that you need a proven model to keeping kids from getting involved in gangs and pulled deeper into the system. And we know that many members of the Alaska legislature understand that alcohol and drug abuse by young people in trouble with the law is among the most urgent public health challenges in the United States.

We are here today because we believe Reclaiming Futures is a model that can solve many of your challenges in Alaska. My role is to tell you about Reclaiming Futures, what we've accomplished in our first pilot phase, and what's coming up next here in Alaska and elsewhere in the United States.

I also want to commend the cutting edge work of the Anchorage Reclaiming Futures team. As the national director of Reclaiming Futures since its beginning, I've been honored to have the opportunity to work this group. The vision, leadership, and commitment of the Anchorage team is known throughout the country and Alaska is now recognized as a national leader in creating innovative and effective solutions to the challenge of teen substance abuse and crime.

Let me begin by tell you about Reclaiming Futures. For years now adolescents with substance abuse problems have increasingly ended up in the juvenile justice system without access to alcohol and drug treatment services. Because of this disturbing trend, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation decided in 1999 to invest in building a cutting edge model that could address this gap. Bringing together some of the best thinkers, planners, leaders involved in frontline practice in the area, and policy advisors, and building on previous efforts such as Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime models, and drug courts – but going further to truly build a comprehensive system of accountability, care and opportunity -- Reclaiming Futures was developed to re-invent the way that the courts deal with teens with drug and alcohol problems.

We did this, so that young people like the young man you're going to hear from today would not only be held accountable for their mistakes, but also get the treatment and community support they need to avoid becoming trapped in a cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime.

When we started this work eight years ago, there was no model for us to follow, so we had to start from the ground up. To guide us and keep our feet on the ground we focused on the following questions:

- What do kids struggling with these issues need to be successful?
- What would a system of accountability, care and opportunity look like?
- How can we begin to move a community's juvenile justice system in that direction?

In 1999, we announced that we were looking for 10 communities to work with us to pilot this effort. We were overwhelmed with the response. We had over 280 applications showing us that both the recognition of the problem and readiness to do something about it was very high.

In the end, we could only choose 10 communities and they are all listed in your materials. Anchorage was a fierce competitor in that process and has delivered impressive results that I will tell you about in a moment.

So you've met some of the young people affected by this program through our short film, but what does Reclaiming Futures look like on the ground? How did we put it together? We know that communities are all unique – so we needed to build a model that was flexible to accommodate a variety of community and jurisdictional variations – but something that was consistent enough to constitute a model, be evaluated and when proven successful, disseminated to other communities.

Working together as a national team, we decided it came down to six steps. What is remarkable is that though each of the six measures in the Reclaiming Futures model sound simple – the idea of having a comprehensive, consistent method of recognizing and intervening with this particular young people is quite a breakthrough. In fact it can safely be said that we track FedEx packages more effectively than we track the progress of young people with substance abuse problems through the juvenile justice system. Our failures in this area cost our communities millions of dollars and waste some of our most precious resources – the potential of young people. We can do better.

The first step in the Reclaiming Futures model is to find these young people – because the fact that a substance abuse problem may be driving their delinquency may not be readily apparent (remember estimates suggest that 60-80% of young people committing crime have a substance abuse problem). This means screening young people on the front end as early as possible.

If something shows up through screening, a young person moves to the second part of the Reclaiming Futures model, a full assessment, because in order to provide real help, we need to know what is really going on. An assessment tells us not offense categories and potential risks of re-offending -- important information -- but also if there is sexual or physical abuse at home, or other problems, such as with domestic violence, hunger, school, or health.

Assessments under the Reclaiming Futures model are unique for their emphasis on identifying a young person's strengths and interests. We believe these are assets and under tapped resources that can help a teenager build a delinquency-free life.

Once the assessment is complete, step three of the Reclaiming Futures model occurs. A specialist works with the young person, their families, and a community team comprised of formal and informal helpers to develop a coordinated care plan. This is the plan that will guide a young person up and out of the juvenile justice system.

As with our assessments, a Reclaiming Futures care plan uses a strength-based approach. And whenever possible also builds in pro-social opportunities, uses natural helpers, reconnects a teen with school, and finds jobs that offer them a path to a future. This is so important because at the end of the day, no matter how good a treatment or justice program is, it can never really completely "reclaim a young person." Only families and communities can do this -- programs are only there to start that process.

The next and fourth step of the process is making sure that the plan starts. Again it seems a simple thing to make sure young people get to their first appointments, but in fact it is among the chief reasons why young people don't make it out of the justice system.

Through careful tracking Reclaiming Futures has developed a variety of ways to make sure these first all important treatment sessions begin, and when they don't, follow up promptly to keep kids from falling through the cracks. This process, which we call service engagement, is the fifth step of the Reclaiming Futures model, and plays an important part in our success. Keeping appointments dramatically improves young people's chances of succeeding in treatment, so we watch for and work with young people and their team to assure that this happens.

Finally, the sixth and final part of the process is to transition a young person through a completion phase of formal services and launch them out into life free of formal supports.

While the Reclaiming Futures approach seems simple, the fact is that very few communities across the United States provide anything to approach this level of attention and coordination of services to these young people, even though we have more research than at any given time in history to support the notion that if these steps all occur in a timely manner -- youth will abuse fewer substances following treatment, reoffend at much

lower rates, and their lives will improve – with dramatic cost savings and increases in public safety. In turn, these cost savings can be available to redeploy based on this increase in quality and value of the improved response. Fewer commitments and probation violations as a result of the improved system of care in the end means fewer dollars spent on these expenses.

What difference is the Reclaiming Futures model making in juvenile justice systems across the United States and in Anchorage? Let me start with the national data.

An evaluation by the Urban Institute and the University of Chicago found significant progress in 12 out of 13 areas across all 10 sites. There were especially dramatic increases in ratings for treatment, use of client information, and the use of screening and assessment tools.

What about Anchorage? A local evaluation team led by Andre Rosay at the University of Alaska studied the effect different elements of the Reclaiming Futures model. I won't show you all of Dr. Rosay's research. Let me share with you, however, three slides:

First, Dr. Rosay and his colleagues found that young people with individual service plans with specific individual goals – the third step of the Reclaiming Futures model – were nine times more likely to complete treatment.

Second, teenagers with a ^{peer volunteer} natural helper – also part of step three of the Reclaiming Futures model – were 54% more likely to complete treatment.

And finally, teens that had at least three service contacts within 30 days – the fourth step of the Reclaiming Futures model -- were more than twice as likely to complete treatment. Our work builds consistently on previous research conducted by Dr. Michael Dennis and colleagues clearly showing a relationship between completion of substance abuse treatment and decreases in recidivism.

In summary, across the country:

Sharing resources

- a) Young people are successfully being screened, assessed, and matched to treatment in a significantly different way than before Reclaiming Futures was created. The treatment itself is also dramatically improved by incorporating the best from the emerging evidence base of tested treatment interventions.
- b) In addition to treatment, young people are also accessing and engaging in positive communities that truly help them to build skills and relationships that will extend beyond their formal relationship with the system than before Reclaiming Futures began.
- c) Community partners are working together in unprecedented ways to form new policies and procedures to overcome previous limitations to make this happen.

- d) Fewer young people are progressing into the system as a result of these efforts.

What comes next?

As proud as we are to be here, we're also here to say that what we've accomplished is only a start. There is so much more to be done. We came today to let you know that there are tens of thousands of other young people, families and communities grappling with addictions, as well as crime and all its associated problems. We believe that Reclaiming Futures is ready to expand and disseminate across the United States, and we are preparing our next steps to serve as a national resource center to help other communities do just that.

Now that our colleagues in Anchorage have helped to both develop and test this proven approach, we are very excited that there is interest here in Juneau and other communities in adopting the Reclaiming Futures model. You could not make a more important investment in a successful approach that will allow you to reap numerous rewards for many years to come.

Thank you again for the wonderful opportunity to present before this important body, your undivided attention – and for your support and leadership of this national movement.

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reclaiming NEWSLETTER review



Spring 2007

RECLAIMING FUTURES
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

in this issue . . .

- "When You Were 15" launches
- Caddell retires
- Project Trip to Juneau
- Glacier Awards Announced

Juvenile Probation Officers Call For New Responses to Teen Drug and Alcohol Use in New Report

Reclaiming Futures Anchorage Justice Fellow Linda Moffitt is one of several juvenile justice leaders who is recommending a ground-breaking approach to help teens in trouble with drugs, alcohol and crime. Moffitt and other juvenile probation officers involved in the Reclaiming Futures initiative released a new report in February titled *Juvenile Probation Officers Call for New Responses to Teen Drug and Alcohol Use and Dependency*.

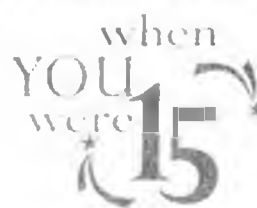
The report outlines practical steps for other juvenile probation officers to follow to make changes in their own juvenile justice systems. The findings are based on the Reclaiming Futures model tested in ten communities, including Anchorage,

Juvenile continued on page 5 . . .

Reclaiming Futures Anchorage Launches When You Were 15 Campaign

Reclaiming Futures Anchorage launched the "When You Were 15" campaign in January on Thank Your Mentor Day. The campaign encourages adults to become mentors for teens, including those who are struggling with drugs, alcohol, and crime.

The campaign features adults and young people in Alaska who recall their own lives at 15 and the adults who helped them get through tough times. Community members are encouraged to log on to www.whenyouwere15alaska.org to read story entries,



write their own story, and find out how they can help teens in their community.

Ultimately, When You Were 15 Campaign

Campaign continued on page 5 . . .

Who We Are

Reclaiming Futures is a \$21 million initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation located in Anchorage, as well Santa Cruz, Calif., Chicago, Ill., four counties in Southeastern Kentucky, Marquette, Mich., the state of New Hampshire, the Lakota Reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota, Dayton, Ohio, Portland, Ore., and Seattle, Wash. In its fifth year, an evaluation conducted by the Urban Institute and the University of Chicago indicates that Reclaiming Futures has significantly improved the quality of juvenile justice and substance abuse treatment services across the ten communities. Learn more about the national initiative at www.reclaimingfutures.org and Reclaiming Futures Anchorage at www.reclaimingfuturesanc.org



Project Connect Educates Alaska Legislators

A mid-February "Project Connect" trip to Juneau by several members of the Reclaiming Futures Anchorage team resulted in more than 25 formal visits with Senators and members of the House and valuable discussions on the importance of treatment for juvenile offenders who have alcohol or substance abuse problems.

Highlights of the trip included an introduction on the House floor, one-to-one meetings with 18 lawmakers and a reception that was widely attended by legislators and staffers, as well as Alaska Department of Corrections and Health & Social Services officials.

"On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd rank the meetings in Alaska a 12," said Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) representative Mitch Patterson, who helped to organize and coach the Reclaiming Futures team prior to the Project Connect visit.

Reclaiming Futures Anchorage received additional funding from RWJF late last year to support efforts to provide information to Alaska policy leaders about the importance of RFA efforts in reducing substance use and building a stronger and more effective treatment system.

"We see this as a critical time to get policymakers up-to-speed on juvenile justice issues and the impact teen substance abuse has on society," said Reclaiming Futures Anchorage Project Director Tom Begich. "With a new governor in office, changes in various state positions and increased awareness of the need to find better ways to keep young people out of the justice system, the timing of our State Connect visit could not have been better."

Reclaiming Futures Anchorage staff will be following up with everyone who met with the team in February, to provide additional information about the Reclaiming Futures initiative and to answer specific questions posed during the visits. Another trip to the state capital is scheduled for April, when Reclaiming Futures and RWJF representatives are expected to have the opportunity to testify at special Senate and House Health and Social Services hearings.

Anchorage and Other Reclaiming Futures Sites Receive Two More Years of Funding

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently announced its board has approved funding to support Reclaiming Futures Anchorage for two more years. The board also approved funding for a national expansion of the Reclaiming Futures initiative.

"We were already working on funding for sustainability of the initiative in Anchorage, so this is just icing on the cake," said Reclaiming Futures Anchorage Project Director Tom Begich. "We look forward to continuing the work here in Anchorage, and sharing what has been learned with new cities across the U.S."

Overall, the RWJF board approved \$6.5 million to support ten pilot sites for two more years, which includes Reclaiming Futures Anchorage. The money also will be used to help seven additional new sites implement the Reclaiming Futures model over the next four years. A national resource center will be created to provide data, case studies and other information to additional communities seeking to improve drug and alcohol services for justice-involved youth. Reclaiming Futures will invite applications from communities interested in participating as one of the seven new pilot sites on its web site this spring, and expects to select the winning cities by summer 2007. The new Reclaiming Futures sites will receive technical assistance, on-site coaching, educational materials and invitations to national conferences and workshops.

Catch HBO Addiction Focus in March

Be sure to tune your television to HBO in March for its multi-platform campaign on "Addiction." Join Together, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) and Faces & Voices of Recovery, all of which have been supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), are uniting to help communities make the most of a powerful opportunity to bring the message of addiction treatment and recovery to millions of Americans. From March 15-18, HBO will launch the Addiction Project, a groundbreaking multi-media campaign to help Americans understand addiction as a treatable brain disease, spotlight new treatment advancements and provide hope for long-term recovery. The 14-part series will air during a free HBO preview weekend and kicks off with a March 15 broadcast of the documentary ADDICTION at 5 p.m. Alaska time. To find out more about HBO's addiction project, visit www.AddictionAction.org

Glacier Awards Recognize Those Who Have Persisted With Reclaiming Futures Anchorage Work

If you've been working on the Reclaiming Futures Anchorage (RF) project for very long, you've undoubtedly heard it a dozen times – "systems change takes time." Many of the people involved with RF have been working for years, even before the project got its official funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In January, many of those people were officially recognized with a 2006 Reclaiming Futures Glacier Award.

The number of Alaskans who have worked to make the Reclaiming Futures Anchorage project a success is impressive. The list of people recognized also was longer than most knew. They were invited to a catered lunch and heard a little about some of the other "team" members, many of whom they've never met. It was perhaps the first time that those involved in the project got to see how widespread the team is, and to hear how many people are making a difference through their day-to-day efforts on the job.

"The one thing that has kept Reclaiming Futures going, through the good times and the bad, has been the persistence and dedication of each of you," RF project director Tom Begich told a packed room of people at the Volunteers of America (VOA) offices. "We thank each of you for that diligence."

Glacier Awards, small acrylic plaques that resemble the ice of a slow-moving, yet powerful glacier, were handed out to more than 30 people. At the same time, stories about how different people got involved, or the role that

team members played were revealed as each person was called up to receive his or her award. Recipients of the 2006 Glacier Awards include:

Barb Henjum, McLaughlin Youth Center
 Chris Aquino, Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement
 Debbie Bogart, Anchorage's Promise
 Diane DiSanto, Mayor's Office
 Elaine Dahlgren, Volunteers of America
 Fred Jenkins, retired, United Way of Anchorage
 Gary Caddell, Division of Juvenile Justice
 Jerry Shough, Volunteers of America
 Karin Schaff, Volunteers of America
 Lee Post, McLaughlin Youth Center
 Leslie Wenderoff, McLaughlin Youth Center
 Lisa Wilson, Public Defender Agency
 Lori Destefano, Volunteers of America
 Michael Kerosky, Anchorage School District, Safe & Drug Free Schools
 Molly Evans, student researcher
 Nelson Page, Burr, Pease & Kurtz
 Nine Volkova, Volunteers of America
 Steve McComb, Division of Juvenile Justice
 Tony Piper, Dept. of Health & Social Services
 Master William Hitchcock, Alaska Court System
 Kathy Day, Kathy Day Public Relations (KD/PR)
 Allen Blair, Denali Family Services
 Barbara Malchick, Office of Public Advocacy
 Currey Cook, Office of Public Advocacy
 Carol Comeau, Anchorage School District
 Jayson Smart, Stone Soup Group
 Sharon Chamard, UAA Justice Center
 Travis Erickson, Office of Children's Services
 Linda Mollitt, Division of Juvenile Justice
 Linda Wilson, Public Defender Agency



Members of the Reclaiming Futures Anchorage executive committee accept their Glacier Awards from Project Director Tom Begich. (Left to right): Elaine Dahlgren, Michael Kerosky, Tony Piper, Barb Henjum, Lisa Wilson, June Sobocinski, Karin Schaff, Master William Hitchcock and Tom Begich.

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Never Giving Up Kept Caddell Motivated Over 30 Year Career

When Gary Caddell started working in the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in 1978, he never dreamed he'd still be there 30 years later. But that's exactly what happened. As Caddell prepares to retire this April, he knows why he remained in this field of work.

"The people I have worked with over all of these years really believe that what they do makes a difference in young people's lives," says Caddell. "There is a certain core of people in the community who you see always involved, caring and never giving up on that vision. And DJJ has been blessed with more than its share of that type of individual."

That statement also rings true for Caddell himself. When he retires as a district supervisor with Anchorage Juvenile Probation, he will be remembered as one of many people who have never given up on the Reclaiming Futures project. He's been there from the beginning and has given important input all along the way.

Caddell started his career as a counselor at McLaughlin Youth Center for just over four years before receiving a promotion to a juvenile probation officer position in the Anchorage Probation Office. He worked up the ladder at DJJ from a line officer to probation supervisor. Many credit Caddell's work over those years as essential to the success of some of Reclaiming Future's systems today. One of his first efforts was an active interagency collaboration through his work on the Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Plan (SHOCAP), a federally sponsored program to locally define, identify, track and supervise a small portion of offenders who commit most of the serious and violent juvenile crimes. SHOCAP sought to improve public safety by focusing attention on serious habitual offenders through



"We really have had some innovative approaches, and in some cases, led the country in thinking differently about how to implement programs that work for the benefit of the juveniles and the community. It's definitely something that has kept me challenged and motivated."

-Gary Caddell

information sharing, unheard of among agencies working with juveniles in those days. He also is proud of his role in creating a school-based probation in the mid 1980s and re-implemented in the late 90's, and work to get the Anchorage School District more involved in the juvenile justice process. These are just three of a long list of innovative approaches Caddell has had a role in developing.

His goal has always been to streamline systems so services reached kids quicker and to open up communication lines between agencies.

"My bosses always told me if I saw a need, to figure out how and go fix it," says Caddell. "We really have had some innovative approaches, and in some cases, led the country in thinking differently about how to implement programs that work for the

benefit of the juveniles and the community, it's definitely something that has kept me challenged and motivated."

Caddell admits the Reclaiming Futures Anchorage program today still isn't exactly what he and probably many others envisioned five years ago, but he feels it has come a long way. Despite his departure, he is confident the work will continue to bring in more community agencies and build that seamless network of provider services.

Although his retirement plans are pretty loose at this point, since his wife wants to continue working, Caddell says he'll definitely be staying in Anchorage for now and hopes to remain involved in the Reclaiming Futures Initiative in some capacity. He will begin shopping for a motorhome that will lead to more travel, and possibly a home in Washington State near family. He also is looking forward to "playing" with ultra-light airplanes and enjoying time with his adult children and (someday) grandkids.

Spring 2007

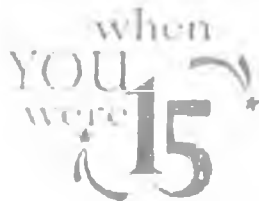
Campaign continued . . .

organizers will collaborate with Anchorage Youth Development Coalition and Anchorage Mentoring Alliance to publish an anthology of stories titled, "What Chapter In Your Life". In conjunction with the web site, a public education campaign has been launched to raise community awareness about the need for more mentors, especially for teens in the justice system. The campaign includes bus signs, posters, advertising in the Anchorage Daily News and radio public service announcements (PSAs). Students from the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter at the University of Alaska are collecting audio and video stories that will be used for the PSAs and posted on the web site.

"Most people can think back to a time in their teenage lives when they were having a tough time and recall one adult who had a particularly positive influence on them," said Tom Begich, project director for Reclaiming Futures Anchorage. "With this campaign, we want to encourage people to become a mentor or natural helper, or to provide opportunities for teens to engage in healthy and positive community and social activities."

Reclaiming Futures, an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is committed to getting more help for teens in the justice system who have drug and alcohol problems. A key element of the Reclaiming Futures model is to involve more adults as positive role models in the lives of these teens.

"When You Were 15" was piloted at the Reclaiming Future's site in Multnomah County in Portland, Oregon, where it recently received the Oregon Governor's Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse Clark Campbell Media Award.



Other Reclaiming Futures sites launching similar campaigns in their communities are Southeastern Kentucky and Seattle, Wash. Future launches are planned in Chicago, Ill., Dayton, Ohio, Marquette, Mich. and the Lakota Reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota.

Juvenile continued . . .

over the last five years. The approach includes screening each teen who enters the juvenile justice system for drug and alcohol problems, assessing the severity of their use and providing prompt access to a treatment plan coordinated by a service team. Reclaiming Futures also connects teens with employers, educational opportunities, mentors and volunteer service projects.

The report offers ten specific recommendations for juvenile justice practitioners including: collaborating with mental health providers, alcohol and drug treatment professionals, school administrators and community partners; knowing which services are available and appropriate for drug-involved youth; tailoring interventions based on the teen's strengths, risk and needs; supporting staff to continue to learn about effective substance abuse treatment; promoting funding for family advocacy; wrap-around services and mentoring; and, collecting and sharing data to help all agencies involved in the effort.

For a complete copy of Juvenile Probation Officers Call for New Responses to Teen Drug and Alcohol Use and Dependency, visit www.reclaimingfutures.org



Big Brothers/Big Sisters Executive Director Peggy Owens looks on as one of the agency's Big Brother and Little Brother matches talk about how important their friendship has been to them. Many mentors and their mentees shared their stories and thanked those who have made a difference in their lives at the Thank Your Mentor Day held at the Cook Inlet Tribal Council building in