

# Reclaiming Futures for our Children, Families and Communities

**Ventura Superior Court  
Drug Court / Reclaiming Futures Program  
May 2012**



## The problem

Too many teens today are struggling with drugs, alcohol and crime.

More than 2 million children are arrested each year.



## The problem

Four out of five teens in the juvenile justice system are under the influence of alcohol or drugs while committing crimes.



## The problem

Only 10 percent of youth with substance abuse disorders actually receive treatment

Two-thirds of juvenile detention facilities are holding children who are awaiting mental health treatment



## What we know

They are not “bad kids.”

They are kids who need:

- Treatment
- Community support



## What we know

### Treatment

- Helps reduce recidivism
- Saves money
- Builds safer communities

Yet most juvenile courts are not set up to detect and treat substance abuse or provide mental health services



# We are Reclaiming Futures

- Started 10 years ago by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Ten pilot sites developed and tested the Reclaiming Futures model
- Now a national learning collaborative and movement
- Additional funding by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and The Duke Endowment



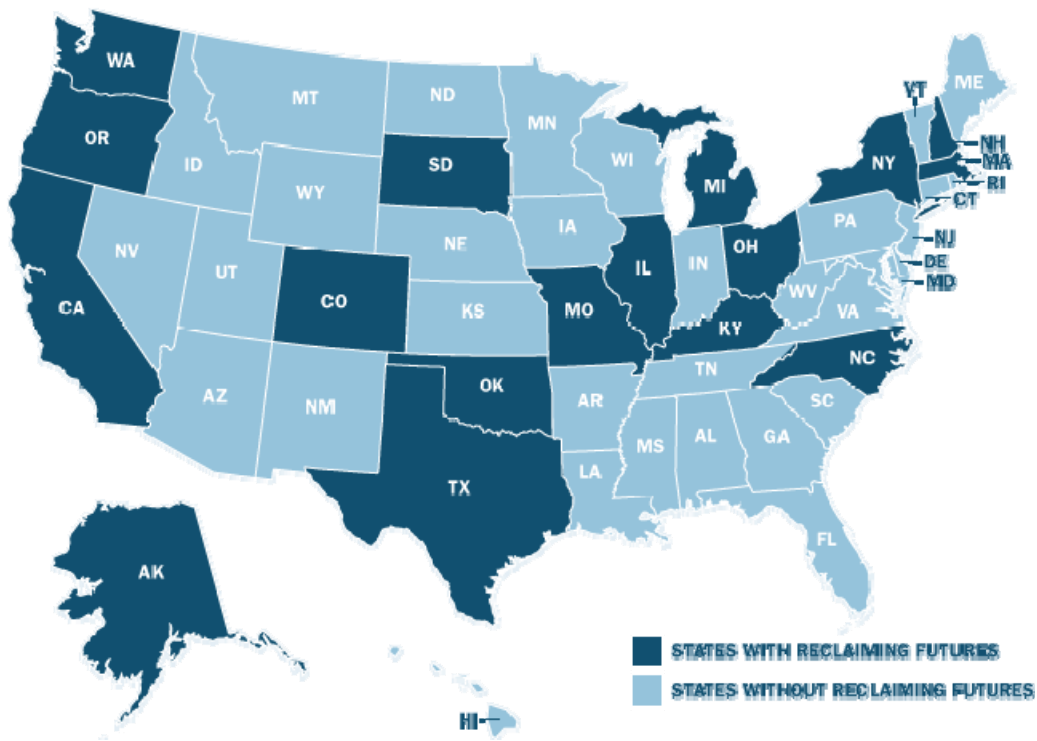
## Evaluation: Reclaiming Futures works

- Independent evaluation by the University of Chicago and the Urban Institute show the model is working
- Surveys measured 13 yardsticks over pilot period of initiative
- Statistically significant improvements in 12 out of 13 measures





# We are one of 29 communities



[reclaimingfutures.org](http://reclaimingfutures.org)

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# Ventura County Reclaiming Futures

## Collaborative Effort of Juvenile Justice Partners

Superior Court

Probation Agency

District Attorney

Public Defender

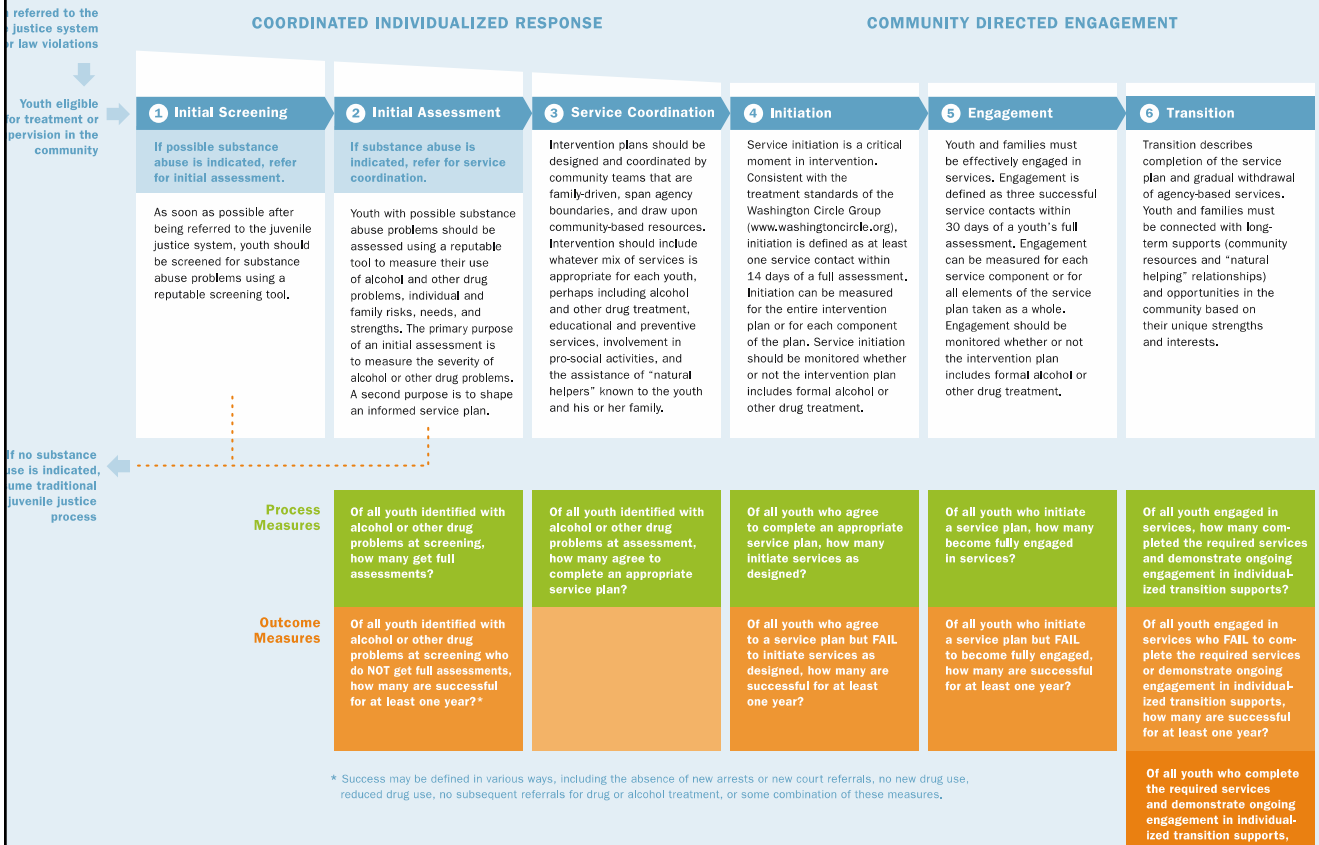
Behavioral Health Department/ADP

Interface Children and Family Services

Coalition For Family Harmony

United Parents Support Group

# the Reclaiming Futures model



# RECLAIMING FUTURES MODEL

ONE: Initial Screen

TWO: Initial Assessment

THREE: Service Coordination

FOUR: Initiation of Treatment

FIVE: Engagement of Youth and Family

SIX: Transition Services

# INITIAL SCREEN

- Screen youth as soon as possible for issues of substance use/abuse
- Screen tool

# INITIAL ASSESSMENT

- If substance issues detected, measure the severity of the use to determine the level of intervention

## SERVICE COORDINATION

- Intervention plan should be developed to address the needs of the youth, with age appropriate treatment services
- Alcohol/drug treatment
- Education
- Behavioral Health Services
- Pro-social activities

# INITIATION OF TREATMENT

- Initiate treatment within 14 days of assessment
- Monitor the treatment plan
- Maintain data of compliance with treatment plan



# ENGAGEMENT

- Seek to engage the youth and the youth's family in the treatment plan and service to be provided
- Insure that the services are evidence based
- Insure that the services are culturally appropriate to engage the youth and family

# TRANSITION SERVICES

- Seek to connect and/or establish ties with community to assist the youth with transition into their respective communities as agency-based services are completed
- Develop “natural helpers” in the youth’s community to assist the youth on their journey to adulthood
- Mentors, community service organizations, faith-based community

## The Reclaiming Futures approach

- More treatment
- Better treatment
- Beyond treatment



## Better treatment is essential

Reclaiming Futures promotes evidence-based treatment, geared specifically for teens.



# The Seven Challenges Model

Robert Schwebel Ph.D

1. We decided to open up and talk honestly about ourselves and about alcohol and other drugs
2. We looked at what we liked about alcohol and other drugs and why we were using them
3. We looked at our use of alcohol and other drugs to see if it has caused harm or could cause harm

[www.sevenchallenges.com](http://www.sevenchallenges.com)

## The Seven Challenges (cont.)

4. We looked at our responsibility and the responsibility of others for our problems
5. We thought about where we seemed to be headed, where we wanted to go and what we wanted to accomplish
6. We made thoughtful decisions about our lives and about our use of alcohol and other drugs
7. We followed through on our decisions about our lives and drug use. If we saw problems and we went back to earlier challenges and mastered them

## What We Seek to Accomplish

- Here is one of our success stories

Video not available

## Beyond Treatment: how you can help

- Become a mentor or natural helper
- Educate them – help teens return to high school or go on to college or job training
- Employ them – jobs make a huge difference
- Provide job shadows and internships



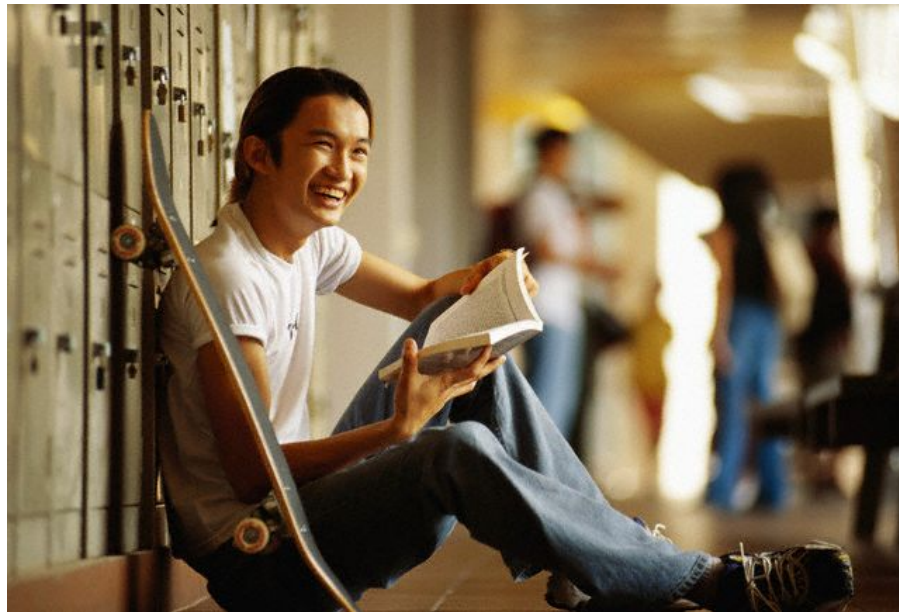


## Beyond treatment: how you can help

- Help them give back through youth leadership and community service
- Donate (game or movie tickets, bowling, pizza – whatever you can give)
- Advocate for teens in the justice system



# Questions?



# Contact Information

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Superior Court of California  
County of Ventura  
(805) 981-5953



# DONATIONS/GIFTS

INTERFACE 501(c)  
Attn: Patti Yabu  
1305 Del Norte Rd. Ste. 200  
Camarillo, CA 93010

## Gift Cards/Certificates (\$5.00-\$25.00)

- Food
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## Monetary Donations

Send to above address: "Attn: Fund Development"

Note on Gift/Donation: "Juvenile Court Programs"