



THE JDAI STORY

**Santa Cruz County,
California**

2008



Santa Cruz County

- **Central Coast**
- **Mid-Sized Population—275,678**
- **Agriculture, Tourism, Government, and High Tech**
- **24,917 Court-Aged Youth, 52% Latino**
- **Governance**
 - **Board of Supervisors**
 - **Chief P.O. Appointed by Judges**

California Department of Finance Population Projections



Strengths Before JDAI

- **Progressive Environment**
- **Good Conditions of Confinement**
- **Multiple Detention Alternatives**
- **Efficient Court Docket**
- **System of Care Model Site**
- **Rich Continuum of Community-based Services**



Concerns Before JDAI

- **No Police Detention Criteria**
- **Subjective Decision Making**
- **Poorly Designed Detention Alternatives**
- **Growing LOS for Post-Dispo Youth**
- **DMC**
- **Overcrowding!!**
 - **355 Days Over Capacity in 1996**



JDAI Implementation - 1997

- **John Rhoads Intros Pathways**
- **Learning, Taking Stock**
- **Independent “Audit” Conducted**
- **All Stakeholders Interviewed**
- **Core Work Group Assembled**
- **Work Plan Developed Using Audit Results and Data**



JDAI Workplan

- **Data-Based Decision Making**
- **Adopt Detention Criteria**
- **Revise Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI)**
- **Improve Use of RAI-Expediter**
- **Improve Detention Alternatives**
- **Administrative Sanctions**
- **Improve Post Dispo Case Processing**
- **Address DMC**
- **Improve Conditions of Confinement**



Turning Challenges Into Results

JUVENILE HALL AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

1996

46.7

2008

19.9

57% Decrease

DECREASE IN PERCENT OF REFERRALS BOOKED

1996

50.7%

2008

33.4%

34% Decrease



Turning Challenges Into Results

USE OF ALTERNATIVES

2000

1093 Days

2008

4000 Days

266% Increase

JUVENILE HALL AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

1996

12.9 Days

2007

9.1 Days

29% Decrease



Turning Challenges Into Results

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY—DISPOSITION TO 24-HOUR OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT (AFDC)

1996

26.8 Days

2008

11.4 Days

57% Decrease

LATINO YOUTH DETENTION AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

1998

33.6 ADP

2008

14.3 ADP

57% Decrease



Lessons Learned

- **Use of Data to Inform Decision Making**
- **Recognizing the Complexities, Variances, and Vocabularies of Different Jurisdictions**
- **Each Change Creates Conflict**
- **Every Action Causes a Reaction**
- **Not Everyone is a True Believer**
- **On-going Training and Educational Responsibility**