



Please, see this face.

If it weren't for bad luck...



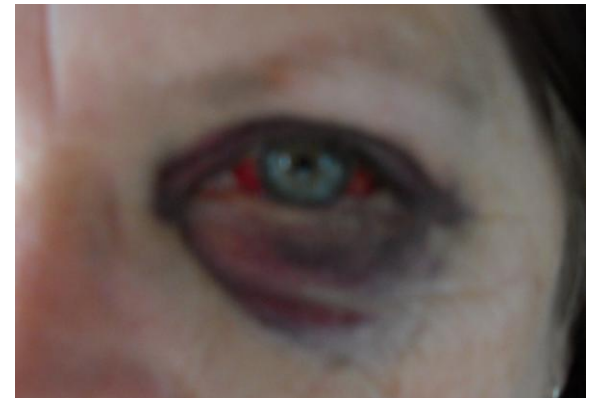
He would be dumped in the orphanage and taken out again according to his birthmother's whims. Until finally she was forced to parent or give up her parental rights. She chose to parent the oldest....he committed suicide at age eleven.

Signs, signs, everywhere a sign...



**Can you believe this precious child
would over time...**

Start fires? Abuse animals? Do this to his mom?



Where is Dr.Phil when you need him?

Therapies we tried:

Attachment therapy for eighteen months

Play therapy for eighteen months

Family talk therapy for a few months but couldn't afford it and had to quit.

Sand tray therapy

Neurological reorganization for seven months

And yes, we did contact Dr.Phil, Oprah,

Ellen Degeneres, ABC, begging for help.....no reply from any of them.

A Spoon Full of Sugar

Medications we tried:

Ritalin (would work for awhile)

Adderall (suicidal kindergartner)

Metadate (Adderall “light”...see above)

Concerta (would work then would build up a tolerance and finally dose high enough to develop a tic)

Risperdol and Remeron (kids who are hypervigilant, can't even relax their guard in sleep so they miss out on the beneficial REM sleep...Remeron helped with that. Risperdol is an anti-psychotic)

Lithium and Abilify (Lithium prescribed by Austin State Hosp. along with Abilify...which led to Obsessive Compulsive behavior and cost \$738 per month....which led to my own panic disorder.)

Back to Risperdol and Remeron

Currently on Celexa, Abilify, Concerta and just for fun....Trazadone.



Is Anyone Out There?

Resources I've tried:

Childrens Homes

Our senators and Governor

Different sources for respite (a break for the family to regroup)

Representative Patrick Rose which led to Sherrie Hammack at Texas Health and Human Services which led to Mike Hastie who helped arrange for free neuropsychological testing.

Respite care in upstate New York. Lasted 30 hours.

Hey Mister, could you spare
\$13,500...per month?

Residential Treatment Centers average out
at \$450 per day if paying privately.

Many RTC's only accept clients via CPS or
the Juvenile Justice system.

In 2001, over 9,000 families in America gave
their children to the juvenile system in
order to get them mental health treatment.

[Government Accountability Office report](#)

What “The System” Has Tried

Three stints in Austin State Hospital’s (ASH) Child and Adolescent Services (CAPS).

Four juvenile detention stays. Two days. Four days. Two weeks. Six weeks.



Junior Deputy Camp 2007
He wants to be a policeman.

Why am I still here?

If my son had a brain tumor that caused wild behavior, would I walk away? How about Leukemia? My son's disease is based on brain trauma...how could I *not* be here for him?

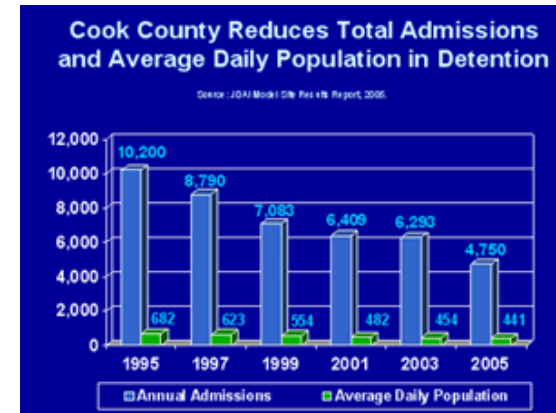
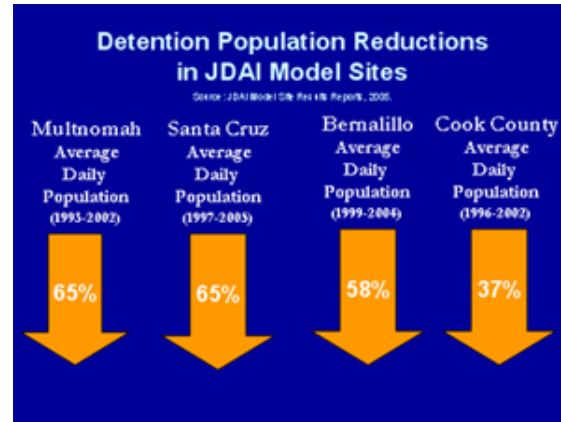
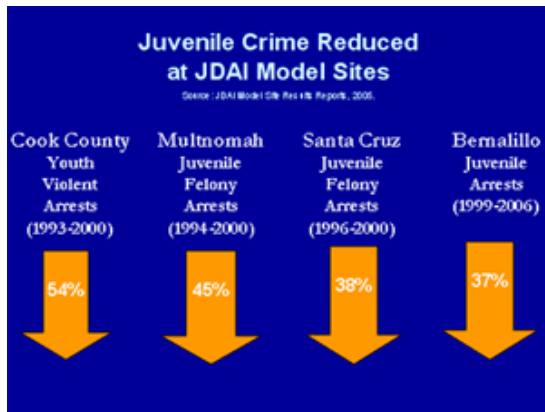


The Show Me State shows us

In the 1970's, Missouri looked at their juvenile system and decided to stop the failure. Here's what's working there:

- ✓ Use highly trained professionals to provide constant therapy and supervision in small COMMUNITY- based facilities for maximum community support.
- ✓ Pay its employees a **PROFESSIONAL** wage.
- ✓ Most juvenile division staffers are college-educated, highly trained, not guards.
- ✓ Most facilities have 33 beds or **LESS**.
- ✓ Treatment, rather than imprisonment. Little violence, gang activity or suicides.
- ✓ Individual accountability in the **LEAST RESTRICTIVE** environment without compromising public safety.
- ✓ Train the youth to “talk down” fellow juveniles. Peer pressure at its best.

Going down?



The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You...Harris County

- ***Harris County Juvenile Probation – 2007 and 2008***
- ***Statistics 2007 2008 Change***
- Referrals to Juvenile Probation ↓ 11%
- Petitions filed by District Attorney's Office ↓ 8%
- Admission to residential facilities ↓ 12%
- **Youth committed to the Texas Youth Commission ↓ 78%**
- Staff (Full and Part-Time) 1,500 1,511 ↑ 1%

This is one year after beginning the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) !!! One Year!

No Change? No Good!

- Between **50 to 75%** of incarcerated youth have diagnosable mental health problems.²
- • **Youth suicides** in juvenile detention and correctional facilities are more than **four times** greater than youth suicides in the general public.³
- • Two-thirds of juvenile detention centers hold youth who are simply waiting for mental health treatment. In 33 states, youth with mental illness are held in juvenile detention centers without any charges filed against them.⁴
- • **One-quarter** of the juvenile detention centers holding youth waiting on mental health treatment **provide no or poor quality mental health services.**⁵
- • Incarcerated **African American youth are less likely than their white peers to have previously received mental health services.**⁶

1 Handle With Care: Serving the Mental Health Needs of Young Offenders, CJJ, 2000.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform—Minority Staff Special Investigation Division, *Incarceration of Youth Who Are Waiting for Community Mental Health Services in the United States*, July 2004.

5 Ibid

6 Ibid



What the moms and dads suggest....

In order to adopt from the foster care system or internationally, prospective parents should have MANDATORY training in Reactive Attachment Disorder and trauma.

Child protection service workers must be honest with prospective foster/adopt parents about traumas the child has endured and behaviors already seen in foster care and provide respite for those families on a routine basis, to avoid disruption of adoption.

Pay now or pay a lot more later...families who step up to adopt children who are not infants should be provided with therapy for the child and for the family at reasonable rates. No, \$120 per hour, twice a week, is not reasonable for most families. Most insurance companies cover only inpatient psychiatric care or none at all. Add to that, the trauma on other children in the home and the system is creating kids with RAD/ptsd.

Increase family interaction with youth in detention via family counseling....give the family the tools to help their child be successful at **home!**



- And now, a better look at this one face.