The Children’s Defense Fund
New York

NY School Justice Summit
April 12, 2013

Lifetime risk of going to prison
(for a child born in 2001)

• Black boy: 1 in 3 chance
• Latino boy: 1 in 6
• White boy: 1 in 17
• Black girl: 1 in 17
• Latina girl: 1 in 45
• White girl: 1 in 111

www.childrensdefense.org
Daily Population of Youth @ Rikers

On an average day, **800** 16, 17 and 18 year olds are locked up at Rikers!

Long-Term Consequences

- Barriers to Employment
- Barriers to Citizenship
- Loss of Housing, for themselves & their families
- Limited Voting Rights
- Denied College Admission & Educational Loans

How exactly are we helping?
From 1973 to present

Meridian (MS) Consent Decree

- Limits exclusionary discipline and prohibits exclusionary discipline for minor misbehavior;
- Limits law enforcement officers role;
- Revises policies at district’s alternative school
- Requires enhanced due process protections in student discipline hearings;
- Requires monitoring data to identify and respond to racial disparities;

Meridian – Training & Engagement

- Requires training for school law enforcement
- Requires training on all revised policies and procedures;
- Expands use of PBIS at all schools;
- Requires intervention before removal;
- Implements measures to engage families and communities as partners in revising policies.

Meridian – What is To Come

In Oct. 2012, the US DOJ filed related case against

- the Meridian Police Department,
- the Lauderdale County Youth Court and
- the state of Mississippi

alleging systematic violation of the due process rights of students referred by the district.

Case Pending!
Sample of NY Training Initiatives

ROCHESTER:
Students and Parents participating in training of Rochester’s School Resource Officers

NEW YORK CITY:
CDF- facilitated community-training of NYPD School Safety Agents

Social Discipline Window, created by International Institute for Restorative Practices
http://www.iirp.edu/what-is-restorative-practices.php#social_discipline_window

NYC School Safety Agents Said...

• 67% of agents agreed/strongly agreed with the statement “I learned something new.”

• SSA Comments

  “I will think twice about giving a summons or arresting a kid.”

  “I wish that more of our training was about this kind of information.”
Training
Promising Legislation/Policy Change

• Oakland, CA
  – Investment in restorative justice coordinators

• Colorado
  – Expansive state legislation
    • School resource officer training
    • School staff training on restorative practices/mediation

• Louisiana
  – State legislation mandating continuing training on mediation/restorative practices

The Writing On the Wall For New York

Coupled with requiring data reporting on the use of positive alternatives to zero tolerance discipline, we need to require/support training on positive student development for ALL people in schools.