

# South Dakota's Juvenile Justice System

# South Dakota: Pre-Reform

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest **commitment rate** for juveniles in nation
- Lack of **community resources**—particularly rural areas
- **Risk Levels** for juveniles on probation had decreased
- **Length of Stay** on probation had increased to almost 2 years
- 45 percent of juveniles **returned to custody** within 3 years of release
- 7 out of 10 **commitments** were for Probation Violations, Misdemeanor or Child in Need of Supervision (CHINS) cases

# Policy Changes

- Institutes mandatory **diversion** and incentives to counties.
- Expands diversion by providing **fiscal incentives** to counties.
- Creates Juvenile **Citation** Process for certain low-level offenses
- Develops an array of **proven interventions** for youth with justice system involvement.
- Referral for **services driven by Risks/Needs** Assessment
  - YLS/CMI-Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory
  - GAIN-SS (**G**lobal **A**ppraisal of **I**ndividual **N**eeds-**S**hort **S**creener identifies needs in each of the following areas: internalizing disorders, externalizing disorders, crime/violence, and substance use)
- Require **specific findings** by court to order more than 14 days of **detention**.

# Policy Changes

- **Narrows Commitment Criteria** for delinquency and CHINS offenses
- Narrows Commitment Criteria for Probation/Aftercare Violations
- Creates **Community Response Teams (CRTs)**.
- Institutes **performance based contracting** for providers.
- Provides **guidelines** for the duration of probation.
- Monitors **implementation and delivery** of treatment in rural areas.
- Evaluates strategies to improve outcomes for justice system involved **Native American children**.
- Use of **data to drive policy** decisions.