



JDAI NEWS

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Newsletter
May 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

The New DRAI is on the way	Pg. 1
Supervised Release Continuum	Pg. 2
Home Detention	Pg. 2
Evening / Day Reporting Centers	Pg. 2
Intensive Home Detention	Pg. 3
EM Best Practices	Pg. 3
Letter from a JDAI Coordinator	Pg. 4

Check out the DRAI Website for more information!

[DRAI WEBSITE](http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/latest-initiatives/detention-risk-assessment-instrument)

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For more information on the DRAI contact [Minnie Bishop](#), DRAI Statewide Coordinator 850-717-2709

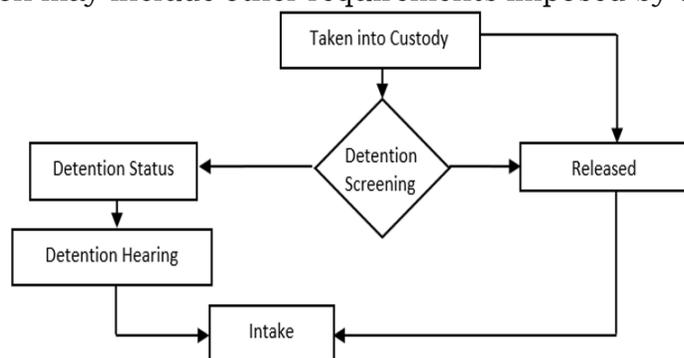
The New Detention Risk Assessment Instrument is on the Way!

We are fast approaching the highly anticipated roll-out of the new Florida Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) on July 1, 2019! DRAIs are used to determine the need and intensity of detention care at the point of arrest.

Effective in July, Florida Statute 985.03 (18) will define “Detention care” as the temporary care of a child in secure or supervised release detention, pending a court adjudication or disposition or execution of a court order. There are two types of detention care, as follows:

(a) “Secure detention” means temporary custody of the child while the child is under the physical restriction of a secure detention center or facility pending adjudication, disposition, or placement.

(b) “Supervised release detention” means temporary, non-secure custody of the child while the child is released to the custody of the parent, guardian, or custodian in a physically nonrestrictive environment under the supervision of the department staff pending adjudication or disposition, through programs that include, but are not limited to, electronic monitoring, day reporting centers, and non-secure shelters. Supervised release detention may include other requirements imposed by the court.



July of 2019 will be historic for the State of Florida’s Juvenile Justice System. Not only will we implement the most statistically advance RAI in the country, but we will be the first state to tie a continuum of community supervision options directly to the instrument’s scoring outcomes. This tool and corresponding supervision categories could not have been possible without the input and expertise of stakeholders from across Florida. We commend those efforts to bring our state’s pre-adjudicatory system into the 21st century.



JDAI NEWS

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Newsletter
May 2019

Supervised Release Continuum



While placement in secure detention may be necessary for some youth who pose a risk to public safety, it is not appropriate for all youth. Placement in secure detention has a lasting impact on youth that can affect their personal lives and their level of system involvement indefinitely. For youth who do not meet the specified criteria for secure detention, accountability and service implementation can be accomplished through community and family-based interventions.

The newly designed Supervised Release Continuum represents practices rooted in the most recent research and data integrity efforts. This collaborative effort within each circuit provides an effective continuum of community-based supervision programs designed to ensure youth remain arrest free and attend court hearings. The initial continuum of supervision consists of 4 categories:

1. Home Detention (HD)
2. Evening/Day Reporting Center (ERC/DRC) (in select circuits)
3. Intensive Home Detention (IHD)
4. Intensive Home Detention with Electronic Monitoring (IHD w/EM)

The Continuum is listed in order from least to most restrictive. The Department is committed to enhancing this continuum over time to implement effective practices that address the needs across the state. State and circuit-level outcomes will be shared publicly at least once a year.

Home Detention

Home Detention is our least restrictive mode of supervision designed to limit and monitor the freedom a youth has while remaining in the community. When a youth is placed on home detention, he/she is required to remain in the home with few exceptions such as school, appointments, and religious purposes, unless accompanied by their parent/ legal guardian. This pre-adjudicatory supervision status is set for a statutorily allowable 21-day period. During supervision, a juvenile probation officer or contract provider must make at least ONE random face to face contact per week including one weekend contact with youth placed on home detention status. These contacts are designed to “check-in” with youths and their families to identify any barriers to court appearances and in sustaining a crime-free status while ensuring the youth in compliant with the terms of home detention.

To learn more about Home Detention please contact [LaMone Gibson](#)

Evening/Day Reporting Centers (ERC/DRC)

Evening/Day Reporting Centers (ERC/DRC) refer to programs or community centers that provide structured programming which can include skill building, homework assistance, tutoring, vocational classes, and family engagement programs. Supervision requirements include restrictions on the youth’s whereabouts and participation in center activities on all days of scheduled programming. Programming days average between 3 to 6 days per week, as determined by the local center. With the exception of weekends, the youth are transported from school to the center, provided dinner, participate in the scheduled activities, and transported home at the culmination of the schedule each day.



To learn more about Evening/Day Reporting Centers please contact [Karin Popkowski](#).



JDAI NEWS

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Newsletter
May 2019

Intensive Home Detention (IHD)

Intensive Home Detention mirrors our Home Detention status with a higher number of face to face contacts by a juvenile probation officers and/or contracted providers. The youth supervised at this level must have at least THREE random face to face contacts per week including at least two weekend contacts within the 21-day period. Again, this intensified version of home detention has been created to allow youth to remain within the community and with their families, who are most invested in their success and provides strict supervision.

To learn more about Home Detention or Intensive Home Detention please contact [LaMone Gibson](#).

Electronic Monitoring (EM) Best Practices

Another placement type on the new Supervised Release Continuum is Intensive Home Detention with Electronic Monitoring (IHD w/EM). This category pairs the IHD requirements with the placement and proper maintenance of an electronic monitoring device (EM), which tracks youth movement via GPS for the statutorily allowable period.

Beginning July 1, 2019, youth that score into the higher end of the supervised release range will be placed into this supervision status as result of detention screening. Screeners at Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs) will install EM devices, activate the device in the EM system, set a initial schedule and home zone, and provide one-time grace period for travel to home. The continued supervision using an EM device will be determined at the youth's detention hearing.

Case-by-Case Considerations: There are some situations where an EM might not be appropriate or contraindicated.

- Youth under age 13.
- Any youth who are in a dependency placement or shelter outside of the county of arrest
- Youth who are placed in a community based residential facility
- Any youth who have previously been placed on EM that resulted in damaged equipment, cut straps, and/or numerous alerts.



It is important that the use of EM devices be partnered with human interaction. Research has shown that the use of the devices alone are not a deterrent from delinquent behavior. It is the mentorship or development of relationships that has the biggest impact of recidivism reductions. To learn more about Electronic Monitoring please contact [Ira Thomas](#).

Predictive Outcomes

State-level predictive outcomes indicate that 60% of youth screened should receive the same outcome on the current and new instruments, but 40% of screened youth should receive a different outcome with the use of the new instrument. The release category comparison provides a more detailed look at the difference between the current DRAI and the new DRAI. This analysis uses data from calendar year 2016.

Statewide Release Category Comparisons

Under the existing DRAI, all youth screened experienced the following outcomes:

- Release: 26% (n = 12,378)
- Supervised Release (Home Detention): 19% (n = 9203)
- Secure Detention: 55% (n = 26,912)

Using the new DRAI, all youth screened would have experienced the following outcomes:

- Release: 23% (n = 11,089)
- Supervised Release: 35% (n = 17,061)
- Secure Detention: 42% (n = 20,343)



JDAI NEWS

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Newsletter
May 2019

LETTER FROM A JDAI COORDINATOR

Dear Reader,

Our team has worked hard to improve the juvenile justice system in local jurisdictions and across the state. This year, the coordinators have been tasked to assist with implementing the new and improved Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) which is set to go into effect on July 1, 2019. DRAIs are designed to predict the likelihood a youth will fail to appear in court or commit a new offense within a short timeframe. Youth that score in the highest range are securely detained. Youth that score in the middle range are placed on a supervised release status. Youth that score in the lowest range are released without restrictions. After 25 years, Florida will implement the most statistically advanced DRAI in country.

Florida, in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has continually worked to improve detention policies and practices, including the identification and implementation of community-based alternatives for youth who do not pose a risk to public safety. JDAI Coordinators, in partnership with their site's collaborative, implemented pilot programs to test the theory that some youth currently being securely detained could be safely supervised in the community, remain crime free, and appear in court if the appropriate supervision and services were made available. The success of these pilot programs has and will continue to be shared with the entire state. These programs include, but are not limited to, Domestic Violence Respite Shelters, Intensive Home Detention, Evening/Day Reporting Centers (ERC), and Electronic Monitoring. The recidivism rates (receipt of new offense or failure to appear) for those placed into these programs with as an alternative to secure detention is less than 5%.

So, what's next? With the new DRAI comes a multitude of new data and tracking systems to assist the coordinators with digging even deeper into this work. We will be able to analyze and monitor trends that occur locally and across the state which will assist us in ensuring that youth are placed in the correct detention supervision status. Placing the right youth, in the right supervision, at the right time is essential to reducing the number of youth who may recidivate due to trauma experienced from being securely detained. Further, this data will provide coordinators an opportunity to expand and improve the initial supervised release continuum.

We are all very excited for this next step in juvenile justice reform and appreciate all of our stakeholders in the hard work they have put in. We will continue to push to improve all practices and policies, and of course, utilize data to drive it.

—A JDAI Coordinator