

Project R.I.S.E.

Cross-Systems Collaboration

Pine County, MN

The Team...



- **Reese Frederickson**, Pine County Attorney
- **Becky Foss**, Pine County Director of Health & Human Services
- **Terry Fawcett**, Pine County Director of Probation
- **Stefanie Youngberg**, East Central Schools High School Principal
- **Andy Almos**, East Central Schools Superintendent



Overview

Why?



The Solution



Implementing Change

“3 Generations On Probation”

Why this is a countywide problem:

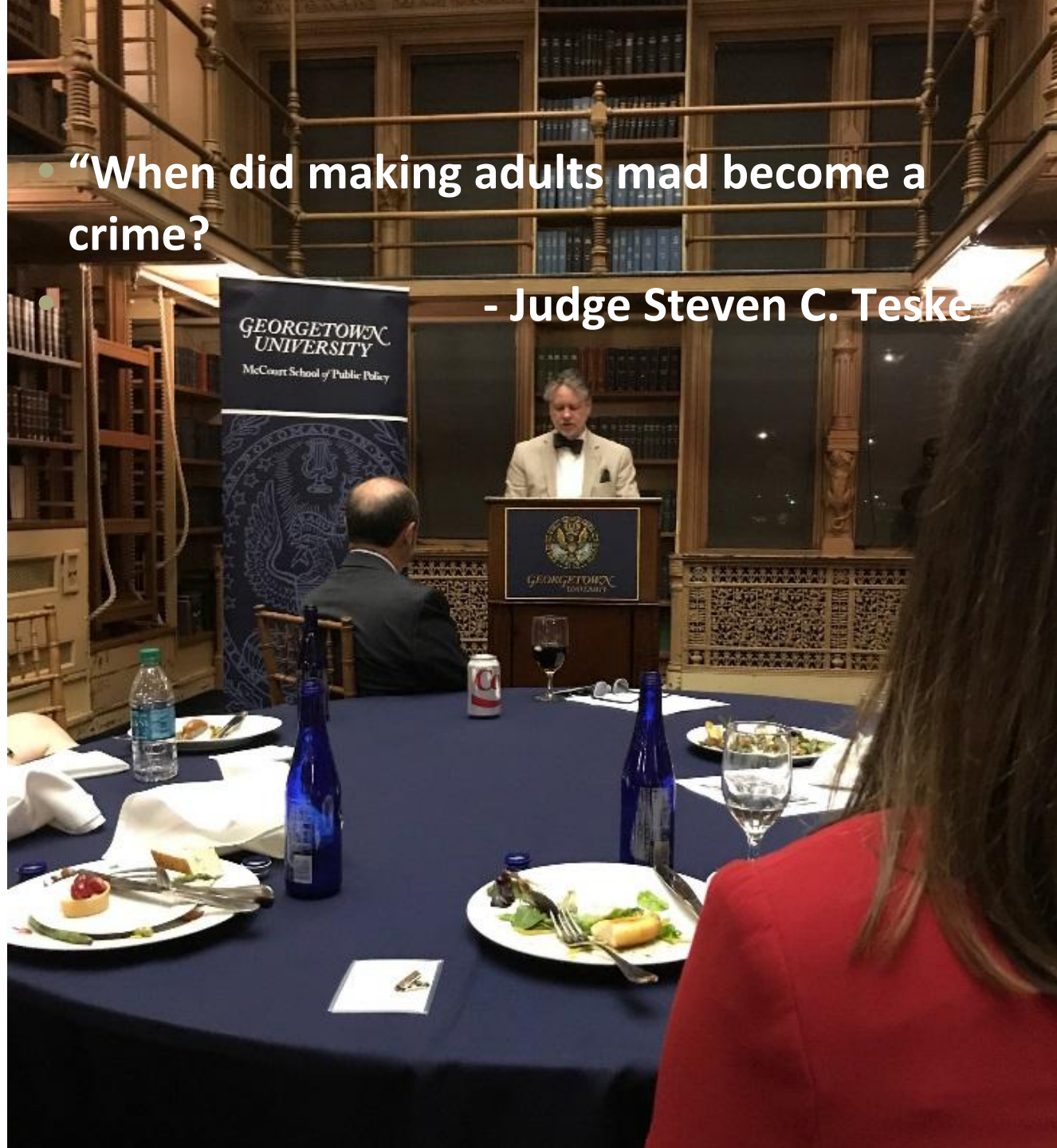
Skyrocketing out-of-home placement costs

Disproportionate representation (MLBO)

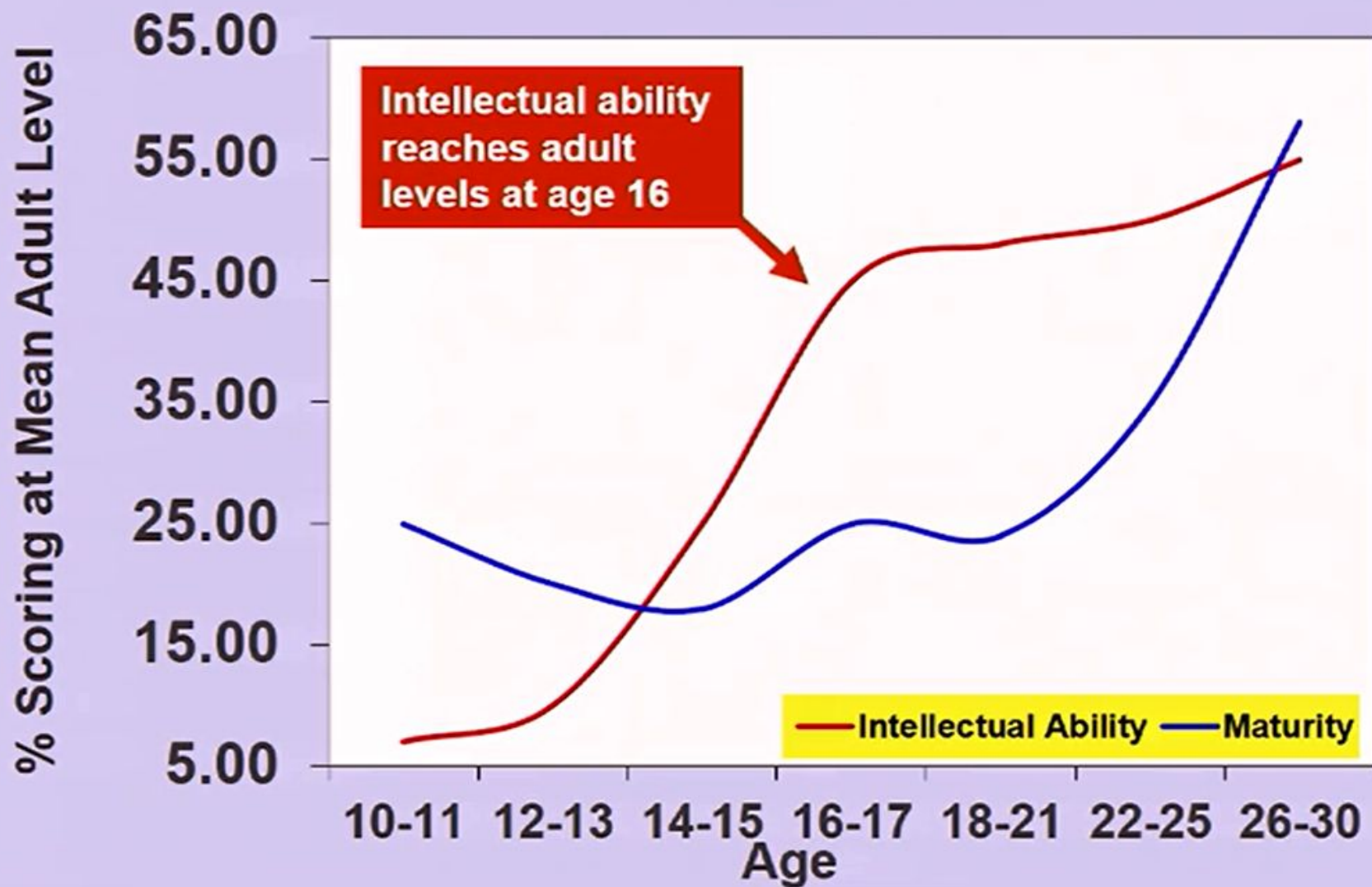
Truancy is a symptom

- “When did making adults mad become a crime?”

- Judge Steven C. Teske



The Immaturity Gap



'That needs to end'

County continues to struggle with juvenile justice issues

BY AILENE CROUP
NEWS@PINECITYMN.COM

Pine County officials, East Central Schools and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) have been working on ways to minimize the number of juveniles being processed through the county's juvenile justice system as well as dealing with truancy problems.

The Pine County Juvenile Justice Reform team of Reese Frederickson, Becky Foss, Terry Fawcett, Stefanie Youngberg and Andy Almos were selected to attend a School Justice Partnership course at Georgetown University.

They gave brief reports to Pine County Board at last week's regular meeting about their time at Georgetown University. Carla BigBear, representing the Mille Lacs Band, also attended the Georgetown course but was not at the board

THE SOLUTION.....



SCHOOL-JUSTICE PARTNERHIPS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

working across systems of care - georgetown university



Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

working across systems of care • Georgetown University



Government, Schools, Community partners

Office memo

YOUTH CULT

- How to effectively work with at-risk youth
- How to build relationships to
- How to motivate struggling youth to go to school

CULTURAL TRANS

- Restorative Practices
- Understanding My
- Relationship between & community
- My own "isms"
- How to help adults seeing people as people

DATA

- What the numbers indicate - does create the numbers
- Data regarding court involvement
- Disparities in incarceration

PROJECT R.I.S.E

Restorative Investment for Student Empowerment



Traditional System Shortcomings

Out-of-school suspension &
expulsion

School based citations

Truancy Court

Juvenile Detention

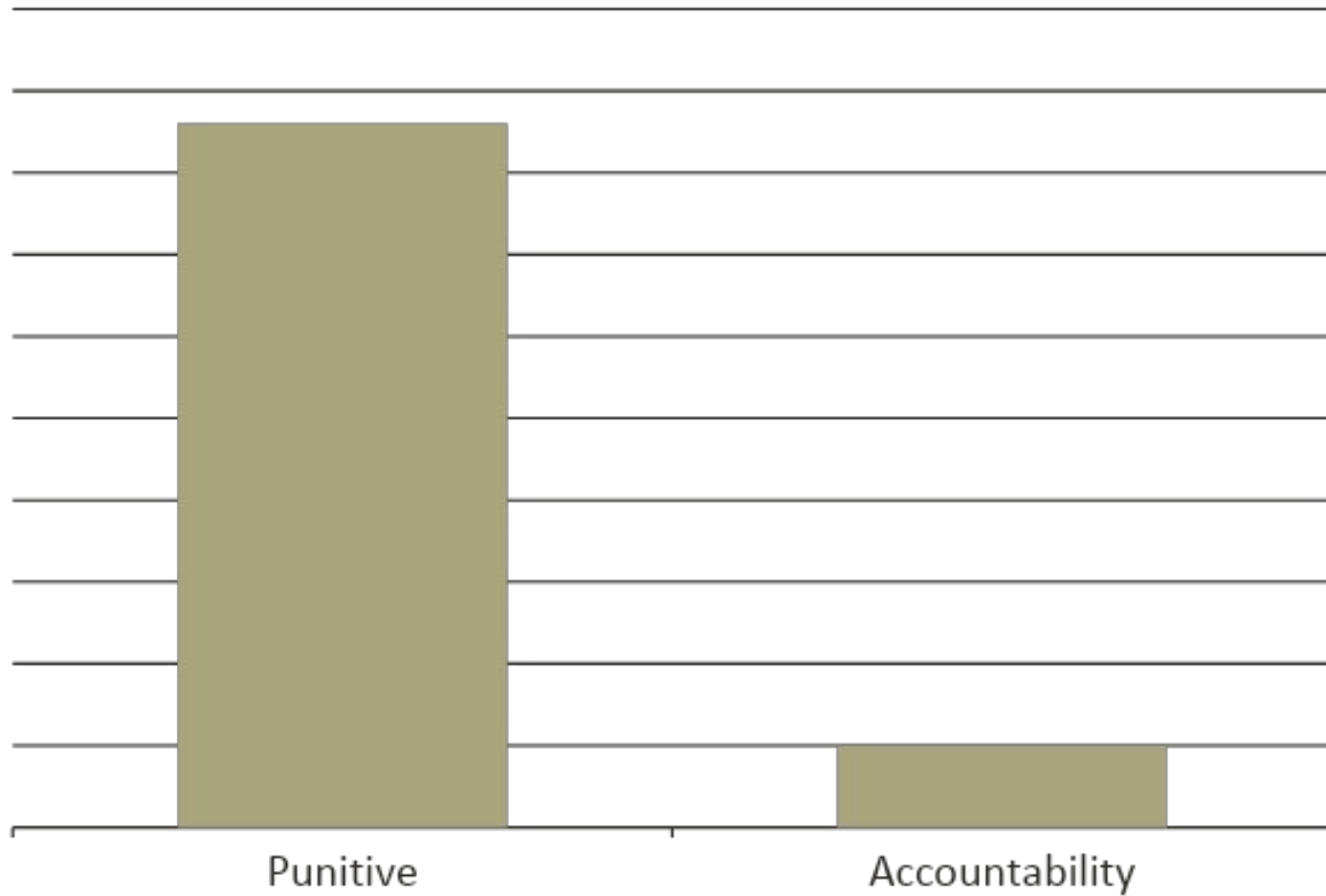
Stigma

Low self-esteem

No internalization

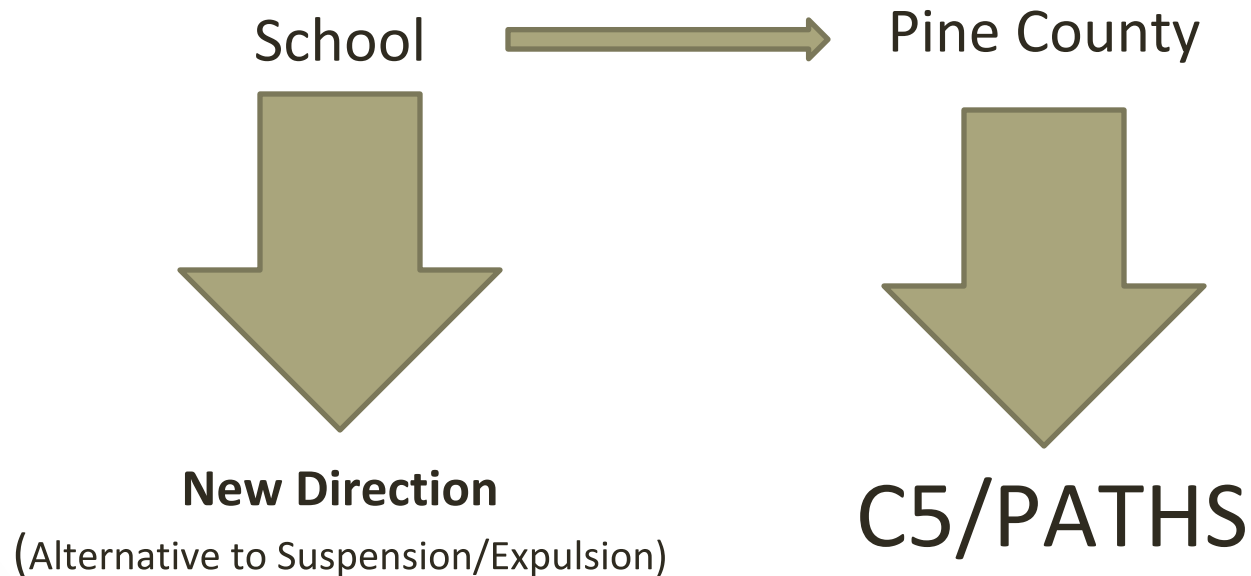
No connection with community

Shortcomings



What is Restorative Justice?

A process through which parties with a stake in a specific offense collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath of the offense and its implications for the future.



**When the
victim is
left out.**



Restorative Justice



**C5 – Community,
Collaboration, Culture, Change,
Choices**

PATHS

Prisoners As Teachers Helping Society





Mission Statement:

Utilize the wisdom and experience of currently incarcerated men who have positively altered their lives, to help at-risk youth overcome obstacles and change their lives.

Reasons why FCI-Sandstone inmates want to be involved with P.A.T.H.S.:

- To help youth look at the ripple effect of their behavior
- Use of spirituality to help someone look at their behavior
- To give back to their community
- To be a positive role model
- To use this opportunity as "part of my journey"
- To express my feelings
- Self-relating knowledge
- To look at the root of the problem
- To heal.
- To "unlock a key in their head."

THE TALKING CIRCLE PROCESS—PINE COUNTY

Participants gather in a circle and create norms that will help build trust in the space. Norms are written down on a poster board placed in the center of our Circle. A talking piece, an object of significance chosen by Circle members, is passed around inviting equal participation. Whoever holds the talking piece is invited to speak, while all others listen to and support the speaker.

The Circle Keeper facilitates the Talking Circle by selecting the time and place, inviting members and preparing introductory remarks. Once the group reviews its established norms, the Circle Keeper can read a short piece of text to set the tone or just dive into the first question or reflection. Although the Circle Keeper is the facilitator, he/she participates as an equal member of the group. Once students learn the process, they can be invited to be Circle Keepers—an empowering process.

Talking Circles provide a space for community to be involved in the decision making process.

Talking Circles are:

- Value driven
- Healing is the goal
- Process describes HOW the community feels
- Process includes WHY the offender committed the crime
- Develop strategies to address the crime
- Elements include willingness to change, community stake, support system

In a Minnesota study, respondents noted the stronger connectedness of people in the community as an important feature in this process.



Partnerships – Mille Lacs Band

- MLBO facilitators and elders
 - “There are few things more powerful than watching a Mille Lacs Band elder speaking Ojibwe to a Band juvenile during victim offender conferencing. The impact on that juvenile is significant.”
 - Terry Fawcett
- Culturally specific homework
 - “The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe has community values that are rooted in our history and in our culture. These values form the foundation of our lives and are predicated on our language.”
 - “Manaadendamowin (respect): respect others, their beliefs. Respect yourself. When you practice respect, respect will be given back to you.”

Community Coach

Mille Lacs Band will hire cultural coach to help at-risk youth

By KELLY SMITH
kelly.smith@startribune.com

Pine County and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe are teaming up to hire a new cultural community coach to work with American Indian youth.

The new contract position, one of the few of its kind in Minnesota, starts Jan. 1 and is funded with grants of \$25,000 each from the tribe and the county.

The coach, likely to be a tribal member, will work with boys and girls under age 18 who are in probation or restorative justice programs. The goal is to bridge gaps in the system by boosting support for kids through culturally sensitive program.

"We'd like to reinvest in children differently," Pine County probation director Terry Fawcett said. "If we just spend a little more time with the kid, they will have a better chance to

Juveniles on probation will get a probation officer, but the cultural community coach will also make sure kids and their families make it to court hearings and get connected to cultural activities, school activities and other positive outlets.

"It's another layer [of support]," said Katie Draper, director of government affairs for the Mille Lacs Band. She said the partnership points to a positive relationship between Pine County and the band, which has reservation land in both Mille Lacs and Pine counties. "They want to work together to help the future of our youth."

It's also part of broader juvenile justice reforms in Pine County that leaders hope will reduce truancy and recidivism rates, which are disproportionately high among Indian youth. Last year, 21 percent of the 71 juveniles on probation were Indian, although Indians only make up 3 per-

By doing more to reduce truancy rates, Fawcett said he hopes kids will be more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to end up in the corrections system and in foster care or an out-of-home placement.

"Truancy — that's the entry point to the system," he said. "It's a symptom of something larger going on."

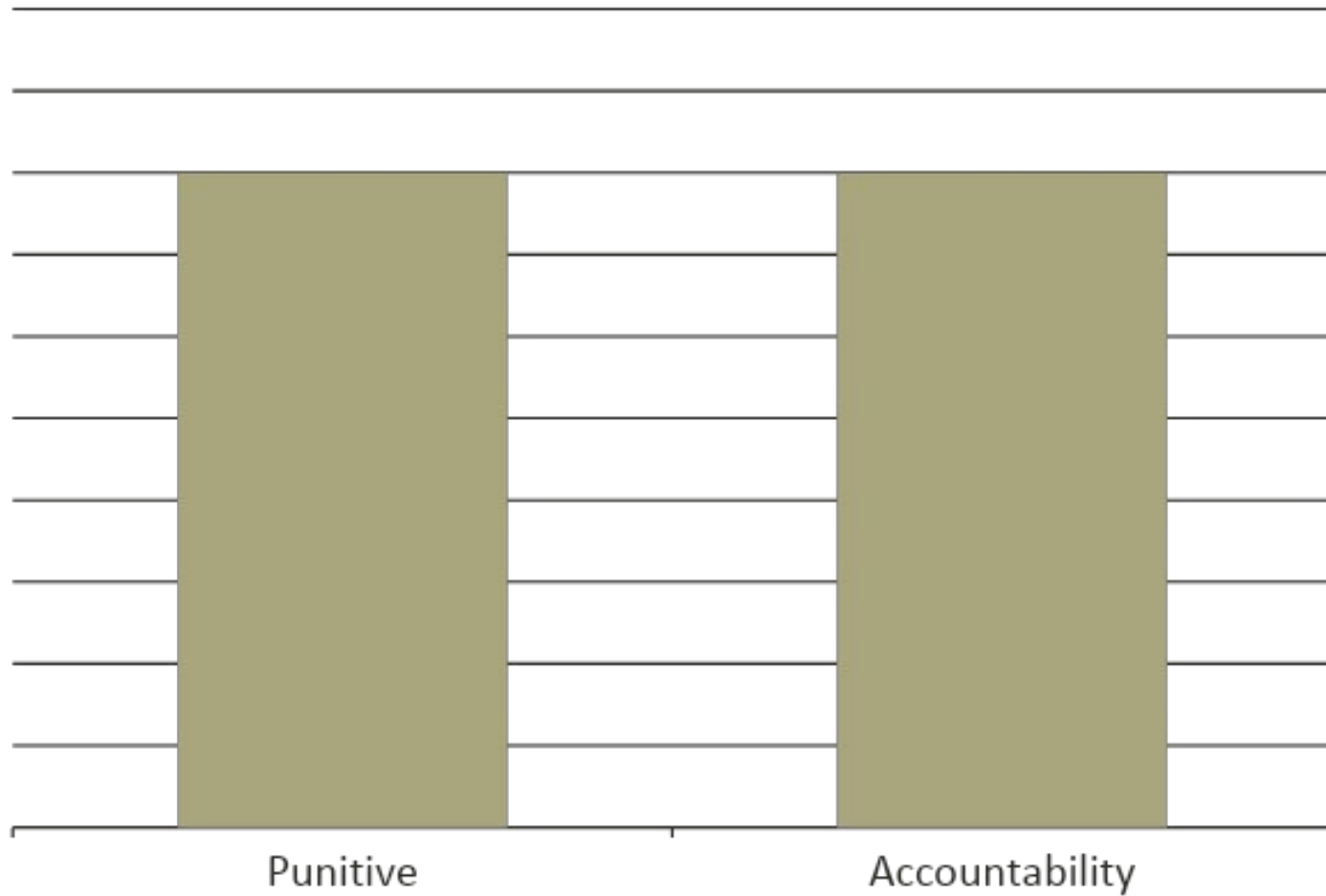
As of now, the new position is only funded for 2018, but Fawcett said the county hopes to continue it beyond then. He got the idea in his previous job in northern Minnesota, where an American Indian cultural community coach for youth on probation in Duluth made a difference, he said.

"There's sometimes mistrust in government officials with people of color, and for good reason," Fawcett said, adding that the coach could help address historical trauma. "We can try to break down those barriers."



Provided photo
The new position will bridge gaps for Indian youth in the justice system. It is funded with grants of \$25,000 each from Pine County and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

This isn't "Hug-a-Thug"!



Truancy Court in the schools



Tiered Truancy Matrix

East Central Schools Attendance Matrix



East Central Schools Attendance Matrix



Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Grade: _____ Staff Person Referring: _____

Student Factors:

- 504 Plan
 - Medical
 - Mental Health
 - other
- SPED services

Attached Documentation:

- Current attendance report
- Behavior report
- Loss of credit letter
- Copy of attendance letters sent
- Emergency contact information
- Aces/SAEBR

Tier One Interventions:

- [Educational Experiences \(All Students\)](#)
 - SEL Curriculum
 - Lessons focused on school attendance
 - School Wide Initiatives to promote attendance
 - _____
- Phone calls - teachers, attendance clerk, counselor, principal, other.
- Text messages
- Nudge Letter
 - Student
 - Parent
- [Positive Improvement Letter](#)
- Student meeting/reminders from attendance clerk
- Student meeting with principal/counselor
- Incentives in place
- Possible referral to co-located child protection worker

Interventions Documented:

Tier Two Interventions:

- Continuing Truant Letter sent home (3 unexcused)
- Home Visit
- School Check and Connect Scheduled
- Student Support Team Referral
- Parent meeting counselor
- Attendance contract drafted
- Possible referral to co-located child protection worker
- Truancy team meeting

Intervention Documented:

Tier Three Interventions:

- Habitual Truant Letter sent home (7 unexcused)
- Home visit with school and county team
- START meeting
 - Grades 4 through 8
 - School, parents, County attorney, DHS, other support workers as identified
- Parent meeting principal
 - Review interventions
 - Review attendance contract
 - Review next steps
- Possible referral to co-located child protection worker

Interventions Documented:

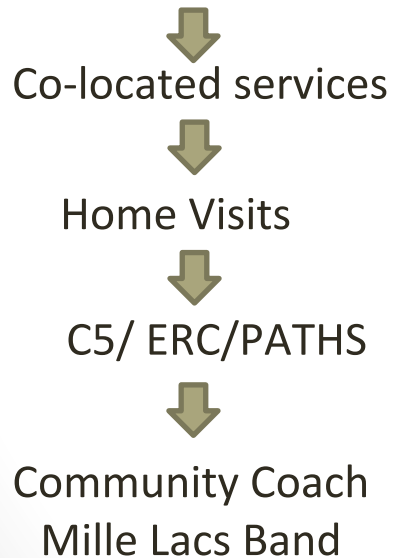
Implementing Change



Tying it together: Project R.I.S.E.



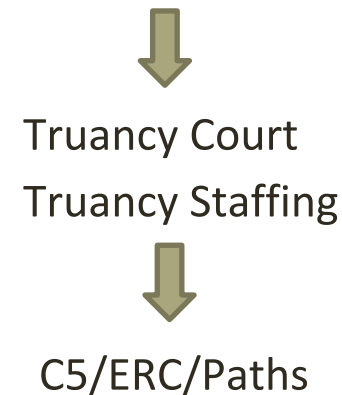
Probation



Health & Human Services



County Attorney



Leaders that think differently....



Questions?

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