

TNOYS

TEXAS NETWORK OF
YOUTH SERVICES

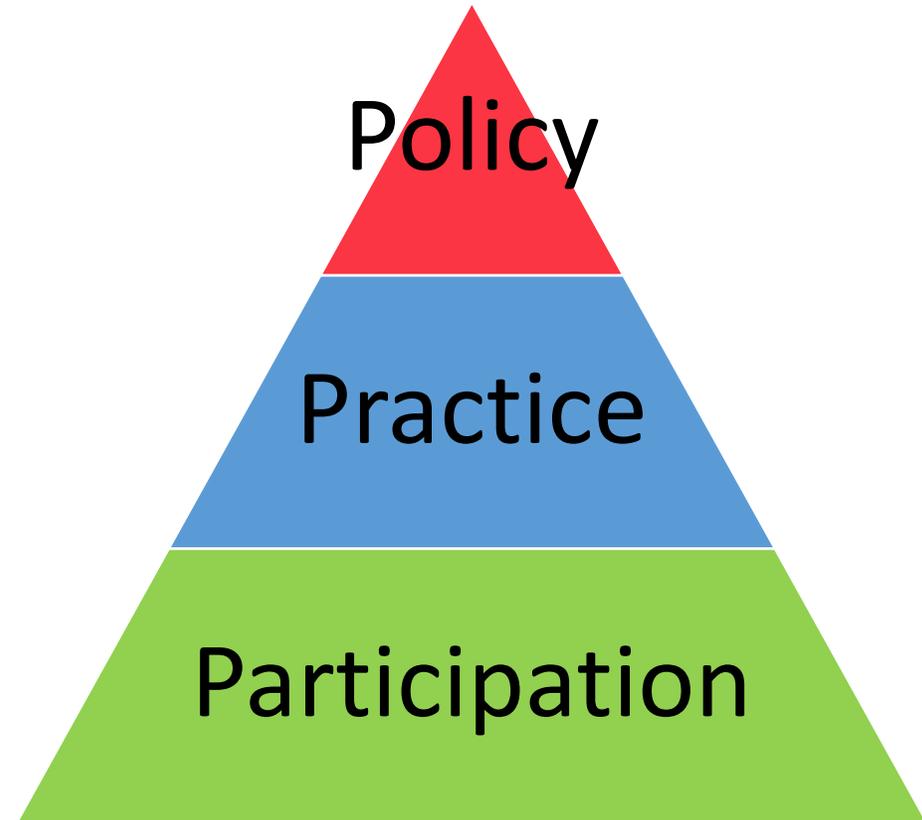
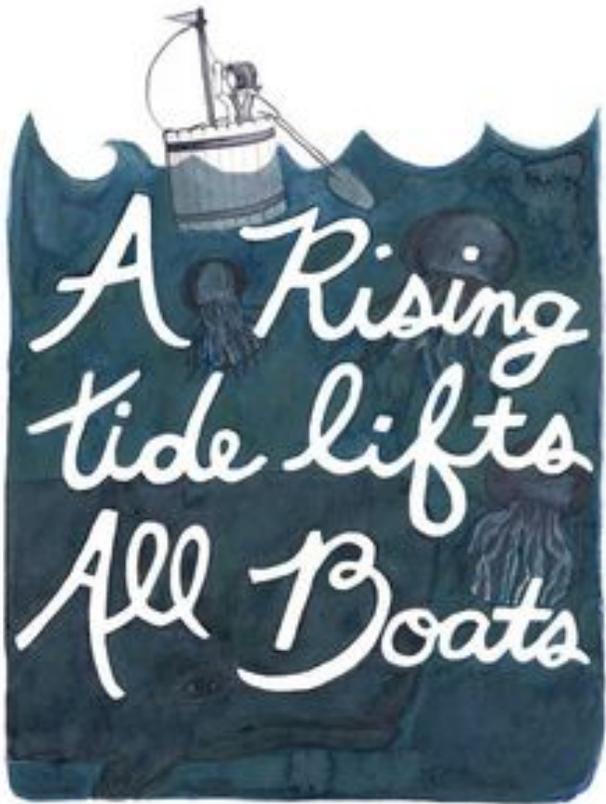
**Reduction of Seclusion and Restraint
Environmental Scan Release Event
December 15, 2017**

The mission of TNOYS is to strengthen, support, and protect critical services for Texas youth and their families in order to ensure their success.

THEIR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS.



TNOYS Approach



Seclusion and Restraint Reduction and the Leadership Group

- Situations warranting appropriate use of S/R are very limited but S/R is used regularly as punishment and to control behavior across systems.
- Inappropriate use of S/R practices traumatizes clients and staff and also has financial consequences.
- The Hogg Foundation launched the interdisciplinary, cross-systems SRR Leadership Group in 2007. TNOYS has facilitated the group since 2013.



SRR Environmental Scan



Scan Methodology

- Public Education
- Child Welfare
- Juvenile Justice
- Criminal Justice
- Mental Health
- Services for People with Disabilities
- Services for the Aging
- Focus Groups
- Informational Interviews
- Literature Review
- Analysis of Media Coverage
- Analysis of Legislation
- Meeting Facilitation



Findings: Public Education

- We received overwhelming feedback that work needs to be done in this area, perhaps more here than in any other system.
- Rules governing restraint are still in the discipline section of the Education Code rather than the safety section.
- Trauma Informed Care may not resonate with school personnel.
- Law enforcement has a strong presence in many schools.
- Students of color and students who have disabilities are disproportionately impacted.

Findings: Child Welfare

- There is substantial investment in Trauma Informed Care in this arena.
- The success of some providers at reducing use of seclusion and restraint demonstrates that moving beyond seclusion and restraint in child welfare settings is possible.
- Because the child welfare field is farther along than some systems, there are a number of issues to address regarding application.
- Major transitions in the child welfare system need monitoring in regard to what they mean for seclusion and restraint.



Findings: Juvenile Justice

- We received mixed feedback regarding S/R in juvenile justice facilities.
- Safety of many is often prioritized over rights of a few.
- SB 325 made improvements but has not been fully implemented.
- There was consensus that TJJD has developed some great programs but concern that those programs only benefit a few.
- TJJD leadership has consistently not bought into reducing S/R.
- The role of the ombudsman has been critical but is limited.
- Commitment and practices across county programs varies.

Findings: Criminal Justice

- Increased scrutiny of law enforcement is bringing more attention to issues related to use of force and crisis intervention.
- There are major concerns about inappropriate use of S/R in county jails. Jails are subject to little oversight or regulation in area of S/R.
- Major improvements to reduce use of seclusion have been made in state prisons. This includes both solitary confinement and administrative segregation.
- More work is needed to reduce segregation of juveniles involved in the adult criminal justice system.



Findings: Mental Health

- State hospitals have made some investment in reducing use of SR practices, including by creating cultures that are trauma informed and in which behaviors are less likely to escalate.
- There is still room for improvement, however, and investment is not consistent across all hospital settings.
- Chemical restraint is a major issue.
- State hospitals collect rich data on S/R and this could be a model.
- There is less transparency and accountability for private hospitals.

Findings: Services for People with Disabilities

- People who have disabilities receive services in many different settings, making it hard to provide consistent Trauma Informed Care.
- People with disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse and trauma.
- More training is needed to promote understanding of people who have disabilities.
- People with disabilities need training on coping and life skills.
- Restraint is permitted for safety in SSLCs but not to manage behavior.
- SSLCs are ahead in some areas but are behind in others.



Findings: Services for the Aging

- Improvements have been made in recent years to reduce use of S/R and improve quality of care
 - QIPP to recognize nursing homes that do very well
 - Music and Memory program in 400 nursing homes
 - Relatively strong data collection and transparency
- There are still major challenges in the area of chemical restraint
- There are protections for informed consent but little recourse.

Overarching Findings

- There have been major policy improvements in many areas but effective policy implementation is very challenging.
- Increased data collection, data analysis, and transparency is needed.
- Training for direct care staff is a major issue, compounded by turnover, tight budgets, etc.
- Cross-system collaboration is critical to this work.
- There may be the most work to do in rural areas, especially for systems that are operated at the county level.



Overarching Findings

- The Hogg Foundation's leadership has been instrumental.
- Consensus that more work needs to be done to reduce use of S/R practices but zero use is not a reasonable goal.
- There are critical players in this work who have not historically been participants in the Leadership Group but who are interested.
- An entity such as the Leadership Group is needed to help identify opportunities for shared learning and collaboration.

Overarching Recommendations

- There must be a high level of commitment to protecting human rights at all levels of state government.
- There needs to be more communication about the importance of understanding trauma for managing behavior.
- Invest in state systems. They require adequate funding in order to hire quality staff, train staff appropriately, and monitor safety and quality.
- Training is needed for those working in all systems. Most people do not like using S/R, but they want to be able to feel safe at work.
- Buy-in of leadership is critical.

Recommendations

- Support a continued forum to bring people together to collaborate on reduction of S/R.
 - Strengthen data collection, data analysis, and transparency regarding use of S/R practices in all systems.
 - Further work is needed regarding state laws and standards but special attention should be paid to policy implementation.
 - Utilize a strengths-based and constructive approach



Thank's
You



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

www.tnoys.org/subscribe/