

Cause and Effect Matrix: Prioritization of Root Causes Delinquency Prevention Think Tank

Problem Statement: We need to provide more early intervention/prevention opportunities that foster healthy development of all youth OR the best possible outcomes for all youth. This is exacerbated by a lack of connection among these - families, schools, community and formal systems - responsible for the care and development of our youth.

Lack of early intervention: Failure to intervene at the times identified as high risk for the development of delinquent behaviors. Lack of sex education (to prevent early pregnancies) and the lack of adequate prenatal care. Training professionals to identify behaviors at school and how to respond; failure to take action at the first sign of problems and intervening when we know we can do good (early disruptive behaviors, children on welfare, risk factors within the homes)

Disconnect among those who come into contact with children: Service providers/schools/churches/parents/caregivers are disconnected or unintentionally against each others plans for the kids (coming from different paradigms, different approaches) This disconnect is the result of time restraints, lack of money and other resources, retaliation, narcissism, technology, confidentiality restraints (providers are unable to share information) lack of information on parents, lack of communication

Poverty: Children growing up in the culture of poverty (where families have low expectations about their ability to change their life circumstances) and actually being poor (families focused on basic needs of food, shelter and clothing)

Failure to use best practices: Failure to rely on the practices that have been proven to have a positive impact to guide our actions (best practice), old thinking model of therapist sitting in the office waiting for the family to not show up instead of more successful homebased visits, multifunctional family therapy. No good application of research into practice