



Best Practices for Reentry



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Sarah Billings, MSW, LSW, is the Director of Community Strategies at the National Network for Youth. A first-generation college student, she graduated from Millersville University of Pennsylvania with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in social work. With over 14 years of experience, she has developed innovative initiatives in housing, youth development, and family services across county government, education, and nonprofits. Notable programs she has initiated include landlord risk mitigation and mentoring for youth affected by gun violence, reflecting her commitment to practical solutions. Employing trauma-sensitive and human-centered design approaches, Sarah harnesses the science of human behavior to create impactful transformations where we live, learn, and work.

Trev Losch (he/his)
Youth Advocate
Bench Mark Program

Trev Losch is a student leader at the Bench Mark Program in Lancaster, PA. He is a ninth grade student at a cyber school. Trev loves listening to music—especially rap and hip and hop. He also loves Texas Roadhouse. He started at the Bench Mark Program in March of 2023. He has lived expertise in juvenile justice, probation, and the child welfare system. He is currently working toward finishing school, building his savings, starting a career path, and enjoying being a teenager.



Today's Agenda

NN4Y Overview

Developing A Reentry Program

Q & A



Our Mission

National Network for Youth is on a mission to transform systems so that no young person in America experiences homelessness.



Public Education and Policy Advocacy



National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC)



Training and Technical Assistance

NN4Y's work utilizes the concept of collective impact and design thinking



What is Collective Impact?

“While a collaboration often implies only a two-way street, collective impact has been described as ‘building on the muscle of collaboration’ to create an entire community that is intentional about its approach to solving a problem or multiple problems – together.”

~National Council of Nonprofits

LOCAL CROSS-SYSTEM COLLABORATIVES (LCSC)

In 2019, NN4Y launched our Local Cross-System Collaboration initiative to support communities' efforts to address the root causes of homelessness among young people by advancing innovative, long-term solutions through multi-pronged and multi-level collaborative community work.



CENTERING YOUTH

Youth Advisory Boards (YABs) create an important bridge between formerly homeless young people and policymakers, service providers and community officials throughout the county. Youth Advisors collaborate with one another to identify practices and perspectives that help young people overcome homelessness. Moreover, they advocate to policymakers for solutions to youth and young adult homelessness.

What We Provide to Our LCSC Communities

- Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Investment of \$5,000
- Best practice training for providers and leaders
- Training, skill-building, & coaching for YABs
- Hands-on professional development opportunities for YAB members
- Technical Assistance: this includes strategies to increase funding, program design, organizational development, etc.
- Policy & Advocacy Coaching
- Community-Wide Strategic Planning

Can Reentry Planning Prevent Homelessness?

Youth experiencing homelessness have disproportionate levels of contact with juvenile justice systems

57% of the youth who experience homelessness are estimated to have prior records of foster care, juvenile justice involvement, or both

(The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)

Can Reentry Planning Prevent Homelessness?

Specifically, an estimated **46%** of youth who have experienced homelessness have been held in juvenile detention centers at some point

This is compared to 15% of youth in the general population

(Center for Coordinated Assistance to States and the American Institutes for Research)

Bench Mark Program

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Founded in 2014 to transform the way we serve our community's most vulnerable, yet promising population: underserved youth.

Started with one program: Open Gym

Initial Concept: use weightlifting as a way to create positive mentoring relationships with youth

<https://www.benchmarkprogram.org/>

Bench Mark Program Growth

2018-19: Began specializing in leadership and juvenile justice

Today: Grown to over 7 fully-operating programs, with 3 additional programs in development



Wrap Around Service Model For Young Men and Women

Intervention

Prevention

Sustaining

Partner Agencies: Lancaster County Dept. of Juvenile Probation, Children and Youth Agency, School District of Lancaster, Lancaster County Youth Intervention Center, PCCD, PACTT, OVR, JCJC, Columbia High School, Central PA Food Bank, Advoz, Millersville University, Ware Institute at Franklin and Marshall College, and Elizabethtown College



Donors +
School
Contract

Pre-Disposition
Program
Est. 2022
\$317K

Initial PCCD
funding, now
County Contract,
PACTT, and OVR

Strength-Based
Skill Building
Program (SBSB)
Est. 2018
\$182K

County Contract,
PCCD, PACTT,
and OVR

Open
Gym
Est. 2014
\$413K

Donors

School Based
Branch Site
Programs
Est. 2019
\$5K

Donors + Multiple small
School Contracts

Student
Leadership
Program and
Youth Justice
Advisory Board
(employment)
Est. 2019
\$84K

Donors,
NAP/SPP, and
PCCD

*In-House
Social
Enterprise*

PACTT

Potential
Housing
Program

**Infographic color
guide:**
Blue - Program currently
operational
Green - New program,
currently operational
Yellow - Potential
program not currently
operational

Potential
Hospital- Based
Violence
Intervention
Program

PCCD and
LGH/Penn
Medicine

2020

**BENCH
MARK**

Mentoring
Program in
Youth
Intervention
Center
Est. 2015
\$5K

Strength-Based
Skill Building
Program (SBSB)
Est. 2018
\$182K

Open
Gym
Est. 2014
\$413K

Student
Leadership
Program

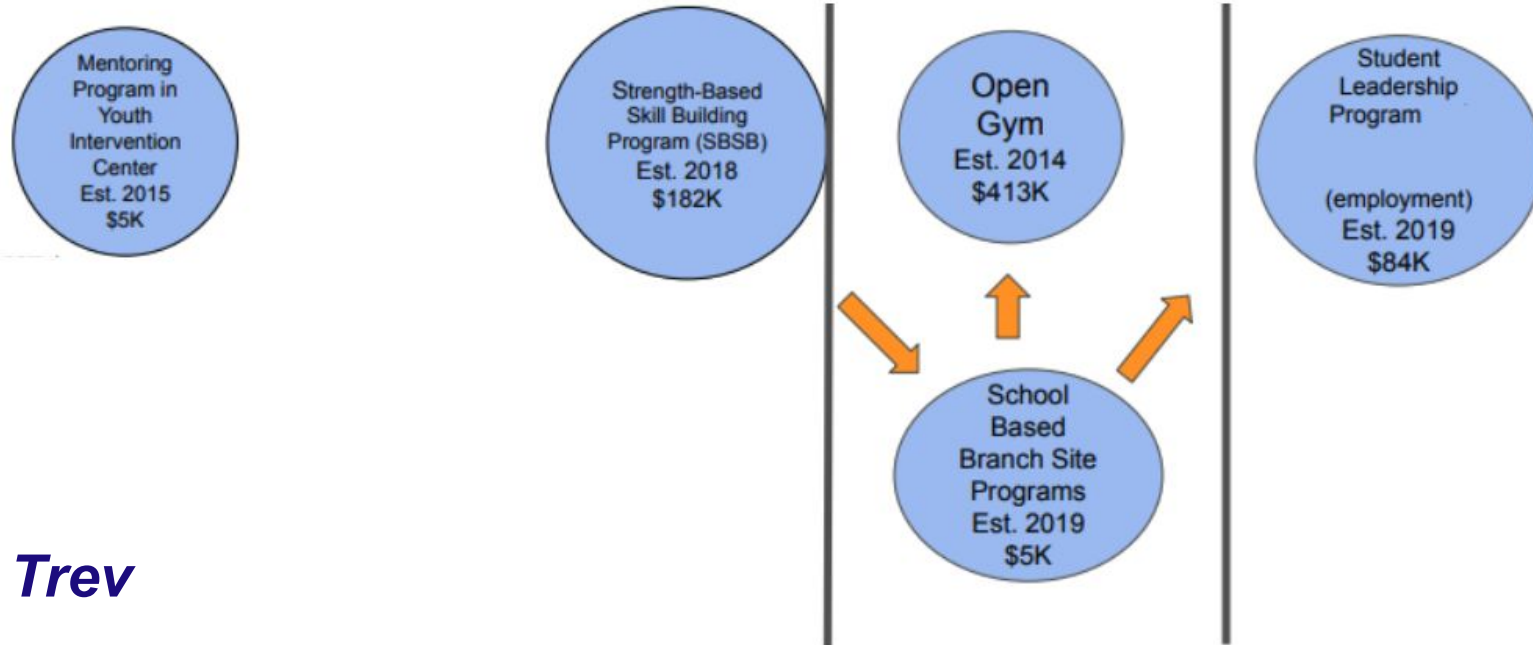
(employment)
Est. 2019
\$84K

School
Based
Branch Site
Programs
Est. 2019
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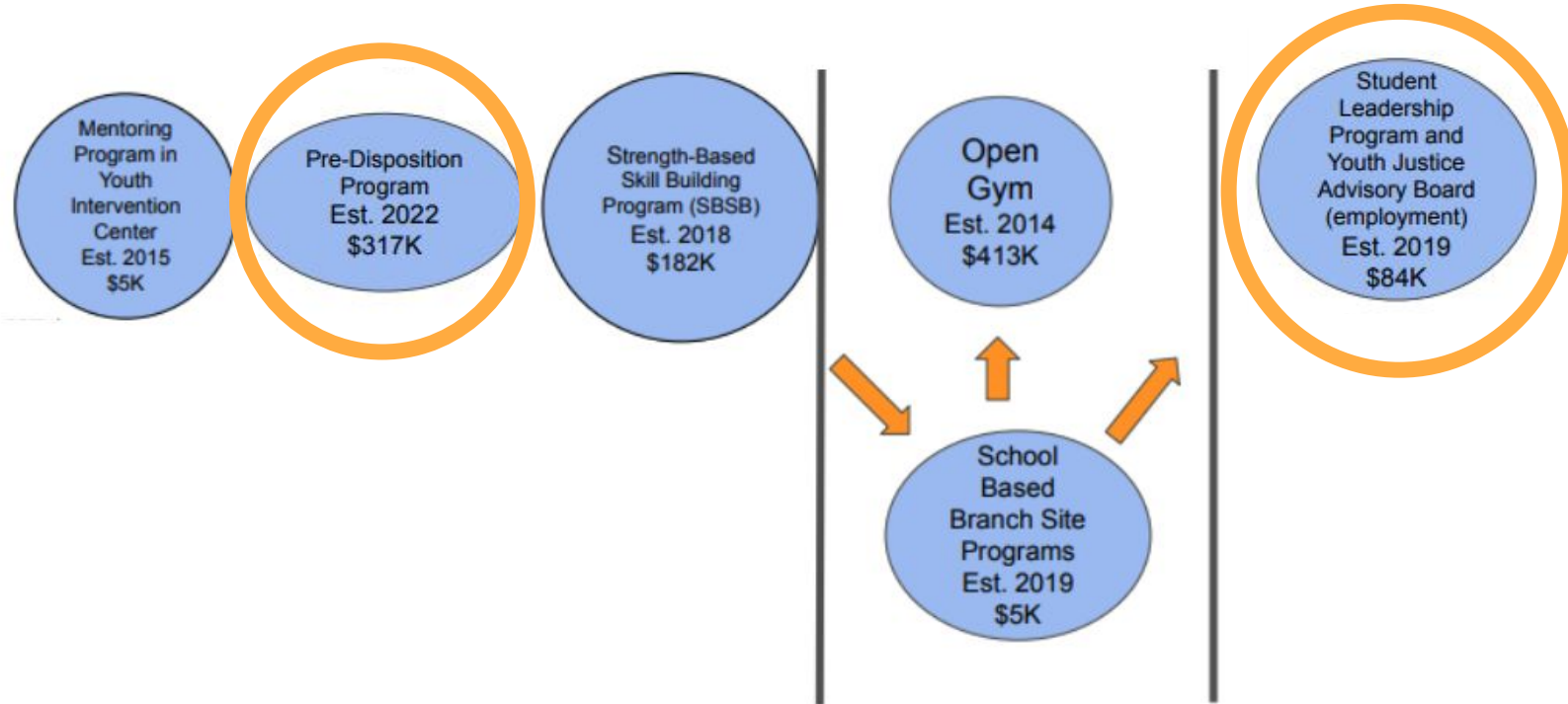


2021-2022



2022

BENCH
MARK



Bench Mark's Predisposition Program

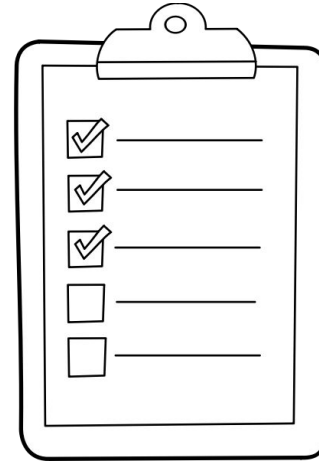
Goal: The goal of this program is to reduce the risk of recidivism and the perpetuation of violence. This program seeks to allow Lancaster County to confidently release juveniles from detention more quickly by providing two-levels of support: both case management and mentorship.

Bench Mark's Predisposition Program

Length of Service: Participants will be enrolled in the program for the duration of their predisposition (estimated range of 2-4 months); participants will be automatically accepted into Strengths-Based Skill-Building Program (SBSB).

Bench Mark's Predisposition Program

Program Details: All participants will be dual-enrolled in both support services of the program: Case Management and Mentorship.



Bench Mark's Predisposition Program

Case Management: The Bench Mark Case Manager is specialized in supporting youth involved in and impacted by violence. The case manager will help youth navigate their juvenile justice and academic obligations and broker connections to supportive community-based resources.

One such service the case manager will broker and manage will be Bench Mark Mentorship. Collaborating with the participant, the Case Manager will pair mentors with participants based on an assessment of shared interests and strengths.

Bench Mark's Predisposition Program

Mentoring: Mentors and participants will connect in person at a minimum of two 45-minute sessions per week, in addition to communicating 3-4 times per week via phone.

Bench Mark's Predisposition Program

Needs Assessment & Service Planning: Developed collaboratively with the mentor, participant, and case manager

Bench Mark's Predisposition Program

Mentor Component: The mentor and participant take responsibility for:

- Youth identified outreach strategies
- Schedule of mentor/participant check-ins
- Customized interest-based programming

Bench Mark's Predisposition Program

Interest-Based Programming: While getting to know the participant, the Program Lead and Mentor will identify any of the participant's interests and strengths and build opportunities for the mentor to spend time with the participant while gaining experiences related to ***their*** interests.

Bench Mark's Predisposition Program

CM Component: The case manager and participant share responsibility for:

- Probation requirements and conditions
- “Life administration” (getting an ID, locating birth certificate, etc)
- Identified goals in areas of academic, occupational, financial, legal, physical, mental health, housing



Wrap Around Service Model For Young Men and Women

Intervention



Donors +
School
Contract



Initial PCCD
funding, now
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County Contract,
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Prevention



School Contract



Donors



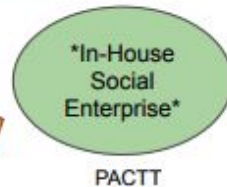
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Donors,
NAP/SPP, and
PCCD



PACTT



Infographic color guide:
Blue - Program currently operational
Green - New program, currently operational
Yellow - Potential program not currently operational

Bench Mark Program In the News

WGAL 8 In Focus: Preventing gun violence

<https://www.wgal.com/article/wgal-in-focus-preventing-gun-violence/39690741>

'They have the work ethic': Lancaster city nonprofit gives at-risk youth support, tools to succeed

https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/they-have-the-work-ethic-lancaster-city-nonprofit-gives-at-risk-youth-support-tools-to/article_7b346536-6e9c-11ee-8bde-1b389f925966.html

Trev's Take

First, an important question for the audience...

Trev's Take

What's the difference between now and a year ago?

What is it that made the experience at Bench Mark different for you?

What would you change about the systems you experienced?

Is there anything else you'd want to share?



Thank You!

NATIONAL NETWORK
 for **YOUTH**

