



Adolescent Developmental Approach

Hallmark 2: Alternatives to Justice System Involvement Checklist

Goal of This Checklist

To help service providers determine whether they are on track with adopting each hallmark of the Developmental Approach, which strives to focus on helping youth avoid formal legal involvement unless necessary to ensure accountability or protect public safety. This initiative includes striving to keep youth in their communities and providing the services and interventions needed to support prosocial development of adolescents.

Brief Overview

- The juvenile justice system should follow the “first, do no harm” approach.
- Research has indicated that youth with low-level offenses have higher rates of recidivism when formally processed in the juvenile justice system.
- Providing treatment for youth who commit low level offenses is more effective.
- More interventions are being developed to improve decision making, as well as address health and mental health needs of adolescents.
- Interventions focused on preventing reoffending are more effective when services are provided with minimal penetration into the system, as long as accountability is also achieved.
- Community-based programs are more likely to facilitate healthy development and reduce recidivism than secure confinement.
- Interventions should provide positive influences and strengthen available family relationships and supports.
- Adolescents suspected of less serious offending should be diverted to parental supervision or other community resources rather than the juvenile justice system.

Have you done the following things as part of Hallmark 2?	Yes	No
1. Considered how to divert youth who committed low-level offenses from the juvenile justice system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Considered balanced and restorative justice practices?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial restitution <input type="checkbox"/> Community service <input type="checkbox"/> Explore processes of acknowledging the ramifications of behavior		

Have you done the following things as part of Hallmark 2?	Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage the youth to apologize (written or verbal) <input type="checkbox"/> Victim–offender mediation and dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> Victim or community impact panels <input type="checkbox"/> Community or neighborhood impact statements <input type="checkbox"/> Victim empathy groups or classes <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services to victim <input type="checkbox"/> Peacemaking services <input type="checkbox"/> Family group conferencing		
3. Considered developing school–police partnerships to reduce the number of adolescents referred to the court from schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Considered both pre-petition and post-petition diversion programs (i.e., provided opportunities for diversion prior to and after a petition to the youth court has been filed)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Considered how the youth can repair the harm to the victim (e.g., restitution, victim–offender mediation, community service, etc.) in lieu of incarceration?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Used risk- and needs-assessment tools to assess and determine appropriate community-based placements in lieu of confinement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe how you have used elements of Hallmark 2 in your provision of services.

Follow-Up Questions

What challenges have you experienced?

Would you like training or technical assistance (TTA) in any of these areas? If so, please indicate the desired TTA area.

Legal Parameters of Hallmark 2: Alternatives to Justice System Involvement

- Specifying in the statute the process by which youth are diverted to community-based or school-based programs for positive youth development. How are youth selected for diversion programming? What are the stated indicators of successful participation?
- How will diversion programming and recidivism data be collected, analyzed, and integrated into policies and procedures to improve diversion programming?