

New Jersey Municipal Planning Boards: A Data Driven Response to Juvenile Delinquency

New Jersey Office of Attorney General
Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, Rutgers University
Monmouth County Prosecutors Office
Janus Solutions

**The Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Summit
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Juvenile Delinquency Prevention: A Multi-level Collaboration

- Guiding Principles
 - Community empowerment through municipal planning bodies
 - Solutions oriented use of data
 - Integration of data driven prevention strategies into existing organizations and service providers
 - Added value to initiatives currently underway
 - Connect various partnerships and efforts to maximize impact

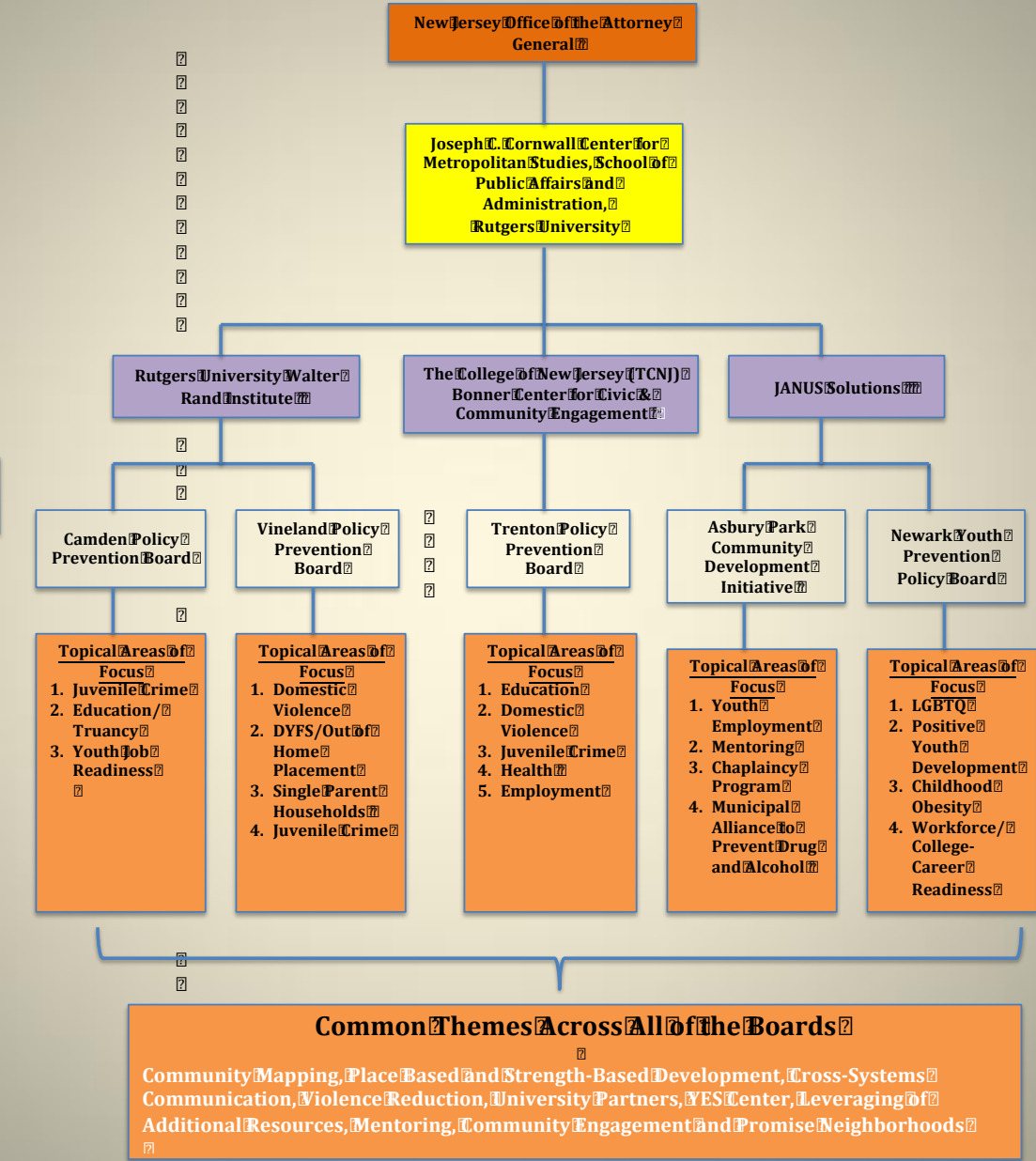
Benefits of a Collaborative Approach

- An organizational structure to “connect the dots”
 - Broader understanding of risk and protective factors
 - Identification and mapping of resources and crime within the municipalities
 - Integration of resources into broad safety net of prevention for children and families
 - Coordinated efforts allow for endless opportunities to partner

The Community Assessment Process

1. The creation or identification of a planning group to guide and complete the assessment
2. Assessment of a community through evaluation of existing risk factors, protective factors, and gaps therein
3. Identification of problem areas (including crime) and solution strategies
4. Implementation of solution strategies
5. Determination of efficacy of solutions in solving identified problems

Municipal Planning Board Prevention System Construct



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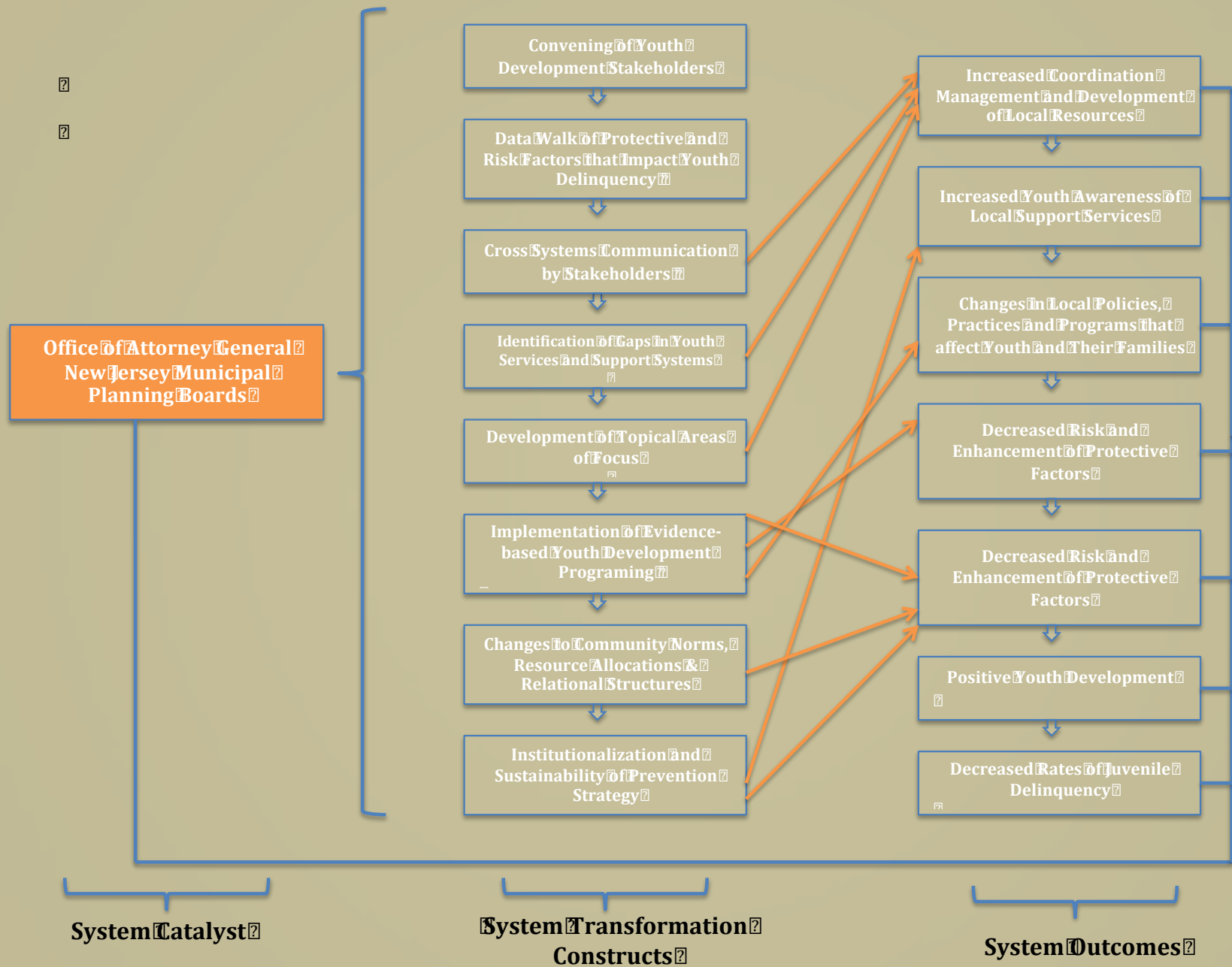


Figure 1. Theoretical Model of Municipal Planning Boards' System Transformation

Planning Board Organizational Structure

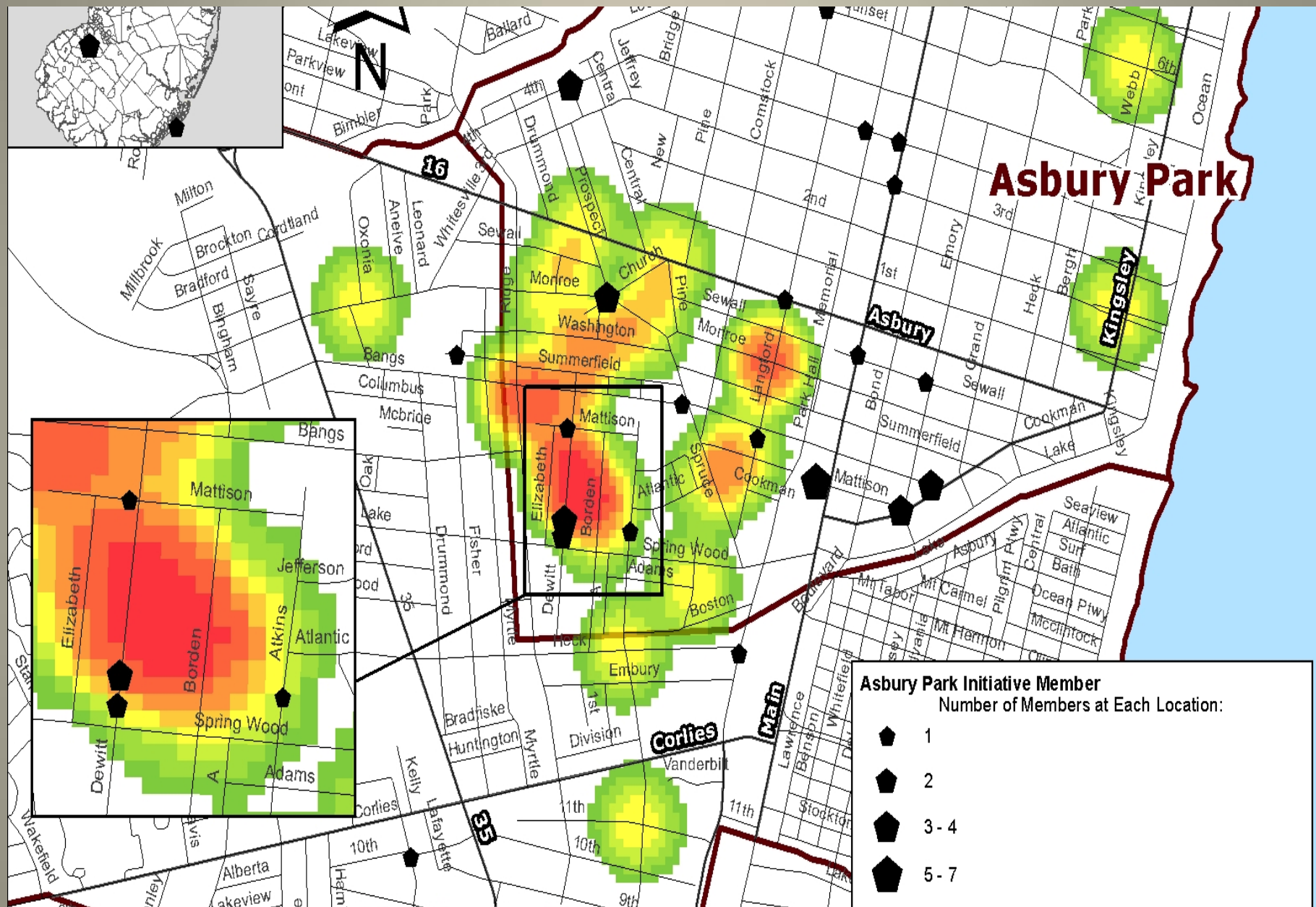
- *Focus of the Planning Board: An analytic and data-driven approach to the implementation of evidence-based programs and analysis of policies and practices*
- Creation and Structure
 - Creation of a planning board through important stakeholders identified by mayor(s) and partner staffing agencies
 - Identification by board of topical areas of focus based on needs assessment, anecdotal knowledge, and data-analysis
 - Facilitation board activities by staffing agencies
 - OAG and IRCT contributions of oversight, analytic support, and guidance

Benefits of Board Partnerships With OAG and IRCT

- Technical assistance on capacity building, mapping, project development, best practices and promising approaches
- Cross-site sharing meetings
 - Peer to peer learning with state partners at OAG, Juvenile Justice Commission, Department of Children & Families Department of Education, and Universities
- Special forums on youth development, community-police partnerships and community economic development

Benefits of the Program Structure

- Facilitation of cross-systems communication between boards
 - Networking, collaboration, and breaking down the “silos” of isolation
- Dynamic processes of interaction between organizations and the community
- Identification and resolution of locality-specific issues and focus areas in real-time



The Asbury Experience

How We Began

- Asbury Park – A tale of two cities
- The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
- Attorney General's Support
- The need for a Coalition
- The Importance of Outreach to Secure Commitment of Community Leaders
- The importance of Mayoral/City/Law Enforcement leadership

The Asbury Experience

How We Evolved

- Developing our core membership
- Our “open enrollment” philosophy
- Data - the foundation for our work
- Development of Focus Areas Based on Data and Ability to Impact
- Establishment of Workgroups Based on Focus Areas

The Asbury Experience

How We Operate

- Four Main Focus Groups Co-Chaired by Community Leaders
 - Mentoring
 - Youth Employment
 - Chaplaincy Program
 - Municipal Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse
- Full Initiative Meetings Bi-Monthly
- Workgroups Meet Between Full Meetings

The Asbury Experience

How We Operate

- Community Update Email Clearinghouse
- Meeting Locations Rotate Within the City
- A Message From Our Youth at Every Meeting
- Committees Report on Progress and Solicit Input
- Members Provide Input and Updates on Community Activities

The Asbury Experience

Our Progress to Date

- Chaplaincy Program
- Expanded Mentoring for Asbury Youth
- Go for the Gold Youth Employment Program
(endorsed by Chamber of Commerce, City Council and WIB)
- Alliance Grant in Progress

The Asbury Experience

Upcoming Opportunities

- Mentoring Older Youth
- Coordinate Existing Mentoring Programs
- Interest Funders in the Work of Our Members and Provide Letters of Support
- Develop Website With Help From Monmouth University
- Finalize Public Service Announcement Developed by Monmouth University

Questions?