

# Juvenile Justice Coalition

*Forum evaluation*

J U L Y 2 0 0 8

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# Summary

The Juvenile Justice Coalition of Minnesota (JJC) is a systems change and advocacy organization that brings stakeholders together to advocate for successful collaborative models, the use of best practices, effective use of community resources, and state level juvenile justice reform. In June 2008, the Juvenile Justice Coalition sponsored a one-day forum, “Connecting youth to success: Doing juveniles justice in Minnesota.” The purpose of this forum was to provide an opportunity for leaders across Minnesota to learn from national and local experts how to create an effective youth-focused juvenile justice system for Minnesota.

In partnership with the Juvenile Justice Coalition, Wilder Research developed an online survey to gather attendees’ perceptions of the forum, including their satisfaction with the event and their perceptions of its impact on their knowledge, awareness, and intentions related to juvenile justice system reform in Minnesota. Of the 332 individuals who registered for the forum, 302 were invited to complete the survey; the other 30 people (9%) had incorrect or invalid email addresses. Each person received up to three email invitations to complete the survey online over a two-week period immediately following the forum. Of the 302 individuals invited to participate, 170 (56%) responded. While the survey yielded a relatively good response rate, it is important to remember that the survey respondents may not reflect the opinions of all forum attendees.

## *Key findings*

**Participants were satisfied with the forum in terms of logistical arrangements.** More than nine out of ten survey respondents were at least “satisfied” with the forum’s food, price, and location; six out of ten were “very satisfied.”

**Forum attendees gave high ratings to the speakers, with the keynote speaker seen as especially engaging.** Across all sessions, speakers were rated as knowledgeable, prepared, and informative. Relative to the other speakers, participants described the keynote speaker as engaging, though some felt that he lacked substance and did not provide meaningful answers to questions. When asked to identify the most useful aspect of the forum, a number of attendees commented on the overall quality of the speakers, with some mentioning the keynote speaker in particular.

**Breakout sessions were a popular format for information exchange.** While there was some variability across sessions, participants generally provided high ratings of the breakout sessions, with at least nine out of ten saying that speakers were informative, knowledgeable, prepared, and engaging. In their open-ended comments, participants

often said that they would liked more time in breakout sessions, either by increasing their length or offering more of them. The breakout sessions were also highlighted as one of the most useful aspects of the forum.

**Satisfaction was slightly lower for large group events and discussion sessions.** Most participants who attended were also satisfied with the afternoon discussion sessions and the large group sessions, such as the overview of data and the concluding summary. Attendance at these events was slightly lower, however, and participants provided more inconsistent feedback about the quality and usefulness of these sessions.

**A diverse array of participants attended, though participants expressed a need to engage other stakeholders.** Forum participants reflected a relatively broad range of backgrounds – including community-based organizations, corrections, state government, judicial system, education, and law enforcement. Some survey respondents identified a need for greater stakeholder engagement/participation, including leaders (judges, legislative/state leaders), families, and front line workers. More effort may be needed to include participants from greater Minnesota, as they represented only 15 percent of the forum attendees.

**Networking was seen as one of the most useful components of the forum.** Attendees appreciated having the opportunity to network and talk with others, with some specifically commenting on the importance of having such a diverse array of stakeholders present. Nine in ten participants left the forum with valuable connections. The importance of networking was also reflected in their visions for the future. Many attendees identified future goals related to expanding networking/collaboration with other system partners.

**People left the forum with increased commitment to juvenile justice reform.** Nine in ten participants said that the forum had increased their commitment to doing juveniles justice. Almost half of the respondents submitted their email address at the conclusion of the survey, indicating that they would like to be involved in future efforts (such as serving on a workgroup or sharing information). Three-quarters of the participants (76%) left with at least one actionable idea to take back to their community.

**Participants requested additional training/information.** When asked about future support, some attendees described a need for more information, including more training and greater access to data.

**Some participants felt that more was needed to help identify and implement specific reform strategies.** In their suggestions for improvement, some attendees requested stronger efforts to translate the forum information into future action, through consensus building, strategic planning, and action planning. Some participants commented that the morning breakout material was too theoretical, and that the speakers did not provide



practical strategies for implementing reforms in Minnesota. Compared to their level of commitment and valuable connections, fewer attendees felt that the forum helped them learn about new program efforts, either within (81%) or outside of (78%) Minnesota. Nearly one-quarter of the participants (23%) disagreed that the forum had developed a statewide commitment/coalition to doing juveniles justice, while one-third (37%) disagreed that the forum created action plans for county and state implementation for reforming juvenile justice.

**Participants identified a number of needs for future support.** Most participants left the forum with ideas to implement in their communities. However, two-thirds of the participants (65%) identified barriers or challenges in implementing these ideas, such as funding, barriers to collaboration, resistance to change, limited legislative/political support, a lack of strong leadership, and challenges to parent/youth involvement, and others. To address these barriers, some participants requested support, including a need for an organization or individual to provide leadership and support in this area.

## ***Recommendations***

- Due to the high levels of satisfaction, the forum structure and logistics may serve as a good model for planning future meetings and events. If an event similar to the forum is conducted in the future, planners might consider increasing opportunities for small group sessions and expanding to a two-day event.
- Most participants left the forum feeling committed to promoting juvenile justice reform. The Juvenile Justice Coalition should consider opportunities to build on this commitment through their future outreach, education, and advocacy activities. In planning these activities, the following recommendations should be considered:
  - Continue to identify strategies for engaging a broad range of stakeholders, including youth/families and partners in greater Minnesota.
  - Provide continued opportunities for stakeholders to network and engage each other in dialogue in planning reforms.
  - Provide additional training in areas of interest to participants, including family/youth involvement, disproportionate minority contact, use of evidence-based practices, restorative justice, access to prevention/early intervention, alternatives to detention, and youth mental health issues.
  - Consider creative and engaging strategies to share existing data with partners across the state and to promote new data-gathering efforts.

- Provide examples of specific program models that may be useful in addressing needs in Minnesota.
- Provide additional opportunities to engage stakeholders in consensus building, strategic planning, and action planning.

# Background/introduction

The Juvenile Justice Coalition of Minnesota (JJC) is a systems change and advocacy based state-wide organization that promotes state level juvenile justice reform. By serving as an innovator and convener, the JJC brings together leaders and citizens from academia, political arenas, the justice system, corrections and the service community (providers and consumers) to advocate for successful collaborative models and the use of best practices to provide the most effective use of community resources.

In June 2008, the Juvenile Justice Coalition sponsored a one-day forum, “Connecting youth to success: Doing juveniles justice in Minnesota.” The purpose of this forum was to provide an opportunity for leaders across Minnesota to learn from national and local experts how to create an effective youth-focused juvenile justice system for Minnesota.

Under contract with the Juvenile Justice Coalition, Wilder Research conducted an evaluation of the forum. This evaluation took the form of an online survey conducted within the two weeks following the forum. The survey was used to gather attendees’ perceptions of the forum, including their satisfaction with the event and their perceptions of its impact on their knowledge, awareness, and intentions related to juvenile justice system reform in Minnesota.

Of the 332 individuals who registered for the forum, 30 people with incorrect or invalid addresses (9%) were removed from the file, leaving 302 individuals who were invited to complete the survey. Each person received up to three email invitations to complete the survey online over a two-week period immediately following the forum. Of the 302 individuals invited to participate, 170 (56%) responded.

## *Description of survey respondents*

**Participants represented a range of stakeholder roles/positions.** One in five respondents (21%) identified themselves as community-based organization staff, while 12 percent were corrections administrators. Other participants represented a range of systems, including state agencies, the judicial system, education, and law enforcement. One-third of the respondents (33%) represented a role other than those listed in the forum brochure as the target audience, including probation officers, direct care professionals, and parents (Figures 1-2).

**Two-thirds of the respondents (67%) came from the metropolitan area, especially Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.** Approximately 15 percent of the respondents came from Greater Minnesota. The remaining 18 percent did not indicate a county, which

typically indicated that they held a statewide position or came from outside Minnesota (Figure 3).

**1. Which of the following best describes your role?**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Community-based organization staff	35	21%
Correction administrator	19	12%
State agency leadership	10	6%
Public defender	7	4%
Education administrator	7	4%
Human services leadership	6	4%
County attorney	6	4%
Higher education representative	4	2%
Law enforcement	4	2%
Professional association staff/member	4	2%
Court administration	3	2%
Judge	2	1%
County administration	1	1%
Correctional residential facilities staff	2	1%
Religious affiliated organization staff	1	1%
Other	53	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>100%</b>

---

## 2. Open-ended comments: Other roles reported by respondents

### Other roles reported by respondents

---

Probation officer/agent. (N=10)

Parent. (N=3)

Community member.

Mental health professional. (N=2)

School social worker. (N=2)

Researcher. (N=2)

Technical assistance provider/Technical assistance provider JDAI. (N=2)

Consultant to non-profits.

Statewide after-school alliance.

Coordinator.

Dispositional advisor.

Youth employment counselor.

Media.

Nonprofit.

Victim/Witness.

Children's mental health.

Senior planning analyst.

Paralegal.

Work for a state elected official.

School attorney.

Attorney & consultant.

Restorative Justice Coordinator.

Restorative Justice Youth Coordinator.

Children's mental health advocacy and education.

Parent advocate.

JDAI coordinator/Consultant.

Transitional coordinator.

Mental health vendor.

Corrections agent.

Social worker.

Marriage and Family Therapist.

Intern.

Professor.

State agency employee.

Grandma who has had contact with friends whose sons were in prison and a husband.

---

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**3. Open-ended comments: In what county are you employed?**

**In what county are you employed?**

---

**Metropolitan area**

Hennepin. (N=51)

Ramsey. (N=30)

Dakota. (N=8)

Washington. (N=8)

Anoka. (N=2)

Scott. (N=2)

Combination of metropolitan counties. (N=3)

**Greater Minnesota**

Olmsted. (N=5)

Blue Earth. (N=2)

Clay. (N=2)

St. Louis. (N=2)

Beltrami.

Benton.

Cass.

Douglas.

Kandiyohi.

Nicollet.

Sherburne.

Stearns.

Swift.

Wright.

Combination of greater Minnesota counties. (N=2)

**Other responses**

No response/not applicable. (N=25)

Nationally.

Out of state.

Statewide Agency.

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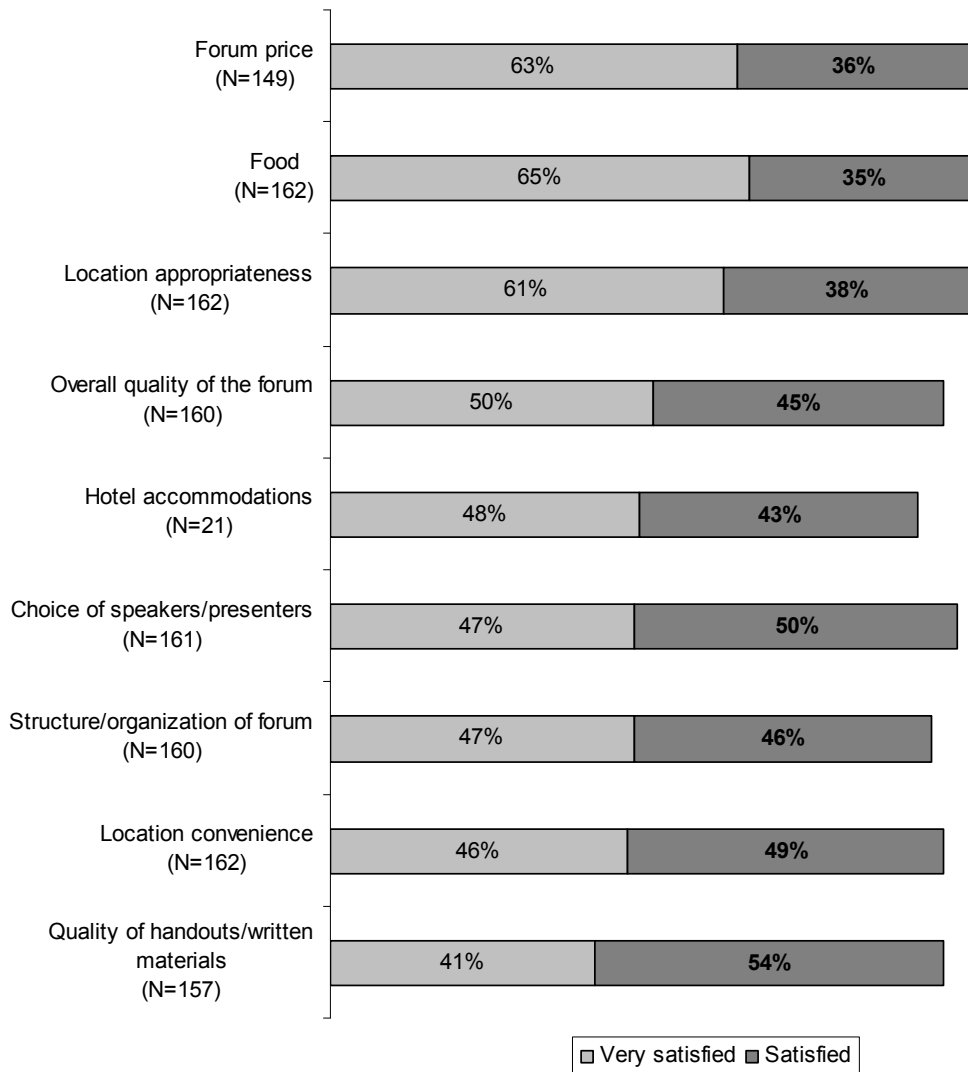
# Overall satisfaction with forum

**Overall, participants were satisfied with the forum.** Most respondents (91% to 100%) were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with each aspect of the forum included in the survey. They were most likely to be “very satisfied” with the food (65%), forum price (63%), and location appropriateness (61%). They were least likely to be “very satisfied” with the quality of handouts/ written materials (41%) (Figure 4).

Participants who were “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with the forum were asked to explain their ratings. These individuals expressed a range of concerns, especially with the forum structure, the quality of the speakers, and the location. No consistent themes emerged from their responses, however (Figure 5).

---

#### 4. Overall ratings of satisfaction with the forum



**Note:** Most respondents (87%) did not rate the quality of the hotel accommodations. For other items, the number of respondents who did not provide a rating ranged from 0 to 6.



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## 5. Open-ended comments: Explanations for ratings of dissatisfaction with the forum

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### Explanations for ratings of dissatisfaction with the forum

---

#### Distance/location/traffic

---

Not a great location to get to through traffic from SE Minnesota.

---

Distance.

---

The Earle Brown Center is only convenient if you live west or north of it. The rest of us have to get through city rush hour traffic to get there.

---

Location was far from my home.

---

The area had very heavy traffic flow.

---

#### Speakers/quality of sessions

---

I think that the key note speaker was entertaining but somewhat lacking in the quality of the overall presentation. I think that some attention should have been paid to the circumstances under which he left NYC Corrections.

---

Felt that the speakers for large group were extremely relevant and effective. However, the small break-out groups that I attended all seemed very vague and not much new information was given to the group.

---

Keynoter did not set a tone for the conference. Too many of the presentations dealt with narrow topics- some of them sounded like Ph.D. dissertations. Very scientific and theoretical. Speakers challenged to deal with questions about application of their insight.

---

I thought the afternoon breakout discussion forum that I participated in was not facilitated adequately and many participants took over the meeting and attempted to redirect conversation off topic.

---

While I was impressed by some of the speakers and the organizations of their presentation, in at least one of the panel discussion groups I found it to be not well structured and a bit hard to follow as panelists often talked amongst each other and jumped in as other panelists bring up an issue of interest to them as well. More generally, the topics of the break out group presentations was interesting but felt a bit too shallow to be substantively practicable – almost too much like an intro to an issue rather than offering insights and best practice recommendations on how to go about addressing problems.

---

#### Structure/organization of the forum

---

Too many choices for 1-day forum; "reporting back" session at end was a waste of time – would have preferred another content session.

---

I thought there was too much time spent as a large group listening to speakers. The keynote was very entertaining, but didn't need to be that long. And the woman who spoke about statistics didn't say anything more than what was in the power point, so I felt we could've just read that on our own. More time was needed in workshops, as well as more networking and connecting time.

---

Too many great presentations were scheduled at the same time. I wish we could have the same sessions running in the morning and afternoon for a chance to attend two sessions.

---

Too many different speakers in short 1-hour format. Would have been better to focus on few sessions or speakers.

---

---

**5. Open-ended comments: Explanations for ratings of dissatisfaction with the forum (continued)**

---

**Explanations for ratings of dissatisfaction with the forum**

---

**Materials**

---

PowerPoint's as handouts are not useful. I would prefer written outlines.

---

Materials were generally not of high quality. Materials could have been a great take away to stimulate further thinking, etc.

---

Both workshops attended had no or limited handouts; would have been nice to have something to take back to the office.

---

**Hotel accommodations**

---

There was remodeling in the hotel so very loud at times along with a strong smell of glue. Room was a handicap room with no bathtub.

---

The hotels in the Brooklyn Center area are of lower quality then I would normally desire.

---

**Other**

---

I was tabling outside for the entire event and thus feel unqualified to comment on the quality of the event as a whole.

---

The quality of the speakers made for a great conference, however it did not end up being what I expected. I t felt more like "for show" rather than getting to the issues of Hennepin County Juvenile Justice. Perhaps because it is the same players mouthing something that sounds "kinda new." I just can't put my finger on the disappointment I felt with this conference.

---

Many words were spoken. Nothing was said. This didn't tell me much of anything that I didn't already know. What is actually being done? What is actually being accomplished? Need less talking, more doing.

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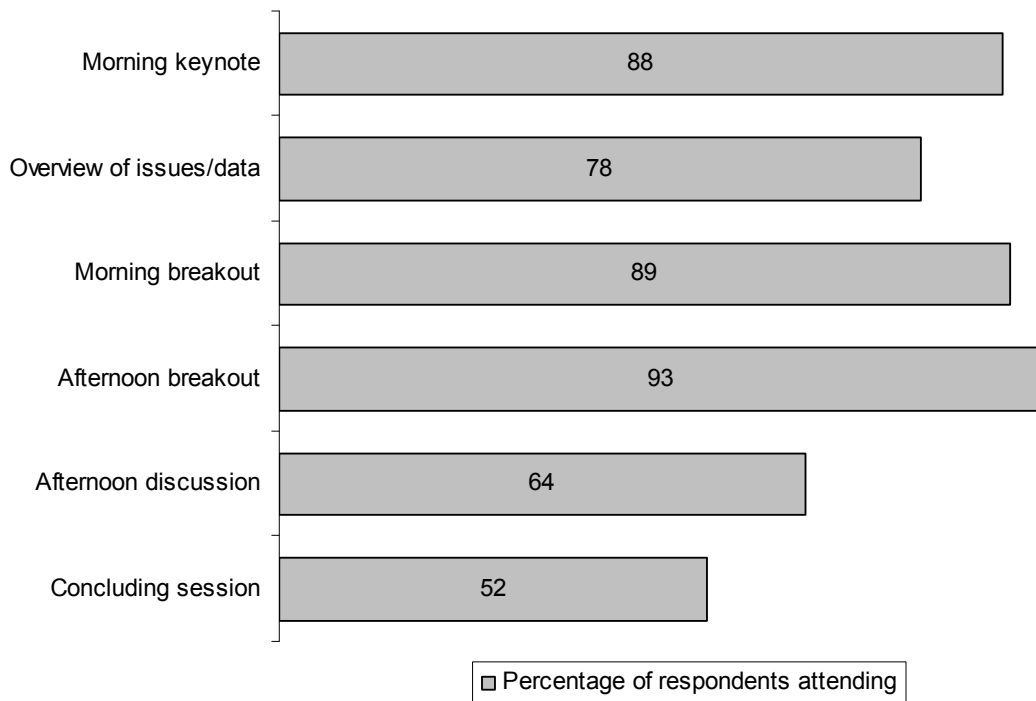
**Note:** *Five individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.*

# Satisfaction with forum sessions

Participants were most likely to attend the keynote and breakout sessions (88% to 93% of survey respondents attending each session). Attendance was lowest at the final two sessions of the day, including the afternoon discussion sessions (64%) and the session related to “summary thoughts and future directions” (52%) (Figure 6).

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## 6. Percentage of survey respondents attending each forum session



## Morning keynote

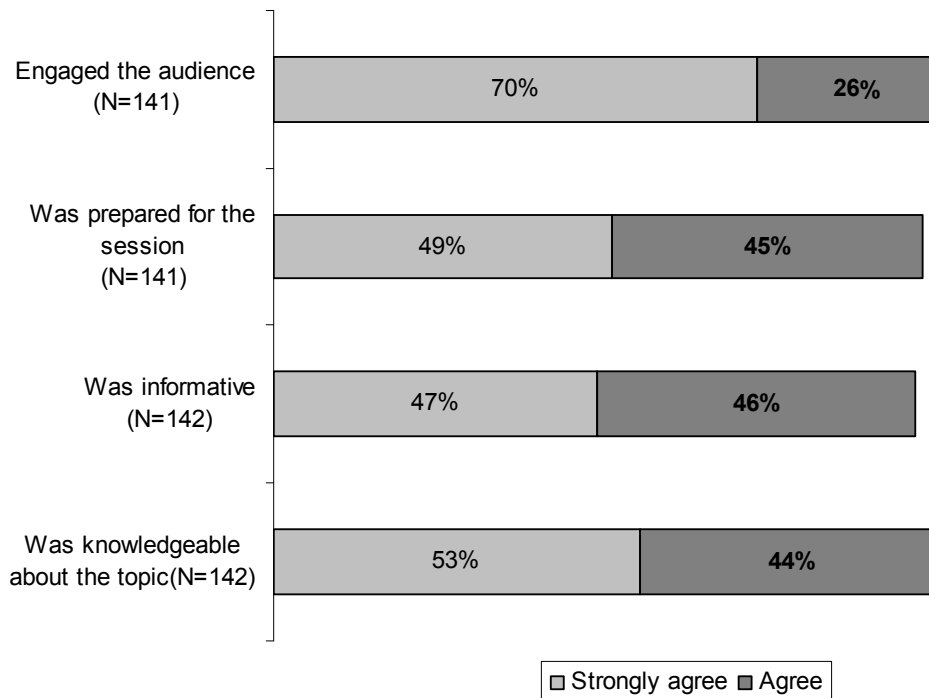
“it was the highlight of the conference.”

“very engaging and inspiring.”

“engaging, but not much substance.”

**The morning keynote presenter was largely seen as engaging and inspiring, though some felt the presentation lacked substance.** Eighty-eight percent of the survey respondents attended the morning keynote presentation ("Juvenile crime: Where are we going?" presented by Anthony Schembri, Ph.D.). Ratings were positive, with at least 93 percent of the respondents “agreeing” or “strongly agreeing” that the speaker was engaging, prepared, informative, and knowledgeable. Attendees were most likely to “strongly agree” that the speaker engaged the audience (70%). This perception was also reflected in the open-ended comments. When asked to comment about the keynote, many respondents described the speaker as engaging and funny. Some attendees felt that while he was engaging, he lacked substance and did not provide meaningful answers to questions (Figures 7-8).

### 7. Satisfaction with morning keynote presentation



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**8. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the morning keynote session**

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**Please share any comments that you have about the morning keynote session**

---

**Positive comments**

---

A good person to start the day – humor gets people motivated.

---

Amazing!

---

Anthony was brash, but I liked his honest and blunt ideals.

---

Dr. Schembri did a beautiful job giving a reality check to all layers involved – the kids, parents, us, prison, legislation, risk, leadership, purpose, character etc. – saying it in a way to call us to action and that we all can be change itself. His use of story was potent. He covered much in a short time. His passion and words had a definite impact on me. One phrase that was key is "We need to become forgivers." I am so thankful for his presence there! I don't drink coffee, but I imagine Dr. Schembri's affect on me was similar.

---

Engaged the audience – he was very witty and very challenging.

---

Excellent choice!

---

Excellent speaker.

---

Excellent!! Very motivating!!

---

Funny too. I wish he would have touched more on the gangster, hip-hop and media stories that glorify that lifestyle.

---

He had a great sense of humor. I love his Brooklyn personality. I loved how he made the change he wanted to see.

---

He was a fantastic speaker, would have liked to hear him speak much longer, sharing some of the ways he was able to implement change in the system.

---

He was an excellent speaker with a word for the participants. I would like to hear more from him in the future.

---

He was excellent! Very engaging and inspiring. A bit controversial at times, but I didn't feel it took away from his overall presentation that much.

---

His speech was engaging and informative. Great choice for the first speaker of the day.

---

I thought he did very well and kept my attention. He really started the morning off well!

---

It was the highlight of the conference. I was very excited after hearing him speak. It was a let down to hear the presentations.

---

Loved it. He knows his business and was highly entertaining yet presented some difficult issues/concepts.

---

The "Comish" was delightful. He had wonderful insight into how we need to build relationships and help young people rebuild their lives.

---

The best speaker there!

---

The keynote speaker was very engaging.

---

This was motivational and that's what people need.

---

Very dynamic speaker! Took some good ideas away to try and utilize.

---

He was absolutely wonderful and inspiring!!! Excellent!!!

---

Inspirational. Of course, we don't all have the "power" to make things happen like he does, but it is valuable to be thus inspired, nonetheless.

---

---

**8. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the morning keynote session (continued)**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the morning keynote session**

---

**Concerns about substance/depth/usefulness**

---

Need more time to engage the audience in discussion.

---

More of a "show" than anything else. Old jokes that engaged the audience, but probably did not do much to inform. Thus, his content was weak.

---

Engaging, but not much substance. A bit self-aggrandizing with shallow responses to questions.

---

A lot of old jokes, obviously a routine he takes around the country. Not much that could be used and nothing relative to Minnesota.

---

He is funny and has some "canned" insights that are accurate but he does not provide much usable depth.

---

He lacked substance when it came to Q&A.

---

My only criticism was in his reply to audience questions – he seemed to respond w/ stories instead of really addressing the most important aspects of the question.

---

More a motivational speaker than a content expert.

---

Though the speaker was amusing and had some funny stories, he could have had more substance.

---

Very funny and lots of good stories and slogans, but not much substantive information or inspiration.

---

He was entertaining but failed to provide meaningful information about juvenile crime (other than they do "stupid" things), and did not seem able to respond to questions from the audience.

---

Nice intro to everything, but, again, not sure what was actually being said.

---

**Other negative/mixed comments**

---

Didn't care for his comments calling people stupid.

---

Schembri was engaging, although not particularly organized in his talk or his thinking.

---

I didn't care for this presentation, and I heard very mixed reviews from other attendants.

---

I was told after the session that this person left baggage in New York and I thought some of his comments were a little of the mark. He was certainly entertaining.

---

I'd heard some of the same jokes before, but his passion is great!

---

More information on trends apart from the concentration of minorities would have been helpful.

---

Overall message and his experience were good. Some of his examples were a little difficult and put me on the edge of comfortability: "I'd still be beating you up if you were my son," "hey stupid," etc. His tone is quite accountability-based around youth. His example about making kid's parents pay for their criminal behavior makes a presumption that parents can pay or that they have non-criminal thinking themselves. He also used "he and him" for all of his language about crime and delinquency. I liked some of his insights about organizations and how to administrate in an effective manner.

---

**Note:** *Ninety-nine individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.*

## Overview of issues/data

“Did a nice job of showing DMC all the way through the system and talking about data gaps and limitations.”

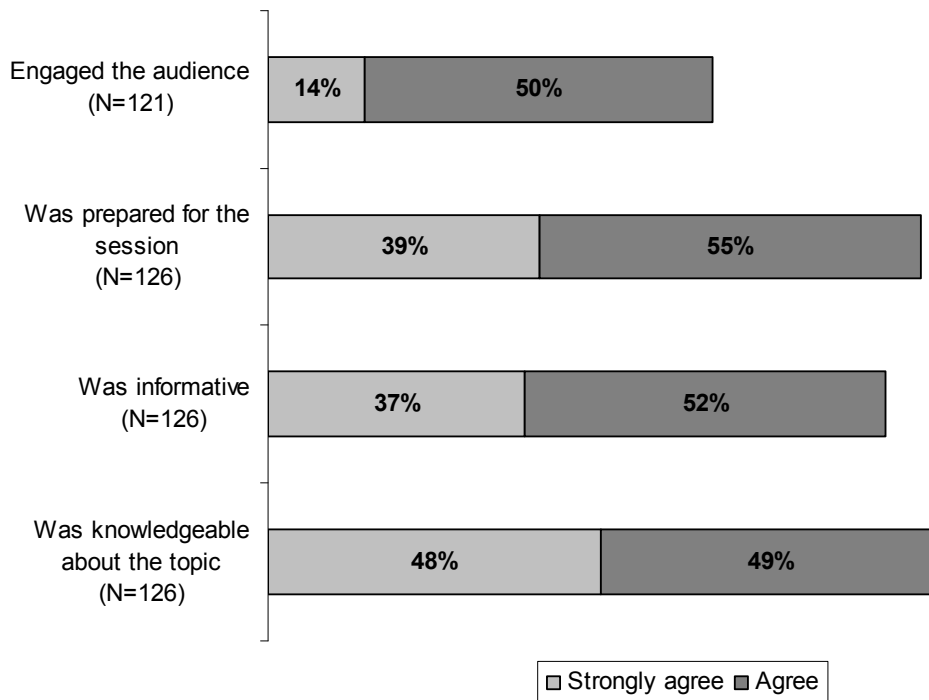
“...it was an eye-opener for me.”

“Too rushed, needed more time to set the context...”

“It’s hard to be engaging when talking stats.”

**The data overview was seen as fairly informative, though less engaging than the previous session.** Seventy-eight percent of the respondents attended the morning session (“Overview of forum issues and Minnesota data” presented by Chris Bray, Ph.D.). The speaker was typically described as knowledgeable, prepared, and informative (with 89% to 97% “agreeing” or “strongly agreeing” with each item). Fewer participants described the session as engaging, however (64%). According to their open-ended comments, some respondents were not interested in statistical information, finding it relatively “dry” (especially following the keynote presentation). Others felt that there was not enough time to adequately present the information (Figures 9-10).

### 9. Satisfaction with overview of issues/data



---

**10. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the overview of issues/data**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the overview of issues/data**

---

**Positive comments**

---

Wonderful.

---

Amazing data compilation!

---

Great as usual.

---

To share statistics after a rip-roaring sermon is not easy I would guess, but I applaud Dr. Bray for doing so. It was an eye-opener for me.

---

**Not enough time**

---

Too rushed, needed more time to set the context and outline what the numbers included and excluded in terms of types of offenses, counties participating and not.

---

Could have used more time to get into more detail on the statistics.

---

This speaker could have used a little more time.

---

Chris needed more time. The data was excellent.

---

I wish she would have had a little more time as she had to go through the slides quickly. It was a lot of info to digest and could have been at a slower pace but she seemed to be rushing to keep the forum on schedule. Did a nice job of showing DMC all the way through the system and talking about data gaps and limitations.

---

She had too much information for the time allotted.

---

**Quality of materials**

---

Overhead projection was "cut off" on the left side. Very distracting. Data was often too small to read. Would have appreciated slides that were readable and focused to the point that was being made. Felt like a "let's make do with something prepared for a different audience."

---

TOO much data presented too quickly to have meaning – and PowerPoint slides partially not visible. I love data and we could have learned a lot, but that gave me a headache. Dizzying.

---

I wasn't too moved by the presentation. It was kind of hard to see the data from the back of the room.

---

**Too dry/statistical**

---

Statistics are difficult, but for some it is vitally important.

---

You could have just handed out the data.

---

I think the information was good but the presenter was not very good at engaging the audience or delivering information.

---

Very "dry" presentation.

---

Statistics are hard to follow!

---

Kind of a let down (duh, it's statistics!) after Tony – perhaps best left as a hand out.

---

Morning portion got to be a little long – difficult to engage crowd with all of those stats when people are getting antsy.

---



---

**10. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the overview of issues/data (continued)**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the overview of issues/data**

---

**Too dry/statistical (continued)**

---

Sharing statistics disengages the audience.

---

Very "dry" presentation. Maybe that's the way it had to be.

---

Very dry. Nothing profound in the data. Necessary data, however, particularly for making our case to legislators and the public.

---

It was a very dry presentation.

---

It would have been more helpful for key highlights of the data to be shared in this presentation and expanded upon. There was too much information that was simply stating statistics.

---

This presentation met the goals of sharing facts, but it was dull.

---

This was a poor presentation, she was not very engaging.

---

Data always needs a good storyteller to make it relevant.

---

It's hard to be engaging when talking stats, but she presented well.

---

For the most part, I knew these stats 10+ years ago. Not exact numbers, but the concept. Maybe it's news to someone else . . . ?

---

Very dry and boring, but I think that comes with presenting stats. It seems that she just read from the PowerPoint and wasn't engaging.

---

Didn't like the stats. Info was already known.

---

Looking at numbers can be very dry, and that is what I thought about the session.

---

**Note:** *Ninety-two individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.*

## ***Morning breakout sessions***

“Exceptional speaker and presenter.”

“I would have preferred more time had been dedicated to real problem solving approaches.”

“too much material for the time allocated.”

“didn't really get to the "meat" of the practical application.”

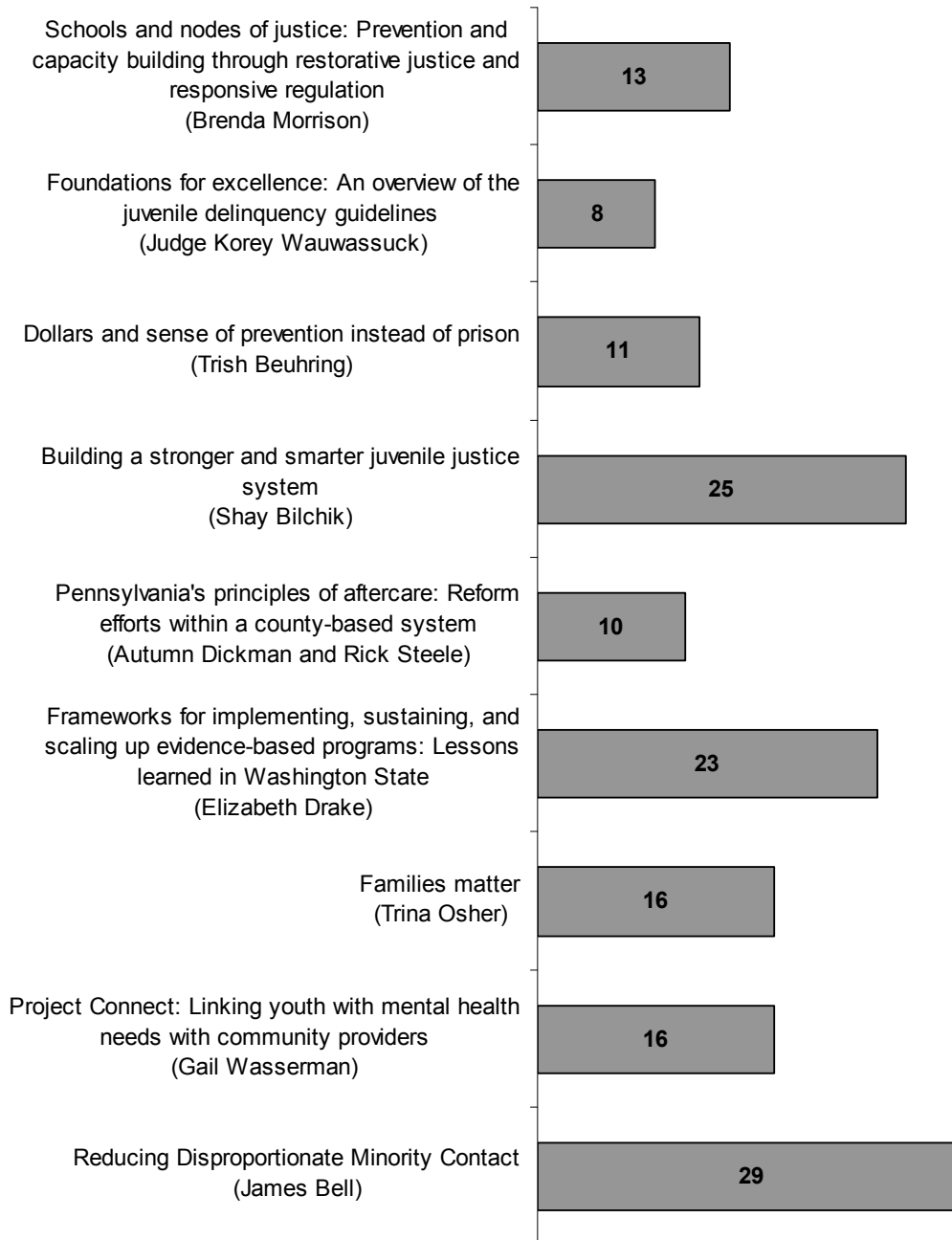
Eighty-nine percent of the respondents attended one of the morning breakout sessions. They were most likely to attend addressed Disproportionate Minority Contact, building a better juvenile justice system, and evidence-based practices (Figure 11).

**Overall, respondents were satisfied with the quality of the morning breakout sessions.** Most (87% to 97%) “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that the speakers were knowledgeable, informative, prepared, and engaging; 31 to 53 percent “strongly agreed.” Slightly fewer attendees (87%) found the sessions engaging, with just under one-third (31%) “strongly agreeing” that the speaker(s) engaged the audience. While overall participants were satisfied in the quality of the breakout session presenters, the sessions related to disproportionate minority contact, building a stronger and smarter system, and Pennsylvania’s aftercare system tended to have the highest percentage of respondents “strongly agreeing” that the presenters were knowledgeable, informative, and prepared (Figures 12-13).

**Some respondents felt that the morning breakout sessions were too short and lacked practical applications.** When asked to provide comments about the morning break-out sessions, a number of attendees commented that the material was too theoretical, and that the speakers did not provide practical strategies for implementing reforms in Minnesota. Another theme was that the sessions were too short to allow for meaningful dialogue, or in some cases for the speakers to finish their presentations. There was also some concern that the session on mental health needs of youth in the system deviated significantly from the description (Figure 14).

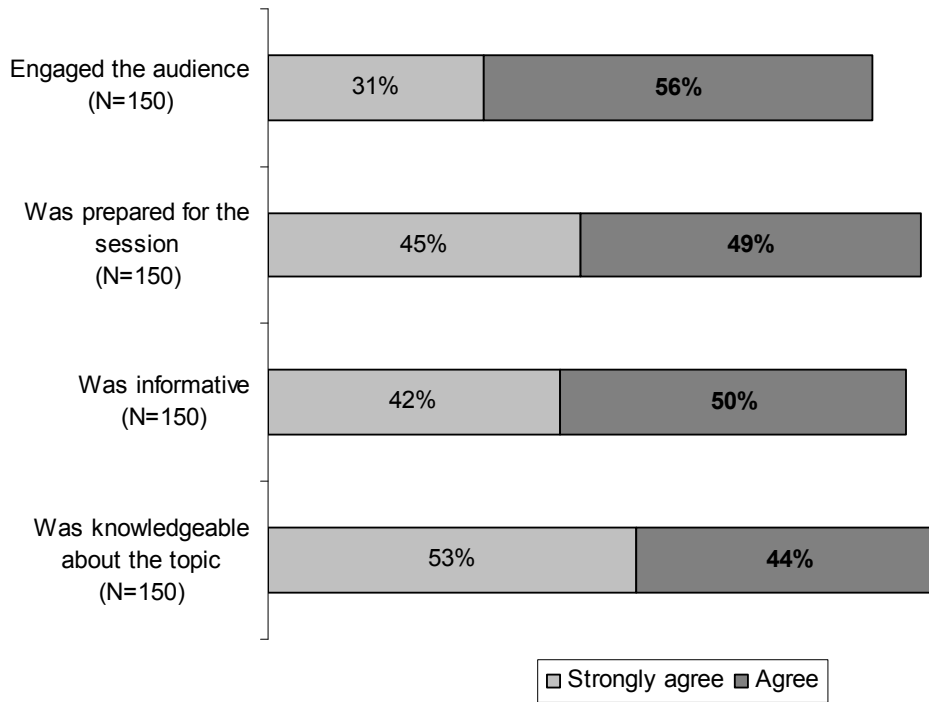
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## 11. Number of respondents attending each morning breakout session

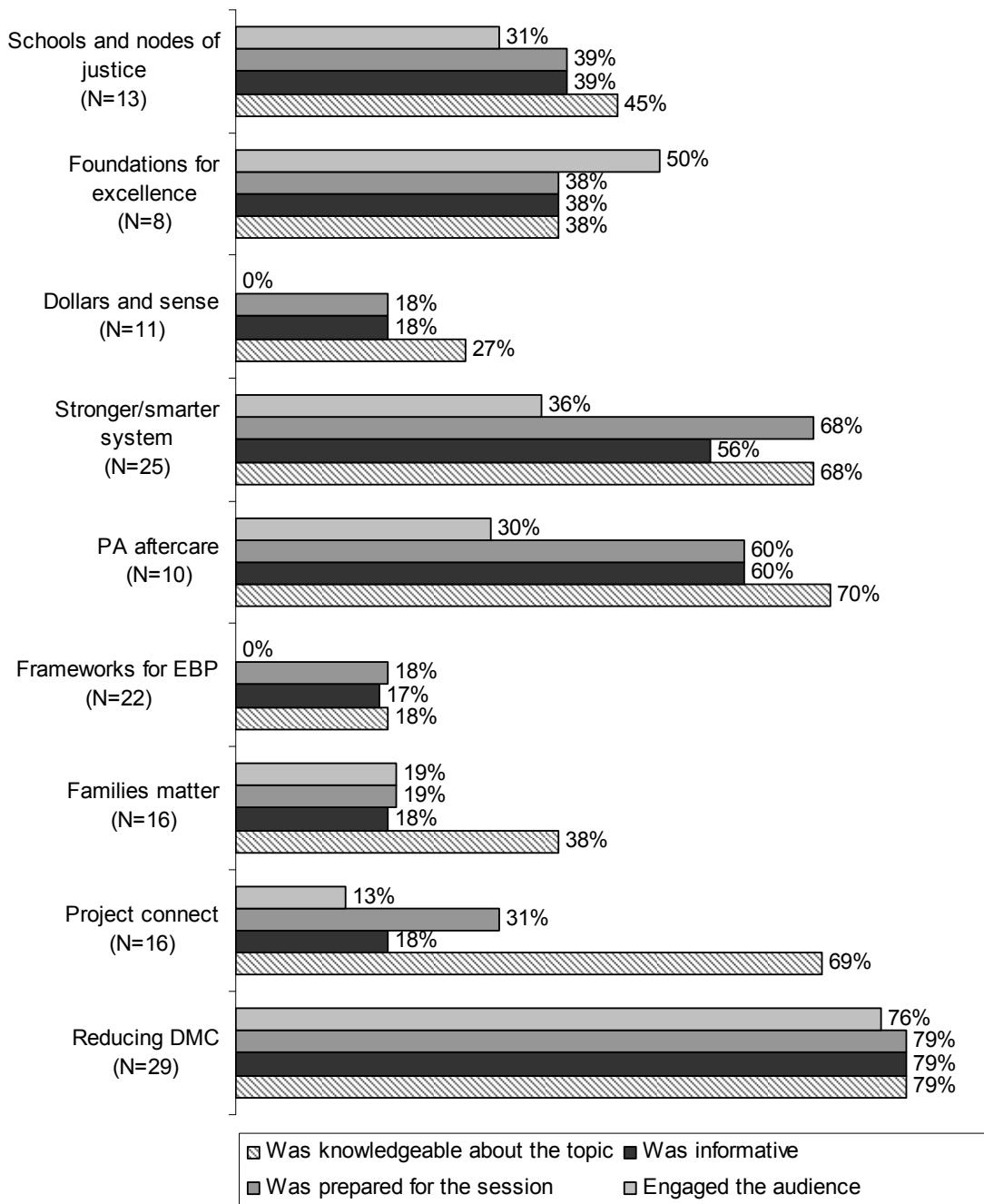


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## 12. Satisfaction with morning breakout sessions



### 13. Variation in ratings of “strongly agree” across morning breakout sessions



**Note:** Chi-square analyses indicated significant variation in ratings across breakout sessions for each item: knowledgeable about the topic 40.6\*\*, informative 52.9\*\*, prepared for the session, 58.4\*\*\*, and engaging 78.1\*\*\*.

---

**14. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the morning breakout sessions**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the morning breakout sessions**

---

**Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact (James Bell)**

---

Would like to have seen someone other than a consultant doing presentation.

---

James Bell is phenomenal - a most informative leader for times such as these! His courage of convictions and clearness provide direction and guidance!

---

Only comment is that I would have preferred more time had been dedicated to real problem-solving approaches and practicable insights on reducing DMC.

---

He was well prepared and knew his material very well. The room was too small for him as he had a huge crowd.

---

Great speaker. Would love to have heard him give the keynote address.

---

James Bell was an exceptional speaker and presenter. Does not get much better than Mr. Bell.

---

**Project Connect: Linking youth with mental health needs with community providers (Gail Wasserman)**

---

It was not what I thought. When questions were asked, she responded with "we have information on that." I was expecting more information on the actual topic.

---

I would not have attended this session if there was a more adequate description in the handout. I felt the description was misleading and would have preferred attending a different session had I know this one was geared more toward suicide.

---

Too narrowly focused on one research project.

---

The description of the workshop did not match up with the presentation. I had hoped for more ideas on community services for this target population.

---

It was interesting to learn about Columbia University's Project Connect work.

---

The information given did not pertain to the subject matter. She changed the topic, which didn't interest me.

---

**Families matter (Trina Osher)**

---

There was not enough time to make it through all the material. The presenter only had 10 copies of the handouts. I was left wanting more.

---

She didn't have enough time to get to everything she wanted to talk about.

---

Didn't give the audience anytime to have discussion. I felt that she was talking at the audience rather than too them. It wasn't as informative as I would have liked it to have been. It was hard to follow her train of thought.

---

It was good information but at a level that we are already at. I was hoping for more best practices, evidence of what's working to engage families, etc.

---

This was too lecture style. She was very long-winded and didn't have time to finish her content, let alone engage the audience in questions. I felt this should've been much more interactive.

---

Too much material for the time allocated. Spent too much time on the upfront philosophy and didn't really get to the "meat" of the practical application.

---

---

**14. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the morning breakout sessions (continued)**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the morning breakout sessions**

---

**Families matter (Trina Osher) (continued)**

---

Training appeared to be geared to educators and this was not stated in the handout. Speaker ran out of time and barely got through anything.

---

I was hoping for more detailed strategies on applying family involvement to JJ settings. That said, her descriptions of family involvement and engagement were great.

---

Had a presentation that was way too long for the hour she had. We made it through less than half of her slides and did not go over her handouts. Little time for Q and A. She also had only about 10 copies of her materials for 30 people. She is clearly knowledgeable about family-driven model and how to bring families into decision process, so her content was good.

---

Did not even get through all the info.

---

**Frameworks for implementing, sustaining, and scaling up evidence-based programs: Lessons learned in Washington State (Elizabeth Drake)**

---

Very dry presentation and based in little or no knowledge of the practicalities of implementing EBP. Statistical and theoretical and not enough discussion of the day to day stuff. I expected more info about actual programming challenges, etc.

---

She did not have a lot of the information requested by those listening. She also used the word "umm" before she responded and before and after every thought.

---

Excellent information regarding data from the State of WA.

---

She had good information with some knowledge of the topic. There were pieces that she could not cover. Her public speaking style was lacking.

---

She had some good information, but wasn't able to answer questions well due to limited involvement with the study on which she was presenting.

---

**Pennsylvania's principles of aftercare: Reform efforts within a county-based system (Autumn Dickman and Rick Steele)**

---

One hour was not long enough to get into much of the substance of what PA is doing.

---

It ended where I thought it was going to begin content-wise – not that valuable.

---

An excellent approach that would fit for MN.

---

I found it interesting and see that power in collaboration and creating teamship in community.

---

**Building a stronger and smarter juvenile justice system (Shay Bilchik)**

---

He didn't really get to any substance until the last few minutes of the session.

---

Seemed to be vague – just kept saying same things – need to work together, get families involved, etc. But never engaged group on ways in which to do so.

---

Very good speaker, but needed more than an hour to really engage and give information he had.

---

This should've been a keynote.

---

---

**14. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the morning breakout sessions (continued)**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the morning breakout sessions**

---

**Dollars and sense of prevention instead of prison (Trish Beuhring)**

---

Speaker challenged to do a cost benefit analysis ala economic theory. Lacked time to address questions about application of these theories.

---

**Foundations for excellence: An overview of the juvenile delinquency guidelines (Judge Korey Wauwassuck)**

---

Hearing "we learned this wonderful information," which finally ended with "it's here in this booklet you can purchase" wasn't helpful. Still, though, seems like a good person who is doing good things. Just this session itself didn't do much.

---

**Schools and nodes of justice: Prevention and capacity building through restorative justice and responsive regulation (Brenda Morrison)**

---

Great presentation.

---

It was an interesting presentation and she presented or referred to research and reports that I intend to take a look at. I am not sure that Minnesota is as advanced in this area as she thinks.

---

She wasn't a very good presenter. She had some good information.

---

We needed twice the amount of time to do justice to the materials.

---

**Note:** *One hundred and ten individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.*



## *Afternoon breakout sessions*

“Great speakers, interesting information.”

“It was nice to have clients present their personal stories.”

“More time was needed for discussion.”

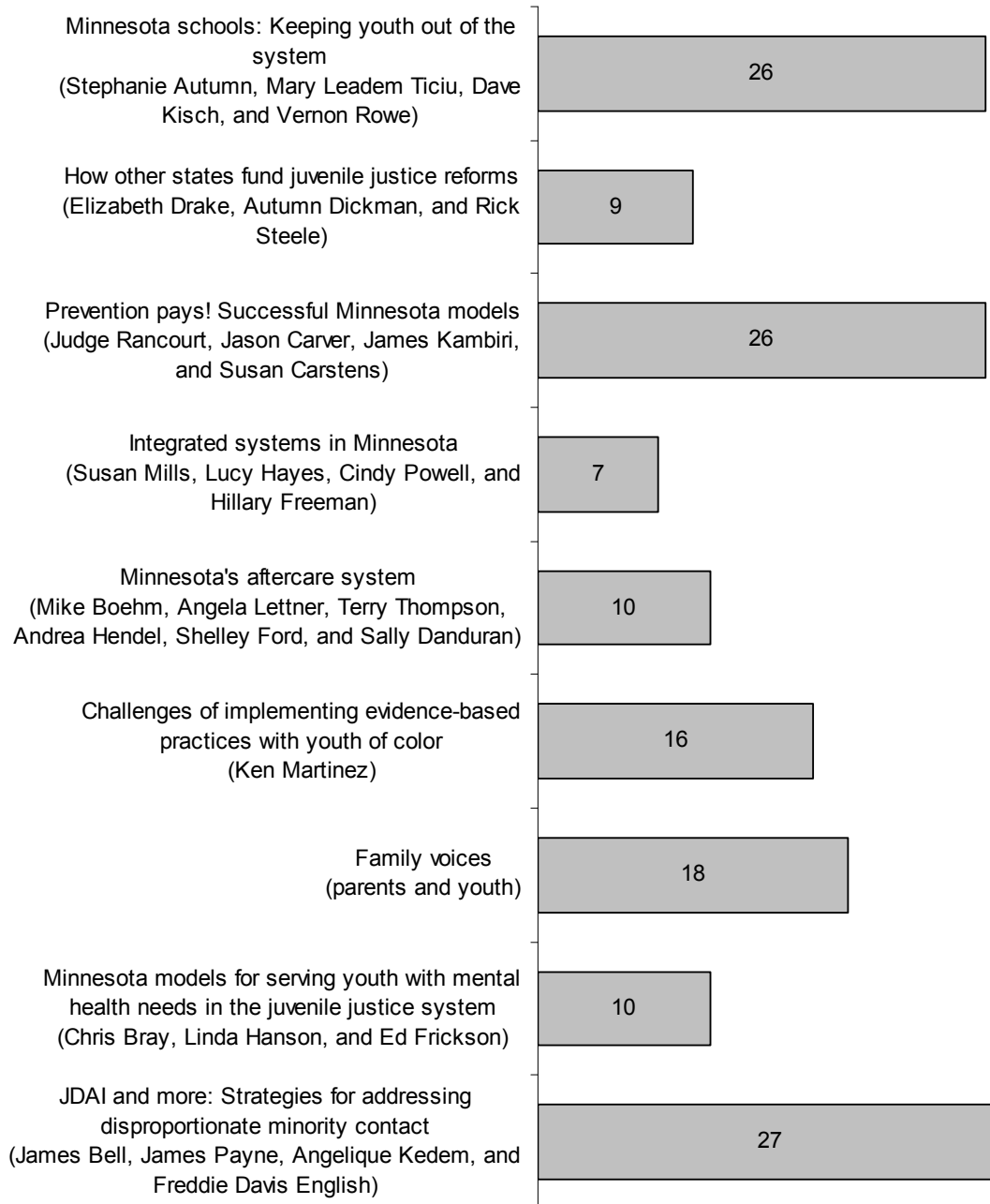
Ninety-three percent of the respondents attended one of the afternoon breakout sessions. The sessions that they were most likely to attend addressed the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, prevention, and school-based services (Figure 15).

**Overall, respondents were satisfied with the quality of the breakout sessions.** Most respondents (89% to 97%) “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that the speakers were knowledgeable, informative, engaging, and prepared; nearly half (42% to 48% “strongly agreed”). While overall participants were satisfied in the quality of the breakout session presenters, their ratings varied somewhat across sessions. The sessions related to family voices and challenges of implementing evidence-based practices tended to receive slightly higher ratings (Figures 16-17).

**Attendees provided inconsistent comments about the afternoon breakout sessions.** When asked to provide comments about the afternoon break-out sessions, a number of attendees again commented that the sessions would have benefited from additional time for presentation or discussion. Feedback was mixed for several sessions, with some respondents making positive comments and others describing the same session critically. For several sessions, audiovisual difficulties were distracting to the participants. A number of attendees appreciated hearing the voices of youth and families (Figure 18).

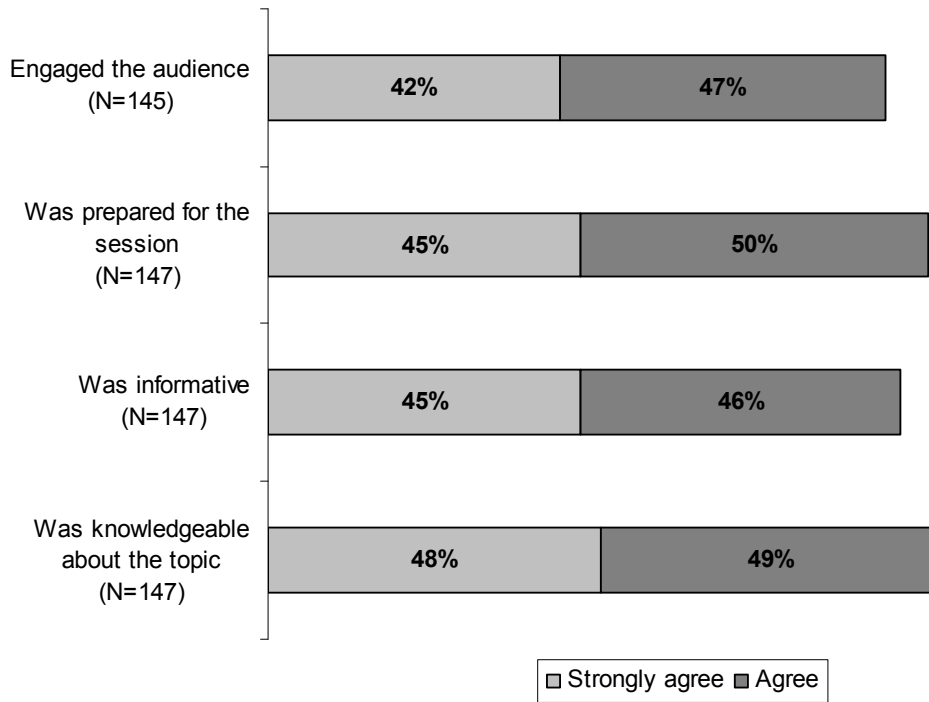
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**15. Number of respondents attending each afternoon breakout session**

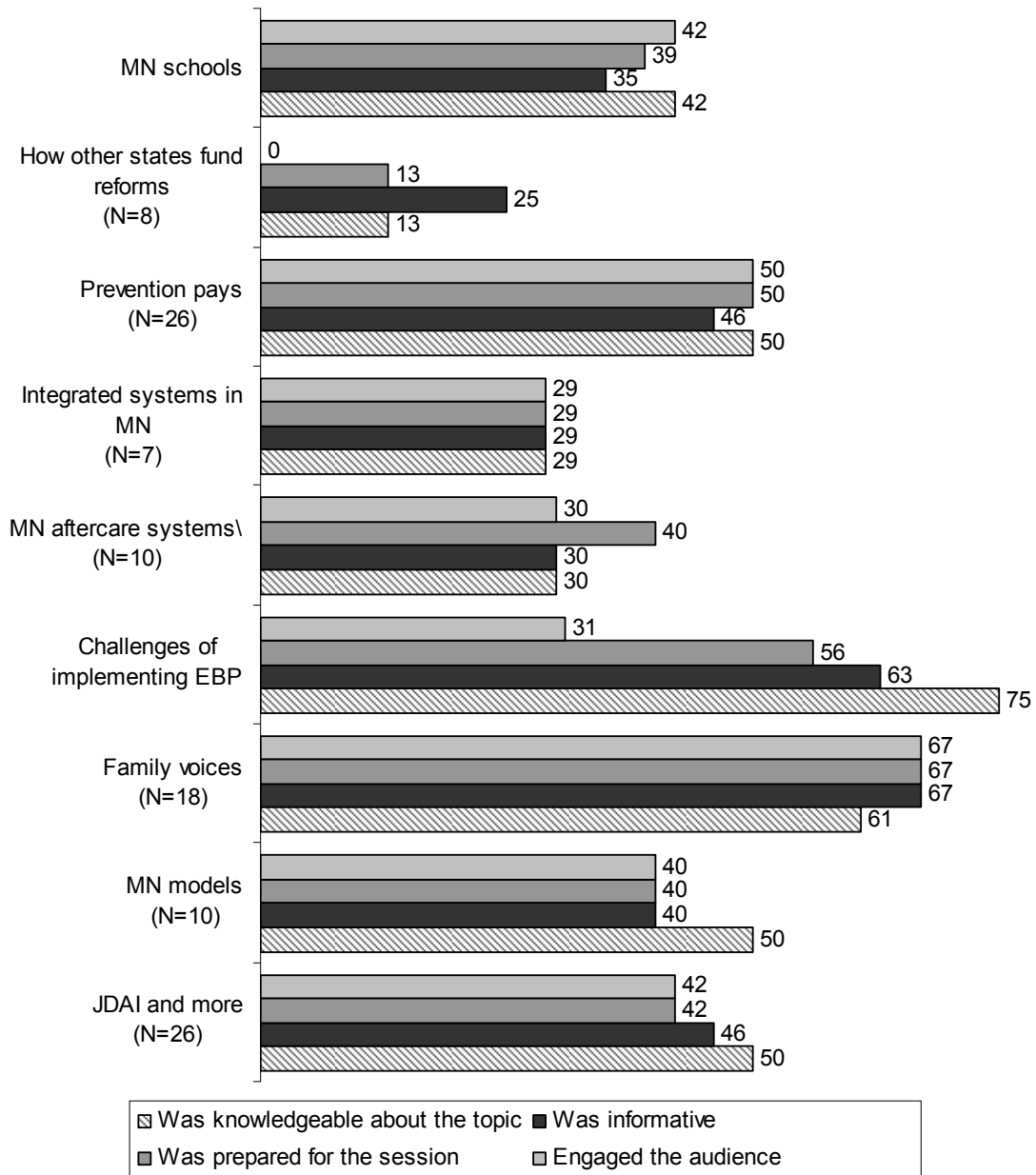


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## 16. Satisfaction with afternoon breakout sessions



**17. Variation in ratings of “strongly agree” across afternoon breakout sessions**



**Note:** Chi-square analyses indicated no significant variation in ratings across breakout sessions

---

**18. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon breakout sessions**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon breakout sessions**

---

**JDAI and more: Strategies for addressing disproportionate minority contact (James Bell, James Payne, Angelique Kedem, and Freddie Davis English)**

---

They all were excellent.

---

They were very knowledgeable of the subject matter.

---

Mr. Bell was the most informative. The other two were marginal at best.

---

Left me wanting a lot more about what was happening, what is working – where was Cook County?

---

This session was really great- great speakers, interesting information.

---

James Bell was a very passionate and informative speaker.

---

**Minnesota models for serving youth with mental health needs in the juvenile justice system (Chris Bray, Linda Hanson, and Ed Frickson)**

---

The audio equipment didn't work so presenters could not use their power points. This was a great distraction.

---

Questions presented to audience made no sense. Objective of this forum very fuzzy. A waste of time.

---

The PowerPoint did not work at all.

---

**Family voices (parents and youth)**

---

It was nice to have clients present their personal stories. More time needed for discussion. Once again we were cut off due to limited time.

---

It was good to have a young person present, along with parents. Important for these voices to be heard!

---

The parent voices were great – but limited to white families with mental health issues – I would have liked to have heard from families with children of color who are in the juvenile justice system – and not just because of mental health issues.

---

The panel that presented was truly inspirational.

---

The panel did an excellent job of communicating the challenge of having a young person with a mental health problem who gets involved in the juvenile justice system. The young man on the panel was very articulate and courageous in sharing his story.

---

I was a participating parent in this session.

---

I was really disappointed with this session. The mother and son were great. The other speakers were not informative or helpful.

---

It is always most important to hear the voices of the families. I learned much, but the trauma and brokenness of the hearts spoken in between their words was extra powerful.

---

---

**18. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon breakout sessions (continued)**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon breakout sessions**

---

**Challenges of implementing evidence-based practices with youth of color  
(Ken Martinez)**

---

I was disappointed that study was not what I thought it was. Focused more on Latinos and Native Americans. Did not really address evaluation based topic.

---

Excellent presentation.

---

Amazing presenter and perspective!

---

Not much time for discussion.

---

Interesting information presented well.

---

**Minnesota's aftercare system (Mike Boehm, Angela Lettner, Terry Thompson, Andrea Hendel, Shelley Ford, and Sally Danduran)**

---

Would have liked more time to discuss rather than just Q&A.

---

It was nice to see the various ways aftercare is handled.

---

Nice variety of programs.

---

I don't think each presenter was given enough time to really detail their program.

---

**Integrated systems in Minnesota (Susan Mills, Lucy Hayes, Cindy Powell, and Hillary Freeman)**

---

These were good. They did a nice job outlining their collaborations in the time allotted and there was sufficient time for questions. They all seemed to cover the importance of collaboratives especially when funding becomes tight. There was an issue with a non functioning computer projector, which was a little distracting. About three people came in to try to fix it during other's presentations.

---

Some technology problems were a distraction, but the content was good.

---

Not much I didn't know. Ms. Freeman referenced as much/more about adult mentoring & partnerships than juvenile.

---

**Prevention pays! Successful Minnesota models (Judge Rancourt, Jason Carver, James Kambiri, and Susan Carstens)**

---

The audience was engaged because of questions at the end. There were too many speakers and too little time to get in depth about the topics. If the point was to give a synopsis and have us follow up with the different people later than it hit the mark. Otherwise I would have enjoyed more time for each.

---

Really enjoyed the Judge.

---

The concept of prevention was not really covered. Intervention on various levels of seriousness was showcased.

---

This was a great session, got a lot of info about it as it relates to our organization.

---

This break-out was much more specific and provided group with ideas and motivation to move forward and engage youth in creative ways.

---

---

**18. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon breakout sessions (continued)**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon breakout sessions**

---

**Prevention pays! Successful Minnesota models (Judge Rancourt, Jason Carver, James Kambiri, and Susan Carstens) (continued)**

---

Didn't really give much information and nothing new or out of the ordinary. A session by Judge Rancourt on how to create a problem solving court or to sustain one would have been a very good training.

---

This was an outstanding workshop. Prayerfully what took place in the workshop can lead to everyone working together.

---

Setting was a bit non-engaging and a few of the speakers could have been a bit more dynamic.

---

**How other states fund juvenile justice reforms (Elizabeth Drake, Autumn Dickman, and Rick Steele)**

---

Information was strictly from the perspective of funding public agencies. Description did not indicate this limitation. Speakers were better prepared to discuss programs, not their funding.

---

Re-hash of morning presentation by Ms. Drake – whole thing not really helpful.

---

**Minnesota schools: Keeping youth out of the system (Stephanie Autumn, Mary Leadem Ticiu, Dave Kisch, and Vernon Rowe)**

---

I felt that the session was not well moderated in a way that made it flow in a cohesive, informative way. Panelists often spoke amongst themselves during their respective presentations and chimed in during each others presentations, making the session feel chopping and speakers seem less prepared to give a cohesive talk about the subject matter.

---

I was disappointed that Ms. Autumn was not on the panel as indicated.

---

Helpful to have more details about the programs that work.

---

I was one of the presenters for this breakout session.

---

This was an excellent presentation. I liked the perspective of metro versus non metro – so many of the same issues.

---

**Note:** One hundred and four individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.

## *Afternoon discussion sessions*

“.. the discussion(s) were very insightful and facilitated well.”

“Great exchange of ideas.”

“The guideline questions weren’t particularly clear.”

“Discussion was brief and superficial – there were lots of potential issues to discuss and the group just seemed too tired to fully engage.”

Sixty-four percent of the survey respondents attended one of the afternoon discussion sessions. The sessions that they were most likely to attend addressed prevention/intervention, and mental health and chemical dependency (Figure 19).

**Almost all attendees rated the afternoon discussion sessions as engaging, though fewer felt that innovative ideas or solutions emerged.** Most participants “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that participants were engaged in the discussion (96%) and that the session was effectively facilitated (90%). Somewhat fewer (81%) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the discussions yielded innovative ideas or solutions. The family involvement and role of the courts discussions tended to receive the highest ratings (Figures 20-21).

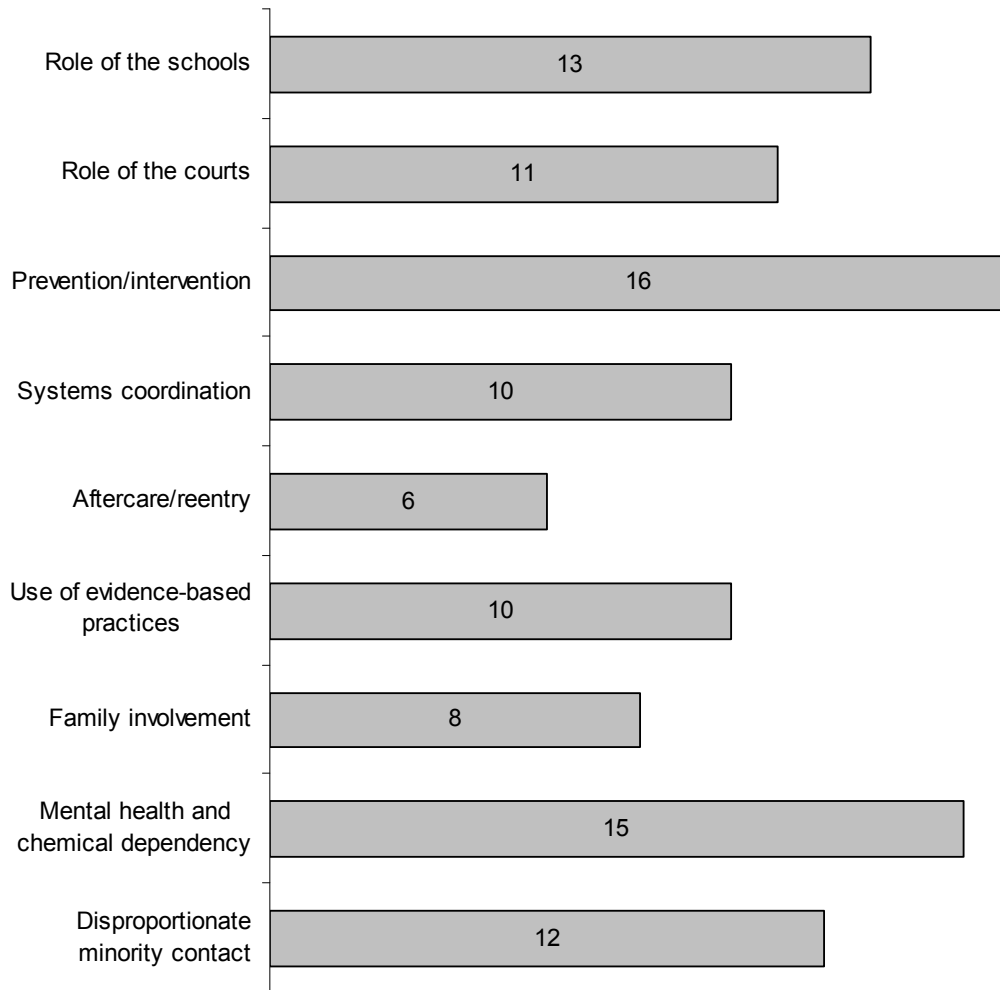
**Mixed feedback was also received regarding the afternoon discussion sessions.**

When asked to provide comments about the afternoon discussion sessions, a number of attendees said that the sessions were well facilitated and yielded interesting ideas. Some attendees felt that the discussion questions used by the facilitators were not helpful, hard to understand, or limited the conversation. Others felt that the discussion did not yield any new ideas, due to disengaged participants or weak facilitation (Figure 22).



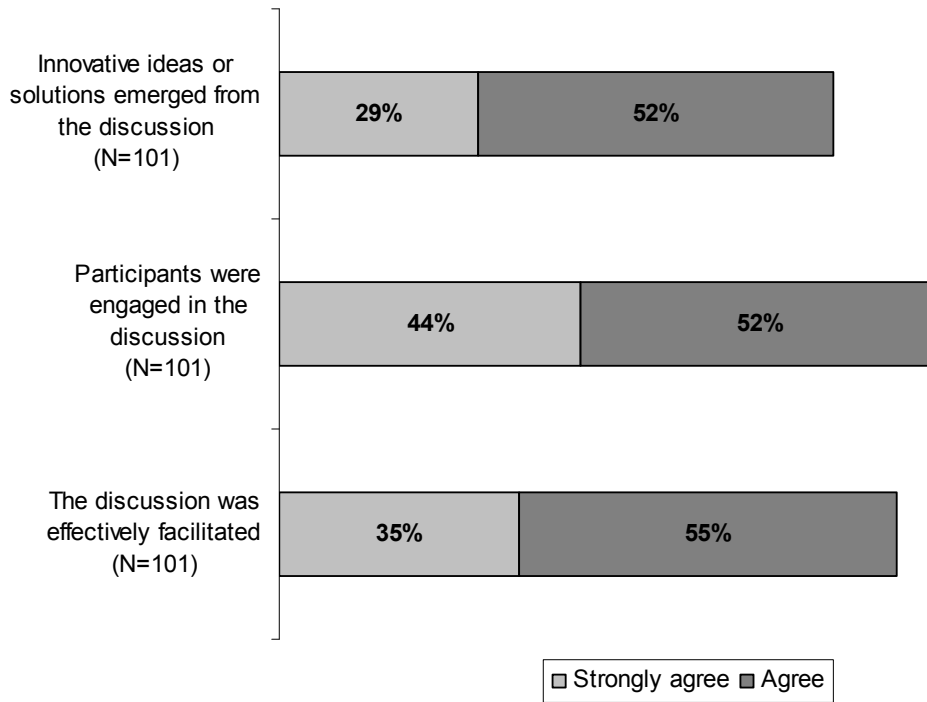
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**19. Afternoon discussion session attended by survey respondents**

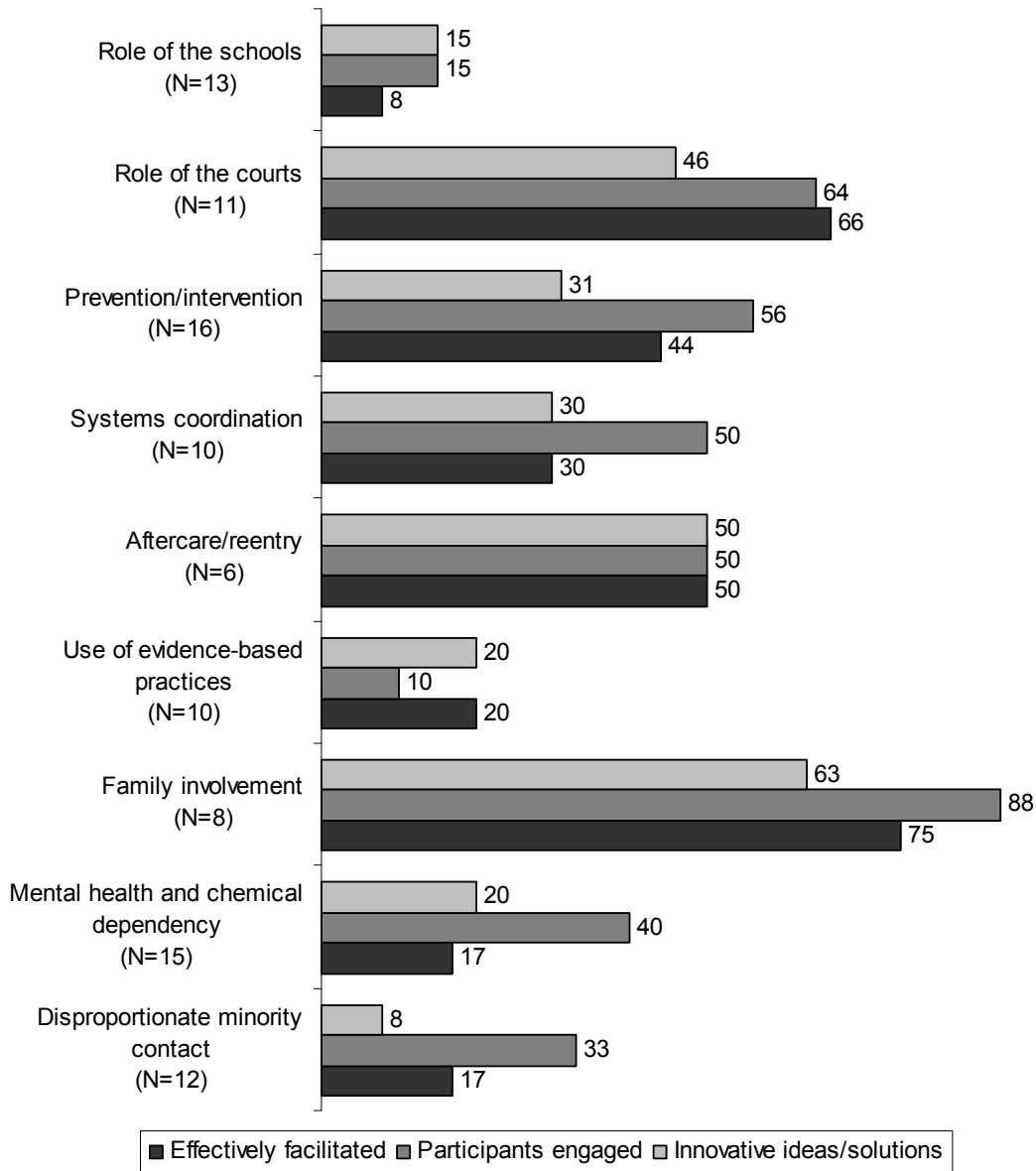


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## 20. Ratings of the afternoon breakout sessions



**21. Variation in ratings of “strongly agree” across afternoon discussion sessions**



**Note:** Chi-square analyses indicated no significant variation in ratings across breakout sessions

---

**22. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon discussion sessions**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon discussion sessions**

---

**Disproportionate minority contact**

---

I felt the discussion(s) were very insightful and facilitated well.

---

No ideas/solutions came out of the discussion.

---

One of the individuals who had previously made a presentation dominated the discussion and told the audience how some of the other presenters were wrong. This hurts the discussion.

---

**Mental health and chemical dependency**

---

Like the small group discussions.

---

The guideline questions weren't particularly clear. Good idea, though, to have some time to talk about specific application of what we were looking at throughout the day.

---

Good facilitation, though not quite as productive as hoped.

---

Many people did not participate in our discussion during this time. It didn't appear that many people took a lot of good ideas out of this session.

---

Not sure any ideas will be implemented.

---

Maybe? Not sure. Depends on whether anyone acts on what was discussed.

---

**Family involvement**

---

Good discussion.

---

The second two questions weren't that helpful and the language of all three questions was pretty academic bureaucratese.

---

One idea that occurred to me as a result of this session is that juvenile justice clients need a recovery plan similar to the IEP or treatment plan for special education and residential treatment clients. The plan should include parent involvement and help youth set goals and put a recovery plan in place so that there is hope for the future and less chance of recidivism.

---

Great exchange of ideas.

---

It was good to take this time to pause and re-gather ideas and pool voices to look forward to what we can each do or begin to generate action and movement.

---

**Use of evidence-based practices**

---

The session was well managed by the facilitator but participants seemed to have some difficulty connecting because they identified evidence-based practices differently.

---

It was good to discuss this topic with other professionals from different organizations. It could have been structured better.

---

This was a difficult topic to discuss given the parameters of the discussion questions.

---

Evidence based presentations were very different and conflicting moderator worked hard to pull out positive comments when most were critical.

---

Discussion was brief and superficial – there were lots of potential issues to discuss, and the group just seemed too tired to fully engage.

---

---

**22. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon discussion sessions (continued)**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon discussion sessions**

---

**After care/reentry**

---

Very interesting and informative.

---

A little hard getting going about the big picture of aftercare and how to continue with the collaborations and be innovative. Some got sidetracked into telling re-entry experiences that were not as important on the macro level. One facilitator asked about what policy/legislation impacts re-entry and that got everyone thinking bigger in a more systems focused way.

---

This session was great, and people were able to share things that they were currently doing to support after care services for youth.

---

**Systems coordination**

---

Great facilitation and great discussion!

---

Data privacy laws or how they are interpreted seemed to be one of the main roadblocks to system coordination.

---

The session was fine.

---

So much to talk about and so little time. We needed more time to hear about feedback of the ideas generated. Another half hour would have been appreciated.

---

**Prevention/intervention**

---

It seemed like for half the discussion all people did was focus on what probation and corrections was doing wrong and blaming them for everything. The presenter did a nice job of getting people back on task though.

---

The discussion focused primarily on the corrections system, not prevention and early intervention.

---

It felt like people in this group really wanted to take the next steps and develop a strategic plan that would lead to a common vision across the state. A challenge to this breakout session was talking about prevention at so many different levels (i.e., should a prevention strategy focus on the child, family, community safety, economic opportunities? What will be most effective?).

---

I truly enjoyed the session. We left with ideas to help and we had the opportunity to network and get assistance for one of the participants.

---

**Role of the courts**

---

Best session of the day for me! Really liked the judges and their openness to discuss the system and ways to work in it/with it.

---

I do not think any solutions emerged but the communication between individuals was good.

---

Informative and helpful.

---

---

**22. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon discussion sessions (continued)**

---

**Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon discussion sessions**

---

**Role of the schools**

---

There was one valuable idea regarding an information-sharing email or system. One difficult thing was understanding when outside education and everyone was using terms or acronyms we don't know.

---

There was a good discussion about problems and some discussion about solutions.

---

Moderators were looking for next steps – did not really encourage blue sky thinking which maybe is what is needed to break out of the current morass. I have little hope that creative or audacious solutions/steps will emerge. Seems the same old same old. I could be greatly encouraged if the conference sponsors follow through and challenge folks for approaches that will bring dramatic change to the system.

---

The room was not set up well for the discussion, so it was hard to hear. The group seemed to re-hash old conversations about schools' role – nothing creative came from the session.

---

Many strong opinions were expressed.

---

The questions the group was to focus on were vague and the ideas generated by them were not new.

---

It was informative.

---

**Note:** *Sixty-one individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.*

### ***Summary thoughts***

“This was a nice way to bring it all together.”

“...the format was not conducive to the low energy of the audience.”

“He did a wonderful job of...developing questions that encouraged the panelists to synthesize information from the day.”

“...forced and rather dull.”

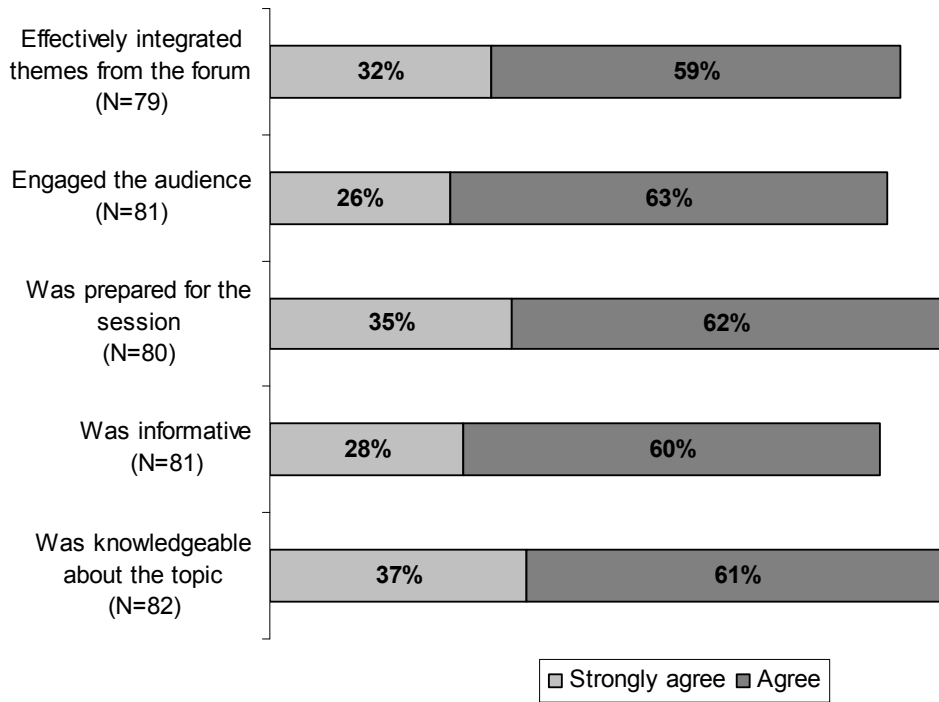
**Fewer participants attended the concluding session; those who did provided relatively high satisfaction ratings.** Fifty-two percent of the survey respondents attended the concluding session (“Summary thoughts and future directions” presented by Shay Bilchik). Almost all attendees (97% to 98%) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the presenter was knowledgeable and prepared for the session. Most (88% to 91%) also “agreed” that the presentation effectively integrated themes, engaged the audience, and was informative (Figure 23).

**Participants provided inconsistent feedback regarding the summary session.**

Relatively few open-ended comments were provided for this session. Feedback was mixed. Some attendees felt that this session did a nice job of integrating the discussions and considering next steps. Others disagreed, finding the session a long and repetitive way to end the forum. A few attendees commented that they would have preferred to hear the speaker’s own perspectives and experiences, rather than a recap of the discussions (Figure 24).

---

**23. Satisfaction with afternoon concluding session**



---

**24. Open-ended comments: Please share any comments that you have about the afternoon summary session**

**Response**

---

**Positive comments**

---

He did a wonderful job pulling things together and developing questions that encouraged the panelists to synthesize the information from the day instead of simply reporting one or two highlights from the discussion.

---

It was great to gather the summing-ups from each small group. Like a big think tank people have been woken up and now reminded of that hope and reconciliation piece to be a part of – to network and be in touch with each other. I loved the youth speaking at the end!! They completed the circle with their energy and love!! I hope to attend the Youth Congress in Sept.

---

Mr. Bilchik asked great questions. Session went long though.

---

Nice wrap up.

---

Shay was excellent and was able to weave it all together.

---

Shay did a nice job of bringing it together and asking questions of the panelists and kept the pace moving. I think this was a nice way to bring it all together.

---

**Negative/mixed comments**

---

I attended – don't remember much, though.

---

I only stayed for part of this as the format was crushingly repetitive and dull.

---

I think that he managed a difficult task well – however, in retrospect I would have appreciated the opportunity to hear more about his own thoughts/experiences/perspectives.

---

I thought that this was forced and rather dull. I'm not sure how this report back could have been better, but I think it had to do with the facilitator.

---

I thought too much time was spent incorporating the small groups. I would have liked to hear more from Shay.

---

Not all speakers addressed how to move issues forward, but I acknowledge that that is a difficult thing to do.

---

This speaker does not stick out for me. I am unsure as to what was discussed.

---

This was very late in the day. People were difficult to hear in the large room and the format was not conducive to the low energy of the audience.

---

This was very long and hard to stick with at the end of the day. Ended up leaving early.

---

Too many people on panel. It felt like questions were forced on panel.

---

**Note:** *Sixty-six individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.*



# Outcomes of forum

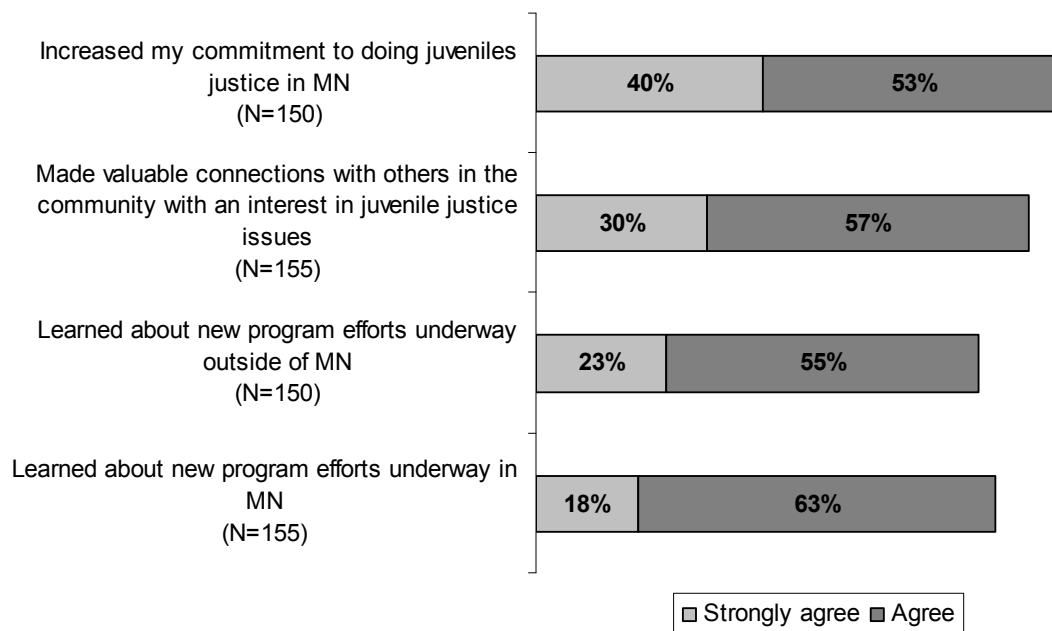
## *Forum outcomes*

Participants were most likely to agree that they left the forum with increased commitment and valuable connections. Participants were most likely to “agree” or “strongly agree” that the forum had increased their commitment to doing juveniles justice (93%) and that they had made valuable connections with others in the community (87%). Slightly fewer felt that they had learned about new program efforts, either within (81%) or outside of (78%) Minnesota (Figure 25).

---

### 25. Ratings of program outcomes

As a result of my participation in the juvenile justice forum, I:



## *Actionable ideas*

“Finding ways to boost family and youth involvement in programs.”

“Find ways to collaborate with other organizations.”

“Increasing community awareness of racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.”

“...move my community organization toward increased use of evidenced based models.”

“Advocate for early programs/services to keep youth out of juvenile corrections.”

**Three-quarters of the participants (76%) left with at least one actionable idea to take back to their community.** A wide range of ideas were reported. The most common themes addressed promoting family/youth involvement in services and expanding networking/collaboration with other system partners. Other attendees focused on addressing disproportionate minority contact, considering appropriate use of evidence-based practices, promoting restorative justice, increasing access to prevention/early intervention, creating diversions/alternatives to detention, and addressing youth mental health issues (Figure 26).

---

### **26. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)?**

**For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)?**

---

#### **Engage families/youth**

---

On how to engage youth in our restorative justice program. This would be new to our program and just hearing about tips for working with youth was beneficial.

---

Specific efforts that can be made to help engage families in the process.

---

There is more need for youth involvement.

---

To send a check to the Hennepin County Home School. The kids who spoke near the beginning were brave and added a special essence to the conference. To talk more with those who have been and are in prison and the families. AND in general, to listen!

---

Gained members from the community/parents to participate on several reform committees.

---

I learned the importance of family involvement and listening to the juveniles and incorporating their needs.

---

Means of engaging families.

---

My actionable idea is to increase the voices of families of children with mental health disorders and to educate probation officers and other juvenile justice officials about children's mental health disorders. Instead of zero tolerance and punishment, we need to build positive relationships with young people, mentor and guide them to turn their lives around and get the help they need.

---

---

**26. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)? (continued)**

**For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)?**

---

**Engage families/youth (continued)**

---

Finding ways to boost family and youth involvement in programs.

---

Develop a youth advisory council within JDAI.

---

Don't talk about them, without them.

---

Family involvement is worth the effort.

---

Involve families thru mentor programs and don't just slap the kid on the wrist on the first offense.

---

Make resource information from presenters available to families I work with.

---

Quality youth engagement/support needs to get forwarded.

---

**Enhance collaboration/strengthen partnerships**

---

Collaborating with other organizations and groups to exchange and share information.

---

Collaboration.

---

Be open with other organizations and find ways to collaborate with other organizations.

---

Connected with another program serving youth.

---

Engage my local juvenile delinquency court team (county attorney, defense, judge, county administrator, corrections, detention, sheriff, etc.) to review and make a commitment to OJJDP recommended practices for Delinquency Court Processes.

---

I will be much more involved with the school system and try and work closer together with others in the field to get a broader perspective of what's out there.

---

I am excited to join working groups. I hope to get contacted.

---

Make effort to work with legislators (Moua specifically).

---

Make a plan between the Public Defender's office and the county Attorney's office to visit schools.

---

More work on policy to release data for effective collaboration and coordination of effective "top-down" advocacy.

---

Ideas on how to enhance the pilot project we are going to start at Minneapolis Public Schools to increase the communication between the county, MPS and providers for students in treatment.

---

**Address disproportionate minority contact**

---

We need to advocate more for African American youth who are being stigmatized just because they are African American.

---

We need to pay more attention at how are youth are being filtered through the criminal justice system, especially with the disparity issues.

---

Working on disparate minority confinement.

---

Continue to work with JDAI/DMC efforts

---

Assist with reducing the disparity of youth of color in the juvenile justice system of Minnesota.

---

Increasing community awareness of racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.

---

---

**26. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)? (continued)**

**For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)?**

---

**Consider appropriate use of evidence-based practices**

---

Methods of improving our use of evidence-based practices.

---

Most support for evidence based practices.

---

Push harder to move my community organization toward increased use of evidenced based models.

---

Trying to implement Key Principles of Delinquency Court – specifically, one family, one judge.

---

Use practice-based evidence and don't be afraid to promote ideas which may go against the grain of "conventional wisdom."

---

Become better versed with the negative impact of evidence based practices.

---

Engage in a literature search of EBP and working with youth of color.

---

**Promote restorative justice/alternative dispute resolution techniques**

---

Set up an umbrella of restorative justice in our day treatment program.

---

Some restorative justice resources to help us in our work (we're a restorative justice organization).

---

Seek to do more "restorative" work in the schools.

---

Broader application of restorative measures.

---

Continue to work on establishing alternative dispute resolution alternatives to the judicial system.

---

**Promote access to prevention/early intervention**

---

What it takes to connect families with early intervention.

---

Promote after school and summer learning opportunities as important prevention strategies for children and youth.

---

Advocate for early programs/services to keep youth out of juvenile corrections.

---

Prevention programming ideas and connections.

---

Identifying risk factors for minor early offenders which may lead to further involvement with the juvenile justice system and then when identified attempting to implement intervention strategies at the right stages.

---

**Create diversions/alternatives**

---

All the juveniles in detention for technical violations should be out – we will improve the alternatives.

---

Minimize the number of students ticketed by our school.

---

To emphasize to patrol that they are kids and work with creative ways to keep them out of the court system if the incident and victim's allows.

---

How to keep juveniles out of the correctional facilities by providing consequences without sending a child to the correctional facilities.

---

---

**26. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)? (continued)**

**For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)?**

---

**Address mental health issues**

---

Increasing community awareness of the importance of addressing mental health issues within this population.

---

Utilizing the V-Disc, based on Gail Wasserman's work at Columbia U.

---

Mental Health screening for Juvenile offenders.

---

Mental health screens – important to have a better process to refer youth who score in the high range to access services, complete with better follow through.

---

**Miscellaneous comments/suggestions**

---

I'm keeping it secret!

---

Invite Chris Bray to meet with my county.

---

It gave me some good ideas for topics and speakers to consider in a public hearing to discuss juvenile justice issues.

---

Leadership is the key in moving action forward.

---

Legal review.

---

The presentation from Washington state was quite provocative and the idea of rating provider competence a daring one.

---

Better training for judges assigned to juvenile delinquency matters.

---

Form a unified vision for juvenile justice in Minnesota and have the JJC serve as a coordinator of resources and communication within the state.

---

Gaining a better understanding of what the problems are in the Juvenile Justice system.

---

NEVER GIVE UP!!

---

Keep doing what I have been doing for a number of years.

---

Re-entry program.

---

My work is important because it focuses on community involvement, this is more effective than third party involvement only.

---

A commitment to continuing aftercare efforts.

---

Take chances and stand up for what I believe in. Sometimes you have to "defy" the rules to make changes.

---

Fiscal realignment policies for school to prison pipeline.

---

I have learned there are an abundance of programs out there for our youth.

---

Maybe not one actionable idea but was able to refocus the energy on the mission of our agency.

---

I have a better understanding of the initiatives being taken in Hennepin county and I am ready to move our organization in a positive direction.

---

---

**26. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)? (continued)**

**For attendees reporting at least one actionable idea to take back to their community, what idea(s)?**

---

**Miscellaneous comments/suggestions (continued)**

---

Keeping track of the kids that are in the detention center to ensure fair treatment for all.

---

Looking at a program's similarities to our population when considering implementing a new program or implementing a current program change.

---

Take a closer look at individual reasons for juvenile detention.

---

That it's always okay to hold children accountable for their actions and it can be done in many different ways.

---

The key note speaker really inspired me.

---

To pray more for this whole arena.

---

New stronger and smarter juvenile justice systems and interventions.

---

Convening around data improvement/informed decisions.

---

I now know how bureaucratic this system really is which really hinders its success.

---

Misbehaviors create misdemeanors – I thought it was clever and made me realize that these juveniles sometimes don't have a fair chance.

---

**Note:** *Eleven individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.*

### ***Perceived barriers/challenges and need for support***

“Shortage of financial resources.”

“...differing agenda and often refuse to cooperate for the good of the whole.”

“Rigidity of the system and its players.”

“lack of strong visible leadership.”

**Two-thirds of the participants (65%) identified barriers or challenges in implementing the ideas shared at the forum.** Funding was mentioned most often as a barrier. Other attendees described barriers to collaboration, including the lack of a cohesive vision for change and competing agendas. System barriers, including a resistance to change, were also highlighted. Other barriers addressed limited legislative/political support, a lack of strong leadership, challenges to parent/youth involvement, and others (Figure 27).

“More funding to provide adequate services and personnel.”

“Background research on the efficacy of some programs.”

“Continued opportunities for dialogue.”

“A person to act as the planner/coordinator.”

**Just over one-third of the participants (37%) perceived a need for additional support to implement the ideas shared at the forum.** Consistent with their comments regarding barriers, funding was mentioned frequently as a need. Other attendees described a need for more information, including more training and greater access to data, and increased opportunities for networking/collaboration. Finally, some respondents identified a need for an organization or individual to provide leadership and support in this area (Figure 28).

---

**27. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barrier(s)?**

---

**For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barrier(s)?**

---

**Funding**

---

Funding. (N=10)

---

Money. (N=5)

---

Obtaining funding.

---

Resources.

---

Lack of funding.

---

Shortage of financial resources.

---

Budget cuts.

---

Budget issues.

---

Finances.

---

Competing funding.

---

---

**27. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barrier(s)? (continued)**

---

**For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barrier(s)?**

---

**Funding (continued)**

Budget issues are moving us further away from funding any preventive/early intervention programming no matter how outside the box the ideas are.

Budgets.

Getting funding from those that control the pocketbook in the current atmosphere of this state.

Lack of \$\$ for change.

Budget problems.

In an era of challenges for every public dollar the understanding of the costs/benefits to moving this along.

A focus on many that more funding is the only solution.

---

**Barriers to collaboration/lack of cohesive vision for change**

---

Cooperation at the top.

System partners have differing agendas and often refuse to cooperate for the good of the whole.

Getting others on board with the ideas, etc.

Possibly management?

Minimal collaboration between groups.

Poor senior administration collaboration within my agency between juvenile justice and child welfare [where I work].

Communication and collaboration.

Lack of clear definition of needed changes.

Turf wars.

How to get everyone talking and on the same page instead of all the task force and committees that don't exchange ideas.

Yes, there is not an overarching structure to implement. Lots of different groups, but, no real action. Right now I don't see an incentive for cooperation.

Finding the right people at the county who are willing to participate.

Getting all the organizations on board.

Dueling philosophies.

Existing systems, lack of common vision for how the system should work, lack of prioritization of what goals need the most work.

Communication and focused direction on common goals, objectives and themes/theories for change. Who will hold that torch and make sure rhetoric is transformed into action?

The biggest challenge that I foresee is everyone being respectively entrenched in their parochial interests and approaches offered by their line of work to really work together toward a shared common goal to improve the system for kids, especially if money/ programmatic funding is on the line.

---



---

**27. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barrier(s)? (continued)**

---

**For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barrier(s)?**

---

**Barriers to collaboration/lack of cohesive vision for change (continued)**

---

The need for county system to let the community agencies take the lead and them to follow.

WHO OR WHAT HAS the vision (and knowledge of EBP) of what the system should look like and how it should work.

The barrier will be changing the way people do business.

Clarity of mission, focus, interest, commitment, collaboration.

Different systems work different ways.

Commitment.

**System resistance to change/bureaucracy**

---

Inertia. (N=2)

Systems are hard to change.

As the keynote speaker said, people in government are resistant to change.

Rigidity of the system and its players, resistance to change.

Many of the answers are outside of the box for youth and we are too afraid to go outside of the box because it is out of our comfort zone.

Juvenile Justice System is a very conservative system. It is therefore very resistant to change.

Large bureaucracies that are slow to change.

Bureaucracy.

Governmental bureaucracies.

People are not always receptive to these ideas.

Resistance to change.

Systems aren't willing to acknowledge their failures.

The system also has to change.

Too much bureaucracy.

System change is at best challenging, especially in addressing racial and ethnic disparities. More conversation need be had regarding the impact of structural racism and how to best address it.

The will to change since most of the same people are in charge of the JJ system in Hennepin County. The policy makers were nowhere to be found.

**Politics**

---

Political will.

Legislators.

Convincing legislation to make the change.

---

---

**27. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barrier(s)? (continued)**

---

**For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barrier(s)?**

---

**Politics (continued)**

---

Government agency recalcitrance.

---

Political support.

---

Reactive ideas among policymakers.

---

Changing policymakers' views.

---

Getting legislators to understand the importance of having prevention & intervention plans in place for all youth, particularly those at risk.

---

Politics and those who profess to be tough on crime. It is going to take leadership and education.

---

**Lack of leadership**

---

Different leadership styles and agendas and lack of quality leadership.

---

Lack of strong, visible leadership from the key systems.

---

Lack of state leadership regarding this issue.

---

No central coordination of efforts, no state leadership.

---

Many ideas were shared, but it seems that another level of organization is needed to pull these efforts together and keep people connected as they work on similar activities across the state. Some ideas will really require commitment from the State to put into action (ex., developing a common database that allows us to better understand characteristics of youth involved in the JJ system).

---

Leadership commitment.

---

Decisions makers who really have vision and are committed to dramatic change rather than nibbling around the edges. System leaders who view the issue not just within the confines of the environment that they operate in. The issue belongs to everyone and answers necessarily involve systems change and a new holistic way of working.

---

**Non-funding resource challenges**

---

Time. (N=2)

---

Time and commitment of stakeholders to create changes to systems.

---

Certainly manpower is an issue because increased interaction with juvenile will be required.

---

Resource issues besides budget (staff, programs).

---

**Challenges to parent/youth engagement**

---

As a parent, we need a stronger voice and commitment for other parents. There were many professionals and not enough parents at the table.

---

Family's are busy working, or not interested, or have substance abuse issues, or other issues, or have given up.

---

I think that sometime parents want professionals to raise and "fix" their children. We are going to have to address that time and time again.

---

Parent buy-in since some of these strategies will take extra commitment on their part and will they be willing to take this step to help their child.

---

---

**27. Open-ended comments: For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barriers(s)? (continued)**

---

**For attendees reporting at least one barrier or challenge, what barrier(s)?**

---

**Public perceptions/awareness**

---

Unless a person has personally experienced the pain of involvement with the criminal justice system, they are less likely to get involved.

---

Education/engagement of the public about delinquency.

---

Lack of understanding &/or acceptance by Caucasian students.

---

The general acceptance (public will) that accepts the concept that Corrections is not accountable for positive outcomes for its clients – probationers are not expected to gain work and social skills to become positive, contributing members of the community. Not an effective/efficient way to run a VERY expensive business!

---

**Lack of data**

---

The barrier will be instituting data collection.

---

Not enough data.

---

**Other comments**

---

The Juvenile Justice System and Minneapolis Public Schools.

---

Licensing obligations, staff ability to implement the ideas.

---

Actual action being taken. Perhaps this was discussed elsewhere? Or perhaps I just didn't catch on.

---

The system is the biggest barrier. The zero tolerance policy in the school systems has taken away the power to consider individual differences in young people. There needs to be more innovative problem solving on a case by case basis, instead of labeling and degrading young people.

---

Everything is always hard to implement.

---

Trying to get around county trends to change some of our practices.

---

Numerous.

---

People who believe equal treatment is fair treatment.

---

Same barriers and challenges as before – nothing new offered.

---

Organizing such training is not my department's work.

---

Reluctance of therapists to be limited or directed by "someone else's program or perspective. Perceived as an attack on their professional competence.

---

There is something of an Evidence Based backlash.

---

Had hoped for a little more specifics, but I guess maybe conference was directed at those who are already working with youth and are very familiar with practices and how to engage specifically.

---

**Note:** Eighteen individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.

---

**28. Open-ended comments: For attendees indicating that they need additional support to implement ideas shared at the forum, what kind of support?**

**For attendees indicating that they need additional support to implement ideas shared at the forum, what kind of support?**

---

**Funding/other support**

---

Funding. (N=3)

---

Money. (N=2)

---

Money to implement any plan.

---

Financial resources to sustain ideas beyond project stages.

---

Funding for prevention and early intervention AND most of all RESTORATIVE JUSTICE programming across the state.

---

Information on how to receive funding for programs that is unique to the system.

---

More funding to provide adequate services and personnel.

---

Money for additional staffing is always needed.

---

Lobby for resources to support the work of the juvenile justice system.

---

Support from the department that is responsible.

---

We need support from all those who are involved in the juvenile justice system and the legislature.

---

**Training/information/data**

---

Training. (N=2)

---

Background research on the efficacy of some programs would be helpful to have accessible.

---

Data always helps!

---

DMC training.

---

Future trainings in juvenile justice trends, efforts, programming.

---

Support in determining the evidence basis of current successful programs that are effectively keeping high risk youth out of the system.

---

More information about dealing with youth gang prevention and undocumented youth.

---

Presenters to train our staff on the DMC issues.

---

I need information on program development=planning, implementation and evaluation.

---

Researchers/analysts, data (ability to collect and analyze).

---

A screening tool was described in one of our sessions – but I have already been able to access that.

---

**Opportunities for networking/collaboration**

---

Consistent mode of communication throughout the year.

---

Continued communication about funding sources and program implementation ideas.

---

I don't know if it is "needed" but continuing meetings/training or even just idea sharing as a group would be beneficial for implementation ideas and continued motivation.

---

---

**28. Open-ended comments: For attendees indicating that they need additional support to implement ideas shared at the forum, what kind of support? (continued)**

**For attendees indicating that they need additional support to implement ideas shared at the forum, what kind of support?**

---

**Opportunities for networking/collaboration (continued)**

---

Collaboration exercises.

---

Continued opportunities for dialogue.

---

Networking with community service agencies.

---

Possibly a contact to share ideas or input, or a speaker.

---

Maybe an online discussion forum for people to discuss what works and what doesn't.

---

A real effort for all of us to STOP working in silos.

---

**Leadership/organization/staffing**

---

Administrative support, someone with authority who can compel the players in the juvenile justice system to work together.

---

Grantwriters.

---

A person to act as the planner/coordinator

---

Staffing and technology to keep folks who care about advancing policy and the work that came out of this day-long event moving forward.

---

Again, I think there is great need for some higher level organization to take place so that the ideas from the session can be implemented.

---

**Other comments**

---

System reform efforts in the US, North America and perhaps western Europe.

---

Far too often the Juvenile Justice System plays second fiddle to the Adult System. There needs to be more focus on the Juvenile Justice System and prevention, instead feeding the flawed Adult system. Maybe if more emphasis was placed on prevention in the juvenile justice system, there wouldn't be so many adult offenders.

---

Vision and commitment.

---

Yes, but not prepared to answer what kind at this time.

---

More equal inclusion of communities and community providers to demand, expect positive outcomes for those in the corrections system and more and better appropriate prevention and intervention resources.

---

Public relations and outreach on behalf of all juvenile justice involved youth.

---

How to implement state wide reform efforts within a county-based system.

---

I am always open to new knowledge.

---

I was able to make connections at the forum that will help with implementation of ideas.

---

I would love to see ongoing work on this topic in order to keep the momentum going and make significant changes.

---

I'm sure as time evolves and God lies on my heart where I am to go, I will seek out what I need.

---

**Note:** *Thirteen individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.*

## *Awareness of other program models*

**One in five participants (19%) was aware of other models/programs (in Minnesota or elsewhere) that were not featured.** When asked to identify the models/programs, they mentioned a number of different local and national programs (Figure 29).

---

### **29. Open-ended comments: For attendees indicating that they are aware of other promising models/programs (in Minnesota or elsewhere) that were not featured, what models or programs?**

---

#### **For attendees indicating that they are aware of other promising models/programs (in Minnesota or elsewhere) that were not featured, what models or programs?**

---

A juvenile Intensive Tracking Program for corrections kids that our agency developed and runs in Winona county.

---

All Children Excel (ACE) in Ramsey County.

---

Amicus programming for girls – Radius.

---

Balanced and Restorative Justice – Pennsylvania.

---

Delancey Street Foundation.

---

Delivering the Difference and the Kappa League Program.

---

Effective Case Management; YLS/CMI; Inter Agency Review Teams.

---

Family and Children's center, America Bar None Residential Treatment Facility.

---

Financial mapping.

---

I would have liked some mention of the use of FFT in both Ramsey and Dakota counties.

---

I'd like to hear about NYC efforts to implement FFT, MST and MDTFC – how they do it, fund it, work with vendors.

---

Intermediate District 287 programs based on experiential vocational training; and, on middle level kinetic programming.

---

Restorative justice.

---

Restorative measures programs via the Minnesota Restorative Services Coalitions web site need to be contacted and present at these events.

---

SAVE OUR SONS.

---

Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative.

---

The Christian-based one – is that the Freedom Initiative?

---

The Council on Crime and Justice reducing racial disparity plan.

---

The Minneapolis Convention Center hosted a faith based conference called Revolution this past weekend. The message is to rebel against the low expectations of modern society that are projected in the media. Teens are taught to "Do Hard Things" meaning set goals, have high standards and values and be exemplary in their choices. This type of movement gives youth a place to belong and teaches them to care about themselves and others.

---

---

**29. Open-ended comments: For attendees indicating that they are aware of other promising models/programs (in Minnesota or elsewhere) that were not featured, what models or programs? (continued)**

**For attendees indicating that they are aware of other promising models/programs (in Minnesota or elsewhere) that were not featured, what models or programs?**

---

There are several successful models of approaches to juvenile justice reform. Jurisdictions such as Santa Cruz, CA, Chicago, Ill. and Portland, OR to name a few.

---

Understanding the problems and gear resources to problem solve.

---

Wilder Foundation's work in the St. Paul schools with youth pre and post involvement in the juvenile justice system.

---

YMCA Community Specialist Program. We currently have 10 Community Specialist who work with youth on probation in Hennepin County. We provide after care services for youth leaving long term placement as well as youth on probation in the Community. We provide services to youth around employment, schooling, community resources, and pro-social activities for youth.

---

Youth and Community Awareness and Prevention Program (YCAPP) has helped to reduce violence in Stillwater Area Schools by 50 percent and reduced suspensions by 25 percent.

---

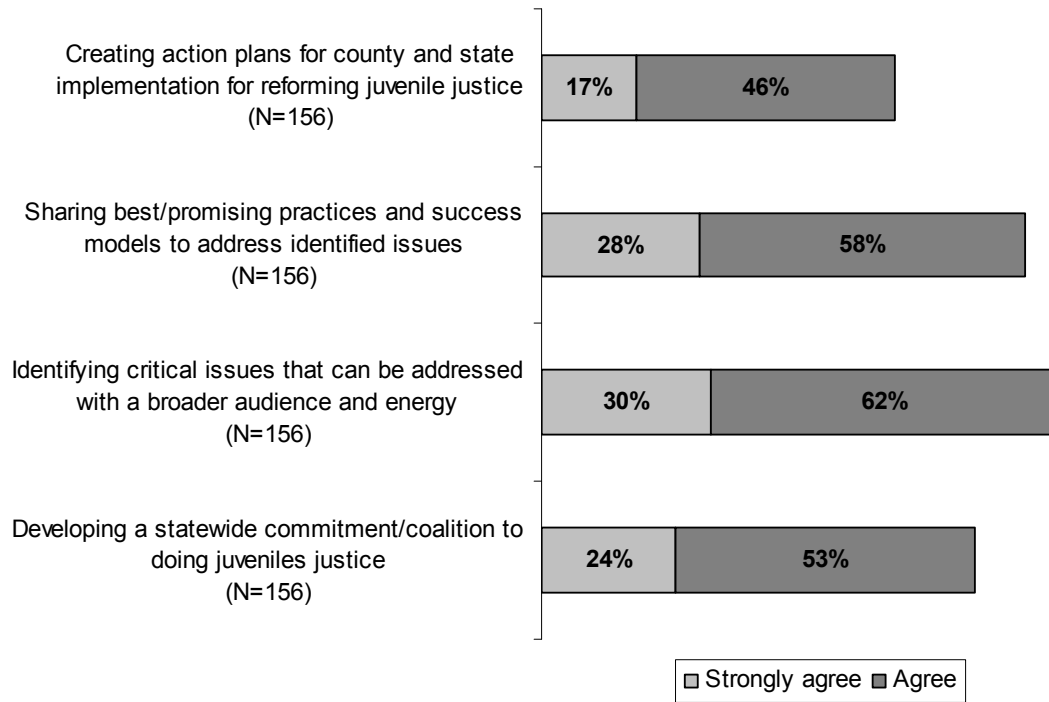
**Note:** Five individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.

## ***Success in meeting forum objectives***

**Respondents most often agreed that the forum identified critical issues and shared successful models.** Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which each of four forum objectives was met. They were most likely to “agree” or “strongly agree” that the forum identified critical issues that can be addressed with a broader audience or energy (91%) and shared best/promising practices and success models to address identified issues (86%). Most, though fewer, agreed that the forum had developed a statewide commitment/coalition to doing juveniles justice (77%) and created action plans for county and state implementation for reforming juvenile justice (63%) (Figure 30).

---

**30. Percentage of respondents agreeing that forum objectives were met**





# Overall perceptions of the forum

## *Most useful component*

“Bringing the different disciplines together in one setting to examine common and overlapping concerns.”

“The national speakers sharing their expertise on the identified topics.”

“Ideas and solutions addressed by the morning keynote speaker.”

“Diversity of issues/information.”

### **Networking was seen as one of the most useful components of the forum.**

Respondents were asked to identify the most useful component of the forum. The most common response was that attendees appreciated having the opportunity to network and talk with others, with some specifically commenting on the importance of having such a diverse array of stakeholders present. The breadth of topics and opportunities to participate in the breakout sessions was also highlighted. Others commented on the overall quality of the speakers, with some mentioning the keynote speaker in particular (Figure 31).

---

### **31. Open-ended comments: What was the most useful component of the forum?**

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#### **What was the most useful component of the forum**

---

##### **Networking opportunities/variety of attendees**

---

Networking. (N=6)

---

Being reminded of all the different people who work with juveniles and what we are here for.

---

The opportunity to network with other persons engaged in juvenile justice work.

---

Bringing people together.

---

Bringing people in from outside of the state to share ideas.

---

The overall attendance and chance for people to visit across disciplines was very important. Bringing together youth, parents, human service providers, and juvenile justice professionals is essential for change.

---

Bringing the different disciplines together in one setting to examine common and overlapping concerns.

---

Bringing together all types of organizations that deal with kids and offering them the tools to create a better environment for dealing with kids and crime.

---

Connecting people from a broad service and policy sector.

---

Connections with others who do similar work across the state and country.

---

---

**31. Open-ended comments: What was the most useful component of the forum? (continued)**

---

**What was the most useful component of the forum**

---

**Networking opportunities/variety of attendees (continued)**

---

Contacts made.

---

Having such broad representation across fields was great. I appreciated the excitement and interest of attendees.

---

Making the connections with other programs.

---

Networking and information sharing.

---

Folks were very engaged.

---

Networking and seeing what is out there.

---

Networking and sharing information across jurisdictions.

---

Meeting others involved in aftercare and learning about their programs.

---

Meeting staff from different systems.

---

Networking with other professionals serving youth.

---

Networking with others involved with the same interest in Juvenile Justice.

---

The gathering of many stakeholders in creating the energy and dedication to solve problems.

---

Networking with others who work in the juvenile justice system.

---

Networking with people from my county that I rarely see.

---

The cross-disciplinary audience was great and very interesting.

---

The variety of attendees.

---

Good to have judges there.

---

Personal connections.

---

The positive energy of all those convened.

---

We were able to connect with other providers and interested parties and expand our network.

---

Opportunity to talk to other local folks.

---

**Specific comments about speakers/sessions (other than keynote)**

---

Having good national and statewide speakers available.

---

James Bell is a "must hear." He not only address Disproportionate Minority Contact bur the absolute need for accountability for Correction's outcomes for 'clients'.

---

Data in morning presentation.

---

Hearing from people doing the work in Minnesota.

---

Hearing others' experiences and getting motivated to engage youth in creative ways.

---

Hearing the two youth speakers at the end. We need to involve more youth like them in planning and implementation of services.

---

---

**31. Open-ended comments: What was the most useful component of the forum? (continued)**

---

**What was the most useful component of the forum**

---

**Specific comments about speakers/sessions (other than keynote) (continued)**

---

Morning speakers.

---

Last brainstorming session.

---

Quality and variety of speakers and breakout sessions.

---

Presentation by James Bell.

---

Motivational speakers.

---

The quality of presenters.

---

Some very dynamic speakers (Bell).

---

The national speakers sharing their expertise on the identified topics.

---

Quality of some of the presenters was very impressive.

---

Opportunity to hear national speakers.

---

Great speakers.

---

**Topics**

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Diversity of issues/information.

---

Hearing how other schools are using programs to decrease suspension.

---

Learning more about the JDAI initiative.

---

Identification of mental health and DMC issues in MN and seeing other options of how the system could work from other states.

---

Sessions on evidence-based practices.

---

The statistics on people of color and the rate at which they are in the justice system.

---

Intervention and prevention.

---

Information about what is happening across the country.

---

Successful programs from other states/counties.

---

The aftercare presentations.

---

The variety of breakout sessions from which to choose was good. I liked the youth speakers at the end (and throughout), as well.

---

Variety in the people who shared and in the topics.

---

Learning what research has to say about what is successful and what does not work.

---

Updates on current research.

---

**Keynote presentation**

---

Key note speaker. (N=2)

---

I really enjoyed the morning key note.

---

Morning keynote.

---

---

**31. Open-ended comments: What was the most useful component of the forum? (continued)**

**What was the most useful component of the forum**

---

**Keynote presentation (continued)**

---

Dr. Schembri.

Engaging keynote speaker to rally the troops so to speak.

The keynote speaker. He really motivated me to bring forth evidence-based ideas which may go against "conventional wisdom."

I thought the key note speaker was great and really got me more involved.

Issues and solutions address by the morning keynote speaker.

---

**Breakout sessions**

---

Breakout sessions. (N=6)

Breakout sessions, a great variety – well done.

Morning and Afternoon breakout groups.

---

**Discussions**

---

The discussion groups.

Forum discussions.

The discussion sessions.

---

**Flash drive/materials**

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The flash drive with the handouts and other materials is fabulous.

I also loved how you distributed a flash drive with the materials on it. There was so many interesting topics and hard to be able to attend them all.

Who ever came up with the flash drive idea: brilliant!!

---

**Other**

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Materials, presenter contacts and knowing that those of us who are looking to improve the system are not alone.

All of it seemed useful.

I think I have said enough about this.

I thought it was a great day.

Idea-sharing and motivation.

Resource tables in the lobby.

The attempt to get everybody thinking (and doing) something beyond "locking them up."

The positive atmosphere with a desire to move forward with plans that really benefit children. It's nice to have a legislator who is committed to the cause – hope she can influence others. Far too many good programs have fallen by the wayside due to lack of funding. The juvenile justice system has practically been dismantled due to lack of funding. Changes are needed. Kids need to be a priority.

The forum was well organized.

Really well organized.

---

**Note:** Seventy-two individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.

## *Suggestions for improvement*

“One hour breakout sessions do not do justice to the topics presented.”

“...there was no time for debate, discussion, and cooperative learning.”

“[needed a] clear, explicitly articulated common vision identified with initial next steps for groups to sign onto.”

“Allow individuals to spend more time together to discuss and plan action specific to their areas of concentration.”

They were also asked to provide their suggestions for improving the forum. The most common suggestion was to spend more time in breakout sessions, either by increasing their length or offering more of them. Another theme was that participants would have liked more discussion and stronger efforts to translate the forum information into future action, through consensus building, strategic planning, and action planning. Other attendees suggested that a two-day forum would have allowed for greater learning, information sharing, and strategic planning. Some respondents identified a need for greater stakeholder engagement/participation, including leaders (judges, legislative/state leaders), families, and front line workers. A range of suggestions related to the choice of speakers and topics were offered. Not all participants provided suggestions, with some indicating that they thought that the forum was well organized and implemented (Figure 32).

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### **32. Open-ended comments: How could the forum have been improved?**

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#### **How could the forum have been improved?**

---

##### **Have more/longer breakout sessions**

---

More time in workshops, less time in large group would've helped.

---

I wish there was more opportunities to participate in other sessions. Because of the structure of the conference, it was difficult to hear the national speakers during the breakouts.

---

More time for breakout sessions and less time with the key note speakers in the morning and afternoon.

---

Longer breakout sessions.

---

Shorter keynote, longer time for breakouts.

---

More workshops.

---

More time in order to attend other breakout session topics.

---

More time needed in break-out sessions.

---

Repeat the same sessions in the two breakout sessions.

---

I would have liked to attend more of the individual sessions. Have them repeated in the afternoon.

---

One hour breakout sessions do not do justice to the topics presented.

---

---

**32. Open-ended comments: How could the forum have been improved?  
(continued)**

---

**How could the forum have been improved?**

---

**No suggestions**

---

I do not have any specific suggestions. I think the conference was well conceived and implemented.

---

I thought it was great!

---

I thought it went very well.

---

It was wonderful!!! Thank you for providing this opportunity to become more informed, charged up and inspired to become change itself – Lord willing.

---

Everything was great!

---

From my perspective, it was perfect.

---

It was very strong, excellent presenters.

---

It was very well done.

---

The setting and food were excellent!!

---

**Increase action/strategic planning**

---

Ideas need time to be discussed and a time for quality action planning. Everything felt rushed and there was no time for debate, discussion and cooperative learning.

---

Focus more on what we want out of the training and how we are going to achieve that. It seems like these are topics just talked about but no one really takes any action.

---

There was lots of talk. Not sure what actual action is going to be taken because of it.

---

Clear, explicitly articulated common vision identified with initial next steps for groups to sign onto.

---

Done some feedback tools near the end to get some start on how the group would prioritize the issues discussed.

---

I think the final small group discussions may have been more successful if all groups could have tried to focus on developing one key actionable item that would address their topic. Many ideas were mentioned, but I don't think we reached consensus on what the next steps need to be in the State.

---

More time to really develop actions, strategies for address issue that result in change for the better.

---

I feel that we discuss too much and never do anything. We have meetings just to talk and we need to do more than that.

---

---

**32. Open-ended comments: How could the forum have been improved?  
(continued)**

---

**How could the forum have been improved?**

---

**Promote different/better speakers**

---

Have more local people keynote what is happening here.

---

More presentations from local agencies that are doing the work.

---

Invite more youth and their families with success stories. There may be a pattern of areas that have worked well.

---

More informative speakers.

---

Have more engaging large group presenters.

---

Better screening of some of the presenters. Some of the presenters gave such basic information on programs that some of my staff stated that it was like a first year college course.

---

Maybe some teen panels that talked about what was helpful for them.

---

**Expand to two-days**

---

Two days instead of one?

---

I felt that the speakers and discussions were helpful, allow more than one day for such intensive training.

---

Spread over 2 days.

---

Need a two day, or follow up day event in the near future.

---

Need more hours in the day. A two day summit focused on getting partners in a specific geographic location to walk out of the "summit" with a work plan would be great.

---

The forum could have been a multiple day workshop. The work that was being done was so important and needs more time.

---

**Expand participation/stakeholder representation**

---

Where are the coalitions coming out of this conference?

---

More participation and voices from families of color.

---

More recognition that not all participants work for governmental units.

---

A greater attendance by legislative leaders, state agency leaders, the judicial branch, law enforcement, etc.

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It would have been nice if even more judges could have attended.

---

More front line people attend.

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**32. Open-ended comments: How could the forum have been improved?  
(continued)**

---

**How could the forum have been improved?**

---

**Increase discussion/dialogue**

---

Changing the format to allow individuals to spend more time together to discuss and make plans of action specific to their areas of concentration. It appeared the conference was a planned to be a big splash with too many droplets.

---

Do the forum as a dialogue – even the key note speaker could have been engaged in dialogue. Weave the theme together through dialogues.

---

Would prefer some time to interact as larger or smaller groups around a particular topic at the beginning of the forum rather than at the end. Present some challenging ideas or concepts; obstacles or barriers and have participants discuss them.

---

If workshops were more interactive and allowed audience to ask questions it would've helped.

---

**Reduce number/breadth of small group discussions**

---

It was fine, but maybe fewer options so break-out sessions are better attended. Makes for more dynamic discussions.

---

Fewer break-out sessions, which fragments the information people receive, and wrap up on time.

---

Fewer topic areas – 9 was too many. More time for presentations/discussion. Perhaps some key ideas for participants to mull and reflect on.

---

Too many break-out sessions from which to choose.

---

**Eliminate summary of group discussions**

---

The panel info should have been collated by the group and a summary sent to participants via email, not presented on the spot.

---

The final reporting out session/call to action could have been stronger.

---

The conversation piece toward the end of the day was not real effective. Most people did not understand the goal of this session and got off track easily.

---

**Other comments**

---

Hold in Ramsey County (morning traffic was awful!).

---

Location was hard to find, got lost and missed opening speaker.

---

A more accurate count of the number of people attending each break out session.

---

Lost energy at the end.

---

The myriad organizations doing this work or related work need to be in contact with one another. Also, there needs to be more outreach to organizations, including governmental entities – I didn't receive the invitation to the forum directly.

---

Small groups; facilitator could either explain terms that are not commonly known to Probation, Law Enforcement and ask their opinion to get a more well-rounded view of the issues.

---

How economic disparities' play a role in youth/family success.

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**32. Open-ended comments: How could the forum have been improved?  
(continued)**

---

**How could the forum have been improved?**

---

**Other comments (continued)**

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More take away substance.

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More specifics on other programs/practices.

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Having more time to connect with other staff.

---

It was nicely done, and while well attended, I thought even more could've attended. James Bell's morning session ran out of chairs. He needed a bigger room to present.

---

More school based discussions.

---

PowerPoint's were problematic – needed to be improved.

---

The afternoon felt too unstructured. Maybe too much time over the lunch hour?

---

The audio/visual situation was not smooth.

---

Structure the focus group better. In the evidence-based focus group, I was unsure if we were focusing on EBP or answering the three questions about the forum.

---

Have the break outs say what professionals would benefit the most from that specific break out.

---

**Note:** *Eighty-nine individuals did not answer the question. Responses have been modified slightly to correct spelling/grammatical errors.*

# Requests for future involvement

Almost half of the respondents submitted their email address and indicated that they would like to be involved in future efforts. Overall, 42 percent of the respondents asked to have their email address added to their distribution list, while 30 percent expressed interest in serving on a workgroup. Just over one-quarter (27%) wanted to share information.

# Recommendations

- Due to the high levels of satisfaction, the forum structure and logistics may serve as a good model for planning future meetings and events. If an event similar to the forum is conducted in the future, planners might consider increasing opportunities for small group sessions and expanding to a two-day event.
- Most participants left the forum feeling committed to promoting juvenile justice reform. The Juvenile Justice Coalition should consider opportunities to build on this commitment through their future outreach, education, and advocacy activities. In planning these activities, the following recommendations should be considered:
  - Continue to identify strategies for engaging a broad range of stakeholders, including youth/families and partners in greater Minnesota.
  - Provide continued opportunities for stakeholders to network and engage each other in dialogue in planning reforms.
  - Provide additional training in areas of interest to participants, including family/youth involvement, disproportionate minority contact, use of evidence-based practices, restorative justice, access to prevention/early intervention, alternatives to detention, and youth mental health issues.
  - Consider creative and engaging strategies to share existing data with partners across the state and to promote new data-gathering efforts.
  - Provide examples of specific program models that may be useful in addressing needs in Minnesota.
  - Provide additional opportunities to engage stakeholders in consensus building, strategic planning, and action planning.