Impact of MAYSI-2 Mental Health Screening in Juvenile Detention

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### ABSTRACT
The National Youth Impact of MAYSI-2 Mental Health Screening in Juvenile Detention... - Valerie Williams, M.A., M.S. and Thomas Grasso, Ph.D., Law and Psychiatry Program, Department of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School

This paper reports on factors that influenced the rapid adoption of the MAYSI-2 mental health screening in juvenile justice facilities in the U.S. We surveyed administrators and staff at 36 facilities to better understand the factors that influenced implementation of mental health screening in youth entering the juvenile justice system. The rapid adoption of the MAYSI-2 was facilitated by features of the MAYSI-2 that made it work and by efforts to make it work first, to evaluate its implementation, and to get to buy-in at all levels.

### RESULTS
A few key themes are presented below to represent the nature of responses that characterized each theme:

#### 1. Adoption and Implementation

- "We wanted to catch kids who might otherwise slip through the cracks."
- "to help staff be better at what they do."

#### 2. Knowledge

- "We knew the kids had mental health needs and...needed services"; "we needed numbers to show the situation."

#### 3. Expectations

- "We were hoping that it would validate what staff were doing already and..."
- "We needed to have the continuity that the MAYSI would bring. Our mental health service provider is under contract."

#### 4. Barriers

- "We had a tough time in the beginning convincing staff that it would be useful and just convincing them to do it."
- "It's important...what staff conducting intakes detect...and it does."

#### 5. Consequences

- "The results have a personal impact on staff in that they think about youth differently"; "We talk more about mental health issues day-to-day since the MAYSI."

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Findings regarding these first four research questions suggest the following recommendations:

- Develop a policy that requires administration of the MAYSI-2.
- Use a standard set of instructions for completing the MAYSI-2 when introducing youths to the instrument.
- Use a standard set of instructions when introducing youths to the MAYSI-2 or any other screening instrument.
- Develop policies and practices to assure legality and a clinically appropriate use of mental health screening data.

### REFERENCES