The mission of the New Hampshire Juvenile Court Diversion Network is to promote and support Community-based alternatives to the formal court process that integrate restorative justice practices, promote positive youth development, and reduce juvenile crime and recidivism.

As a result, Network programs and Network members are viewed as key resources to help improve the State and are proud to serve in many capacities including:

**TRAINING FACILITATOR**
NH Police Standards & Training

**COMMISSION MEMBER**
Governor's Commission to Review and Advise on Services to At-Risk Adolescents

**PREVENTION TASK FORCE**
Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

In addition, Network member programs are actively involved in many local and regional coalitions to address the needs of at-risk youth and their families.

“I like that there is a way to look at your offense and understand what you really did and work on it...”
--- 14-year-old girl

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**YOUTH EXPECTATIONS**

Diversion programs accept referrals from a variety of sources including police departments, prosecutors and judges. Some diversion programs also accept referrals from schools and parents. Please check the program profiles under “Locations” at [www.NHCourtDiversion.org](http://www.NHCourtDiversion.org) to learn about programs throughout the state.

Youth participating in a NHJCDN Accredited juvenile court diversion program can expect to:

- Participate in an assessment to identify areas of strength and those needing assistance. Include parent in discussions about their well-being.
- Meet with a panel of volunteers (some may be teens) or staff members to discuss their case and develop a written contract.
- Receive a contract of consequences with provisions tailored to the unique strengths and needs of the youth.
- Attend educational classes or workshops included in the contract along with participating in community service and/or paying restitution.
- Spend approximately three to six months working on goals outlined in their contract.
- Have their case closed with no juvenile court conviction, provided the contract is complete with no further offenses committed.

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**NUMBERS AT-A-GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth served per year</td>
<td>1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of youth (average)</td>
<td>11-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost per youth (average)</td>
<td>$1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees charged (avg. for those that charge)</td>
<td>$214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length of program</td>
<td>4.5 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion rate (last 5 years)</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Of 1400 youth served each year, 86% successfully complete the program.](image)

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**DIVERSION COMPONENTS**

Each Accredited juvenile diversion program in NH must ensure the program:

- Keeps signed contracts on file for all participants.
- Incorporates restorative justice principles.
- Offers community service opportunities.
- Educates participants about drugs and alcohol.
- Documents all contact they have with participants, parents or others involved with the diversion process.
- Has a process for exiting participants from the program upon completion.
- Provides written notice of completion to all referral sources.
- Provides a list of community resources available to children and their families.

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NH Statute RSA169 Delinquent Children-B:10 Juvenile Diversion calls for Police and Courts to refer first-time offenders for diversion services.

The NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network, formed in the 1980’s, strives to ensure that programs are of the highest quality and meet our rigorous Accreditation Standards.

When referring to an Accredited juvenile diversion program, police, prosecutors and judges can be assured that the program:

- Is a non-profit 501(c)(3) or unit of government that subscribes to a code of ethical standards and practices, complies with all building/safety codes and is handicapped accessible.
- Provides training/orientation to new staff and volunteers and maintains a record of training provided.
- Follows a written procedure for transferring diversion cases, can show evidence of community involvement and has working relationships with local police and schools.
- Has a regularly updated fee schedule, an approved annual operating budget, a bi-annual audit or review, and maintains liability insurance.
- Evaluates its effectiveness, maintains a data base for all cases, produces an annual report, and follows all laws regarding the privacy, storage and destruction of records.
- Conducts criminal background checks on those having direct contact with participants, has written employee job descriptions, a process for evaluating staff and a confidentiality form on file for all staff and volunteers.
- Includes a written juvenile court diversification referral process, eligibility guidelines, a diversification participation agreement, confidential release of information form and an intake or screening/information form.

Contact:
Betsy Houde, NHJCDN Coordinator
Mobile: (603) 315-9272

For information about Juvenile Court Diversion in NH and the effectiveness of accredited programs, please contact:

Nicole Rodler, Chair
Rochester Juvenile Diversion Program
Pamela Sullivan, Juvenile Justice Specialist
NH Department of Health and Human Services

All accredited programs of the NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network have been approved pursuant to RSA 169-B:10 by Judge Edwin W. Kelly, Administrative Judge of the New Hampshire Circuit Court.

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www.NHCourtDiversion.org

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