

Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)

The Anne E Casey foundation designated Missouri a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) state and Jackson County Family Court as one of three sites in Missouri for this initiative. JDAI is a model developed by the Casey foundation to clarify and reestablish proper use of Detention. Placement in secure detention of juveniles has been found to increase the risk of suicide and also increase their exposure to the negative influence of more severely delinquent youth, and increase the likelihood of their unnecessary penetration further into the system.

Secure Detention is a holding facility, not treatment program, and should be used only to protect the community from the highest risk chronic and serious offenders. JDAI serves as the springboard to maintain public safety while eliminating unnecessary and inappropriate use of secure detention.