

PROVIDENCE JUVENILE HEARING BOARD

An innovative model of community diversion in Rhode Island.

Juvenile hearing boards are a community-based alternative to the juvenile justice system. JHBs serve youth arrested for "low-level (non-felony) violations." If successful, the arrest record goes away. The goal is for youth to understand harm caused by behavior, be held accountable, and be connected to resources that can help reintegrate them back into the community.

7 TYPICAL STEPS IN A JHB HEARING



THE PROCESS

JHB hearing: Youth and guardian meet with community panel to agree on meaningful sanctions that hold the youth accountable, repair harm, & connect youth to services.

The result: Youth completes community-based requirements. JHB members check in on progress after 3-6 months. No criminal record at court!

Youth are diverted -- steered away -- from "the system."

JHB VS TRADITIONAL PROCESSING METHODS

TRADITIONAL PROCESSING

Formal court appearance

Potential incarceration or probation

Court record

Everyone makes mistakes, and youth are no exception. JHBs were created to hold youth accountable for wrongdoings without the lifelong stigma of a criminal record. Instead of taking a punitive approach, JHBs work to help the youth repair harm. JHBs are an investment in the Providence community.

JUVENILE HEARING BOARDS

Hearing with local community members

Community service or other assignment

No court record