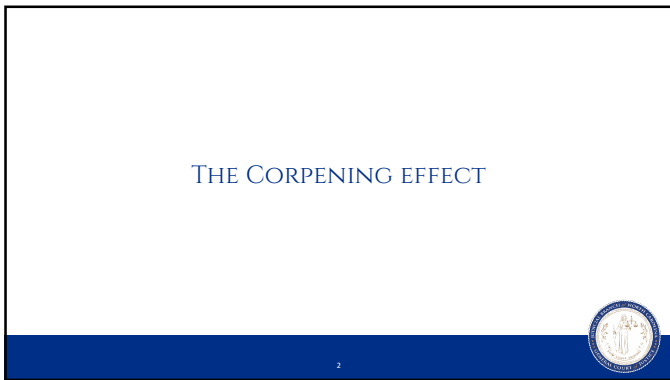




THE JUDGE'S ROLE IN DELINQUENCY COURT

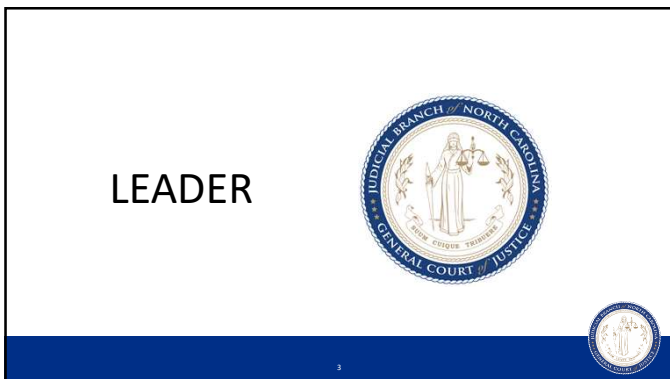
UNC SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
NOVEMBER 8, 2021

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THE CORPENING EFFECT

2



LEADER

3

LEADERSHIP IS KEY

*When parenting fails, when informal community responses are inadequate, our juvenile and family courts provide the state's official intervention in the most serious cases involving children and families. We are the legal equivalent to an emergency room in the medical profession. We intervene in crises and figure out the best response on a **case-by-case, individualized basis**. In addition, we have to get off the bench and work in the community. WE have to ask these agencies and the community to work together to support our efforts so that the orders we make on the bench can be fulfilled. We have to be the champions of collaboration.*

Judge Steve Teske, quoting Judge Leonard Edwards of Santa Clara, California, 2004 Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, NCSC



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This isn't criminal court, it's more important!



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We're changing lives.

We're shaping lives.

We're saving lives.



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OVER DRAMATIC?



- Could be called "last chance court!"
- Last chance to meet unmet needs
- Last chance to respond to trauma
- Last chance to diagnose and treat mental health issues
- Last chance to address behavioral issues
- Last chance to address family issues
- Why last chance?



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JUVENILE COURT IS THE CROSSROADS



And we're the traffic cop!



8

JUVENILE COURT IS TEN COURTS IN ONE (AT LEAST)

- District Court
- Superior Court
- Mental Health Court
- Public Health Court
- Recovery Court
- A/N/D Court
- Traffic Court
- Truancy Court
- Family Court
- Involuntary Commitment Court



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SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS?



- Always learn (multidisciplinary learning)
- Learn especially about trauma
- Be committed
- Listen, listen, listen
- Understand brain science
- Pay attention to detail: ask the context questions (ofa for 10 year old who didn't show?)



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SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS?

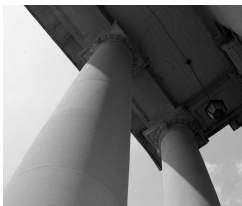
- Change the way you talk. These are kids, not miniature adults. (ex: transcript)
 - Talk to or with, not down to
 - Engage
 - Show you care
 - Talk about the future
 - Key: be trauma informed



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SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS?



- Use your power
 - Order evaluations that are needed
 - Use your resources
 - Hold professionals accountable
 - This will be frustrating, especially with mental health



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SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS?



- Pay attention to education
 - Attendance
 - Grades
 - IEP/504
 - Suspensions/expulsions
 - Behavior at school
 - Look for root causes



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SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS?

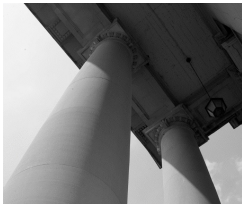
- Pay attention to mental health
 - Assessments/evaluations
 - Treatment
 - Family involvement
 - My risks/needs assessments now YASI
 - Our response: JCPC and NHC funded



14

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SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS?



- Understand substance misuse (take the course asap!)
 - Kids aren't spared
 - Resources are scarce
 - Involve the family
 - Be the leader



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SO, HOW DO WE DO THIS?



- Every juvenile is different
- Different than yours: careful with your personal experiences
- Be trauma informed (again)
- Avoid POAS (new to DSM IV)
- Engage and empower parents
- Be optimistic



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BUT WHAT ABOUT PUNISHMENT, THEY SAY...

- Accountability remains important
- Punishment is just one piece: what happens if we don't resolve the root causes?
- In the greater scheme, in most cases, the problem solving is more important for the future.
- Be constructive in punishment



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BACK TO LEADERSHIP

Remember the quote about leadership early on? Here's mine:

We have to get off the bench and work in the community. We have to ask these agencies and the community to work together to support our efforts so that our children do not encounter the juvenile justice system. WE have to be the champions of collaboration. The future of our communities depends on it.



18

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BACK TO LEADERSHIP

School-justice partnerships: impact on kids?

Impact on raise the age and raise the floor

Juvenile capacity standard

Your role moving forward



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CLOSING

● Spiderman

● Batman

● Yoda



20

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THANK YOU

J.H. Corpening, II
Chief District Court Judge, 5th District
Julius.h.corpening@nccourts.org

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