

HCAO PILOT FOR YOUTH AGES 10-12 JANUARY 2023 - FEBRUARY 2024



Sending youth ages 10-12 to the juvenile delinquency system is ineffective, does not align with youth development science, and fails to address concerns in the context of the broader family. In 2023, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office implemented a new policy that youth ages 10-12 would instead be provided necessary supports and services using a social services response, with rare exceptions allowed as we Instituted new processes with system partners. This approach led to quicker interventions with youth and their families, as compared to the delinquency pathway which consistently led to a finding of incompetency followed by a later referral to county social service Intervention.

