



## A Community Assessment & Resource Center

8461 Delaware Street  
 Thornton, CO 80260  
 Phone: 720-292-2811  
 Fax: 720-292-2812

The mission of *The Link* is to ensure assessment driven preventions and intervention services for at-risk youth and their families.

### Programs and services provided at *The Link*:

- Alternative to Expulsion Case Management [SD's 1, 12, 14, 27] and 50]
- Detention Screens
- Electronic Home Monitoring
- ENGAGE-early gang intervention
- Family Interventions
- *Link* Case Management
- Municipal probation and diversion
- Personal Recognizance Bonds
- On-site groups for anger management, MRT and parenting
- Shelter care, when necessary
- Transports

#### **Alternative to Expulsion:**

The alternative to expulsion program provides youth with an opportunity to avoid expulsion by completing a 90-120 day behavioral contract and case management services with *The Link*. The behavioral contract consists of input from the school, youth, parent and the risks identified by the assessment. Youth can earn points towards an incentive at the end of the program by completing the assignments of the contract and attending school. Youth meet weekly with their case manager. The family is offered supportive services including referrals for resources.

#### **Detention Screens:**

*The Link* is the authorized provider for detention screens in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Through a contract with SB94 *The Link* provides screening 24/7. All youth charged with a detainable offence in the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District must be screened (assessed) before being admitted the Adams County Youth Services Center. Once the screen is completed *Link* staff coordinates the youth's transport to the detention center and completes a court report.

#### **Electronic Home Monitoring:**

Pursuant to a contract with SB94 *The Link* can place and supervise a youth on an ankle monitor until they return to court, if the assessment scores the youth for that level of care that includes bond recommendations, as well as recommendations for additional services.

#### **ENGAGE (Empowering Neighborhoods with Gang Awareness and Gang Education)**

Designed as an early gang intervention youth are provided intensive case-management/mentoring designed to offer youth alternatives to gang involvement. The theoretical basis for the program comes from the social disorganization theory adopted by the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model. In addition to meeting one on one with a gang intervention specialist, youth are also visited in the school to encourage and

support changed behaviors and better decision making. The program supports involvement in pro-social activities such as sports, recreation, drama and music. *The Link* collaborates with law enforcement, school personnel and human service staff to provide support services as needed by the targeted youth. The goal is to offer alternatives to gang involvement, increase attendance and reduce recidivism. This program also works with other youth at high risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system for issues such as violence and extreme anger concerns.

**Family Interventions:**

Any family whose youth is struggling with life issues can be referred (including self-referral) to *The Link* for case management and referral services. An appointment is scheduled to complete an assessment with both the youth and family. The assessment helps to determine what referrals and services are necessary. Family mediation and ongoing case management are offered as well. Youth and family can also access any on site groups at *The Link*.

**Link Case Management:**

Youth who are transported to *The Link* by law enforcement are afforded the same case management and support services as those outlined in family interventions.

**Municipal probation and diversion:**

Youth are referred by the municipal court to *The Link* for either diversion or probation for a period of 90-120 days. Working with a case manager the youth and family establish a behavioral contract that includes any conditions ordered by the court such as community services or drug/alcohol classes. The case manager supports the family in ensuring the youth completes the expectation of the court and assists the family in accessing additional services as identified during the assessment.

**Personal Recognizance Bonds:**

*The Link* staff is authorized by the district court to activate Personal Recognizance bonds for youth with misdemeanor and municipal warrants in Adams County not requiring detention.

**On-site groups:**

*The Link* currently offers weekly anger management groups and cognitive behavioral groups such as, Moral Recognition Therapy, Girls Circle and Boys Council. Additionally, two staff is trained facilitators for informed supervision.

**Shelter Care:**

*The Link*, in partnership with Shiloh Homes, can provide short term shelter care for youth who need respite care or whose parents cannot be located during overnight hours.

**Transports:**

*The Link* provides law enforcement a safe and structured environment to drop off a juvenile for such things as beyond control of parent, runaway or a municipal ticket. *Link* staff conducts an assessment to determine the strengths of the youth and family and identify risks in order to recommend the most appropriate intervention. *The Link* offers family mediation, referrals for community based services and resources to help with the family's needs. *The Link* also offers case management to assist families in accessing services and meeting basic needs.

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