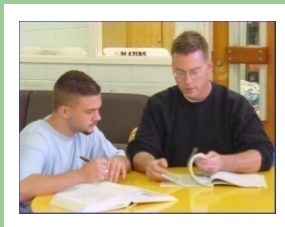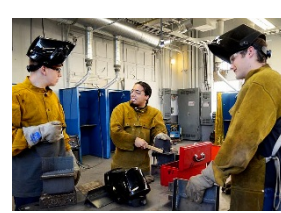# Oregon Youth Authority
Use of Isolation

Fariborz Pakseresht, Director
Clint McClellan, Assistant Director
Erin Fultz, Facility Services

House Human Services and Housing Committee
March 30, 2015

OYA Isolation Definition

- **Isolation** is defined as *any instance when an offender is confined alone in a locked room because of the offender's behavior or conduct.*

Concerns with isolation use

- Can be psychologically harmful, especially for those with pre-existing mental illness.
- Increased suicide rates
- Interferes with education and treatment.
- Limiting human interactions is stunting of normal brain development.

CJCA Toolkit: Reducing the Use of Isolation, March 2015

3

Current Policy

- Isolation must only be used when an offender is a danger to him/herself or others or is an immediate threat to the safety, security or order of the facility
- Isolation must not be used as punishment, as a convenience or substitute for staff supervision, or a substitute for individualized treatment.
- Due process
- Youth safety and needs
- Opportunities for re-regulation
- Access to services (education, mental health, medical)

OYA Participation in National Conversation re: Isolation

- October 3, 2013 – <u>Re-thinking the need for isolation</u>, Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings

- January 22, 2014 – <u>Isolation Practices with Vulnerable Populations</u>, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention National Training & Technical Assistance Center

- April 30, 2014 – <u>Trauma-Informed Care</u>, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention National Training & Technical Assistance Center

- May 7, 2014 – <u>Policies, Practices and PbS Outcomes to Reduce Isolation and Room Confinement</u>, Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

- June 25, 2014 – <u>Positive Youth Development</u>, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention National Training & Technical Assistance Center

- March 2015 – <u>Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators Tool Kit to Reduce Isolation</u>, OYA included as a case study

# Isolation Policy and Practice Milestones and Outcomes

February 2010 – OYA policy limits use of isolation to no more than 5 days

December 2012 – Closure of behavior management unit at MacLaren; shifted resources to SDC project

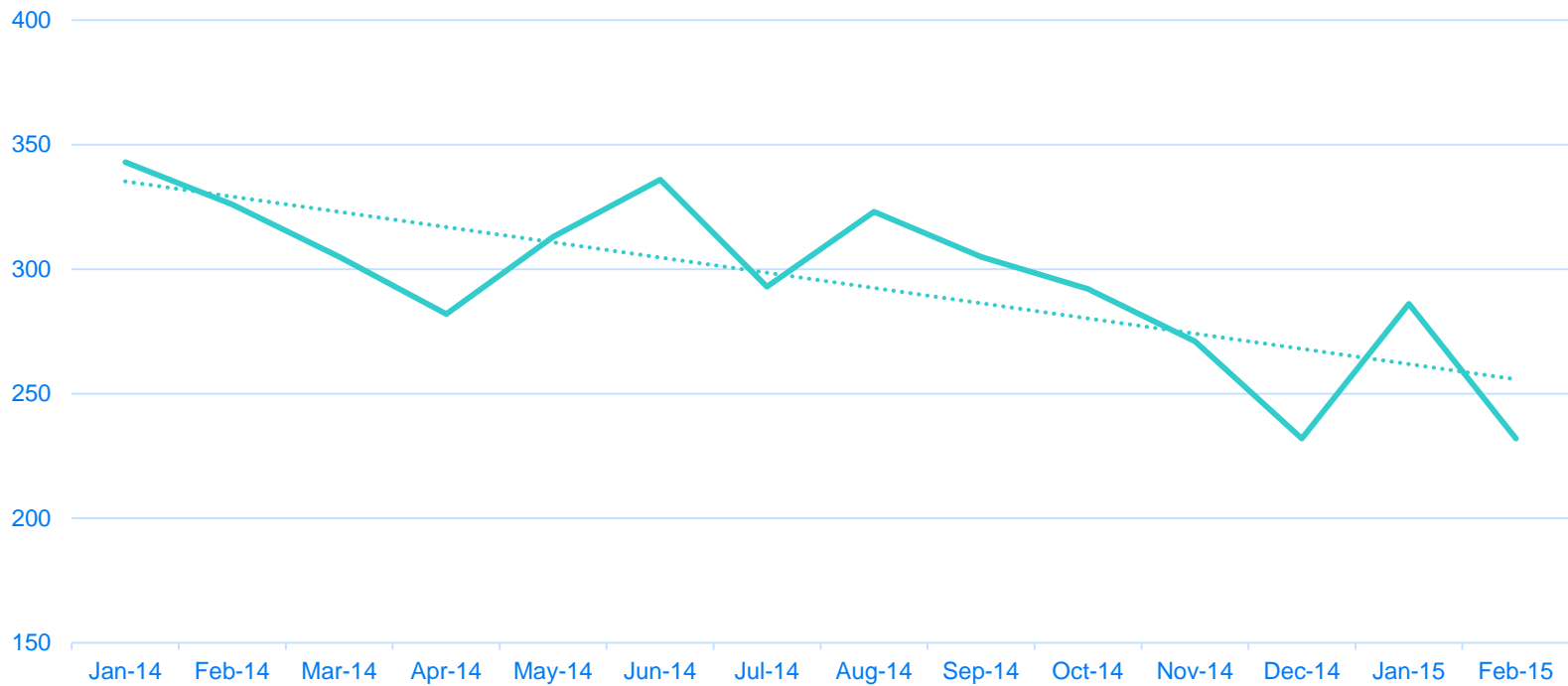October 2013 – Implementation of Skill Development Coordinators (SDCs)

Use of Isolation Trend, 2010-2014

Number of Isolations per Quarter: 2010-2014
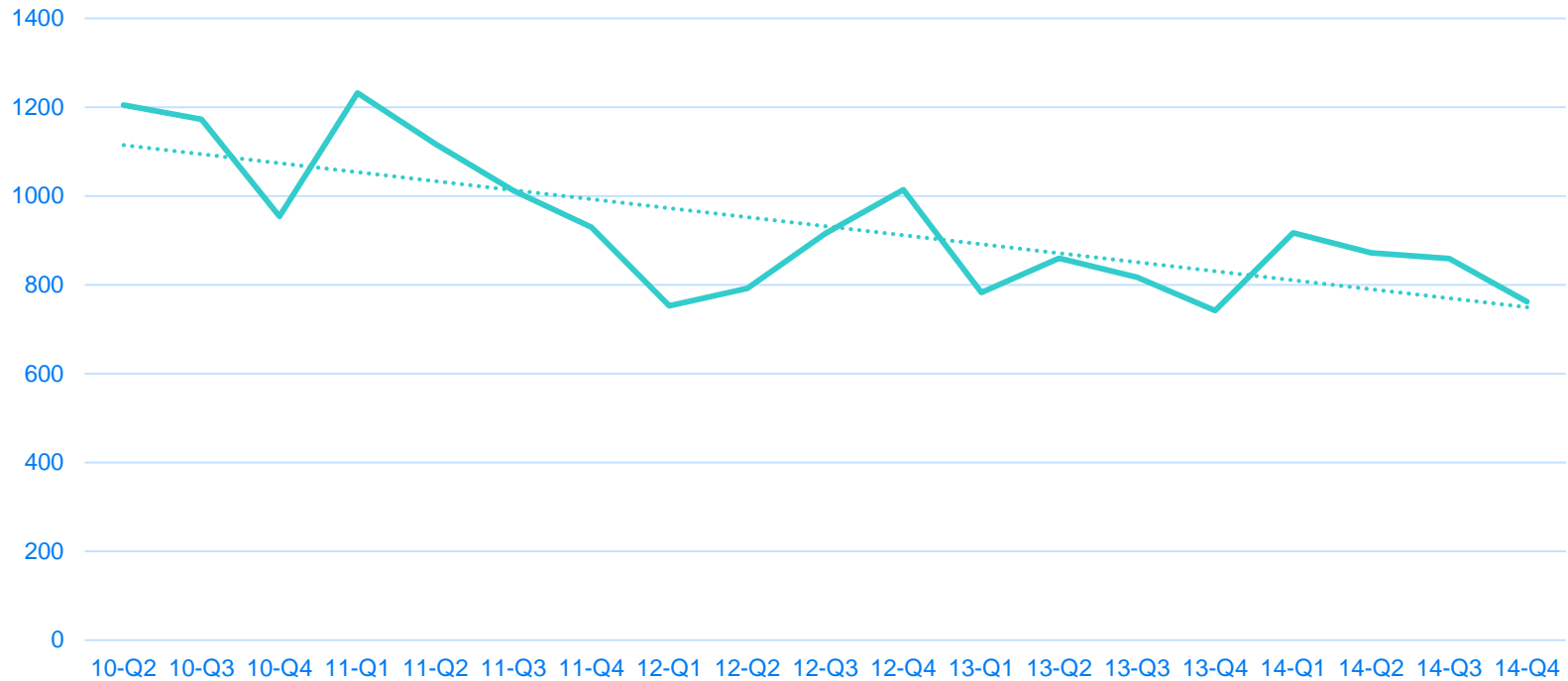
Use of Isolation Trend, 2014-present

Number of Isolations per month

On-going action

- Culture change: Implementation of Positive Human Development

Positive Human Development

Positive - Healthy, optimal, growth-focused, and strengths-based

Human - All individuals with whom we come in contact, including ourselves

Development - Changes in our behaviors and abilities over time

Isolation is not conducive to positive human development; OYA is committed to the prevention and reduction of its use.

Culture of success

YOUTH SUCCESS

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CARING AND SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS

SAFETY AND SECURITY

STAFF and PARTNERS

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

On-going action

October 2014 – Implementation of Isolation and Reintegration Oversight Committee

February 2015 – Deployed additional unfunded SDC positions specifically focused on intervention/reintegration efforts after isolation

April 2015 – First meeting of OYA Use of Isolation Community Advisory Group
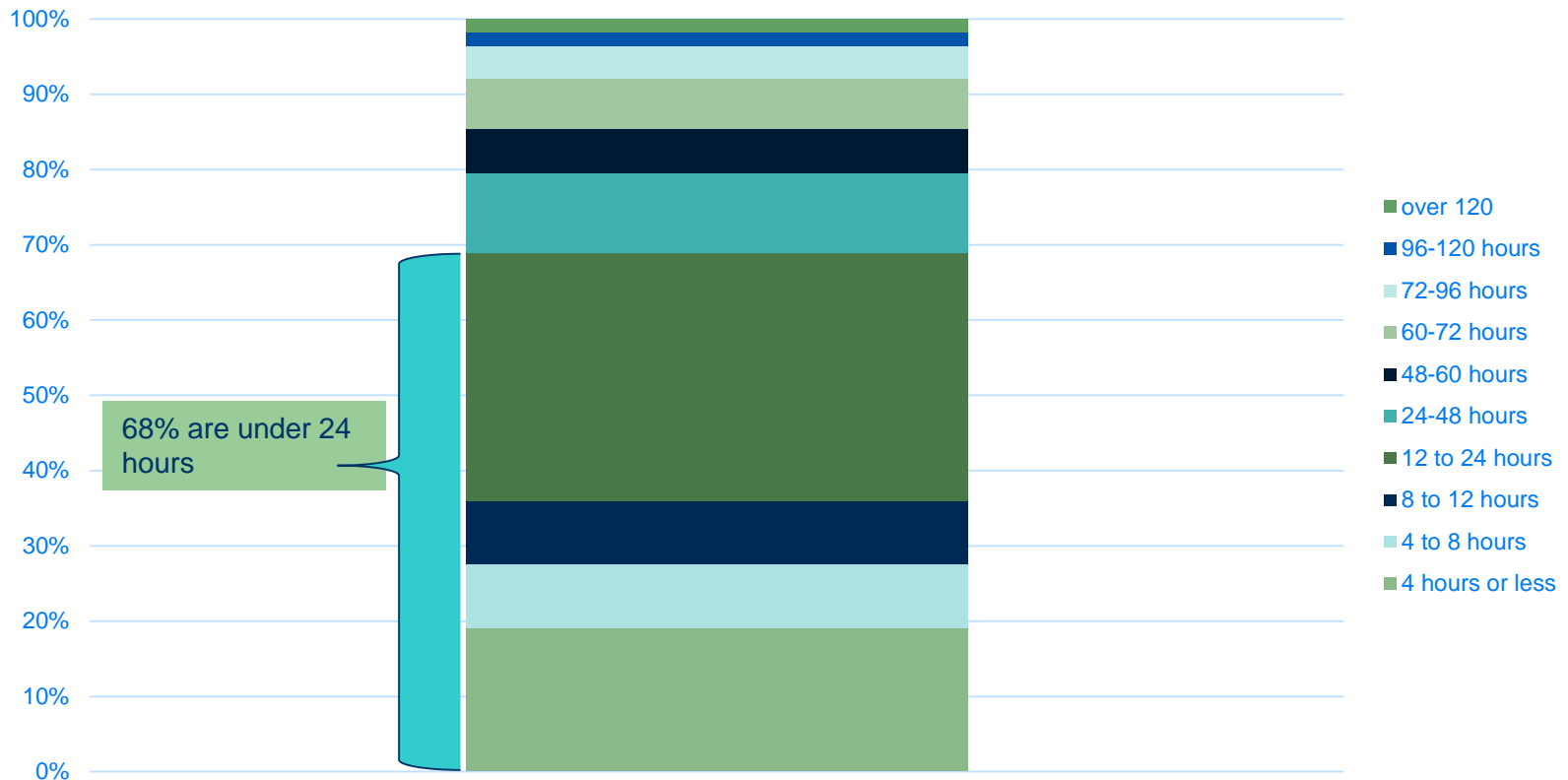
Focusing Resources

Percent of youth that account for percent of isolation episodes

For example, in 2014, only 20% of the youth population accounted for 73% of the isolation episodes.
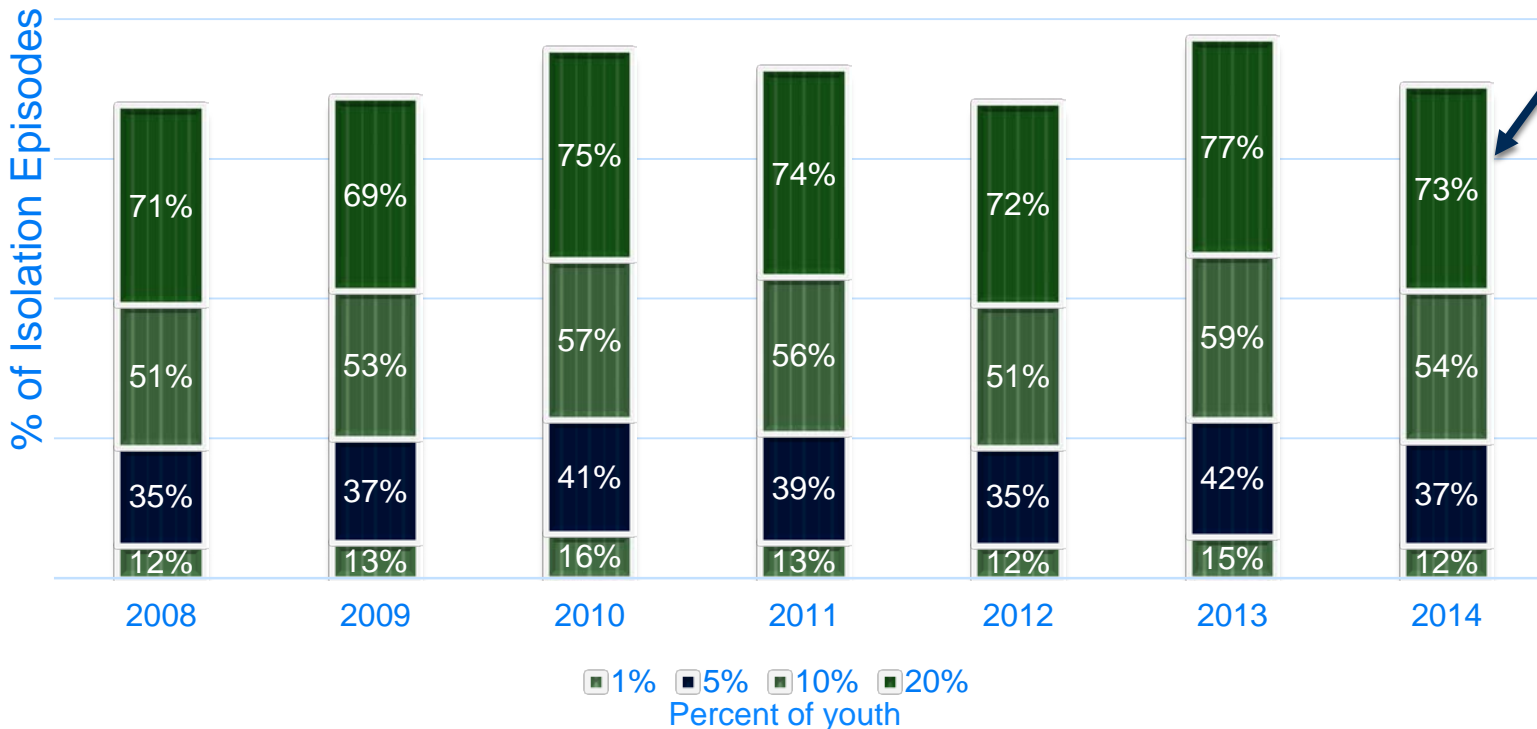
Isolation duration and community reintegration

February 2015 Isolation Duration Break Down

68% are under 24 hours

Legend:
- over 120
- 96-120 hours
- 72-96 hours
- 60-72 hours
- 48-60 hours
- 24-48 hours
- 12 to 24 hours
- 8 to 12 hours
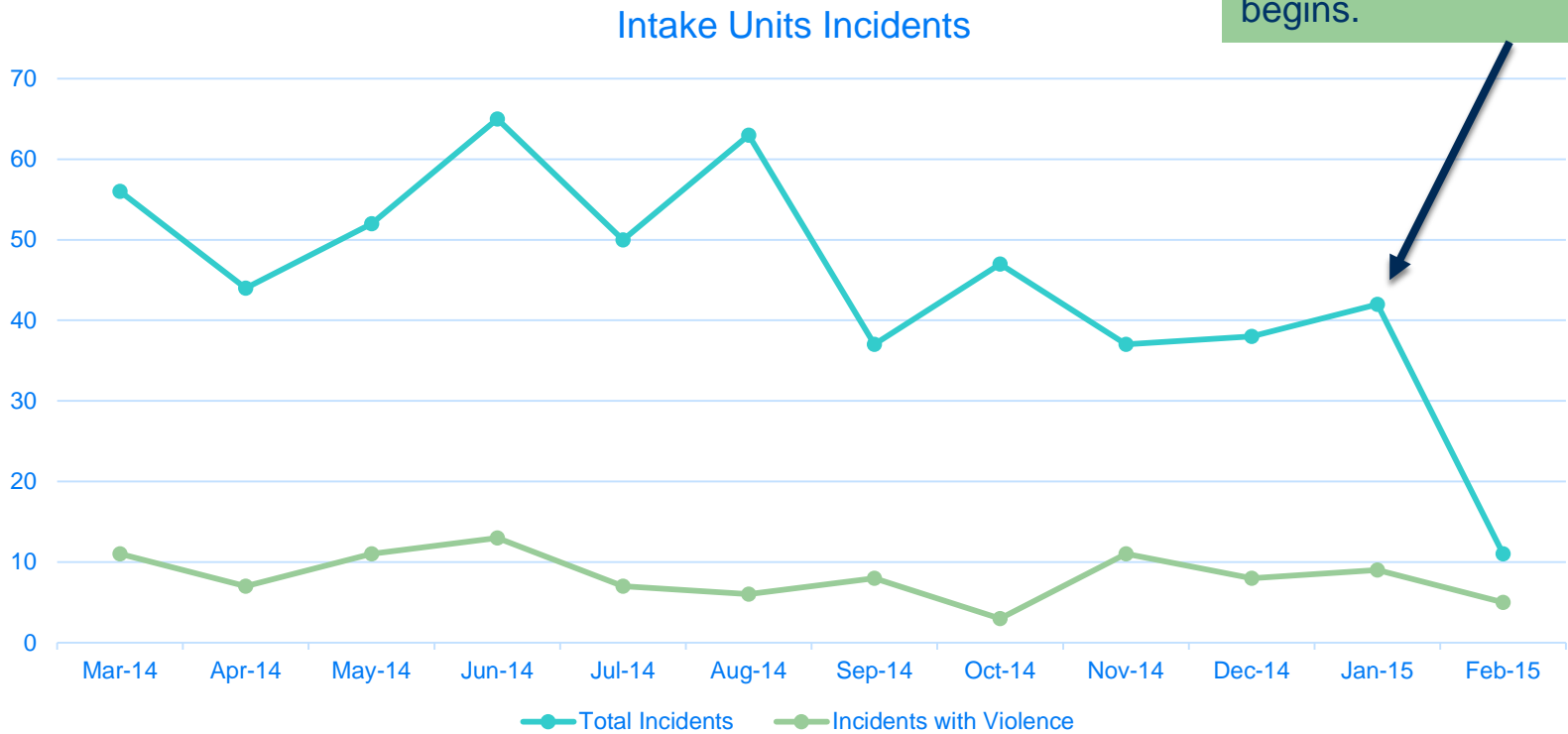- 4 to 8 hours
- 4 hours or less

13

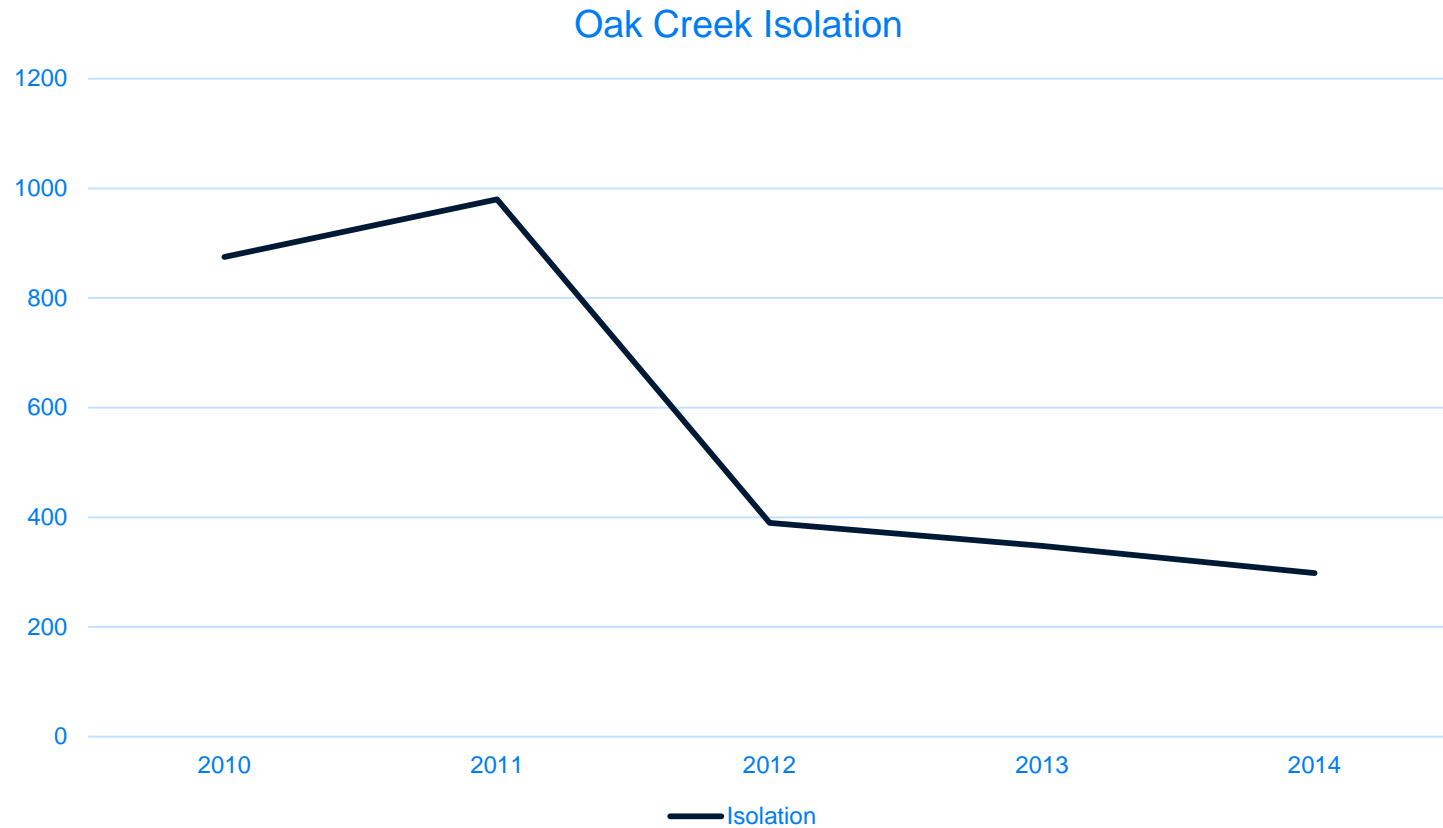# Culture Change: Preliminary Outcomes

- February 2015 – Hillcrest Intake Pilot Program

- Oak Creek

Incidents at Hillcrest Intake

Intake PHD pilot training complete and program begins.

Intake Units Incidents

Legend: Total Incidents • Incidents with Violence

X-axis: Mar-14, Apr-14, May-14, Jun-14, Jul-14, Aug-14, Sep-14, Oct-14, Nov-14, Dec-14, Jan-15, Feb-15

Y-axis: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70

Isolation at Oak Creek

Oak Creek Isolation

16

Challenges

- Aging physical plant that was designed to use isolation
  - lacking areas for youth to cool off, have separation for the group, or space to do meaningful conflict resolution and restorative justice approaches

- Staffing
  - Minimal staffing patterns and densely populated living units limit opportunities for engagement and proactive problem-solving
  - Currently using unfunded SDCs to facilitate conflict resolution and unit community reintegration

- Culture
  - Moving to Positive Human Development approach
  - Alternative approaches to ensure safety
  - Consistent, appropriate training

17

Opportunities

- Facilities 10-year plan
  - New intake area/process
  - New/upgraded living units including;
    - "Cooling off" or quiet spaces, indoor and outdoor
    - Program areas to support unit reintegration
    - Individual rooms and mini-dorms
    - Physical plant design lowers tensions and promotes emotional/psychological safety
  - Reduce human density
- Full implementation of PHD
- Isolation/Reintegration Oversight Committee recommendations

Conclusion/Questions/Comments