

# Young FWSN Characteristics & FWSN Diversion / Service Gaps

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# Under 11 FWSN Statistics

## FY 2006

- Approximately 280 total FWSN referrals
- Total Referrals by age
  - 5 years old = 2 Referrals
  - 6 years old = 5 Referrals
  - 7 years old = 6 Referrals
  - 8 years old = 23 Referrals
  - 9 years old = 30 Referrals
  - 10 years old = 63 Referrals
  - 11 years old = 153 Referrals



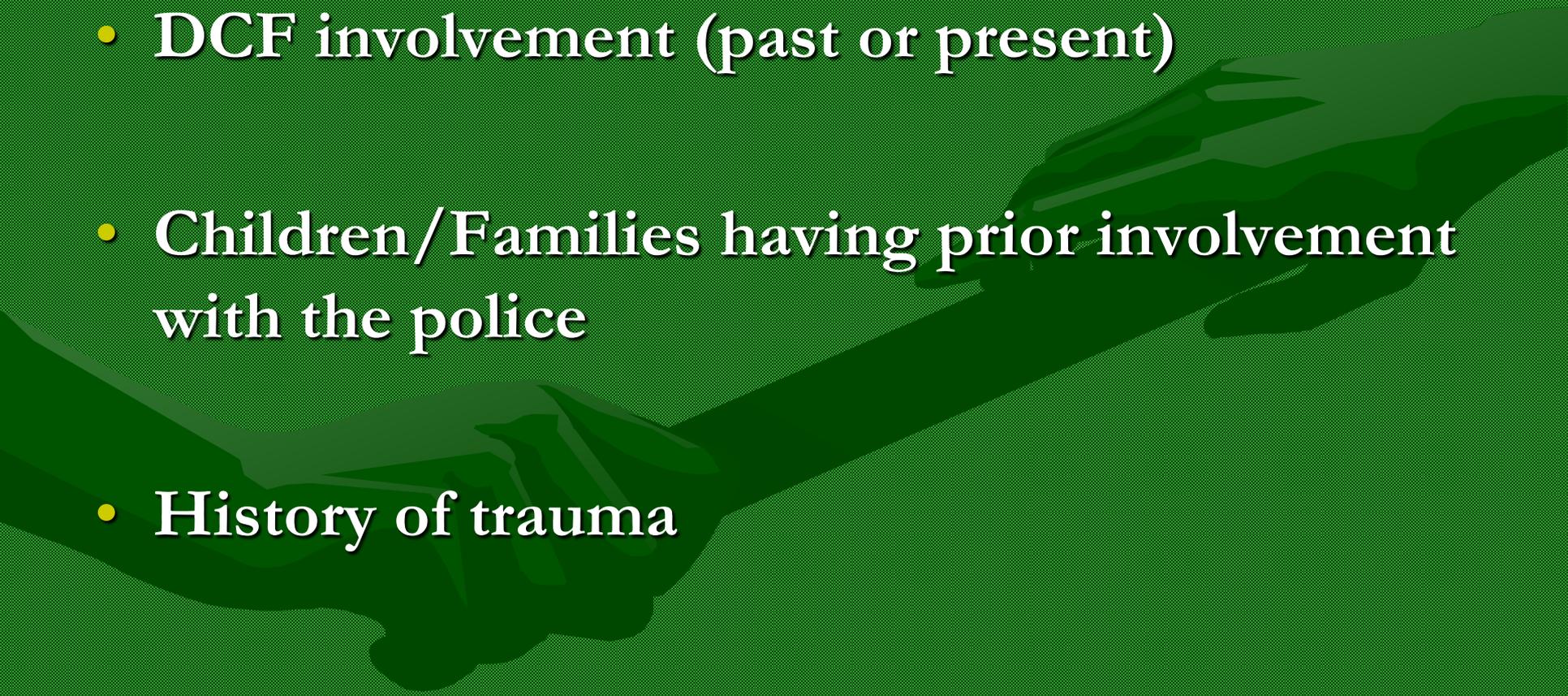
Who are the  
young FWSN's ???



# REASONS WHY YOUNGER CHILDREN REFERRED FOR FWSN

- Community & Mental Health agencies are referring younger children to the court seeking help, in a belief that the court has access to additional services.
- School Systems are referring younger children to the court in a belief that the court will resolve the problem.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG CHILDREN REFERRED AS FWSN

- Mental health issues of child and parent
  - DCF involvement (past or present)
  - Children/Families having prior involvement with the police
  - History of trauma
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# CHARACTERISTICS

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- Parental drug abuse (past or present)
- Parents looking to the court for help
  - Minor complaints about behavior at home.
  - Isolated incident where police were called out.

*Often these FWSN Referrals are insufficient  
or not accepted.*

# Case Scenario's of the Young FWSN



# Case Scenario # 1

## 5 & 6 year old females

### Beyond Control

- **Qualifying criminal offense**
  - Reckless Burning / Arson



- **Collaboration**
  - State Police & Prosecutor
  - **Outcome**
    - Beyond control referral
  - **Reasoning**
    - Seriousness of the incident
    - Concerns of issues in the home
    - Need for Court oversight

# Case Scenario # 2

## 7 year old female

### Truancy

- Approximately 35 absences within 4 months
- Concerns of neglect and medical issues
- Lack of parental response and involvement
- School claimed they filed a referral with DCF

# Case Scenario # 3

8 year old male

## Defiance of School Rules

- Continual acting out and defiance despite behavior plan and parental consultations
- Community referrals attempted by the school
- School testing/evaluations completed
- Collaboration with Probation Officer, DCF FWSN liaison, school and parent

# Case Scenario # 4

## 9 year old male

### Truancy

- 21 absences between September and March
- Community referrals attempted by the school
- School testing/evaluations completed
- Sibling conflict in the home
- Multiple family stressors

# Case Scenario # 5

10 year old male

## Indecent & Immoral Conduct

- Multiple incidents involving 3 males engaged in “consensual” sexual activity
- Collaboration between DCF, Police and Juvenile Prosecutor
- Child referred for individual counseling

# Case Scenario # 6

11 year old male

Runaway

- 11 separate Runaway referrals submitted to the court between 2003 & 2006
- Child is adopted and diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder
- Multiple hospitalizations between 2003 & 2006
- Multiple referrals to DCF and community based treatment services

FAMILY WITH SERVICE NEEDS

GAPS AND BARRIERS

SERVICES / DIVERSION

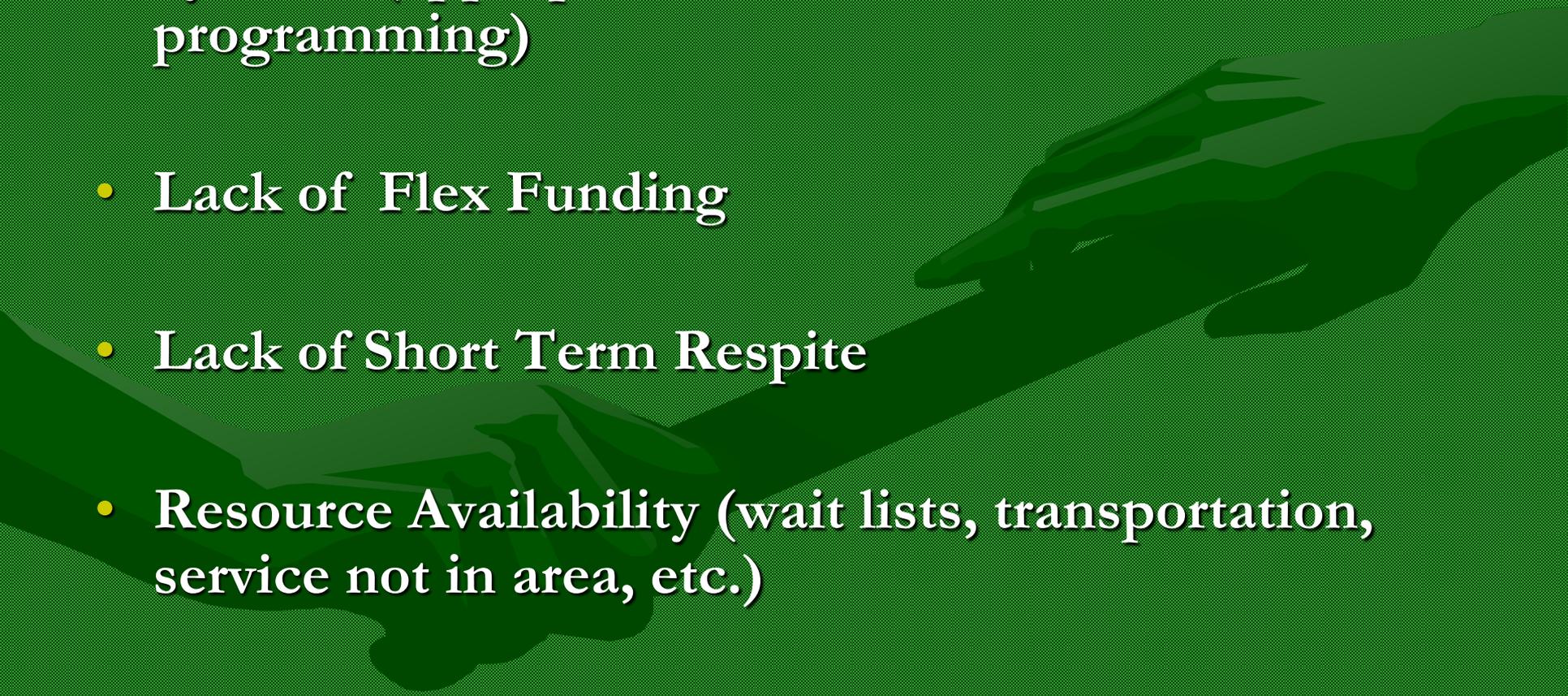


# GAPS IN SERVICES

- Lack of long term support and services in the community
  - Lack of availability of Care Coordination
  - Lack of educational advocacy
  - Drug/Alcohol treatment for adolescents
  - Adolescent focused Parenting Groups / Parent Aids
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# GAPS IN SERVICES

## continued

- Lack of Educational Services from local School Systems (appropriate assessments and programming)
  - Lack of Flex Funding
  - Lack of Short Term Respite
  - Resource Availability (wait lists, transportation, service not in area, etc.)
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# GAPS in Services Continued

YSB's Funding Limitations- YSB's support several communities & approximately 40 JRB's

Juvenile Review Boards (JRB) do not exist in all area's or lack funding:

- DCF/CSSD Funds JRB in Hartford, New Haven and Bridgeport
- CSSD presently collaborating with local YSB's and community agencies in order to establish additional review boards

# BARRIERS TO SERVICE DELIVERY FOR ALL FWSN's

- State Regulations:
  - Mandatory School Attendance @ age 7
  - Confidentiality limits DCF from sharing information w/CSSD
- Different IS Systems contribute to:
  - Poor Data Collection
  - Difficulty Tracking Outcomes

# BARRIERS

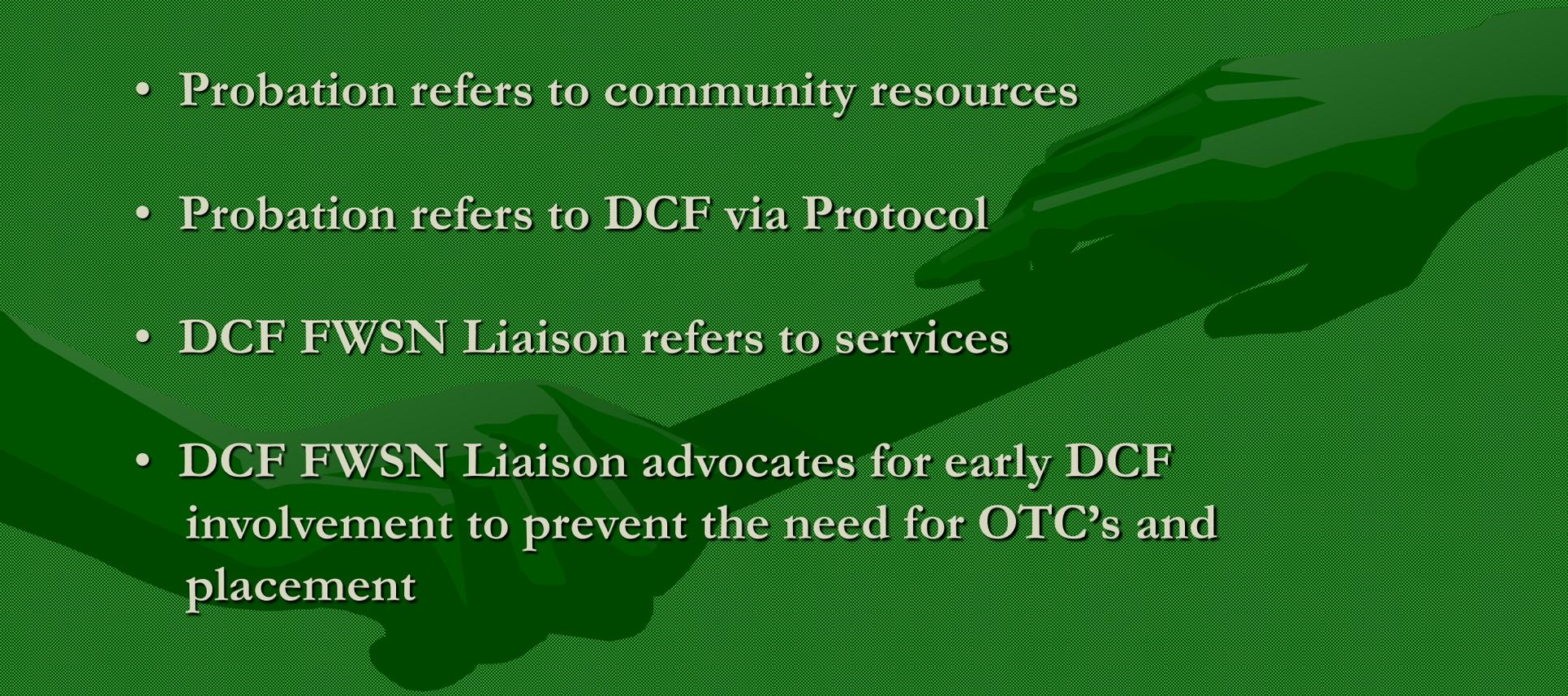
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- Difficulty in holding parents accountable
- Voluntary nature of cases, youth must be willing to cooperate



# SERVICES USED FOR “DIVERSION”

Many attempts are made to divert children from further court involvement:

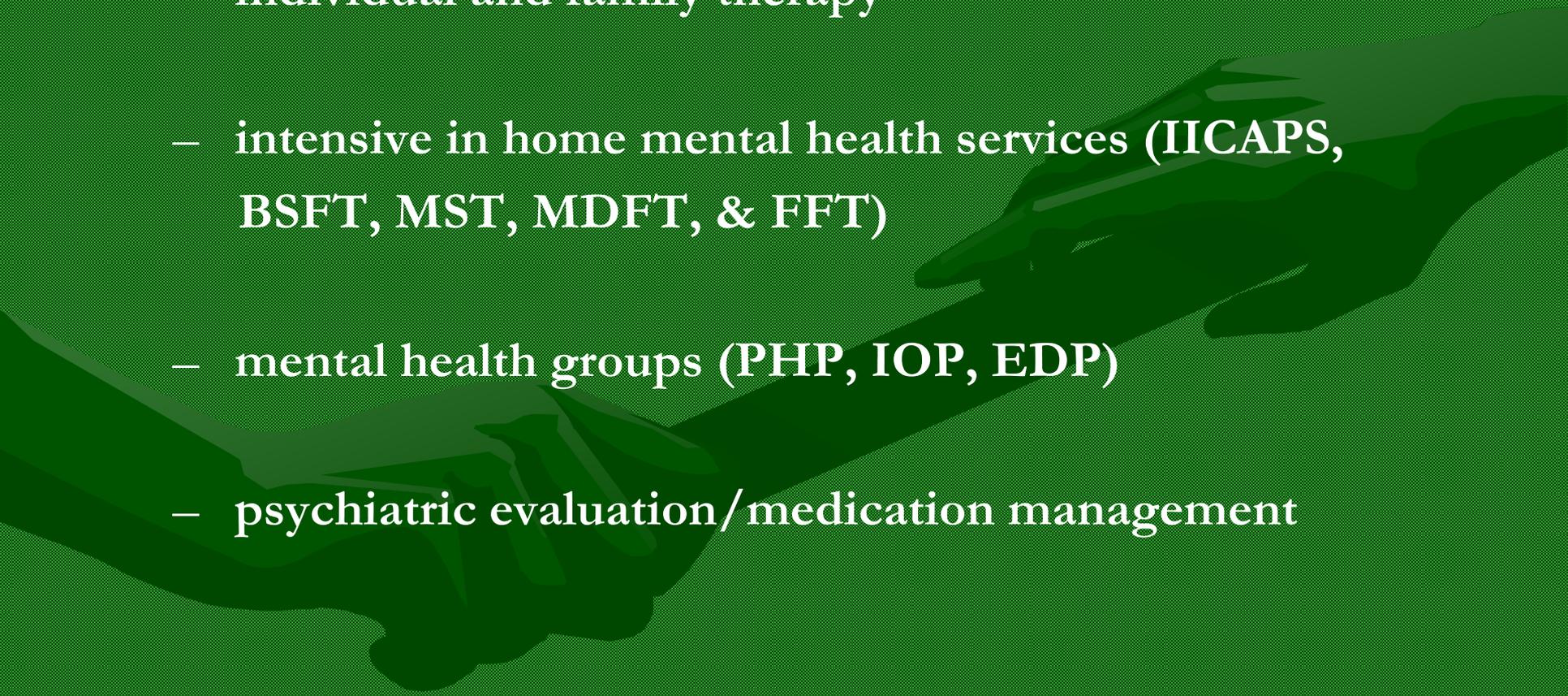
- Probation refers to community resources
  - Probation refers to DCF via Protocol
  - DCF FWSN Liaison refers to services
  - DCF FWSN Liaison advocates for early DCF involvement to prevent the need for OTC's and placement
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# Services Used For “Diversion”

- YSB: Youth Services Bureau
- Juvenile Review Board
- Attendance Review Board



# Services Used For “Diversion”

- **Mental Health Agencies**
    - individual and family therapy
    - intensive in home mental health services (IICAPS, BSFT, MST, MDFT, & FFT)
    - mental health groups (PHP, IOP, EDP)
    - psychiatric evaluation/medication management
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# Services Used For “Diversions”

- Substance Abuse Treatment for adolescents (drug/alcohol prevention groups & parenting groups)
  - Systems of Care Coordination-for youth with a mental health diagnosis
  - DCF Voluntary Services
  - Mentors
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# Services Used For “Diversion”

- Community recreational centers (YMCA, Teen Centers, after school programs)
- Summer recreational & educational programs
- Wilderness School



# Services Used For “Diversion”

- Family Advocacy (FAVOR)
  - School Based Health Clinics
  - STEP/FFT (DCF Funded for JJ)
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# Family With Service Needs

Questions, Comments, & Discussion

