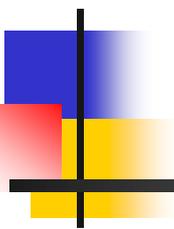


# Families With Service Needs: *Policy and Practice Changes for Connecticut*



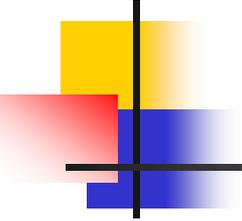
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May 10, 2007 *Leading Change*

Preston Britner, UConn HDFS

Sara Mogulescu, Vera Institute

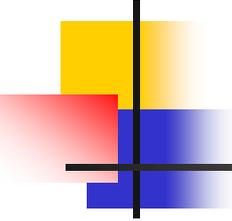
Martha Stone, Center for Children's Advocacy



# Agenda

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- Introduction (Preston Britner)
  - History, Statutory Changes, Board, Statistics
- National Models and Lessons (Sara Mogulescu)
- The Connecticut Plan (Martha Stone)
  - Family Support Centers & the “High End” FWSN
  - Truancy Prevention
- Evaluation Issues (Preston Britner)
- Open-Ended Questions (Martha Stone)
- Discussion

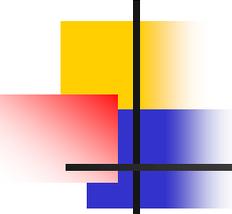


# “FWSN” Defined

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Family With Service Needs (FWSN) means a family that includes a child who:

- Has runaway
- Is beyond control
- Has engaged in indecent or immoral conduct
- Is a truant or habitual truant or defiant of school rules
- Is 13 to 15 years old and has engaged in sexual intercourse with a person not more than 2 years older or younger



## History & Statutory Changes (Part I)

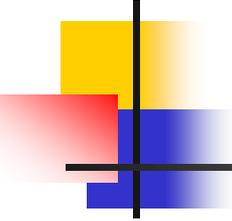
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- Public Act 05-250 (grey handout) eliminates – as of October 1, 2007 – the possibility of detention of a FWSN based solely on the violation of a FWSN order.
- Public Act 06-188, Section 42 (blue handout) establishes the FWSN Advisory Board

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/kid/FWSN/FWSN.asp>

to:

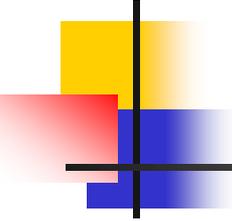
- Monitor DCF progress on programs for girls
- Monitor Judicial progress on implementing 05-250
- Provide advice to Judicial & General Assembly
- Make written recommendations to Judicial & General Assembly by Dec. 31, 2007



# The FWSN Board

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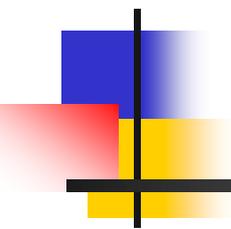
- Consists of key
  - legislators
  - judges
  - agency heads and personnel
  - citizens
- Met 9 times since August 2006
  - Not including meetings of sub-committees on Evaluation, High End Needs, and Truancy Prevention or other working groups
  - Reviewed: state data, programs, & service gaps, and national models; crafted proposed models and legislation



## History & Statutory Changes (Part II)

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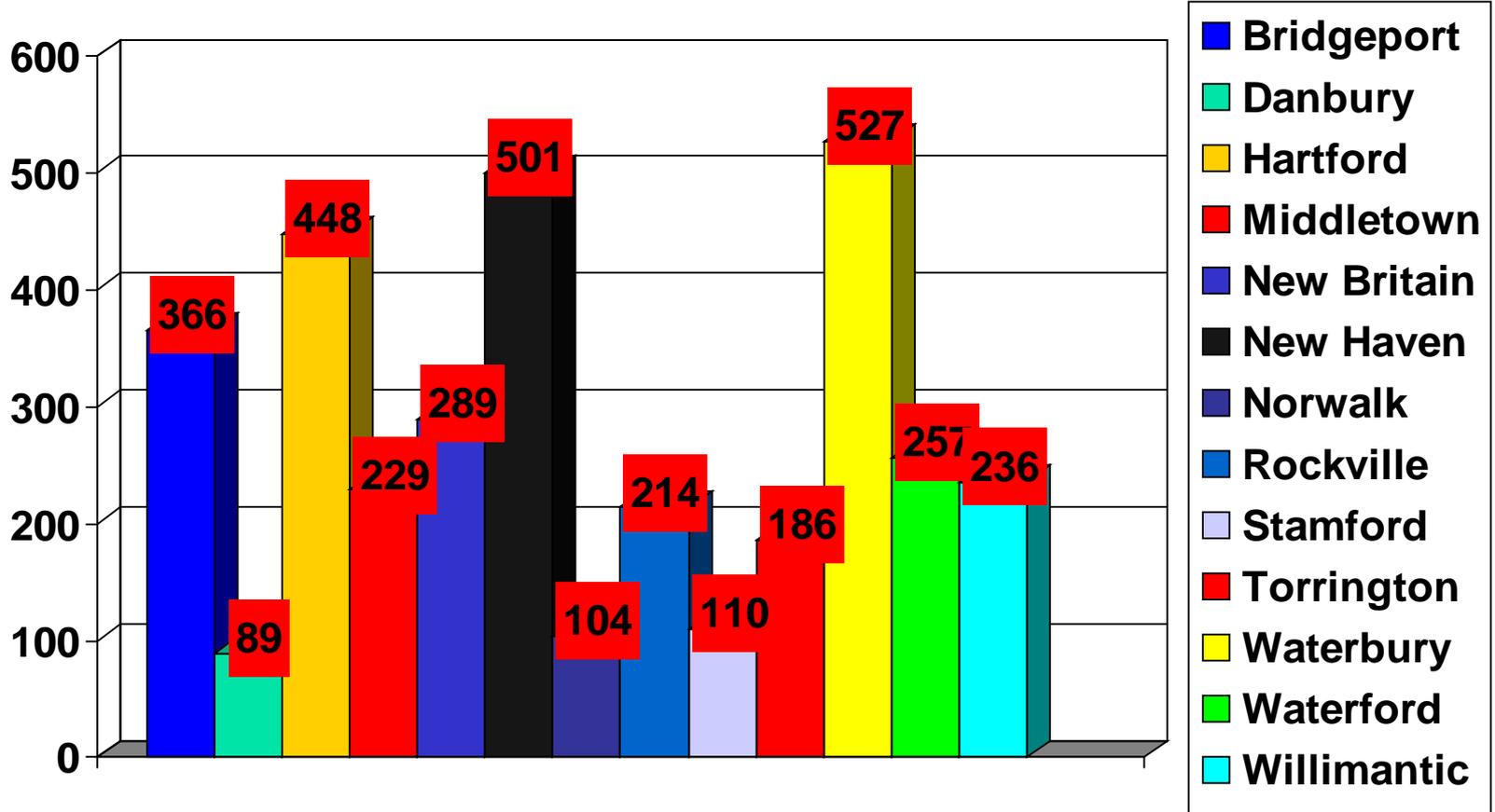
- **Substitute House Bill No. 5676**  
(**white** handout, labeled File No. 636)  
would implement the prohibition against incarcerating children solely for violating court orders regulating future conduct by establishes front-end procedures to assess and refer youth (and families) immediately to appropriate services.

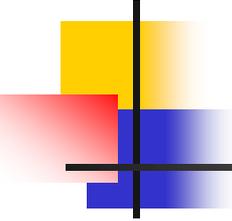


# Connecticut Statistics on FWSNs

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# Annual FWSN Referrals (N=3600) by Court





# FWSNs by Race/Ethnicity and Sex (FY 2006)

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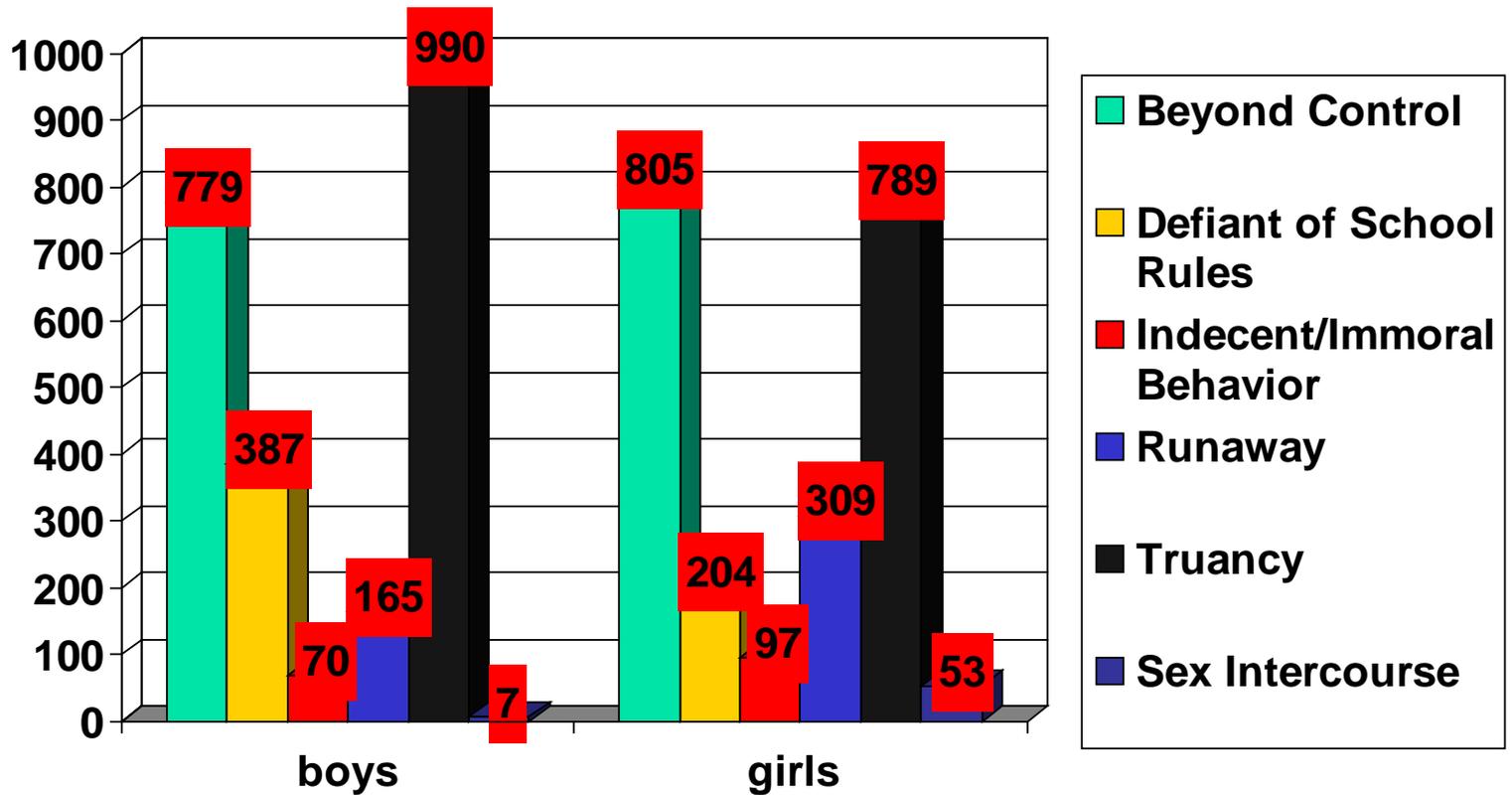
Girls: 2039 FWSN  
Referrals Disposed

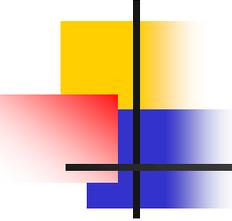
- 763 White (37%)
- 317 Black (16%)
- 441 Latino (22%)
- 9 Other
- 509 Unknown (25%)

Boys: 2344 FWSN  
Referrals Disposed

- 859 White (37%)
- 490 Black (21%)
- 509 Latino (22%)
- 10 Other
- 481 Unknown (18%)

# FWSN Charges by Category

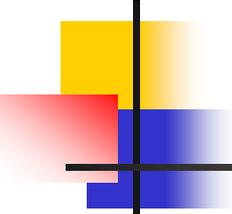




# FWSN Violations By Court

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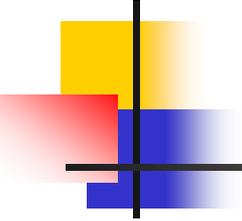
- Of the 3600 FWSN referred juveniles each year, ~15% violate a court order
  - 52% of violators are girls
  - There is variability across courts (e.g., Waterbury has a disproportionately high number of violators)



# Detention and FWSN Referred Juveniles

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- 1989 juveniles were admitted to Detention in 2005
  - 28% were girls
  - 72% were boys
- 52% (1036) had a prior FWSN referral in their court history
  - 67% of girls who went to detention had a prior FWSN
  - 46% of boys who went to detention had a prior FWSN



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*What can be learned from  
national models of diversion?*