Department of Children and Families

Bureau of Juvenile Services
Female-Responsive Continuum of Care
Presented to the Family with Service Needs Advisory Board

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Leo C. Arnone, Bureau Chief Juvenile Services
Tammy M. Sneed, Program Director Girls’ Services
Family with Service Needs Advisory Board
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Recommendation:
*Establish and strengthen services for girls in the juvenile justice system.*
Gender Responsive Framework

- Strength-based
- Relational
- Trauma Informed
- Culturally Competent
- Holistic
Definition Adopted by Juvenile Services:

Female-responsive programs intentionally incorporate research on female socialization, psychological, cognitive, and physical development, strengths, and risks to affect and guide ALL aspects of a program’s design, processes, and services.

CORE GSPA-II, CORE Associates, LLC 2004
Juvenile Services Female Responsive Continuum of Care

• Juvenile Services Training Academy
• Female Responsive Program Guidelines
• Gender Responsive Parole Model
• Serving Girls in their Communities
• Education
• Life Skills
• Group Homes
• Residential Programs
• Police Initiatives
• Girls’ Secure Program
Juvenile Services Continuum of Care for Girls

- Residential Tx
- Education
- Community Initiatives
- Girls Trauma Center (Secure)
- Girls in Their Communities
- Servicing Girls in Their Communities
- Life Skills
- Group Homes

Juvenile Services Training Academy
Female Responsive Program Guidelines
Gender Responsive Parole Model
New JS Contract Language

The Girls' Program Guidelines provided by the Department are the basis of the therapeutic model and must be used to guide programming decisions.

The definition adopted by the Department for female-responsive programming is: *Female-responsive programs intentionally incorporate research on female socialization, psychological, cognitive and physical development, strengths and risks to affect and guide ALL aspects of a program's design, processes and services.*
Juvenile Services Training Academy

- New Employee Training 105 hours
- Gender and Trauma Training Across Bureau
- DBT Initiative
- Training Unit for Parole
- JS Conference
Program Guidelines

• Program Guidelines for Girls’ Services in Connecticut
• Collaboration with DCF, CSSD and the Private Provider Community
• CORE Associates and Yale University
• Officiated in DCF/ Bureau of Juvenile Services on October 3, 2008
• Next Step: Development of Self-Assessment
Gender Responsive Parole Model

- Adopted the CSSD Gender Responsive Juvenile Probation: A Practice Model for Serving Girls
- Revised based on DCF Parole Requirements
- Risk/Needs Assessment and Treatment Planning
- New Girls’ Parole Unit December 1, 2008
- Monthly Team Meetings
- Regular meetings and shared training opportunities with CSSD
Serving Girls in their Communities

- Over 15 Community Based Programs
- Wide range of programs from highly structured programming such as FFT to grass roots community developed programs such as Inaru
- Working with the local schools, YSB’s and various members of the local communities
Education

- Support Teams for Educational Progress (STEP)
  - Educational Advocacy
  - Transitional Education Program
  - Substance Abuse Prevention
  - Employability Skills Development
- Project CRAFT
- Virtual Learning Academy/ Credit Retrieval
- Possible PACE Collaborative
Life Skills

• Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment Plus (ACLSA)
  – Evidence Based Model
  – Rollout at every level of the Continuum
  – Portable – Learning Plans/ Portfolios will follow girls throughout the Continuum
  – Assessments can be given at entry and discharge
  – Special Populations: Pregnant and parenting teens and LGBTQ youth
  – DCF providing an Introductory Training to DOC
  – www.caseylifeskills.org
Group Home

- New Parole Group Home for Girls
- Program Guidelines to Define Program
- New Contract Language
- Ansell Casey Life Skills
Residential Treatment

- Monthly Planning Meetings with all the Providers
- Female Responsive Program Guidelines
- Trauma Informed Care
- DBT
- Ansell Casey Life Skills
- Virtual Learning Academy
DCF and Waterbury PD Initiative

- DCF initiated dialogue with the local PD and provider to affect arrests
- Various meetings with all levels of the Waterbury PD
- Waterbury PD PAL Program: PD has opened all activities to the girls’ at SS
- PD visit and eat dinner with the girls’ at Stepping Stone
- Chief issued a memo requiring supervisory approval to arrest girls at Stepping Stone
- DCF to train recruits/ officers

Special Thank You to Chief O’Leary and the Waterbury PD
Girls’ Secure Program

- Site in Bridgeport
- 18-Secure Beds
- Program to Inform the Building
- Short-term, 30 to 90 days
- Assessments/ Evaluation, Education, Family Work
- Community Outreach
- Design Team(s)
- External Expert(s)
- Advisory Committee
DCF Agency Initiatives

- Agency Training Academy/ Trauma and Gender-Responsive Training
- Contract Language/ Gender Responsive Principles
- Agency Strategic Planning Unit to include Gender Specific Planning
Contact Information:

Leo C. Arnone
Bureau Chief, Bureau of Juvenile Services
Department of Children and Families
leo.arnone@ct.gov

Tammy M. Sneed
Program Director, Girls’ Services
Bureau of Juvenile Services
tammy.sneed@ct.gov