



**FWSN Advisory Board
Meeting
June 11, 2007**

Girls' Services Update

Girls in Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System

“Connecticut girls’ services (are) much like the girls themselves: extraordinary strengths coupled with widespread, seemingly insurmountable challenges”

Marty Beyer, Ph.D, 2005

True Collaboration

Judicial Branch: Court
Support Services
Division

Department of Children
and Families

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To achieve a statewide system of services for girls, every public and private provider would have to adopt consistent approaches to:

- * Active involvement of girls
- * Encouragement of relationship continuity
- * Combination of staff coaching and training
- * Trauma treatment
- * Gender-specific behavior motivation
- * Intensive home-based services

Beyer, 2005

Court Support Services Division

- Girls' Probation Initiative
- Developing a Gender Responsive Detention System
- Center for Assessment, Respite and Enrichment
- Tracking Girls in Detention
- Integrating Female Responsive Practice
- Ongoing Training Projects
- Program Standards/ Guidelines Project*

Gender Responsive Probation Project

- Structure
 - 13 Juvenile Probation Officers statewide
 - Caseloads do not exceed 25 girls
 - Assignment of cases is based on a random design, in accordance with identified geographic catchments
 - Designated Project Coordinator in place
- Implementation
 - Initial and ongoing comprehensive training
 - Standardized screening and assessment tools/ specialized instruments as needed
 - Female responsive success plans are utilized
 - The model is client-level driven. Each client contact is seen as an opportunity for engagement and learning
- Support
 - Technical Assistance is integrated into the model
 - Funds for referrals to non-traditional services and pro-social activities

Creating a Gender Responsive Juvenile Detention System in Connecticut

Goal: To create a detention system, public and private, that incorporates a gender specific approach and is fundamentally responsive for girls and boys.

Rationale:

- Significant, increasing representation
- Public Act 01-181
- Criticism from advocacy groups
- CSSD Commitment

Project Components

- Public/Private Partnership
- Comprehensive Program Assessment
- Report Findings & Recommendations
- Training
- Implementation of CORE Model
- Technical Assistance
- Quality Assurance/Outcomes Driven

Hartford WSD Outcomes

📄 Dramatically improved safety

- 📄 Eliminated room time

- 📄 Eliminated mechanical restraints

- 📄 Reduced “hands on”

- 📄 Reduced incident reports

- 📄 Reduced worker compensation claims

- 📄 Improved client stability

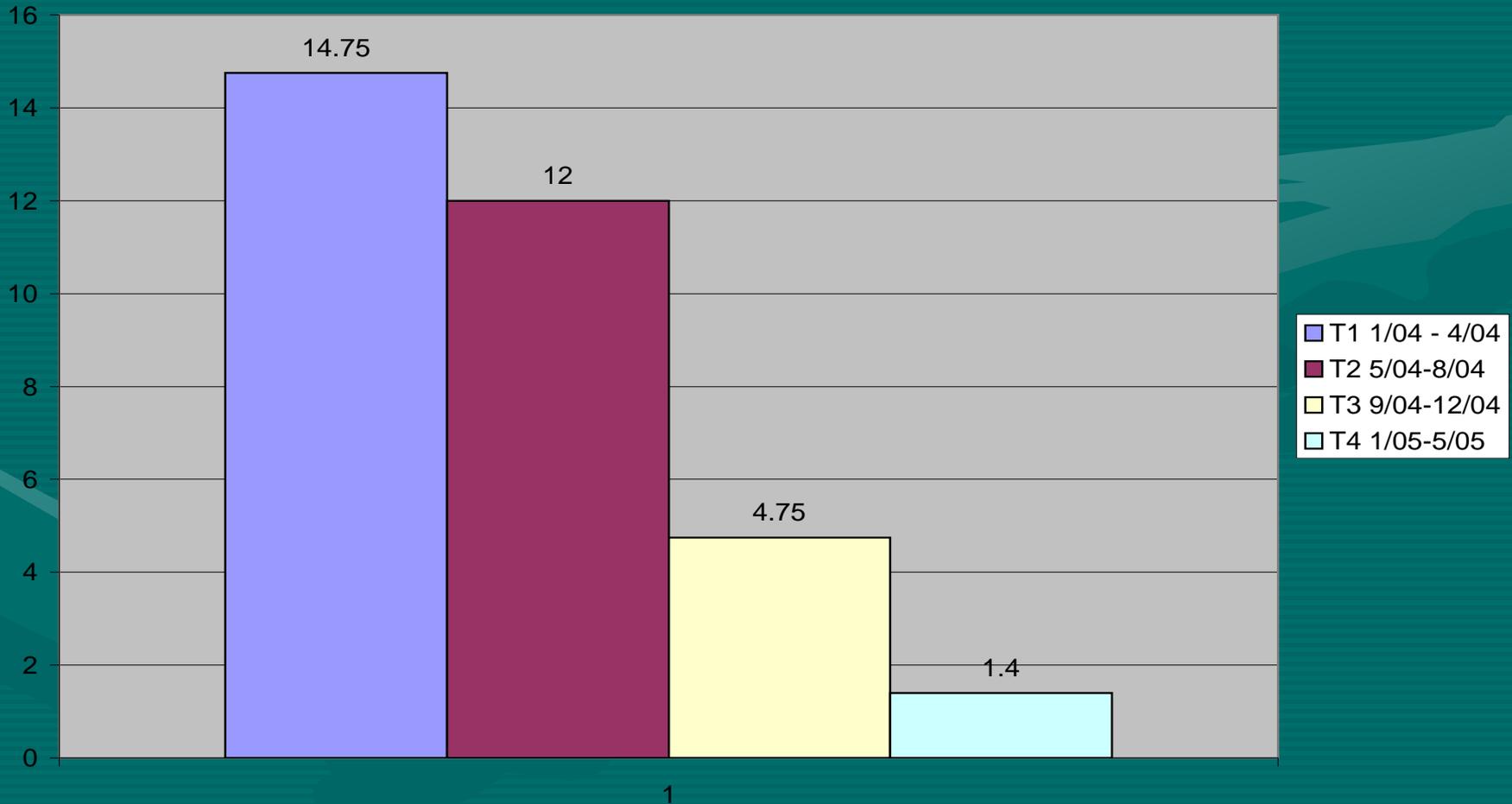
- 📄 Reduced “returns” to detention

- 📄 Eliminated mandatory locked bedroom doors

📄 Changed and enhanced services offered

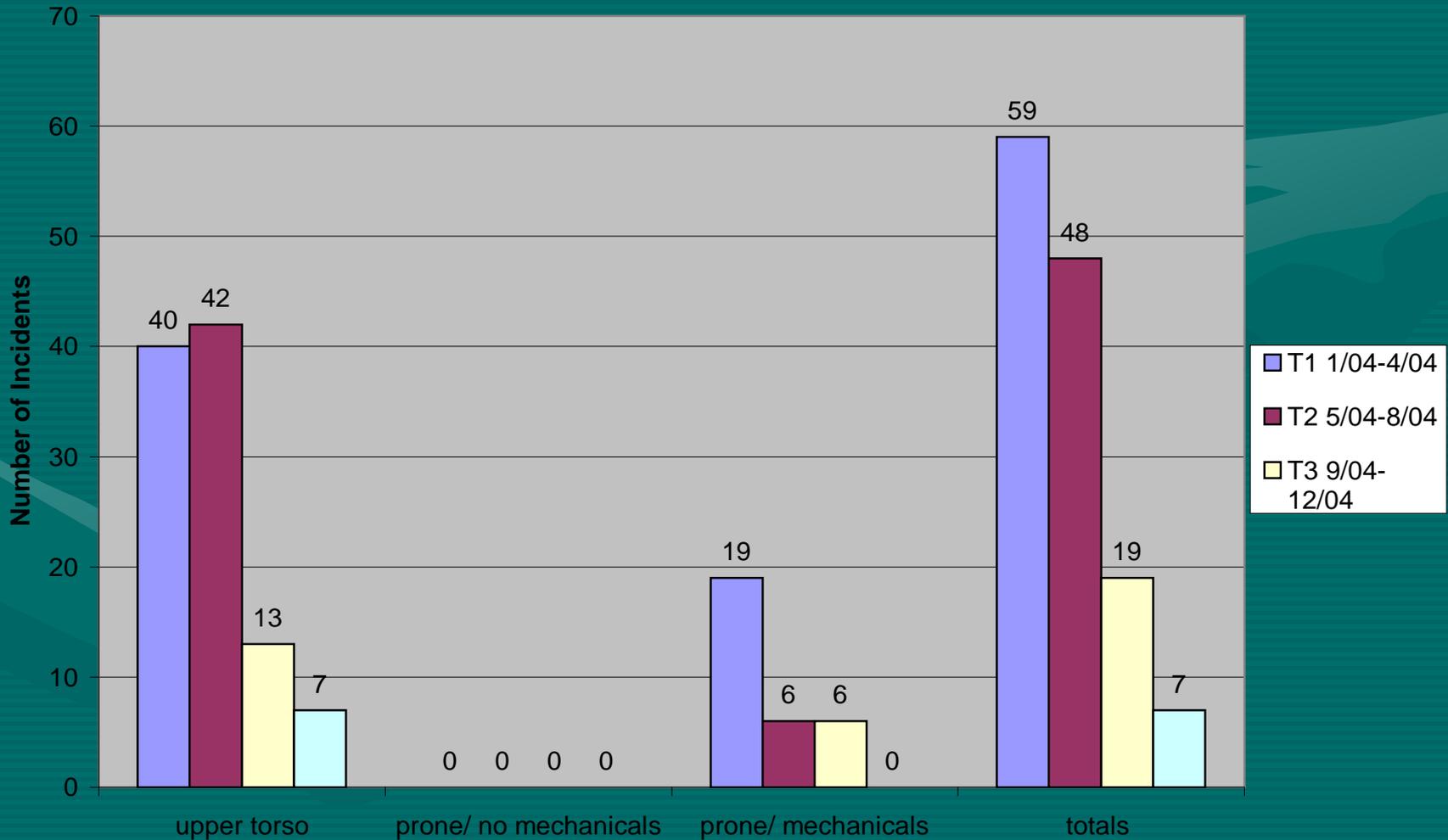
WSD- Reduction in Restraints

WSD - Monthly average of restraints



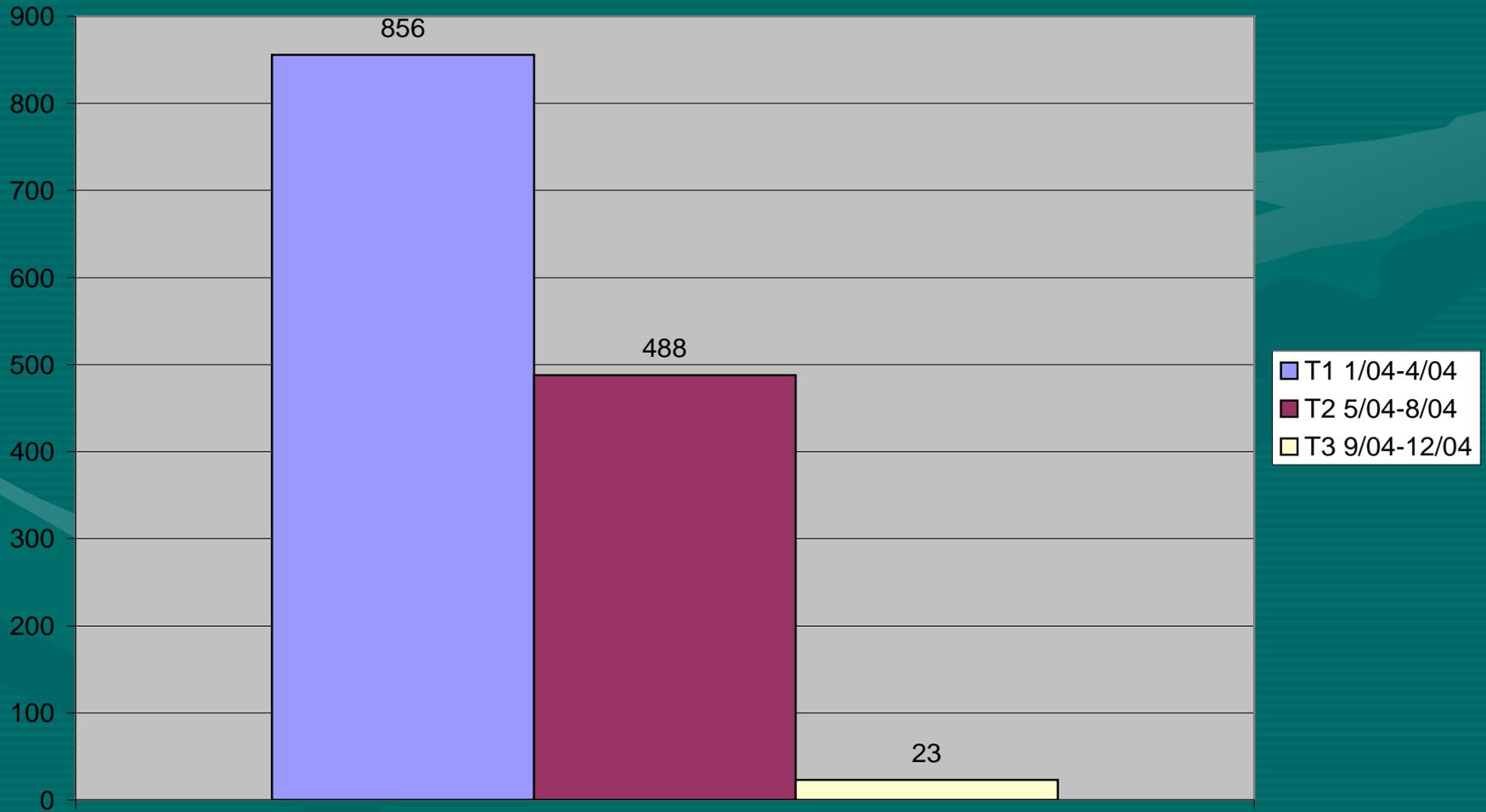
WSD – Reduction in All Types of Restraints

WSD Use of Force by Type



WSD - Elimination of Room Time

WSD - Room Time in Hours



New Program Models

- Juvenile Risk Reduction Centers
 - Beginning to introduce integrated curricula (Voices, TARGET)
 - Attention to trauma sensitivity
- Center for Assessment, Respite and Enrichment
 - Built on female responsive practice principles
 - Integrating the model with TARGET
- Alternative to Detention Programs
 - CORE Model implementation
 - Integrating the model with TARGET

Building a System for Families with Service Needs

- Use a Gender Responsive Framework
 - Strength-based
 - Relational
 - Trauma Informed
 - Culturally Competent
 - Holistic
- Change referral processing to divert FWSN's
- Build new program model
 - Include trauma assessment and coping skills development
- Expand respite care for FWSN's in crisis

Gender Responsive Systems Change Initiatives at DCF

- DCF Commitment to Apply Gender Responsive Best Practices Principles across the entire department
- Girls Network Evolution
- Program Standards/ Guidelines Project*
- Developing a Network of Gender Responsive Programs *Program Evaluation Project
- Gender Responsive Parole Officers
- Ongoing Training Initiatives

The DCF Girls' Network

- Public and Private representation
- Cross-disciplinary
- Intensive case conferencing weekly
- Permanency plans including least restrictive placement recommendations
- Diversion from delinquency commitments
- Network Wide Training
- New Protocol

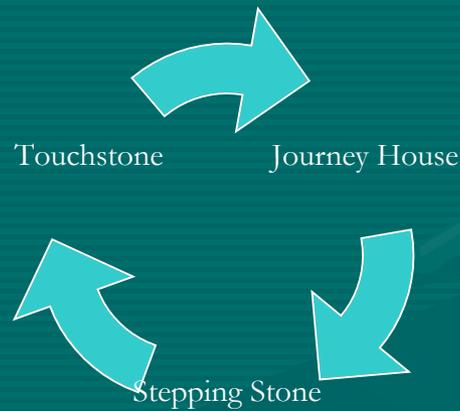
*41 Non-JJ referrals to the Girls' Network since January 1, 2007 for DCF's highest levels of care for girls; only 10 were approved for these most restrictive settings; parole numbers continue to decline (11% for girls over last year).

Program Standards/Guidelines

Goal: To develop a set of program standards for residential levels of care that are gender responsive, culturally competent and trauma informed

- 72 participants in a 2 day retreat in September 2005
- Reviews will be completed by July 1, 2007
- Distribution to the field to begin early fall

Gender Responsive Adolescent Programs



Journey House

- One of 3 Programs participating in the DCF Program Evaluation Project
- New Management Team
- Adopted Klingberg's Restorative/ Risking Connections Approach
- Trained and utilizing DBT and VOICES curriculums

Stepping Stone

- One of 3 Programs participating in the DCF Program Evaluation Project
- Complete revision of the Normative Approach to include all Gender Responsive Principles
- Training plan for all program levels
- Currently utilizing DBT, VOICES and Risking Connections

Touchstone

RTC

- One of 3 Programs participating in the DCF Program Evaluation Project
- Complete revision of the Normative Approach to include all Gender Responsive Principles
- Training plan for all program levels
- Currently utilizing DBT, VOICES and Risking Connections

Light House

- 6-Bed Step-Down
- Independent from the RTC (except education)
- Independent Living Focus: Community Employment, Independent Living Skills Training, Driver's Training, etc...
- Transition to community

Community Based Services

Existing Services Enhanced/ Shared:

- OTR
- MST
- MDFT
- FST

New Initiatives:

- STEP
- Functional Family Therapy
- Project Choice for Girls

Support Teams for Educational Progress (STEP)

- Educational Advocacy
- Transitional Education Program
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Employability Skills Development

Current Census:

STEP in Hartford currently has 56-youth

STEP in New Haven currently has 22-youth

Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

- One person team working directly with youth and family in their home
 - Target population includes delinquency, violence, substance use, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, or disruptive behavior disorder
 - Five Phases: 1) Engagement, 2) Motivation, 3) Assessment, 4) Behavior Change and 5) Generalization
 - Locations in CT: 1) Norwich, 2) Waterbury, Torrington and Danbury, 3) Manchester and Hartford, 4) Middletown and New Haven and 5) Bridgeport, Stamford and Norwalk
- *Bridgeport is the newest team and will be taking clients by the end of June.

Parole Services Girls' Specialists

- 11 Parole Officers statewide
- Caseloads not to exceed 15 girls
- Gender Specific Training: GSP 101, Trauma 101, Advanced Trauma, Mothers and Girls, Risking Connections, etc...
- New program menu of services
- Girls' Services Case and Program Consultation
- Training Collaboration

Program Development

- Two new group homes funded for FY'07 and FY'08
- Target population is adolescent girls on juvenile parole
- Draft RFP being reviewed
- Group Homes operational in '08

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