

Families with Service Needs CSSD System Change Update

FWSN Advisory Board
Legislative Office Building
May 19, 2008

Changes to Date

- Fully implemented new FWSN referral processing in Juvenile Probation
- Substantial decrease of FWSN referrals made to SCJM statewide
- Substantial decrease of FWSN Judicial Handling
- Substantial decrease of FWSN violators
- **ELIMINATION** of FWSNs in Detention

Key Features of New Referral Process for FWSNs

- Developed a Parent Complaint Notification Form
- Changed the School Truancy/Defiance Complaint Form
- Strengthened requirements for Judicial handling
- High-need FWSNs diverted directly to services (in 4 FSC-served areas)

Statewide FWSN Referrals

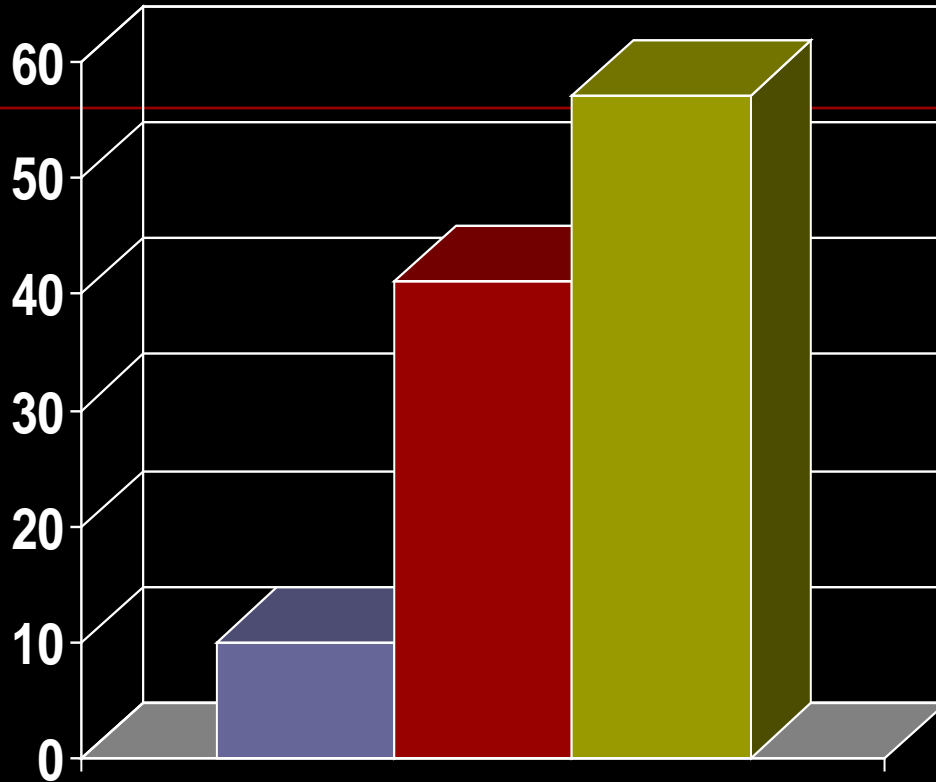
- Calendar Year 2006:
 - 3638 FWSN Referrals
- Calendar Year 2007:
 - 3263 FWSN Referrals
- 10% decrease (n=375)

Statewide FWSN Referrals, continued




- October 2006 to March 2007:
 - 2132 FWSN Referrals
- October 2007 to March 2008:
 - 1267 FWSN Referrals
- 41% decrease (n=865)

Statewide FWSN Referrals, continued

- January 2007 to April 2007:
 - 1564 FWSN Referrals
- January 2008 to April 2008:
 - 674 FWSN Referrals
- **57% decrease (n=890)**



**FWSN Referral Reduction
Comparison**

-  2006 to 2007
reduction %
-  10/06 - 3/07 to 10/07 -
3/07
-  1/07 - 4/07 to 1/08 -
4/08

Decrease in Judicial Handling of FWSNs

- 10/1/06 to 4/30/07
 - 1222 non-judicial FWSN
 - 1309 judicial FWSN

- 10/1/07 to 4/30/08
 - 1187 non-judicial FWSN
 - 80 judicial FWSN

Decrease in Violations, Commitments

- 10/1/06 to 4/30/07
 - 30 FWSN Commitments of 181 total commitments (17%)
 - 263 violations for FWSN & Delinquent
- 10/1/07 to 4/30/08
 - 6 FWSN Commitments of 134 total commitments (4%)
 - 166 violations for FWSN & Delinquent

New Services for FWSNs

- 4 Family Support Centers fully operational
- FWSN Center for girls fully operational
- FWSN Center for boys went out to bid
- 2 Girls CARE programs utilized
- Boys CARE program fully operational

Family Support Centers

- Crisis Intervention
- Family Mediation
- Case Management/ Coordination
- Educational Consultation/ Advocacy
- Aftercare Services
- Individual Services
- Referrals to home-based programs
- Flex Funds for Pro-social Activities

Family Support Centers Group Offerings

- Trauma Services/ Intervention
- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
- Female-specific services
- Parent/ Family Skill building

Referral status as of May 12, 2008

- 118 Total Referrals since October 1, 2008 (most since January 2008)
- 103 Current Active Cases

Client Demographics

- The average age of an FSC client is 15
- 75% of FSC clients are minorities
- Gender distribution by FSC site
 - Bridgeport 62% M, 38% F
 - Hartford 25% M, 75% F
 - New Haven 54% M, 46%F
 - Waterbury 32% M, 68% F

Who are the Kids?

Cases are VERY Complex

- Multiple system involvement: Many services have already been tried
 - Prior out of home placements
 - Home-based services
 - Outpatient substance abuse and mental health services
- Significant mental health needs
- Have witnessed or been victims of abuse/ violence
- Parents have untreated, significant, needs
- Educational challenges
- Stressed families

One Story

- A 13 year old girl referred for Beyond Control at home
- She is the 2nd youngest of 10 children in the same household cared for by maternal great-aunt, mom is incarcerated
- Within two weeks of meeting the client and family, the client stopped going to school and was rarely home
- She refused the Girls' CARE program and consistently couldn't be reached
- The FSC has since built a trusting relationship with her family

- Staff has accessed DCF support and connected the family to MDFT
- The client has since confided in staff about her pregnancy
- FSC transports to Planned Parenthood, and continues to offer her support.
- She has the proper medical attention and support,
- She is complying with household rules,
- She is attending school

Message from FSC Staff

It took many, many years, sometimes generations for these problems to emerge.

It takes a lot of time, effort and a variety of interventions to help clients and families get to the root cause and allow positive change toward healing.

Next Steps

- Continue to advocate for additional services (6 remaining FSC's need funding)
- Continue to strengthen existing FSCs
 - Educational and vocational services
 - Existing service offerings
 - Increase referrals
- Continue to enhance collaboration across the system (Probation – DCF – Providers)