



FWSN Local Implementation Teams

Overview and Update

State of CT Judicial Branch,
Court Support Services Division

May 19, 2008

Purpose of the LIT

To inform local communities and ensure an ongoing dialogue regarding the substantial changes to the FWSN legislation

- Establish collaboration between system partners
- Help disseminate information on a local level about the impact of the FWSN legislation changes
- Establish a forum for community discussion regarding challenges presented by legislative changes
- Provide feedback to the FWSN Advisory Board regarding what is working well and what is challenging



LIT Member Composition

- Local Probation Supervisor
- FWSN Liaison
- DCF Designee
- System of Care Co-Chair
- Youth Service Bureau representative
- Family Support Center Representative
- School System Representatives
- Other Local Service Providers

Current LIT activities, statewide

- Probation held about 25 community information sessions across the state
- Each probation office has convened an LIT meeting 3 to 7 times since 10/1/07
- Number of participants varies from 8 to 20
- Frequency of meetings varies by court location:
 - Most meet on a monthly basis
 - Others meet bi-monthly or quarterly

LIT activities, continued

- Some LIT meetings and System of Care meetings have been combined
- Contracted CSSD service providers present program information
- Community outreach and education is planned
- Increased school system participation and education



Feedback from LITs

Some positive responses:

- Decreased number of FWSN referrals statewide
- Quicker response time for services (FSC)
- New services have been helpful
- Increased system communication and collaboration (CSSD, DCF, School districts, and community providers)

Feedback from LITs

Most understand the need for change, but an overall feeling of frustration remains

- Lack of services (no FSC's in 9 courts)
- No accountability for truancy
- Some parents reluctant to cooperate
- Need for early intervention
- Complaints from parents/community: perception that the court "is powerless"



Suggested Next Steps

- Services are needed where no FSC exists
- Legislative clarification needed for local communities
- Continue to reinforce collaboration and extend out to schools not currently participating