RAISING UP OUR YOUTH

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAUS AND JUVENILE REVIEW BOARDS IN CT
WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

- Children best served in their communities
- Limit entry to the justice system
- Not using court for a gateway to receiving services
- Streamlined approach
- Identify needs of youth and family
- Have a YSB System doing the work already and a Diversion process across the state
There are currently 104 YSBs serving 135+ communities in Connecticut.

Youth Service Bureaus are codified in statute through Public Act No. 75-487.

A youth service bureau shall be the coordinating unit of community-based services.

A Youth Service Bureau is designed for:

- Planning
- Evaluation
- Coordination
- Implementation
YOUTH SERVICE BUREAUS CONTINUED

• Birth to age 18

• Coordination and Implementation of services:
  • Prevention and Intervention programs for:
    • Delinquent, predelinquent, pregnant, parenting and troubled youth
  • Continuum of prevention and intervention services (which can include, but is not limited to diversion)
  • Referral sources include:
    • Schools, police, juvenile court, local youth serving agencies, parents and self referrals
A JRB is a diversionary program designed to serve youth that are referred to, or are eligible to be referred to, juvenile court for a delinquency or status offense matter. Youth are referred to a JRB to avoid entering into the court system.

Currently 88 JRBs serving 135 communities in CT

Most JRBs fall under the umbrella of the YSB, but about 10% are run by another entity such as a police department or other human/youth serving agency.

The first JRB was created in Enfield, CT in 1968

Referral sources include police, juvenile court, and sometimes parents

Uses a restorative process designed to help repair harm and restore relationships

Entire process is done collaboratively with family and youth
COMMUNITY BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM

- Concept of Diversion System
  - Serving children in their community
  - Allows court to focus on highest risk youth
  - Screening and referral process
- System capacities
  - Community Education
  - Data Collection and Evaluation
  - Training
  - Collaboration
COMMUNITY BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM

COMMUNITY BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM

SCHOOLS & School teams
POLICE
CBIA
PARENTS
JUVENILE COURT
DCF

EMPS

COORDINATING HUB
YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD

COMMUNITY BASED INTERVENTIONS
- Positive Youth Development
- Truancy/Discipline Alternatives
- Family Strengthening & Support
- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Behavioral Health

FACILITATE SYSTEM LEVEL CAPACITIES
- Community Education
- Screening for Appropriate Referrals
- Data Collection & Evaluation
- Training
- Local Interagency Service Teams (LISTs)

Care Coordination
REFERRAL PROCESS

- Referrals to a YSB can come from police, schools, parents, or other youth serving agencies.
- Referrals for JRB usually come from the police, juvenile court and sometimes the school.
- Referrals for programming and for the JRB go through an intake process and screening process.
USE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
A PARADIGM SHIFT

• Accountability in the JRB process is critical

• Accountability comes in the form of restoring relationships damaged and repairing the harm caused by their actions, not through punishment

• Punishment is not an effective tool and does not match up with the science of the developing brain

• Seeing behavior as an attempt to meet needs and sometimes lack of skills to do so
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

• RJ is a philosophy and means with which we can balance the needs of those harmed and those who created the harm with community needs.

• Process allows those harmed in an incident to ask for and receive the necessary supports to promote healing, sometimes directly from the person or persons who created the harm

• Allows those who created the harm the opportunity to be accountable for their actions and make reasonable and developmentally appropriate efforts to repair the harm

  (Joe Brummer, 2020)
QUESTIONS

• Contact Information
  • Erica Bromley,
  • Juvenile Justice Liaison, CT Youth Services Association
  • ebromley@ctyouthservices.org