

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

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAUS (YSB) IN CT

- 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

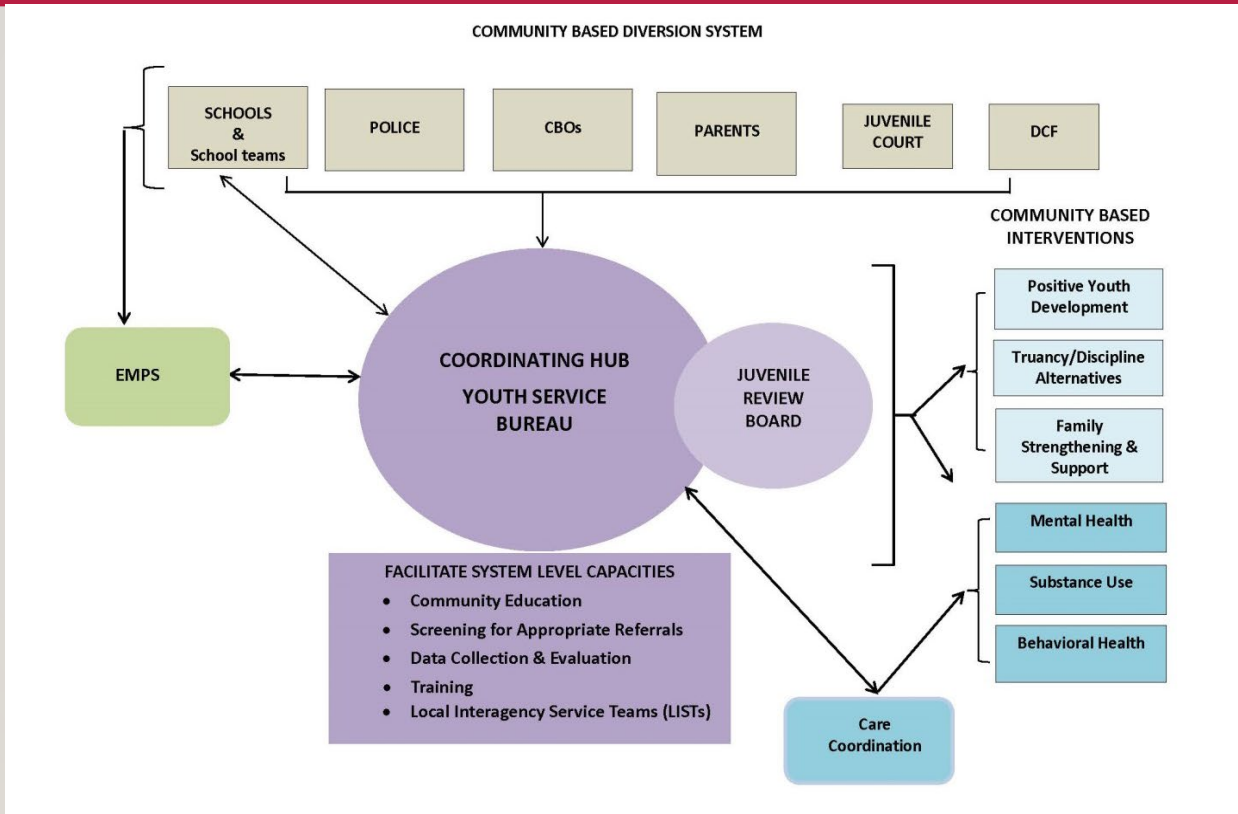
JUVENILE REVIEW BOARDS

- 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



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

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