

REGIONS Treatment Program Update

Juvenile Justice Policy &
Oversight Committee

September 16, 2022



Probation with Placement

Per statute, *Probation Supervision with Residential Placement* ordered only if “such placement is indicated by the child’s clinical and behavioral needs or the level of risk the child poses to public safety cannot be managed in a less restrictive setting.”

Juvenile Probation Officer completes a Pre-Dispositional Study (PDS) and the PrediCT delinquency risk assessment providing social history, risk relevant factors, likelihood of reoffending, and measures to reduce risk, address needs, and protect the community.

Clinical Coordinator conducts forensic clinical assessment and SAVRY violence risk assessment identifying clinical and behavioral needs, amenability to treatment, priority treatment needs, and type of treatment setting.

Prosecutor and Defense Counsel make arguments

Judge considers all information and orders the disposition

**Re-Entry, Goal-oriented, Individualized,
Opportunity to Nurture Success**



Residential Treatment Program

Three (3) Hardware Secure = 34 beds for boys

- * Bridgeport, State Juvenile Residential Center (12)
- * Hartford, State Juvenile Residential Center (12)
- * Hamden, Community Partners in Action (10)

Two (2) Limited Secure = 12 girls, 6 boys

- * Mansfield, Journey House (girls)
- * Hamden, Community Partners in Action (boys)

Three (3) Staff Secure = 28 beds for boys

- * Hartford, Community Partners in Action (8)
- * Milford, Boys & Girls Village (12)
- * Waterbury, Connecticut Junior Republic (8)

REGIONS Hardware & Limited* Secure Utilization

* 250 total
admissions since
July 1, 2018

Hardware Secure Admissions

- Bridgeport, State Residential Center (83)
- Hartford, State Residential Center (95)
- Hamden, Community Partners in Action (24)

Limited* Secure Admissions

- Mansfield, Journey House (48)

* Limited Secure means facility is hardware secure and clients go into the community as part of their treatment plan.

REGIONS

Staff Secure Utilization

* 184 total admissions since December 2018

Staff Secure Admissions

- Milford, Boys & Girls Village (81)
- Waterbury, Connecticut Junior Republic (77)
- Hartford, Community Partners in Action (26)

A photograph of a living room interior. In the foreground, there are two patterned armchairs with a dark, geometric design. Between them is a round, light-colored coffee table with a dark wooden base. In the background, there is a dark blue sofa and another round coffee table. The room has a carpeted floor and a light-colored wall.

REGIONS Program Goals

- * Reduce risk to recidivate
- * Increase well-being and prosocial skills
- * Facilitate successful return to community



REGIONS

Team Approach

* Multidisciplinary Team: Youth, Family, Youth's Attorney, Probation Officer, Unit Staff, Clinician, Education, Healthcare, Recreation, Reintegration Mentor, and Community Partners

* Readiness for Discharge is determined by team consensus that treatment goals have been met.

REGIONS Treatment Model

- **Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)**
 - validation, coaching, skill building, practiced learning, supportive relationships
 - woven together with Restorative Practices
- **Positive Youth Development**
 - adolescence, strengths, interests, life skills, leadership opportunities
- **Risk Reduction and Risk-Need-Responsivity model**
 - reduce risk to recidivate through targeted interventions responsive to needs and learning style
- **Individualized Treatment & Discharge Plans**

REGIONS Supports

- * Staff representative of clients
- * Role Models & Mentors
- * Low Client to Staff Ratio
- * Highly Qualified & Spec Ed Certified Teachers
- * Licensed Mental Health Clinicians & Psychiatry
- * Pediatrician & Nurses
- * Recreation Specialists



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Family Partnership

- * Family defined by the client
- * Multidisciplinary Team Member(s)
- * Family sessions & treatment (supply virtual technology)
- * Multisystemic Family Therapy - Family Integrated Treatment (MST-FIT) & Emerging Adults (MST-EA)
- * Reintegration Mentor or Credible Messenger
- * Performance-based Standards (PbS) Family Surveys
- * Family Support Specialist at Hamden



REGIONS Education Services

- * Accredited providers
- * Low student ratio
- * IEP implementation
- * Credit recovery
- * High School diploma
- * Transitional Planning & Support

- Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES)
- Bridgeport Public Schools
- Charles F. Hayden School
- Cable Academic & Vocational Education Center (CAVEC)
- DOMUS Kids
- Journey House School





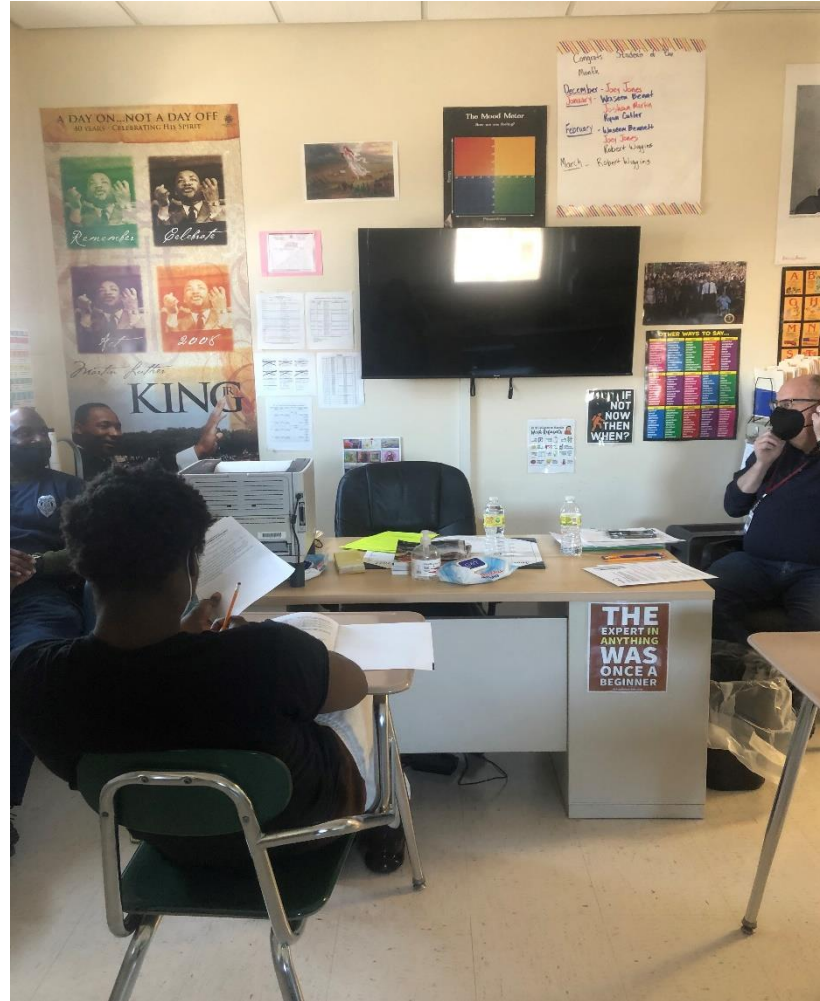
REGIONS

Vocational Services

- * Interest Inventory
- * Certifications - ServSafe, OSHA, First Aid/CPR
- * Barbering
- * Gardening
- * Culinary Arts
- * Truck Driving, Fork Lift Operating
- * Commercial Painting (houses, autos)
- * Woodworking
- * Automotive
- * Music & Video Production

Education at Work

ServSafe Exam



Serving Peers

Work Opportunities

- * Resumes & Interviews
- * Store Manager
- * Librarian
- * Bank Teller
- * Gym Manager
- * Maintenance Asst.
- * Payroll Coordinator
- * Journalist



REGIONS Enrichment Activities

- * Music production
- * African drumming
- * Arts & Design
- * Reading
- * Dance & Fitness
- * Martial Arts
- * Basketball League
- * Various Contests



Learning Alternatives for Coping & New Ways to Experience Life

- * Daily Mindfulness exercises
- * Yoga
- * Tai Chi
- * Self care
- * Puzzles
- * Coloring
- * Safe ways to have fun







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Re-Entry Services

- * State ID, job applications, social security card, driver's permit
- * Discharge Circles
- * Reintegration Mentors at contracted REGIONS Programs (expanded from 3 months to 12 months of support)
- * Credible Messengers for clients at Bridgeport and Hartford Juvenile Residential Centers (new service)
- * Working to pilot Re-Entry Circles in one school district/community





REGIONS Treatment Experiences

- * **Client:** *Feel safe, supported, & learning*
- * **Family:** *THANK YOU for keeping my boy safe and for all the work you guys did with him...I see changes in him so I'm hoping you never see him again but if you do I hope we have the pleasure of working together again.*
- * **Probation Officer:** *The program is one of the best programs I have worked with...very welcoming and staff have great engagement skills. Reintegration Mentor has ability to engage a family who've had struggles in the past connecting with providers.*
- * **Attorney:** *Impressed; happy client; supportive, caring & hardworking staff; making a difference*

REGIONS Success



- Credit Recovery & Reintegration to School
- High School Diplomas
- Scholarships
- Employment: Popeyes, Dunkin, Dick's Sporting Goods, Amazon, Wendy's, BJ's, McDonald's
- Community College: Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts
- 4 Year College

REGIONS Challenges

- Clients returning on new charges: need more treatment to change behavior
- Limited space at hardware secure: no room for hands-on vocational learning & recreation
- Low salaries at contracted programs: hard to attract & retain well-qualified, experienced staff
- Funding needed for a Family Support Specialist at each program

REGIONS Challenges

- Return to same chaotic, disenfranchised environments
- Transition to community school, employment, and post-secondary education
- Opening 1–2 additional hardware secure programs for boys to remove clients from Bridgeport & Hartford Juvenile Residential Centers
 - Need program space & 16 more beds
 - 6th Request for Proposals
 - Possible state property in Meriden

OVERCOME
OBSTACLES



TOILET

STAR 45

B2

B13

REGIONS

System Improvements & Promising Developments



- Moving most programs to DBT Adherence
- Continuously developing Data Collection & Reporting capacities
- Welcomed DCF administrative oversight of educational services
- Implementation of school ESSER funds
- Positive initial findings & implementing recommendations from Development Services Group (DSG) process evaluation
- Credible Messengers for Bridgeport & Hartford REGIONS
- Opening REGIONS Transitional Living Program early 2023

Hi *James (Classification & Program Officer), Please share this with [REGIONS] Staff please!

My Grandson *Robert is a part of the [REGIONS] program. As you all know Robert entered this program very angry and not wanting to talk about what was troubling him. Before he came I tried every program, every training that I've been through as a Behavior Tech, Family Support from [the Board of Ed], Boys & Girls Club, Gang Prevention, etc. I've helped the youth in [the City] for 20 plus years! It was very painful for me to be able to help other children and couldn't help my own! That was stressful for me and Robert because he was used to me fixing everything and everybody! Robert was in hospitals and every program I could find. All I wanted him to do was talk and get whatever was on his soul out so we could be able to help. Situations going on around Robert and the added pressure of being my Grandson was too much for him to handle. I will always believe that. Finally, he comes to [REGIONS] and somehow, somehow he began to open up and talk! He had at least 2 years worth of anger and confusion he did not know how and who to direct it to! [REGIONS] got a hold of my Grandson and would not let go! The staff, who the majority of them I had in my programs, going to their schools when they were acting up and those that participated in my basketball programs, knowing them since they were babies! They rallied around Robert and let him know that he was not going out like that! That Village gathered around Robert and let him know that they had his back and never refused to not help him! I mean from the [Line Staff] to the Bosses! There was never a time that they refused to talk to me. They made sure that I understood that they had my back also so it was a pleasure to work with all of them! James and *Allison (clinician) I cannot and will not ever be able to Thank you enough for the time you spent with Robert to help him get it together! Hearing him say "but James said" or "Allison said" was music to my ears! Helping him understand that he still has a chance to have a life when at one time he thought he couldn't is a Blessing! *John from Probation also he was there from day one and refused to give up on him and me! This Program should be in every school in [the City]! I just want to say again Thank you [REGIONS]! I truly believe you saved my child! Without you I don't know what would have happened! You Guys are the Best!!!!

(*names changed to protect family privacy)



REGIONS has Come Along Way!!!

REGIONS
still has a
Ways to
Go!



Contact Information for Today's Presenters

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