

JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH: SETTING THE STAGE FOR OPPORTUNITY

Court Support Services Division
Connecticut Judicial Branch
March 13, 2015

Overview of CSSD

- Established in 1999
- Division of Judicial Branch that manages services for offenders and respondents
- CSSD consists of Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Detention, Bail, Adult Probation, Alternative Sanctions, and Family Services
- Mission is behavior change and recidivism reduction

Juvenile Services

- Numbers

- Approx. 10,000 youth referred annually
- Ages 7 through 17; 50% ages 16 and 17
- 4,000 under supervision

- Needs

- Most significant risk factors: peers and family
- Significant trauma history and behavioral health issues
- Substantial learning challenges

Juvenile Services

- Programs & Services
 - Supervision and case management
 - Evidence-based in-home family treatment
 - Evidence-based outpatient treatment
 - Education supports
 - Child, Youth & Family Support Centers
 - Job Readiness and Soft Skills Curriculum
 - Mentors
 - Prosocial activities

Young Adult Services

- Numbers

- Approx. 45,000 adults on probation
- 26% between ages of 18-24; highest recidivism rate

- Needs

- Most significant risk factors: companions & alcohol/drug
- 67% history of suspension/expulsion
- 45% of males have less than 12th grade education
- 35% have GED
- 63% unemployed
- 45% never employed for more than year

Young Adult Services

- Programs & Services
 - Alternative Incarceration Centers
 - Job developer and individual employment plan
 - Employment services group
 - National Career Readiness Certificate
 - Customer service training
- UNITY Initiative
 - Capped caseloads
 - Cognitive self-change & employment services groups
 - Weekly team meetings

Challenges

- Chronic absenteeism
- Exclusionary discipline
- Lack of diploma or GED
- Focus and motivation
- Housing instability, drug use and other concerns
- Exclusion or employer disinterest

Opportunities

- Promising Approaches
 - Motivational interviewing and client engagement
 - Education case planning and support services
 - Individual employment plan & vocational opportunities
 - Adult Probation Unity Initiative
 - “Certificate of Employment”
 - Second Chance Society Initiative
- Partnerships
 - Providers
 - DCF, SDE, DOL, OWC, CBIA
 - JJPOC, CJPAC

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