COMMUNITY-BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM

JJ POC
APRIL 20, 2017
CT YOUTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION CREATED A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT DIVERSION TO HELP THE PUBLIC UNDERSTAND THE POWER AND SUCCESS OF THIS PROCESS.

VIDEO WAS COMPLETED WITH SUPPORT FROM CHDI.

AUDIENCE WILL BE COMMUNITY MEMBERS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, POLICE, SCHOOLS AND MORE.

SUBJECT OF THE VIDEO IS A REAL CONSUMER AND A GREAT SUCCESS STORY!

https://vimeo.com/211739299
COMMUNITY-BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM

- Concept of Diversion System
  - Streamlined approach
  - Screening and referral
  - System capacities
    - Community Education
    - Data Collection and Evaluation
    - Training
    - LIST Collaboration
COMMUNITY-HUB CONCEPT

- Youth Service Bureau System in CT
  - 101 YSBs serving approximately 144 communities
- Statutory mandate (10-19m)
  - (statute language)
- Structure and set-up of YSBs
  - Rural, suburban, urban
  - Services provided (based on needs of community)
  - Staffing
  - Community collaborations and partnerships
WHAT DOES A YSB LOOK LIKE?

- Urban YSBs
  - Structure
  - Contracted Services
  - Staffing
  - Services

- Suburban YSBs
  - Structure
  - Staffing
  - Services

- Rural YSBs
  - Structure
  - Staffing
  - Services
COMMUNITY-BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

- Plan calls for a phased in process
  - First phase would occur July 1, 2017
  - Second phase would occur July 1, 2018
- (In April, YSB Directors’ Summits are being held across the state to discuss the Diversion System, its implications, and discussion regarding potential roll-out and needs of YSBs)
- Additional feedback will be gathered from current providers of status offenders and other diverted populations for input, concerns and potential barriers
- July – August would be used for training, support, technical assistance and community education regarding this system and its process
IMPLEMENTATION (continued)

- August 2017 - Truancy and Defiance of School Rules cases will no longer be under Juvenile Court jurisdiction and will be referred to the YSB (which can then refer to a JRB or a FWSN Board)

- Need a system in place in order to accommodate referrals coming from schools as well as a standardized process for all school districts to follow for making referrals
  - Truancy subgroup of the Diversion Workgroup is creating standardized forms for schools to use with a referral guide. (Schools’ requirements for making a referral remain the same as what was required before sending to court)
WHAT WOULD THE SYSTEM LOOK LIKE?

Questions to consider:
- Is this system different than what is happening now?
- Will there be additional services provided by the YSBs?
ROLE OF J RBs

- J RBs play a key role in this System
  - J RBs will undoubtedly see more referrals
  - Currently there are 81 J RBs across CT serving over 100 communities
  - Some J RBs take delinquency and status offense cases, some only take delinquency cases
  - Some communities have separate FWSN/Truancy Boards separate from their J RBs
  - Addendum to the J RB Policies and Procedures Manual regarding handling truancy cases will be released in the summer of 2017
ROLE OF COLLABORATORS

- Community Organizations also play a key role
  - Some services may need to be contracted through community organizations if the YSB does not have the capacity or the structure to provide services
  - Communication and collaboration on cases is critical to avoid duplication of services and to fully engage the family
BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES
OVERCOMING BARRIERS
OUTCOMES OF IMPLEMENTATION