

## **Service and Programmatic Resources Workgroup Report**

### **Co-Chairs:**

**Cynthia J. Clancy, Esq., Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender,  
State of Connecticut**

**Jane Fleishman, M.S., Director of Organizational and Staff Development, Bureau of  
Juvenile Services, DCF**

### **Introduction**

The Service and Programmatic Resources Workgroup was given the task to identify all of the resources available to children in the juvenile justice system in Connecticut and conduct an analysis about the strengths and gaps in services.

### **Data Gathering Phase**

After extensive efforts to create an exhaustive list of services and programs available, we came to the inescapable conclusion that we were trying to reinvent the wheel. After polling service providers and advocates in our system, we identified 350+ resources available currently to children in the juvenile justice system in CT. For a preliminary finding, this was helpful, but not exhaustive. Info-Line (United Way of CT) has been doing the same job for years and has several staff members who do nothing but update and check on the accuracy of this data on a daily basis. Our workgroup met with Info-Line administrators and several members of their technical staff twice to determine the best way of culling through the vast information that they have available in their database (40,000+ resources) to get what we need. At this point, having gone through a list of thousands of “search” and “service” terms in use by Info-Line system, we have submitted a list of 100 terms that we feel are calculated to draw out the information that we are looking for and are currently awaiting the results from our request. While all the data is not yet in, we do have some initial findings and preliminary recommendations based on those to share with the rest of the committee.

### **Initial Findings**

1. J. J. kids and their families are experiencing long waiting lists for services (i.e. MST, FST, MDFT, Substance Abuse Treatment)
2. There is a lack of in-state services (or services are geographically unavailable) for certain populations (i.e. Spanish speaking services of all kinds, gender specific programming and Sex Offender Treatment).
3. There is an urgent need for funding of strength based non-clinical programs (i.e. After school programs, Life Skills Training; Mentors; Weekend and Summer Programming, etc.).
4. There is a lack of meaningful workforce development programming and training for children and for staff.

### **Preliminary Recommendations**

Based on those findings as well as committee discussion, our Preliminary Recommendations are as follows:

1. Better access to continuum of care to serve more court involved kids.

2. Emergency, short-term and other placement options for children without homes or other viable placement options (smaller residentials, group homes, others)
3. More bilingual and multicultural staff
4. More trauma-informed services
5. In-state residential sex offender treatment
6. Early planning for transition from institution to community

**In Conclusion**

While these preliminary findings and recommendations are helpful, it will be even more apparent where the current gaps in service lie when we receive the final listing from Info-Line of all resources available across the state.