



FWSN children are those at highest risk for ongoing behavioral health and substance abuse problems, and for future involvement with the juvenile and criminal justice system. Investing in early intervention with these children and families is cost effective, especially when compared to the cost of the incarceration and rehabilitation of adults.

The Family Support Center (FSC) is a multi-service “one-stop” community- based program for FWSN-referred children assessed as high risk and in need of intensive services. This one community-based service that may serve a FWSN referred youth.

The Connecticut General Assembly established and outlined the services provided by Youth Service Bureaus (YSB) in CT. General Statutes §10-19m. The statute directs that municipalities may establish multipurpose youth service bureaus. **According to law, the YSBs “shall be the coordinating unit of community-based services to provide comprehensive delivery of prevention, intervention, treatment and follow-up services.”**

Examples of services YSBs may provide include individual and group counseling, family therapy, parenting education, vocational placement and counseling, recreational and youth enrichment programs; prevention programs, including youth pregnancy, youth suicide, violence, alcohol and drug prevention and positive youth development. The law further states “Such services shall be designed to meet the needs of youth by the diversion of troubled youth from the justice system as well as by the provision of opportunities for all youth to function as responsible members of their communities”.

Connecticut Youth Services Association leads, strengthens and supports a unified network of Youth Service Bureaus dedicated to promoting the well-being of Connecticut’s children, youth and families.

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A Juvenile Review Board (JRB) is a group of local professionals, including police, social workers, school officials, juvenile court officials and community members that meet regularly to offer juveniles, usually those accused of a delinquent act, and their families a positive alternative to referral to juvenile court. The JRB offers a community-based alternative to address school, family and minor criminal problems, and provides community-based solutions to deal with these issues. Since the JRB is community organized and community driven, there is an increased likelihood that there will be a quicker response to the child and family's needs and that the child will avoid the negative Implications of the court process.

*The composition of both the Juvenile Review Board and the Family with Service Needs Board often mirror the composition of district attendance teams, and/or Juvenile Court teams. FWSN Boards and JRBs generally include school administrators, teachers, social workers, health care professionals, police, relevant state system personnel (DCF & JJ Supports), treatment providers, and prevention professionals. Many YSBs manage and facilitate both the JRB and the FWSN Boards. Strong partnerships with the police and the schools is key to creating the best opportunity for successful outcomes. With the support of both DCF and CSSD funding over the past several years, both JRBs and FWSN Boards have been able to support youth and family access to services and programs that aim to help them meet with success. Access to positive pro-socials, academic supports, transportation, treatment, and access to both in home & external counseling are just a few examples of what we have been able to offer due to this grant funding.

For more information regarding JRBs & FWSN Boards please visit:

www.ctyouthservices.org

www.francarino.com

www.ctjja.org

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