

# YSB DIRECTOR'S 101

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# JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

- ▶ How are changes in JJ legislation made
  - ▶ Legislative session (*Jay will talk more about this*)
  - ▶ JJPOC (Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee)
    - ▶ Workgroups
    - ▶ Subgroups

# JUVENILE JUSTICE and DIVERSION IN CT

- ▶ Law changes over the last 5-7 years
  - ▶ Status Offenses
    - ▶ Truancy/Defiance of School Rules
    - ▶ Other Status Offenses (Runaway, Beyond Control, Indecent/Immoral Conduct)
  - ▶ Raise the Age - age of juvenile jurisdiction was raised from age 7 to age 10
  - ▶ Other juvenile law changes in HB 5417
- ▶ Changes/potential changes on the horizon
  - ▶ Risk Based Case Handling
  - ▶ Pre-Arrest Diversion (JJPOC recommendation)
  - ▶ Raise the Age (possibly a JJPOC recommendation)
- ▶ JRB Pilot Project
  - ▶ What does it entail and what are the desired outcomes?

# REFERRALS: DIVERSION vs YSB

- ▶ Some cases get referred to the JRB while other get referred to a YSB
  - ▶ Status Offenses
  - ▶ Delinquent Behavior
  - ▶ What is the difference?
  - ▶ Intake - Ohio Scales (all status offenses and delinquency cases)
  - ▶ Process for each
    - ▶ Referral forms - specific forms used by schools and police for status offenses and separate referrals made for JRB
    - ▶ Case management

# TRUANCY

- ▶ Truancy referrals continue to increase
- ▶ Status offense cases, including truancy/defiance of school rules, are supposed to come to the YSB first (opposed to JRB first)
- ▶ Referral process needs to be followed
- ▶ Case Management and Family engagement are critical
- ▶ Educational Neglect/DCF referrals- very tough to get them accepted
  - ▶ Goal is to avoid system involvement
  - ▶ Age breakdown

# Truancy, cont.

- ▶ Pilot in place now with Hartford Public Schools for permission form
  - ▶ Video will be distributed as well
- ▶ Early intervention and prevention are the best solutions
- ▶ Hard to find best practices as it is often a case-by-case issue
- ▶ Outcomes need to be more than just return to school
- ▶ Working closely with your schools to identify cases earlier is critical
  - ▶ Working with family units
- ▶ Utilize resources including new video, pamphlet created in 2017 and any other info you have on importance of attendance from an early age (resources such as Attendance Works)

# Community Based Status Offenses

- ▶ These status offenses include beyond control, runaway, and indecent and immoral conduct
- ▶ Remainder of the statute language was removed in 2020 and no longer were these cases under juvenile court jurisdiction
- ▶ Created a referral form
- ▶ Referrals can come from police or parents, but should not come from schools for these behaviors
- ▶ Working on several pilot sites regarding youth homelessness which will have an impact on how to handle runaway cases
- ▶ Again, family engagement and a strong intake process will aid in case management work.

# About the Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs)

- ▶ Diversionary program designed to serve youth that are referred to, or are eligible to be referred to, juvenile court for a delinquency or status offense matter.
- ▶ The first JRB was created in Enfield, CT in 1968
- ▶ Just under 90 JRBs serving @135-140 communities
- ▶ Most JRBs fall under the umbrella of the YSB. 10% are run by another entity.

## About the JRBs (cont.)

- ▶ Composition of a JRB (moving from sectors representatives to more of selecting the right people with the right mindset)
- ▶ Moving towards a restorative mindset that allows the process to help repair harm and restore relationships
- ▶ Entire process is done collaboratively with family and youth
- ▶ Training is critical

# JRB Funding

- ▶ Amount of funding for JRBs varies greatly
- ▶ Most JRB are not funded but may use a portion of their YSB grant
- ▶ 3 JRBs (Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven) are fully funded by DCF
- ▶ @34 JRBs in FY 20 received smaller amounts of funding from DCF for Support and Enhancement (ranging from \$1,725 to \$31,650)
- ▶ In FY 2022, 10 more JRBs are eligible for Support and Enhancement dollars for their JRB (28 currently funded through CYSA with DCF dollars and 10-11 more now eligible and several more in the Waterbury region funded with additional DCF dollars)

# JRB DATA - 2019-'20

\*Waiting on 2021-22 data

- ▶ Total cases - 2,129
- ▶ Ages - 57% were between ages 14 and 17
- ▶ Race:
  - ▶ 49% White
  - ▶ 40% Black
  - ▶ 9% Multiracial
  - ▶ 2% Other
- ▶ Ethnicity:
  - ▶ 35% Hispanic
  - ▶ 62% Not Hispanic
  - ▶ 3% Unknown

# JRB DATA cont.

- ▶ Receiving Free/Reduced Meals: 61%
- ▶ DCF Involvement: 11%
- ▶ Current Year Special Education: 28%
- ▶ Current Year Suspension: 35%
- ▶ Referral Sources
  - ▶ Court - 17%
  - ▶ Police 63%
  - ▶ School 19%
- ▶ Incident/Charges (top charges)
  - ▶ Assault 9%
  - ▶ Breach of Peace 26%
  - ▶ Disorderly Conduct 9%
  - ▶ Illegal Drug Possession 10%
  - ▶ Larceny 15%

# JRB DATA cont.

- ▶ JRB Panel Recommendations/Referrals related to Behavioral Health/Support:
  - ▶ Behavioral Health Evaluation 2.5%
  - ▶ Educational Advocacy 4.5%
  - ▶ Family Therapy 2.2%
  - ▶ Individual Therapy 10.2%
  - ▶ Substance Abuse Evaluation 2.3%
  - ▶ Substance Use Prevention/Intervention 1.8%
- ▶ JRB Closeout Status:
  - ▶ Successful Completion 71.3%
  - ▶ Carry Over to next fiscal year 12.6%
  - ▶ Non-Completion 16.1%

# COMMUNITY BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM

- ▶ CBDS -created in 2016 through Diversion workgroup of JJPOC (Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee)
- ▶ Codified in State Statute in 2018
- ▶ The Community-Based Diversion System Plan provides a roadmap for effective, developmentally appropriate, community-based responses to divert youth from the juvenile justice system. By creating a “system” of early identification, assessment and intervention, the individual criminogenic, social/emotional, behavioral, mental health and academic needs of at-risk pre-delinquent and delinquent youth can be addressed within the context of their family, school, and community such that *no child is entered into the juvenile justice system without having exhausted appropriate community resources.*

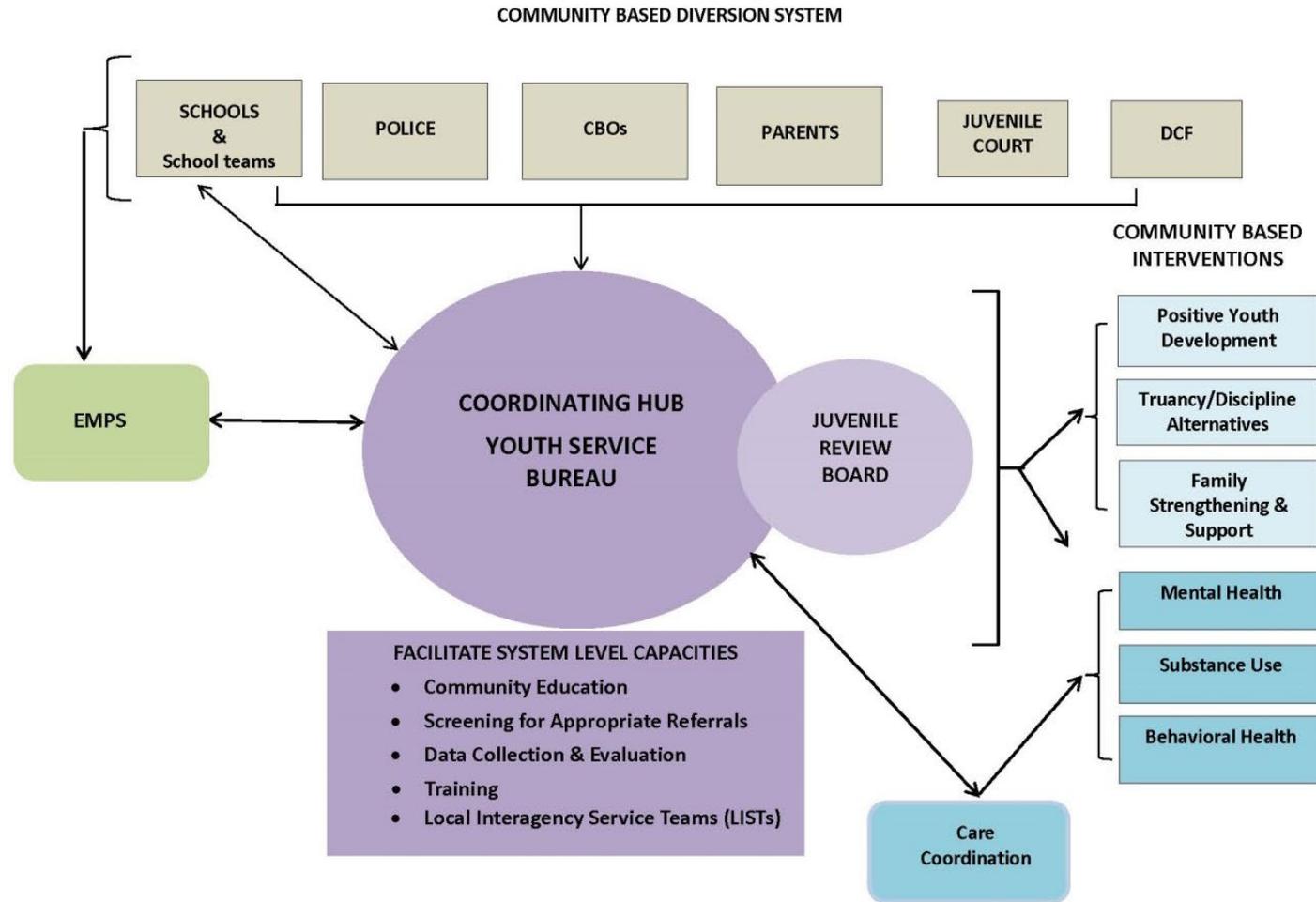
# COMMUNITY BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM

- ▶ Focus of The Community-Based Diversion System Plan:
  - ▶ Identify and provide services for underlying symptoms of the behavior
  - ▶ Puts early intervention supports in place.
  - ▶ Ensures screening and service matching to the needs that led to the behaviors
  - ▶ Addresses the root cause of the behaviors, which lessens continued involvement in the juvenile justice system

# COMMUNITY BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM

- ▶ The benefits of a fully implemented Community-Based Diversion System include:
  - ▶ 1) decreased referrals to Juvenile Court;
  - ▶ 2) increased participation in appropriate services and programs,
  - ▶ 3) increased family engagement;
  - ▶ 4) decreased rates of recidivism;
  - ▶ 5) reduction in the stigma/labeling associated with formal juvenile justice system involvement and;
  - ▶ 6) reduction in the costs of associated with crime and incarceration.

# COMMUNITY BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM



# QUESTIONS?

- ▶ ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INFO WE JUST DISCUSSED?
- ▶ CONTACT INFO:
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