

FWSN CHANGES AND BRIDGEPORT'S YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU (YSB)

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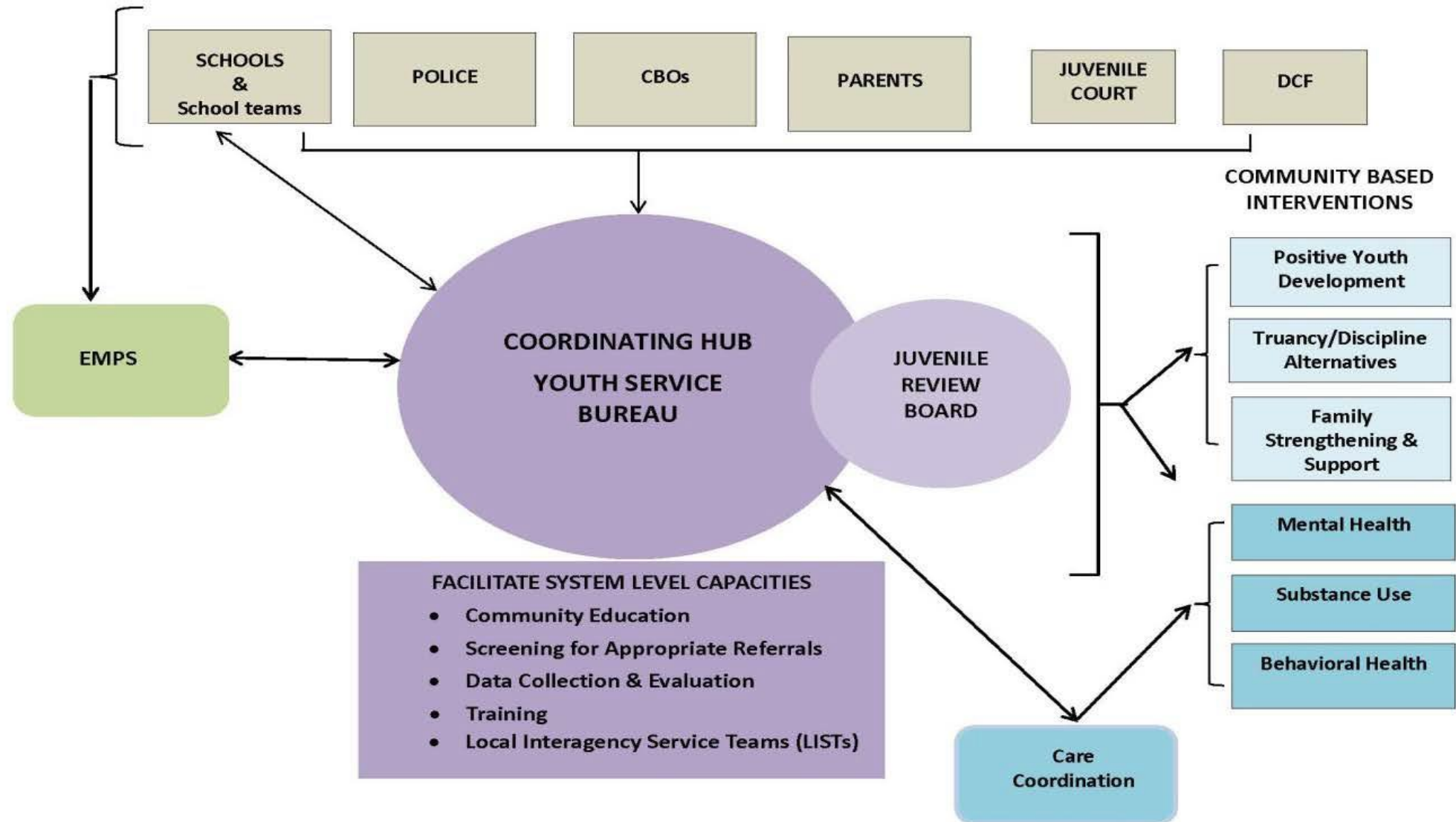
THE MAJOR CHANGES

- **Legislation passed in 2016:**
 - **Removes Truancy and Defiance of School Rules as FWSN (Family with Service Needs) as status offenses eligible for referral to Juvenile court.**
 - **Makes each community's Youth Service Bureau (YSB) a centralized hub for support for youth/families**
 - "Community Based Diversion System"
 - Serve as a knowledge base of programs, supports and services available to youth/families in the community and
 - Accept referrals for support or intervention and coordinate these services for youth and families

THE WHY

- **Ensure youth/families can receive support/intervention and be connected to community programs without a formalized referral to a system (i.e. DCF Child Welfare or the Juvenile Justice/Court System)**
 - Stop the School to Prison Pipeline
- **Ensure youth/families go through the same initial process (are not sent to multiple agencies which may/may not duplicate services or process).**
- **Ensure a comprehensive, integrated approach to helps all at-risk youth receive services and supports tailored to their specific needs.**

COMMUNITY BASED DIVERSION SYSTEM



BRIDGEPORT'S YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

- **Bridgeport's YSB**

- Transitioning to this new role, it has not been a direct service organization in this capacity
 - Oversees/coordinates the Lighthouse after school program
 - Contracts with existing youth serving organizations to financially support and enhance the services they provide.

- **There was no additional funding allocated to support this under-resourced system of YSBs across the state.**
- **Tammy Papa is the Director and will be processing/accepting referrals from schools for FWSNs.**

CURRENT PROCESS

- FWSNs for Truancy/Defiance of School Rules are **NOT** eligible for referral to court and will not be accepted by Juvenile Court.
- The referral form for referrals to the YSB was released in February 2018 (it is on the next slides)
- Instead, requests for information and referrals can be sent to Tammy Papa, Director of the Bridgeport YSB.
- Referrals should also not be made directly to the JRB; all school based referrals will instead be sent to Tammy at the YSB and a determination will be made whether or not they would be eligible for JRB.

YSB REFERRAL FORM

Connecticut State Department of Education

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU REFERRAL for Truancy and Defiance of School Rules

Name of Student			Address of Student			
District Student ID	Grade	Gender	Date of Birth	Indian Tribe/Reservation, if any	Student's Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
Student's Race <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African-American <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____						
Parent/Guardian Name (1)				Parent/Guardian Address (1)		
Parent/Guardian Name (2)				Parent/Guardian Address (2)		
Parent/Guardian Name (3)				Parent/Guardian Address (3)		
Parent/Guardian (1) Telephone Number			Parent/Guardian (2) Telephone Number		Parent/Guardian (3) Telephone Number	
School Name and Contact Person at School				Telephone Number	E-mail Address	
Referred for Special Education <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Special Education <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	PPT <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	PPT Dates	Parent / Guardian Attended PPT <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Parent / Guardian Attended S04 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	S04 Dates

A referral may be filed only after the school has exhausted all available options to resolve the problem. *Please fill out this form in its entirety.*

A referral may be found insufficient if it does not include the following as required by state law including, but not limited to, Section 10-198a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.): ("X" box if action has been taken)

- ☐ A meeting was held with the parent/guardian of the student who is truant and appropriate school personnel reviewed and evaluated the reasons for the student being truant. The meeting was held not later than 10 school days after the student's 4th unexcused absence in a month or the 10th unexcused absence in a school year.
- ☐ Child Find protocols were implemented.
- ☐ Efforts were made to engage and coordinate services and supports with community agencies that provide child and family services.
- ☐ Every year, at the beginning of the school year and upon any enrollment during the school year, the parent/guardian was informed in writing of his or her obligations under Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- ☐ School personnel made reasonable efforts to notify the parent/guardian by telephone and by mail whenever the student failed to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day and no indication was received by school personnel that the student's parent/guardian was aware of the student's absence.

If records are incomplete or do not exist, please attach an explanation with this referral.

Type of Referral

The family and student are being referred for the following reasons (place an "x" in the appropriate box or boxes):

- ☐ **Truant (4/Month)** (a student age five to eighteen, inclusive, who is enrolled in a public or private school and has four unexcused absences from school in any one month) C.G.S. Section 10-198a(a)
- ☐ **Truant (10/Year)** (a student age five to eighteen, inclusive, who is enrolled in a public or private school and has ten unexcused absences from school in the current school year) C.G.S. Section 10-198a(a)
- ☐ **Habitually Truant** (a student age five to eighteen, inclusive, who is enrolled in a public or private school and has twenty unexcused absences within a school year) C.G.S. Section 10-200
- ☐ **Defiant** (a student who has been continuously and overtly defiant of school rules)

YSB REFERRAL FORM

Connecticut State Department of Education

Attendance

List specific dates of all unexcused absences:

Behavior

If this referral is based on the student's behavior and defiance of school rules and regulations, list dates and descriptions of the behavior and incidents:

Community Engagement

Document attempts to engage community agencies providing child and family services. List dates and agencies and provide outcomes (if known).

Date	Community Agency (Name and Town)	Service and Date	Outcome

Parent/Guardian Meeting

List Dates of Parent/Guardian Meetings:		Additional Comments: (referred for special education, IEP developed, etc.):
Date of Meeting	Parent/Guardian Attendance	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Last PPT Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Authorization

Parent/Guardian

By signing this form, I consent to the referral of my child to the youth service bureau and authorize the school district to provide to the youth service bureau any information, including educational records, that the school district deems necessary or appropriate.

Signed	Print or Type Name	Date Signed

Authorized School Official

Signed	Print or Type Name	Date Signed

REMINDERS ABOUT YSB REFERRALS

- This is a last step in the process. Schools are still required to attempt to intervene with the youth/parent at a school and community based level before referring to the YSB.
 - **If these are not documented on the referral form, it will be returned to the school without intervention.**
 - **Attach additional information if necessary- more info is better than less!**
 - **Include what other interventions school and parent have attempted AND the outcome of those interventions.**
 - **Include the dates of youth and parent meetings/outreach AND the outcome of these meetings.**
- Parents must agree to the referral, release of their child's information and they must sign the YSB referral form.
- **DCF educational neglect is not an appropriate alternative**

INFORMATION TO INCLUDE ON REFERRAL

THE MORE INFO THE BETTER!

Info on the specific behaviors

Explain: _____ has been sent to the office 21 times this school year for defiant/disrespectful behavior. He has also walked out of class without permission on numerous occasions. While in the office, he struggles to behave appropriately, often wandering and engaging negatively with other students. In addition, on Tuesday, January 16, a student reported that they saw _____ pull a gun out of his book bag the week before. _____ his locker, and book bag were searched and no weapon was found; he denied having brought a gun to school. However, the day after he was searched _____ told a group of students and a teacher that he had brought a BB gun to school the previous week.

Explain: _____ has been sent to the office for defiant or mean behavior 28 times so far this school year. He has walked out of class without permission on multiple occasions. When he leaves class he wanders the halls or wanders in and out of the office, ignoring attempts to get him seated or to talk about what is going on.

_____ showed no remorse or concern about his writing when speaking with our social worker and, later, a police officer. This incident, combined with the unstable behavior we observe on a daily basis, has us very concerned about _____ mental state. For these reasons we ask that you accept _____ into the Juvenile Review Board program.

- Possible school interventions:
 - Check in/check out
 - Attendance/Behavior Contract
 - Referral to SW/School Based Health Center
 - Other adult they can go see/check in with
 - RULER principles- Mood meter
 - Restorative practices- can be used to develop a relationship, with a conflict or with attendance
 - Referral to PPT- special education/504 plan
 - Schedule changes, Alternative school or Alternative educational setting
- Possible community interventions before YSB
 - Counseling
 - Mentoring
 - Pro-social Activity
 - ASK THEM!!

BPT JRB ROLE

- **RYASAP's Juvenile Review Board JRB is a diversionary program offered to youth who commit misdemeanor or status offenses**
 - utilizes Restorative practices to help youth recognize and repair the harm done by their actions and be connected with supports to prevent future offenses
- **Within this new coordinated process with the YSB as coordinating hub (JRB) referrals may or may not be appropriate. JRB can provide:**
 - the panel meeting process to discuss more deeply the reason for the referral and root causes,
 - help for the youth/family become accountable and identify what supports the youth needs and/or
 - A more intensive, longer term case management component which the YSB may not be able to offer.
- **Again-Referrals should NOT be made directly to the JRB by schools.**

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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OR

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