

# Program Report Card: Alternative in the Community (AIC) – (Judicial Department)

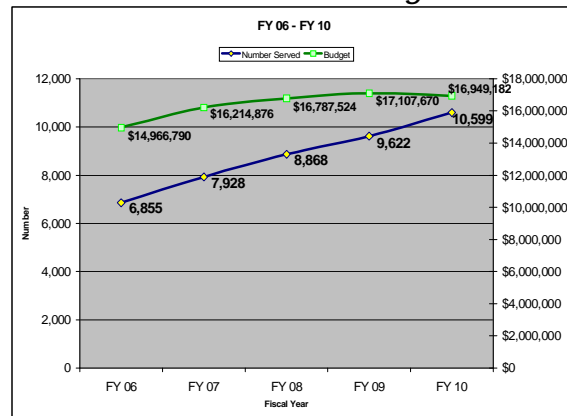
**Actual SFY 10 Total Program Expenditures:** \$ 16,949,282 **State Funding:** \$ 16,949,282 **Federal Funding:** \$0 **Other Funding:** \$0  
**Estimated SFY 11 Total Program Expenditures:** \$ 18,701,606 **State Funding:** \$ 18,701,606 **Federal Funding:** \$0 **Other Funding:** \$0

**Quality of Life Result:** Connecticut families will live in safe communities.

**Contribution to Result:** The goals of the Alternative in the Community (AIC) program are: (1) to reduce offender long-term recidivism; (2) change offender behavior resulting in more successful discharges; (3) provide a cost effective criminal justice response to criminal activity; and (4) increased offender accountability. All of these goals contribute to safer communities for Connecticut families.

**Partners:** Criminal Justice System (Judges, prosecutors, Victim Advocates, public defenders / private attorneys), Contracted, non-profit and for-profit treatment providers, Local and State Business officials, Other state agencies (DMHAS, DOC, DCF, DSS), Family members, and Criminal Justice Advocacy agencies.

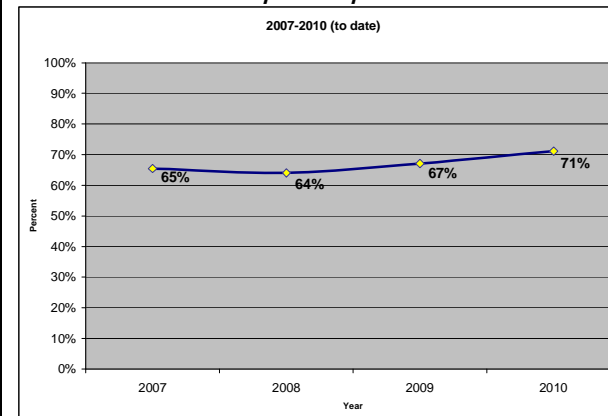
## Performance Measure 1: Number of Persons Referred and Total Budget - AIC



**Story behind the baseline:** The number of persons referred for services at the AIC has increased by 55 percent from FY06 to FY10, while funding provided to non-profits, as determined by CSSD, was increased by 13 percent (FY06 to FY10). A continued focus on addressing the criminogenic needs of adult probation, bail and family services clients, as well as a diversified array of service offerings have contributed to this increase.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** CSSD has expanded and enhanced services offered at the AIC. Expanded and enhanced services are expected to yield an increase in referrals. Services include funding client basic needs, an enhanced employment services curriculum and a job development component.

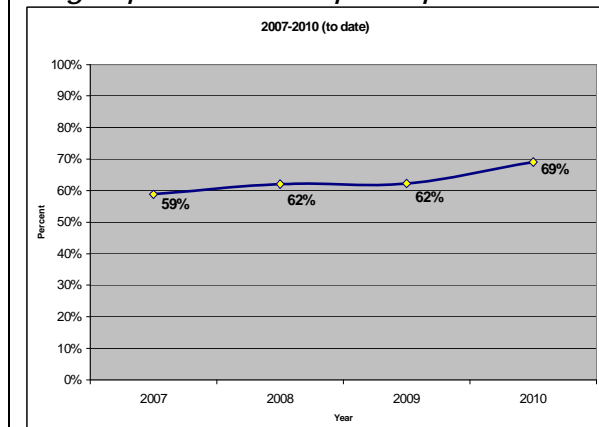
## Performance Measure 2: Reasoning and Rehabilitation Group Completion



**Story behind the baseline:** Reasoning and Rehabilitation II (R&R II) is a 14-session group offered at the AIC that utilizes a cognitive-behavioral approach to behavior change. The trend over the past three years is positive and the result of many factors, including group retention rates and quality of service delivery. CSSD has a goal to reach a minimum of a 70 percent completion rate. Recent efforts toward improvement have focused on the outcomes for pre-trial clients.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** CSSD will continue to work with its Quality Assurance vendor to ensure that R&R II is delivered with fidelity to the model and that there is minimal wait for services.

## Performance Measure 3: Treating Alcohol & Drug Dependence Group Completion Rate

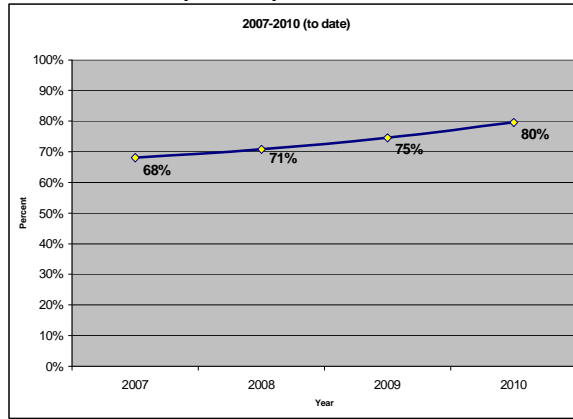


**Story behind the baseline:** Treating Alcohol/Drug Dependence is a 12-session curricula aimed at reducing the use and abuse of alcohol and illegal substances that have contributed to criminal behavior. The trend in completion rates over the past four years has been generally positive, but slightly below CSSD's goal of 70 percent. Performance on this measure is influenced by group retention rates and fidelity of service delivery, among other factors.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** CSSD continues to explore with its non-profit contractors strategies to improve completion rates for clients age 16-24 that focus on improvements in the delivery of the curriculum and increased collaboration with probation officers and bail commissioners.



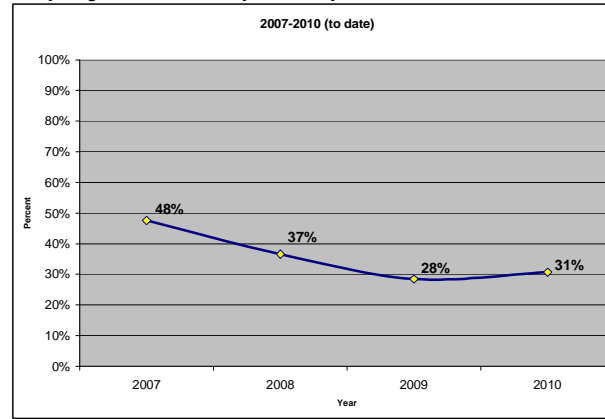
#### Performance Measure 4: *Employment Services Group Completion*



**Story behind the baseline:** Employment Services Group at the AIC is a four session curriculum followed by a period of active job search support (for FY11, it is a nine session curriculum). Factors impacting this performance measure include the availability of jobs, the private sector's willingness to employ offenders, and retention of offenders in these groups held at the AICs. While CSSD's goal is for a 90 percent completion rate, the positive trend over the past four years reflects increased attention to this measure as a result of the economic downturn.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** CSSD has revised its employment services curriculum by adding a soft skills component. Soft skills are the non-technical skills needed to obtain and retain employment and include communication skills, problem solving and managing conflict in the workplace. Additionally, CSSD staff will be meeting with all employment specialists and job developers on a monthly basis to develop strategies to increase completion rates and client skills required to be a productive employee.

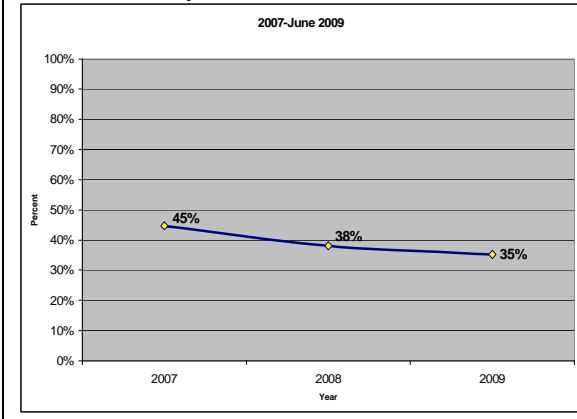
#### Performance Measure 5: *Employment Rate for Employment Group Completers*



**Story behind the baseline:** This performance measure examines the rate at which clients who complete the Employment Services Group (performance measure #4) obtain employment prior to discharge from the AIC. While this trend has been negative over the past four years, there was an improvement in the 2010-to-date figure. This is certainly due in part to a deteriorating job market resulting from the economic downturn.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** AIC employment services have been expanded to include a job development component. Employment staff will be spending significant parts of their day in their communities developing relationships with local employers and businesses willing to employ persons with criminal backgrounds. CSSD is also planning events that will bring together state business leaders and AIC staff to discuss employment opportunities for our clients.

#### Performance Measure 6: *12-month Rearrest Rate for Completers*



**Story behind the baseline:** This performance measure examines the rate at which clients who complete AIC services are re-arrested within 12 months of discharge. A 2004 study of AIC's by the CT Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (LPRIC) showed a recidivism rate of 44 percent for AIC participants. The trend over the past several quarters is positive and reflects a re-arrest rate lower than that reported by LPRIC.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** CSSD has provided each AIC with funding to address client basic needs. This funding will be used to address barriers such as transportation, food, identification and clothing that may be attributed to clients failing to report as well as maintaining treatment gains. CSSD is hopeful that continued emphasis on quality assurance, increased service completion rates, addressing client basic needs and employment gains will continue to lower post-discharge re-arrests.

