

What has happened since the DMC reduction project started?

General

- Established two DMC subcommittees of the Local Implementation Service Teams (LISTs) in Hartford and Bridgeport, which meet monthly and have engaged key partners (e.g., education, police, probation, judicial officials, providers, advocates, parent organizations) in regular working meetings
- Developed comprehensive workplans to focus the committees' efforts and keep the project moving forward
- Worked with the Judicial Branch to develop a tool to report data at key decision points on a quarterly basis for any geographic region in the state
- Developed a template to help local stakeholders interpret and strategically use data on youth involved with the juvenile justice system

Arrest

- Worked with the Hartford and Bridgeport Public Schools and the Hartford and Bridgeport Police Departments to sign memoranda of understanding regarding responses to disruptive behavior
- Created Police-School Collaboration Teams in both Bridgeport and Hartford to monitor school-based arrests and implement the memoranda of understanding
- Developed a training for the Bridgeport Police Department on local arrest diversion alternatives, which is given to a different group of officers each month
- Trained Hartford Police officers on using Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services as an alternative to arrest
- Conducted outreach to increase awareness of arrest rates in highest referring schools in Bridgeport and Hartford. School-based referrals were down 78% in Hartford from March through June 2012 when compared with that time period the previous year. That decline contributed to a 28% drop in overall delinquency referrals to juvenile court from January to June 2012 when compared with that time period during the previous year. In Bridgeport, school-based referrals were down almost 40%
- Secured a commitment from CSSD to pilot the School-Based Diversion Initiative in Hartford Public High School, Weaver High School, and Rawson Middle School during the 2012-2013

Project Partners



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school year, three of the Hartford public schools with the highest rates of arrest and referrals during the previous school year

- Obtained detailed data on arrests of youth in DCF-operated or contracted facilities for the first time, including race and ethnicity
- Introduced strategies to reduce arrests of youth in DCF-run and operated facilities, and secured a commitment from DCF to develop placement-specific plans for facilities with the highest number of arrests

Diversion from Referral to Court

- Expanded eligibility for the Juvenile Review Boards (JRBs) to include second-time referrals in Bridgeport and Hartford
- Reduced the number of youth and family members who refuse the Hartford JRB's services
- Secured a commitment from the Bridgeport Police Department to have the Bridgeport JRB review all misdemeanor arrests and some felony arrests for diversion; referrals from police increased from 3 during the month preceding the policy change to 18 during the month following the policy change. Stakeholders are in the process of codifying a protocol which can serve as a model for other JRBs
- Made the Family Support Center available to Bridgeport youth and families struggling with truancy without having to sending a formal FWSN petition to the court

Referral to Court

- Secured changes to the FWSN referral forms to capture the race and ethnicity of youth, which reduced the amount of missing data
- Developed a protocol for Bridgeport probation staff to divert youth and families to the JRB who initially refuse the JRB's services to help ensure that all youth have the opportunity for diversion
- Trained Bridgeport school staff on filing timely and accurate FWSN petitions for truancy
- In Hartford, intervened to address high rates of truancy referrals and wait lists for the FSC by:
 - Increasing the slot capacity in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport by 15 slots per city;
 - Deploying an FSC Monitor to prioritize the neediest cases;
 - Asking contractors to voluntarily provide more services than their contract provided for, consistent with the ability to provide high-quality services; and
 - Having probation officers rescind referrals and provide targeted supervision and support when the FSC cannot accommodate them.
 - Instructing probation officers to manage truancy cases in a way that connects youth and families to other services and supports when the FSC is unavailable.
- Provided information on jurisdictions with automatic record sealing and expungement provisions to support the capacity to implement that type of system in Connecticut

- Obtained and analyzed data to help understand disproportionality in referrals for intensive mental health services

Admission to Detention

- Worked with CSSD to employ a broader range of sanctions and incentives for youth on probation to reduce detention admissions for violations of probation and violations of court orders; CSSD implemented the new graduated responses policy statewide on July 1, 2012
- Worked to reduce the amount of time youth from other cities spend in detention in Hartford by:
 - Increasing the number of days for juvenile court hearings in New Britain from two to five per week
 - Supporting the ability of probation officers from other jurisdictions to travel to Hartford to attend court
 - Implementing a protocol to allow CSSD officials to provide transportation for family members to attend court in Hartford
 - Implementing a protocol to make youth eligible for release to a family member at a later point in time if the family member is unavailable when the decision is made
- Supported legislation requiring police to obtain a court order before taking youth to secure detention
- Secured a commitment from the Judicial Branch to implement a call notification program to reduce detention admissions for failure to appear in court
- Secuted a financial commitment from the Judicial Branch to pilot a family engagement program to help reduce the number of youth in detention because of family member unavailability or refusal to take custody of a child

Transfer to Adult Court

- Supported new legislation to amend transfer statutes, which moved transfer hearings for C and D felonies from adult court to juvenile court
- Encouraged training on adolescent development for judges and other court officials who make decisions about transfer to adult court

Placement on Probation

- Supported the pilot of a risk assessment instrument that studies have shown to be race neutral using a sample of detained youth in Connecticut

Commitment to DCF

- Obtained detailed data on awaiting placement times by race, ethnicity, gender, and provider to help develop strategies to reduce disparities in the amount of time African American youth spend in detention relative to other youth

- Implemented a quarterly data reporting system on youth who are newly committed, revoked, or relocated, as well as facility-based interventions such as the use of restraints and isolation
- Worked with DCF to revise their graduated sanctions policy to employ a broader range of sanctions and incentives for youth on parole
- Recommended improvements to the regulations governing parole revocation proceedings to promote consistency and fairness in decisionmaking