

Supporting Children Following a Caregiver's Arrest:

The REACT Model

(Responding to Children of Arrested Caregivers Together)

Presented at
The Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council
Child/Adolescent Quality, Access, & Policy Committee
January 17, 2014

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Overview

- Background
- Model Development
 - REACT: Responding to Children of Arrested Caregivers Together
- Cross-System Collaboration
- Training Curriculum Development
 - Recommendations
- Preliminary Results

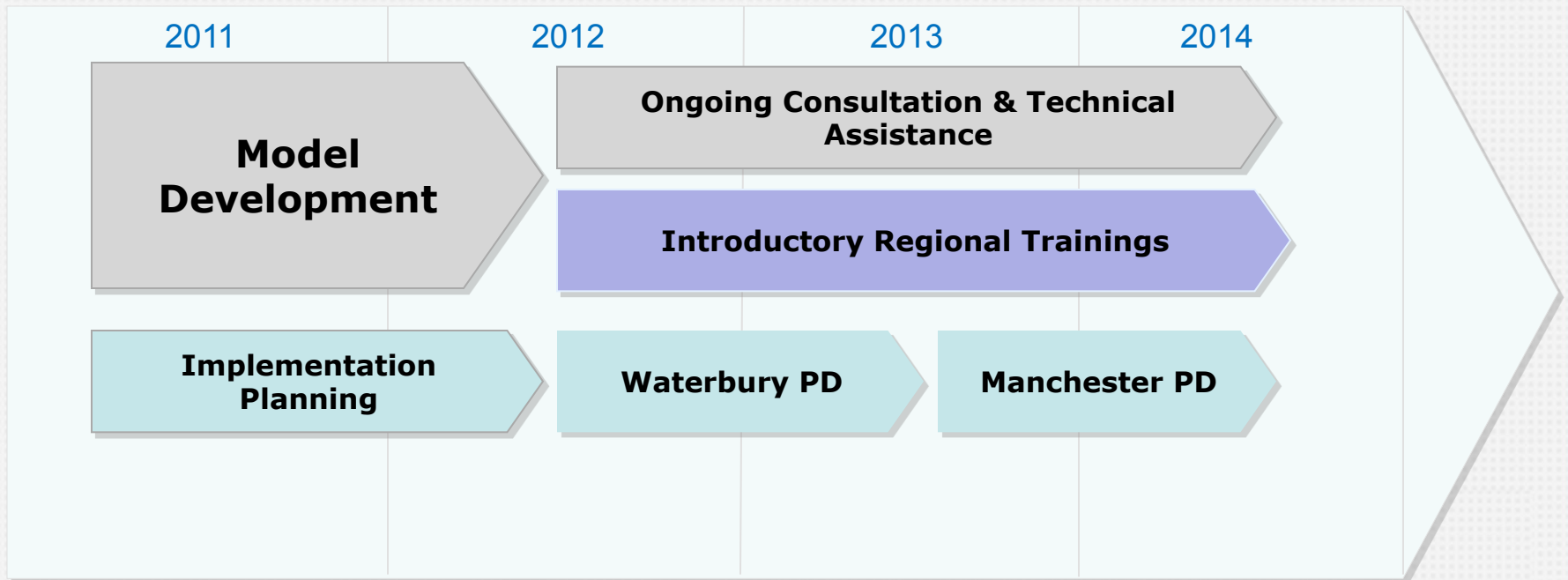
REACT

- Ongoing statewide initiative to improve services for children of incarcerated parents
 - Led by Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University
- Focus on prevention/early intervention:
 - Intervening at the moment of arrest
 - A hidden population
- 3 year grant to develop and pilot a trauma-informed model for supporting children after a parent's arrest

Goals of REACT

- **Minimize traumatic stress** and distress to children after a caregiver's arrest
- **Provide training/resources for law enforcement** when a child's parent is arrested
- **Improve collaboration across law enforcement, mental health, & child welfare** to serve children and families
- **Early identification** of high-risk children and **prevent** the need for more significant and costly interventions

REACT Timeline



Model Development

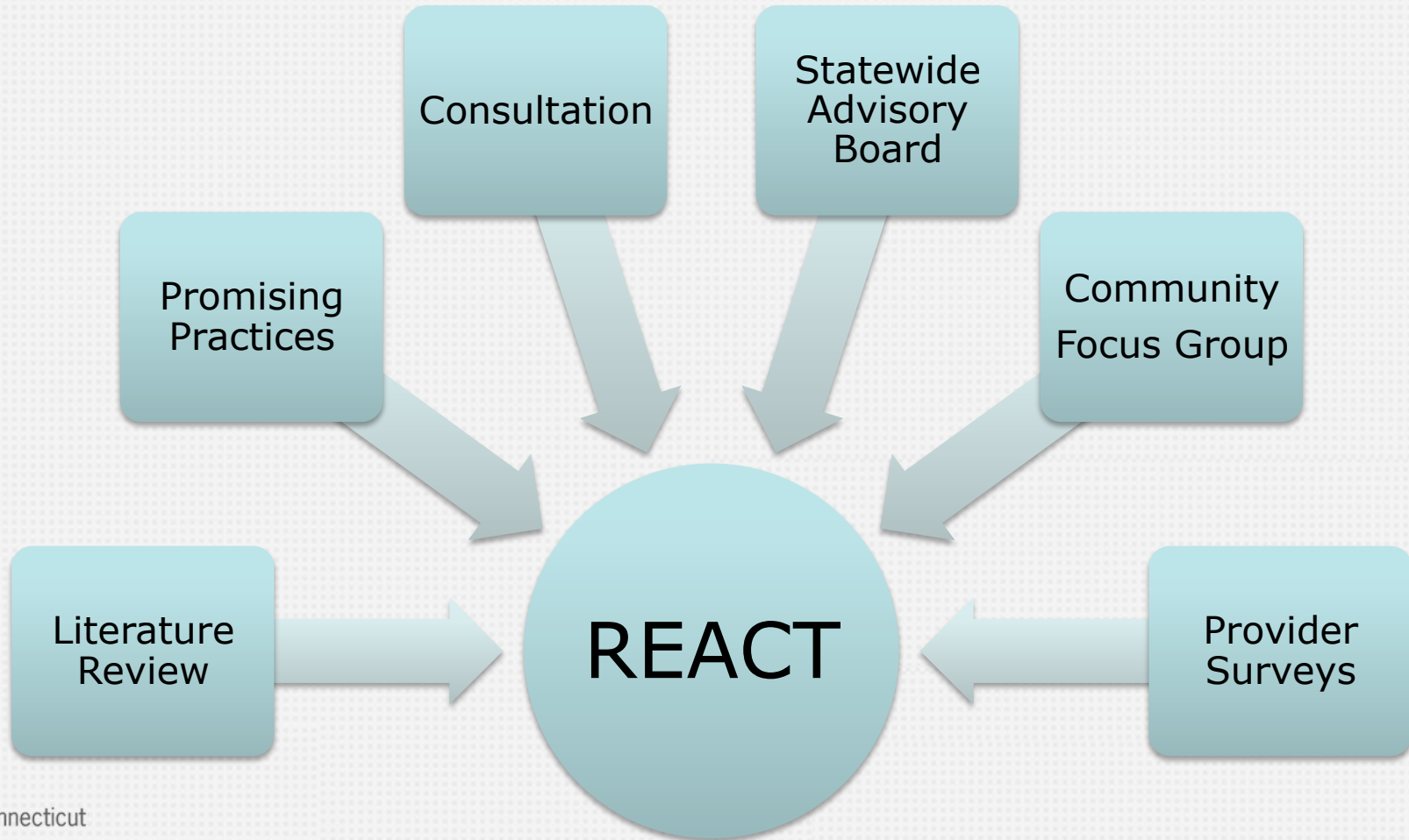


Introductory Regional Training



Full REACT Implementation

Model Development



Research on Children of Arrested Parents

- Arrest of a family member associated with more internalizing/externalizing behaviors (varied with age) (Roberts et al., 2013)
- Children witnessing arrest of family member were 57% more likely to have elevated PTS symptoms (Phillips & Zhao, 2010)
 - 73% more likely when a parent arrest witnessed & another family member arrested
- From 20-83% of children **witness** the arrest*

Prevalence

- No data collected by PDs
- No prevalence rates reported
- Developed rough estimates based upon national data on adult arrests and birth rates

Prevalence

Table 1: Annual Incidence of a Child Experiencing a Parental Arrest

	Number of adult arrests in 2010	Estimated number of times a child experienced a parental arrest	Estimated number of times a child was <u>present</u> for a parental arrest ^b
United States	13,120,947 ^a	6,368,709	1,273,741 – 5,286,028
Connecticut	128,670 ^a	62,454	12,491 – 51,836

Note: these estimates are unique incidents of arrest, and do not represent numbers of arrestees or children

^aUniform Crime Reports, 2010

^bBased on estimates from 20-83% in Dallaire & Wilson, 2010; Johnston, 1991; Harm & Phillips, 1998

Model Development

- Literature Review
 - Children of arrested parents
 - Children of incarcerated parents
 - Child traumatic stress/toxic stress
 - Evidence-based / informed models
 - Developmental differences
 - More than 50% of children of arrested parents are <7 years old

Risks to Children

- Traumatic stress/PTSD
- Physical safety
- Loss/grief
- Behavioral problems
- School problems
- Poverty/financial strain
- Residential instability
- Negative view/
perception of self and
parent
- Sense of safety is
taken away (physical &
emotional)
- Problems with
relationships
- Attachment disruption
- Posttraumatic Stress
- Depression/Anxiety
- Substance abuse
- Future incarceration
- Justification for
negative behavior
- Drugs & theft related to
financial instability
- Shame & Stigma

Intergenerational Risk of Criminal Justice System Involvement

- In a metaanalysis of 40 studies on children of incarcerated parents, these children were **more likely to have delinquent/antisocial behaviors** (Murray, Farrington, & Sekol, 2012)
- Children who experienced the incarceration of a parent by age 6 **were more than twice as likely to be convicted of a criminal offense** by age 30 (Herman-Stahl, 2008)
- Of boys who experienced incarceration of their parent before age ten, **48% were convicted themselves as adults** (Hairston, 2007, p. 23)

Model Development

- Promising Practices & Policies/Consultation
 - Child Development Community Policing (New Haven)
 - San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SFCIPP)
 - Los Angeles City & County, CA
 - San Jose/Santa Clara County, CA
 - New Mexico
 - Allegheny County & Pittsburgh, PA
 - National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC)
- Summary
 - Common themes for training law enforcement
 - Virtually all focus on law enforcement & child welfare
 - Mental health system is often missing/periphery
 - Address only the highest-risk children

Model Development

- Statewide Advisory Board
 - Comprised of law enforcement, child welfare, EMPS, family members, corrections
 - Engage key stakeholders
 - Identify current practices in Connecticut
 - Ensure diverse input
 - Synthesize research, best practices, CT resources
 - Feedback on model and training development

REACT Recommendations

- **Policy and Procedure**
 - Educate key stakeholders
 - Enhance collaboration
 - Modify existing policies and procedures
 - Modify arrest protocol
 - Develop a reporting mechanism
 - Provide information to remaining caregivers & children
- **Training**
 - Cross-training curriculum
 - Review of potential effects on children
 - Child mental health information for law enforcement
 - Address unique needs for children of arrested caregivers
 - Highlight developmental differences
 - Emphasize culturally competent and sensitive practices

REACT Recommendations

- **System Collaboration**

- Increase family involvement
- Increase collaboration across systems
- Enhance agency wide support
- Collaborate with existing programs
- Build a relationship with Department of Corrections
- Monitor dissemination via quality improvement

- **Research and Data Collection**

- Develop prevalence estimates
- Create a comprehensive research agenda
- Evaluate direct service programs

REACT Field Card

Considering a child when making a criminal arrest

When the environment is safe and secure:

- Look for signs of a child (e.g., toys, stroller, diapers, crib)
- Ask the arrestee if they care for a minor (<18 years old)

If the arrestee is in care of a child:

- Call EMPS mobile crisis (**Dial 211, press 1, then 1 again**) for a clinician
- Make the arrest out of the child's sight, when possible
- Ask the arrestee about suitable alternative caregivers
- Ask the child if they have any questions about the incident
- If there is evidence of suspected abuse and neglect, or no caretaker is available, call DCF (**law enforcement priority**
Careline # [REDACTED])

REACT Field Card

Dial 211, press 1, then 1 again, for EMPS mobile crisis when:

- A child was present for a caregiver's arrest
- Incident or arrest involved violence or use of force
- Child appeared distressed or out of control
- Frequent law enforcement involvement with the family
- Planned arrests if a child may be present (warrants or raids)
- Any other concerns about a child's behavior / mental health

REACT: Responding to Children of Arrested Caregivers Together

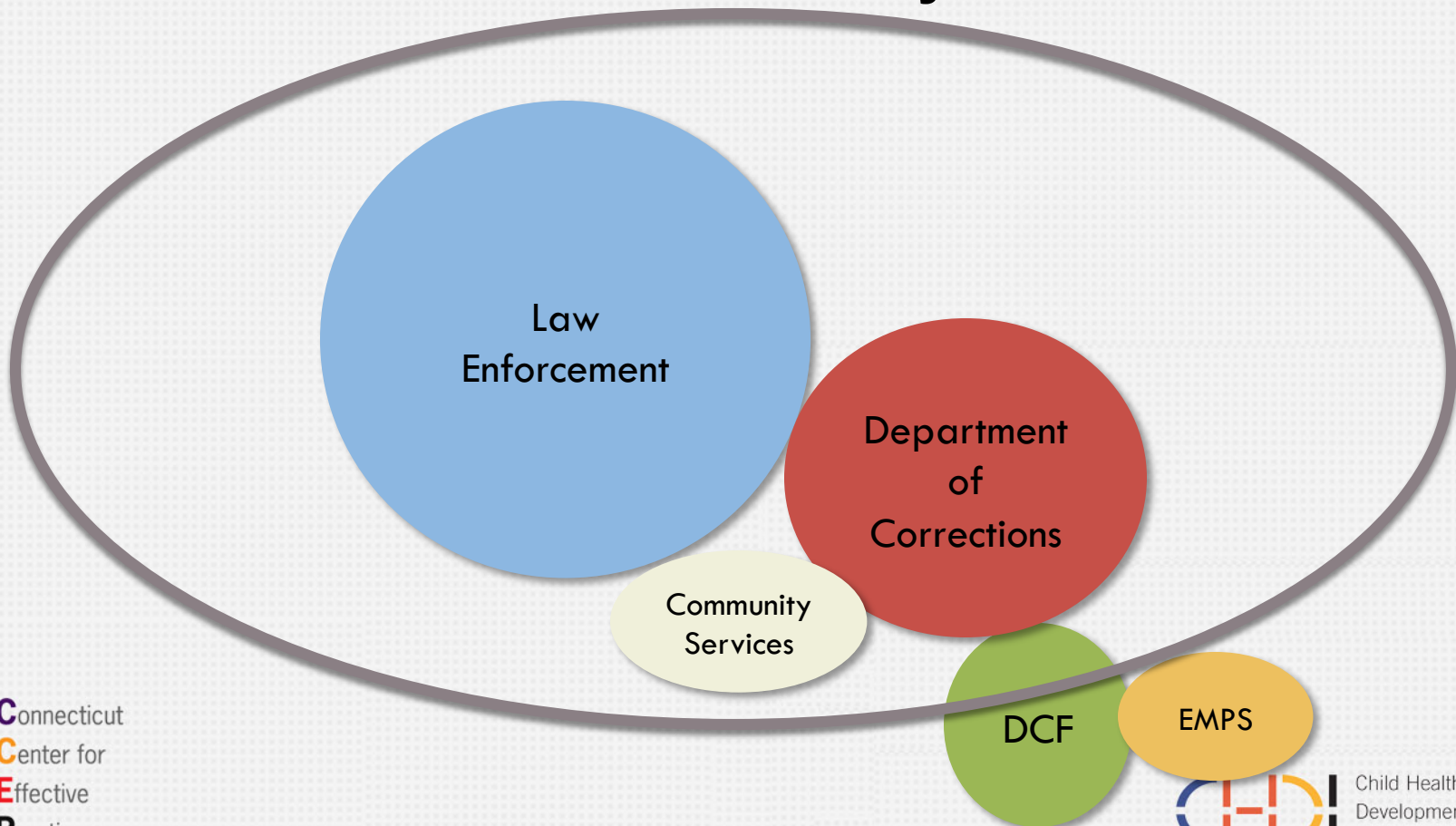
A model developed by the Child Health and Development Institute of CT

Cross-System Collaboration

- Siloed Practices
 - Act independently; ‘parallel work’
 - Lack communication; unaware of what the other is doing
 - Inefficient and duplicative services
 - Wasted resources
 - Burden on professionals that may not have appropriate training
 - **Children & families miss opportunities to access services**
- Benefits of Cross-System Collaboration
 - Improve outcomes and access to services
 - Integrate care
 - Increase awareness, understanding, communication
 - Minimize strain on professionals
 - Blend resources & **utilize existing resources**

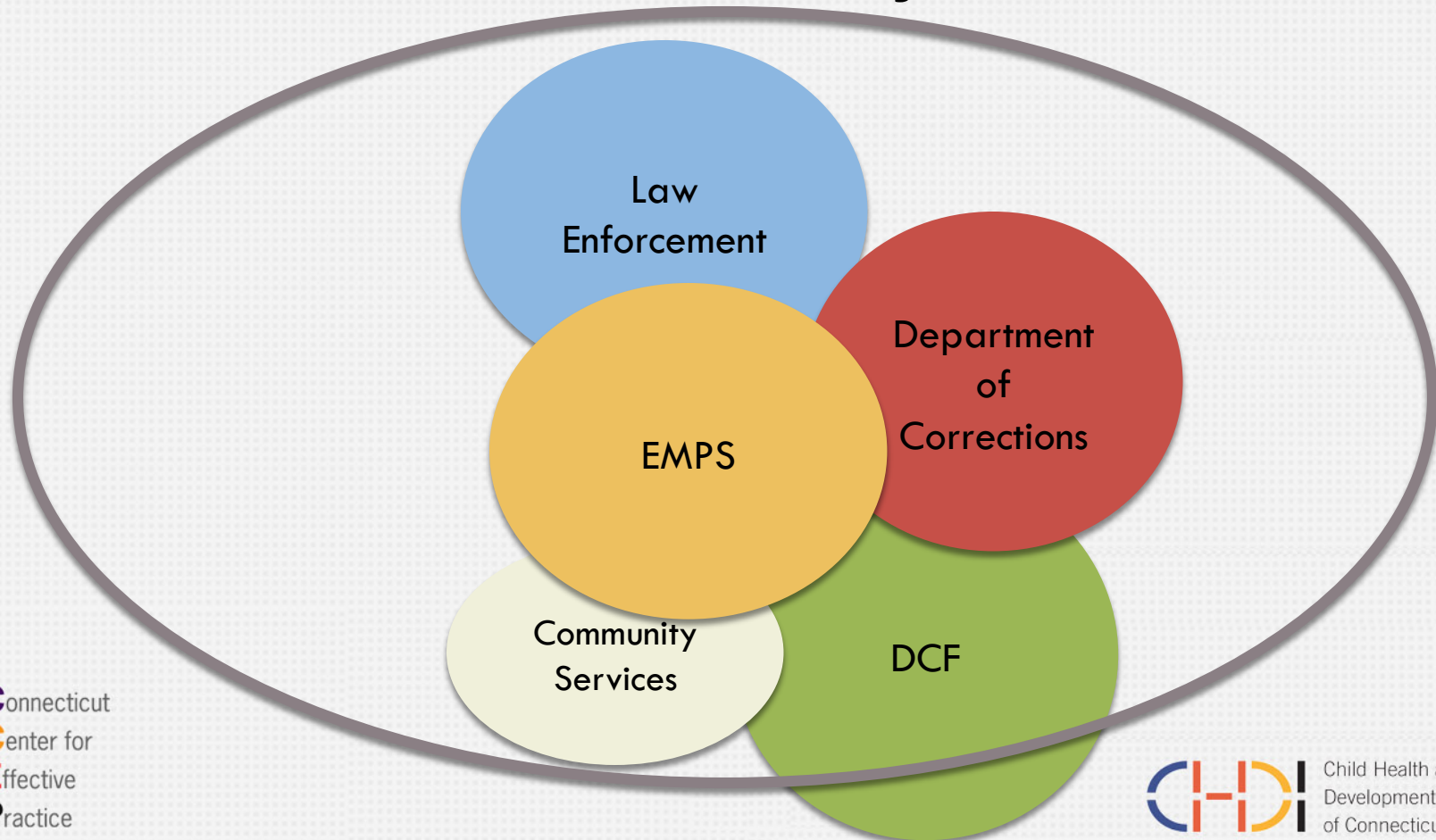
Standard Practice

Child & Family



REACT Cross-System Collaboration

Child & Family



Two Versions of REACT Training

REACT & CIT-Y

- 1½ day training
- CIT officers
- EMPS & DCF
- Regionally based
- Cross-training
- Practice recommendations

Full REACT (PD)

- 12 months of TA
- Entire force
- Follow-up trainings
- Policy changes
- 2 Police Departments

Date	L.E.	EMPS	DCF
July 2012	28	32	13
Waterbury PD	271	0	0
January 2013	19	8	2
February 2013	10	5	9
March 2013	19	8	9
April 2013	10	9	5
June 2013	25	3	1
Manchester PD	100	0	0
October 2013	18	4	1
November 2013	39	5	6
Total	539	74	46

Challenges

- Volunteering of time
- Participation requires coverage of shifts
- Crisis work of both EMPS and law enforcement
- Frequent administrative changes
- Buy-in from police departments / administration
- Competing demands for training

Recommendations

- Take time for planning
- Identify and engage key stakeholders from the beginning
- Develop/utilize a forum for discussing cross-system collaboration at a higher level
- Identify champions

Waterbury Takes Part in Pilot to Combat Traumatic Stress in Kids

The program is meant to provide support to children after arrest of parent

By: lucy
Apr 25, 2013



The Courant

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The Windsor Journal

March 1, 2013

WPD TRAINING FOR 21ST CENTURY ROLE

By John Karas (page 1 and page 4)



Child Health and
Development Institute
of Connecticut, Inc.

Issue Brief - No. 1
Date: October 1,

**Reducing Traumatic Stress in Children of Arrested Parents:
Cross-Systems Collaboration**

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Acknowledgements

- **IMRP:** Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy
- **DCF:** Department of Children and Families Investigators
- **EMPS:** Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services
- **CABLE:** Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement
- **NAMI:** Family Members
- **Police Departments**

Questions & Answers

