

# Best Practices Working With Probation PD Consortium – Orlando FL January 8-9, 2009

**Presenters:**

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# Pittsfield MA

- Partnership
- Coordinated and operated by the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office = **Juvenile Resource Center (JRC)**
- Day Reporting Program;
  - group treatment in life skills planning, social skills, conflict resolution skills, anger management, substance abuse, and family support groups.
  - The Drug Testing Program is for court mandated juvenile probationers to be drug tested on a regular basis.

## Pittsfield, MA

- 2007/2008 = 107 youth
  - \* Drug tested = 88 youth
- 2006/2007 = 78 youth
  - \* Drug tested = 40
- 2005/2006 = no program
- 2002/2005 = program

# Pittsfield, MA

## **GROUPS OFFERED:**

*(6 sessions = need to complete 6 groups)*

- Anger Management \*\*
- Substance Abuse \*\*
- Homework Club \*\*
- Parent Group \*\*
  - Art Therapy
  - Life Skills
- Employment Readiness

# Pittsfield, MA

- 2004 - 2005 = 202 cases
  - Ordered for drug testing = 59
- 2005 - 2006 = 219 cases
  - Ordered for drug testing = 59
- 2006 - 2007 = 181 cases
  - Ordered for drug testing = 88

# Probationary Period for Pittsfield

*(MA State average is 10 months)*

- 2004 2005 = 13 months
- 2005 - 2006 = 10 months
- 2006 - 2007 = 9 months

# **SUCCESS**

- COMMUNICATION
- COMMUNICATION
- COMMUNICATION
- NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

# Pittsfield MA

- Successes
  - Probationary period reduced, more individualized services to youth, family focused, strengths focus, school -community-family connection, individual youth success.
- Challenges
  - changes in program (funding, no funding, new coordinator, reduced service, adjusted model), referrals from the court (arraignments down), other community agencies offering similar services (competition), DYS, court reporting/follow through on behalf of the court/probation.



# Ketchikan AK

- Used Probation officers rather than SRO's
- Why?
  - Couldn't get our Police Department to allocate a full time person for our middle school
- Challenges with Probation
  - Short staffed
  - Long recruitment period, trouble hiring position

# Ketchikan AK

- Short term solution
  - KPD provided SRO using overtime, off-duty officers
  - At school 1-3 days/ week ½ days
- Long term solution
  - Sat down with the principal to find out what exactly he thought he needed and asked him to identify the functions of a position that he thought would be most needed in his building and based on that information we developed a sustainable plan with probation using existing officers.

# Ketchikan AK

- Successes
  - Have been able to sustain it without additional funding and the SRO and Probation staff are working more closely together.
    - Coordination of resources & increased access to resources
  - The probation students can't get away with shenanigans during school hours without their PO knowing about it right away.
    - More coordination and follow through around school issues such as truancy.

# Rome NY

- **Partnerships**

- Utilizes the Utica SS/HS model that includes:
- A multi-disciplinary assessment instrument for at-risk children and their families.
- Coordinated case management and maximum information sharing between agencies and community-based providers.
- On-going process evaluation and capacity-building consultation.

- **Oneida County at a Glance**

- 18% of referrals originate from the Rome District
- 576 PINS cases processed in 2002 – 387 in 2007
- 244 referred to family court in 2002 – 136 in 2007
- \$130,000 - \$150,000 cost to Oneida County

# Rome NY

- **Rome Probation Officers – Program Overview**
  - RFA - 51 reductions in court **PINS** cases in **2007 from 2006**
  - Strough – 28 reductions in court **PINS** cases in **2007 from 2006**
- **Process**
  - Reaches students at risk of dropping out prior to the filing of a PINS complaint
  - Higher graduation rates compared to those children who enter the system
  - Level of violence within the schools has decreased
  - Provides single point of entry for children and families
  - Process hold both child and parent(s) accountable to attend/participate in educational process

# Rome NY

- **Oneida County Benefits**

- Truancy is the gateway to crime – truancy prevention keeps the kids out of the adult system later in life
- Breaking the cycle of crime, changing behavior
- Impacts beyond educational system – reaches to fed level

# Contact Information

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