

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

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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

- December 2004 = 202 cases
 - Ordered for drug testing = 59
- March 2005 = 219 cases
 - Ordered for drug testing = 59

2006 = TBD

2007 = TBD

2008 = TBD



Probationary Period for Pittsfield

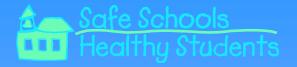
(MA State average is 10 months)

- 2004 = 13 months
- 2005 = 13 months
- 2006 = 12 months
- 2007 = 12 months
- 2008 = 11 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.
- How we got there?
 - 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 identified the agency that would be the best fit.



Ketchikan AK

Successes

- Have been able to sustain it without additional funding and the SRO and Probation staff are working more closely together.
- The probation students can't get away with shenanigans during school hours without their PO knowing about it right away.



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



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