

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

- 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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