

A BETTER SYSTEM
for
STATUS OFFENDERS
CJJ Spring Conference
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Why is it Important to Provide Services to Status Offenders?

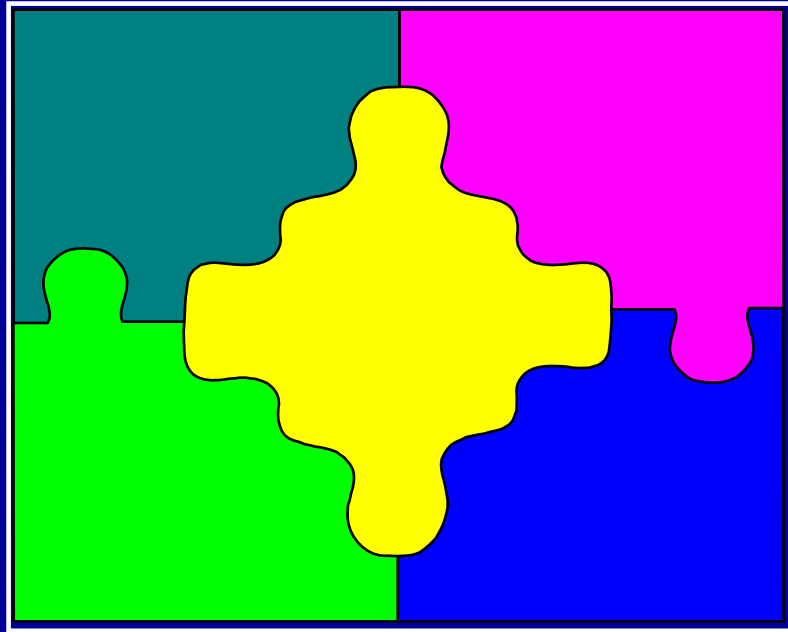
Without the right intervention at the right time, Status Offenses can

- Generate unnecessary cost to taxpayers
- Remove children from their homes & communities unnecessarily
- Limit a child's potential
- Lead to harm of the child on the street
- Leave child abuse undetected
- Intensify toward serious criminal behavior
- End a child's education

The Florida Legislature Recognizes

“...the need to distinguish

- **the problems** of truants, runaways, and children beyond the control of their parents
- **and the services** provided to these children,
- **from** the problems and services designed to meet the needs
- **of abandoned, abused, neglected,**
- **and delinquent children.**
- In achieving this recognition, it shall be the policy of the state to develop **short-term, temporary** services and programs
- utilizing the **least restrictive method** for families in need of services and children in need of services .”



Florida's BASIC STRUCTURE

Department of Juvenile Justice



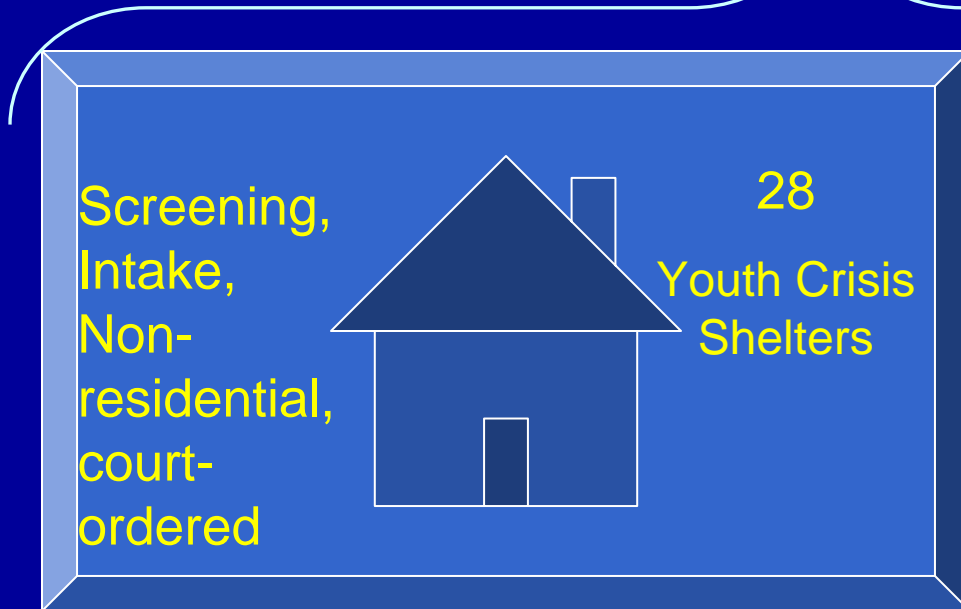
Office of Prevention and Victim Services



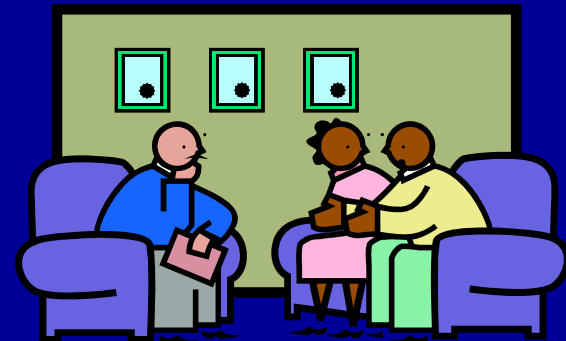
Statewide Volunteer Citizens Board



Florida Network State Office



31 Community Non-profit Providers: 20 with shelters; 11 non-residential only



Local Provider Sample Organization Chart

Local Provider CEO/ED

CFO, as well, for large providers

CINS/FINS Program Director

Intake Counselors, Trainers, QA Manager,
Data Entry/Management

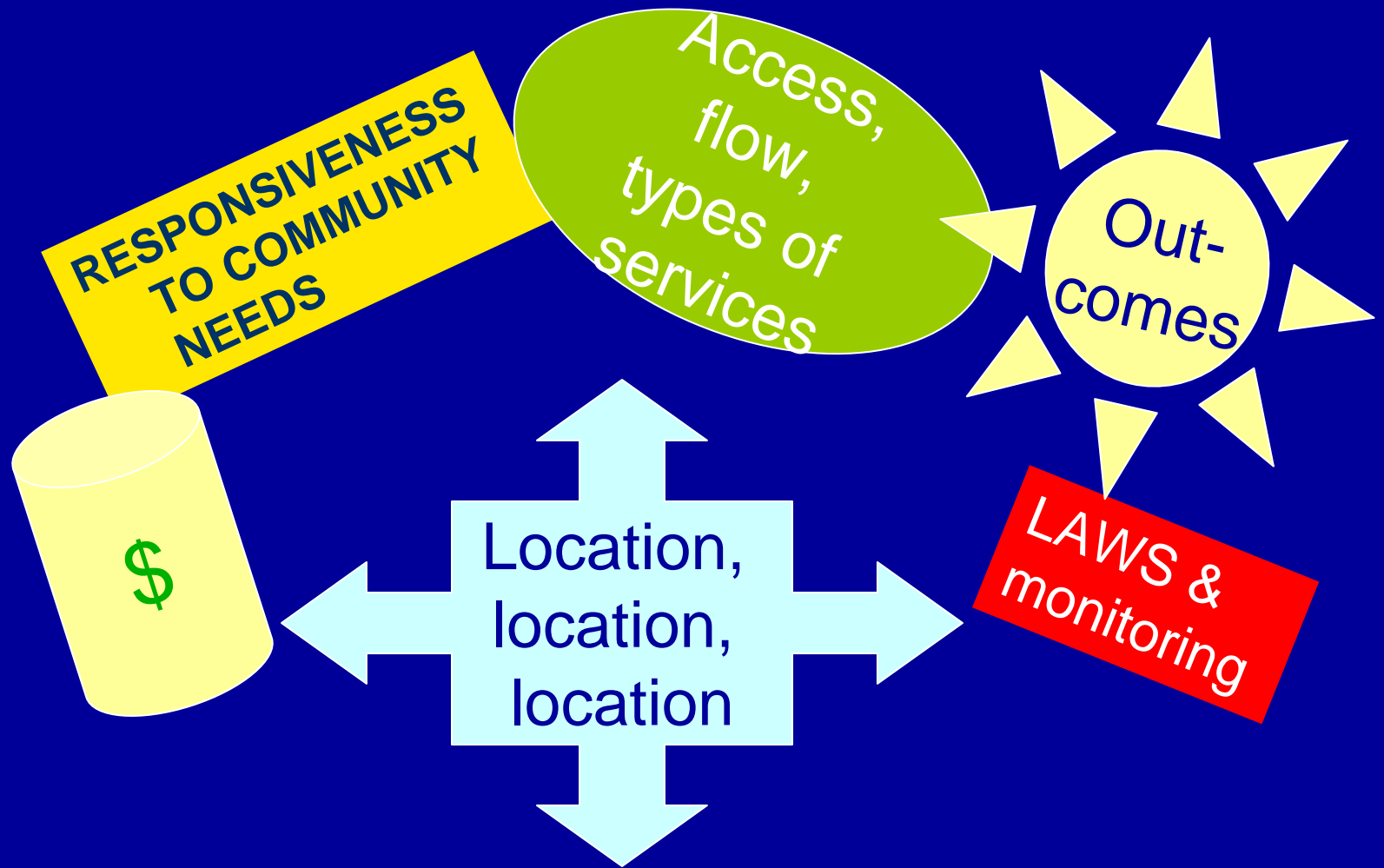
Shelter supervisor—
typically 12 beds

Youth Care workers, shift
supervisors, maintenance,
secretary/data entry,
counselor/case manager,
cook/dietician/recreation

Non-residential
supervisors

Counselors/case
managers, caseload of
70 families per position,
per year

Service Delivery—A Lot to Juggle



Strong and Responsive Status Offender Systems

- ✧ Provide Crisis, short-term services**
- ✧ Promote Family Engagement ,
decision-making and accountability**
- ✧ Are timely and accessible 7 days per
week, 24 hours per day**
- ✧ Are geographically accessible**

CORE SERVICES are available through a single network


- ◆ **Centralized Intake: open 24/7 at respite facilities** (Screening, Assessment of Immediate Needs and Referral)
- ◆ **Respite for youth and families**
- ◆ **Community-based out-patient services** (counseling, groups, parent education, etc.)
- ◆ **Case & Court Management with follow-up**
- ◆ **Case Staffings and reasonable referrals**
- ◆ **Targeted Outreach** (Public Education about available services: small groups, presentations, brochures, web site, etc.)

Non-Judicial Process

1. Screening Requests/Inquiries 24-7 at youth crisis shelter from walk-ins, law enforcement, school referrals, phone calls, etc. for: eligibility, immediate needs and issues, take brief history, contact information; or connect requester back to DJJ/ DCF if there is an open delinquency or dependency case.

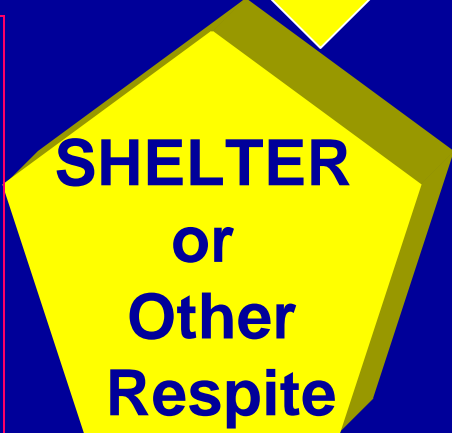

2. A If Eligible

2 B. Admit to respite if immediate crisis or child on the street & locate guardian



3. Centralized Intake for eligible children
(Triage/Refer/Intake)

Employees are mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect and must call Abuse Hotline if at any point info meets criteria.



SHELTER
or
Other Respite

Non- Judicial Con't

3. Centralized Intake for Eligible Children
(Intake Counselor 24-7 Housed at Shelter)

Triage/Refer/Intake

(Post screening; Intake w/in 7 days) 3 options:

OUT-PATIENT
Family Engagement,
Intervention
& Case Management
ALOS = 19 weeks
(OVER 60% OF CHILDREN)

RESPITE
ALOS:
11 DAYS
(30%)

Referral to longer-term & appropriate
(e.g., substance abuse, health care)
services or other community resources

Non-Judicial Services Process



Child Admitted to
Temporary
Respite

Child and Family Can Receive
Both Services or Choose
to Deny

In-home,
Out-patient
Family
Strengthening

Re-
Admit

Option

HOME/SAFE PLACE

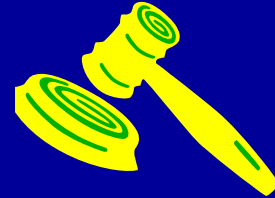


Pre-Judicial & Judicial Process

1. Adjust Case Plan as per parent and child

Case Staffing Committee
(parent, child, school staff, provider, DJJ, pertinent others)
Meets if insufficient or no progress
4 Options:

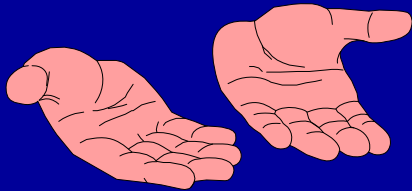
4. Petition Court for CINS



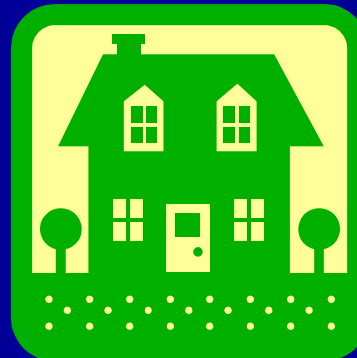
Staff Secure Shelter up to 120 days



2. Refer to untried community or government intervention services.



3. Return Home



Physically Secure (Locked)
Up to 120 days
6 CHILDREN



NEXT STEPS

Steps to Consider in Building a Better System

Establish a passionate core group comprised of customers and stakeholders (law enforcement, courts, schools, families, youth, providers, local and state government officials).

- Use facilitators who are less passionate
- Established mission, vision, values, goals for the system; as well as, desired benefits to the state, the community, families and children
- Developed a work plan, rules of attendance, assignments, target dates

Possible Questions for the “Reform Group”

Where are we now & where do we want to go?

- What needs reform and what is working? How do we know it is working?
- What is success? Failure? For the system? For the families and youth served?
- What do our customers say about our system and our services now?
- What services do we want WITHIN the system and EXTERNAL to the system?

Possible Questions for the “Reform Group”

Do we need statutory reform?

- What is the “right” target population? Should it be narrower? broader? What is the need?
- What is the status offender system’s role and function vs., the schools, the courts, law enforcement, state agencies, parents, etc.?
- How do we define voluntary? How much should the family be driving the case plan?
- What should be the criteria for children and families to go to other systems?

Questions to Answer in the Plan

Reasons for change and reasons for the chosen remedies

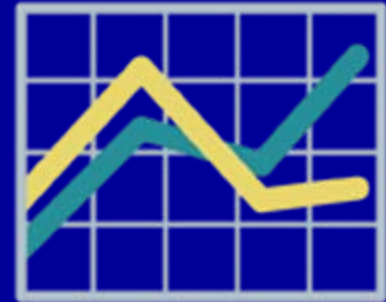
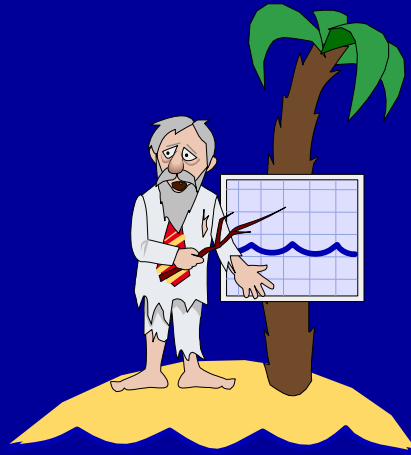
What is the proposed statewide framework ? Is it consistent with the reframed mission, vision and goals?

- Structure
- Service Definitions
- Practice Model/Framework
- Cost and potential cost savings
- Measurement—Outcomes

Does the plan allow for unique community needs?

Moving the Plan Forward

- Build strong consensus within the “Reform Group”
- Build a strong business case (\$\$)
- Have stories of success and failure
- Find the Advocates
- Seek Broad-based input and feedback from customers before going public
- Hone “the message” and prepare brief , high-level informational materials



DATA



The Importance of Data

1. Establish a Baseline of pre-reform performance, e.g., outcomes, processes.

Examples:

- Number Served
- Referral Sources/Behaviors
- Cost-both dollars and human resources
- Number of hand-offs
- Impact/outcomes
- Types of Services

The Importance of Data

2. Track First Year of Operation (or pilot) is the “new” baseline for comparison
3. Track trends over time
4. Can add or delete data points you started with, but most of the “core” should remain for valid comparison
5. Establish a “control group” if feasible