

State of Connecticut
Division of Criminal Justice

Kevin T. Kane, Chief State's Attorney



***Youth Service Bureaus &
Juvenile Review Boards***

Presented by: Francis J. Carino

Supervisory Juvenile Prosecutor

Presentation to the FWSN Advisory Board

September 24, 2007

**Building a
Community-Based
Service Provider Network**

Public Act 07-4

- **Removed the delinquency sanction from the options available to the court when there is a violation of a court order in a FWSN case**
- **Shifted the emphasis from “the court” serving the children and families in FWSN cases to a more appropriate “community-based” approach**
- **The benefits of diverting such cases from the court to community-based service providers include:**
 - **avoid negative consequences of court involvement**
 - **more desirable, less restrictive environment to facilitate rehabilitation**
 - **ease of access due to location of services**
 - **service by a “caring community”**

Family Support Center

“Family support center” means a community-based service center for children and families against whom a FWSN complaint has been filed with the Superior Court ... that provides multiple services, or access to such services, for the purpose of preventing such children and families from having further involvement with the court as families with service needs. (PA 07-4 §31(a))

Family Support Center

Each family support center shall provide, or ensure access to appropriate services that shall include, but not be limited to:

- screening and assessment,**
- crisis intervention,**
- family mediation,**
- educational evaluations and advocacy,**
- mental health treatment and services,**
- gender specific trauma treatment and services,**
- resiliency skills building,**
- access to positive social activities,**
- short-term respite care and**
- access to services available to children in the juvenile justice system. (PA 07-4 §31(b))**

Family Support Center

The Court Support Services Division shall contract with one or more private providers, or with one or more youth service bureaus, or both, to develop a network of family support centers. (PA 07-4 §31(b))

What is a Youth Service Bureau?

What is a Juvenile Review Board?

Where do they currently exist?

What services do they provide now?

How can they work with or serve as a Family Support Center?

Youth Service Bureaus

Sec. 10-19m

(a) Any one or more municipalities or any one or more private youth-serving organizations, designated to act as agents of one or more municipalities, may establish a multipurpose youth service bureau for the purposes of evaluation, planning, coordination and implementation of services, including prevention and intervention programs for delinquent, predelinquent, pregnant, parenting and troubled youths referred to such bureau by schools, police, juvenile courts, adult courts, local youth-serving agencies, parents and self-referrals. A youth service bureau shall be the coordinating unit of community-based services to provide comprehensive delivery of prevention, intervention, treatment and follow-up services.

Youth Service Bureaus

Sec. 10-19m

(b) A youth service bureau may provide:

- (1) Individual and group counseling;**
- (2) parent training and family therapy;**
- (3) work placement and employment counseling;**
- (4) alternative and special educational opportunities;**
- (5) recreational and youth enrichment programs;**
- (6) outreach programs to insure participation and planning by the entire community for the development of regional and community-based youth services;**
- (7) preventive programs, including youth pregnancy, youth suicide, violence, alcohol and drug prevention; and**
- (8) programs to develop positive youth involvement.**

Youth Service Bureaus

Sec. 10-19m

(b) *(cont'd)* Such services shall be designed to meet the needs of youths by the *diversion* of troubled youths from the justice system as well as by the provision of opportunities for all youths to function as responsible members of their communities.

Youth Service Bureaus

Sec. 10-19m

(c) The Commissioner of Education shall adopt regulations...establishing *minimum standards* for such youth service bureaus and the criteria for qualifying for state cost-sharing grants, including, but not limited to, allowable sources of funds covering the local share of the costs of operating such bureaus, acceptable in-kind contributions and application procedures. Said commissioner shall...*report* to the General Assembly on the referral or diversion of children under the age of sixteen years from the juvenile justice system and on the referral or diversion of children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years from the court system.

Youth Service Bureaus

Sec. 10-19m

(c) *(cont'd)* Such report shall include the number of times any child is so diverted, the *number of children diverted*, the *type of service provided* to any such child, by whom such child was diverted, the *ages* of the children diverted and such other information and statistics as the General Assembly may request from time to time. Any such report shall contain no identifying information about any particular child.

Youth Service Bureaus

A Youth Service Bureau (YSB)

- **is an agency operated directly by one or more municipalities or a private agency under contract for the benefit of one or more municipalities.**
- **is the lead local agency in community planning, coordination and evaluation of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention and treatment services for at-risk youth and provision of opportunities for all youth to develop positively and function as responsible members of their communities.**
- **act as the service brokers and advocates for youth and their families within their municipality.**

Juvenile Review Boards

The Juvenile Review Board is a group of *local* professionals, including police, social workers, school officials, juvenile court officials and community members that meet regularly to offer juveniles and their families *a positive alternative to the Juvenile Justice System* offers a *community based alternative to deal with school, family and minor criminal problems* and *provides community based solutions* to deal with these issues.

The Juvenile Review Board does this without the delays, costs and stigma associated with the court and legal system.

Youth Service Bureaus & Juvenile Review Boards

Meet the goals of PA 07-4 because they:

- ✓ avoid negative consequences of court involvement**
- ✓ provide a more desirable, less restrictive environment to facilitate rehabilitation**
- ✓ offer the ease of access due to location of services – even more than a regional Family Support Center**
- ✓ provide service by a “caring community”**

Youth Service Bureaus & Juvenile Review Boards

As expected from a family support center, YSBs and JRBs provide, or ensure access to appropriate services that include:

- screening and assessment,**
- crisis intervention,**
- family mediation,**
- educational evaluations and advocacy,**
- mental health treatment and services,**
- gender specific trauma treatment and services,**
- resiliency skills building,**
- access to positive social activities,**
- short-term respite care and**
- access to services available to children in the juvenile justice system. (PA 07-4 §31(b))**

Connecticut Youth Services Association Website



CYSA is a nonprofit professional organization comprised of 91 member Youth Service Bureaus that serves as the collective voice of the Connecticut Youth Service Bureau system, and is dedicated to promoting quality services for Connecticut's children, youth and families.

CYSA and the joint planning committee will be working with the Connecticut State Department of Education on the process of distributing the money. Reporting forms will also be created. Section 36 of the SDE implementing bill (HB 8003) details the new YSB enhancement fund line item.

Thanks go to the tireless efforts of the CYSA advocacy committee, all CYSA members who contacted their local legislators and CYSA lobbyist Jay Aronson. More details will follow on the CYSA website.

"Youth-Led, Adult-Mentored Positive Development!"

For more information, [click here.](#)
[View in MS Word format](#)



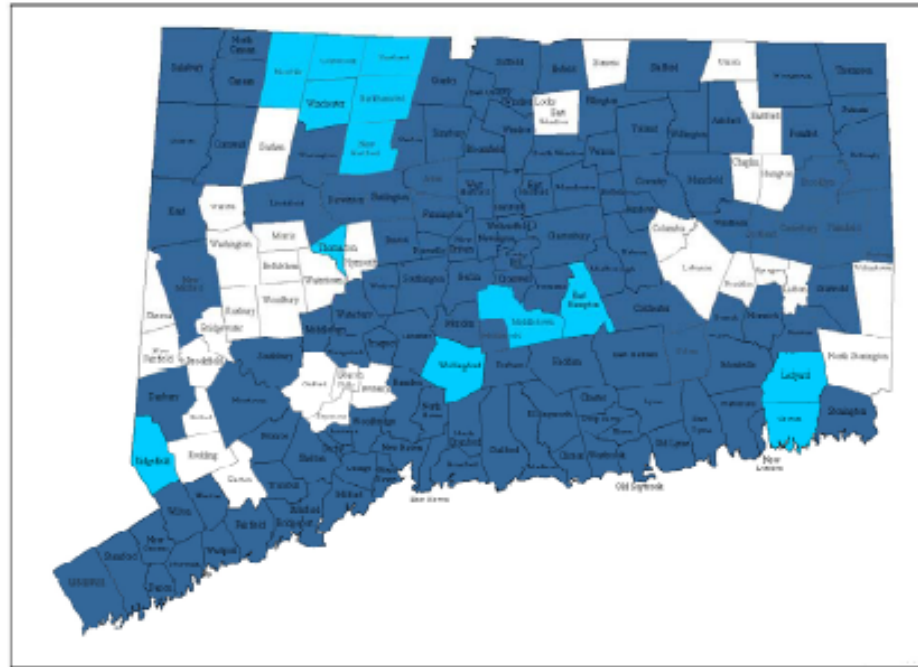
Click above to access our new resource guide search directory.

<http://www.ctyouthservices.org>



- ✓ **By-Laws**
- ✓ **Code of Ethics**
- ✓ **Strategic Plan**
- ✓ **Advocacy**
- ✓ **Best Practices**
- ✓ **Training & Support**

CONNECTICUT YOUTH SERVICE BUREAUS BY MUNICIPALITY



Member YSB – Connecticut Youth Services Assoc.



Non Member YSB – Connecticut Youth Services Assoc.



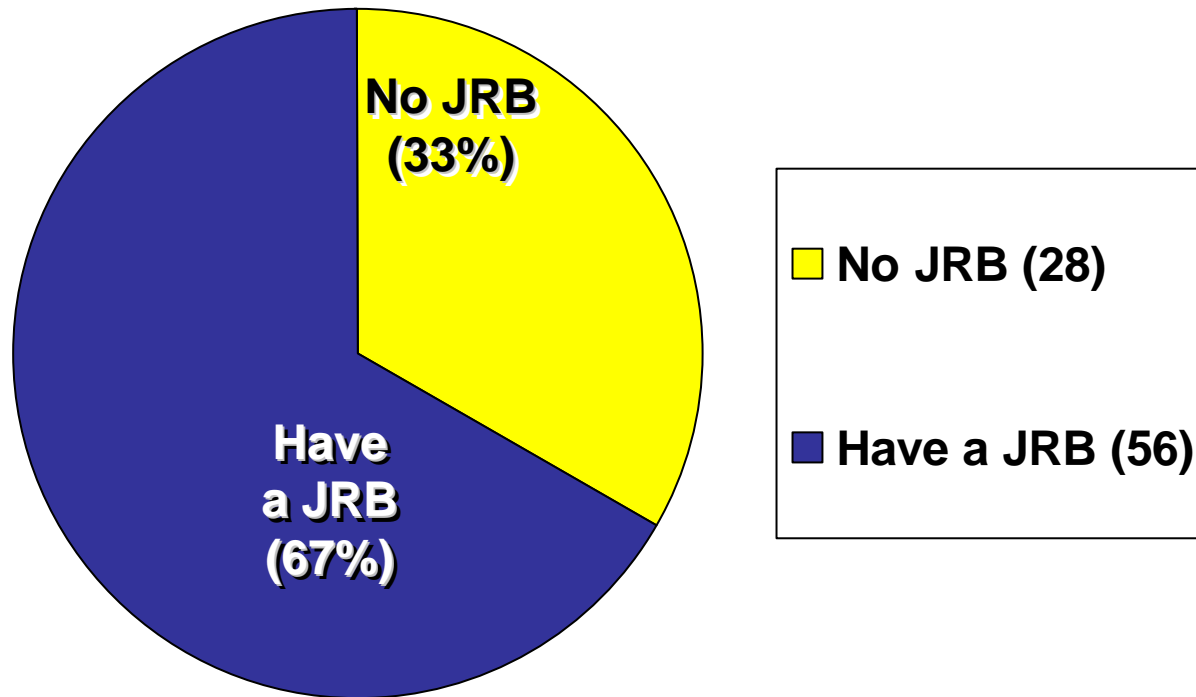
No color – No Current Youth Service Bureau

**Youth Service Bureaus
Serving 132 Communities Statewide**

Current CYSA Member YSBs

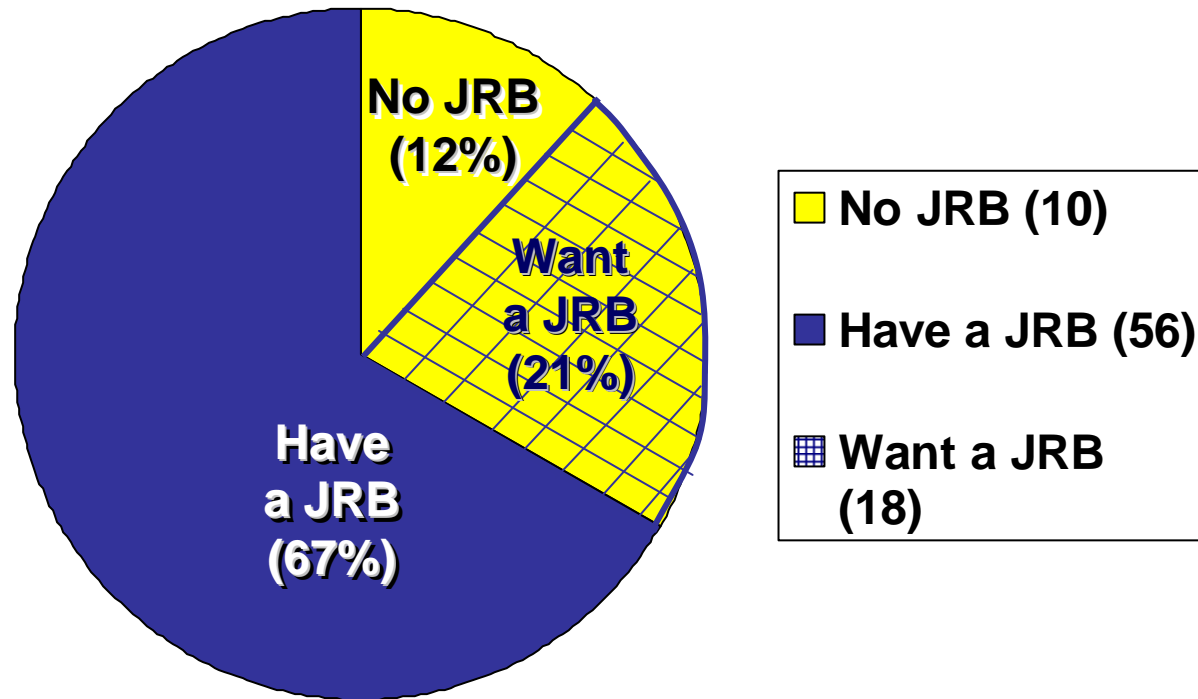
- AHM Youth Services (Andover, Hebron, Marlborough)
- Ansonia
- Ashford
- Berlin
- Bloomfield
- Branford
- Bridgeport
- Bristol
- Brooklyn
- Canterbury
- Canton
- Cheshire
- Clinton
- Colchester
- Coventry
- Cromwell
- Darren
- Deep River
- Durham
- East Granby
- East Haddam
- East Hartford
- East Haven
- East Lyme
- Eastford
- Ellington
- Enfield
- Fairfield
- Falls Village / Housatonic
- Farmington
- Glastonbury
- Granby
- Greenwich
- Griswold
- Guilford
- Haddam
- Hamden
- Hartford
- Killingly
- Killingworth
- Lyme
- Madison
- Manchester
- Mansfield
- Meriden
- Middletown
- Milford
- Monroe
- Montville
- Naugatuck
- New Britain
- New Canaan
- New Haven
- New London
- New Milford
- Newington
- Newtown
- North Haven
- Norwalk
- Norwich
- Old Lyme
- Old Saybrook
- Orange
- Plainfield
- Pomfret
- Portland
- Preston
- Prospect
- Putnam
- Rocky Hill
- Shelton
- Simsbury
- South Windsor
- Southbury / Middlebury
- Southington
- Stafford
- Stamford
- Sterling
- Stonington
- Stratford
- Suffield
- Thompson
- Tolland
- Torrington
- Trumbull
- Uncasville / Mohegan Tribe
- Vernon
- Waterbury
- Waterford
- West Hartford
- West Haven
- Westbrook
- Weston
- Westport
- Wethersfield
- Willington
- Wilton
- Windham
- Windsor
- Windsor Locks
- Woodbridge
- Woodstock

Existing Juvenile Review Board Programs



Of the 84 responding YSBs, 56 had a JRB or similar diversion program while 28 did not.

Existing Juvenile Review Board Programs



Of the 28 YSBs without a JRB, 18 said they would like to establish one.

Facts About Existing JRB Programs

Time JRB has been in existence: <1 to 42 years

Average time JRB has been in existence: 12.7 years

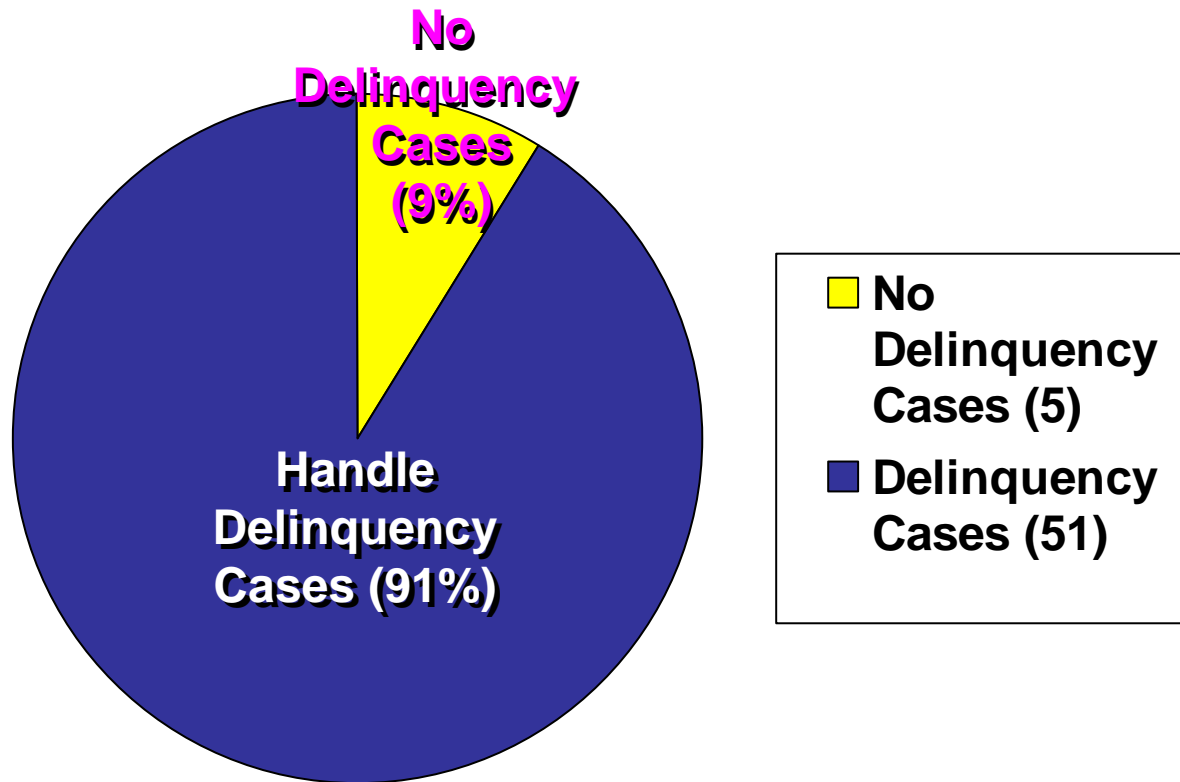
Type of service provided to JRB by YSB (56 have a JRB):

- **43 Administrator of the JRB**
- **42 Case Management services**
- **48 A JRB Member**

Type of assistance needed for most start up JRBs:

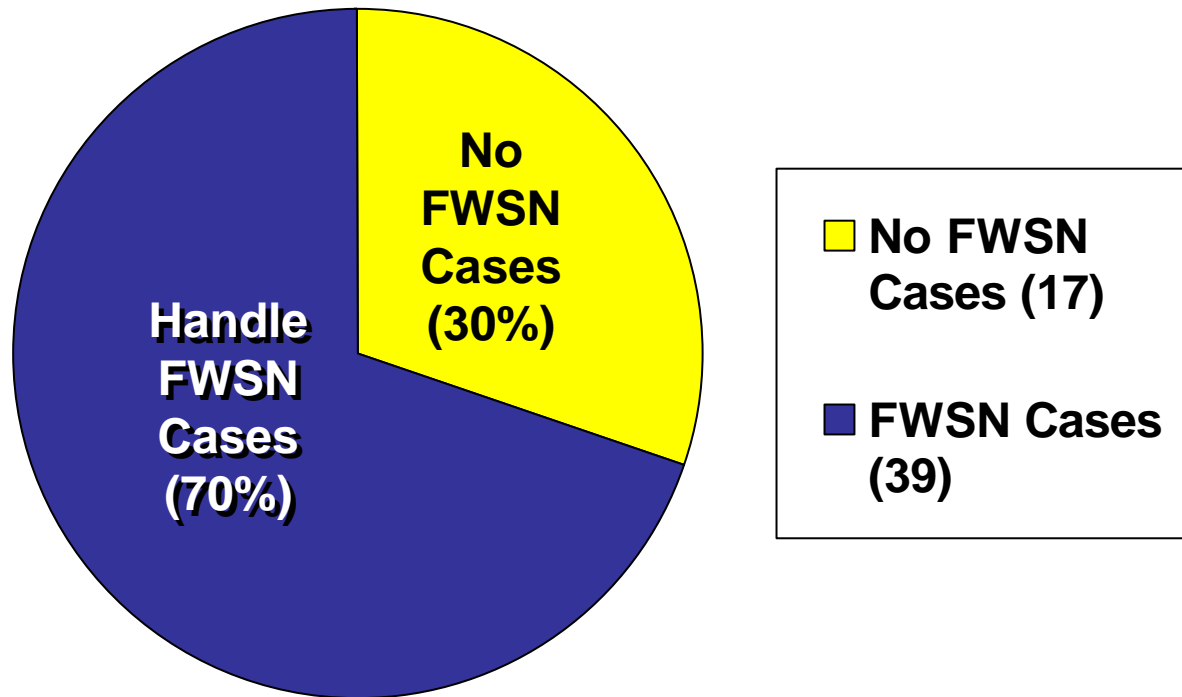
- **Start Up Funding**
 - **Advocacy**
 - **Access to Policies**
 - **Procedures**
 - **Best Practices**
 - **Training**
- Available through CYSA**

Cases Handled by Existing JRB Programs



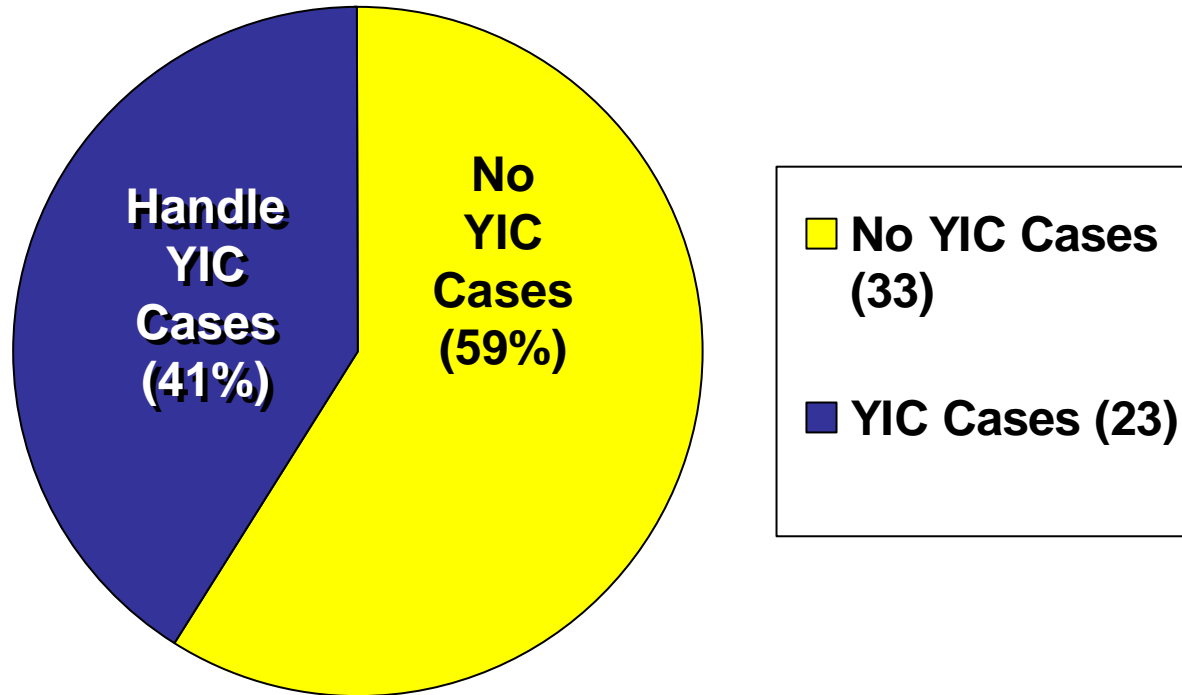
Of the 56 YSBs with a JRB , 51 of them handle delinquency cases.

Cases Handled by Existing JRB Programs



Of the 56 YSBs with a JRB , 39 of them handle FWSN cases.

Cases Handled by Existing JRB Programs



Of the 56 YSBs with a JRB, 23 of them handle YIC cases

Cases Handled by Existing JRB Programs

What would be needed to serve the population not currently served by your JRB?

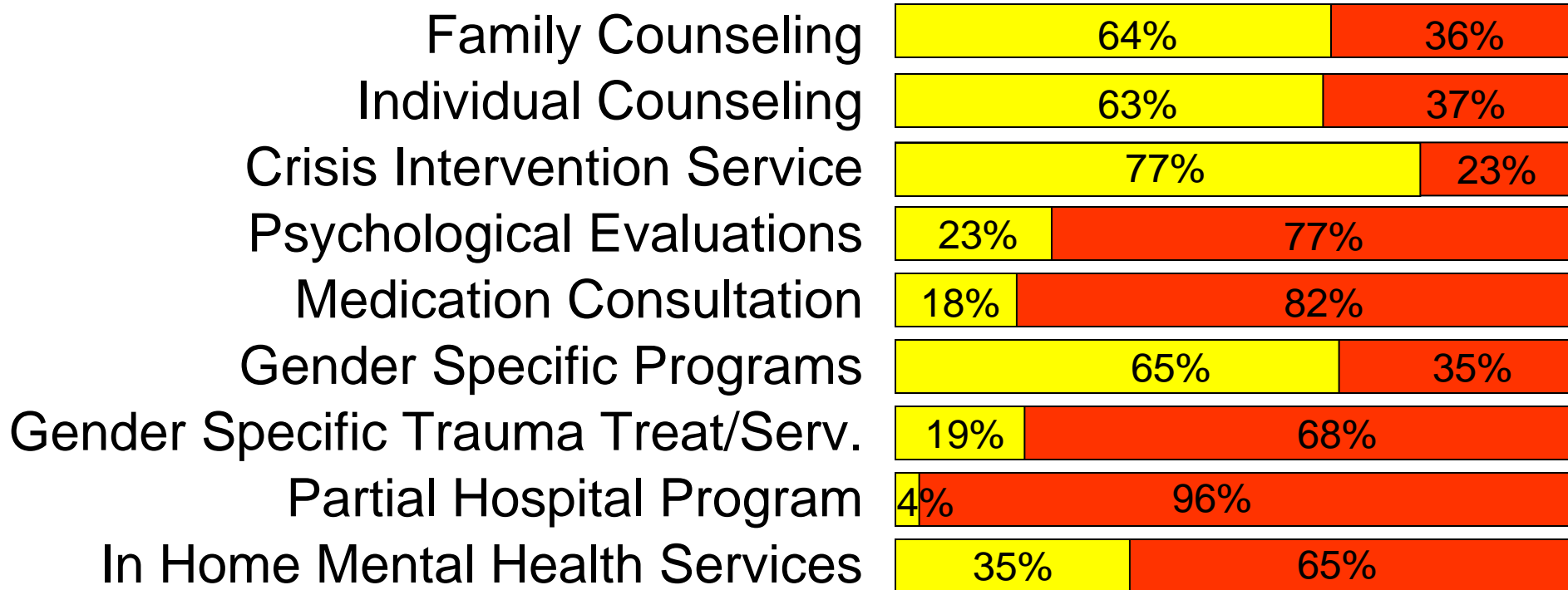
- **Funding for staff (Case Manager, outreach worker or clinician)**
- **Relationship with police, schools and the court**
- **Referrals from police, schools or the court**

Provided Services and Service Gaps

Service or Program

■ Provided

■ Service Gap

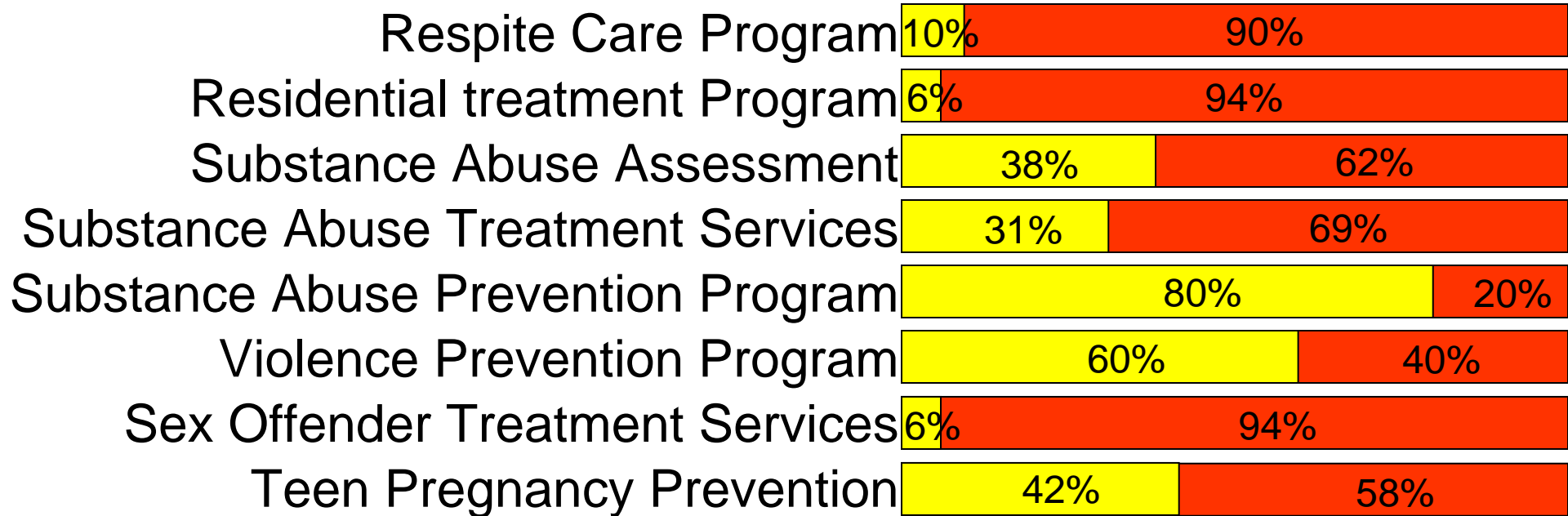


Provided Services and Service Gaps

Service or Program

■ Provided

■ Service Gap

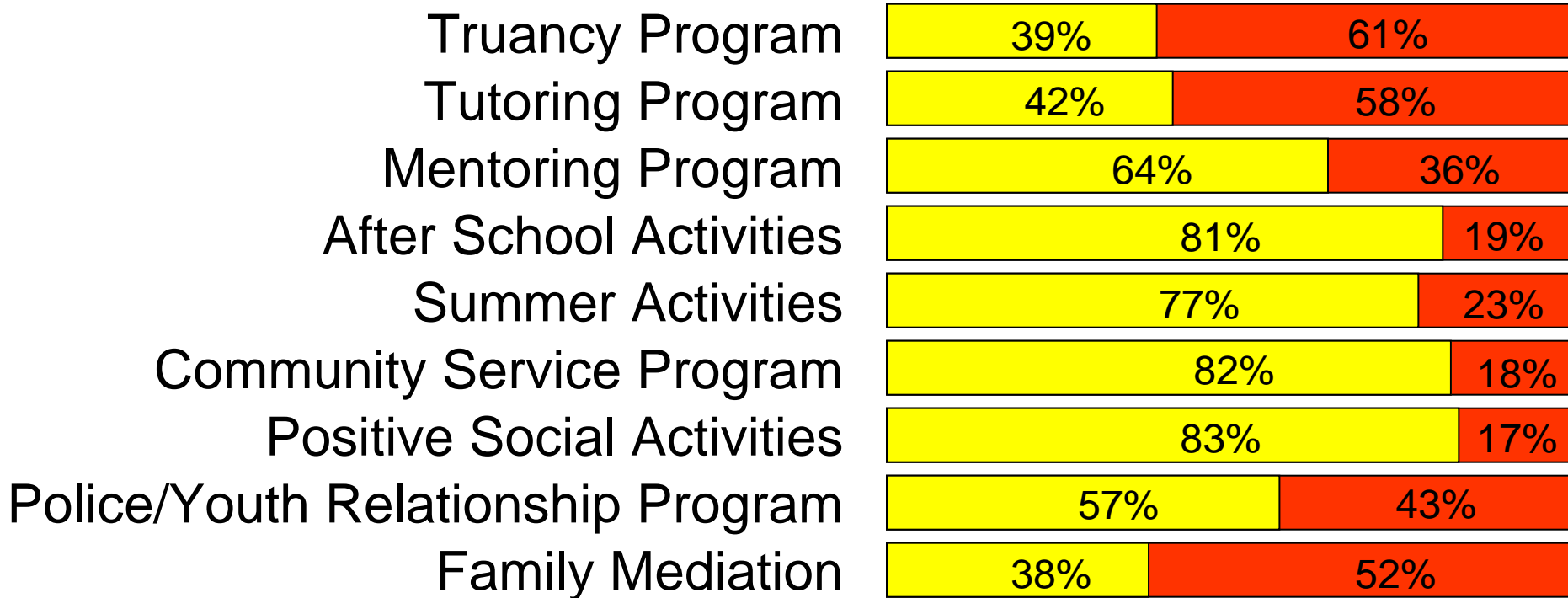


Provided Services and Service Gaps

Service or Program

■ Provided

■ Service Gap

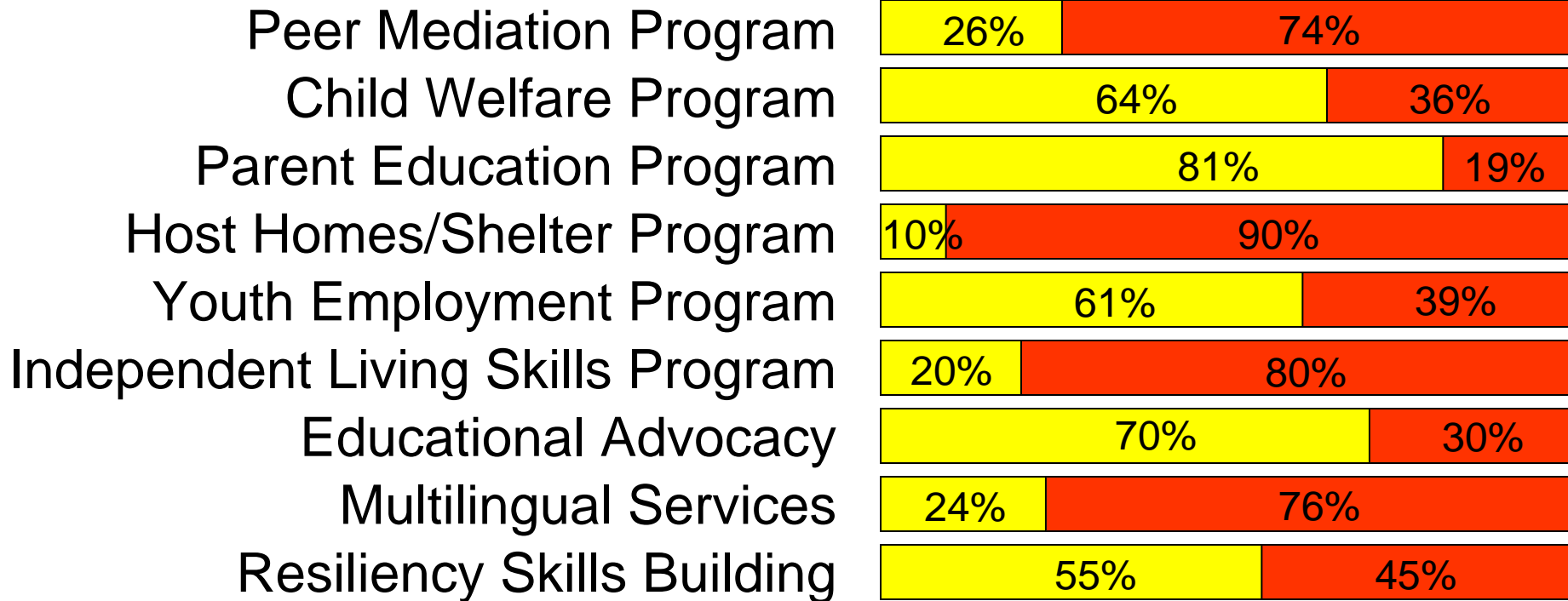


Provided Services and Service Gaps

Service or Program

■ Provided

■ Service Gap



Question:

What other service gaps currently exist within your community not previously identified?

Answer:

- **Psychiatric services in a reasonable amount of time,**
- **Child medical evaluation and treatment services including prescription drug coverage, particularly for indigent clients**
- **Teen shelter/host homes for boys as well as girls**
- **Mental health services for preschool, elementary and high school children**
- **Alternative school suspension/expulsion programs,**
- **Child and family outreach workers**
- **Increased access to early identification and community interventions for FWSN population**

Question:

Some of the cases referred by the probation department under the new FWSN procedures after 10/1/07 might involve children with prior court involvement that would not have previously been eligible for your JRB or other diversion program. What changes if any, would your JRB or other diversion program need to make in order to service FWSN children referred by the probation department who may not be first offenders and who may present more difficult or complicated service needs issues than children currently handled by your JRB or other diversion program?

Answer:

Funding needs:

- **establishing and operating a JRB**
- **additional case management staff**
- **mental health services currently not accessible due to lack of funds**
- **additional services, staffing and funding for non-compliant youth**
- **case workers to make sure youth and families follow through with services offered**
- **evidence based drug and alcohol prevention and intervention program with assessment and screening linked to treatment**
- **greater access to intensive clinical services**
- **additional outreach workers to do case management in the home additional clinicians for clinical work**

Answer:

Non - Funding needs:

- **program eligibility changes to accept new population**
- **change our approach to consider the extra needs that court referred FWSN kids have**
- **change the structure of the JRB and add members with specific areas of expertise and interests**
- **increase partnership with local area agencies and service providers**
- **formal referral mechanism and information sharing protocol between the YSB and the court**
- **greater access to other social service programs and resources from DCF and CSSD**
- **need more community service projects and more collaboration from state and community agencies for recreational activities**

Answer:

Non - Funding needs *(cont'd)* :

- **court participation on the JRB if we will be taking more difficult cases. Need the back up of court on difficult cases.**
- **community education**
- **job training and gender specific after school programs**

Question:

What resources do you anticipate your agency would need in order to provide the required FWSN related services to the anticipated population of children and families?

Answer:

- Average: about \$40,000 per program**
- From \$4300 for a part time JRB case manager to just over \$100,000 for one full time and one part time clinician and an outreach caseworker**
- Most requests were between \$10,000 and \$60,000 per year**

Question:

If you had the resources that you identified in the previous question, realistically how many children and families do you think your JRB or other diversion program would be able to handle annually?

Answer:

Of the 84 reporting YSBs:

Ranged from 7 for a small YSB to 225 for a larger YSB with a total of approximately 3100 children and families

Recommendations:

- 1. In those regions where Family Support Centers are already funded, contract with local YSBs to provide real community based programs, services and treatment.**
- 2. As future funding becomes available, utilize and enhance the existing YSBs to provide a network of service providers on the community level.**
- 3. Collaborate and partner with CYSA to bring the various YSBs into a comprehensive, statewide community-based, service provider network to provide consistent monitoring, data collection, reporting and oversight along with professional standards, ethics and best practices.**

***For more
information
contact:***

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