

**Research Committee, Best Practices Subcommittee**

**October 17, 2006**

**General Recommendations**

**Programs must be voluntary**

**Programs will include all children and youth 6-18**

**Programs will be state-wide and include training for court personnel, probation, police, DSS workers and school personnel.**

**Program will be family/community based**

**Programs will be focused toward rapid reunification with family or life-long connection.**

**Custody will be limited to 6 months with exceptions for mental health and safety**

**All area DSS offices must provide a court liaison to each Juvenile Court in their area**

**Services**

**Rapid response teams, including DSS, schools, and when necessary probation.**

**Respite will include voluntary placement, 5-10 days with no extensions, provide intensive family support**

**Family support services may include birth family, extended family, community and life long connection.**

**Placement must be no further than 15 miles from the child's home and provide family support.**

**Transportation will be provided as funds become available**

**All area DSS offices must provide a court liaison for each Juvenile Court in their districts.**

### **Who can file?**

**Police**

**Officer of attendance or school vice-principal**

**Either parent, with custody, after the completion of a diversion program.**

**School may file truancy until 16 and stubborn child until 18.**

### **Recommended Programs**

#### **S.T.A.Y. “Start Truancy Awareness Younger”**

**This program, established by the Plymouth County Juvenile Probation Office, works with children beginning in Grade 1, is in the schools and works directly with school personnel and parents to bring information and access to services to families at the earliest possible time.**

#### **START Team**

**This program, instituted in Middlesex County, works in middle schools and is designed to respond to a child’s and family needs quickly and to provide them with information and access to services. The program includes school personnel, police, DSS, Juvenile Court and the D.A.’s office.**

### **Rhode Island Truancy Court**

**[www.courts.state.ri.us/truancycourt/default.htm](http://www.courts.state.ri.us/truancycourt/default.htm)**