

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.

Suggested 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