



*State of Connecticut
Division of Criminal Justice
Kevin T. Kane, Chief State's Attorney*

Establishing a Juvenile Review Board

A community-based diversion program



*Christine Poscich
Grant Project Coordinator
Waterford Youth Services Bureau

Francis J. Carino
Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney*

1

***Questions we'll
answer today:***

- ✓ **What is a JRB?**
- ✓ **What does it do?**
- ✓ **Why the YSB model is the most effective model for a JRB.**
- ✓ **Who should be considered for referral to a JRB?**
- ✓ **Where does a JRB fit into the Juvenile Justice System?**
- ✓ **Are restorative justice concepts used?**
- ✓ **How does it work?**
- ✓ **What is the goal of a JRB?**
- ✓ **What steps do you take to create a JRB in your town?**

2

Whether your goal is:

- ✓ law enforcement
- ✓ crime prevention
- ✓ public safety
- ✓ education
- ✓ community service
- ✓ child protection
- ✓ service to families

... a JRB can help you achieve your goal!

3

What is a JRB?

The JRB is a group of local professionals, including:

- Police
- Social Workers
- School Officials
- Juvenile Court Officials
- Clergy
- Community members

who meet regularly to offer children and their families a positive alternative to the Juvenile Justice System.

4

What does a JRB do?

It designs alternatives that:

- ***promote responsible behavior by offenders***
- ***help families solve the problems that may be at the root of inappropriate behavior***
- ***consider the needs of the victim.***

The JRB is available to:

- ***police***
- ***schools***
- ***parents***

to offer help to children and families while avoiding the Juvenile Justice System.

5

Why the YSB model is the most effective model for a JRB.

CGS §10-19m(a) authorizes the establishment of a multipurpose youth service bureau for the purposes of:

- ***evaluation,***
- ***planning,***
- ***coordination and***
- ***implementation of services***

6

Why the YSB model is the most effective model for a JRB.

Services include prevention and intervention programs for:

- Delinquents,
- Pre-delinquents,
- Pregnant youth,
- Parenting and
- Troubled youths

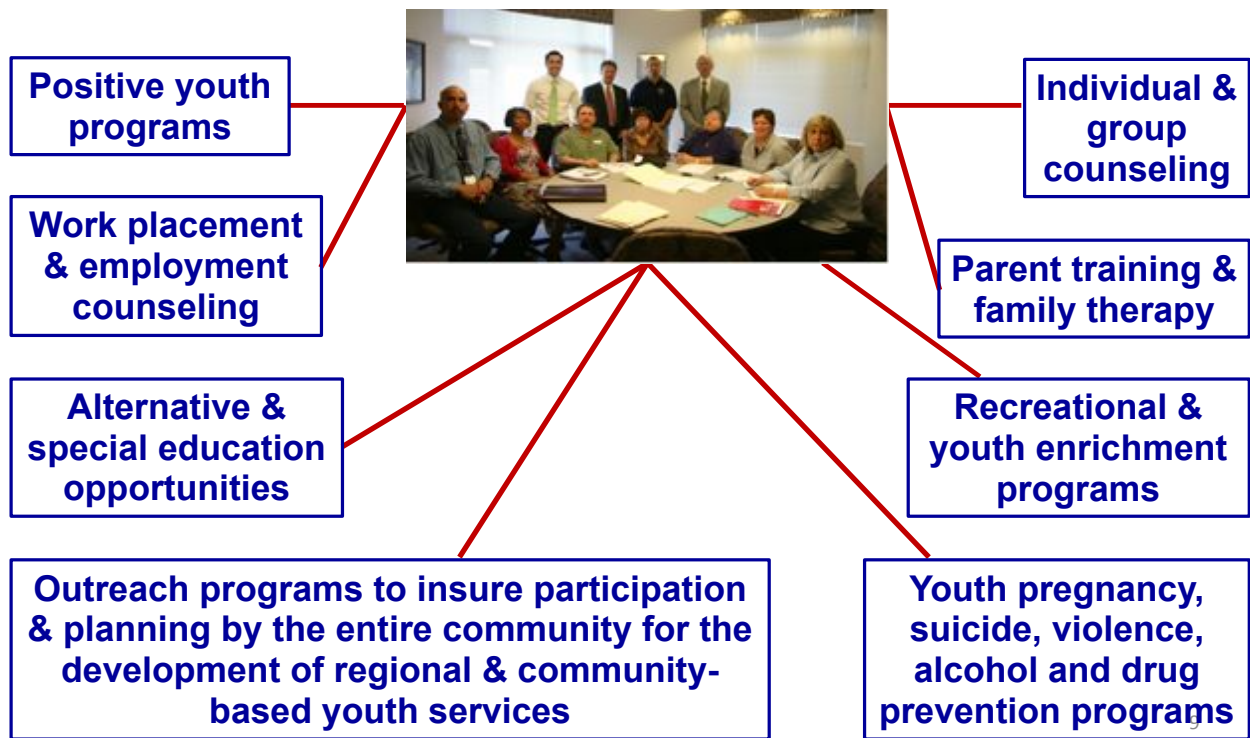
referred by schools, police, juvenile courts, adult courts, local youth-serving agencies, parents and self-referrals.

7

“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.” (CGS §10-19m(a))

8

A YSB may provide, but shall not be limited to the delivery of, the following services: (CGS §10-19m(b))



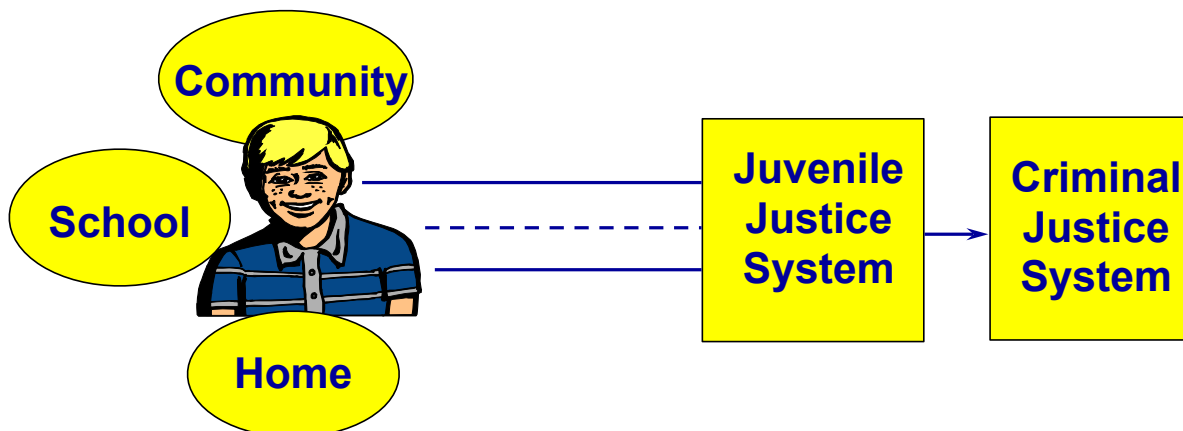
“Such services shall be designed to meet the needs of youths by the diversion of troubled youths from the justice system as well as by the provision of opportunities for all youths to function as responsible members of their communities.”
(CGS §10-19m(b))

	<p>Five JRBs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AHM ➤ East Hartford ➤ New Britain ➤ Rocky Hill ➤ Southington
<i>The Pilot Project</i>	<p>Three juvenile courts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hartford ➤ New Britain ➤ Willimantic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Court will divert eligible cases to JRB; ➤ Failed cases cannot be returned to court; ➤ To the extent available and subject to CSSD approval, JRB's will have access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ certain court based programs and services ➤ flex funds 	

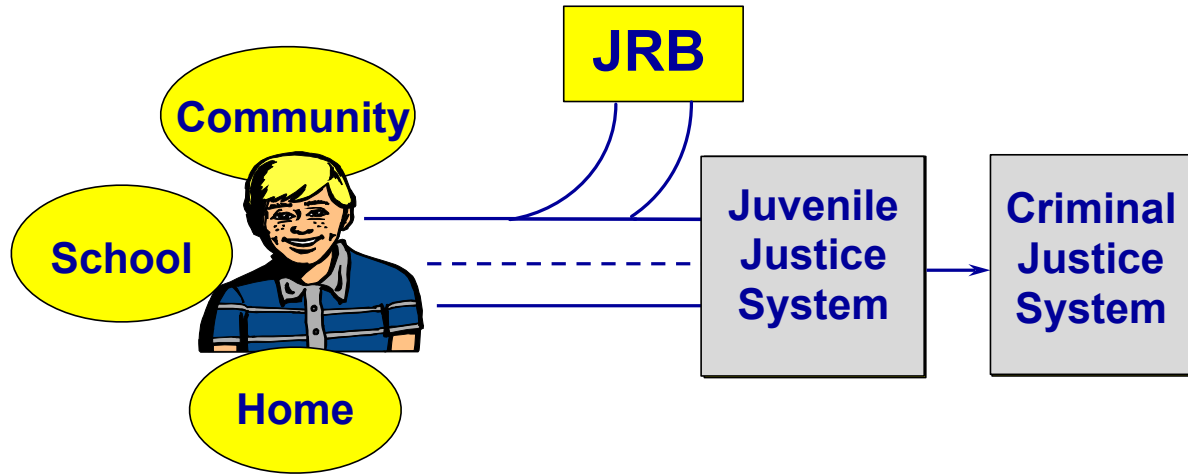
	<p><i>Records of cases of juvenile matters involving delinquency proceedings shall be available to ... employees and authorized agents of state or federal agencies involved in ...the delivery of court diversionary programs. Such employees and authorized agents include, but are not limited to, law enforcement officials, community-based youth service bureau officials, ... (PA 12-133(34))</i></p>
<i>Why the YSB model is the most effective model for a JRB.</i>	

	<p>FWSN offenses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ runaway; ➤ beyond control; ➤ indecent/immoral conduct; ➤ truancy / defiant of school rules; ➤ inappropriate sexual behavior;
<p>Who should be considered for referral to the JRB?</p>	<p>A child under 18 <u>charged with their first minor criminal or FWSN offense.</u></p>
	<p>A child under 18 who has <u>committed their first minor criminal or FWSN offense but is <u>not charged</u> due to age, victim's reluctance or some other reason.</u></p>

A child in trouble in the community, at school or at home, is on the road to the Juvenile Justice System and eventually the Criminal Justice System.

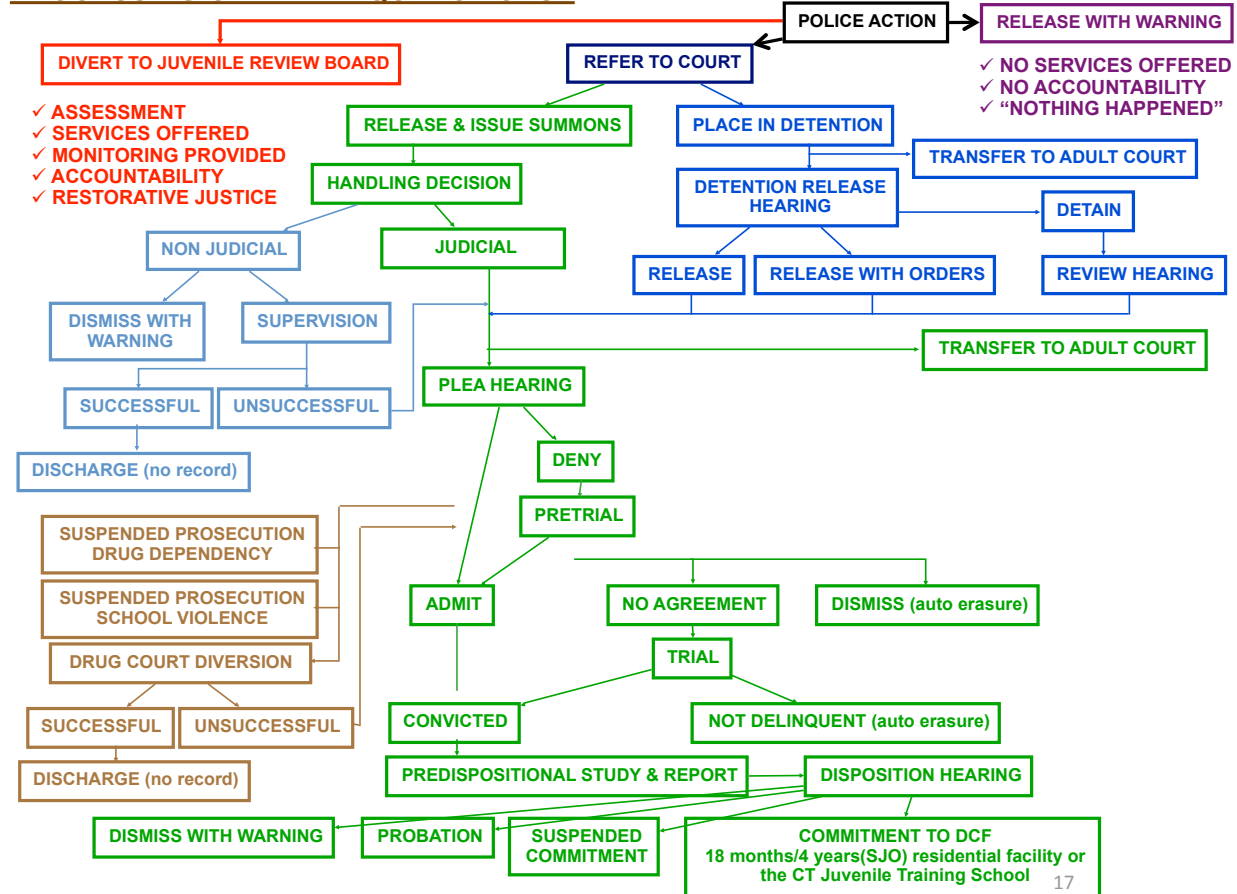


The JRB is available to intervene and offer the child an alternative to avoid the Juvenile Justice System.



Where does a JRB fit into the Juvenile Justice System?

PROCESSING OF A DELINQUENCY CASE



How can a JRB be more effective than the Juvenile Court?

- **Avoid negative outcomes resulting from court exposure**
 - poor self image
 - enhanced glamour
 - demystify court consequences
 - court record, conviction, etc
 - adversarial process
- **Opportunity to explain the law**
- **Flexibility due to voluntary nature**
- **Greater supervision & monitoring**
- **Better outcomes due to community involvement**
- **Faster more efficient process**
- **Fewer resources required**
- **Employ restorative justice principles**

Restorative Justice Concepts

Bring them to the JRB

- ✓ ***Explain the range of consequences to the child beyond the obvious***
- ✓ ***Teach the child there are consequences beyond those impacting the child***
- ✓ ***Help child understand how their family & community are impacted by their actions***
- ✓ ***Begin the process of restoring the family, the victim & the community***

19

Restorative Justice Concepts

How is it done?

- ✓ ***Help the child understand that their actions have negatively impacted the entire community***
- ✓ ***Ask the child what they can do to begin the restoration process***
- ✓ ***Ask the child what they would do if they were sitting on the JRB***
- ✓ ***Ask the parents and victim what they would like to see happen***

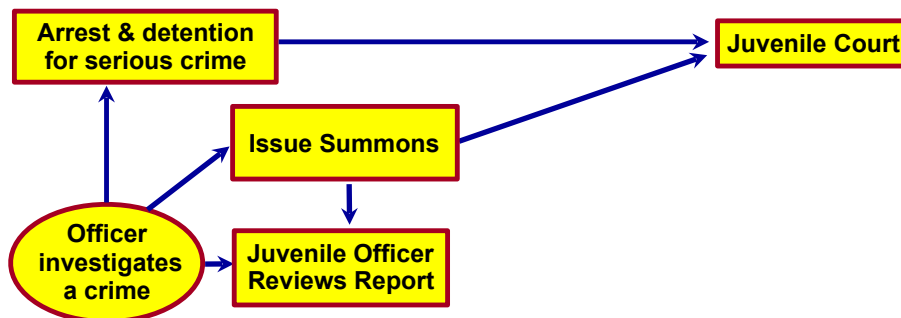
20

How does it work?

The Juvenile Review Board Procedure

21

Juvenile Review Board Procedure



Is the case eligible for JRB handling?

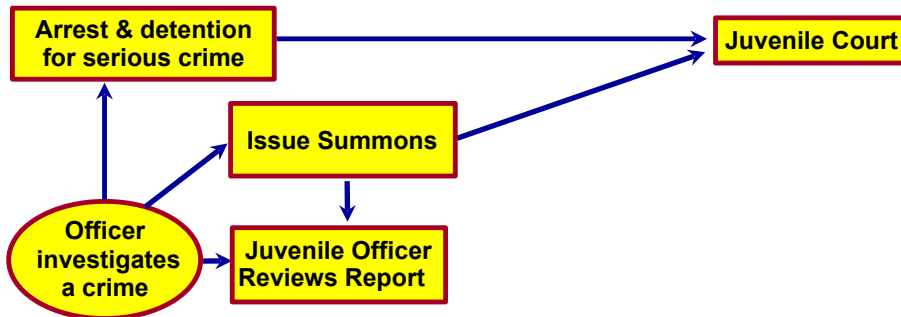
22

Who is eligible for the JRB?

All of the following criteria are met:

- ✓ Prior to the child's 18th birthday, he/she committed:
 - a criminal offense or
 - a FWSN offense.
- ✓ The offense is not a felony.
- ✓ The child was not previously referred to the JRB or the court.
- ✓ The child admits responsibility for the offense.
- ✓ The child and family agree to the referral to the JRB.

Juvenile Review Board Procedure



Is the case eligible for JRB handling?

Is the JRB appropriate?

***Who is appropriate
for the JRB?***

Factors considered by the police in the diversion decision:

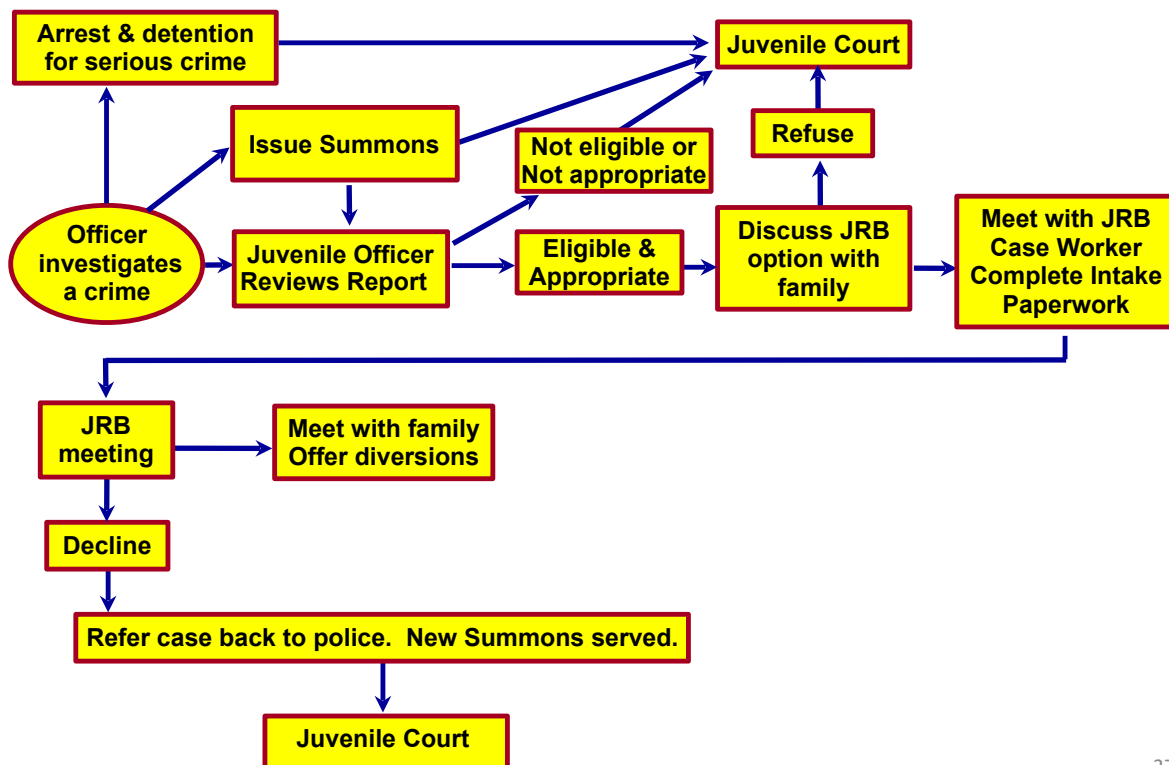
- Seriousness of the offense
- Child's role in the offense
- Prior police involvement
- Child's age
- Child's attitude
- Family's attitude
- Availability of appropriate diversions

***Who is appropriate
for the JRB?***

Factors ***NEVER*** considered by the police in the diversion decision:

- Child's race, ethnicity or national origin;
- Child's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;
- Child's socio-economic status or status in the community;
- Child's appearance, style of dress or manner of speaking;
- Child's physical or mental disabilities;

Juvenile Review Board Procedure



27

What diversions are available?

Possible diversions include:

- Psychological evaluation
- Substance abuse assessment
- Counseling
- Positive Youth Activity
- Community Service
- After School Activities
- Interview/Research & Essay
- Restitution
- Apology
- Journal
- Monitoring and return to JRB

28

What diversions are available?

Example: Truancy

Determine the cause

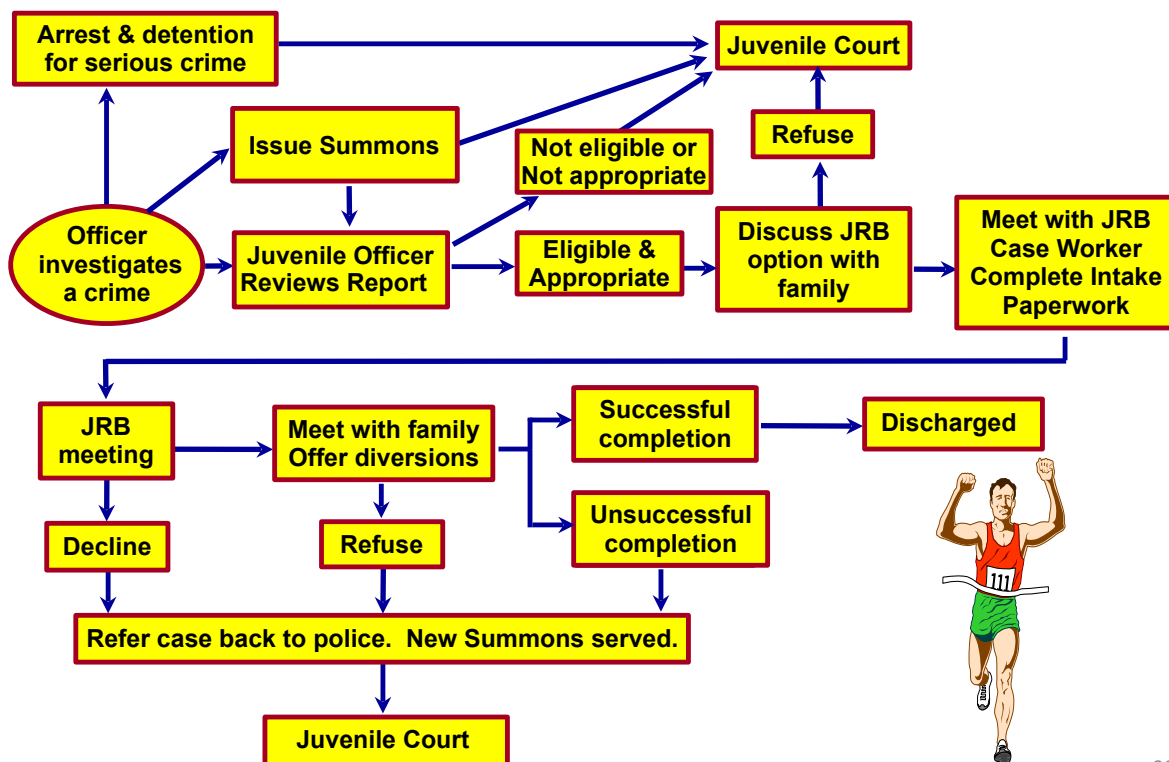
- Doesn't like teacher
- Problem w/other student
- Transportation problem
- Too tired to get up
- No parent home in AM
- Medical problem
- Target of bully
- Personal problem
- Homework isn't done
- Irresponsible parent

Offer a remedy

- Resolve problem
- Try mediation/change schedule
- Discuss options/change schedule
- Counsel parents
- Make arrangements
- Make appointment to see a doctor
- Try mediation/discipline the bully
- Resolve problem
- Monitor assignments/use a tutor
- Remind parent of legal duty

29

Juvenile Review Board Procedure



30

Objectives of the JRB?

✓ **Personal Responsibility**

✓ **Rehabilitation**

✓ **Education**

✓ **Deterrence**

✓ **Prevention**

✓ **Empower families**

✓ **Use Community Resources**

Without a criminal record!

31

The Juvenile Review Board offers a community based alternative to deal with school, family and minor criminal problems and provides community based solutions to deal with these issues.

32

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

What is the goal of a JRB?

The goal of a JRB is to bring together community resources...



35

This will be your board so build it so it works for you.

36

Steps to establish your JRB

- Determine your organizational structure;
- Draft eligibility guidelines and referral procedures;
- Develop a review and hearing procedure;
- Create intake, waiver, release and diversion forms;
- Establish a variety of diversions;
- Bring the concept to the police, schools, court and the community to elicit ideas and concerns;
- Incorporate suggestions and concerns into a final program initiative;
- Put plan into action, making changes as necessary;

37

Steps to Establish your JRB

Determine your organizational structure

- ✓ Public or private agency?
 - FOI considerations;
 - funding considerations;
 - liability issues;
- ✓ Who will run the day to day operations of the JRB?
- ✓ Who should sit on the JRB?
- ✓ How many people should sit on the JRB, how should they be selected and how long should they serve?
- ✓ How often will the JRB meet and where?
- ✓ How will the JRB interface with the police, school, juvenile court and social service agencies?

38

Steps to Establish your JRB

Draft eligibility guidelines and referral procedures

- ✓ The JRB is an option that:
 - the police can use instead of sending the child home without any services or sending the child to court; or
 - the school can use as a community resource before sending the child to court; or
 - a parent can use instead of making a FWSN complaint to the court;

- ✓ In cases other than truancy and defiance of school rules, the decision to refer a case to the court or to the JRB is a police function and should be made by the police.

39

Steps to Establish your JRB

Eligibility guidelines and referral procedures

- ✓ Who can refer to the JRB?
 - police;
 - school;
 - parent;
- ✓ Who within the organization?
 - single identifiable source for consistency & fairness;
- ✓ What offenses can be referred?
 - nature and severity;
- ✓ What offenders can be referred?
 - residency & history;
- ✓ How will cases be referred & what information will be provided?

40

Steps to Establish your JRB

Develop review and hearing procedures

- ✓ Who will meet with the family to determine their willingness to participate in the JRB?
- ✓ Who will prepare and present background information & what information will be provided?
- ✓ How many members will hear the case & how will the hearing be conducted?
- ✓ How will decisions be made?
- ✓ How will the family be notified?
- ✓ How will compliance be monitored & determined?
- ✓ Will there be a follow up visit?
- ✓ What records will be kept? Where? For how long?

41

REMEMBER: These cases often involve sensitive family matters which would otherwise be private and confidential.

- Your credibility and effectiveness will depend in large part upon assurances of confidentiality.
- The hearings and the information disclosed to the JRB before, during and after the hearings **MUST** be held in the strictest confidence or liability might result.
- All records ***MUST*** be kept in a secure area and properly destroyed at the appropriate time.
- All staff should sign confidentiality statement.

42

Steps to Establish your JRB

Create intake, waiver, release & diversion forms

- ✓ Family must understand and agree to participate in the JRB;
- ✓ Family must agree to waive confidentiality as to the JRB and the victim;
- ✓ Family & child must agree that the child committed the act alleged and no legal defenses are being raised;
- ✓ Family history information must be gathered;
- ✓ School academic & conduct records must be gathered;
- ✓ Written diversion contract signed by JRB & family;
- ✓ Victim notification form;
- ✓ Other forms ie: community service log, counseling record;

Steps to Establish your JRB

Develop a data collection system

- ✓ Keep records of cases;
- ✓ Utilize exit surveys;
- ✓ Assess success of the program (RBA);
- ✓ Identify trends;
- ✓ Identify service gaps;
- ✓ Secure future funding;
- ✓ Encourage future participation;

Steps to Establish your JRB

Establish a variety of diversion options

- Psychological evaluation
- Substance abuse assessment
- Counseling
- Positive Youth Activity
- Community Service
- After School & Summer Activities
- Interview/Research & Essay Projects
- Restitution
- Apology
- Journal
- Monitoring by JRB

45

Steps to Establish your JRB

Bring concept to the police, schools, court & community to solicit ideas and concerns

- ✓ Meet the people;
- ✓ Understand how other agencies function for a better fit;
- ✓ Ensure cooperation & support;
- ✓ Establish credibility;
- ✓ Establish linkages and lines of communication;
- ✓ Provide continuum of services;
- ✓ Create the best and most effective program;

46

Steps to Establish your JRB

Final steps

- ✓ Incorporate suggestions and concerns into a final program initiative.
- ✓ Put plan into action,
- ✓ Periodically review and make changes as necessary.
- ✓ Keep the community, your federal, state and local political leaders and potential funding sources aware of your activities.

47

Regional JRB protocol

- Used for children who get charged with misconduct in another town;
- Particularly useful to towns with adjoining borders;
- Also helpful where regional malls or regional schools exist;
- Provides for a child to be referred to their local JRB, through their local police department, by the police where the misconduct occurred;

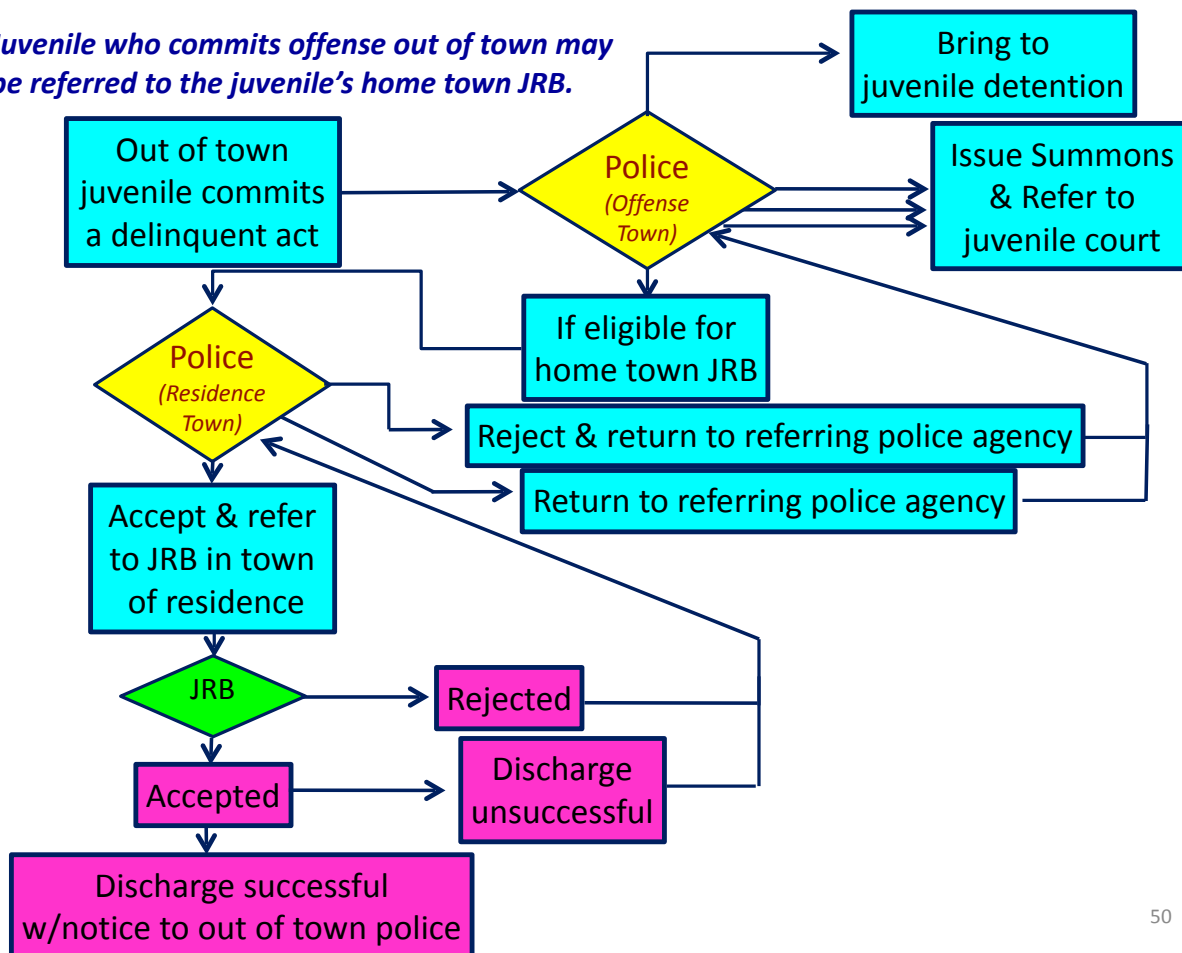
48

JRB: AHM Juvenile Review Board

Contact: Joel Rosenberg
Name 860-228-9488
Phone JoelR@ahmyouth.org
E-mail

TYPES OF CASES ACCEPTED <i>(Delinq or FWSN)</i>	REFERRAL SOURCES <i>(Police, School, Parents)</i>	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	REFERRAL PROCEDURE
Delinquency (<18)	Police	1st offense, not a felony, admit responsibility, family agrees	Resident Trooper discusses JRB w/family, if they agree, case referred to JRB
FWSN (<18)	Police	1st offense, admit responsibility, family agrees	Resident Trooper discusses JRB w/family, if they agree, case referred to JRB
	School	1st offense, admit responsibility, family agrees	School administrator discusses JRB w/family, if they agree, case referred to JRB
	Parent	1st offense, admit responsibility, family agrees	Parent refers directly to YSB, JRB discussed, if agreed, case referred to JRB

Juvenile who commits offense out of town may be referred to the juvenile's home town JRB.



**For more
information
contact:**

Christine Poscich, Grant Project Coordinator
Waterford Youth Services Bureau
200 Boston Post Road,
Waterford, CT 06385
Tel: (860) 444-5848
Fax: (860) 444-5804
www.waterfordyouth.org



Joel Rosenberg, Exec. Director
AHM Youth Services
25 Pendleton Drive
Hebron, CT 06248
Tel.: (860) 228-9488
Fax: (860) 228-1213
<http://www.ahmyouth.org>



Francis J. Carino
Supervisory Asst. State's Attorney
Office of the Chief State's Attorney
300 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Tel.: (860) 258-5826
Fax: (860) 258-5858
E-mail: francis.carino@ct.gov



www.franocarino.com

Chris Montes, Administrator
New Britain Youth & Family Services
Suite 301 – City Hall
27 West Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051
Tel.: (860) 826-3366
E-mail: cmontes@newbritainct.gov

