



Findings from National Models of Status Offenders in Defining a Target Population:

The process of defining and refining a target population positions a jurisdiction to clearly articulate who they are serving with the particular sets of interventions and resources they employ. Additionally, it provides a framework to assure that the system is organized optimally to address the needs of the stated target population. States and localities who have embarked on the process of redefining their target population have benefited from collecting data on the characteristics and needs of their current population to help inform the development of their newly articulated target population. This process assists in mapping out what changes would need to be made to realize the reform changes while assuring young people and families have continuity of supports and services as changes are made. Often, these jurisdictions identify places where there is duplication in services because of lack of coordination between agencies and systems. Defining a clear target population will assist in identifying which young people and families should be served by what system and develop mechanisms and protocols to accomplish this goal.

Examples of Target Populations from Model National Sites:

Florida: Youth 10 to 17 that are not child welfare or delinquent cases. Includes runaways, habitual truants, youth beyond the control of their parents, at risk of abuse, neglect and/or delinquency.

New York: Individual under 18 who does not attend school in accordance with the provisions of part one of article sixty-five of the education law or who is incorrigible, ungovernable or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of a parent or other person legally responsible for such child's care, or other lawful authority, or who violates the provisions of section 221.05, 230.00, or 240.37 of the penal law.

Connecticut: Youth age 16 or younger who are runaways, are beyond the control of parent/guardians, engaged in indecent/immoral conduct, truant from school, overly defy school rules, or are age 13 to 15 and have engaged in sexual intercourse with a person 2 years of his/her age.

Findings from Local Louisiana Models for Change Local Grantee:

Rapides Parish under the leadership of the district court has focused on reforming its target population and eligibility criteria for Informal FINS. Their revised target population combines the eligibility articulated in the FINS statute but with clear eligibility criteria that leverages other systems for services if the child or family is already system-involved. Rapides has experienced a drop in the intake population and length of stay for its clients allowing them to dedicate more resources to the clients they serve and without duplicating efforts between state agencies.

Technical Support for the Development of best practice status offender documents was provided by the Louisiana Models for Change: The Institute of Public Health and Justice at LSUHSC, the Vera Institute, the National Juvenile Defender Center, and the University of New Orleans, all via grant support from the John D and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

FINS Commission: Target Population



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Presentation Outline

- **Louisiana Senate Resolution**
- **National Models: Policy and Practice Considerations**
 - Florida
- **Relevant Louisiana FINS Data**
- **Louisiana Models for Change**
 - Rapides Parish AJ1
 - Calcasieu Parish

Slide 2

AJ1

Take out? OR leave in and create a slide mentioning that "reference supporting materials are available in the binder that will aid in the development of a target population"?

Ashley Jackson, 10/14/2011

Louisiana Senate Resolution

- **SCR 44(2):** “[T]he commission's study and recommendations shall address...[t]he refinement of a FINS target population that aligns with both national best practices and the unique needs of Louisiana's youth and families.”

National Models: Policy and Practice Considerations

National Lessons: Defining the Target Population for Status Offender Systems

- **One of the key elements of successful status offender systems around the country is a clearly defined population of youth to be served by that system**
- **Whom does your system serve? & Why?**
 - Is it intentional?
 - Is it the right system response to an expressed need?
 - Do we know?
- **It is important for policy and practice reasons to define whom you are serving and whom you are not**
 - Limit duplication
 - Generate greater communication among systems
 - Focus scarce resources

Other Considerations in Defining the Target Population

- What types of youth and family needs can best be met by your status offender system?
- What are the desired outcomes for the families served and the agencies that serve them?
- What types of youth and family needs are not currently being adequately addressed by other systems?
- What are our unique local needs/limitations?
 - Look at your capacity in light of your chosen model: how many kids can you serve *well*. (It is better to choose a model and serve a narrow population well within that model than to do a weaker job with more kids).

Model Target Population

- Approximately 10 – 17 years old
- Chronically truant
- Running away
- Chronically acting out beyond the reasonable and lawful control of his/her caretakers (e.g. “ungovernable, incorrigible”)
- Abusing drugs or alcohol
- If being referred from school, already in receipt of all of the school’s available internal resources to address the problem(s).
- Not currently involved in another system (e.g. delinquency, child welfare)
- Not yet involved in delinquent behavior, but at risk of escalation to that level
- Not yet involved in the child welfare system, but at risk of escalation to that level

National Example: Florida FINS System

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

Overview Florida's System for Status Offenders

- The Target Population is older children and teens and viewed as distinct from dependent, delinquent, mental health, disabled or substance abuse populations—15,000 served each year
- Services have been privatized—not delivered by operations/program units or employees of government for over 20 years
- Government's role is to fund & oversee contracts and quality of services—via data and on-site reviews
- Florida is recognized as a national model (OJJDP) for serving status offenders and their families

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 .”

Overview Florida's System for Status Offenders

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

Overview Florida's System for Status Offenders

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.)

Florida CHINS Statute

- **Child in Need of Services - S. 984.03(9), F.S.**
- Child (10-17) who has been found by the court to be:
 1. Ungovernable
 2. Truant; and/or
 3. Runaway

AND DOES NOT HAVE:

- 1. Referral for Delinquency
 2. Investigation for abuse, abandonment or neglect
 3. Supervision for Dependency; or
 4. Supervision for Delinquency

Relevant Louisiana FINS Data

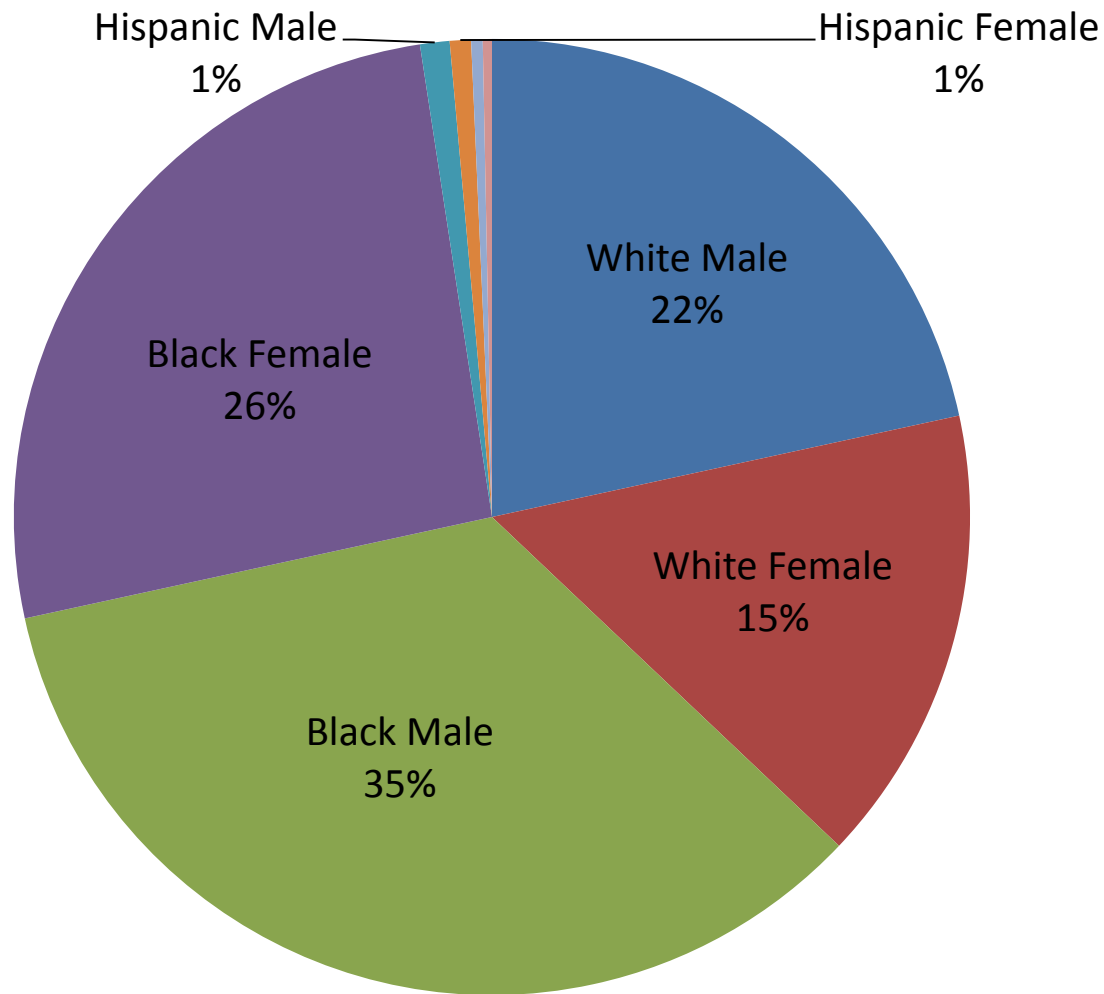
2010 Informal FINS Admissions (FINS-AP)

- 11,269 Informal FINS referrals
- 58% Male, 42% Female
- 61% Black, 37% White, 1.7% Hispanic
- Average Age = 13.29
- Average Grade = 7th

*This information was taken directly from the 2010 report completed by the Supreme Court. For access to the larger report, please contact Lynette Adams at ladams@lajoa.org.

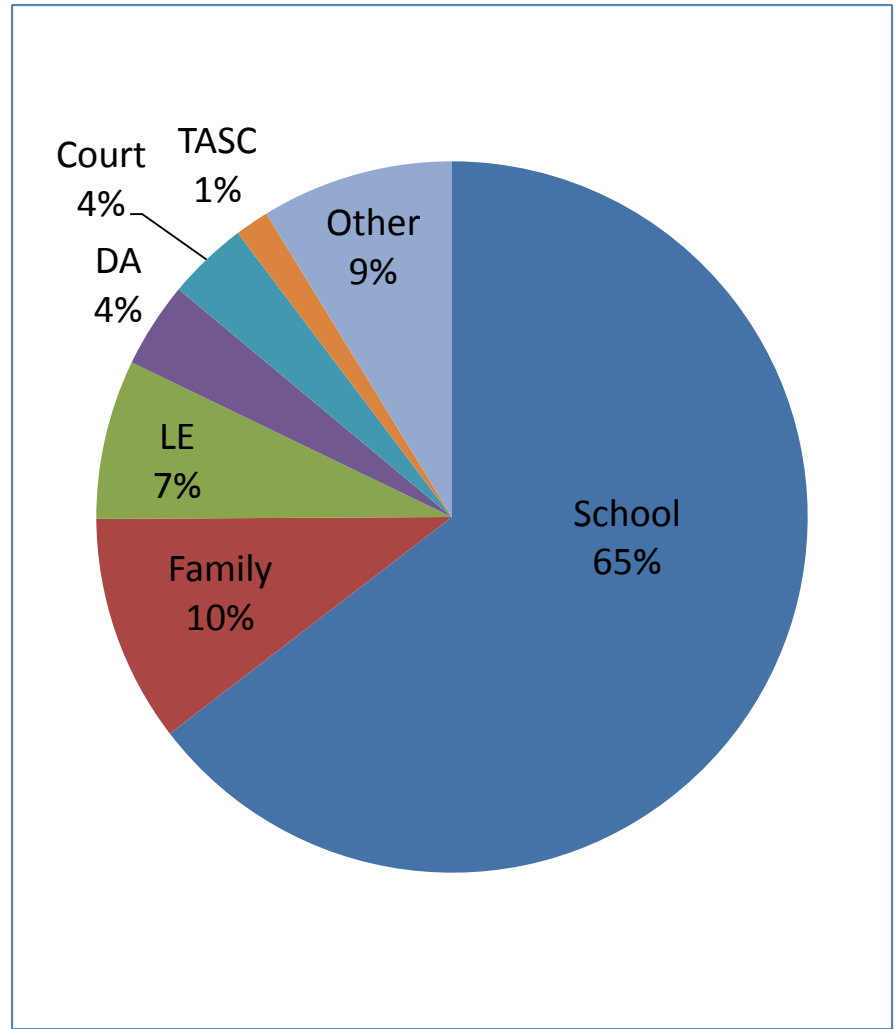
** The data included in this report came from FINS-AP, the Supreme Court's data base used for tracking Informal FINS cases statewide.

Race and Gender Breakdown of 2010 Informal FINS Referrals (n=11,269)

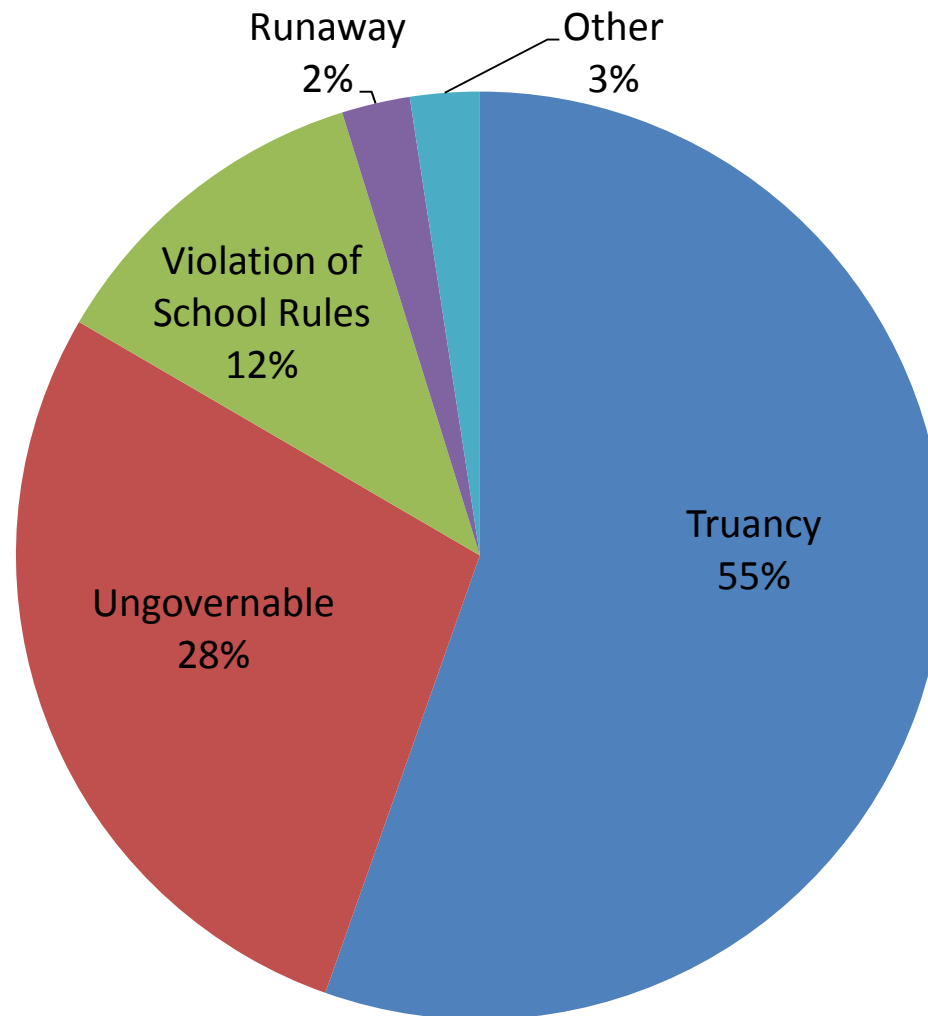


Informal FINS Referral Source (n=11,269)

	#of Referrals	% of Referrals
School	7672	68.1
Family	1228	10.9
Law Enforcement (LE)	860	7.6
District Attorney (DA)	463	4.1
Court	435	3.9
TASC	183	1.6
School Social Worker	117	1.0
FINS	70	0.6
OCS	56	0.5
Mental Health	34	0.3
Social Worker	23	0.2
Other	128	1.1

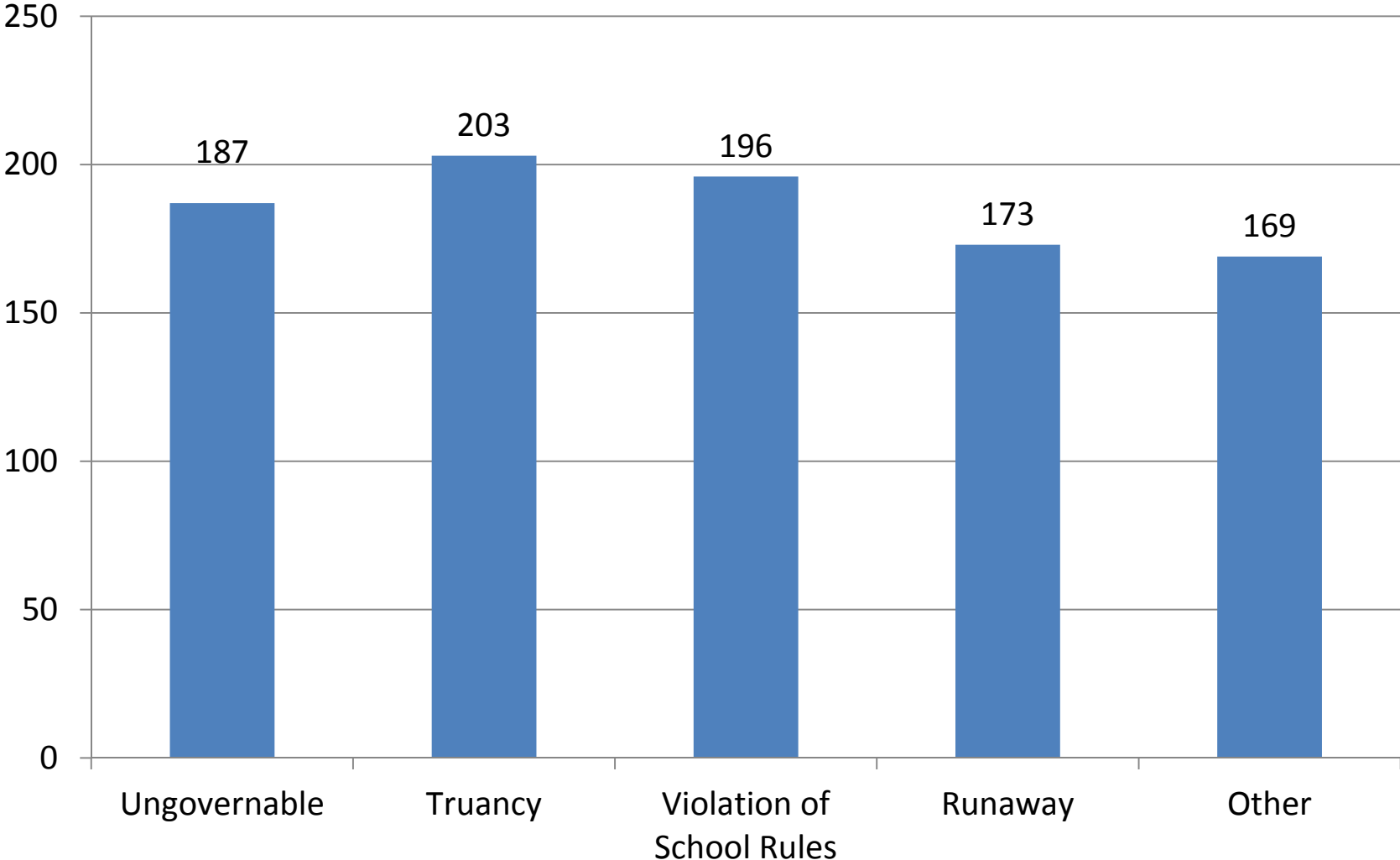


Primary Problem Behavior (n=11,269)

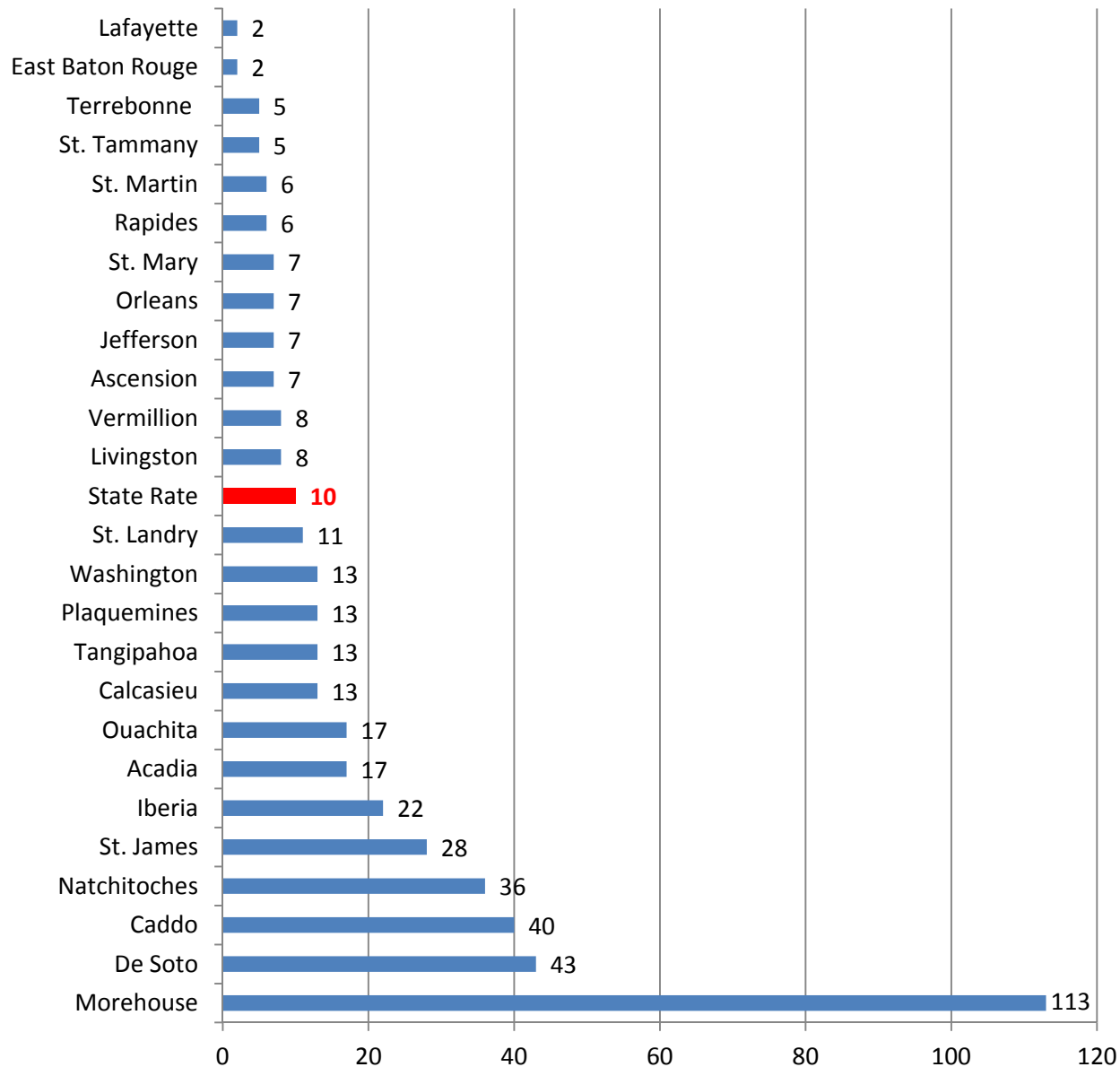


* Average number of behaviors = 1.22

Average Length of Informal FINS Involvement (in days) (n = 8,671)



Rate of Informal FINS Referrals by Parish



- 25 parishes accounted for 89% of Informal FINS Referral
- Ungovernable was the most common behavior in 30 parishes ; truancy was the most common behavior in 27 parishes
- The school system was the most referral source in 49 parishes

Louisiana Models for Change: Rapides Parish

The MacArthur Foundation awarded Rapides Parish with a grant in 2007 focusing on 3 targeted areas of improvement:

- ❖ **Address Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)**
- ❖ **Expand & improve access to Evidence Based Practices (EBP)**
- ❖ **Provide Alternatives to Formal Processing (AFP) through effective community-based programs & services.**

Our referral sources began utilizing Informal FINS as an alternative to formal processing, resulting in an increase in the number of referrals to the Informal FINS program.

Rapides Parish Louisiana Models for Change Work

Further review & analysis of our Informal FINS data revealed that FINS tended to be over-used by providers and law enforcement as a “quick fix” response to youth and their families.

Rapides set out on a mission to educate our referral sources (schools, service providers, law enforcement) on the FINS referral criteria for appropriate referrals.

- ❖ School Exhaustion Form**
- ❖ Intake Eligibility Criteria**

**Families in Need of Service School Exhaustion Form
726 Washington St Alexandria, La 71301**

318-445-8084 ----- **Fax: 318-445-7297**

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Age: _____

Sex: ___ Race: Caucasian, African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Native America Other: _____

Child's SS#: ___ - ___ - ___ School Attending: _____ Grade: _____

Special Education: (Y) or (N) Classification: _____ School ID: _____

Legal Guardian(s) : _____ Relationship: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: ___ Zip: _____

Students Physical Address: _____ City: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Work Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Article 730 Grounds from the Louisiana Children's Code: Allegations that a family is in need of services **must** fall in one or more of these following categories: Be specific as possible. School officials must use articles 730.1 or 730.8.

DATE: ___/___/___

___ 730.1 Minor child violate school rules and/or Minor is Truant.

Total Absent ___ Days Excused ___ (Please note: Suspensions are not excused absences / Letters from home do not excuse attendance)

___ 730.2 Minor child is ungovernable.

___ 730.3 Minor child is a runaway.

___ 730.4 Minor has repeatedly possessed or consumed intoxicating beverages, misrepresented age to purchase such beverages or repeatedly loitered around a place that sells such beverages.

___ 730.5 Minor child has committed an offense applicable only to children. (ex. Curfew, under age drinking, tattooed)

___ 730.6 Minor child under 10 years of age committed an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

___ 730.7 The Caretaker causes, contributed to the minor child's behavior. (Coupled with allegations of child's misconduct)

___ 730.8 The Caretaker refused to attend a meeting with the child's teacher, school principal, or other employee regarding truancy, violation of school rules or other educational problems.

___ 730.9 Child incompetent to proceed with a delinquency matter under Article 832

___ 730.10 Child found to be in possession of a handgun

___ 730.11 Child found to be engaged in cyberbullying

Additional Information: (Please describe behavior and tell us what services you think the child needs.)

Completed by: _____ Your Title: _____ Phone: _____

Possible Measures Taken: (at least 3 of these must be checked with 2 being behaviorstrategist/counselor and talked to parent)

___ Administrator/s talked with student (Date: ___/___/___)	Number of ISS/Out Suspensions: _____
___ Called and talked with guardian (Date: ___/___/___)	1. _____
___ Sent letter (Date: ___/___/___)	2. _____
___ Home visit (Date: ___/___/___)	3. _____
___ Had meeting with guardian (Date: ___/___/___)	___ Child was expelled:
___ Child talked to SRO (Date: ___/___/___)	Notes: _____
___ Turned in to Child Welfare Attendance Office (Date: ___/___/___)	_____
___ Counseled by School Counselor (Name: _____)	_____
___ Referred to Behavior Strategist (Special Ed.)	_____
___ Referred to School-Based Health	
___ Referred to _____ (Date: ___/___/___)	

++ Must attach: Discipline, Demographic and Attendance records ++ 4/11/2011ck

Families In Need of Services Complaint Criteria

In addition to completion of the check list of Louisiana Children's Codes, two additional attempts must be made by the Rapides Parish School System before the child is eligible for referral to the FINS Office:

- (1) The parents must be notified of the problem verbally and made aware that the child is at risk of being turned over to the FINS Office.**
- (2) The child must have been referred to one of the following:**
 - 1. Behavior Strategist, if classified Special Ed.**
 - 2. School Counselor, if in regular education classes**

The school counselor and/or behavior strategist, after speaking with the child, can make the recommendation to the FINS Office.

Below is our contact information:

**Families In Need of Services
201 Johnston St
Alexandria, La 71301**

Christy Kelley
318.445.8084 ext 217
Title: Primary FINS Officer, Supervisor (full time)

Derrick Kirk
318.445.8084 ext 216
Title: FINS Officer (full time)

Ground for Referral to FINS:

730.1 Minor child violate school rules and/or Minor is Truant.

730.2 Minor child is ungovernable.

- Truant reported by parent
- school related issues reported by parent
- relocation
- runaway
- substance abuse
- beyond parental control
- stealing
- lying
- peer issues
- anger
- eating/sleeping
- depression
- violent

730.3 Minor child is a runaway.

730.4 Minor has repeatedly possessed or consumed intoxicating beverages, misrepresented age to purchase such beverages or repeatedly loitered around a place that sells such beverages.

730.5 Minor child has committed an offense applicable only to children. (ex. Curfew, under age drinking, tattooed)

730.6 Minor child under 10 years of age committed an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

730.7 The Caretaker causes, contributed to the minor child's behavior. (Coupled with allegations of child's misconduct)

730.8 The Caretaker refused to attend a meeting with the child's teacher, school principal, or other employee regarding truancy, violation of school rules or other educational problems.

730.9 Child incompetent to proceed with a delinquency matter under Article 832

730.10 Child found to be in possession of a handgun

730.11 Child found to be engaged in cyber-bullying

CRITERIA TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY:

- ❖ Grounds listed in Children's Code Article 730.
- ❖ *Child is under 17 years of age.*
- ❖ Would complaint be handled better by another agency?
- ❖ Should complaint be referred to FINS Formal Process or other formal court process?
- ❖ Does the primary child live within the jurisdiction?
- ❖ *Youth under the age of 17 who meet the FINS criteria are eligible for judicial intervention following an attempt to engage and serve the youth and family within the FINS continuum.*
- ❖ Some youth may be inappropriate for certain FINS services due to behaviors that may create a danger for themselves and others. These youth will be provided with screening and appropriate referrals.

Families In Need of Services Complaint Criteria for school-aged youth:

In addition to completion of the Louisiana Children's Code checklist, two additional attempts must be made by the Rapides Parish School System before the child is eligible for referral to the FINS Office:

- (1) The parents must be verbally notified of the problem and made aware that the child is at risk of being turned over to the FINS Office.
- (2) The child must have been referred to one of the following:

Behavior Strategist, if classified Special Ed.

Behavior Intervention Specialist, if in regular education classes

The school Behavior Intervention Specialist and/or behavior strategist, after speaking with the child, can make the recommendation to the FINS Office.

Families In Need of Services Complaint Criteria for Law

Enforcement Agencies:

- ❖ In addition to meeting criteria of the Louisiana Children's Code for status offenders, attempts must be made by the Rapides Parish Law Enforcement agencies before the youth is eligible for referral to the FINS Office:
- ❖ The parents/guardian of the minor must be notified of the offense verbally and be made aware that the juvenile is at risk of being turned over to Juvenile Court system.
- ❖ Youth and parent must be counseled and voluntarily agree to a FINS referral in lieu of juvenile court.
- ❖ The Law Enforcement agency must submit demographic information and the incident report to the FINS Office.

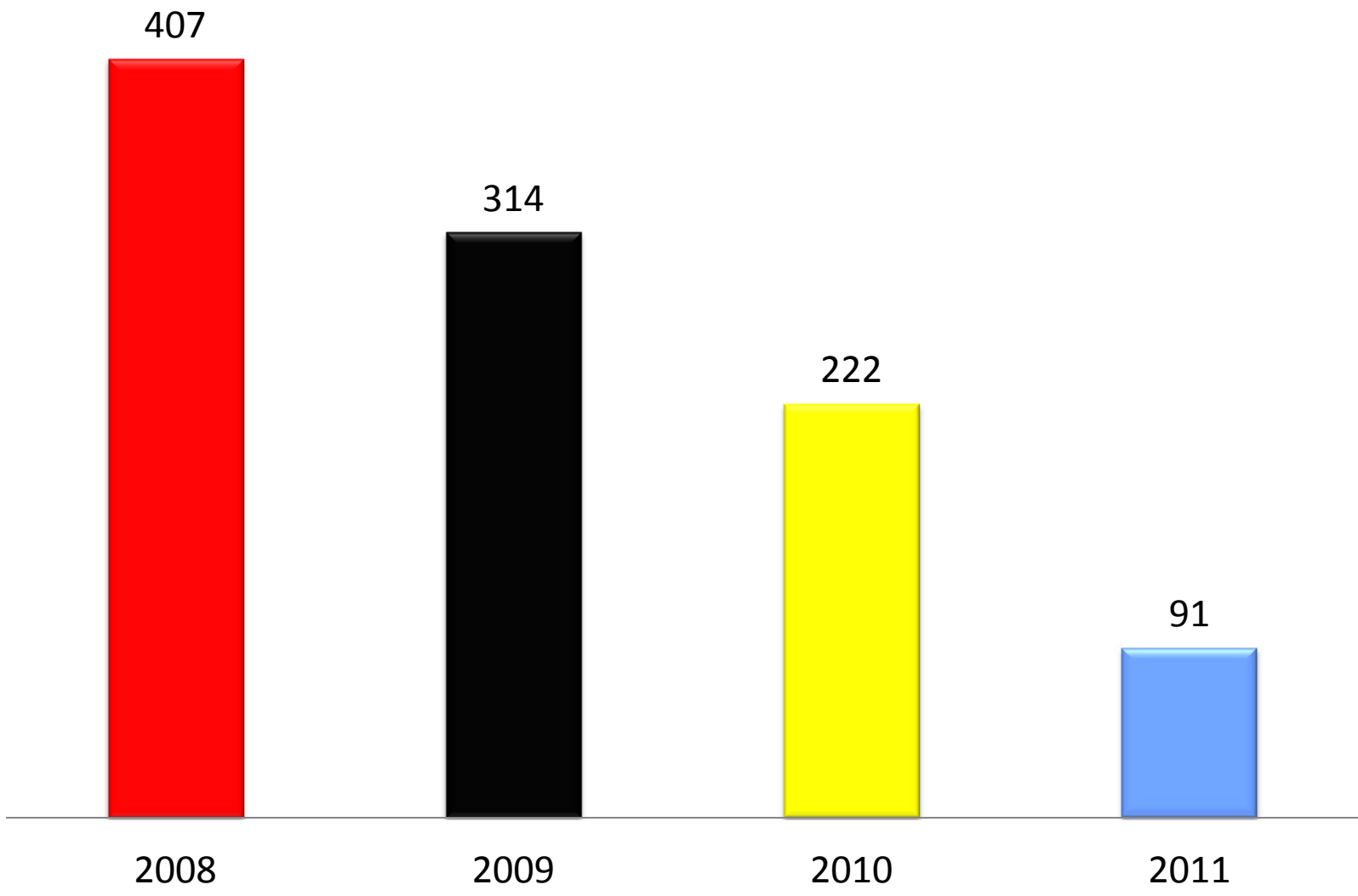
Families In Need of Services Complaint Criteria for DCFS:

- Families receiving services with the Department of Children and Family Services are ineligible for Informal FINS Services.
- The youth, if residing with a legal guardian, can be considered for Informal FINS services upon release from DCFS monitoring.

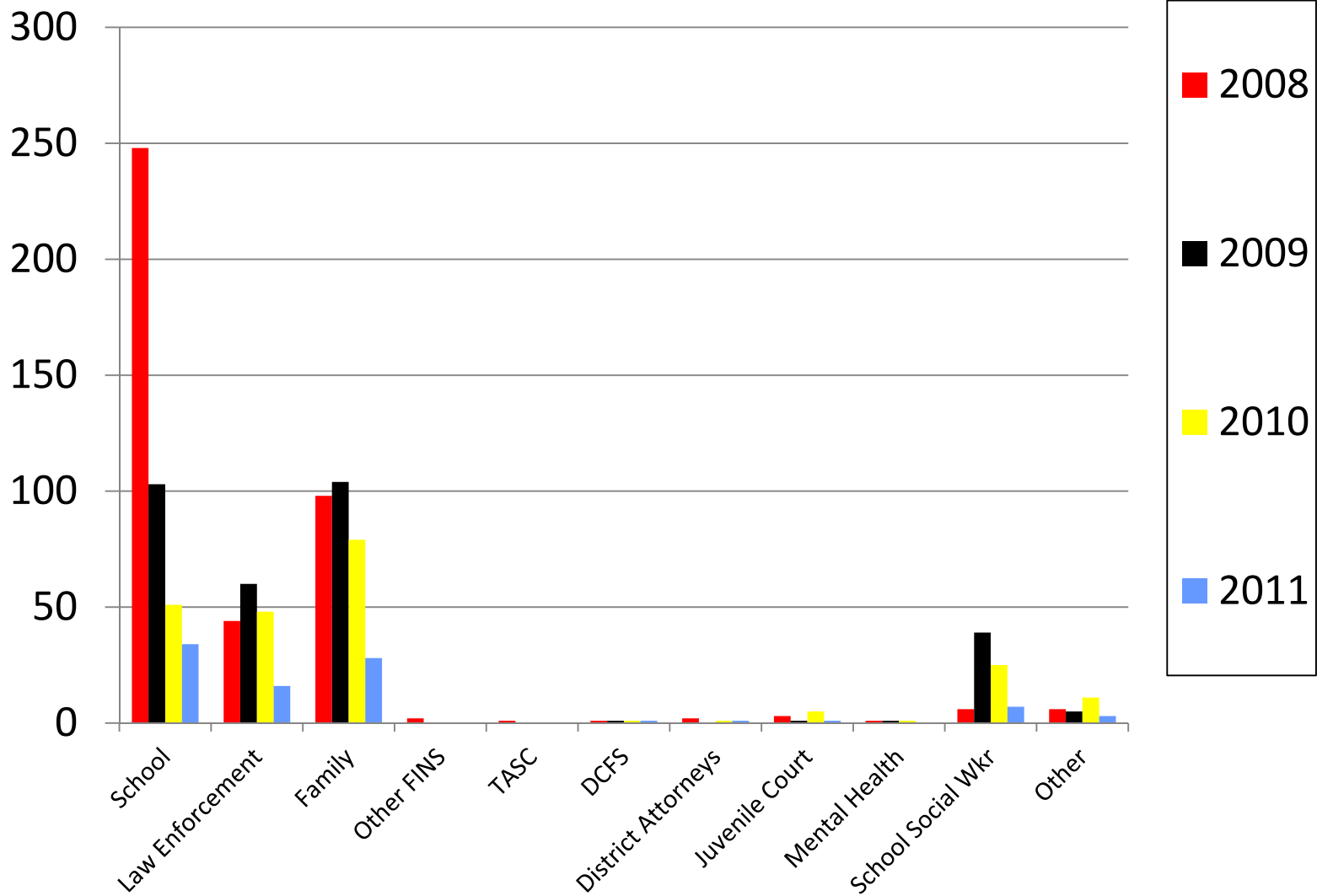
**Families In Need of Services Complaint Criteria for
Mental Health Providers and other referral agencies:**

- In addition to completion of the Louisiana Children's Code checklist, attempts must be made by the agencies before the child is eligible for referral to the FINS Office.
- The family must agree to attend a meeting with the Families In Need of Services office and be willing to engage in services to which they are referred.

Complaints Received



Informal FINS Complaint Source



Targeting the Informal FINS population through the use of the School Exhaustion Form and Adherence to Eligibility Criteria has resulted in the following:

- ❖ Law Enforcement: Improved Counsel & Release efforts with an increase in referrals to MST.
- ❖ Schools: Improved Positive Behavioral Supports within the school, increased referrals to MST, and increased Interagency Service Coordination (ISC) efforts.
- ❖ Fewer admissions to Secure Detention.
- ❖ Fewer youth sent to court for Formal Processing.
- ❖ A shift in the community's mindset from viewing Informal FINS as a stepping stone to propel youth toward Formal Processing, to instead as a triage service for Status Offenders who meet the Informal FINS criteria.

Other Observations...

Those youth who are placed in Secure Detention and/or appear in Formal Court, are identified as high-needs youth who require access to services that will appropriately address their presenting challenges.

Looking Forward...

Rapides Parish looks forward to continued partnerships with Community Providers, Educators, and Law Enforcement to ensure that youth and families are adequately referred & assessed, resulting in needs being sufficiently addressed & met across all systems.

Louisiana Models for Change: Calcasieu Parish

Calcasieu Parish MARC

Multi-Agency Resource Center

- The center is a collaborative project of the Calcasieu Parish Office of Juvenile Justice Services and the Calcasieu Children and Youth Planning Board.
- The goal is to provide a single entry and service point for youth and families receiving juvenile services in the parish. The Office of Juvenile Justice Services serves as lead agency for MARC with technical assistance provided by the MacArthur Foundation.

Calcasieu Parish MARC

- **FINS Process:**

MARC provides the single point of entry to FINS referrals. However, the MARC also serves as a resource for all families and youth for any type of assistance. If the need of the family does not meet the FINS criteria, the family is provided informational resources or referrals to the most appropriate service provider.

- **Goals of MARC:**

- Provide youth and families with a single access point.
- Provide on-site screening and assessments of youth.
- Reduce law enforcement processing times.
- Reduce time between arrest and intake.
- Coordinated services
- Promote public safety and wellbeing.

Calcasieu Parish MARC

Target Population:

Delinquent Offenders:

- 10-17 years old
- Detention Screening Instrument non-secure recommendation

Status Offenders:

- Runaway
- Truants
- Ungovernable
- other FINS criteria

Calcasieu Parish WTF

Working Together for Families (WTF) Staffing Process

- *Working Together for Families* is an interagency collaboration designed to provide cooperative case management services to families involved in Calcasieu Parish's juvenile justice and child welfare systems.
- The three agencies involved are: **The Calcasieu Office of Juvenile Justice Services, Department of Children and Family Services** and the **Office of Juvenile Justice**.
- The primary feature of this collaborative effort is proactive, interagency staffing that serve as a forum for front line and management staff of WTF agencies to assess and address the needs of shared clients to promote safety, family maintenance, and permanency for children.

Calcasieu Parish WTF

Core Group Duties:

- The core group plans and conducts all WTF activities.
- The core group includes three members from each participating agency plus a Project Manager.
- The success of the program relies heavily on the commitment of the core group members.
- The commitment of the core group members will be almost totally dependent on the support and encouragement they receive from their local office leaders.

Minimum Requirements for WTF Referral

- The minimum requirement for referral of a case to a WTF staffing is that the referred client must be shared by at least two of the three WTF agencies (OCS, OJJS, and OYD).

Calcasieu Parish WTF

Who Makes Referrals to WTF Program

- Case Managers from any of the three participating agencies may request a WTF referral. Case referral requests are accomplished by completing a WTF referral form.

Primary Goals:

- Assessment Information Sharing – review and discussion of available psychosocial assessment information gathered from all agencies to aid in the treatment-planning phase of case management.
- Coordination of Services – develop a written plan of services that will be provided by the participating WTF agencies.
- Transition Planning – develop advanced plans that promote seamless service delivery for children that will (or likely will) transition from one primary agency to another.

Calcasieu Parish FINS DATA (2010)

- Total referrals received in 2010 : **897**
- Total number of commitments to OJJ: **0*** (last commitment to OJJ of FINS youth was in 2005)
- Of the 897 referrals received 35 were adjudicated: **4 %**

Calcasieu Parish FINS DATA (2010)

Referral by Source

Calcasieu Parish FINS DATA (2010)

Referral by Age	
4	1
5	58
6	56
7	54
8	45
9	51
10	45
11	54
12	58
13	78
14	114
15	134
16	125
17	24
Total	897

Calcasieu Parish FINS DATA (2010)

Referral by Race/Sex	
AMERICAN INDIAN MALE	1
ASIAN FEMALE	2
ASIAN MALE	2
BLACK FEMALE	213
BLACK MALE	211
HISPANIC/LATINO FEMALE	6
HISPANIC/LATINO MALE	6
OTHER FEMALE	2
OTHER MALE	1
WHITE FEMALE	211
WHITE MALE	242
Total	897

Questions