

CROSSOVER YOUTH

Youth with Dependency and Delinquency Issues

Presented by:

Laurie Judd, CRB Field Manager

Walt Gullett, CRB Field Manager

What is a “Crossover Youth”?

- **Crossover Youth**: Youth who has experienced maltreatment and engaged in delinquent acts. Youth involved in both the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare systems.
- **Dually-involved**: Youth with single jurisdiction (dependency or delinquency) but receives services from both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- **Dually-adjudicated Youth**: Youth with dependency adjudication and delinquency adjudication.

The Population in General

- Often lost between two or more agencies
- Require more services than the average foster child
- Require extensive coordinated plans involving two or more agencies
- Deserve appropriate services and case plans to have a chance at success
- Without appropriate services many will experience criminal and societal problems both in foster care and as adults

Demographics

Depending on your county, crossover youth represent between 9-29% of substitute care population and exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:

- Experienced abuse and neglect
- Numerous foster care placements
- Several delinquency acts prior to adjudication
- School problems (*40% dropout, suspensions, expulsions, truancy*)
- Mental health issues
- Substance abuse problems
- Negative peer group

Characteristics

- Most enter DHS care as a child due to parental abuse or neglect with a goal of reunification, but stay in care through adolescence with a goal of APPLA
- Some enter care due to a delinquent act
- Most are abused or neglected and the maltreatment is often severe and/or on-going
- Stay in foster care a long time – most age out at 18
- Numerous placement disruptions
- More males than females, but in the last 10 years the male population rate has been constant while the female rate has increased every year
- African-American youth are over-represented in some counties

After Substitute Care

Within 12 months of exit from foster care:

- 50% will be arrested one or more times
- 60% will be homeless at least one day
- 50% will be unemployed at least one day
- Group unemployment rate at least 20%

As a Group:

- 50% will earn a diploma or GED
- 3 X more likely than general population to have substance abuse and/or mental health problems

Pathway to Delinquency

- Minor delinquent behavior = 7 years of age
- Moderately delinquent behavior = 9.5 years of age
(*might be dual-involved but most = DHS only*)
- Increasingly serious delinquent acts = 12 years of age
(*dually-involved – DHS and Juvenile Department services, accountability agreement*)
- Delinquency adjudication = 14.5 years of age
(*probation services, DHS services and placement*)



What acts could transfer a youth to OYA or adult court?

Ages 7-14: Statistically the “Window of Opportunity”

KEYS to Positive Outcome:

- Early identification of Risk Factors
- Early identification of Protective Factors
- Specific Recommendations to reduce risk factors
- Specific Recommendations to increase protective factors

CRB Role:

- Identify risk factors and protective factors
- Recommendations that increase protective factors and decrease risk factors

**GROUP WORK: Which youth has the best chance of success? Why?
What specifically might allow each youth to be successful?**

Tommy

Parents: Methamphetamine use, domestic violence, physical abuse of Tommy (ages 5-9)

Tommy: Enters care at 9, has contact with grandmother, like golf

- Anger and behavior problems escalate - numerous placements
- At 10 skipping school - 11 using marijuana -12 suspended four times for fighting
- At 14 adjudicated for theft and drug possession

Billy

Parents: Whereabouts unknown, entered care from aunt's home due to constantly hitting other kids and out-of-control behavior

Billy: Enters care at 6 - counseling is successful

- Medication management has helped – IEP – Mentor
- Likes baseball and video games
- At 12 suspended twice for fighting
- At 14 arrested for shoplifting

RISK FACTORS

Predictors of Problem Behavior

- Child abuse and neglect – often severe and on-going
- Numerous placements – escalating levels of care
- Lack of appropriate or timely services
- Stay in foster care a long time
- Absence of social bonds (adults, school, peers, role models)
- Poor school performance (academics, behavior, truancy, dropout, negative peer group)
- Numerous delinquent acts prior to adjudication
- History of runaway behavior
- Drugs or alcohol

Group Work: What other Risk Factors can you think of?

Protective Factors

- Success in school (academics, sports, government, extra-curricular activities)
- Engages in community and cultural activities
- Positive peer group
- Positive connection with caseworker, probation officer, ILP, treatment providers, attorney, teachers, mentors, relatives
- Participates in service
- Attends court and CRB
- Agency to agency planning – appropriate services and funding

Group Work: What other Protective Factors can you think of?

What Works?

- Reduce Risk Factors
- Increase Protective Factors (*Most Critical Indicator*)
- New York Research: 80% of the youth with 5 or more risk factors and 5 or fewer protective factors committed delinquent acts
but
youth with 5 or fewer risk factors and 9 or more Protective Factors only offended at a rate of 22%
- Academic data is similar: Youth with 3 or fewer protective factors experienced a 40% success rate
but
youth with 9 or more protective factors achieved an 80% success rate

CRB Role - Finding #3

Appropriate services to safeguard safety, health and well-being

Group Discussion

- What can CRB do better/different regarding identification of Risk Factors?
- What can CRB do better/different regarding identification of Protective Factors?
- What are some questions you might ask during a review?
- What are some recommendations that you might make at a review?

Success Stories

- Marion County Model in association with Casey Foundation and Georgetown University
- Portland Project – Georgetown Model plus IVE delinquency
- Coos County: Youth Success Story

What do all of these have in common?

- Collaboration and sharing between agencies
- Cooperation between caseworkers, officers, attorneys, services providers, caregivers, family members
- One family one judge
- Focus on the youth's needs and timely services
- Avoid delay due to arguments over which agency should provide a service and fund the service

How Can CRB Utilize this Information?

- Share this information with other Board Members, agencies, partners, judges, Model Court Teams
- Make recommendations that increase Protective Factors
- Make recommendations that reduce Risk Factors
- Recommend agency to agency collaboration
- Encourage one family one judge
- Recommend that all agencies involved attend every CRB Review

THANK YOU!!

We hope you enjoyed the Conference!

Thank you so much for the work you do for the children and families of Oregon – you are AWESOME!!

Drive safe

We'll see you soon

Walt.L.Gullett@ojd.state.or.us

Laurie.L.Judd@ojd.state.or.us