

Three Agency Collaboration



The Intensive Preventive
Services Program in Wyoming
County involving DSS,
Probation, & Youth Bureau

Wyoming County Facts



- ❧ Rural 600 square miles 57% Farm Land
- ❧ Located between Buffalo and Rochester in WNY
- ❧ Total Population ~41,400
- ❧ 16 other NYS counties with similar demographics
- ❧ ~70 people per square mile
- ❧ ~9,600 youth - ~22% of population
- ❧ Median Household Income is ~ \$40,000
- ❧ ~11% live below poverty level
- ❧ Primarily Caucasian 92%
- ❧ 85% HS Graduates

Situation



✧ PINS children were being recommended for placement in foster homes or residential facilities, at a Family Court proceeding, by the County Probation Department, at a high cost to the local Department of Social Services.

PINS Youth



❧ Incurrigible/Ungovernable

❧ Truancy

❧ Runaway

❧ Possession of Marijuana

Types of Foster Care



☞ Regular Foster Care

☞ Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC)

Types of Residential Care



❧ Diagnostic Care

❧ Short-term residential

❧ Residential

The cost of care per day



☞ “Regular” foster care **is \$27.36 per day**

☞ “Therapeutic” foster care **is \$ 82.29 per day**

The cost of Residential Care



❧ Short term residential is	\$ 262.44
❧ Residential B1 is	\$ 316.66
❧ Residential B3 is	\$ 344.64
❧ Residential B5 is	\$ 458.18
❧ Diagnostic care is	\$ 316.66

Per day

Regular Foster Care for one month



$$\text{€} \$27.36 \times 30 \text{ days} = \$820$$

Regular Foster Care for one year

$$€ \$820 \times 12 \text{ mo} = \$9,849$$

Therapeutic Foster Care for one month



$$\text{€} \$82.29 \times 30 \text{ days} = \$2,468.70$$

Therapeutic Foster Care for one year

$$\text{⌘} \$2468.70 \times 12 = \$29,624.40$$

Diagnostic Foster Care for one month

$$\text{€ } \$316.66 \times 30 \text{ days} = \$9,499.80$$

Short-term residential for one month

∞ \$262.44 x 30 days = \$7,879.80 per mo

Short term residential for one year

\$7,879.00 x 12 mo = \$94,557

B1 Residential for one month

∞ \$316.66 x 30 days = \$ 9,499.80 per mo

B1 Residential for one year



$$\text{€} \$9,499.00 \times 12 \text{ mo} = \$ 133,997.00$$

B3 Residential for one month

∞ \$344.64 x 30 days \$10,339.20

B3 Residential for one year



$$\text{€} \$10,339.20 \times 12 \text{ mo} = \$124,070.00$$

B5 Residential for one month

$$\text{€} \$458.18 \times 30 \text{ days} = \quad \$13,745.40$$

B5 Residential for one year



$$\text{€} \$13,745.40 \times 12 = \$164,944.00$$

Readiness for change



As referrals increased, and costs of placements increased, both Probation & DSS were ready to consider alternatives to placement.

Options



Could casework with the child
and family prevent or
defer placement?

Staffing challenge



❧ Probation does not employ Caseworkers, but they did have a Family Court position, and DSS was funding that position.

❧ DSS could not re-assign a Caseworker for this task.

Caseworker needs



- ❧ The normal Casework method of monthly contact was deemed inadequate by both Probation & DSS.
- ❧ These kids & families needed more contact time; more *Intensive Casework* to attempt to avoid or defer placement.

Agency Directors identify a 3rd party

☞ In the course of solving this problem, the County Youth Bureau, was invited to join the discussion.

Resulting Action



- ❧ Youth Bureau identified a staff member who could add this new responsibility of *Intensive Casework* to her existing duties.
- ❧ Administrators of the 3 agencies came to agreement on cost sharing for this role.
- ❧ The Probation Department transferred \$5,000 from the Family Court staff position, funded by DSS, to the Youth Bureau to support the Intensive Caseworker position.

Year One



- ❧ Probation Department transferred \$5,000 from their Family Court position to the Youth Bureau to support the Intensive Caseworker position. A MOU was written & signed.
- ❧ Referrals were made by Probation to the Intensive Casework Program.
- ❧ All parties agreed to limit the referrals to 5 cases.
- ❧ Weekly contacts with families commenced.
- ❧ 6 Kids avoided placement year 1.

Year Two



☞ Two needs were identified:

- ☞ 1. Intensive Caseworker needed a method of entering case notes into the DSS system.
- ☞ 2. As a result of her weekly contacts, the Intensive Caseworker identified the need for some specialized services for the child.

Satisfying Needs



☞ We decided to “certify” the Intensive Caseworker by enrolling her in NYS Common Core Training- like all NYS full-time Caseworkers.

What was accomplished?



- ❧ The Intensive Caseworker could now enter case notes and Service Plans in the NYS Connections System As Caseworkers do across NYS. Case manager could log on & review progress notes at any time.

The 2nd Accomplishment



✧ The Intensive Caseworker could now request, through DSS, a customized contract with a specialized provider for the additional high-skill requirements needed. DSS has been “purchasing” these types of specialized services like Socio therapy or Skill building from Hillside Children’s Center, through formal contract.

Current Results



- ❧ 21 kids did not go into foster or residential placement.
- ❧ Youth Bureau enhanced their community value in the Human Service field and identified a funding stream for the Intensive Caseworker position (DSS)
- ❧ Probation has a viable alternative to foster or residential placement.



Case Study

Final Thoughts



What this means for:

❧ DSS

❧ Probation

❧ Youth Bureau



**This worked for us,
can it work for you?**

Contact Information



☞ Andrea Aldinger Director Wyoming County Youth Bureau
aaldinger@wyomingco.net (585) 786-8850

☞ Gordon Lew, Case Supervisor Wyoming County DSS
gordon.lew@dfa.ny.us (585) 786-8900

☞ Tonya Clester, Probation Supervisor Wyoming County Probation
tclester@wyomingco.net (585) 786-8869

☞ Jamie Hudson, Caseworker/ Program Coordinator
jhudson@wyomingco.net (585) 786-8850