



Public-Private Partnership in Preventing and Addressing Youth Homelessness

A JOINT PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES (DCF) AND YOUTH CONTINUUM



DCF Adolescent Services

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REGION 2 – NEW HAVEN AND MILFORD

DCF Adolescent Services:

- ▶ DCF Services Post Majority (18-23 yrs old)
 - ▶ Youth in Services Post-Majority (SPM) cases shall be eligible to elect to receive continued support from DCF if one of the following criteria is met:
 - ▶ Youth is completing high school or equivalent credential program;
 - ▶ Youth is enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education;
 - ▶ Youth is participating in a program or activity designed to promote or to remove barriers to employment.

DCF Adolescent Services:

- ▶ DCF Services Post Majority (SPM) Benefits
 - ▶ CBLS Life Skills Provision and LIST Assessment
 - ▶ Daily Living, Social Relationships, Communication Skills, Self-Care, Work and Study, Career Planning, Finances, Health Care, Asset Building
 - ▶ Work to Learn Programs (W2L)
 - ▶ One-to-One Mentoring Program
 - ▶ Assistance with securing Driver's Permit/Driver's License
 - ▶ Summer Youth Employment

DCF Adolescent Services:

- ▶ DCF SPM Transitional Living Programs (Cont.)
 - ▶ Community Housing Assistance Program (CHAP)
 - ▶ *Youth reside in individual/shared apartments, boarding arrangements, or college dorms while pursuing a post-secondary education or vocational training program. Youth half way completed with a four year college degree at age 21 (in good academic standing) can continue receiving services until the semester in which they turn 23. Rent and living expenses subsidies provided.*
 - ▶ Community Housing Employment Enrichment Resources (CHEER).
 - ▶ *Open to youth with motivation and ability to pursue a post-secondary employment training and career development program. Rent and living expenses subsidies provided. Program length: 18 months*

DCF Adolescent Services:

- ▶ DCF SPM Transitional Living Programs (Cont.)
 - ▶ Transitional Living Programs (PASS, Maternity Homes, SWETP)
 - ▶ *Designed for youth to be able to practice their independent living skills within a supportive instructional and supervised setting*
 - ▶ Congregate Care
 - ▶ *Short-term treatment, strengths-based, developmentally appropriate, gender responsive, trauma-informed*

DCF Adolescent Services:

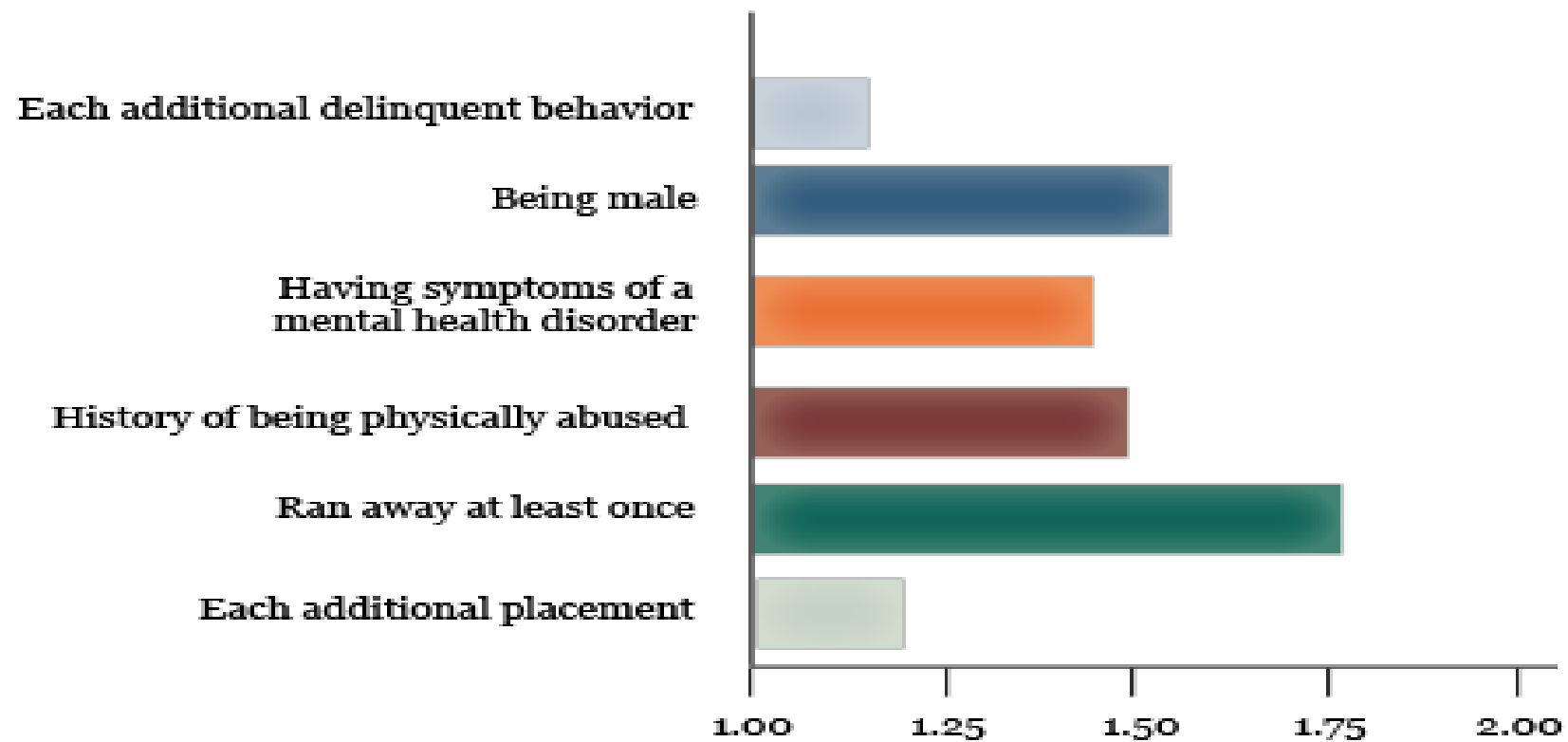
- ▶ DCF SPM Educational Benefits
 - ▶ Case management services and Educational Surrogate assignment (for students with IEP) to support graduation from high school (or equivalent) program
 - ▶ DCF Virtual Academy provides easily accessible online learning to all DCF middle school (remediation courses) and high school students (credit recovery) plus GED preparation courses.
 - ▶ Postsecondary Education (including vocational training/certification) Support and Funding

Permanency Team Meeting/ Transition Plan


- ▶ Child and Family Permanency Team (CF-PT) Model
 - ▶ Allows youth more agency and direction in their case planning as they are able to invite any relevant family members, support resources, professionals etc. to participate in team meetings and Administrative Case Reviews (ACR), and Transition Planning (DCF-2092)
- ▶ DMHAS/DDS Transition Planning
 - ▶ DMHAS eligible youth can transition between 18-21 years old
 - ▶ DDS eligible youth remain with DCF until 21st birthday

Chapin Hall, 2015:

Figure 2. Predictors of Homelessness among Youth Aging out of Foster Care



Each bar represents the increase in the relative risk of becoming homeless associated with that factor



DCF Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

VINCENT ESPINO

STATEWIDE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (YAB) &
NEW ENGLAND YOUTH COALITION (NEYC) LEADER

DCF YAB - Adolescent Needs Prior to Transitioning from Care (Jan. 2017)

Vocational Preparation and Training

- ▶ Awareness of available programs
- ▶ Internship connections
- ▶ Access to career preparation classes and services.
- ▶ Special consideration in applying for DCF employment.

DCF YAB - Adolescent Needs Prior to Transitioning from Care (Jan. 2017)

Secondary and Postsecondary Education

- ▶ Assistance building a competitive résumé
- ▶ Career Fair Access/Participation
- ▶ Extended Educational Financial Assistance Waiver Process

DCF YAB - Adolescent Needs Prior to Transitioning from Care (Jan. 2017)

Sufficient Transition Time

- ▶ Extension of up to 3 additional months for youth to transition from care into independence post PSE or vocational program completion

DCF YAB - Adolescent Needs Prior to Transitioning from Care (Jan. 2017)

Life Skills

- ▶ More preparation for adult situations
- ▶ Follow up life skills classes (opportunity to retake life skills modules or entire curriculum)
- ▶ Centralized LIST assessment access

DCF YAB - Adolescent Needs Prior to Transitioning from Care (Jan. 2017)

Finances

- ▶ Credit Education
- ▶ Matched Savings Accounts
- ▶ Financial Literacy Courses

DCF YAB - Adolescent Needs Prior to Transitioning from Care (Jan. 2017)

Social Support Networking / Transition Support

- ▶ Build supportive adult relationships (beyond DCF)
- ▶ Statewide Resources Database / Digital Access (smartphone app)
- ▶ Development of youth-in-care Alumni Program

DCF YAB - Adolescent Needs Prior to Transitioning from Care (Jan. 2017)

Accessing Social Services and Transitioning to Other State Agencies or Military

- ▶ Active youth participation in interagency transition planning
- ▶ DCF support of youth transitioning into armed forced duty
- ▶ Access to governmental and non-profit assistance programs
- ▶ Assistance accessing affordable housing

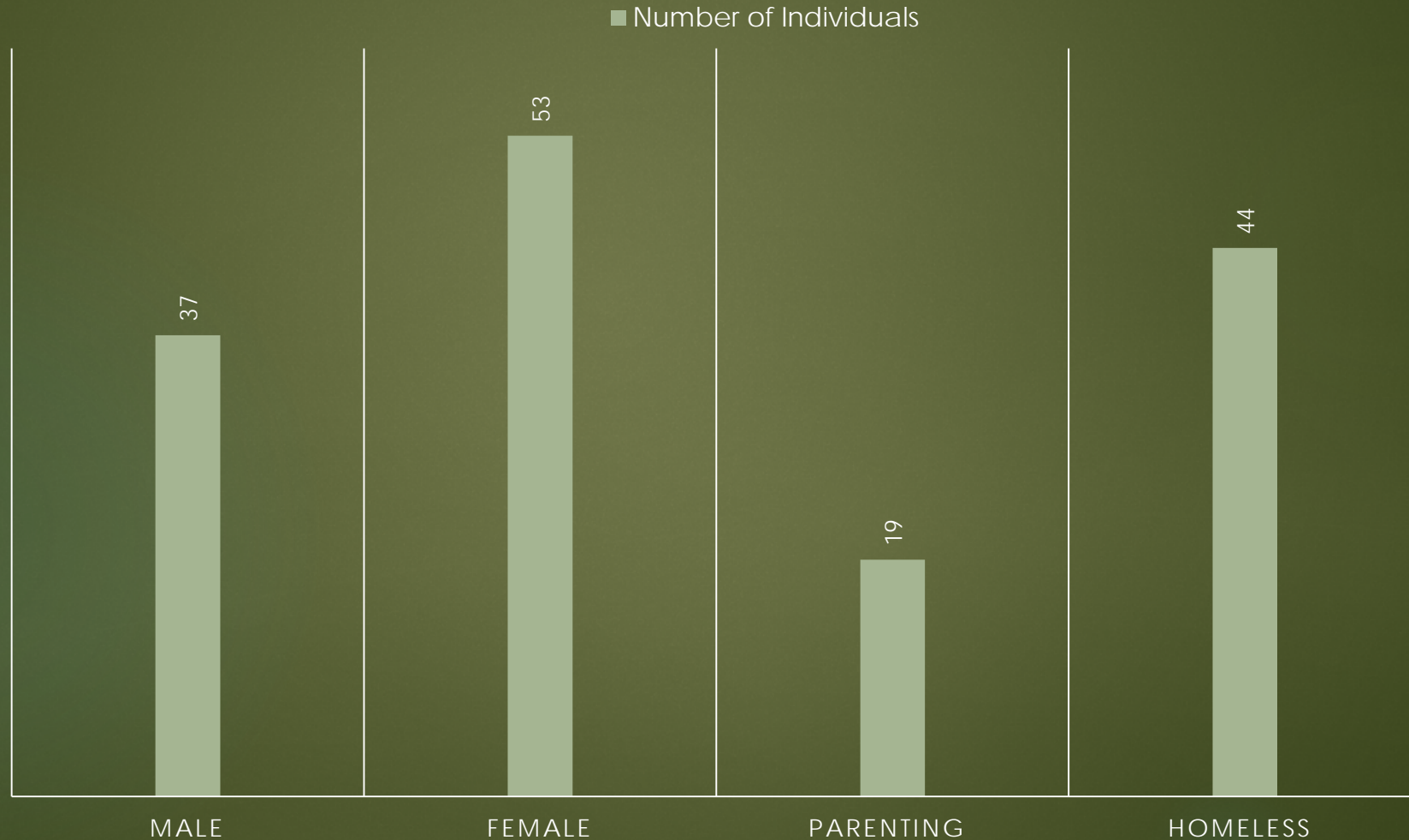


DCF Re-Entry Services

DCF Re-Entry Services Eligibility

- ▶ A youth may apply for Re-Entry to the Adolescent Services program if the youth:
 - ▶ Was committed to DCF at the time of their 18th birthday;
 - ▶ Has not participated in two postsecondary education or employment training programs while receiving DCF services
 - ▶ Case closed for at least 90 days
 - ▶ Has educational plan or employment
 - ▶ Not married
 - ▶ Not on active duty with any of the U.S. armed forces
 - ▶ Serious pending criminal charges or Probation can disqualify

Snapshot of what Youth look like who request Re-Entry Services



DCF Start Program

Program Components

- ▶ 2 year self-sufficiency track (statewide)
- ▶ Emergency Housing Services (Hartford area)
- ▶ Street/Community Outreach (Hartford area)

Overarching Tenants

- ▶ Positive Youth Development
- ▶ Trauma informed care
- ▶ Gender Responsive Care
- ▶ Developmentally appropriate
- ▶ "Allowing youth to fail safely"

Youth Continuum

ELIZABETH LARKIN