### Using a Continuum of Supportive Services in the Courtroom to Keep Youth and Young Adults Out of State Prison

Hon. Fernando Camacho Suffolk County ConcepTS Court

Presented to New York Association of Treatment Court Professionals

1

"Judge, Please help me. I am going to lose my child to the system."

Mother of a sixteen-year old in my Brooklyn courtroom almost 25 years ago.

2

### **Juvenile Treatment Court Model**

- ▶Enhanced Information Gathering
- ►Enhanced Resources
- ►Inter-Agency Communication and Collaboration
- ► Connections with Local Community Leaders

- ▶ 1. The Assessment Phase—"Why are you here kid?"
  - ▶ Enhanced Information Gathering
  - ▶ Initial screening for eligibility and need for immediate services
  - Thorough bio-psycho-social assessment including interviews with the youth, family members, friends, teachers and anyone else with relevant information
- 2. Support and Services Phase—"Let us help you kid."
  - ► Enhanced Resources Multidisciplinary planning and case management
- 3. The Compliance Phase—"How are you doing, kid?"
  - ► Regular Court Appearances
  - ► Inter-Agency Collaboration
  - ► All service providers will have submitted detailed compliance updates
- ▶ 4. The After-Care Phase—"We are still here for you kid."
  - ► Connecting with Community Leaders

4

# Phase 1-Assessment "Why Are You Here Kid?"

- ► Five Factors Commonly Associated with Court-Involved Youth & Young Adults
  - ► Homelessness and Family Environment
  - ► Substance Abuse
  - ▶ Mental Health
  - ▶ Education
  - ▶ Gangs

5

#### **Homelessness and Family Environment**

- ► Homeless Youth—Living in stolen cars, friend's couches, and abandoned buildings.
- ➤ Family Environment—Includes family conflict, poor discipline, parental rejection, lack of supervision or family rituals, poor family management and communication, sexual and physical abuse, use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by parents or siblings. \*
- Runners

\*Dr. Norman Miller, "Principles of Addiction and the Law."

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▶ Trauma and addiction are often linked to each other. Addiction frequently occurs as a result of trauma and related mental health disorders associated with trauma. Ample evidence has shown that childhood trauma compromises neural structure and function, rendering an individual susceptible to substance abuse. \*

\*Lamya Khoury, Yilang L Tang, Bekh Bradley, Joe F Cubells & Kerry J Ressler, *"Substance Use, Childhood Traumatic* 

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#### **Mental Health**

▶In 2018, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reported that 26% of prisoners in local jails met the criteria for having serious mental health conditions. Only five percent of the general population meets those criteria, according to the BJS.

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## **Education**

- **►**Truancy
- ▶ Undiagnosed Learning Disabilities
- ►Behavioral Issues

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According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry some children and adolescents are motivated to join a gang for a sense of connection or to define a new sense of who they are. Others are motivated because a family member also is in a gang.

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Insert Sherriff Video Here

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# Phase 2-Support and Services "Let us Help You Kid."

- ► Enhanced Resources
  - ▶ Clinical Team Meetings- Creating Multidisciplinary "Dream Team"
  - Accountability Identifying the Most Qualified and Successful Service Providers
  - ▶Safe Spaces Program

Phase	3-Co	mpliar	ice
"How Are	You	<b>Doing</b>	Kid?'

- Interagency Collaboration and Communication
  - ► Court Staff, DSS, OCFS, CPS, OMH, Probation, County Attorneys, AFC's, and School Districts create a *Network of Oversight and Support*

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## Phase 4-Aftercare "We Are Still Here For You Kid."

- ▶ Connecting with Local Community Leaders
- ▶Terry Smith Resource Center

14

### ConcepTS Court Treatment Model: Terry Smith

- ▶Enhanced Information Gathering
- ► Enhanced Resources
- Interagency Communication and Collaboration
- Connecting with Local Community Leaders

Sex Trafficking and the Courts  The Evolution of Human Trafficking Intervention Courts	
Insert GEMS Video Here	
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18

Questions?