



# Department of Human Services

## Mission

**“To improve the quality of life of Sussex County residents through an integrated approach to comprehensive services that meets the needs of individuals, families and communities.”**

**Stephen R. Gruchacz, M.P.A., CNHA, LNHA**  
*Administrator*

# Division of Community and Youth Services

## YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

### MISSION

*The Sussex County Youth Services Commission's mission is to advocate for an accessible, responsive, integrated and coordinated system of care for the specific needs of youth and families residing in Sussex County and to implement the duties and responsibilities set forth in the Bring Our Children Home Act and the Juvenile Justice Commission - Youth Services Commission. The priority population includes, at a minimum, youth with special social and emotional needs and/or juveniles involved or at risk of involvement in the Family Court.*

Melissa Latronica, MA  
*Division Director*

# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

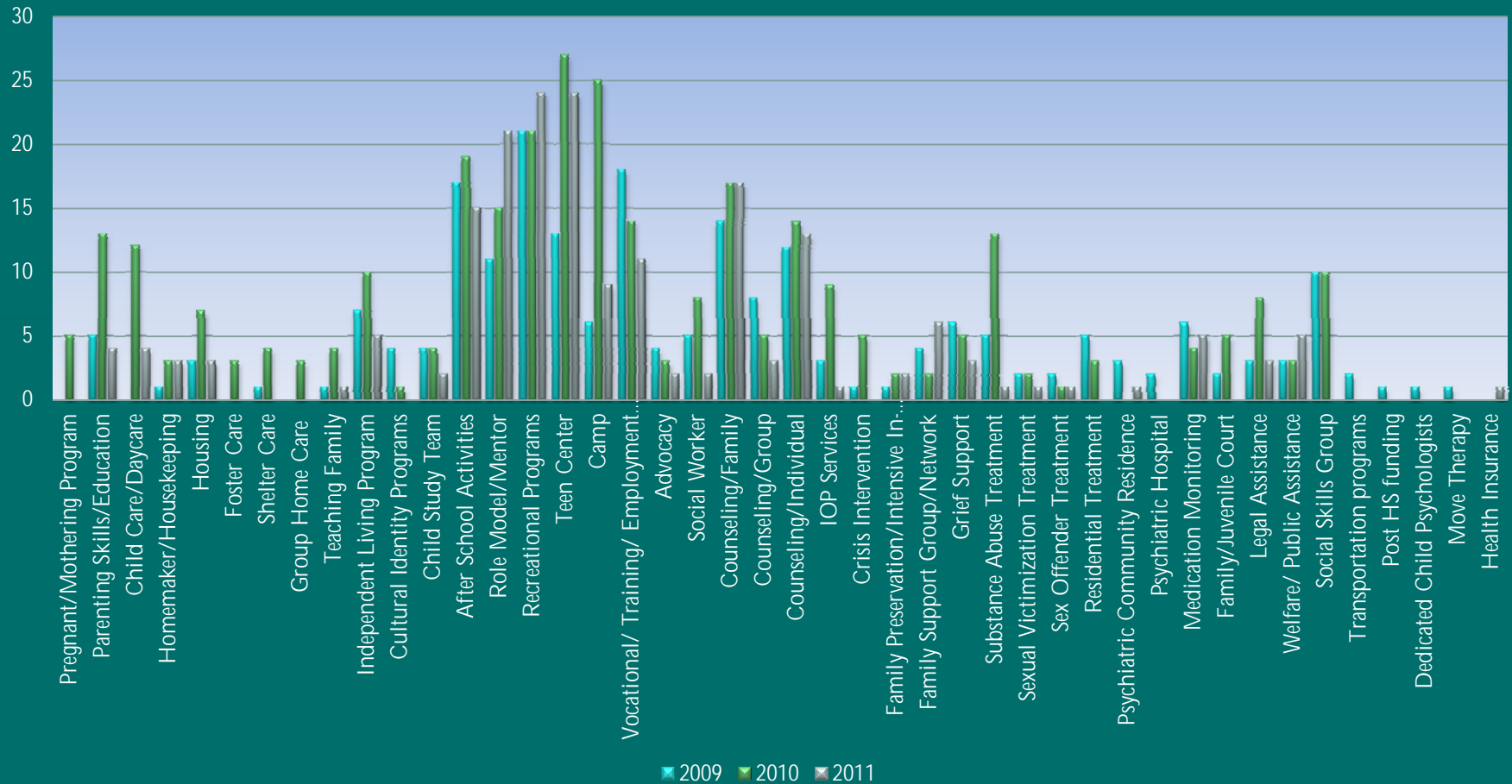
## What the data tells us?

### Prevention:

- **Overall decrease in juvenile arrests and school based incidents.**
  
- **Focus areas:**
  - Overall data has stayed consistent that alcohol and drug abuse offenses have consistently stayed a high ranking need for our community.
  
  - Survey data shows that 20% of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders have tried alcohol. Substance Abuse prevention remains a focus of the Youth Services Commission.
  
  - Family Management, neighborhood attachment and community organization are underdeveloped areas in our continuum of services.

# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

## Prevention: Community Service Needs



# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

## What the data tells us?

### Diversion:

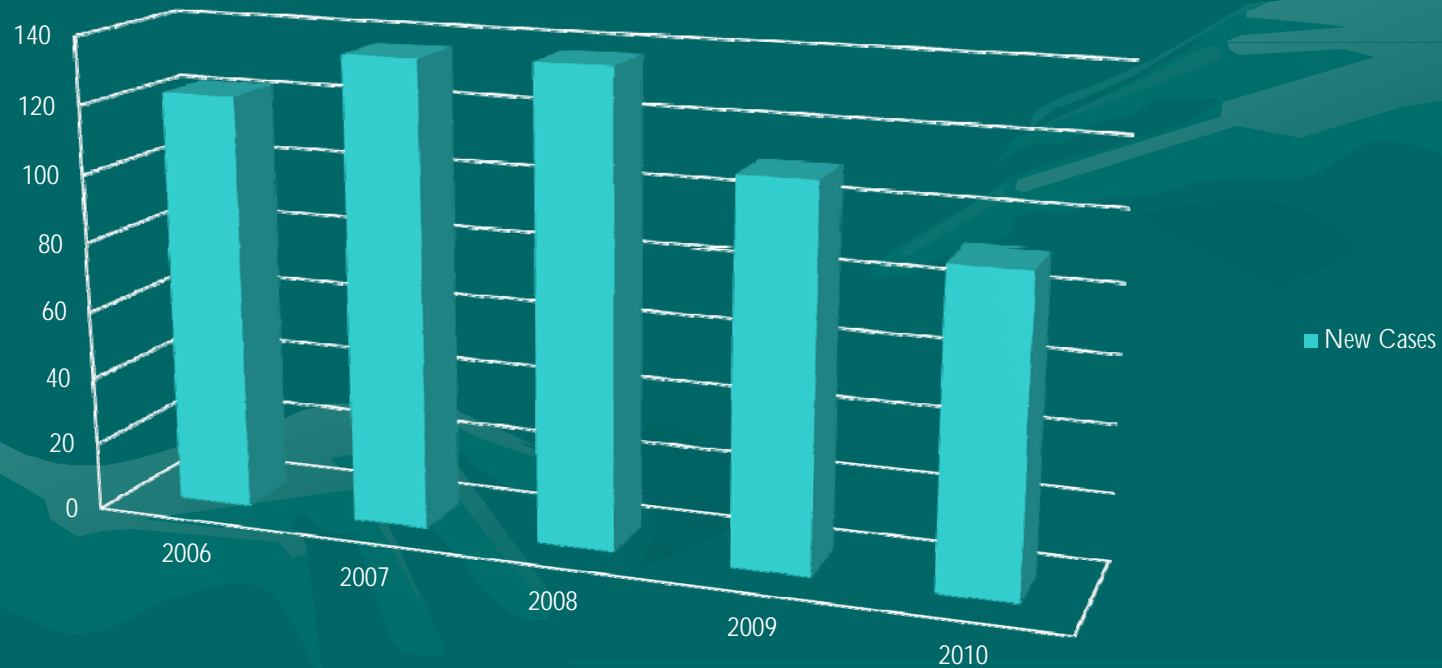
- Overall decrease in police dispositions of juveniles.
- Overall decrease in (Family Crisis Intervention Unit) FCIU cases.
- Slight increase in diversions to Substance Abuse Programs.
- Focus areas:
  - Overall data has stayed consistent that alcohol and drug abuse offenses have consistently stayed a high ranking need for our community.
  - There was an increase in unauthorized absences by a juvenile for more than 24 hours.

# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

## What the data tells us?

### Diversion:

Family Division Data - New Cases Filed (VOP)

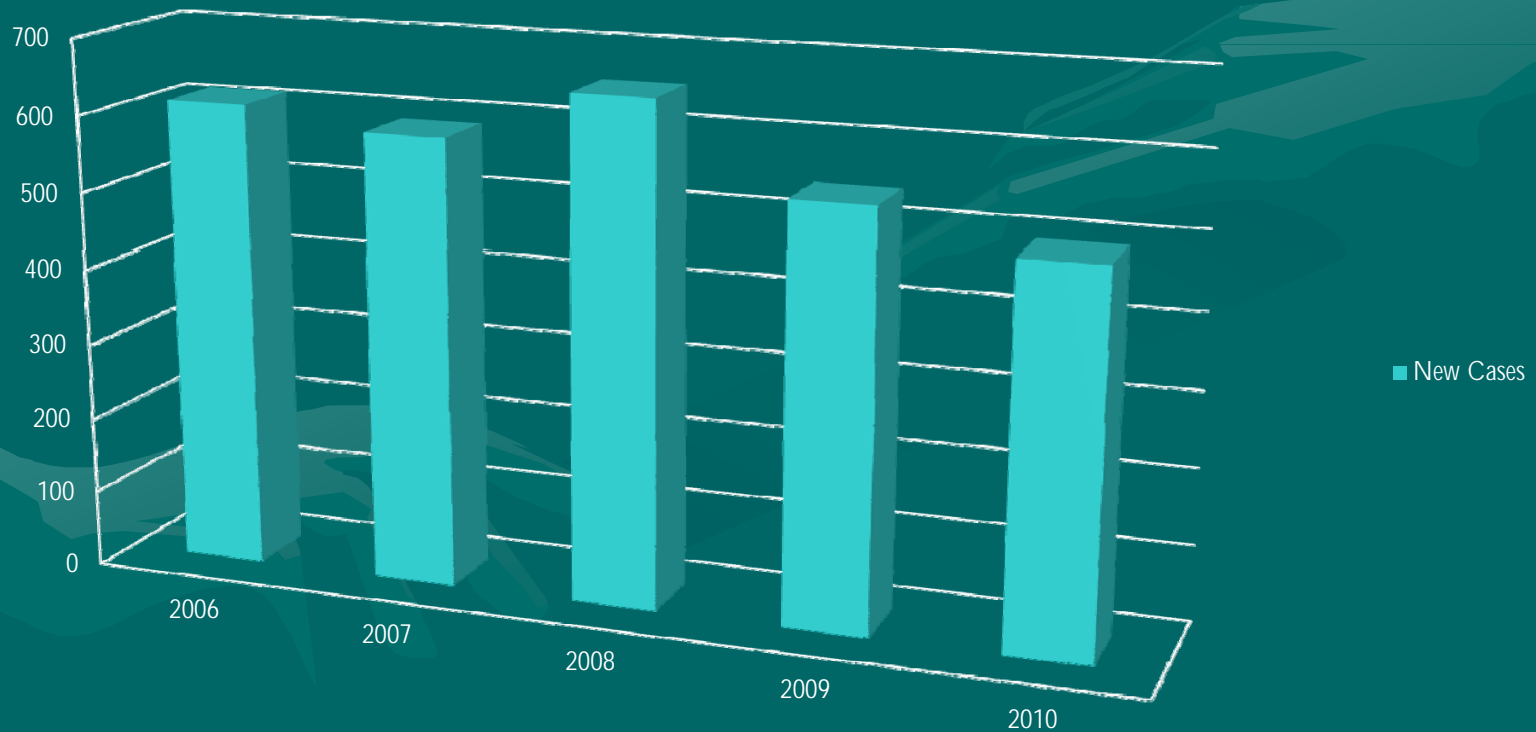


# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

## What the data tells us?

### Diversion:

Family Division Data - New Cases Filed  
(Complaint)



# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

## What the data tells us?

### Detention:

- The average daily population of detention decreased by 50%.
- The average length of stay decreased by 32%.
- The Home Detention Program has had a direct impact on these numbers. Non-violent offenders are in the community receiving rehabilitative services.

- Focus areas:

- The more juveniles in the community, the more community based services will be required:

- Employment Programs
    - Substance Abuse Programs
    - Family Matters
    - Community Service

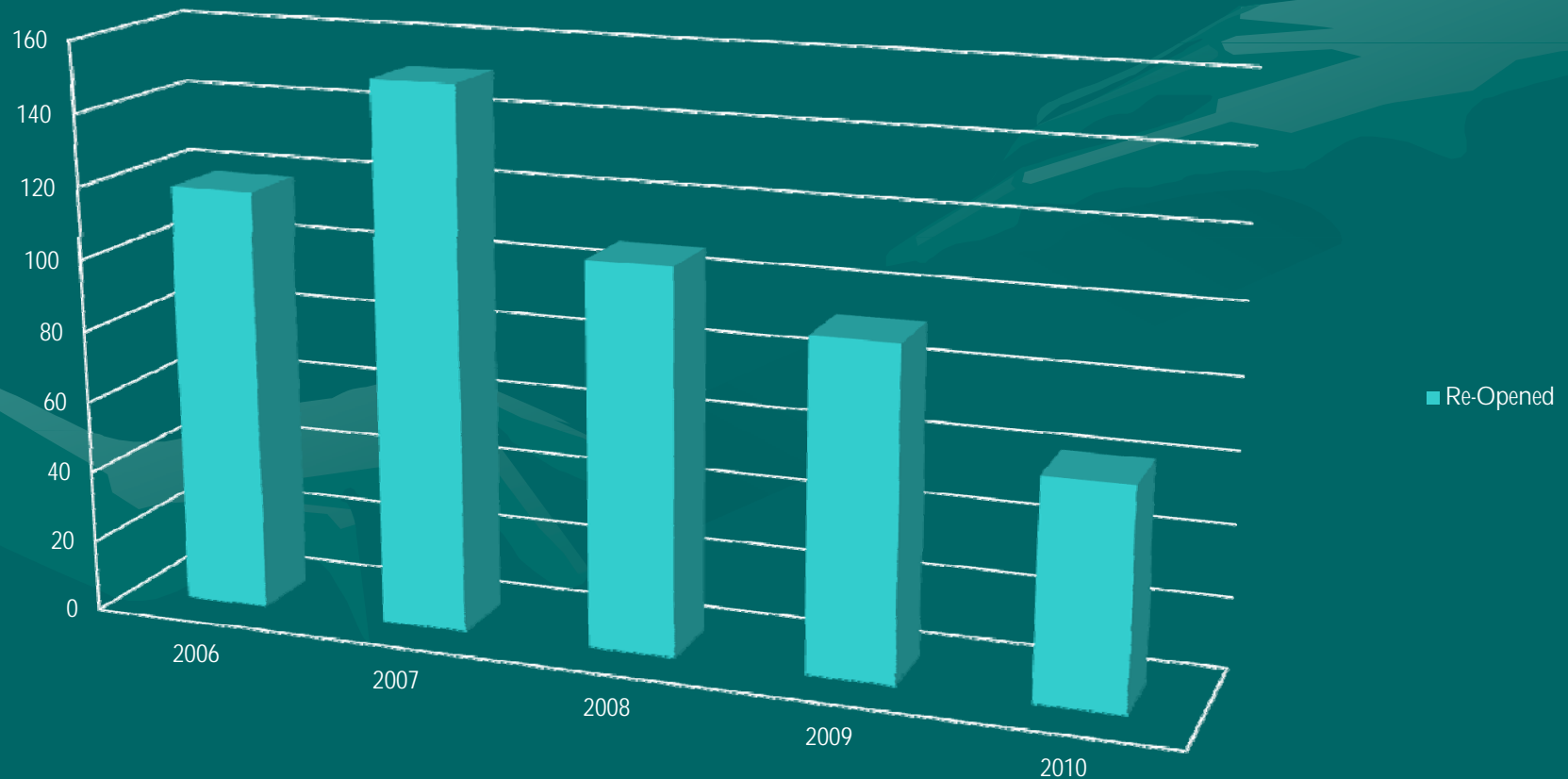


# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

## What the data tells us?

**We can continue to reduce these numbers!**

Family Division Data –  
Previously Adjudicated (Re-Opened)



# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

## Disposition Options:

- ❖ **Overall decrease in juveniles adjudicated delinquent.**
- ❖ **Overall decrease in juveniles on probation.**
- **Focus areas:**
  - **Between 2006 and 2009 we improved on meeting the needs of our juveniles, but it was determined that we need to focus on the following areas to continue to see decreased numbers:**
    - **Personality/Behavior**
    - **Substance Abuse**
    - **Peer Relations**
    - **Anger Management**
    - **Interpersonal Skills**
    - **Positive Decision Making**

# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan



**Re-entry:  
Good news!**

**We have an extremely small number of juveniles re-entering into our community from Juvenile Justice placements.**

# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

**The Allocations Committee from the SCYSC, carefully reviewed the 2012 Plan data to create a program profile that would best meet the needs of our community and would ensure there were no duplication of services:**

- Funding Amount: \$153,000.00
- JJC Funding Source: State Community Partnership
- No County Funds

# 2012 Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

## Outline of Request for Proposal:

- The program will be a disposition option for court involved juveniles in Sussex County. This service will provide a comprehensive court referral program including (with one component being an Evidenced Based Practice, as identified by OJJDP) :
  - Case Management
  - Supervised Community Service
  - Family Matters/Family Dynamics
  - Employment Education
  - Anger Management
  - Conflict Resolution
  - Coping Skills
  - Healthy Choices
  - Positive Decision Making

# Thank You

## Questions?

**Stephen R. Gruchacz, Administrator**  
**Melissa Latronica, Director, Division of**  
**Community and Youth Services**

Sussex County Department of Human Services  
Sussex County Administrative Center  
One Spring Street  
Newton, N.J. 07860

Phone: 973-579-0559 ext.1227

[SGruchacz@sussex.nj.us](mailto:SGruchacz@sussex.nj.us)