

Working with Families to End Youth Homelessness: STRIVE and Other Diversion Strategies

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Family Conflict and Youth Homelessness

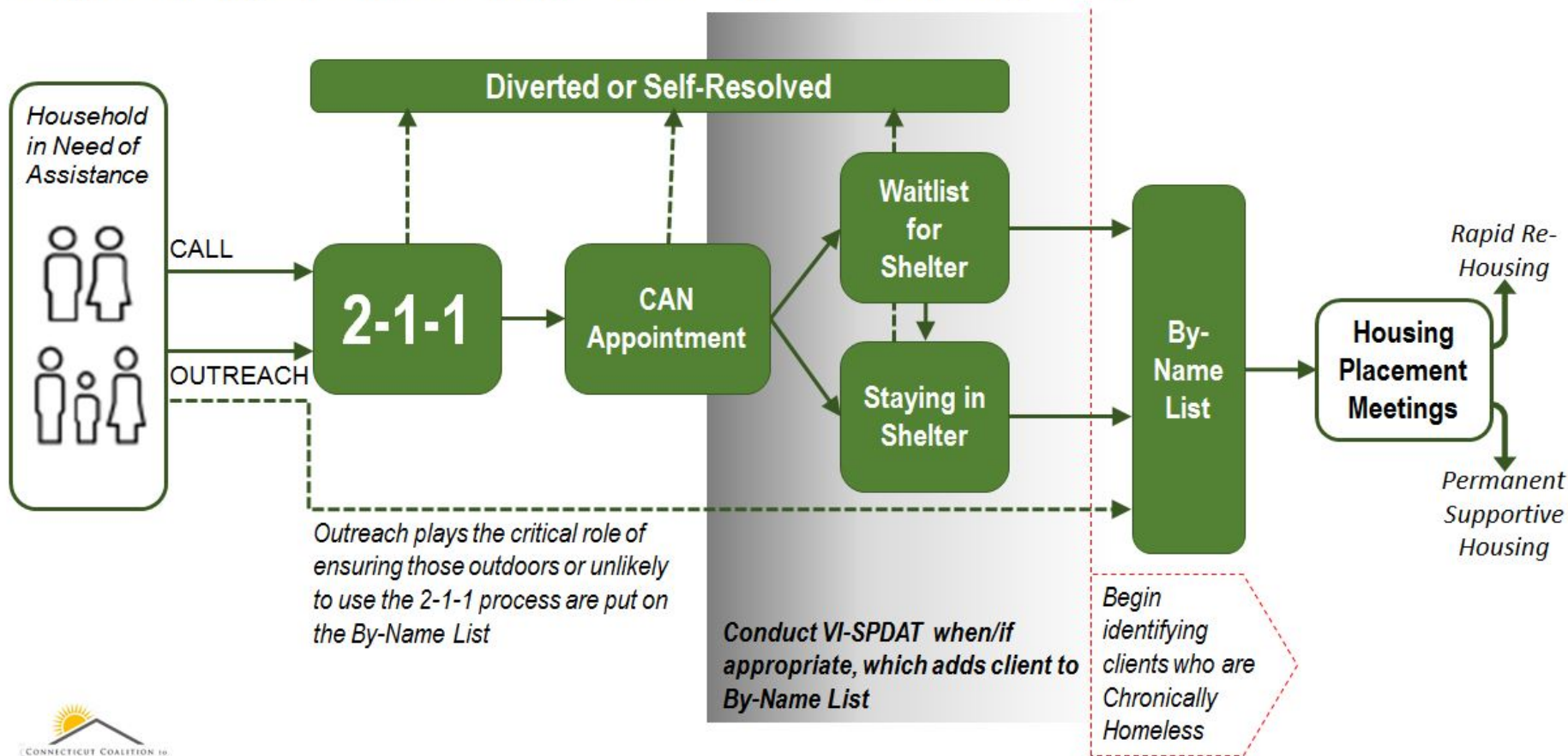


- Almost **90 percent** of runaway youth in shelters run by the Family Youth Service Bureau (FYSB) and 75.5 percent in residential programs reported family dynamics as critical issues leading to their homelessness.
- **41% of youth** attribute running away to poor relationships with parents



CAN System Overview

A high-level diagram of the coordinated access process from entry to exit





Importance of Families and Other Natural Supports



- *Youth will remain in contact with families*
 - *Sources of support*
 - *Connect to other family members*
 - *Opportunity to break cycles*
 - *Understand barriers, provide family support*
 - *Psycho-educational training*
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Why STRIVE?



- Evidence-based model
- Recommended by HHS and Urban Institute
- Shorter term and cost-effective
- Trained STRIVE specialists in every CAN region
- Fits in with expansion of diversion and best practices for youth coordinated entry
- Many benefits to both youth and their families
- Additional tool for our coordinated Entry and shelter staff
- Can be used by our partners in child welfare, juvenile justice, schools



Successes



- Trained over 84 people
 - Trained trainers
 - Incorporating into shelter diversion (30% of youth)
 - Feedback positive and enthusiasm high
 - Presents opportunities with partner agencies
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Partnering Opportunities



DCF Case Vignette

- Family Composition:
 - 4 children: 14 yo & 12 yo Female, 10 yo & 8 yo Male
 - Paternal Grandmother of 14 yo Female caring for all 4 children via family arrangement due to substance use, mental health and poverty issues re: biological parents
 - Family involved with DCF continuously from 1996-2009, case history involves 4 reference children and their 6 elder siblings. Case re-opened in 2016 due to neglect allegations.
 - Family tension in current household primarily between Paternal Grandmother and 14 year old granddaughter.
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Possible Homes for STRIVE Within Child Welfare



- Family Mediation with Kinship Care Placements and In-Home cases to strengthen relationships and prevent youth housing instability and youth homelessness
 - Relationship Reconciliation between adolescents placed in foster care and their parents who previously had their parental rights legally terminated
 - Over 18 Re-Entry Services cases - connect young adults between 18 and 21 years old with existing and historical support resources and strengthen these relationships
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System Challenges



- Locating families willing to participate
 - Youth must be willing to participate as well as the parent(s)
 - Easier to recruit youth than their parents
 - Awareness of availability
 - Language barriers
 - Staffing Capacity
 - Funding
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Future Plans



- YHDP Youth Navigators, RRH, Crisis Housing
 - Expand Collaborations:
 - Schools
 - Court Support Services Division (CSSD)
 - Child Welfare
 - Community Health Centers
 - Evaluations
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