

One Girl, Many Systems: A Collaborative to Improve the Road Ahead for Marginalized Girls in WA State



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Our Team



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More importantly we share a passion for the work we do

To advance the rights of girls,
young women, and youth who
identify as female, especially
those impacted by the justice
system



WASHINGTON STATE
Department of
Children, Youth, and Families

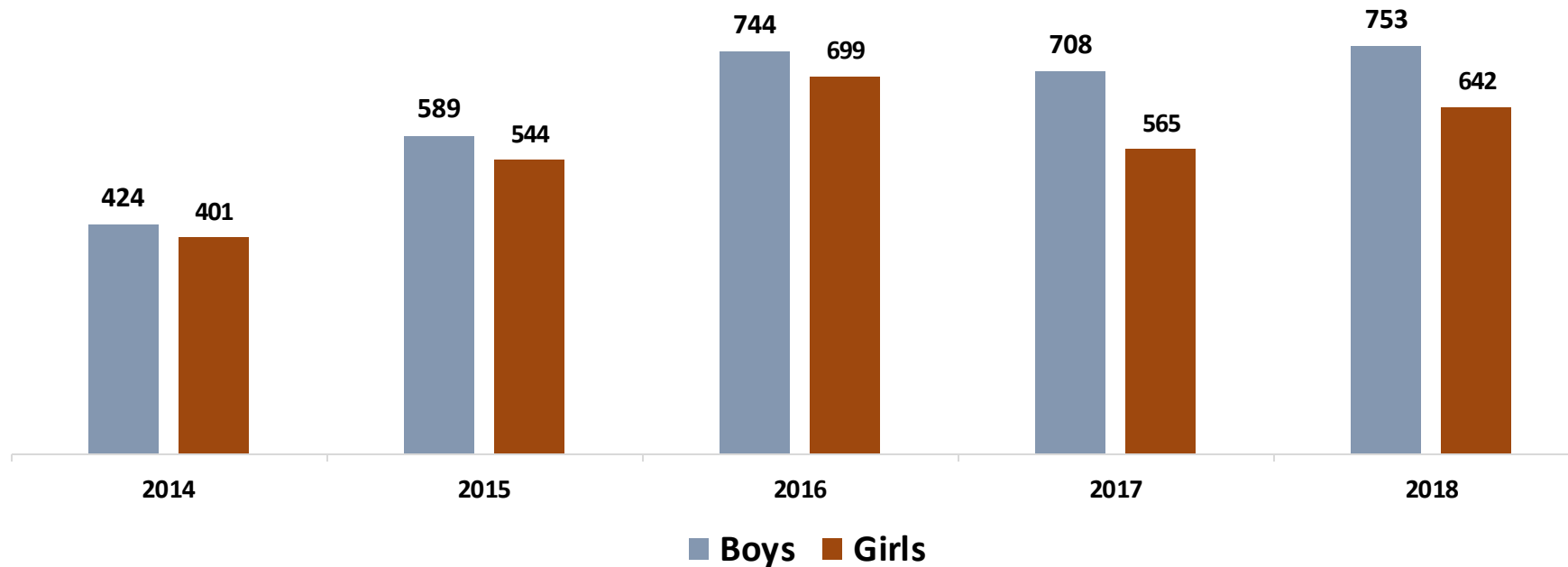


Justice for Girls
COALITION OF WASHINGTON STATE



WASHINGTON
COURTS

Pierce: Youth Petitioned to Court for Truancy



Highlight:

In 2018, the number of girls petitioned in Pierce constituted 10% of all the girls petitioned statewide

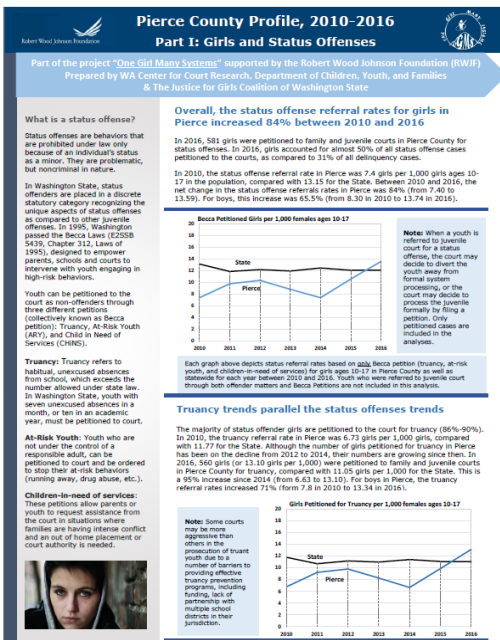
Addressing Truancy among Girls

“Chronic truancy is a community problem that can best be addressed by collaboration among various systems in the community”

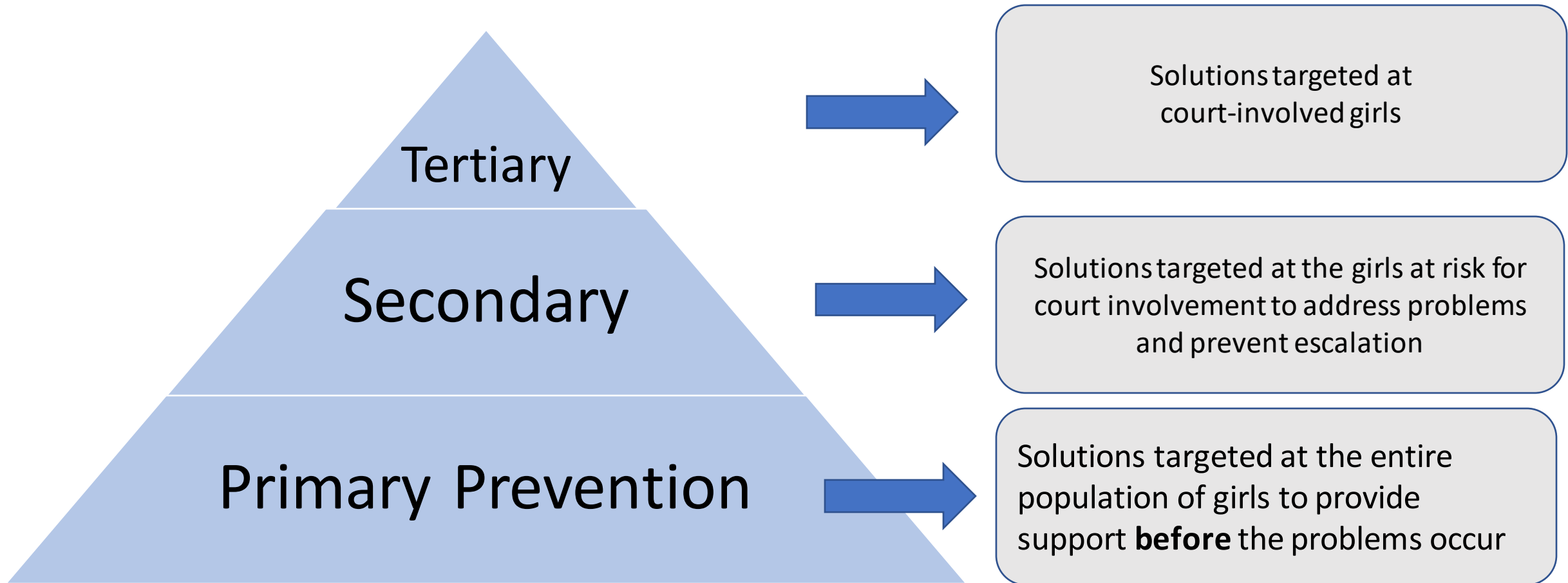
-- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

What was accomplished

- Secondary data analysis
- Listening sessions
- Formed an advisory group
- A community needs assessment
- Review of policies and practices
- Prioritizing of needs with community
- A Blueprint Plan for Action



The public health model (“Many/Some/Few”)



Girls in School Primary / “Many”	Girls Demonstrating Status Offending Behaviors Secondary / “Some”	Court-involved girls Tertiary / “Few”
<p>Raise public/community awareness about girl’s needs.</p> <p>Organize and support culturally responsive in-school girls groups w/ facilitated curriculum and credit</p> <p>Institutionalize girl-centered trauma-informed training for school, law enforcement, and community personnel.</p> <p>Explore expansion of work to middle and elementary schools.</p>	<p>Modify content of truancy letters to engage families.</p> <p>Develop truancy awareness services to students and their parents</p> <p>Identify and implement culturally responsive MH assessments</p> <p>Access to needs assessment conducted by a trained mental health professional followed by appropriate referrals.</p> <p>Evaluate and institutionalize a home visit process for students regularly missing school.</p>	<p>Modify process so that resource provision is not dependent on court involvement</p> <p>Divert girls to alternatives to formal court processing</p> <p>Improve communication between the courts and schools</p> <p>Establish a state work group that develops and manages the partnership between the schools and the courts</p>

Blueprint for Action

- This plan outlines a host of synchronized, community- identified program, policy and practice changes implemented across school, court, home and community.
- <https://www.jfgcoalition.org/ogms>

One Girl, Many Systems:



Pierce County

Blueprint for Action

May 2020

One Girl, Many Systems:



Pierce County Blueprint for Action

May 2020

- PHASE 1 -

RECOMMENDATION #1: Build knowledge for shared understanding

The research engagement process surfaced a general lack of understanding – across systems -- of girl's needs as a major concern and impediment to young women thriving. Participants described having minimal, if any, training in girl-centered best practices. A lack of awareness about what girls need is prevalent among those working in systems, and as a result, unconscious attitudes, bias and stereotypes negatively impact girls.

IMPACT: Young women can thrive when the adults in their community understand the context of what drives their behavior and can support them in overcoming barriers so they can access opportunity.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Listen to and support girls in leading knowledge creation for shared understanding and amplify their messages more broadly.
- Create a communications plan and clear messaging about why we should focus on girls who are furthest from accessing opportunity; tailor the message to different audiences (parents, schools, legislators, court, community).
- Institutionalize anti-bias, girl-centered training for school, law enforcement, court and community workers.
- Raise and sustain public/community awareness about girl's needs, especially those at risk of being charged with status offenses and provide trainings in collaboration with community.
- Engage youth to work alongside adults in OGMS effort.

OGMS Taskforce should:

1. Secure funds for a 1FTE staff position to oversee the OGMS effort.
2. Create a communications plan and clear messaging about why we should focus on girls who are furthest from accessing opportunity (tailor message to different audiences – parents, schools, legislators, courts, community).
3. Raise and sustain public/community awareness about girl's needs, especially those at risk of being charged with status offenses and provide trainings in collaboration with community.

TPS District should institutionalize anti-bias, girl centered training for all school personnel and law enforcement working in schools.

Pierce County Juvenile Court should institutionalize anti-bias, girl centered training for all court personnel and law enforcement working with court-involved girls.

All should create a plan within their system to listen to and support girls in leading knowledge creation for shared understanding and amplify their messages broadly.

Presenter Contact Information

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