



One Girl, Many Systems: A Dispatch from the Road to Improving Systems of Care for WA State Girls Charged with Status Offenses

This presentation will provide an overview of collaborative efforts between community members, non-profits, schools, courts and state agencies to use community-based participatory research to improve services for girls in Tacoma who are at risk for court contact due to status offending behavior. The presenters will begin by offering an overview of the needs experienced by girls who engage in status offense behaviors in Washington State and in Pierce County in particular. Presenters will then provide an overview of the results from the listening sessions with over 20 girls at one of the Tacoma's high school and Pierce County Juvenile Court. These listening sessions provided a unique insight into girls' perceptions of the factors that influence truancy and the effectiveness of truancy intervention. Girls were asked about their experiences in school, what makes it harder or easier for them to come to school, what motivates them, and what adults focus on to help girls should succeed.