

# Luzerne County Juvenile Justice Social Service Resource Listings

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The information contained herein is not a complete listing of services available to victims, juveniles, and their families. For a complete listing, contact Help Line at 829-1341 or 1-888-829-1341.

## VICTIMS RESOURCE CENTER

[www.vrcnepa.org](http://www.vrcnepa.org)

### **570-823-0765 or 1-866-206-9050**

Victims Resource Center offers a broad spectrum of Services to men, women, adolescents and children who Are victims of crime, as well as their family members and friends affected by the incident. In addition to the services listed below, VRC provides prevention **education programs** for students, professionals and community groups while serving as an advocate for victims.

**24-hour telephone hotline** -- staffed by trained counselors 24 hours a day, seven days a week, each office has a hotline for victims of crime to call.

**24-hour response to medical request for support to domestic violence victims** -- victims or their family/friends can call the hotline to request help, in addition, Tyler Memorial Hospital and Geisinger Medical Group-Wyoming County provides universal screening for patients of domestic violence.

**Accompaniment to hospitals, police stations and court proceedings** -- following a crime, victims many times are alone. A staff member or volunteer from the VRC will accompany a victim to a hospital to receive emergency treatment, to a police station to file a report and to court proceedings to offer support during these difficult times.

**Advocacy for victims' rights** -- VRC works with other organizations to educate local and national legislators about the importance for laws that protect the rights of victims.

**Assistance with crime victims' compensation claims** -- victims of crime have the right to be compensated financially for their out of pocket losses due to emotional and physical injuries. We can assist victims with properly completing the necessary paperwork to file a claim.

**Assistance with completing victim impact statements** -- Victims involved in criminal prosecutions are notified of their right to offer a written and oral victim impact statement detailing the physical, psychological and economic effects of the crime. Upon request, the victim can receive assistance in preparing his or her statement.

**Assistance with filing Protection from Abuse (PFA) orders** -- PFA paperwork can be complicated to complete. In Wyoming County, our trained staff can assist victims of crime in properly completing the paperwork and providing information about filing procedures.

**Assistance with restitution claim forms** -- VRC counselor/advocate will inform victims of their right to restitution under Pennsylvania law and advocate on behalf of the victim for the inclusion of restitution in any court disposition.

**Community events** -- VRC staff and volunteers regularly organize community events, such as Take Back the Night Rally, the Clothesline Project and Candlelight Vigil to demonstrate support for victims of crime and bring attention to these issues with the community at large.

**Court orientation** -- VRC counselor/advocates provide basic information and orientation to any legal proceeding for those victims who are involved in prosecutions.

**Crisis intervention** -- VRC counselor/advocates provide a range of services to a victim during any crisis that may occur in the aftermath of a crime in order to assist a victim in managing the crisis.

**Education** -- VRC provides numerous crime prevention educational programs for young children, adolescents, college students and adults. Please link to Education for more information.

**Individual counseling** -- VRC counselor/advocates provide support, information and options to assess each victims needs and develop a plan to address these needs.

**Information and referral** -- VRC staff will provide information and referral to resources that meet victim-identified needs that cannot be met by the center.

**Notification of juvenile court proceedings** -- All victims of juvenile crime have the right to be notified of all juvenile court proceedings. VRC counselor/advocates work with the juvenile probation officer and the prosecutor to ensure these rights.

**Referral to shelters** -- Staff members can link a female domestic violence victim to a shelter in a surrounding county for the safety of the victim and her children.

**Safe Housing** -- VRC maintains a list of appropriate referrals for male victims.

**Support groups** -- VRC support groups provide an opportunity for victims of crime to come together to share experiences and gain strength as part of their healing.

**Personal advocacy** -- VRC counselor/advocates will provide intervention to obtain information and provide active and visible support in order for victims to obtain needed services and resources

## WYOMING VALLEY ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICES

[www.wvadsinc.com](http://www.wvadsinc.com)

**570-820-8888**

### PREVENTION & EDUCATION:

We employ a staff of eleven (11) full-time Prevention/Education Specialists with over 100+ years of experience in providing drug and alcohol school and community based prevention and education services. These specialists are assigned to the following school districts (Luzerne and Wyoming Counties):

- Berwick Area
- Dallas Area
- Greater Nanticoke Area
- Hanover Area
- Lake Lehman
- Northwest Area
- Pittston Area
- Tunkhannock Area
- Wilkes-Barre Area
- Wyoming Area
- Wyoming Valley West

Annually, these Prevention/Education Specialists provide in excess of 12,000 hours of services within these school districts. Topics addressed are as follows:

- refusal skills
- coping skills
- problem-solving skills
- conflict resolution
- decision-making
- setting priorities and goals
- peer mediation
- self-esteem building
- identifying healthy peers
- effects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs on health
- perinatal curriculum
- alternatives to violent behavior
- etc.

In addition to providing these comprehensive school-based services, our agency,

through its prevention/education team, presents in excess of 700 community programs annually. Some of the types of programs presented are as follows:

- small groups
- general community; civic, religious, youth, business, service club, college, etc.
- exhibits/displays
- panel discussions
- awareness days
- media; radio, television, newspaper
- keynote addresses
- recovering stories
- DUI awareness
- college/university orientation
- etc.

**AFFILIATION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH DENNIS BONVIE,  
FORMER NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE AND AMERICAN HOCKEY  
LEAGUE ICON**

We are pleased to announce the addition of Dennis Bonvie, former American Hockey League icon and National Hockey League player, to our prevention/education team. Dennis will visit schools and community events and will present drug and alcohol messages to children and youth.

Additionally, “Bonvie’s Brigade”, a drug and alcohol free fan club, has been initiated and will challenge youth to make a pledge to be drug and alcohol free. The signed card will entitle them to rewards throughout the community.

**DRUGS AND GANGS**

WVADS, Inc. has produced the first ever regional booklet entitled, “Youth, Gangs, and Drugs” and has begun an extensive education and awareness campaign to prevent youngsters from gang affiliation of any type. Because of the fascination, fixation, and lure that gang life falsely presents, WVADS, Inc. has taken a pro-active approach by adding school and community awareness programs on this subject.

**Perinatal Program** – This unique prevention and education program has a mission of providing much-needed information to prevent alcohol and drug use during anytime of the pregnancy. The agency has created a comprehensive informational book outlining the consequences of use of specific drugs, medicines, chemicals, or substances during pregnancy. Additionally, a self-assessment questionnaire, website directory of perinatal sites, an informational brochure, and a school-based curriculum

are also key components of this program.

## **TREATMENT SERVICES**

### **Out-Patient Counseling** (for all ages)

#### A. Main Office (Wilkes-Barre)

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 8:00pm; Fridays 8:30am to 5:00pm

#### B. Pittston Office

Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm; Tuesday & Thursday, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

The outpatient counseling program is approximately 6 months in length depending on the needs of the individual client. Emphasis is placed on involvement in self-help groups, relapse prevention, goal setting, problem prioritization, and self-esteem building. (For all ages).

### **Adolescent Intensive Out-Patient Program** (Main Office)

Hours: Monday, Tuesday – 5:00pm to 7:30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday – 3:00pm to 6:00pm

The AIOP is a 5-week program which affords clients the opportunity to receive group therapy that addresses several issues such as healthy peer selection, conflict resolution, decision-making and coping skills, self-esteem building, and involvement in self-help groups to aid in the recovery process. (for clients age 18 and under).

## **GAMBLING SERVICES**

Professional staff are certified by the Pennsylvania Certification Board to provide gambling services.

The agency places major emphasis on presenting community-wide prevention and education programs on gambling and gambling-related topics.

The Counsel on Compulsive Gambling of PA has selected WVADS, Inc as a school based partner for "Smart Choices"; an intensive school based training program for High Schools and Universities on gambling prevention.

## **TOBACCO SERVICES**

Cessation: individual and group cessation intervention

Youth Prevention: Power of 10 groups - Active youth reaching out to other youths

to prevent and discourage tobacco use.

## **CHILDRENS' SERVICE CENTER**

[www.cscwv.org](http://www.cscwv.org)

**825-6425 or 1-877-433-5112**

All of the services and programs offered by Children's Service Center fall within what we call an "integrated system of care." Our services are listed and briefly described here, with the name of the appropriate contact person. They are listed in order of least restrictive services to most restrictive.

**Student Assistance Program:** Mental health professionals work with school staff to provide assessments and short term interventions to youths at risk. Jim Jacobs, [jjacobs@e-csc.org](mailto:jjacobs@e-csc.org)

**Base Service Unit:** All clients entering the CSC integrated system of care receive a full behavioral health assessment by well trained and qualified professionals. This assessment determines the clinical plan: a collaborative approach between the treatment team, the family, and the youth. Steve Merlina, [smerlina@e-csc.org](mailto:smerlina@e-csc.org)

**Blended Case Management:** Specially trained staff coordinate psychiatric, financial, legal, and medical services to help a child or adolescent with behavioral health needs live successfully at home and in their community. Sheila Zambetti, [szambetti@e-csc.org](mailto:szambetti@e-csc.org)

**Outpatient Services:** Behavioral health assessments and treatment services under the clinical direction of a psychiatrist. Denise Namowicz, [dnamowicz@e-csc.org](mailto:dnamowicz@e-csc.org)

**Telepsychiatry Services:** CSC uses this interactive audio and visual electronic system to enable a Wilkes-Barre based psychiatrist to work with patients in other service areas. Denise Namowicz, [dnamowicz@e-csc.org](mailto:dnamowicz@e-csc.org)

**Crisis Services:** Trained individuals and teams respond to personal crises in the home or community. Professional in-person assessments, recommendations, consultations with Mental Health Providers and follow-ups are provided as needed. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Ann Sebo, [asebo@e-csc.org](mailto:asebo@e-csc.org)

**Medication Clinic:** Medication assessments by a psychiatrist trained and skilled in child and adolescent behavioral health. Regular medical follow-up of prescribed

medication is required. Denise Namowicz, [dnamowicz@e-csc.org](mailto:dnamowicz@e-csc.org)

**Parent-Child Interaction Therapy:** Therapists work with children and caregivers to improve listening skills, attention proficiency and behavior. PCIT is an evidence-based program, which means that the therapies involved have been researched extensively and proven to be very effective. Priscilla Zorichak, [pzorichak@e-csc.org](mailto:pzorichak@e-csc.org); Denise Namowicz, [dnamowicz@e-csc.org](mailto:dnamowicz@e-csc.org)

**Functional Family Therapy:** Specially trained staff provide short term family therapy for children and adolescents ages 11 to 18 at risk of, or presenting, a broad range of acting-out behaviors. FFT is an evidence-based program. Gail Draina, [gdraina@e-csc.org](mailto:gdraina@e-csc.org)

**Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services:** Behavioral health services provided in the home, school, or community. The program is based on individual needs determined by psychological assessment. Includes Mobile Therapy, Therapeutic Staff Support, and Behavioral Specialists. Carey Mazzoni, [cmazzoni@e-csc.org](mailto:cmazzoni@e-csc.org)

**Autism:** Intensive therapy in home, school, and community settings for children and adolescents diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, using Applied Behavioral Analysis. Shelley Loughney, [sloughney@e-csc.org](mailto:sloughney@e-csc.org)

**Juvenile Fire Setter Program:** Specialized therapy and psycho-education for youths with a history of fire setting behavior. Kayleigh Gallagher, [kgallagher@e-csc.org](mailto:kgallagher@e-csc.org)

**Juvenile Sex Offender Program:** Serves individuals who have engaged in inappropriate sexual behaviors. Provides intensive psycho-sexual education. Kayleigh Gallagher, [kgallagher@e-csc.org](mailto:kgallagher@e-csc.org)

**School Based Behavioral Health:** Based on site in a school, SBBH teams provide a behavioral health home for youths and families, offering therapeutic support in the school, home, and community. Flexible and easy to access, SBBH offers individual, family and group therapy, parenting support, case management, crisis management, and school advocacy and consultation. Maureen Whalen, [mwhalen@e-csc.org](mailto:mwhalen@e-csc.org)

**Home Based Intensive Family Therapy:** Teams of specialists in family therapy provide intensive home treatment and support to families in crisis. This program is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The emphasis is on preventing out-of-home placement of the child or adolescent. Kimberly Lawall, [klawall@e-csc.org](mailto:klawall@e-csc.org)

**Day Partial Hospitalization Services:** Provides intensive treatment up to five days a week by trained mental health staff under the clinical direction of a psychiatrist. The program provides pre-school through high school education. Priscilla Zorichak,



pzorichak@e-csc.org

**Residential Services:** CSC has two CRR group homes. The Bennet Home, located on the South Franklin Street campus, accommodates males ages 12 to 17 with behavioral health needs. The Nanticoke Group Home serves co-ed adolescents ages 12 to 17 with behavioral health needs. Dan Leco, dleco@e-csc.org

**Robinson Counseling Center:** Children's Service Center recently opened a private outpatient practice with a Board Certified Psychiatrist and Licensed Counselors at 318 South Franklin Street in Wilkes-Barre. The Robinson Counseling Center serves children, adolescents, and adults in individual and group therapy. The Robinson Counseling Center accepts most insurances. Call 570-301-0935.

## **SERENTO GARDENS:**

[www.serentogardens.org](http://www.serentogardens.org)

**455-9902**

Services Offered:

**Evaluation:** The possibility that alcohol or other drug problems exist often creates anxiety, fear and frustration. "Is the problem there or isn't it?" "How serious is it?" "What can I do?" The evaluation process helps to answer all those questions and gives clear answers to what is wrong, what can be done to help and where help can be found.

**Individual Counseling:** The most basic and frequent service offered, individual counseling, gives a chance to meet with a counselor one on one. Here people come to work on their own problems with drugs and alcohol, or the problems being faced by someone they love.

**Family & Marital Therapy:** The problems created by alcohol or drugs hurt more than just the person who uses them. Everyone in the family can be hurt. Our family specialists help restore the balance every family needs and wants.

**Addiction Education Group:** This group is designed to provide information on the process of addiction as it relates to the client and his/her family. Strictly for educational purposes, this group focuses on the signs of chemical dependency, the stages of addiction and resources and support networks for both the chemically

dependent individual and family members.

**Gender Specific Groups:** Men and women have problems or concerns that can be most effectively addressed in gender specific groups (groups of all men or all women). We offer both groups to address such issues as relationships, anger, abuse, co-dependency, parenting, self-esteem, body image, socializing sober and taking care of oneself.

**Life Skills Group:**

This is designed for individuals who are starting part of their lives over because of addiction, incarceration or divorce. This group focuses on skills necessary to develop healthy lifestyles. Topics discussed include communication skills, feelings, setting and achieving goals, living within laws and norms, independent living, critical thinking, personal, social responsibilities, relationships and employment skills.

**Relapse Prevention Group:**

Because of the cunning and baffling nature of addiction, the best intentions of remaining sober sometimes fail. The Relapse Prevention Group is for people who have tried to stay sober and who have not succeeded. In this supportive therapy group the signs and symptoms of relapse are studied and talked about and the steps to preventing relapses are learned.

**Adult Partial Hospitalization Program "PHP":**

The Serento Gardens "PHP" is designed to provide the structure and intensity of inpatient rehabilitation in an outpatient setting. People whose problems are too severe to help in traditional individual or group outpatient treatment benefit from this extra level of care. With PHP treatment, individuals and families receive the care they need without disruption to home, work or school.

**Referrals:**

Sometimes problems are too severe for outpatient treatment, and inpatient care is the only option. Serento Gardens has referral agreements with a number of excellent inpatient treatment centers throughout Pennsylvania. We are also often able to help explore funding if no insurance is available.

**Hotline:**

Drug & Alcohol problems never wait for convenient times to happen. Serento is part of a network for information and referral anytime day or night by dialing our local

number or by calling the HELP LINE at 1(888)829-1341.

Serento Gardens accepts most major insurance for payment of services and maintains a sliding fee scale for persons with no insurance.

## **FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION**

[www.fsawv.org](http://www.fsawv.org)

**823-5144**

### **Professional Counseling**

The Professional Counseling Service provides confidential counseling for families, couples and individuals addressing the personal and relationship challenges of life. Professional Counseling consists of a variety of areas.

#### **These areas include:**

- Counseling for individuals, couples, families and children.
- Issues around substance/chemical dependence.
- Critical incident/crisis response/trauma support services.
- The parent-child relationship.
- FSAWV's collaborative relationship with Luzerne County.

FSAWV also accepts most major medical plans, including Geisinger Health Plan, Value Options, Health America, Aetna and First Priority Health. Our office hours are Mondays 8:30 am to 8:00 pm; Tuesdays through Fridays 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

A component of the Professional Counseling Service is Making Changes: An **Anger Management Program**. This program will help participants learn to control their anger before it controls them. It is a skills building program for adults seeking to better understand how their feelings, thoughts and actions associated with anger help and hinder their personal relations. Participants will learn to: identify personal attitudes about anger; understand anger as a complex feeling; express anger in a healthier and more productive manner; resolve conflict responsibly; deal with criticism or another's anger more appropriately; manage stress more effectively and communicate effectively.

### **Pre-Adjudication Diversion Program**

#### **Making Changes Program**

**What it is?** Making Changes is a voluntary 12 week pre-adjudication diversion

program, which includes a referral for services in lieu of filing a written allegation. Making Changes provides competency development in the form of 8 psycho-education and anger management treatment sessions and participation in a 4 week community project for youth who would otherwise face formal processing in the Luzerne County Court System. Through participation in a community service project, youth offenders are encouraged to acknowledge their responsibility in concrete ways and understand the impact their behavior has on their community. The goal of Making Changes is to create opportunities for competency. Also, we believe that allowing youth offenders the opportunity to build connections and relationships to their community will in turn deter youth from re-offending, thus keeping our community safe.

**Program Criteria:** The Making Changes Program is open to 15-18 year old youth residing in Luzerne County. Making Changes is meant to provide alternatives for youth have not yet entered the system. It is geared toward first time, non-violent offenders. A Master's Level therapist will complete an intake and psycho-social assessment to determine if a referred youth is in need of the group interventions associated with this project. Only youth with a DSM-IV-TR diagnosis and/or a reduced level of functioning in academic, peer, or vocational areas will be accepted into the Making Changes Program. DSM Guidelines are as follows: Depression or other mood disorder, anxiety/fears, alcohol or other drug abuse or dependence, PTSD and other trauma related issues, serious stress reactions and adjustment disorders, ADHD, family problems anger, impulse control, and conduct problems.

**Program Cost:** This program is funded by a grant from the PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency. This is a free service.

**Referrals can be made to:**

□ **Amy Freeman**, Chief Program Officer - [afreeman@fsawv.org](mailto:afreeman@fsawv.org) □ **Paul Agliandolo**, Therapist - [pagliandolo@fsawv.org](mailto:pagliandolo@fsawv.org)

**Time Limited Family Reunification Program (TLFRP)**

This program is a collaborative effort between Luzerne County Children and Youth Services (LCCYS) and FSAWV. The goal of the program is to implement a brief, intensive, family-focused reunification service for families who have children placed in foster care in Luzerne County. The program is designed to reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care by strengthening families. The reunification team builds a child-focused partnership between the family, the community and human service agencies in order to support the family and facilitate planning for the safe reunification of children with their birth parents.

**Who is Eligible?**

This program is appropriate for families who have children placed in foster care and who, with timely intensive supportive services, are likely to reunify within six months

time.

A family is assigned a Community Resource Specialist who will work closely with the family to identify community supports and service providers appropriate for and specific to that family.

The Community Resource Specialist is available during non-traditional hours. Effective intervention will address the family's basic needs (i.e. transportation, housing, food) before an impact can be made on the emotional and behavioral changes necessary to facilitate reunification. There are many service providers and community supports to which the Community Resource Specialist will be able to link the family, such as:

- Individual, family and group counseling with a number of community providers.
- Parenting education with a Family Development Specialist.
- Specialized services related to domestic violence, anger management and marriage counseling.

### **Family Group Decision Making in Luzerne County**

FSAWV, with the support of Luzerne County Children & Youth Services has implemented a practice known as Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). It is a practice that recognizes the role of families and their traditional power to best understand how to care for its members. It respectfully offers families the opportunity to come together as the best possible people to make decisions on keeping their children safe. The **Mission** is To assure that children are protected and live free from abuse and neglect and are given the opportunity to grow and develop to their fullest potential through the active use of family and community strengths and resources. The **Vision** is To enhance the quality of life for children by becoming a leader in promoting family-centered and collaborative approaches to achieving safety, timely permanency, and the overall well-being of children and families. The Four Goals of FGDM:

- All children will be safe.
- All families will be respected and empowered in their role of caring for their children.
- The community will provide access to resources to support the family.
- The family and community will work together for the protection and nurturing of the child.

The practice values and beliefs in FGDM:

- Families have strengths and can change.
- Strengths are ultimately what resolve change.

- Strengths are discovered through listening, noticing and paying attention to people.
- Strengths are enhanced when they are acknowledged and encouraged.
- People gain a sense of hope when they are listened to.
- Options are preferable to advice.
- Empowering people is preferable to controlling them.
- A consultant is more helpful to people than a boss.

Once a family has requested a FGDM Conference, the Coordinator will begin to prepare for the conference by:

- Explaining the process and reviewing the purpose of the conference.
- Meeting with the family and helping them set up a family gathering, which will include anyone the family wishes to invite.
- Contacting and inviting individuals to the conference.
- Arranging a date, time and neutral location that is convenient for the family.

There are four stages to a conference:

- **Information Sharing**  
The participants discuss the family's strengths and concerns.
- **Family Private Time**  
The family meets in private to share a meal and create a family plan. During this stage any professionals attending the meeting will be asked to leave the room to allow for the family private time.
- **Plan Presentation and Acceptance**  
The family and other participants come together again to present and review the family plan.
- **The Family Plan is put into action.**

**Why does FGDM work?**

- Family members make the decisions.
- With FGDM, the family uses their insight, ability and judgment to create a plan that addresses their concerns.
- Out-of-home placement for children is avoided when possible by addressing and working to solve problems while focusing on safety, permanency and well-being.
- FGDM strengthens relationships between families and service providers.
- FGDM creates a better future for children, families and the community.
- There is no cost to families who participate in a FGDM Conference.

### **High-Risk Youth Offender Reentry & Family Strengthening Initiative**

This project is a collaborative among FSAWV and the following organizations:

- Luzerne County Court System
- Luzerne County Children and Youth Services
- Children's Service Center
- Wyoming Valley Alcohol & Drug Services
- Luzerne County Community College Division of Workforce and Community Development
- Luzerne County Office of Human Services

This Initiative uses a Targeted Case Management Model that enlists community resources and builds on the strengths of the youth and family as they work toward a future free of re-offences and out-of-home placements.

What will Targeted Case Management do?

- Assesses the child's needs.
- Arranges for the delivery of needed services.
- Advocates for the child and family.
- Assists the family in accessing services.
- Tracks progress and makes referrals.
- Consults with service providers.
- Arranges crisis assistance.

Crisis Management:

- Program personnel will be accessible to the youth and his/her family 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Follows Children & Adolescent Service System (CASSP)

Principles of HRYR:

- Meets the individual needs of the child and family.
- Services will recognize that the family is the primary support for the youth.
- See that services are delivered in the youth's home community.
- All services are planned and coordinated between the family and providers.
- Services are provided in the least restrictive setting.

Goals:

- Reduce the risk of re-offending by creating community connections and strengthening families.
- Integration and coordination of career readiness, assessment and coaching.
- Behavioral and substance abuse interventions.
- Strength based, family focused approach.
- Life Skills training that will increase pro-social behavior and recreation opportunities.
- Linkages to evidence based practices like Functional Family Therapy and

## Family Group Decision Making.

**Eligibility:** This program is available to youth ages 10-18 that are residents of Luzerne County. Participants must be returning to a family living arrangement in the community from a residential facility or be under the supervision of the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Office.

Determine Your Goals and Develop a Plan Based On Your Strengths:

- Support development of youth's knowledge and skills in a variety of ways including academic, sports, arts, vocational education and service learning.
- Promote healthy life styles and teaching patterns of social interactions.
- Enhance family affective relationships.
- Provide supportive services to assist youth and their families in a successful return from residential placement into their family's home and community.

Program participants are referred through the Office of Juvenile Probation, Children & Youth or any other community agency. Initial information such as presenting problem, psychosocial history and permanency goal should be available at time of referral.

At the time of intake, potential program participants and family members will meet with the program supervisor to discuss their goals and ambitions and ensure that this program is a good fit for each youth and their family.

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### **Family Finding Program**

**FSAWV**, with the support of Luzerne County Children & Youth Services has implemented a process known as Family Finding (FF). FF is a practice that recognizes the role of families and their traditional power to best understand how to care for its members by utilizing community support resources & service providers to collaboratively plan for permanent family connectedness. It respectfully offers families the opportunity to come together as the best possible people to make decisions on keeping their children safe.

**The Mission** of Family Finding is to seek connections with relatives and exploring such relatives as placement options for children who are unable to live with their legal/biological parents. It is recognized that that relative connections are a major stabilizing factor and are preferable placement options for children.



**The Vision** is to enhance the quality of life for children by fostering permanent family connections. As children gain permanence, clinical behaviors improve, ultimately helping the child stabilize and reducing placement disruptions.

**The Four Goals of FF:**

- To reduce entry, lengths of stay, and placement changes in foster care
- To decrease disconnectedness and isolation for children
- To increase placement stabilization
- To increase assistance to families to meet the child's needs

**There are 5 stages to Family Finding:**

**Initial Referral/Discovery:** The FF Coordinator will use all tools available, including interview and assessment, Mobility Mapping and Life Connections Mapping to find family and connections for identified youth. It is estimated that this step will take no longer than 2 weeks

**Engagement:** The FFS Coordinator will engage those who know the child best and have historic and/or inherent connection in helping the child by sharing information. In practice, the FF Coordinator will use an individualized engagement strategy to enlist the support of the many family members and others important to the child identified in the Discovery Stage. The FF Coordinator will then begin preparing the family members and others to assist with decision-making and participate in supporting the young person through committed relationship. It is estimated that this step should take no longer than three weeks

**Planning:** The FF Coordinator identifies blended perspectives meeting participants from among immediate and extended family, important non-related persons in the child's life, the child, parents, and involved service providers (all of the above entities are known as the team). The FFS Coordinator invites the identified participants to join a Blended Perspectives Meeting, where all participants will have a voice. The child's unmet needs will be defined, as well as the child's strengths. It is in this meeting that challenges and solutions will be identified to ensure that an enduring network of support is created. It is estimated that this step should take approximately 2-3 weeks to complete. Most blended perspective meetings will result in a Family Group Decision Making Conference

**Evaluation:** This step is taken within one week of the FGDM meeting and is continued throughout the case process. The goal of this step is to ensure that an inclusive, individualized, and unconditional plan to achieve legal and emotional permanency has been created with a timeline for completion

**Follow up on Supports:** The FF Coordinator will ensure that the current plan functions well. The child's unmet need has been met. Also, the FF Coordinator will ensure that the referring agency, court, and team are satisfied with the child's and family's current state as well as the family's ability to maintain the state. The FFS Coordinator will provide case management service to support the child or young person and their family to plan for and access essential formal and informal support

**Outreach Prevention Program**

**The Outreach Prevention Program** provides intensive in-home counseling, case management, and is based on the evidenced based practiced of intergrading Solution Focused Therapy and Targeted Case Management. Structured interventions which promote life skills development, parenting skills, children's academic success, and family unification, and stabilization of mental health symptoms.

This project is a collaborative among FSAWV and the following organizations:

- Luzerne County Court System
- Luzerne County Children and Youth Services

FSAWV's Intensive Outreach Prevention Program is designed to serve youth and families that are in a chronic state of crisis and are at risk for (re)placement in an out-of home setting, and/or future involvement with the legal system.

#### **What will the Outreach Prevention Program Do?**

- Provide intensive in-home counseling
- Targeted Case Management
- Advocates for the child and family
- Promote Life Skills Development
- Stabilizations of Mental Health Symptoms
- Consults with service providers
- Arranges crisis assistance

#### **Crisis Management**

- Program personnel will be accessible to the youth and his/her family 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

#### **Principles**

- Meets the individual needs of the child and family
- Services will recognize that the family is the primary support for the youth
- See that services are delivered in the youth's home community
- All services are planned and coordinated between the family and providers
- Services are provided in the least restrictive setting

#### **Goals**

- Help sustain a youth in his or her home
- Assist the youth and their family in developing healthy resilience
- Behavioral interventions
- Strength based, family focused approach
- Life Skills training that will increase pro-social behavior and recreation opportunities

#### **Eligibility**

This program is available to youth ages 10-18 that are residents of Luzerne County. Determine Your Goals and Develop a Plan Based On Your Strengths

Program participants are referred through the Office of Juvenile Probation, Children & Youth or any other community agency. Initial information such as presenting problem, psychosocial history and permanency goal should be available at time of referral.

## **Help Line**

[www.helpline-nepa.info](http://www.helpline-nepa.info)

**829-1341 or 1-888-829-1341**

Help Line is an information and referral service and first response point for crisis calls in Bradford, Luzerne, Sullivan, Tioga and Wyoming Counties. It operates twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, staffed by trained caseworkers as a program of the Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley

Help Line currently acts as the after-hours crisis service for twenty-one different organizations serving Bradford, Luzerne, Sullivan, Tioga and Wyoming Counties. It is the central access point for problems and issues regarding:

- Mental Health - Child Abuse/Neglect Reports
- Drug and Alcohol - Runaway - Energy Assistance
- Homeless Services - Victim services

In addition to handling crisis situations Help Line is also an information and referral service. Help Line maintains an active data listing of over 400 local agencies, as well as over 16,000 additional regional, state and national resources. If you need to know where the nearest AA group is being held or the telephone number for the turkey hotline to make sure Thanksgiving dinner is a success, Help Line is there to assist you. Help Line has handled over 2.3 million calls since the start of operations in 1972.

The Help Line staff handled approximately 100,000 calls during the year ending June 30, 2011; this breaks down to approximately 273 calls per day. The vast majority of Help Line calls are made from Luzerne and Wyoming Counties and other contiguous counties

## **CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

[www.cssdioceseofscranton.org](http://www.cssdioceseofscranton.org)

**822-7118 (Wilkes-Barre) or 455-1521 (Hazleton)**

### **FAST (Family and Adolescent Services Team)**

The FAST program provides individual, group and family counseling to youth and their families in the Greater Wilkes-Barre area. Staff also act as advocates and provide direction and follow-up for the youth and family's behalf on problem areas at home, school or community. Services are provided on a voluntary basis with fees assessed on a sliding fee scale. Parents and teenagers in need of services may come into our office or call for an appointment. Youth ages 12-18 and their families who reside in the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area.

### **Retail Theft**

This is a six to eight (6-8) hour program designed to teach offenders the various differences between stealing and not stealing. The program provides the victims, the Court System and the accused an alternative to being convicted of theft. Subsequently to the consumer completing the program, an evaluation is forwarded to the Court (Juvenile and Adult). The judge will then make the final decision indicating the fate of the offender.

### **Children & Youth Substance Abuse**

This program provides the Assessment/Treatment of individuals with substance abuse problems. Majority of all referrals come from the, Children & Youth System a small percentage from the community. Treatment entails individual, group and family counseling.

### **Drug & Alcohol**

Evaluation, Individual and group counseling support services are available to individuals within the community who deal with the obstacles of drug and alcohol use and abuse.

### **Runaway and Homeless Youth**

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program provides comprehensive services to runaway and homeless youth ages 12 to 18 and their families who reside in Luzerne County or find themselves within the county while their "on the run". The primary goal of the program is the reunification of the youth and their family whenever possible and when in the best interest of the youth. Service provision includes: 24 hour crisis intervention, emergency shelter, transportation,

individual, family and group counseling, advocacy and referral. All services are voluntary and free of charge.