

# Coffee County Family Services Center

- Assessment & Referral
- Young Parents/Building Blocks
- Breast Cancer/Women's Health Education
- Juvenile Redirection Program
- Other services:
  - VITA tax prep (free tax preparation for \$68,000 or less annual income)
  - Backpack Blessings (provide school supplies for low income families)
  - Toys for Tots/Angel Tree (provided for over 800 children for December 2016)

# Coffee County Juvenile Redirection Program

- October 2015: \$61,000 grant provided through Department of Youth Services (DYS)
- Purpose of grant is to intervene with families in the juvenile justice system and prevent youth from placements at DYS facilities.
- Target: Youth who fall into the “high” or “very high” risk categories, based on the Model Risk Assessment completed by Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO).
- Coffee County Family Services provides Case Management for these families.

# Coffee County Juvenile Redirection Program

- Referrals come either directly from court (court ordered) or separately from JPO's (informal adjustments).
- Each client receives a Biopsychosocial Assessment that is typed into a report and includes a summary and recommendations.
- Other screening instruments include:
  - Juvenile Problem Screening Questionnaire (Parent/Teen)
  - DSM-5 checklist
  - Vanderbilt Assessment Scales (Parent/Teacher)
  - Adolescent Drug & Alcohol Involvement Scale (AAIS)

# Coffee County Juvenile Redirection Program

## Outgoing referrals:

- All families required to attend Parent Project<sup>®</sup>/Why Try?
- Most teens/adolescents referred to counseling
- Psychological Testing
  - Diagnostic
  - IQ and Achievement
- Tutoring
- \*Mentor Program

# The Parent Project®

- 10 week intensive parenting course designed for parents of out-of-control teenagers or adolescents.
- Program was developed by a retired Police Officer (who worked extensively with juvenile justice system in Los Angeles) and a clinical psychologist (who provided evidence based research and practice).
- Parent Project focuses on the responsibility of parents, not the adolescents/teens.
  - Ex: adequate supervision. Lack of supervision is directly correlated with juvenile delinquents and also teen pregnancy.
- No more arguing! (gives parents appropriate skills to avoid yelling)

# The Parent Project®

- Parents establish house rules
  - Forces parents to decide between necessary and unnecessary rules
  - Safety priority, then consequences
- T-Spots: Take everything away for a “short period of time”
  - If child “re-offends” any house rule, time starts over.
- Other areas addressed:
  - Drugs & Alcohol
  - Gangs
  - Suicide Prevention
- For more information: [www.parentproject.com](http://www.parentproject.com)

# Why Try?

- Program for teens and adolescents
- Operates on the principal that kids *want* to do better, but can't get off the "rollercoaster."
- Teaches responsibility for self (at home, school, community)
- Teaches teens to think ahead to goals they want to achieve
  - Or set goals if they don't have any

# So far...

Of our 60+ referrals (15 months and counting...):

- At least 50% have a previous ADHD diagnosis, or have obvious signs of a history of undiagnosed ADHD.
- All of the ADHD clients had at least one comorbid disorder.

Let's look at 3 case examples:



## “Kevin” – Domestic Violence 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Kevin was a 15-year-old African American male
- Accompanied by his mother for intake
- Kevin was diagnosed with ADHD at approximately age 6
- Kevin’s mother consistently sought treatment for her son, who continues to take medication.
- Kevin sees a counselor every two weeks and is on the A/B honor roll.
- \*Family was referred for Parent Project; however, they never followed through due to Mom’s difficulties with trouble remembering, easily distracted, and problems staying organized.

“Quentin” — receiving stolen property; carrying a gun without a permit

- 17-year-old African American male; attended intake with mother and step-father.
- Quentin admits to having these exact same charges in a previous county.
- Quentin was victim of a drive-by shooting. Smokes marijuana on daily basis since that time. Reports frequent nightmares and somatic complaints.
- Recognizes two employees at Family Services as his former school teachers (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and sheepishly admits that he was a “bit of a problem.”
- Former teachers each rate him as 9/9 for inattentive, and 8/9 for hyperactivity... he was hard to forget. 😊 Both also stated that they “loved him.”
- Referred for counseling and Parent Project/Why Try? He and his mother were compliant and participated well.

# “Kaleb” – Domestic Violence 3<sup>rd</sup> \*new referral\*

- Kaleb is a 13-year-old Caucasian male; his father (active duty military) attended intake with him
- Kaleb was born 10 weeks premature; spent several weeks in NICU. Had continued breathing difficulties (apnea) and stopped breathing during bottles.
- Several years later, Kaleb’s parents divorce. Dad deploys to Afghanistan. Mom and step-father provide unstable home environment: high conflict, verbal and physical abuse. Extent of abuse unknown.
- 3 years ago Dad gains primary custody. Kaleb lives in home with Dad, Step-mother, and 3 siblings (2 biological, 1 step)
- Kaleb has received mental health treatment for years for Mood Disorder, ADHD, ODD
  - medication consistently, therapy inconsistently.
- Kaleb demonstrates conflict with women.
- Has “meltdowns” daily; last 10-15 minutes now.

# “Kaleb” – continued

- Parents and Kaleb plan to start Parent Project/Why Try? cycle this month.
  - Father has taken many courses in past, including “1,2,3 Magic!”
- Individual and family counseling will be recommended
- Referral for neuropsychological testing due to trauma at birth and infancy, as well as trauma received from emotional and physical abuse in childhood.