

A Vital Resource for the Juvenile Justice System – The Family

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Why Court-Based Parent Support?



Is she safe?

Will this ruin his life?

She's where?

He did what?

How long will this take?



What is going to happen?



What should the court consider when making decisions about your child?

	n	%
Religion and values	10	28%
Medical and mental health needs	9	25%
General youth background	5	14%
Youth strengths	6	17%
Family preferences and input	3	8%
Prepared court staff	1	3%
Connection to services	1	3%
Does not matter when crime is committed	1	3%
Total	36	100%

That they truly give family support for parents that are trying very hard to save their child

His medical issues are the most important. He is currently on six different medications. I am searching for a new doctor.

That my girl's a good girl and to not put her with bad girls.

His religion by allowing him to attend church regularly.

The future that is still available for my child. He's a good smart kid that can be a successful adult.

The history and legacy of juvenile court does not typically attend to parents' needs and concerns

- *Parens patriae* transferred responsibility to the court for managing youth behaviors
- Legal rights only apply to the youth as the identified defendant
 - One of the most common confusions for parents is that the defense attorney is not obligated to inform or even talk to the parents about the case



However, the most effective programs for improving youth well-being involve families



Attendance

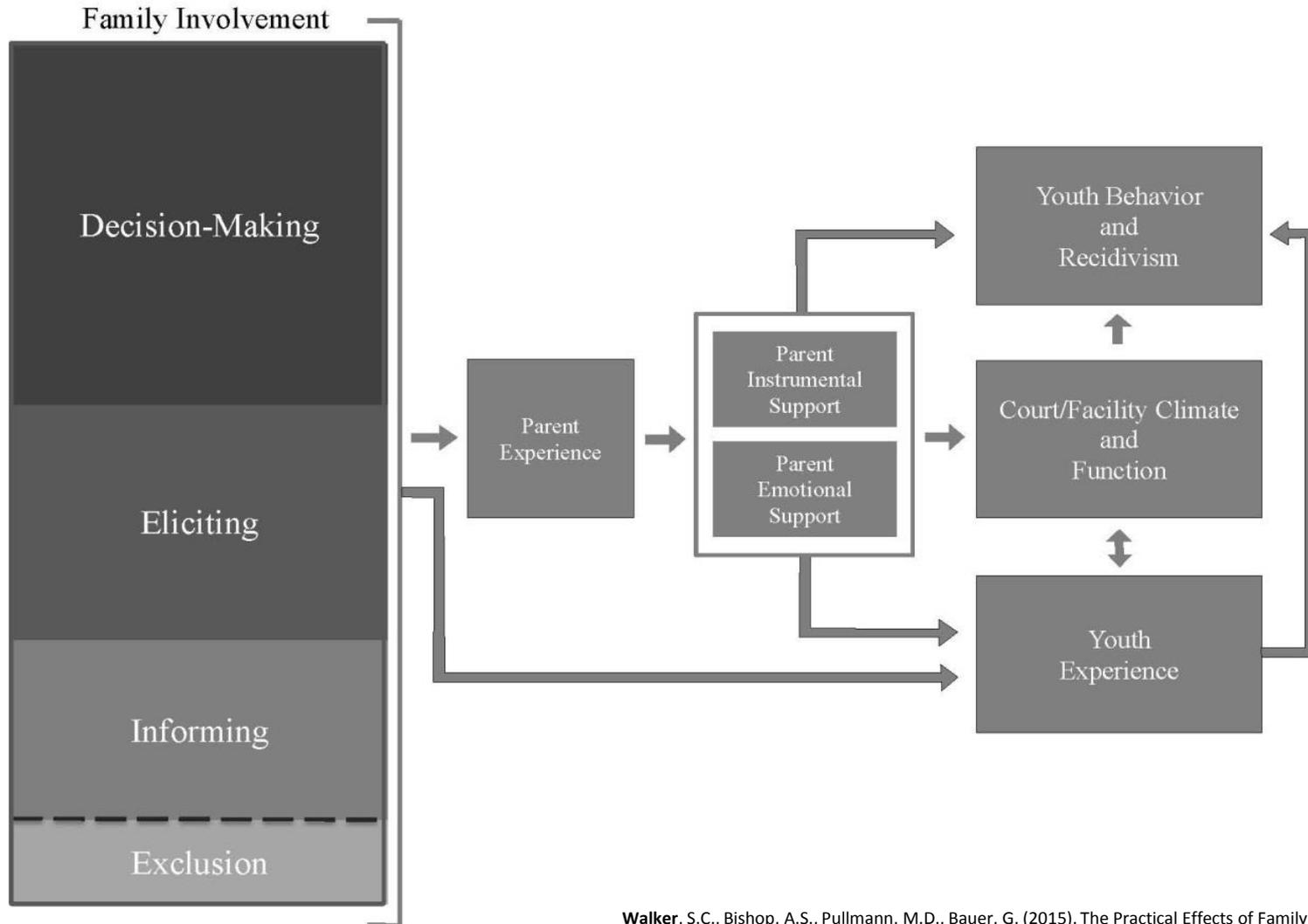


Substance use and abuse



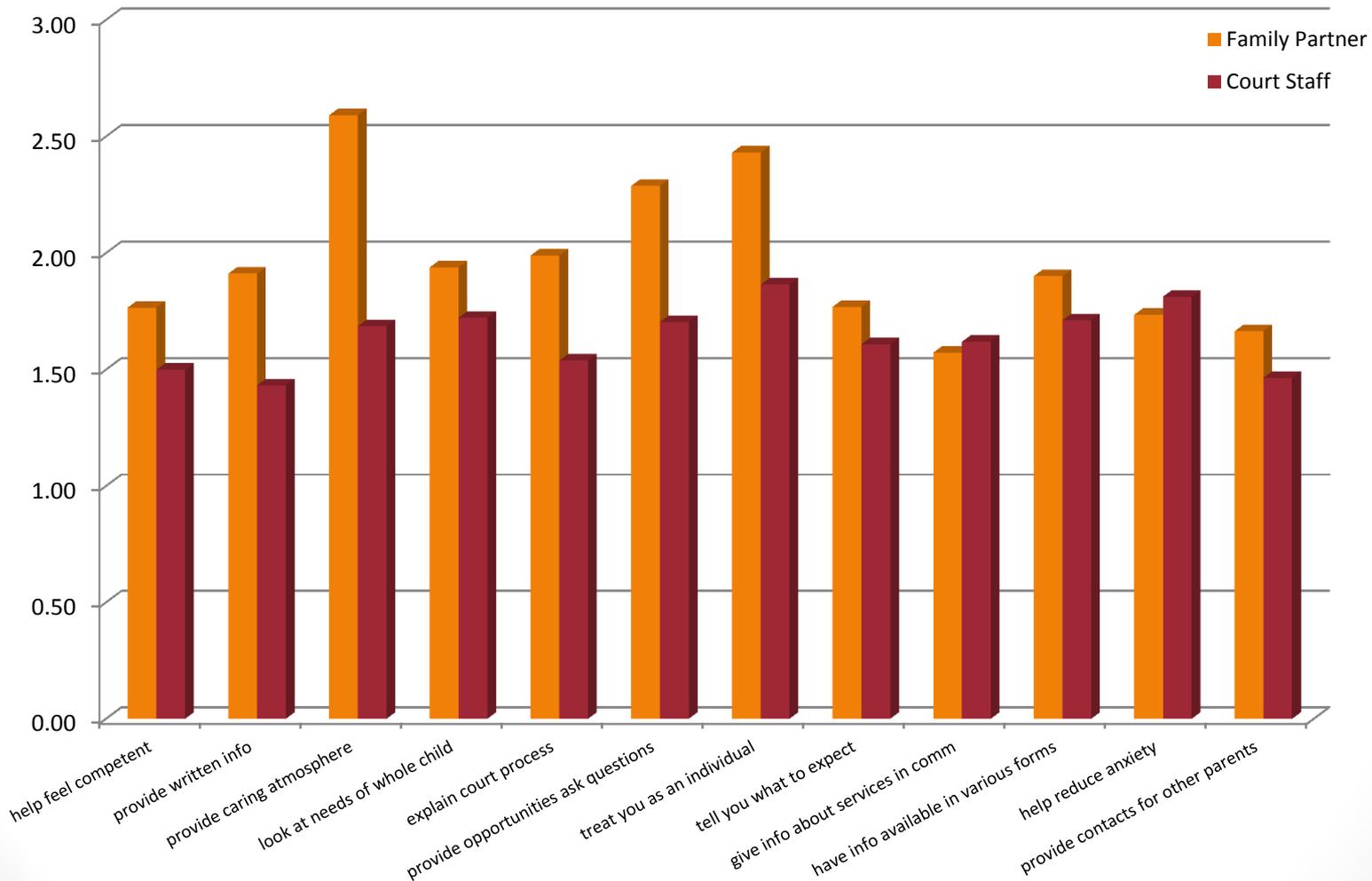
Delinquency

Figure 1: Model for Family Involvement in Juvenile Justice



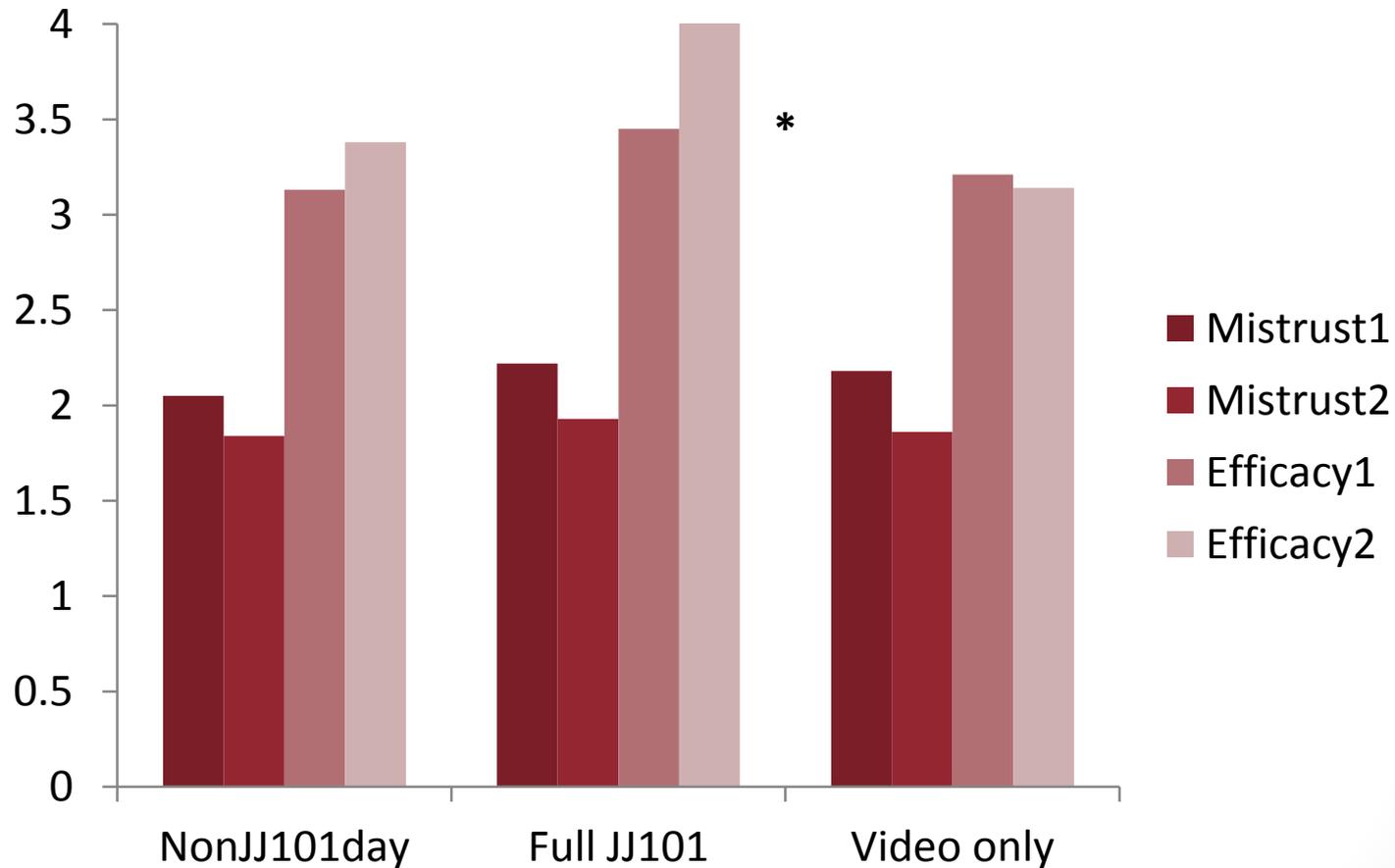
Walker, S.C., Bishop, A.S., Pullmann, M.D., Bauer, G. (2015). The Practical Effects of Family Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System: The Juvenile Justice Family Involvement Model. *American Journal of Community Psychology, online first*. DOI 10. 1007/s10464-015-9755-6.

Rating the court as a “process of care” agency



Walker, S.C., Bishop, A., Jaeger, R., Trayler, K., Gustaveson, S. (2015). Impact of Peer Partner Support on Self Efficacy for Justice-Involved Parents: A Controlled Study of Juvenile Justice 101. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*. 24(2), 443-454.

JJ101 participation associated with increased self efficacy (sig) and decreased mistrust of the court (non sig)



The tense tone in the lobby and the stress of the parents has been visibly reduced precisely because of the presence, contribution and efforts of the JJ101 program and its wonderful parent partners. I have had nothing but positive feedback from parents and families regarding their contact and interaction with JJ101.

- Court Services Staff

My mom can bring me my meds if I go to detention.

Learned what terms mean: deferred disposition, arraignment, etc. I didn't even know what the lawyers were saying.

How to talk to the Judge and if and when she gets on probation I'll know what to do.

First Time in Court?



Court Session: Monday - Friday - 9 a.m.

*Parking at Juvenile Court is metered.
Bring plenty of quarters. You may be in court for two
or more hours.*

NOTICE:

***Weapons: Guns, knives, and other weapon-like
objects are prohibited in court. All persons entering
the court are required to go through a metal
detector.***

***Food and beverages are not allowed. Turn off or
silence cell phones.***

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Connections Unit

Clark County Juvenile Court
Vancouver, WA



Connections is a strength-based, family centered program that significantly increases services to youth on probation with behavioral health issues.

Balanced and Restorative Justice principles and values are incorporated in the program design to increase youth competencies, provide services to victims and to increase public safety.

Families, especially parents, are seen as full partners in developing, delivering and implementing interventions in a wraparound process to ensure that services respond to the real needs and concerns of youth and families.



We use a process called *Wraparound* which:

- Helps organize and prioritize work to help families have better futures.
- Uses a team approach with the family “in the driver’s seat.”
- Helps families define tasks for the team that will solve problems
- Uses people’s unique strengths as tools
- Sees “bad behaviors” as people trying to meet normal human needs unsuccessfully
- Expects everyone to have a say, and all team members to work cooperatively



parental involvement

Department of Probation & Court Services
18th Judicial Circuit Court, DuPage County



Vision

Create and sustain a family centered
Juvenile Justice System
where families are
engaged, involved and valued



Ray Stubner
Deputy Chief - Juvenile Services

Elements of Family Centered Justice

Dignity and Respect

Juvenile justice system staff listens to, and honor, family perspectives and choices. Family knowledge, values, beliefs and cultural backgrounds are incorporated into the planning and delivery of services.

Information Sharing

Juvenile justice system staffs communicate and share complete and unbiased information families in ways that are affirming and useful. Families receive timely, complete and accurate information in order to effectively participate in care and decision-making.

Participation

Families are supported in participating in services and decision-making at the level they choose and are continually encouraged and given opportunities to increase their participation.

Collaboration

Families, juvenile justice system staffs, and justice system leaders collaborate in program and policy development, implementation and evaluation, and in professional education, as well as in the delivery of services.

**Department of Probation & Court Services
18th Judicial Circuit Court
DuPage County, Illinois**

Family Guide

*A Guide for Navigating
Juvenile Probation*



Our Vision...

*"A family-centered juvenile
justice system."*

Please circle the response that most accurately reflects your experience.

1. Was this the first time your child had been on Probation?
(a) yes (b) no
2. How long was your child on Probation?
(a) less than 1 year (b) 1-2 years (c) more than 2 years
3. Did you receive a copy of the booklet, "Family Guide, a guide for navigating through juvenile probation"?
(a) yes (b) no
4. How helpful did you find this booklet?
(a) not helpful at all (b) a little helpful (c) somewhat helpful (d) very helpful
5. Did Probation staff inform you of resources which assist parents in responding to adolescent behavior (for example: counseling services, anger management, addiction treatment, etc.)?
(a) yes (b) no
6. What resources (if any) did you utilize during your child's time on Probation?
(please circle all that apply)
(a) Strong Roots Family Therapy (b) SPARCS (c) mentors
(d) treatment centers (e) STEP-UP (f) Care Manager Network (Health Dept.)
(g) other: _____ (h) none
7. During the Probation process, did you receive information to help parents identify "red flags" for children (for example: warning signs that your child is involved in a gang, using drugs, etc.)?
(a) yes (b) no
8. The expectations regarding what my child needed to do in order to successfully complete Probation were clearly explained.
(a) strongly agree (b) agree (c) disagree (d) strongly disagree

9. How helpful were Probation staff in assisting you to understand the Court process (for example: where to go, when to go, Court terminology, etc.)?
(a) not helpful at all (b) a little helpful (c) somewhat helpful (d) very helpful
10. I feel that the Probation process has assisted with holding my child accountable for his/her behavior.
(a) strongly agree (b) agree (c) disagree (d) strongly disagree
11. The amount of communication that I have received from Probation staff throughout the Probation process was:
(a) too little (b) the right amount (c) too much
12. Probation staff treated me with respect throughout the Probation process.
(a) strongly agree (b) agree (c) disagree (d) strongly disagree
13. How often did the probation officer ask for your input regarding the case direction of your child?
(a) frequently (b) occasionally (c) rarely (d) never
14. Approximately how often (if ever) did you miss a Court hearing?
(a) never (b) 1-3 times (c) 4-6 times (d) 7 or more times
15. Approximately how often (if ever) did you miss a meeting with Probation or had to re-schedule the meeting?
(a) never (b) 1-3 times (c) 4-6 times (d) 7 or more times
16. If it was difficult for you to attend Court hearings or Probation meetings, what was the biggest obstacle that you had to overcome?
17. What did you find to be most helpful in keeping you involved with your child during the Probation process?

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