

# Family Crisis Intervention Unit

## Presenters:

Meghan Ahearn, MSW, LSW *FCIU*  
*Coordinator/ Counselor*

Chee Chee Washington, MS *FCIU*  
*Counselor*



## Hours of Operation

- Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 8:00pm, and Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.
- Emergency after hours calls are fielded through the Ocean's Harbor House TLP.
  - That number is (732) 281-0822
  - The on-call crisis worker is contacted and will return the telephone call to the person/family in need



## The Goals of FCIU



- To divert cases involving Juvenile Family Crisis from the courts by providing:
  - Individual Counseling
  - Family Counseling
  - Case Management
  - Referral Services
- To assist and stabilize the Juvenile Family Crisis
- To service juvenile's aged 10 to 17 years old

## What is a Juvenile Family Crisis? (Appropriate Referrals)



- A "Juvenile Family Crisis" is a behavior, or condition involving the juvenile and an adult within the family which results in:
  - Serious threat to the well-being and physical safety of a juvenile
  - Serious conflict between a parent or guardian and a juvenile regarding rules of conduct which have been manifested by a repeated disregard for lawful parental authority by a parent or guardian
  - Unauthorized absence by a juvenile from his or her home
  - A pattern of repeated unauthorized absences from school by a juvenile

## FCIU Services Include



- Individual and Family Counseling for an hour once a week at the FCIU office for 6 to 12 weeks
- FCIU Counselors will provide individual and family counseling on school premises when a crisis is occurring during school hours
- FCIU Counselors will meet with juveniles at the police stations during a crisis situation to deescalate the crisis
- ❖ *Counseling sessions are a free service for all families living in Ocean County*

## FCIU Services Continued



- FCIU Counselors will provide Case Management and Referrals
- Court approved out of home placements are for extreme circumstances and require the FCIU office to prove that all other resources have been exhausted before being presented in front of the judge.
- 24 hour on-call services for families in crisis

## 2 Types of Family Crisis Petitions



### 1. Juvenile Family Crisis Petition

- Crisis Counselor and family have **exhausted all appropriate community services** and juvenile refuses to comply with the Family Crisis Plan
- Situation intensifies and may need court support in order to ensue a successful outcome

## 2 Types of Crisis Petitions (cont.)



### 2. Out-of-Home Placement Petition

- Juvenile refuses to stay in home and parents refuse juvenile to remain in home
- Serious conflicts or resolvable problems continue to occur between parties that cannot be resolved or reduced by community services while juvenile is in the home
- Voluntary placements with family members, friends, etc. **must first be exhausted** and do not require formal court action
- Involuntary placement into Shore Youth Center Shelter (county shelter) requires the filing of a petition for short term (about 3-5 days) placement while assessments and services can be obtained and set up upon juvenile's discharge from the Shore Youth Center Shelter

## Who Can Make Referrals?



- Law enforcement
- Parent/Guardian or Juvenile
- Any individual that becomes aware of a crisis involving a juvenile and his/her family
- Public or Private agencies
  - Educational Institutions
  - Any organization servicing children which has contacts with the juvenile or family and has reasonable cause to believe that a family crisis exists

## Inappropriate Referrals for FCIU



- General DYFS cases
- Homicidal or suicidal ideation or behavior
- Custody/visitation matters
- Developmentally Disabled
- Crisis arising out of the Department of Human Services (DHS)/the Office of Children Services (OCS)
  - OCS is responsible for the placement and removal of juveniles in their residential settings, group homes, foster homes, etc.

## Contact Information



- Ocean County Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) is located at 808 Conifer Street, Toms River
- Telephone number: (732) 240-3638
- Fax number: (732) 240-3726
- After Hours Emergency Number: (732) 281-0822
- Staff:
  - Meghan Ahearn, MSW, LSW – FCIU Crisis Coordinator/Counselor
  - Chee Chee Washington, MA – FCIU Crisis Counselor