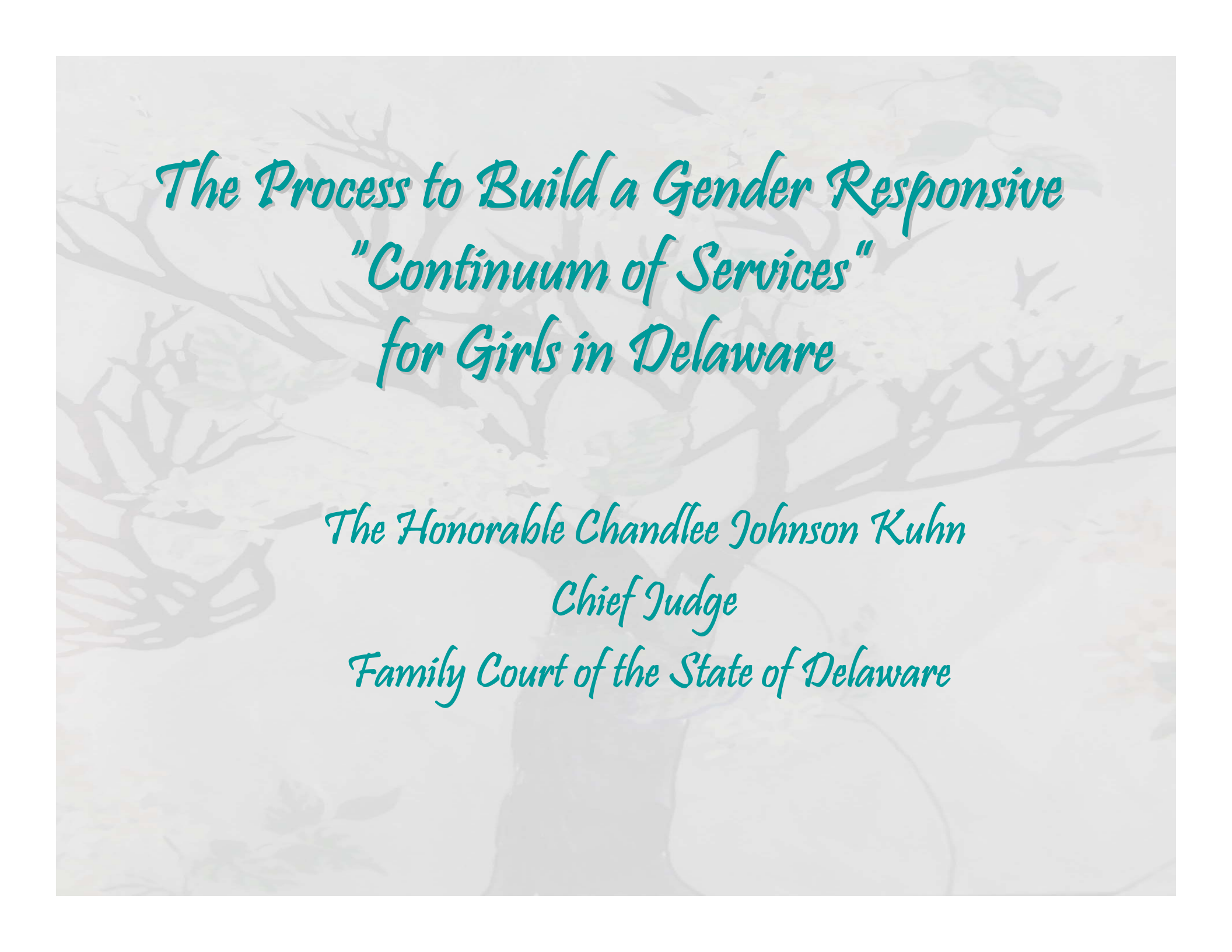




# *A Model for Transforming Services For Girls*

*How One Small State Is Making A Big  
Difference*



*The Process to Build a Gender Responsive  
"Continuum of Services"  
for Girls in Delaware*

*The Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn  
Chief Judge  
Family Court of the State of Delaware*

# *The Process*

- *It began with an interest from juvenile court judges*
- *Jessie Ball duPont Fund sponsored a proposal*
- *Partners: Delaware Stakeholders, Delaware Center for Justice, National Council on Crime and Delinquency, PACE Institute*
- *Developed a Blueprint for Systemic Change*
- *Presently Implementing Priorities and Expanding Resources*
- *Goal: Get the Right Girl.... In the Right Program....  
At the Right Time.*

# *National Statistics and Trends*

- *Girls represent the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice system.*
- *Violent offense rates for girls have been rising while they have been falling or stabilizing for boys.*

# *Juvenile Arrests for Girls*

- *Despite an increase in female arrests for violent offenses, girls are still predominantly arrested for nonviolent crimes.*
- *Girls are more likely to be runaways- 60% of all runaway arrests were girls.*
- *Girls are more likely to be detained for technical violations and often enter the system as status offenders.*
- *The use of detention for girls has increased.*

# *The Impact of Mental Health*

- *Girls report a higher rate of mental health issues than boys. The pathway into juvenile justice is typically paved by trauma.*
- *84% of female juvenile offenders reported mental health problems compared to 27% of male juvenile offenders.*
- *Females juvenile offenders were victimized as children at very high rates.*

# *Disproportionate Representation of Minority Youth*

- African Americans accounted for 25% of the general population of girls age 10-17 in Delaware.*
- African American girls make up 55% of the girls in the YRS population and 70% of the residents at Grace Cottage.*
- Delaware has a higher rate of committing African American and Latina girls aged 10-17 than the national statistics.*

# Strategic Plan

## A. Programming

*Objective: To implement gender responsive policies and practices in all programs that serve girls in Delaware.*

*~ Enhance existing programs*

*~ Create new programs*

# Strategic Plan

## B. Collaboration/Partnerships

*Objective: To define cross-system and community collaboration to implement system reform strategies.*

# Strategic Plan

## C. Professional Development

*Objective: To train professionals and paraprofessionals to implement gender responsive practices, strategies and programming across the continuum of services.*

# Strategic Plan

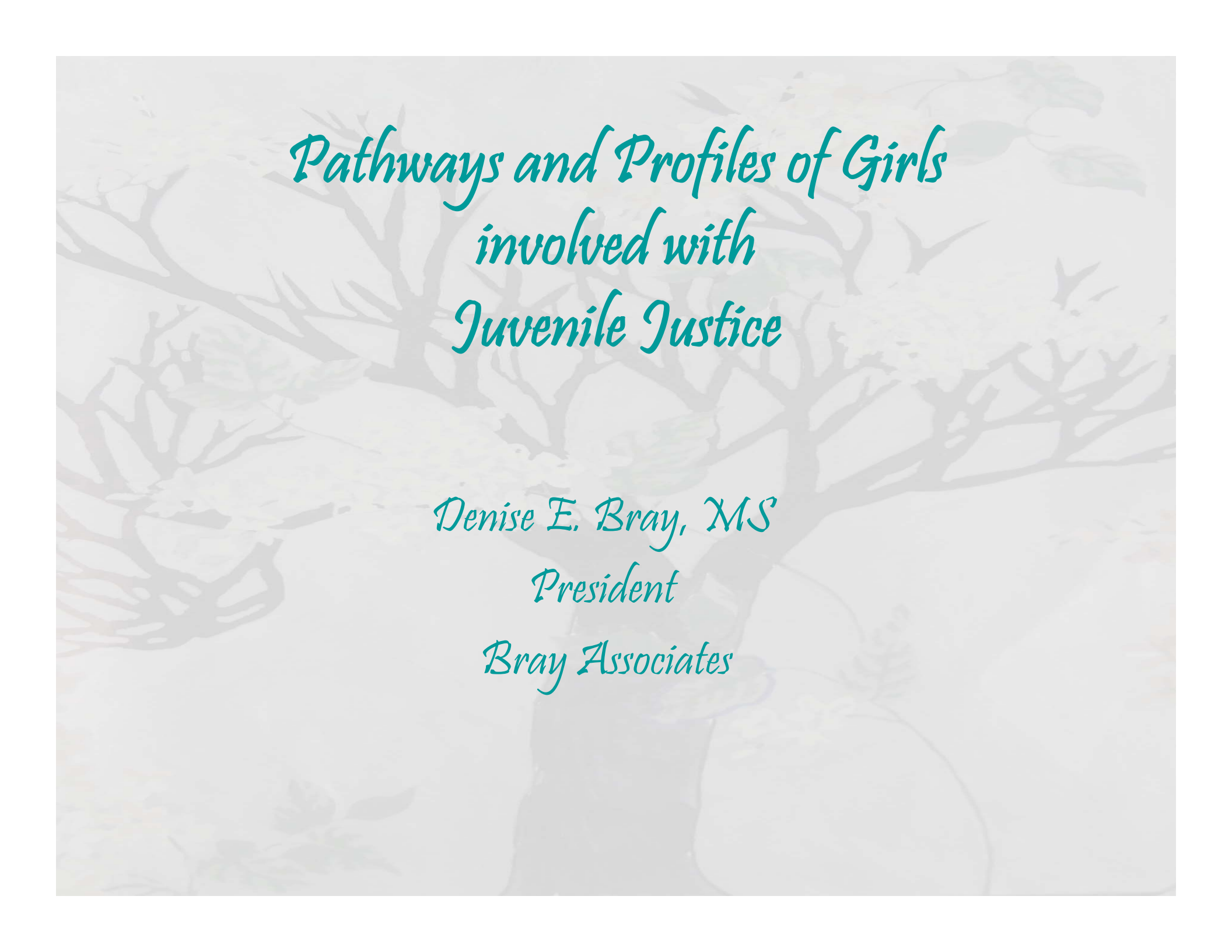
## D. Advocacy

*Objective: To increase public awareness on the complex issues facing girls involved in the juvenile justice system, or at risk of entering, and to support and promote gender specific services for girls.*

# Strategic Plan

## E. Research and Evaluation

*Objective: To make all processes data-driven and to use gender specific screening, evaluation, and assessment tools.*



*Pathways and Profiles of Girls  
involved with  
Juvenile Justice*

*Denise E. Bray, MS  
President  
Bray Associates*

# *Gender Responsive Services*

- *Designed to meet the unique needs of girls, that value the female perspective, celebrate and honor the female experience, respect and take into account female development*
- *Leads to self-expression, self-discovery and girls finding their voices and achieving their potential*
- *Focuses on gender identity*
- *Assesses and Responds*
- *Learn "Herstory"*
- *Holistic, Comprehensive, Strength-based*

# *Six Developmental Domains*

*Physical*

*Relational*

*Sexual*

*Intellectual*

*Emotional*

*Spiritual*

# Model of Trauma Recovery

## 1. Safety

*Tense: present (potential)*

*All domains*

## 2. Remembrance & Mourning

*Tense: past (pathology)*

*Give voice to her experience including context, fact, emotion, meaning*

## 3. Reconnection to Ordinary Life

*Tense: future*

*Healing occurs in the context of relationships*

# *Girls Psychology*

- *The False Feminine Voice*
- *Psychic Split*
- *Use of Voice to Cover not Convey*
- *Process of Dissociation*

# *Growing Great Girls Program Values*

- *Protect*
- *Respect*
- *Connect*



# *Positive Outcomes*

*Allison L. Cassidy, LCSW*  
*Program Coordinator*  
*Delaware Girls Initiative*



# *Positive Outcomes*

*Source Book*

*Website*

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

*Youth Summit*

*Current Programs*

*Future Programming*

# *Current Programs*

- *Children & Families First*  
*Girls Wrap Around Program*
- *YMCA of Delaware*  
*Building Strong Girls Program*
- *Teen Clinic*  
*at the Family Medicine Center*

# *Children & Families First Girls Wrap Around Program*

- Intensive, home based services by counselor and parent aide team*
- Two teams - Wilmington/Dover*
- Maximum 8 girls/families per team*
- 12-18 yrs old*
- Transitioning out of Grace Cottage (level 4 facility) or diversion from incarceration*
- Referrals: Family Court or Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services*
- Gender Specific PO for each team*

# *Children & Families First Girls Wrap Around Program*

*Reporting Period: July 07 - Dec 07*

*Number of Girls served: 16*

*Services: individual, family and/or group counseling, case management, linkages to community resources, strengths-based and individualized*

# *Children & Families First Girls Wrap Around Program*

*Overall Program Goal:*

*Decrease juvenile delinquency by preventing recidivism in girls ages 12-18 who are returning to the community following discharge from a secure detention facility.*

# *Children & Families First Girls Wrap Around Program*

*Goal 1: Prevent out-of-home placement for 75% of girls served*

*Outcome: Approximately 87.5% of girls served have been successfully returned to a family placement in the community after detention.*

# *Children & Families First Girls Wrap Around Program*

*Goal 2: 75% of girls served will have no new incidences of charges*

*Outcome: Approximately 94% of the girls served have not had new criminal charges once engaged in the program.*

The background of the slide features a faint, light-colored illustration of a large tree with a person climbing its trunk. The text is overlaid on this background in a teal, cursive font.

## *Children & Families First Girls Wrap Around Program*

*Goal 3: 75% of girls will improve school attendance as measured by school records*

*Outcome: Approximately 80% of the girls served are again attending an educational program on a regular basis.*

# *Children & Families First Girls Wrap Around Program*

*Goal 4: 75% of girls will improve personal strengths and behaviors as reported by a parent/caregiver and the girl herself*

*Outcome: Based on the Parenting Stress Index, findings suggest that 100% of the girls demonstrated a significant decrease in index scores indicating problems in managing mood, behavior, and interpersonal relationships.*

# *Children & Families First Girls Wrap Around Program*

*Goal 5: At discharge the girl and her family will have successfully met at least 75% of the needs identified on the service plan*

*Outcome: At graduation from the program, 80% of the girls had achieved at least 2/3 of their goals (40% of these girls achieved all of their goals)*

# *YMCA of Delaware*

## *Building Strong Girls Program*

- Year-round, free, gender responsive programming for girls*
- 11 - 16 yrs old*
- Mondays/Wednesdays 3:00-6:00pm*
- Academic enrichment, positive social interaction, life skills, and case management*
- Referrals: Juvenile Probation, Community Agencies, Schools, Families*

# *YMCA of Delaware Building Strong Girls Program*

*Reporting Period: July 07- Dec 07*

*Number of Girls served: 17*

*Services: Life skills training, sexual health education, anger management, leadership development, tutoring, goals setting, socialization, case management*

The background of the slide features a faint, light-colored illustration of a large tree. A young girl is depicted climbing one of the tree's branches. The overall aesthetic is soft and naturalistic, with a light green and grey color palette.

# *YMCA of Delaware Growing Strong Girls Program*

*Overall Program Goal:*

*Decrease delinquency or adjudication in girls by developing greater self-esteem, improved educational performances, stronger inter-personal relationships and self sufficiency.*

# *YMCA of Delaware Building Strong Girls Program*

*Goal #1: Reduce recidivism*

*Outcome: Only one participant was charged with a new offense*

*Goal #2: Increase academic performance*

*Outcome: Pending - No Delaware State Testing occurred during this report period*

*Goal #3: Improved self-esteem*

*Outcome: Based on self-survey (results pending from consultant)*

# *Teen Clinic at the Family Medicine Center*

- An evening clinic - Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:30-6:30pm, or by appointment*
- Teens and young adults - 12-25 yrs old*
- Medical care, mental health counseling and case management*
- Referrals - Detention Center, Probation, Physicians, Wellness Centers, Friends*

# *Teen Clinic at the Family Medicine Center*

*Reporting Period: 10/23/07 - 1/11/08*

*Number of Youth Served: 33 (90% female)*

*21 - Physician Visits    12 - Mental Health Visits*

*Services: STD, Pregnancy, Mental Health, Acute care,  
GYN, Physical Exams, Community Referrals, and Case  
Management*



# *Teen Clinic at the Family Medicine Center*

*Goal:*

*Medical Care, Mental Health Counseling, and Case Management to link teens and young adults to services within the hospital and community.*

# Future Programs

- *Therapeutic Residence for Girls – multisystemic collaboration for chronic runaway girls in foster care system*
- *Sexual Health Education for Girls – Collaboration with Christiana Care Residency Program for Grace Cottage (level 4 facility) and New Castle County Detention Center*
- *Mentoring/Holistic Programming for Girls – Collaboration with Big Brothers/Big Sisters for girls at Project Stayfree Home based Probation*
- *One Day Conference – Girl Study Group/Girl Trouble Film*

# Contact Information

The Honorable Chandlee Johnson Kuhn  
[CJ.Kuhn@state.de.us](mailto:CJ.Kuhn@state.de.us)

Denise E. Bray, President, Bray Associates  
[DBray@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:DBray@tampabay.rr.com)

Allison L. Cassidy, Coordinator, Delaware Girls Initiative  
[ACassidy@dcjustice.org](mailto:ACassidy@dcjustice.org)