



THE CARTER CENTER

Waging Peace. Fighting Disease.
Building Hope.

23rd Annual Rosalynn Carter Georgia Mental Health Forum: Children in Need of Services (CHINS) Panel III

Lei Ellingson, M.P.P., M.S.S.E., Senior Associate Director, TCCMHP

Honorable John Sumner, J.D., Presiding Judge, Cherokee County

Kate Dowd, M.S., Program Associate, TCCMHP

Background and Framing



2013 HB 242: The Juvenile Justice Reform Act

Article 5: Children in Need of Services (CHINS)

Child in Need of Services means:

A child adjudicated to be in need of care, guidance, counseling, structure, supervision, treatment or rehabilitation and who is adjudicated to be:

- Truant
- Habitually disobedient, ungovernable
- A runaway (24 hours plus)
- Guilty of child-only offense
- Loitering after midnight
- On probation for unruly
- Hanging out in bars
- Delinquent but not in need of treatment or rehab



Why Children in Need of Services (CHINS) Matters

- Teens being Teens
- Child/Family in Crisis
- Abuse or Neglect



Snapshot of CHINS: Present and Future

- State CHINS Coordinator
- Council of Juvenile Court Judges CHINS Committee
- Inter-agency Policy Committee
- CHINS Practice Guide



CHINS Practice Guide

- Court Protocols
- Collaboration/ System of Care
- Assessment: early response, screening, and ongoing assessment
- Interventions: diversion and treatment
- Data



Northwest Georgia CHINS Behavioral Health & Child Welfare: A Pilot Project

Douglas County, Cherokee County, Paulding County
and Polk-Haralson County



CHINS Coordinator Practice Guide

- Forms
- Agreement
- Referral
- Self-Care Resources
- Data Collection Resources

