



PbS E-Newsletter

Springfield Secure Treatment Program



www.pbstandards.org

In 2002, the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS) requested that the Springfield Secure Treatment Program participate in a project being conducted by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA). This project focuses on ways of improving the care of adolescents in detention and correctional facilities.

What made the request unique was that we at the facility and RFK were the first and at the time, the only provider agency asked to take part from Massachusetts. At first we thought: is this going to resemble the ACA Certification project we participated in and how many copy machines were we going to destroy during the process?

We quickly learned that this was not really like the ACA project, as this project looked at service delivery areas within the program and provided ways to improve those areas through a Facility Improvement Plan

(FIP). We realized it was going to be a learning process and a way to improve on how we care for adolescents in a treatment environment.

At times, the process has been challenging, but overall, it is a mechanism that allows us as a program to utilize data, identify areas of concern and work to correct or improve those areas. It has been a positive activity,

and now with the growth of PbS and new programs and jurisdictions coming on board, it can only mean better care and treatment for adolescents across the country. RFK will have at least three programs on board by April 2009, with the hope of more programs participating in the future. The project has been a benefit to the program and the agency overall.



Brendan W. McWade, Site Coordinator Springfield Secure Treatment Program RFK Children's Action Corps

Coaches Corner - Dave Crowley

Brendan McWade and the staff at the Springfield Secure Treatment Program discovered that the data collection and analysis required by PbS is not as complicated as they anticipated it would be. Despite their initial anxieties about participating in the project, they realized that PbS is more than gathering data. It is a meaningful management tool that helps their facility identify issues and plan for improvement. After the October 2008 data collection, the Springfield Secure Treatment Program had mastered all the PbS definitional compliance and process competencies as well as performed better than the PbS field average in more than 85 percent of the critical outcome measures. This notable accomplishment demonstrates Brendan and his colleagues' commitment to continuous improvement of their facility and its programs.

Data Collection Timeline

April 1-30, 2009: Data Collection

May 8, 2009: Data Entry Closed

May 11, 2009: Draft Reports Available

May 22, 2009: Draft Period Ends

May 26, 2009: Final Reports Online

Show Us Your Flags: Star Academy South Dakota

South Dakota STAR Academy (State Treatment and Rehabilitation) proudly displays their five PbS flags around their two campuses. STAR Academy has discovered that having the flags visible for the youth, staff, and the public it creates a conversation piece about the PbS project. State PbS Coordinator, Tonya Wright-Cook, plans on displaying one of the flags in front of the STAR Academy Administration building in the future.



**Jennifer Mechaley, Site Coordinator
Youth Challenger Center Program**



**Scott Jones, Site Coordinator
STAR Admissions**



**Michaelyn Mieczkowski (left), Site Coordinator
Excel Program
Danielle Meyer (right), Site Coordinator
Quest Program**



STAR Academy Administration Lobby PbS Display Cabinet



**Patrick H. Brady Academy PbS Crew (from left to right)
Jason Gillaspie, Program Manager
Cinda Jones, Program Administrative Assistant
Carl Basseimer, Site Coordinator**