



Links to Success:
A comprehensive behavioral health approach to the reduction of juvenile gun violence and other unsafe or illegal choices.

OUR MODEL

The vision of our Links to Success behavioral health model is to support adolescents ages 12-18 to be free from crime and violence. We provide individualized support to youth and their parents or caregivers from 16-24 hours per month on average to focus on risk reduction and the following four primary criminogenic protective factors:

1. **Assuring youth mental and physical health care needs are met.** We initiate services by completing the Beck Youth Inventories-2 to measure self reported youth symptoms of depression, anxiety, anger, disruptive behavior and self-concept; as well as, the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS). Once we know youth status on these mental health concerns, we are better able to create a meaningful, trauma informed service and safety plan for them if needed.
2. **Endorse positive attitudes, beliefs, decision making and motivation.** We first administer a CRAFFT 2.1+ N screening tool to assess if any substance use barriers may exist and need urgently addressed. We then identify the most appropriate evidence-based curricula for the youth to receive individualized psycho-educational instruction.
3. **Link youth to an educational, career, and/or vocational plan.** We believe strongly that the youth we serve can and will obtain a high school diploma or equivalency. Using assessment tools sponsored by the US Department of Labor, we assist youth to create a meaningful post secondary career or vocational path with an actionable plan for them to achieve.
4. **Support parents or caregivers in assuring a safe, secure home with healthful family dynamics.** Connections has created a comprehensive Family Needs Assessment to assure parents and caregivers have the resources they need and desire to maintain their household, parent effectively and improve the overall quality of life for their family.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

- We believe the foundation for any positive family change begins with the respectful understanding of their history, assets, needs and the establishment of a hopeful vision for their future.
- We believe that safe, loving and supportive households provide the nurturing environment where children, teens, and families can most likely thrive, grow and succeed with their choices and goals.
- We understand that positive behavioral change will more likely occur when youth and their family members are physically and mentally well in all aspects possible.

Thus, our agency has a depth of clinical resources such as psychiatric treatment, psychological assessments, addiction recovery, and trauma informed therapy to assist with these more complex needs if appropriate.

In addition to our Links to Success program and in further support of our vision that children are free from crime and violence, we offer the following health and psycho-educational groups:



Aggression Replacement Training: Our course is an interactive cognitive behavioral intervention program designed to help children and adolescents improve social skill competence and moral reasoning, better manage anger, and reduce aggressive behavior. This evidence-based program specifically targets chronically aggressive children and adolescents ages 12-18 and is offered virtually and in person.

Healing Families Impacted by Gun Violence: Parents, grandparents or caregivers and their children ages 12 through adulthood are invited to a two day workshop where Connections therapists facilitate open family dialogue and strategies to help participants begin or continue their recovery from the brutal and unexpected death of a parent, child or sibling due to gun violence.

Stop The Bleed® is one of our nation's largest public health campaigns, designed to encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. Our goal is to save lives by training people how to stop traumatic bleeding by offering complimentary 1.5 hour courses to our community taught by either our adult and/ or our youth peer instructor teams.

Understanding Post Traumatic Stress Symptoms for Victims of Non-Fatal Shootings and Stabbings: Our two hour course offered monthly is intended to educate teens and adults about common symptoms experienced following trauma such as: sleep disturbance, trauma reminders, trouble concentrating, irritability and anger. Our course offers strategies to manage PTSD and ideas to encourage and support friends and family members impacted by these tragic events.

Youth Gun Violence Prevention Course (formerly Project Life): The purpose of this 7.5 hour course over three days is to educate youth and their families about the medical, legal, and social consequences arising from acts of gun violence. We address topics such as: conflict resolution, safe choices, understanding law enforcement and goal setting.

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REFERRAL INQUIRIES

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We are an approved provider with the Indiana Department of Child Services and Indiana Department of Education.

Our Links to Success © model is typically funded by an Indiana Home Based Casework or Transition to Restrictive Placement referral from DCS or juvenile probation.

Limited scholarships available for most all course registrations if needed. Sponsorships welcomed.

Most public and private insurances are accepted.