Flowchart for Custody Diversion Protocol

**Phase I**

- Parent informs CD or JO they wish to give up custody in order to obtain MH services
  - Has family discussed needs with DMH?
    - NO
      - Parent still wishes to relinquish custody?
        - NO
          - Process ends
        - YES
          - Initiate protocol by completing form, send to CMHC
    - YES
      - Refer family to CMHC and/or RO, C-Star for intake and/or service planning.

**Phase II**

- Assessment results shared with family
  - Child’s needs can be met with in-home or community based services?
    - YES
      - Parent refuses services offered
    - NO
      - Does child need residential services?
        - YES
          - Services are planned and provided through DMH Agency
        - NO
          - Funding not available
            - Consider VPA

- In-home services are planned and provided through DMH Agency
  - Process ends

- Asses for Child/Abuse & Neglect
  - Services are planned and provided through DMH Agency
Phase III  VPA

**NO**  
Funding for services unavailable

**YES**  
CD initiates VPA agreement with parents and relevant DMH Divisions, for no longer than 180 days

**YES**  
Parent still wishes to relinquish custody?

**NO**  
Residential services established, discharge planning begins with placement lasting no longer than 180 days.

**YES**  
Process ends

**YES**  
Children’s Division discusses implications with parents, encouraging VPA

**YES**  
Parent still wishes to relinquish custody?

**NO**  
Children’s Division takes the necessary actions; DMH staff maintains open case