



**National Center for Mental
Health and Juvenile Justice**

NCMHJJ

Juvenile Mental Health Courts

Program Descriptions: Processes and Procedures



**National Center for Mental Health
and Juvenile Justice**

August 2005



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Juvenile Mental Health Court

Jurisdiction: Los Angeles County, California

Program Overview:

In response to the overwhelming mental health needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system, Congressman Adam Schiff and Legislator Tony Cardenas worked to secure a state grant to start the Los Angeles County Juvenile Mental Health Court (JMHCt) in the fall of 2001. This grant is used to cover staff salaries (except for the alternate public defender). Services are provided through a variety of sources, including the Regional Center and other community-based organizations. This JMHCt is a full time court that serves youth in Los Angeles County with an Axis I mental health disorder or an Axis II developmental disability. While there are no formal exclusion criteria with respect to current charges, the team and judge use discretion when dealing with very serious felonies. The court uses a team approach to make decisions about new cases and to monitor the progress of youth. This team consists of the judge, district attorney, public defender, an alternate public defender, Department of Mental Health (DMH) psychologist, school liaison, probation officers, and a psychiatric social worker. The primary source of referrals for the court is post-adjudication from the Los Angeles delinquency/juvenile courts. Youth are screened by a consulting psychiatrist from UCLA for mental health issues. Typically a previous evaluation is available to the JMHCt for these youth. The consulting psychiatrist discusses the results of the screening with the JMHCt team. The court maintains an active caseload of approximately 70 youth. However, at its peak, the court has had as many as 90 youth on its caseload. Youth are involved with the court a minimum of two years.

The psychologist functions largely as a case manager, forming linkages with providers and overseeing treatment and progress. Participating youth receive case management services and linkages to community-based mental health services, including medication and therapy. Many of these youth are at least temporarily detained in juvenile hall, which has a care unit for youth with mental illness. Most youth reside in group homes or with their family during their participation in the court. Participants are monitored through formal delinquency court review every six months as well as through judicial review in the JMHCt. The frequency of these reviews is tailored to meet the specific needs of each youth and may be as frequent as every week if appropriate. If reduced frequency of appearances is deemed to be an incentive to a youth, such action will be used by the court to encourage positive change. Upon successful completion of the program, petitions are routinely dismissed.

Program Contact:

**Juvenile Mental Health Court
Commissioner Christina Hill
201 Centre Plaza Drive
Monterey Park, CA 91754
Phone: 323-226-8916**



**NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH
AND JUVENILE JUSTICE**

**JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Email: chill@lasuperiorcourt.org



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents

Jurisdiction: Santa Clara, California

Program Overview:

The Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents (CITA) in Santa Clara County, California was the first juvenile mental health court. CITA began in February of 2001 as a multi-system initiative guided by strong judicial leadership. The court is primarily funded through reallocation of existing resources. To be eligible for participation in CITA, a youth must have been under 14 years of age at the time of the offense and have a serious mental illness, including brain disorders (schizophrenia, severe anxiety, bipolar disorder, and severe ADHD) or severe head injury that has contributed to their criminal activity. The court also accepts youth with certain developmental disabilities such as mental retardation and autism. CITA excludes youth who have committed certain violent felonies. The court uses a multi-disciplinary team approach to assess, monitor, and make recommendations to the court regarding a youth participant's case. The team consists of representatives from mental health and probation, and a prosecutor and defense attorney. Referral sources for CITA include juvenile hall, probation, district attorney, and the public defender.

Upon acceptance to CITA, all youth receive a clinical assessment, which includes psychological, behavioral, educational, social, and family assessments. In some instances, standardized assessment instruments, such as the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (DISC), are used. These assessments are overseen by a mental health coordinator, who is also responsible for conducting the initial assessment to determine program eligibility. Once accepted into CITA, the coordinator monitors and coordinates treatment planning and reports to the multidisciplinary team. Community supervision through face-to-face visits with the youth and visits with the family is the responsibility of the probation officer, who then reports this information to the court. A number of mental health services are available through CITA, including therapy, emergency services, medication, and wraparound services. As the youth progresses through CITA, transition planning is conducted to help facilitate a successful transition to the community.

Program Contact:

Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents

Judge Raymond J Davilla, Jr.

Department 78

840 Guadalupe Parkway

San Jose, CA 95110-1714

Phone: 408-808-6238

Email: rdavilla@scscourt.org



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Adelante!

Jurisdiction: Ventura County, California

Program Overview:

Through a three year grant from SAMHSA, Ventura County, California has operated a juvenile mental health court (JMHCT) since March, 2004. The court provides mental health services to youth with serious mental health issues through the collaboration of a multidisciplinary team of professionals (judge, district attorney, public defender, probation officers, psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist and school liaison). The court accepts youth with a serious emotional disturbance as long as there is familial support sufficient to manage the youth at home. While the court does not formally exclude youth based on their current charges, it does exercise discretion with respect to youth who commit serious felonies and/or sex offenses. The majority of Adelante!'s referrals come from the juvenile court post-adjudication but prior to disposition. Youth are screened and assessed by the court's clinician. Participation is typically a condition of probation. However, the court also gets some referrals from probation and behavioral health and occasionally serves as an aftercare program for youth post-commitment.

The court provides mental health services (family and individual therapy, medications) directly to participating youth. These services are funded through the SAMHSA grant. When possible, the court also accesses MediCal funds to pay for services. Since its founding, the court has served approximately 22 youth and anticipates increasing its capacity in the near future. Progress and compliance are monitored by the probation department and through bi-weekly judicial review. In cases of non-compliance, youth may be required to complete community service or to be temporarily admitted to a detention facility. The court also utilizes electronic monitoring when necessary and youth can be returned to juvenile court by the probation department.

Program Contact:

Adelante!

Rogelio Cruz, Probation Officer or

4333 Vineyard Avenue

Oxnard, CA 93036

Phone: 805-981-5668

Email: Rogelio.cruz@ventura.org

Mark Varela, Division Mgr.

for Commitment Services

4333 Vineyard Avenue

Oxnard, CA 93036

Phone: 805-981-5544

Email: Mark.Vartela@ventura.org



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Mental Health Facilitation Program

Jurisdiction: Escambia County, Florida

Program Overview:

Since November 2003, Escambia County, Florida has operated a juvenile mental health court (JMHCt) known as the Mental Health Facilitation Program. This JMHCt is funded through a Byrne Grant, with services supported in part through Medicaid reimbursement. The court serves youth with primary mental health issues that are deemed to have contributed to the youth's criminal behavior. The program does not formally exclude youth on the basis of current charges. However, youth may be excluded, at the discretion of the judge, if their participation poses community safety risks. The court currently serves 25 actively enrolled youth. Thirteen youth have successfully graduated since the court's inception. A total of 15 youth were unable to successfully complete the program requirements. Most of the JMHCt's cases are referred from juvenile court post-adjudication, as a result of identification of potential mental health issues. However, youth are also referred occasionally from probation and TASC. For the majority of referred youth, participation in the JMHCt is a condition of probation. However, there are no formal restrictions prohibiting the court from accepting youth pre-adjudication. In addition, the court occasionally functions as a post-commitment aftercare program.

Mental health services (in-home case management, individual counseling, parenting classes) are provided primarily through contracts with two Medicaid HMO providers (80% of participants are Medicaid eligible). For those youth who are not Medicaid eligible and who do not have adequate private insurance, funds from the Byrne Grant are used to supplement treatment costs. Treatment progress is monitored through phone calls and home visits, and by probation officers. Treatment progress is also monitored through bi-weekly judicial review. Non-compliance with the court's requirements may result in a written apology, informal community service, requirement of parental participation, removal from the program, or admission to an inpatient psychiatric facility.

Program Contact:

Mental Health Facilitation Program
Polly Ryan, Mental Health Facilitator
2251 North Palafox Street
Pensacola, FL 32501
Phone: 850-595-3804
Email: polly_ryan@co.escambia.fl.us



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Juvenile Court Individualized Disposition Docket

Jurisdiction: Hamilton County, Ohio

Program Overview:

The Hamilton County Individualized Disposition Docket (IDD) was started in February 2004 in response to a gap in services that was identified for youth with severe, biologically based mental health disorders such as bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and severe ADHD involved with the juvenile justice system. To be eligible for the IDD, youth must be between the ages of 12 and 17 years, have an identified primary caregiver, be at risk of out-of-home placement, must not require residential placement and may not be in the custody of Hamilton County Job and Family Services. Youth with violent or sex offenses, and youth who are deemed to pose a serious public safety threat are excluded from the program. While a guilty plea is not required for participation, eligible youth must be adjudicated delinquent. The program is administered by the Hamilton County Juvenile Court and is funded through Medicaid reimbursement, mental health levy dollars, and the juvenile court general fund. The program is magistrate driven, with 2 magistrates assigned to the IDD. Each magistrate maintains a caseload of fifteen youth whom they see every other week. The court has 9 currently enrolled youth, and has served 27 youth and their families since its inception. The target length of involvement for the court is three to six months; however, the average length of involvement for graduated clients to date is 6.5 months.

The MAYSI-2 is used to screen prospective clients for admission to the program. If this screen indicates that the youth is eligible, a clinical psychological evaluation is conducted and a family assessment is performed by a treatment provider. Youth participating in IDD receive intensive, home- and school-based and strengths-based behavior management, psychiatric services, and comprehensive support services through a community treatment provider. The court anticipates implementation of a new treatment model in the Summer of 2005. The program makes every attempt to be flexible and accommodate family schedules and circumstances. Youth are supervised by an assigned probation officer and graduated sanctions are used in the event of non-compliance. The IDD also uses a variety of rewards for positive behavior. There is a strong emphasis in the court on establishing connections with community treatment providers and facilitating transition out of the program, so that within four months all long term treatment services are in place.

Program Contact:

Juvenile Court Individualized Disposition Docket

Kelley Boller, Specialized Court Coordinator

800 Broadway

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Phone: 513-946-9258

Email: Kelley.boller@juvcourt.hamilton-co.org



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Juvenile Intervention Court

Jurisdiction: Huron County, Ohio

Program Overview:

The Huron County Juvenile Intervention Court is a dual-diagnosis court that was established in October, 2003. The court is administered by the Huron County Juvenile Court and is funded through existing court resources. The court serves youth in Huron County that have both a mental health and substance use diagnosis, and has no formal exclusion criteria with respect to charges. However, the program does not accept sex offenders. The court currently has nine enrolled youth, and serves approximately 15 youth per year. The program is implemented in phases, over the course of 9 to 18 months.

Clinical screening and assessment is conducted by a licensed mental health professional. Participating youth receive integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment, including outpatient individual and family counseling, as well as case-management services through community treatment providers, primarily Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services. A psychologist also works extensively with the youth's family regarding substance use and other issues. Youth are supervised by court personnel, community treatment providers (specifically the court coordinator and case manager), and family members. In the event of non-compliance, sanctions such as community service, thought intervention, increased program involvement, writing assignments and, in some cases, detention placement may be used. Upon successful completion of the program, the court will consider expungement of the youth's record.

Program Contact:

Juvenile Intervention Court

Nathan Perani, Court Coordinator

2 East Main Street, 1st Floor

Norwalk, OH 44857

Phone: 419-668-1616

Email: hcintct@accnorwalk.com



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Ottawa County Juvenile Mental Health Court

Jurisdiction: Ottawa County, Ohio

Program Overview:

The Ottawa County Juvenile Mental Health Court, known as Families And Courts Together (FACT), was established in July 2003, in response to the large numbers of youth in the juvenile justice system with unaddressed mental health needs. The court is a partnership with the Erie/Ottawa County Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB), which provides funding to support a clinician from one of the local mental health agencies.. Diagnostic Assessments (DA) are conducted by a licensed professional counselor who performs court ordered assessments three days per week. The court orders that the parents be parties to the order and that all parties must follow the treatment recommendations from the clinician. In the event of non-compliance, the youth and their parents can be brought back to court for a post-dispositional hearing to explain why they are not following through with the order.

Mental health services are available through any community mental health or alcohol or drug counselor, and families may choose their provider as long as the provider meets the treatment recommendations with respect to the services needed for the youth. Participating youth are supervised by a probation officer and the Director of Probation and Court Services. Providers also complete monthly reports that the court uses to monitor compliance and progress with treatment. The FACT Program also meets with providers and the MHRB bi-monthly for quality assurance purposes. Finally, the Case Coordination Team meets monthly to discuss strategies for active cases that need additional resources and coordination.

Program Contact:

Ottawa County Juvenile Mental Health Court

Lori Clune, Court Administrator

315 Madison Street

Port Clinton, OH 43452

Phone: 419-734-6840

Email: lclune@co.ottawa.oh.us



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Family Intervention Court

Jurisdiction: Seneca County, Ohio

Program Overview:

The Family Intervention Court (FIC) of Seneca County serves youth and their families in Seneca County, Ohio. The court undertook a year and a half of research prior to accepting its first case in May of 2003. FIC is administered by the Seneca County Juvenile Court and is funded by the Reclaim Ohio grant and general fund monies. The court accepts youth with both felonies and misdemeanors, as well as abuse, neglect and dependency cases in which there is an indication of mental health problems. FIC also serves youth with a wide range of substance abuse issues. Youth are primarily referred to the court pre-adjudication. However, the court also accepts some youth post-adjudication in which participation in the program is accepted voluntarily as the disposition of the case. The FIC currently has 32 enrolled youth, and typically serves approximately 60 youth per year. The court has no limits on the number of youth it will serve. The average length of court involvement is 10 months.

Youth are screened using the MAYSI-2 at intake and are then referred for a clinical assessment when needed. Participating youth receive individual and group counseling, intensive outpatient counseling, and MST. Mental health and substance abuse treatment is provided in an integrated manner. The court works closely with mental health agencies and schools to address the needs of youth participating in the program. Youth are supervised in the community by probation officers and family members. In the event of non-compliance, frequency of court appearances and intensity of probation and counseling may be increased. The court also may assign youth to detention center days, order a study table, or assign the youth to community service.

Program Contact:

Family Intervention Court

Gary M. Hauter, Magistrate

108 Jefferson Street

Tiffin, OH 44883

Phone: 419-447-4912 ext. 28

Email: gary@senecajpcourt.com



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Crossroads

Jurisdiction: Summit County, Ohio

Program Overview:

Crossroads was originally established in 1999 as a drug court, and began mental health treatment integration in February of 2003. Collaboration between involved agencies has been a strong component of the court from its inception. Collaboration efforts included the formation of a 40 member advisory board that was involved in planning and conceptualization of the court. Crossroads is funded through private health insurance, Medicaid, Reclaim Ohio grant funds, State 'Fast' 05 funds for Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment (ICT), and court fees. Some services are also covered by other involved agencies. Crossroads serves all youth ages 12 to 17 years of age residing in Summit County who have a major affective disorder, severe post-traumatic stress disorder, psychotic disorders, or who have co-occurring substance use disorders. Youth whose only mental health diagnosis is conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, or ADHD are excluded along with youth who qualify for developmental disability services. In addition, the court excludes youth with very serious felonies and youth with previous convictions or current charges for drug trafficking and youth with gang involvement. Referrals are made to the court post-adjudication. However, if youth successfully complete the program, their admitting charge and any related probation violations are expunged from the youth's record. Crossroads currently has 75 enrolled youth, and serves approximately 70 youth per year. Youth remain in Crossroads for a minimum of one year.

Youth are assessed with the court psychologist's Structured Pediatric Psychosocial Interview, the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children- Voice Version, Ohio Scales, and the Global Risk Assessment Device (GRAD). The court typically relies on the diagnoses provided by community providers. Community substance abuse and mental health providers use numerous assessment instruments to make their diagnoses. Mental health assessment and treatment is available primarily through Child Guidance and Family Solutions (community provider). However, youth and their families have the option of choosing any community treatment provider. Some Crossroads participants receive Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment (ICT) which is a pilot project characterized by very intensive, in-home treatment that is administered over the course of three to four months. Each counselor carries a very small caseload, typically three to four youth at a time. Those deemed by the Court's suitability committee or treatment team to be most in need of home-based services are referred to the ICT supervisor for consideration and eligibility for ICT services. Crossroads probation officers serve as case managers and are responsible for community supervision of participating youth.



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Because the court is post-adjudication, it is able to impose sanctions (electronic monitoring, loss/lessening of curfew, suspension of driver's license, residential mental health treatment, or detention time) on both the youth and parents in the event of non-compliance. However, the court emphasizes the use of incentives to encourage compliance.

Program Contact:

Crossroads

Dawn R. Jones, Crossroads Administrator

650 Dan Street

Akron, OH 44310

Phone: 330-643-2910

Email: djones@cpcourt.summitoh.net



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Program Name: Juvenile Treatment Court

Jurisdiction: King County, Washington

Program Overview:

The King County Juvenile Treatment Court, began in November 2003, serves approximately 30 youth per year with co-occurring Axis I psychiatric disorders (excluding Conduct Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, paraphilia or pedophilia) and Substance Abuse or Dependency Disorder who are also identified as moderate to high risk for re-offending. The court excludes most violent felons and sex offenders. The Treatment Court primarily serves targeted high risk areas of King County, but occasionally also serves youth on the periphery of these areas. The court is part of the *Reclaiming Futures Initiative*, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which funds certain administrative positions within the probation department. Services are funded through court fees, Medicaid, and Foundation support. The large majority of the court's participants are involved with the court pre-adjudication, with the understanding that successful completion of the court's requirements can result in the dismissal of charges. These youth are screened at probation intake. Results of this screen are given to the youth's attorney, who may then request an assessment and consideration for the program. No youth has declined participation to date. The average length of court involvement is 12 months.

Court participants receive multi-systemic therapy (MST), which includes substance abuse interventions and family therapy. Each youth is also assigned an advocacy team coordinator responsible for case management, wraparound services, and facilitating linkages with community providers. This coordinator plays a minor role while the youth is involved in MST, but becomes more active as the youth's involvement with the court approaches its end. Finally, the court offers enrolled youth a mentoring program. Progress and treatment compliance are monitored through bi-weekly judicial reviews and reports from probation officers and treatment providers. In the event of non-compliance, the court has several sanctions it may impose, including work crew, electronic monitoring, and detox. Furthermore, the court may opt not to remove the charges from the youth's record.

The court actively works to initiate systems change by operating the Treatment Court within the two current juvenile courts (instead of through a separate court) and through dedicated treatment teams (including the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, juvenile probation counselor, mental health/substance abuse clinician, police officer, and an advocacy team liaison). Such an approach has resulted in some challenges associated with the fact that both attorneys and probation officers rotate with respect to their



NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

involvement with the court. However, this has also promoted the court's goal of encouraging systems change by involving all players and educating a larger number of individuals who are involved with these youth.

Program Contact:

Juvenile Treatment Court

Margaret Tumulty, Reclaiming Futures Project Director

1211 East Alder

Seattle, WA 98122

Phone: 206-205-9425

Email: Margaret.Tumulty@metrokc.gov