

FY22 Q2

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE

QUARTERLY TRANSFORMATION REPORT



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MOBILE INTAKE PILOT PROGRAM

As part of IDJJ's 21st Century model transformation, the department hopes to eliminate any procedural inefficiencies or unnecessary delays to a youth's rehabilitation.

In Q1 of FY2022, a "Mobile Intake Unit" was successfully piloted with three young people in partnership with the Kane County Juvenile Detention Center. During this process, staff from the IYC St. Charles Reception Unit, Aftercare, IDJJ's departmental school district, County Probation Department, among others, came together in a multidisciplinary effort, to quickly perform a thorough assessment of the youth on-site at the Kane County JDC and provide an orientation to the youths and their parent/guardians. It was also noted that family members were increasingly engaged during this process.

Five youth have gone through the Kane County pilot and we are next looking to expand to additional counties in the Northern region. A survey will also be implemented to families and youth to solicit feedback and increase their level of involvement in the process.



EXPANDED PARTNERSHIPS

In our Q4 FY21 Transformation report, we discussed a new partnership with National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP) to provide community-based services to youth in four counties in central Illinois. NYAP provides their signature “Contact And Never-Ending Improvement” (CANEI) program, a 26-week strength-based treatment program that facilitates life skills development and fosters compassion and empathy with others. The CANEI program also includes access to emergency, licensed foster care services, and family stabilization.

Youth are also connected to programs offering community service opportunities and receive holistic supports and services, including individual and family psychotherapy, mentoring, case management, and educational and vocational support.

In Q2 of this fiscal year, NYAP announced that it would expand their services to two more counties in central Illinois. DJJ is excited about this expansion of services as a continued partner in our expanding Community Services Division.

NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM



EXPANSION OF SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION

The Aftercare division has worked diligently with youth to fulfil any case management needs, which include assisting youth in obtaining transportation. Transportation is essential for successful transition back into the community. Aftercare has noted that with the increasing costs of gasoline, several providers who had previously transported our youth are no longer offering assistance. As a result, Aftercare is looking to other partnerships, including potential partnerships with rideshare companies, to fill the gap so that youth can obtain transportation.

SNAP BENEFITS

IDJJ has also worked with the USDA to facilitate the application for SNAP Benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, “Food Stamps”) while youth are in custody at DJJ, so that they can receive these benefits upon release.



EXPANSION OF SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

DJJ seeks to expand its partnerships with mental health providers to provide psychotherapy as well as psychological assessment. Consistent with the transformation model, IDJJ looks for services that are closer to the youth's communities of origin, and we also hope to develop a network of partnering providers throughout the state of Illinois.

This quarter, we have formed two new partnerships with mental health providers. First, the Brain Clinic in Sandwich, Illinois, will provide neuropsychological testing for youth in our care. Neuropsychological testing can assist in the diagnosis of mental health conditions that impact a youth's mental functioning, which can inform rehabilitative programming and treatment options for the youth. Second, SSM Behavioral Health Urgent Care in Bridgeton, Missouri will provide mental health services to youth in the Metro East area of Illinois.



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

In addition to the external partnerships being developed as part of DJJ's transformation, DJJ is also focusing efforts on internal change and growth. One internal transition DJJ is working towards is to become an organization which implements the tenets of Trauma-Informed Care. Trauma-informed care is an approach that acknowledges that many individuals, both as clients of an organization as well as its staff, have had past experiences of trauma. With this understanding, trauma-informed organizations focus their efforts on healing and recovery rather than engaging in practices which inadvertently re-traumatize the individual. Often, this process entails changing many existing policies and practices within an organization.

The process of being truly trauma-informed can be long, as it involves buy-in from most members of the organization. Prior to the second quarter FY2022, the trauma-informed care team began meeting with implementation teams within Aftercare. In the second quarter of FY2022, the trauma-informed care team expanded their work, and began meeting with implementation teams at two Illinois Youth Center (IYC) facilities, with the goal of developing a plan of concrete actions to enact trauma-informed care principles at their facility.

In addition to the implementation teams, a department-wide Culture and Climate survey was administered to each staff member. This survey assessed many factors relating to a trauma-informed organization, such as the role of support, transparent communication, discipline, discrimination, among others. The survey was voluntary and anonymous, and the data was collected and analyzed by an external consultant. Results from the survey analysis will inform follow-up questions which will be asked of staff through focus groups. DJJ will repeat the survey on a yearly basis to examine trends over time, and also to identify areas of intervention.