

2022 Q3

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE

QUARTERLY TRANSFORMATION REPORT



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FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

As part of IDJJ's 21st Century model transformation, IDJJ strives to provide support to the families and caregivers of their justice-involved youth. IDJJ's most recent effort focuses on providing support while youth are in IDJJ custody.

In Quarter 3 of 2022, a **"Family Advisory Council"** was successfully launched for immediate and extended family members, guardians, and mentors of current and former IDJJ youth.

The purpose of the Family Advisory Council is to provide a space for family members of justice-involved youth to share support and mutual encouragement. The council also presents an opportunity for families to engage directly with a variety of IDJJ leadership to share their needs and concerns.

The first meeting of the council was held virtually on September 27, 2022 with future monthly or bi-monthly meetings planned to address specific topics at the request of families.



EXPANDED PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS

Higher Education

In Quarter 3 of 2022, IDJJ was pleased to develop a partnership with **Elgin Community College**. This program allows youth at IYC-St. Charles who are high school graduates to begin earning college credit and/or to receive vocational training. The partnership with Elgin Community College creates important opportunities for youth who have earned a high school diploma. In IDJJ's other facilities, the department has partnerships with other higher education institutions, including Lakeland College, Northwestern University, Northern Illinois University, and Principia College.

Enrichment

In addition to expanded programs for high school graduates, IDJJ also offered additional programming for high school students outside of the traditional schoolday through an **afterschool program**. The afterschool program offers enrichment on topics requested by youth such as poetry, pottery, art, body building, and more.

Community Partnerships

Community partnership additions and expansions continue to be an important part of IDJJ's Transformation. In the 3rd quarter of 2022, multiple programs were added or expanded at IYC facilities. Details are on the following page.



Community Partnerships (continued)

Project Flex

IYC Chicago became the third facility to welcome Northern Illinois University's Project Flex program. Project Flex focuses on youth physical/mental health, character development, career exploration, and higher education access. Flex's ultimate goal is to reduce recidivism and set youth up for success post-incarceration.

Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P)

CP4P, a program of Metropolitan Family Services, is now offering job readiness programming at IYC Chicago. Youth participating in the program receive career counseling, job and life skills training, and a stipend for participating.

Chicago Youth Boxing Club

Chicago Youth Boxing Club (CYBC) is a nonprofit sports-based youth development program that is now offering programs at IYC Chicago.

CYBC is dedicated to comprehensive youth engagement that focuses on holistic approaches to youth wellness. Their mission is to give youth a constructive, healthy alternative to gang violence and drug activity. Their goal is to provide children with a platform for expanding upon the discipline and goal-orientation necessary to succeed in their academic, extracurricular and lifelong pursuits.

EXPANDED PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Cultural Responsivity

As the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice expands offerings of services and partnerships, it is also focused on improving practices for services already provided. A recent area of focus has been to improve cultural sensitivity among our service providers. The goal is to ensure that service providers are responsive to the needs of youth from diverse backgrounds.

This quarter, one of IDJJ's mental health professionals (MHP) at IYC Harrisburg conducted a case presentation on developing a treatment plan looking through a culturally responsive lens. The MHP used assessments that the youth had completed that challenged them to look at their own cultural diversity, and also utilized assessments that made her contemplate her own cultural biases.

This mental health professional presented her case study to the IDJJ mental health team, and then was invited to present to the Behavioral Health Committee of the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators!



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)

One internal transition IDJJ is working towards is to become an organization which implements the tenets of Trauma-Informed Care (TIC). 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.

Part of becoming a trauma-informed organization involves tangible changes to procedures and practices. IDJJ was impressed by the work of The Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development and their Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), and the Department is considering adopting and implementing TBRI practices. TBRI focuses on healthy relationships between providers and youth as the main driver to positive behavior change and healing.

In September, the Chief of Training and the Senior Policy Advisor attended training to become TBRI practitioners. The intent was to determine how this trauma-informed approach to engaging with youth could serve as a skills training for staff in their interactions /engagement with the youth in IDJJ care.

Two IDJJ facility administrators and the Substance Use Prevention Administrator had already attended the training to become practitioners. Together, these staff along with the Department's TIC Consultant formed a TBRI training development group to work on introducing this approach to our staff. This work will continue to evolve over the next quarters.

Additionally, during the 3rd quarter there have been efforts to establish a contract between IDJJ and TCU, from TBRI , so they may aid in our efforts to implement TBRI. Consistent with the TIC work we have been doing, implementation of TBRI will also require the revision/modifications of policies, procedures, and practice.

LOOKING AHEAD

End of year goals

As IDJJ wraps up the year and looks ahead to the start of 2023, there is continued focus on the goals of the 21st century transformation. Close-to-home youth residential centers and community interventions for youth and families, dorm-like, youth-friendly, rehabilitative spaces, along with a welcoming, family friendly, community-integrated, and culturally responsive atmosphere remains at the forefront of the work of IDJJ. Focus on a safe, peaceful, restorative, supportive, empowering, healthy climate for youth, families, and staff will continue to inform decisions, policies, and practices as the department focuses on the new year.