

FY22 Q1

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE

QUARTERLY TRANSFORMATION REPORT



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DIRECTOR UPDATES



The first quarter of 2022 presented continuing challenges to IDJJ related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Between mid-December of 2021 and February of 2022, the Omicron variant swept through IDJJ facilities, impacting staffing and youth programming.

Despite this, the Department continued to make progress toward our 21st Century Transformation during the first quarter. The reimagined, close-to-home facility model is moving forward with trauma-informed renovations at youth centers in Lincoln and Warrenville. The Department has begun implementation of the Trust Based Relational Intervention model, an evidence-based approach to youth behavior management that teaches staff concrete skills and is responsive to youth trauma.

During this quarter, IDJJ also launched a pilot “mobile intake unit” at IYC St. Charles in partnership with Kane County to improve continuity of care and streamline the intake and placement process for young people and their families. And as the Omicron surge faded, the Department resumed a full speed push to forge new community partnerships and expand supportive programming. Finally, during the first quarter of 2022, IDJJ hosted our first two National Promising Practice site visits, receiving cohorts from Wisconsin and Arizona who are hoping to emulate some of the successful changes we have made.

As always, we are grateful to the stakeholders who are invested in the success of the young people in our care and are excited to continue our work with you to transform juvenile justice in Illinois.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Mueller'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Heidi Mueller

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

IYC-WARRENVILLE

In our last update, a scope of work was approved for renovations of IYC-Warrenville. This entailed the creation of a new building to house classrooms, staff offices, and student multipurpose spaces. During the first quarter of 2022, the architects have been designing the new building and planning other repairs in the facility.

IYC-LINCOLN

Lincoln's city council has approved road construction on the Lincoln property, which is required so the facility can operate properly as an Illinois Youth Center facility. The architects are currently creating designs for the facility, and the final approved design will ensure that the space is rehabilitative and promotes healing.

IYC-PERE MARQUETTE

A recent Illinois budget appropriation of \$6.3 million was made towards the renovation of IYC-Pere Marquette. Funding will be used to create a new building which will be used for programming, and will also include an office space. Election interviews for the architect and Engineering firm will occur May 24th with recommendations going to the June Capital Development Board.



MOBILE INTAKE PILOT

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, a "Mobile Intake Unit" has been piloted in partnership with Kane county, which will continue into Q2 and Q3.

A mobile intake unit obtains information from the committing court, the youth, and the youth's family before s/he arrives at an IDJJ facility. The mobile intake unit is a multidisciplinary team of staff, consisting of case managers, mental health professionals, substance abuse assessors, and education staff. They respond to the local detention center to obtain documentation, interview the youth, talk with detention center staff, and reach out to the family. This interaction occurs as soon as possible after the committing court sentences to the youth. Based on this information, the mobile intake unit completes the YASI risk assessment, other mental health, and substance use assessments, and matches the youth to appropriate services.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The Family Engagement Working group was created over two years ago as a component of the Vera Institute of Justice's work with IDJJ.

In this group, staff members with varying levels of seniority and position meet regularly to discuss how to better incorporate family involvement throughout a youth's involvement in IDJJ. This workgroup has convened focus groups with family members, developed and launched new policies regarding family engagement and youth visits, and recently conducted a survey to identify barriers to family visits.

An internal training is currently in development in preparation of a department-wide rollout of these policies.



NEW PROGRAMMING

NORTHWESTERN PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM

Northwestern University will continue its partnership with IDJJ in June 2022, by offering a 10-week Prison Education Program to students throughout DJJ. In 2021, youth from 4 of our 5 facilities participated in a similar program, which culminated in a visit of the Northwestern University campus.



CHILL FOUNDATION

DJJ has formed a partnership with programming partner Chill Chicago. Chill Chicago offers year-round instruction involving snowboard, skateboard, and stand up paddleboard programs for 10-18 year old youth. Thus far, DJJ youth have participated in skateboarding and snowboarding programs and are planning to participate in paddle boarding in the Summer of 2022. Their programming incorporates Positive Youth Development best practices to ensure that participating youth build resiliency through targeted lessons and challenging physical activities.

NEW PROGRAMMING

LAWRENCE HALL

In the first quarter, a new culinary arts program in IYC-Chicago began with a partnership with Chicago-based organization Lawrence Hall, who has served abused and neglected youth and families for over 150 years. Lawrence Hall provides a variety of evidence-based therapeutic programming to both children and families. Lawrence Hall provides culinary and job readiness instruction at IYC Chicago and facilitates off grounds visits to local restaurants to develop interest and knowledge of restaurant careers.

