

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE
JUSTICE

QUARTERLY TRANSFORMATION REPORT



DIRECTOR
Heidi Mueller

GOVERNOR
JB Pritzker

DIRECTOR UPDATES

- **Engaging Stakeholders**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**



Since our last Quarterly Transformation Report, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice started implementing a crucial component of the Transformation plan--engaging stakeholders.

With the goal of soliciting feedback in order to refine the Transformation plan, IDJJ has had critical conversations with families, formerly involved youth, Juvenile Court Judges, and most recently, Probation Services Directors.

The conversations are rich with excitement and full of valuable suggestions for how our plan can be improved to better serve our key stakeholders.

One of the central needs that recurred with all stakeholders is an increase in mental health treatment and support for youth and their families. Additionally, these forums have helped us identify and answer the questions that our stakeholders have about the plan for Transformation and this report is dedicated to the frequently asked questions we've encountered in the last several weeks.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued engagement around the 21st Century Illinois Transformation Model and deeply appreciate everyone who has participated in this process.

We look forward to more conversations and more valuable feedback as this phase of the plan moves forward.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How does COVID-19 affect DJJ's plan for Transformation?

A: The Department of Juvenile Justice has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in many ways, and we continue to work with the Governor's Office, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to ensure that our mitigation activities are keeping our youth and staff as safe as possible.

COVID-19, however, has not changed the Pritzker's administration's commitment to juvenile justice reform and we continue to move forward with our plan for Transformation with the safety of all youth and staff at the forefront of our decisions.

Q: How does the state's budget situation impact DJJ's plan for Transformation?

A: We are working with the Governor's Office and the Governor's Office of Management & Budget to ensure that the plan is fiscally responsible and achievable given the state's current fiscal situation.

Q: What will the new residential centers look like?

IDJJ will focus on creating a facility that is therapeutic, life-affirming, and appropriate for adolescent development.

Q: How can I get involved in IDJJ's plan for Transformation?

Submit a form on our website indicating your interest in becoming involved with DJJ's Transformation, you can follow the link here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/idjj/Pages/transformation.aspx>

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

IDJJ is continuing to ramp up its Community Services Division with new and improved services.

The **Multisystemic Therapy Program (MST-EA) for Emerging Adult** has officially launched with 14 youth enrolled. MST-EA is an in-home treatment designed for youth adults from ages 17-21 with behavioral or mental health problems and substantial systemic involvement. The program aims to increase career and school success, reduce criminal behavior and recidivism, independent living skills, and more.

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) is continuing to provide intensive mentoring and wraparound support to youth referred from the Department. Here are a few of the program stats:

- 49 youth have been referred to YAP since December 2019
- 18 youth have successfully completed IDJJ Aftercare
- 15 youth enrolled in HS and/or online educational class
- 12 youth are currently employed
- 14% recidivism rate; ~23% lower than DJJ's overall recidivism rate

IDJJ is in the final stages of partnering with a new residential facility that offers a Step Up Step Down program. The partner facility will bring a new resource to an area that is currently underserved by the department and will provide education and vocational training, arts and music programs--all while utilizing a trauma-informed program model.

The Department has also received grant funding to install WiFi on all living units so that kids can access online education resources and have more opportunities for family engagement.

These new programs and resources are just a few of the ways the Department is Transforming into the desired 21st Century Model.

LUNCH & LEARN WITH DIRECTOR MUELLER

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Cordogan, Clark & Associates were selected as the Architects for the new Illinois Youth Center in Central Illinois.
- The scope of work to be completed at IYC Warrenville is in progress by the Capital Development Board.

Engaging stakeholders around the 21st Century Illinois Transformation Model is not limited to only external groups. In November, the Department began hosting monthly virtual Lunch & Learn sessions with Director Mueller.

In these sessions, Director Mueller delivers pertinent department, COVID-19, and Transformation plan updates. Staff is given an opportunity to submit questions in advance or during the Q&A portion of the session.

The monthly sessions are a vital part of how the Department engages around the Transformation plan and that staff response and feedback helps to drive us forward.



POSITIVE YOUTH OUTCOMES

In FY21, Peoria's YAP program has achieved major successes and positive youth outcomes.

- 80% of youth referred are still benefitting from the program or have had successful discharges.
- Five youth have obtained their GED or HS Diploma.
- Seven youth have obtained employment.

Currently:

- One youth is enrolled in GED programming
- Four youth are receiving secondary education opportunities
- One youth is enrolling in college
- One youth is enrolled in certification programming

YAP continues to equip youth to be successful and understands the importance of community reintegration. IDJJ is excited to continue promoting positive youth outcomes with community partners like YAP.



JUVENILE JUSTICE HEADLINES

The work at IDJJ is a part of a sea change in the larger juvenile justice landscape.

Below is a snapshot of juvenile justice headlines from across the country.

[Program seeks alternatives to youth incarceration](#)

[California to phase out Division of Juvenile Justice, creating an opportunity for substantial reform](#)

[The women fighting for prison abolition believe a better world is possible](#)

[New Los Angeles DA announces end to cash bail, the death penalty and trying children as adults](#)

[Data shows Utah's juvenile justice reform is working](#)



NEXT STEPS

Predicting next steps is difficult and external factors may force our immediate plans to change, but the goal will always remain the same.

In the next quarter, we plan to:

- Host additional round table discussions about the Transformation plan and begin convening working groups for additional input.
- Continue ramping up the new Community Services Division, formerly known as Aftercare.

This community centered approach will benefit greatly from community involvement. For more information on how you can participate, please, [click here](#).

