

CCH Behavioral Health Semiannual Report

Item 25-3013

amended report

July 2025

Tom Nutter, MD

CCH Chief Behavioral Health Officer



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

CCDPH Community Behavioral Health



Positive Youth Development funded partners:

- Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness
- Barbara W. Smith Family Life Center
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Black Alphabet
- Community Consolidated School District 21
- Girls on the Run Chicago
- Kenneth Young Center
- Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault
- Pillars Community Health
- Playworks Illinois
- Quinn Center of St. Eulalia
- District 89 Education Foundation
- Youth Crossroads
- Youth Guidance

Professional Development for Suburban Educators:

- South Cook Intermediate Service Center
- West40
- North Cook Intermediate Service Center




Youth Voice and Advocacy

- Identified youth-led coalitions and youth advisory groups in suburban Cook County
- Leading focus groups to hear from youth about how they would like to receive mental health support

15% of suburban Cook County high school students reported seriously considering suicide in 2022 (YRBS, 2022)

Suicide rates among all 10-24 year olds increased by 52% from 2000 to 2021 (CDC, 2024).



Suicide rates among Black youth ages 10 to 19 increased by 78% from 2000 to 2020 (Sheftall, 2023).



Youth Suicide Report

Proviso Township and Suburban Cook County

DECEMBER 2024

 Cook County DEPT. of Public Health 

Youth Suicide Report:

- Created in response to a request from Proviso Township
- Analyzed local health data
- Shared report with community groups
- Hosted gathering on grief from suicide

Coming soon:

- Suburban Cook County report, including analysis of risk factors

- NAMI Helpline (now including text and chat functions) expanded
- Internal Action Plans now in place to improve behavioral health services within CCH systems of care
- Regional Behavioral Health Strategic Plan for Cook County Released (Implementation phase underway)
- 2nd round of Regional Behavioral Health Collaborative meetings completed

32/53 Stronger Together Awardee Projects focus on Children, Youth, and Families, an investment of approximately \$27.5M. OBH staff meet with all awardees monthly, and metrics for all awardees are tracked monthly.

Children's Research Triangle (CRT) is expanding its Youth Moving in New Directions (Youth MIND) program to provide mental health services to over 300 BIPOC youth and caregivers in underserved Chicago communities. The team is also delivering youth mental health awareness training to 180 community members and deepening services at high-demand partner sites.

Communities In Schools (CIS) of Chicago is sustaining its behavioral health work in six schools and implementing its multi-tiered mental health program in two expansion schools. Student Supports Managers are providing individualized and group interventions, while also coordinating evidence-based programming for students, educators, and families.

Esperanza Health Centers is delivering free behavioral health care coordination, offering one-on-one support for patients receiving counseling, psychiatric, and substance use services. Using a short-term, solution-focused model, licensed counselors are helping patients stabilize and build practical tools for emotional wellness.

Psychiatry and Substance Use Disorders

Psychiatry

- Department of Psychiatry has successfully onboarded two psychiatrists in the past year and three more have been selected.
- Psychiatry working with Thresholds' Assertive Community Linkage Team providing care for high-utilizing, high-risk patients.
- New Inpatient Addiction Medicine Consult Service in place.

Substance Use Disorder

- Expanded the recovery support services team at Provident Hospital, enabling a 4x increase in consults for SUD services this reporting period.
- Launched the Austin Methadone Pilot Program, in partnership with Family Guidance Centers, Inc., to integrate methadone access into primary care at the Austin Health Center.
- The Recovery Coach serving Drug Court participants expanded to a 3rd courtroom, serving an additional 40 patients this reporting period.

Cermak Mental Health Program November 2024 – April 2025 Updates



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Continued Impact of the Pretrial Fairness Act (09/18/2023) on Jail Population and Mentally Ill Reviewed

- The Cook County Jail census has returned to the same census as prior to the introduction of Pretrial Safety Act, approximately 5600.
- Individuals in Custody (IICs) charged with murder or other violent offenses upon introduction of the Pretrial Fairness Act exceeded 90%; it is now 72%.
- Caseload of Serious Mental Illness (SMI) IICs remains at 42%.
- There are now two main populations residing at the jail; those charged with violent offenses, and the severely mentally ill.
- IIC length of stay in the acute Psychiatric Specialty Care Unit (PSCU) has increased by 18%.
- Referrals to DHS for “Unfit to Stand Trial/Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity” have increased from 43 in 2022 to 127 in 2024.
- Cermak petitions for involuntary psychotropic medication by court order have increased from 20 in 2022 to 36 in 2024.
- Transfers to MH beds in community hospitals upon release from jail have also increased from 47 in 2022 to 94 in 2024.
- Emergency medication orders in PSCU have increased by 80% from 2022 to 2024.

Therapeutic Tier Program in Division 9 (maximum security)

- Therapeutic Tier offers IICs therapeutic positive peer culture supervised and implemented by MH staff and IICs (44 beds).
- Only two (2) IICs have self-injured in the program’s 14 months as compared to the rest of jail, which has averaged two (2) self-injuries per day in this same period.
- Overall benefits in reduced disciplinaries, staff assaults, and self-injuries continue to be noted by security.

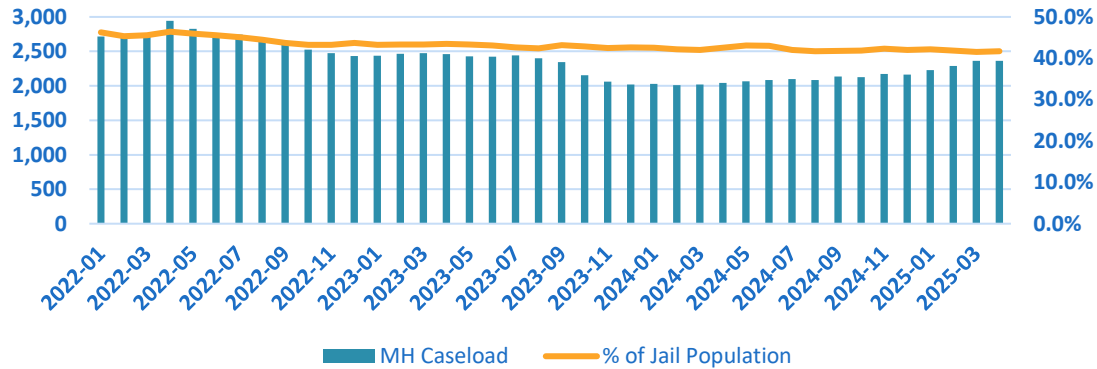
Alternative Behavior for Life Experience Unit (ABLE) in Residential Treatment Unit (RTU)

- ABLE Unit has completed its first year as a ten-bed unit for the most disruptive and aggressive IICs.

Development of a Behavioral Health Unit for Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) patients in need of acute, but not infirmary level of care, is underway.

Cermak Mental Health Statistics

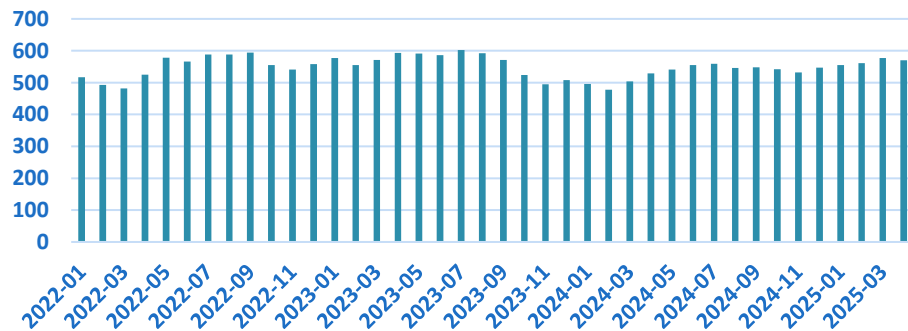
MH Caseload as % of Total Jail Population



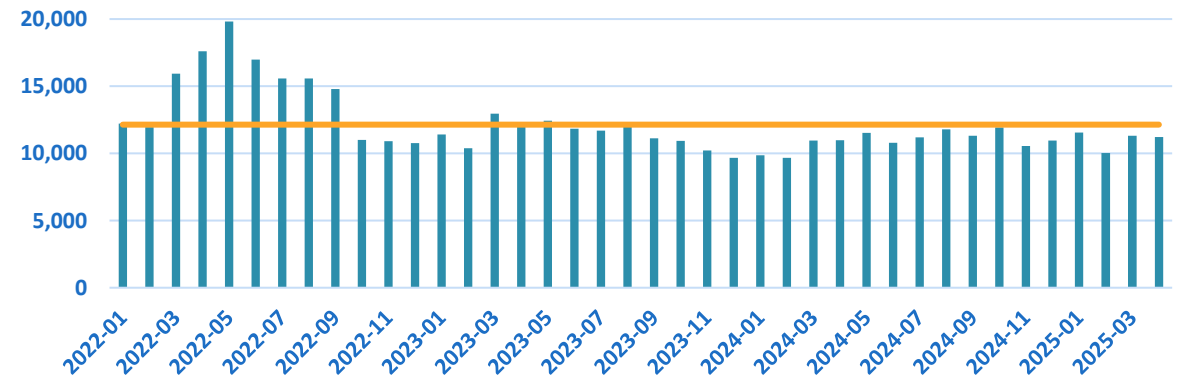
Since Pretrial Fairness Act:

- Jail census returned to approximately 5600
- MH caseload remains at 42%
- IICs charged with murder or other violent offenses 72%
- Days in custody for P4 patients increased 16%
- Targeted programming continues into second years:
 - Therapeutic (Maximum security - Div. 9)
 - Alternative Behaviors for Life Experiences (ABLE) Div 8RTU
- Expansion of SMI services with new Behavioral Health Unit is underway

MH Average Daily Censes for Intermediate Care Population (P3)



MH Unique Patient Visits by MH Staff



Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health – November 2024 to April 2025



- 100% of detained youth are screened for mental health concerns, and mental health staff round daily on all pods (4,768 rounds completed during the reporting period).
- In January of 2025, The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) published results of their annual audit of the JTDC. IDJJ noted the following in their inspection report:

“There were several areas of strength noted, many of which are indicative of juvenile justice best practices. In particular, the volume of mental health services available to youth exceeds county detention standards. The facility has 24-hour nursing coverage and excellent mental health resources.”

- In September of 2024, the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) conducted a comprehensive site review of the JTDC. In their January 2025 report, they determined that Mental Health Services at the JTDC **exceed** all requirements of the AOIC standards.
- Staffing success - 1 psychologist onboarded in March 2025; 3 Mental Health Specialists onboarded in May 2025; 1 Mental Health Specialist scheduled to onboard in July 2025. Interviews scheduled for 2 Psychiatric Social Worker positions. Final Clinical Psychologist position posted.
- OJJDP grant deliverables – In partnership with Northwestern University, CCH completed a multiagency 17 hour “Think Trauma” train the trainer event. “Think Trauma” is a juvenile justice trauma curriculum being implemented at the JTDC and in Juvenile Probation.

Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health – November 2024 to April 2025



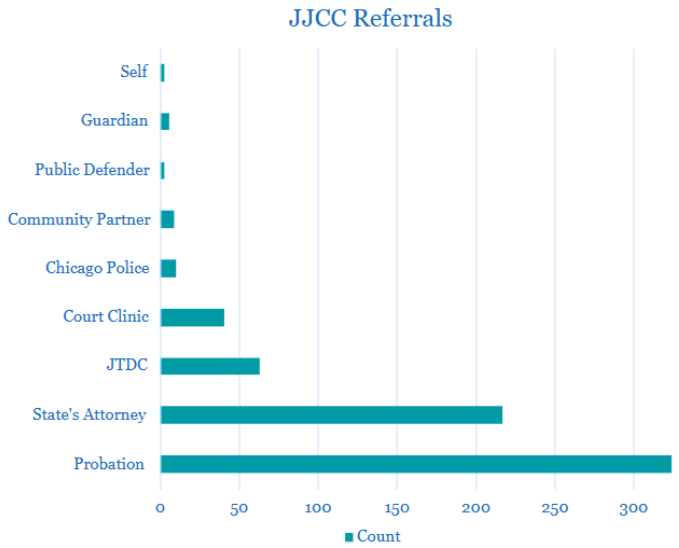
The Juvenile Justice Care Coordination Program (JJCC)

JJCC Referrals

52 Active Referrals
(June 2020 – April 2025)

675 referrals closed through this time
Totals for top referral sources:

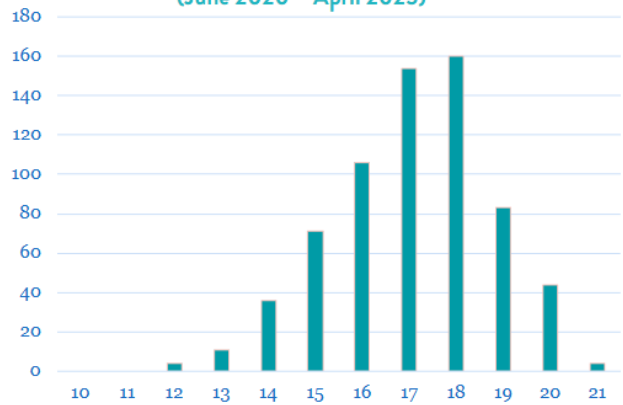
• Probation	324
• State's Attorney	217
• JTDC	63
• Court Clinic	41



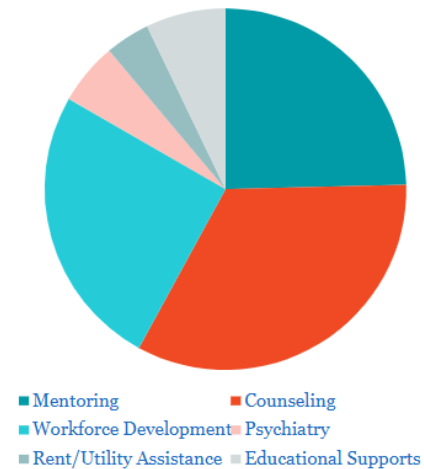
June 2020-April 2025 Top Referrals

Other Case Details

Ages of Closed Cases
(June 2020 – April 2025)



Top Referral Types



FINDINGS FROM PILOT EVALUATION

Youth will participate in the program 96% of eligible youth accepted the deferred prosecution agreement & enrolled in the care coordination program	Youth will engage with services 94% of youth who were enrolled in the program were connected to community-based services	Youth will complete the program 79% of youth discharged from the program completed the terms of their deferred prosecution agreement and graduated from care coordination
---	--	---

Thank you!



**COOK COUNTY
HEALTH**