

**Cook County Government Behavioral Health Services  
Semi-annual Report  
December 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024**

**Name of Department:** Circuit Court of Cook County, Juvenile Probation Department  
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**Behavioral Health:** Fee for Service Providers

**a. Data on the population served, including a breakdown of where patients of the program reside in Cook County and the total year-to-date number of patients served;**

The Circuit Court's Juvenile Probation Department (JPD) supervises minors sentenced to probation by order of the court. Many of the department's client youth are referred to counseling by the judges at sentencing after social investigation interviews are conducted and social histories and the JRA (Juvenile Risk Assessment) are completed by probation officers. However, probation clients may also be referred to counseling directly by probation, if a need is identified after sentencing.

JPD's counseling services are provided through community-based vendors. Ideally, court orders are not needed to address behavioral health services due to the fact that the change process takes time and the readiness to address behavioral health concerns needs to be considered. At any point during the time the client is active with the department, referrals can be made to community-based programs. Both individual and family counseling are provided as follows:

- Community-based therapy through the Juvenile Justice Care Coordination program
- Community-based therapy through Infant Welfare for Spanish-speaking clients
- Community-based therapy through other providers such as CANEI.
- Community-based therapy through for private clinicians for problematic sexual behavior clients

The path choice depends on provider capacity, the child's home location, special needs, language and other considerations. The length of services generally is six-nine months during the probation supervision period.

For the reporting period ending in May of 2024 there were 66 children receiving behavior health services. Treatment includes community-based therapy through CANEI involving 21 youth and 26 with Infant Welfare Society. There were 15 case closures with Infant Welfare Society and 8 case closures with CANEI during this

reporting period. There were 6 children in PSB treatment with private clinicians with 3 case closures, and 13 with Youth Outreach Services for PSB treatment, with 10 case closures during this reporting period. Current referrals do not reflect the actual need.

**b. Overall goals of the behavioral health program(s) and information on the best practices in this type of programming;**

JPD's Probation Officers develop case plans for all probation clients. These plans are designed to meet the needs of the client and work in conjunction with community-based programs to reduce recidivism, reduce risk domains identified in the risk assessment process and increase skills development.

In certain complex cases, the court requests a psychological examination by the on-site Juvenile Clinic. Those reports assist the court in making sentencing determinations.

**c. Information on the providers, managers, operators, and/or contractual personnel of the behavioral health care program, activity, or service, and any information on external partners working with your agency on this program;**

The behavioral health care providers are licensed clinicians and psychologists who provide specialized services such as individual, family, or group counseling as well as MST, Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB), CBT-PSB and bilingual services.

**d. Key performance indicators that are used to measure the results of the program;**

- Goals met for the clinical treatment plan
- Goals met for case plan
- Case plan objectives being met or revised and an increase in skills building
- Reduction in high risk JRA domains
- Number of sessions attended over the reporting period.

**e. Quality measures or expectations for contracts involved in the program;**

Community-based providers are required to prepare detailed plans and report on progress. They work hand-in-hand with assigned Officers. Cases are staffed in a roundtable setting to ensure treatments goals are being achieved or modified.

**f. Information on how the care provided in this program serves the best interests of the patient/recipient of care;**

Clients are active within the Juvenile Probation department and are able to be referred to community-based organizations and work collaboratively with the probation department to achieve case plan and treatment goals.

**g. Information on the participant's continuum of care plan and whether the participant has received follow-up care at a Cook County hospital(s) or clinic(s) including medication management as a part of aftercare;**

Clients active with other stakeholders are often reviewed through a multidisciplinary conference to ensure all parties are aware of the goals. Clients' needs may differ

depending on the stage of change as well as the current factors in their lives and connection to resources.

- h. An evaluation of the impact of the program and an overview of its effectiveness, particularly as it pertains to vulnerable populations, racial and ethnic minorities; and populations facing disparities in behavioral health outcomes, behavioral health care, and behavioral healthcare access;**

JPD assigns staff to review contractor billings and meets regularly with contract staff to discuss their services and review the progress of their cases. Probation officers also incorporate the results into their case plans.

- i. Information with the costs associated with the program(s) and funding source(s);** Contract costs are borne by JPD's operating budget, in the amount of \$958,696 for 2024.

- j. Any additional information which may facilitate the Committee's understanding of the program, initiative, or activity; and**

None

- k. Any additional information which may foster a more accurate assessment of behavioral health care needs and opportunities for collaboration or growth within the Cook County Government's efforts around behavioral health care programs.**

The Court collaborated with the Board of Commissioners and Cook County Health to transfer the responsibility of mental health services at the JTDC from a private provider to Cook County Health.

Since that time, the court, along with Juvenile Probation and the JTDC has worked closely with Cermak to plan an integrated system of behavioral health care at the Juvenile Court enterprise, centered on trauma-informed care. We continue to enjoy close collaboration with Cook County Health.