

**Cook County Government Behavioral Health Services Quarterly Report  
MARCH 2021 – MAY 2021**

**Name of Department: Circuit Court of Cook County, Juvenile Probation Department**

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**Clinical Interventions: In-house and contract counseling services**

**1. General information on the population served, including how patients were identified or applied for services, a breakdown of where patients of the program(s) reside in Cook County and the number of patients served over the last 24-month cycle**

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.<sup>1</sup>

JPD’s counseling services are provided both in-house through its Clinical Assessment and Support/Intake Unit and through community-based vendors. The path to services is determined through an assessment by JPD’s in-house clinical interventions staff. 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 JPD’s in-house programs or community-based programs. Both individual and family counseling are provided as follows:

- In-house therapy by four probation officers, who are also licensed clinical social workers, LCSW
- In-house art-based therapy by two probation officers, who are also art therapists
- 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.

The path choice depends on in-house staff 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 quarter ended May 31, 2021, there were 253 minors in therapy through one of these paths. During normal operating times, client loads would be much higher.

**2. Overall goals of behavioral health program(s) including goals unique to the specific population served**

JPD’s Probation Officers develop case plans for all probation clients, supplemented by behavioral treatment plans prepared by therapy staff. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**3. Information on the providers, managers, and/or operators of the behavioral health care program, activity or service and any overlap in funding, to the extent it is known.**

JPD's staff are licensed clinical social workers or art therapists and are probation officers.

**4. Key performance indicators measuring the results of the program**

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

**5. Quality measures or expectations for contracts involved in the program, where applicable**

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.

**6. Information on how the care being provided in this program serves the best interests of the patient/recipient of care as well as the communities where the patient/recipient of care or services resides.**

Clients are active within the Juvenile Probation department and are able to be referred to community based organizations as well as internal programming.

**7. Information on how the continuum of care may be addressed through this program**

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.

**8. Information on the best practices in this type of programming**

Clients are evaluated through the use of a risk assessment instrument to measure the risks of recidivism as well as a screening tool for clinical and treatment needs. Cases are staffed in a roundtable setting to ensure treatments goals are being achieved or modified.

**9. Information detailing meetings and coordination on patient identification, programs and goals with other Cook County agencies, City of Chicago or other partners or entities on this program, where applicable**

Multidisciplinary meetings are often convened regarding the needs of the client. An intradepartmental staffing may also occur if there is a new arrest, if there are consistent issues/concerns with the case, a potential for a violation of probation or a risk level increase.

**10. An evaluation of the program and an overview of any overlap in outreach, communities served, and programs with other Cook County and City of Chicago Agencies, and 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.

**11. Information with the costs associated with the program(s) and funding source(s)**

A portion of the costs for the six JPD clinical staff are borne by the department's county operating budget, about 40% of salary and 100% of payroll benefits. Approximately 60% of the salary costs are subsidized by the State of Illinois. Contract costs are borne by JPD's operating budget, approximately \$400,000 for 2021.

**12. Any additional information which may facilitate the Committee's understanding of the program, initiative, or activity.**

Staff provide clinical interventions such as individual or family therapy as well as individual art therapy based upon the behavioral health needs of the client. Clinical interventions staff are also probation officers and work alongside the field staff working with the client and family to assist with success of probation.

**13. 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 entity's behavioral health care programs.**

A few years ago, the court worked with the County Board and CCH to transfer the responsibility of mental health services at the JTDC from a private provider under the court's authority to Cermak Hospital. 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 are collaborating with CCH as never before.

**14. Any additional information if patients receive follow up care at a Cook County hospital including medication management as a part of aftercare.**

Clients may be referred to Cook County Hospital for medication management or a Psychiatric evaluation where needed.