

Executive Summary: An Evaluation of the Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) Initiative: 2013-2015

Trumbull County Results

Fred Butcher, PhD | Krystel Tossone, PhD | Jeff M. Kretschmar, PhD



JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL
SCHOOL OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES
CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

Begun Center for
Violence Prevention
Research and Education

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: AN EVALUATION OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/JUVENILE JUSTICE (BHJJ) INITIATIVE: 2013–2015 TRUMBULL COUNTY RESULTS

Fred Butcher, Ph.D., Krystel Tossone, Ph.D., & Jeff M. Kretschmar, Ph.D.

Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education
Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
Case Western Reserve University

Juvenile justice-involved youth with serious behavioral health issues often have inadequate and limited access to care to address their complex and multiple needs. Ohio's Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) initiative was intended to transform and expand the local systems' options to better serve these youth. Recent emphasis was placed on decreasing the population of ODYS facilities while providing alternatives to incarceration. Twelve counties participated in BHJJ in the newest biennium: Cuyahoga, Franklin, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Lucas, Summit, Wayne, Holmes, Trumbull, Mahoning, Lorain, and Wood. BHJJ was funded by a partnership between the Ohio Departments of Youth Services (ODYS) and Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). The Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education at Case Western Reserve University provided research and evaluation services for the program.

The BHJJ program diverts youth from local and state detention centers into more comprehensive, community-based mental and behavioral health treatment. The BHJJ program enrolled juvenile justice-involved youth between 10-18 years of age who met several of the following criteria: a DSM IV Axis I diagnosis, substantial mental status impairment, a co-occurring substance use/abuse problem, a pattern of violent or criminal behavior, and a history of multi-system involvement.

Demographics and Youth Characteristics

- ❖ In Trumbull County, 21 youth have been enrolled in BHJJ (61.9% male, 50% Caucasian). Average age of intake is about 15 years.
- ❖ Youth averaged 1.65 Axis I diagnoses. Over 61% of males and 57% of females were diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Disorder and over 38% of males and 42% of females were diagnosed with Conduct Disorder.
- ❖ Caregivers reported that 42.9% of the females had a history of sexual abuse, over 66% talked about suicide, 50% had attempted suicide. Over 69% of males and 66% of females had family members who were diagnosed with or showed signs of depression.
- ❖ According to the OYAS, 94.4% of the youth served in Trumbull County were either moderate or high risk.
- ❖ Of the youth enrolled in Trumbull County, 11% had a felony charge in the 12 months prior to enrollment.

Educational Information

- ❖ Nearly 75% of the youth were suspended or expelled from school in the year prior to their enrollment. At termination, 100% of youth were attending school. At intake, 30.6% of youth

were receiving A's, B's, and C's in school, and at termination 72.7% were receiving A's, B's and C's.

- ❖ At termination, workers reported that 100% of youth were attending school more or about the same amount as they were before starting treatment.

Mental/Behavioral Health Outcomes

- ❖ BHJJ youth reported a significant decrease in Anxiety trauma symptoms from intake to termination.
- ❖ Results from the Ohio Scales indicated the caregivers and workers all reported increased youth functioning and decreased problem severity while in BHJJ treatment.
- ❖ Youth reported decreased six month alcohol and marijuana use from intake to termination.
- ❖ Risk for out of home placement decreased by 58% from intake to termination. Thirty percent of successful completers and 100% of unsuccessful completers were at risk for out of home placement at termination.

Termination and Recidivism Information

- ❖ Over 91% (91.7%) of the youth terminated from the BHJJ program were identified locally as successful treatment completers. The average length of stay in the program was approximately 5 months.
- ❖ Youth demonstrated decreased misdemeanor and delinquent adjudication involvement after termination from BHJJ compared to before enrollment.
- ❖ One year after termination, 11% of completers had a new felony charge.
- ❖ One of the 18 youth (5.5%) enrolled in BHJJ for whom we had recidivism data were sent to an ODYS facility at any time following their enrollment in BHJJ.