

Clermont County

Judge James A. Shriver

Program Snapshot

(As of June 30, 2016)

Gender:

68.6% Male
31.4% Female

Race/Ethnicity:

8.5% African American
88.5% Caucasian 3% Other

Age Range:

12-17

Offense Level:

Misdemeanor, Status, At-Risk

Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

Moderate & High

Screens & Assessments:

OYAS Disposition Tool

Program Start Date:

July 13th, 2015

Received Services:

35 Youth
35 Families

Program Completion Successes:

10 Youth & 10 Families
14 Youth & Families Continuing into FY 17

Average # of Service Units:

16 Hours Youth
32 Hours Families

Program Partners:

- Child Focus, Inc.
- MDFT International
- Begun Center – CWRU

Program Information Contact

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Program Manager
Clermont County Juvenile Court
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Program Name

Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT)

Program Intervention

Mental Health/Counseling Services

Primary Service Location

In-Home

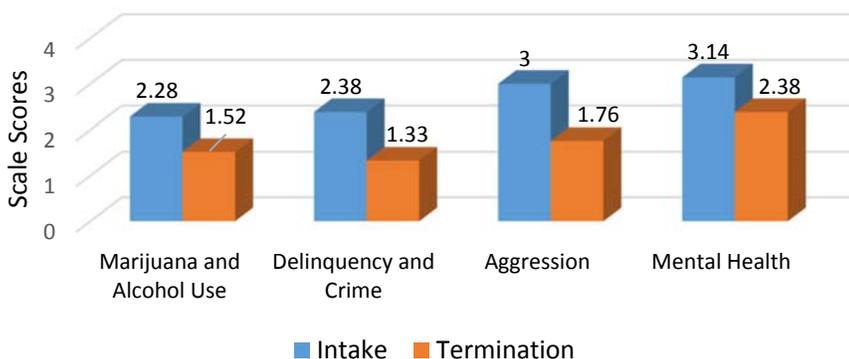
Program Description

- The purpose of the MDFT program is to reduce youth from being placed out of the community and to increase their ability to be productive members in the community.
- The court refers families to the MDFT program for diagnostic assessments, the development of treatment plans, intensive home based counseling, and case management services.
- MDFT therapists meet with families and youth to simultaneously address four interdependent life domains and measures progress through pre- and post-tests.
- MDFT certified therapists provide 60-90 minute sessions, three times a week, for a period of five months to help families develop coping, emotional regulation, communication and problem solving skills, and alternatives to substance-use and delinquency.

Outcomes

- The total # of youth placed in the care & control of the court has decreased by 4%.
- The total number of placement days decreased from 6,782 to 4,535 from the previous year. This is a decrease of 2,247 days or 33%. At an average placement day of \$250.00 that is a savings of \$561,750.00
- Behavioral Outcomes have improved. Lower scores indicate fewer problems in each domain. (See Graph Below)

MDFT Outcomes



Clermont County Early Successes – MDFT

“The MDFT program has afforded the court the ability to keep more children together with their families in the community because of services provided through Child Focus.”

Judge James A. Shriver
Clermont County Juvenile Court

Youth Success Story

Twin sisters Jill and Jane were referred to the MDFT program after making limited progress in treatment services and ordered to serve 90 days at the Juvenile Detention Center. Jill and Jane were leaving the home without permission with their whereabouts unknown, defying household and probation rules, abusing illicit substances, and associating with older, negative social influences, and were at high risk of being placed outside of the home.

Previous treatment service providers reported lack of engagement from their father, and noted that their mother was limited in her ability to effectively monitor the girls due to disability. Jill and Jane had been suspended from school due to behavioral problems, truancy issues and poor academic achievement. With the initiation of the MDFT program, the parents began to actively participate in parent and family sessions. Their father took a more active role of monitoring and setting limits for the girls. The family spent more time together enjoying family activities and the girls respected limits and rules. The girls attended school daily with only excused absences. Both Jill and Jane were not only able to complete the 7th grade coursework, but also their 8th grade coursework. They are now at their grade level and enrolled in the 9th grade for new school year.

“The court has saved over \$105,000 in residential placement costs on the sisters (Jill and Jane) as a result of their success in the MDFT program.”

Gerald Bryant
Director of Court Services
Clermont County Juvenile Court

“MDFT was helpful to our family and our situation. The girls could really relate to the therapist and became more respectful of others especially adults. They began to mature and had better understanding of their choices. As parents, it helped us to understand what the girls are going through. We felt like we could set limits. The girls are more helpful around the house, spending time with appropriate peers and even finished school early. I would recommend MDFT to other families. We had people we could turn to and help us know what we could do to help our girls.”

Parent of the Twin Girls



MDFT team (left to right) Kate Arington (certified MDFT therapist), Alison Gensic (certified MDFT therapist and supervisor), Juan Carlos Gonzalez (MDFT International), Kelsie Keen (certified MDFT Therapist), Jamie Rose (certified MDFT Therapist)

Program Success Story

After an intensive certification process, the MDFT team has continued to receive consultation and has maintained program and client outcomes to track model fidelity and successes. MDFT therapist Alison Gensic has continued supervision with MDFT International. Dr. Cindy Rowe, to become certified as the MDFT Supervisor of the Clermont County MDFT team. Each certified MDFT therapist continues to participate in weekly supervision to enhance skills, track client and family progress, and ensure model adherence.

Lessons Learned

One very important lesson learned is that in order to heal the youth and the family is that parents have their own issues that need to be addressed. Going forward, more focus will be given to connecting parents with services in the community.

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