

Erie County

Judge Robert C. DeLamatre

Program Name

Erie County Changing Futures

Intervention

Thinking for a Change (T4C)

Primary Service Location

Community

Program Description

- The purposes of this program is to reduce recidivism – defined as any admission to a state corrections facility (Ex. DYS, DRC) and also to reduce the number of any new court charges and/or probation violations that a youth might incur after program completion.
- T4C is an integrated, cognitive behavior change program that aligns with the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy provided by Firelands' staff and Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) provided by the juvenile court's probation department.
- T4C is provided in 26 sessions lasting 60 - 120 minutes over a timeframe about three-months. T4C provides a cognitive restructuring process by which youth learn how to identify antisocial thoughts, feelings, attitudes and beliefs, and develop concrete steps as well as the skills necessary to handle stressful and real-life situations.

Outcomes

- To date, none of the youth completing the T4C program have been admitted to DYS or a CCF.
- 70% of youth successfully completing have not reoffended. Of those youth that have reoffended, 25% committed a status offense, 50% committed a minor misdemeanor offense, and 25% committed a felony level offense.

Lessons Learned

- That we have to provide transportation to ensure attendance as parents do not always have reliable or available transportation.
- That we will need to build in additional time for youth to practice learned skills as we develop this program.

Program Snapshot

(As of June 30, 2016)

Gender:

96% Male
4% Female

Race/Ethnicity:

66.6% African American
33.3% Caucasian

Age Range:

13-18

Offense Level:

Felony, Misdemeanor

Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

High, Moderate

Screens & Assessments

OYAS Dispositional Tool

Program Start Date:

May 14, 2015

Received Services:

24 Youth

Program Completion Successes:

13 Youth

5 Youth continuing into FY17

Average # of Service Units:

40.81 Direct Service Hours Per Successful Youth

Program Partners:

- Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services
- University of Cincinnati - UCCI

Program Information Contact

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Erie County Early Successes – T4C

“The Erie County: Changing Futures program is utilizing the Thinking for a Change model which embraces Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to change youth behavior. Thinking for a Change gives our youth help in making positive choices and increases our ability to monitor them in our community.”

Judge Robert C. DeLamatre,
Erie County Common Pleas Juvenile Division



“DYS continues to provide much needed resources to our community through the Competitive RECLAIM grant. In conjunction with Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services, the Court has implemented the Erie County Changing Futures program which focuses on moderate to high risk youth currently on probation by introducing youth to the Thinking for a Change model. This program is geared at changing the behavior of some of our most challenging youth.”

Thomas M. Ferrell, Jr.
Erie County Commissioner



“Based on information received from client’s referral source, for those students that have completed the program there has been less involvement of the legal system required and an increase in school performance.”

Jessi Martin PC-CR
Changing Futures Program Facilitator:
Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services



Youth Success Story – RW had been arrested five times between February 2014 and May 2015. He demonstrated repeated behavioral problems and was enrolled in T4C. While in the group, he was arrested for a technical violation, spent a brief time in the detention center and was removed from the program due to his lack of attendance. After much work with his probation counselor, RW was reenrolled in the program and agreed to make changes. During his second time in the program, he only missed two sessions and subsequently graduated. Since 2015, he has not been re-arrested or had technical violations. RW has successfully been released from probation.

Program Success Story

Graduation rates have increased with each new T4C group. The first group graduated 44 percent of youth. The second 60 percent and currently, in the third cycle, we are estimating an 80 percent graduation rate. Transportation was an issue affecting attendance rates. Currently, we allocate money to offer transportation services to group members to increase attendance and graduation rates.



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