

February 2017

**Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiative Gives Youth
the Help They Need in the Community**



The Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) Initiative provides for the identification and treatment of youth with serious behavioral health needs who have become involved in the juvenile justice system. BHJJ diverts youth from out-of-home placements, including the Department of Youth Services (DYS), through the implementation of evidence-based treatment models. This is important because this type of in-home treatment prevents youth from going further into the juvenile justice system and helps these youth maintain their ties with family and community supports. As a result, these youth get what they need to live successful lives.

Funding for BHJJ is provided by DHS and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) with administrative oversight provided by DHS. Currently, 9 local BHJJ programs help youth in 12 counties. In March, a Request for

Proposal (RFP) will be issued. Local project partners, at a minimum, include the Mental Health and Drug Alcohol Board, juvenile court, and a behavioral health provider. As explained in the

infographic, the initiative served approximately 3,500 youth from 2006 to 2016. Today, the number of youth served has exceeded 4,000!

BHJJ supports local communities in identifying, assessing, and treating multi-need, multi-system youth and their families with in-home services that have been proven effective. BHJJ programs currently serve the following counties: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Holmes, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Summit, Trumbull, and Wayne. The initiative provides youth and families evidence-based and evidence-informed services and supports like Multisystemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Integrated Co-occurring Treatment, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and High Fidelity Wraparound.

The Begun Center at Case Western Reserve University evaluates the data collected by DYS and local mental health and recovery services boards to determine the effectiveness of BHJJ interventions, help inform juvenile courts, behavioral health providers and boards regarding the impact of programs and specific interventions. This helps to further support interventions that are working and identify alternative interventions to better meet the needs of youth, families, and communities.

As with other community initiatives like Targeted RECLAIM and Competitive RECLAIM, BHJJ helps reduce the need for placement at DYS and Community Corrections Facilities, as well as other out-of-home placements. In addition to giving youth the help they need in the community, BHJJ has shown to have a positive impact on multiple areas of well-being, including education, symptoms of trauma and substance use, as highlighted in the infographic.

For more information about this initiative and outcomes of participating counties, please visit our website [here](#).