

Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) Program 2011-2013

Introduction: This is a proposal to continue the successful implementation of evidence-based, culturally-appropriate services for serious juvenile offenders from Cuyahoga County who exhibit severe behavioral health needs. Its purpose is to identify such youth and provide treatment and support within their community, thereby maintaining the significant rate of reduction in the number of Cuyahoga County's commitments of youth to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) since 2005. The goal of this project during the 24 month (2011- 2013) project period is to continue to provide community based services in the least restrictive environment with a renewed emphasis on quality Wraparound services and crisis stabilization. We propose to serve a total of 120 youth during the two year grant period. Through participation in the proposed project these youth will be diverted from ODYS by having access to community based, gender specific services addressing their substance abuse, mental health, physical health, education and supportive service needs, in a manner that is responsive to their culture, preferences, and life experiences. A complete abstract is found in **Attachment 1**. The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS Board) is the Administrative Agent for County's BHJJ project. Specialized Juvenile Court services, Care Coordination, psychiatric services and evidence based treatment modalities in BHJJ are provided through subcontracted service providers. A signed Memorandum of Understanding with provider partners is found in **Attachment 2**. An agreement designating the ADAMHS Board as Administrative Agent is found in **Attachment 3**.

Proposal Development Process: As the Administrative Agent, the ADAMHS Board has continued to coordinate activities with its public system partners: Juvenile Court (CCJC) the Department of Health and Human Services (encompassing the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services) and Cuyahoga County's Family and Children First Council (FCFC). FCFC is the county's planning and coordinating body for services to children and their families, and has played an integral role in the success of the BHJJ project since its inception. FCFC provides linkages across all public systems which may impact children and families. FCFC solicits significant parental input regarding the operation of each system, and the BHJJ project has benefited greatly from FCFC sharing this family input. Through parental/family input, BHJJ project planners have been able to use the guiding values to shape the program in response to families' concerns.

1. Guiding Values

- **Evidence Based Practices:** All BHJJ program components are based on research in best practices, to address the specific issues presented by each youth.
- **Culturally competent and responsive services:** BHJJ planners place particular emphasis on sensitivity, responsiveness to, and acknowledgment of, the inherent value of differences related to race, religion, language, national origin, gender, socioeconomic background, and community-specific characteristics.
- **Reduction in out of home placement:** BHJJ planners have continuously emphasized that services should be community based and delivered in the home community, to reduce out of home placements. This includes the minimizing of barriers to services