

## Abstract

In 2004 the Hamilton County Juvenile Court (HCJC) and the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (HCMHRSB) implemented a juvenile mental health court to provide special consideration and services to juvenile offenders who were suffering from severe emotional disorders and sometimes co-occurring substance abuse disorders. This implementation, known as the Individualized Disposition Docket (IDD), incorporated best practices outlined in *Resource Guideline: Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse & Neglect Cases* and *Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines* published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. In late 2005, Lighthouse Youth Services was invited to provide intensive in-home therapeutic services to youth served by this system through the Lighthouse Individualized Docket Services (LIDS) program. In early 2007 the program was expanded to include other severely emotionally disturbed youth referred through a Pretrial Diversion Docket (PDD).

In July of 2008, Lighthouse Youth Services (LYS) was awarded Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice funding in order to establish the Lighthouse Youth Services LIDS program as a certified provider of Functional Family Therapy (FFT), a *Blueprints for Violence Reduction Initiative* model program for evidence based practice. This funding allowed LYS to establish a six therapist FFT therapy team, an FFT certified Clinical Supervisor, a LICDC licensed substance abused specialist and to proceed to Phase Two of the FFT certification process.

With the assistance of BHJJ funding the program has been able to expand provision of services to the target population with the addition of a half time case manager, an additional FFT certified site supervisor, an LICDC licensed Substance Abuse specialist and two additional FFT therapists. The program has also become a Phase Three fully certified independent FFT site. Since the implementation of the program, youth and families who participate in the program have consistently shown improvement in level of functioning, increased hopefulness, satisfaction with treatment and declines in problem severity as measured by the Ohio Youth Scales. To date, no program participants or graduates have subsequently been committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

In FY 2012 and 2013 the program proposes to expand and enhance the provision of services to increase the opportunity for youth and families for success in reducing recidivism and continuing to show improvement in all measurements. The proposal was developed in collaboration with the HCMHRSB, Juvenile Court, LYS, and families and will include expansion of substance abuse services, case management services, educational/vocational collaboration as well as transition interventions.