ICOY Community Capacity Building Initiative

Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) has embarked on a strategic initiative to support members of the Juvenile Justice Collaborative (JJC) in building internal program evaluation capacities, effective program selection, and learning collaboratively.

JJC Overview

The Juvenile Justice Collaborative is convened by Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and aims to “minimize further involvement of arrested youth in the justice system and reduce racial disparities by facilitating and coordinating access to comprehensive support services that meet adolescents’ developmental needs”.

The JJC partners include “a centralized intake and referral home TASC, the Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) and 10 community-based youth service providers”:

- Aunt Martha’s Youth Service Center
- BUILD, Inc.
- Heartland (Human Care Services)
- Lawrence Hall Youth Services
- Maryville Academy
- New Life/Urban Life Skills
- SGA Youth & Family Services
- UCAN
- Youth Guidance
- Youth Outreach Services

2017 JJC Outcomes

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>95</th>
<th>73</th>
<th>58</th>
<th>51</th>
<th>0</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>youth referred to JJC</td>
<td>youth intakes conducted</td>
<td>youth connected to services within their communities</td>
<td>youth successfully completed program</td>
<td>youth re-arrested during program</td>
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Enhancing Programming & Evaluation Capacity

ICOY received feedback from providers that there’s a lack of funding for professional development, collaboration between providers, and evaluation/continuous quality improvement. Each of these are essential to providing quality violence prevention programming and demonstrating the need for more funding.

To address these gaps, ICOY created a project with the following intended outcomes:

**Short-Term**
- Deepen understanding of target population and internal capacity
- Strengthen programming
- Improve data collection

**Long-Term**
- Better services for youth
- Enhanced care coordination
- Improved continuum of care

ICOY promotes the safety, health, and success of Illinois’ children, youth, and families by acting as a collective voice for policy and practice, and by connecting and strengthening the organizations that serve them. Visit ICOYouth.org.
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Facilitating Collaborative Learning

To address the lack of funding/capacity for professional development and collaboration among providers, ICOY is coordinating a series of learning sessions in which service providers convene to learn about topics relevant to their work/communities, share best practices, and exchange ideas.

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago will lead a learning series on the following topics:

- Theory of Change Continuation: Establishing an Overarching TOC for the JJC
- Defining, Searching and Selecting Evidence-Based Practices and Models
- Building Capacity for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Activities
- Descriptive Analyses of the JJC Target Population

Chapin Hall’s learning series will be paired with technical assistance to ultimately build internal capacity and promote the rigorous selection, implementation, and evaluation of the work of the service providers in the Juvenile Justice Collaborative.

Additionally, ICOY is coordinating a learning series that is open to providers and community members outside of the JJC. The first event was a panel discussion that took place in late January about the intersection of the juvenile justice system and restorative justice. The second event scheduled for late March will be a panel discussion about mobilizing communities and coalition building.

Engagement

- 80% average JJC learning series attendance
- 75% of participating agencies have submitted a Theory of Change
- 40 attendees at ICOY’s panel discussion about restorative justice
- 23 different agencies represented at the panel discussion

Sustainability

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<tr>
<th>Train-the-Trainer</th>
<th>Policy Implications</th>
<th>Moving Forward</th>
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<td>This aims to build sustainable, trauma-informed communities by empowering community leaders as conveners and educators in trauma-informed care.</td>
<td>ICOY will facilitate the creation of a year-end report highlighting what service integration, stakeholder engagement, and resources would improve violence prevention efforts.</td>
<td>ICOY hopes to expand this capacity building work in the next fiscal year to include grassroots community-based organizations.</td>
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