



# JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Board

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## **FY16 Johnson County Decat Annual Progress Report**

*Approved by the Johnson County Decat Board on November 21, 2016*

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### **Summary of Key Activities and Progress of Johnson County Decategorization Board**

*(Summarize the project's key activities and the progress toward reaching the project's desired outcomes during the previous state fiscal year)*

In FY16 the Johnson County Decat Board included 11 members representing the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services, Johnson County Board of Supervisors, United Way, substance abuse and youth services, education, public health, and community volunteers. The board met on a monthly basis, excluding July and December. The Contract Oversight Committee, which includes four board members, met on multiple occasions to monitor contracts and review grant proposals.

The Johnson County Decategorization Board entered into 14 contracts to provide services to youth and families in Johnson County who were at-risk of new or increased child welfare or juvenile court involvement. The dollar value of those contracts totaled \$323,252. The contractors expended 84% of the grant funds awarded. Only two contracts expended less than 90% of their contract funds. The contract with the highest dollar value, Minority Family Advocate services, finished the year 59% below budget.

Prior to the start of the fiscal year the Decat Board issued three RFPs for FY16 programming including; family treatment court services, positive youth development programming and family support. Six programs were awarded funding; five of the six were awarded for continuation of services.

This was a challenging year for the Decat Board which was required to make difficult contract decisions given the late receipt and drastic reduction of the FY15 Child Welfare Transfer. The Decat Board had enough reserve funding to maintain the majority of programming in FY16, while funding from Johnson County Juvenile Justice allowed for the continuation of Brothers Achieving Manhood a program previously been funded by Decat. FY17 programming was negatively impacted as much of the reserve had been depleted to cover FY16 contracts. One contract,

United Action for Youth's parent support program was not renewed due to lack of funding. Four contracts, including Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County's PASS home visitation program, LEAD after school program and Johnson County's Decat Administrative Services and Professional Development contracts all sustained reductions in funding.

The Decat Board monitors contracts carefully. Each quarter the Contract Oversight Committee receives the quarterly reports. Following the second quarterly report the Committee carefully reviews for contract compliance and progress toward scope of services and performance measures. The Decat staff monitor progress and spending on a monthly basis. In FY16 the Decat Board received presentations by providers on the progress and status of 12 different contracts, including CPPC.

The Johnson County Decategorization Project solicits information from a variety of sources throughout the year to fulfill its obligations for planning and identification of needs. The activities utilized during FY16 included: discussion during regularly scheduled board meetings and with individual service providers and key stakeholders, contractor presentations at the Decat board meetings and solicitation of information from a variety of local groups and coalitions including; United Way Community Needs Assessment (2020 Vision); Casey Breakthrough Core, Johnson County CPPC, Iowa City Community School District Community Education Advisory Committee, Johnson County Juvenile Justice Youth Development, the Department of Human Services and Juvenile Court Services. Additionally, the Empowerment Early Childhood Director attends monthly Decat Board meetings and provides updates on Empowerment programming and early childhood services and needs. The Decat Coordinator attends the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee, the CPPC Shared Decision-Making Team Meeting, Out-of-School Time Task Force, Iowa City Community School District's Core Management Team meetings, the Linn County Detention Advisory Committee and also coordinates the Johnson County Juvenile Justice Youth Development Program work group and Policy Board.

The Board identified the reduction of disproportionate minority contacts for children in both the child welfare and juvenile court systems as a priority. Reports from the *Community and Strategic Planning Project Advisory Committee* and the *Breakthrough Series Collaborative* have been utilized to track Johnson County's progress in reducing disproportionality in both systems. In FY16 programs funded with a primary or secondary goal of reducing disparities included; Minority Family Advocate Support Services, G- World Girls Group and the LEAD after-school enrichment group.

The Decat Board is also committed to increasing access to after-school and summer care for low income and at-risk youth and reducing isolation for families most in need. 93 families received in-home family support services in FY16. These supportive services assisted families with building community connections, accessing resource and referrals and increasing parental skills. 98 elementary and 486 junior and senior high youth received after-school/summer care and enrichment programming as a result of Decat funding.

The Johnson County Decat Board committed to funding programs that increased community supports for children and families and reduced the prevalence of out-of-home placements for children. Notable accomplishments in Johnson County toward reducing the number of youth in out-of-home placement include a 36% decrease in the average daily detention population over the last three years for Johnson county youth (5.04 to 3.22 days) and a leveling off of children entering foster care with the numbers remaining unchanged from FY14 to FY16 (coming off a 25% decrease from FY13 to FY15).

## **Key Activities, Outcomes, and Expenditures**

*(Describe key activities, outcomes, and expenditures for programs and services that received funding from the governance board during the previous state fiscal year)*

FY 2016, the Johnson County Decategorization Board identified the following Priority Service Areas to guide funding decisions:

### **Priority Service Areas**

- Meet the needs of minority children and families that are currently involved in the child welfare system and/or juvenile court system.
- Address isolation in order to build circles of support for children and families that are at-risk of involvement with the child welfare and/or juvenile court system, paying particular attention to the needs of minority children and families.
- Address the mental health needs of youth and families that are identified as at-risk of involvement in the child welfare system and/or juvenile court system.
- Promote positive youth development, and address the needs for adequate supervision for youth ages 6 to 12 years old during out of school time.
- Promote positive youth development programming for youth ages 12 to 17 years old during out of school time, paying particular attention to the needs of minority youth.

As a result of a reduction in funding the Decat Board determined that it would be more beneficial to narrow the priority focus areas rather than spreading limited resources too thin and reducing the impact. At the March 16, 2016 meeting the Johnson County Decat Board approved reducing the priority service areas from five to three effective July 1, 2016. The new priority service areas include:

- Meet the needs of children and families currently involved in the child welfare system and/or juvenile court system paying particular attention to the needs of minority children and families.
- Address isolation of mental health and trauma needs of youth and families that are at-risk of involvement in the child welfare system and/or juvenile court system.
- Promote positive youth development for youth ages 6 - 16 during out of school time, paying particular attention to youth most at risk for involvement with the child welfare or juvenile court servic

## Outcomes Achieved by Funded Programs

**Priority Service Area: Meet the needs of minority children and families who are currently involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile court system.**

<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
United Action for Youth – Shoplifter’s Program <b>DCAT4-15-028</b> \$3,000.00 <b>Designated</b> 92% (\$2750) Expended	Provide monthly Shoplifter class to first-time offender youth and their parents.	72 youth with a parent/ guardian attended one of the workshops offered in FY16. 100% of youth (72/72) and 100% of parents (72/72) indicate the program was well organized, that the program increased their understanding of shoplifting and how it affects the community. Juvenile Court data indicate that less than 3% (2 of 72) of youth taking the class in FY16 were charged with a subsequent theft after completing the Shoplifters class. 13% were charged with shoplifting or another crime.
Four Oaks- Minority Family Advocate <b>DCAT4-15-035</b> \$65,000.00 <b>Designated</b> 41% (\$26,359) Expended	Provide culturally responsive advocacy and support to minority families who have an open child abuse case.	16 families were served. 90% of the families who were surveyed (10 families) report they have increased knowledge regarding DHS expectations and procedures. The MFA reports attending 100% of Family Team meetings (10). 22 Parenting groups (4 parents participated) were provided for moms.
Families Inc. – Family Treatment Court <b>DCAT4-16-030</b> \$26,000.00 99% (\$25,784) Expended	Provide Family Treatment Court services that includes; family support services, community outreach, and implementation of supportive family events.	11 families were served during FY 16 through the FTC. 14 (87%) of families were referred to the program from DHS. 268 client visits completed. 10 family networking events were offered, 5 cases were closed, 3 (60%) were closed successfully. 100% of families successfully identified positive family activities, ways to engage in self-reflection, and coping skills they have learned from attending FTC. 80% of participants made progress toward their goals.
<p><b>Priority Service Area: Address isolation in order to build circles of support for children and families that are at-risk of involvement with the child welfare and/or juvenile court system, paying particular attention to the needs of minority children and families.</b></p>		
Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County - PASS <b>DCAT4-16-017</b> \$59,900.00 100% Expended	Parent Achievement Student Success in-home family support services targeting isolated families with a child in K-6 <sup>th</sup> grade. Families with a child with emotional/behavioral challenges a priority for services.	30 families, including 40 parents and 112 children were served. 561 home visits were completed, 147 community referrals provided. 17 families (81%) reported an increase in connections to community, 81% of families reported an increase in school connections and 86% of families reported they feel their family communicates better. 86% of families reported a decrease in their child’s disruptive behaviors at school.

<p>United Action for youth- Active Parenting Class and Case Management <b>DCAT4-16-078</b> \$29,640.00 86% (\$25,515) Expended</p>	<p>Active parenting classes for families offered at several locations in Johnson County with a case management component to offer follow-up supports</p>	<p>3 Sessions were offered and attended by 13 Families. 9 Youth attended classes and were provided transportation to the UAY activities center. 46% of families received individual support services. 4 Parenting workshops were offered and attended by 10 parents. 100% of families report improved family function and increased communications. 100% of families attending workshops report an increase in subject knowledge.</p>
<p><b>Priority Service Area: Address the mental health needs of youth and families that are at-risk of involvement in the child welfare system and/or juvenile court system</b></p>		
<p>Johnson County Social Services <b>Professional Development</b> <b>DCAT4-15-088</b> \$1,600.00 50% (\$804) Expended</p>	<p>Scholarship and staff development opportunities relevant for staff in the child welfare and juvenile justice field with an emphasis on trauma informed care and adverse childhood experiences.</p>	<p>A 2-day training on Youth Mental Health First Aid was attended by 22 community providers. Good to excellent reviews were reported on all trainings. Participants were from the schools, Johnson County Social Services, the Crisis Center, UAY, NCJC, Public health, Big Brothers Big Sisters, DVIP, the community, and a local church. CEUs were offered to participants.</p>
<p><b>Priority Service Area: Promote positive youth development, and address the needs for adequate supervision for youth ages 6 to 12 during out of school time</b></p>		
<p>Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County –BOOST <b>DCAT 4-15-029</b> \$34,396.00 96% (\$33,119) Expended</p>	<p>Support the BOOST after-school programs at Lemme, Pheasant Ridge and Weber for elementary aged youth</p>	<p>77 after -school sessions were provided at Lemme Elementary and attended by 23 youth for a duplicate contact total of 1256. Two family events were attended by 16 families. Survey results indicate 96% of youth have an increased connection to their school and by coming to this program they try harder in school. Teachers report that 76% of BOOST youth made very good academic gains during the program year</p>
<p>United Action for Youth - Grant Wood Elementary Art Club <b>DCAT4-16-117</b> \$4,500.00 100% Expended</p>	<p>Provide bullying prevention that promotes social skills, creative self-expression, and effective conflict resolution skills for 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Grant Wood Elementary after-school.</p>	<p>25 sixth graders participated in weekly workshops for a total of 227 duplicated contacts. 73 % of students attending were minority youth. 73 % of youth reported they are better at telling others about their ideas and feelings after attending the Grant Wood Art Club, and 91% that they learned they could do things they did not think they could do.</p>
<p>Neighborhood Centers Johnson County – Summer Camps <b>DCAT4-16-011</b> \$4,896.00 100% Expended</p>	<p>Summer camp programming for low income youth (ineligible for CCA) residing in the Weber/Pheasant Ridge neighborhood</p>	<p>Summer camp programming offered 4 days per week. Supported 20 youth during the morning and 20 slots for youth to attend camp during the afternoon sessions for the month of July. This program assisted 50 children with camp programming. 92% average daily attendance. 100% of families reported an increase in community supports and 95% of families strongly agreed that without this program their summer child care needs would not have been met.</p>

<b>Priority Service Area: Promote positive youth development programming for youth ages 12 to 17 years old during out of school time, paying particular attention to the needs of minority youth</b>		
Johnson County Social Services/NCJC G! World <b>DCAT4-16-114</b> \$15,000.00 100% Expended	To enhance the lives of Junior and Senior High school girls increasing self- confidence and problem solving skills by providing the G! World club and other activities	84 G! World sessions were provided to 87 local junior high students, programming was offered at all 3 Jr, high Schools. 64 sessions were attended by 52 young women, at two high schools. G! World club began this year with 7 sessions attended by 39 young ladies. 33 youth attended My Beautiful self. A summer enrichment program was piloted for Jr high level youth this summer. 88% of youth report an increase in problem solving skills, 75% report and increase in expressing their needs to adults, 71% feel more positive about their body image, 85% developed SMART goals and 0 were suspended from school.
United Action for Youth- Youth Center Hang-out Program <b>DCAT4-15-139</b> \$20,000.00 100% Expended	To support United Action for Youth with their Youth Center Hang Out program in offering supervised opportunities and activities to Jr. and Se. High students during non-school times.	Provider offered 593 hours of programming (128 days) to 300 youth at the UAY Center. 46 Youth were recruited for peer education. 105 skill building workshops provided to 81 youth 114 Structured art /music activities were offered. 88% of youth rank this program as excellent. 97% of youth report that they are fair and trustworthy (good character), and 82% of youth reported improved quality of life.
Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County – LEAD <b>DCAT4-16-116</b> \$23,000.00 87% (\$20,088) Expended	Learning Enrichment Asset Development academic support to junior and senior high school youth, primarily Latino and African American from low income neighborhoods.	20 West High students received academic tutoring from the LEAD program. 17 LEAD participants received at least two family home visits. 17 youth attended College Encounters 28 Junior high youth attended LEAD academic assistance meetings, 24 meetings were offered, 19 attended a College/Career encounter, (8 offered) 20 NWJH participants received a home visit. 98% of participants reported positive adult and family school supports, 83% report an increased connection to their school
<b>Oher Contracts:</b>		
Johnson County Social Services – Decat Administrative Support <b>DCAT4-13-073</b> \$20,000 100% Expended	Decat Coordinator and Johnson County Social Services program administrative support.	Held monthly Decat Board meetings, Completed state required contracting. completed monitoring and reviews of all 15 contracts, created financial reports for monthly board meetings; reviewed all financial claims submitted for payment, prepared and submitted the Annual Services Plan and Annual Progress Report to DHS and JCS officials. Facilitated renewal process and a competitive grant application for new funding including preparation of documents for board review.
Johnson County Social Services <b>PSSF – Wrap Around</b> <b>DCAT4-16-010</b> \$16,320.00 84% (\$13,694) Expended	Wraparound emergency service fund for families with a child in out of home placement for less than 15 months (federal funds). Funds assist with necessities making the home safer for a child to return to	14 Families / 19 children received assistance with housing (39%), food supports (7%), transportation (41%), utilities, clothing, childcare, and/or rental deposits. Surveys returned indicate that funding assisted families in obtaining stability, 100% of workers reported that their requests were answered timely and that the coordinator was responsive & available

## **Lessons Learned/Planning Adjustments**

*(Describe any lessons learned and planning adjustments made by the governance board during the previous state fiscal year)*

Fiscal year 2016 was a productive and successful year as 100's of youth and families were positively impacted by the programs funded through Johnson County Decat. The Decat Board has been cognizant of the funding priorities and has been conscientious in distributing funding to each of the identified priority areas. The Decat Board has also placed a greater emphasis on funding projects that are proven effective and evidence-based.

It continues to be difficult to forecast future funding for Decat, therefore making planning and budgeting an ongoing challenge. Toward the end of the fiscal year the Board made the decision to not renew a contract and to reduce the dollar value of four other contracts due to the uncertainty of whether an FY16 Child Welfare Transfer would be forthcoming. The transfer was later received and a few of the contracts had their dollar values increased slightly, however one program ended as a result of not receiving a contract renewal while another determined that it would not be possible to operate the program with reduced funding and subsequently requested that their contract be terminated.

The Decat Board made the decision to reduce the number of priority service areas from five to three effective FY17 given the smaller budget. This will allow services to be more targeted toward areas with the greatest need and providing the largest impact rather than spreading the funding too thin.