



JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Board

Lynette Jacoby, LMSW – Social Services Director and Decat Coordinator

FY17 Johnson County Decat Annual Progress Report

Approved by the Johnson County Decat Board on November 27, 2017

Participating Counties: Johnson
Coordinator: Lynette Jacoby
Contact Information: Johnson County Social Services
855 S. Dubuque St. Suite
202B Iowa City, Iowa 52240
319-356-6090
ljacoby@co.johnson.ia.us

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 FY17 state fiscal year)

In FY17 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 15 contracts, plus CPPC, to provide services to youth and families in Johnson County at-risk of new or increased child welfare or juvenile court involvement. The dollar value of those contracts totaled \$244,132. The contractors expended 91% of the grant funds awarded.

In FY17, the Johnson County Decategorization Board identified the following Priority Service Areas to guide funding decisions:

Priority Service Areas

- 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 social isolation and mental health and trauma needs, and to build circles of support for children and families that are at-risk of involvement in the child welfare and/or juvenile court systems, paying particular attention to the needs of minority children and families.
- 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 services.

In FY17, proposals were solicited for the following services that align with the local priority service areas; positive youth development and fatherhood programming, LGBTQ youth groups, crisis intervention services, cultural equity services, and supplemental supervised visits for parents of young children in the foster care system. Seven programs were awarded funding. One project, cultural equity services, was funded for continuation of programming.

The Decat Board monitors contracts carefully. The Contract Oversight Committee receives each of 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 FY17, presentations from six different contractors, including CPPC were provided to the Decat Board. In addition, Decat Board staff and board members completed seven contractor site visits.

The Johnson County Decategorization Project solicited information from a variety of sources throughout the year to fulfill its obligations for planning and identification of needs. The activities utilized during FY17 included: discussion during regularly scheduled board meetings with individual service providers and key stakeholders, contractor presentations at the Decat board meetings, solicitation of information from a variety of local groups and coalitions and review of local child welfare and juvenile court services data. Additionally, the Empowerment Early Childhood Director occasionally attends monthly Decat Board meetings and provides updates on Empowerment programming and early childhood services and needs. The Decat Coordinator attended 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 coordinated 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, family support services and child mental health services as priority services. Reports from the *Community and Strategic Planning Project Advisory Committee*, *Juvenile Justice System Planning Data Statewide Report*, the DHS Weekly Ethnic Report and the *Breakthrough Series Collaborative* were utilized to track Johnson County's progress in reducing disproportionality in both systems. In FY17 programs funded with a primary or secondary goal of reducing disparities included; Cultural Equity consultant services, G- World Girls Group, PASS family support services, and supplemental supervised visits. Mental health and supportive services were enhanced with the expansion of crisis intervention services and LGBTQ support groups.

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. 81 families received individual and/or group-based family support services in FY17. These supportive services assisted families with building community connections, accessing resource and referrals and increasing parental skills. 25 elementary and 358 junior and senior high youth received after-school/summer care and enrichment programming because of Decat funding.

The Johnson County Decat Board is committed to funding programs that increase community supports for children and families and reduce 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 29% decrease in the average daily detention population over the last four years (5.04 to 3.58).

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)

Outcomes Achieved by Funded Programs

Priority Service Area: 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.

| CONTRACTOR | Description | Outcomes |
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| United Action for Youth – Shoplifter’s Program DCAT4-17-005 \$3,000.00 Designated 83% (\$2500) Expended | Provide monthly Shoplifter class to first-time offender youth and their parents. | 66 youth with a parent/ guardian attended one of the workshops offered in FY17. 100% of youth and parents indicate the program was well organized, that the program increased their understanding of shoplifting and the impact on the community. Juvenile Court data indicate that less than 3% of youth taking the class in FY17 were charged with a subsequent theft after completing the Shoplifters class. 8 % were charged with shoplifting or another crime. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures. |
| Four Oaks- Cultural Equity Specialist DCAT4-17-007 \$41,500.00 Designated 71% (\$29,602) Expended | Provide culturally responsive advocacy and support to minority families who have an open child abuse case, DHS staff and FSRP providers in Johnson County. | 7 families served. 21% of the families (2), who were surveyed (5 families surveyed) report satisfaction receiving equitable services at case closure. 100% pf FSRP providers completed a Cultural Diversity Self-Assessment. The CES reports attending 100% of 7 BSC meetings. 28 Parenting groups provided for 37 fathers. 1 training provided in Johnson County, attended by 37 people. 18 minority recruitment activities were coordinated or attended by the CES to encourage increased staff employment. Contract met 75% of Performance Measures. |
| Families Inc. – Family Treatment Court DCAT4-16-030 \$27,000.00 (\$1,000 Designated) 96% (\$25,903) Expended | Provide Family Treatment Court services that includes; family support services, community outreach, and implementation of supportive family events. | 10 families served during FY 17 through the FTC. 170 client visits completed. 72% of families participated in a family networking events (12 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. 89% of participants made progress toward their goals. 100% of parents made progress participating in family interactions. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures. |
| Families Inc. - PSSF- Supervised Visits DCAT4-17-006 \$15,739 PSSF; \$2,050 State (Designated at request of Board) 95% \$16,950 Expended | Provide supervised visitation and parent education services for families’ who meet the Time-limited Family Reunification Services guidelines. | 89 Supervised visits provided with transportation supports for each visit. 12 families were served with a total of 14 children receiving additional visits with their parents while in the foster care system. 100% of youth were eligible for the PSSF funding. 100% of Families’ received parenting education and support during each visit. Contract met 50% of Performance Measures |

Priority Service Area: 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

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| <p>Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County - PASS DCAT4-16-017 \$55,000.00 90% (\$49,590) Expended</p> | <p>Parent Achievement Student Success in-home family support services targeting isolated families with a child in K-6th grade. Families with a child with emotional/behavioral challenges a priority for services.</p> | <p>21 families, (37 parents and 86 children) served. 72% received at least 2 visits per month (490 home visits). 251 community referrals provided. 17 families (81%) reported an increase in connections to community, 89% of families reported an increase in school connections and 67% of families reported they felt their family communicates better. 72% of families reported a decrease in their child's disruptive behaviors at school. Contract met 60% of Performance Measures.</p> |
| <p>Johnson County Social Services Professional Development DCAT4-15-088 \$5,000.00 64% (\$3,192) Expended</p> | <p>Scholarships made available opportunities for staff to attend relevant trainings in the child welfare and juvenile justice field with an emphasis on trauma informed care and adverse childhood experiences.</p> | <p>18 applications for professional development trainings approved for 18 community providers. Good to excellent reviews reported on all trainings. Scholarship recipients included individuals from the schools, Johnson County Social Services, United Action for Youth, Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, 4C's and Big Brothers Big Sisters. 100% of training evaluations were rated good to excellent. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p> |
| <p>United Action for Youth - Grant Wood Elementary Art Club DCAT4-16-117 \$4,500.00 100% Expended</p> | <p>Provide bullying prevention that promotes social skills, creative self-expression, and effective conflict resolution skills for 5th – 6th graders at Grant Wood Elementary after- school. 100% Performance Measures met</p> | <p>25 sixth graders participated in weekly workshops for a total of 264 duplicated contacts. 50% of students were minority youth 91% of youth reported they are better at telling others about their ideas and feelings after attending the Grant Wood Art Club. 100% report they learned they could do things they did not think they could do, and 100% of Art Club youth report that they care more about the feelings of others after participating in Art Club. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p> |
| <p>Dream Center – Fathers United Now DCAT4-17-085 Designated \$2,499.96 100% Expended</p> | <p>Provide weekly father's group, using the 24/7 Dad Curriculum, focusing on building strong bonds between fathers, their children and/or co-parenting each session.</p> | <p>11 fathers attended a weekly group. 12 weeks of programming provided with an average weekly attendance of 8 fathers. 11 home visits were completed. 2 facilitators led 100% of groups, 2 family nights offered with 73% of families attending a family night program. Contract met 83% of Performance Measures.</p> |
| <p>Families Inc. – Moms Support Group DCAT4-17-086 Designated \$1,275 100% Expended</p> | <p>Provide a weekly group for moms to strengthen parenting supports and empower families using the Circle group model.</p> | <p>15 weekly groups offered, 2 moms attended a group. 50% of moms were connected to resources. Several different group times and locations were attempted without success in increasing attendance, this group has been reset in hope of better attendance in FY18. Contract met 0% of Performance Measures.</p> |

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| United Action for Youth - Crisis Intervention & Mediation DCAT4-17-105 \$13,333 100% Expended | Provide 24- hour crisis services, advocacy, and consultation for youth and families in crisis. | 18 families accessed the crisis mediation services. 83 counseling or crisis mediation services provided. 100% of families in crisis reported to within 24 hours of initial contact. 100% of family members (both youth and parents) report crisis mediation/counseling services were helpful, and 100% report that after receiving services there was an increase in family communication. Contact met 75% of Performance Measures. |
| Priority Service Area: Promote positive youth development for youth ages 6 to 16 years old during out of school time, paying particular attention to youth most at risk for involvement with the child welfare or juvenile court services | | |
| Johnson County Social Services/NCJC G! World DCAT4-16-114 Designated \$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 | 98 G! World sessions provided to 101 local junior high students. Programming was offered at three Junior high Schools. 66 sessions were attended by 72 young women, at two high schools. 36 youth attended My Beautiful self. A summer enrichment program provided 148 group activities for 143 Jr high level youth. 100% of youth reported feeling more connected to their peers, 100% reported having more conflict resolution and communication skills as a result of this program, 100% developed SMART goals and 87% received no suspensions from school during the G! World service year. Contract met 67% of Performance Measures. |
| United Action for Youth- Recording Studio Program DCAT4-17-077 \$11,926.00 100% 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 441 hours of structured music and art programming to 116 youth at the UAY Center. 17 Youth attended an open mic night (5 offered). 29 youth referred to other supportive community services. 88% of youth rank this program as excellent. 100% of youth reported being more connected to caring adults and other youth after participating in UAY recording studio activities. Contract met 87% of Performance Measures. |
| United Action for Youth LGTBQ Group DCAT4-17-087 \$7,309.00 100% Expended | Provide weekly support groups, at 2 locations, for LGBTQ identified youth. Provide a trained Health Educator to work with youth attending groups and to promote healthy relationships, and to educate others regarding LGBTQ youth populations. | 72 youth attended group programming (42 groups provided). 100 % of group participants report that they feel they learned something new after meeting with the Health Educator,. 100% of group participants report that after attending group they feel better able to communicate their feelings and that the number of safe adults in their lives increased. After attending the LGBTQIAA Summit 100% of youth report that the Summit helped them better understand the needs of the LGBTQIAA population. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures. |
| OTHER | | |
| Johnson County Social Services – Decat Administrative Support DCAT4-17-004 \$15,000 100% 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 16 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. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures. |

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| <p>Johnson County Social Services Wrap Around DCAT4-16-010 \$7,000.00 Designated 99% (\$6,935) Expended</p> | <p>Wraparound emergency service fund for families to prevent removal from their home, or to support a Suitable Other placement. Funds assist with necessities making the home safer for a child to remain in, or supporting a relative placement</p> | <p>22 Families /56 children received assistance with housing (75%), food and diaper supports (4%), transportation (2%), utilities (15%), and clothing (4%). 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. The suitable other designation assisted 16 children remain in their placements by supporting request for clothing (21%), food and diapers (40%), transportation (6%), and utilities (30%). 3% of this designation was not used. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures</p> |
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Lessons Learned/Planning Adjustments

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

We are fortunate to have an engaged and knowledgeable Decat Board representing multiple disciplines. The board carefully reviews the community needs while monitoring our contracting partner organizations. The Decat Board has been cognizant of the funding priorities and conscientious in distributing funding based on 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. Several years ago, the Johnson County Decat Board determined that priority shall be placed on fully funding projects whenever possible and to dedicate fewer resources to smaller piece-meal programs in order to increase efficiencies and maximize services for the providers. Procuring and monitoring contracts is a laborious task and it is not cost effective for low dollar projects.

The current lack of predictability regarding the availability of funding has made it difficult to plan and implement programming. The Board has been apprehensive to solicit new, larger scale projects that require significant investment of time and resources to implement given the uncertainty of future funding. On the flipside, organizations are not responding to notice of funding requests for smaller scale projects. The administrative costs to solicit and implement new projects often exceed the value of the potential grant. Additionally, staffing has become very lean, and agencies lack the capacity to take on new projects without hiring more staff. Many are not interested in conducting a hiring search for part-time, potentially short-term employment (another added cost to an organization). As a result, we are finding that there are fewer responses to solicitation of proposals. The board continues to evaluate ways to help facilitate the utilization of Decat funding to meet the growing needs within our community while also preserving existing programs that have proven effective in serving vulnerable children and families.