



JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Board

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FY20 Johnson County Decat Annual Progress Report

Approved by the Johnson County Decat Board on November 16, 2020

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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 FY20 state fiscal year)

In FY20 the Johnson County Decat Board included 11 members representing the Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services, Johnson County Board of Supervisors, United Way, domestic violence (DVIP), youth services (UAY), education (ICCSD), public health (JCPH), 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 16 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 \$202,437. The contractors expended \$163,532 of the grant funds awarded. Spending was less than expected as a result of necessary changes in service delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In FY20, the Johnson County Decategorization Board maintained 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.

Proposals were solicited for the following services that align with the local priority service areas: positive youth development, Family Treatment Court support services, in-home family support services, and mental health and trauma needs. In addition, Johnson County Social Services administered contracts for wrap around services, professional development, and Juvenile Court interpretation services. There were 7 new contracts procured in FY20.

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 FY20, presentations from three contractors as well as CPPC were provided to the Decat Board. In addition, Decat Board staff and board members completed three 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 FY20 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 Iowa Director and CPPC Coordinator provided updates to the board, along with the Juvenile Court and DHS supervisor. The Decat Coordinator is engaged in many community coalitions and groups; facilitating the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee, coordinating CPPC activities (including Shared Decision-Making Team, Community & Neighborhood Networking), coordinating the Johnson County Juvenile Justice Youth Development Program and Policy Board, and supporting the Early Childhood Iowa Area Board.

The Board maintained 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. In FY20 programs funded with a primary or secondary goal of reducing disparities included G! World Girls Group, Dream Center RISE and BAM programs, translation services, LGBTQ support groups, and supplemental supervised visits. Mental health and supportive services were enhanced with the addition of a Young Father's group.

The Decat Board prioritizes increasing access to after-school and summer care for low income and at-risk youth and reducing isolation for families most in need. In FY20, 104 families received individual and/or group-based family support services funded by Decat. These supportive services assisted families with building community connections, identifying and accessing resources, and increasing parental skills. As a result of Decat funding, 392 youth participated in after-school/summer enrichment programming. In FY20, there were 202 group sessions, 1,394 individual sessions, and 75 court-based support sessions offered.

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. The average daily population for Johnson County youth at Linn County Detention decreased 10.9% between 2013 -2017. In FY17 the average daily population was 3.58. The number of youth increased to 5.58/ day in FY18 and down to 4.28 in FY19. The average daily population during FY20 was 2.66, largely a result of decreased population due to COVID-19. The average daily population for the first 3 quarters of the year was 3.28, still a significant decrease from the previous two years.

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
All providers attempted	to reach their clients with zoom or	virtual groups and phone calls since social distancing began in March of 2020
United Action for Youth – Shoplifter’s Program DCAT4-17-004 \$3,000 Designated (\$1,750) 58% Expended	Provide monthly Shoplifter diversion class to first-time offender youth and their parents.	42 youth, 40 parent/ guardians attended one of 8 workshops offered in FY20. 100% of youth and 95% of parents indicate the program was well organized. 100% of parents and youth report the workshop increased their understanding of the impact shoplifting has on their community, and that the program was presented in a clear and effective manner. Juvenile Court data indicate that there were no youth charged with a subsequent shoplifting or theft charge within 6 months of taking the class. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.
Johnson County Social Services - Wrap Around DCAT4-16-010 \$8,000 (\$8,000 Designated) (\$7,841.92 expended) 98% of Wrap-Around	Wraparound fund for families to prevent the removal of a child 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	24 Families /47 children received assistance with wrap-around services in the form of housing (46%), food/ diapers (10%), transportation (28%), utilities (7%), clothing (6%) and beds (3%). Surveys indicate that funding assisted families in obtaining stability, 100% of workers reported that their requests were addressed timely and that the coordinator was responsive and available. Suitable other designation assisted with requests for clothing (4%), home repair (34%), food and diapers (12%), beds (9%), transportation (1%), and utilities (40%). 5% of Suitable Other designation remained unused. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.
Families Inc. – Family Treatment Court DCAT4-20-001 \$26,819.25 (\$1,250 Designated) (\$27,061) 96% Expended	Provide Family Treatment Court services that includes; family support services, community outreach, and implementation of supportive family events.	12 families (20 children) served during FY 20 through the FTC. 1,044 client visits completed, 75 Client supports for court hearings/ DHS staffing’s were provided. 75% of families participated in a family networking events (9 offered). 5 out of 7 cases closed successfully (71%). 100% of participants made moderate/ substantial progress with family interactions. 75% of participants made some progress toward abstinence. 100% are making moderate /substantial progress with parenting skills. An Alumni group continues to meet. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.
Families Inc. - Supervised Visits DCAT4-19-006 \$15,739 (\$15,739 PSSF - (\$15,612) 99% Expended	Provide supervised visitation and parent education services for families’ who meet the Time-limited Family Reunification Services guidelines.	59 Supervised visits provided, each visit included transportation supports. 5 families were served with a total of 11 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. Reunification was promoted for families using this service by providing them additional visits with their children during foster care placement. This contract met 86% of Performance Measures

Johnson County Social Services – Interpretation\ Translation DCAT4-20-012 \$1,000 Designated (\$137.50) 14% Expended	Provide interpretation and translation services for families involved with Juvenile Court Services	Fiscal Agent Contract used to pay for services needed to assist families who are English language learners. Service was requested for 1 family. Contract met 100% 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.		
United Action for Youth - LGTBQ Groups DCAT4-20-003 \$18,000 (\$18,000) 100 % Expended	Provide weekly support groups, at 3 locations, for LGBTQ identified youth. Provide a trained Health Educator to work with youth attending groups to promote healthy relationships, and to educate others regarding LGBTQ youth populations.	146 youth attended group programming (938 duplicate contacts) 133 groups were provided.38 Youth met with the Health Educator, 95 duplicate contacts. (85 % of group participants report that they feel they learned something new after meeting with the Health Educator. 91% of group participants reported that after attending group they felt better able to communicate their feelings, 98% report that the number of safe adults in their lives increased. After attending the LGBTQIAA Summit PRIDECON 95% of youth report that the Summit helped them better understand the needs of the LGBTQ population. Contract met 80% of Performance Measures.
Dream Center – Fathers United Now DCAT4-19-034 \$9,500 Designated (\$8,011.42) 84% Expended	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.	17 fathers attended a weekly group using the 24/7 dad curriculum. 45 weekly sessions of programming were provided. 4 full sessions of 24/7 Dad were completed. 13 home visits were completed. 100% of groups were led by 2 facilitators, 2 family nights offered with 59% of fathers attending a family night program. 100% of fathers were matched with a mentor. 3 Staff member supports were provided for DHS staffing’s/court hearings. 100% of fathers report an increase in pro-fathering knowledge Contract met 75% of Performance Measures.
United Action for Youth Young Fathers DCAT4-20-011 \$5,500 Designated (\$3,238.39) 59% Expended	Provide a fatherhood program using the parents as teachers curriculum, serving young fathers currently involved or at risk of DHS involvement	11 Young fathers groups were provided using the parents as teachers curriculum to 7 young fathers. Each father met with staff individually and were connected with services and resources. 100% of participants have been connected with concrete supports, and completed the curriculum survey. 100% of Dads report they maintained or increased family functioning, and problem solving. 100% report improvement in nurturing and attachment between themselves and their child. Contract met 75 % of Performance Measures.
United Action for Youth - Crisis Intervention & Mediation DCAT4-20-002 \$27,000 (\$26,999) 100% Expended	Provide 24- hour crisis services, advocacy, and consultation for youth and families in crisis.	22 youth/12 families accessed the crisis mediation services. 82 counseling or crisis mediation services provided. 22 Youth received case management services. 100% of families in crisis were met with within 24 hours of initial contact. 100% of parents report crisis mediation/counseling services were helpful, and 100% report that after receiving services there was an increase in family functioning/ communications. 36 Outreach activities provided to assist other schools and child serving agencies with addressing needs for this specific population. Contact met 66% of Performance Measures.

Families, Inc. - Nurturing Parent Program DCAT4-20-006 \$13,451 Designated (\$7,801.29) 58% Expended	Provide an in-home parenting program using the In-Home Nurturing Parent Program curriculum	10 Families participated in the Nurturing Parent Program. Each family was contacted within 48 hours of requesting assistance. A total of 14 parents and 20 children were served during 78 in-home counseling sessions. 89% report increases in parent/child communication, and improved parent/child relationships.89% report increased knowledge of child development and increased involvement in their child's life. 100% report improved parent/child increased knowledge on effective parenting. Contract met 80% 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 - G! World DCAT4-18-013 \$10,000 (\$10,000) 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	156 Young women participated in G! World activities at their junior high or high School in FY20. Participants provided with 805 duplicate contacts. G! Club was offered 4 times and attended by 17 youth attending (38 duplicate contacts). 23 Youth received individual support services (100 duplicate). 100% of participants developed SMART goals. 80% of participating youth report an increase in problem solving, self-sufficiency and school attachment. Contract met 40% of Performance Measures
United Action for Youth - 6 th Grade Art and Music Club DCAT4-20-004 \$18,000 (\$14,458) 80% Expended	Provide bullying prevention that promotes social skills, creative self-expression, and effective conflict resolution skills for 5 th – 6 th graders providing art and music clubs after-school.	65 sixth graders participated in weekly art/16 youth in music workshops for a total of 836 duplicated contacts. 66% of youth were eligible for FRL 100% of youth reported they are better at telling others about their ideas and feelings after attending Art Club and report they have more formal and informal supports after participating in Art/Music Club.100% of youth also report they have more caring adults in their lives after attending programming. Contract met 80% of Performance Measures.
Pride Camp DCAT4-19-035 \$1750.34. (\$1750.34) 100 % Expended	Provide at-risk youth with a 5-day workshop specifically designed to address the needs of LGBTQ identified youth..	9 Junior High school aged youth attended the July Pride Camp 5-day workshop. This workshop was specifically designed to address the needs of LGBTQ identifies youth, The FLASH curriculum was provided. 71% of youth report that they learned something new,100% report increased number of safe adults in their lives. Contract met 77% of Performance Measures.
OTHER		
Johnson County Social Services – Decat Administrative Support DCAT4-17-004 \$20,000 (\$20,000) 100% Expended	Decat Coordinator and Johnson County Social Services program administrative support.	Held monthly Decat Board meetings and completed state required contracting. Completed monitoring and reviews of all 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.
Johnson County Social Services - CPPC DCAT4-19-005 \$22,000 (\$16723.03) 84 % Expended	Provide community based child abuse prevention strategies.by coordinating community based services, managing grants, and promoting shared decision making,	Community networking met as outlines, Family team and youth transition goals were met, policy and practice goals were met and the shared decision-making survey scored above the required percentage. Contract met 100% of Performance measures.

Lessons Learned/Planning Adjustments

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

Johnson County Decat, along with most of the state, experienced programming and planning adjustments during the 4th quarter of FY 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many funded activities that previously took place in school buildings had to be reconfigured after those buildings closed mid-March. In the Iowa City Community School District, online learning from mid-March through May was optional for all except high school students. This made it more difficult for programs to contact youth participants and to conduct outreach. Consideration was given regarding safety and social distancing and agencies pivoted to providing more services in a virtual format. This switch to online programming highlighted issues of lack of available technology and access to broadband internet. Staff were creative in addressing student needs in this challenging time. One example is that United Action for Youth (UAY) continued to serve youth in art and music after-school programming via Facebook, Zoom and other platforms. Because they were able to serve multiple sites simultaneously, this opened up participation for additional students. With school-based programming, the art materials were typically provided by the schools. For virtual programming, UAY utilized available funds to purchase supply kits for each participating student and delivered them to their homes so that each student had the materials necessary to fully participate in programming.

The unpredictable nature of available Decat funding makes it difficult for both the Decat Board and partner agencies to plan and implement programming. Several years ago, in an effort to increase efficiencies and maximize services, the JC Decat Board prioritized fully funding projects whenever possible and dedicating fewer resources to smaller, piece-meal programs. Procuring and monitoring contracts is a staff-intensive task and is not cost effective for low dollar projects. However, the Board has been apprehensive about soliciting new, larger scale projects that require significant investment of time and resources to implement, given the uncertainty of future funding.

From the perspective of our partner agencies, few organizations are responding to notices of funding requests for smaller scale projects. The administrative costs to solicit and implement new projects often exceed the value of the potential grant. Staff resources are very lean and agencies lack the capacity to take on new projects without hiring additional staff. Many organizations are not interested in conducting a hiring search for part-time, potentially short-term employment (an added cost to the organization). As a result, 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.

Johnson County is fortunate to have an engaged and knowledgeable Decat Board that represents many disciplines. The board carefully reviews community needs while communicating with partner organizations and monitoring contracted programs. The board is mindful of funding priorities and intentional about distributing funding based on the identified priority areas while placing emphasis on services that are evidence-based and proven effective. Johnson County Decat has effective communication with other local initiatives including Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Early Childhood Iowa, Juvenile Justice & Youth Development, and Prevent Child Abuse-Johnson County. This helps to identify gaps and increase effectiveness of local funding.