



JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Board

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FY24 Johnson County Decat Annual Progress Report

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Summary of Key Activities and Progress of Johnson County Decategorization Board

In FY24 the Johnson County Decat Board included **10 members** representing community members, Iowa Health & Human Services, Juvenile Court Services, Johnson County Board of Supervisors, domestic violence (DVIP), youth services (Four Oaks), education (ICCS), public health (JCPH), and substance abuse planning (Community & Family Resources). 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.

Community wide planning, needs assessment and identification, and program planning occurs throughout the year during activities such as review of local child welfare and juvenile court services data, contractor presentations at Decat board meetings, solicitation of information and updates from various local coalitions and planning bodies, and discussion during regularly scheduled board meetings with members, service providers, and key stakeholders. Juvenile Court and HHS supervisors provide updates to the board along with the Decat Coordinator. The Decat Coordinator is also the CPPC Coordinator, Juvenile Justice Youth Development Coordinator, facilitates the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee, and provides support to Johnson County Empowerment/Early Childhood Iowa Area. The Decat Coordinator participates on other community-wide initiatives such as Child Care Solutions Team and Johnson County Prevention Partnership. The Decat Coordinator is currently an active member of the JCS-facilitated Family and Youth Engagement Team and was previously active in the statewide Equity Learning Session Planning Team.

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. In FY24 the Johnson County Decategorization Board maintained the following Priority Service Areas to guide

funding decisions:

Priority Service Areas

- A.** Address social isolation and mental health and trauma needs of youth and families that are at risk of involvement in the child welfare and/or juvenile court system, paying particular attention to the needs of minority children and families.
- B.** 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 system.
- C.** Address 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.

Proposals were solicited for the following services that align with the local priority service areas: Youth & Family Mental Health Supports, Positive Youth Development Support Services, and Parenting Supports focusing on youth and families who are at risk of involvement with the Iowa Department of Health & Human Services. Four new contracts were issued for those services. Contract renewals were issued for Parenting Supports for Immigrant & Refugee Families, Supplemental Supervised Visitation and Parental Skill Building Services, Positive Youth Development for Youth of Color, and Shoplifter's Diversion Programming. In addition, Johnson County Social Services administered contracts for Juvenile Court Interpretation Services, CPPC, and Decat Administrative Services.

The Johnson County Decategorization Board entered into **5 new contracts in FY24 and 6 contracts were renewed** 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 **\$189,423.00,** **representing a 22% decreased in contracted funds from FY23.** Contractors expended **\$180,896.81** of the grant funds awarded. Overall spending was at 95.5% of what was budgeted, with contract-specific spending ranging from 73% to 100% of contracted funds.

The following contracts addressed each of the identified Priority Service Areas:

- A.** Activities to address social isolation and mental health and trauma needs of youth and families that are at risk of involvement with the child welfare and/or juvenile court system include:
 - Center for Families Services Global Network - Support Services for Refugee & Immigrant Families
 - Families Inc. - Nurturing Parent Program
 - UAY - Pride Mental Health Supports
 - UAY - Pride Parenting Supports for LGBTQ+ Families
- B.** Positive youth development services included:
 - UAY - Ranshaw House Outreach
 - UAY - Pride Positive Youth Development for LGBTQ+ Youth
- C.** Services and supports to address the needs of children and families currently involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile court system include:
 - Supplemental Supervised Visits & Parent Education
 - UAY – Shoplifters Diversion
 - Juvenile Court Services Interpretation

Within each Priority Service Area, the Board maintained the priority to reduce disproportionate minority contacts for children with the child welfare and juvenile court systems. In FY24 programs funded with a

primary or secondary goal of reducing disparities included Ranshaw House Outreach, Parenting and Group Supports for Refugee Families, Pride youth and family supports, JCS Interpretation Services, and Supplemental Supervised Visits.

The Decat Board prioritized funding for families at risk of but not yet involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In FY24, 45 families received individual (164 sessions) and/or group-based (36 groups) 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, 296 youth participated in counseling/after-school/summer enrichment programming. In FY24, there were 113 group sessions and 62 individual sessions.

The Decat Board carefully monitors all contracts. 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 FY24, presentations from two contractors representing 7 funded programs, as well as CPPC were provided to the Decat Board. In addition, Decat Board staff and board members completed two contractor site visits for 5 funded programs.

Key Activities, Outcomes, and Expenditures
Outcomes Achieved by Funded Programs

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.		
CONTRACTOR	Description	Outcomes
Center for Family Services Global Network Parenting Groups and Family Supports for Refugee Family DCAT4-23-004 \$5,000 100% Expended (\$5,000)	Provide Strengthening Sudanese Families program with 8 sessions to at least 5 families.	8 Sessions of Strengthening Refugee Families were provided to 18 parents and 10 youth for a total of 70 parent contacts and 39 youth contacts. 10 parents completed all 8 sessions, 5 parents attended 5-8 sessions, and 3 parents attended less than 5 sessions. 5 referrals were made to community resources. Contract met 33% of Performance Measures.
Families, Inc. - Nurturing Parent Program DCAT4-24-009 \$5,500 96% Expended (\$5,280)	Provide an in-home parenting program using the In-Home Nurturing Parent Program curriculum	5 families participated in the NPP in FY24, including 7 parents and 7 children, receiving 49 in-home sessions. All 5 families completed all 10 sessions. 100% of families were referred from JCS/HHS, were contacted within 48 hours of receiving the referral, and had at least 2 risk factors. 0 families were referred to other community resources. 80% of participants reported an increase in formal/informal support networks, decreased social isolation, and increased healthy interactions with their children. 100% of participants reported improved parent/child relationships and increased knowledge on effective parenting. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.
United Action for Youth - Pride Mental Health Supports DCAT4-24-002 \$35,000 100 % Expended (\$35,000)	Facilitate 20 Pride Counseling groups and 120 individual counseling sessions to LGBTQ+ youth. Provide community education through 10 presentations, 5 trainings, and 5 consultations.	26 Pride Counseling Groups were attended by 5 youth for a total of 74 contacts. 62 individual counseling sessions were attended by 30 youth. Provided 16 presentations to 101 individuals; 0 trainings and 0 consultations. 19 referrals were made to additional programs or services. 89% of youth reported increased formal and/or informal support networks, improve parent-child relationships, increased positive peer relationships, and an increase in positive coping skills. Presentation measures/outcomes were not reported. Contract met 71% of Performance Measures.

<p>United Action for Youth - Pride Parenting Supports DCAT4-24-004 \$9,500 73% Expended (\$6,952.77)</p>	<p>Provide 20 Pride Parenting Groups (10 virtual, 10 in-person) for parents of LGBTQ+ youth. Facilitate 50 individualized family sessions for LGBTQ+ youth and their families.</p>	<p>19 Pride Parent Groups (17 in-person and 2 virtual) were provided to 13 parents for a total of 39 duplicated contacts. 5 support sessions were provided to 4 parents and 3 youth for a total of 8 parent contacts and 5 youth contacts. 0 referrals were made to other programs. While child care was cited as a need, it was rarely utilized as a service and ended in May. Topics included gender-affirming medical care, bullying, sibling relationships, youth mental health, and “coming out” to extended family. 100% of participants increased healthy formal and/or informal support networks and increased knowledge of effective parenting for LGBTQ+ youth 91% reported increased and improved parent-child communication Contract met 82% of performance measures.</p>
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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.

CONTRACTOR	Description	Outcomes
United Action for Youth Ranshaw House DCAT4-23-006 \$15,923 85% Expended (\$13,577.04)	Provide 42 Ranshaw House Hangouts, using culturally sensitive programming and trauma informed care and adolescent brain development to supervise youth engagement.	41 Ranshaw House hang out sessions were provided. 37 BIPOC youth and 36 non-BIPOC youth participated. Many youth began showing up at other UAY programs due to the connection they made with staff at Ranshaw. 3 referrals were made for other services and transportation assist was provided twice. 93%-100% of youth surveyed report they increased protective factors, social emotional competency, increase in number of trusted and caring adults, and decreased feelings of social isolation. Contract met 80% of Performance Measures.
United Action for Youth - Pride Positive Youth Development for LGBTQ+ DCAT4-24-003 \$45,000 100% Expended (\$45,000)	Provide 32 Pride Groups, expand Pride Hangouts by 3 days per week (42 sessions). Summer: 2-week (8 days) Pride Camp 1-week (4 days) Pride Rock 20 Peer Leadership Sessions	119 Expanded Pride Groups provided to 152 youth (1,358 duplicated contacts) 35 Expanded Pride Hangout Sessions for 107 youth (647 duplicated contacts) 4 days of Pride Camp for 8 youth 0 days of Pride Rock for 0 youth 25 Peer Leadership sessions for 11 youth (126 duplicate contacts) 98% increased healthy formal and/or informal supports 97% increased the number of caring adults in their lives 98% decreased feelings of social isolation after programming Contract met 83% of Performance Measures.

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
<p>Families Inc. - Supervised Visits DCAT4-23-002 \$25,869 PSSF FUNDS 100% Expended (\$25,869) \$4,131 Decat Funds 48% Expended (\$1,968)</p>	<p>Provide supervised visitation and parent education services for families in the child welfare system. Visits for families who meet the Time-limited Family Reunification Services guidelines can be funded with PSSF funding. Any family referred by HHS can utilize the supplemental supervised visits funded with discretionary funds.</p>	<p>9 families with 9 children received 110 visits in FY24. Parent education and supports were provided during 100% of those visits and 84% of visits received transportation support. All 9 families met the PSSF eligibility requirement. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures</p>
<p>United Action for Youth – Shoplifter’s Program DCAT4-21-002 \$3,000 JCS Designated 75% Expended (\$2,250)</p>	<p>Provide monthly Shoplifter diversion class to first-time offender youth and their parents.</p>	<p>36 youth, 37 parent/ guardians attended one of 9 workshops offered in FY24. 97% of youth and 100% of parents indicate the program increased their understanding of the impact shoplifting has on their community, and that the program was presented in a clear and effective manner. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Johnson County Social Service- Interpretation- DCAT4-23-003 \$500 JCS Designated 0% Expended (\$0)</p>	<p>Interpretation and/or translation services for Juvenile Court Services</p>	<p>Translation services were not requested in FY24 for any family involved in the child welfare system, to keep the youth safely in their home.</p>

OTHER		
CONTRACTOR	Description	Outcomes
Johnson County Social Services – Decat Administrative Support DCAT4-23-001 \$20,000 100% Expended (\$20,000)	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 DCAT4-24-001 \$20,000 100% Expended (\$20,000)	Provide community based child abuse prevention strategies by coordinating community based services, managing grants, and promoting shared decision making.	Community networking met as outlined, 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)

Development of new programming is a challenge, with fewer organizations responding to notices of funding requests for smaller scale projects. 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. This is especially true when addressing previously underserved populations. 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.

Supporting evidence-based programming for diverse populations is sometimes challenging, as there is not a wide variety of curriculum that is evidence-based on communities of color or families who have immigrated to the United States. Contractors have found it necessary to adjust programming to the populations served and we continue to seek input directly from impacted communities about their programming needs and wants as well as culturally-responsive practices.

The unpredictable nature of available Decat funding makes it difficult for both the Decat Board and partner agencies to plan and implement programming. In an effort to increase efficiencies and maximize services, the JC Decat Board prioritizes 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.

The Johnson County Decat Board membership is engaged, knowledgeable, and represents many disciplines. We are fortunate that so many individuals and organizations recognize the value of participation in Decat. The board engages in ongoing communication with partner organizations, monitors contracted programs, and carefully reviews emerging community needs. Board members are mindful of funding priorities and intentional about distributing funding based on identified priority areas while placing emphasis on services that are evidence-based and proven effective. Johnson County Decat communicates regularly with other local initiatives including Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, Early Childhood Iowa/Empowerment, Juvenile Justice & Youth Development, and Prevent Child Abuse-Johnson County. This helps to identify gaps and increase effectiveness of local funding.