

Parents as Partners: Family Connection and Youth Incarceration

Families, in the broadest sense, are the primary context in which children receive care, support, a sense of identity and belonging. Even—and perhaps especially—when youth are placed out of the home, families are key to children’s ongoing health and development. Families will be involved long after children leave the juvenile justice system.¹

– Liane Rozzell, Senior Policy Associate, Annie E. Casey Foundation and Parent of Formerly System-Involved Youth

Engage the adolescent’s family as much as possible and draw on neighborhood resources to foster positive activities, prosocial development, and law-abiding behavior.²

– Guiding Principles for Juvenile Justice Reform, National Academy of Sciences

The importance of family to the rehabilitation of youth involved in the juvenile justice system has been evident for 40 years.³ Unfortunately, the history of treating parents⁴ as problems rather than partners in youth rehabilitation extends even longer.⁵ The current system of

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temporarily removing youth from family homes in ways that cause permanent damage, severing positive community ties, does not adequately advance the rehabilitative purpose of juvenile court.⁶

Youth sent to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ) by a juvenile court experience a significant legal shift. They are no longer children in the custody of their parents, family, or guardians.⁷ In the eyes of the law, they become minors in the custody of the State of Illinois.

However, unlike separation or divorce proceedings in family court, when juvenile courts grant the state “full custody,” they do not simultaneously spell out specific visitation rights for noncustodial parents and other family members. There are no guaranteed visitation schedules, graduated visit lengths, alternating holidays and school breaks, unfettered phone and text access between youth and the noncustodial parent, or shared transportation responsibilities to ensure the cost and time of visitation does not create undue hurdles for one party.

In the absence of clear direction, juvenile justice staff, incarcerated youth and their families,

In This Issue:

- ❖ The juvenile justice system has a long history of alienating parents from their children and blaming them for delinquency.
- ❖ Forty years of evidence shows that enlisting families as partners in developing family- and community-based responses to youth offending results in better public safety outcomes.
- ❖ Youth incarceration increases stress and risk for the rest of the family, including siblings and young children.
- ❖ 85% of youth exiting Illinois youth prisons are released to family or family-equivalent private homes, but youth who are incarcerated outside of Chicago go 45 days between family visits, on average.
- ❖ Illinois youth prisons are large, distant from families, and very difficult to visit, deteriorating youth relationships and community ties needed upon release.
- ❖ Family-based interventions are best delivered in a community setting and are viable alternatives to incarceration.

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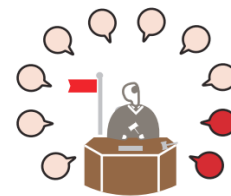
and the public may incorrectly conclude that recreational visits, relationship improvement sessions, and maintenance of community ties are privileges rather than youth rights, or they may view them as rewards for proper institutional behavior rather than core components of adolescent growth and development to which youth and their families are entitled.

Such a framework is not only a missed opportunity to prioritize best practices in rehabilitation, but indicates that removing youth from the home and community in the first place may not be viewed with sufficient seriousness, or that the urgency and importance of youth returning home is underweighed.

Meaningful Family Engagement Should Begin in Juvenile Court

Every young person in an Illinois juvenile prison was initially sent there following some kind of court process. Because Illinois law mandates that juvenile courts explore every possible alternative prior to incarceration,⁸ court experiences for incarcerated youth ought not to have been brief or perfunctory contacts. Therefore, when teens arrive at a youth prison for the first time, both they and their family members bring with them past experiences with juvenile system professionals, usually derived from a series of ultimately unsuccessful interactions. When juvenile courts were created, the impulse to treat youth differently from adults was often justified by blaming delinquency on inadequate parenting, casting families as one of the primary “sources of contamination” of children.⁹ However, just as parent involvement models have proven important in children’s education, mental health, and welfare systems, the juvenile justice system is also gradually recognizing the importance and benefits of family engagement.¹⁰ The field has been aware for over 40 years that “excluding, blaming, and shaming parents of youth in the juvenile justice system are likely to be ineffective strategies to produce positive outcomes.”¹¹ Nevertheless, families with children in the delinquency system, particularly parents of youth with longstanding mental health, education, or behavioral issues, continue to find themselves socially isolated and deprioritized by

juvenile courts and state systems, when they are not treated with outright suspicion or hostility.¹² The powerful role of race in overall perceptions of the value of parenting – and of children themselves¹³ – further exacerbates these issues for most incarcerated Illinois youth and families. In a survey of over 1,000 families in eight-states, including Illinois, “just 18 percent of families reported that professionals in the youth justice system (judges, probation officers, public defenders, facility staff, and others) were helpful or very helpful during the court process.”¹⁴ Over eight in ten family members stated that a judge never asked them what should happen to their child.¹⁵ For families of incarcerated youth, previous family contact with system actors is often alienating or negative. Parents who form peer support groups may find it easier to navigate juvenile systems and to advocate for themselves and their children.¹⁶



More than eight in ten family members surveyed reported that they were never asked by a judge what should happen to their child.

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“In a detention hearing for our younger son, who was charged with property crimes, a probation officer argued that he should be detained because our older son had also been “court-involved.” **Though we were in the room, there was no attempt to discuss the context with us.** The fact was that our older son had been brought to court for egging houses after sneaking out at night despite our best efforts to stop him (including buying an alarm system). The information that we had another child who had been court-involved was, in the court’s eyes, enough to establish us as bad parents.”¹⁸

“No Family” is No Excuse

As with the historic “bad” parent stigma attached to families of youth in delinquency court, “missing” parents (including those who are deceased, or who may be temporarily or permanently unavailable due to abuse or neglect) are not sufficient reason for system actors to dismiss the possibility of family involvement. Delinquent youth and young adults deserve not only love and support, but a path to long-term success; youth most often build this in partnership with a caring adult. In child welfare, finding family is an accepted and important part of permanency planning, inspiring lengthy practice guides complete with multiple worksheets.¹⁹ While the juvenile justice field has not always viewed this work as its own, a newer instrument developed by the Vera Institute, the Juvenile Relational Inquiry Tool, encourages staff and youth to help identify adult supports and gaps, with questions like “[i]f you got sick, will there be someone in your family who is able to take care of you?”²⁰

In the comparatively few cases where no family members are able to support youth in the short- or long-term, it is the clear responsibility of the custodial state to provide meaningful community-based placements for youth while they identify and strengthen an alternative network of support. Youth must not be incarcerated, or remain incarcerated, due to unavailable family assistance.

“A good example is Treatment Foster Care Oregon, an evidence-based alternative to incarceration or group placement for young people who have been adjudicated delinquent. Community families are recruited, trained, and closely supervised as they provide treatment and intensive supervision. Boys who participated in the program had fewer subsequent arrests, fewer days of incarceration, less self-reported drug use, fewer violent offense referrals, and fewer self-reported incidents of violence than did a control group.”²¹

Investment in family identification and support as early in the court process as possible may pay

significant dividends. The presence and involvement of supportive adults at court hearings, case management conferences, and family events can not only prevent youth isolation, but also enhance the quality and favorability of practitioner decisions about the youth, including viable alternatives to incarceration and improved release planning.

Prison Settings Obstruct Family Contact in Illinois

In a multi-state survey that included Illinois, three out of four family members reported the serious impediments to visiting incarcerated youth.²²

Commonly-mentioned barriers include:

- ❖ 42% difficulties with transportation
- ❖ 41% distance
- ❖ 37% time
- ❖ 35% cost
- ❖ 34% insufficient visiting hours
- ❖ 28% restrictive visitation rules
- ❖ 22% visitation rights taken away as a disciplinary measure²³

Administration, transportation, and time barriers may combine with cost to create an impossible situation for most families. Nationwide, the majority of incarcerated youth said it would take their families one hour or more to travel to visit them.²⁴ A family member interviewed in another state remarked, “the drive is almost six hours. Economically, it’s four to five hundred dollars. I only can go once [every four or five months], when I used to be there every weekend.”²⁵ Illinois’ southernmost prison is more than a five-hour drive from Chicago. Gas money, child or elder care, car rental, food on the road and an overnight stay can quickly add up to an expensive visit well out of the reach of most families of incarcerated youth, most of whom have already borne substantial economic burden from system involvement.

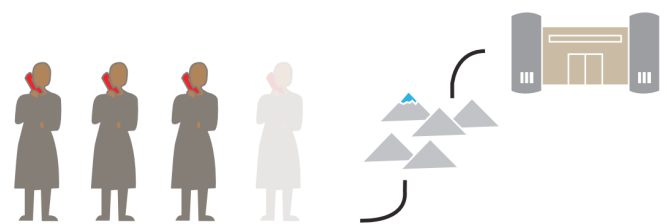
Location	2017 Visits ²⁶	Monthly per Capita	Avg. Days Between Visits
Chicago	1,217	1.5	20
Harrisburg	459	0.3	100
Pere Marquette	283	0.6	50
St. Charles	1,325	0.9	33
Warrenville	402	1.0	30
System-Wide	3,686	0.8	39
Outside Chicago	2,469	0.7	45

About 60% of the youth incarcerated at IDJJ are from Northern Illinois (30% from Cook County itself). They tend to be sent to one of the three prisons in the Northern Region (from largest to smallest: IYC-St. Charles, IYC-Chicago, and IYC-Warrenville). About 27% of incarcerated youth at IDJJ are from Central Illinois, which does not have any youth prisons. Along with the 13% of youth at IDJJ who are from Southern Illinois and Metro-East, youth from Central Illinois tend to be sent to one of the two prisons in the Southern Region (IYC-Harrisburg, a large prison, or IYC-Pere Marquette, which averages about a third as many youth).²⁷ Even the most-visited prison per capita, IYC-Chicago, is far from an accessible neighborhood home-like placement; it has a capacity of 130 youth and is located one mile west of the United Center – an hour from Englewood via public transit.

- ❖ On average, youth at IDJJ receive **one visit every 39 days**, but there is variation. Per capita:
 - ❖ Youth at IYC-Warrenville receive **11% more visits** than youth at IYC-St. Charles, which is similarly located but three times as large.
 - ❖ Youth at IYC-Chicago receive **more than twice as many visits** as youth in the rest of the state and **50-65% more visits** than youth held as close as 50 miles away from Chicago (at IYC-St. Charles and IYC-Warrenville).
 - ❖ Youth at IYC-Pere Marquette, a small, open-campus location, receive **twice as many visits** as youth at IYC-Harrisburg,

which is an hour and a half farther from Central Illinois locations and three times as large.

- ❖ Youth at IYC-Chicago receive **five times as many visits** as youth at IYC-Harrisburg.
- ❖ Each difference in individual prison accessibility (location convenience, distance from home, size, security level) combines to impact youth isolation and access by Illinois families.
- ❖ Wide variation in visit frequency by location and type indicates that inaccessibility of youth prisons, not family interest, is the largest obstacle to family engagement.



Three out of four survey participants reported facing serious impediments to visiting their children.

Credit: Families Unlocking Futures ²⁸



Nearly two-thirds of parents take time off from work without pay to support their family member as a result of their involvement with the system.

Credit: Families Unlocking Futures ²⁹

The remoteness and difficulty of in-person visits at Illinois youth prisons makes other types of contact even more important. A 2016 CBS News poll asked over 1,000 Americans how often *adult* children should call their mothers; 83% said it should be once a week or more, with about a quarter saying it should be at least once a day.³⁰ Only 12 percent of all respondents said that calling once a month or less was acceptable.³¹

The average youth incarcerated in IDJJ is not an adult, but only 17.2 years old.³² In many states, “families are forced to pay costly charges to speak with their children by telephone including the high costs of collect calls, various surcharges, connection fees, and per-minute charges.”³³

While youth calls made from the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center are free of charge (unlike the Cook County Jail rate negotiated under the same contract),³⁴ families of youth at IDJJ are subject to the same fee structures as adult inmates at the Illinois Department of Corrections.³⁵ These expenses were quite high until recently; prior to January 1, 2018, the first minute of a phone call cost families \$3.35.³⁶ A daily phone call home resulting in a simple voicemail or brief 10-minute chat cost a family over \$100 per month. Under the new statutorily-mandated \$.07/minute flat rate effective January 1, 2018,³⁷ this cost is reduced to \$21/month in a prepaid account – a significant improvement, but still beyond the means of many families.

When calls are infrequent, some practitioners posit (and some youth also feel) that families aren’t very interested in speaking to incarcerated youth. While every family is different, in a multistate survey that included Illinois, 70 percent of families said they could not reach their incarcerated children by phone as often as they would have liked.”³⁸

Staff Contact with Family is Increasing, but Still Rare, in Illinois

Many IDJJ staff and administration are dedicated to connecting youth and families. Despite extreme budget issues in the State of Illinois, family activities continue or grow, frequently funded by outside sources. Staff committees focused on family engagement exist in at least some prisons and family representation is sought. Weeknight visiting hours have been added. Family nights and holiday parties appear to

be growing in attendance and popularity.¹ IDJJ is also working on substantive programming, pursuing grant funding for family-focused strategies, free videoconferencing for families to participate in therapy and case management sessions, and holding parenting classes and play-dates for incarcerated young fathers at one facility.

However, visitation and family therapy data show that even with interest and effort from youth, families, and staff, family engagement is extremely difficult to achieve in the current youth prison format.

IDJJ data indicate that, averaged across all youth in custody, a single session of family therapy is delivered every 4.6 months.³⁹ Case management conversations between IDJJ staff, youth, and families occur once every 2.2 months.⁴⁰ Other communications between staff and families, including special event invitations, announcements, and discussion of visitation and other logistical issues, occur once every 2.8 months. By comparison, the parents of youth engaged in community-based alternatives to incarceration are in much closer contact with juvenile justice staff; national studies indicate that meetings between a probation officer and parent tend to occur between once per week to once per month.⁴¹

Family Contact is a Matter of Health and Safety for Staff, Youth and Family

Weekly visits appear to positively impact youth behavior and institutional safety. The State of Ohio partnered with the Vera Institute to pilot a program, Families as Partners Project, which encouraged family visits, correspondence, and active participation in youth treatment.⁴² An evaluation completed in 2013 measured the effect of increased family contact on youth institutional

¹“Highlights of the event were watching the families and youth enjoying barbeque, relaxing to music and watching our IYC Chicago talent show. It was also a pleasure to see the siblings of the youth playing games, visiting with the youth and running around. Family feedback was overwhelmingly positive and emphasized the importance of bringing families together with their children in a relaxed atmosphere that encourages family connections, building of family relationships and an overall sense of community.” February 2018 IDJJ correspondence (on file).

behavior and school performance. “[T]he Families as Partners Project suggests a relationship between weekly visitation by family members and maintaining good behavior and improved school performance for incarcerated youth.”⁴³

“[My son] was assaulted twice and [the facility staff] never said anything,”

– Parent, Alexandria, Virginia.⁴⁴

“As a parent of a juvenile that went through the system...it affects the whole family. My anxiety and stress level went up, the doctor put me on medication. I was having nightmares that they were killing my child. ...It affects you mentally and physically having a loved one that’s in the system. If you don’t know how to navigate the system, you don’t know what’s going on. So all kinds of things are going through your head.”

– Parent, Texas⁴⁵

Incarceration can create or exacerbate trauma for youth, parents, siblings, and children. Isolation from close family supporters may obstruct disclosure of physical or sexual abuse, enabling it to continue.⁴⁶ Families worry about this. In a multi-state survey including Illinois, most family members said it was difficult or impossible to contact staff at the facility to ask how their child was doing and get information about their child’s progress and/or safety.⁴⁷ When they did reach staff, fewer than one in five found the conversation helpful.⁴⁸

Family Involvement is the Key to Effective Juvenile Justice Programming

Of the top 10 evidence-based juvenile justice programs (as ranked by cost-benefit ratios calculated by the Washington State Institute of Public Policy), five are explicitly family-based: Functional Family Therapy (delivered in custodial setting); Parenting with Love and Limits; Functional Family Therapy (delivered as a probation service); generic family-based therapies; and Functional Family Parole.⁴⁹ An additional

three of the top-performing interventions (Education and Employment Training; Coordination of Services; Victim offender mediation) require community settings.⁵⁰ While each of the top 10 evidence-based programs is appropriate for use in a community setting, 8 of the 10 either demand it or specifically enlist families as partners in service delivery.

Parents and families are crucial partners when it comes to the juvenile court’s mission to protect public safety, strengthen youth, and pursue rehabilitation in a non-custodial setting in every possible case. Where families need additional support in order to meet youth needs, it is nearly always preferable to identify and offer that support than to undermine youth and parent perceptions of affection, knowledgeability, and responsibility by stripping away parental authority for youth supervision.

Example of Family-Based Therapy

- ❖ Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) is a variety of family therapy. It is a treatment program designed as an alternative to residential placements and aimed toward youth between ages 10 and 18 who have serious emotional and behavioral problems, including aggression, criminality, drug or alcohol abuse, sexual offending, conduct disorder, running away, and/or chronic truancy.⁵¹
- ❖ PLL “combines a six-week, group parent education and group therapy program with 12 (2 sessions a week for six weeks) or more individual ‘family coaching’ or family therapy sessions for delinquent youths and their parents/guardians. . . . Youths and their families attend groups together to receive instruction in a new skill each week by a licensed clinician. They also receive individual family coaching to practice the new skill during the week, typically within the home environment. A unique characteristic of the model is its emphasis on wound work and the need to address underlying traumas and unmet needs that have not been addressed or resolved.”⁵² PLL has been

replicated in 13 states and in Holland,⁵³ and has been recognized as an evidence-based model by the OJJDP and SAMHSA.⁵⁴

- ❖ Several counties in Illinois have implemented a PLL program, including LaSalle County, Grundy County, Bureau County, Champaign County and Lee County. These counties have seen positive results from the implementation of PLL, including reductions in recidivism in multiple measures and improvements in family adaptability and cohesion.⁵⁵ In Illinois, PLL is targeted for youth who exhibit moderate to severe emotional and behavioral problems, and their families, including youth in probation, community mental health, child welfare, Redeploy Illinois, and diversion programs.⁵⁶
- ❖ In a 2013 evaluation of PLL as a reentry program, felony re-adjudication rates for youth involved in PLL were half of those of a matched standard reentry group (6.5% compared to 12.9%).⁵⁷
- ❖ A 2017 evaluation comparing youth participating in PLL as a community-based probation program to matched pairs of youth committed to secure confinement by courts found that “subsequent felony conviction rates and rates of juvenile and adult correctional placement following release were significantly lower for the PLL youth,” suggesting “that PLL may be a more appropriate intervention than low, moderate, or high-risk residential commitment both in terms of outcomes and cost.”⁵⁸

Youth Incarceration is Harmful to Siblings

Youth whose older siblings are convicted of crimes are themselves at elevated risk of justice system involvement.⁵⁹ A five-year study of 531 youth released from Oregon Youth Authority corrections found that “youth with a mother, father, or sibling convicted of a felony, were two times more likely to be [arrested before age 14] and declared juvenile delinquents.” However, such effects may be reduced to at or beyond base-

line (cut by 50-66%) when court involvement is addressed within the family setting using evidence-based programs, such as Functional Family Therapy.⁶⁰

In addition to directly impacting community safety, incarceration’s strong emotional component can cause stress, isolation, and even trauma that impacts healthy development for siblings and young children in ways that are more difficult to measure, but no less real.⁶¹

Successful Release Depends on Family and Community Connections

In 2017, 774 youth were released from IDJJ facilities. Of these youth:

- ❖ 85% (655 youth) were released to a private home address;
- ❖ 11.6% (90 youth) were placed in a professional residential treatment facility;
- ❖ 2.3% (18 youth) were discharged to the Illinois Department of Corrections; and
- ❖ 1.4% (11 youth) were transferred to city or county jail custody.

Therefore, although system actors may perceive that parents, family, and other responsible adults are inadequate or missing from a youth’s life, the overwhelming majority of youth who are incarcerated at IDJJ depend almost entirely on family and community ties immediately upon release.

For many years, youth were formally required to obey all house rules while on juvenile parole status on pain of reincarceration.⁶² While this standard has evolved somewhat, maintaining and strengthening family and community bonds is still crucial to youth success on aftercare supervision and beyond. At a bare minimum, youth on aftercare status must be able to peaceably live at the state-approved address and resist the urge to run away from any conflicts in the home – a periodic strain for many non-justice-system-involved teens and young adults. It is therefore crucial to

prevent deterioration of family and community ties and repair frayed relationships, a difficult task from a distance.

Summary and Strategies for Change

Positive family engagement, including by helping youth to identify family supports, early on in court involvement is crucial for compliance with Illinois' mandate to provide youth with the least restrictive settings. Family-based interventions are best delivered in a community setting and are viable alternatives to incarceration that positively impact public safety by reducing recidivism.⁶³ Institutional policies regarding family contact for incarcerated youth should treat access to family as a fundamental right, not a behavioral privilege. This includes zealous preservation and facilitation of in-person, contact visits; therapy sessions and case staffings that are convenient for families to participate in; broadly encouraging institutional policies, such as the ability to call home at least once per day free of charge.

If youth are still removed from the home, a nearby, homelike environment can facilitate frequent and meaningful family involvement and help to maintain positive community ties that youth depend on upon release.⁶⁴ Small and convenient locations for secure care can make family visits possible, as well as less traumatic for younger children.

Parents of Incarcerated Children Bill of Rights

Parents are partners with correctional staff, educators, and treatment providers in their child's rehabilitation and shall be encouraged and assisted to actively participate in the design and implementation of their child's treatment, from intake through discharge.

Parents of children who have been committed to the care, custody, or control of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department have the following rights:

1. As a parent, you have the right to know that you and your child will be treated fairly regardless of race, religion, national origin, language, economic status, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or age and that each child will be treated as an individual.
2. As a parent, you have the right to expect the agency to provide a safe, secure, and sanitary environment for your child.
3. As a parent, you have the right not to be judged, blamed or labeled because of your child's incarceration.
4. As a parent, you have the right to be a vocal and active advocate on behalf of your child.
5. As a parent, you have the right to be an active participant when decisions are made about your child.
6. As a parent, you have the right to be informed about matters related to your child's welfare.
7. As a parent, you have the right to access your child's records.
8. As a parent, you have the right to meaningful participation in your child's treatment, including medical treatment, behavioral health treatment, and education.
9. As a parent, you have the right to communicate with your child, including visitation, telephone, and mail.
10. As a parent, you have the right to be assured that all TJJD staff are professional, courteous, and respectful.
11. As a parent, you have the right to know that TJJD will take immediate corrective action to protect the rights of parents and youth.
12. As a parent, you have the right to meaningful participation in your child's transition-planning — from intake through release, parole, and eventual discharge.

Credit: Texas Juvenile Justice Division

SAMSHA key principles of trauma-informed approach

Credit: Liane Rozzell, The Role Of Family Engagement In Creating Trauma-Informed Juvenile Justice Systems, National Center For Child Traumatic Stress (2013).

Application for family engagement in juvenile justice systems

Safety: Throughout the organization, staff and the people they serve feel physically and psychologically safe; the physical setting is safe, and interpersonal interactions promote a sense of safety.

Youth and families feel safe, both psychologically and physically, when encountering all parts of the juvenile justice system.

Trustworthiness and transparency: Organizational operations and decisions are conducted with transparency and the goal of building and maintaining trust among staff, clients, and family members of people served by the organization.

The juvenile justice system operates in a clear and transparent manner so that families and youth can both understand and trust the system and its staff.

Collaboration and mutuality: There is true partnering and leveling of power differences between staff and clients and among organizational staff, from direct care staff to administrators; there is recognition that healing happens in relationships and in the meaningful sharing of power and decision-making.

The juvenile justice system treats families and youth as partners, sharing decision-making and information to the extent possible. Families and youth are engaged in policy-making and governance bodies and activities.

Empowerment: Throughout the organization and among the clients served, individuals' strengths are recognized, built on, and validated, and new skills are developed as necessary.

The juvenile justice system recognizes the strengths and expertise that families and youth have, and works with them to build new skills as needed.

Voice and choice: The organization aims to strengthen the staff's, clients', and family members' experience of choice, and recognizes that every person's experience is unique and requires an individualized approach.

Interventions are individualized and—wherever possible—reflect family and youth choices.

Peer support and mutual self-help: These are integral to the organizational and service delivery approach and are understood as a key vehicle for building trust, establishing safety, and enabling empowerment.

Family members and youth with previous juvenile justice experience provide peer support to others encountering the system.

Resilience and strengths based: Incorporating a belief in resilience and in the ability of individuals, organizations, and communities to heal and promote recovery from trauma; builds on what clients, staff, and communities have to offer rather than responding to their perceived deficits.

The juvenile justice system takes a holistic approach to families and youth and offers them paths to recovery from trauma, rather than reacting punitively to the symptoms of trauma.

Cultural, historical, and gender issues: The organization addresses cultural, historical, and gender issues; the organization actively moves past cultural stereotypes and biases (e.g., those based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, geography, etc.), offers gender responsive services, leverages the healing value of traditional cultural connections, and recognizes and addresses historical trauma.

The juvenile justice system treats all families and youth fairly and respectfully, and employs culturally competent staff and interventions.

IYC Location	Type of Event	Total Annual Events 2017	Monthly Average per Location	Avg Youth Population per Location (Jan-Nov)	Monthly Saturation (1 event/mo for every x youth)	Frequency in Days (1 event per youth every x days)	Annual Per Capita (per incarcerated youth per year)
Chicago	Therapy	44.00	3.67	70	19.07	580.68	0.63
Chicago	Engagement	432	36	70	1.9	59.14	6.17
Chicago	Contact	60	5	70	14.0	425.83	0.86
Harrisburg	Therapy	52	4.33	124	28.6	870.38	0.42
Harrisburg	Engagement	833	69.42	124	1.8	54.33	6.72
Harrisburg	Contact	661	55.08	124	2.3	68.47	5.33
Pere Marquette	Therapy	46	3.83	38	9.9	301.52	1.21
Pere Marquette	Engagement	214	17.83	38	2.1	64.81	5.63
Pere Marquette	Contact	492	41	38	0.9	28.19	12.95
St. Charles	Therapy	787	65.58	129	2.0	59.83	6.10
St. Charles	Engagement	347	28.92	129	4.5	135.69	2.69
St. Charles	Contact	284	23.67	129	5.4	165.79	2.20
Warrenville	Therapy	125	10.42	38	3.6	110.96	3.29
Warrenville	Engagement	377	31.42	38	1.2	36.79	9.92
Warrenville	Contact	235	19.58	38	1.9	59.02	6.18
ALL	Total	4989	415.75	399	0.960	29.19	12.50
ALL	Therapy	1054	87.83	399	4.5	138.17	2.64
ALL	Engagement	2203	183.58	399	2.17	66.11	5.52
ALL	Contact	1732	144.33	399	2.76	84.08	4.34

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- 1 Liane Rozzell, *THE ROLE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN CREATING TRAUMA-INFORMED JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS*, NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS 2 (2013).
- 2 NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, *REFORMING JUVENILE JUSTICE: A DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH* 11 (Richard J. Bonnie, et al, eds.) (2013).
- 3 Raymond F. Vincent, *Expanding the Neglected Role of the Parent in the Juvenile Court*, 4 PEPPERDINE LAW REVIEW 5 (1977). See also James F. Alexander and Bruce V. Parsons, *Short-term Behavioral Intervention with Delinquent Families: Impact on Family Process and Recidivism*, 81 JOURNAL OF ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY 219 (1973); PRESIDENT’S COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (1967).
- 4 Use of the words “parent” and “family” in this document is intended to include any equivalent emotional bond with a relative or similarly supportive adult figure.
- 5 See generally Roberts, *infra* note 13.
- 6 See generally, Patrick McCarthy, Vincent Schiraldi, and Miriam Shark, *The Future of Youth Justice: A Community-Based Alternative to the Youth Prison Model*, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE, NEW THINKING IN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BULLETIN 4 (2016) (hereinafter “NIJ BULLETIN”). “A continuum of community-based services should emphasize evidence-based family intervention models. A family is the best place for kids — birth families where possible, or other family settings such as kin or supportive foster care when it is not. Effective programs help families provide the guidance, support, and structure that help kids get back on track.” *Id.* at 22.
- 7 The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is responsible for the care of a small minority of youth at the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice as a result of child welfare proceedings.
- 8 Pub. Act 97-362 (eff. Jan. 1, 2012).
- 9 Sarah Cusworth Walker, et al, *A Research Framework for Understanding the Practical Impact of Family Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System: The Juvenile Justice Family Involvement Model*, 56 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY, 408, 409 (2015).
- 10 *Id.*
- 11 *Id.*
- 12 Jeffrey D. Burke, et al, *The Challenge and Opportunity of Parental Involvement in Juvenile Justice Services*, 39 CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW 39 (2014).
- 13 Dorothy E. Roberts, *The Value of Black Mothers’ Work*, 26 CONN. L. REV. 871 (1994).
- 14 JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES AND DATACENTER, *FAMILIES UNLOCKING FUTURES: SOLUTIONS TO THE CRISIS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE* 2 (2012) (hereinafter “FAMILIES UNLOCKING FUTURES”), accessed at: http://www.justice4families.org/media/Families_Unlocking_FuturesFULLNOEMBARGO.pdf.
- 15 *Id.* at 21.
- 16 In one experiment, parents who formed peer support groups were better-equipped to navigate juvenile court, while parents who were provided with a juvenile justice orientation video without peer support were no better off than parents who were not given any instruction. Sarah Cusworth Walker, et al, *Impact of Peer Partner Support on Self Efficacy for Justice-Involved Parents: A Controlled Study of Juvenile Justice* 101, 24 JOURNAL OF CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES 443 (2015).
- 17 FAMILIES UNLOCKING FUTURES, *supra* note 14 at 21.
- 18 Rozzell, *supra* note 1 at 4.
- 19 Mardith J. Louisell, *Six Steps to Find a Family: A Practice Guide to Family Search and Engagement*, NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR FAMILY CENTERED PRACTICE AND PERMANENCY PLANNING and THE CALIFORNIA PERMANENCY FOR YOUTH PROJECT, available at <http://www.nrcpfc.org/downloads/SixSteps.pdf>.
- 20 For a description of how the JRIT may be used in youth prison settings, see Ryan Shanahan and Sandra Villalobos Agudelo, *FAMILIES AS PARTNERS: SUPPORTING INCARCERATED YOUTH IN OHIO*, VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE FAM-

ILY JUSTICE PROGRAM (January 2012). To access the instrument itself, see <https://www.familiesoutside.org.uk/content/uploads/2011/05/The-Relational-Inquiry-Tool-rev.doc>.

21 NIJ BULLETIN, *supra* note 6 at 22.

22 FAMILIES UNLOCKING FUTURES, *supra* note 14 at 24.

23 *Id.* at 24. Following the recent elimination of disciplinary solitary confinement at IDJJ it is unclear whether incarcerated Illinois youth continue to lose visitation rights as an individual disciplinary measure. However, partial or full lockdowns (the frequency of which is not publicly reported) continue to obstruct family contact and may be used as a form of group discipline.

24 Andrea Sedlak and Karla S. McPherson, CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT: FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY OF YOUTH IN RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT, US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (2010).

25 FAMILIES UNLOCKING FUTURES, *supra* note 14 at 29.

26 Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice-reported number of total “non-professional” (not legal, DCFS, social worker, volunteer program) family/community visits to incarcerated youth during Calendar Year 2017. February 2018 correspondence on file.

27 Visualizations of the distance between state population centers, high-committing counties, and IYC locations are available in the January issue of this series: <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/cfjc/documents/CFJC%20Youth%20Prison%20Brief%20Vol%201%20FINAL.pdf> at 13-14.

28 FAMILIES UNLOCKING FUTURES, *supra* note 14 at 24.

29 *Id.* at 29

30 CBS News, *CBS News Asks: How Often Should You Call Your Mother?* (May 8, 2016), available at: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cbs-news-asks-how-often-should-you-call-your-mother/>

31 *Id.*

32 Stephanie Kollmann and Arielle Tolman, Restoring the State Legacy of Rehabilitation and Reform, Children and Family Justice Center, Community Safety & the Future of Illinois’ Youth Prisons Vol. 1 (January 2018) at 15.

33 FAMILIES UNLOCKING FUTURES, *supra* note 14 at 29.

34 Fourth Amendment to Contract 08-45-256, Cook County, Illinois, and Securus Technologies, Inc. effective April 9, 2014, available at: <https://www.prisonphonejustice.org/2014/IL/Fourth-Amendment-Cook-County-IL-Securus-Contract/>.

35 Contract Renewal, State of Illinois and Securus Technologies Inc. dated June 2, 2017, available at: https://www.prisonphonejustice.org/media/phonejustice/Securus_Contract_Renewal_thru_June_2018.pdf.

36 Summary of rates, screenshots of online rate quotes, and results of public records requests for state contracts are available at <https://www.prisonphonejustice.org/state/IL/>.

37 Pub. Act 99-0878 (eff. Jan 1, 2017) (note that effective date of new contract rate is 12 months after effective date of underlying legislation).

38 FAMILIES UNLOCKING FUTURES, *supra* note 14 at 24.

39 1,054 sessions of family therapy were delivered in 2017 for 399 youth, a per capita rate of 2.64 sessions per year, or one session every 138.17 days. CFJC analysis of IDJJ data, on file with the author.

40 2,203 sessions of family engagement occurred in 2017 for 399 youth, a per capita rate of 5.52 engagements per year, or one engagement every 66.11 days. CFJC analysis of IDJJ data, on file with the author.

41 Sarah Vidal and Jennifer Woolard, *Parents’ Perceptions of Juvenile Probation: Relationship and Interac-*

tion with Juvenile Probation Officers, Parent Strategies, and Youth's Compliance on Probation 66 CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW 1, 5-6 (2016).

42 Sandra Villalobos Agudelo, THE IMPACT OF FAMILY VISITATION ON INCARCERATED YOUTH'S BEHAVIOR AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FINDINGS FROM THE FAMILIES AS PARTNERS PROJECT, VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE FAMILY JUSTICE PROGRAM 1 (2013), available at <https://nicic.gov/impact-family-visitation-incarcerated-youth%E2%80%99s-behavior-and-school-performance-findings-families>.

43 *Id.* at 4.

44 FAMILIES UNLOCKING FUTURES, *supra* note 14 at 24.

45 *Id.* at 29.

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48 *Id.* at 29.

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50 *Id.*

51 PARENTING WITH LOVE AND LIMITS, ILLINOIS - *PLL Programs: Key Outcome Data*; Kristin Winokur Early et al., (2013). *Family-Focused Juvenile Reentry Services: A Quasi-Experimental Design Evaluation of Recidivism Outcomes*, 2 OJJDP JOURNAL OF JUVENILE JUSTICE 1, 15.

52 Sephanie Bontrager Ryon, et al, *Community-Based and Family Focused Alternatives to Incarceration: A Quasi-Experimental Evaluation of Interventions for Delinquent Youth*, 51 JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE 59, 61 (2017).

53 Winokur Early, et al, *supra* note 51 at 1, 6.

54 PARENTING WITH LOVE AND LIMITS, *What is PLL*, <https://www.gopll.com/?page=WhatIsPLL>.

55 HORNBY ZELLER ASSOCIATES, INC., CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FINAL REPORT (2013).

56 Illinois - PLL Programs: Key Outcome Data.

57 Winokur Early, et al., *supra* note 51.

58 Bontreyer Ryon, et al., *supra* note 52 at 65.

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61 Katie Heaton, *The Sibling Experience: Grief and Coping with Sibling Incarceration*, MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK CLINICAL RESEARCH PAPERS, Paper 327 (2014). "Youth experience bullying by other students who discovered their sibling's imprisonment, adjusting to new household roles and routines, complex feelings of ambivalence related to their sibling's safety, visiting their brother or sister, and having their sibling return home after an extended period away." *Id.*

62 ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION, YOUTH REENTRY IMPROVEMENT REPORT (2011) http://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27896/documents/By_Division/DCHP/RFP/IJJC_YouthReentryImprovement.pdf at 28, fn 92. “Although an adult resident signs the host site agreement with IDOC, any household infraction can result in the youth’s parole being revoked due to loss of the host site. In such cases, the youth is usually reincarcerated in a DJJ facility, even when the infraction is one over which teenagers do not normally have control in the household. Examples include: nonpayment of a land line phone bill (resulting in loss of electronic monitoring signal), a sibling or relative moving into the house (if there is any known gang affiliation), or even a resident at the house adopting a dog (if it is not neutered and microchipped, per 720 ILCS 12-36). ... ‘[O]bey all host site rules’ [is] a frequent special condition of parole. While abiding by house rules seems to be a reasonable requirement for any teenager, parole conditions like this have unintended consequences, potentially elevating any standard family quarrel to the level of state intervention, parole sanction or even reincarceration.” *Id.*

63 See, e.g., Scott S. Henggeler, *Family Preservation using Multisystemic Therapy: An Effective Alternative to Incarcerating Serious Juvenile Offenders*, 60 JOURNAL OF CONSULTING AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY 953 (1992).

64 NIJ BULLETIN, *supra* note 6. “Such removals should strive to maintain family and community ties as much as possible by using close-to-home/community-based facilities and limiting the duration to the shortest possible, as determined by the young person’s readiness.” *Id.* at 22. “The best place for these facilities is close to youth’s home communities to facilitate maintaining family ties and gradual transitions into community-based programming.” *Id.* at 24.