

MIDD 2 Initiative TX-JDC: Juvenile Drug Court (JDC)

How does the program advance the adopted MIDD policy goals?

This initiative impacts the adopted MIDD policy goal of “divert individuals with behavioral health needs from costly interventions, such as jail, emergency rooms, and hospitals.”

The JDC program is effective at reducing recidivism and keeping youth engaged in the treatment process.¹⁹⁰ King County JDC outcome studies have documented significant reductions in recidivism among program participants. Juvenile justice has increasingly become the service delivery point for adolescents with substance use disorder (SUD) and co-occurring problems that lack resources for other assistance. The JDC model provides improved, expanded, yet cost-effective adolescent SUD treatment in a coordinated system of care. The model of care in King County challenges systemic inequities and facilitates dialogue among justice and treatment professionals, families and the youth themselves. JDC includes services designed for youth with SUD diagnoses and co-occurring mental health issues. All service areas of the JDC program have shown overtime to increase protective factors for youth involved in the program and strengthen the participant’s transition to participating in pro-social behaviors and activities.

1. Program Description

◇ A. Service Components/Design (Brief)

JDC is a therapeutic court that provides services to juvenile charged with criminal offenses and identified as having a SUD diagnosis. JDC was implemented in July 1999. This court is an alternative to regular juvenile court and is designed to improve the safety and well-being of youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system by providing the juvenile offender access to SUD treatment, judicial monitoring of their sobriety and individualized services to support the entire family.¹⁹¹

Juvenile justice-involved youth voluntarily enter the program and agree to increased court participation, SUD treatment, co-occurring mental health treatment if necessary and intensive case management in order to have their charges dismissed. Case review hearings initially occur every week and then become less frequent as the youth progresses through the program. Incentives are awarded to recognize the youths’ achievements and graduated sanctions are used when a youth violate program rules. Youth typically spend between 12 and 18 months in the program.

Through a collaborative, non-adversarial approach, the JDC integrates SUD, co-occurring mental health treatment and increased accountability into the process. Each youth has a JDC team and a comprehensive service team that reviews his or her participation and

¹⁹⁰ Bolan, 2007.

¹⁹¹ Seen, Heard and Engaged: A process Evaluation for Children in Court Programs (NCJFCJ, 2013).

recommends services. This interdisciplinary team is cross-trained and works collaboratively to resolve issues.

◇ *B. Goals*

JDC improves the safety and well-being of youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system by providing the youth in the juvenile justice system access to SUD treatment, evidence based/best practice holistic family intervention services and judicial monitoring of their recovery.

◇ *C. Preliminary Performance Measures (based on MIDD 2 Framework)*¹⁹²

1. *How much? Service Capacity Measures*

This initiative serves 50 new participants each year.

2. *How well? Service Quality Measures*

- Increased use of preventive (outpatient) services

3. *Is anyone better off? Individual Outcome Measures*

- Reduced substance use
- Increased stability in treatment, employment or other quality of life measures
- Improved wellness and social relationships
- Reduced unnecessary incarceration

◇ *D. Provided by: County*

2. Spending Plan

Year	Activity	Amount
2017	JDC supports and services continue.	\$1,099,211
2017 Annual Expenditure		\$1,099,211
2018	JDC supports and services continue.	\$1,127,789
2018 Annual Expenditure		\$1,127,789
Biennial Expenditure		\$2,227,000

¹⁹² Throughout 2017, review and refinement of Results-Based Accountability (RBA) performance measures for MIDD 2 initiatives will be conducted whenever applicable, in consultation with providers. Updates to performance measures that may result from this collaborative process will be reported in the next MIDD Annual Report in August 2018.

3. Implementation Schedule

◇ *A. Procurement and Contracting of Services*

King County Superior Court will continue to provide Juvenile Drug Court services. No RFP is needed.

◇ *B. Services Start date (s)*

Services continued on January 1, 2017.

4. Community Engagement Efforts

JDC continually incorporates feedback from several community stakeholder groups whose focus is on restorative justice, including the Reclaiming Futures Seattle and King County Fellowship, Uniting for Youth Executive Steering Committee, JDC Oversight Committee and the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee.