



JOHNSON COUNTY Decategorization Board

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FY18 Johnson County Decat Annual Progress Report

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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 FY18 state fiscal year)

In FY18 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 24 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 \$340,787. The contractors expended \$304,231 of the grant funds awarded.

In FY18, 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 FY18, proposals were solicited for the following services that align with the local priority service areas; positive youth development, summer youth programming, Family Treatment Court support services, in-home family support services, Mother's Support Group, and Love and Logic Parent skills training. In addition, Johnson County Social Services administered contracts for wrap around services, professional development, and Juvenile Court interpretation services. There were 16 new contracts procured in FY18.

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 FY18, presentations from seven different contractors, including CPPC were provided to the Decat Board. In addition, Decat Board staff and board members completed six 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 FY18 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 and CPPC coordinator provided updates to the board, along with the Juvenile Court and DHS supervisors. The Decat Board also reviewed the latest Johnson County Juvenile Justice System Planning Data Report. The Decat Coordinator is engaged in many community coalitions and groups; attending the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee, CPPC Shared Decision-Making Team Meeting, Linn County Detention Advisory Committee and coordinates the Johnson County Juvenile Justice Youth Development Program 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*. In FY17 programs funded with a primary or secondary goal of reducing disparities included; Cultural Equity consultant services, G- World Girls Group, Dream Center RISE program, 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 prioritized increasing access to after-school and summer care for low income and at-risk youth and reducing isolation for families most in need. 211 families received individual and/or group-based family support services in FY18 up from 81 the previous year. These supportive services assisted families with building community connections, accessing resource and referrals and increasing parental skills. 748 youth received after-school/summer enrichment programming, up from 383 last year, as a result 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 10.9% decrease in the number of detention holds between 2013 - 2017.

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
United Action for Youth – Shoplifter’s Program DCAT4-17-005 \$3,000 Designated (\$2,500) 83% Expended	Provide monthly Shoplifter class to first-time offender youth and their parents.	57 youth with a parent/ guardian attended one of the 10 workshops offered in FY18. 100% of youth and parents indicate the program was well organized, increased their understanding of shoplifting and the impact on the community. Juvenile Court data indicate that 1% of youth taking the class in FY18 were charged with a subsequent theft after completing the class. 5 % were charged with shoplifting or another crime within 6 months of taking class. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.
Johnson County Social Services - Wrap Around DCAT4-16-010 \$14,500 (\$7,000 Designated) (\$12,930) 89% Expended	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	22 Families /46 children received assistance with housing (78%), food and diapers (1%), transportation (6%), utilities (5%), and other (10%). 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. Suitable other designation assisted 16 children remain in their placements with supports request for clothing (21%), food and diapers (21%), transportation (34%), and utilities 21%). Respite (3%). Contract met 100% of Performance Measures, Additional funds also provided camp scholarships and bus passes for families involved or at risk of involvement in the child welfare system.
Four Oaks- Cultural Equity Services DCAT4-18-117 With BSC & Interpretation \$28,810 Designated (\$18,620) 65% Expended	Provide services, which assist, in ensuring that Johnson County families with an active child welfare case receive culturally responsive advocacy.	20 families were served by CES. 100% pf FSRP providers completed a Cultural Diversity Self-Assessment. The CES reports attending 100% of (2) BSC meetings, but designated BSC funding remained unspent. 1 training provided in Johnson County, attended by 35 people, all surveys reporting an increase in knowledge about the topic. Contract met 63% of Performance Measures.

<p>Families Inc. – Family Treatment Court DCAT4-18-004 \$27,986 (\$1,000 Designated) (\$25,478) 91% Expended</p>	<p>Provide Family Treatment Court services that includes; family support services, community outreach, and implementation of supportive family events.</p>	<p>14 families served during FY 18 through the FTC. 1,314 client visits completed. 90% of families participated in a family networking events (11 offered). 4 cases were closed, 2 (50%) were closed successfully. 100% of participants made moderate or substantial progress with family interactions. 70% of participants made some progress toward abstinence. 100% of parents made progress participating in family interactions. An Alumni group was started. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Families Inc. - Supervised Visits DCAT4-17-006 \$21,739 (\$15,739 PSSF - Designated at request of Board) (\$13,687) 87% Expended</p>	<p>Provide supervised visitation and parent education services for families' who meet the Time-limited Family Reunification Services guidelines.</p>	<p>70 Supervised visits provided, each visit included transportation supports. 10 families were served with a total of 10 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 75% of Performance Measures</p>
<p>Johnson County Social Service (Fiscal Agent) - Interpretation Services DCAT4-18-014 \$2,500 Designated (\$200) 8% Expended</p>	<p>Provide fiscal agent services funding interpretation for the Sixth Judicial District Juvenile Court, to improve communication for families whose primary language is not English.</p>	<p>This is a Fiscal Agent Contract. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>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.</p>		
<p>Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County - PASS DCAT4-18-005 \$49,775 (\$48,223) 97% Expended</p>	<p>Parent Achievement Student Success in-home family support services targeting isolated families with an identified child in K-6th grade to reduce child abuse and neglect and delinquent and disruptive behaviors.</p>	<p>20 families, (28 parents) served. 125 home visits provided. 81 community referrals provided. 66% of families referred from their schools were able to participate. 40% of parents demonstrated an understanding of PBIS terms and behaviors. 42% of children met their PBIS behavior goals. 70% of youth demonstrated improved classroom behaviors on the 10 teacher surveys completed. 100% of families reported an increase in school connection. Contract met 57% of Performance Measures. Contract not renewed for FY19.</p>
<p>United Action for Youth - LGTBQ Group DCAT4-17-087 \$18,043 (\$17,822) 99% Expended</p>	<p>Provide weekly support groups, at 3 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.</p>	<p>154 youth attended group programming (89 groups provided). 95 % of group participants report that they feel they learned something new after meeting with the Health Educator. 92% of group participants reported that after attending group they felt better able to communicate their feelings and that the number of safe adults in their lives increased. After attending the LGBTQIAA Summit 92% of youth report that the Summit helped them better understand the needs of the LGBTQIAA population. Contract met 90% of Performance Measures.</p>

<p>Dream Center – Fathers United Now DCAT4-17-085 \$7,500 Designated (\$7,083) 94% 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>24 fathers attended a weekly 24/7 dad curriculum group. 34 weekly sessions of programming was provided, average weekly attendance was 8.2 fathers. 17 home visits were completed. 100% of groups were led by 2 facilitators, 3 family nights offered with 60% of fathers attending a family night program. 100% of fathers are matched with a mentor, averaging 4 contacts per month. Contract met 66% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Families, Inc. – Moms Support Group DCAT4-17-086 \$8,620 Designated 100% Expended</p>	<p>Provide a weekly group for moms to strengthen parenting supports and empower families using the Circle group model.</p>	<p>38 weekly groups offered. 20 moms attended a group (309 contacts). 90% of moms were connected to resources. 100% of moms enrolled in the group report an increase in informal supports, and an increase in frequency of healthy interactions with other adults after attending group. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>United Action for Youth - Crisis Intervention & Mediation DCAT4-17-105 \$36,067 100% Expended</p>	<p>Provide 24- hour crisis services, advocacy, and consultation for youth and families in crisis.</p>	<p>57 youth/ 24 parents/20 families accessed the crisis mediation services. 256 counseling or crisis mediation services provided. 100% of families in crisis reported to within 24 hours of initial contact. 87% of parents report crisis mediation/counseling services were helpful, and 87% report that after receiving services there was an increase in family communication. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Families, Inc. - Nurturing Parent Program DCAT4-18-006 \$12,750 Designated (\$6,460) 51% Expended</p>	<p>Provide an in-home parenting program using the In-Home Nurturing Parent Program curriculum</p>	<p>26 Families participated in the Nurturing Parent Program. Each family was contacted within 48 hours of requesting assistance. A total of 38 parents and 37 children were served during 76 in-home counseling sessions. 100% of Families report an increase in support networks, parent/child relationships and parent/child communication. Families struggled to complete all 10 weekly sessions of the NPP series with provider (15%) Contract met 60% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Johnson County Social Services - Parent Cafes DCAT4-18-137 \$9,000 (\$8,587) 95% Expended</p>	<p>Facilitation of a 2 day training on the Parent Café model, followed with a series of Parent café sessions provided at different community locations,</p>	<p>A 2-day train the trainer session was held for 22 people who are now trained on using the Parent Café model. 7 Parent café sessions were offered, attended by 22 people. 80% of surveys report participants increased informal supports, and 100% report that they would recommend parent café to friends. Contract met 83% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Families, Inc. - Brief Intensive Services DCAT4-18-139 \$4,860 (\$4,069) 84% Expended</p>	<p>Provide in-home family assessment, screening, skill development, counseling and community service referrals for families living in rural or service scarce communities.</p>	<p>8 Families participated in the BIS program, serving 9 parents and 10 children. Total of 45 in-home sessions were provided. 100% of families were from small communities in Johnson County who did not have access to insurance or Medicaid funded programs. Progress was made improving parent/child relationships for all families. Contract met 75% of Performance Measures.</p>

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.

<p>Johnson County Social Services - G! World DCAT4-18-013 \$23,155 Designated 100% Expended</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>191 G! World sessions provided to 79 high school and 66 junior high students. Sessions were provided at 6 schools- 3 junior high and 3 high school sites. 38 youth attended My Beautiful self. 94% of youth reported an increase in problem solving skills, 81% reported an increase in expressing their needs to adults, 75% report feeling more positive about their body image, and 100% developed SMART goals 87% received no suspensions from school during the G! World service year. Contract met 83% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>United Action for Youth - 6th Grade Art and Music Club DCAT4-18-007 \$17,599 100% Expended</p>	<p>Provide bullying prevention that promotes social skills, creative self-expression, and effective conflict resolution skills for 5th – 6th graders at 4 Elementary school sites providing art and music clubs after- school.</p>	<p>83 sixth graders participated in weekly art/music workshops for a total of 825 duplicated contacts. Over 50% of students were minority youth. 100% of youth reported they are better at telling others about their ideas and feelings after attending 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/Music Club. Contract met 86% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>United Action for Youth - Recording Studio Program DCAT4-17-077 \$11,926 100% Expended</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>561 hours of structured music and art programming offered to 200 youth at the UAY Center. 52 youth attended an open mic/talent show night (4 offered). 17 youth referred to other supportive community services. 100% of youth reported being more connected to caring adults and other youth after participating in UAY recording studio activities, and that as a result of attending art workshops they learned to do things they did not think they could do. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County - Skills to Succeed DCAT4-18-257 \$3,302 (\$2,395) 73% Expended</p>	<p>Provide a group-facilitated web-based training on career and employment soft skills for at-risk youth ages 14-17 year.</p>	<p>14 Youth attended class and/or field trip programming for development of employment soft skills. 17% of youth attended all 10 sessions. 42% of youth completed surveys, 100% of those youth report that have a better equipped with the necessary skills to seek and secure employment and a better understanding of how to be successful at the work place. Contract met 40% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Northwest Jr. High PSTO - ROLO Program DCAT4-18-272 \$3,930. (\$2,586) 66% Expended</p>	<p>Provide at-risk youth with direct instruction in leadership skills, build positive mentor relationships, and explore reading, writing and experimental outdoor learning activities.</p>	<p>31 youth attended this empowerment and poetry program in June. A partnership with the Youth Writer's Project day camp also offered lunch and recreational learning opportunities. Average weekly attendance was 16. 3 community outreach activities were provided along with a weekly trip to the pool. This Contractor had no previous experience with Decat and had to be set up with the State which delayed the approval so the Contractor did not distribute surveys to many youth, and kids went to the pool instead of nature field trip activities. Contract met 28% of Performance Measures.</p>

<p>Dream Center - RISE Program DCAT4-18-273 \$8,000.00 100% Expended</p>	<p>Provide summer programming for at-risk youth, ages 10-17, strengthening low-income youth with social, academic, and community supports</p>	<p>4 Weeks of programming was provided for 47 families in June. The average weekly attendance was 41 youth. 100% of families were connected to resources and all youth were provided with lunch each day. 63% of participants completed the survey and of those, 100% reported they learned new skills to be a leader, they had a sense of belonging, and they learned something new about employment. 77% of youth attending the RISE program identified as at risk of involvement with JCS or DHS. Contract met 90% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>Johnson County Social Services - Youth Empowered to Serve DCAT4-18-287 \$4,000 100% Expended</p>	<p>Provide a weekly group facilitated training on employment soft skills for youth</p>	<p>22 Youth attended weekly soft skill employment training, participated in job shadowing and learned about a variety of work and career options. Contract met 50% of Performance Measures.</p>
<p>United Action for Youth - Youth Mural Collaboration DCAT4-18-288 \$4,464 (\$4,319) 97% Expended</p>	<p>Provide support for Johnson County youth, ages 14-17, in developing assets, social competencies and behaviors to reduce risk factors and increase positive factors through a youth-driven art collaboration project.</p>	<p>2 weeks of art workshops creating a mural for downtown Iowa City were complicated by weather issues. The workshops were successful. 100% of youth report they learned a new skill, feel more connected to their community, and feel the community values their skills and talents. Contract met 88% of Performance Measures.</p>
OTHER		
<p>Johnson County Social Services – Decat Administrative Support DCAT4-17-004 \$20,000 100% Expended</p>	<p>Decat Coordinator and Johnson County Social Services program administrative support.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Johnson County Social Services - Professional Development DCAT4-18-258 \$15,000 (\$5,000 Designated, \$4,000 Other Decat Transfer) (\$13,623) 91% Expended</p>	<p>Service coordination of professional development related to the areas of child safety, well-being and permanency.</p>	<p>3 Trainings were provided to 94 DHS, JCS, and/or staff from other child serving agencies. The trainings included Move Mindfully, a trauma informed yoga training, Implicit Bias, provided in a central location with transferred funds from several smaller and more rural Decat counties, and Motivational Interviewing which was appreciated by shelter and detention staff, 100% of surveyed responses were positive for trainings and trainers. Contract met 100% of Performance Measures.</p>

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.

This year we had a few projects that were significantly underspent resulting in the reversion of \$8,836. The board attempted to respond mid-year by re-allocating resources to meet the growing gap for summer enrichment activities. There was a minimal response that allowed for creation of smaller scale programming. Some entities indicated that they were not interested in seeking a grant since funding was only available for June programming. Funding summer programs can present a challenge given fiscal year-end timing. The board anticipates funding youth services for the full summer in 2019.

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.