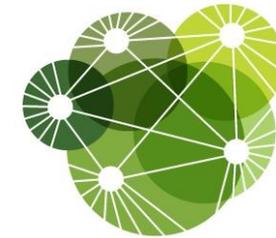
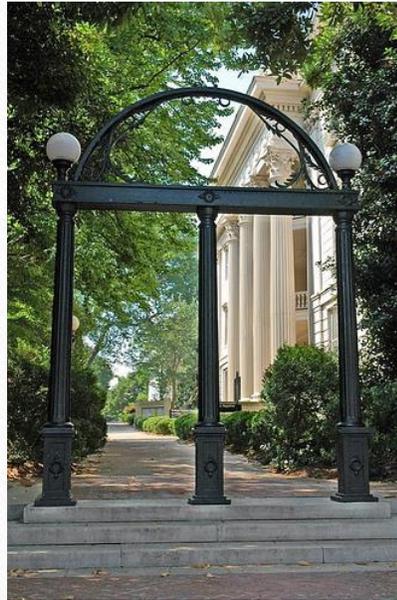


Enotah Juvenile Family Therapy Program

Amy Rosser, Project Director

Background Information



— TOWNS COUNTY —
family connection™

History of the EJFTP

- Partnerships Formed
 - Juvenile Court Judge
 - Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners
 - Department of Juvenile Justice
- Steering Committee Formed
 - Family Connection sites in the four county area
 - Sheriff's Departments, School Resource Officers, DJJ, DFCS

Evidenced Based Programs

- Multi Dimensional Family Therapy
- Botvin Life Skills
- Additional Programs Offered:
 - Botvin Life Skills for Parents
 - Mentoring
 - Tutoring

"A successful family therapy program produces successful families"

I would argue that we are on to something here. Our staff does recognize that the families we work with develop poor relationships not only among themselves but with the whole gamut of systems designed to be on their team. That's one thing that makes MDFT work well for us, as we have built into our approach to help families develop skills necessary to recognize how to engage in life as a member of an effective team which is made up of not only their own family members, but all those others out there that are somehow connected to them (DJJ, teachers, school counselors, youth pastors, Al that lives down the street that will take your son fishing on Saturday mornings, etc.).

Jamie Shankles, Lumpkin/White Co. Therapist

Building Relationships with Clients and Families

1. It is vital to be able to build rapport with your families, so that you can better meet their specific needs. Some families have a hard time opening up about some of their financial, vocational, and other problems because of their pride. It is easier to break down their rough exterior by showing kindness and genuine concern in order to get them to allow you to help meet any barriers to therapy.
2. You are on the client's side. Be an advocate in their schools, probation, etc.
3. Always, always have something good to say about your client to involving parties (DJJ, school, etc) No negativity allowed!
4. Get to know people in your community! Not just the resources, but the actual people involved. Be kind and build those relationships, and keep them (even when you might not be using their resource at the time).
5. One thing to also remember is most of the time with this clientele you are the only support system they have. So it is vital to make sure in the 6 month time to help that family build one. Not only do we have to build relationships with the community, the families should too! Help teach them, so that when our program is done they can continue to have support!

Brianna Phillips, Lumpkin/White Co. Case Manager

Building Relationships with Community Partners

Lunch and Learn

- DJJ
 - Christmas Party
- DFCS

Attend DJJ Staff Meetings

Drop In/Check in with Key Stakeholders (DFCS, ADA, Potential Community Resources)

Share important data and information with Key Stakeholders and Community at large

Listen!

What It Looks Like When You Build Relationships With Clients, Families, and Community Partners

Two recent families come to mind: 1. Af. American boy, 15 we worked with whose charges were simple battery, etc. and older mom that entire community was leery of because she can be quite intimidating. Seriously, it appeared school personnel, DJJ, everybody was a bit afraid of this mama. She had overused community resources and threatened people so much that no one was willing to help her any more - Period. End of story. The first day I met her, as I was walking up to her porch, I overheard her cursing her insurance company on the phone and threatening them about some procedure they weren't covering. I quickly learned she had just been diagnosed with breast cancer. I am convinced that had it not been for our program staff's previously built relationships with so many different community resources in our area, this family would be suffering in ways I can't predict. This family struggled financially, and the youth had been expelled from school for fighting (from alternative school). He had 9 siblings (2 who still lives at home with them) and a 12 year old nephew who had fetal alcohol syndrome who presented uncontrollable violent behaviors daily. And now the mom had to undergo chemotherapy. We were able to reunite this family with appropriate resources for heat bill assistance, weekly food supply, and gas vouchers (mom's chemotherapy was a 45 minute drive one way). Their car was falling apart, and we were miraculously able to help them obtain another one. Resources had also been exhausted for support for the nephew, and through therapeutic work with the family and reconnecting with DFCS work is in progress for getting him into the residential treatment he needs. By the end of the program, our youth was back in regular school - not alternative school - the county high school.

2nd family that comes to mind: 11 year old kid was referred to us as he had threatened to shoot people at school and his parents were not providing appropriate supervision. Dad was in prison, and mom was unreliable. We initially did not accept this family because of the boy's age. He turned 12, DJJ was still referring him, so we agreed to try making an impact. In the beginning - the mobile home this mom and her 3 children (6, 8, 12) were living in should have been condemned. The ceiling had a giant hole in it with mold hanging out of the hole. One would have to duck to walk under it. DFACS was involved with the family for a variety of reasons, and it appeared that all agencies were about to give up on this mom and take her kids away. Our youth had been placed in a psycho-educational center located out of the county. He was missing as much school as he was attending because mom wasn't making sure he got on the bus - and she did not have a car to take him. And she did not have a job. She had not only exhausted community resources, she had also burned bridges with her family.

Having strong relationships with community agencies was key in working with this family on many levels. Numerous times we role modeled "how to" develop these type relationships with both mom and dad (dad got out of his residential placement). Both parents had extensive history of drug abuse. By the end of the program for this family we had assisted mom going into a residential treatment facility herself. The kids are currently living with their dad who has remained sober and graduated his CR program. Dad is fully employed and engaged in all three kid's school/life. Mom has obtained a car and employment and has reunited with her sister and lives with her. Even though our youth is still in the Future's program, he has been transitioned to that program at his own middle school and does attend one regular class a day.

Jamie Shankles, Lumpkin/White Co. Therapist

Successes

- “We have built a strong and very positive relationship with the ADA that handles juvenile cases which also strengthens our relationship with our PO's, I believe, because we are all on the same page from the start of a case. Our collaboration with the ADA streamlines the referral process as well.”

Kelly Sykes, Towns/Union Co. Therapist

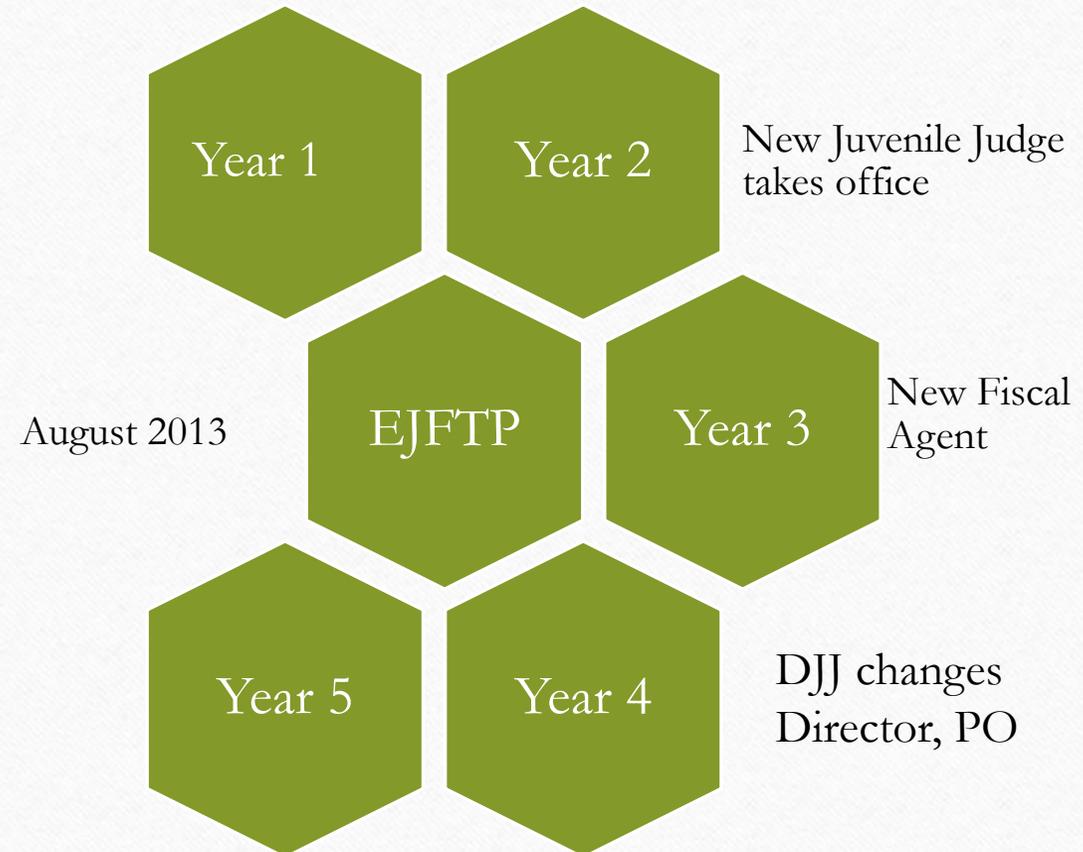
Resources Donated In-Kind for our families

- Heat
- Groceries
- Money donated for a mom's rehab
- A car (donated by Jimmy Jones Ford)
- Christmas for a family through Home Depot associates sponsorship
- A client going from alternate school to the middle school earlier than expected (we were able to convince the principal to give this client a chance, even though they were hesitant they approved of it. Now that client is thriving).
- Oil change and breaks fixed for free for a mom who could not afford it.

Changes During Program

New Juvenile Judge took Office EOY 2

New Fiscal Agent year 3



Challenges

- Geographic location of our program
 - Location of our EBP
- MDFT based in Miami, FL
- Lack of additional resources in our area
- Changes in Juvenile Court Judge, Fiscal Agent, and DJJ staff during this grant process



Union

GRANTEE SNAPSHOT

19 youth from Union, Lumpkin, Towns, and White counties were enrolled into evidence-based programs funded by the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant.



End of Year Report

July 2017 - June 2018

Georgia Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant



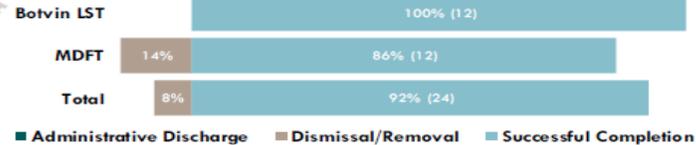
Programs Implemented

Botvin LifeSkills Training (Botvin LST) is a group-based intervention that addresses the social and psychological factors that contribute to substance use, delinquency, and violence.

Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) is an individual-based family intervention that addresses substance abuse, delinquency, and behavioral/emotional problems, while promoting positive attachments to pro-social supports.

Program Outcomes

26 total exits were reported in Year 5.*



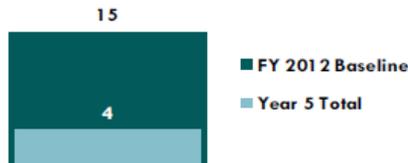
*This represents 14 participants; 12 of those participants exited 2 different EBPs.

Pre-Disposition Risk Assessment (PDRA)

Georgia uses the PDRA to determine the criminogenic risk of justice-involved youth. These evidence-based programs are intended to serve youth scoring medium- or high-risk. These are the scores of youth served in Year 5.



Combined STP Admissions and Felony Commitments



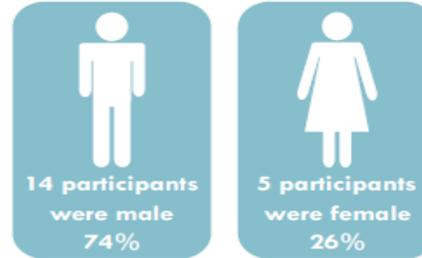
One goal of the grant is to reduce the number of juveniles placed in out-of-home facilities. Out-of-home placements were computed as the total unique instances of STP admissions and felony commitments to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Georgia Juvenile Justice Reform Initiative | Georgia Children's Code (O.C.G.A. 15-11-1)

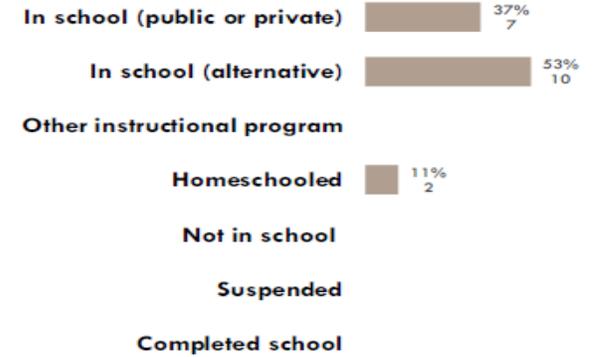
Working together "to preserve and strengthen relationships in order to allow each child to live in safety and security."

Rev. 10/09/2018

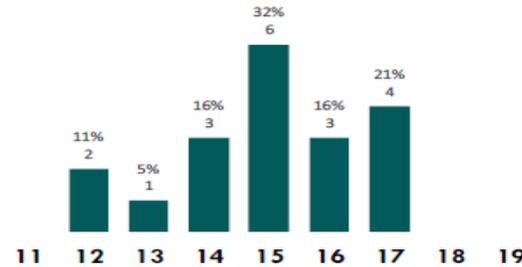
Gender



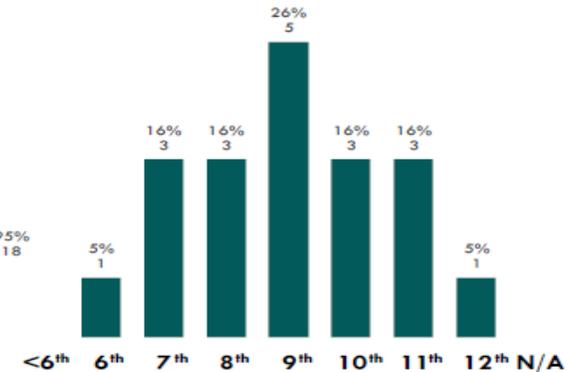
Educational Status



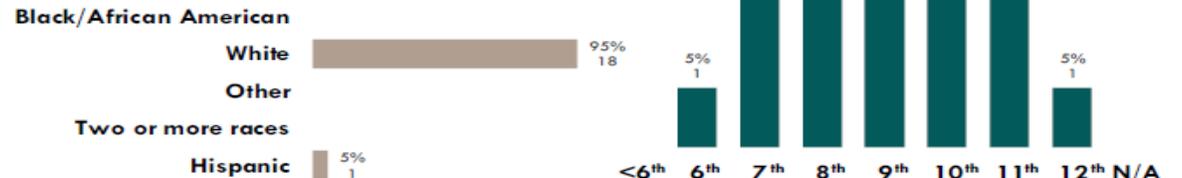
Age



Grade Level



Race



Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Rev. 10/09/2018

Final Thoughts

“In every way you look at Relationships there is a dynamic movement happening. To keep up with Relationship's good graces, you've got to be flexible enough to stay in step with those movements - which cannot be done with much success if you are absent. Presence is key. Making purposeful weekly visits to the DJJ office, to schools, to parks and rec departments, to any potential member of a kid's team outside his family is necessary to maintain the relationships needed in making family therapy programs like ours successful. Part of that purpose includes making the need to develop relationships with the families “contagious”.

And that my friend is what makes the world go around. :)”

Jamie Shankles, Lumpkin/White Co. Therapist