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# KANE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019

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## MISSION STATEMENT

To facilitate communication and awareness of community resources for at-risk youth and families by establishing and maintaining partnerships across systems.

## VISION STATEMENT

To serve as a collaborative resource to align effective services for the prevention, intervention, rehabilitation, and reintegration of juveniles in order to create a positive change for youth, families, and the community.

Since 2015, the Kane County Juvenile Justice Council has worked to influence the juvenile justice system to improve the lives of children and to keep children out of the system by facilitating collaboration and evaluating current practices and procedures. Processes have also been formalized to ensure long-term success as a collaborative resource. The Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission awarded the council with a delinquency prevention grant, totaling \$60,037 for fiscal year (FY) 2019. The council is fully grant funded and receives no funding from Kane County.

## **FY 2019 OVERVIEW**

FY 2019 began in July 2018 with a new logo designed by a Kane County student. Highlights from the fiscal year include:

- Collected and analyzed data related to 9 decision points within the juvenile justice system, working with partners to make immediate changes while initiating discussion about possible solutions for more in depth areas of concern.
- Finalized a proposed outline to support data collection. The plan will be presented to the Chief Judge for approval to help emphasize the importance of gathering this information from agencies for the purpose of making improvements.
- Partnered with school districts to host educational opportunities for those involved in the lives of our community's young people, including parents, guardians, and other youth serving professionals in the community.
- Initiated collaboration around the expansion of restorative practices, by establishing a subcommittee, offering training, and developing supplemental materials.
- Collaborated with local law enforcement to better understand barriers and provided training opportunities as an initial response.
- Reviewed improvements made after an internal evaluation to assess the council's collaboration and integration across systems.
- Developed materials to increase awareness within the community.

**M E M B E R S H I P**

The Board of Directors meets monthly, while the full council meets quarterly. The State’s Attorney was reelected to a second term as council chairman at the beginning of the fiscal year, with the Public Defender serving as co-chair. Only board members have voting power, but all members are encouraged to provide input. Quarterly meetings provide a forum for the 35 to 40 active members to gather, network and participate in discussions regarding council initiatives. In addition, the council has established subcommittees as needed.

The Board of Directors is committed to working together despite being a collection of separate entities. As part of that goal, the Board of Directors completed self-assessments and reviewed the results this year with the help of Dr. Patricia Graczyk, a partner with interest in supporting multisystem collaborations. This evaluation revealed improvements in efforts to collaborate and partner across agencies.

**C O O R D I N A T O R**

The council coordinator, Julia Schick, manages the entity’s many initiatives. This includes maintaining communication with council members regarding the scheduling of meetings, preparing and distributing meeting agendas and minutes, and facilitating the implementation of the local juvenile justice plan. The coordinator also oversees the program evaluation and outcome measures, data collection and analysis, and collaborates with community partners and other council coordinators from other counties.

**B O A R D O F D I R E C T O R S**

**JOSEPH MCMAHON**  
State's Attorney

**RON HAIN**  
Sheriff

**KELLI CHILDRESS**  
Public Defender

**LISA AUST**  
Director of Court Services

**PATRICIA DAL SANTO**  
Regional Office of Education  
Superintendent

**JUDGE LINDA ABRAHAMSON**  
Representative for Chief Judge  
Susan Clancy Boles

**JUDGE WILLIAM PARKHURST**  
Presiding Judge of Juvenile  
Delinquency

**SUSAN STARRETT**  
County Board Representative

**KRISTEN LOHRSTORFER**  
Juvenile Officer's Association

**CHIEF PATRICK ROLLINS**  
Chiefs of Police Association  
representative

**MIKE DOYEN**  
Kane County Bar Association  
member

# INCREASING PARENT AWARENESS

Many of the efforts this year focused on sharing information with parents, specifically around issues of substance use and internet safety. The council worked with school districts to host these presentations, reaching more than 800 parents. To extend beyond the presentations, the council also developed informational materials to share with the community.

## PARENT HANDOUTS

In an effort to support parents in managing behavior at home and prevent future involvement with law enforcement or the juvenile court system, the council chose topics to share tips and information with parents. Below is a description of each pamphlet that was developed. These are available in English and Spanish:

### GENERAL PARENTING

Provides general tips for parenting and monitoring youth. Information about crisis resources and prosocial activities are also listed.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Provides information about mental health warning signs and signs of trauma. Includes tips to support open communication and connections, while also providing resources.

### INTERNET SAFETY

Information about the different apps kids are using and monitoring apps parents can use. Tips to help educate youth about safe technology use.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CARDS** Explains the different types of violence, including how domestic violence between a youth and parent differs from other types of violent acts toward others. Also provides resources related to domestic violence for those in need.

### INTERNET SAFETY PRESENTATION

This presentation explained how youth are connecting online, including the different methods to recruit youth and promote violence. In addition to sharing the potential risks of youth engaging with this type of information, the presentation offered tips and strategies for parents to increase monitoring and accountability around internet usage for their children. Prevention involves parents connecting with youth and encouraging them engage in prosocial endeavors and positive peer relationships, while also being held accountable for appropriate behavior, including online activity.



# WAKE UP CALL PRESENTATION

This presentation educated parents by sharing current drug trends, warning signs and symptoms of drug use, the potential consequences of continued use, and strategies to intervene. This interactive presentation takes parents on a tour of a teen's bedroom to show them "red flags" that indicate child may be using. The event included a resource fair for attendees to connect with local providers. One school district also hosted a presentation for its students discussing the consequences of drug use. A total of five events were hosted in collaboration with four local school districts and Your Choice to Live. The initial event marked the first Wake Up Call presentation in Illinois.



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## 2019 OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

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The Juvenile Justice Council's Outstanding Student Award is an opportunity for students to be recognized for their efforts and achievements in overcoming adversity. This year commemorated the second year of this award. Kane County teachers and youth-serving professionals were asked to nominate a student who has demonstrated success, despite having to overcome barriers.



Ivan Carmona (center) poses for a picture with representatives from DREAM Academy and the Juvenile Justice Council Board of Directors.

### I V A N C A R M O N A

The council recognized Ivan Carmona as the 2019 Outstanding Student. Ivan was nominated by his teacher, Karen Tobin. Wrapping up his senior year at Dream Academy in Elgin, Ivan shared his story of moving to the United States as an only child without his parents. Growing up in Mexico, at the age of 8, Ivan was working to help his family financially while also grieving the death of his mother. After his father was diagnosed with cancer, Ivan moved to the U.S. at the age of 14, enrolling in school and working 32 hours per week to help with his living expenses. Despite having multiple adverse experiences in his childhood that impacted his mental wellbeing, as well as his social and academic development, Ivan has demonstrated resilience and perseverance. Ivan is determined to honor the memory of his mom and dad by making a positive future for himself, considering plans to join the military or pursue an education at Elgin Community College as an auto mechanic with aspirations to open his own business someday.



## 2019 YOUTH SERVICE PROFESSIONAL AWARD

The Juvenile Justice Council introduced a new award opportunity this year to recognize those hard working individuals addressing the needs of our community's vulnerable youth. The Youth Service Professional award is an opportunity to showcase the dedication and commitment of these professionals.



Marina Salinas (center) poses for a picture with representatives from her respective agency, Family Service Association of Greater Elgin, Kane County State's Attorney Joseph McMahon, and Juvenile Justice Council Coordinator, Julia Schick

### MARINA SALINAS

The council recognized Marina Salinas as the 2019 Youth Service Professional. Marina was nominated by Bernadette May, Executive Director of Family Service Association of Greater Elgin, where Marina is employed. Marina is described as a successful professional with an ability to empathize while holding people accountable. Her strength in establishing trust and rapport allows her to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds. The result is that issues are effectively addressed. An example of Marina's dedication can be seen in her work with a youth who moved to the Chicago area from Central America. Using the skills described above, Marina has been able to advocate on behalf of this individual to remain in the United States while providing services to address the trauma this youth endured in her country of origin, extending treatment beyond the traditional 90 days allotted. Now in the 8th month of treatment with Marina, this youth is reported to have improved functioning in her home, community, and school.



# A YEAR IN REVIEW

## DATA COLLECTION & REDUCING ETHNIC DISPARITIES

To assess the specific needs and inequalities of our community, as well as the factors that contribute to juvenile justice system involvement, the council collects and reviews data to help make decisions. Through these efforts, the council has also made improvements to the collection process to capture any missing information and increase efficiency. Initial strategies to address existing disparities include increasing awareness by bringing training opportunities about cultural competency, incorporating cultural implications into existing trainings, and facilitating conversation about cultural considerations and barriers. The intent is for individuals to adjust their behavior in response to the knowledge and understanding of this issue. The council data has also driven system changes at a local level. For example, to help reduce the number of youth detained for failing to appear in court, phone call reminders are now offered to families prior to their court date. In addition to conducting its own data collection and review, the council collaborates with other community partners to examine additional sources of data. Plans for the upcoming year include conducting more in-depth analysis of the data to consider possible solutions, particularly what contributes to the high number of domestic violence related offenses and what contributes to the number of unsatisfactory terminations from diversion opportunities.

## TRAUMA INFORMED AGENCY

The Board of Directors formally voted on documentation to become a trauma-informed agency. Although the council is not a director provider of services, commitment to being a trauma-informed agency includes continuing to increase our knowledge on trauma through training and education and including awareness of trauma when making decisions. Many of the partners already incorporate trauma-informed practices into their agency policies and procedures and there are some partners on the council who are able to provide trauma-informed training.



# TRAININGS

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

The council provided funding to host an additional one-day Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety training in the fall of 2018. This training opportunity provided support at a local level to fulfill newly implemented mandates for law enforcement officers in Illinois to participate in mental health trainings. The council chose to support this initiative to increase support for officers interacting with youth who may be exhibiting mental health needs as opposed to delinquent behavior.

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

The council formed a subcommittee in the fall of 2018 to continue expanding the Restorative Practices framework throughout the community, in an effort to support school districts with their implementation. Restorative Practices are strategies focused on building community and relationships, and strategies repair harm when it occurs. The purpose of this framework is to establish social capital – a network of relationships – so that responding to harm is easier and more effective.



Based on feedback from schools, a training was offered in the summer of 2019, introducing the concept of restorative practices and explaining the use of circles. This training was offered using the curriculum from the International Institute of Restorative Practices. A total of 30 individuals completed the training, representing six of the nine county school districts, Kane County Court Services, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, YWCA Elgin, a local family law practice, and the Kane County Regional Office of Education.

## BULLYING

The council continues to offer a training for students on cyberbullying and bullying. Presenters engaged more than 100 fourth and fifth grade students in a conversation about steps they can take when they see inappropriate behavior online.

JUVENILE 101 TRAINING



In collaboration with the State’s Attorney’s Office, the council hosted a training for law enforcement officers on juvenile justice issues. The council considers this a foundation for officers to gain additional training on policies related to juveniles. Relying on the expertise of local professionals, topics ranged from adolescent brain development and the impact of trauma, juvenile investigations, juvenile jurisdiction, expungements, referrals to court, detention screening. Presentations from local community agencies were also provided to connect officers with resources for youth and a panel discussion was facilitated to provide an opportunity for officers to process any challenges.

**PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**COMMUNITY NETWORK**

Our community partners value the council because the meetings provide a forum for discussion that would not otherwise exist in the community. The partnership allows any interested representatives to participate in discussion. Furthermore, the quarterly meetings and email distribution list offer a network for the partners to share information about available services and upcoming events. To be responsive to the needs of the community, the council also relies on input from the local professionals working directly with youth and families to inform initiatives, as well.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Throughout this fiscal year, the council has talked with local law enforcement to better understand support needed for working with juveniles. The council distributed previously developed resource cards with phone numbers for youth in crisis to the police departments in Kane County this year. Understanding that officers are often overextended with training commitments, the council also partnered with existing trainings to share necessary information, particularly as it related to youth. In addition, conversations have been initiated to support officers in utilizing more community resources as diversion options as an alternative to referring youth to court.

## **ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION: CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH GRANT**

At the end of FY2018, the Kane County Health Department was awarded a Children's Mental Health grant to improve children's access to mental health care in our community. As a member of the planning team, the council has been engaged in discussions related to implementing a system of care to ensure that all youth and families are connected with necessary resources to address mental health needs. This collaboration offers a partnership to discuss gaps in services for youth in need of mental health care by gaining understanding from service providers and input from community parents and youth. It also provides opportunities to share resources, particularly for collecting and reviewing data.

## **SHARING INFORMATION**

At each quarterly meeting, the council provides an update on current pending legislation, generally related to juvenile justice, education, child welfare, and behavioral health. Partners are also invited to share any additional updates that have not already been mentioned. This discussion offers an opportunity to connect subject-matter experts with proposed changes at the policy level that could potentially have an impact on the work they do and the communities they serve.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS / COLLABORATION**

- ▶ National Night Out participant
- ▶ A Community Investment Symposium  
"The Best Start for Families: A Health Equity Approach" - panelist
- ▶ Children's Mental Health Day
- ▶ Annual Police Training with State's Attorney's Office
- ▶ Kane County Systems of Care Project - Children's Mental Health grant
- ▶ Kane County DHS Continuous Quality Council
- ▶ Kane County Behavioral Health Council
- ▶ Mid-Valley Mental Health Partnership
- ▶ Kane County Community Network



## SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### INFORMATION SHARING

The council developed the Universal Needs Assessment as a tool for community partners from multiple entities to use in helping families connect with needed services. As the tool continues to be tested, the council has received feedback that has been incorporated into the procedures for the tool. These materials have been finalized and reviewed by partners to ensure validity. Through collaboration with the county Information Technology department, an online format has also been developed for the tool. As the use continues to expand, this online format will help users collect and review the assessment efficiently, while capturing data about the identified needs in the community. The council will regularly review this information and work with partners to address any trends.

### EXPUNGEMENTS

The council continues to monitor legislation pertaining to juvenile expungements. The packet was updated in February 2019 to incorporate changes that went into effect at the beginning of the year. The most up to date packet is always available on the council website.

### DATA COLLECTION

A data collection project plan was outlined through this committee to describe the council's intent to collect and review local data to inform decisions that will effectively address and prevent juvenile delinquency. The final draft of this plan is currently being reviewed. As the data initiative continues to move along, the council will partner with other community entities to further examine trends and design interventions to address disparities.

### RESTORATIVE PRACTICES (NEW AS OF FY 2019)

Since forming a subcommittee in August of 2018, there has been a lot of momentum from community partners around supporting the implementation of the Restorative Practices framework. The council has prioritized this framework because it has been effective in preventing crime and reduce violence, while improving human behavior and strengthening the community. All nine of the Kane County school districts have provided input as to where their district is at in the implementation process by participating in a collaborative conversation in the spring and have identified what support is needed from the community. As a result, the subcommittee planned a training opportunity for school personnel and developed a resource card with tips to implement restorative practices within the school setting. The subcommittee continues to meet and will plan future training opportunities for both schools and the community.

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# KANE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL

For more information about the JJC and it's initiatives or  
to contact the coordinator, please visit:

[jjcouncil.countyofkane.org](http://jjcouncil.countyofkane.org)



"It is easier to build strong children than  
to repair broken men."

- Frederick Douglass

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