



# Iowa's Juvenile Reentry Systems (JReS) Final Report

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### Contributing Authors:

Dave Kuker

Laura Roeder-Grubb

Lacee Lynn B.

Iowa Department of Human  
Rights, Division of Criminal  
and Juvenile Justice  
Planning and Statistical  
Analysis Center

Steve Michael, Administrator

321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street

Des Moines, IA 50319

(515) 242-5823

<https://humanrights.iowa.gov>



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## List Attachments

A: Iowa JReS Milestones and Efforts (Timelines)

B: JRTF Membership Listing

C: Statewide Schematic

D: YTDM Standards-DHS

E: Juvenile Court Services Placement and Reentry Policies and Procedures

F: IWD Partnering Process

G: IVRS Serving Students in Transition Policy 2018-2019

H: IVRS School Delivery Plan

I: MOA – IVRS, IWD, SCA, and CJJP

J: List of JCS Case Management Templates

K: Facility Questionnaire Template

L: Facility Reviews/Responses

M: HF 766

## Executive Summary

The Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP), is overseeing the Juvenile Reentry Task Force (JRTF) in the development and implementation of the juvenile justice reentry system. Multiple state agency partners are assisting with institutionalization and/or development of policy, procedure, and structural elements of its Juvenile Reentry System (JReS). The goal of JReS is the reduction of recidivism rates and to improve other youth outcomes through implementation of comprehensive system-wide reforms to juvenile reentry policies and processes which include: enhanced cross-system coordination, utilization of quality and effective programming, and prioritization of resources.

Active partners in the JRES effort include: State Court Administration (SCA), Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Aftercare Services Network (IASN), Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), Juvenile Court Services (JCS), Department of Education (DE), Iowa State University's (ISU) Research Institute for Studies in Education (RISE), Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) state and local agencies, as well as the State Training School (STS) and the eight residential treatment programs involved in the project. Key state partners have provided specific policy relative to their respective agencies work with juvenile justice system youth. Implementation and planning efforts have been conducted local and state service providers and the treatment programs. These efforts have supported the development of transitional/reentry transition timelines, depicted in schematics, that identify the key steps and activities that should occur though every step of a youth being placed in a group care facility and the transition back to a parental or community-based home.

### Accomplishments:

- Realized the importance of continuing the JRTF
- Standardize the completion of the Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA) prior to, and relevant updates while youth are in placement
- Standardize completion of case planning (pre-dispositional investigation report, permanency, and transition plans) requirements through the Judicial Branch Case Management System and specified electronic applications
- Ensure the connection of placed youth to IVRS and IWD programming, and connecting youth to the local IWD office upon return to the community
- Maintain the active engagement of the returning school districts while youth are in placement
- Surveyed JCS and Group Care Facility Staff (overall conclusions from evaluator):
  - Importance of the YTDM process
  - Family engagement
  - JRTF Partnerships
  - Community-based Services
  - Standardize policies
- Ensure all eligible youth are able to take advantage of IASN

### Challenges:

- Statewide standardization and implementation of YTDMs
- Engagement of families
- High recidivism rates for STS and Group Care
- Ongoing work at the facility-level to engage key JReS partners (IWD, IVRS, DE, IASN, etc.)

- Ongoing issues with the provision of gender responsive services for girls, and, specifically, needs for girls at deep-end of system processing
- Overrepresentation of youth of color (particularly African-American youth) at all stages of system processing, and higher rates of recidivism

### Next Steps:

Recently, CJJP was awarded a new 3-year (October 2019 – September 2022) federal grant from OJJDP that will expand and enhance JReS. Enhancements to the work in existing facilities will continue, and will be expanded to other out-of-home placement settings in varied jurisdictions throughout Iowa. Trainings will be conducted for placement facility staff and for the multiple regional state agency entities staff (IWD, SCA, IVRS, DHS, etc.) in proximity to the facilities. Additional activities:

- Intensive Case Management - Iowa's data reflect moderate and high-risk juvenile justice youth (such as youth returning from group care) are receiving similar numbers of services as youth assessed as low-risk. Iowa will seek the services of a national consultant to explore and implement effective strategies to shift resources to moderate and high-risk youth, and provide intensive supportive services for youth released from group care.
- Youth Transition Decision Meeting (YTDM) / Family Team Decision Meeting (FTDM) - Expansion of available YTDM's for all youth offenders released from group care. FTDM/YTDM's are facilitated youth-centered planning meetings creating a life path for youth. Youth invite key individuals in their life to assist in developing the path, and build supports for the youth and families.
- Family Engagement - During the planning and implementation phase of the project, additional family engagement strategies will be developed and initiated. The goal is to create a uniform practice engaging families through each phase of the juvenile justice system, which will require a culture change.
- Availability of Evidence-Based Services, Tools, and Practices – Iowa will create a uniform process that will utilize the right service for the right youth, at the right time:
  - Validated risk assessment (Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA))
  - Service inventory
  - Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)
 These tools will assist Iowa's programmatic efforts to build supports of community-based services accessed by system youth.
- Girls – JReS planning and technical assistance efforts must seek to provide gender responsive programming for girls. The efforts must assure that deep-end resources are available for girls.
- Youth of Color – JReS planning and technical assistance efforts must to address the cultural issues of youth of color. Such efforts must accommodate for and implement solutions specific to the overrepresentation of youth of color (African-American youth) and the higher recidivism rates for such youth after returning to the community from placement settings.

Iowa's existing infrastructure coupled with these additions will enhance and expand the reentry system and provide positive outcomes for youth and reduce recidivism for youth offenders.

## Background

In 2015 and 2016, CJJP was one of three jurisdictions awarded competitive funding (grant period ended September 2019) for a reentry implementation grant. Those funds have allowed the establishments of a state-level reentry structure for Iowa's juvenile justice system youth. An update regarding the related activities is provided below. Iowa's effort, known as Juvenile Reentry Systems (JReS), where the goal was to reduce recidivism for delinquent youth returning from the State Training School for Boys (STS) and from three group care settings (Forest Ridge, Four Oaks, and Woodward Academy).

JReS involves the long-term planning process to transition and reintegrate youth back to the community. A state/local partnership provides collaboration and engagement of multiple partners in the juvenile justice system. A state-level, uniform process (pre- and post-release) was established for the target population of juvenile offenders. Iowa's efforts rely on state/local resources and supports provided at (or prior to) placement, and after return to the community.

### 2016 Statement of the Problem

Listed below is an excerpt from the 2016 Juvenile Reentry Implementation Grant. Many initiatives were implemented during the grant period to respond to issues. Those efforts are described in the "Strategies" section of this report.

*Juvenile offenders have a high recidivism rate. Iowa's Justice Data Warehouse (JDW), a central repository of key criminal justice data, revealed that during FY2015, 61% of juveniles reoffend following release from the Boys State Training School (STS) or in the adult correctional system; this is down 10% from calendar year 2012 recidivism rates. A primary contributor to the high recidivism of youth in our state is attributable to the fact that Iowa lacks a comprehensive statewide reentry system for juvenile offenders returning from either the juvenile or adult system. Without continued support and guidance upon returning home from STS and/or group care facilities, juvenile offenders will continue to re-offend at alarming rates. These implications have detrimental effects for Iowa's youth, particularly youth of color.*

*For the purposes of this project, recidivism is defined as any re-arrest in either the juvenile system, adult system, or both, within 12 months of discharge from STS, group care facility, or Psychiatric Medical Institute for Children (PMICs). For the purpose of this project, STS, group care facilities, and PMICs will be referred to collectively as "group care". Also, the initiative described in this grant will be referred to as the Juvenile Reentry System (JReS).*

*Lack of a Coordinated Statewide Juvenile Reentry System (JReS): There is not a standardized reentry process in the juvenile justice system. Juvenile Court Services (JCS) offices in the eight judicial districts operate independently regarding programs and services provided to juvenile offenders, and as a result, the availability of reentry services varies greatly.*

*In addition, there is no coordination of reentry services between the juvenile system and the adult correctional system. The JRTF has explored avenues to improve continuity of care through the entire reentry continuum due to 2015 legislation that extends juvenile justice system services to the age of 21 for youth under the guidance of JCS, if the youth chooses to participate.*

Recidivism:

Tables 1 and 2 provide FY2015 recidivism data for STS and group care facilities. Only a small percentage of juvenile justice system youth are placed in the STS or group care. Consequently, the youth being placed in a group facility or an adult correctional setting are typically the highest risk offenders and have the highest needs.

The Iowa Juvenile Home (state training school for delinquent girls and institutional placement for abused/neglected boys and girls) closed January 2014. Many of the girls served in that institution are now in group care settings. As noted in Iowa's amended planning grant, the inclusion of youth from a group care setting dramatically increases the number of boys and girls included in Iowa's reentry population.

**Table 1: Recidivism Rates of Juveniles discharged from STS in FY2015**

	N	N Recid	% Recid
White	72	45	63%
African-American	53	34	64%
Hispanic	18	8	44%
Other	5	3	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>61%</b>

Source: Iowa Justice Data Warehouse

**Table 2: Recidivism Rate of Group Care Discharges FY2015**

	Juveniles			Boys			Girls		
	N	N Recid	% Recid	N	N Recid	% Recid	N	N Recid	% Recid
White	450	227	50%	346	176	51%	104	51	49%
African-American	225	136	60%	177	110	62%	48	26	54%
Hispanic	74	30	41%	63	24	38%	11	6	55%
Other	39	14	36%	31	13	42%	8	1	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>49%</b>

Source: Iowa Justice Data Warehouse

- Youth returning from group care had high rates of recidivism (52%) and STS is 61%.
- African-American recidivism upon discharge from STS is 64% while group care is 60%.
- Girls comprised 21.7% of all discharges from group care.

## Implementation

This document serves as the final report for implementation of Iowa Juvenile Reentry Services (JReS) efforts. Iowa's JReS effort is supported with Second Chance Act funding from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). This report provides information regarding the success and challenges of the effort, the original problem statement, strategies, data, and recommendations.

### Timeline - Selected Tasks and Accomplishments\*

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
JRTF Established	IDA MOU initiated- Washington State	Visit from OJJD Program Administrator	Statewide schematic developed	Development of Youth Resources website
Completion of Exercises 1-4	Engagement with Gina Vincent (UMass) regarding IDA	Work began in 3 group care facilities and STS	Recidivism report developed and shared	MOA with IWD, IVRS, SCA, and CJJP
Visits from CSG Consultants (w/ recommendations)	Visits from CSG Consultants (w/ recommendations)	Process mapping started. Facility-level schematics developed	Multiple surveys conducted (JCS, Youth, Facilities, etc.)	Expanded to five additional group care facilities
Initial discussions with STS and 3 group care facilities	Focus of YTDMS at STS for youth in 2nd, 3rd, and 5th JDs.	Initiate development of web-based application for YTDm outcomes	Seven videos created and released.	Provided recidivism reports to all JReS facilities
Submission of Year 1 Implementation Plan	Develop Title XIX Protocol (STS)	Draft policy for JCS YTDms created	JCS YTDm policy finalized	Submitted/Received Second Chance Application
	Submission of Year 2 Implementation Plan	JRTF Survey conducted	Increased utilization of YTDms	
	YTDm Ambassador	Polk Decat held YTDm training		
	Established partner roles	Continued partner roles at multiple facilities		

\* Received Second Chance Planning Grant in 2014. **Attachment A** provides additional time line information.



## Grant Strategies

The below listed strategies were implemented from 2015 through 2019. These strategies were implemented at various stages of the grant cycle and efforts continue to evolve at STS and the nine group care facilities.

### Partnerships – Oversight

#### JRTF

The Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR), Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP), is overseeing the JRTF. All of the JReS products were developed with the leadership and guidance of the JRTF. The diverse membership of the JRTF partners includes representation from SCA, JCS, DHS, IWD, IVRS, DE, IDPH, IHH, STS, AMP, IASN private youth serving agencies, etc. A complete copy of the JRTF membership can be found in **Attachment B**. Over the course of implementation, additional members have been added from participating group care facilities. The continuity of membership of the JRTF and the strength of the resulting partnerships has enhanced the execution of the goals and key tasks. The JRTF has continued to meet quarterly.

#### Evaluation

Research Institute for Studies in Education (RISE) at Iowa State University (ISU) were contracted for the provision of evaluation and outcomes for the JReS effort. Project evaluation is a critical activity and intended to be continuous and ongoing throughout the project period and provide key information to assess the success of the project in achieving its goals. Both formative and summative activities are included in the evaluation. The intent of the formative evaluation is to determine whether the project is being conducted as planned, whether benchmarks of progress are being met, identify problems that may hinder progress, and inform project staff of necessary or beneficial changes.

RISE/ISU assisted in providing the following:

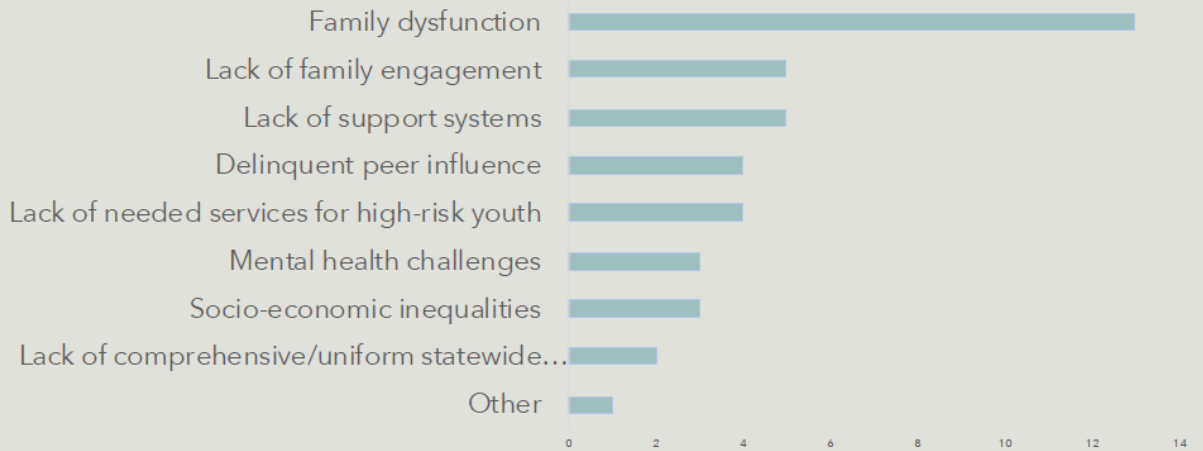
- Conducted surveys (e.g. Facilities, youth, JRTF, JCS, etc.)
- Attended JRTF meetings
- Performed on-site technical assistance
- Mapping Process/Schematics

The statewide schematic (**Attachment C**) is a tool developed to provide a high-level summary of the fundamental responsibilities on a timeline from pre-placement of youth entering, through post-release case management and services. The schematic serves as a one-stop visual to represent the responsibilities and organizing principles for the multiple JReS partners. Schematics were developed for each of the facilities (available upon request).

#### JCO Survey

A total of 155 Juvenile Court Officers responded to a survey sent out in March 2018 regarding their thoughts and perceptions about factors, interventions, and services received by youth and their impact on recidivism. Responses were collected through the end of June, 2018.

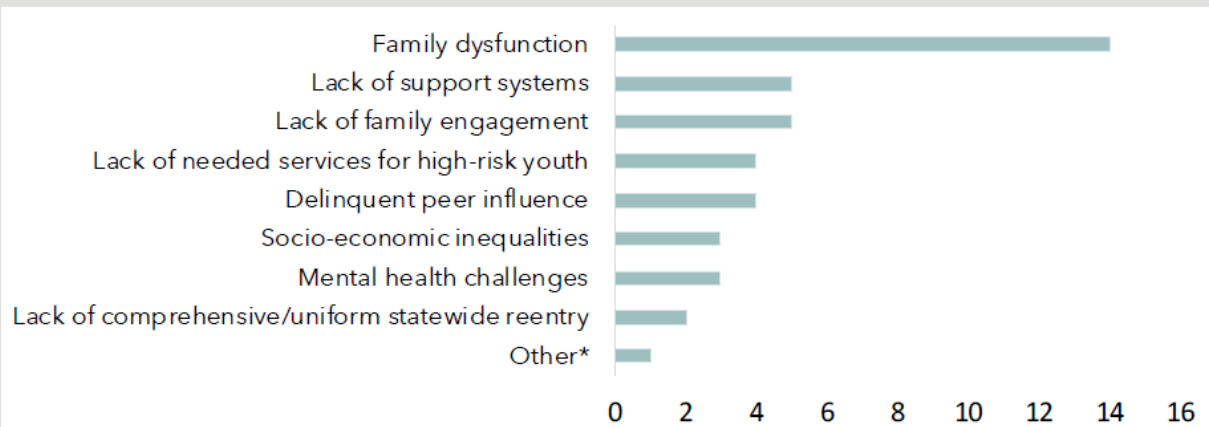
# Recidivism: JCOs' ranking of risk factors



## Group Care Facility Staff Survey

A total of 41 individuals responded to the group-care facility staff survey assessing their experiences and perceptions regarding risk factors related to recidivism, YTDM meetings, and thoughts about the new contract with DHS. The survey was closed on September 18, 2018.

# Recidivism: ranking of risk factors



## Case Planning

### Youth Transition Decision Making (YTDM)

A key aspect of Iowa's JReS approach involved the utilization of YTDM's for all juvenile justice youth (16 and older) in group care. YTDM's are youth-led meetings, with assistance from a facilitator trained/approved in this specialized model. YTDM's provide the process being utilized in select JCS jurisdictions to develop the permanency/transition plans. Importantly, they are a tool to build support for youth return to the community. YTDM teams are comprised of individuals the youth invite. The team members assist the youth to develop goals and plans to achieve the goals. Team members usually include key formal and informal juvenile justice system representatives, family members, school personnel, and supportive individuals from the home community.

As a result of the YTDM's, a personalized transition plan is developed. YTDM's are presently taking place in six of Iowa's eight Judicial Districts in Iowa. It is expected that YTDM's are provided for youth within 45 days of group care admission, 45 to 60 days prior to release, and within 30 days after release. YTDM effectiveness is predicated and will be measured on the extent to which the partners from the various facets of youths live are engaged in that process. By establishing stabilized supports in the youth's reentry continuum, the YTDM model promotes self-sufficiency in the transition to adulthood with its focus on the youth's future plan for success.

The top five goals identified by youth as part of YTDM meetings:

- Obtain full or part-time employment
- Crisis/Safety plan developed
- Increase knowledge of job application and interviewing process
- Successfully completes treatment requirements
- Increases knowledge and ability to budget

The YTDM is a best practice that DHS has adopted for children in foster care for abuse and neglect. The YTDM Standards are included as **Attachment D**, which utilize trained/approved facilitators. JCS developed a policy, Juvenile Court Services Placement and Reentry Policies and Procedures (**Attachment E**), approved by the eight Chief Juvenile Court Officers (CJCO's). The policy incorporates the principles of YTDM's into the reentry work performed by JCS, facilities, and the JRTF. Ultimately, the YTDM model is consistent with national research which asserts that juvenile justice system staff should meaningfully involve the caring adults in youth's lives from case inception so that they understand, buy into, and are prepared for their role in supporting youth to engage in and fully benefit from system interventions.<sup>1</sup>

### YTDM Ambassador Effort

CJJP contracted with a provider through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District JCS to promote the use and training of YTDMs and serve as an ambassador to further Iowa's YTDM effort and develop a statewide policy (see Policy Development Section). Accomplishments included the following:

- Developed YTDM policy for JCS
- Provided information for JCO's on the YTDM process
- Finalized and disseminated brochures which reflect the benefits of YTDMs
- Provided information to JCS facilitators on juvenile justice system processing

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<sup>1</sup> Development Services Group, Inc. (2018). Family Engagement in Juvenile Justice. [Literature review](#). Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

## YTDM Web Application

The recently developed web-based YTDM application will be a valuable tool as Iowa seeks to continue and expand its implementation of YTDM meetings through JReS. CJJP, DHS, and the State IT office (OCIO) developed a web-based application for YTDM facilitators. Accomplishments:

- Application went into production on June 1, 2018 and continues
- Allows more accurate and timely reporting and analysis of outcomes and performance measures for YTDM meetings with child welfare and juvenile court cases

## Policy Development

To coordinate the multiple agencies and systems, many partners have developed policies and a MOA specifically for JReS, including:

- JCS Transition policy (**Attachment E**)
- IWD Partnering Process (**Attachment F**)
- IVRS Serving Students in Transition Policy (**Attachment G**)
- IVRS School Delivery Plan (**Attachment H**)
- IVRS, IWD, SCA, and CJJP MOA (**Attachment I**)

These documents have been developed to guide state and local (facility-level) partners, and to aid practical/functional reentry efforts. All of the products were developed to provide a level of structure that assists state, local and facility level official with building supports for youth in and returning from group care.

## Case Management – Standardized Case Planning

### Case Planning Templates/IDA Validation

Seventeen new templates were developed and implemented statewide to assist JCS in creating documents to help streamline and standardize their work. Many of these add critical information from the Iowa Delinquency Assessment (IDA). A list of these templates can be found in **Attachment J**.

The IDA is a comprehensive risk/need assessment utilized by JCS for juvenile justice system youth. The IDA includes both a short form (low risk youth) and long form (for moderate and high-risk youth). JReS continues its efforts with Washington State related to the IDA validation. Dr. Hamilton presented initial findings regarding his validation on April 23rd, 2019, to JCS staff. Both gender and racial concerns were addressed in his recommendations:

- Use a selection of short form and long form items to improve prediction and reduce labor
- Use short form for low risk youth only
- Use long form as a more accurate assessment of risk
- Update scoring to improve predictability

## Probation Staff: Leadership, Engagement, Policy Support

### JCO Technical Assistance

As part of the implementation effort, CJJP entered into a written agreement with the SCA and JCS for the development of reentry-related policy through a Reentry Coordination and Policy Development effort. The contract allowed for three Juvenile Court Services (JCS-juvenile probation) staff to work on reentry policy and further efforts in out-of-home placement settings. Each of the JCO's has worked approximately one-third of their time on JReS efforts. The three JCO's spent a volume of time at the multiple group care settings. The result has been a policy for JCS regarding juvenile reentry (**Attachment E**).

## Facility-Level Efforts

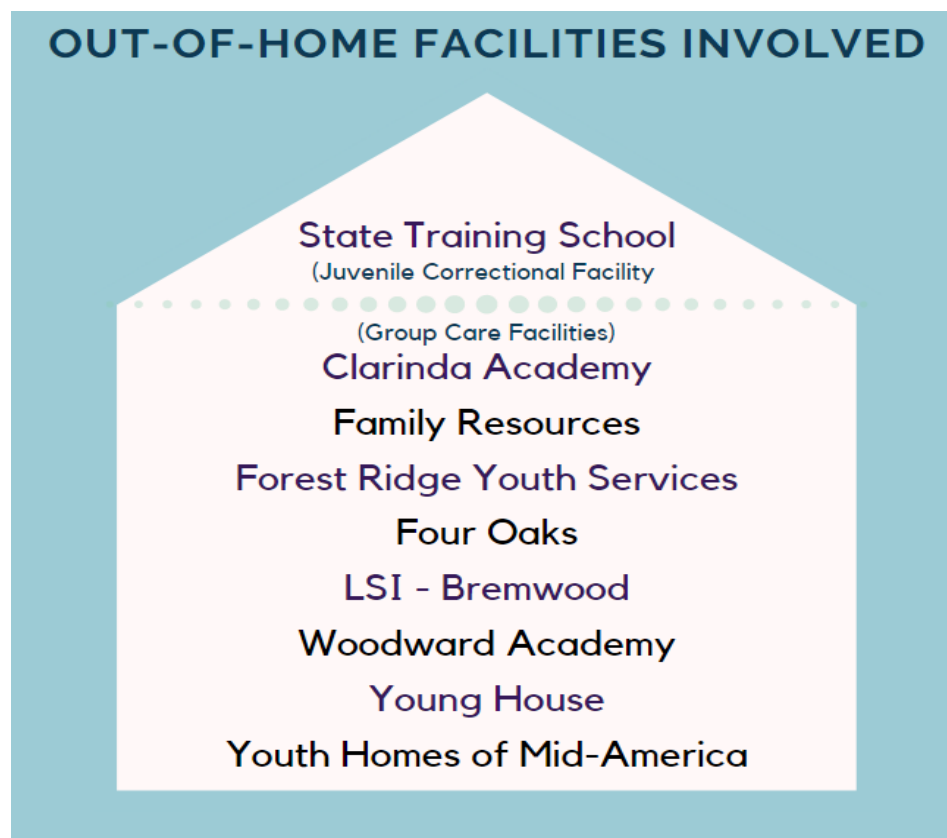
JReS includes juvenile justice system youth in nine group care facilities and STS. As part of ongoing JReS activities, continuous on-site training is being provided in select group care/STS settings to embed the policies and practices of JReS. This section provides information/data about the targeted facilities. Data includes admissions and recidivism.

### Questionnaire

In August of 2019, CJJP sent each participating facility a questionnaire regarding their JReS experience to-date (**Attachment K**). Based on the responses, facilities have implemented various levels of change. Each facility worked with ISU/RISE to develop a facility-level schematic, which details the timeline of services/involvement with the partners during placement. **Attachment L** provides an overview of the various survey questions/responses.

With the structure provided in the schematics and the support of CJJP, developing on-site meetings with Education, IWD and IVRS needs to occur with the facilities. The connections to the state/local JReS partners are a key element for transitioning youth.

Data collection is a critical element of program success. CJJP is assisting the facilities in the collection of IASN referrals, IWD/IVRS involvement, IHH referrals, use of YTDM application, family visits/contact, and school contact.



## Questionnaire Findings

The review of the surveys reflects the facilities have work to better implement JReS reforms, including JReS partner involvement.

- Education, IVRS and IWD need direct, on-site involvement with the youth at least monthly. All nine facilities should track data in at least the six categories listed. At this time, four of the nine reported not tracking any of them.
- Facilities also need to receive the IDA for every youth in placement. This comprehensive analysis of each child's risks and needs must be provided by JCS in order to better serve the youth. Five out of nine facilities reported not receiving IDA information for admitted youth.
- Facilities also need to standardize the use of YTDMs for those eligible. This will require facilities working with JCS and other JReS partners to ensure supportive adults will be included in those meetings. Data collection should be included and shared as part of this model.
- Engagement with both the family and the returning school need to improve as well. Family involvement with youth in placement serves to improve those relationships before the child returns to their home. Some facilities offer family therapy or skill-building activities to further this, in addition to on- or off-site visits and other engagement options. With schools, educators involved with placement communicating with the returning school will allow for a smoother transition.

## Facility Admissions and Recidivism Data

**Table 3: Group Care Admissions 2015-2019\***

<b>Placements Started</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019*</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Clarinda-Boys and Girls	65	81	63	43	22	<b>274</b>
Family Resources	2	1	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Family Resources-Bridge House (F)	7	8	7	14	3	<b>39</b>
Family Resources-Leslie Program (M)	28	33	32	33	11	<b>137</b>
Family Resources-Summit (M)	3	5	8	18	5	<b>39</b>
Family Resource-Victory House (M)	11	9	2	6	2	<b>30</b>
Forest Ridge (F)	18	27	28	17	11	<b>101</b>
Four Oaks	36	51	80	87	19	<b>273</b>
LSI-Bremwood (Dub)	17	9	29	30	4	<b>89</b>
LSI-Beloit (Ames)	3	3	7	4	0	<b>17</b>
State Training School	124	137	101	104	53	<b>519</b>
Woodward Academy	143	140	154	143	45	<b>625</b>
Youth Homes of M-A	40	46	65	46	29	<b>226</b>
Christamore/Young House	14	16	19	23	8	<b>80</b>
<b>Subtotals-JReS Facilities</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>2,452</b>
TOTALS - GH/BT	<b>802</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>3,529</b>

### Percentage of all Group Care/STS

#### Placements

63.7%    69.4%    74.3%    67.8%    77.7%    69.5%

\* thru 5/20/2019 / Source: Iowa Justice Data Warehouse

- Currently, JReS technical assistance is occurring in facilities that comprise nearly 70% of Iowa's juvenile offenders admitted to group care/STS. Onsite work has involved the state/local partners at each facility.

**Table 4: Recidivism within 1 year of Exit from Group Care from FY2015-FY2018**

	Recidivism					
	No New Complaint within 1 year		New Complaint within 1 year		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2015	142	41.3%	202	58.7%	344	100.0%
2016	297	44.3%	374	55.7%	671	100.0%
2017	273	42.0%	377	58.0%	650	100.0%
2018	322	40.4%	475	59.6%	797	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>42.0%</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>58.0%</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

SOURCE: Iowa Justice Data Warehouse

This data counts placements. A child may experience more than one placement in a given year.

Recidivism is defined as a new complaint within 1 year of the end of the service or placement excluding Civil Penalties, Contempt of Court, Civil infractions, Non-scheduled violations, Scheduled violations and unknown violations.

- Recidivism has remained steady during the report period, despite increases in the number of exits from group care.

**Table 5: Recidivism within 1 year of Exit from STS FY2015-FY2018**

	Recidivism					
	No New Complaint within 1 year		New Complaint within 1 year		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
2015	39	28.3%	99	71.7%	138	100.0%
2016	40	33.6%	79	66.4%	119	100.0%
2017	42	32.1%	89	67.9%	131	100.0%
2018	37	31.1%	82	68.9%	119	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>68.8%</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

SOURCE: Iowa Justice Data Warehouse

This data counts placements. A child may experience more than one placement in a given year.

Recidivism is defined as a new complaint within 1 year of the end of the service or placement excluding Civil Penalties, Contempt of Court, Civil infractions, Non-scheduled violations, Scheduled violations and unknown violations.

Excludes Evaluation Placements at the State Training School

- The number of exits from STS decreased 13.7% from FY2015 to FY2018.
- Recidivism decreased from 71.7% in FY2015 to 68.9% in FY2018.

Recidivism data was compiled for all JReS facilities. The facility reports are available upon request. As part of the review of the facility outcomes, CJJP provided each facility with additional information on youth that exited their facility.

## Support for Youth After Facility Release

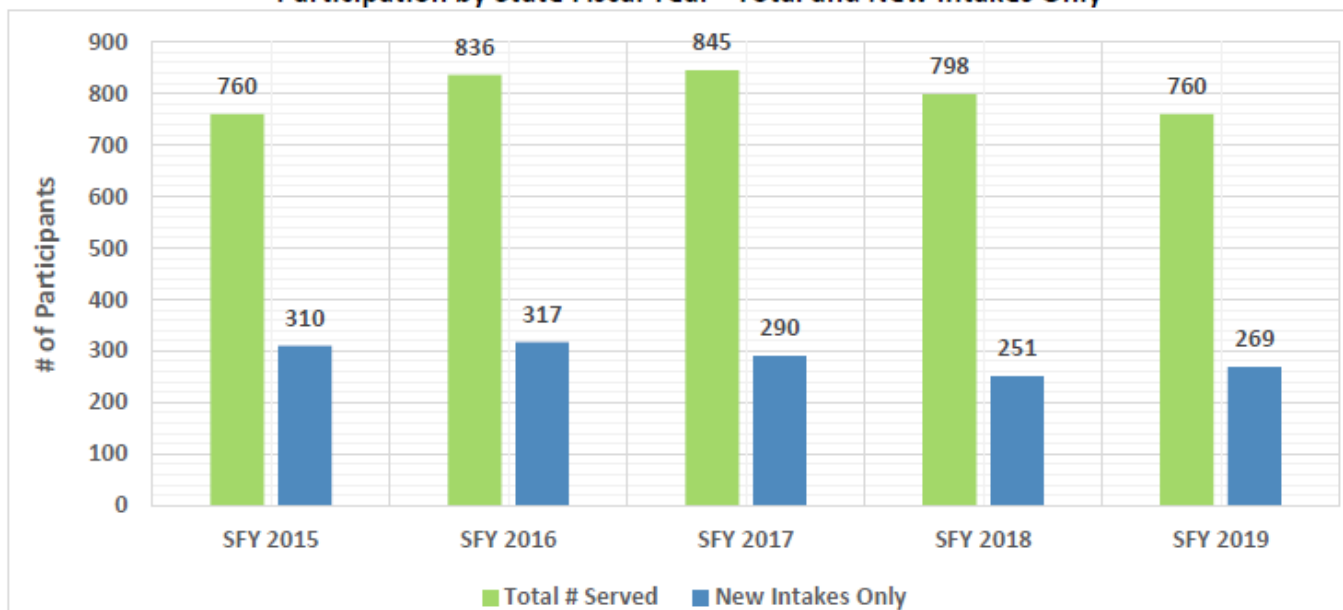
### Iowa Aftercare Service Network (IASN)

Reentry is the long-term planning process to transition and reintegrate youth back to the community. IASN is a key program that helps older youth (ages 17 ½ thru 23) adjust to the transition and may reduce recidivism. IASN provides advocacy and low-level supervision for youth and is designed to ensure interventions are available and in place prior to return to the community. In Iowa, an average of 450 youth age-out of foster care every year. Without intervention, these young adults are at higher risk for poor outcomes, including homelessness, unemployment, crime, and poverty. IASN services are designed to help youth successfully transition from foster care to adulthood by providing encouragement, stability, guidance, and the opportunity to build a positive future. IASN services are available to youth in all 99 counties.

Some IASN participants are eligible for cash assistance if they reside in approved housing other than their parent's home, are employed, and/or engaged in post-secondary education. Aftercare services minimally include meetings twice per month with a self-sufficiency advocate, and can begin in the final months youth are in placement, and continue after a youth's return to the community. DHS is providing IASN funds as the match for this JReS project.

Many of the group care facilities serve as regional providers for IASN, so it has been an uncomplicated process to enhance facility-level policy to connect youth to the added benefits of JReS (e.g. Pre-placement planning, YTDM availability at early placement, intensive case management, and additional supports and services).

**Participation by State Fiscal Year - Total and New Intakes Only**



Source: IASN Annual Report – FY2019

- A total of 760 young adults received services from IASN during FY 2019.
- 269 young people accessed services for the first time in 2019.
- Over the last five fiscal years, IASN has served an average of 800 young people per year, and an average of 287 of these participants have been new intakes each year.
- The recent downturn in participation mirrors the declining number of older youth in foster care in Iowa over the last few years.



### All Participants - Gender Identity

	Total Served (N=760)		Received PAL (n=502)		Aftercare Only (n=258)	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Female	354	46.6%	233	46.4%	121	46.9%
Male	402	52.9%	266	53.0%	136	52.7%
Transgender	4	0.5%	3	0.6%	1	0.4%

Source: IASN Annual Report – FY2019

- In FY2019, 46.6% of participants were female, 52.9% were male, and 0.5% identified as transgender.
- An average of 66% of participants received the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) stipend.

Positive relationships suggest finding higher success in many areas. Engagement with supportive adults is important to have and maintain, particularly with the youth and young adults in the IASN program. Among the outcomes group exit statistics, reports showed that 89.1% felt they could turn to at least one adult family member and 92.9% to at least one adult non-family support. These statistics show strength in this sense of permanency.

#### Integrated Health Home (IHH)

Another practice shown to promote positive youth outcomes is IHH, which are existing local resources that can link youth with behavioral health needs and youth with chronic medical conditions to the care and treatment they need immediately after exiting group care. Utilizing the accessibility and promoting the functionality of IHH is a no-cost resource for youth in group care, and upon return to the community. To access IHH services, youth must be Title XIX eligible.

Many of the facilities targeted for JReS on-site efforts serve as regional providers for IHH, so it has been a practical process to implement facility-level policy to connect youth to the program. Facility-level on-site activities will continue to enhance utilization and establish a uniform process to connect Title XIX eligible youth to IHH staff upon return to the community.

#### Development of Reentry Videos

Short videos were created, in January 2019, to provide information regarding supports (and resources to help obtain services) to aid youth and their families' success with reentry. [The videos are available online.](#)

Seven videos have been finalized for the following categories:

- Housing
- Medication
- Mental health/substance abuse
- People/resources
- School employment
- Skill/training
- Workforce

The videos may be an important tool for existing and new placement settings, youth, and state agency partners as Iowa continues its implementation and expansion effort.

## Other

### Transfer of Juvenile Services Funding (TJSF) Group

During the 2019 session, the Iowa Legislature passed House File 766 (HF766) related to the transfer of graduated sanctions, court-ordered services, group foster care, and detention home funds from DHS to another entity for fiscal management and oversight (**Attachment M**). This work was taken up by a new TJSF Working Group prescribed by the legislature, with a final report provided to the Governor and General Assembly December 15, 2019. CJJP staffed the Working Group and three related subcommittees which met from July through December of 2019.

Pursuant to HF 766, the TJSF Working Group recommended the following<sup>2</sup>:

- Transfer of \$15,543,000 Graduated Sanction and Court-Ordered appropriation from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to State Court Administration (SCA) on July 1, 2021.
- Transfer of the Group Foster Care appropriation (appropriation portion for juvenile offenders) from DHS to SCA on July 1, 2023, with progressive additional funds for SCA to administer services.
- Transfer of the Iowa Detention Home Fund appropriation (approximately \$4 million annually) from DHS to the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) on January 1, 2021.

The TJSF group report notes that, within the juvenile justice system, there are specific juvenile justice system needs and issues associated with girls and youth of color, including:

- Girls - “There is a crucial need for gender-responsive services. Girls make up 20% to 30% of Iowa’s juvenile justice system. Their numbers make it difficult to develop and implement programs. Their needs must be accommodated in state and local planning for graduated sanctions. There is a need for appropriate levels of care for high risk delinquent girls.”
- Youth of Color – “There is a need for culturally-appropriate services to provide an equal continuum of care for all youth. Youth of color, particularly African-American youth, are overrepresented in all aspects of decision-making in Iowa’s juvenile justice system. African-American youth are arrested at a rate nearly five times higher than White youth. Their recidivism rates are higher than White youth.”<sup>3</sup>

The recommendations and findings of the TJSF Work Group have direct relevance to Iowa’s JReS.

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<sup>2</sup> [Graduated Sanction, Court-Ordered, and Group Foster Care Services and Funding Work Group Action Plan and Recommendations](#), Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, December 2019

<sup>3</sup> Ibid