

MICHIGAN JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM 2015 TRAINING PLAN

Overview

This report proposes a plan and budget for continuation of the MJJAS training initiative through 2015, reviews the Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System (MJJAS) training initiative activities in 2014, and lists statistical information relative to those activities.

Background

The MJJAS was adapted from the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS). The MJJAS is a structured decision making assessment tool which identifies the likelihood that a youth will participate in future criminal behavior, leads to appropriate classification, and helps inform placement and treatment decisions. The system provides a dynamic risk assessment that is useful as one-time risk assessment tool, or if used over time will show changes in risk level based upon changes in behavioral profile and life situation.

The MJJAS is a research-based, validated assessment instrument developed by the University of Cincinnati's Center for Criminal Justice Research. The MJJAS assessment system is based on research involving 2,457 youth in Ohio across all counties, courts, and rehabilitative programs of the juvenile justice system. The MJJAS was incorporated into the three state training schools as part of the treatment planning process by DHS Juvenile Justice Programs in 2010.

In 2012, Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 conducted an assessment survey of Michigan's family courts. Of the 51 survey respondents, 35 reported using some type of juvenile offender assessment, and the MJJAS was shown to be the most commonly used assessment. In 2013 MJJAS was designated as the risk assessment tool that will be used by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to assess juvenile justice youth. In addition an increasing number of private residential providers, and county courts, are using or are preparing to use the MJJAS.

In 2013 two Juvenile Justice Programs' staff became certified MJJAS trainers, allowing DHS to provide training and technical support to courts, juvenile justice staff and residential providers, under a plan approved by DHS Administration in November 2013. Due to reorganization, one certified staff no longer works in Juvenile Justice Programs and in 2014 only one of those staff, Patrick Sussex, was active in delivering the training as outlined in the training initiative.

2015 Training Plan Recommendations

The training plan as approved for 2014 estimated that there were potentially 300 trainees statewide. Demand for MJJAS training will continue throughout 2015 due to the adoption of the

MJJAS within the new case management system. The contract for juvenile justice case management for field services and residential treatment in Juvenile Justice Online Technology (JJOLT) ends September 30, 2015. The new juvenile justice field services and residential treatment case management system is being developed in the Michigan Statewide Child Welfare Information System (MiSACWIS). Service Plans and residential treatment plans in MiSACWIS will require administration of the MJJAS for juvenile justice youth.

The MJJAS training in 2015 will be mandatory for DHS juvenile justice specialists and supervisors, as well as public and private juvenile justice facility case workers and supervisors that write service plans or residential treatment plans for DHS juvenile justice youth. Participants must successfully complete this training to be certified to administer the MJJAS risk assessment instruments. Juvenile justice specialists and residential treatment staff working with juvenile justice youth under the care and supervision of DHS will be given first priority to register for this training.

Therefore, five MJJAS training sessions are planned for 2015. Enrollment for each two-day session will expand to 20 to 30 participants per session, dependent on Office of Professional Development (OPD) classroom capacity. Two certified trainers will co-facilitate instruction to enable larger class sizes. This requires that an additional trainer, from the Child Welfare Training Institute (CWTI), must be certified by the University of Cincinnati to deliver MJJAS training. Requests to provide trainings in addition to the five planned sessions will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.

Training venues utilized will include OPD training centers, public juvenile justice residential facility training rooms, and/or other state government building spaces where there are no charges for training space. If additional sessions are conducted to accommodate private residential providers, as occurred during 2014, the private facility will provide the training space. Scheduled training venues will be distributed geographically throughout the state, including a session in the Upper Peninsula. Other anticipated locales include Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Whitmore Lake, and Detroit.

2015 MJJAS Training Plan Budget

- Trainers – 2
- Scheduled Training Sessions – 5
- Targeted Number of Trainees – 125

Travel Expenses (two trainers)	\$3,550
Printing Expenses (training manuals)	\$2,355
Office Supplies / Photo Copies	\$225
Train-the-Trainer Certification	\$3,600

Training Space Rental	\$0
Total Projected Expenses	\$9,730

2014 Training Activities

The MJJAS training plan called for four training sessions to be conducted during calendar year 2014. Three of the four scheduled training sessions were conducted, one each in March, June, and September. The final training session is scheduled to be presented in December. There were more applicants to attend each of the four scheduled training sessions than there were available openings. In addition, private and public juvenile justice residential facilities, and several county courts, requested MJJAS training for their employees. To accommodate this demand an additional four training sessions were conducted. Each training session was conducted on two consecutive days. Maximum attendance with one trainer presenting was 15 trainees.

Training location and attendance:

March	Maxey Boys Training School	11 trainees
May	Gaylord OPD Center	5 trainees
June	Gaylord OPD Center	12 trainees
August	Lincoln/Calumet Centers	12 trainees
September	Redford OPD Center	10 trainees
September	Shawono Center	8 trainees
September	Wolverine Human Services	13 trainees
Total Trainees to Date		71
Anticipated Trainees December / Grand Rapids		20
Project Year Total Anticipated Trainees		91

Trainee demographics (not including December registrants):

- DHS Field Services: 31
- DHS Juvenile Justice Residential Facility: 7
- Private Juvenile Justice Residential Facility: 29
- County Court: 4

Training Evaluations

Trainees were invited to participate in a brief survey to assess training value. There were 31 respondents. Summarized responses included:

- All respondents stated that the training provided the essential information and instruction needed to administer the risk assessment instruments

- All respondents stated that the training enabled them to conduct the MJJAS risk assessment independently, without further assistance
- Five respondents stated that their agency / facility was already using the MJJAS, 21 stated that their agency / facility planned to use it, and five stated that they would not use it and/or were unsure
- Fourteen respondents believed that their agency / facility would need more employees trained
- Thirty responded that they were “very satisfied” with overall quality of the training. One responded that he/she was “satisfied” with overall quality of the training

2014 Expenditures

The training plan called for total expenditures of \$8,794. That projection was based on anticipated costs for printing of training manuals (\$1,644), and for travel expenses for two trainers (\$3,550) to co-facilitate five training sessions for a total of 150 participants. In addition, approved expenditures included \$3,600, the estimated cost to have an additional DHS employee trained and certified as an MJJAS trainer by the University of Cincinnati.

Actual total expenditures were less than projected for several reasons. It was anticipated that a CWTI employee would be certified as an MJJAS trainer but that did not occur. Also, one of the two DHS employees expected to co-facilitate the training was transferred to a different DHS office and did not participate in the initiative. As such only one trainer delivered the MJJAS training initiative. This resulted in smaller class sizes—the maximum class size was set at 15 instead of 30—but also in less travel expenses since only one trainer incurred expenses delivering the training. Cost for printing training manuals was higher than anticipated because 396 manuals were printed instead of 300 manuals as originally planned, 132 manuals for each of the three primary MJJAS instruments, the Disposition, Residential, and Re-Entry instruments. Actual expenses to date, not including travel expenses for the training sessions scheduled for December, were:

Travel expense	\$1,705
Training Manual Printing – \$2,073	\$2,073
Trainer Certification Training	\$0
Total Expenses (to date)	\$3,778
Anticipated travel expenses December training	\$300
Projected Total 2014 Expenses	\$4,078