

MICHIGAN JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM TRAINING PROGRAM

Since 2013 the Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHHS) Juvenile Justice Programs (JJP) has been providing certification training for administering the Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System (MJJAS) to MDHHS and private juvenile facility workers, MDHHS field workers and supervisors, and to juvenile court personnel. More than 400 juvenile services workers and supervisors have been trained. The MJJAS training program will continue in fiscal year 2017 with a full schedule of training sessions.

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 a 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 Corrections Institute (UCCI). 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 Michigan's state training schools as part of the treatment planning process by JJP in 2010. In 2013 MJJAS was designated as the risk assessment tool to be used by MDHHS public and contracted juvenile justice residential facilities to assess juvenile justice youth.

In addition, an increasing number of county juvenile courts are using MJJAS and/or have sent workers to become certified at an MDHHS training to administer the MJJAS instruments. To date, workers representing the following county juvenile courts have been trained: Saginaw, Marquette, Grand Traverse, Monroe, Roscommon, Iosco, Lapeer, Benzie, Manistee, Livingston, Newaygo, Oceana, Lake, Berrien, Ogemaw, Wexford, Crawford, Alcona, Washtenaw, Shiawassee, Midland, Isabella, and Otsego. County juvenile courts that have adopted the MJJAS as their risk assessment instrument are also increasing their use of an online data application that can generate reports and track risk levels and progress of youth. Oakland County was the first to do this, participating in a pilot program to both use the MJJAS risk assessment instruments and utilize the online system. During the past year, Iosco, Oceana, Livingston, Monroe, Roscommon and Marquette County courts began accessing the online MJJAS. Oakland County has its own MJJAS trainer on staff, as does Livingston and Marquette County courts.

MJJAS training must be provided by UCCI-certified trainers. There are currently six MDHHS trainers and three county court-based trainers available to present MJJAS training.

2017 Training Plan

Demand for MJJAS training increased dramatically in fiscal year 2015, and that demand continued in 2016. JJP increased the number of MJJAS training classes in 2015, conducting six additional classes beyond the five classes originally scheduled. In 2016 JJP scheduled and conducted eight regular classes, and also conducted four additional classes at and for private juvenile justice residential providers, and four classes at and for county juvenile court workers. Six scheduled MJJAS training sessions are planned for fiscal year 2017. In addition it is anticipated that trainers will schedule and conduct an estimated four to seven additional training sessions in response to demand for training for county juvenile courts, private, contracted residential providers, and new state workers. Additional or specially-scheduled sessions will be conducted at juvenile justice residential facilities, county court facilities, and/or at OPD centers, based on demand and geographical considerations.

2017 MJJAS Training Regular Schedule

- Dec. 15-16, 2016 – Ingham County MDHHS Building
- Jan. 18-19, 2017 – Detroit OWDT Center
- March 9-10, 2017 – Grand Rapids Holiday Inn Express Airport (28th St. Court)
- May 11-12, 2017 – Escanaba County MDHHS Building
- July 20-21, 2017 – Jackson OWDT Center
- Sept. 7-8, 2017 – Gaylord OWDT Center

2016 Training Activities and Trainee Satisfaction Surveys

Following is a breakdown of the trainee demographics from 2016:

- MDHHS Field Services: **90**
- MDHHS and Private, Contracted Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities: **89**
- County Courts: **64**
- **237** trainees successfully completed the training and testing and were certified to administer the MJJAS risk assessment instruments. Six trainees did not pass certification tests. Those trainees were provided with the opportunity to retest.

Since the inception of the MJJAS training program trainee satisfaction surveys have been overwhelmingly positive. At the conclusion of training sessions trainees are asked to participate

in a brief survey to assess training value. In 2016 there were 238 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.
- 128 respondents stated that their agency, facility, and/or county court was already using the MJJAS, 104 stated that their agency, facility, and/or county court planned to use it, and six stated that they would not use it and/or were unsure if they would use it.
- 199 trainees responded that they were “very satisfied” with overall quality of the training, and 37 responded that they were “satisfied” with the training. Two respondents reported being unsatisfied with the training.