BHJJ is a diversion program for juvenile justice-involved youth ages 10–18 with mental health or substance abuse issues. In lieu of detention, youth are diverted into local, evidence-based behavioral health treatment.

25 youth enrolled in BHJJ

2016—present

15.1 years old—average age

72% were male

79% were white

Mental health assessments revealed:

The majority of youth had a history of mental health, substance use, and criminal issues in their families.

The most common DSM diagnoses were mood disorders and ODD.

Half of the females were victims of sexual abuse.

Treatment outcomes indicated:

80% of youth completed treatment successfully

Youth reported significant reductions in trauma symptoms and substance abuse

Treatment led to improvements in problem severity and functioning

No youth sent to an ODYS institution following BHJJ services

100% decrease in suspensions / expulsions while in the program

Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education

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