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.

544 youth enrolled in BHJJ

- 70% were non-white
- 79% were male

2006—present

- 16 years old—average age

Mental health assessments revealed:

- 36% of females talked about suicide and 15% attempted suicide at least once.
- The majority of youth had a history of mental health and substance use issues in their families.
- Common DSM diagnoses included: cannabis disorders, conduct disorders, ODD, and depressive disorders

Treatment outcomes indicated:

- Nearly 70% of youth completed treatment successfully.
- BHJJ led to a 69% reduction in risk for out of home placement.
- Youth reported significant reductions in trauma symptoms and substance abuse.
- Treatment led to significant improvements in problem severity and functioning.
- Grades improved and school suspensions/expulsions were greatly reduced.
- Over 93% of youth were NOT sent to an ODYS institution following services.

Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education

July 2018