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.

Mental health assessments revealed:

- The majority of youth had a history of mental health and substance use issues in their families.
- 100% of males and females diagnosed with ODD.
- Over 60% of the females were victims of sexual abuse.

Treatment outcomes indicated:

- 95% of youth completed treatment successfully.
- Treatment led to significant improvements in problem severity and functioning.
- BHJJ led to a 61% reduction in risk for out of home placement.
- Grades improved and school suspensions/expulsions were greatly reduced.
- Youth reported significant reductions in trauma symptoms and substance abuse.
- No youth were sent to an ODYS institution following services.

25 youth enrolled in BHJJ

2013–present

14.7 years old—average age

88% were white

64% were male

HOLMES COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH / JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE [BHJJ]

Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education

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