

MENTAL HEALTH JUVENILE JUSTICE POSTPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Mental Health Juvenile Justice Post Placement Project is a partnership of the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY), with technical assistance from Community Connections for Youth (S. Bronx) and Parsons Child & Family Center. Since 1996 the program has strived to meet the needs of families whose youth have complex needs. These youth are residentially placed in juvenile correctional settings or in the custody of the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) residing in specialized not-for-profit agencies. The goal of the program is successful reunification of youth with family in their home community. Parsons staff, in collaboration DJJOY, actively engage youth and family prior to release from a placement setting and, with all parties, plan for the youth and family's success, and support youth and caregivers in the design and implementation of services that families believe will facilitate a strategic plan for success at home, school, and within their communities. Staff is sensitive to cultural differences and engage families openly, honestly, and as equal partners creating an individualized plan for successful community reentry.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- Case management: DJJOY staff will monitor the youth within the facility setting and during facility release who is able to navigate the juvenile justice, mental health, health, and education systems
- Individual and group support for youth with Parsons "Credible Mentor"
- Individual and group support for caregivers with Parsons Parent Peer Coach
- Systems and community advocacy
- Service linkage and aftercare follow-up

BENEFITS

- Supported transition from residential placement with a trained navigator
- Systems advocacy for caregivers and youth in areas of health, wellness, mental health, legal educational, employment
- Pro-social youth development
- Increased civic engagement within the home community
- Pro-social caregiver development
- Reduced recidivism

Who can access services? Children ages 12–19 identified and referred by DJJOY who are returning to Albany County. Other counties may be served at the request of DDJOY.

How are services accessed? Services are available to youth awaiting release from juvenile justice and private not-for-profit residential programs. Youth are referred by the OCFS in collaboration with DJJOY.

When are services available? Monday through Saturday with flexible hours depending on the families' needs and community engagement activities.