

## **Illinois Department of Children and Family Services – 2021-22 Annual Report on the Collaboration with the Department of Human Services to Develop Programs to Serve Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorders (SUD)**

Since 1995, the Department of Children and Family Services and the Division Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) of the Department of Human Services have collaborated to develop and implement integrated services for DCFS involved families impacted by substance use disorders.

The Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (325 ILCS 5/7.3c) requires that DCFS in cooperation with DHS-SUPR develop and test pilot programs of integrated child welfare and substance abuse services. The Departments are also required to evaluate and report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the effectiveness of these programs.

This report provides information on the most recent results from these pilot programs. DCFS has worked with multiple researchers to evaluate these pilot programs for families impacted by substance use disorders. The services have been funded either directly by DCFS, in conjunction with DHS-SUPR, and/or directly through federal initiatives. DCFS worked with a combination of university researchers and federal government contractors to evaluate the programs.

We are pleased to provide the evaluations, project reports and journal articles developed by the various researchers. The titles of the reports are listed below, and copies of the full reports are enclosed.

- Project Reports, Evaluations and Journal Articles



- Illinois AODA Waiver Profile. James Bell and Associates (under contract to the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, Children’s Bureau) June 2018
- Identification of Domestic Violence Service Needs Among Child Welfare-Involved Parents with Substance Use Disorders: A Gender-Stratified Analysis. Bryan G. Victor, PhD, Stella M. Resko PhD, Joseph P. Ryan, PhD, and Brian E. Perron, PhD. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* (2018)
- Illinois Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Waiver Demonstration, Interim Evaluation Report; University of Michigan, School of Social Work.
- Child Protective Service Referrals Involving Exposure to Domestic: Prevalence, Associated Maltreatment Types, and Likelihood of Formal Case Openings. Bryan G. Victor, PhD, Colleen Henry, Terri Ticknor Gilbert, PhD, Joseph P. Ryan, PhD, and Brian E. Perron, PhD. *Child Maltreatment*, 24(3): 299-309 (2019)
- “Detecting substance-related problems in narrative investigation summaries of child abuse and neglect using text mining and machine learning.” Brian E. Perron, PhD, Bryan G. Victor, PhD, Joseph P. Ryan, PhD, Alex Jiahong Lu, PhD, Emily K. Piellusch, PhD. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 98: 104180 (2019)
- Early Exposure to Child Maltreatment and Academic Outcomes. Joseph P. Ryan, PhD, Brian Jacob, PhD, Max Gross, PhD, Brian E. Perron, PhD, Andrew Moore, PhD, and Sharlyn Ferguson, PhD. *Child Maltreatment*, 23(4): 365-375 (2018)

#### DCFS Pilot Projects for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

The original DCFS **Title IV-E substance abuse federal waiver demonstration project** that began in Cook County in 2000 was approved for a five-year extension in 2007. This first extension of the Title IV-E waiver allowed for enhancement of the Recovery Coach services to address the mental health, domestic violence, and housing needs of families. The extension also allowed DCFS to expand Recovery Coach services to Madison and St. Clair Counties in downstate Illinois. The evaluation of the first waiver extension was completed in July 2012. The continued success of the waiver project as evidenced by this evaluation formed the basis for a second five-year extension request submitted to the U.S. Administration for Children and Families. The second five-year extension of the waiver was approved by ACF and implementation began in October 2013. This current five-year extension focuses on earlier engagement of families through mobile outreach and assessment and collaborations with the court system to safely increase and speed up family reunifications. The final evaluation of the project was submitted to ACF; feedback from ACF led to

additional clarification of process information. These updates are continuing to be addressed by the researcher from the University of Michigan. The updates that were added to the interim document are included as an attachment to this report.

The **Intact Family Recovery (IFR) program** serves families in Cook County following the birth of a substance exposed infant (SEI). The initial program model was developed by the DCFS Office of the Inspector General. The program teams child welfare workers together with substance use disorder (SUD) workers to serve the families. DCFS funds the team of child welfare and AOD workers. Treatment and recovery support services are funded by SUPR and through Medicaid. The program is designed to last 18-24 months to allow time for parents to successfully complete substance abuse treatment services and any needed parenting and other social services. Parents and family members are supported by the IFR team through the outreach/engagement, treatment, and recovery phases of the program. This includes home visiting by the child welfare and SUD workers (together and separately) throughout the course of services. Since state FY 21 the IFR program served 244 families.

#### **The Intact Family Recovery (IFR) Expansion Projects**

The model described above developed by the Office of Inspector General is being expanded to other regions of Illinois through RPGs.

The Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) Program is administered by the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau to improve the well-being of children affected by parental substance use disorders. The grants support interagency collaborations and integration of programs, services, and activities designed to increase the well-being, improve the permanency, and enhance the safety of children who are in, or at risk of, out-of-home placements as the result of a parent or caregiver's substance use disorder. The partnerships implement a range of activities and interventions, including peer recovery coaching, family-centered substance use disorder treatment, parenting and family strengthening programs, services to pregnant and postpartum women, medication assisted treatment, in-home parenting and child safety support for families, and related evidence-based practices. Since 2007, Children's Bureau has awarded six rounds of RPG funding to 109 grant projects across 38 states, including tribal communities.

The Children's Bureau Research Partners Grant (RPG) was awarded to Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) in FY 17 to fund IFR Expansion in the Department Cook Region (RPG4). This was a 5-year grant which

ended in September 2022. Grant profile for RPG4 & RPG6 are attached. RPG4 program outcomes and evaluations are attached.

The Department plans to sustain RPG4 project through FY 24. ICOY will continue to monitor the project as the Department develops its own monitoring unit.

ICOY just receive RPG6 to fund IFR Expansion in the Department Southern Region, specifically the Metro East area. Also, we received notice from ICOY that this spring RPG7 is expected for the Southern Region with an emphasis on addressing racial disparities. To that end, ICOY and its partners formed the Metro East coalition, focusing on St. Clair and Madison Counties. This time, rather than having a treatment group and a control group, every eligible family will be offered IFR services, and the research design will focus on how effective the model is for families of different race/ethnic backgrounds.

With the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, IFR has the potential to become part of the evidence-based interventions that are recognized as supported or well-supported practices for the purposes of Title IV-E reimbursement. In this way, Illinois is investing in families and in the research that can keep children safe and families together, even when they are impacted by substance use disorder.

**Maryville Academy, St. Monica's Moms Recovery Home and St. Josephine Bahkita Recovery Home.**

DCFS funds these two Recovery Homes to serve DCFS involved mothers and their children. The program is licensed by the Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery. Mothers with substance use disorders and mental health needs receive assessment, treatment, and recovery support services in a safe and drug free environment. In addition to substance use disorder treatment and mental health counseling, mothers receive parenting classes and job readiness and training services. The program serves women ages 18-35 and children birth to age 10. A branch of the Maryville Family Behavioral Health Clinic is also located on site at the recovery home and provides any needed substance use disorder treatment and mental health therapeutic services to the moms. A summary of the programs is enclosed. Maryville, St. Josephine Bahkita has been providing services since calendar year 2020.

There will be an FQHC in the building to provide physical and behavioral health treatment.

DCFS Clinical Division can answer questions or provide additional information as needed.