

40th Annual InterCourt Conference



Session 4E: Shelby County - IMPACT Program

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March 15, 2024
8:15 - 9:45 a.m.



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

I.M.P.A.C.T.

A program of Shelby County Juvenile Court and
Shelby County United Way



Shelby County Demographics

- Population (2022) 47,671
- 411 square miles
- Families living in poverty (2022) 9.3%
- Limited public transportation
- 8 public school districts

Largest serves approximately 3200 students

Smallest serves just over 400 students



Shelby County Juvenile Court

- Jeffrey Beigel, Juvenile Court Judge
- Steven Geise, Magistrate
- 2022 – 1138 Matters.
 - Delinquencies 16%
 - Unruly 7%



Origins of the IMPACT program

Area agencies serving families and children were seeing a significant increase in referrals and requests for services in younger children.

Children's Services
Law Enforcement
Schools
Counseling Agencies

Students unable to maintain behavior in the classroom.

Parents struggling to raise children.

Parents utilizing law enforcement to control children.

IMPACT

Juvenile Court and community-based programs, interventions and resources exist primarily for children ages 12 and older.

These same services are needed for children much younger than 12 years old.

What if we could reach children and their families proactively and provide a path to a more positive productive future?

Collaboration

- Shelby County United Way - Funding
- Shelby County Juvenile Court - Fiscal Agent
- Shelby County School Systems - Primary referral source



IMPACT Program Mission

- Identify students in Pre-K through 12th grade who are experiencing barriers to academic, social and community success.
- Provide these children and their families access to counseling, case management and other tools to create and maintain positive lasting changes in their lives.



Goals of IMPACT

- Eliminate barriers to mental health access – cost, insurance coverage.
- Assist families in connecting to providers.
- Give school systems a resource to offer families.
- Support court involved youth in accessing mental health services.
- Reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

Eligibility

- We wanted to create a program with flexibility so as not to exclude anyone who needs help.
- Insurance and income are not factors.
- Youth as young as pre-school age can be referred.
- Youth must still be attending high school to be eligible. Eligibility does not end at age 18.



Referral Sources

- Teachers
- School Guidance Counselors
- School Administration
- School Expulsion/Discipline Officer
- Community Agencies
- Juvenile Court
- Self Referral

Academic/School Barriers

- Attendance
- Lack of resources
- Communication
- Untreated/undertreated mental health
- Improper use of online education
- Behavior
- Lack of parental support
- Undiagnosed learning challenges
- Undiagnosed or untreated health issues



Social Barriers

- Lack of resources
 - Transportation
 - Phone/internet
 - Housing
 - Clothing
 - Untreated/undertreated lice or bedbugs
 - Medical care
- Lack of parental support
- Mental health of parent
- Drug use of parent
- Mental health
- Extended family raising youth
- Chronic chaos in the home

Community Barriers

- Court involvement
- “Parenting by Police”
- Lack of resources
- Ineligible for community-based services/lack of services.
- Parental mistrust of systems of care.
- Parental court involvement.



Alternatives to Discipline

School districts also have the option of referring students for participation in IMPACT in lieu of suspension or expulsion. This is particularly helpful in situations involving elementary students.

Service Providers

We currently partner with 5 service agencies providing:

- Case Management
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Anger Management
- Psychiatric Services
- Parenting Education

Referral Process

Voluntary Referrals

- Referrals are sent to the liaison from schools, community-based agencies, and self-referral.
- Liaison meets with families to determine scope of need and best agency for referral.
- Liaison sends referral and paperwork to agency.

Court Ordered Referrals

- Judge orders families to participate in counseling.
- Probation staff determines best placement and if IMPACT funds are necessary.
- Referrals are sent directly to the agency with IMPACT noted.

Voluntary Referrals

- Parent/Guardian sign a family participation agreement.
- This spells out expectations for the guardian in areas such as attendance, communication and release of information.
- Parent/Guardian signs appropriate releases of information
- Parents are given a copy of paperwork.
- Referral source is kept updated on the process.

Evolution of Coverage

- Onset of program: Coverage for 1 year
- Reduced coverage to 6 months
- Expanded coverage to include parent/guardian
- Current coverage: 12 visits for youth, 6 for parent/guardian
- Reasons for changes –
 - Lack of compliance
 - Lack of consistency with providers
 - Funding

IMPACT Statistics

- In 2002, 64 youth in Shelby County were referred to the program.
- Since the inception of the program 575 youth have been served.
- IMPACT has provided services to youth in all 8 public school districts in Shelby County, preschool/childcare programs and private school programs in our community.
- Students ranging from 4 – 18 years old have been referred to IMPACT.

Challenges

- Continuity of service providers
- Communication
- Scheduling
- Requests for continuation of services beyond end of IMPACT coverage
- Billing
- History of treatment
- Social Barriers
- Funding

Challenges

- Positive challenge – Many of the school districts in Shelby County have contracted for in-house mental health support.
- Biggest challenge – more and more of the youth referred have needs beyond the scope of the IMPACT program. What then?
- DAT team
- Ohio Rise

HB 410 and Truancy Diversion

- Prior to HB410 Shelby County did not have a truancy diversion program.
- In the 2 years prior to HB410, we had 20-25 filings per year.
- Challenges: lack of staff, lack of engagement with parents, lack of authority.
- Truancy diversion staff attend AIP meetings as often as possible.
- Support school staff in developing a meaningful AIP.
- IMPACT referrals can be a part of the AIP if parents attend the meeting.

Truancy Diversion

- If families do not successfully complete their AIP, charges come to court.
- Staff determine if the family is eligible for diversion or if the case will be set for court.
- Staff work to identify the barriers to school attendance.
- Referrals are made to address underlying issues. This can include the IMPACT program.

School Liaison

- Program has a 23-year history in Shelby County.
- Coordinates services between the courts and the schools.
- Supports youth coming out of placement and identifies best educational setting.
- Planning for credit deficient youth.
- Works with youth as court ordered when there are identified barriers to academic success.
- Assists schools and courts in understanding discipline and court orders.

School Liaison

- Connects families to additional resources as needed.
- Fields calls from schools regarding enrollment.
- Fields calls from schools regarding lack of resources and needs of students and families.
- Refers youth and families to community-based resources.
- Represents court and MRESC at community-based service meetings.
- Works with Shelby County Juvenile Court prosecutor to provide presentations to students.

School Liaison



Parenting Classes

- Shelby County Juvenile Court partners with the MRESC to provide an online parenting program.
- Replaced Parent Project/Loving Solutions
- Currently utilize the THRIVE curriculum.
- Positives:
 - Can be completed at any time
 - 24-hour access
 - Work and childcare obligations are not an issue



The Link

- The Link is designed to prevent and divert youth from juvenile justice and child welfare systems through a single point of contact that identifies underlying issues contributing to concerning behavior. The Link will then connect families to community resources and follow-up to ensure that they are able to get connected to the appropriate referral sources. These services are free and voluntary.
- Referrals
 - Community service agencies
 - Law Enforcement
 - Schools
 - Court
 - Self-Referral



Questions?



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Making a difference...one child at a time.

