

Dane County Department of Human Services
Children, Youth & Families Division
Collaborations with Madison Metropolitan School District

Internal CYF services

1. CYF line staff

Social workers in the child protective services (CPS), delinquency services (DEL), and associated units routinely interact with MMSD staff re children, youth, and families of mutual concern.

At the services intake level, MMSD staff are the single most significant source of CPS referrals to the Division. MMSD staff see children and youth on a daily basis and are cognizant of individual and family situations and share information with Division staff. Division staff in turn respond to CPS concerns as allowed by State Standards and share information with MMSD staff as permitted by law. There are daily communications among staffs.

At the ongoing services level, Division CPS and DEL staff work with MMSD staff to promote school attendance, school engagement, and academic progress of children and youth under Court supervision. They share information as permitted by law as well. Here, too, there are daily communications among staffs.

MMSD and CYF services intake social worker staffs had a joint meeting in early 2012. Annual meetings of this sort are anticipated in the future.

A CYF Social Work Supervisor serves as a CYF – MMSD truancy liaison each year as well.

2. CYF Joining Forces for Families (JFF) initiative

Eight JFF teams serve MMSD neighborhoods. MMSD social workers are key and active members of each of the teams. Team members share information about families and link those families to resources, share information about community issues of mutual interest, and work on projects to improve service delivery and quality of life in neighborhoods.

3. CYF Neighborhood Intervention Program RePlay School

RePlay (Re-directive Pro-social Learning Alternative for Youth) School is a CYF / MMSD collaboration sited at the Neighborhood Intervention Program (NIP) building. The school serves 7th and 8th grade males who live in the MMSD and are under Court supervision for delinquent acts (8-10 youths are enrolled at any given time). The goal of RePlay School is to give enrolled youths the skills necessary to succeed in the ‘regular’ school setting and to transition back to their community schools. An MMSD teacher is sited at the school. Two Division staff work

with youth on behavioral issues and assist with instruction. The curriculum is designed to teach students subjects they would learn in their home schools. Group discussions about anger management, thought power, and social and decision-making skills take place as well.

4. CYF Early Childhood Initiative (ECI)

The CYF Division Early Childhood Initiative (ECI) provides innovative home visitation and employment services to parents and children in select low-income neighborhoods. The program's purpose is to ensure that young children achieve age appropriate developmental outcomes, and live in families that are nurturing and self-sufficient, with income from sustainable employment.

ECI currently serves families in four locations in Dane County: Allied Drive, Southwest Madison, Leopold Way, and Sun Prairie. Staff at the Madison locales serve children who will ultimately attend MMSD schools. These children enroll in MMSD schools with improved likelihoods for early success as a result of ECI involvement.

ECI has a staff of 12 (one coordinator, two lead workers, six Family Support Specialists, and three Employment Specialists). ECI has an average caseload of approximately 80 families spread across the Specialists. As of January 2012, 358 jobs have been acquired for ECI clients (183 full time; 175 part time).

5. Dane County Youth Commission activities

The Youth Commission (which is lodged in the Division) administers the new Youth in Governance (YIG) program. This program introduces youth to County government issues and activities by means of actual (non-voting) participation on County Board committees. Twelve youths participate at this time (11 are MMSD students).

An MMSD representative serves on the Youth Commission each year. The current rep is Principal Mary Kelley of East High School.

The Youth Commission 'By Youth For Youth' (BYFY) grants support small projects at MMSD school sites each year.

MMSD participates in the Dane County Youth Assessment every three years (all school districts save one do so).

Purchased services which directly benefit MMSD students

1. AmeriCorps - Partners for After School Success (PASS)

DCDHS is lead agency for the AmeriCorps / Partners for After School Success program. This collaborative places members at host sites (schools, community centers, etc.) to support middle and high school youth through tutoring, mentoring, and after-school programming. PASS members have focused on literacy skills as of this year. Members are trained in the Qualitative Reading Inventory. Tutoring sessions are focused on vocabulary, word recognition, comprehension, and fluency; sessions are structured and focus on skill building.

In 2012, 35 members are sited across Dane County. Fully 32 of these members serve MMSD students (11 are sited at 11 MMSD middle schools; 21 are sited at other MMSD area locations). In 2010-11, members served 1,821 youths in after-school programming across Dane County; 1,406 of these youths were MMSD students. Also in 2010-11, members tutored 187 youths across Dane County; 155 of these youths were MMSD students.

2. Youth Resource Centers

DCDHS and MMSD jointly financially support Youth Resource Centers at Cherokee, Sennett, Sherman, Toki, and Whitehorse Middle Schools. The Centers provide safe, supervised, constructive activities to youth during after-school hours and summer months. They offer: academic support, homework clubs, and tutoring opportunities; activities through which youth may develop leadership skills; community service and civic engagement opportunities; and programs that enable youth to develop personal and social competencies. The Centers serve as many as 500 unduplicated youths each year.

3. Centro Hispano - Escalera (formerly Juventud and ASPIRA programs)

DCDHS financially supports this program, which serves MMSD students. Escalera provides services for Latino youth in grades 6-12 which promote economic mobility by increasing educational attainment, career planning, and access to information about advanced careers. Services for high school students are provided at the Centro Hispano office. Services for middle school students are provided at (MMSD) Cherokee, Sennett, Sherman, Jefferson, and Toki Middle Schools. The Department contract calls for services to 160 youths (40 at any one time) during the school year.

4. Urban League – 21st Century Careers Program.

DCDHS financially supports this after-school college readiness and career development program, which will serve MMSD students later in 2012. The program offers students opportunities to explore careers, practice concrete employment skills, and enhance academic

standings. It provides hands-on and classroom career exploration activities, tutoring, enrichment services, financial literacy education, and employment skills training as well. The program will serve MMSD students at the ULGM office as of fall 2012 (it serves Sun Prairie students at three middle schools in that community at this time). The Department contract calls for services to 140 youth each year.

5. Catholic Charities - CHOICES

CHOICES serves parents/families of alcohol-involved youth attending middle schools across Dane County. Alcohol use may range from early use to dependency. CHOICES conducted groups with students at Cherokee and Blackhawk Middle Schools in Madison (and Kromrey and River Bluff middle schools in Middleton and Stoughton) in 2011. Upon completing groups, 83% of students and 50% of parents reported a decrease in the students' use of alcohol, 33% of students demonstrated improved attendance, and 48% of students demonstrated improved school performance.

6. Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin - Project Hugs

DCDHS is the largest single funder of HUGS. HUGS serves parents whose children ages 13-18 are experiencing AODA issues via provision of information, training, referrals, and other supports. One-on-one case management is available as well. HUGS also collaborates with area agencies and school districts, offers consultation and trainings, and facilitates parent groups. It is sited at the MMSD - Sennett Middle School at this time.

7. Family Service Madison - Fortress, and Circle of Voices programs

The Fortress program serves middle/high school students who are currently living in substance abusing homes at three locations: West High School, Madison; Oregon Middle and High Schools; and Middleton Alternative High School. Programming includes weekly groups for 18-20 youths, which use an evidence-based curriculum. Goals are to increase awareness of AODA risks, help participants develop coping skills, increase student engagement with schools, and promote healthy family interactions.

The Circle of Voices program serves elementary and middle school students interested in becoming race relations leaders in their respective schools and communities. Locations are Wright Middle School in Madison and elementary, middle and high schools in Sun Prairie. Programming includes weekly groups for 15-18 students that runs for 26 weeks. A certified facilitator uses an evidence-based curriculum. Goals are to promote racial acceptance, provide cultural norms regarding alcohol use, promote cultural unity in school, and promote cultural acceptance in community.