



Program Evaluation Summary

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Redeploy Illinois program decreases incarceration rates among juveniles

By Kimberly Burke

A Redeploy Illinois pilot program implemented in the Second Judicial Circuit of Illinois provides community-based services to non-violent juvenile felony offenders.

This *Program Evaluation Summary* describes an evaluation of the Second Judicial Circuit's Redeploy pilot program. The evaluation of the program was supported by a grant awarded to the Authority by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

The Second Judicial Circuit Redeploy Program was instituted to apply individualized evidence-based practices to address the needs of middle and high-risk juvenile offenders. Probation officers and community service providers monitor and provide services to juveniles selected for the program, and a research team evaluated program implementation and impact between March

and December 2005. Several methods were used in this evaluation, including online surveys, interviews, site visits, and focus groups with key personnel.

Background

Redeploy Illinois Public Act 093-0641 provides counties or groups of counties with funding for community-based services, which can include opportunities in education, recreation, community service, crisis and health intervention, and alternative forms of detention for non-violent youth who would otherwise be committed to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDOJJ).

Research through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention suggests that non-violent youth are less likely to be involved in subsequent delinquent behavior if they receive appropriate services in the community rather than being incarcerated. These community-based options for juveniles are also usually less expensive than institutional care in correctional facilities.

Redeploy Illinois programs are being implemented at four pilot sites in Illinois. Sites are located in the Second Judicial Circuit, serving Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White counties, and in Macon, St. Clair, and Peoria counties. By accepting the funds to provide community-based services to delinquent youth, programs are obligated to reduce the number of youth Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice commitments by 25 percent for the previous three years.

At the time of this evaluation, the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) Juvenile Division oversaw juvenile incarceration. The Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice now oversees these commitments.



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Sheldon Sorosky, Chairman
Lori G. Levin, Executive Director

120 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1016
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Phone: 312-793-8550, TDD: 312-793-4170,
Fax: 312-793-8422
website: www.icjia.state.il.us

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Program performance

The evaluation team selected six performance indicators following the principles of balanced and restorative justice (BARJ) to assess the program. BARJ is a justice philosophy recognizing that victims, offenders, and communities have an equally vital role in the justice process. The three main components of BARJ are repairing the harm to victims by holding offenders accountable for their actions, developing offenders' pro-social competencies to prevent repeat delinquent behavior, and ensuring community safety by fostering positive relationships among all community members.

Performance indicators

The Second Judicial Circuit's program involved community, family members, and crime victims. Implementation performance indicators included program alignment with the Redeploy Illinois Public Act, the juvenile participant selection process, program communication and awareness, service options, providers, and availability, resource utilization, and assessment methods.

Program alignment

The Redeploy Illinois Act contains specific purpose statements for a county or a group of counties receiving funding to implement the program. The Second Judicial Circuit's program met five of 13 alignment indicators. The indicators in which the program was found compliant included:

- Establishing a continuum of local, community-based sanctions and treatment alternatives for juvenile offenders who would be otherwise incarcerated.
- Establishing or expanding local alternatives to incarceration.
- Creating or expanding assessment and evaluation services or programs.
- Creating or expanding supervision services or programs for individual juvenile offenders.
- Focusing on juveniles who would otherwise be held in confinement.

The program was found to still be a "work in progress" or near compliance with six alignment indicators including creating or expanding education, vocational, and substance abuse services and programs for individual juvenile participants, coordinating mental health services, providing other individualized services, and restoring the participant within the community.

The evaluation found that it was too early to tell whether the program was in compliance with reducing the county or circuit's utilization of secure confinement of juvenile offenders. Evaluators projected that the judicial circuit would commit 18 juveniles to IDOJJ compared to the average of 41 juveniles for the years 2001 through 2003. The evaluation concluded before the end of the program's first year. Incarceration data is not yet available from IDOJJ for that time period.

Juvenile participant selection process

The program served 54 juvenile participants during the evaluation period and was projected to serve 65 during the first year. Participants are required to be between the ages of 13 and 17 years old, have been adjudicated for an offense punishable by incarceration in IDOJJ, have only one prior adjudication, and have a Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) score of medium-high risk. Juveniles convicted of first-degree murder or a Class X forcible felony are ineligible. A Juvenile Justice Redeploy Illinois Form, used to capture background information on each juvenile including, demographics, date of referral, referring agency, prior placement information, education status, YASI results, prior adjudication information, and medical information, helps determine and document a juvenile's eligibility to be part of the Redeploy program.

Communication and program awareness

Community awareness of the Second Circuit Redeploy Illinois program was promoted in meetings, newspaper and newsletter articles, phone calls to community members, other agencies, and victim service organizations, and e-mail updates to judges, state's attorneys, and public defenders. Telephone interviews were conducted with key juvenile justice personnel in the Second Circuit to determine the effectiveness of these methods. Overall, the meetings, e-mail updates, and phone calls were perceived as the most effective methods of increasing awareness of the program.

In June and November 2005, online surveys were administered to key stakeholders to determine changes in awareness and perceptions of the program. The number of respondents indicating they were familiar with Redeploy Illinois increased between June and November 2005, while the number of respondents indicating they were somewhat familiar with the program decreased.

Service options and providers

The program offered a variety of services for participants. Specific needs were determined on a case-by-case basis. A focus group comprised of representatives from proba-

Figure 1
Second Judicial Circuit Redeploy Illinois pilot program rewards and consequences

Program rewards	Program consequences
Home	Home
Family cohesiveness Extended curfew Overnight stay with friends Participation in extracurricular activities (school dances)	Restrictive curfew Extra chores Loss of phone privileges Threat of stay with other relatives
Probation/court	Probation/court
Positive feedback from judge/prosecutor Early discharge from home confinement, probation, or detention Probation rather than IDOC placement Reduction in required community service hours Credit for public service employment Reduction in required program-related sessions and meetings Shopping coupons Food	Detention GPS tracking Commitment to IDOC Extended probation and treatment requirements Probation violation recorded Writing assignment Removal from home Assignment to another program
Other	Other
Special activity privileges Journal writing, music Enrollment in regular classes	Suspension from school Behavior modification classes

tion, the state’s attorney’s office, and pre-qualified service providers identified specific needs, including IQ testing, victim mediation, follow up for the Aggression Replacement Training Program, a mentoring program for at-risk juveniles, and an outdoors program.

Resource utilization

During the evaluation period, the juvenile probation caseloads in each county of the Second Judicial Circuit varied from three to 35. The number and duration of contact between probation officers and program participants fluctuated depending on risk level and seriousness of the offense.

Assessment methods

Juveniles were assessed for program eligibility with a variety of tools that gauge the amount of risk, to himself or others, of keeping the juvenile in the community, either to himself or others. A pre-sentence investigation was prepared by the probation department to determine whether it was safe for the juvenile to remain within the community.

Program impact indicators

Evaluators used five performance indicators to determine the extent to which Redeploy Illinois is impacting juveniles and their communities in the Second Judicial Circuit. Indicators included a reduction in IDOC commitments, program impact on juveniles, their families, and victims, and services and sanctions utilization rates. Other indicators were the program’s use of rewards and consequences to address violations and to motivate juveniles in their continued progress in the program, program alignment with the goal statements outlined in the Redeploy Illinois Public Act, and detention and probation utilization rate.

Data for detention and utilization rate were limited or unavailable at the time of evaluation.

Reduction in IDOC commitments

The Second Judicial Circuit averaged 41 juvenile IDOC commitments between 2001 and 2003. The projected number of IDOC commitments for March through December 2005 was 18, representing a 56 percent reduction. Based

on the circuit's Redeploy Illinois service delivery budget, 65 juveniles were projected to complete the program during the evaluation period at an estimated cost of \$4,712 per juvenile. IDOC data to confirm the projections were unavailable.

In state fiscal year 2005, courts admitted 1,563 juveniles to IDOC at a per capita annual cost of \$70,827.

Program impact on juveniles, families, and victims

The overall short-term impact of the program on the juveniles and their families was positive based on interviews with representatives from the juvenile justice system and participants' family members. The representatives surveyed and interviewed noted that victim involvement needed to be improved.

Program services and sanctions

Participants who successfully completed individualized treatment were discharged from the program. Services and sanctions were used interchangeably and were provided on a continuum from least restrictive to very restrictive services including aggression replacement training, functional family therapy, multi-systemic therapy, global positioning system tracking, residential drug treatment and psychological and psychiatric evaluation. Participants received a variety of these services based on need.

Program rewards and consequences

A variety of rewards and consequences were used within the residence of the participant by probation and court services and by schools to encourage juveniles to stay on course with the program (*Figure 1*). Participants indicated rewards and consequences used were effective during focus groups.

Recommendations

Evaluators noted that the success, sustainability, and long-term effects of the program are dependent on continued efforts to change the attitude and perceptions of those involved in the juvenile justice system, as well as the community at large, through targeted education programs. Evaluators suggested that the technology of the juvenile justice system be improved to facilitate communication and coordination between juvenile justice practitioners and the service providers. A greater investment in technology would also improve the program's ability to collect, analyze, and report data.

Evaluators acknowledged the challenge of serving all 12 counties in the Second Judicial Circuit. They recommended identifying specific needs in each county and then following up with the appropriate targeted programs and services. Evaluators also recommended continuing impact and implementation evaluation to identify areas of the program that are succeeding as well as those that require improvement or modification.

Other recommendations included targeting specific programs and services to involve the victims. For example, victim-offender conferencing should be encouraged as a part of the Second Judicial Circuit's Redeploy program. When funding allocations are made, the program should focus on victims, key stakeholders, and the community at large, as well as on the juvenile offenders.

Conclusion

After 10 months of implementation, the Redeploy Illinois program was running successfully in the Second Judicial Circuit. The program met the objectives listed in the Redeploy Illinois Public Act, implementing community based sanctions, treatment alternatives, and services for juveniles who would have otherwise been committed to IDOC or placed in secure detention. The projected reduction in IDOC commitments for 2005 should exceed the target of 25 percent or more. Additionally, the program costs were dramatically lower per juvenile than the cost of committing juveniles to IDOC.



Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

The Second Judicial Circuit Redeploy Illinois evaluation was conducted by Powered Performance, Inc. This summary was written by ICJIA Research Analyst Kimberly Burke.

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