



EXPANSION

Two new Pathways positions are being added through the Juvenile Disciplinary Grant. The **Juvenile Assessment Center Manager** position is posting in March, followed by a job posting for a **Juvenile Assessment Center Program Assistant**.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) Steering Committee met on February 28th to discuss the physical vision and space needed to build a **JAC in the 4th Judicial District to serve youth through shelter beds, day programming, invention, and wraparound programming**. Discussions focused on next steps for creating and requesting a RFP (Request for Proposal) to provide the shelter care. Additional work for the steering committee will include policy, procedures, and a property search.

PARTNERSHIPS + COLLABORATION

Green Thumb Initiatives (GTI), **Creative Oasis**, and **Colorado Learning and Behavior Group** now have MOUs with JI to provide services to youth and families. GTI offers therapeutic intervention models that include healthy eating and gardening, while Creative Oasis is focused on mentoring through music, and CLBG is offering high-fidelity wraparound to complex families.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Pathways Planning Team serves youth (birth–21), and provided the following for July 1–February 28, 2023:

- **37 E-ISST** (Expedited)
- **26 T-ISST** (Truant), with **15 new referrals** in the last week of February
- **4 C-ISST** (Child)

The **Pathways Care Team** served the following for July 1–February 28, 2023:

- **Care Coordination for 66 youth (10-17)**

Another Pathway was offered to **four families** in Fountain with youth that had curfew charges through Municipal Court. The pilot program was five weeks, two hours per session, and **curriculum modules from Strengthening Families** were used to engage relationship building activities and discussion.

A participant responding to the program survey shared the following in response to the question, "Which part of the training do you feel will be most beneficial to you and your family?"

The training did feel beneficial; I feel calmer and feel like I can do better things in my household when things are happening:

- *Communicating back and forth of need, expectations, differences*
- *Listening (actively), saying how each person feels, knowing when to act/respond*



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The Voices program worked diligently in January and February to start collaborating with **Harrison School District 2** and **Colorado Springs School District 11** to develop the **El Paso County Restorative Justice Youth Board** that will support Restorative Justice (RJ) practices in schools. District 11 is off to an amazing start, with the selection of seven students that attend Palmer High School. Kudos to Harrison, Sierra, and Palmer High School, which have implemented restorative circles in their schools. In the upcoming months, the Voices program is excited to receive the data from these districts to show the level of impact the restorative circles are making on suspension rates. This data will also show who is benefiting the most from the circles and any gaps that are identified across the areas of gender, ethnicity, and grade level.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Core Panel has been successfully established and completed their first goal of reviewing **Jl's Employee Handbook** and offering feedback through a racial equity lens. This group will meet at least monthly to discuss topics surrounding racial equity.
- The Voices program recognized **Black History Month** with a "Did you know" format that provided JI staff facts and information that may not have been known.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Voices Program Director attended the **Southern Region Fatherhood Forum**. The group identified key strengths, barriers, and opportunities that impact the work that is being done with fathers in this region.

STRENGTHS

- Voluntary
- Mentorship
- Faith-based affiliations
- Active community engagement

BARRIERS

- Father-connecting language and materials
- Mandated/court ordered
 - Transportation – multilevel
- Female-dominated field

OPPORTUNITIES

- Specialized training
 - Systems buy-in
- Bring in dad's voices
- Recognize success

The Voices Program Director is looking at local actions to impact outlined needs.



EXPANSION

- JI has received **145 Universal Pre-K program applications** and over **1500 family applications**.
- JI has received **8 Emerging + Expanding grant applications**, which offers to fund newly licensed providers or current providers who would like to expand their slots, and is receiving 2-3 inquiries about the grant on a weekly basis.
- JI has conducted **weekly UPK Office Hours** to provide the most up-to-date information to providers and answer questions in real time. JI will continue to conduct Office Hours on Fridays, update the **UPK web page**, and send out **weekly UPK newsletters**, as part of the marketing and information-sharing initiative.
- JI has **77 active quality improvement MOUs** and is supporting two programs that are in their rating window in the month of February.

PARTNERSHIPS

- JI, in collaboration with **Pikes Peak State College** and the **Colorado Career and Technical Education Department**, has developed a new concurrent enrollment hybrid program, that will be offered to high school students to engage them in early childhood and encourage them to grow in the field.
- Our Family, Friend + Neighbor Specialist has been able to **connect with 49 FFNs**, providing access to events and resources in the community.
- JI, in collaboration with the **Community Cultural Collective**, will be expanding the **JI Playgroups** to run through May 2023. The playgroups have an average attendance of 23 adults and 32 children.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

JI hosted the **Pyramid Directors Roundtable** this month with 12 early childhood program Directors in attendance. This information session was designed to spread the word about Pyramid scholarships, programming, and opportunities available through Healthy Child Care Colorado. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with requests for additional programming to support Directors.