

POLK COUNTY DECATEGORIZATION

FY 10 CHILD WELFARE & JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRESS REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT:

“To promote a cooperative and collaborative planning process that strives to provide and support an efficient and effective continuum of service delivery to Polk County children and families.”

Staff

- Ann Harrmann - Decat Coordinator*
- Lori Helton - Program Specialist*
- Denise Moore - CPPC Program Manager, Parent Partner Coordinator
- Calleus Orr - AmeriCorps Member
- Bobbi Zenor – AmeriCorps Member

*Wrote and contributed to the report

GOALS

Polk County Decat is concentrating on five key priority service areas which will assist in improving Iowa's CFSR outcomes and assist with **safety, permanency and well being for children:**

- **Kinship and Family Connections.** Decat recognizes that many kinds of informal and formal supports are key to helping relatives provide a home for children who need to be placed out of their own home. For that purpose, Polk County Decat plans to focus on resources for families to help them afford to care for a relative's child, Parent Partners who help families improve in order to have their children returned home, assessment of the mental health needs of children, family team meetings and early prevention services.
- **Fatherhood and Positive Male Role Models.** Decat will encourage programs that recognize the value of fathers, especially non-custodial fathers, and other men who are important to children and youth; and support them positively in that role.
- **Key Transition Points.** Decat recognizes that transition points are critical junctures for children, and should be addressed in programs supported by Polk County Decategorization. These transition points include moving into placement, changing placements, modification of placements, and transfer from the juvenile system to the adult system. Decat will fund grants that help with transitions, including family team meetings, moving from the child welfare system to the adult system, and supporting parents.
- **Disproportionate Minority Representation.** Disproportionate minority representation continues to be a priority area. Decat will continue to work with MYFI and Community Programs for Protecting Children on such projects as community based family team meetings, training for DHS, Juvenile Court and providers on minority issues and developing informal support networks.
- **Other Identified Community Priority Areas.** CFSR, provider agency and community identified needs, issues, and gaps in service. Polk County Decat will fund initiatives which will assist with the safety of children including criminal and child abuse background checks, family team meetings, and wraparound support for parents and family members.

- Additionally Polk County Decat (CPPC) will begin coordinating the Parent Partner Program within the Decat structure in FY 11. The goal of Parent Partners is to help parents negotiate the child welfare system successfully to get their children back or shorten their stay in foster care by providing them with a “mentor” who has already successfully been through the process.

PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS

Polk County Decategorization funded 50 grants during FY 10. These grants included child welfare, juvenile justice and children’s mental health services that were highly effective and could only be funded because of the flexibility that Decat allows.

These grants were both large and small and started at different times of the year, depending on when funds were available. Additionally, many of the grants served multiple purposes, such as the Parent Partners grant helped with safety, permanency, well being and family connections.

Below is a list of projects funded by Polk County Decategorization and what the project intended and accomplished. For more information on these projects, please see the addendum to this report.

FY 2010 Decategorization Programs

<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>Contractor Name</u>	<u>Service provided</u>	<u>Funds expended</u>
DCAT6-10-257	Ankeny Community Schools	Empowerment Pre-K Services	\$2,508.12
The program concentrates on getting children ready for school through activities, experiences, songs, and literature. This funding was utilized to fill a gap in the Empowerment Preschool budget due to funding cuts. It provided increased access to technology, and enrichment activities for our identified students.			
Well being, Transition, Prevention			

DCAT6-10-318	Base Training LLC	Motivational Interviewing training	\$4,813.04
<p>This program provided Motivational Interviewing training to 27 JCS staff. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a counselor-directed, client-centered style of communication that helps people resolve their ambivalence about changing problem behaviors (e.g., aggression, alcohol, at risk, cannabis, etc.).</p>			
Delinquency, Intervention, Permanency			
DCAT6-10-260	Central Place/ SE Polk Schools	Summer literacy program	\$1,717.53
<p>This funding provided for a portion of the Kids' Café program provided by Central Place/ Southeast Polk Schools. Kid's Café is an eight-week summer program comprised of educational activities to increase student school success by introducing themes of literacy, science, math, and social-emotional development in the context of children's literature. In addition to fun and educational activities, children (and other family members who attend) are provided with a healthy hot lunch. The program served 130 children and 54 adults.</p>			
Well Being, Permanency			
DCAT6-10-290	Children and Families of Iowa	Community Mentoring	\$4,899.23
<p>Children & Families of Iowa received this grant from Polk County Decategorization to fund a program for community mentoring to assist clients in the Des Moines Elevate Chapter as they transition from the child welfare system to lead fulfilling lives as active, independent, engaged members of the community.</p>			
Transition, Well Being			
DCAT6-10-262	Children and Families of Iowa	Passport project	\$4,972.63
<p>In collaboration with Mid-Iowa Family Therapy and Zero to Three, Children & Families of Iowa requested funds to develop and study the use of a Passport document that tracks youth information for youth in the child welfare system. The Passport is intended to assist DHS and Juvenile Court to address all issues of the child. It would be preserved in the court file and be utilized through the life of a case.</p>			

Permanency, Well Being

DCAT6-10-018	Children and Families of Iowa	Fiscal Agent	\$234,739
---------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------	------------------

This is a fiscal agent contract that provides a flexible funding stream offering concrete supports to families involved with DHS and juvenile court. The flexible funding provides assistance with such things as clothing, rent, and utility assistance. Without this support, many more children would be removed from their families. This also funds the Community Partnership for Protecting Children.

Permanency, Safety, Well Being, Prevention, Minority Over Representation, Family Connections

DCAT6-10-294	Children and Family Urban Ministries	Whyld Girls Project	\$4,999
---------------------	---	----------------------------	----------------

Whyld Girls participants created an original coffee table book reflecting various forms of writing that display their actualizations of themselves, their dreams and their community. The Whyld Girls' work analyzing media and its representations has proven to be a huge success and benefit for each participant.

Well Being

DCAT6-10-211	Children and Family Urban Ministries (CFUM)	Reading Proficiency & Youth Connections	\$46,817
---------------------	--	--	-----------------

The Literacy for Life initiative has three components. 1) Hiring a Literacy Coach to complete an assessment of current CFUM program components, staff resources, and current and prospective community partners; and with CFUM staff, develop a plan to implement the Literacy for Life initiative throughout CFUM programs including staff and volunteer training. 2) Enhance and improve the CFUM onsite library by hiring a Library Specialist to assess and organize the current library, and create a plan for better utilization of the library as a part of the Literacy for Life initiative. 3) Replicate a highly effective Summer Literacy program for middle school girls (the Whyld Girls) with middle school boys (the Backyard Boyz).

Well Being

DCAT6-10-209	Child and Family Policy Center	Voices to Be Heard	\$60,200
---------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------

Voices to Be Heard is a support group for families and children of an incarcerated loved one. The group gathers to support and comfort those who know too well the grief that comes to those left behind when someone they love is incarcerated. 56 families consistently came to Voices To Be Heard.

Permanency, Well Being, Family Connections

DCAT6-10-258	Child Abuse Prevention Council	HOPE! Drama Troupe	\$4,882
---------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------

HOPE! Drama Troupe is a group of teens who write and perform a play about child abuse and its effect on children and families. With the help of Decat funding, the project was able to perform for 1,465 students during the contracted timeframe.

Safety, Child Abuse Prevention

DCAT6-09-052	Community Support Advocates	Transition to Adult Services	\$31,702.76
---------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------

The Knowledge Empowers Youth (KEY) Program's goal is to engage transitional age youth prior to turning 18 when the youth will enter adult services. This assists the individual to bridge the gap between children's services and adult services. There is a long waiting list for this service.

Transition

DCAT6-10-298	Community Support Advocates	Youth development supplies	\$3,783.17
---------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------

The KEY program works on building employment and educational skills with transitional youth through resume writing, applying for jobs, becoming familiar with on-line job applications, email, applying for college, completing homework, completing financial aid applications, and networking.

Well Being, Transition

DCAT6-10-212	Culture Inc.	Art & Learning Services	\$88,464.17
---------------------	---------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------

The purpose of this program is to provide after-school art and learning services for children and their families in Polk County.

Culture Incorporated works in collaboration with several community organizations to develop a sustainable youth development program that offers a safe, supportive, engaging interactive environment for young people to explore and express themselves through the arts.

Safety, Well being

DCAT6-10-301	Donita Faust	DHS Social Worker training	\$2,671.60
---------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------

Funding provided training for DHS social workers to assist with the preparation of the upcoming federal (CFSR) review.

DCAT6-10-237	Education Brain Trust	Parent Empowerment- School	\$4,998.00
---------------------	------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------

Engage, convey and empower parents to negotiate their children’s education across all levels; in their own neighborhood schools, at school board meetings, at city council meetings, and all other venues where decisions about their child(ren)s’ education may be discussed.

Well Being, Family Connections

DCAT6-10-288	Family Directions	Parent Empowerment conference	\$4,500.00
---------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------

Family Directions of Iowa, Inc. provided a 2-day intensive Shared Leadership in Action Workshop for 83 parents and staff, providing participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in Shared Leadership activities.

Well Being, Minority Over Representation

DCAT6-10-210	Foster Aunt & Uncle Project	Tutoring services for Foster Youth	\$194,077.60
---------------------	--	---	---------------------

The “Fostering Literacy Project is a project to develop in foster care and other significantly at risk youth reading skills (with math to be added) that they often fail to receive in normal school. Illiteracy is the single best predictor of incarceration and other tragic outcomes for these youth. They tested a reading remediation program using a curriculum designed specifically for remediating youth reading deficiencies. The program served 154 youth and raised their reading ability an average 2 entire grade levels.

Well Being , Transition

DCAT6-10-304

Foster Aunt & Uncle Project

Math tutoring services- East HS

\$2,272.90

This grant opened a new addition to the "Fostering Literacy Project" by adding a math curriculum to the already successful reading program.

Well Being, Transition

DCAT6-10-208

GEEZ Louise!

Female Responsive Programming

\$36,478.11

This contract provided gender specific group and individual counseling services for girls and young women. The program served 54 young women in the first quarter, and 55 in the second quarter.

Well Being

DCAT6-10-287

Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association

Summer Programming

\$50,000.00

The Summer Programming Clearinghouse Project offered activity scholarship grants to Polk County children and their families. Eligible children must be involved with DHS or JCS.

Safety, Well Being, Family Connections

DCAT6-10-291

Iowa Friends of Foster Children

Special funding

\$4,241.46

The grant purpose was to provide quality of life opportunities to Polk County youths who are in foster care by providing funds for items that benefit and normalize their lives, but are not covered by State foster care or medical programs. Grants were reviewed by a committee from the Friends of the Foundation Board members with a maximum of \$300 per youth unless special circumstances existed and were approved by the Decat Coordinator.

Well Being

DCAT6-10-289	Mainstream Living	Transitioning youth employment	\$3,063.00
<p>The grant provided staff to recruit local businesses to develop employment and volunteering opportunities for participants of the Transitional Age Youth program. They developed course curriculums for employment training (problem solving, conflict resolution, and symptom management) for program participants.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Transition, Well Being</p>			
DCAT6-09-056	Mentor Iowa	Mentoring Court Ordered Children	\$13,837.00
<p>Mentor Iowa provided mentoring services for children who were referred by Juvenile Court. This included recruiting, training, and matching mentors with children referred by Juvenile Court as well as providing monthly group activities for mentor/child pairs in age appropriate groups.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Transition, Well Being</p>			
DCAT6-10-303	Mentor Iowa	Mentor recruitment	\$4,999.00
<p>Mentor Iowa requested funds for a radio promotion with the Des Moines Radio Group. The campaign was called “30 Mentors in 30 Days” through KIOA radio. Mentor Iowa exceeded their goals and received 39 inquiries about becoming a mentor.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Transition, Well Being</p>			
DCAT6-10-017	Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic	Model Court Support	\$10,733.81
<p>This contract provides administrative support for the Model Court team and any events that the team is sponsoring.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Safety, Permanency, Well Being, Transition</p>			
DCAT6-10-213	Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic	Kinship & Family Connections	\$102,910.40

Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic, Inc provides kinship caregivers with information, concrete supports and increases their ability to care for the children in their home by increasing their protective capacities. In addition to these services, Mid-Iowa provides formal KinCare Training and five Incredible Years Parenting Groups utilizing the evidence based curriculum. Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic, Inc will continue to provide such services to their clients however are focused on finding additional resources to assist in supplementing expenditures due to a cut in funding. It will continue identifying and providing support to relative placements.

Family Connections, Well Being, Disproportionate Over Representation

DCAT6-10-297	Million Father March	Fatherhood	\$1,951.50
---------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------	-------------------

This program recruited fathers to take their child to school on the 1st day of school in order to help engage fathers in their child's educational process and promoting their on-going involvement in the school. The outcome will be for there to be over 250 father's who register to take their child to school on the 1st day including a breakfast, t-shirts for the father's that show their commitment to their child and the advertising necessary for recruitment.

Fatherhood, Well Being, Kinship

DCAT6-10-293	Mosaic Family Counseling	Counseling for unmet needs	\$2,444.00
---------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------

This grant provided individual counseling to parents of children who are in the Child Welfare System in Polk County. The parent would not otherwise be able to afford counseling either individually or through insurance. Mosaic Family Counseling Center Inc (MFCC) served a total of 21 clients in the DECAT program; all were DHS involved and referred to our agency for services. Six MFCC counselors provided a total of 77 individual sessions for these clients and 5 assessments (that were not billed) for a total of 82 sessions.

Family Connections, Well Being

DCAT6-09-057A	Polk County Attorney	Guardianship Transfers	\$3,182
----------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------

Provide legal services related to guardianship transfers for DHS cases referred from Polk County. Closing out uncontested transfer of guardianship for cases referred by the DHS. Types of cases will include: a) children ages 0 to 18 who are in need

of a legal guardian and in which the only other remedy is to file a CINA; b) children aging out of care and in need of establishing a legal guardianship as an adult; and c) children ages 0 to 18 with open CINA cases that could be closed if a legal guardianship was established.

Permanency, Connection to Family

DCAT-08-064	Polk County Attorney	Criminal Records Checks	\$9,636
--------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------	----------------

Provide criminal records checks for child welfare cases. These records checks are requested by Juvenile Court Judges to be included in case plans and the Polk County Attorney's Juvenile Division conducts the criminal records checks. Due to the high volume and need for this information in Polk County, the Decategorization purchased a portion of a legal assistant's time to conduct the criminal records check.

Safety

DCAT6-10-070	Polk County Attorney	Diversion & Mediation	\$49,900
---------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------

Provides Diversion and Mediation Services for children and families in Polk county who are involved with the Juvenile Court or anticipated to become involved with the Juvenile Court. The program reports serving 105 families with 187 successfully diverted from CINA filings.

Permanency, Family Connections, Minority Over Representation

	Polk County Health Services	Decat Staff	\$140,563
--	------------------------------------	--------------------	------------------

Provide coordination and fiscal agent services for Polk County Decategorization staff.

DCAT6-10-292	Rock In Prevention	School programming	\$4,999
---------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------	----------------

Provide two Rock Live one day events at Windsor Elementary and South Union Elementary schools that are use to help youths acquire the necessary tools to make healthy life choices by leading age appropriate workshops that taught alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention, life skills and positive school climate exercises.

Well Being, Prevention			
DCAT6-10-261	SE Polk Schools	Resiliency Testing	\$4,600
This project provided voluntary surveys to all youth at SE Polk High School in grades 9 through 12 to assess 40 Elements of Healthy Development. These surveys were performed to determine the factors that allow youth to be resilient to life stressors. The district suffered from a number of teen suicides in recent years and wanted an evaluation tool to target at-risk populations.			
Safety, Well Being			
DCAT-08-065	United Way of Central Iowa	Community Impact	\$32,139.31
The purpose of the Community Impact work at United Way is to bring providers who are leading work in the community together with funders. In addition, the work of the Community Impact encompasses the efforts of our community collaborations. This ongoing work that evolves as the various community planning bodies develop and implement their work. Decategorization has been a partner with United Way in Community Impact since 2005.			
Safety, Permanency, Well Being, Transition			
DCAT6-10-003	Visiting Nurse Services	Family Team Meetings	\$425,642.00
The Family Team Meeting Partnership (FTMP) is collaboration with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and four community agencies that contract to provide Family Team Meetings in Polk County. Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa (VNS of Iowa) is the lead agency with Employee and Family Resources (EFR), Youth Emergency and Shelter Services (YESS), and Iowa Mediation Services (IMS) as sub-contractors. The program received 569 referrals and completed 1177 meetings that included pre/post-removal conferences, hand-off meetings, family team meetings and follow up meetings.			
Safety, Permanency, Well Being, Family Connections, Fatherhood			
DCAT6-10-016	Visiting Nurse Services	Parent Mentoring Services	\$43,719.00
This contract was awarded again to VNS after the release of a formal RFP to comply with state regulations regarding competition due to the increased funding for the program. See goals in grant below			

Juvenile Court Services Programs			
DCAT6-09-053	Child Guidance	Evaluation/Assessment	\$49,500.00
<p>This project's purpose is to provide to the Juvenile Court and Polk County Youth Services useful and timely psychological evaluations and assessments of children and youth referred by the Court or Juvenile Court Services. The Project serves children and youth referred to it by the Polk County Juvenile Court and/or Juvenile Court Services. The program served 63 clients.</p>			
Permanency, Well Being			
DCAT6-09-054	PACE- Orchard Place	Credit Recovery Project	\$45,000.00
<p>The PACE Continuing Education Opportunity (CEO) Program in collaboration with Juvenile Court, Des Moines Public Schools, and DMACC provide daily academic instruction, life skills programming and community services learning opportunities to fifteen students. The target population includes individuals between the ages of 16 and 20. Eligible participants have been unsuccessful in a comprehensive school setting, are severely behind in credits, and lack the social and independent living skills needed to successfully transition from childhood to adulthood.</p>			
Well Being, Transition, Safety			
DCAT6-09-055	PACE- Orchard Place	Community Sanctions	\$49,500
<p>The Community Based Sanctions project provides intensive programming to assist youth that violate the terms of their probation. The program looks at the need of the youth, the type of violation, the number of violations, and community safety issues to determine the level of service a youth receives. The program not only acts as a detention alternative to participants but provides structured programming to youth who would not otherwise receive after-school services. These services include intensive tracking and monitoring, supervision, community service, and group sessions.</p>			
Safety, Transition,			
DCAT-09-097	PACE- Orchard Place	Early Services Prevention	\$139,934

The Early Services Project is an intervention and prevention program for children ages twelve and under who are referred to Juvenile Court Services for delinquent acts in the community. It was determined that children under the age of 12 have the highest risk to re-offend in the future, however, their age and needs did not commensurate with the criteria for formal adjudication by the juvenile justice system or the Iowa Department of Human Services. This informal status makes them ineligible for services that could prevent them from re-offending. The Early Services Project was initiated in 2000 to provide individualized casework services and family services for the more intense cases, incorporating a parent-child group component, and creating a connection with area schools to help meet the child's overall needs

Prevention, Kinship

DCAT6-09-127	PACE- Orchard Place	Restitution	\$79,633
---------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	-----------------

The Community Sanctions program added another component to the program, with the Restitution Program. This program is in collaboration with PACE and Juvenile Court, to provide restitution payment of a client to the clerk of Polk County court. Clients are able to do community service projects within the community five days a week, and be provided minimum wage for community service, to pay for restitution.

Restitution

DCAT6-10-001	Sequel Care of Iowa	Sex Offender Treatment	\$223,326
---------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------

The outpatient sexual offender treatment program began in March 2007. The program provides treatment for individuals that have shown offending behaviors but have not gone through an inpatient treatment setting, and supports individuals that have been discharged from a sexual offending program and require assistance being reintegrated into the community. Participants have either sexually offended or have displayed significant risk factors warranting outpatient treatment.

Prevention, Intervention, Restitution and Recovery

CJJP-08-M5-001	Visiting Nurse Services	SED Project	\$25,033
<p>The Getting It Together & Parent Advocacy Project provides wraparound and advocacy services for families living in Polk County with a child diagnosed with a Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV-TR, 2000). The Getting It Together & Parent Advocacy Project targets but is not limited to high-risk children and youth ages 5 to 17 and their families with a special emphasis on providing services to minority families. The majority of children and youth targeted for services are at risk of becoming involved or has already been involved in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice system.</p>			
<p>Disproportionate Minority Over Representation, Well Being, Kinship,</p>			

Because of the significant cuts in child welfare, juvenile justice and decat funds, in FY' 11, Polk County Decategorization has only been able to fund 14 grants. Many important and successful grants helping abused and delinquent children and their families were eliminated or significantly cut back due to the funding.

It is difficult to financially plan when Decats do not find out until November or December of the fiscal year, how much funding they will have for the current fiscal year.