

# Hamilton County

Judge John Williams

## Program Name

OASIS

## Program Intervention

Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program

## Primary Service Location

Community

## Program Description

- Hamilton County Juvenile Court's OASIS program is designed to be an alternative to residential placement for Probation involved youth demonstrating increasing levels of criminogenic risk and poor response to prior rehabilitative interventions. OASIS is an *individualized* and *intensive* outpatient treatment option that addresses the specific mental and behavioral health issues likely contributing to the youth's continued involvement in delinquent or high-risk behaviors. OASIS operates in collaboration with Probation using a team-based approach to care and requires active participation of a parent/guardian.
- OASIS uses several evidence-based treatment curricula including, Anger Replacement Training (A.R.T), Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (C.B.I.), Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and the Forward Thinking Interactive Journaling Series. OASIS targets male and female youth ages 12 – 19 who have mental health and behavioral issues.
- In order to complete the program, youth progress through four levels of treatment participating in individual, group and family therapy sessions for approximately 1 year.

## Outcomes

- 100% of youth have been diverted from out of home placements (i.e., foster care, group homes, kinship care, etc.).
- 100% of youth have diverted from Community Correctional Facilities and DYS placements.
- 77% of youth have been diverted from local residential treatment facilities.
- 79% of youth have not acquired a new misdemeanor or felony level offenses since program onset.

## Program Snapshot

(As of June 30, 2016)

### Gender:

87% Male  
13% Female

### Race/Ethnicity:

100% African American

### Age Range:

14 -19

### Offense Level:

Felony & Misdemeanor

### Youth Re-offense Risk Level:

Moderate & High

### Screens & Assessments:

OYAS Disposition Tool  
Diagnostic Assessment Form (DAF)  
Psychological/Dispositional Evaluations  
Criminal Sentiment Scales Modified

### Program Start Date:

April 28, 2015

### Received Services:

28 Youth and 28 Families

### Program Completion Successes:

2 Youth and 2 Families  
15 Youth and 15 Families Continuing into FY17

### Average # of Service Units:

150.19 Direct Service Hours for Youth  
67.66 Direct Service Hours for Families

### Program Partners:

- Hamilton County Juvenile Court
- ARAMARK Food Services
- Children's Home of Cincinnati
- Lighthouse Youth Services
- Abraxas Youth and Family Services
- St. Joseph Orphanage
- TASC (Talbert House)
- University of Cincinnati

## Program Information Contact

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# Hamilton County Early Successes – OASIS Program

"Hamilton County has seen a dramatic rise in juveniles charged with offenses that include gun specifications. Competitive RECLAIM funds have provided our Court with the opportunity to design and implement the OASIS program, which offers intensive behavioral health services with a strong family component that is responsive to the unique criminogenic risk factors identified for each juvenile served. This program enables the Court to divert youth from out-of-home care placements by offering customized treatment to moderate and high risk youth in the community who typically have a serious felony adjudication. We are encouraged by the preliminary outcome findings that show 76.9% of the juveniles have remained in the community with a parent, guardian or custodian."

**John M. Williams, Administrative Judge  
Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Center**

"The OASIS program has had a positive impact on Hamilton County Juvenile Court's Youth Center resident population by offering an alternative to placement and prolonged stays in detention. The OASIS program also allows court involved youth to remain in their homes, schools and neighborhoods, while participating in intensive outpatient treatment services and using their new skills to avoid future criminal charges."

**Dwayne R. Bowman, CCM Superintendent  
Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Center**

"Lighthouse Youth Services (LYS) had an OASIS youth referred to our agency as a diversion to ongoing contact with the juvenile justice system. He demonstrated success in treatment with our agency on his behavioral health issues (mental health and AOD). With OASIS and LYS programming, the youth was able to remain active in his community mental health services with our agency and services with the court that targeted his high risk behavior and irresponsible choices. Through the partnership between OASIS and LYS community mental health, the youth has achieved some significant positive outcomes such as remaining drug free for two years and attending school for the entire year (first time in 3 years). This youth is less likely to commit criminal acts and more likely to use community mental health services to avoid future contact with the legal system."

**Chris Willis, BA  
Case Manager – ACT Team  
Lighthouse Youth Services**

**Youth Success Story** - Micale was referred to the OASIS Program following adjudication for Carrying a Concealed Weapon (F4). He received 143 hours of evidenced based, cognitive-behavioral individual, family and group treatment services. As he prepared for graduation from the OASIS Program, Micale developed success plans to deal with the risky situations that lead to past delinquent behavior. For each high-risk situation, he was able to identify appropriate problem-solving skills, social skills and coping self-statements, which increased his chances for making pro-social choices. After approximately a year of participation, Micale successfully completed the OASIS program without accumulating any new misdemeanor or felony charges, testing positive for substances or being placed out of the home in a residential treatment, CCF or DYS facility. Additionally, Micale's attendance, behavior and grades in school all significantly improved while participating in the OASIS program. His efforts enabled him to recently earn his high school diploma in June of 2016.



**Program Success Story** - Hamilton County Juvenile Court's overall goal of the OASIS Program is to reduce the number of moderate to high-risk youth in residential placements and/or DYS facilities by offering intensive community based outpatient services. There have been a total of 21 juveniles funded through Competitive RECLAIM that received services in the OASIS Program. Since program onset, OASIS has successfully diverted 100% of youth from out of home placements (i.e., foster care, group homes, kinship care, etc.), Community Correctional Facilities, and DYS placements. The program has also diverted 76.9% of youth from Residential Treatment facilities.



## Lessons Learned

Youth and their families have significant environmental stressors that interfere with treatment compliance such as lack of financial resources, single parent households, lack of adequate transportation and parental mental health issues. To address those barriers OASIS therapists have had to operate in a community case management role in addition to the role of the treating therapist.

Moderate –High risk youth receiving community based intervention require a higher level of supervision and monitoring during the early phases of treatment. Unlike a residential treatment setting, IOP youth are tasked with learning new behavioral and cognitive strategies that require immediate application and use in the home, school and community. Youth who have been released from detention or removed from electronic monitoring too soon, have struggled to utilize their new skills and make appropriate choices.

It has also been challenging to balance the higher treatment/dosage, probation supervision and school hours with much needed prosocial activities such as employment, sports or job training during the first 2 phases of the program.

## Program Information Contact –

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