The Mental Health Juvenile Justice (MHJJ) Program identifies youth involved in the juvenile detention/justice system who exhibit mental health symptoms that might otherwise have gone unnoticed.

MHJJ is a voluntary six-month program that serves youth ages 8 to 17. MHJJ provides consultation with schools, service providers, detention and probation and develops individual action plans based on the youth's needs and strengths.

**MHJJ Eligibility**

- Be between the ages of 10 and 17 (or ages 8 to 9 if at risk of juvenile justice involvement).
- Have been involved with the juvenile justice system or are at risk of juvenile justice involvement (station adjustments, diversion program, multiple suspensions/expulsions, substance abuse).
- Exhibit symptoms of anxiety, depression, psychosis or post-traumatic stress. Youth do not have to have a current or previous diagnosis to be eligible for referral. Juveniles who have disruptive behavior disorders (e.g. conduct disorder) are excluded from the MHJJ program unless the youth also has another diagnosed mental illness.

**MHJJ Liaison Services**

- Mental health screening and assessment
- Involvement in the youth court process (attend court, probation visits, detention visits)
- Interacting with and relating to the client and family via home visits and school visits
- Reintegrating the client back into the community based on the youth's strengths

**Linkage to community resources:**

- Individual or group counseling
- Psychiatric services
- Substance abuse treatment
- Educational services
- Mentoring
- Pro-social activities

The MHJJ Program is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Mental Health. Currently, there are 21 community mental health agencies statewide whose MHJJ liaisons assess and link youth to community-based services for care and monitor their progress in services. Northwestern University provides program evaluation.

To make a referral or for more information, please contact Rosecrance at 815-391-1000 and ask for MHJJ Program.