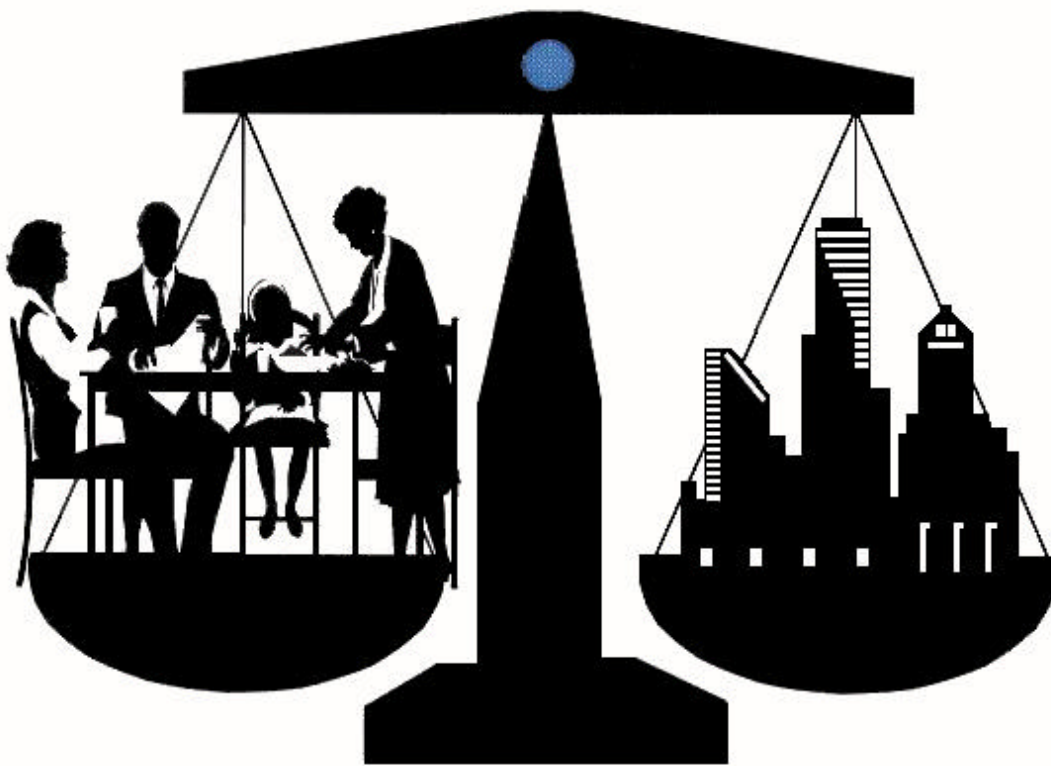

FACE-IT



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGED IN TREATMENT

24647 NORTH MILWAUKEE AVENUE
VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS 60061



Our Guiding Philosophy

“FACE-IT” is an innovative residential treatment program for juvenile probationers operated by the 19th Judicial Circuit Court and the County of Lake. It was designed around the purpose and policy of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act and the Juvenile Justice Reform Provisions of 1998. These provisions recognize that the juvenile justice system should provide balanced attention to the protection of the community, the impositions of accountability for offenses committed, and the development of competencies to enable juveniles to become responsible and productive members of their communities.

To accomplish these goals, “FACE-IT” was developed to implement a community based residential treatment program that would:

- Protect citizens from juvenile crime;
 - Hold each juvenile offender directly accountable for his or her acts;
 - Provide an individualized assessment of each alleged and adjudicated delinquent juvenile, in order to rehabilitate and prevent further delinquent behavior through the development of competency in the juvenile offender;
 - Provide programs and services that are community based and are within close proximity to the minor’s home;
 - Include the minor’s family in the case management plan;
 - Provide aftercare services to minor’s who are returned to their families and communities after residential treatment;
 - Provide due process, as required by the Constitution of the United States and the State of Illinois, through which each juvenile offender and all interested parties are assured fair hearings at which legal rights are recognized and enforced.
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In order to fulfill our role, the “FACE-IT” program will do all we can to ensure that the philosophy of “Protecting the Community and Servicing the Family” is reflected in our actions and attitudes and that “Fairness, Firmness, and Consistency” are upheld in all our professional capacities.

Coupled with this imperative is the Mission Statement of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, of which the “FACE-IT” program is an integral part.:

“The Mission of the Lake County Judicial System is to serve the public. It accomplishes this mission by providing a fair and efficient system of justice, committed to excellence, fostering public trust, understanding and confidence.”





Why We Exist: Program Purpose and Goals

As part of a minor's sentencing plan, the Juvenile Judge may order a minor placed in a residential treatment facility. These minors are usually placed for multiple issues including:

1. Chronic delinquency
2. Serious property crimes
3. Fire-setting
4. Sex-Offending
5. Weapon-related offenses
6. Other crimes of violence

In addition, many of the minor's referred to placement have emotional/mental health issues, special education needs, and severe family dysfunction.

Currently, there are many problems associated with the residential treatment that is available to the Juvenile Court. First and foremost, it is tremendously expensive. Most of these placements require a minimum stay of 9-12 months of treatment to effectively treat the multiple problems that minors are referred for at a cost of up to \$500 per diem. One placement could utilize the entire yearly budget.

Secondly, distance is a major issue. Appropriate in-state placements are located at least 2 hours away and many are further distances out-of-state. This results in minimal family involvement and little opportunity for the Probation Officer to monitor the case. In addition, minors often run from placement and end up detained in another state. This has become a costly and time-consuming piece of casework for many Probation Officers. Lastly, results have been poor. Most minors are returned to



the community after successfully completing treatment with no aftercare provided by the programs and no changes made within the family. This is a set-up for failure. It is critical that there is family involvement in the treatment process.

As a result of the above, plans were developed and an in-County residential treatment program was re-designed to meet the needs of the Juvenile Court and community as a whole. Based on the current philosophy of Restorative Justice, the **FACE-IT** (Families and Community Engaging in Treatment) program opened its' doors on 10-11-99. The following problems were identified prior to the initial planning and development of the new program:

1. Since the closing of S.T.A.Y. (previous residential program housed in the Detention Center), fewer minors have been able to be placed due to cost factors.
2. Funding for placement from other sources, i.e., schools and DCFS has been severely restricted due to legislation designating who and where they can place minors as well as funding limitations.
3. Those cases that have been placed have been largely unsuccessful, violating probation before termination.
4. 60% of S.T.A.Y. graduates remained delinquent-free for at least two years.

In addition, the following factors played a major role in the development of the program:

1. It is less costly to place minors in a treatment program close to home.
 2. Parental involvement will increase due to the close proximity of their children to their home communities.
 3. Minors will spend less time in Detention awaiting placement and taking up bed space that could be utilized for higher-risk offenders.
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4. The recidivism rate for the minors placed will hopefully be lower due to comprehensive programming, the development of competencies, and gradual transition to the community with an intensive aftercare component.

From 1979-92, Lake County Juvenile Court operated S.T.A.Y. (Short Term Alternative for Youth), a 10-20 week residential treatment program housed in the detention center. Intensive family, individual and group counseling was provided and the minors were gradually able to transition back to the community. By housing and managing the program internally, resident's progress or lack thereof could be evaluated and dealt with in a timely manner. Minors were able to attend all court hearings and Probation Officers, attorneys, and all others involved (DCFS, social service personnel, educators, and law enforcement) were accessible. In addition, for minors with unique issues, specialized resources were available in the immediate community. In conclusion:

Plans have been completed and as of 10-11-99, an in-house residential program at the Depke Juvenile Justice Complex for delinquent youth in Lake County has been re-opened. This program is located in the existing juvenile Justice facility in a wing adjacent to the Detention Center that has been remodeled. Residents will not be incarcerated but will be kept safe and secure with round-the-clock supervision and enhancement of the monitoring system already in place. Although some staff members were involved with previous programming and have assisted with the new design and development, implementation could not take place without additional staff. We were fortunate to obtain five new staff positions. In consideration of the past success of the S.T.A.Y. program and the ever-present needs of the Juvenile Court, the F.A.C.E. I.T. program will provide innovative programming including family-focused and community-based treatment with the goal of ending delinquent behavior.



PROGRAM LOCATION

The “FACE-IT” program is located on the grounds of the Depke Juvenile Justice Complex at 24647 North Milwaukee Avenue, Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061-1576. This location provides a central Lake County location and utilizes county resources which were already in place.

“FACE-IT” Lake County’s Residential Treatment Program for Juveniles

“FACE-IT” is an innovative residential treatment program for juvenile probationers, operated by the 19th Judicial Circuit and the County of Lake. It is community-based, family-focused, and is designed for delinquent youth and families. “FACE-IT” strives to help meet the basic needs of troubled youths and families in order to enable them to function productively within society, be self-sufficient, and obtain a sense of dignity and self-worth without criminal behavior.

All youths residentially placed have experienced difficulty at home, in the community and in school. They are of normal intelligence and have no serious organic, physical or emotional handicaps which would require intensive psychiatric intervention.

The treatment modality is family-focused/family-centered by utilizing structural therapy. This method is designed to provide families with the necessary tools to work together as a system to solve problems and to learn courage, responsibility and cooperation.

The length of residence is determined by need and treatment plan, although the average length of treatment is from 6 to 9 months. Program components will include behavior modification, education, physical fitness, scouting, family, individual and group therapy, religion, medical services, community service and aftercare.



PROGRAM AND SERVICES

ADMISSIONS/REFERRALS

All referrals will come from a Juvenile Probation pre-sentencing staffing or an order from a Juvenile Court judge within Lake County. Males between the ages of 14-16 on Juvenile Probation or pending sentencing are eligible if they meet program criteria.

Goals of the program will be to:

- Promote healing for all affected parties.
- Provide an opportunity for the offender to make amends.
- Empower victims, community members, families, and offenders by giving them a voice and a shared responsibility in finding constructive resolutions.
- Address the underlying causes of criminal behavior.
- Build a sense of community and its capacity for resolving conflict.
- Promote and share community values.

DAILY LIVING/HOUSING

Residents will be housed in a separate and secure wing of the Juvenile Court Complex. Initially, there will be 6 rooms, each shared by 2 boys for a total of 12 residents. Every set of two rooms has an adjoining bathroom with a shower. A tub is also available as needed. Future plans call for space for 6 additional residents.

SUPERVISION

All residents will be supervised by at least two Juvenile Counselors around the clock, in addition to Managers, Educational, and Treatment staff at various times during the day and evening. Residents will be monitored by video cameras throughout the Juvenile Court Complex and bedchecks will be facilitated by a computerized system (Morse Watchman) also used within Juvenile Detention.

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION

In an effort to teach each resident appropriate patterns of behavior, a level system will be utilized to provide immediate positive and negative feedback to each resident.

Additionally, this system will be used to encourage, support and motivate residents to always strive for responsible, positive patterns of behavior.



EDUCATION

Each resident will attend a full school day, 5 days a week, 12 months a year. The program has one classroom, a library, and computer lab. Staff include one full-time teacher and teacher's assistant. A full range of special educational services are provided by Lake County in conjunction with District 125 and the Regional Office of Education. Instruction is based on individual needs and coordinated with the residents' home school districts.

PHYSICAL FITNESS/EDUCATION

All residents participate in at least 2 P.E. sessions daily facilitated by full-time instructor. Physical education classes are part of the regular school program as well as a component of the daily programming for residents. A variety of activities are held including basketball, volleyball, soccer, badminton, and several types of aerobics conditioning.

In addition, health education and life skills classes will be held co-facilitated with the Lake County Health Department. Outdoor education and team building is also offered on complex grounds as a very unique component of the program for both residents, staff, and families.

TREATMENT

The program has 2 full-time therapists and a Program Manager who will facilitate group, individual, and family therapy. In addition to the main therapy components, group sessions will include substance abuse education/treatment, life skills, social skills, anger management, and multi-family parenting/peer groups. Other services will be available and/or offered on a contractual basis dependent upon individual needs of residents and their families.



RELIGIOUS

Voluntary non-denominational religious education is available for residents several times weekly. These services are held both in a group format and on an individual basis for youth needing spiritual support and guidance.

FAMILY VISITATION

Visitation for immediate family is held twice weekly for all residents and strongly encouraged. At least one visit per week is mandatory. After meeting set criteria, residents will be allowed home visits with time increments determined by their status in the program. Increasing time will be earned to generate trust, responsibility and facilitate a gradual transition to the community.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The program has a full-time nurse shared with Juvenile Detention and a physician on a regularly scheduled basis. Medical care is available 24-hours and provided by the contractual services of Correctional Medical Services. In addition, emergency psychological and psychiatric assessments are available through various services within the County and the Psychological Services Unit of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/PUBLIC SERVICE

Each resident will be encouraged to set up goals which include accountability and responsibility within the community. Community service will also be incorporated into the scouting program. Each resident will be ordered to perform at least 50 hours of public service. This effort is also a step toward establishing a community partnership.

AFTERCARE

Once a youth has completed the in-house component of FACE-IT, a transition back into the community will occur. This transition will include all basic program components, i.e. family therapy, education (community district), and group therapy. The overall goal of aftercare is to help the family make a smooth transition back into the community and also maintain a successful relationship with the court, school and community in general. Aftercare could last from 6 months to one year.



SUMMARY

FACE-IT is an appropriate treatment program for those youth meeting the eligibility requirements. This program will deal effectively with delinquent youth and their families who cannot be maintained in the community and are in need of a structured family-focused/family-centered program.

