BHJJ is a diversion program for juvenile justice-involved youth ages 10–18 with mental health or substance abuse issues. In lieu of detention, youth are diverted into local, evidence-based behavioral health treatment.

4,338 youth enrolled in BHJJ

- 15.6 years old—average age
- 53% were non-white
- 63% were male

2006—present

Mental health assessments revealed:

- The most common DSM diagnoses were ADHD, cannabis disorders, ODD, and depressive disorders.
- The majority of youth had a history of mental health and substance use issues in their families.
- 49% of females talked about suicide and 23% attempted suicide at least once.

Treatment outcomes indicated:

- 2 out of 3 youth completed treatment successfully
- BHJJ led to a 55% reduction in risk for out of home placement
- On average, BHJJ costs about $5,000 per youth compared to $180,000 to commit a youth to ODYS
- Treatment led to significant improvements in problem severity and functioning
- Youth reported significant reductions in trauma symptoms and substance abuse
- Grades improved and school suspensions/expulsions were greatly reduced
- Over 96% of youth were NOT sent to an ODYS institution following services

July 2018