



Regenerations Program

Everyone deserves a second chance

Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois' innovative Regenerations program serves youth who are multi-system involved, and provides them with the support their families and they need to get their lives back on the right track. Program staff work to build relationships and supports for the youth, their identified caregivers and their families to transition the youth back to the community, strengthen stability and minimize recidivism. Intensive wraparound services are provided to the youth and their families to assist in being successful in a community versus institutional setting. Few programs have been designed specifically to address this population's diverse needs, but the Regenerations program has resulted in positive outcomes.

Youth/population served:

- 12 to 21 years of age
- Multi-system involved
- History with juvenile or criminal justice system
- Severe conduct issues
- Engagement in gang or criminal activity

Program goals:

- Reduce recidivism in juvenile justice involvement
- Placement in family or family-like setting
- Engage in school and/or vocational training
- Improve youth well-being
- Alternative to residential care

Regenerations program principles:

- Team-based and collaborative
- Youth and family voice and choice
- Natural supports
- Community-based
- Culturally appropriate
- Individualized and strengths-based
- Unconditional
- Outcome-based

Service components:

- Intensive care coordination (wraparound service planning/facilitation)
- Traditional Mental Health Services
- Home and community-based services
- In-home supports to caregivers and youth
- Crisis intervention services
- Access to educational and recreational activities
- Work experience opportunities

Youth advocates:

- Adults over 25 years old
- Typically reside in same communities as the youth
- Build trusting relationship with youth
- Available 24/7 to youth and caregiver
- Provide crisis and gang intervention

Program designed jointly by:

- Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois
- Youth Advocate Programs (YAP)
- DCFS
- In consultation with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

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Regenerations Program Vs. Comparison Group



On average, youth had a shorter wait for release
41.9 days versus **115.5** days



Lower percentage of youth were released to residential or shelter care
21.9% versus **63.1%**



Higher percentage of youth were released to a family or family-like setting
78.1% versus **26.3%**

Regenerations Client

A.W. was arrested and placed in a juvenile detention center. The judge ordered that he could be released, but only to a residential treatment center. Unfortunately, there were no openings, so he was forced to remain in detention.

While staying in a LCFS foster home, A.W. and his family received intensive care coordination and support through the Regenerations program. After only four months, A.W. was able to return to his mother.



LCFS convinced the judge to allow A.W. to enter the Regenerations program and be placed in an experienced LCFS foster home.

As of today, A.W. has not been arrested since being released from detention. He and his mother continue to engage in family therapy and services.