Hon. Timothy C. Evans  
Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County  
2600 Richard J. Daley Center  
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Cook County Juvenile Court Clinic  
Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018

February 22, 2019

Dear Judge Evans,

I am pleased to submit the annual report of services provided by Cook County Juvenile Court Clinic (CCJCC) to the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions. The attached report summarizes our achievements during the period from December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018. Beginning this year, we have modified our report to align with Cook County’s fiscal year, as opposed to the calendar year, so that our data corresponds with other fiscal year quality assurance reports submitted to your office.

As this report highlights, the demand for the CCJCC’s consultation and forensic assessment services remained strong throughout FY2018. Our referrals from the Child Protection Division were largely consistent with previous fiscal years, whereas referrals from the Juvenile Justice Division increased by more than 10%. At the same time, we continued to improve the timeliness of most of our forensic evaluations, including during periods of reduced psychologist staffing.

In last year’s annual report, we summarized the findings of a consumer feedback survey administered in the fourth quarter of FY2017. These findings identified many strengths of the CCJCC’s services, and also pointed to opportunities for program improvement. In FY2018, we implemented strategies to maintain the quality of existing services while simultaneously enhancing program improvement initiatives, internal training activities, and outreach to court personnel. Several specific achievements in these areas include:

- Expanded internal continuing education activities for CCJCC staff focusing on issues of best practice in the field of forensic psychology
- Ongoing participation in several key Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Division committees to ensure ongoing communication, collaboration, and coordination with Juvenile Court departments and stakeholders
- Outreach and training initiatives with Juvenile Court department heads and personnel to discuss operational issues related to the CCJCC and ensure our responsiveness to stakeholder needs
- Clinical rotation for two licensed psychiatrists in the forensic psychiatry post-doctoral fellowship program at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
- Training site for undergraduate students with an interest in criminal justice and psychology

Ensuring the Juvenile Court’s timely access to relevant, accurate, and culturally-sensitive clinical information that promotes the best possible outcomes for children, families, and communities
• Expanded program evaluation and research activities, including two ongoing IRB approved projects related to our child protection and juvenile justice evaluations, as well as several presentations at local and national meetings.

I am confident that the achievements outlined in this report demonstrate Northwestern University's commitment to the effective operation of the CCJCC, and making fiscally responsible and data driven decisions to provide the highest quality services to Juvenile Court personnel.

Thank you for your continued confidence and support of the CCJCC.

Respectfully,

Philip C. O’Donnell, M.J., Ph.D.
Director, Cook County Juvenile Court Clinic

Enclosure:  
Cook County Juvenile Court Clinic Annual Report: Services to the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions, December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018.

CC:  
Hon. Patricia M. Martin, Presiding Judge Child Protection Division
Hon. Michael P. Toomin, Presiding Judge Juvenile Justice Division
Hon. Steven J. Bernstein, Juvenile Justice Division
Hon. Darron E. Bowden, Juvenile Justice Division
Hon. Donna L. Cooper, Juvenile Justice Division
Hon. Sanju Oommen Green, Juvenile Justice Division
Hon. Dana C. Johnson, Juvenile Justice Division
Hon. Daryl J. Jones, Juvenile Justice Division
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Hon. Kristal Royce Rivers, Juvenile Justice Division
Hon. Joanne Rosado, Juvenile Justice Division
Hon. Terrence V. Sharkey, Juvenile Justice Division
Hon. Kathryn M. Vahey, Juvenile Justice Division
Aviv Hibbler, Division Administrator, Juvenile Justice Division, Office of the Presiding Judge
Diane Walsh, Department Legal Officer, Juvenile Justice Division, Office of the Presiding Judge

Hon. Robert Balanoff, Child Protection Division
Hon. Andrea M. Buford, Child Protection Division
Hon. Nicholas Geanopoulos, Child Protection Division
Hon. Maxwell Griffin, Jr., Child Protection Division
Hon. John L. Huff, Child Protection Division
Hon. Demetrios G. Kottaras, Child Protection Division
Hon. Kimberly D. Lewis, Child Protection Division
Hon. Patrick T. Murphy, Child Protection Division
Hon. Bernard J. Sarley, Child Protection Division
Hon. Richard A. Stevens, Child Protection Division
Hon. Sybil Thomas, Child Protection Division
Hon. Peter Vilkels, Child Protection Division
Lawrence Grazian, Director, Child Protection Policy Initiatives, Office of the Presiding Judge

Maryam Ahmad, Chief, Juvenile Justice Division, Office of the State's Attorney
James Anderson, Executive Financial Officer, Office of the Chief Judge
Brandy Bixby, Chief of Juvenile Justice Division, Office of the Public Defender
Dr. Beverly Butler, Special Assistant to the Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County
Dr. Brian Conant, Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Director, Cermak Health Services of Cook County JTDC
Dr. John Csernansky, Chair, Dept. of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Northwestern University
Avik Das, Acting Director, Department of Juvenile Probation
Barbara Dawkins, Chief, Delinquency Division, Office of the State's Attorney
Dr. Stephen H. Dinwiddie, Dept. of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Northwestern University
Leonard Dixon, Superintendent, Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center
Charles Golbert, Acting Director, Office of the Public Guardian
Amanda Halawa, Deputy Chief, Clinical Division Department of Juvenile Probation
Richard Hutt, Chief of Child Protection Division, Office of the Public Defender
Laura Kelly, Human Resources Administrator, Office of the Chief Judge
Peter Parry, Deputy Juvenile Justice, Office of the Public Defender
Alpa Patel, Chief Deputy Public Guardian, Office of the Public Guardian
Sandra M. Provenzano, Assistant Administrative Official, Office of the Court Reporters
Faith Seals, Acting General Counsel, Department of Child and Family Services
Mary Stein, Chief, Child Protection Division, Office of the State's Attorney

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The mission of the Cook County Juvenile Court Clinic is to ensure that the Juvenile Court has timely access to relevant, accurate, and culturally sensitive clinical information that promotes the best possible outcomes for children, families, and communities.

The Office of the Chief Judge (OCJ) established the Cook County Juvenile Court Clinic (CCJCC) in June 2003 to replace the Department of Clinical Services, Juvenile Division. The CCJCC resulted from a comprehensive research and reform project aimed at improving access to and use of forensically relevant clinical, i.e., mental health, information by judges and other personnel in the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions of the County Circuit Court ("Juvenile Court"). The project concluded that the then-existing system failed to meet the Juvenile Court’s needs, issued recommendations for reform, and proposed a new model for the court clinic.² The CCJCC’s structure, methods, and operation for achieving our mission are based on those recommendations and model.

For the past 15 years, the CCJCC has successfully met the forensic clinical needs of both the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions and has become an integral part of the Juvenile Court System by providing judges, attorneys, probation officers, and community-based agencies with pertinent clinical information that has assisted in moving cases forward.

The funding and staff structure of the CCJCC is a unique combination of contracted services and OCJ, Juvenile Probation Department staff positions. From its inception, Northwestern University has operated and managed the CCJCC under a contract with Cook County administered through the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department ("Juvenile Probation"). Six psychologists (County Grade 22) and one clerical staff were line items in the budget for Forensic Clinical Services. When the CCJCC was established in 2003, these unionized positions were transferred to Juvenile Probation’s budget for the operation of the CCJCC.

¹ The CCJCC has previously submitted annual reports at the close of each calendar year. Beginning this year, our reports will correspond with Cook County’s fiscal year in order to align with the contract period and other quality assurance reporting requirements of the Office of the Chief Judge (i.e., fiscal year quarterly quality metrics reporting). Previous CCJCC Annual Reports are available on the Office of the Chief Judge’s website: http://www.cookcountycourt.org/ABOUTTHECOURT/OfficeoftheChiefJudge/CourtStatisticsandReports.aspx.
² The multi-year project received funding and technical support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and was a collaboration of the Office of the Chief Judge, the MacArthur Foundation, University of Chicago, and Northwestern University. The Office of the Chief Judge published the project’s findings and recommendations in August 1999 in “Report: Concerning Reform of the Clinical Information System in the Child Protection and Juvenile Justice Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County and Proposal for a Redesigned Juvenile Court Clinic” (OCJ Report).
The salaries and benefits for the OCJ Department of Juvenile Probation staff accounted for approximately 39% of the overall CCJCC expenses in FY2018. They include the following CCJCC positions:

- Five (5) Staff Psychologists (Psychologist III, doctoral level, licensed)
- Clinic Receptionist (Clerk V)

The remaining 61% of overall expenses were funded by the contract with Northwestern: 54% for salary and benefit costs of twelve (12) full-time Northwestern employees, listed below, as well as partial salary support and benefit costs for one (1) part-time legal consultant, and two (2) part-time forensic psychiatry fellows; impersonal expenses for all CCJCC staff, (1% overall) such as supplies, computers, office equipment, interpreters, IT support, and training costs for CCJCC Northwestern employees; and indirect costs (6% overall) to Northwestern. Northwestern employees fill the following CCJCC positions:

- Director (doctoral level, faculty)
- Associate Director (doctoral level, faculty, bilingual-Spanish)
- Staff Psychologist (doctoral level; vacant as of 9/13/2018)
- Clinical Coordinator Supervisor (master’s level)
- Four (4) Clinical Coordinators (master’s level)
- Program Evaluation Supervisor (master’s level)
- Record Custodian (master’s level)
- Program Evaluation Research Assistant (vacant as of 12/20/2018)
- Clinic Administrator/Project Coordinator (master’s level)

Due to a variety of factors including layoffs, budget reductions, contract uncertainty, and staff resignations, the CCJCC has struggled to maintain adequate staffing of the psychologists who complete

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4 Previously, the Department of Juvenile Probation employed six full-time staff psychologists assigned to the CCJCC. In FY2017, two of the six psychologists received layoff notifications which were subsequently rescinded. In the interim, one of these psychologists resigned her position and the Department of Juvenile Probation has not approved filling this vacancy.

5 Of the impersonal expenses, training costs associated with continuing education programs and trainings apply primarily to Northwestern University employees. OCJ Department of Juvenile Probation psychologists receive an annual training stipend pursuant to their collective bargaining agreement, which is not reflected in the above expenses.
KEY ACTIVITIES: CLINICAL COORDINATION

Clinical Coordination incorporates a variety of services that directly address requests for clinical information from judges, attorneys, probation officers, caseworkers, and other personnel involved in Juvenile Justice and Child Protection proceedings.

Consultation
Consultation is the first step in Clinical Coordination. Each Child Protection and Juvenile Justice calendar, including suburban locations, is assigned a clinical coordinator. All clinical coordinators have a master’s degree in social work or psychology and are trained in Juvenile Court proceedings, relevant law, and essential elements of forensic evaluation. This combination of skills and experience equip clinical coordinators to address requests effectively and appropriately, thereby helping to ensure that clinical information is useful, legally relevant, and provided in a timely manner.

Typically, consultation begins with contact between the clinical coordinator and a judge, attorney, caseworker, or probation officer relating to a clinical issue or the potential need for clinical information. Consultation often results in an immediate response that resolves the issue. For example, the clinical coordinator answers the questions “What does ‘NOS’ mean written after a diagnosis?” or “What is the difference between Bipolar Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder?” Clinical coordinators also resolve requests from judges and lawyers for resource information by searching the statewide provider database (SPD) and providing a list of relevant resources for a minor or family.

In the Juvenile Justice Division, consultation can also result in the clinical coordinator linking a probation officer with relevant programs such as the MHJJ (Mental Health Juvenile Justice Initiative) to obtain services for a youth on probation. In the Child Protection Division, consultation helps determine the best source of the clinical information court parties are seeking. Across both divisions, the CCJCC’s consultation services ensure appropriately timed and well-formulated referrals for CCJCC forensic evaluations and help court parties obtain the necessary clinical information to move cases forward.

Referrals
When consultation does not resolve the question or request, the clinical coordinator facilitates the process for referring the request and obtaining the needed information. The clinical coordinator identifies the appropriate agency for the type of clinical information needed and creates a written referral document, using CCJCC’s standard template. Each written referral contains specific details to elicit individualized and useful responses that are provided in a timely manner. Clinical coordinators direct referrals to other programs and services, listed below, facilitate delivery of referral documents and act as liaison between the Court and those providers while the referral is pending.

- Referrals from the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions for court-ordered forensic clinical evaluations are directed to the CCJCC.
- Referrals from the Juvenile Justice Division also are directed to the following court-related entities:
  - Mental health staff at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) provide information concerning the mental health status of detained youth (mental health summaries);

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8 Clinical coordinators cover multiple courtrooms and respond promptly when paged by a courtroom.
9 MHJJ is a statewide program, funded by Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS), with staff specifically designated to accept referrals from the Juvenile Justice Division in Cook County. MHJJ provides services to youth who are involved in or at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system and have a mental illness or exhibit mental health symptoms.
Compared to FY2017, court-ordered referrals to the CCJCC from the Juvenile Justice Division increased by 12% and consultation provided to Juvenile Justice judges and court personnel on clinical issues increased by 11%. For the Child Protection Division, court-ordered referrals to the CCJCC decreased by 6% and consultation on clinical issues was unchanged.

**CCJCC Forensic Evaluations**
The CCJCC conducts court-ordered forensic evaluations that provide judges with information to help determine sentencing, fitness to stand trial, violence risk, competence to waive Miranda rights, or criminal responsibility (Juvenile Justice Division) and parental fitness, risk and protective factors for child maltreatment, parents’ abilities to accomplish a return home goal, and termination of parental rights due to mental condition (Child Protection Division). Forensic evaluations of court-involved youth are time and labor intensive, often requiring more than one face-to-face interview; a comprehensive review of available records; interviews with collateral sources of information; and modifications to the interview process (i.e., shorter sessions, simplified language) to accommodate for youth’s developmental stage. In addition, Child Protection evaluations assess the parent and their child(ren)’s functioning through interviews, collaterals, and record reviews; include formal observations of parent-child interactions; and, in many cases, evaluate both parents within a single family unit.

At the time of a court order for forensic evaluation, clinical coordinators provide judges with an estimated timeframe for completion, taking into account whether there is a waitlist. The CCJCC administrative team carefully monitors case delays and moves cases to an “inactive” status when the individual being evaluated fails to attend two consecutive scheduled interviews. This allows the CCJCC to dedicate psychologist resources to active cases and minimize underutilized staff time. Clinical coordinators communicate case due dates to court parties via status memos after psychologists have
Record Gathering. Obtaining collateral records is an essential element of accurate and timely evaluation reports. To obtain needed records successfully and efficiently, CCJCC staff make an initial request to each data source, calls the data source by phone to confirm receipt of the request, and follows up until the request is resolved. Student interns assist the CCJCC’s Record Gatherer in these tasks.

Forensic Evaluation-Related Activities completed by CCJCC Psychologists
Best practice standards in the fields of clinical and forensic psychology guide CCJCC’s forensic evaluations. CCJCC psychologists and fellows use multiple sources of information and strive to weigh data and alternate hypotheses impartially when formulating their opinions. For each forensic evaluation, the psychologist typically conducts multiple interviews of the evaluation subject(s); interviews multiple collateral informants, such as parents/caregivers, teachers, therapists, probation officers and caseworkers; reviews records from law enforcement, social service agencies, schools and treatment providers; and administers psychological testing (e.g., IQ testing, adaptive functioning, personality, and structured risk assessment tools) when necessary to answer a specific question. The psychologists clearly outline these sources of information, synthesize relevant data, formulate a clinical opinion of the psycho-legal issue(s) and make recommendations in their final reports.

Juvenile Justice (JJ) Division
Evaluations Tendered. In FY2018, CCJCC psychologists and two forensic psychiatry fellows tendered 115 evaluations to the Juvenile Justice Division. This represents a 12% increase in the number of evaluations tendered from FY2017 (103) to FY2018. The adjacent chart depicts the distribution of the various types of Juvenile Justice evaluations that the CCJCC completed this year. Sentencing evaluations (50% of total JJ referrals) provide judges with information about youth’s risk and protective factors for recidivism and describe how specific treatment and placement options may help manage risk factors. Fitness evaluations (19% of total JJ referrals) assess whether a youth has a mental condition that affects his/her ability to understand the nature and purpose of the legal proceedings and assist in his/her defense.

This year, the CCJCC completed a relatively high proportion of evaluations that are typically designated in the “other” category (31% of the total JJ referrals). All but one of these evaluations were pre-trial risk assessments involving situations in which a minor is charged with possession of a firearm on school grounds or has engaged in some other threatening behavior of concern to the court. Typically, these evaluations assess a youth’s risk factors for harm to self or others and identify services that could be implemented to manage risk factors should the minor be released from detention or another form of custody pending trial. One (1) Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity evaluation is also included in the “other” category.

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11 CCJCC continues to serve as a clinical rotation site for two licensed psychiatrists in Northwestern University’s forensic psychiatry post-doctoral fellowship program. See Key Activities: Training and Education, below, for additional details.
which assess whether a parent has a lasting mental impairment or mental illness that renders him/her unable to discharge parenting responsibilities. The five “other” cases included questions related to case closure, guardianship, and service recommendations.

Since 2007, CCJCC psychologists have provided expedited assessments of a parent’s competence to consent to adoption or to surrender his/her parental rights. This process provides Child Protection judges with same day information concerning a parent’s competence to voluntarily relinquish all parental rights. A parent may sign consent or surrender forms and thereby avoid a trial to determine whether he or she is an “unfit” parent. In those cases, Child Protection judges must be confident the parent fully understands that giving up those rights results in total and permanent severing of all rights to and ties with the child.

A CCJCC psychologist is available daily from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to receive referrals for same-day evaluations of a parent’s ability to understand and appreciate the voluntary waiver of their parental rights. Judges or attorneys contact the clinical coordinator and the case is referred to the psychologist who reviews available records, conducts a clinical interview of the parent, and provides a brief written summary of the interview, relevant data, and conclusions. The 2:00 p.m. referral cut-off time allows psychologists sufficient time to complete the evaluation and submit it to the Court within the same day. In FY2018, the CCJCC provided 17 of these expedited assessments to the Child Protection Division. This represents a 6% decrease in referrals from FY2017 (18) to FY2018.

**Data used to Formulate Conclusions.** Consistent with best practice standards for forensic evaluations, CCJCC psychologists incorporated multiple sources of information into the CP evaluations. In comparison with JJ evaluations, CP evaluations typically incorporate a greater volume of collateral data and records, often because of the multiple persons involved (i.e., parents and children). In FY2018, CP evaluations incorporated data from:

- An average of 3.2 interviews with the evaluation subject (Range: 1 to 13\(^{12}\))
- An average of 3.8 collateral interviews (Range: 0 to 14)
- Records from an average of 10.5 different sources (Range: 1 to 33)
- A parent-child observation with an average length of 71.8 minutes (Range: 30 to 130)
- Psychological testing or assessment tools in 26% of cases

**Timeliness.** The CCJCC has established specific timeframes for completing CP evaluations. Parenting capacity evaluations are typically assigned due dates within 12 weeks of the initial court order and Ground P (Termination of Parental Rights) evaluations are given up to 16 weeks from the initial court order date. The additional time required to complete CP evaluations reflects the higher volume of interviews, record reviews, and parent-child observations that are typical of these evaluations. Moreover, delays in record gathering or non-attendance of scheduled appointments also affect the time

\(^{12}\) Data from child protection evaluations include cases in which a CCJCC psychologist evaluated two parents as part of a single report. This typically increases the number of clinical interviews, records sources, and collateral interviews incorporated into the evaluation.
multi-year referral trends; duration from initial court order to report completion by division and evaluation type; utilization of interpreters and external consultants; frequency of interviews and psychological testing; and volume of records reviewed. These analyses help us better understand historical trends in service provision and make strategic decisions regarding resource allocation, training, and staffing. Furthermore, our program evaluation data help us describe accomplishments to the Court and other key stakeholders, and inform individual staff development and performance evaluations. As we look forward to the next fiscal year, the CCJCC will explore opportunities to expand the data it collects for program evaluation purposes in order to better inform its stakeholders about the types of referrals we receive, factors that affect our consultation and evaluation process (e.g., barriers to participation in the evaluation process and other factors that affect timelines), the content of our evaluations (e.g., forensic opinions and recommendations), and court outcomes in cases involving a CCJCC evaluation.

Enhancing Service Provision
Program Evaluation activities also support continuous quality improvement of the CCJCC’s services. The CCJCC’s clinical coordinators routinely solicit informal feedback from courtroom personnel regarding specific evaluations and services. Historically, the CCJCC has also obtained formal feedback through structured focus group interviews. In 2017, we developed and implemented an online consumer survey designed to obtain feedback from Juvenile Court personnel who have used the CCJCC’s services. The survey contained a series of questions about the CCJCC’s courtroom consultation (i.e., clinical coordination), forensic evaluation, testimony, and training services, with the aim of identifying both successes and opportunities for improving our services to the Juvenile Court.

The CCJCC’s 2017 Annual Report included a summary of the results of the Consumer Feedback Survey. The comments and data obtained from this survey helped the CCJCC formulate a strategic plan for FY2018 which included internal training opportunities for CCJCC staff, outreach and trainings for court personnel in both the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions, and enhancements to our internal program evaluation and quality improvement efforts. The CCJCC’s goal is to conduct similar consumer feedback surveys on a biannual basis to monitor satisfaction with our services and ensure that we remain responsive to stakeholder’s concerns. We anticipate conducting our next survey around the 4th Quarter of FY2019.

Research and Development
The CCJCC’s unique service delivery model and comprehensive data management system also create opportunities for generalizable research on issues of forensic evaluation and forensic mental health. This research informs the CCJCC’s own internal program evaluation and development, enhances the national reputation of Cook County’s Juvenile Court and its model for clinical information provision, and opens opportunities for collaboration with other mental health, Juvenile Justice, and Child Protection professionals throughout the country. The CCJCC prioritizes research projects that are particularly relevant to its ongoing clinical work and responsive to the needs of the Court with the end goal of improving the quality of our forensic opinions and thereby helping judges make well-informed decisions.

In conducting research, the CCJCC preserves its financial resources to fulfill our primary clinical services to the Court and, whenever possible, seeks to identify external funding opportunities (e.g., grants) to support larger projects. The CCJCC benefits from its partnership with Northwestern University, which provides access to an extensive research library, and enables us to recruit highly motivated and skilled students eager to contribute to valuable research projects at no cost to the contract. In FY2018, five bachelor’s or master’s level research volunteers contributed to the CCJCC’s research projects under the
youth characteristics related to fitness, the accuracy of fitness restoration opinions, and factors that predict whether an unfit youth can be restored to fitness over time. Data collection for this project began in FY2018 and will continue through FY2019.

**KEY ACTIVITIES: TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

CCJCC’s Training and Education activities are directed at consumers (judges, lawyers, and other court personnel) and providers (CCJCC staff) of clinical information in the context of legal proceedings.

Informal and formal training and education activities for Juvenile Court judges and other court personnel improve understanding and use of clinical information. Informal education occurs through consultation with the CCJCC’s clinical coordinators, as well as through forensic evaluation reports and courtroom testimony. Clinical coordinators answer general questions about mental health issues and terminology and help to construct referral questions that guide the psychologists to provide the psycho-legal information the Court is seeking. CCJCC evaluations and psychologists’ testimony helps court personnel understand forensically relevant clinical information and mental health issues. Consistent with the findings of our 2017 Consumer Feedback Survey, judges, attorneys, probation officers, and JTDC clinicians describe these as valuable clinical resources in Juvenile Court proceedings.

CCJCC psychologists and clinical coordinators receive ongoing supervision through regular meetings with their clinical supervisors. The CCJCC also organizes a variety of internal training activities to ensure that its staff are up-to-date on critical topics and best practice standards in clinical and forensic psychology. In FY2018, the CCJCC conducted weekly continuing education meetings that included: a best practice discussion pertaining to general forensic practice, child protection, or juvenile justice-specific issues; a journal club reviewing recently published articles relevant to the CCJCC’s work; and case consultation meetings to provide a forum for peer consultation on challenging topics. The following list highlights some of the topics covered in one or more of these meetings:

- Ethical issues in forensic practice
- Forensic report writing and testimony
- Cognitive biases in forensic mental health assessment
- Best practice standards in the child protection, juvenile fitness to stand trial, and juvenile sentencing evaluations
- Juvenile fire setting risk factors and assessment
- Violent offending among juveniles and patterns of recidivism, desistance, and associations with mental health
- Violence risk assessment and threat assessment procedures
- Risk factors for child maltreatment
- Current issues in the assessment of adaptive behavior functioning

In addition to internal trainings for our staff, the CCJCC team provides and participates in formal learning opportunities within the larger Juvenile Court Community. In 2017, the CCJCC became a sponsor of Continuing Education (CE) activities for psychologists by the State of Illinois, enabling our staff, and other mental health providers within Juvenile Court (i.e., staff in the Clinical Division of Juvenile Probation and the JTDC Mental Health Program), to obtain CE credits required for their licensure on-site and free of cost. We hosted and/or helped to organize the following presentations this year:

- Probation’s Gang School Safety Team, PO Michael Keane and PO Ann Marie Coli
- Trauma Informed Forensic Practice, Dr. Bradley Stolbach, University of Chicago (CE Eligible)
response to requests from undergraduate and post-graduate students, the CCJCC has also created opportunities for assistantships and internships to provide valuable training and experience in forensic research. In the 2019-2020 academic year, the CCJCC hopes to implement an advanced practicum in juvenile forensic psychology for master’s level, pre-doctoral students seeking to gain experience in this unique subspecialty.

KEY ACTIVITIES: ADMINISTRATION

CCJCC Administration coordinates with the Office of the Chief Judge, the Presiding Judges of the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions, and other department heads and courtroom personnel to ensure that the CCJCC “remains vital and responsive to the Juvenile Court and its constituents.”

The CCJCC’s administrative team includes the Clinic Director, Associate Director, Clinic Administrator, Clinical Coordinator Supervisor, and Resource/Program Evaluation Supervisor. The Clinic Director and Associate Director are licensed clinical psychologists and faculty in Northwestern University’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. They provide clinical supervision to all of the CCJCC’s staff psychologists and complete a reduced workload of forensic evaluations. When fully staffed, the Director and Associate Director each complete the equivalent of 20% of the evaluation caseload of a full-time staff psychologist (approximately 7 evaluations annually); however, due to psychologist staffing shortages in FY2018 the Director and Associate Director completed between 50-75% of a full-time psychologist's caseload. Administratively, the Clinic Director oversees CCJCC budget and finances; monitors CCJCC daily operation and coordinates its multiple functions; is the liaison between CCJCC and court-related entities, CCJCC and Cook County, and CCJCC and Northwestern; and manages CCJCC staff. The Associate Director assists the Clinic Director with daily operations; oversees the Resource and Program Evaluation team; and coordinates the CCJCC’s research and internal training programs.

The Clinic Administrator coordinates tasks relating to human resources, finance, information technology, and facilities. She manages daily operational issues and is a point person for communication between the CCJCC, Cook County, and Northwestern University regarding budget and personnel matters, including on-boarding new hires. The Clinical Coordinator Supervisor provides clinical and administrative supervision to the CCJCC’s four clinical coordinators. In addition, he provides clinical coordination to specific courtrooms and assists the Director in coordination between the CCJCC and other offices within the Juvenile Court. The Resource/Program Evaluation Supervisor oversees the CCJCC’s two resource, record gathering, and program evaluation staff; administratively supervises the CCJCC’s one clerical staff (a Cook County employee); coordinates an undergraduate internship rotation; and is responsible for managing the case management database and all data analysis requests. Administrative team members meet regularly with assigned supervisees and complete mid-year and annual performance evaluations for all CCJCC staff.

In 2014, the CCJCC led the development of the Juvenile Justice Division Clinical Resources Collaborative (JJDRC) in an effort to improve communication amongst mental health professionals in the building. This group convenes mental health staff from CCJCC, the JTDC Mental Health Services Program, and the Clinical Division of Juvenile Probation to discuss issues of mutual concern and work towards achieving a more unified mental health service system for the Juvenile Court. This group continued to meet quarterly throughout FY2018 and its membership co-sponsored and participated in several trainings.

16 OCJ report, page 16.
17 See Key Activities: Training and Education above
to the Juvenile Court and achieved many success, including an average reduction in the time required to complete most of our evaluations compared to the previous two fiscal years.

In November 2018, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved a two-year extension of Northwestern University’s contract to operate the CCJCC, lasting through November 30, 2020. We are proud to continue operating the CCJCC in partnership with Cook County’s Office of the Chief Judge. The following are some of the strategic goals we hope to achieve in the next fiscal year:

- Continue to enhance communication and collaboration among the CCJCC and other mental health providers and stakeholders in both the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Divisions. To this end, the CCJCC will continue its participation in existing workgroups (e.g., Juvenile Justice Division Clinical Resource Collaborative; Child Protection Stakeholders Committee) and looks forward to working with the recently convened Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Steering Committee to implement the Chief Judge’s vision for integrated mental health services articulated in the recent RFP.
- Continue to improve the timeliness of forensic evaluation services, particularly in pre-trial cases or cases involving minors held in detention, to ensure that court parties receive necessary clinical information to move cases forward.
- Increase student training programs to include a pre-doctoral psychology practicum in the 2019-2020 academic year.
- Increase sponsorship of training activities for CCJCC staff and Juvenile Court personnel, in particular, offering more trainings where licensed mental health staff can receive continuing education credits.
- Expand and enhance the CCJCC’s program evaluation data collection to provide for continuous quality improvement. The CCJCC also anticipates completing its second Consumer Feedback Survey in the 4th quarter of FY2019 to assess progress from our previous survey and elicit additional feedback from the court personnel who utilize our services.

We look forward to continuing this important work on behalf of Cook County’s Juvenile Court.