

Family Advocate Evaluation Project-Federation of Families

Division of Criminal Justice Office of Research and Statistics

Background:

In 2007, the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill (H.B.) 07-1057 that created family advocacy demonstration programs for youths with behavioral or emotional problems who may be at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system. The bill included a requirement (26-22-105, C.R.S.) that the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) evaluate the three advocacy programs that were created. The Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health-Colorado Chapter in Jefferson County providing advocacy to your family is one of these programs.

The Evaluation:

The evaluation must determine whether having a family advocate is helpful to youth and their families. With families' permission, we will be obtain information on youths who were both *admitted to* and *completed* participation in the family advocacy programs between January 1, 2008 and discharged by March 31, 2010.

What you and your child will be asked to do:

As a participant, you would allow us to collect the "Types of Information" listed at the bottom of this page. As described below, the parent or guardian would complete two questionnaires and would allow us to access the youth's case file. The questionnaires, which some may be asked to complete twice, should take no longer than 90 total minutes of your time. Also, you would agree to allow your child to fill out a shorter youth version of the family advocate questionnaire, which should take no more than 30 minutes to complete.

Your information will be kept confidential:

The case file information recorded and questionnaire responses will be kept strictly confidential. The identity of youth participants will not be revealed in any document or presentation of the results. The data from all participating families will be combined and presented only as group averages or summaries.

Benefits / Risks of participation:

Because all information will be kept strictly confidential, there are no risks of participation. Your participation can help improve the family advocate service and ultimately help other families. Additionally, your family will receive a small monetary gift to thank you for your time and participation

The Types of Information:

- Case files (demographics, referral and enrollment information, risk factors, youth and family services receiving, discharge data, and the advocate's role)

- Questionnaires to be completed by the youth and parents/guardians
 - *The Family Empowerment Scale (FES)*. The FES is a 34-item survey that was developed by the Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health at Portland State University (Koren, DeChillo, & Friesen, 1992). Its purpose is to assess parent/caregiver perceptions about their roles and responsibilities within their local service systems and their ability to advocate on behalf of their child.
 - *The DCJ Family Advocate Questionnaire (FAQ)*. The FAQ is a 16-item questionnaire designed by DCJ researchers that will assess the degree of satisfaction an individual has with various aspects of the family advocate performance and the service(s) received. The youth version has 9 items.