



MISSOURI JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE IN JUVENILE COURT PROGRAM AWARD 2016

22nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TEAM SUPPORT APPROACH PROGRAM

One of MJJA's many goals is to share information on new ideas and programming designed by Missouri's juvenile and family courts, which are truly beneficial to the children they serve. When MJJA created the Excellence in Juvenile Court Program Award in 1993, it did so with two purposes in mind: first, to acknowledge the outstanding work being done in juvenile and family courts throughout the state; and, second to inspire us all to creativity and excellence. From its inception, MJJA has chosen to recognize a program only if it has risen to the level, established through a judging process, to truly merit the label "EXCELLENT". While many good programs have been offered for consideration, one program was chosen by the Juvenile Court Program Award Committee to receive this year's Excellence Award.

The **Team Support Approach Program (TSA)** has been utilized for cases where a petition was filed on or after March 23, 2015. The Team Support Approach brings key people together to discuss a youth's strengths and needs, identify and provide resources, and develop a strengths-based plan that will provide for the youth's safety, repair harm to the victim or community, and ensure accountability through strengthening competency skills while ensuring community safety.

The goal of the Team Support Approach is to involve families and their support systems, along with community members, caregivers, service providers and agency staff in all planning decisions and to ensure a timely network of support for children and the adults who care for them. When possible, family and community strengths are used to form treatment plans that enable children to safely remain home with appropriate services.

In a letter of support for the Team Support Approach Program, the Court in St. Louis City was noted as being "both energetic and innovative in applying new approaches to improve the likelihood that youth will not enter the deep end of the juvenile justice system. By bringing together family and natural community support partners, a child on official court supervision will have the most likely chance of succeeding and avoiding further penetration in the juvenile justice system".