



Crossroads Youth Services (CYS)

Program Description

Revised: February 2008

Introduction

Crossroads is a collaboration of Peckham, the Ingham County 30th Circuit Court-Family Division, and the Lansing School District. Crossroads mission is to provide a wide range of individualized services including educational instruction, vocational training and person-centered planning to youth striving to maximize their human potential and eliminate the recurrence of self-defeating behaviors. Crossroads believes community based programs are a viable alternative to residential placement and encourage the development of structured programs designed to provide a continuum of support services to high risk youth and their families.

Program Entrance Criteria

Youth are referred from the Ingham County 30th Judicial Circuit Court-Family Division. These youth are at-risk for out of home placement and have an expressed willingness to change and follow through with program requirements.

Population Served

Youth served in the Crossroads Day program are:

- Males and females
- Ingham County 30th Judicial Circuit Court adjudicated youth
- High school age (9th-12th grade)

Expected Outcome and Program Length

For youth that have been unsuccessful in traditional school settings, Crossroads goal is to:

- Reduce recidivism
- Improve social functioning
- Increase academic performance
- Provide job skills training

Crossroads youth and their parents make a minimum 12-month commitment to the program.

Program Elements

Work Skills Training

The work skills training component has been designed to provide a realistic work environment and paid work with focus on:

- Preparing the youth for higher levels of vocational training and employment
- Developing competitive work speeds and quality standards
- Developing positive work skills and attitudes
- Obtaining earned income
- Developing effective communication skills and responsible work attitudes
- Paying restitution

Educational Services

Many of the youth in the Crossroads Youth Services program experienced difficulty succeeding in the traditional classroom environment. To address this concern, educational services offered at Crossroads consist of classes which are smaller in size and structured to meet

individual needs. Referred youth earn maximum high school credits for the educational and vocational training they receive. Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor and assist in their child's education. With the continued support of the Lansing School District, a teacher, a student support specialist and a special education consultant have been assigned to work exclusively with this program.

This program element places emphasis on:

- Providing academic instruction
- Coordinating educational services
- Increasing academic achievement levels
- Developing good study habits
- Teaching basic computer skills
- Vocational and/or G.E.D. prep

Counseling and Daily Living Skills

Crossroads youth take part in group counseling and daily living skills classes. *All groups are gender responsive.* Topics include:

- Rational Behavior Therapy
- Girls Circle groups

- Drug education
- Substance abuse counseling with Child and Family Services
- Health education
- Effective communication skills
- Budgeting and money management

Recreation and Socialization

Recreation and social activities are important aspects of the Crossroads program and can be valuable tools for building positive relationships with others and developing a strong self-image. Structured recreational and physical/health activities are scheduled on a regular basis. Social outings focus on fostering friendship, cooperation, self-confidence and just plain fun.

Extracurricular Activities

Crossroads Youth Services provides extracurricular activities that participants may take part in, including:

- Art
- Martial arts
- Sports
- Community service events

Parent Participation

Parents are welcome and encouraged to keep in close contact with program staff. During the course of the program, several parent/staff meetings are scheduled. These meetings are held during various stages of each youth's placement in Crossroads.

Daily Incentive

To encourage mastery of work-related skills and behaviors, each youth has the opportunity to earn daily incentive points based on their performance. Every Friday, youth have the opportunity to spend their points on small items or they may save their points to earn larger items, such as gift cards. Daily incentives are a valuable tool for encouraging positive attitudes, good attendance and adherence to program rules and regulations.

Program Process

Referrals

Juvenile Court Officers and the Ingham County Circuit Court-Family Division make exclusive referrals to the Crossroads program.

Orientation

Initially, all youth participate in a 30-45 day orientation process, which includes a variety of tests in the areas of educational aptitude and achievement, vocational interests, basic work habits and social skills.

Person Centered Plans and Process

Upon completion of the assessment phase, a comprehensive vocational and behavioral treatment plan is developed and reviewed with the youth, parents and referring staff. In addition to monthly progress reports and level reviews, students determine objectives for six-month and annual plans.

Progress Review and Feedback

Prior to completing the Crossroads program, each youth is provided with an Individualized Action Plan and referral packet. With parent/youth input, Crossroads staff makes referrals to various community agencies for continued vocational and educational services. This process serves to foster each individual's opportunity for a successful reentry into the community.

Responsibility

Program Responsibility

The responsibility of the Crossroads program is to:

- Provide academic instruction and vocational training
- Ensure the safety of each youth
- Encourage each participant to follow the program rules

Participant Responsibility

Youth in the Crossroads program have the responsibility to:

- Respect themselves and others while in the program
- Follow program rules
- Participate in groups/ counseling as recommended
- Participate in class and while working
- Attend the program daily
- Refrain from substance use

Court Responsibility

Youth in the Crossroads program are under the supervision of a Juvenile Court Officer from the Ingham County Circuit-Family Division. The responsibility of the court is to collaborate with program staff to determine areas of need and expected outcome for program participants. The court is also expected to reinforce rules and regulations, give corrective action and/or discipline when necessary.

Service Location

Peckham, Inc.
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Contact Information

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Note: Other guidelines incorporated in the program are:

*Standards of Operation for All Programs
Consumer Handbook and Supplement
Crossroads Student Handbook
Lansing School District Student Handbook*

