

**The Alabama Department of Youth Services offers**

**Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice (MHT-JJ)**

**What is MHTC-JJ?**

Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice was created by the National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice (NCYOJ). This training curriculum is designed to provide juvenile justice staff with information about adolescent development, the effects of experiencing child trauma, and behavioral conditions commonly seen among youth in contact with the juvenile justice system. The curriculum also reviews effective interventions and services, and highlights the important role of the family. In addition, the MHTC-JJ seeks to provide participants with practical strategies for better interacting and communicating with youth in their care who are experiencing mental or substance use disorders.

**Who is the Target Audience?**

The MHT-JJ was designed for use with a range of juvenile justice staff, from probationary intake staff at the front end of the juvenile justice continuum to correctional staff responsible for youth in out of home secure correctional facilities. No prior behavioral health training is required. It is beneficial to include clinical staff associated with the juvenile justice agency being trained to ensure both line and clinical staff are receiving the same information.

**What is the Curriculum?**

The curriculum includes eight modules:

**Module 1:**  Introduction and Overview

**Module 2:** Adolescent Development

**Module 3:**  Child Trauma

**Module 4:** Adolescent Behavioral Health

**Module 5:**  The Family Experience

**Module 6:** Working with Youth: What You Can Do

**Module 7:** Effective Interventions

**Module 8:** Taking Care of You

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