



Overview

Located on 20 acres of land that used to house an orphanage, Turnaround Ranch is a 71-bed residential treatment facility that provides 24-hour residential care; individual, group, family, and recreational therapies; and psychiatric services for youths ages 10 to 18. Founded more than 30 years ago by Ozark Center, an entity of Freeman Health System that provides comprehensive behavioral health services to children, adults and families, Turnaround Ranch now includes residential cottages, a school, a gymnasium, a family life center and an outdoor recreation area with a swimming pool and disc golf course.

Most of the residents served by Turnaround Ranch have experienced severe trauma and have a history of physical, sexual or emotional abuse. The program focuses on the normalization of the youth experience and relies on the cooperative efforts of individuals, the community and the professional treatment team to help reintegrate residents into society.

We address individual needs through distinct programs:

- **Aftercare** provides family-centered treatment with a goal of preserving the family unit. Therapy

involves the whole family to help them build stability in the home environment.

- **Older Youth/Transitional Living** helps residents move back into mainstream society and lead productive lives.
- **JOURNEE** treats male youths who are experiencing problems due to sexual behaviors or have caused sexual harm to others. Therapists provide early intervention for males ages 13 to 17 to help them truly change and avoid relapse.
- **Pride Unit** serves youths with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and developmental disability. Youths with dual diagnosis don't fit into traditional behavior modification plans and can't participate in cognitive behavioral therapy.
- **Successful Kid Unit** serves youths who have not experienced multiple traumas.

Impact

Turnaround Ranch serves approximately 100 residents per year and has achieved a 70 percent positive discharge rate. The average length of stay of residents is about one year, with the exception of youths who have caused sexual harm, whose average

length of stay is nine to 14 months. Successful treatment of one JOURNEE resident greatly reduces the number of victims in our community.

Lessons Learned

We learned that we needed to change the way we create treatment plans to give residents more say in their plans of care. We now ask each resident to state a goal he or she would like to achieve instead of letting the parent or therapist decide everything on the youth's behalf. Additionally, we've learned that we need to focus on the family, not just the resident—that's why our Aftercare program came into being. With our Pride Unit, we've found that youths with dual diagnosis often get bounced around the state because no one knows what to do with them. To address this unmet need, we added an additional residence cottage for youths with dual diagnosis. Our program serves as a model for the state.


Future Goals

We continue to move forward with programming that measures the progress of each client's behavior as it applies to their individual treatment plans through use of a Treatment Objective Measurement System. We strive to be evidence-informed and provide differential reinforcement with all clients. We have specialized programming in each cottage and have our clinical staff trained in empirically supported treatment modalities that fit the needs of our youths.

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