



RICE CHILD + FAMILY CENTER

The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Child + Family Center (Rice Center) provides a temporary home for many of Illinois' young children in care with severe mental health and behavior issues. The residential care and treatment center helps children move forward and work towards a goal of transition to a more home like environment within 18 months and ultimately, return to a stable home.

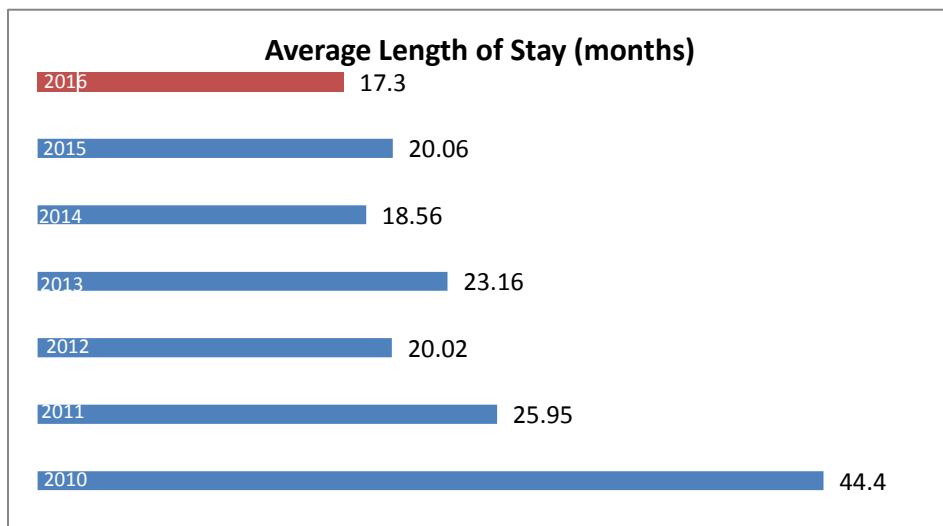
The center serves children ages six to 15 with emotional and behavioral problems that prevent them from living in a family setting. None of the children served are new to the mental health system. Most have prior psychiatric hospitalizations and nearly 100% have been through a prior treatment program. When children arrive at the center, most come from families that don't yet have the skills required to meet the needs of these children in a family setting.

Because children thrive in a family setting, the Rice Center employs an aggressive approach with the goal of moving children into a family or community setting within 12 to 18 months.

The Rice Center facility is nestled in a residential neighborhood within the Evanston community. Children's Home + Aid has provided residential services to children at this location for over 100 years. In 1991, a new facility was constructed that includes housing for up to 50 children, a gymnasium, an art studio and other modern amenities, including one of only two centers in Illinois that has a public school operating within its campus.

Outcomes for Children Served at the Rice Center

The Rice Center has been very successful at accomplishing its goal of transitioning children to a family or community setting as quickly as is in the child's and family's best interest.



Behavior: The use of restrictive intervention treatment during the first quarter of FY17 has dropped 70% as compared to FY16.

Stable placements: In FY16, 84% of the children who left Rice were discharged to a less restrictive environment. Of those, 100% remained stable in their new setting during the critical 90 day period following their transition.



Services provided at the Rice Center take a holistic treatment approach designed to treat and transition youth into a family setting within 12 to 18 months. Clinicians develop individual treatment and transition plans for each child. Residents of the Rice Center receive a range of therapeutic and rehabilitative stabilization services designed to address their emotional needs while providing a supportive environment that encourages personal growth. Services include:

Milieu Services: Through the relationships clients build with staff, residents are taught skills essential for living such as basic life skills, independence and giving back to others.

Therapeutic Services: Therapists provide strength-based individualized treatment through a combination of individual, family, group, art therapy and therapeutic play sessions.

Psychiatric and Medical Services: The center's consulting psychiatrist prescribes and monitors medication levels. A consulting pediatrician and psychiatric nurses ensure that the medical and psychiatric needs of the children are met, including facilitating vision and dental services.

Educational Services: Children with special education needs attend the on-site therapeutic day school, a public school where they receive one-on-one instruction in a highly structured environment.

Nutrition and Wellness Services: Daily meals and snacks are prepared on-site using a menu designed by a nutritionist to promote healthy growth. Residents learn about proper nutrition and basic food preparation and participate in a variety of physical activities daily, from yoga to biking, designed to promote physical fitness and wellbeing.

Community-Based Programming: Whenever possible, residents participate in activities outside of the center, including attending religious services of choice, trips to the beach and the movies, and other cultural and recreational activities.

Summer Camp Programming: During the summer break from school, residents participate in a number of fun, educational and therapeutic activities, including entrepreneurial projects, sports, dance and arts and crafts.

Transitional Services: Because children thrive in a family setting, the Rice Center employs an approach with the goal of moving children into a family or community setting within 12 to 18 months. Pre- and post-transitional planning and services involving the child's family help to promote stable, permanent placements.

John | A Success Story: Due to the abuse and neglect he experienced at the hands of his caregivers, John was removed from his household at a young age. After residing in several different foster homes, John found himself tackling an array of confusing emotions, including anger and loneliness. A lack of stability and feeling as if he "never fit in" began to cause John to negatively act out all of the emotions he had been bottling up for so long. Because of the severity of his behavior, John was placed in treatment at the Rice Center.

Upon transitioning to the Rice Center, John was evaluated by the Clinical team who discovered that, although he was closed off from the staff, he responded positively to creative expression and using art to expressive himself. Once John started receiving Individual Art Therapy services at the Rice Center, his entire demeanor began to change for the better. With the help of his therapist, John was able to discover unique ways to express himself in a positive manner and find ways to safely process his difficult past. Through Family Art Therapy, John was able to connect with his birth-brother, finding a source of connection and support from his birth family that he had never had before. With Individual, Group and Family Art Therapy, John progressed rapidly in his treatment plan. Today, John has successfully transitioned from the Rice Center and is now residing in a loving foster home and is thriving more than ever before.

