

Priority: Safety
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Lead Agency: Community Justice
Program Contact: Wayne Scott

Executive Summary

The Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Program annually serves approximately 50 high and some medium risk youth, half of whom meet the State definition of "chronic offender" - the 8% of probation youth who commit 50% of new crimes. Considered a national "blueprint program," MST is an intensive family-based treatment program that has demonstrated success in reducing crime and drug use among high-risk probation youth. Last year 44% of MST clients had not re-offended 12 months after completing MST services.

Program Description

The primary goals of MST are: to end juvenile criminal activity and reduce drug and alcohol abuse. MST is an intensive, family centered treatment model focusing on medium and high-risk youth who are at immediate risk of out-of-home placement into foster care or an Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) youth correctional facility (YCF). Eligible youth have a significant substance abuse/mental health problem and/or they are gang involved. Therapists meet with the youth and their family multiple times per week at home or at school, targeting the problems or "criminogenic factors" in a youth's life such as drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, anti-social peers, poor parental support, etc. that contribute to serious, delinquent behavior. Two therapeutic foster care beds are available to MST clients as needed, helping address the issue of declining numbers of State foster care for delinquent youth. The cost of providing MST services to youth is substantially lower than the average cost of a youth's stay in foster care or a correctional facility.

Program Justification

MST is an effective mental health and drug abuse intervention that keeps high-risk youth from committing new crimes, using drugs, becoming further involved in gangs and becoming more deeply involved in the justice system. MST is an evidence-based program: national and DCJ research demonstrates that MST is effective in reducing crime and drug use among chronic juvenile offenders. The federal government has rated MST as a "best practice" for reducing the number of crimes youth commit; addressing institutional minority over-representation; reducing the need for expensive out-of-home placements; improving family functioning and decreasing mental health problems. MST is consistent with a Streams of Offender model that prioritizes services to high risk offenders. MST reduces the use of more expensive alternatives such as detention and commitments to correctional facilities. Because the MST therapist works with the whole family, MST serves as an early intervention strategy for younger siblings who are also at risk for drug abuse and delinquency.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY06-07)	Current Year Purchased (FY07-08)	Current Year Estimate (FY07-08)	Next Year Offer (FY08-09)
Output	Number of youth served by MST.	39	50	56	50
Outcome	Percent of youth who did not recidivate one year post program exit.	44.0%	50.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Outcome	Percent of MST youth living with family or in community placement at exit	88.0%	0.0%	94.0%	90.0%
Outcome	Percent of MST/TFC youth living with family at exit.	85.0%	0.0%	85.0%	85.0%

Performance Measure - Description

 **Measure Changed**

Youth living situation at exit for MST and for MST/Treatment Foster Care (TFC) performance measure added this year. Recidivism is based on new criminal referral.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

ORS 419C.001 mandates county juvenile systems to provide "a continuum of services that emphasize the prevention of further criminal activity by the use of early and certain sanctions, reformation and rehabilitation programs and swift and decisive intervention in delinquent behavior." ORS 419.441 authorizes the juvenile court to "order that the youth offender undergo psychiatric, psychological or mental health evaluation. If warranted by the mental condition of the youth offender, the court may order that the youth offender undergo appropriate care or treatment."

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2008	2008	2009	2009
Personnel	\$10,727	\$497,402	\$18,540	\$519,781
Contracts	\$118,094	\$38,517	\$127,754	\$38,517
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$11,046	\$2,442	\$8,869
Internal Services	\$0	\$43,976	\$0	\$42,089
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$128,821	\$590,941	\$148,736	\$609,256
Administration	\$48,052	\$11,770	\$44,088	\$13,327
Program Support	\$129,998	\$0	\$139,687	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$178,050	\$11,770	\$183,775	\$13,327
Total GF/non-GF:	\$306,871	\$602,711	\$332,511	\$622,583
Program Total:	\$909,582		\$955,094	
Program FTE	0.16	5.14	0.25	5.05
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$31,450	\$0	\$30,237	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$590,941	\$0	\$609,256
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$31,450	\$590,941	\$30,237	\$609,256

Explanation of Revenues

County General Fund \$146,336; State of Oregon Youth Authority Gang Transition Services (OYA GTS) \$ 202,144; State Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP)\$343,220; insurance reimbursement for FQHC eligible services from Verity,CareOregon,and DMAP \$63,892.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #50019A, Juvenile Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)