

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

Lead Agency: District Attorney
Program Contact: Scott Marcy

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The Juvenile Court Trial Unit prosecutes juvenile crimes ranging from misdemeanors to homicides. It has three primary functions: delinquency: prosecuting juveniles who have committed criminal offenses; dependency: litigating child protection cases in Juvenile Court; Termination of Parental Rights: litigating cases where the abuse or neglect of a child has reached such a level that effort must be made to free the child for adoption.

Program Description

The Delinquency function involves the prosecution of juveniles who have committed non-Ballot Measure 11 crimes. This includes cases ranging from misdemeanors to felonies to homicides. The unit works closely with the Department of Juvenile Community Justice (DCJ) in developing appropriate sanctions aimed at accountability, community protection and reformation. The dependency function involves working closely with the State Department of Human Services (DHS) and other agencies to protect children who come to the attention of authorities as a result of abuse or neglect. Deputy District Attorneys are responsible for litigating child protection cases (dependency cases) in Juvenile Court and for working with DHS and other agencies and partners to fashion plans which will provide protection for the child and opportunities for the parents to mitigate the dangers which brought the child to the attention of the court in the first place. All efforts are made to keep the family unit intact however when those efforts are exhausted the Termination of Parental Rights section, works in close collaboration with the State Department of Human Services to free these children for adoption. Services provided to law enforcement, juvenile courts, DCJ and DHS include filing petitions for delinquency, dependency or termination of parental rights, meeting with victims and witnesses, seeking restitution on behalf of victims, coordinating with juvenile court counselors, DCJ and DHS and trying cases in court.

Program Justification

The Juvenile Trial unit is the gatekeeper to the juvenile justice system. The program works in close collaboration with local law enforcement and the Department of Community Justice in prosecuting and holding accountable, high, medium and low level youth offenders. The program also keeps our most vulnerable population safe by intervening early when children are at risk, collaborating with others to alleviate that risk and working to free abused and neglected children for adoption by stable families when reunification efforts are exhausted.

Performance Measures

| Measure Type | Primary Measure | Previous Year Actual (FY07-08) | Current Year Purchased (FY08-09) | Current Year Estimate (FY08-09) | Next Year Offer (FY09-10) |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Output | number of dependency cases | 524 | 400 | 525 | 350 |
| Outcome | number of children protected on dependency cases | 705 | 640 | 715 | 575 |

Performance Measure - Description

output- the number of new and reopened dependency cases.
outcome- the number of children protected as a result of work on dependency cases.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Juvenile Trial Court/Termination of Parental Rights: 8.685 Assisting juvenile court; right to appear. (1) The district attorney shall, upon request of the juvenile court, appear in the juvenile court to assist the court in any matter within its jurisdiction. (2) In counties having a population of more than 150,000, according to the latest federal decennial census, the district attorney shall designate a deputy to assist the juvenile court as provided in subsection (1) of this section. (3) The district attorney is entitled to appear on behalf of the state in the juvenile court in any matter within the jurisdiction of the court. [1959 c.432 §63 (enacted in lieu of 8.750); 1991 c.681 §4

Revenue/Expense Detail

| | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds | Proposed General Fund | Proposed Other Funds |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Program Expenses | 2009 | 2009 | 2010 | 2010 |
| Personnel | \$764,875 | \$1,351,113 | \$818,763 | \$1,364,678 |
| Contracts | \$12,700 | \$27,500 | \$11,700 | \$27,500 |
| Materials & Supplies | \$20,529 | \$0 | \$19,285 | \$0 |
| Internal Services | \$114,929 | \$2,652 | \$112,758 | \$2,652 |
| Subtotal: Direct Exps: | \$913,033 | \$1,381,265 | \$962,506 | \$1,394,830 |
| Administration | \$160,462 | \$0 | \$140,061 | \$0 |
| Program Support | \$372,569 | \$0 | \$346,349 | \$0 |
| Subtotal: Other Exps: | \$533,031 | \$0 | \$486,410 | \$0 |
| Total GF/non-GF: | \$1,446,064 | \$1,381,265 | \$1,448,916 | \$1,394,830 |
| Program Total: | \$2,827,329 | | \$2,843,746 | |
| Program FTE | 9.93 | 12.07 | 7.97 | 11.03 |
| Program Revenues | | | | |
| Indirect for dep't Admin | \$1,632 | \$0 | \$1,544 | \$0 |
| Intergovernmental | \$0 | \$1,381,265 | \$0 | \$1,394,830 |
| Program Revenue for Admin | \$0 | \$0 | \$41,532 | \$0 |
| Total Revenue: | \$1,632 | \$1,381,265 | \$43,076 | \$1,394,830 |

Explanation of Revenues

55,686 JAIB grant, 1,087,384 TPR contract, 251,760 Juv dependency contract

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: