

Priority: Safety
Program Offer Type: Program Alternative /
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Lead Agency: Community Justice
Program Contact: Thach Nguyen

Executive Summary

Juvenile Detention Alternatives (JDA) protects the public by safely supervising identified high risk youth in the community. Many of these youth are Latino and African American juvenile offenders. By placing these youth in culturally appropriate placements (short-term shelter care or treatment foster care), the disproportionate confinement of minority youth drops significantly. JDA saves the County significant funding each year while ensuring public protection. Public safety is enhanced by the effective use of detention alternatives: In the first six months of FY2009, 96% of pre-adjudicated youth appeared for court hearings.

Program Description

Oregon Revised Statue (ORS) 419C.145 defines the circumstances under which a juvenile offender may be placed in custody including but not limited to: a felony crime; history of warrants for failure to appear in court; violation of probation or conditions of release; firearm and certain person misdemeanors, etc. This statute also mandates that these youth may be released to a parent, shelter, or other responsible party unless their release endangers the welfare of the community or the youth and/or there is no other way to ensure they will come to court other than to detain them. Community Detention and Electronic Monitoring achieve this by providing more intensive community-based supervision of pre-adjudicated youth in the community, while ensuring the youth's appearance in court. CD/EM can also be used as a sanction for youth violating conditions of probation holding them accountable for their behavior with means less restrictive (or costly) than detention.

Program Justification

Multnomah County is internationally recognized as a leader in detention population management and juvenile justice policies: The National Association of Counties, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and law enforcement and crime victims groups promulgate Multnomah County's approach as "best practices." These alternatives to detention are essential public safety practices. These practices also ensure that regardless of race or gender, only the most dangerous youth or those most likely not to appear for court are held in custody. The literature and research published by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention shows that the detention of low-level offending youth makes it more likely that they will re-offend after they return to the community. Evidence-based alternatives to detention provide long-term results which interrupt criminal behavior. Without alternatives to detention, the Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division would detain nearly 300 more youth a year than current practices reveal. Costly detainment has proven to be unnecessary, and freed up resources for more effective public safety practices.

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 youth served by Community Detention	212	250	268	300
Outcome	Percent of staff secure shelter youth who did not fail to appear for a hearing	97.0%	98.0%	97.0%	98.0%
Output	Number of youth served by staff secured shelter	170	150	180	160
Outcome	Percent of pre-adjudicated CD/EM youth who did not fail to appear for court	94.0%	98.0%	96.0%	98.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2009	2009	2010	2010
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$109,137	\$275,843
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$472,026	\$393,663
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$1,300	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$47,727	\$62,532
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$630,190	\$732,038
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$137,849	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$283,551	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$421,400	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$0	\$1,051,590	\$732,038
Program Total:	\$0		\$1,783,628	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	1.46	3.54
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$0	\$0	\$44,321	\$0
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$732,038
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$44,321	\$732,038

Explanation of Revenues

County general fund \$630,190; State Oregon Youth Authority Gang Transition funds (OYA GTS) \$312,541; OYA GTS Shelter \$419,497.

Significant Program Changes

✔ Significantly Changed

Last year this program was: #50024, Juvenile Detention Alternatives

Previously DCJ contracted with Volunteers of America to provide community detention. This contract is expiring and DCJ plans to take over these responsibilities with Juvenile Division staff at the same cost. The shift to department staff would allow for more expeditious crisis intervention and imposition of informal sanctions in response to violations, triage and referral, filing of PV petitions and warrants, and the decision to detain when circumstances warrant than is currently available with contract providers. Moreover, the capacity of the program could be increased by using Juvenile Court Counselors and Juvenile Custody Services Specialists, which is expected to help relieve some of the pressure on detention when the funded capacity goes to 64 beds.