

Lead Agency: District Attorney
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Program Contact: Adam Brown

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; and 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. 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.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY11-12)	Current Year Purchased (FY12-13)	Current Year Estimate (FY12-13)	Next Year Offer (FY13-14)
Output	Number of dependency cases	545	610	560	550
Outcome	Number of children protected on dependency cases	537	690	550	600
Outcome	Number of children freed for adoption on TPR cases	142	0	110	120

Performance Measure - Description

 **Measure Changed**

Output - The number of new and reopened dependency cases.

Outcome - The number of children protected as a result of work on dependency cases.

Outcome - The number of children freed for adoption on TPR case. (This is a newly added measure)

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	2013	2013	2014	2014
Personnel	\$1,061,016	\$1,279,842	\$1,021,315	\$1,421,078
Contracts	\$10,700	\$20,000	\$11,500	\$20,000
Materials & Supplies	\$21,520	\$0	\$23,268	\$0
Internal Services	\$101,094	\$0	\$108,768	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$1,194,330	\$1,299,842	\$1,164,851	\$1,441,078
Program Total:	\$2,494,172		\$2,605,929	
Program FTE	9.27	9.43	8.40	10.60
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,299,842	\$0	\$1,441,078
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$1,299,842	\$0	\$1,441,078

Explanation of Revenues

TPR Contract - \$1,227,624
Dependency Contract - \$213,454

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #15013, District Attorney's Office-Juvenile Court Trial Unit