

Clark County, Nevada Department of Juvenile Justice

While Nevada struggled during the past year with its highest rate of unemployment, home foreclosures, and budget deficits since the Great Depression, the Clark County Nevada, Department of Juvenile Justice Services managed to return over 2 million in appropriated funds to the tax payers of Clark County. This accomplishment came about as a direct result of wise and calculated decision-making, responsible controllable spending, dedication and hard work by staff and management.

The following illustrates additional performance highlights for the 2009 fiscal year. As Nevada continues to seek ways to respond to its economic challenges, the Clark County, Nevada Department of Juvenile Justice Services will continue its commitment toward providing quality service, while remaining fiscally responsive.

--Fritz Reese, Director

STATUTORY AUTHORITY & FUNCTION

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services' inherent powers and duties are outlined in Chapter 62G.210 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. As promulgated by Statute, the Board of Clark County Commissioners establishes, by ordinance, a department of juvenile justice services, which administers the provisions of services relating to the prevention and intervention of juvenile delinquency.

MISSION

Promote the safety and restoration of the community. Hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior. Assist offenders and families in recognizing their potential by providing meaningful treatment, services and programs.



SCORECARD*

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES

DEPARTMENT

2009

Volume 2

VISION

To achieve a safe community by promoting partnerships involving youth, families, the community and juvenile justice services.

PROFILE

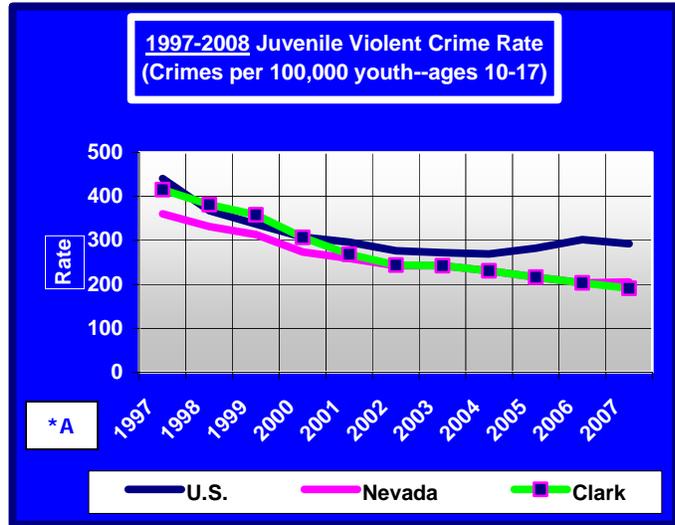
The Department of Juvenile Justice Services is tasked with the collective responsibility of protecting public safety, while rehabilitating the youthful offender coming within its jurisdiction. This is accomplished through the implementation of a variety of graduated, accountability-based sanctions and treatment options. Although not all inclusive, the following provides a short list of sanctions and interventions available to young offenders in Clark County: assessment and diversion programming, (informal and formal) probation, and incarceration, the Girls' Program, the Detention Review and Release Program, the Graffiti Abatement Project, Trial by Peers, and the Intensive Supervision Program. Other services available: transitional living and residential treatment programming, mental health counseling and intervention, substance abuse screening and intervention, mentoring, in-home family services, and

additional community based programs for chronic offenders.

The Department's service array also includes a 192-bed Detention Center. The facility is designed to temporarily, safely and securely house a charged juvenile until a disposition is rendered in his case. Pending disposition-- and depending upon need, a detained juvenile may receive one or more of the following services while awaiting adjudication and disposition: mental health screening, assessment, and counseling; social skills and accountability training; family counseling; long term planning; and physical and academic educational instruction. (Education classes are provided by the Clark County School District.)

In 2007, the Department and more specifically, the Department's Detention Administration announced a progressive vision to achieve a "best practice" Detention facility, and strategically pursued a path to acquire the tools necessary to achieve the goal. Initial reform efforts led to a partnership with the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators and the adoption of its Performance-based Standards (or PbS). PbS provides a blueprint for safe and effective correctional programming that is specifically designed to improve conditions and treatment of confined youth. The PbS format utilizes monitoring systems, data collection, and analyses to provide accountability measures for detention facilities and programs. By implementing the Performance-based Standards, the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center today reports a 60% decrease in the number of physical restraints of youth, a 43% decrease in the number of youth room confinements, and a 59% decrease in the number of incidences involving youth misconduct, as compared to 2007 data. An increase in staff enthusiasm is also reported.

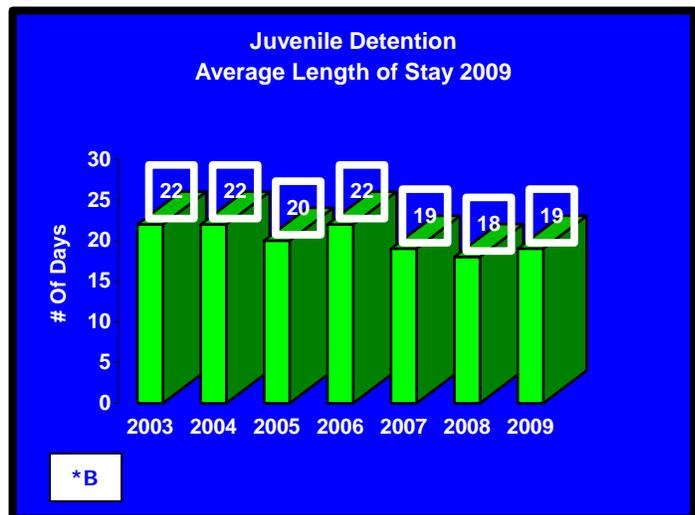
As juvenile violent crime rates continue to decline, DJJS will continue to aggressively strengthen and expand its array of proven interventions and sanctions to improve positive outcomes for youth and families.



(Graph *A: Comparison of Violent Crime Rates)

*Source: Clark County, NV DJJS Data & the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Statistical Briefing Book (2008 data not yet available.)

[Statistical Report Summary](#)



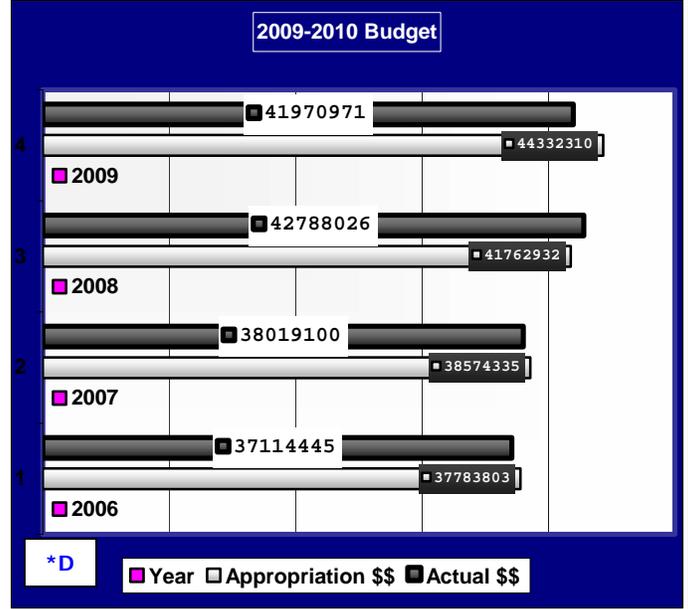
(Graph *B: Average detention stays of detained youth.)

(Due to its achievements in data collections and reporting, the Detention Center recently acquired an advanced performance level designation by the Council of Juvenile Corrections Administrators.)

FISCAL SUMMARY

In fiscal year 2009, the Department of Juvenile Justice Services received more than \$44,300,000 in appropriations from the Clark County Commission. This included roughly \$2,000,000 in federal and state grant “pass-through” dollars. The 2009 appropriations represented a six percent (6%) increase in funding in comparison to the prior year. The Commissioners, in spite of economic challenges, aligned funding priorities to demonstrate its continued commitment to improving the lives of children and families.

Determined to be good stewards of public trust and taxpayers’ dollars, the Department’s administrators sought to rethink how business was done in 2009, and eliminated ineffective and unnecessary programs. Data was analyzed to improve decision-making; service cuts were made to programs that were not producing benefits commensurate with costs; and, funding reductions were made to programs that could be more efficiently administered. These efforts and others resulted in more than \$2 million in contributable savings to help balance the County’s budget.

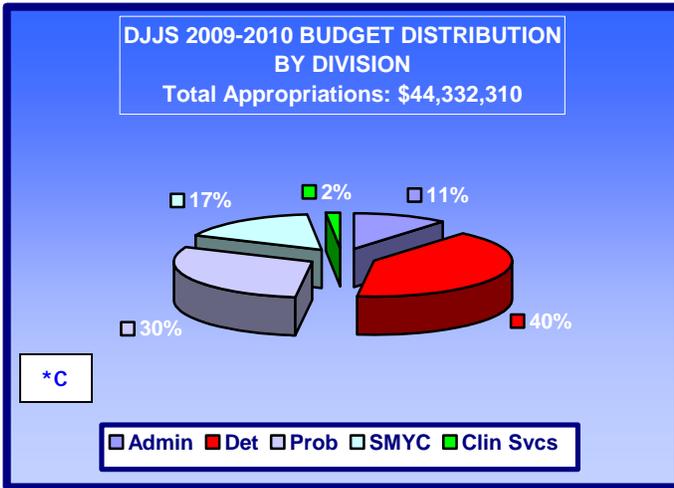


(Graph *D: Annual funding appropriations received from Clark County Commissioners during the past four years.)

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

According to a recent publication by the Justice Policy Institute, more than 93,000 children are currently locked up in juvenile correctional facilities around the country; and, approximately 75 to 93 percent are estimated to have experienced some degree of trauma. * Not surprisingly, the majority of detained youth (believed to be more than 75%) meet diagnostic criteria for at least one or more of the following disorders: alcohol, drug, and/or mental health (ADM).

In 2009, the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services contributed more than one and one-half million dollars toward mental health services for the youth referred to its system. (This dedicated funding exceeded contributions made nationally, by similar systems.) The Division’s service repertoire includes individual and family counseling, crisis intervention, suicidal intervention and psychological assessment and screening. Last year alone, more than 4,333 detention counseling contacts were completed, 1,268 substance abuse screenings were conducted and more than 200 youth and their families received family



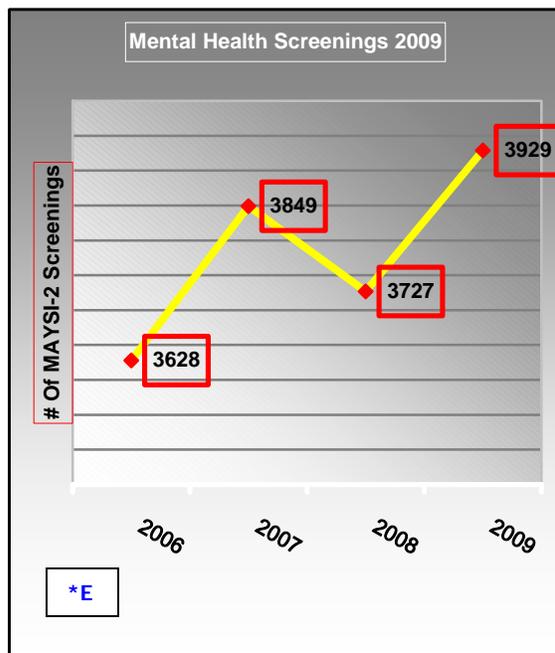
(Graph *C: “DJJS Budget Distribution by percentage.” The Detention Division employs approximately 45% of the DJJS workforce and consumes 40% of the Department’s overall operating budget.)

assessment and intervention services through the Division's Mental Health Demonstration Project.

The Department's overall objective is to effectively rehabilitate youthful offenders, and as such, will continue efforts to increase the number of quality mental health programs within its facilities and the community.

*Justice Policy Institute, "Healing Invisible Wounds: Why Investing in Trauma-Informed Care for Children Makes Sense" http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/10-07_REP_HealingInvisibleWounds_JJ-PS.pdf

*Teplin LA, Abram KM, McClelland GM, Dulcan MK, Mericle A (2002), Psychiatric disorders in youth in juvenile detention. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 59:1133-43



(Graph *E: MAYSI-2 Screenings)

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services' Detention Division administers the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-Version 2 (MAYS-2) to every youth detained at admission.

The MAYSI-Version 2 is a brief screening tool designed to identify the mental health needs of confined youth. Department mental health professionals interpret the MAYSI-2 results to determine follow up needs and other service provisions for those detained.

More than 3600 MAYS-2 screenings are completed each year.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative Justice is aimed toward repairing the damage done to victims and the community, while holding the offender accountable.

<http://www.restorativejustice.org/intro>

Restorative programming at the Department of Juvenile Justice Services generally includes an offender making amends to his victim through monetary restitution. According to Department statistics, 1,748 juvenile offenders were ordered to pay more than \$500,000 in restitution to crime victims in 2009. By year's end, approximately 61% of the restitution owed was collected by the Department's Probation Division and paid to crime victims.

Reparation to victims became a renewed priority for the Department in late 2008. The Department's Probation Division placed a "stake in the ground" and consciously committed to significantly improving restitution collections. The Division enhanced its victim notification system, developed an aggressive identification of offender restitution obligations, and increased its assessment, collection and disbursement of money to victims. In 2009, the Probation Division realized a 24% increase in collections as compared to the prior year, and paid more than \$330,000 in monetary restitution to victims of juvenile crime.

Repairing the harm done to victims of juvenile crime remains a Department priority.

**CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2009**

In late 2008, the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services embarked upon a performance review process to measure its success in meeting business objectives and community expectations. Management strategically identified select players and resources needed to achieve desired results, then mapped out a deliberate path to meet its goals. Key performance indicators now guide and gauge the organization's efforts towards achieving success.

This final chart provides a look at some of the Department's performance indicators and results for the **2009** calendar year.

<u>QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS 2008-2009</u>				
INDICATOR	RESULTS			Met Target
 Met Indicator  Unmet Indicator * New Indicator	Calendar Year 2008	Calendar Year 2009	% Difference <, >, =	(Yes=Y) (No=N) (Not Applicable =N/A)
Detention Admissions	3745	3702	<1.14%	Y
Avg. Daily Population in Detention	184	187	>1.6%	N
Detention avg. length of stay	18	19	>5.5%	N
Youth with previous admissions to Detention	---	1620/3702 (44%)	---	*New Indicator (2009)
DJJS residential program (SMYC) completion rate %	88%	89%	>1.13%	*New Indicator (2009)
Probation completion rate %	94%	93%	<1.06%	N
Monetary restitution = % Collected*	37%	61%	>64.8%	Y
Graffiti Abatement Program completion rate %*	90% completion rate with <1% recidivism rate*	99% completion rate with <1% recidivism rate	>10%	*New Indicator (2009)

*This Scorecard format emulates that of the *North Carolina Justice Scorecard, Vol.1, 1997*