

POLICY & FISCAL AFFAIRS BOARD MEETING
Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Report

May 23, 2013

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) appreciates the significant support of the Board of County Commissioners, the Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board and the DJJS Citizens Advisory Board Committee members. We continue to receive approval to refill necessary positions when Best Practices and safety and security of youth and staff were in the balance.

Personnel/Budget

Department received the new fiscal budget for 2014 in the amount of \$44,757,483.00. Last fiscal year and this fiscal year the department was not funded for Comp Time. Currently, the Department is expected to exceed our projected overtime budget, due to staff shortages (background check practice implemented in July 2011 has eliminated several potential candidates), the accumulation of compensatory time hours, and the P.O.S.T. training hours required to maintain licensure and stay on top of emerging practices.

The Department continues to fill critical front line positions with the support of this body and the support of the County Commission. The DJJS sponsored Juvenile Probation Officer Academy began May 2013 - that should alleviate some of the staff shortage issues. The Juvenile Probation Officer recruitment recently closed. The candidates are currently in the process of completing the written and physical examinations. The background check process has dramatically affected the length of time this process takes hence we will not see the remaining five vacancies filled until September 2013.

The Department is actively tracking numerous bills being introduced in this year's Legislative Session. Several bills introduced will have an economic impact of varying degrees with the majority being the adoption of the Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform Commissions' recommendations.

Community Issues

The Department continues to partner with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, numerous faith based organizations, and community partners at the Safe Village Initiative to assist in decreasing criminal behavior in our most needy areas of the Valley. It should be noted that since this project's inception the violent crime reported within the Bolden Area Command has dropped exponentially.

The Department is currently collaborating with Nevada Partners to receive a grant that would assist in funding the annual forestry program that allows youth to work in the Spring Mountain Forest cleaning, restoring and building trails for our Clark County citizens to enjoy. As part of the Department's restorative justice model, this program this allows the youth the opportunity to work hard, be paid a small amount from the grant, then use those monies to pay off their restitution owed to their victim's.

The Department continues to seek opportunities to partner with community stakeholders in an effort to improve successful outcomes for the youth and families we serve.

Spring Mountain Youth Camp (SMYC)

Thanks to the generous support of Judge William O. Voy, SMYC was able to purchase much needed sports equipment, incentive based rewards, and increase our cognitive behavior therapy (Thinking for a Change) training to direct care staff.

In addition to the great work our SMYC teammates do every day, the team has expanded their community service projects this year to include projects at our at-risk schools, our parks and recreation areas, and high visibility areas through-out the County.

The Restorative Justice Model is in full effect at SMYC with the kick-off of Forestry Season. Our staff and youth will keep the trails maintained, build new trails, and keep our Spring Mountain community and parks clean through this invaluable work opportunity for our youth.

Spring Mountain Halfway House has begun the process of billing Medicaid for Targeted Case Management activities.

Juvenile Detention

The Detention Division continues to make huge strides in key safety areas such as limiting the use of force incidents, the use of room confinement, the use of mechanical restraints, and continues to increase valuable day programming designed to reduce recidivism.

The Division went almost two months without one incident involving a use of force. Great work to a team that is working with a very high risk population at a critical time in Detention.

The average daily population is down for the fifth consecutive quarter.

Probation Division

DJJS Probation is actively supervising approximately 2,400 juvenile probationers in Clark County. There were 17,668 referrals to the DJJS in 2012. Standard field supervision officers are maintaining an average caseload size of approximately 47 probationers. The Juvenile Sex Offender (JSO) Unit maintains an average caseload size of 30 probationers and Drug Court has two officers supervising 100 probationers (total). The Intake Unit sees over 500 youth each month through formal bookings and/or citations.

The Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) Unit supervises over 400 cases. The ISP Unit is broken down into two separate types of case; **high-risk adjudicated probation** and **pre-adjudication supervised release** cases with four (4) Las Vegas office locations. ISP works seven days a week from 7:00am-11:00pm with an emergency response unit operated out of the detention facility. The Probation Division of DJJS strives to eliminate the unnecessary use of secure confinement, minimize re-arrest and failure-to-appear rates for youth pending adjudication and redirect finances to sustain successful programs, and reduce racial and ethnic disparities. DJJS continues to emphasizing evidenced based best practices such as risk-based supervision coupled with programming and increased use of swift and certain sanctions, benefitting lower costs, increased compliance and promising effects related to rates of re-offense and recidivism.

Clinical Services (Psychological Unit)

Clinical Services provides a variety of assessment, case management, and counseling services to youth and their families. The Division has begun to bill Medicaid for activities involving crisis intervention with eligible youth within the Detention Division. This should help maintain the sustainability of the Division through the current budget shortfalls.

In addition, the Division has been tasked with vetting all of the therapeutic providers for the Department. This process continues to be solidified utilizing best practice methodologies.

The Substance Abuse Assessment Program has been refunded by Juvenile Justice Grant monies. This program provides assessments for all youth referred to DJJS for the first time for drugs or alcohol.

MET-CBT 5 was also refunded, this coming grant cycle. This is a best practice, research based program.

