

**Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services**  
**Executive Summary**  
**March 2014**

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) is a unique and complex public service agency that performs more than the traditional Juvenile Court functions of Probation and Detention. In particular, DJJS provides intervention services, guidance and control for youth referred to the department for acts of delinquency. To accomplish its mission, the department consists of the following divisions: Detention, Probation, Clinical Services, and the Spring Mountain Youth Camp (SMYC).

The Detention Center is a 192-bed facility located at the DJJS campus, 601 North Pecos Road. The facility temporarily houses male and female youth with pending court hearings or correctional placements. In order to bridge the system of care, this facility provides Clark County School District educational classes, medical and mental health services.

The Probation Division provides intake and diversionary services to youth referred to the department for acts of delinquency. For adjudicated youth, the division provides supervision and treatment services. Services are provided on the DJJS campus, within the five neighborhood community centers, or within the community itself.

The Clinical Services Division provides a full spectrum of assessment and treatment services to the youth involved with the DJJS and their families. These evaluations, counseling and other treatment services are offered in the institutions, in home and through office visits.

The SMYC is a staff-secure 100-bed correctional facility, which houses male youth between the ages of twelve and eighteen who have been adjudicated for serious or repeat delinquent acts by the Juvenile Court Judge. SMYC is located at Angels Peak in the Mt. Charleston Recreational/Toiyabe National Forest Area.

In 2004, the DJJS began an engagement with the Ann E. Casey Foundation, named the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) that sought to reduce the number of youth detained in our Detention Division, adjudicated into our care and custody, and placed into the SMYC or continued onto State commitment. The JDAI reform efforts have shown dramatic reductions in the number of youth detained from an average daily population in 2007 of 202 to an average daily population in 2013 to 129 and continuing to decline.

The reform efforts throughout the DJJS have taken a cultural foothold and have shown dramatic improvements in several key areas: average daily population, racial disparity, and youth connected to meaningful alternatives and diversion. Due to these efforts the number of youth committed to the State, and youth certified as an adult have dropped exponentially. DJJS continues to seek opportunities to improve services to our youth and families by decreasing the

detention population through the use of innovative programming options, technological advancement, systematic reallocation of existing resources, and improved training focused on rehabilitation and alternatives to detention.

- Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) called “Thinking for a Change” designed to target youthful offenders in connecting their feelings, thoughts and behaviors to help them identify better choices than the ones that lead them to the juvenile justice system.
- Vetting of all providers that provide services to DJJS. Want to ensure all providers are acting in the best interest of the youth we serve through increased expectations and identifiable outcome measures.
- Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment; we are partnering with community providers to serve our most at-risk chemical dependant youth through community supervision and intensive therapeutic interventions.
- Through the Department’s Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) initiatives a Diversion Court was created by Hearing Master Steven Compan in collaboration with volunteer community stakeholders, volunteer service providers, with the assistance of the Department.
- Probesmart Software designed by Goldpost technologies. Proprietary software that utilizes multiple data streams and assessment tools to objectively determine risk to the community. This allows officers to respond to data determined events of significance before a crime has actually occurred. For example; if we know in real time that a youth is not attending school, that information sent directly to the software/tablet is a known precursor to potential crime we can respond proactively to curb criminal behavior.
- The Department is seeking to expand its community interventions by collaborating with our community partners to build an Evening Reporting Center (ERC).
  - ERC can provide much needed supervision of youth afterschool, provide educational tutoring, treatment interventions, vocational skills development, substance abuse counseling, and provide a safe place for youth who would otherwise be left to their own devices.
- The Department is also seeking to collaborate with two other county agencies and the private sector to build an assessment center. The assessment center would be a drop off point for runaway, homeless, and low level delinquent youth where resources could be wrapped around the youth and family immediately without undue delay because of formal system involvement (i.e. court hearings, formal proceedings, etc.).
- The Department has and will continue to revamp its recruitment, hiring, and training of our direct contact staff to match national best practices.

The DJJS has proven to be a successful and resilient component within the statewide juvenile justice reform efforts. The Department continues to provide quality services to youth and families in need, and will continue to find creative, cost neutral solutions to improving the programming enhancements we seek.