

POLICY & FISCAL AFFAIRS BOARD MEETING

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Report

May 7, 2015

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) appreciates the significant support of the Board of County Commissioners and the Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board members.

2015 Legislative Update:

DJJS Supported Bills:

SB 58: The bill had a rewrite by the Chief D.A. Brigid Duffy. The bill would allow for sharing of information on youth between the school district and DJJS. An MOU and Policies would be put in place to keep information confidential and for business use only. It also adds a gross misdemeanor offence if the information is released inappropriately. **Hearing scheduled May 7.**

SB 99: Adam Walsh Bill. DJJS is requesting that the juvenile judge have authority to determine if a youth must register as a life time sex offender on the registry. DJJS also requested that the juveniles have clear separate language from adults in NRS. **Language was added to the bill and passed the Senate. No further hearing scheduled yet.**

AB 16: This is the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) bill. DJJS has already been working on PREA compliance. **No action taken on April 28. No further hearing scheduled to date.**

AB 113: This bill outlines the stipulations around the sealing of a juvenile's record. DJJS supports with some recommended changes by the D.A.s office. **No action taken on April 30. No further hearing scheduled to date.**

AB 124: This is the bill that defines the age a youth can be declared a delinquent. The bill moves delinquent age to 10 from 8. The proposed changes would be keeping 8 years olds under juvenile to allow them to get resources for sex and major offenses. DJJS supported with amendments. **Hearing scheduled on May 5.**

AB 178: School discipline bill that would limit the time for habitual truancy and gives more discretion for the school. **No action taken on April 28. No further hearing scheduled to date.**

AB 216: School discipline is changed to allow superintendents to have more discretion. Language removes the charge of disturbing the peace for cursing and vile language. **Failed to meet deadline.**

DJJS Opposed Bills:

AB 260: The bill places all certified/convicted youth in state juvenile secure facilities. Currently the state has no such facility. DJJS is concerned that if there is any change this could impact the county. **Failed to meet deadline**

DJJS Neutral w/Concerns:

SB 452: The bill would allow for certified youth to be remanded back to juvenile court/detention if not found guilty of the Charge that had them certified. DJJS is not sure how this bill will immediately impact the department, but it raises concerns. As written an offender could be over 18 and be remanded back to juvenile court. These youth would have to be housed separately as they would be adults. **Failed to meet deadline**

DJJS is currently tracking numerous other bills as well as seven (7) firearms/knives bills.

Personnel/Budget FY 2014

The 2015 Spring Peace Officers Standards Training (POST) Category II Academy started March 16th with eleven (11) cadets that will become Probation Officers in Detention. Graduation is scheduled for May 8, 2015 for 1000 at the Commission chambers.

The Department wishes to extend our thanks to Assistant County Manager Jeff Wells who continues to support the department in furthering our goals.

Community Issues

- ❖ Our SMRC youth took on the task of cleaning the property at West Hacienda on April 2, 2015. They helped in removing 6.43 tons (12,860 lbs.) of solid waste consisting of landscape debris, tumbleweeds, and miscellaneous trash that was dumped in the property. Five Republic Services roll-off containers (1-28 yd.& 4-20's) were used to transport the solid waste. It took approximately 16 hours over 4 days to complete the project. This satisfies CCPRO case #14-2706. A Big thanks to Darrell Banks and his team.
- ❖ The Department has met with all of the major government stakeholders in determining their interest in partnering on an Assessment Center. Next steps are to determine what resources can be leveraged and conducting a gap analysis of what services will be required to successfully launch.
- ❖ The Department is also seeking opportunities to expand vocational education opportunities at the Spring Mountain Youth Camp and the community through Workforce Connections and through the College of Southern Nevada.
- ❖ The Department is partnering with the University of Nevada Las Vegas to conduct an extensive study of our current practices and how our practices affect recidivism.
- ❖ The Department recently opened a boxing gym at the Spring Mountain Youth Camp, a special thanks to Commissioner Weekly, County Manager Don Burnette, and Assistant County Manager Jeff Wells who provided the community connections and resources to get this project off the ground.
- ❖ The Department wished to thank the Board of County Commissioners for approving our Southwest Probation Center relocation, as this move will allow for much needed programs to expand and connect more youth and families to services.

Spring Mountain Youth Camp (SMYC) and Residential Center (SMRC)

- ❖ The SMYC Baseball Team had its final game on May 1, 2015.
- ❖ SMYC Track will be competing for the zone championship next week.
- ❖ The SMRC is continuing to do a great deal of community service projects such as assisting the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, Federal, State, and County organizations, and many others.
- ❖ The SMRC staff has done an excellent job and is continuing to bill Medicaid for its services.
- ❖ SMYC and Hospitality International Training (HIT) will be graduating another five (5) youth in May. These youth will have an opportunity to be employed in the culinary field upon release.
- ❖ DJJS is partnering with the Workforce Connections to apply for a \$650,000 grant to be used for employment certificates and job placement upon release from SMYC. DJJS management is looking for programs that could be implemented over the next few months. SMYC already has culinary and baking in place. Workforce Connections is finalizing the RFP for a vendor to work with DJJS.
- ❖ SMYC is going to start its Summer Forestry Program at the end of May.

Juvenile Detention

- ❖ The average Detention's population for the last 3 months is 131.8; the Probation Manager and Detention Manager are discussing cases of youth that have been detained over 30 days to ensure their cases are moving through the system as quickly and efficiently as possible. The Female population continues to rise.
- ❖ The Detention Division just completed its April PBS (Performance Based Standards) Data collection and reporting period, the Incident reports showed a small decline from the October numbers, but we still need to make some improvements in continuing to reduce room confinement, especially for the minor infractions.
- ❖ Several upgrades both internally and externally are being made to the Booking area to ensure the most accurate, efficient and safe environment for the detainees and law enforcement. A new lighting system will be added to the outside of the facility to ensure the safe operations to the entrance and exit to law enforcement and booking staff.
- ❖ The Detention Division continues to receive volunteers to conduct programming with the youth. This month we welcomed the Toe Tag Monologues, facilitated by retired Metropolitan Police Officer Byron Stringer. The youth also receive visits from an organization from Atlanta Ga, called the Grace tour. Their organization goes around the country providing motivation to at risk youth.
- ❖ The work on the Detention garden has started and soon the youth will be able to work in this area collecting fresh ingredients for the culinary staff to use in their daily meals.

- ❖ The spring academy will graduate eleven (11) cadets on May 8, 2015. They will be involved in specific job training in T4C (Thinking 4 a Change), Field Probation and Detention policies and procedures prior to starting in the units. Due to additional vacancies the next academy class is slated to start in July of this year.

Probation Division

- ❖ Evening Reporting Center (ERC)
The supervisor for the Evening Reporting Center (ERC), Jody Lupo, is working on purchasing equipment and supplies for the ERC. We anticipate a grand opening in August 2015. She has been working on the development and implementation of the programming for the ERC.
- ❖ Southwest Probation Center Relocation
The Southwest Probation Center Lease at 6171 W. Charleston Blvd. will expire on June 30, 2015. The Center will be relocating to 2655 S. Rainbow in July/August 2015. The Board of County Commissioner approved the relocation on May 5th. This approval allows for the lease agreement to be finalized and the tenant improvements will commence. Tenant improvements are expected to take 45-90 days after the lease agreement is finalized. The new location will house the Evening Reporting Center, Southwest Probation and Southwest Intensive Supervision Unit.
- ❖ Eastside Probation Center Relocation
Probation, along with RPM, is working to secure a new location for Eastside Probation at 2255 Renaissance Drive, which is near Tropicana and Pecos. The center is currently located at 4180 S. Pecos and is undersized (4,160 SF) for the demand of the community. The lease for this location expires in October/November 2015.
- ❖ Requests for Quote (RFQs)
The Department, through Purchasing, received in excess of twenty (20) responses for contracting services for residential substance abuse services, outpatient substance abuse services and outpatient mental health counseling services. The Department is evaluating the prospective vendors' proposals. The intent of the Department is to award multiple contracts for each category. This is a formal process that will involve evaluation and pricing negotiations prior to a final award. The Department is striving for a July 1, 2015, start date of each of these contracts.
- ❖ Intake Screening Matrix
The Probation Division continues to work on the development and implementation of a risk assessment tool to improve our current risk assessment practices. The Intake Matrix will be a structured tool that combines information about youth to classify them as being low, moderate or high risk for reoffending or continued delinquent activity. The purpose of such a risk assessment tool is to help in making objective recommendations about youths' placement and supervision, and creating intervention plans that will reduce their level of risk.

Clinical Services

- ❖ Clinical Services is represented on the Clark County and Nevada Children's Behavioral Health Consortium as a voting member. In addition, we are represented on the Pediatric Mental Health Task Force.
- ❖ We are conducting site visits to Residential Treatment Centers as part of the department's quality assurance and quality improvements initiatives. In 2015, we have conducted reviews of Desert Hills in Albuquerque, New Mexico and Provo Canyon School in Provo, Utah. We are scheduled to visit Hermitage Hall in Nashville, Tennessee at the end of May.
- ❖ DJJS continues to partner with DCFS and DFS to vet Basic Skills Training (BST) and Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Providers. DJJS currently has a list of 10 authorized providers.
- ❖ We are providing ongoing Shield of Care Suicide Prevention training to probation officers. Improvements including additions to the curriculum and partnering with probation officers to facilitate the program have been implemented.
- ❖ Through new programs and protocols, Clinical Services is expanding our ability to identify, monitor, and provide services to youth with mental health and substance abuse issues. Some of these efforts include increased presence in the Court, implementing new policies for oversight of youth placed at treatment centers, and continuing to grow relationships with stakeholders and community providers.