

POLICY & FISCAL AFFAIRS BOARD MEETING
Department of Juvenile Justice Services
Director's Report
December 18, 2014

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.

Personnel/Budget FY 2014

- The 2014 Fall Peace Officers Standards Training (POST) Category II Academy will graduate on December 19th eleven (11) cadets that will become Probation Officers in Detention. In addition to these eleven cadets, there will be four (4) Nevada Youth Parole Counselors that will also graduate on this date.
- The reimbursement Medicaid money from the 2014 Targeted Case Management audit is expected to be in the amount of \$886,366.

Community Issues

- The National League of Cities has selected Las Vegas to participate in the Municipal *Leadership for Juvenile Justice Reform* technical assistance initiative. The League is excited about the city's commitment to increasing public safety and improving outcomes for youth through local juvenile justice reform. Las Vegas is one of six cities nationwide that will receive technical assistance as part of this 15-month project. This will focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities with an emphasis on developing an assessment and other community-based services. The Department will work with the City of Las Vegas on this Initiative.
- The Department is collaborating with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department by obtaining access to LVMPD's computer program On Base. Having access to this system will allow Records staff to obtain citations and subsequent police reports in a more timely manner for the purpose of shortening the time span between when a citation is issued and the hearing date by the current time of 6 weeks, to 3 weeks. This will bring the juveniles into court to answer to their charges in a shorter span of time.
- The Department continues to seek partnerships in the community and possible grant opportunities to begin exploration of an assessment center. Research indicates that connecting youth and families to meaningful services early on can deter further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Spring Mountain Youth Camp (SMYC)

- The SMYC football season was very successful. The Golden Eagles finished runner up for the state title.
- Basketball and Wrestling both started this past month.
- SMYC and the Children's Service Guild provided 15 turkey baskets to families in need. The same will occur for the Christmas Holiday.

- The SMRC is continuing to do a great deal of community service projects such as assisting the SNRHA, Federal, State, and County organizations, and many others.
- “Thinking For a Change” is in progress. All staff at SMYC are trained and we currently have forty five (45) youth participating in the program.
- The SMRC staff has done an excellent job and is continuing to bill Medicaid for its services.
- DJJS has applied for a \$2.3 million dollar grant to build a new residential center. More information should be provided with in the next coming month. Management did an excellent job preparing the grant as well as two presentations.

Juvenile Detention

- **Average Daily Population** for August 2014 to current date is 137.02 a slight increase from the 135.45 at the beginning of the year
- **Average Length of Stay (ALOS)** for August 2014 to current date is 17.37 a slight increase from this year’s ALOS of 16.11, challenges in placement of youth contributed to this increase.
- **Booking** releases from August 7th through current date are 964. We had 807 R/A’s from booking during this time frame. Return Agreements (RA) are slightly higher due to the inter-local agreement with Nye County as they are moving their kids to hearings and medical appointments more frequently.
- October was a **Performance based Standards (PbS)** reporting month. The data was collected and preliminary results reflect increases in room confinements from last year. A formal meeting with our PBS coach Aaron McCorkle is scheduled for January or February in 2015 to discuss the findings of all the data collected. Our goal is to increase our family and youth contacts (phone calls and visits) and to see a dramatic decrease in the number of Incident Reports on campus in comparison with past months, and other participating facilities.
- The Detention Division made required efforts to be in compliance with **Senate Bill 107, Corrective Room Restriction Reporting** - NRS Chapter 62 B and NRS Chapter 63, which took effect on 10/01/2013. Once a month data collected on room restriction is collected and sent to the Juvenile Justice Programs Office. The process has been running smoothly and has received compliments from partners outside the agency. Our data collection process has been used as a model for other agencies with the state. We are currently working on reducing our room confinement times of youth overall during this next year.
- Youth are now utilizing the **Challenge Course**, which provides our youth the opportunity to participate in team building exercises with each other and staff. The Challenge course was used to host the Judges 100th Anniversary Celebration this year.
- The Detention Division continues to facilitate **programming** to the youth that involve community partnerships. Toe Tag Monologues, Safe Nest, Southern Nevada Health District, Planned Parenthood, Religious Organizations and several members of the community continue

to provide regular and consistent programs to the youth in Detention addressing, healthy relationships, job skills, and educational and career development.

- The Detention Division opened the **Honors Room** for our Level Three youth on Monday, September 29, 2014, which provides an opportunity for youth with consistent appropriate behavior to have a place to go that reinforces positive behavior and rewards appropriate interaction with their peers.
- The Detention Division revised its Detention policies to **SOP's** this year. New books with updated policies and procedures were placed in every unit in November.

Probation Division

➤ **Probation Center Relocations**

The Southwest Probation Center must vacate the current location (6171 W. Charleston Blvd. Bldg. 15) on or before 6/30/15. DJJS is in negotiation for the Center to relocate to a large suite near Sahara/Rainbow (2655 S. Rainbow) that will house the Evening Reporting Center and the southwest region of the Intensive Supervision Unit along with tradition field services for the southwest region of the valley. Additionally, long range planning has approved exploring the relocation of the probation centers serving southeast and northeast Clark County as each of these centers have outgrown their office suites.

➤ **Service Expansion**

Probation and Clinical Services are working to determine the Department's fiscal ability enhance contracted substance abuse treatment services and access to outpatient mental health services for clientele. Specifically, residential substance abuse services, outpatient substance abuse services and outpatient mental health counseling services. This will entail researching evidence-based practices and formulating a practical budget within the existing general funds. The elimination of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program (JABG) has created a strain on accomplishing this goal with the loss of nearly \$200,000 in funding. It is anticipated that funding outpatient substance abuse services and outpatient mental health counseling services will reduce the number of youth in placement. Community-based services will give families, communities, and systems the opportunity to intervene and prevent the onset of antisocial behaviors and deeper justice system involvement, which will reduce reliance on out-of-home placements.

➤ **School Attendance Review Board (SARB)**

The School Attendance Review Board has resumed for this school year. The focus remains on the same region in Clark County and focus on Valley High School and the middle schools that feed Valley High School enrollment. SARB is composed of Clark County School District, DFS and DJJS members who meet regularly to diagnose and resolve persistent student attendance problems. The SARB is authorized by NRS 392.126. SARB is exploring expanding for next school year and is analyzing the resources that will be required to expand.

➤ **Citation to Court Timeline**

The Department and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) are working in collaboration to reduce the timeframe from citation to appearance before the Juvenile Court. Currently, the process takes six (6) weeks. The Department and LVMPD are working to reduce

this timeframe to three (3) weeks. The changes to each organizations system will be finalized in early 2015. This will expedite case processing, services and treatment to families and provide proactive elements of community protection.

Clinical Services

- The Division has been tasked with vetting all of the **Basic Skills Training (BST)** and **Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR)** providers for the Department. To date, seven agencies are on the new authorized provider list. The committee continues to meet bi-weekly to present document and site reviews.
- Clinical Services is represented on the **Clark County Mental Health Consortium** as a voting member as well as on the Crisis Intervention, Accountability, and Infrastructure workgroups. In addition, they are represented on the Mental Health Pediatric Task Force and the Substance Abuse Coalition.
- **Representatives from the Probation Placement Team** and the **Clinical Services Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Screening Committee** continue to visit treatment facilities to ensure they are meeting the needs of youth under the supervision of the department. In 2014, six site visits were conducted. The feedback provided is being used to implement programmatic changes.
- Clinical Services is represented on the Wellness sub-committee of the DFS **Youth at Risk of Homeless Planning Project**.
- **Substance Abuse Programming at Spring Mountain Youth Camp** will begin in January. Elements include individual, family, and group counseling. Probation and Clinical Services are also in discussions with a community provider regarding the aftercare piece.
- The Division is exploring the possibility of expanding **Medicaid** billing opportunities through credentialing with **Managed Care** providers.