

POLICY & FISCAL AFFAIRS BOARD MEETING
Department of Juvenile Justice Services
Director's Report
August 7, 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 begin in October.
- The Juvenile Probation Officer posting opened on Aril 8th and was closed with 1,118 applications that met the minimum qualifications. Of those applications, there are 96 candidates to interview.
- The Department has received \$1,665,388.23 from the Division of Child and Family Services, Nevada State Juvenile Justice Programs Office for Specialized Foster Care Room and Board Medicaid Funding for SYFY 2015.
- The Department has also applied for a grant with the School Justice Collaboration Program: Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court in the amount of \$600,000 to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for a 36 month project period. This grant will fund two Mediation Specialists and two part-time mediation specialist positions to work out of the Canyon Springs High School. The program will provide ongoing professional development for faculty and staff and parent education and communication components.

Community Issues

- The Department has finalized its partnership with the Hospitality International Training (HIT) to create a culinary program at the SMYC to train youth in the culinary arts that should assist youth find meaningful employment upon their release. The contract has been approved pending additional documents that need to be signed by HIT. Background checks will be completed as soon as possible. SMYC is anticipating that the program will begin in October. In addition to providing valuable training at the SMYC, the program will also accept youth on probation that are seeking vocational training.
- 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.
- The Department continues to seek opportunities that will assist the youth and families in our care be successful.

Spring Mountain Youth Camp (SMYC)

- The 44th season of the SMYC Forestry program began on May 24, 2014 and will finish on August 8, 2014 with the annual Forestry picnic at Lee Canyon Campground. During this season, the youth have maintained over 95 miles of trails throughout the Spring Mountain Forestry area.
- The SMYC football season will begin with its first game on Friday, August 29, 2014. This will be an away game in Yucca Valley, California.
- 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 off to a great start. 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.
- The Cirque de Monde program began on Saturday, June 7, 2014 with eleven (11) youth. The program helps to teach the necessity of working together as a team as well as to build self-esteem and to teach life skills. The program will end with a performance in August. The date is still pending. Many thanks to the volunteers from the Cirque de Soleil for their continued support and participation.
- SMYC is working with Nevada Partners on an Aftercare program for SMYC. Details of the program are still pending as we are in the early planning stages.

Juvenile Detention

- **Average Daily Population** for January 2014 to current date is 135.45, a slight increase from last year during this time frame. Average daily population in 2013 was 133 youth per day.
- **Average Length of Stay (ALOS)** for January 2014 to present day was 16.11 a slight increase from last year's ALOS of 15.97, changes in Medicaid and challenges in placement of youth contributed to this increase.
- **Booking** releases as of current date are 1828, we detained 1722. This is a decrease in detainments for the same time frame from last year as we had 1781 detainments. Our releases were also decreased as we had 1947 last year for this same time frame. Return Agreements (RA) are slightly higher than last quarter at 1581, which also reflects the lower number of youth arrested. Last year our RA totals were 1536. The youth RA Log was updated and formalized to indicate not only the name of the officer, but also to include his agency and the interview start and end time. This provides us the ability to better track youth contact with outside and partnering agencies.
- All Staff have been trained in "**Thinking for a Change**" to improve de-escalation tactics and communications with the youth, and the positive outcomes are directly reflected in the low

incident rates on campus. Detention staff is continuing to conduct sessions with the youth on a weekly basis.

- The Detention Division continues to strive to meet our goal of 80 incidents or less in a month. In addition, the Department has improved its reporting specifics in Family TRACS, our youth reporting program, to represent a more accurate **Incident Report** total.

April was a **Performance based Standards (PbS)** reporting month. The data was collected and preliminary results reflect several improvements from last year. A formal meeting with our PBS coach Aaron McCorkle is scheduled for September 11-12, 2014 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.

- A Committee has been established to review the **occupational accident/ injury reports** submitted to Detention Administration as required by DJJS Administrative Directive A034, Written Workplace Safety Plan. The concept of the review is to look at what activity the employee was engaged in at time of injury, to determine the essentiality of the task at hand, and to examine what mitigations might be put in place to reduce the likelihood of injury to employees similarly engaged in that task in the future. Additionally, we will verify that every employee involved in a workplace accident has completed the required drug screening.
- 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.
- Youth are now utilizing the **Challenge Course**, which provides our youth the opportunity to participate in team building exercises with each other and staff. Staff who were trained completed their recertification training and the course had its annual inspection and the department passed the inspection without any problems.
- The Detention Division continues to facilitate **programming** to the youth that involve community partnerships. 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 is creating an **Honors Room** for our Level Three youth, providing 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.

Probation Division

➤ **Drug Court and Drug Court Enhancement Grant**

The Department, in collaboration with the Family Court, applied for a grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to enhance Drug Court and in response to the loss of the Justice Alternatives Block Grant (JABG). The Department was forced to fund Drug Court 100% through the general fund. This resulted in a reduction of \$100,821 that had to be absorbed by the general fund to operate Drug Court. The OJJDP grant, if received, will further strengthen evidence-based practices through intensive supervision and specialized drug treatment for addicted youth referred to DJJS admitted to Drug Court. The goals are to enhance the capacity of Drug Court to respond to youth substance use issues, improve the outcomes, decrease racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system, and prevent youths' further penetration into the system while addressing the specific issues of substance abuse through referral criteria, scientifically based screening and assessments, daily treatment regimes, intensive monitoring by Probation, and enhanced family involvement.

➤ **Response Grid**

The Department has finalized an updated Response Grid. The Response Grid was updated from a Graduate Sanctions Matrix previously utilized. Juvenile Probation uses the Response Grid to address behavior of youth consistently and with objectivity. The grid provides an array of choices for probation staff that correlates to a youth's risk level and exhibited behavior. Goals of the Response Grid include: community protection, assist youth in changing their behavior, yield comparable dispositional equity, use the least restrictive interventions, quick responses to violations, encourage and respond to positive behavior of youth, case management strategies that encourage the use of resources that integrate the principles of evidence-based practice, and enhance collaborative approach to case management. Training on the updated Response Grid for all probation staff was accomplished in the month of July.

➤ **Gold Post Technology/Tablets**

The Board of County Commissioners approved an amended contract for data sharing between Gold Post Technologies and Secure Alert which will increase efficiencies. This has caused a minor delay in the roll-out. Tablets are anticipated to be field tested in August 2014.

➤ **Medicaid Regulation Changes**

In January Nevada Medicaid changed regulations related to authorizing Basic Skills Training (BST) services to youth. At this point, Nevada Department of Healthcare Policy and Finance has allowed DJJS an exemption for youth in care of the Department that are placed in specialized foster care. This has minimized any repercussion that would create instability to their placement and ensures proper services are received by clientele. Without such an exemption the Department will see a negative fiscal impact to budget.

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

The School Attendance Review Board will resume after the start of the school year. The focus remain on the same region in Clark County and focus on Valley HS and the middle schools that feed Valley HS 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.

➤ **Public Service Program**

Probation has expanded the Public Service Program operated in collaboration with Parks and Recreation utilizing funding acquired by the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). The program operates a wide variety of community service projects, which includes graffiti removal, abandoned lot and park clean-up, assisting senior citizens and projects associated with Project Safe Neighborhoods. The program also offers restitution for work service that allows probationers to pay restitution and has a programming component. The program is a subcomponent of the evening reporting center.

Clinical Services

- The Division has been tasked with vetting all of the **Basic Skills Training (BST)** and Psycho-Social Rehabilitation (PSR) providers for the Department. To date, they have held 5 provider orientation sessions, reviewed 49 applications, and have started the site visits. The process is working well.
- Clinical Services is represented on the **Clark County Mental Health Consortium** as a voting member as well as on the Crisis Intervention and Infrastructure workgroups. In addition, they are represented on the Mental health Pediatric Task Force and the Substance Abuse Coalition.
- We have restructured the **Residential Treatment Center (RTC)** Screening Committee and revamped the staffing and placement processes. These changes were implemented in order to expedite placements and create a stronger emphasis on oversight during placement and transition back into the community. This is a collaborative effort between Clinical Services and Probation.
- We continue to develop and sustain relationships with a variety of community partners in order to expand services, ensure quality, and improve case management efforts.
- We have concluded the Clinical Services Intake Research Pilot which looked at the correlation between early intervention and outcomes for youth. The results will be shared with the Department as soon as the data is analyzed.
- We are in the process of developing training on Mental Health and Adolescent Development as part of the mandatory block training for the Department's probation officers.
- In order to fund the Substance Abuse Assessment and Referral Program and the Motivational Enhancement Therapy/Cognitive Behavioral therapy program, the Department applied for a grant with the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Formula Grant monies in the amount of \$161,000.