

STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

Honorable Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge
Honorable Michael P. Toomin, Presiding Judge
Juvenile Justice Division



SUMMARY OF
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT
SERVICES
PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES
2012

Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department
Circuit Court of Cook County
Michael J. Rohan, Director
Charles M. Young, Deputy Director



State of Illinois
Circuit Court of Cook County

Chambers of
Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge

2600 Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 603-6000

Greetings:

The Circuit Court of Cook County is proud to continue its tradition of service to the children of Cook County with the nationally recognized programs and initiatives presented in this summary. These programs all share the common goal of providing individualized treatment options to delinquent minors within a sound framework of public safety.

The programs and initiatives described form the continuum of juvenile detention alternatives and dispositional programs that serve as the centerpiece of Cook County's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. This continuum of programs enables judges in the court's Juvenile Justice Division to use alternative strategies for addressing the needs of minors in both the pre-adjudication and post-dispositional stages of cases. The continuum is administered by the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department in collaboration with community-based social service agencies and religious organizations assisting the department in its goal of providing secular guidance, structure and services to every minor under its supervision. A number of these programs have been directly responsible for reducing overcrowding at Cook County's Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. Our detention center maintained its population significantly below its rated capacity for twelve consecutive calendar years (1999-2011). Also we are proud to cite that the average daily population has been sustained below 400 minors for the last eleven years. Moreover, the daily population in JTDC has been reduced below 300 consistently for the last three calendar years.

In recognition of the positive impact the continuum has had in the area of juvenile detention reform, the Annie E. Casey Foundation in 2004 designated the Circuit Court of Cook County as a model learning site for jurisdictions nationwide.

For more information about the collaborative programs and initiatives of the Circuit Court of Cook County's Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department, please visit www.cookcountycourt.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy C. Evans".

Timothy C. Evans
Chief Judge
Circuit Court of Cook County



State of Illinois
Circuit Court of Cook County
Juvenile Justice Division

Michael P. Toomin
Presiding Judge

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Greetings:

On behalf of the judges of the Juvenile Justice Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, I am pleased to join Chief Judge Timothy Evans in offering an executive summary of the innovative programs that we offer to the families we are privileged to serve.

Our court is committed to developing a strong private public partnership with community-based agencies and related juvenile justice departments that enable us to offer a myriad of specialized intervention strategies that are responsive to both the risk and needs of court-involved minors. All new programs incorporate the philosophy of Balanced and Restorative Justice to emphasize the paradigm of public safety, competency development, and accountability. We recognize the innate potential of the minors who appear in court and we accept the challenge to provide opportunities that maximize the resources available through our collaborative network.

Please don't hesitate to contact representatives of the Juvenile Probation Department if you would like to schedule a site visit and/or receive supplemental information relative to the programs described within this booklet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Toomin".

Michael P. Toomin
Presiding Judge
Juvenile Justice Division

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES
(1994-2011)**

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**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

I. VISION, VALUES AND MISSION STATEMENT

Our Vision:

1. Children are valued, understood, and affirmed for their unique potential.
2. Children are nurtured in peaceful, supportive families, schools, and neighborhoods that provide structure, guidance, and knowledge.
3. Children are hopeful, enthusiastic, and committed to leading successful lives.
4. Children take responsibility for their decisions and the impact of their actions.
5. Children become lawful, productive adults.

Values

Integrity: I will exhibit honesty, fairness and empathy to all.

Collaboration: I will work with various groups to achieve department goals and be open and responsive to diverse points of view.

Accountability: I am responsible for my decisions and actions as they impact the department and the community.

Respect: I will honor individuality and recognize and embrace differences by acting in good faith and promoting the human potential of others.

Empowerment: I will provide and support opportunities for others to develop and grow.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department is to serve the welfare of children and their families within a sound framework of public safety. The Department is committed to providing the guidance, structure and services needed by every child under its supervision. In partnership with the community, the Department promotes the healing and recovery of neglected children and directs delinquent children toward reforming their behavior in the context of increased accountability, enhanced community restoration, and expanded personal competencies.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- * The Department's operation is defined by a treatment/rehabilitation philosophy which dictates that each child be assessed individually and receives the services necessary to meet his or her needs.
- * The Department provides its services on an outreach basis, sending probation officers into the community to offer their assistance and supervision in the children's homes, schools and neighborhoods.
- * Probation officers seek to establish strong working relationships with all children to make their court involvement an opportunity for personal growth and restoration of the victim and community.
- * To respond effectively to the increasingly complex needs of children, the Department engages the involvement of parents and enlists the support of the community's other social service providers.
- * By thoroughly investigating and reporting the circumstances that help shape each child's behavior, probation officers assist the court in developing a plan of intervention that serves the needs of the child and facilitates the restoration of the victim and the community.
- * Assessing both the needs and the public risk factors presented by each child, the Department employs a flexible system of response, ranging from bi-monthly supervision to intensive daily monitoring of children restricted to home confinement.
- * Although committed to strengthening family ties whenever possible, probation officers will recommend that the court remove children from their homes if their safety or the security of the public is jeopardized by their continued presence.
- * By combining individualized attention and support through community networking, the Department hopes to instill in all children a sense of responsibility for their actions and a belief in their own innate value and potential.
- * The Department promotes the use of evidence-based services and best practices when developing and selecting intervention services and models.
- * The Department is committed to empowering youth to provide meaningful input relative to their needs and perspectives by hearing, respecting and acting upon their input to impact programming, planning and evaluation.
- * The Department is dedicated to developing and maintaining an array of strategies and practices aimed at decreasing the utilization of detention and reducing disproportionate minority confinement while providing community-based interventions to meet the needs of youth and the protection of the community.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

III. 2012 DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

- Identify and develop a strategic plan to reduce the use of secure detention without compromising public safety.
- Expand capacity to provide clinical supervision of post graduate interns.
- Implement a continuum of new ancillary support services for minors who remain non-compliant with court orders.
- Promote and establish pilot parent advisory groups within a number of judicial calendars.
- Develop a department wide training plan which defines and prioritizes MIS and case management skill sets for all sworn personnel.
- Implement/Coordinate outreach to faith-based community to maximize opportunities for partnerships and potential referrals of clients.
- Implement and train all staff on the updated Intermediate Sanction Program and clarify expectations for uniform interpretation and application.
- Complete a department-wide analysis of the application of Title IV-E protocols to identify potential opportunities to increase subsidy reimbursements.
- Initiate the two pilot mentoring programs (Big Brother/Big Sister and the Chicago Bar Association) to examine the potential for expansion.
- Initiate and complete a review/analysis of all of the current service contracts by late spring.
- Determine the feasibility of implementing a number of specialized positions which would support the expansion of current department programs, i.e., Juvenile Advisory Council Coordinator, Gang School Safety Team Coordinator/s.
- Continue quality assurance reviews/audits and analyze the integration of these standards within the management practices of supervisory units/divisions.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

IV. DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES ACCOMPLISHED IN 2011

- ✓ Enhanced protocols for administrative accountability.
- ✓ Developed a quality assurance training curriculum for managers.
- ✓ Organized a research consortium with academic and research practitioners to provide a forum and resources for examination of the efficacy of department programs.
- ✓ Developed a quality assurance protocol for specialized/newly created positions.
- ✓ Improved practices to reduce juvenile arrest warrants for pre-adjudicated minors.
- ✓ Expanded the Alternatives to Detention strategies to expedite release of minors from secure custody.
- ✓ Added a GED and literacy component to the Jumpstart program.
- ✓ Engaged parents/guardians to improve outcomes for court-involved youth.
- ✓ Established a task force to include the lesbian/gay/bisexual/ transgendered/ questioning (LGTBQ) population in policy/training.
- ✓ Enhanced community safety through collaboration.
- ✓ Developed collaborative relationships with faith based community stakeholders.
- ✓ Enhanced access to mental/emotional/behavioral health services for youth.
- ✓ Enhanced service coordination for minors exiting secure detention.
- ✓ Enhanced service coordination for minors who are juvenile sex offenders or dually involved DCFS clients.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

V. BALANCED & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (BARJ) PROGRAMS

Consistent with the legislative changes outlined in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998, the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department developed a mission statement and programming consistent with the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice. The principles of BARJ include:

1. **Promote Public Safety:** Every individual has a right to live in a safe and secure community. A balanced approach must attempt to restore the victim's and community's safety and respond to the offender in meaningful ways that address delinquent behavior.
2. **Accountability:** When a juvenile commits a crime, he or she becomes obligated to the victim and affected community. The youth should learn the impact of his or her crime on the victim/community and be held responsible for repairing the harm.
3. **Competency Development:** Society has an investment in the positive development of youth. Juveniles who come into the juvenile justice system should have the opportunity to learn skills to help them become more responsible and productive members of the community.

Diversion Compliance Programs

Youth referred to court for less serious and non-violent offenses can be diverted by the State's Attorney's Office and the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department's Screening Unit to one of a number of programs that emphasize BARJ principles. These programs provide opportunities for victims, offenders, parents, community members and volunteers to talk about the incident, discuss how it affected everyone involved and determine how to repair the harm. Examples of these programs include victim-offender conferencing (Neighborhood Restorative Justice Institute), Community Panels for Youth (Community Justice for Youth Institute) and mediation services (Center for Conflict Resolution).

Community Impact Panels

Community impact panels provide opportunities for crime victims to talk about their experiences and to educate young offenders about the harmful consequences of their behavior in the community. Panelists may spend 15 or 20 minutes sharing their experiences in a non-judgmental and non-blaming manner. Sharing their experience can help promote healing for the victims and help the offender learn empathy and take responsibility for his or her actions. All minors currently placed on probation are expected to participate in a community impact panel. Community impact panels are conducted throughout Cook County at local agencies, churches, police stations and court buildings.

Community Service

Community service is work performed by young offenders who are required as part of a supervision or probation order to repay their community by performing tasks that benefit the community and teach positive skills to the offender. Just as neighborhoods and communities can be harmed by delinquent activities, they can partially be restored by meaningful service performed by the offender.

By ordering community service, judges provide a consequence for harmful behaviors while giving young offenders the opportunity to learn productive skills and interact with positive role models.

The Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department's Community Service Unit assigns and monitors minors ordered to complete community service. Community service worksites can include not-for-profit organizations such as local agencies, churches, schools, community groups, parks and police stations. In 2011, minors participating in community service programs completed 28,802 hours, which is the equivalent of \$223,216 being returned to the community according to minimum wage standards (\$7.75/hour).

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

VI. SUMMARY OF JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES

DETENTION SCREENING

This initiative transferred responsibility for screening minors presented for detention by law enforcement from Pretrial Services, a unit of the Adult Probation Department, to the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department. A criteria-based risk assessment instrument was developed. Staff applies the instrument to determine which minors require secure detention for up to forty (40) hours pending a judicial hearing. Some minors are diverted to non-secure custody alternatives with a prioritized appearance date before a judge.

DETENTION STEP-DOWN PROJECT

The Detention Alternatives Continuum is administered by the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department and stands as a ready resource for Juvenile Justice Division judges to use in lieu of secure detention. The Detention Step-Down Project uses community-based resources as alternatives to secure detention.

The Detention Step-Down Project was introduced as a pilot in May 1997. Successful application prompted replication in all Chicago court calendars.

MISSION

The Detention Step-Down Project uses an administrative release process that is initiated by the court and facilitated by the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department. The process expedites a pre-identified minor's release from secure detention into an alternative program without compromising public safety.

TARGET POPULATION

Post-adjudicated minors detained in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center on a supplemental petition alleging a new charge, a warrant, a violation of probation for non-compliance or sentenced to a term in detention will be targeted for step-down release.

GOALS

- To identify qualified minors for step-down from secure status into one of the following detention alternatives: 1) home confinement with electronic monitoring; 2) Saura Center/Neon Girls Shelter; 3) evening reporting center; and 4) KARE.
- To execute a fluid transition of the minor from the JTDC to the community
- To ensure the minor's arrest-free return to court using the least restrictive form of community supervision which is comparably effective as secure detention
- To demonstrate the effectiveness of community-based detention alternatives
- To reduce lengths of stay in the JTDC for minors who qualify for community supervision

OBJECTIVES

- To provide suitable and appropriate community-based programming for at risk minors that will effectively protect the community while conserving JTDC resources through a reduction in lengths of stays.

- To provide the court with accurate and timely supplemental information regarding the minor's adjustment in the alternative at the subsequent court hearing.

PROJECT PROTOCOL

Minors eligible for step-down consideration will be identified by the court as "Release Upon Request to the Detention Alternative Division" (R.U.R. to D.A.D.).

The probation officer or case manager assigned to each court calendar will initiate the step-down process following notice from the adjudicator at the end of each day's court call. The JEMS data system and the Clerk of the Circuit Court's electronic docket will be used to determine the minor's status and history with the court.

The probation officer or case manager will determine the candidate's suitability for placement into detention alternative after seven days in secure detention or as ordered by the court, based upon availability and potential for parental support.

The probation officer or case manager may release the minor from the JTDC into the appropriate alternative without the need for the case to be calendared. The conditions of step-down release from detention will be conveyed in writing to each minor at the time of release.

The probation officer or case manager will track the minor's adjustment during placement in the detention alternative.

The calendar judge and attorneys will be kept apprised of the alternative selected for each minor by the probation officer and/or adjudicator. The next court date will remain the same.

Parents must be available and willing to participate in the detention step-down project as a prerequisite to placement on home confinement with electronic monitoring and the evening reporting center.

COURT NOTIFICATION

All minors' households are given written notice in advance of every court hearing during the pre-adjudication stage of proceedings. (Implemented March 1995)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUPERVISION

Minors in pre-adjudication stage of proceedings identified by the court as benefiting from collateral intervention to ensure their appearances in court are directed to receive community-based services. Placement in this program is limited to 30 days. (Implemented October 1994; expanded March 1997)

HOME CONFINEMENT WITH ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Minors in pre-adjudication stage of proceedings with a finding of probable cause and urgent and immediate necessity and minors in post adjudication stage in jeopardy of secure detention may be placed in their homes under an order of home confinement with electronic monitoring. Placement in this program is limited to 45 days in lieu of secure detention. Electronic monitoring is conducted through GPS in a wireless bracelet which informs probation staff of movement every three minutes. (Implemented October 1994, expanded 2011)

EVENING REPORTING CENTERS

Community agencies supervise and provide structured social and recreational programming during the critical hours between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. for minors placed on home confinement with electronic monitoring who face the consequences for failing to appear in court or for violating probation (VOP). This is an additional condition to an order of home confinement with electronic monitoring for up to 21 days. There are presently six (6) evening reporting centers in operation throughout the city of Chicago as well as one suburban location. (Implemented December 1995; expanded 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2001)

SHERIFF'S WORK ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (S.W.A.P.)

This program is a dispositional alternative to a term in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC), as a condition of Intensive Probation Supervision (I.P.S.), or as a disposition following a violation of probation. Minors are ordered to participate in the sheriff's supervised work program for an equivalent number of days that the minors would have received in the JTDC as part of a dispositional order. (Implemented August 1995)

STAFF-SECURE SHELTER

Pre-adjudicated minors, both male and female, are diverted from custody by the detention screening officers for up to 40 hours prior to the detention hearing in situations where parents or guardians are unavailable. This resource is also available to post-adjudicated minors with a pending violation of probation or supervision. If a minor requires short term respite care, the staff secure shelter can provide this at the request of the probation officer. (Implemented October 1995)

KALEIDOSCOPE RESPITE FOSTER HOME

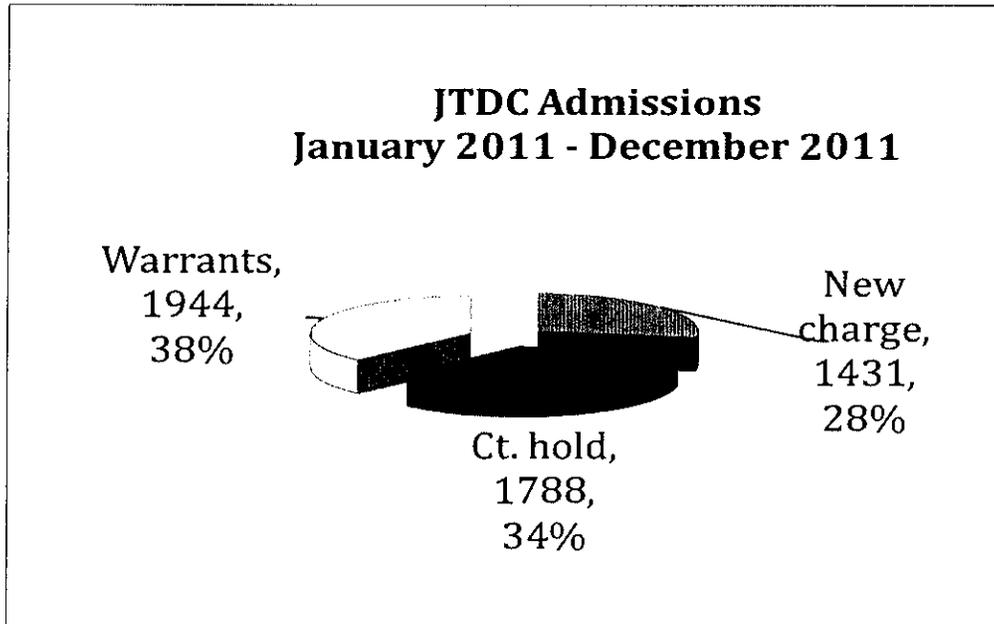
In 2010, an alternative to shelter care was established for girls who were unable to return home due to various situations. The Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department partnered with Kaleidoscope, an established community based agency, to provide foster family homes to the girls. The girls are placed with a foster family until they are able to return home. The program was expanded in 2011 to include boys.

MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY (MST)

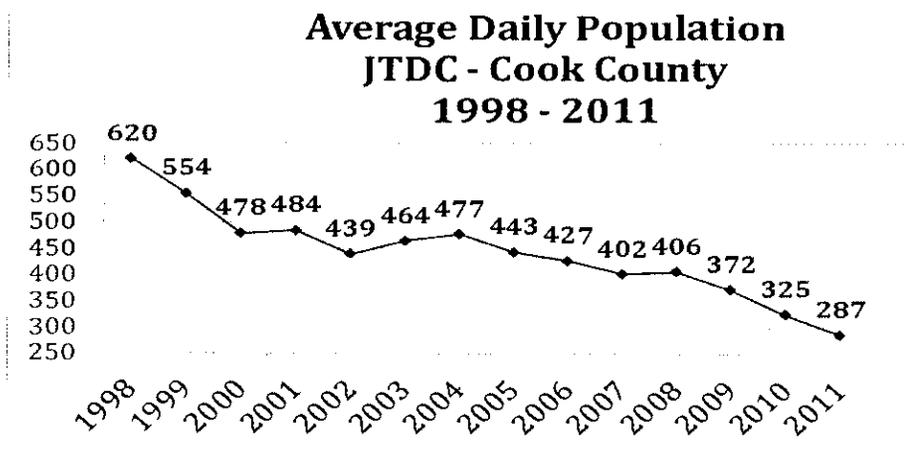
Pre and post adjudicated youth are court ordered to counseling provided in the home. Multisystemic therapists provide counseling to families for an average of four months and are available to the families 24 hours per day, seven days a week. The MST program is facilitated through the Advocacy Division within the department.

CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

VIII. COOK COUNTY JUVENILE TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER
ADMISSIONS



I. COOK COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER AVERAGE DAILY
POPULATION



Circuit Court of Cook County Juvenile Justice Division VII. Juvenile Detention Alternatives Continuum

MultiSystemic Therapy (MST)
Serviced to Date:
Average Daily Population:
Program Capacity: 36
 Families are court ordered to participate in this 4-5 month highly intensive in-home counseling program. Therapists have a maximum caseload of 5 families. MST therapists are available to families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 In September 2011, MST was expanded to include 64 additional families under the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Second Chance Reentry Grant. The youth are identified while in custody and must be dually diagnosed with substance abuse and mental health disorders.

KARE Foster Family Home (2010)
Capacity: 7 Girls
Serviced to Date: 30
Average Daily Population: 2
Youth AWOL: 0
 Court ordered youth are placed in a specialized temporary foster home.
Successful Completion Rate (current month): 100 %[†]

Short-term Shelter Care October 1995
 Detention alternative for minors who 1) require "non-secure custody" as determined by detention screening at the time of an arrest; or 2) are pending placement in a long term non-secure setting as directed by the court.
Staff Secure Group Home (1996)
Capacity: 20 Boys
 6 Girls
Present Enrollment:
 11 Boys
 1 Girls
Serviced to Date: 12,083
Average Daily Population:
 11 Boys
 1 Girls
Youths AWOL: 568
Violations: 194
Successful Completion Rate (current month): 96 %[†]

Home Confinement with Electronic Monitoring June 1996 Expanded 2011
 Minors pre or post adjudication are identified for GPS electronic monitoring are placed on the program the same day or released from secure detention under special order of EM. Violations result in expedited judicial review of custodial status; 5 to 21 days.
Capacity: 250
Present Enrollment: 216
Serviced to Date: 13,570
Average Daily Population: 212
Successful Completion Rate (current month): 81 %

S.W.A.P. August 1995
 Court-ordered sheriff supervised work program in lieu of comparable dispositional term in the JTDC for up to thirty days.
Daily Site Capacity: 100

Evening Reporting Center December 1995
 Court-ordered community based program combined with electronic monitoring for pre- or post-adjudicated wards facing consequences for arrest, VOP or JAW for up to twenty-one days.
Capacity: 140
Present Enrollment: 103
Serviced to Date: 27,108
Average Daily Population: 68
Successful Completion Rate (current month): 85%[†]

Community Outreach Supervision October 1994
 Court-ordered community based supervision of pre-adjudicated minors in detention jeopardy for up to forty-five days.
Capacity: 40
Present Enrollment: 43
Serviced to Date: 4958
Average Daily Population: 38
Successful Completion Rate (current month): 73%[†]

Successful completion indicates that the minor was not referred to court on a subsequent charge during the period of time the minor was in the program.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**X. STAFF SECURE SHELTER
SAURA CENTER/NEON GIRLS SHELTER
2732 N. Kedzie
Chicago, IL 60647**

MISSION

The Manuel Saura Center is an Illinois Department of Children and Family Services licensed facility established in October 1995 to receive minors into temporary shelter who would otherwise be detained in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. In May 1999, a separate facility was established to provide gender-specific shelter care services exclusively for girls. In October 2010, Neon Girls Shelter joined operations with the Saura Center program. Heartland Alliance is the supervising agent for both the Saura Center and Neon House.

TARGET POPULATION

- 1) Those minors presented for possible detention by youth officers whose circumstances, as identified by the risk assessment instrument or by administrative override, merit secure detention for 40 hours
- 2) Those minors designated by judicial order as R.U.R. (release upon request) who the R.U.R. officers cannot successfully link with a parent or responsible adult and who meet the other placement criteria
- 3) Minors who are facing a violation of probation hearing, or are pending a court ordered evaluation and are eligible for the shelter in lieu of detention

Minors with a history of violence, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, in need of medical attention, with known communicable diseases or who are charged with criminal sexual abuse/assault are not eligible.

DURATION

Placement in the shelter-care facilities is limited to 15 days unless amended by court order.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

Minors receive shelter-care services including educational instruction, recreation, living skills and health instruction, individual or group counseling or both and transportation to court and other required appointments.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XI. KALEIDOSCOPE ALTERNATE RESPITE (KARE PROGRAM)

In April 2010, the Circuit Court of Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department, along with Kaleidoscope, designed a program which provides short term foster family homes for females who cannot safely return to their current residence but also do not require secure detention. The program was developed in response to the high level of services female clients require while involved with the court system. Foster home care helps cultivate positive relationships which is a core component in working successfully with girls.

The Kaleidoscope staff ensures all medical, psychiatric, therapeutic, school and transportation to school and court needs are met. The program was expanded to include males in October 2011.

XII. MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY

Probation Officers in the Advocacy Division are responsible for monitoring youth and families who are court ordered to participate with Multisystemic Therapy Services (MST). These officers provide case management services by monitoring the family's participation and the progress of services rendered in the home. MST is provided to families in their natural home environment and is a highly intensive program. The therapists are involved with the families for an average of four months and are available to the families twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. The field probation officers also remain active on the case to enhance case management and offer comprehensive services.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
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**XIII. HOME CONFINEMENT WITH ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM)
PROGRAM**

PURPOSE

Electronic monitoring is used as an alternative to secure detention for qualified minors appearing in all Juvenile Justice Division court calendars.

NUMBER OF UNITS

Two hundred GPS bracelets are available for use by the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department.

TARGET POPULATION

Minors qualifying for this alternative include youth found to be in urgent and immediate necessity of secure detention due to a new offense, violations of probation, or as a consequence for being apprehended on a Juvenile Arrest Warrant.

DURATION

The length of home confinement with electronic monitoring is thirty days or longer as determined by the judge.

EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION

Home confinement day and evening electronic monitoring officers transport minors directly from the courtroom for immediate transport home or from JDTC on the day of the order; or the earliest date that the equipment is available.

SUPERVISION

Every day the electronic monitoring officers view their caseload in the monitoring system to verify compliance.

Immediate violations occur if:

- Minor leaves home overnight without permission
- Minor has been given (face to face or via phone) warnings for noncompliance
- Officer has confirmed tamper of equipment by minor
- Minor fails to charge equipment
- Minor has been identified with possible involvement in criminal activity and/or has been arrested with a new charge

The court is apprised on the day following of a verified disconnect.

STEP-DOWN/DISCONNECT

Successful completion by the minor of the terms of EM results in a "Termination of a Detention Alternative Program" order by the judge indicating release from the program. EM equipment is retrieved by the electronic monitoring officers

WIRELESS PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

Technological improvement was instituted in February 2005 through the use of a cellular electronic monitoring system designed to monitor minors at their residence without the need for a standard telephone line. Use of wireless units helped to reduce the length of stay for minors in the detention center especially for families that did not have a phone in the home.

In January 2010, GPS technology was introduced into the Electronic Monitoring Unit. The GPS bracelets consist of a one-piece unit which must be charged two (2) hours per day. The EM officer now can determine when a minor enters and leaves the home as well as provide the location of a minor every three (3) minutes.

Detention screening probation staff supervise electronic monitoring violations after hours to expedite re-engagement and support to the program.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XIV. EVENING REPORTING CENTERS (ERC)

MISSION

Evening Reporting Centers have been established as community-based alternatives to detention for a target group of minor respondents who would otherwise be detained in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. The Evening Reporting Center staff supervise and counsel up to 25 males and 15 females five days per week from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at five sites in Chicago and one suburban location. (The total capacity for youth to be served on a daily basis at the six Evening Reporting Centers is 140.)

SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Evening Reporting Centers are components of an existing contractual agreement between the county and a pretrial services collaborative headed by Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, Inc. Agencies providing an Evening Reporting Center program include the following locations:

**Westside Association for Community Action
(WACA)
3600 West Ogden Avenue
Chicago, Illinois**

**Aunt Martha's South Shore
8316 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois**

**Aunt Martha's Harvey
191 West 155th Place
Harvey, Illinois**

**Aunt Martha's Girls
8316 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois**

**TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities)
5510 South Paulina
Chicago, Illinois**

**Austin YOS (Youth Outreach Services)
1325 North Menard
Chicago, Illinois**

TARGET POPULATION

Minors from all Chicago court calendars and the Sixth Municipal District can be ordered by the court to participate from 5 to 21 days in this program in lieu of JTDC placement in the following instances:

1. minors charged in a violation of probation matter and awaiting a hearing or disposition; or
2. minors apprehended on a warrant and presented to the court for disposition of the warrant.

Candidates suitable for this conditional release will be identified by the probation officer and presented to the court for consideration.

AUTHORITY

Minors will be directed to an Evening Reporting Center by specific judicial order in conjunction with an order of home confinement with electronic monitoring for up to 21 calendar days. Orders may also include a stay of mittimus to the JTDC.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Provide highly structured and well-supervised group activities during high-risk time periods for minors identified in pending delinquency proceedings.
2. Ensure court appearances and reduce the likelihood of re-arrest while allowing the minor to continue attending school and remain at home.

PROGRAM DESIGN

The Evening Reporting Centers operate from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is expected that most participants will be involved for up to 21 days until the time of their next scheduled court hearing. The Evening Reporting Center program keeps youth involved in positive experiences while ensuring they are occupied during the times they are most likely to recidivate. Home Confinement officers maintain supervision through electronic monitoring every day of the week.

While attending the program, youth are offered dinner and engage in educational activities, recreational programming and life development workshops. Minors are transported to and from the center by program staff. This ensures that every youth is accounted for and arrives home by a specific time. On site security provisions are made by each provider.

One probation officer is assigned to each Evening Reporting Center. It is mandatory that all youth referred to the ERC be seen in person by the ERC probation officer before being scheduled for pick-up. An exception can be made if the minor is not home and the probation officer explains the rules and expectations in person to the parent/guardian. During the in-person visit, the ERC probation officer reviews all rules and expectations. Minors receive a Notice of Assignment to the ERC identifying which center they will be attending and when their pick-up day begins. The probation officer's primary responsibility is the supervision of minors placed in the ERC. The Evening Reporting Center staff establishes a productive rapport with the probation officer and often complements the role of the probation officer to work with youth to successfully complete this detention alternative. The ERC probation officer works with the family, school and youth to ensure court dates are kept and conditions of ERC/Home Confinement with Electronic Monitoring orders are honored.

STAFFING

The staffing ratio is one (1) staff for every five (5) youth. All four of the direct service staff has a bachelor's degree or comparable work experience. The Evening Reporting Center supervisor or a designated staff member is the primary person to ensure a continuity of services and interface daily with the ERC probation officer to problem solve and monitor attendance, behavior and communication issues.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

To ensure quality programming at all ERCs, monthly focus groups are held with youth to hear their perspective on how programming and services can be improved at the site. Additionally, each ERC supervisor completes a monthly evaluation for each site

detailing activities and any problems that may have arisen, i.e. attendance and behavior of youth. The ERC supervising probation officer meets monthly with an administrator from Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center to discuss and resolve issues as well as review utilization and success rates. Quarterly meetings with the deputy chief probation officer, ERC supervising probation officer, ERC probation officers, and ERC staff and administration are convened to have ongoing dialogue to improve ERC operations. Ongoing training occurs for both ERC probation officers and ERC staff to ensure that the quality of programming meets expectations. Data is maintained on daily attendance, referrals, successful completion rates, gender and ethnicity, violations for non-attendance and/or behavior, new arrests and number of cases to validate the outcomes of the initiative.

EVENING REPORTING CENTER PROGRAM DAILY SCHEDULE

The following is the schedule of daily activities:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 3:30 - 4:15 p.m. | Transport youth to center |
| 4:15 - 4:30 p.m. | Introductions/attendance, orientation and group assignment |
| 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. | Educational/tutorial support |
| 5:00 - 5:45 p.m. | Varied activity |
| 5:45 - 6:00 p.m. | Break |
| 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. | Recreation activities and organized table games |
| 7:45 - 8:00 p.m. | Housekeeping |
| 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Transport youth home |

Interaction between the community based organizations and the probation officer assigned to the Evening Reporting Center ensure minors' needs are being met while providing support from the court. Group activities cover the following topics:

- crime and delinquency
- attitudes
- conflict resolution
- alcoholism and drug abuse
- health and hygiene education
- teenage pregnancy
- AIDS education and prevention
- city, state and federal government
- political education
- parenting skills
- family problems
- vandalism, violence and other problem behaviors

- employment
- life skills development (job readiness, how to get and keep a job)
- learning problems, school failure and dropping out

They are supplemented by special events and other outings such as field trips to educational, cultural and recreation venues.

Speakers who have expertise in the above topic areas address the groups on an interim basis. The dinner hour is used as an educational hour. Youth are assigned to discussion groups focusing on current events. They also receive access to daily news accounts, both print and electronic, and discuss issues in a group setting.

In 2012, the ERCs will partner with the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC) to provide a literacy program to the youth attending ERCs. The University of Illinois at Chicago is also obtaining research on 300 clients while at the ERC. This is a three year study which focuses on clients engaging in high risk sexual behavior due to substance abuse and mental health issues.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XV. SHERIFF'S WORK ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FOR JUVENILES

The Cook County Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (S.W.A.P.) for Juveniles was established for minor respondents as a dispositional alternative to a term of secure detention in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.

Only male probationers between the ages of 13 and 17 who are facing a period of detention as a stand-alone disposition, a condition of probation as an administrative violation of probation, or as a condition of intensive probation are eligible for participation in this program.

Referrals to S.W.A.P. are enacted by judicial order and incorporated into the written order of probation. Probation officers are directed to identify appropriate cases in the written social investigation and their court presentation made at the dispositional hearing. Judges sentence suitable minors to perform S.W.A.P. community service hours for the same number of days (5-day minimum - 30-day maximum) as the minor would qualify for detention.

Immediately following the dispositional hearing, the minor respondent proceeds with his parent or guardian and a copy of the court order to the S.W.A.P. outpost office located on the concourse level of the Cook County Juvenile Center, 1100 South Hamilton Avenue, Room #36SW, Chicago, Illinois. A sheriff's department staff person will then process the referral, explain the program, and give the minor and parent(s) a starting date and work schedule. A parent or guardian must sign a formal consent authorizing a minor's participation in S.W.A.P.

All youth participating in S.W.A.P. report to the Juvenile Center's Hamilton Street entrance at 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. They are transported by a sheriff's bus to the work sites and returned to the court building by 3 p.m. each afternoon. Lunches are provided by the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.

Most work projects involve simple cleaning and maintenance tasks in and around city parks. The work is not highly strenuous and does not involve handling heavy equipment. S.W.A.P. participants are organized into small groups maintaining a 5:1 ratio of minors to sheriff's deputies.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
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XVI. INTENSIVE PROBATION SERVICES (IPS) PROGRAM

MISSION

The Intensive Probation Services (IPS) Division administers community-based supervision programs that are dispositional alternatives to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. The division also provides accelerated casework for minors diverted away from or out of residential placements. These programs are administered by a specialized unit of probation officers who are committed to providing comprehensive services and structured supervision to high-risk minors within a sound framework of public safety. In partnership with the community and the minor's family, IPS officers promote the opportunities for personal growth and change through expanded services, increased contact and elevated standards of accountability with enhanced expectations of compliance.

TARGET POPULATION

IPS provides services to a wide range of juvenile offenders. These can include the following:

- Minors who have exhausted the traditional probation services
- Minors whose lengthy delinquent backgrounds qualify them for commitment to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice
- Minors who are active with the Advocacy Division
- Minors who have been released from residential placement and are receiving after-care services
- Minors with cases in the Juvenile Sex Offender Unit who are defined as high-risk adjudicated juvenile sex offenders who could benefit from increased contact and monitoring

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Intensive probation is a highly structured probation program with increased probationary contacts and accelerated rehabilitative services designed to diminish the risk of subsequent delinquent behavior. The unpredictability and frequency of contact with each probationer is regarded as the major strength of the IPS program. The minor's accountability is increased by more restrictive conditions of probation that are monitored more closely through expanded case coverage.

TEAM APPROACH

A three-person team of probation officers is assigned to each IPS probationer. Team caseloads average between 25 and 35 minors. Case coverage is expanded over a 14-hour day, with 24-hour/7-day a week capacity for emergency service. Officers make random home, school and collateral visits throughout the week. Clients are assigned to IPS for a term of no more than one year.

SERVICE AREA

The IPS program serves all of Cook County.

LEVELS OF IPS COMPLIANCE

1st LEVEL During the first three (3) months, officers have a minimum of three (3) face to face contacts with minors per week. For the first 30 days, minors are subject to home confinement. Exceptions to this confinement are school, counseling sessions and activities with parental supervision. An education program is mandatory for each minor. After successful completion of home confinement, minors are placed on a 6 p.m. curfew.

2nd LEVEL During the next six (6) months, officers have a minimum of two (2) face to face contacts with minors per week. Attention is given to completion of required hours of community service. Minors are placed on an 8 p.m. curfew, depending on their progress.

3rd LEVEL During the last three (3) months, officers have a minimum of one (1) face to face contact with minors per week, frequency to be determined by IPS team. Curfew time is determined by minor's progress. Minors are prepared to transition back to regular probation or prepared for completion of probation.

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

DOUBLEBACKS

This team building exercise, scheduled twice a year, involves all members of the IPS Division working an evening shift. Two sets of officers are assigned to each team. One team will see the clients on a roster from top to bottom; the other team of officers will see the clients on the roster from bottom to top. In essence, minors are seen twice that particular evening at two different times by two different teams. After the shift, officers have a debriefing session to discuss the evening's events.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

In addition to monitoring probationers on curfew, IPS has recently assumed the responsibility of monitoring their clients who are also on home confinement with electronic monitoring (GPS).

HOOPS TOURNAMENT

Staff sponsored basketball tournament with court wards provides positive peer involvement as a reward for good behavior with positive role models, interacting with court wards.

PROBATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

All probationers active on IPS report to the court building to attend presentations by motivational speakers. Speakers include crime victims, reformed gang members, and gunshot victims. Topics covered include the effects of drugs, alcohol abuse, and STDs. At the conclusion of the presentation, probation officers meet with their clients and their parents to discuss any issues or concerns.

PROBATION ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (PEP)

During the summer, the IPS Division conducts a monthly event at Chicago Park District facilities. It is designed to provide clients with an alternative approach to probation officer/client interaction and to promote pro-social behavior. Activities include softball, basketball, golf, and other structured programming. The Art Therapy Unit partners with the IPS Division and provides art sessions for clients to take part in.

COOK COUNTY BOOT CAMP TOUR

The IPS Division coordinates tours of the Cook County Sheriff's Adult Boot Camp at various points throughout the year. IPS clients are exposed to the realities that they may face if they were to become involved with the adult court system. The tour motivates clients to successfully complete probation.

SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM

Each year, IPS teams select 15-20 eligible clients to take part in a three (3) day camping experience. IPS probation officers plan, coordinate and also take part in various activities with clients such as skill building exercises, teamwork drills, positive peer interaction and sporting events. The camp is an alternative to routine probation officer/client interaction and gives minors an opportunity to experience something out of the normal realm of their everyday life.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XVII. Gang School Safety Team

In 2011, 138 youth active within the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department were victims of gun shootings and 25 were victims of homicide.

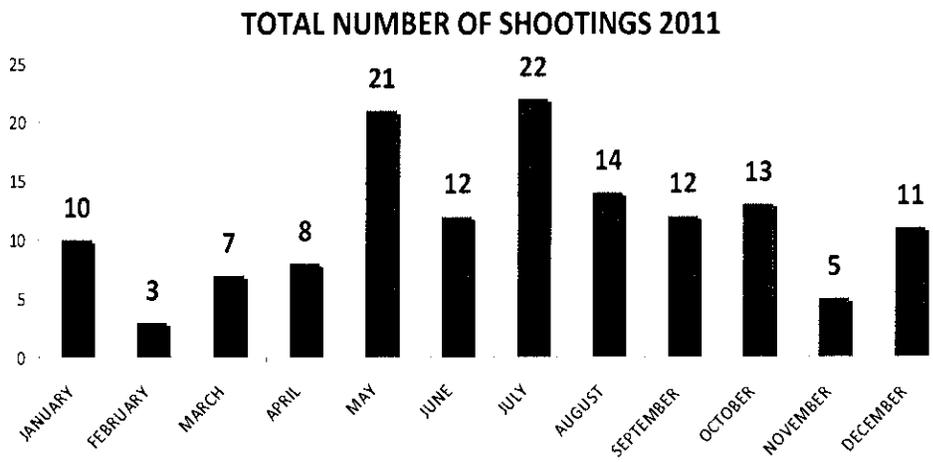
The Gang School Safety Team (GSST) is a collaborative effort of Chicago Police Gang Enforcement officers, Chicago Public School officials, and the Circuit Court of Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department. The GSST has two purposes: to prevent gang crime through proactive measures and to suppress gang violence through the implementation of communicative and conflict resolution strategies.

The program implements a targeted response to a "trigger event" relating to gang related violence to prevent the retaliatory violence cycle that is associated with gang warfare. Upon notification of an incident by the Chicago Police Department, probation staff receives detailed information which involves active clients. Interventions are held within Chicago Public Schools to encourage associates of the victim to refrain from engaging in retaliatory violence and also to identify the participants in the conflict.

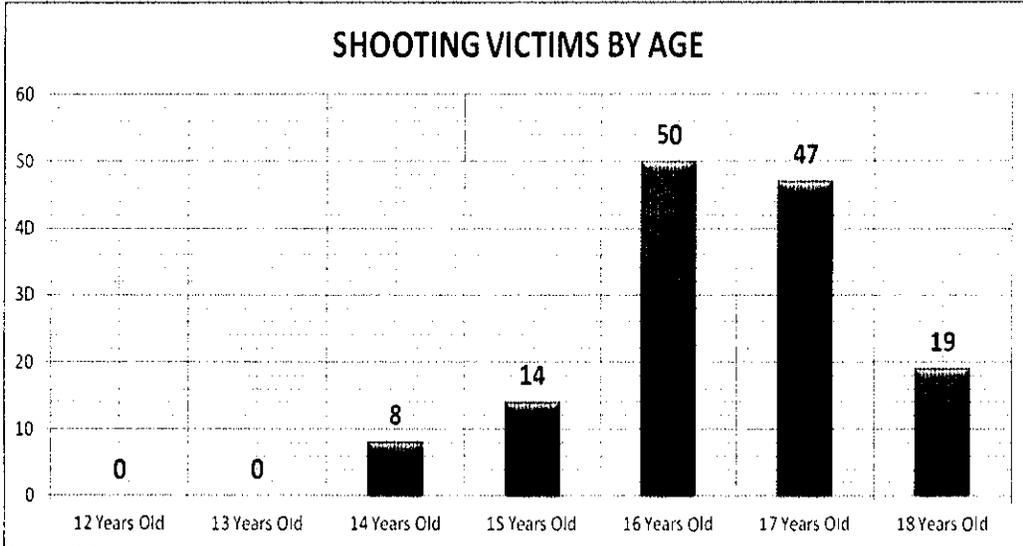
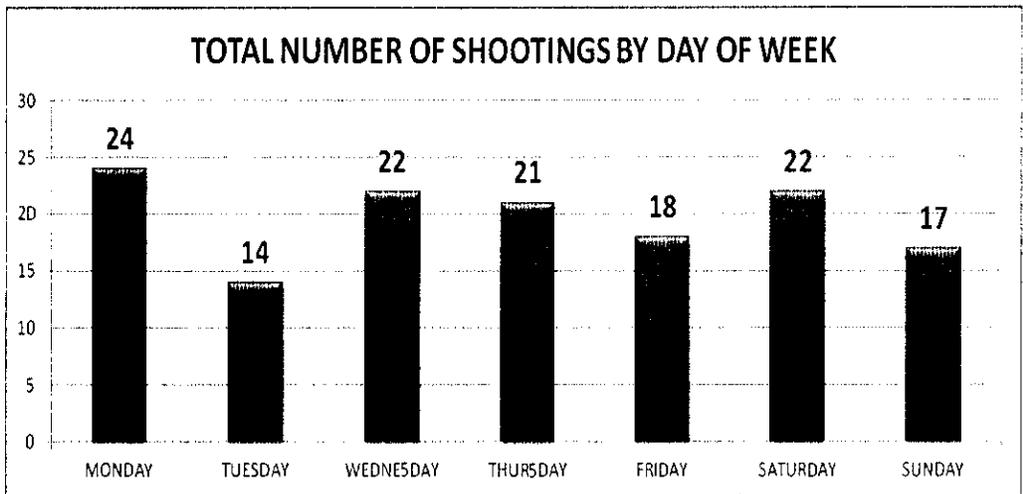
The program allows for probation staff to assist in preventing juveniles from re-offending as well as in lowering the risk of juveniles becoming victims. It allows the department to address the needs of public safety as well as the individual safety of the clients. It also offers the department the opportunity to work with the Chicago Police and the Chicago Public Schools to build a relationship among agencies that can provide valuable information regarding officer safety and minors on probation. Finally, it can increase the department's knowledge on Chicago's growing gang epidemic and the role it plays in our clients' daily lives.

The future of GSST:

- Create partnerships with the staff in the Juvenile Temporary Center and Cook County Jail
- Provide training to staff and other community partners regarding gang trends
- Establish a database for gang involved probationers



The data reflected represents the number of juveniles that are active with the Juvenile Probation Department and have been the victim of a shooting. The time frame for the data is January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011



Source: Data and information compiled by SPO David Flores and PO Mike Keane of the Intensive Probation Division - GSST

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**XVIII. CLINICAL SERVICES DIVISION
XIX. DUALY INVOLVED/SPECIAL SERVICES**

The Dually Involved/Special Services Unit was created in 2009 for the special class of minors who have active cases in both of the court's divisions that are dedicated to juvenile matters: the Child Protection Division, which hears cases involving abuse, neglect, and dependency, and the Juvenile Justice Division, which hears cases involving delinquent minors under 17 years of age and all 17 year-olds charged with misdemeanor offenses.

Dually involved minors are a traditionally underserved population that is disproportionately minority and in need of directed efforts to interrupt the trajectory that often leads to detention or corrections placement.

Probation officers with extensive training in child welfare law, in addition to traditional probation training, are assigned to the unit. The officers provide the necessary advocacy and expertise to ensure that the needs and interests of the minors are met as their cases proceed through the overlapping jurisdictions of the two juvenile court divisions. The officers also coordinate and integrate services provided through child welfare and juvenile justice agencies.

The unit has established protocols to guide its work with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian. Moreover, the unit has begun a new initiative in collaboration with partner agencies and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to improve coordination between the court, DCFS and the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department on dually involved cases.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XX. JUVENILE SEXUAL OFFENDER (JSO) UNIT

MISSION

The Juvenile Sexual Offender (JSO) unit is made up of specially trained probation officers who provide supervision and specialized treatment to juveniles placed on probation or supervision for sex offenses.

GOALS

The JSO unit seeks to do the following:

- reduce the likelihood of subsequent sexual offender behavior for each court ward placed into the program;
- provide direct supervision and accelerated casework services through regular frequent group and/or individual counseling; and
- provide the court with regular reports on each minor's compliance with all components of the probation order.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

Each client assigned to the JSO unit receives behavioral assessments, family orientation, and individual and family counseling. In addition, the adolescent sexual interest and cognition scales are administered as well as the adolescent perception survey.

TREATMENT OBJECTIVES

The objective of the JSO unit is to guide each client successfully through the following treatment stages:

- accepting responsibility through group and individual sessions;
- breaking the sexual offense cycle to allow the minor to become aware of the trigger mechanism that causes him or her to offend;
- identifying and exercising internal control so that the minor will not re-offend, due to impulsive reactions;
- identifying and exercising external control so that the family system will assist the minor to manage the situation and look for triggers that might enable him or her to commit more crimes;
- preventing relapse by training the minor in self-prevention techniques, by building a protocol to follow when sexual offender behavior is triggered, so that the minor will not re-offend; and,
- preparing the minors for the conclusion of their term of probation or supervision when their behavior will be managed through the continued support of their family.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
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XXI. ART THERAPY PROGRAM

Art Therapy refers to a treatment modality that integrates the fields of human development, visual art, and the creative process with models of counseling and psychotherapy to assess and treat mental and emotional problems and disorders. Art therapy uses the creation of art as a means of non-verbal communication and expression with verbal explorations and interventions included.

Art therapy probation officers are master's level professionals who hold a degree in art therapy. The Art Therapy Unit of the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department provides comprehensive therapeutic services to minors on probation/supervision who have been identified as having behavioral, emotional, and/or mental health issues. The mission of the Art Therapy Program is to provide a safe mode of expression for minors to explore feelings, develop self-control and empathy, and change maladaptive attitudes and patterns of behavior.

Through a network of public and private community agencies, the art therapy probation officers conduct individual and group art therapy sessions at courthouses and community sites throughout Cook County. Minors are referred to the program by field probation officers who receive monthly summaries noting the minors' attendance and treatment progress. Art therapy probation officers maintain accurate records, participate in professional staff meetings and conferences, and provide information and consultation regarding minors' clinical progress.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Art therapists accept referrals from probation officers and work in conjunction with court programming, while networking with public and private agencies throughout the community to establish group sites throughout Cook County. Art therapy services are provided to the following:

- Picnic in the Park, in which art therapy is conducted in a park setting
- Evening Reporting Centers
- Court shelters
- Jumpstart
- Chicago Public Schools
- Special projects
- Field site groups
- Individual cases
- Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Advocacy groups

PROGRAM GOALS

The goal of Art Therapy is to provide a safe, nonverbal mode of expression for minors to explore feelings, develop self-control, heighten sensitivity towards victims, and change maladaptive attitudes and patterns of behavior to prevent future delinquent acts.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXII. CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS UNIT

In 2009, the Clinical Interventions Unit was developed to fill gaps in mental health services in the community. Masters level probation officers transferred into the unit to begin providing individual and group counseling to youth.

The probation officers assess the clients and refer them to targeted services within the Juvenile Department and Court Services, and if not available, then refer them to outside community providers. Some of the services available within the Clinical Interventions Unit are:

- **Individual Therapy**
- **Clinical Group Therapy**
- **Anger Management**
- **Trauma Group Therapy**
- **Grief Group Therapy**
- **Gender Specific Groups**

When mental health services are needed, the court is asked to order a referral to the Clinical Interventions Division and order the minor to follow all recommendations. A standardized assessment is completed on each minor who is placed in the identified services.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXIII. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The mission of the Programs and Services Unit is to train and guide at-risk youth using a group process that promotes the development of life skills, self-esteem, responsibility, productivity and community awareness.

Programs and Services uses cognitive based counseling in an individual and group setting. This type of approach focuses on changing thinking patterns, which then leads to changes in behavior. The approach is especially effective in the group process because peer pressure is a key influence of adolescent behavior. A trained and skilled Programs and Services Unit probation officer can provide the necessary guidance for the group to assist each other in accomplishing positive change.

The Group Work Unit probation officers also use evidence-based therapeutic services to decrease recidivism and facilitate change.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXIV. BRIDGES TO MANHOOD FATHERHOOD PROGRAM

MISSION

The Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department established the Bridges to Manhood (BTM) Fatherhood Program to educate, support and advocate for the young fathers involved with the court. This program aims to use the probation experience to allow young men to become better men and fathers.

TARGET POPULATION

BTM focuses on young men between 13 and 18 years of age who are on probation and who currently have a child or are expecting a child. Young fathers can be referred as part of a court order or directly from the probation officer at least five months prior to terminating probation.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

BTM provides young fathers with 20 plus weeks of life skills training, fathering classes and field trips to expose young fathers to the tools needed for their own growth and the development of their children. These goals are met through dynamic group interaction, lecture, role play, exercises, coaching and aggressive mentoring advocacy. The young men are also provided with opportunities to complete probation requirements, participate in job readiness classes, and learn about the legal and financial issues accompanying fatherhood. Some benefits of this program are:

- Medical resources for both the parents and child
- Community service hours for involvement
- Completion of victim impact requirement
- Completion of violence intervention requirement
- First Aid training
- CPR training and possible certification
- Development of leadership skills through peer facilitation
- Stipends
- Access to the job readiness programs

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXV. RETAIL THEFT PROGRAM

MISSION

The Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department established the Retail Theft School to educate first-time juvenile shoplifters about the many consequences of retail theft. The goals of the program include helping offenders recognize the legal, social and economic impact of shoplifting and holding them accountable for their actions.

TARGET POPULATION

The program is designed for minors who live in Cook County, have little or no delinquent background and are first-time court referrals for retail theft. Minors who have been station adjusted for retail theft can be referred to the program by youth investigators or probation officers in the Community Liaison Unit. Judges and assistant state's attorneys can also refer minors as part of a probation/supervision order or court alternative program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Classes are held from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., one Saturday each month, at the Cook County Juvenile Court Center, 1100 South Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
The course of study is as follows:

- An introduction to the purpose and aim of the class
- A presentation on legal implications by an assistant state's attorney who will:
 - Identify and define various types of retail theft
 - Explain possible sentence options if the case goes to court and the implications of having a juvenile arrest record
 - Discuss possible costs in money and time to parents if case goes to court
 - Define civil liability and explain possible action against minor offenders and their parents
- Question and answer period
- Survey completions concerning the minor's retail theft history
- Video presentation "Shoplifting Doesn't Pay" followed by discussion

- Results of the surveys are presented to the minors and their parents for comment and feedback
- Explanation by a probation officer about the economic impact retail theft has on the store, the neighborhood, and the offender's own family
- Discussion with a store owner, store security guard, or loss prevention specialist on victim impact to emphasize the following:
 - retail theft is not a victimless crime
 - difficulties and limitations of dealing with insurance companies in getting compensation and coverage for stolen items
 - impact of retail theft on businesses and the community
- A probation officer addresses offender accountability
- Each minor and his or her parent or guardian signs a contract making them responsible for providing the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department with proof verifying the following has been completed by the minor:
 - A 500-word essay about what they learned from the program
 - Five hours or more of community service
 - A letter of apology to the retailer from whom the items were stolen
 - Restitution, if determined by the assistant state's attorney
 - Any consequence determined to be appropriate by the assistant state's attorney and/or the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department
- A pre- and post-test are administered and scored to help evaluate the validity and effectiveness of the program.

The Programs and Services Division administers the Retail Theft School in collaboration with the State's Attorney's Office.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXVI. STREET DREAMS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

MISSION

The Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department established the Street Dreams Program to provide juvenile probationers with employment opportunities that have been developed by community outreach and employers willing to engage court wards in a job-related educational experiences.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- develop, identify and maintain productive contacts with major corporations in the Chicago area for the placement of court wards into jobs
- promote positive changes in the attitude and behavior of juvenile probationers by providing them with the exposure to a productive work ethic, specific job training and the opportunity to earn his or her own salary
- design an individualized program that will benefit the specific needs of the probationer within a corporate setting
- network with existing department programs such as group work, volunteers/mentoring, community service, home confinement and other collateral agencies to the benefit to the probationer and his or her family
- maintain weekly contact with probationers in their school and community to ensure successful engagement and progress
- host monthly group social outings donated by business, sports or entertainment organizations and
- facilitate job development fairs

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXVII. ADVOCACY DIVISION

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Advocacy Division is to assess and provide appropriate services to minors and families in the areas of emotional, mental, educational, and physical welfare needs.

GOALS

- Develop minor's competency and accountability through therapeutic interventions
- Develop and implement financial strategies for providing quality services
- Reunify minors with their families whenever possible
- Monitor the quality of services being provided to the clients.

The Advocacy unit recommends appropriate services and identifies appropriate funding sources such as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Chicago Board of Education, or Illinois Department of Human Services.

The field probation officer remains on the case at all times. The Advocacy probation officer provides an additional service as mandated by the court. When the minor is stabilized in the community, the case will remain exclusively with the field probation officer.

XXVIII. PLACEMENT EVALUATION WORKGROUP

In July 2008, the Illinois General Assembly passed HB 291/PA 95-0642 which allows judges to commit youth to the Department of Children and Family Services who are not yet age 15 at the time of sentencing. When delinquent behavior continues, stabilization services are unsuccessful and relative placement is unavailable or inappropriate, this may lead to an increase in commitments to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The use of targeted services for parents and youth or both should help reduce the need for residential placement through DCFS. A protocol was established so that the decision and placement process is efficient and warranted.

The case is referred to the Placement Evaluation Workgroup (PEW). The goal is to ensure community safety, competency development, victim consideration, and the best interest of the minor. The case is staffed with personnel from DCFS, the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department, the Cook County Public Defender, the Cook

County State's Attorney and any other agency involved with the case. A recommendation is given to the judge and a decision is made.

In the past, youth have been committed to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services on delinquency petitions for a variety of reasons. These reasons may warrant removal from the parents and commitment to DCFS for placement by DCFS in a relative's home, a foster home, a group home or residential treatment center. Youth who were eligible in the past had to be committed before their 13th birthday but could remain in the DCFS system until their 21st birthday. The main differences between these youth and the neglected/abused youth are that there does not have to be a finding of neglect, abuse or dependency on the parent nor a finding of reasonable efforts to prevent the placement. Another difference is the Juvenile Justice judge retains jurisdiction of the case.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXIX. JUMPSTART PROGRAM

MISSION

The mission of the JUMPSTART Program is to provide out-of-school delinquent children with a twenty week, success-readiness experience that will prepare them educationally, emotionally and psychologically for a successful return to full time learning. The program seeks to refocus and redirect those minors who demonstrate neither the skills nor the motivation to continue their education.

PROGRAM GOALS

JUMPSTART immerses its participants in a structured, highly interactive learning environment in the safe confines of the Juvenile Center. Its goals are as follows:

- To present ten weeks of daily classroom instruction that will help sharpen students' academic skills and encourage personal goal setting and problem-solving
- To promote self-awareness and individual responsibility
- To evaluate students' academic skill levels and vocational aptitudes
- To match each student with an appropriate community-based learning program, either educational or vocational, that will provide an opportunity for his or her continued growth
- To provide ten weeks of intensive aftercare after students are re-enrolled, to help them make a successful transition back to mainstream educational programming

TARGET POPULATION:

JUMPSTART is open to all delinquent minors throughout Cook County who are (1) between the ages of 16 and 18, (2) not enrolled in school, and (3) uncooperative with other forms of intervention. The program is designed for those clients who have demonstrated little capacity to succeed elsewhere. JUMPSTART will accept virtually any applicant as long as he/she has managed to complete the 8th grade.

CLASSROOM PHASE:

The Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department launched JUMPSTART in August 2000, as a means of targeting minors who feel little or no connection to their previous schooling. Realizing that these minors face adulthood at a severe disadvantage, probation officers developed a 20-week intensive program designed to help participants start thinking differently about themselves, their education and their future.

The first ten weeks of JUMPSTART are a classroom experience, conducted at the Juvenile Center at 1100 South Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Two specially trained probation officers or "classroom officers" teach reading, math and social studies every morning. Using interactive techniques and learning materials that provide maximum student impact, they focus on getting and holding student attention, generating discussion and encouraging participation. The program provides all students with bus fare to and from Jumpstart, as well as lunch every day.

In the afternoons, two outreach officers teach non-academic subjects, such as job-readiness, communication and goal setting skills, health and human development, fine arts, and conflict resolution. The outreach officers also provide daily, direct supervision and a full range of support services to all program participants.

AFTERCARE PHASE

During the initial ten-week classroom phase, the entire JUMPSTART staff assesses each student academically and works with him or her to establish meaningful goals as well as a personal plan of action. Immediately thereafter, a ten-week Aftercare Phase ensues. All students are matched with full-time educational programs back in the community where they can work toward achieving their goals in settings that offer the best possible chance for success.

Throughout the Aftercare Phase, the outreach officers provide intensive follow-up and support. They visit the students weekly, at home and at school, helping them make adjustments, solve problems and build a support system in their new programs. The JUMPSTART staff uses every resource at its disposal to enable its students to begin seeing themselves as competent, functioning adults with hopeful futures.

General Equivalency Diploma (GED) Expansion

Central States SER, Jobs for Progress has been working with the JUMPSTART program to provide classes in preparation for the GED. The classes are held in the JUMPSTART classrooms at the Juvenile Center. Grant funding has provided, computers and GED preparation tests. In 2012, the Juvenile Probation and Court Services department will secure licensing to host the actual GED exam.

XXX. EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY

The educational advocacy probation officers assist families in navigating the school system and obtaining appropriate educational services. They also seek to empower families to advocate for their child who may be in need of special education assistance. This unit consists of one supervisor and seven probation officers. Initiated as a pilot in 2005, Educational Advocacy was implemented department-wide in 2006.

The goal of Educational Advocacy is to work with youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system at the initial stages to reduce truancy and school related technical violations of probation and to increase parental awareness about their child's educational rights. In 2008, Educational Advocacy expanded its scope to include the Reentry Unit. This unit helps those youth who are in the detention center and not previously enrolled in school to reenter into an appropriate educational setting after they are released from the detention center. Currently the Reentry Officers provide assistance to youth and families who reside in the Lawndale, Austin, and Englewood areas.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXXI. JUVENILE COURT DRUG PROGRAM

The Juvenile Court Drug Program was implemented in October 1996 and includes the following program components:

- early and continuing judicial supervision for non-violent substance abusing delinquent minors
- development and implementation of an integrated administration of sanctions and program services
- a network of community-based licensed clinical treatment agencies which provide a continuum of intervention strategies
- mandatory periodic testing for the use of controlled substances and/or other addictive substances during the entire period of program participation
- substance abuse treatment for each program participant
- programmatic client management and aftercare services such as relapse prevention, health care, education, and vocational training
- family members' job and housing placements
- deferred prosecution, supervision or probation involving the possibility of confinement or prosecution if the minor does not comply with the stated program requirements or demonstrate satisfactory progress
- an evaluation component of all program and clinical services provided through the pilot program
- an integrated management information system which promotes expedited case processing and accountability to the court
- a community outreach component to enhance the development of aftercare services available to program participants

The Juvenile Court Drug Program pursues the following objectives:

- develop a network of community-based drug treatment agencies for minors who have exhibited delinquent behavior related to the abuse of illegal substances
- implement a continuum of intervention strategies for minors and their families that address both potential risk to the community and the individual treatment needs
- identify specific outcome behaviors for participating minors, establish a percentage of minors who will successfully complete the drug program, and implement expedited case processing and drug intervention strategies for participants

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXXII. JUVENILE ADVISORY COUNCIL (JAC)

JAC is a dynamic partnership of probation staff and court wards (present and past), working together to develop a client-based perspective on the department's programs and policies.

MISSION

The mission of Cook County's Juvenile Advisory Council (JAC) is to create a forum for youth to assist the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department in its efforts to (1) assess the effectiveness of its present supervision and services, (2) better understand the needs of its clients, and (3) enhance its programming to meet those needs.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

JAC began its work in December 2002, when six young men and women, all of them involved at one time in the juvenile justice system, joined 20 probation staff in a unique collaboration between the department and prior clients. The hope that inspired this venture was that by working together, professional staff and young adults could provide a youth viewpoint for the department to consider as it evaluates current service delivery and plans future programming.

JAC relies heavily on its younger members (referred to as Youth Representatives) to guide its work through their thoughts and insights to an ongoing examination of the many aspects of the probation experience.

The council meets independently throughout the year, conceives and designs its own projects, and works with court management to implement its findings and recommendations.

JAC PROGRAMS

On the final Saturday of alternating months, teams of JAC Youth Representatives conduct two interactive programs for court wards throughout the department.

The Probation Orientation Program provides clients and parents who are new to the court system with a multiple-impact introduction to probation. The program was designed to help client understanding of probation's rules, expectations, consequences and services.

JAC's exit interview program offers clients preparing to conclude their probation with an opportunity to share their experiences, ideas and suggestions about their court involvement. Through survey questions and small group discussion, participants

provide a client-based perspective that helps the department evaluate and strengthen its programming.

JAC'S YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Youth Representatives are at the heart of JAC's operation. They are equal partners and enjoy the same standing, benefits, and rights as adult staff members. Although their opinions are not binding on the council, they are given strong consideration and will often form the basis for JAC's decisions.

JAC is open to all young men and women who have ever been involved in the juvenile justice system. As JAC grows and progresses in its work, Youth Representatives will be increasingly expected to assume leadership roles and determine JAC's future direction and goals. Youth Representatives are paid a stipend of \$25 for each full council meeting they attend. They earn \$50 for co-leading a JAC Saturday Program.

JAC'S FUTURE

As it expands its involvement and influence, the Juvenile Advisory Council has the potential to become a model for other jurisdictions and a touchstone for juvenile justice in many crucial areas of programming, planning and decision making. To date, more than 6,900 youth have participated in the JAC orientation and exit interview.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXXIII. DEPENDENCY PROJECT

The Dependency Project, established in 2005, is a collaborate effort of juvenile justice stakeholder agencies that help to identify suitable alternatives for minors who must remain in detention, shelter care (Saura/Neon) or residential placement solely because they are without a parent/guardian or their guardian is incapacitated. Dependency Project members include Juvenile Justice Division judges, Assistant Public Defenders, Assistant State's Attorneys, and representatives of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the court's Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department, and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).

Although small in number, these vulnerable minors deserve aggressive and coordinated attention for several reasons. For example, many of these minors are pre-trial cases, with no probation officer yet assigned, which can result in the loss of crucial services. Absent direct case assignments, no one is responsible for facilitating hotline phone calls, obtaining records, interviewing potential caretakers and performing home studies to find a suitable alternative for the minor. The Dependency Project bridges the institutional gap among the stakeholder agencies in caring for these vulnerable minors.

The Dependency Project works as follows: after the court determines that a minor is within the targeted population, an investigative team comprising representatives from each of the stakeholder agencies is assigned. The team is given 21 days to conduct interviews and home studies and obtain necessary records. Based on the team's findings, suitable alternatives for the minor are then presented to the court. Options can include the following: filing of a dependency petition; appointment of a guardian; or efforts to locate the parents or guardian. The team also provides weekly progress reports to the court. If an alternate placement has not been found after 21 days, the Dependency Project partners will decide how to resolve the issue.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXXIV. DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENTS

Research Consortium

In fall 2010, the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department began collaboration with local universities to draw on their knowledge and resources to improve services to the youth and the families it serves.

The department plans to establish standards on the use of data and research findings for every program. The ultimate goal is to support the efforts of seeking third party funding.

In 2012, the department will continue to convene with its partners in academia to evaluate and effectively address the needs of the youth and their families.

**Grant Funded Programming
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Second Chance Reentry Grant**

In October 2010, the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department was awarded funding through the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The grant provides Multisystemic Therapy for youth who have been identified comorbid while in the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center and are returning home. Once the mental health and substance abuse diagnosis has been identified, a case coordinator interviews the youth and his/her family to determine if they will participate in the Multisystemic Intervention. MST is an in home counseling which is available on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The therapists work with the families on an average of four months. Drug tests will also be submitted randomly throughout the intervention.

This grant will fund Multisystemic Therapy for 64 families throughout the course of one year.

National Institute on Drug Abuse

The University of Chicago received funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to provide Cognitive Behavioral Groups to youth on probation and supervision. The groups will be led by a doctorate level therapist as well as a probation officer. This 12 week intervention will be offered in communities throughout Chicago.

Three hundred youth will be randomly selected for this grant funded group. One hundred of the youth will receive a stipend for attending the groups, and all youth selected will submit random urine drops.

This cognitive behavioral intervention will enhance the skill set of the probation officer and allow for numerous staff throughout the department to be trained in this evidence based approach.

Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant

The Cook County State's Attorney's office received funding through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Funding has been reserved for youth involved with the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department to purchase equipment for Home Confinement with Electronic Monitoring, JUMPSTART computers and programs, as well as fees and licenses associated with establishing the department as a GED test site. This grant also allows staff to attend training on a local, state, and national level to gain additional knowledge of current practice and acquire new evidence based techniques to work with our population.

Under the Programs and Services Division, JABG funding has been awarded by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to provide pre-employment groups to youth. The department provides stipends for youth who attend the first phase of job readiness groups as well as phase two, which is the internship program. The skills the youth receive during this process ideally will result in part time to full time employment.

**CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
JUVENILE PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

XXXV. APPENDIX

- A. "More Kids Locked Up, Study Finds ~ Cook County Wins Praise for Bucking Trend," Chicago Tribune, January 8, 2004.
- B. "Juvenile Detention Up in U.S. But Falls in Cook County," Chicago Sun-Times, January 8, 2004.
- C. "Keeping Youths Out of Detention is Key Priority for Court," Letter to the Editor from Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, February 3, 2004.
- D. "Helping Youths Stay Out of Jail ~ Mediation Linked to Lower Rate of Teen Rearrests," Chicago Tribune, August 2, 2004.
- E. "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility," Youth Outreach Services newsletter, Fall 2004.
- F. "Young Shoplifters Get Dose of Reality in Theft Program," Daily Southtown, January 23, 2005.
- G. "Cook County's Juvenile Probation Holds 7th Annual Back to School Rally," The North Lawndale Community News, August 31-September 13, 2005.
- H. "Chicago Lawyer's 2006 Person of the Year: Carol A. Kelly," Chicago Lawyer, December 2006.
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Chicago Tribune

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2004

More kids locked up, study finds

Cook County wins praise for bucking trend

By Angela Rozas
Tribune staff reporter

Despite a steady decline in arrests of juveniles for violent crimes, the number of youths who are locked up while awaiting trial has soared nationwide, according to a national report released Wednesday.

Nationwide, juvenile arrests for violent crimes drop-

ped almost 60 percent from 1994 to 2000, while the number held in locked detention centers increased about 72 percent. Most are held on non-violent charges, and more than half are age 15 or younger, the report said.

The report, issued by the Washington-based Coalition for Juvenile Justice, criticized a national "over-reliance" on secure detention facilities for juveniles. It also points to Cook County and its use of alternative detention programs, such as home confinement and centers where juveniles can go in the evenings, as a leading example of how

youths should be handled.

"Throughout the United States, we too often lock away children upon arrest, before they've had a hearing," said John Dewese, national chair of the coalition. "But the decision to place them behind bars can backfire."

Juveniles who are locked up while awaiting trial are exposed to violent criminals, sending them back into society with more anger and desire to do harm, the report said.

But justice systems like Cook County's that divert non-violent juveniles who aren't flight risks into alternative programs while they

await trial ultimately save money and improve the youth's chances for positive change, Dewese said.

He said authorities tend to use detention facilities as "holding pens" for juveniles, when they can't figure out where else to put them.

"That's not a solution. Youth should be placed in the least restrictive, appropriate environment and be removed from secure detention as quickly as possible," Dewese said.

Since adopting the Illinois Juvenile Detention Alterna-

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JUVENILES: Detention hurts youths, report says

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tives Initiative in 1994, Cook County has cut by 40 percent the number of juveniles who have been locked up, without any increase in youth crime, the report stated. In fact, youth arrests for violent crimes fell 54 percent in Cook County from 1993 to 1999, according to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, cited in the report.

About 90 percent of the juveniles who go through the programs in Cook County also remain arrest-free and attend their court hearings while in the program. That's proof, officials said, that you don't have to lock up most youths to keep them out of trouble.

"Safety is not increased by locking kids up," said Patrick Tolan, director of the Institute for Juvenile Research at the University of Illinois at Chica-

go. "What this shows is that most of the interventions that we have can be done in the community for less money. And it's more effective."

Cook County runs a number of detention alternative programs, including seven evening-reporting centers. The centers, such as one on Ogden Avenue run by the Westside Association for Community Action, provide a place for juveniles to go after school to do homework, attend life-skills classes and eat a meal, said Bill

'Safety is not increased by locking kids up.'

Patrick Tolan, Institute for Juvenile Research at UIC

Sifferman, deputy director of the Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department.

The programs are designed to keep juveniles busy during what is statistically the time of day when they are at the highest risk for committing crimes, Sifferman said.

"This is not just basketball and pool. There is a structured learning environment," Siffer-

man said.

Other detention alternatives include staff-secure shelters and electronic monitoring systems such as ankle bracelets to make sure juveniles stay home.

The programs have reduced the daily population in Cook County's juvenile detention center from a 1986 high of 848 to an average of 445 youths, officials said.

And though the programs were designed largely to make sure juveniles don't commit more crimes while awaiting hearings, officials said they also help juveniles turn their lives around.

Jason Smith, a former gang member who was arrested several times, first went to an after-school program run by the Westside Association when he was 15. The program encouraged him to go back to school, get a bachelor's degree and eventually become a probation officer.

"As a young man, I was led to believe that the only thing that was guaranteed to me was a life of crime and imprisonment," said Smith, now 25. "I have witnessed professionally and personally how youth can benefit from these alternative programs. They can teach them valuable skills that they can use later on in the future."

METRO

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES • THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2004

Juvenile detention up in U.S. but falls in Cook County

BY GARY WISEBY
Staff Reporter

Cook County's juvenile justice system drew kudos Wednesday for bucking a national lock-'em-up trend.

Detention of young offenders nationwide has swelled 72 percent in the last decade, the Washington-based Coalition for Juvenile Justice said in a report. But over the same period, juvenile detention in Cook County has fallen by 40 percent.

"The decision to place juveniles behind bars while awaiting trial can backfire," said John Dewese, chairman of the coalition, visiting the Westside Association for Community Action to release the report. "They're more likely to be arrested again, and it's more costly, up to \$36,500 per year per bed."

Cook County's system is "a front-runner and a fine example," one of few in the country, Dewese said.

Jason Smith, 25, joined the Gangster Disciples at age 12. At 15, he was arrested for a handgun crime and threatened with detention. Instead, he was sent to Westside.

"As a young man, I had the belief that the only thing that faced me was a life of crime and prison," Smith said.

But in the new setting, Smith was encouraged not only to stay in school but to get an advanced degree. He graduated from Malcolm X and Roosevelt colleges and became a county probation officer and director of Westside's evening reporting center.

Cook County has seven such centers, attended by nonviolent juvenile arrestees from 4 to 9 p.m. five days a week. They do homework, receive art therapy and ani-

mal therapy, listen to victim-impact panels, enjoy recreational and social activities and eat a good meal before getting a ride home.

"It's not just basketball and pool," said Bill Sifferman, deputy director of Cook County juvenile probation and co-chairman of the Illinois Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Other alternatives include home confinement and electronic monitoring.

Keeping youths out of detention is key priority for court

To the editor:

In a report to Congress released on Jan. 8 by the Washington, D.C.-based Coalition for Juvenile Justice, the Cook County Circuit Court received high marks for diverting children who are charged with a nonviolent delinquent act from unnecessary incarceration while continuing to protect public safety. Our Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) is being heralded nationwide for providing the court with community-based alternatives to detention that help to ensure that the only youth who are confined before trial are those who pose a risk to themselves or to others.

Since 1994, juvenile arrests for violent crimes across the country fell by almost 60 percent, while the number of young persons incarcerated in our nation's detention centers soared by 72 percent.

The Circuit Court has developed programs and services that are appropriate alternatives to detention for youth who simply stand accused, and who the court believes can benefit from community-based guidance, services and support. These programs have reduced the average daily population of the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center by nearly 40 percent, from 692 in 1996 to 464 in 2003. On Jan. 1, the population in the detention center was 369, the lowest it has been in 12 years.

The juvenile detention alternative programs succeed because they enable judges and juvenile justice professionals to assess the individual risk posed by each young person entering the system. The programs offer judges increased

Letter to the Editor

home-based surveillance options, such as home confinement and electronic monitoring, as well as community-based supervision, through evening reporting centers and staff-secure shelters. These programs engage young persons in positive and productive activities without compromising public safety.

The results are stunning. Over the past eight years, not only has Cook County seen a dramatic reduction in the number of children who must be confined, but public safety has also been enhanced. The average success rate for young persons who remain arrest-free while assigned to these JDAI programs is more than 90 percent. These alternative detention programs also have contributed to a 58 percent drop in the number of young persons who fail to appear for scheduled court hearings.

One of the detention alternative programs cited by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, which also is a highlight for visiting delegations from court systems around the country, is our evening reporting center program. With seven locations throughout Cook County, evening reporting centers are community-based sites that operate in partnership with sponsoring social service organizations. The centers provide nonviolent minors with highly structured and well supervised group activities. The program's goal is to reduce the likelihood of rearrest and to allow minors to continue to attend school and remain at home. Young persons are ordered by a judge to attend

the centers for a specified number of days. Transportation is provided to and from the center, where they remain during the late afternoon and early evening. Professional staff members offer educational activities, recreational programming and life development workshops, as well as an evening meal.

In my capacity as chief judge and ultimately responsible for as many successful court programs as we can pursue, I want to acknowledge our partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation as well as with President John H. Stroger and the members of the Cook County Board, which provide financial support to our programs. I also want to acknowledge Presiding Judge Curtis Heaston and the judges of the Juvenile Justice Division, and Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department Director Michael Rohan and his staff who help identify those young people who would benefit from these alternative detention programs.

As other jurisdictions begin to reexamine the unnecessary confining of young persons in trouble who pose no threat, it is my hope we will see a national shift in policies and goals, from locking kids up and throwing away the key to opening doors to a better future.

*Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans
Cook County Circuit Court*

Helping youths stay out of jail

Mediation linked to lower rate of teen rearrests

By Jeff Coen
Tribune staff reporter

Several years into a program designed to take young offenders out of Cook County Juvenile Court and into mediation, a DePaul University study has found that the effort is helping its participants avoid getting rearrested.

The study looked at a sample of 386 juvenile offenders beginning in 1999. Among the 157 in the study sample who completed mediation, nearly 70 percent had not been arrested by the end of 2003.

Such statistics suggest mediation in the Balanced and Restorative Justice Program can significantly reduce recidivism, researchers said.

"It has great promise for helping offenders to cease offending," said Rosemary Bannan, a DePaul sociology professor who led the study.

Representatives of the Cook County state's attorney's office screen incoming juvenile cases for good candidates, typically young people who have committed a first or second crime, usually non-violent.

If the victim is willing to participate, community mediators lead a conference conducted by the Center for Conflict Resolution, where victim and offender and their parents discuss the situation. Both sides must agree on a solution, which can include restitution.

"I think that the offender is given some appreciation for what happened to the victim," Bannan said, adding that the young people have a stake in making the agreements work, for violating the pact would send them back to Juvenile Court.

The state's attorney's office has been a major proponent of this program and mediation in general.

State's Atty Richard Devine was pleased by the results of the DePaul research.

"It doesn't necessarily surprise me, but I am gratified by the numbers," Devine said. "It does reflect our belief that the Balanced and Restorative Justice Program . . . did have the potential to work."

In the first year, 61 percent of those who had completed mediation had not been arrested, compared with 35 percent of those who were not in mediation, the study found.

After three years, 69 percent who completed mediation had not been rearrested, though some of them had arrests wiped from the system. Of those not in the system, numbers who had not been rearrested evened to within eight percentage points of those in the system by the end of the research period, suggesting Juvenile Court was itself working, those involved in the study said.

The study found that mediation works best for offenders 16 and 17 years old and that it is largely successful across race and gender lines.

Devine's office also found signs of progress that it attributes in part to the program.

In 1996, before the mediation program existed, 18,828 juvenile cases were filed in the system, compared with 8,700 in 2002 during the study period.

Devine said mediation between offender and victim "humanizes the situation across the board," with offenders understanding the damage they have caused someone.

"If a decent number of young people do feel the impact, and it gives them a wakeup call, we're way to the good on all of this," Devine said. "This is a good review of the start, and we hope to continue this and expand on it."

Bannan agreed that victims and their families who agree to participate in mediation deserve a lot of the credit for the success of the idea.

"They're the heroes," she said. "They're taking the time, and they're making an impression on these offenders that keeps them out of the system."

Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility

Joulaika Buchan, a counselor at Youth Outreach Services' Austin office was selected to be an honoree at the Cook County Juvenile Court Probation Department's Women's History Month celebration, "Women Inspiring Hope & Possibility." Because of her extraordinary work with young women in the Austin

individual. Melissa Ferguson, who also nominated Joulaika, refers all of her clients to Joulaika because they really open up to her. Ms. Ferguson went on to share that Joulaika is "By far the best counselor I've ever worked with."

The groups of usually 10 young women

that Joulaika works with are referred through the probation department's girl's unit. Her group meets once a week, as a supplement to individual counseling.

It's a safe place for the girls to openly discuss what's on their mind and to hopefully learn from and help one another. Though Joulaika usually provides an opening topic to begin discussions, the girls ultimately determine what gets discussed. Topics might range from school, to having children, or issues related to physical and emotional health.

Miranda, one of the young women in the group, shared that she has found the workshops on attitude and self-esteem really helpful. "I don't get angry as easily as I used to," she said. Her time with the group has helped Miranda to think before she acts and to better understand her emotions and confront challenges with greater presence of mind.

Joulaika strives to empower young people and believes that girls should have a voice in their treatment, and in their lives in general, because without it they will not change. She also feels that successful development requires opportunity. And Joulaika works hard to provide her girls' groups with outings and activities that supplement their weekly meetings and expose the girls to new and different ideas, experiences, and possibilities.

Joulaika hopes to provide the girls in her group with an environment that helps them feel good about themselves and will make them want to do good for themselves.



From left to right: Kathrin Stumpf (Supervisor, Girls Unit), Nicole Underwood (P.O. Girls Unit), Melissa Ferguson (P.O. Girls Unit), Joulaika Buchan (Youth Outreach Services), Gabrielle Grabowski (P.O. Girls Unit), Dorothy Papachristos (P.O. Girls Unit)

community, Joulaika was the only counselor in Cook County who received such an award.

The probation officers who nominated her felt that it was important to acknowledge her unique approach to treatment and the positive changes she has helped to bring about in the youth she works with. Gabrielle Grabowski, one of the nominating probation officers, expressed that Joulaika really "Goes above and beyond what is needed to help her clients," and describes her as a truly exceptional

The girls in the program participated in decorating the room where they meet; and it's very much their own space. Celery green-colored walls surround a room filled with comfy couches and soft lighting. It's a warm, inviting space where the girls know that they can "be real," as Joulaika puts it.

Their time together here is all about being honest about what's going on with them.



LOCAL

Young shoplifters get dose of reality in theft program

By Kristin Volk
MediH News Service

She felt her heart beat faster, her palms get sweatier and a rush of adrenaline course through her body.

"I'm going to let my friends go first before I do it," she thought to herself.

Then it was her turn. "Should I do it?" she contemplated.

She did. And the next thing she knew, there was the snap of handcuffs around her wrists.

The 16-year-old was arrested after attempting to steal more than \$800 worth of clothing from Marshall Field's.

But instead of a trial or time in the Juvenile Detention Center, she was one of nearly 40 juvenile thieves ordered to attend Cook County Juvenile Court's three-hour Retail Theft Program.

The program, attended by more than 2,000 Chicago-area kids since it began five years ago, teaches the shoplifters — some as young as 10 — about the gravity of retail theft.

"Shoplifting is stealing. Stealing is a crime. And crime doesn't pay," Cook County Juvenile Court deputy chief probation officer Chuck Michalek told the group.

An assistant state's attorney, an undercover retail security guard and two probation officers told the first-time offenders, who stole a combined total of more than \$5,000, and their parents, about the far-reaching consequences of stealing.

Parents are required to accompany their children to the course.

"We don't want this to be a program about punishment, but rather a program holding them accountable for their actions by demonstrating how their behavior negatively impacts their family, the community and themselves," Michalek said.

Michalek said more money is lost in retail theft around the country in one day than all bank robberies in one year. He said 33 percent of shoplifters are teenagers.

A 14-year-old boy who stole a CD said he learned a lot about the implications of retail theft from the program.

"I know not to steal anymore because there are major problems you have to attend to, and I don't want to go to juvenile (detention center)," he said in an interview during a break in the session.

The mother of a 16-year-old and a 14-year-old accused of stealing girl's clothing said the Retail Theft Program has been a lesson for her kids as well as herself.

"I'm just getting educated with the laws, and I see how the small costs lead up to the big costs," said the North Side

woman, who lives in public housing.

At the completion of the program, the kids must write an apology letter to the victimized retailer in addition to writing an essay about what they have learned performing community service.

"I've learned that if you don't want to get a felony, you better try to keep history from repeating itself," said an 11-year-old boy who stole video games and equipment. "I may be tempted to do it again, but I have to find something else to do so I don't get bored (and steal)."

James Worthington, who has been a security guard at retail stores around Chicago, said he tries to convey the seriousness of shoplifting.

"Right when you go past the register, that's retail theft," Worthington said. "This is not a game. For as little as an item is, it costs the store a lot of money."

Michalek said some stores are increasing the price of products by as much as 10 percent to cover security costs.

Would the 16-year-old girl who stole from Marshall Field's do it again?

"Heck no! I wouldn't even go with anyone who shoplifts after learning about the consequences," she said.

Cook County: Alternative sentencing for minority juveniles working

news

by Kate Eckman

Concerns over racial fairness and equality have led Cook County Juvenile Court officials to search for alternative sentencing measures for African American and Hispanic youth, and they say the alternatives are working.

"There is a disproportionate (sentencing) issue in Cook County because minorities make up approximately 45 percent of the population, whereas 80 percent of youth locked up are minority," said Michael Roban, probation department director at Juvenile Court. "It's been a reality for a long time, but nobody has addressed it."

According to Roban, a decade ago, youths were detained mostly because there were no other options. Today, there are alternatives to detention that give minority delinquents a structured atmosphere, something many don't have at home. "We want the least restrictive setting [for the youths] without compromising public safety," Roban said.

Officials say most minority

youths do not have access to the resources that Caucasian youths do and lack a family support system. By offering alternative community-based programs, minority youths have the opportunity to build self-esteem and discover what they are good at, Roban said.

In addition, the probation department has diversified its staff to look more like the youths it serves. Former juvenile delinquents are now working as parole officers to help minority youths feel comfortable and safe.

"They are an extension of our community," Roban explained. "To be more culturally competent, we want (the probation officers to have) diversity in experience, not just in race, gender or ethnicity."

"They are great role models for the youths," he continued. "Because of that, the success of our programs has gone up."

According to probation department figures, the average success rate - youth who are not arrested while in alternative treatment programs - is more than 90 percent.

In Cook County, it costs \$115 a day to keep a youth in a detention center, but only \$33 a day for the youth to attend a community-based alternative program, according to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, a Washington D.C.-based group.

"I'm already accustomed to what they're experiencing," he said. "I'm able to provide them with direction and advice. They're already comfortable with me and therefore more willing to do the things I ask of them."

Placing certain youth into community-based programs instead of detention centers is beneficial because it occupies much of their time, Smith said. The youths take part in structured activities during the evening hours at centers located in poorer neighborhoods with high crime rates, where many of them live.

Research indicates that between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. is when teens are most likely to commit crimes.

Not only are alternative programs more beneficial for youth, they also are more cost effective, according to Roban.

In Cook County, it costs \$115 a day to keep a youth in a detention center, but only \$33 a day for the youth to attend a community-based alternative program, according to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

a Washington D.C.-based group.

"If you make sure kids have equal access to alternatives, you will be blown away by the immediate change of [detention] facility," said Bob Jensen, of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice in Portland, Ore., in a written statement.

Roban said that despite the increase in the number of alternative programs being offered, there is no move to completely eliminate detention centers. He said that for certain youths, there are no options.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice reported that youth who spend time in detention centers are more likely to be incarcerated in the future.

"Whether a youth spends time in a secure facility or whether that youth gets released into a meaningful community-based alternative is of enormous consequence - to the youth, his family and to the entire community," the coalition stated in its 2003 annual report.

Juvenile offenders at risk to die early

Study finds high mortality rate

By Meg McSherry Breslin
Tribune staff reporter

Young people who enter the juvenile justice system are four times more likely to suffer an early violent death than youths in the general population, says a study published Monday in the journal *Pediatrics*.

The study's lead author said the statistics her team uncovered on youth in the Cook County juvenile detention system are a sad statement on the violence many poor and minority children confront.

"We need to get away from the stereotype that delinquent youths are just bad kids," said Linda Teplin, a professor of psychiatry at Northwestern University. "They are a group of young people who are especially vulnerable to early and violent deaths."

One alarming finding is that delinquent girls are eight times more likely to die than girls in the general population.

Teplin's team has been conducting a large-scale study of juvenile delinquents since 1996 and didn't plan to analyze death rates initially. But when so many youths they were following died, the team quickly took notice.

"Our first death occurred within the first year of the study, and people were shocked," Teplin said. "But as the deaths rose, I realized there was a story to be told here because no one studies these kids. . . . They study recidivism in delinquent kids, but very few people look at the health needs of these high-risk kids."

Researchers followed 1,829 youths who were randomly sampled after passing through the intake department of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. Some youths were followed for as long as eight years; some had as few as one juvenile charge.

The majority of the study's subjects are minorities: 45 percent African American and 28 percent Hispanic. Roughly 16 percent are white.

The ongoing study is funded by a range of federal agencies and foundations, including the National Institute of Mental Health and the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. It is the most comprehensive attempt in more than 60 years to pinpoint death rates among juvenile delinquents, Teplin said.

Leaders in violence prevention say the study is a wakeup call to the needs of a wide swath of poor and minority youths. Delinquent African-American males in the study had the highest mortality figures. Of the 86 youths who died in the follow-up period, 33 were African-American males. The next highest rate was for Hispanic males, with 21 deaths. The mortality rates for delinquent youths were compared with youths in the general Cook County population who were similar in gender, age, and race or ethnicity.

"This should be recognized and used as a red flag not to body-slam these [delinquent] kids but to give them some services and some protective factors," said Carl Bell, a child psychiatrist and president of the Chicago Community Mental Health Council.

Ninety percent of the youths who died were victims of homicides, mostly gunshot wounds, a fact that caught the attention of Dr. Katherine Kaufer Christoffel, a Children's Memorial Hospital research professor who has led physician efforts against gun violence.

"There's such a high percentage of minority children who wind up in criminal justice," she said. "And we tend to think of other people being vulnerable to them. But the fact that they are so vulnerable themselves has not been sufficiently emphasized."

Judge Patricia Martin Bishop, presiding judge of Cook County Circuit Court's Child Protection Division, said Teplin's research should force some discussions among court officials. "This surprises me tremendously, and it's also depressing," she said.

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THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS



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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY



END OF SUMMER/BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

COOK COUNTY'S JUVENILE PROBATION HOLDS 7TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY



Over 400 hundred people were in attendance including probationers, their siblings, and parents at Cook County Juvenile Probation's back to school celebration.

The juvenile Probation's Near North Division held its 7th Annual Back to School Rally on Friday, August 12, 2005 in the parking lot of the Juvenile Center located at Ogden and Roosevelt. The Rally was an all day event, roughly 400 hundred people were in attendance including probationers, their siblings, and parents. The Lawndale Back to School Rally emphasizes the vital importance of education and the celebration of learning.

The Lawndale Back to School Rally was a tremendous success. Each youth who participated

received school supplies and book bags needed for a successful start to the new school year. Over 350 were packaged with school supplies and over 300 were given out. Some book bags were donated by probation staff and Kathleen Blankhead, Juvenile Justice Bureau Chief at the State's Attorney's Office was instrumental in acquiring the many book bags through the drive.

Entertainment for the event included DJ Probation officer Reginald Qualls and MC Probation Officer Kenneth Collins, the Kesse White Tumblers, the Chi-Town Cheerleaders, and a posterography

U.I. Face. Door prizes include hoop and jump rope contests, a clown and face painting, and jumping jack was included at event.

Hoopstars staff and participants, a program started in the fall of 2000 by Megan Kelly, the daughter of Judge Carol Kelly, was also present. Hoop Stars, a basketball and tutoring program, which includes drug education, college tours, and speakers from the workforce was also represented by Steve Space, youth counselor at WACA (Westside Association Community) also attended. WACA,

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Probation from front page

located at 3600 W. Ogden Ave. helps facilitate the HoopStars program.

The Juvenile Probation Department continues to support this annual event to enhance the education and achievement of youth. "The vital importance of education is that so often with our kids the dropout rate is extremely high especially among teenagers and we want to encourage them to achieve higher heights and to make them productive citizens. We believe parental involvement is important to their success in achieving the goals to complete basic education. That is why parents and families of kids that are on probation were invited," said Deputy Chief Probation Officer Sharon Unger.

The Mission of the Juvenile Probation and Court Services Department is to serve the welfare of children and their families within a sound framework of public safety. The Department is committed to providing the guidance, structure, and services needed by every child under its supervision. In partnership with the community, the Department promotes the healing and recovery of neglected children and directs delinquent children toward reforming their behavior in the context of increased accountability, enhanced community restoration and expanded personal competencies.

Deputy Chief Probation Officer Sharon Unger indicated that Supervising Probation Officer Karen Sylva-Givens has coordinated the event for the past 7 years with the support of many other dedicated staff from the Near North Division as well as other probation divisions.

The organizing staff received support from Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans, The Honorable Curtis Hanson, Presiding Judge Justice Justice Houston, Supervising Judge Carol Kelly, Director of Court and Probation Services, Michael J. Brown, and Deputy Director Charles Young and other



The On-Town Dreamers

judges from the juvenile justice system. There was support from many other court departments, including the Office of the State's Attorney and the Office of the Public Defender. Staff from these offices generously donated book bags for Lawndale youth in need.

Probationers in the Lawndale area were fortunate to receive the support from various initiatives promoted by Director Michael J. Roban, such as the Lawndale Disproportionate Minority Confinement Program (LDMC) in partnership with Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and Illinois Department of Human Services. The LDMC project is also in collaboration with the Chicago Area Project and W. Haywood Burns Institute (California). The aim of LDMC is to reduce the overrepresentation of youth of color in the Juvenile Justice System and as a result there will be a reduction of youth overall in the system. Additionally, the rally was supported by the Reclaiming Futures Initiative Reclaiming Futures national program sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Reclaiming Futures Cook County, with Project Director Donald Robinson is one of 10 projects funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to create new approaches to help youth involved with drugs, alcohol, and crime.

For more information, please contact the Cook County Probation

CHICAGO LAWYER

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In a noisy North Lawndale gymnasium, a scrawny boy in oversized slacks eagerly follows Judge Carol A. Kelly's direction: "Keep moving!" The boy darts in the end of a line of fellow third- and fourth-graders learning a basketball drill, but not before offering a wide smile as he watches his lay-up make its way into the hoop.

They pass, shoot, and rebound the ball in turn, attempting a fluid motion. "Yeah," Kelly cheered. "That's the way it goes."

On a recent Wednesday in November, the judge was making this court appearance not in black judicial robes, but in blue jeans and a sweatshirt. Earlier, she had wrapped up a call of another sort, from the bench in the Juvenile Justice Division of Cook County Circuit Court, where she is entering her 13th year.

Kelly, the supervising judge in the Juvenile Justice Division, is as passionate about keeping kids out of her courtroom as she is about administering justice to the minors who do land there.

She helped her daughter start the basketball and tutoring program dubbed Hoop Stars in 2000, using the sport as a hook to draw kids into a structured, skills-enhancing environment to help them succeed in school — and life.

Twice a week at Dwyer Elementary School, near 16th Street and Central Park Avenue, Kelly joins other coaches and dozens of grade-school children in the after-school program in the high-crime neighborhood on the city's West Side, which is also home to many of the minors who appear before her in juvenile court, mostly on drug-related charges.

"Any one of these kids could be in my courtroom," Kelly said, standing at the free-throw line. "There are a lot of negative influences out in the community. We're hoping by them being involved in this, they can avoid the negativity."

Hoop Stars is one of many examples of how Kelly's work is not finished when she adjourns delinquency proceedings for the day. "Lani's concern is not left on the bench," said Cook County Circuit Judge Mary Anne Mason, who has known Kelly since law school.

"It's a sacrifice to serve in juvenile court in the sense that you are bombarded daily with the absolutely dire circumstances in which families find themselves," said Mason, who served there before moving to the chaucery division. "Judges could be forgiven for doing what they can do in the courtroom and leaving that behind when they're off the bench, because it can be overwhelming."

"But Carol doesn't leave it behind," she said. "Her modus operandi



CHICAGO LAWYERS
2006 Person of the Year
Carol A. Kelly
Supervising Judge
Juvenile Justice Division
Cook County Circuit Court

Chicago Lawyer's 2006 Person of the Year: Carol A. Kelly

by Maria Konstantelios

16. If she sees a problem, she's going to try to do something about it. It's not uncommon for Kelly to show up unannounced at one of the

Promising Practices

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The Approach: The council provides a forum for youth to help the Cook County Probation Department assess the quality of its services. The purpose, says Steven Eiseman, deputy chief probation officer: Help to answer the question, "How well are our programs and services actually working, not just on paper but in the lives of kids?"

The council meets monthly and relies heavily on youth representatives to guide its work.

Among the programming it has developed with youth input is an orientation that it runs every other month for youth who have just entered probation. Those youth-led sessions include a skit called "Probation Scene: What's It Mean?" A youth from the audience plays the part of a judge, reading lines from a script, while instructors stop the skit and ask questions.

"We get the kids to think about things like underage curfew, drinking, traffic laws," Eiseman says. "When the probation officer wants you to go to a program, do you have to go? We want to get the kids to think about the

meaning between the lines."

The council also developed a system of exit interviews for youth to conduct within a month of getting off probation. They complete a survey, and then break into small groups.

"We asked the kids in the course of our exit-interview program, 'If

then, let them explain their side."

As a result, the department instituted training to steer officers toward interviewing youth rather than interrogating them, Eiseman says.

History: The Juvenile Advisory Council began at the end of 2002. Over the probation's department's

previous 60 years, Eiseman says,

"Not once ... had we gone to kids and families who are the beneficiaries of everything we do and asked them, straight out, 'What good came from probation? What message got through? What happened that made a positive difference in your life? What made no difference?'"

"We had to start walking the walk, rather than just talking amongst ourselves."

The department invited its youth "clients" to participate in focus groups, luring them with \$20 stipends, bus cards and free refreshments. Among the findings, Eiseman says: Only about one-quarter of youth had a solid understanding what probation was supposed to accomplish.

one-third were "hazy about certain aspects," and the rest had "very little intellectual grasp of the reasons or rationale. This disturbed us."

One youth commented: "Wouldn't it be great if everybody got information the same way? What about an orientation to probation, to make sure everybody's learning and hearing what they need to know?"

Eiseman recalls, "We thought, 'What a great idea.'"

Youth Served: The council has about 15 youth representatives in Chicago, and a few at a satellite court location in suburban Rolling Meadows. About 2,000 have participated in the orientation and exit interview program, Eiseman says.

Staff: Led by Eiseman, the council gets volunteer help from six to eight department staffers at any given time. "I could use more staff involvement," he says. "It's asking people a lot to give up time like that for something they are not required to do."

Funding: The council receives about \$10,000 annually from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Indicators of Success: Less than 20 percent of those who attended the council's orientation have violated probation during the first six months, compared with 46 percent who didn't attend.

Youth representatives have led workshops and done presentations for groups of professionals from across the country.

Photo courtesy of Juvenile Court of Cook County



Ex-probationers now serving as JAC youth representatives (standing left to right): Demetrius Edwards, Marquel Payne, Maris White, Donald Scott, Lazarus Larkin and Dalvin Williams, with Robert Wilson (kneeling).

you had been your own probation officer, what do you think you would have done differently? We ask questions about programs: 'What programs do you think made an impression on you? ... What meant more to the kids than anything else were PO's who listened to them, talked to

today

Juvenile services win praise

Fewer Cook youths in prison now, report concludes

By Ofelia Casillas
Tribune staff reporter

Cook County juvenile court sent nearly 400 fewer youths to state prisons between 1997 and 2004 because they were referred instead to community-based support services, according to a report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation made public Wednesday.

The drop from 902 Cook County kids being sent to state youth prisons in 1997 to 505 in 2004 is attributable to reforms that stress counseling instead of imprisonment, the report noted.

Court officials began send-

ing to a single judge the cases of kids who may need to be moved out of their homes, which reduced residential placements from 426 at their peak to just 25 in 2006.

Court officials found a more efficient way to assess the mental health of kids by assigning each courtroom an expert who interprets psychological assessments and helps identify the appropriate treatment.

Also, Cook County has teamed up with community counseling providers to expand programs that were once only for youths returning home from treatment to include those at risk of going there or to a prison. The therapists help families cope with teens' behavioral problems and help the youths cope with school and neighborhood stressors.

Chief Judge Timothy Evans, who will take on oversight of the troubled Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, said he is thrilled to see the progress of community-based alternatives to detaining youth.

"As we go forward, I hope that we can multiply this success and be prepared for similar success when we take over the administration of the juvenile detention center starting in January. We want to help our children all over this county," Evans said. "We can save the lives of these children."

The Cook County Probation and Court Services Department created an advisory panel in 2002 of current and former youth in the juvenile justice system to help assess the effectiveness of programs and find ways to improve

them. Youth on probation in Cook County attend an orientation led by that council, which has been shown to reduce probation violations.

The court also changed staff hiring and training practices so that the Probation Department now recruits officers with social work backgrounds rather than those in law enforcement and hires people who used to be on probation to join the staff. In the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department, from 1995 to 2006, the African-American staff grew from 38 percent to 50 percent and the percentage of Hispanics on staff doubled.

Citing state figures, Patricia Connell, a juvenile justice consultant at the John Howard Association of Illinois, said the data show a slight increase in youth from Cook County who are being sent to

youth prisons run by the state. "The number is creeping up a little bit. We can't completely pat ourselves on the back. It's still a way smaller number than it was in 1997. But crime rates have dropped since 1997," Connell said.

The Casey foundation report, titled "Beyond Detention: System Transformation through Juvenile Detention Reform," documents reforms at three sites and includes counties in Oregon and California.

Elizabeth Clarke, president of the Juvenile Justice Initiative, an Illinois non-profit, said Cook County is headed in the right direction.

"I really applaud the county for their commitment to expanding alternatives and thereby diminishing reliance on confinement," Clarke said. ocasillas@tribune.com

Poll sees hope for young offenders

Respondents would rather counsel than lock up juveniles

By Ofelia Casillas
Tribune staff reporter

Illinois residents would rather pay to counsel young offenders than incarcerate them, and keep them close to home instead of in large, distant prisons, according to a new poll.

The poll commissioned by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, set for publication Tuesday, focused on four states, including Illinois.

More than nine out of every 10 respondents in Illinois said they believe young offenders have the potential to change. More than eight out of 10 favored putting more money into counseling and education and less in to youth prisons.

More than six in 10 said they believe providing help after young offenders get out of prison is an effective strategy.

Many polled also believe that the juvenile justice system unfairly treats youths who are low-income and African-American or Hispanic, according to an advance summary.

The poll was conducted in September. It included surveys of 500 adults nationwide, plus separate samplings of 300 adults each in Illinois, Washington, Pennsylvania and Louisiana.

The margin of error for Illinois responses was plus or minus 5.7 percent.

Illinois juvenile justice ex-

perts said the poll shows the public's feelings are in line with recent research on the most effective approach to juvenile offenders.

Diane Geraghty, director of the Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, said the responses show the public understands that youths should be held accountable, while understanding they are different from adults and require different treatment.

"These are not incompatible ideas. It's not an either-or proposition that you are tough on juvenile crime or you're soft on juvenile crime," Geraghty said.

Paul Wolff, senior executive at Chicago Metropolitan 2020, said the poll suggests Illinois residents are in tune with public officials who recently created a new state department for juvenile corrections.

"It's an incremental recognition that these are kids that can be saved and made productive citizens. It's a lot less expensive in terms of the human toll, as well as the taxpayer toll, to get these kids back into society," Wolff said. "We're on a trajectory here where the more that people hear about this and learn about it and think about it, the more the policies are going to change for the better."

A separate survey commissioned by the MacArthur Foundation, also set for release Tuesday, found that national respondents, given the choice between paying for rehabilitation or paying for incarceration, would rather spend for rehabilitation.

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