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## WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

#### Juvenile Diversion

The Juvenile Diversion program provides eligible offenders with an alternative to the juvenile court process that emphasizes restorative justice and community-based interventions. This program reduces costs and caseload sizes of the juvenile court system and provides a swift response to low-level juvenile offenses. The Community Corrections department coordinates diversion services in Washington County in cooperation with the County Attorney's Office. Juvenile offense reports are screened by the County Attorney's Office, and those meeting the diversion program criteria are referred to Community Corrections.

Participation in the diversion process is voluntary. Juveniles must admit to the offense and be willing to complete program conditions that emphasize victim and community reparations. Juveniles in the diversion program are referred to a youth-serving agency to complete their program conditions at the community level. The department monitors the progress of juveniles in the program during their involvement with a community agency. The County Attorney's Office is notified upon successful completion of the program, and no further action is taken regarding the case. Juveniles not completing the conditions of their diversion program have their case referred back to the County Attorney's Office for consideration of a juvenile court petition.

#### People Learning A Cooperative Existence (PLACE)

PLACE is a community-based educational program designed for delinquent youth who are experiencing significant problems within the community, as well as learning and behavior problems at school. The program's target population is Washington County juveniles who are assessed as high risk to re-offend, are at imminent risk of out-of-home placement, and are under the supervision of either Community Corrections or Community Services. Program sites are in Cottage Grove and Oak Parks Heights, and both operate in collaboration with local school districts. Human Services, Inc. acts as the administrative agency for the program in Oak Park Heights.

The program's unique model provides education, teaches problem solving and personal accountability skills, and incorporates cognitive behavioral programming. PLACE is a highly-structured program that focuses on building and reinforcing strengths. The goal of the program goal is to reduce criminal behavior and prevent out-of-home placements.

#### Urban Boat Project

During the summer of 2009, youth involved in the PLACE South Program had the opportunity to work alongside teachers and mentors to build an 11-foot wooden skiff (rowboat). The project was a partnership with Urban Boatbuilders, Inc., a non-profit resource for youth to develop life skills through the building and use of small boats. PLACE students spent two mornings each week at the Urban Boatbuilders workshop in St. Paul learning technical and problem-solving skills, as well as communication, teamwork, perseverance, and craftsmanship. Once the project was completed, the students had the opportunity to launch the boat at a local lake and to display

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the finished product at the Washington County Fair. Funding for the project was provided through a grant from the South Washington County Schools Education Foundation, with additional funding from Target Corporation.

### Maiden Voyage - Youth Test Out Boat



### **Arts and Cultural Experiences Grant**

A community leadership grant received from Target Corporation has made it possible for high-risk youth and their families to engage in arts and cultural activities. The goal of this project is to provide resources for connecting juvenile offenders with positive pro-social activities. Program staff from PLACE, MST and COP are able to access funds to provide probation clients new opportunities for creative and artistic expression and experiences. Activities have included field trips to local theaters and museums and attendance at cultural events such as the Festival of Nations. Funding has also been used to bring local artists on-site to provide instruction for youth involved in department-sponsored treatment groups and to cover costs associated with the Urban Boat Project that were not covered by the school foundation grant. Funding to continue the program in 2010 has been received. It is anticipated that the 2010 program will have a greater emphasis on providing youth with hands-on experiences with artistic and creative expression. One potential is to fund the Urban Boat Project for 2010, as this program was funded in 2009 with one-time grant money.

### **Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)**

MST is an intensive in-home therapy program that strives to change how juveniles function in their natural settings (home, school, and community) in ways that promote positive social behavior while decreasing anti-social behavior. MST therapists provide a juvenile's primary caregivers with the skills and resources necessary to deal independently with problem behavior.

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Therapists utilize identified strengths to assist families in developing natural support systems and in overcoming barriers to effective family functioning. MST is based on the philosophy that the most effective way to help youth is within their natural ecology. The department contracts with licensed MST therapists to work with the juvenile offenders and their families. The program is targeted at juveniles who are at high-risk to reoffend and high risk in the family domain, according to the Youth-Level of Service of Inventory (YLSI/CMI) assessment tool, and who are at imminent risk of being placed out of home for two months or longer.

### **Culturally Relevant Family Therapy**

Culturally Relevant Family Therapy is designed to address the challenge of providing culturally relevant services to a multicultural population of youth and families. Therapy services are provided through contracts with community agencies that specialize in serving diverse populations with programs that are evidenced-based and targeted toward engaging families. These services emphasize the use of strength-based, flexible, in-home approaches that respect family culture and history. The target population is non-white youth at moderate to high-risk to reoffend, and are at high-risk in one or more of the following domains: Family/Parenting, Substance Abuse, or Attitudes/Orientation. Program goals are to prevent out-of-home placements and to reduce recidivism.

### **Community Options Program (COP)**

The Community Options Program is a collaborative between Washington County Community Services, Community Corrections, and Human Services, Inc. The program is designed for high-risk, substance-abusing juveniles who have failed at least one chemical dependency program. COP is a long-term, community-based intervention built upon “best practices” and the latest adolescent chemical health research. The program design includes individual, family, group, and community interventions and includes a 50-session cognitive-behavioral component. The program combines a harm-reduction model with a motivational interviewing approach. The intensive care manager coordinates a holistic approach by involving family, school, significant support persons, and probation officers. COP involves youth in the change process, teaches them life skills, and promotes their long-term success.

### **Collaborative Participation**

Community Corrections participates in the Washington County Children and Families Council, the Children’s Mental Health Collaborative, and the Chemical Health Action Collaborative. Members include Washington County Community Corrections, Public Health, and Community Services staff, along with representatives from school districts, private non-profit organizations and community members. The purpose of these partnerships is to share information and coordinate services between agencies serving children and families in Washington County. The formal collaborative agreement is scheduled to end December 31, 2010; however, the group will continue to meet on an informal basis.

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### **Juvenile Out-of-Home Placement**

Community Corrections provides residential placement for adjudicated juvenile offenders who are under the jurisdiction of the courts in Washington County. Out-of-home placements are recommended only when it is necessary to protect public safety or because all appropriate community-based resources have been tried and proven ineffective in successfully changing delinquent behavior.

In order for the department to recommend out-of-home placement, a juvenile must be assessed as medium- to high-risk to re-offend. Placements utilized are those that address a juvenile's criminogenic needs and are located as close to the family's community as possible. Placements are recommended for the shortest time necessary to address a juvenile's behavior and to develop a plan for successful reintegration back into the community. During 2008, 54 juveniles were in an out-of-home placement for 30 days or longer.

### **Juvenile Detention**

Juveniles detained by law enforcement after allegedly committing a serious offense in Washington County are detained in the Washington County Law Enforcement Center Eight-Day Hold. Detained juveniles appear in court within 36 hours of their apprehension (excluding holidays and weekends). At this hearing, probation officers make recommendations regarding a juvenile's further detention. If a juvenile poses a serious threat to self or others requiring placement beyond eight days, then placement is made at the East Central Regional Juvenile Center (ECRJC). As a member of the ECRJC Joint Powers Board, Washington County has five beds per day at the ECRJC that are used for detention or short-term correctional interventions.

### **Adult Residential**

Residential services offer a more structured environment to manage offender behavior and treatment in the community. This may include specialized treatment for sex offenders, chemical dependency treatment, 24-hour on-site supervision, drug testing, educational programming, and individual and group counseling.

Adult residential services are available to sex offenders leaving prison on supervised release, as determined and funded by the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Similarly, limited access to halfway house placement is also available to non-sex offenders who are high risk and on intensive supervised release when leaving prison.

Offenders on probation or supervised release in need of residential services for chemical dependency are funded through Washington County's consolidated fund for chemical dependency treatment.

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### **Adult Non-Residential**

Adult offenders participate in non-residential programs based on identified needs necessary to facilitate behavior and attitude change. The department contracts with Human Services Inc. (HSI) to provide treatment for domestic abuse offenders. These domestic services are generally paid for by the offender or their insurance company. Outpatient sex offender assessments are subsidized by the state, and offenders are responsible for costs beyond that amount. Based upon available funding, Community Corrections will subsidize both of these services for the indigent, until they are able to improve their own ability to pay. Funding for outpatient sex offender treatment is based on a state grant program directly paid to the treatment provider. Other mental and chemical health services are available through community based programs. They are paid for, based on a sliding fee scale as determined by Washington County Community Services, insurance coverage, or the provider's other sources of funding.

### **Adult Local Incarceration and Detention**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office is responsible for the detention and incarceration of pre-trial and sentenced offenders, as well as for the operation of treatment programs for offender in jail. In addition, the Sheriff's Office provides electronic monitoring services for offenders convicted in Washington County who reside in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Community Corrections Department contracts with a private company for the provision of electronic monitoring services for offenders residing outside of the metropolitan area and those requiring specialized equipment.

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### **Services for Adult and Juvenile Female Offenders**

#### **Assessment**

The department reviews results from the adult LSI-R and the juvenile YLSI/CMI assessment tools to determine if gaps exist for female offenders in addressing their identified criminogenic need areas. Information gathered is used to help determine programming needs for female offenders. Washington County Community Corrections contributed research data to the University of Cincinnati on needs of female offenders. Researchers from the University of Cincinnati are developing a specific risk tool for female offenders. Community Corrections will continue to be involved in this project, as implementation is being considered in the state of Minnesota. Community Corrections has also established protocol for a female-specific caseload, with implementation planned within two years.

#### **Gender Specific Programming**

Community Corrections offers programming designed specifically for high-risk adult female offenders through the Moving On program. Moving On is a 26-session program that utilizes a combination of methods and strategies including Solution-Focused Intervention, Motivational Enhancement Therapy, and Cognitive-Behavior Skills Training. The program's goal is to help women develop the skills necessary to choose alternatives to criminal activity by assisting them in identifying and utilizing personal and community resources.

The juvenile unit has assigned a .5 female probation officer to a gender-specific caseload. MST family therapy is another effective intervention for high-risk females because of that program's emphasis on strengthening positive relationships in the family and community. Maintaining a gender-specific group program for the juvenile population continues to be a challenge. In 2007, Community Corrections partnered with Human Services, Inc. to offer Voices, a gender-specific program for adolescent females. Although Corrections contracted to pay for girls referred by juvenile probation officers, the additional referral and funding sources needed to sustain the program have not been forthcoming. The department has been invited to participate in a planning group for the Tri-County Amicus Girls Academy (TAGA). This initiative is exploring the feasibility of a gender-specific day treatment program for court-involved girls.

#### **Cultural-Specific Services for Offenders**

Cultural sensitivity is integral to the department's values of respect, learning, integrity, and cooperation. The Culturally Relevant Family Therapy Program is designed to address the challenge of providing culturally-relevant services to a multicultural population of youth and families. Therapy services are provided through contracts with community agencies that specialize in serving diverse populations. For the adult offender population the department supervises, the number of culturally-diverse clients remains too small to do specific programming internally. However, the department utilizes language translators and refers offenders to culturally-specific programs when the need arises.