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## WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS

The Community Corrections Department provides programs and services in support of its mission. Programs and services are directed at reducing the probability of future criminal behavior and holding offenders accountable for repairing the harm caused by crime to victims and communities. They are community-based and incorporate research-based practices. In order to provide programs of the highest quality, the department utilizes a mix of service models: Some programs are operated and managed solely by the department, some programs are provided in partnership with other organizations, and some are operated by community agencies on a contractual basis.

#### **Department Operated Programs:**

- Adult Diversion
- Cognitive Behavioral Programming
- Resources for the Unemployed and Determined Individual (RUDI)
- Juvenile Employment Training (JET)
- Sentencing to Service (STS)
- Repeat DWI Offender Program (ROP)

#### **Programs Operated in Partnership with Community Agencies:**

- Juvenile Diversion
- People Learning A Cooperative Existence (PLACE)
- Urban Boat Project
- Art and Cultural Experiences Grant
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Culturally Relevant Family Therapy
- Community Options Program (COP)
- Collaborative Participation
- Juvenile Out-of-Home Placement
- Juvenile Detention
- Adult Residential
- Adult Non-Residential
- Adult Local Incarceration and Detention

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## WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

### DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS

#### Adult Diversion

Community Corrections provides assessment and monitoring services for the County Attorney's Adult Diversion Program. The purpose of diverting certain low-level felony cases is to reduce the Court's calendar by limiting the number of court hearings.

The diversion process is initiated when an offender requests consideration for the program. The prosecuting attorney then screens the case for qualification criteria. Offenders must plead guilty to participate in the program, but the judge will not accept the plea.

After determining that a case meets the program criteria, it is referred to Community Corrections. The department's Adult Diversion Coordinator sets, with Court approval, and monitors the conditions of an offender's diversion program. Once an offender meets the established program conditions, the Court and prosecuting attorney are notified and the case is dismissed. Offenders failing to fulfill the conditions of the program have their original guilty plea accepted by the Court.

#### Cognitive-Behavioral Programming

Research studies of correctional programming have found cognitive-behavioral interventions, when targeted at appropriately assessed high-risk offenders, to have positive results in changing offender thinking and behavior. Cognitive-behavioral programs focus on the development of cognitive skills (how to think) or attempt to restructure cognitive processes (what to think). Behavioral approaches are combined with cognitive-restructuring or skill-building methods to reinforce learning and to model, shape, and reward the pro-social behavior of offenders.

The Community Corrections Department offers five cognitive skills-based programs for juvenile and adult offenders on probation supervision:

**Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART):** ART is a cognitive intervention designed to alter the behavior of aggressive youth, reduce anti-social behaviors, and offer an alternative of pro-social skills. The ART program's three-part approach includes Pro-social Skills, Anger Control, and Moral Reasoning. Six juvenile probation officers have been trained to provide Aggression Replacement Training. The curriculum is taught to high-risk juvenile offenders at two PLACE Program sites. The program is also provided to youth on intensive supervision in an after-school group in the community.

**Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse Treatment (Strategies for Self-Improvement and Change):**

The program was developed by correctional researchers for offenders who have experienced multiple failures in traditional chemical dependency treatment programs. It utilizes cognitive-behavioral approaches that are augmented with specific exercises and discussions focused on the challenges of overcoming chemical dependency. The program's curriculum is used as the treatment component of the juvenile Community Options Program.

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**Driving With Care-Level II (DWC):** DWC is a 12-session, 24-hour program, delivered collaboratively by the department and Human Services, Inc., designed for repeat offenders convicted of driving while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or another drug. DWC teaches offenders the knowledge and skills needed to change their thinking so they can change their actions and prevent future DWI/DUI offenses.



**Moving On:** Moving On is a 26-session program, designed exclusively for female offenders. The program 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.

**Thinking for a Change (T4C):** Thinking for a Change is a 44-hour program that was researched and developed in 1997 as a multi-modal Integrated Cognitive Behavior Change Program by the National Institute of Corrections. The program has three main components: Cognitive Self-Change, Social Skills Development, and Problem-Solving Skills. Participants engage in an objective, systematic approach to identifying thinking, beliefs, attitudes, and values. Participants learn problem-solving skills in a structured format. Critical social skills are targeted throughout the program to support the cognitive restructuring process. Participants are encouraged and empowered to participate in their own learning and self-development. T4C is facilitated by probation officers trained in the curriculum.



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### **Resources for the Unemployed and Determined Individual (RUDI)**

RUDI is a 48-hour program that assists unemployed offenders with employment barriers and solutions, goal setting, skills identification, resume and cover letter writing, employment applications, computer skills, job search process, interviewing, and job retention. The program is designed for high-risk offenders residing in Washington County who are having difficulty obtaining and/or maintaining employment. RUDI was developed by department staff in collaboration with the Work Force Center and offered to offenders for the first time in 2007.

### **Juvenile Employment Training (JET)**

JET is an employment skill-building program designed to help high-risk juvenile offenders overcome barriers in pursuing and obtaining employment. The curriculum progresses from education on child labor laws and guidance with interest and skill identification to hands-on training in job search preparation, the application process, interviewing skills, and employment retention. JET was developed by department staff and implemented in the summer of 2009. JET is currently offered to juveniles participating in both PLACE North and PLACE South programs.

### **Sentence to Service (STS)**

Sentence to Service (STS) is a jail alternative program designed to repay the community harm incurred by an offense. The program reduces the cost of incarcerating offenders, provides work projects that are of benefit to the citizens of Washington County, and improves the competencies of offenders through meaningful work experiences. In addition, offenders in the program are able to make amends for their actions by contributing on work projects that add significant value to organizations and communities throughout the county.

STS affords lower-risk offenders the opportunity to labor in organized work crews on various projects throughout the county. Under the direction of STS crew leaders, work projects are completed for public, private non-profit, and government agencies. Work projects include cutting grass and shoveling snow for elderly/disabled individuals, trail and prairie restoration for state and county agencies, recycling for county buildings, natural disaster relief, painting, clean-up, and general maintenance.

In 2008, the department's STS program saved taxpayers over \$2,135,000 in incarceration costs by alleviating the need for 12,998 jail days for offenders who participated in the program. Offenders in the program completed 104,317 hours of work during the year. The program's net value added to Washington County in 2008 was \$1,412,472.

**Hugo 2008 Tornado Clean-up**



**Prairie Restoration for DNR**



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### **Repeat DWI Offender Program (ROP)**

The ROP program is designed for repeat DWI offenders and provides a combination of intensive probation and case management along with cognitive-behavioral and chemical health programming. Offenders are Court-ordered into the program and participate in lieu of an extended jail or prison sentence. Offenders must be residents of Washington County with a current DWI offense that is either their third in ten years or their fourth or more ever.

The ROP program consists of three phases. Each phase lasts at least 90 days and includes modified house arrest, electronic home alcohol monitoring, random and unannounced visits by a probation or law enforcement officer, weekly AA attendance, participation in a MADD Victim Impact Panel, and the development of a relapse prevention program. The program attempts to lengthen offender sobriety and reduce criminal behavior.