

**SCOTT COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION  
AND DIVERSION PROGRAMS**

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**MEMORANDUM**

Date: 10/02/2020

To: Scott County Administration and Board of Supervisors

RE: School based Restorative Mediation

**Program Description**

The Scott County School-based Mediation Program is a suspension diversion program to be implemented first as a pilot in the Davenport Community School system. This program will follow the Auto Theft Accountability Program model which has proven to be effective in reducing crime and negative behavior. Certain incidents that would typically be incidents resulting in out-of-school suspension, will now be handled as an in-school suspension and those students involved in the incident will participate in a Restorative Mediation circle. Incidents include: fights, assaults, extremely threatening behavior, property destruction, vandalism, and bringing banned items to school.

In the circle, the “responsible youth” (offender) and the “person harmed” (victim) are brought together to learn about why the event happened and then develop a plan to repair the harm that has been done and ensure it does not happen again. Through this process, students will learn the impact their behavior has on others and a resolution will be formed prior to re-entering regular classes.

This program will provide accountability for the person responsible and teach them about the negative impacts their choices and behaviors have made on others. This program helps repair the harm done, which leads to higher victim satisfaction, promotes connection to the community and school, and ultimately decreases the chances an event will occur like this in the future. In addition to the Restorative Justice component, the responsible youth and in some cases the person harmed, will be provided with a youth advocate who will provide mentoring, family support if need be, and help guide the youth through the process.

**Benefit to Community- Measurement**

There are several reasons this program is in the best interest of the community. In other communities where Restorative Mediation has been implemented, they have experienced lower recidivism, higher victim satisfaction, and it has promoted a sense of responsibility in offenders. The ultimate goal will be to lower out-of-school suspensions, keep students engaged in their classroom activities, and keep them from going further down the path into negative behaviors.

**Capital Costs-** This program will incur no capital costs as it will be provided in the Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs space and/or in the schools

**Offsetting Revenue**

On-going operating expenses for this program are covered by an inter-governmental contract with Iowa Department of Human Services, Decategorization Board. All staff time, training, and supplies for the program will be reimbursed by the contract up to \$99,000 annually. This is included in an addendum to the Auto Theft Accountability Contract which was approved by the Decategorization Board.

The contract addendum would need to be signed by the Scott County Board of Supervisor's Chairperson to begin operating. The goal is to begin operating by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

**Jeremy Kaiser, Director**

Scott County Juvenile Detention and Diversion Programs

THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S SIGNATURE CERTIFIES  
THAT THIS RESOLUTION HAS BEEN FORMALLY  
APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SCOTT COUNTY AUDITOR

R E S O L U T I O N

SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 15th, 2020

ADDENDUM TO THE AUTO THEFT ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM CONTRACT

BE IT RESOLVED BY the Scott County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Section 1. That the Scott County Juvenile Detention and Diversion Programs will provide the School Based Restorative Mediation Program for youth through an addendum to the Auto Theft Accountability contract with the Iowa Department of Human Services ending June 30, 2021. The contract can be renewed for five years with the final year ending on June 30, 2024.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect on October 15th, 2020.