

SCOTT COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

***FISCAL YEAR 2001
JULY 1, 2000-JUNE 30, 2001***

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>1. Introduction</i>	<i>Page 1</i>
<i>2. Program Philosophy</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>3. Program Components</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>4. Appropriations/Revenues</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>5. Population Demographics</i>	<i>Page 5</i>
<i>6. Special Incidents</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>7. Short term placement</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>8. Summary of Criminal Code</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>9. Disposition of Cases</i>	<i>Page 8</i>

I. *INTRODUCTION*

A. BACKGROUND

This report details the Juvenile Detention Center's (here after referred to as the Center) twentieth year of operations—July 1,2000 to June 30, 2001.

The Center opened on December 1, 1980. It serves as a short term, secure placement for youth under the age of eighteen. Any youth that reaches the age of eighteen during their confinement in the Center are transferred to an adult facility.

Though security is the paramount concern, the Center does not maintain control simply through the use of security hardware. Rather, involvement between youth and staff is an important behavior management tool. The Center does not profess to be a treatment program; however, staff provide individual care treatment planning, crisis counseling, living skills training and supervised recreational activities. Detention Staff consider the Center to be an integral component to the larger Juvenile Justice/Treatment system. A year-round school program is operated under the auspices of the Area Educational Agency.

A youth may be placed in a juvenile detention center if he/she has committed a serious criminal act. In most situations this criminal activity would be classified as a felony or an aggravated misdemeanor if committed by an adult. The commission of a criminal act, however, is not the only criteria sufficient to require detainment. One or more of the following conditions must also be present:

1. The youth is “wanted” by another state for the commission of a criminal act.
2. The youth is on probation/parole and has violated the conditions of same.
3. The youth has absconded from a training school, a detention center, or a correctional Institution
4. The youth has committed a serious delinquent act and is at risk of:
 - a. Absconding
 - b. Harm to others
 - c. Damaging property.

Although the Center is operated by Scott County , it receives referrals from several counties in Eastern Iowa. At present, ten detention centers are operating in the State of Iowa—Linn County (Cedar Rapids), Polk County (Des Moines) , Woodbury County (Sioux City), North Iowa (Waterloo), Northwest Iowa (Cherokee), Southwest Iowa (Council Bluffs), Scott County (Davenport), South Iowa (Lee and Lucas County), Central Iowa (Eldora).

B. PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Center's structure provides more than short-term confinement. The philosophy is to challenge youth to take responsibility for the thinking/behavioral patterns that brought about their placement, and to explore areas of growth and change needed to assure that they will not be detained again. While staff are aware of the limitations that the Center's brief 'Average Length of Stay' places on its best attempts to meaningfully impact residents, it is hoped that through community collaboration and an intensive staff training program, real progress will be made.

Development of a rapport between staff and residents is key to creating an environment conducive to positive change. Because of this rapport, the Center has managed the behavior of youth found to be extremely recalcitrant in other environments. The involvement between staff and residents also helps reduce the frustration and anxiety felt by youth. Although the Center is not a treatment program, staff members view detention as a very important component in this Juvenile Justice/Treatment System. Because this system strives to reduce juvenile crime by actively engaging youthful offenders at all points of contact, staff are determined to seize every opportunity to positively impact the residents.

In an effort to make use of community resources, a Speaker's Bureau has been established and guest speakers from several agencies have volunteered to facilitate group discussions on issues ranging from gang education to the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. A clinician from the Vera French Community Mental Health Center consults and trains staff in a myriad of issues in order to enhance the services provided by the Center. Since a majority of the youth detained at the Center will be transferred to treatment programs, the Center's structure attempts to address the negative thinking and behavioral patterns that have sabotaged past efforts to promote positive change. This allows for a rudimentary preparation for youth facing the structure found in treatment programs. At present, an effort to organize joint training for the staff of several different area agencies that deal with delinquent youth is underway. It is hoped that this will convey a clearer, more consistent message to youthful offenders as they move through the Juvenile Justice System.

C. PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The structure of the Center consists of a hybrid of Behavior Modification and Cognitive Restructuring. Consequences for negative behaviors progress from a verbal warning, to room time, to a drop in level, and finally isolation in the control room for serious cases of disruptive or uncontrollable behaviors. Negative consequences are not intended to be personalized or excessively punitive, but rather a learning process where the youth can learn socially acceptable behaviors.

The components that comprise the behavior management program are:

- a. Educational Services
- b. Crisis Counseling
- c. Recreational Activities
- d. Testing and Evaluation
- e. Living Skills Activities
- f. Strengths/Resource Self Assessment
- g. Realistic Success Planning

Education is the most highly structured of these program components. This service is provided by the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency. The Center school is fully accredited and is taught by a certified teacher. The Center teacher initially tests all youth in mathematics and reading to assess their level of ability. In addition, education and social histories are obtained to assist in the determination of an appropriate level of competency. After the initial assessments the teacher has three options:

1. If the youth is currently enrolled in a school system, the teacher will communicate with the appropriate person(s) to obtain current assignments. The youth will be expected to continue with regular class assignments as closely as possible given the limitations of the Center.
2. In cases where the youth is not enrolled in a school system, the teacher assigns individualized diagnostics or prescriptive instructional lessons which are consistent with a traditional school curriculum.
3. Youth who will not return to a traditional school environment will be assigned work to prepare them for the GED exam.

The Center observes behavior and supplies reports to juvenile court officers upon request. In addition to these reports, youth may be evaluated by the staff of the Vera French Mental Health Center upon request of the Juvenile Court. These evaluations are performed in cases where the behavior is somewhat atypical or where the court needs more input to determine an appropriate care plan. In situations where an evaluation is deemed appropriate, the youth is normally confined from thirty to forty-five days.

The recreational component is the key to the staff-resident involvement. Staff interact with the youth in a variety of activities. Many of the activities are intended to promote physical fitness, other activities may enhance creativity. In addition to Center staff, the Center utilizes both practicum students and volunteers to interact with youth in various recreational activities.

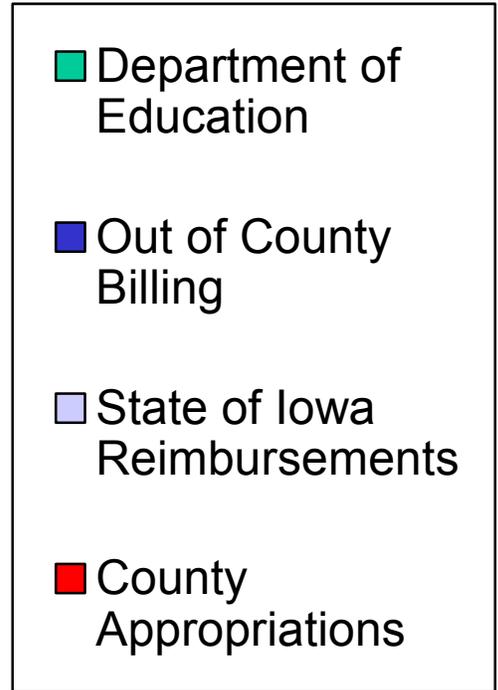
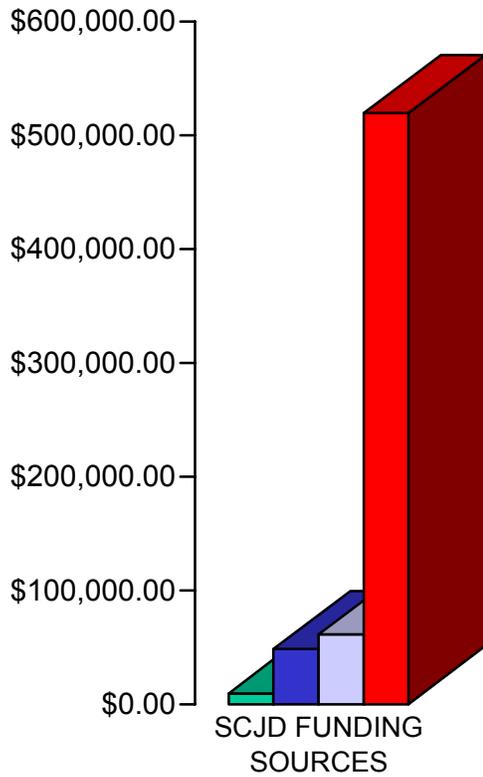
D. APPROPRIATIONS /REVENUES

Total appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001 were \$518,654.04

In addition to Scott County funding, the Center received revenue from the following sources:

1. Department of Education

This money is a combination of state and federal monies that are partial reimbursement for breakfast and lunch meals. Total reimbursement \$9,271.84



Department of Education	\$9,271.84
Out of County Billing	\$48,290.00
State of Iowa Reimbursements	\$61,073.40
County Appropriations	\$519,406.00

3. Out of County Funding

Youth from other jurisdictions may be placed in the Center; however, the committing jurisdiction must pay a per diem. For counties within Seventh Judicial District the charge is \$140.00 per day. Counties outside of this district must pay \$150.00. Total out of county revenue for the past fiscal year was \$48,290.00

4. State of Iowa Revenues.

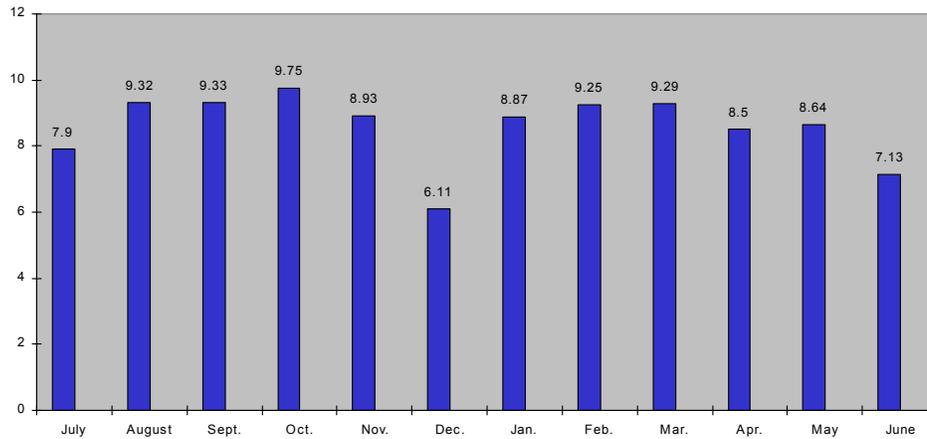
State of Iowa reimbursement: \$61,073

II. **POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS**

A. Number of Admissions

The Center processed 350 admissions during the 2000 fiscal year. (262 males-78 females).

Average Daily Pop. By Month - FY 2001



B. The average daily population this year was 8.59. This is up from the previous year, which averaged 8.45.

C. The average length of stay this fiscal year was 8.56. days. Last year the average stay was 8.09.

D. County of Residency

Of the 350 admissions, 279 were from Scott County. 71 admissions came from 7 different counties and there were 1 from out of state.

Scott County	279	Clinton County	32
Nebraska	1	Johnson County	29
Black Hawk County	1	Rock Island County	1
Muscatine County	1	Jackson County	6

F. Average age

The average age of the youth detained at the Center this fiscal year was 15.39 years. A further breakdown shows the average of the male youth to be 15.56 and the females 15.22 years.

G. Ethnic Breakdown

Caucasian :	male-	129	female-	45
African American:	male-	132	female-	36
Hispanic:	male-	5	female-	2
Asian/Pacific Is.:	male-	1	female-	0

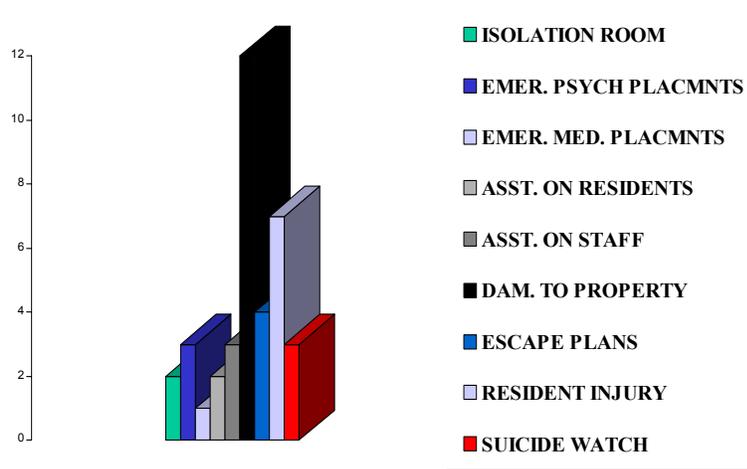
III. SPECIAL INCIDENTS

A special incident is a situation that deviates from normal Center routine. This year we had 37 special incidents.

There were 2 isolation room trips. The isolation room is used only in those situations where the youth is a threat to themselves, peers or staff.

The 35 incidents that did not require isolation room placement, ranged from minor injuries, plastic ware missing, attempted escape plans to damage to property to suicidal ideations/attempts or causing damage to property.

Special Incidents



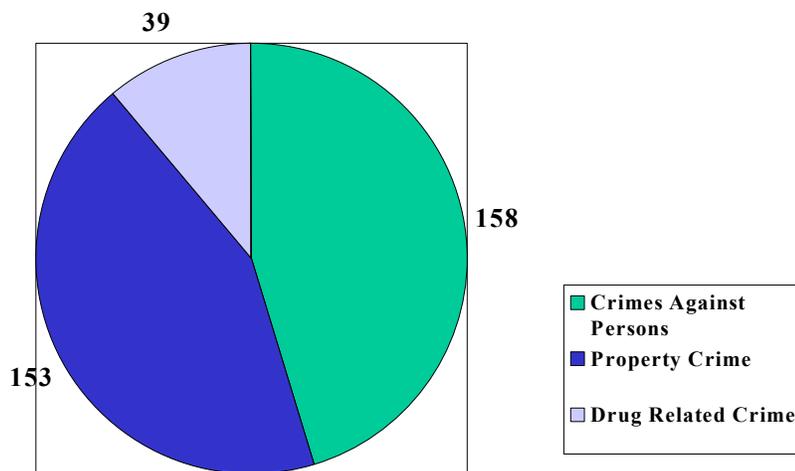
IV. SHORT TERM PLACEMENTS

Because of the periodic need for a temporary hold, a policy of “babysitting” exists. In most cases the Center holds a youth until transportation can be arranged to place the youth in a state institution. During the 2001 Fiscal Year 30 youths were held under this status.

V. SUMMARY OF CRIMINAL CODE

The majority of allegations against detained youth involve felonious acts. Many youth are admitted for multiple allegations of criminal conduct. As seen by the list of offenses, the youth detained at the Center are detained for involvement in the entire range of criminal conduct.

Crime Breakdown FY 2000



The offenses listed by frequency:

Crimes against property	153
Crimes against persons	158
Drug related crimes	39

*VI.**DISPOSITION OF CASES*

The following list represents the placements of residents directly after they had been released from the Center. Residents who have been released to Home/ Home with Services, Day Treatment, Safer Foundation, and Independent Living have been returned to the community with varying degrees of supportive structure. Adult Waivers represent residents whose crimes were sufficiently serious, or their age was advanced to such a degree that a Waiver Proceeding was warranted. The remainder of cases represents residents who were placed in other detention centers, residential treatment facilities, shelters or situations in which charges have been completely dropped. In a vast majority of these cases, treatment and/or services were provided in an attempt to decrease the chances of future law or probation violations. Last year the Center had a recidivism rate of 54%. The number of students placed exceeds the number of intakes due residents who were in the Center when the fiscal year began.

Home / Home w/services	174	Leslie East	3
Adult waivers	21	Safer	3
Day Treatment	35	Hawia	1
Clarinda	19	Courtland House	1
Eldora	26	Foster Care	1
Other Det. Centers	17	Independent Living	1
Valley Shelter/shelters	9	Newcomb	3
ACE	23	712	1
SUMMIT	3	Victory house	2
Leslie West	1	Bridge House	3
START	3	Rock Island. County	1
Toledo	1	4 OAKS	2
Forest Ridge	1	Genesis West	2
Woodward	3	Escape/Authorities	1