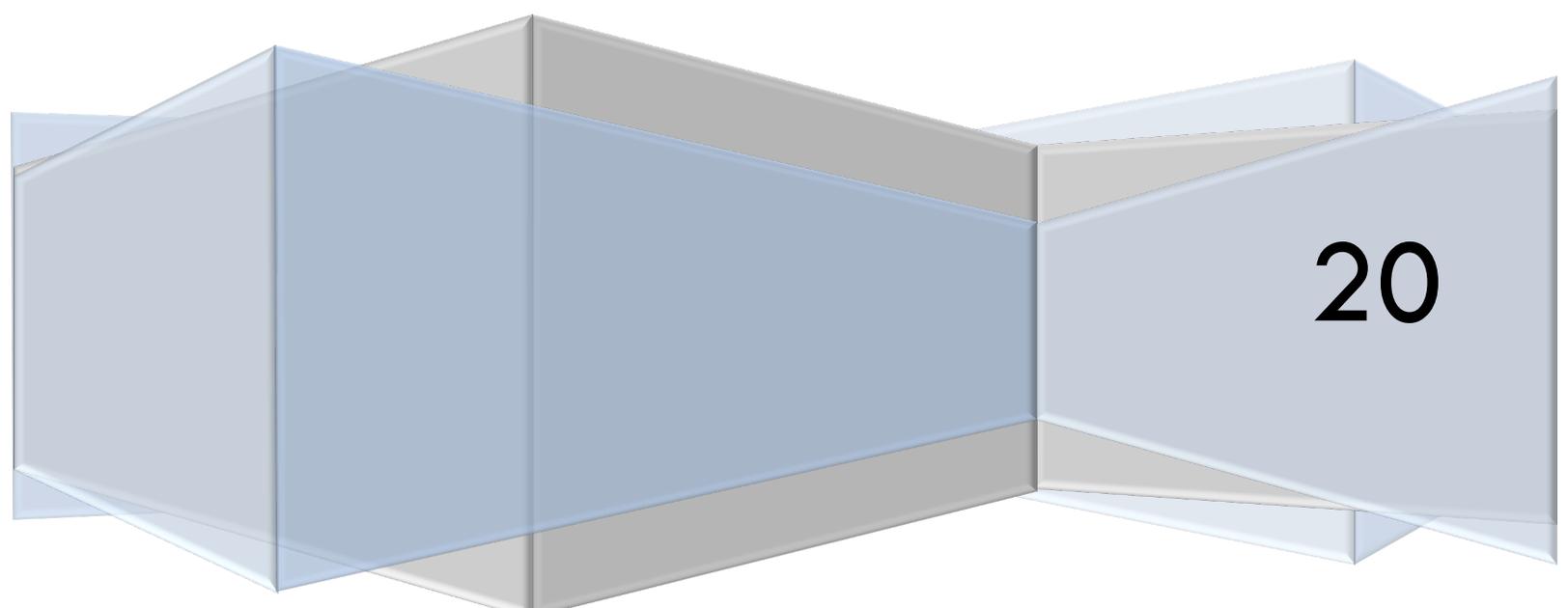


Scott County

Juvenile Diversion Programs

FY 2020 Annual Report

Director: Jeremy Kaiser



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PROGRAM VISION

“Our vision is a community which supports and empowers juveniles by giving them a second chance to succeed.”

PROGRAM MISSION

“Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs strive to provide a cutting-edge continuum of community-based programs, focused on diverting youth from secure detainment as well as reducing delinquent behavior.”

COMMUNITY-BASED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

IN-HOME DETENTION AND ENHANCED IN-HOME DETENTION (W/GPS)

Two community-based supervision programs are operated by Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs: the “In-home detention” (IHD) program, and the “Enhanced In-home detention” (EIHD) program. These types of community-based supervision programs have proven to be effective at reducing recidivism without the use incarceration. By utilizing the same staff to provide all three services, stronger relationships can be built between staff and residents as well as resident’s families. The relationship no longer ends at discharge, but continues as the juveniles’ transition back into the community. The benefit the child receives from these programs is significant. They have minimal disruptions to their daily life as they continue to attend their school, their church, place of employment, and remain close to their families. Meanwhile they are closely supervised to ensure the safety of the community.

The IHD program is the least restrictive and intrusive service option. Typically the program lasts 2-4 weeks. The IHD program consists of juveniles signing a contract to stay within their home residence at all times, with the exceptions of school, work, church, or court appointments. IHD staff members typically perform three unannounced phone checks and one unannounced face-to-face check daily to ensure the juvenile is abiding by the contract. IHD staff then report adherence to the contract as well as violations to Juvenile Court Officers. In the case of a violation, Juvenile Court Officers have the option to detain youth at the juvenile detention center or extend the contract for a longer length of time.

The Enhanced In-home detention program is more intensive than IHD as it utilizes GPS-enabled ankle bracelets to monitor client location and movements. The software utilized with the GPS enabled bracelet allows staff to view a client’s location 24-hours a day as well as track location and movements during any particular time period. EIHD staff members are alerted via text message if a client leaves the home without permission or enters a prohibited area. With the exception of wearing the tracking device, the EIHD program delivery and reporting to Court Officers is the identical to the IHD program.

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS

During the 2020 fiscal year, the In Home Detention (IHD) program and Enhanced In-Home Detention (EIHD) program served a total of 97 juveniles combined. Of the 97 clients, 86 juveniles completed the program successfully without a new charge or probation violation. Overall, 89% of clients referred to the Community Based programs completed successfully in FY 20. This increased from 88% successful completions in FY19. This can be attributed to Community Based Youth Counselors working hard to develop rapport with juveniles and families.

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

These programs are designed to be cost-neutral and are funded by the State of Iowa, through referrals from Juvenile Court Services. Scott County Diversion Programs charge \$19.97 per half (1/2) hour of direct client contact for the IHD program and charge \$10.06 per quarter (1/4) hour for the EIHD program. Total revenues received in FY 20 for operating the IHD program were \$31,723. Total revenues received in FY 20 from EIHD service were \$66,216. Total expenses to operate both programs combined in FY20 were \$99,527 and total revenues between both programs combined was \$97,939.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred for IHD and EIHD services was fifteen (15) years old. Eighty (80) clients were males, and seventeen (17) clients were females.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

Race	Number	Percentage
Caucasian:	15	15%
African American:	63	65%
Multi- racial	17	17%
Other	2	2%

YOUTH TRANSITION DECISION MAKING (YTDM) PROGRAM

In Fiscal Year 2018, Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs expanded their services to include the YTDM Program. This program is a “youth-centered,” evidence-based model that assists juveniles in transitioning back to their home community after long term residential placement.

Youth are required to have 3 meetings – one meeting within 30 days of initial placement, one meeting 30-45 days prior to discharge from placement and one meeting 30-45 days post-discharge. The goal of the meetings is to gather all “stake-holders” to the child’s success and develop a transition plan. The transition plans will address educational needs, medical/psychiatric/mental health needs, housing, employment, relationship supports, self-sufficiency, social engagement, and behavioral needs.

This model creates a shared responsibility for planning, decision-making and task accomplishment. YTDM’s work because youth are given the opportunity to voice what their goals and dreams are for the future. They are not only giving a say in the planning process, they are leading that process. The empowerment youth experience in the YTDM process results in higher levels of youth engagement, buy-in and ownership. Youth feel empowered and as a result are more motivated to achieve their goals. Our ultimate goal will be to improve outcomes and lower juvenile crime.

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS

There were 7 cases referred to the YTDM Program in FY20. Of those 7 referrals, 7 juveniles received the initial “prep” meeting. Seven (7) juveniles participated in the placement meeting. One (1) juvenile participated in a second “prep” meeting, and two (2) juveniles participated in a discharge meeting, and zero (0) juveniles participated in a community meeting. Four (4) juveniles turned 18 years old and aged out of program, two (2) juveniles are still currently in placement, and one (1) juvenile refused to participate in community meeting after discharge.

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

On-going operating expenses for this program are off-set by an inter-governmental contract with the Decategorization Board. Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs charges \$375 for the initial YTDM meeting and \$300 each for subsequent meetings. Food, transportation, and training costs are reimbursed as well under this contract. In FY20, the program had \$12,094 in expenses and \$14,602 in revenues.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred for YTDM services was seventeen (17) years old. Seven (7) of the admissions were males, which is 100% of those referred. No females were referred in FY20.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Youth	Percentage
Caucasian:	3	43%
African American:	3	43%
Multi- racial	1	14%

AUTO THEFT ACCONTABILITY PROGRAM

Over the last few years, the Scott County area has experienced a dramatic increase in auto theft. This has had a direct impact on the Scott County Juvenile Detention as average daily population has effectively doubled, causing costs to rise significantly as well. The Auto Theft Accountability Program is a new program designed to target first time auto theft offenders and provide accountability for the harm they have brought upon their victim, their families, and the community.

Established in April 2019, the Auto Theft Accountability program is a victim-offender mediation program which is based upon highly effective programs provided in New Zealand (Family Group Conferencing) and Oakland, California (Restorative Community Conferencing). This model is evidence based, as the National Council on Crime and Delinquency studied the outcomes of the RCC program in Oakland. They found that youth who completed the program were 44% less likely to get a new sustained charge, than youth who were processed through the juvenile legal system.

This program is a restorative justice concept in which victims and offenders are brought face to face in a neutral setting. Staff then facilitate a meeting to discuss the harm that has been done and create a strength-based plan for how the offender is to repair the harm. The youth offender will have three months to complete the plan. If the offender completes the plan, they will have their charge dismissed. However, if at any point they fail to progress, they will revert back to court proceedings.

BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY

There are several reasons this program is in the best interest of the community. In other communities where it 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 juvenile crime (particularly auto theft), less court hearings, improved court times, and decrease detention usage.

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS

In FY20, the Auto Theft Accountability Program had a total of eighteen (18) youth referred to the program. Of the eighteen youth, ten (10) participated in a restorative Community Conference and seven (7) juveniles completed the program successfully. Eleven (11) juveniles were discharged unsuccessfully and reverted back to the court system. Juveniles can be reverted back to the court system for acquiring new charges or failing to participate in the program. In FY21, a youth/family advocate position will be added to help guide youth through the program, mentor, and remove barriers to completion. This will help more juveniles attend the Restorative Conference, complete the program, and ultimately give them the greatest chance to succeed.

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

On-going operating expenses for this program are reimbursed by an inter-governmental contract with the Decategorization Board. Food, supplies, staff salaries and benefits, transportation, and training costs are reimbursed under this contract. In FY20, the program had \$25, 219 in revenues and \$26,108 in expenses.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred to the auto theft accountability program this fiscal year was fourteen (14) years old. Fourteen (14) of the referrals were males, which is 78% of the total. Four (4) of the admissions were females, which make up the remaining 22%.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Admits	Percentage
Caucasian:	4	22%
African American:	10	56%
Hispanic:	1	6%
Multi- racial	3	17%

OUTCOMES

Seven (7) juveniles completed the Restorative Community Conference as well as completed all aspects of their Conference Agreements successfully in FY20. 86% of those juveniles (6 out of 7) did not had a new charge 6 months post discharge and 75% (3 out of 4) of those juveniles did not have a new charge 1 year post discharge.