

Program #15101 - Juvenile Unit 3/2/2021

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** John Caslalino
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

This program makes the community safer and seeks restitution for crime victims while prioritizing reformation of youth rather than punitive measures. Via delinquency, this unit works with Multnomah County’s Juvenile Services division and prosecutes youths under 18 years of age who commit crimes against members of our community and 2) protects children, promotes skill-building and enhances parental capacity via limited dependency. Under SB1008 this program now has additional responsibilities to prosecute youth ages 15, 16, and 17 who victimize community members by committing violence felonies such as murder, rape and serious assaults. This program seeks to reduce disparities by diverting youth out of the system while still providing for reformation and restitution for victims.

Program Summary

This program makes the community safer, reduces juvenile delinquency and provides fair, impartial and equitable procedures for the initiation, adjudication and disposition of allegations of delinquent conduct. This conduct includes minor misdemeanors to serious felonies—including murder, rape, and serious assaults under SB1008. The unit works closely with the Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Juvenile Division in developing appropriate sanctions aimed at accountability, community protection and reformation of the child or youth. Additionally, one of the goals of this program is to pursue equity and reduce the number of youth exposed to the adult criminal system.

This Unit is involved with the Anne E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). This unit provides opportunities for youth to have their matters handled informally, either through the Community Health Initiative Early Intervention Program, or through informal handling by the Juvenile Department. MCDA provides legal sufficiency screening of all referrals, to ensure that youth are held accountable only for acts that are legally sufficient. Legal sufficiency screening by non-lawyers has resulted in youth being charged inappropriately. This unit seeks to provide the principles of accountability and reformation without pulling a youth further into the Juvenile System. Deputy district attorneys coordinate with the Department of Human Services, DCJ and juvenile court counselors to serve families impacted by the system. Dependency proceedings are noncriminal and take place in juvenile court where children are found unsafe and the court needs to intervene to protect the child. Dependency is proactive which can result in safer, healthier children who grow up to be adults who also implement safe parenting practices. These DDAs seek to protect children, strengthen families and work with system partners to increase equity and reduce the overrepresentation of racial minorities in the child welfare system. System partners, including judicial, children’s attorneys, and parents’ attorneys continue to note it is essential for MCDA to remain involved in dependency matters to ensure that children are safer and protective capacity of families is strengthened. Over the years, however, elimination of federal and state funding as well as other funding constraints has reduced work on juvenile justice reform issues, reduced public safety, reduced dependency, reduced engagement in the youth crossover practice model, reduced youth reformation and victim input regarding system decisions.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Cases reviewed for Delinquency and Dependency	1,658	1,558	1,242	1,590
Outcome	Early intervention program participants _% less likely to recidivate than non-participants	N/A	39%	N/A	N/A
Outcome	Delinquency cases diverted from formal system involvement	400	N/A	300	400

Performance Measures Descriptions

Cases reviewed decreased from FY19 because this unit no longer prosecutes Termination of Parental Rights (TPR). Performance measure #2 will no longer be used as recidivate data is not available. Performance Measure #3 will be used as it shows cases diverted from prosecution into alternate resolutions.

Legal / Contractual Obligation

Juvenile Trial Court: 8.685 Assisting juvenile court; right to appear. (1) The District Attorney shall, upon request of the juvenile court, appear in the juvenile court to assist the court in any matter within its jurisdiction. (2) In counties having a population of more than 150,000, according to the latest federal decennial census, the district attorney shall designate a deputy to assist the juvenile court as provided in subsection (1) of this section.[1959 c.432 §63 (enacted in lieu of 8.750); 1991 c.681 §4.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$1,629,288	\$0	\$1,691,668	\$0
Contractual Services	\$14,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$74,000	\$0	\$26,000	\$0
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$186,019	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,717,288	\$0	\$1,906,687	\$0
Program Total:	\$1,717,288		\$1,906,687	
Program FTE	9.00	0.00	9.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 15101A Juvenile Court Trial Unit

This program now combines 15101A and last year's 1501B (allowing MCDA to continue dependency in a reduced role). Because of previous reductions this program no longer advocates for proactive child protection efforts in dependency court proceedings to the extent it did in the past. This combined with the increased obligations to prosecute complex murder, robbery and sexual assault cases under SB1008 has impacted this unit's function.

Under COVID, dependency hearings and trials are remote. Resolution in delinquency cases, however, have slowed because of the need to be in-person in some hearings and trials. This unit has adapted well to remote proceedings. Because kids are not in schools access to mandatory reporters has decreased; DHS has fewer reports of abuse. LE submissions also decreased because of stretched resources due to expanded civil unrest and violence combined with decreased funding.

Internal service charges are increased reflecting a change to allocate facilities, data, distribution, telecommunications, and fleet services in individual units. Previously these costs were consolidated in 15001 - Administrative Support Services, 15002 - Information Technology, and the Division I, II, III, and IV Administration program offers.