

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** John Casalino
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

This program allows the Juvenile Court Trial Unit to retain two primary functions: 1) delinquency (prosecuting certain criminal offenses committed by juveniles), 2) limited dependency (litigating some child protection cases in juvenile court). In dependency, this program seeks child safety while strengthening the protective capacity of families. Refer to 15101 A which details the delinquency function of the Juvenile Unit.

Program Summary

The Juvenile Court Trial Unit no longer accomplishes family preservation and skill building to the extent it had in the past. It does continue to prosecute crimes committed by juveniles, ranging from misdemeanors to serious felonies—including additional responsibilities imposed by SB 1008. In addition to the delinquency function described in 15101A, this program partially restored this unit to have two primary functions, delinquency and limited dependency to serve families in Multnomah County.

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 in dependency.

On July 1, 2019, the Department of Human Services (DHS) redirected state and federal funds from the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office (MCDA) to pay their own lawyers at the Department of Justice (DOJ) to represent DHS in all Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) and dependency matters in Multnomah County. Because of overall funding loss in FY 2020 to the Juvenile Court Trial Unit, deputy district attorneys (DDAs) child safety efforts were reduced and in many cases DDAs no longer worked with DHS and other agency partners to develop plans which provided protection for the child and opportunities for parents to expand their protective capacity. Because this unit had reduced funding in FY 2020, it has reduced coordination with community and system partners and reduced engagement in the cross-over youth practice model.

System partners, including judicial, children's attorneys, and parents' attorneys have noted that it is essential for MCDA to remain involved in dependency matters to ensure that children are safer and protective capacity of families is strengthened. This unit, because of SB1008 which took effect on January 1, 2020, will have additional responsibilities to review and prosecute cases where youth ages 15, 16 and 17 commit very harmful offenses such as murder, serious assaults and rape. This law also requires added victim advocate responsibilities.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Cases reviewed for Delinquency, Dependency, TPR. (Estimate and offer includes Delinquency & Dependency)	1,857	1,363	1,558	1,558
Outcome	Early intervention program participants ___% less likely to recidivate than non-participants	39%	40%	39%	39%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Some data fields are incomplete because this unit changed performance measures for FY20. For more information about Juvenile performance measures, please see <https://www.mcda.us/index.php/documents/multnomah-county-district-attorneys-informational-budget-packet-fy-2021.pdf>

Continuing MCDA involvement in juvenile dependency cases promote public safety through building parental capacity and safeguarding children.

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. (3) The District Attorney is entitled to appear on behalf of the state in the juvenile court in any matter within the jurisdiction of the court. [1959 c.432 §63 (enacted in lieu of 8.750); 1991 c.681 §4.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Personnel	\$578,857	\$0	\$643,616	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$18,226	\$0	\$36,000	\$0
Internal Services	\$51,076	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$648,159	\$0	\$679,616	\$0
Program Total:	\$648,159		\$679,616	
Program FTE	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00

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

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 15101B-20 Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency

On July 1, 2019, State and Federal funding was eliminated in this program because the DHS decided to have DOJ represent DHS in all TPR and dependency matters in Multnomah County. This was a new program offer in FY 2020. It restored the reduction in County funding for the Juvenile Court Trial Unit and was used to partially backfill the reduction in State funding. This allowed the MCDA to continue with a reduced role in dependency. Partial funding limited MCDA's work on juvenile justice reform issues and reduced both public safety, youth reformation and victim input regarding system decisions. The child abuse unit was also impacted and moved from the Multnomah County MDT building; ending an internationally recognized coordination model that has protected children since the early 90s. This unit now handles additional cases under SB 1008.