

Program #15103 - MDT - Child Abuse Unit 3/4/2020

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

Executive Summary

This program serves three primary functions: 1) Prosecute felony crimes involving child victims including homicide, physical abuse, abandonment and neglect, sexual exploitation and sexual assault (rape sodomy, for example) of children where the perpetrator is considered family, 2) Protect vulnerable children through litigating dependency cases in juvenile court; and 3) Coordinate the Multi-Disciplinary Child Abuse Team's (MDT's) child protection efforts and develop practices and policies to investigate and prosecute abuse while working to help keep children safe and strengthen families.

Program Summary

The MDT is part of a larger team comprised of representatives from law enforcement, public schools, hospitals, courts, health departments, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Oregon Department of Employment Child Care Division. The team provides services to child victims, minimizes the number of victim interviews, prevents abuse of other potential victims, advances public safety and increases the effectiveness of prosecution of both criminal and dependency cases. Cases in the MDT unit are often time and emotion intensive.

Last year, this program prosecuted some of the most troubling homicides (abusive head trauma), and serious felony sexual and physical assaults against children, in the county. These deputy district attorneys (DDAs) respond to child death crime scenes all hours of the day. This team reviews all unexpected child fatalities. DDAs also work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and other agencies to protect children who are abused and neglected. They work with our Victim Assistance Program to ensure all practices are trauma-informed and mitigate the life-long consequences of child abuse.

These attorneys litigate some of the most high risk/high lethality child protection cases in Juvenile Court. With the court, DHS and other agencies and community partners, the office develops plans that provide protection for the child and opportunities for the parents to mitigate the dangers which brought the child to the attention of the court in the first place, with the goal that the child(ren) and parents be safe and to further parenting skills.

MDT DDAs coordinate discussion and resolution of inter-agency issues, assist in training with agencies involved in child abuse, participate in policy meetings with regard to child abuse and neglect, prepare and update the protocols for the larger MDT, and advise community partners on child abuse legal issues. The senior deputy district attorney is on call 24/7 to assist law enforcement, medical personnel and DHS in regard to infant deaths and immediate physical and child sexual assault cases. This program also coordinates the distribution of state Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) funds to a variety of local partners on an annual basis for projects/services associated with child abuse intervention.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Number of Dependency/Criminal cases reviewed	259	291	285	285
Outcome	Percentage of presumptively prison eligible defendant diverted from prison to community supervision	38.5%	43%	41.7%	41.7%
Input	Number of Attorneys needed to fulfill program duties	9	9	9	9

Performance Measures Descriptions

Some data fields are incomplete because of organizational changes that make prior performance measures inapplicable. Combining dependency and criminal work, MDT DDA's have between 300-325 children protected on their caseloads each month. Reducing child abuse/protecting children reduces adverse childhood experiences that cause health consequences that persist into adulthood. For additional MCDA Budget Information:
<https://www.mcda.us/index.php/documents/multnomah-county-district-attorneys-informational-budget-packet-fv-2021.pdf>

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 8.660 - Attending court and prosecuting offenses. (1) The district attorney shall attend the terms of all courts having jurisdiction of public offenses within the district attorney's county, and, except as otherwise provided in this section, conduct, on behalf of the state, all prosecutions for such offenses therein. ORS 8.665 - Prosecuting violations. Upon the issuance of a citation by any person authorized to issue citations for violations, a district attorney shall prosecute the case if it appears that a violation has occurred. ORS 8.670 - Proceedings before magistrates and grand jury. The district attorney shall institute proceedings before magistrates for the arrest of persons charged with or reasonably suspected of public offenses.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Personnel	\$1,081,368	\$209,188	\$1,222,831	\$204,523
Contractual Services	\$17,000	\$670,624	\$18,000	\$703,557
Materials & Supplies	\$14,650	\$33,263	\$16,300	\$25,275
Internal Services	\$0	\$38,303	\$0	\$37,449
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,113,018	\$951,378	\$1,257,131	\$970,804
Program Total:	\$2,064,396		\$2,227,935	
Program FTE	5.00	2.00	5.00	2.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$951,378	\$0	\$970,804
Total Revenue	\$0	\$951,378	\$0	\$970,804

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$37,449 in indirect revenues.

\$933,355 Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) Grant, Oregon Department of Justice/Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2020: 15103-20 MDT - Child Abuse Unit

Last year, due to county funding constraints combined with a loss of state funding, the MDT unit moved to the Juvenile Court Building on 68th and Glisan. This meant that the Unit is no longer co-housed with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and a specialized police unit comprised of detectives from the Portland Police Bureau and the Gresham Police Department (Child Abuse Team). LE, DHS and Medical partners have noted that this move—combined with full representation by DOJ in dependency matters—has reduced coordination, collaboration and communication regarding child abuse investigation and planning in our MDT here in Multnomah County.