Department of Community Justice
Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Home
1401 NE 68th Avenue, Portland, OR 97213

Multnomah County Juvenile Detention

About JDH:

The Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Home (JDH) was rebuilt in 1995 as a safe and secure setting to detain youth ages 12 – 17. The facility is staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days weekly. JDH maintains a staff-to-youth ratio of 1:8, with 16 youth in each unit. In 2009, 755 youth were screened for admission and 478 were admitted. The average length of stay per youth is 14 days but the range can run anywhere between 1 to 260 days.

Profiles of Detained Youth:

On an average day, there are 5 active units at JDH with a daily population of 64 youth. The average age of a youth is 16 years. While most detained youth are male (78%), the female population (22%) fluctuates regularly. Approximately 67% of admitted youth belong to a racial or ethnic minority.

Funding Sources:

JDH is a regional facility. Currently, Washington and Clackamas County each lease 18 beds. Both counties contributed funding to the construction of the facility and are guaranteed access to bed leases. JDH relies solely on county funding as no state general funds are used to operate or maintain the facility.

Services Available:

Many youth who are placed in detention arrive in crisis and frequently require wraparound services. JDH offers mental health screening and counseling on-site, six days per week with a multi-disciplinary team. All youth receive basic health services including screening for sexually-transmitted diseases and domestic violence exposure. Our educational programming allows youth to continue their educational pursuits throughout their stay in detention. Weekly cognitive skills groups as well as drug and alcohol groups are offered for detained teens struggling with addiction issues. In addition, an 18-bed secure residential substance abuse treatment program (RAD) occupies space at JDH.

Commitment to Public Safety:

JDH provides a vital public safety response when youth are involved in a serious crime. In accordance with county policy, JDH automatically detains youth awaiting a court date for charges of homicide, rape, burglary, class A and B felonies. JDH takes gun possession and gun violence very seriously. With regards to firearms, Multnomah County detention policy is actually stronger than current Oregon state law. Youth brought to Multnomah County detention with firearm possession charges will be held in detention at least until they appear before a judge in court.

Impact of Measure 11:

On any given day at JDH, about 60% of detained Multnomah County youth are being held on a Measure 11 charge. In 2008, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to pass a resolution designating JDH as the presumptive placement for youth being housed pretrial for Measure 11 offenses. The Measure 11 population fluctuates but averages around 20 per day. The average age of a Measure 11 youth is 16 years and 87% are male. Approximately 75% of Measure 11 youth belong to a racial or ethnic minority.



For more information, please visit our website:

http://web.multco.us/dcj-juvenile

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Performance Benchmarks:

- The number of youth being placed on room-lock status has fallen from 266 (2007) to 124 (2010).
- The use of physical restraints has dropped by 50% since 2007.

Evidence-based Practices at JDH:

The Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Home is committed to offering evidence-based practices (EBP) throughout its operations and interventions with detained youth. Our staff are continually researching what experts consider to be the most promising and effective practices for juvenile detention services. Our commitment to excellence has led us to implement many EBPs, including:

- Cognition groups that correct anti-social thinking and promote pro-social attitudes;
- Behavior Management System in which youth are supported in choosing pro-social behaviors;
- Series of validated risk assessment tools for monitoring and sorting our population;
- Highly structured daily regimen that fully engages detained youth.

Time Spent in Detention:

Typical Day for Youth in Detention	
7:30am	Youth wake to begin their day.
8:00am	Breakfast service from a kiosk in the common area where youth are encouraged to recycle and use the compost receptacles. Youth complete personal hygiene activities and morning chores.
8:30am	Youth transition to the classroom as the school day begins. During the school day, there is an hour set aside for physical exercise (contributes to physical education requirements).
Noon	Lunch is served and then the school day continues until 3pm.
3:30pm	Youth participate in Cognitive Skills Groups to learn how to think about situations in a more positive way as well as develop problem-solving and coping skills.
4:30pm	Youth engage in an organized activity like the writing program, art classes or games.
5-6pm	Dinner is served.
6-8pm	Visiting hours are held. Youth without visitors have structured free time such as reading a book or writing in their personal journal.
8pm	Youth participate in the Daily Goals meeting where they reflect on what they accomplished during the day and set personal goals for the next day.
9pm	Youth transition to their individually assigned rooms and the lights are turned down.

Placing the Right Youth in the Right Place:

The decision to detain a youth is a critical one that requires a rigorous analysis of many factors. Juveniles may be held because of the seriousness of their offense, a history of criminal offenses, the juvenile is a threat to others, or to insure that the juvenile returns to court. Detained youth are ones whose offenses are so serious that release would endanger public safety or the welfare of the child. To help ensure that all youth placed in the facility are appropriate, the Multnomah County public safety partners initially came together in 1995 and developed a county-wide set of policies to aid staff in making placement decisions. System partners have updated these criteria as needed, including the external validation of the detention risk assessment tool (RAI). Youth who are not detained will await their day in court while placed on GPS/electronic monitoring, placed in secure shelter, or monitored in the community by juvenile court counselors.

How Youth Arrive in Detention:



Step 1: Police Arrest Youth

- Police detain youth and decide which youth are taken to custody
- Youth delivered to detention reception center or to parent/guardian



Step 2: Detention Screening

- Charges are reviewed for public safety risk
- Staff review policy guidelines
- Detention intake staff complete a full risk assessment on youth



Step 3: Placement Decisions

- Youth is admitted if found to be high-risk and/or has been referred for a serious crime meeting policy criteria
- If not admitted, a safety plan is developed and youth is closely monitored in the community until the court date

Pioneers in a National Reform Effort:

For more than a decade, JDH has served as a model site in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) – the largest juvenile detention reform effort in U.S. history. The JDAI philosophy is simple: Use detention beds for the most dangerous youth and place low-risk youth in more cost-effective, community-based settings. Since participating in JDAI, the Multnomah County public safety partners have been working together to determine the best methods for implementing this philosophy locally. Multnomah County results have been impressive: Re-offense rates and failure-to-appear rates among youth have steadily declined as we increase the number of youth being served in detention alternatives. Our track record continues to bring hundreds of visitors each year from across the nation to tour our facilities, review our policies and explore our programming.