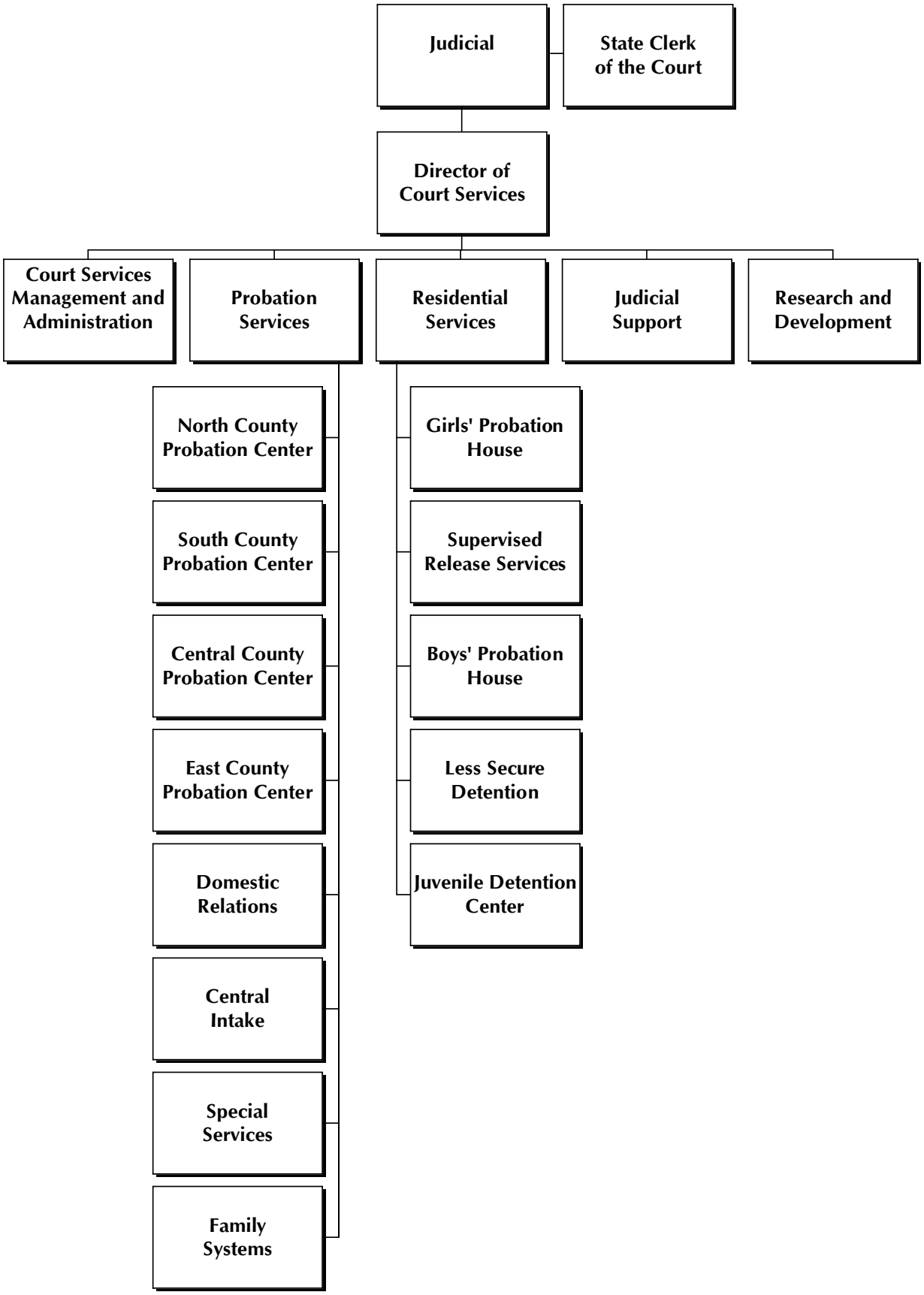
Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court



Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Mission

The mission of the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Services Unit is to provide efficient and effective probation and residential services which promote positive behavior change for those children and adults who come within the Court's authority, consistent with the well-being of the client, his/her family and the protection of the community.

Focus

The Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRC) is responsible for adjudicating juvenile matters, offenses committed by adults against juveniles, and family matters except divorce. The Court offers comprehensive probation and residential services for delinquent youth under the legal age of 18 who live in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax and the towns of Herndon, Vienna and Clifton. In addition, the Court provides services to adults in these jurisdictions who are experiencing domestic and/or familial difficulties that are amenable to unofficial arbitration, counseling or legal intervention. The Court also provides probation services required in addressing adult criminal complaints for offenses committed against juveniles unrelated to them.

The Court's eight judges, the Clerk of Court and 34 state staff are funded through Virginia State Supreme Court revenue. The agency is funded from a variety of sources, primarily from County funds, reimbursement for a portion of juvenile probation and residential services from the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control funds for community-based juvenile services and federal and state grants.

The agency's strategic plan developed in 2003 identified improving case management as one of the three major goals. Several teams of probation and residential staff worked during FY 2006 to revise the approach to providing services into a structured decision-making system that incorporates best practices and provides structure and decision-making tools at major decision points in the case management process. This approach will increase the consistency and validity of agency case management decisions; ensure that clients will be served from the same model no matter what part of the County they come from; target resources and available services to youth most at risk of re-offending; and improve the efficiency of the juvenile justice system. Structured decision-making also maximizes the likelihood that decisions about clients are made on objective criteria rather than informal considerations. This brings equity and balance to the system and decreases the possibility of adding to the problems of disproportionate minority contact within the juvenile justice system. The first phase of the new system was implemented in FY 2006. The second phase involving the intake process is expected to continue into FY 2008.

THINKING STRATEGICALLY

Strategic issues for the department include:

- Ensuring that service delivery best practices can be maintained in the face of budget cuts at the local, state and federal levels;
- Developing and implementing appropriate case management guidelines and policies;
- Expanding language and cultural sensitivity skills;
- Developing a more effective process for sharing information within the agency and with the public; and
- Developing and enhancing case management training and professional development.

The Court has embarked on a multiyear, multiphase electronic record management system which will allow the Court to replace traditional paper-based case files and manual court case processes with electronic court case records and automated work flows for case processing and management. The Court had a successful implementation of processes for Juvenile Intake informal hearing and monitored diversion cases in FY 2006, and will implement the processes for traffic and juvenile criminal cases in FY 2007. During FY 2008, work will continue until all juvenile and adult legal processes have been converted to an automated system of electronic workflow and documents. The system is being developed by the Juvenile Court with assistance from the Department of Information Technology and outside consultants. Advantages of the Electronic Records Management System include online availability of case files to eliminate time consuming searches for hard-copy documents; ability to distribute case files electronically; electronic forms that facilitate data entry by automatically populating data fields; and ability to secure and provide back-up copies of court records.

The Juvenile Court faces several challenges in providing services to the youth and families of Fairfax County, including younger offenders (many of whom are under 13), mental health treatment needs, educational needs and assessment and treatment for both juvenile and adult sex offenders, as well as continuing problems of domestic violence. The increase in gang violence involving juveniles has been of special concern in recent months. These populations require specialized interventions which are a challenge to provide under current budget restraints.

Many of the youth on probation and in residential facilities have significant mental health problems. Studies of youth in the Juvenile Detention Center and Less Secure Shelter indicate that, on any given day, half to two-thirds of the youth have a diagnosable mental health disorder. In addition, about one-third of youth on probation exhibit problematic use of alcohol and/or other drugs. The Court has partnered with the Community Services Board's Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Services agencies to provide on-site assessment and treatment to court-involved youth. The mental health staff assigned to the Juvenile Detention Center have been very effective in decreasing the number of mental health emergencies in the facility.

The Court provides services to a number of very young offenders (age 13 and under). The Department of Juvenile Justice Risk Assessment Instrument indicates that over 20 percent of youth on probation and 37 percent of youth on parole were age 13 or younger when they were first referred to the Court. As a group, these youth exhibit many of the same early warning characteristics that have been identified by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention longitudinal studies as predictors of chronic offenders. The traditional approach to services is ill equipped to provide services to youth in this developmental stage. From FY 2002 through FY 2006, the agency operated a grant funded program to provide age-appropriate treatment services and extensive family-focused intervention to these very young offenders and their families. This program has been continued with General Fund support since the grant period expired.

At any given time, between 50 and 60 juvenile sex offenders from Fairfax County are either under community supervision, in non-mandated Community Services Act (CSA) funded residential treatment or committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The Court is the only County agency with funds budgeted for sex offender treatment while youth are in the community. In FY 2008, funding of $130,337 is included for this treatment. However, due to the uncertain future of the block grant funding at the federal level, it is unclear whether grant funds will be available beyond the current year.

A large number of court-involved youth have experienced trouble in a traditional educational setting. According to the Department of Juvenile Justice Risk Assessment data, in FY 2006, 15 percent of the youth placed on probation and 33 percent of youth on parole had dropped out or been expelled from school. The Court operates nine alternative schools in coordination with the Fairfax County Public Schools. In FY 2006, five youth from the Juvenile Detention Center received their GED. The agency also supports the Volunteer Learning Program, a tutorial program designed to meet the needs of Fairfax County juveniles and adults who have withdrawn from public schools. It is sponsored by the Court, Fairfax County Adult and Community Education, and the Fairfax County Public Library system.

Although most of the Court Services Unit's resources are aligned with juvenile programs, the agency is also responsible for a large number of adult clients who are served by the Domestic Relations Unit. This unit provides probation supervision services to adults who have been convicted of offenses against juveniles or family members. This unit is also responsible for processing over 9,000 new cases annually involving custody, visitation, support, and domestic violence.

In FY 2007, the Court began partnering with the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to provide a Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Program. The goal is to provide information and assistance to victims of domestic violence who are seeking court action. Domestic violence advocates will provide resources and referrals in such areas as safety planning, emotional support, options counseling, and explanations of the legal options. Advocates will also assist victims in preparing for court hearings and accompany victims to court hearings.

Language and cultural diversity also present an enormous challenge to staff and clients. Fairfax County's racial and ethnic minorities have grown rapidly, accounting for 39.6 percent of residents in 2005. Children and young adults are more racially and ethnically diverse than older adults. Language needs run across all phases of court involvement but are particularly important in providing counseling services to court-involved youth and families. County research indicates that 33.4 percent of households speak a language other than English at home. The agency has addressed this communication issue with its Volunteer Interpreter Program and with the use of paid interpretation. In FY 2006, the agency spent $40,031 on face to face interpretation, and $10,756 on telephone interpreters. In addition, the Volunteer Interpreter Program's 37 volunteers provided almost 2,400 hours of interpretation services. The agency will also be participating in the County's Language Stipend Program. Enhancing the ability to provide services incorporating language and cultural diversity has been identified as one of the agency's strategic planning initiatives.

During part of FY 2005 and FY 2006, the Juvenile Court as part of the Court's overall Structured Decision Making Program (SDM), began implementing the use of the Department of Juvenile Justice's Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI). SDM is an approach recognized by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program (OJJDP) as a model in which decisions are made by probation/parole staff ensuring that the most appropriate sanctions and rewards impacting youth on probation are made based on the risk the youth poses to the community. The DAI is a tool used by all probation and intake staff in order to ensure that decisions to detain a youth meet specific criteria. Use of the DAI follows nationally recognized methods for addressing fairness and equity issues involving youth of all cultures and races, ensuring that youth placed in detention do not pose a threat to the community or to themselves. This approach is consistent with the philosophy of using the least restrictive environment to affect change in behavior of youth and using informal sanctions while ensuring the public's safety.

Beginning in FY 2006 the Court changed its intake workload data collection environment to be consistent with the State Department of Juvenile Justice's Juvenile Tracking System (JTS). Prior to this, the Court used intake workload data from the case management system created by the Virginia Supreme Court (CMS). With this change, all intake workload data collection and projections for purposes of performance measures now come from one source. This will ensure consistency with the rest of the state and more accurately reflect intake workload levels and projections.

Budget and Staff Resources

Agency Summary		
Category	**FY 2007 Actual**	**FY 2008 Adopted Budget Plan**
Authorized Positions/Staff Years		
Regular	309/ 307.5	312/ 310.5
State	43/ 43	43/ 43
Expenditures:		
Personnel Services	$17,119,479	$18,827,228
Operating Expenses	3,214,046	2,452,219
Capital Equipment	35,380	0
Total Expenditures	**$20,368,905**	**$21,279,447**
Income:		
Fines and Penalties	$139,807	$150,870
User Fees (Parental Support)	30,239	35,619
State Share Court Services	1,711,897	1,643,581
State Share Residential Services	3,617,562	3,649,412
Fairfax City Contract	483,115	506,659
USDA Revenue	150,362	150,502
Total Income	**$6,132,982**	**$6,136,643**
Net Cost to the County	**$14,235,923**	**$15,142,804**

SUMMARY OF ALL AGENCY LOBS (FY 2008 Adopted Budget Data)

Number	*LOB Title*	*Net LOB Cost*	*Number of Positions*	*LOB SYE*
81-01	Juvenile/Adult Investigation and Probation Services	$3,624,433	77	76.5
81-02	Judicial/Court Services Administration	$2,625,526	29	28.0
81-03	Juvenile/Adult Intake	$1,945,803	30	30.0
81-04	Shelter Care	$561,241	13	13.0
81-05	Supervised Release Services	$561,926	13	13.0
81-06	Long-Term Residential Care	$1,317,798	30	30.0
81-07	Juvenile Detention Services	$4,506,077	120	120.0
TOTAL		**$15,142,804**	**312**	**310.5**

LOBS SUMMARY

81-01: Juvenile/Adult Investigation and Probation Services

Fund/Agency: 001/81	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
LOB #: 81-01	**Juvenile/Adult Investigation and Probation Services**
Personnel Services	$4,982,675
Operating Expenses	$367,975
Recovered Costs	$0
Capital Equipment	$0
Total LOB Cost:	$5,350,650
Federal Revenue	$0
State Revenue	$1,643,581
User Fee Revenue	$82,636
Other Revenue	$0
Total Revenue:	$1,726,217
Net LOB Cost:	$3,624,433
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this LOB	77 / 76.5

▶ LOB Summary

Juvenile and adult probation officers are responsible for preparation of pre-dispositional investigation and social history reports and providing probation supervision as ordered by the court. Investigations assist the judge in ordering a treatment plan for the youth and family as well as the adult offender. Probation and parole staff conduct investigations and provide case supervision on matters involving criminal and non-criminal offenses, and custody and visitation disputes. Both juveniles and adults placed on probation and parole supervision are responsible for adhering to the probation rules as ordered by the court and are enforced by the probation/parole staff. Youth and adults placed under court supervision may additionally be ordered into special programs such as community services, intensive supervision, sex offender treatment, residential placement, and family counseling.

Between June 2006 and June 2007, the total number of active juvenile probation cases decreased by nine percent (from 1,019 to 930 cases). This decrease was seen in all four of the juvenile probation offices. Court wide, the average caseload size per worker decreased by 2.9 cases (from 33.4 to 30.5 cases, and has generally remained between 29 and 34 cases over the past year. The goal for Probation Services is to maintain average caseload sizes not to exceed 35 cases.

Providing services to youth who are identified as gang-involved or adjudicated of a gang-related offense is a particular concern for juvenile probation services. On July 1, 2006 the Code of Virginia section 16.1-309.1 G (Exception as to confidentiality) took effect in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This legislation authorizes Court Services, where consideration of public safety requires it, to release any information relating to gang involvement or the gang-related activity of juveniles obtained through an investigation or probation supervision of a juvenile identified as affiliated with a criminal street gang to the local police department. This exchange of information is for the purpose of an

investigation into criminal street gang activity. Probation staff are now often contacted by local police with requests for this information.

The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice has also mandated the entry of gang affiliated court-involved juveniles into a state-wide gang database, and required Court Services to designate probation staff to serve as "gang specialists" in each probation unit to review gang involved cases to determine eligibility for this identification. These gang specialists undergo specialized training in order to be certified and to learn specific best practices counseling approaches in working with gang-involved youth.

Probation staff now participate with the Fairfax County Police Department's gang unit in Anti-gang Initiatives on a monthly basis. Gang identified youth on probation or parole is visited at home in the evening hours by probation officers and gang unit Detectives to monitor compliance with conditions of probation and to provide parents information on gang participation for preventative efforts. As part of the County's collaborative efforts to address gang involvement, probation officers make referrals for gang involved juveniles and their families to participate in the Intervention, Prevention, and Education program with the coordination of the Northern VA Gang Task Force, and provide staff support for the enhanced Road DAWG program. In an effort to coordinate Court Services approach to working with gang-involved youth, the agency has created a Gang Response Committee to analyze the trends and issues, gather input from all programs and units, and make recommendations to Senior Management, along with the County Gang Prevention Coordinator, for strategic planning efforts.

The Department of Juvenile Justice has mandated that Court Services utilize the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) in making decisions regarding the use of secure detention, detention alternatives, or release in cases where a petition has been filed and the custody of a youth pending a hearing requires determination. This assessment tool assists Court Services in having a method to address Disproportionate Minority Contact in the juvenile justice system. This assessment process created an additional need for alternative programs in lieu of secure detention and shelter care.

In FY 2007, Court Services enhanced the continuum of programs available as a detention alternative through the development of the Evening Reporting Center (ERC) in the South County Government Center. This program is a collaborative partnership with the Department of Community and Recreation Services, Fairfax County Public Schools, Alcohol & Drug Services, Department of Systems Management for Human Services, and Department of Family Services. Funding is provided by a grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. The ERC is a 30 day non-residential program designed to provide an alternative to detention for moderate to high-risk youth on probation who commit technical violations or other delinquent acts. The program operates from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and is staffed by a senior probation officer, a recreation facilitator, and a part-time school teacher. The program is designed to develop skills in youth that support pro-social behaviors, while providing an intensive level of supervision in a community setting. The program also supports the graduated sanctions response of the structured decision making model within the Juvenile Court. The grant is a five year award, which ends June 30, 2011. However, the award formula will not cover the total cost of the program in years three (FY 2009) through year five (FY 2011), and JDRC and CRS will have to absorb the funding gap. Decisions regarding the continuation of the program with County funding will need to be addressed in FY 2012 budget preparation.

An area of concern for the court is the adult probation cases. Between June 2006 and June 2007, the total number of adult probation cases increased 17 percent from 521 to 608 cases. The average adult probation per worker caseload also increased by 14.5 cases (from 86.6 to 101.3 cases) during this period. Sentences of adults are approaching an average of 2 years probation supervision. The adult probation unit continues to meet the minimum standards of contact of once a month. However, the caseload size does not allow for increased supervision of many of our adults and the ability to conduct field contacts. The goal for the court has been to reduce these numbers to a manageable size of 75 to 1. This will require additional resources to increase the number of Probation Officers assigned to supervise adult offenders.

▶ Method of Service Provision

Juvenile and adult domestic relations investigation and probation services are provided by County personnel. Youth and families are ordered into services by a juvenile court judge. Prior to final disposition on criminal complaints the court orders investigations on defendants. These investigations require probation officers to meet the defendant and family and develop a social history and make recommendations to the court. Typically, probation staff will meet the youth and family in the home, secure detention, and at school, if necessary. Information is gathered regarding the youth's and adult's (if appropriate) academic record, as well as school adjustment, work history, in addition to other public and private agency contacts. Criminal history checks are conducted on all youth and adults involved in criminal matters before the court.

Probation services are provided to all clients consistent with the court order placing them on probation and with the Department of Juvenile Justice standards. Youth and adults are provided counseling, supervision, monitoring, sex offender treatment, and specialized services as ordered by the court based on the emerging needs of the family. Intensive supervision services are provided for juvenile Serious or Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP) and high risk offenders. These services are delivered geographically throughout the county in court offices, in the schools, in the home or in other public or private facilities.

Probation services operate from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. However, all probation units have flexible hours assigned to staff in order to meet the needs of client schedules. Evening hours are available to all clients. Satellite offices are located in Reston, Fairfax City, Alexandria, and Falls Church.

▶ Mandate Information

This LOB is federally or state mandated as noted on page 17 of the 2007 Federal and State Mandates Report. The percentage of this LOB's resources utilized to satisfy the mandate is 76-100 percent.

LOBS SUMMARY

81-02 Judicial/Court Services Administration

Fund/Agency: 001/81	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
LOB #: 81-02	**Judicial/Court Services Administration**
Personnel Services	$1,622,878
Operating Expenses	$1,236,154
Recovered Costs	$0
Capital Equipment	$0
Total LOB Cost:	$2,859,032
Federal Revenue	$0
State Revenue	$0
User Fee Revenue	$82,636
Other Revenue	$150,870
Total Revenue:	$233,506
Net LOB Cost:	$2,625,526
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this LOB	29 / 28.0

▶ LOB Summary

Judicial support and court services management are provided centrally. Two divisions, Juvenile and Adult Probation Services and Residential Services for Juveniles, are managed by the Court Service Director who is responsible for overseeing the delivery of direct and indirect services to clients and staff. Court Administration and Judicial Support Services provide support services to the court units and to the judges and clerk of court staff, who are state employees.

Judicial Support provides Court Records Management and Public Information, Victims Services, which provided service to 697 victims during FY 2007, Restitution Services, which collected $205,923 in restitution in FY 2007 for victims of juvenile crime, and the Volunteer Interpreter Program. The Volunteer Interpreter Program provided 2511 hours of free interpretation services to the Court in FY 2007; in addition they translated 138 in-house documents.

Other centrally managed support services include functions such as Budget Development and Financial Services includes; fiscal management, accounting, personnel and purchasing. Information technology, and facility planning and development are also provided centrally. The Research and Development Program provides quality control and manages the Volunteer Program. There are currently 47 volunteers providing services to various court units, probation and residential. Research and Development also oversees grants development and monitoring, and of course research and development for the Court Additionally, management staff regularly interacts with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice for the purpose of maintaining state standards, and ensuring state reimbursements owed to the County. Central management staff also interacts with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and serves on County, state, and federal task forces and committees as needed.

Major issues confronting Court Services Administration include the multiyear, multiphase electronic record management system (ERMS), which will allow the Court to replace traditional paper-based case files and manual court case processes with electronic court case records and automated work flows for case processing and management. In addition the Juvenile Court will be moving into the soon to be completed new Courthouse in fall 2008 or early 2009. Another area of concern is the number of employees eligible to retire in 2007, 2008, and 2009. Thirty-three employees are eligible for retirement by the end of 2008, including every member of the Court's management team, as well as five unit directors.

▶ Method of Service Provision

Judicial support and court services management are provided by Fairfax County personnel.

▶ Mandate Information

This LOB is federally or state mandated as noted on page 17 of the 2007 Federal and State Mandates Report. The percentage of this LOB's resources utilized to satisfy the mandate is 76-100 percent.

LOBS SUMMARY

81-03 Juvenile/Adult Intake

Fund/Agency: 001/81	*Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court*
LOB #: 81-03	*Juvenile/Adult Intake*
Personnel Services	$2,003,682
Operating Expenses	$24,757
Recovered Costs	$0
Capital Equipment	$0
Total LOB Cost:	$2,028,439
Federal Revenue	$0
State Revenue	$0
User Fee Revenue	$82,636
Other Revenue	$0
Total Revenue:	$82,636
Net LOB Cost:	$1,945,803
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this LOB	30 / 30.0

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

► LOB Summary

Juvenile Intake is required by the Virginia Code to screen complaints and process petitions on all juveniles (ages 17 and under) alleged to have committed offenses which are under the purview of the court. Juveniles thought to have committed offenses are brought before appointed intake officers either by a police officer witnessing or responding to an alleged criminal offense, or by citizens, families, or other agencies. Intake officers may decide to divert youth from the judicial system consistent with the best interests of the youth and family and protection of the public safety. Juvenile intake officers provide diversion case management services and informal probation in these cases. When a petition is authorized for judicial action, Intake Officers assess risk to the community, and may authorize placement of the juvenile in a secure detention center, shelter home, or the Supervised Release Services program. The number of complaints handled by Juvenile Intake and Adult Intake has decreased slightly over the past three fiscal years from 15,276 in FY 2005 to 14,648 in FY 2007.

The Informal Hearing Officer Program was developed to divert youth from formal court involvement by hearing minor misdemeanor cases that may be resolved by informal arbitration and sanctions. The Hearing Officer is used most frequently in trespassing, minor property, and alcohol cases. Depending on the problem and the nature of the responses, the Hearing Officer decides on the course of action. Most often, community service, restitution, or a prescribed shoplifters program or substance abuse education group is assigned, and the case is continued for a period of time and closed if the juvenile commits no further offenses. The Informal Hearing Officer heard 624 cases in FY 2006 and 632 cases in FY2007. In FY 2007, the Juvenile Intake Department also developed a 90 day monitored diversion program which provided services to 125 youth.

Juvenile Intake services are currently undergoing a strategic planning initiative known as Structured Decision Making. The philosophy is to provide quality, timely, uniform, and culturally sensitive services to ensure community protection in the least restrictive manner. All cases will be evaluated in accordance with the Code of Virginia, and cases will be assessed and managed in an unbiased manner. Decisions to release, divert, detain or employ a detention alternative are made using objective tools, inter-agency collaboration and a consistent decision making process, which addresses the interests of the client, family and community safety. Project teams recently began examining current intake services processes and will develop model recommendations to achieve the philosophy in FY 2008 and FY 2009.

Adult Intake processes complaints and assists families regarding custody, visitation, support, spouse abuse, and other intra-family issues. Intake processing includes evaluation of the problem, mediation if the parties are amenable, referrals to other agencies when the issues dictate, and authorization of the petition for judicial action. In cases involving spouse abuse, the intake officer provides for the monitoring of defendants when preliminary protective orders are issued by the court.

In FY 2008, Court Services, through the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, will work with the Victim/Witness Services of the Police Department to have a Victim Advocate staff member available at the Courthouse to provide counseling services to victims of domestic violence on hearing preparation, safety plans, available community resources and legal services. Domestic Relations Intake staff assists Juvenile Court judges in training local defense counsel in providing legal representation of a pro bono nature to these victims in matters pertaining to protective orders.

In FY 2007, Juvenile Court judges requested that Court Services increase the availability of mediation services for court referred clients for matters involving custody, support, and visitation. Court Services developed a partnership with the Fairfax County Bar Association for Pro Bono Services for indigent families, and the Virginia Supreme Court, Office of the Executive Secretary, to access state approved mediators. However, the Court was not granted a state funded position to provide full-time coordination and mediation. Domestic Relations Intake Services staff coordinate these referrals, determine financial eligibility, and monitor the compliance with court ordered mediation. This area will continue to be of concern, due to limited capacity of existing Domestic Relations Intake staff to provide this coordination and mediation services.

► Method of Service Provision

Intake services are provided by Fairfax County personnel. Juvenile intake complaints are received by intake officers from the public, police, and both public and private agencies. Criminal complaints are screened for probable cause with the complainant present. After reviewing the facts surrounding the complaint, the intake officer may proceed with the filing of a petition, denying the complaint, issuing a detention order, meeting with the defendant for informal resolution, schedule counseling sessions for the youth, or setting the case before the court's informal hearing program. Juvenile Intake operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the Courthouse and Juvenile Detention Center, and at Court Service Centers located in Reston, Falls Church, and Alexandria, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Adult complaints are filed by the public before domestic relations intake staff. Intake officers will assist the public in preparation of an affidavit requesting judicial hearing for a specific course of action, including emergency protective orders for domestic violence cases. This typically includes modifications of previous court orders, establishing visitation, and determining custody issues. The parties involved are offered mediation services by intake staff where applicable. If mediation is successful, the matter can be resolved with a consent order rather than a full hearing before the court. Adult intake operates Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evening appointments are offered on Monday until 8:00 p.m.

► Mandate Information

This LOB is federally or state mandated as noted on page 17 of the 2007 Federal and State Mandates Report. The percentage of this LOB's resources utilized to satisfy the mandate is 76-100 percent.

LOBS SUMMARY

81-04 Shelter Care

Fund/Agency: 001/81	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
LOB #: 81-04	**Shelter Care**
Personnel Services	$815,648
Operating Expenses	$37,475
Recovered Costs	$0
Capital Equipment	$0
Total LOB Cost:	$853,123
Federal Revenue	$12,895
State Revenue	$214,299
User Fee Revenue	$64,688
Other Revenue	$0
Total Revenue:	$291,882
Net LOB Cost:	$561,241
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this LOB	13 / 13.0

▶ LOB Summary

The Less Secure Shelter (LSS) has a capacity for twelve residents awaiting adjudication or final disposition, pending placements or serving sentences. In addition to the County, funding sources for the program include USDA, VJCCCA and Fairfax City Residential user fees.

In addition to regular shelter care, from FY 1991 through FY 2001, the facility provided an intermediate 90 day treatment program for those youth who did not require a longer-term residential program such as those provided by the Girls and Boys Probation Houses. The Fairfax County Public Schools provide three teachers to conduct year-round classes to address the educational needs of the youth. Community Services Board mental health professionals assigned to the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), and paid by the Juvenile Court respond to the mental health needs at LSS, as well as at JDC. They provide assessments and crisis intervention services and serve as a link to the mental health system. They have been very successful in limiting the number of mental health emergencies in the facility.

LSS experienced chronic over crowding in the late 1990's. To address this, the 90 day program was eliminated and staff implemented intensive case management to manage the population. In addition, the Court Services Unit (CSU) also sought approval from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for an additional twelve bed facility. A new shelter was approved through bond referendum in the fall of 2004 by the voters of Fairfax County and $5 million was committed toward the project. The overall annual utilization at LSS has been reduced to more manageable levels in recent years. However, the current facility still experiences periods of peak utilization in excess of 100 percent of capacity. LSS's monthly average daily population has been either at or exceeded capacity during at least one month out of each fiscal year. This continued pattern of overpopulation is unlikely to change with projected increases in the population of Fairfax County.

In addition, the Board of Juvenile Justice requested that when audits are conducted within a particular facility, the average daily population for the previous 13 months should be examined. If the facility is found to be overcapacity during any one month, it can be cited with a deficiency on Interdepartmental Standard 35. If a residential facility is cited with a deficiency, the Board will review the Corrective Action Plan and determine what action, if any, they will take. Thus far, no facility has been decertified as a result of overpopulation but the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court is committed to taking steps that ensure this issue never needs to be addressed.

Additionally, a new CSU policy regarding overrides on the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI), used to determine whether youth should be detained in secure detention is likely to place additional demands on the need for shelter care. Data show that over half of all youth who score as a detention alternative on the DAI and are overridden to secure detention, are at a moderate (41 percent) or low (14 percent) risk to re-offend on the DJJ Risk Assessment. The CSU believes that a large percentage of this 55 percent of youth could be placed in shelter care rather than secure detention. This recent policy is expected to exacerbate the problem of overcrowding in the LSS and will require additional space. The need for short term programming remains as well.

In response to these factors and the citizen approved board referendum, the Court has initiated plans for an additional 12-bed shelter facility at the public safety complex in Fairfax adjacent the Juvenile Detention Center. The new facility will allow the Court to separate the youth by gender and provide for specific services that are appropriate for each group. The program's target population is youth who are runaways, truants and low to moderate risk criminal offenders. The facility houses youth pending the pre-dispositional court process, and those serving sentences as well as those requiring short-term (90 days) out-of-home treatment services. The Court has identified program requirements and is currently at the 50 percent design development phase of this project. In FY 2008 the project will be moving into the development of construction documents and the awarding of a contract. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of FY 2009.

The utilization at LSS decreased from 88 percent in FY 2005 to 71 percent in FY 2007. In FY 2007, 317 placements were active in the program. These court-involved youth are typically experiencing behavioral, educational, social, psychological and family issues. Of these cases, 52 percent were male; 48 percent were female. The population also reflects the growing diversity found in Fairfax County. Thirty-six percent of youth were Black; 24 percent were Hispanic, and 7 percent were Asian. The average age was 16 years. Three hundred of the youth placed had risk assessment information. Thirty-one percent were low risk, 47 percent were moderate risk, and 22 percent were high risk to reoffend.

► Method of Service Provision

Shelter care services are provided by Fairfax County staff. Youth are court ordered to the facility by Juvenile Court Judges. The facility operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

► Mandate Information

This LOB is federally or state mandated as noted on page 17 of the 2007 Federal and State Mandates Report. The percentage of this LOB's resources utilized to satisfy the mandate is 76-100 percent.

LOBS SUMMARY

81-05: Supervised Release Services

Fund/Agency: 001/81	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
LOB #: 81-05	**Supervised Release Services**
Personnel Services	$772,792
Operating Expenses	$68,121
Recovered Costs	$0
Capital Equipment	$0
Total LOB Cost:	$840,913
Federal Revenue	$0
State Revenue	$214,299
User Fee Revenue	$64,688
Other Revenue	$0
Total Revenue:	$278,987
Net LOB Cost:	$561,926
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this LOB	13 / 13.0

▶ LOB Summary

Supervised Release Services (SRS) provides highly structured supervision, monitoring and services to juveniles who are awaiting adjudication or final disposition of charges and who might otherwise be detained at the Juvenile Detention Center or placed at the Less Secure Shelter at a much higher cost per placement. SRS is partially funded by Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) funds and by the Fairfax City residential user fees.

Juveniles may be placed on SRS by the Intake Department as a detention alternative pending adjudication. Judges may release juveniles to SRS at detention, adjudication or dispositional hearings. Placement on SRS is on the condition that the juvenile follow rules established by the court in conjunction with SRS staff. In FY 1998, two previously distinct programs, Outreach Detention and Detention Release Services (Electronic Monitoring), were consolidated to create the Supervised Release Services unit.

The SRS program has operated over capacity until FY 2007. Utilization has decreased over the past six years from 138 percent in FY 2002 to 92 percent in FY 2007. During FY 2007, 522 youth received services. Sixty-eight percent were male. The SRS population was largely minority. Thirty-one percent were Black, 27 percent Hispanic, and five percent Asian. Three quarters of the youth were between the ages of 15 and 17. Twenty-five percent were age 14 and under. There was risk to reoffend information on 248 of the youth placed. Of these, 34 percent were low risk, 55 percent were moderate risk, and 11 percent were at high risk to reoffend.

► Method of Service Provision

Fairfax County staff provides supervised release services. Program staff is available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. SRS staff meets with the assigned juveniles immediately after their release to SRS, or within 24 hours, to establish SRS rules as required by state minimum standards. Staff also orients juveniles to other expectations, such as frequency and place of visits, and sanctions for rule violations. SRS staff visits juveniles four times per week which includes at least once every other day, weekdays, weekends, and holidays. Visits take place at a juvenile's home, place of employment, or school. Staff contacts parents or guardians at least weekly. Additional telephone contacts are made as deemed necessary or in crisis situations.

If an assigned juvenile violates SRS rules, SRS staff will follow the Court's Graduated Sanctions policy. Depending upon the circumstances of the violation, SRS staff has the discretion of imposing informal sanctions and avoiding formal court action. If warranted, a Capias, an arrest warrant signed by a judge, may be issued. After arrest, an alleged delinquent offender is detained at the Juvenile Detention Center; an alleged CHINS offender is placed at the Less Secure Shelter. The court holds a detention hearing the same day of or the next court day after the juvenile's apprehension. Violating release conditions constitutes contempt of court. Depending upon the circumstances of the violation, SRS staff has the discretion of imposing informal sanctions and avoiding formal court action.

The Court's electronic monitoring equipment is provided by a contractor and installed and maintained by Court staff. The system consists of an ankle strap/transmitter, and a Personal Tracking Unit (PTU). This system has the capability to provide GPS tracking of youth, though it is typically used in standard house arrest mode. If the juvenile is out of range without permission the computer automatically notifies SRS staff, who then attempt to contact the juvenile, investigate the out of range alert and take further action if appropriate. Tracking information is provided by a website, which is accessible from any internet-equipped computer. With this system, juveniles without telephone service in their homes may be eligible for release on electronic monitoring. The Court leases a number of units which have cellular capability. The majority of the systems still use traditional telephone connections. Some telephone services, such as call forwarding and conference calling, can interfere with electronic monitoring operations and must be removed during the period of electronic monitoring.

► Mandate Information

This LOB is federally or state mandated as noted on page 17 of the 2007 Federal and State Mandates Report. The percentage of this LOB's resources utilized to satisfy the mandate is 76-100 percent.

LOBS SUMMARY

81-06 Long-Term Residential Care

Fund/Agency: 001/81	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
LOB #: 81-06	**Long-Term Residential Care**
Personnel Services	$1,752,182
Operating Expenses	$123,999
Recovered Costs	$0
Capital Equipment	$0
Total LOB Cost:	$1,876,181
Federal Revenue	$29,478
State Revenue	$428,598
User Fee Revenue	$100,307
Other Revenue	$0
Total Revenue:	$558,383
Net LOB Cost:	$1,317,798
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this LOB	30 / 30.0

▶ LOB Summary

The Court operates two long-term residential care facilities, the Boys Probation House and the Girls Probation House. In addition to County funds, support for these programs comes from USDA, VJCCCA and parental fees.

The Boys Probation House (BPH) is a 22-bed community based, multi-program facility providing non-secure residential treatment to adolescent male offenders with the goal of reducing chronic, acting-out behavior. Two distinct programs are offered:

- The 16-bed Therapeutic Group Home Program is a long-term (9-12 months) program that works with the boys and their families to identify and facilitate changes in behavior necessary for successful return to the boy's home and the community. This program has a capacity of sixteen residents between 14 and 17 years of age. The program emphasizes the acceptance of personal responsibility through means of staff supervision, behavior modification, role-modeling, individual, group and family counseling as well as public health education, the use of community mental health centers, and local substance abuse treatment services.

- The 6-bed Transitional Living Program is a five to six month program that requires residents to work full time in the community while pursuing their education and while learning the curriculum associated with living on their own. The program has a capacity of six residents who are between 17 and 18 years of age and for whom living at home is no longer an option. Supervision and supportive services are provided to the residents for 60 days following program completion.

The Fairfax County Public Schools provide three teachers to conduct year-round classes or G.E.D. instruction in a daily program to address the educational needs for all residents.

The utilization rate for BPH has increased from 68 percent in FY 2005 to 91 percent in FY 2007. During the past fiscal year 57 youth received services at BPH. The average age of residents was 17 years. Program participants were mostly minority: 51 percent Black, 26 percent Hispanic, and 5 percent Asian. Information from the Department of Juvenile Justice Risk Assessment Instrument indicates that three-quarters of residents were at medium risk and 21 percent were at high risk to reoffend when they entered the program.

The Girls Probation House (GPH) is a therapeutic group home with a capacity for 12 residents ranging in age from 13 to 17 years. It is a family oriented, long-term (6 - 9 months) treatment facility that serves girls placed there by judicial disposition to reduce chronic acting-out delinquent and CHINS behavior. The program offers services for those youth who have failed to respond to previous treatment efforts and those youth who have a suspended commitment to the State Department of Juvenile Justice. The program provides a structured environment that emphasizes the acceptance of personal responsibility by residents through means of a four-level program of behavior modification, positive peer culture and individual, group, and intensive family counseling sessions and weekly parent group. All treatment is designed to facilitate the resident's return to her home and community. The Fairfax County Public Schools provide two teachers who address the educational needs for all residents in a daily program. Residential Services is examining alternative uses for this facility to deal with emerging populations.

Between FY 2005 and FY 2007 utilization at GPH has ranged from 75 percent to 68 percent. In FY 2007, 30 girls received services from GPH. The average age of the girls placed in the program was 16 years. Residents were primarily minority: 47 percent Black, 23 percent Hispanic, 3 percent Asian. Information from the Department of Juvenile Justice Risk Assessment Instrument indicates that 14 percent of residents were at low, 76 percent were at medium and 10 percent were at high risk to reoffend when they entered the program.

The Court through a citizen-approved bond referendum is currently building a new 12-bed facility which is replacing the existing Girls Probation House structure which was built in the 1950s and renovated in 1975 for the opening of the Girls Probation House Program. The new facility is being built on the same lot. During construction, the residents and staff have been relocated to modified space in the Juvenile Detention Center. The Court has completed the design development and the contract was awarded in May 2007. Construction began July 2007. The new facility is projected to be completed by September 2008.

► Method of Service Provision

Long-term residential services are provided by Fairfax County staff. Both facilities operate 24 hours per day, 365 days per year

► Mandate Information

This LOB is federally or state mandated as noted on page 17 of the 2007 Federal and State Mandates Report. The percentage of this LOB's resources utilized to satisfy the mandate is 76-100 percent.

LOBS SUMMARY

81-07 Juvenile Detention Services

Fund/Agency: 001/81	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
LOB #: 81-07	**Juvenile Detention Services**
Personnel Services	$6,877,369
Operating Expenses	$593,740
Recovered Costs	$0
Capital Equipment	$0
Total LOB Cost:	$7,471,109
Federal Revenue	$108,129
State Revenue	$2,792,216
User Fee Revenue	$64,687
Other Revenue	$0
Total Revenue:	$2,965,032
Net LOB Cost:	$4,506,077
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this LOB	120 / 120.0
Grant position involved in the delivery of this LOB	1 / 1.0

► LOB Summary

The Court's Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) is a 121 bed co-educational secure residential facility which holds criminal juvenile offenders who have been ordered detained because they pose a serious threat to themselves, and/or members of the public. It is the only juvenile detention center in Virginia that is operated by a Court Services Unit. Funding sources include the State Reimbursement State Ward per diem, Juvenile Residential Services Block Grant, USDA, and Fairfax City residential user fees. Prior to the expansion to 121 beds in 1998, the facility had been operating at over 100 percent utilization for over a decade.

JDC provides counseling, educational, recreational and emergency crisis services. Utilization at JDC has decreased from 74 percent in FY 2005 to 65 percent in FY 2007. This decline is partially due to the introduction of the Detention Assessment Instrument to the intake process and to the development of the Court's Structured Decision Making case management program. During FY 2007 there were 1,161 placements at the facility. Seventy-eight percent of the youth placed were male. The JDC population was largely minority. Thirty-nine percent were Black, 28 percent Hispanic, and six percent Asian. Two-thirds of the youth were age 16 or above.

During the last quarter of FY 2007, the largest groups of juveniles held in JDC were detained for offenses against persons and probation/parole violations (28 percent each), while the smallest group were held for drug and alcohol offenses. Twenty-two percent were detained for property offenses, while three percent were held for public offenses. This quarter, two-thirds of all youth in JDC were at moderate risk for future offending. Over 20 percent were at high risk and less than 15 percent were at low risk for re-offending. Of these youth, 61 percent had some delinquent peers, 35 percent had mostly delinquent peers, 34 percent had a history of running away from home or escaping from residential facilities, 27 percent had problematic alcohol and/or other drug use, 27 percent had a

parent and/or sibling who had been incarcerated or on probation during the past three years, 26 percent came from very dysfunctional families, 26 percent had been expelled from or dropped out of school, 18 percent had been victims of abuse and/or neglect, and nine percent had three or more petitions for violent offenses with the Court.

JDC is made up of eleven living units, each housing up to eleven residents. Currently two units are being used to temporarily house our Girls Probation House while their new facility is being built. The Fairfax County Public Schools through State Department of Education funding, provide twelve teachers for the daily education program at the center.

One unit has been set aside for a post-dispositional sentencing and treatment program. The Beta Program confines youth for up to six months and provides the Court an alternative to committing youth to the Department of Juvenile Justice (in accordance with the Code of Virginia 16.1-284.1). Interventions are structured around such issues as anger management, social skills training, decision making skills, moral reasoning, and setting boundaries and limits. Services include individual, family and group therapy, a psycho-educational component, and both therapeutic recreation and art therapy. Youths who are accepted into the program will be provided treatment by the program's Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Services clinical staff. The 15 bed program accommodates both males and females. To enter the program juveniles must be referred by a probation officer and must also complete an admissions assessment with the program coordinator and clinical staff who determine their appropriateness for placement. All youth are court ordered into the program. Beta operates at over 90 percent of capacity and has a waiting list.

As was mentioned above, the largest group of youths in JDC are confined for parole or probation violations. These youth are frequently sentenced to JDC for 30 days or less. Currently there is no special programming for these youth that would address their inability to follow the rules of probation while in the community. This is a need that has been identified by probation and residential staff.

One of the key concerns of the JDC staff is the large number of detained youth who exhibit mental health problems. Mental health screening of youth in detention during FY 2007 using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument – 2 (MAYSI-2) indicate that 23 percent of detained youth have experienced traumatic experiences over their lifetimes; 21 percent show signs of depression and anxiety; 22 percent exhibit thought disturbance; 22 percent have signs of alcohol/drug abuse; and 15 percent are at risk of suicide attempts or gestures. The Court has partnered with the Community Services Board's Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Services agencies to provide on-site assessment and treatment to court-involved youth. The mental health staff assigned to JDC, have been very effective in decreasing the number of mental health emergencies in the facility.

► Method of Service Provision

The Juvenile Detention Center is staffed by Fairfax County personnel. The facility operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year and is designed both architecturally and programmatically to reduce stress for the residents while providing control and safety. Security is maintained through physical surveillance and personal contact between staff and detainees, rather than through electronic equipment; the extensive use of internal windows facilitates surveillance without being obtrusive. Each living unit is organized as a set of 11 bedrooms opening onto a common dayroom. The building provides specialized single-purpose space for schooling, arts and crafts, physical exercise, dining, intake, reception, and administration. Special attention is paid to screening medical and mental health needs of youth ordered into the facility.

► Mandate Information

This LOB is federally or state mandated as noted on page 17 of the 2007 Federal and State Mandates Report. The percentage of this LOB's resources utilized to satisfy the mandate is 76-100 percent.

AGENCY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Objectives

- To maintain a variance of no more than 2 percent between estimated and actual expenditures, not to exceed the agency appropriation.

- To maintain a rate of diversion of youth from formal court processing that is equal to or greater than the state average so that youth brought to the court's attention can be addressed in the least restrictive manner consistent with public safety.

- To have at least 65 percent of juvenile probationers with no subsequent criminal petitions within 12 months of case closing.

- To have at least 90 percent of Supervised Release Services (SRS) juveniles with no new delinquency petitions while in the program in order to protect the public safety.

- To have at least 80 percent of Less Secure Shelter (LSS) youth appear at their court hearings in order to resolve cases before the court in a timely manner.

- To have 98 percent of Secure Detention Services (SDS) youth appear at their court hearings in order to resolve cases before the court in a timely manner.

- To have at least 65 percent of Community-Based Residential Services (CBRS) discharged youth with no subsequent criminal petitions after 12 months of case closing in order to protect the public safety.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Indicator	Prior Year Actuals FY 2006 Actual	Prior Year Actuals FY 2007 Estimate/Actual	Current Estimate FY 2008	Future Estimate FY 2009	LOB Reference Number
Output:					
Budget managed	$18,832,843	$21,017,093 / $20,368,905	$21,886,633	$21,728,003	81-02
Non-traffic (NT) complaints processed by intake (1)	13,641	13,600 / 14,648	14,000	14,000	81-03
Average monthly probation caseload	966	950 / 918	885	885	81-01
Supervised Release Services (SRS) child care days provided	18,022	15,770 / 16,035	15,770	15,770	81-05
SRS program utilization rate	103%	90% / 92%	90%	90%	81-05
Less Secure Shelter (LSS) child care days provided	3,501	3,300 / 3,090	3,000	3,000	81-04
LSS facilities utilization rate	80%	75% / 71%	68%	68%	81-04
Secure Detention Services (SDS) child care days provided	30,039	30,000 / 28,894	27,500	27,500	81-07
SDS facilities utilization rate	68%	68% / 65%	62%	62%	81-07
Community-Based Residential Services (CBRS) child care days provided	10,223	9,930 / 10,258	9,930	9,930	81-06
CBRS facilities utilization rate	82%	80% / 83%	80%	80%	81-06
Efficiency:					
Cost per $1,000 managed	$5.12	$4.78 / $4.74	$4.74	$4.74	81-02
NT complaints processed per intake officer (1)	709	706 / 771	737	737	81-03
Average monthly probation officer caseload	31	30 / 30	29	29	81-01
SRS cost per day	$58	$64 / $59	$66	$67	81-05
LSS cost per bed day	$239	$283 / $250	$289	$301	81-04
SDS cost per bed day	$210	$239 / $219	$242	$236	81-07
CBRS cost per bed day	$242	$245 / $269	$250	$260	81-06
Service Quality:					
Percent of budget expended	98%	98% / 97%	98%	98%	81-02
Percent of customers satisfied with intake process	94%	85% / 95%	85%	85%	81-03
Percent of court-ordered investigations submitted prior to 72 hours of court date	90%	85% / 87%	85%	85%	81-01
Percent of parents satisfied with probation services	96%	85% / 93%	85%	85%	81-01
Percent of SRS youth who have face-to-face contact within 24 hours of assignment	99%	98% / 100%	98%	98%	81-05
Percent of parents satisfied with LSS services	100%	90% / 100%	90%	90%	81-04
Percent of SDS youth discharged within 21 days	78%	75% / 75%	70%	70%	81-07
Percent of parents satisfied with CBRS service	100%	90% / 100%	90%	90%	81-06

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Indicator	Prior Year Actuals FY 2006 Actual	Prior Year Actuals FY 2007 Estimate/Actual	Current Estimate FY 2008	Future Estimate FY 2009	LOB Reference Number
Outcome:					
Variance between estimated and actual expenditures	2%	2% / 3%	2%	2%	81-02
Percent of youth diverted from formal court processing	19%	15% / 18%	15%	15%	81-03
Percent of juveniles with no new criminal reconvictions within 12 months of case closing	80%	65% / 69%	65%	75%	81-01
Percent of SRS youth with no new delinquency or CHINS petitions while under supervision	96%	90% / 89%	90%	90%	81-05
Percent of LSS youth who appear at scheduled court hearing	86%	80% / 91%	80%	80%	81-04
Percent of SDS youth who appear at scheduled court hearing	100%	98% / 100%	98%	98%	81-07
Percent of CBRS-discharged youth with no new delinquent petitions for 1 year	67%	65% / 67%	65%	65%	81-06

(1) Beginning with the FY 2006 actual data, the source of the data measuring non-traffic complaints has been changed. Prior to the FY 2006 actual, the source had been the State Supreme Court's Case Management System (CMS) which measures cases coming into court from all sources. From FY 2006 on, the source will be the Department of Juvenile Justice Juvenile Tracking System (JTS). Data from this system provide a more accurate depiction of work done by Probation Services intake staff. This change accounts for the large difference between the actual figures for FY 2005 and FY 2006. Actual non-traffic complaint figures from JTS were 15,274 for FY 2005. The corresponding figures for non-traffic complaints processed per intake officer were 793 for FY 2005.

Beginning in FY 2009, the outcome objective for probation supervision will change from measuring subsequent criminal petitions to subsequent criminal reconvictions. This change has been made to bring the measure in line with measures used by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice.