

Response to Questions on the FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Gross

Question: What is the cost per child to participate in Club 78? What is the cost per child/adult for remediation in both juvenile and criminal justice systems?

Response: A comparison of the costs to fund proactive programs such as Club 78 versus rehabilitative incarceration in the Juvenile and criminal justice systems is very difficult to quantify. There is no absolute comparison data available. However, based on the data available, the Club 78 program costs are much less expensive on a per day basis. It should be noted that Club 78, takes place for only a couple of hours per day during the school year while the cost for incarceration is much higher based on the need to provide care on a 24 hour basis for a much longer period of time.

CLUB 78

Club 78 is a collaborative effort between the Office for Children and Holmes Middle School. It was designed to promote education, socialization, skill building, responsibility, inclusion, community awareness, life-skills, and a sense of belonging and to support working parents. Club 78 provides a homework program that employs an on-site teacher from Holmes. A unique aspect of this program allows youth to participate in any or all days when the program is in session or participate following a school club or intramural sport. The program operates five days a week, with parent fees based on a sliding scale depending upon parental income. The fee ranges from \$10-\$164 for one child or \$19-\$312 for two children. The program serves 60 participants in the 7th and 8th grades and operates on the standard school year calendar of 183 days.

The net cost to the County to operate the program for FY 2005 is estimated to be \$26,586, which includes expenditures of \$106,343 offset by revenue of \$79,757. Based on the number of participants, the cost per child in FY 2005 is \$1,772.38. If you divide by the number of days in a standard school year, the cost per child per day is \$9.68. The net cost, after the application of parental fees, is \$443.10 per child per year or \$2.42 per child per day.

JUVENILE SYSTEM

Girls Probation House (GPH) – A non-secure residential facility which provides individualized, structured and rehabilitative treatment for up to 12 adolescent females, who have demonstrated chronic behavior problems. The residents range in age from 13 to 17 years old, and have been brought to the attention of the court through both CHINS and criminal offenses. The residents participate in individual, group and family counseling designed to give them support for interrupting the cycle of dysfunctional behavior and to teach new behavior and promote healthier interactions. Two Fairfax County public school teachers provide each resident with individually tailored instruction. This is a variable stay program, and can last up to six months, depending on the individual goals which the resident and her family have set. The daily cost per bed for Girls Probation House is \$153.52.

Boys Probation House (BPH) – A non-secure community based multi-program facility providing residential treatment to adolescent male offenders with the goal of reducing chronic, acting-out behavior. Two distinct programs are offered. One is a long-term (9-12 months) therapeutic program that works with up to 16 boys and their families to identify and facilitate the changes in behavior necessary for successful return to home and community. Fairfax County Public Schools provides year round classes. BPH also has a six bed transitional living program. This is a five to seven month program for residents between the ages of 17 and 18. This program requires residents to work full-time, pursue educational goals, and assists them in learning about the demands and difficulties of independent living. The daily cost per bed for Boys Probation House is \$122.

Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) – The Juvenile Detention Center is a secure pre-and post-dispositional 121 bed holding facility that houses both male and female residents. It is the only juvenile detention center in Virginia that is operated by a Court Services Unit. Security is maintained through physical surveillance and personal contact between staff and residents in conjunction with electronic equipment. In addition to the 11 small group living areas, the building also provides specialized single-purpose space for schooling, art therapy and crafts, physical exercise, a dining hall, an area for intakes and visiting, a medical office and exam room that is staffed by three nurses and a part time attending physician and a reception and administrative area. The average daily population at the JDC in March 2004 was 113. The daily cost per bed in the Juvenile Detention Center is \$177. We receive reimbursement of \$2,353,500 from the Department of Juvenile Justice or approximately 36% of the cost to run the facility. The net cost to the County after the estimated reimbursement rate is taken into account is \$112 per day for individuals housed in the Juvenile Detention Center.

It should be noted that the cost per day for individuals housed by the State Department of Corrections is \$196 per day.

ADULT DETENTION CENTER

The Adult Detention Center is a secure holding facility which safely houses and incarcerates inmates. Inmates are held for one of three reasons: pending trial on charges ranging from simple misdemeanors to capital felonies, serving a sentence for two years or less or awaiting transfer to a state correctional facility due to a sentence length of greater than two years. Males are held from as young as 14 years old and females are held from as young as 18 years old. Security housing services are provided by sworn deputy sheriffs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, inclusive of holidays. The average daily inmate population for the ADC in FY 2004 is estimated to be 1,300. The daily cost per bed to incarcerate individuals in the ADC is \$119. The County does receive some reimbursement from the State based on the compensation for deputies who staff the jail.