

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

LOB #187:

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER SERVICES

Purpose

The Juvenile Detention Center Services Line of Business includes the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and a post-dispositional sentencing program that is housed in the facility. The detention facility is locally operated by the CSU of the Fairfax County JDRDC. All staff are county employees. The original thirty-three bed facility opened in 1983 and was expanded to fifty-five beds in 1992 and the current 121 beds in 1998. The facility provides a safe, secure and structured residential setting for juvenile offenders who have been ordered to be detained by a judge, intake officer, or magistrate. The program offers therapeutic programming and services that promote positive change, the overall well-being of the residents, and provide for the protection of the community as ordered by the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Residents are provided with counseling, education, recreation, medical services, and emergency mental health crisis services.

Description

The Juvenile Detention Center Services Line of Business provides pre-dispositional, post-dispositional, and/or pre-placement detention of juveniles in the Fairfax County operated JDC. Secure detention services are intended for juvenile offenders (youth under the age of 18) who are charged with a Class I Misdemeanor or Felony and who meet the criteria as defined in Virginia Code § 16.1-248.1. Upon a finding by a judge/intake officer/magistrate that there is probable cause to believe that the juvenile committed the alleged act and the juvenile: is a threat to himself, is a threat to the person or property of others, or is a flight risk. Generally operated as a pre-dispositional holding facility for youth pending court action, JDC may also serve as a post-dispositional sentencing facility. The primary objective is to ensure the safety and security of its residents. The JDC has the capacity to accommodate 121 male and female juvenile offenders although it is currently staffed for 66 beds. It is one of a few juvenile detention centers in the Commonwealth of Virginia operated by a local CSU. The JDC is located in the Fairfax County Public Safety Complex in Fairfax City and is staffed by Fairfax County employees. Volunteers provide additional support. The facility operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Detention Center Facility

The facility's architecture is designed to ensure security and safety while simultaneously providing a setting that reduces stress among its residents. There are eleven small group living units with each unit having eleven bedrooms that open onto a common day room. Additional rooms are devoted to dining, education, arts and crafts, intake, reception, medical services, and administration. A fully equipped gymnasium is part of the facility.

Health Services

A nurse assesses any juvenile entering the facility within 24 to 48 hours of admittance. In addition to physical assessments, facility staff provide secure transportation for residents to medical, dental, mental health or follow-up care appointments. The program provides counseling groups, therapeutic recreation, constructive activities, and role modeling as mediums for changing behavior. Programming also addresses various areas of discipline such as: self-control, communication, and life skills. JDC liaisons include probation officers, mental health therapists, police officers, doctors, nurses, a school principal and teachers, lawyers, counselors, clergy, volunteers, psychologists, psychiatrists, crisis counselors, social workers, mentors, and most importantly, the families of the detained youth.

Education

The JDC school program consists of 5.5 hours of daily instruction taught by Virginia Department of Education licensed teachers. Students earn high school credits and are eligible to work towards their GED. The program has two daily electives, physical education and art class. Every week there are alternating elective classes during homeroom time: music, life planning, library, and literacy. The curriculum offers instruction emphasizing acquisition, fluency, and maintenance of academic and life skills. Hour-for-hour

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credit is forwarded to the base school at the time of a juvenile's release. FCPS also monitors JDC meals to ensure that they fall under Federal guidelines for school system meal requirements.

BETA Post Dispositional Sentencing Program

The JDC Services Line of Business also includes the BETA Post Dispositional Program which was created to address the issues and needs of juveniles sentenced under Virginia Code § 16.1-284.1. Juveniles are confined in a secure setting for up to six months in a therapeutic program. The program provides the court with an alternative to committing youth to the Department of Juvenile Justice (Virginia Code § 16.1-284.1). The BETA Program also offers aftercare for six months following the confinement component.

The eleven-bed program accommodates male offenders ages 14 to 17. Youth must be referred by a probation officer and complete an admissions assessment to determine their appropriateness for placement after being court-ordered into the program. The Virginia Code requires that a youth must be 14 years of age or older, have been convicted of four misdemeanors or one felony, and be eligible for commitment to the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. Youth who are actively suicidal, psychotic, in need of immediate sex offender treatment, or have a history of violent assaults against staff or other youth are not eligible for the program. Youth may not have been released from the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice within the previous eighteen months.

Interventions address delinquency, behavioral/mental health, substance abuse, and educational issues. Treatment areas include anger management, development of positive coping skills, maintenance of healthy relationships, decision-making, moral reasoning, and identifying and setting boundaries. Services include individual and group counseling, family therapy, psycho-education, and substance abuse treatment. BETA also uses the Nurturing Parent Program, Victim Impact classes, and a creative art curriculum to address various delinquency issues. The program's counseling, mental health and substance abuse professionals provide services to each juvenile both individually and collectively.

An onsite alternative Fairfax County Public School addresses the educational needs of the youth. Three full-time teachers and additional educational personnel within JDC staff the BETA Program school. The BETA Program also organizes supervised quarterly community service activities to assist juveniles in repairing the harm they have done to the community. These activities help to connect youth with community resources and allows them to complete Court ordered community service hours while in a residential program.

Benefits

Safety and Security

The primary objective of Juvenile Detention Services is to ensure the safety and security of its residents. The architectural design helps to ensure security and safety while simultaneously providing a setting that reduces stress among its residents. The extensive use of internal windows facilitates surveillance without being conspicuous. The internal structure promotes extensive personal contact between staff and detainees and minimizes the necessity for surveillance through electronic equipment. At the center of the facility, a glass-lined inner corridor surrounds an open courtyard. Staff screen all youth for mental and physical health issues when they enter the facility; services are provided, if necessary.

Positive Behavior Outcomes

In addition, residents of JDC and the BETA programs also have access to counseling groups, therapeutic recreation, constructive activities, and role modeling as positive mediums for changing behavior while they are in the facility. Programming also addresses various areas of discipline such as self-control, communication, and life skills.

Access to Mental Health Services

All youth are administered the Massachusetts Youth Survey Instrument (MAYSI-2) upon entry to the facility. This assessment provides staff a general view of any mental health issues the youth may have and allows them to provide appropriate referrals to formal psychological assessment if necessary. This plays an important role in getting youth access to services.

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Education

As noted above, youth receive 5.5 hours of daily instruction taught by Virginia Department of Education licensed teachers. Students earn high school credits and are eligible to work towards their GED.

Mandates

Primary Services Provided

- Juvenile Detention Center Services – Fully Mandated (Virginia Code § 16.1-227; § 16.1-234)

There are several Virginia code sections addressing the mandates for Juvenile Justice Agencies that require an array of programs, services and facilities to meet the individual, family and community needs.

Please see the mandates section in LOB #184: Court Services Administration for the fundamental elements needed for a Juvenile Justice System. These elements are both specific and general in nature in order to meet the ever-changing needs and demands within Juvenile Justice Services.

Trends and Challenges

The introduction of the Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI) by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), in particular, had a dramatic impact on the number of youth placed in secure detention. This instrument guides juvenile intake officers through a series of decisions that lead to a range of alternatives that can replace secure detention. The goal is to place the youth in the least restrictive environment while still addressing public safety. During this period, pre and post-disposition secure detention admissions of juveniles in Fairfax County decreased by 48 percent going from 1,070 to 560.

Please refer to the trends and challenges section of LOB #184: Court Services Administration for additional challenges that impact this line of business:

- Changing Caseloads and Utilization Rates
- Mental Health Needs of Clients
- Delivery of Services to a Culturally Diverse Community
- Racial and Ethnic Diversity

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Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
LOB #187: Juvenile Detention Center Services			
FUNDING			
Expenditures:			
Compensation	\$6,100,056	\$6,079,735	\$6,698,554
Operating Expenses	495,677	802,635	894,711
Capital Equipment	70,779	32,019	0
Total Expenditures	\$6,666,512	\$6,914,389	\$7,593,265
General Fund Revenue	\$2,520,279	\$2,936,412	\$4,460,077
Net Cost/(Savings) to General Fund	\$4,146,233	\$3,977,977	\$3,133,188
POSITIONS			
Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
Positions:			
Regular	99 / 99	99 / 99	99 / 99
Total Positions	99 / 99	99 / 99	99 / 99

Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
Secure detention services child care days provided	12,732	13,826	13,116	13,225	13,225
Secure detention utilization rates	29%	57%	54%	54%	54%
Secure detention services cost per bed day	\$226	\$257	\$273	\$316	\$316
Percent of placements of youth supervised requiring physical restraints	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Percent of youth held in secure detention who appear at scheduled court hearing	100%	100%	100%	98%	98%

Juvenile Justice Reform and changes in the number of juvenile offenses nationally and locally have led to an overall reduction of youth involved in the juvenile justice system including the use of secure detention. Child care days provided by secure detention have decreased 55 percent from 28,894 in FY 2007 to 13,116 in FY 2015. Cost per bed day has increased moving from \$226 in FY 2013 to \$273 in FY 2015. Many of these costs are attributed to facility maintenance as well as inflation. However service quality and outcomes continue to be good with only 2 percent of youth placements supervised requiring physical restraints. This indicates staff were able to de-escalate situations with youth prior to the need for physical restraints 98 percent of the time in FY 2015 keeping both staff and juvenile residents safe. In addition, in FY 2015 100 percent of youth held in secure detention appeared at scheduled court hearings indicating no escapes or attempted escapes by youth that would keep them from appearing in court.