

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

LOB #189:

SUPERVISED RELEASE SERVICES

Purpose

The Supervised Release Services Line of Business incorporates three programs located in the Supervised Release Services Unit:

- Supervised Release Services (SRS)
- Intensive Supervision Program (ISP)
- Gang Response Coordinator

SRS provides pre-trial and pre-disposition supervision to youth before the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. The program is a detention alternative, allowing cases to be supervised at home instead of being held in secure custody at the Juvenile Detention Center or being placed in Shelter Care. The program serves all types of criminal and CHINS cases. The program operates seven days a week.

ISP provides intensive supervision for high-risk juveniles who are on probation or parole. These cases typically have been convicted of serious felonies or are gang-involved. It monitors offenders through daily unannounced visits during evening and night hours when re-offense is statistically most likely. The program operates seven days a week.

The ISP supervisor is also the Gang Response Coordinator for the agency. This position manages the code-mandated information exchange program with local law enforcement, primarily the Gang Unit of the Fairfax County Police Department. This position also oversees the IPE (Intervention, Prevention, and Education) program which attempts to intercede and prevent gang involvement with at-risk youth. Referrals to this program come from various county agencies, including FCPS, and the public.

Description

Supervised Release Services

SRS began in 1976 as the Outreach Detention program and is designed to address the evidence-based concept that unwarranted placement in secure custody can cause harm and contribute to recidivism in youth. It also meets a Code of Virginia mandate to maintain youth before the court in the least restrictive environment possible. It does this in a manner that is both cost-effective, evidence-based, and that promotes public safety. SRS staff are in the field seven days a week. Hours are primarily 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, with case managers working two evening shifts a month to have face-to-face meetings with parents.

SRS staff spend the majority of their time assisting youth and families with immediate issues contributing to the juveniles' risk to re-offend. Community safety is served by mitigating risk factors and imposing short-term limits and supervision. Staff are also able to learn about the youth's individual circumstances, and assist judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys in fashioning appropriate disposition without the need for further court hearings. SRS provides daily monitoring of youth pending trial or sentencing. Per state standards, each youth is seen four times a week in their home, school, or place of employment. Youth are monitored for compliance with the rules of their supervision. Program staff provide court recommendations, provide short-term counseling, address harmful and negative behaviors, and refer cases to services. Staff work closely with the school system, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, and the Department of Family Services. The program allows quick response to address public safety issues while facilitating supervision and services for the family while they await a court hearing. High-risk cases can be tracked using GPS electronic monitoring, which can be used to prevent contact with victims, witnesses, and co-defendants. It also ensures the youth remain in the proper environment when staff are not present.

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Intensive Supervision Program

ISP began in June 1999 to provide evening and weekend supervision for juveniles in the Serious or Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP) and on probation/parole and required additional oversight. ISP probation officers work rotating shifts seven days a week. Work hours are approximately 3:00 PM to 1:00 AM each shift, with weekend shifts being slightly later. Home visits are conducted through the evening and night hours to confirm adherence to probation and parole conditions, tests are administered for illicit drug or alcohol use, crisis intervention is provided for the families, and progress reports are submitted to the supervising probation/parole officers. Staff members work closely with county and local police agencies and are integrated into the Department of Public Safety Communication's dispatch system for staff safety and operational efficiency. Information is shared with the police as permitted by relevant Code of Virginia confidentiality statutes and agency policy. The goal of ISP is to reduce recidivism while allowing the youths to remain within the community with their families.

Gang Response Coordination

The Gang Response Coordinator is the liaison between the Court Service Unit and the Police Department's Gang Unit, and the vendor carrying out the IPE program. The CSU is mandated by state code to provide information on gang-involved youth to the police department. The position also oversees the county-funded IPE (Intervention, Prevention and Education) program. In this program, a vendor provides counseling, education, and service coordination to at-risk youth and their families. This prevents and reduces gang involvement prior to criminal activity. Referrals can come from any county agency or the public.

Benefits

Public Safety

The SRS program is effective in maintaining youth in the community, with their families, while maintaining public safety. In FY 2015, there were 348 placements in the program (includes new cases and those cases opened prior to FY 2015), with 90 percent of cases being offense free during their stay in the program. ISP has slightly lower success rates, but works with a more focused population of high-risk offenders, most of whom have been charged with felonies, and virtually all exhibited some level of probation or parole violation before being placed in the program. Forty-four percent completed the program by exhibiting compliance with probation or parole rules. Ninety-four percent completed the program without a new charge while under supervision.

Maintain Youth in the Community

The program meets current evidence-based research indicating that youth maintained in their home have better short and long term outcomes than youth held unnecessarily in secure detention. The program is effective in using graduated responses to hold youth accountable, and is able to have cases with serious violations taken into custody immediately and returned to court for further legal action.

Cost Effective

The cost per day for SRS is substantially less expensive than the cost per day of secure residential programs like detention centers. SRS has an estimated cost of \$103.00 per day.

Gang Intervention and Prevention

The Gang Coordinator handles this information from all parts of the agency and is the liaison with the various police departments. The Intervention, Prevention and Education (IPE) program is used by various county agencies to assist gang-involved youth leave gangs and prevent at-risk youth from becoming gang members. In FY 2015, 65 percent of gang-involved youth in the IPE program demonstrated a reduction or elimination of gang participation; 100 percent of those who were at-risk, but not yet involved in gangs, remained non-gang involved while in the program. Sixty-four percent of participants improved their school performance, 64 percent increased pro-social activities; and, 64 percent increased family involvement and effective communication.

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Mandates

Primary Services Provided:

- Supervised Release Services – Fully Mandated (Virginia Code § 16.1-227; § 16.1-234)
- Intensive Supervision Program – Partially Mandated (Virginia Code § 16.1-248.1; § 16.1-250)
- Gang Response Coordination – Fully Mandated (Virginia Code § 16.1-300)

Mandates for Supervised Release Services come primarily from the Code of Virginia. Please see the mandates section in LOB #184: Court Services Administration for are the fundamental elements needed for a Juvenile Justice System. Mandates direct agencies to provide adequate and coordinated programming of court services, probation, parole, detention facilities, and other specialized services and facilities.

§ 16.1-248.1 – Criteria for detention or shelter care. (Covers process and intent to release cases rather than hold pre-trial whenever possible.)

§ 16.1-250 – Procedure for detention hearing. (Covers process and intent to release cases rather than hold pre-trial whenever possible.)

The position of the Gang Coordinator provides the primary oversight of the agency's responsibility to meet the obligations of Virginia Code § 16.1-300. This law mandates the Court Service Unit to provide information about gang-involved cases to the police, similar to the requirement to notify CPS about suspected child abuse.

Trends and Challenges

Pre-Adjudication Supervision

SRS provides supervision to cases charged with offenses but not yet sentenced. Due to the evidence-based efforts to reduce unnecessary use of secure detention, the program is dealing with more serious levels of offenses than it has in the past; however, the program's success rate has not declined. It does however; tend to populate the program with youth who commit more minor program infractions and need more community support for individual and family issues. To address these infractions, the program applies the agency's graduated response policy, which can hold youth accountable without the need to return to court, using a proportional response to the violation. Cases needing services can be voluntarily referred for assistance prior to sentencing. Cases that decline voluntary services can have these ordered by the Court at sentencing by a judge.

Increase in Female Clients in ISP

ISP has experienced an increase in the number of female cases referred to the program. The program now has female staff and is able to administer drug testing in the field. The program works closely with the police department and is continuing to provide "roll call" training to the officers with FCPD and municipalities in Fairfax, Herndon, and Vienna.

Changes within the Community

The Gang Response Coordinator has seen more changes. Apart from the increased focus on human trafficking, undocumented minors have been more of an issue. The complex issues they face in term of legal status, family strain, and assimilation difficulties have made them a target for gang recruitment.

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
- Delivery of Services to a Culturally Diverse Community
- Racial and Ethnic Disparity

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Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
LOB #189: Supervised Release Services			
FUNDING			
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Compensation	\$904,381	\$860,998	\$872,344
Operating Expenses	63,613	248,170	268,121
Total Expenditures	\$967,994	\$1,109,168	\$1,140,465
General Fund Revenue	\$158,692	\$170,686	\$170,428
Net Cost/(Savings) to General Fund	\$809,302	\$938,482	\$970,037
POSITIONS			
Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)			
<u>Positions:</u>			
Regular	16 / 16	16 / 16	16 / 16
Total Positions	16 / 16	16 / 16	16 / 16

Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
Supervised Release Services (SRS) child care days provided	11,968	11,970	13,762	13,800	13,800
SRS program utilization rate	68%	68%	79%	79%	79%
SRS cost per day	\$80	\$92	\$103	\$108	\$108
Percent of SRS youth who have face-to-face contact within 24 hours of assignment	100%	100%	100%	98%	98%
Percent of SRS youth with no new delinquency or CHINS petitions while under supervision	83%	96%	90%	85%	85%

Detention alternative programs provided by Supervised Release Services (SRS) are driven by the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. These changes in the number of youth in the system have led to an overall reduction of youth involved in the juvenile justice system including the use of Supervised Release Services. Long term trends show child care days provided by SRS decreasing 25 percent between FY 2007 and FY 2013; however, they have increased 15 percent in the last 3 years moving from 11,968 in FY 2013 to 13,762 in FY 2015. There has also been an increase in utilization rates moving from 68 percent to 79 percent. This increase is attributed to an increase in the use of SRS as an alternative to detention, especially in probation cases. Cost per bed day has increased moving from \$80 in FY 2013 to \$103 in FY 2015.

In addition to the slight increase over the last three years, SRS reports that 100 percent of youth in FY 2015 have face-to-face contact with an officer within 24 hours of assignment. This has been consistent over the last several years. Outcomes of SRS are also positive with 90 percent of youth in FY 2015 receiving no new delinquency or status petitions while under SRS supervision. This is up from 83 percent just two years earlier.