

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Delinquency Programs and Services

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Juvenile Court Services

Delinquency Programs and Services

Juvenile Court Services (JCS) works with young people who have committed a delinquent act, an act which would be a crime if committed by an adult. It is part of the Judicial Branch of state government and is administered by a Chief Juvenile Court Officer in each Judicial District.

Restorative Justice Model. Juvenile Court Services subscribes to the Balanced and Restorative Justice model of juvenile justice. In each delinquency case, we have three goals:

1. To assure community safety,
2. To hold the young person accountable for breaking the law, and
3. To teach that young person new skills so that he or she will make better decisions in the future.

Treatment and interventions provided by JCS are designed to address one or more of these goals.

Funding. State funding for delinquency treatment programs comes through three line items in the Department of Human Services budget: Graduated Sanctions, Court Ordered Services and Juvenile Drug Courts. The funds are allocated to each Judicial District. There is also a small allocation of federal dollars through the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) division of the Department of Human Rights.

Local Differences. Each Judicial District contracts for services in a little different way. Those services reflect the local flavor and the particular needs of the individual communities.

The Chief Juvenile Court Officers are often able to leverage delinquency funds with other community funding sources to enhance the services available. One way this happens is through the local Decategorization (Decat) Projects, collaborations that allow JCS, DHS and counties to share funds and do joint planning in order to better serve their young people. JCS may also work with schools districts or other community funding sources to jointly fund treatment programs. Sometimes families are asked to pay a fee or access their private insurance if they are able, and delinquency funds help offset costs for people who do not have other resources.

Examples of Delinquency Programs. Below are some of the community based delinquency programs funded by the state in the 5th Judicial District. This is not an exhaustive list. It does not include community resources that may be accessed by JCS clients but are funded through schools, churches, United Way, or other private funding sources. It also does not include out of home placements, such as residential treatment centers, foster homes or the State Training Schools. Each section was drafted by the Chief Juvenile Court Officer in that district, so there may be programs that some Chiefs included and others did not.

Fifth Judicial District of Iowa

(Adair, Adams, Clarke, Dallas, Decatur, Guthrie, Jasper, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Polk, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Warren and Wayne Counties)

Safety

Detention. Detention is available throughout the state for youth who, if released, would be a significant risk to cause serious bodily harm to themselves or others, a significant risk to commit serious damage to the property of others or for whom there is a substantial probability they would be unavailable for their court hearing. (Iowa Code section 232.22.) The cost of detention is borne by the county.

Detention Alternatives.

- 1. IMPACT (Intensive Monitoring Program Community Tracking).** Program of Youth Homes of Mid America and Polk County Youth Services Intensive Monitoring Program & Community Tracking (IMPACT) allows youths to remain in their homes while being accountable to program staff for their whereabouts and actions. Supervision is provided 24 hours a day through electronic and face-to-face monitoring. This program involves school and educational activities, family mediation, counseling, community service and other components to enhance opportunities for success. This program is utilized following release from detention up until disposition. Available for Polk County youth. Funded by Polk County Youth Services.
- 2. Electronic Monitoring.** Electronic monitoring for high risk youth and for sex offenders, as required, is available throughout the 5th District. Contracts with Tracking and Monitoring providers and with Polk County Youth Services. Graduated Sanctions and Court Ordered Services funding.

Accountability

Victim Offender Mediation (VORP). An opportunity for offenders to learn from victims about the harm caused, apologize and make amends. Available in Polk County through the Polk County Attorneys' Office.

Restitution and Community Service. District Wide programming implemented by individual JCOs, that provides work and community service for the child to enable his/her understanding of their impact on the community. Paid community services is available in 12 of our 16 counties.

Restorative Justice Program. Two programs managed by Decatur County and Dallas County covering 12 of the 16 counties in the district. This program develops community service sites, works with victims of juvenile offenses arranges for juvenile to complete their community

service and restitution plan. This program also has a paid community service component where a juvenile does community service and the victim is then paid by the program. This component is used for those who are not readily employable due to their personal circumstance or lack of employment opportunities in rural areas. Graduated Sanctions and JJDP funding.

Accountability Court. Accountability Court is a voluntary diversion opportunity for first-time offenders with misdemeanor offenses to understand the consequences of and atone for their criminal actions. It is collaboration between Juvenile Court Services and the Middleton Children’s Rights Center at Drake Law School. “Court” is held at the Law School, with the participation of Middleton Center law and social work students as well as JCS staff and volunteers. A social work student intern helps families identify community resources. No cost.

Tracking and Monitoring. Provided by three agencies: PACE, CFI and Decatur County Youth Services. Key to these programs are the flexibility of using a spectrum of programming within the community that meets the child’s needs while following the requirements of the Court. Program collaboration areas included are substance abuse, GED, Area Community College and public school. Most provide skill development and therapy/counseling. Available throughout the 5th District. Graduated Sanctions funding.

Detention Alternatives for Probation Violators

- 1. Weekend Violators’ Program.** Collaborative effort among PACE, Polk County and JCS to reduce numbers of youths in detention for probation violation. Youths spend 48 hours at Camp Dodge providing intensive community service. Available in Polk County. Funded by Polk County Youth Services.
- 2. Saturday Sanctions Program.** Probation violators’ program that provides the Court or JCO alternatives to detention through community services. This after school program is designed to warn youth through a sanction that their continued inappropriate behavior could result in detention. Available in Polk, Dallas, and potentially eight southern counties. Client fees, Court Ordered services funds.
- 3. Weekday Violators’ Program.** Probation violators’ program that provides the Court or JCO with alternatives to detention through community services. This after school program is designed to warn youth through a sanction that their continued inappropriate behavior could result in detention. Because it is available on weekday evenings, it provides an immediate sanction for inappropriate behavior. Available in Polk County. Court Ordered Services and Decat funds.

<i>Skill Building and Treatment</i>
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Juvenile Court School Liaisons. Provide on sight supervision to at risk children and children under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court Services. JCSLs perform many similar functions of a JCO such as dealing with inappropriate behaviors in school, truancy, provides court assistance,

family assistance and resource development. They are all trained to facilitate Aggression Replacement Training (ART) groups for youth in their schools. There are 30 JCSLs serving in 30 different school districts throughout the 5th Judicial District. Graduated Sanctions funding.

Mentoring: VIP Mentor Iowa. VIP offers a unique one-to-one relationship that the court cannot provide. They serve as knowledgeable mentors, responsible role models and trusted friends. VIP establishes goals that address concerns that help the child & family. Polk County.

Diversion Programs.

- 1. Shoplifting Program.** Joint diversion program of the Mid Iowa Council Boy Scouts and JCS. Six hour program for youth and parents that is educational and interactive. This program is offered to first-time theft offenders. Available for youth in most of the 5th District. Client fees and Graduated Sanctions funded.
- 2. Drug Education Class.** Joint programs of PACE & JCS. One day program that provides basic facts about drug use and the dangers involved in use for those youth who do not qualify for an ASAM level of treatment following an evaluation for substance abuse. Polk County. Client fees, Decat funding.
- 3. Alcohol Awareness Class.** Classes are from two to six hours in nature and then conclude by giving children resources that are available if they need further help. Most of 5th District. Client fees, Decat funding.
- 4. Anger Management.** Classes available in Warren and Marion Counties. Client fees.
- 5. America's Rising Stars (ARS).** This program is an 8-12 week program for 10 youth at a time, 7th – 12th grade, to enhance independent thinking appropriate goal setting and personal success. Available in Polk, Warren, Madison and Marion counties Client fees, Graduated Sanctions funding
- 6. ESP: Early Services Program.** Wraparound program staffed jointly by JCS and Child Guidance Center for children ages 4-11 who have been referred to JCS. Program is designed to deliver mental health evaluation and treatment services to the children and their families prior to formal involvement. Polk County. Graduated Sanctions and Decat funding.

Life Skills

- 1. Aggression Replacement Training (ART).** Aggression Replacement Training, ART, is an evidence based approach to addressing a specific skill deficient in youth between the ages of 14-18. The effectiveness of the program is determining that the right youth is in the right program at the right time. The 5th District JCS has partnered with a number of

school districts, including Des Moines Schools, to provide ART groups in the schools as part of their curriculum. In addition, groups are provided contracts with SequelCare, CFI and PACE. It is available throughout the District. Client fees, Graduated Sanctions and school funding.

- 2. Exploring Change.** This program is a four week program provided both at the Polk County Detention Center and the Polk County Juvenile Court Services office. The groups will be parallel to allow continuity for youth who move in and out of detention. The program's focus is to help clients find their own motivations for making changes in their lives and to prepare them to take advantage of treatment opportunities. Polk County. Client fees, Graduated Sanctions fund.

Education

- 1. Continued Education Opportunities (CEO)** Provides academics, life skills, and individual case management to male and female students who are behind in school and lack the social and independent living skills needed to successfully transition from childhood to adulthood. Polk County. Graduated Sanctions, Decat funds.
- 2. DMPS School Liaison.** The Des Moines School District provides a school Social Worker to serve as a liaison with Polk County Juvenile Court Services. She has an office at JCS, and works with JCOs to ensure that youth have appropriate educational placements. When young people return from out-of-home placements, she works with the JCO to make it a smooth transition. Available for youth in the Des Moines school district.
- 3. Bridges on Hull Educational Program.** An educational program for high need delinquent youth and those needing a transition to regular school after returning from out-of-home placement. Located in the building that once housed the old Meyer Hall Juvenile Detention facility, it is collaboration between the Des Moines Public Schools and Polk County Youth Services.

Supervised Community Treatment

PSOP – Perry Student Offender program (Perry CSD) Day Treatment program in the Perry CSD – This Program embraces the research-based Aggression Replacement Therapy for delinquent youth in the school. As an offshoot, the Perry CSD has the PASS program (Program for Appropriate Social Skills). It uses the ART curriculum and its director for non-system students who are deemed to be at-risk students. Graduated Sanctions, Perry School District funds.

Community Resources for Juveniles in Transition to/from Placement. SequelCare provides individualized treatment for delinquent youth.

- Re-Entry and Transition Services program that deals with youth before they go into the state training schools and after they are released to help them be successful in returning to the community.
- Pre/Post Residential Services program works with youth returning to the community to help them in the transition from residential structure to the community.

Available to Polk County youth. Decat funded.

Special Populations: Latino Youth. Multi-lingual services through contracts with SequelCare and Life Line provide individualized tracking, counseling and skill building for Latino youth and address other targeted needs based family circumstances. Available in Polk and Dallas Counties. Graduated Sanctions funding.

Substance Abuse

1. **Evaluations.** Through a contract with Employee and Family Resources, there is a full time substance abuse counselor available to provide evaluations for young people at the Polk County Juvenile Court Services office and the Polk County Detention Center. This is available to any youth in the 5th District. It is funded jointly by JCS, with Court Ordered Services funds, and by Polk County Youth Services. Client fees are assessed based on a sliding fee scale.
2. **Drug Court.** Youth in Polk County have an opportunity to participate in Drug Court. Staffed by a Juvenile Court Officer and 3 case managements, Drug Court provides intensive supervision and accountability. Drug Court participants meet weekly with Juvenile Judge Karla Fultz and move through a level system. Drug Court funds.
3. **Substance Abuse Treatment.** In the 5th District, we are using our Juvenile Drug Court treatment dollars to contract for an outpatient substance abuse treatment program. We issued an RFP and selected CFI Cornerstone to be the provider. Services began in January of 2007. In the first 6 months of the program, 62 high risk substance abusing youth were served. These are youth who would likely otherwise end up in placement.

By using Drug Court funds in conjunction with Medicaid and private insurance, Cornerstone is able to provide an innovative array of services that includes both treatment and aftercare. We are working with CJJP to evaluate the program as we go along in order to ensure that our dollars are being used effectively.

Sex Offender Treatment. Through Decat, we issued an RFP for outpatient sex offender treatment that includes an individualized treatment plan for each offender. Medium and high risk youth are served in separate programs and not mixed. Individual education and treatment is available for low risk offenders, who are never mixed with higher risk youth. This program began in January, 2007. Available to any 5th District youth. Funded through Graduated Sanctions, Decat and private pay.

Counseling and Therapy

- 1. Mental Health Evaluations.** Through a contract with Child Guidance Center / Orchard Place, a full time Psychologist if available at the Polk County Juvenile Court Services office and the Polk County Detention Center to do evaluations of young people from the 5th District. Funded jointly by JCS, with Court Ordered Services dollars, and Polk County Youth Services.
- 2. Family Team Meetings.** Facilitated meeting with a child's family to design a workable plan that meets the child's and family's needs. Available throughout the 5th District with Decat funds.
- 3. Functional Family Therapy.** Functional Family Therapy or FFT is a short term family therapy intervention that strengthens what is good about a family and decrease the chance your family your child will continue to get into trouble with law. You will learn new skills for your family regarding communication, parenting, problem solving and conflict resolution. Available in Jasper, Marion, Warren, Polk, Dallas and Madison Counties. Graduated Sanctions funds.