

New Jersey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
 Innovation, Improvement, or Institutionalization of Policy/Practice:
 Model Activities

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Site:	MONMOUTH
Primary Core Strategy Area:	Reducing Delay/Case Processing
Secondary Core Strategy Area:	Using Data
Title/Name of Activity:	CDS Expediting Letter
Activity Start Date:	July/August 2005
Problem or Need this Activity Addressed:	Case processing time directly impacts length of stay in secure detention and on detention alternatives. In Monmouth it seemed youth admitted to detention for CDS/drug offenses waited the longest for their cases to reach final resolution, compared to other offense types. Youth charged with drug offenses were therefore spending the most time in detention awaiting adjudication and disposition.
Data/Info that Identified this Problem or Need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monmouth's original secure detention snapshot data indicated total case processing time for youth in detention on a CDS offense was 114 days vs. 77 days for non-CDS offenses. As a result, youth with CDS offenses remained in secure detention for 77 days, compared to 60 days for non-CDS cases. • Additionally, the detention alternatives snapshot data revealed that total case processing time for CDS cases was 120 days vs. 95 days for non-CDS cases. • The Case Processing Subcommittee discussed the possible factors contributing to lengthier case processing times for CDS cases. The committee identified the 4 to 8 weeks it typically took to process drug-case evidence (e.g., lab analysis of alleged illegal substances) as a primary factor causing delay.
Description of Activity:	Via the work of the Case Processing Subcommittee, the Office of the Prosecutor created and implemented a "CDS Expediting Letter." For any youth detained on a CDS offense, the one-page Expediting Letter accompanies the evidence sent for analysis to the NJ State Police Lab. The purpose of the letter is to prioritize and expedite the substance analysis, so that youth detained on drug charges do not experience longer case processing times or lengthier stays in detention relative to youth charged with other (often more serious) types of offenses.
Impact/Results of this Activity:	During the six months preceding implementation of the Expediting Letter (Jan'05-Jun'05), total case processing time (docketing to disposition) for youth admitted to detention on CDS charges averaged 64.6 days. Post-implementation (Sept'05-Mar'06), case processing time for CDS charges dropped to 40.2 days, a decrease of 24.4 days (38.8%). Time spent on "detention status" (i.e., time in detention plus any additional time on an alternative) dropped from 54.8 days to 34.7, a reduction of 36.7%.
Next Steps or Additional Comments:	As a result of the success achieved with reducing case processing delays associated with CDS cases, the practice of expediting CDS lab results has been expanded to include youth placed directly on a detention alternative via the Risk Screening Tool.
List Attachments (if any):	CDS Expediting Letter
Contact(s) for More Info:	Barry Serebnick, Assistant Prosecutor Director, Family Division Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Email: bserebni@co.monmouth.nj.us



LUIS A. VALENTIN
MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

71 MONUMENT PARK
FREEHOLD, NEW JERSEY 07728-1789

732/ 431-7160
FAX 732/ 409-3673
FAX 732/ 409-4830

July 11, 2008

Pamela Smith, Acting Lab Director
New Jersey State Police
East Regional Laboratory
Sea Girt, New Jersey 08750

Re. State in the Interest of «name»
Laboratory No. «labno»

Dear Acting Lab Director:

The above-captioned juvenile is lodged in the Youth Detention Center pending a «hearingtype» on «date», for an alleged violation of N.J.S. 2C:35-1 et. seq.

Please expedite the analysis of the evidence submitted under laboratory number «labno».

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 732/ 431-7182.

Very truly yours,

LUIS A. VALENTIN
MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

By: Barry J. Serebnick
Director Family Division

BJS:gnm