

# Scott County, Iowa

## Juvenile Detention & Diversion Programs

FY 2017 Annual Report

Director: Jeremy Kaiser



I7

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## **DETENTION & DIVERSION PROGRAMS TEAM**

### **DIRECTOR**

Jeremy Kaiser

### **SHIFT LEADERS**

Neika Harms  
Barbara Walton

### **DETENTION YOUTH COUNSELORS**

Kenneth Ashby  
Michelle Bancroft  
David Bonde  
Jacqueline Chatman  
Dave Donohoo  
Jeff Douglas  
Steve Harris  
Jessica Hankins  
Jennifer Kargl  
Mathew Lannom  
Brad Mathews  
Harlee Miller  
Reina Reyes  
Anisha Robinson  
Casey Smith  
Lydia Villareal  
Eric West

### **COMMUNITY BASED YOUTH COUNSELORS**

Gary "DJ" Echols  
Molly Rumburg

## **AREA EDUCATION AGENCY STAFF**

### **TEACHERS**

Bob Bosco  
Jennifer Gosa

### **PARA-EDUCATORS**

Rose Roe  
Becky Ervin

### **SOCIAL WOKER**

Stephanie Doubet

## A. BACKGROUND

The Scott County Juvenile Detention Center opened on December 1, 1980. Since opening, the center has served as a short term, secure placement for allegedly delinquent youth under the age of eighteen. Juveniles are referred for detainment only when there is probable cause to believe they have committed a serious criminal act. In most situations, this criminal activity would be classified as a felony or an aggravated misdemeanor. Status offenses and simple misdemeanors are not considered detainable offenses. The severity of the criminal charge is not the only criteria sufficient to require detainment. One or more of the following conditions also must be present in order for a youth to be detained:

1. The youth is “wanted” by another state for the commission of a criminal act.
2. The youth is on probation/parole and has violated the conditions set forth prior.
3. The youth has absconded from a training school, a detention center, or a residential treatment facility.
4. The youth has committed a serious delinquent act and is at risk of:
  - a. Absconding prior to court appearances
  - b. Harming themselves or others
  - c. Damaging property.

Although the center is operated by Scott County, it receives referrals from several counties in Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. At present, ten detention centers are operating in the State of Iowa—Linn County (Cedar Rapids ), Dubuque County (Dubuque), Polk County (Des Moines), Woodbury County (Sioux City), North Iowa (Waterloo), Northwest Iowa (Cherokee), Southwest Iowa (Council Bluffs), Scott County (Davenport), South Iowa (Fairfield), and Central Iowa (Eldora).

### ***PROGRAM VISION***

“Our vision is a community which supports and empowers juveniles by giving them a second chance to succeed.”

### ***PROGRAM MISSION***

“Scott County Juvenile Detention and Diversion Programs strive to provide safe, secure detainment when necessary, as well as a cutting-edge continuum of community-based programs, so youth will ultimately have the best chance to succeed.”

### ***PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY***

Over the past few years, the philosophy of how Scott County provides detention and diversion programs to the community has evolved. For twenty-four years, from 1980 to 2014, Scott County provided detention and supervision services merely as a “building.” However, with numerous studies published showing that the incarceration of juveniles can, in fact, *increase* the likelihood of recidivism, the center needed to innovate and evolve. Center management made the decision to utilize staff resources to develop and implement community-based programs as an alternative to secure detainment. The two programs which were developed and implemented in the 2015 fiscal year were the “In-home detention” program, and the “Enhanced In-home detention” program. As Scott County is able to now provide a continuum of detention and diversion services, we provide effective options for the juvenile court system to provide the least intrusive and restrictive service necessary. By doing this, we believe the youth will be more appropriately served and thus, more likely to succeed.

## ***PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY - WHILE DETAINED***

Building a strong relationship through positive interaction and engagement between youth and staff is an important behavior management tool. Detention Youth Counselors provide crisis counseling, Aggression Replacement Therapy (A.R.T.), trauma informed yoga, living skills training, and supervised recreational activities to detained youth. Detention staff challenges youth to take responsibility for the criminal thinking patterns and decisions that brought them into placement. Youth Counselors help the residents explore areas of growth and change necessary to deter them from further delinquent activity. By focusing on the relationship with each young person in care and challenging their thinking, each staff feels they can make a difference in their thinking and attitude.

Development of rapport between staff and residents is a key to creating an environment conducive to positive change. The many positive interactions between staff and residents helps the Center effectively manage the behavior of otherwise obstinate youth. The involvement between staff and residents also helps reduce the frustration and anxiety felt by youth. Staff members view detention as an important component in this Juvenile Justice/Treatment System. Because this system strives to reduce juvenile crime by actively engaging youthful offenders at all points of contact, staff members are determined to seize every opportunity to positively impact the residents and create teachable moments.

Since the majority of the youth detained at the Center will be transferred to treatment programs, the Center's structure attempts to address the negative thinking and behavioral patterns that have disrupted past efforts to promote positive change. This approach allows for a rudimentary preparation for youth facing the structure found in treatment programs.

## **B. COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS**

Two programs were developed and implemented in the 2015 fiscal year: the "In-home detention" (IHD) program, and the "Enhanced In-home detention" (EIHD) program. These types of community-based supervision programs have proven to be effective at reducing recidivism without the use incarceration. By utilizing the same staff to provide all three services, stronger relationships can be built between staff and residents as well as resident's families. The relationship no longer ends at discharge, but continues as the juveniles' transition back into the community. The benefit the child receives from these programs is significant. They have minimal disruptions to their daily life as they continue to attend their school, their church, continue working, and remain close to their families. Meanwhile they are closely supervised to ensure the safety of the community.

The IHD program was implemented in August 2014 and is the least restrictive and intrusive service option. Typically the program lasts 2-4 weeks. The IHD program consists of juveniles signing a contract to stay within their home residence at all times, with the exceptions of school, work, church, or court appointments. IHD staff members typically perform three unannounced phone checks and one unannounced face-to-face check daily to ensure the juvenile is abiding by the contract. IHD staff then report adherence to the contract as well as violations to Juvenile Court Officers. In the case of a violation, Juvenile Court Officers have the option to detain youth at the juvenile detention center or extend the contract for a longer length of time.

The Enhanced In-home detention program was implemented in April 2015. The EIHD program is more intensive than IHD as it utilizes GPS-enabled ankle bracelets to monitor client location and movements. The software utilized with the GPS enabled bracelet allows staff to view a client's location 24-hours a day as well as track location and movements during any particular time period. EIHD staff members are alerted via text message if a client leaves the home without permission or enters a prohibited area. With the exception of wearing the tracking device, the EIHD program delivery and reporting to Court Officers is the identical to the IHD program.

***SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS***

During the 2017 fiscal year, the In Home Detention (IHD) program served 39 clients and the Enhanced In-Home Detention (EIHD) program served 56. 31 of the 39 IHD clients completed the program successfully. 47 of the 56 EIHD clients completed that program successfully. Overall, 82% of clients referred to the Community Based programs completed successfully in FY 17.

***EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES***

These programs are designed to be cost-neutral and are funded by the State of Iowa, through referrals from Juvenile Court Services. The Detention Center charges \$19.97 per half (1/2) hour of direct client contact for the IHD program and charges \$10.06 per quarter (1/4) hour for the EIHD program. Total revenues received in FY 17 for operating the IHD program were \$25,182. Total revenues received in FY 17 from EIHD service was \$33,308. The total amount of revenues collected was more than double what was collected in FY16, due to substantial growth in the program and referrals.

**C. BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION SYSTEM**

The behavior modification system which is used in the Scott County Juvenile Detention Center was developed internally by a team of Detention Youth Counselors. The program is based on a level system in which residents can earn more privileges as they ascend the level system. The level system requires all residents enter the “Orientation Level” and must pass a test based on knowledge of program rules to progress to “Blue level.” Once on blue level they must pass a test of program rules and be able to demonstrate ability to comply with rules and routine consistently for a period of time to move to “Green level.” The final level is “Gold level.” Residents must continue to follow rules and directions from staff consistently as well as pass a test based on positive thinking/behavior in order to reach Gold level. With each step up in the level system, residents are offered more privileges such as longer phone calls and later bed times.

Levels are achieved through the demonstration of positive behavior and refraining from earning “strikes”. The strike system is a progressive system in which residents receive a consequence (strike) for committing small infractions at the center. Consequences for negative behaviors range from receiving strikes for small infractions, loss in privileges (i.e. gym time, early bed time, etc.), to a drop in the student’s level in the Center’s Program, and finally isolation in the control room for serious cases of disruptive or uncontrollable behaviors. Negative consequences are not intended to be personalized or excessively punitive, but rather a “learning process” where the youth can learn socially acceptable behaviors and develop positive habits of behavior.

The components that comprise the behavior management program are:

- a. Educational Services (including G.E.D. testing)
- b. Crisis Counseling
- c. Recreational Activities
- d. Testing and Evaluation
- e. Living Skills Activities
- f. Realistic Success Planning
- g. Testing for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (done on a voluntary basis)
- h. Substance Abuse prevention and education
- i. Cognitive-behavioral treatment group counseling (A.R.T.)

## NEW for FY2017

### Trauma-Informed Yoga at Juvenile Detention

#### Why Yoga?

Yoga and mindfulness are shown to reduce stress and anxiety, enhance mental clarity, build strength and flexibility, improve self-esteem and body image as well as promote self-discipline and self-control.

*“Research suggests that self-control is a better predictor of academic achievement than IQ and concludes, ‘A major reason for students falling short of their intellectual potential is their failure to exercise self-discipline.’ This presents a strong inductive connection. If self-control improves academic achievement and yoga increases self-control, it stands to reason that yoga must enhance academic achievement.”*

*-A Necessary Catalyst: Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline with Yoga, Bidyut K. Bose, PhD, E-RYT*

We believe that by providing youth access to yoga and mindfulness that we impact change at the individual level through the students and professionals we reach, and the community level, by facilitating access to tools that help develop self-control, which is shown to positively affect high school graduation rates. This in turn decreases juvenile incarceration, high school pregnancy, and drug use rates, and increases the likelihood of a young person attending college and gaining employment.

In October 2016, Dave Bonde, Detention Youth Counselor, was trained in providing Trauma Informed Yoga to the juveniles in our care. He has conducted yoga classes once per week from November 2016 to present day.

## D. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Education is the most highly structured of the program components. This service is provided by the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency. The Center’s school is fully accredited and is facilitated by certified teachers. The AEA education team tests all youth in mathematics and reading to assess their level of ability upon intake. Educational and social histories are obtained to assist in the determination of an appropriate level of competency. After the initial assessments the teacher has three options:

1. If the youth is currently enrolled in a school system, the teacher will communicate with the appropriate person(s) to obtain current assignments. The youth will be expected to continue with regular class assignments as closely as possible.
2. In cases where the youth is not enrolled in a school system, the teacher assigns individual diagnostics and prescriptive instructional lessons which are consistent with a traditional school curriculum.
3. Youth who will not return to a traditional school environment will be assigned work to prepare them for the HiSET (formally known as GED) exam. Once the resident has passed all of the pre-tests, AEA teachers will contact the Eastern Iowa Community College and a proctor will administer the HiSET exam within the center. Several youth have been able to earn their G.E.D.’s while residing at the center, since testing began in 2012.

## **E. REPORTING BEHAVIOR**

The Center observes behavior and reports to juvenile court officers as needed and upon discharge. In addition to these reports, youth may be evaluated by the staff of the Genesis Psychology Associates at the request of the Juvenile Court. These evaluations are performed in cases where the behavior is somewhat atypical or where the court needs more input to determine an appropriate care plan. In situations where an evaluation is deemed appropriate, the youth is normally confined from thirty to forty-five days in a separate facility.

## **F. RECREATION**

The recreational component is a large piece of the staff-resident involvement. Staff members interact with the youth in a variety of activities. Many of the activities are intended to promote physical fitness. Some activities to enhance creativity. Activities include: basketball, volleyball, weightlifting, cardio vascular exercise, and various other recreational activities. In addition to Center staff, the Center utilizes both practicum students and volunteers to interact with youth in various recreational activities. In 2012 the center also began a partnership with the Center for Alcohol and Drug Services (C.A.D.S) and now residents have access to monthly substance abuse education groups.

## **G. PREA STANDARDS**

### ***IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING***

In 2003, the Federal Government Passed the PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) which seeks to put an end to sexual abuse and harassment in confined settings. In 2012 the federal government published and distributed PREA standards for juvenile facilities which include “best practices” in regards to the prevention, detection, and response to sexual abuse and harassment. Over the course of Fiscal Year 2013 the center modified and implemented several policies and practices regarding sexual abuse/harassment including but not limited to: resident and staff reporting procedures, resident risk assessment and placement, resident education, response planning, treatment of alleged victims, treatment of alleged offenders, investigations, and staff training. The Scott County Juvenile Detention Center complies with all PREA standards for juvenile facilities. The PREA standards for juvenile facilities were in effect as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

In FY17, the center had the following incidents of sexual harassment and abuse allegations.

Sexual abuse allegations: 0  
 Founded incidents of sexual abuse: 0  
 Confirmed incidents of sexual abuse: 0

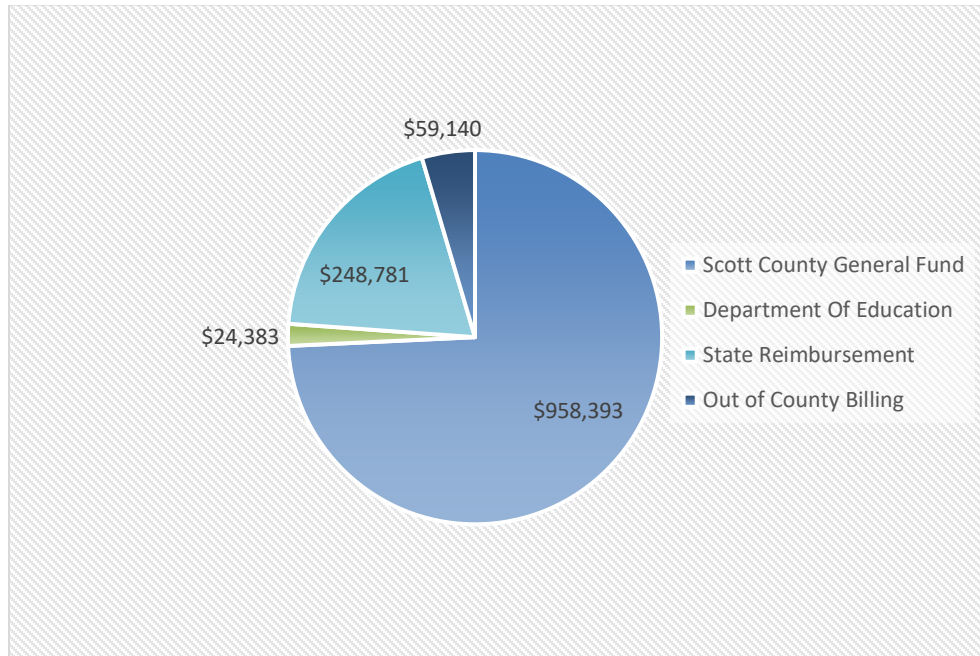
Sexual harassment allegations: 0  
 Founded incidents of sexual harassment: 0  
 Confirmed incidents of sexual harassment: 0



## H. EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

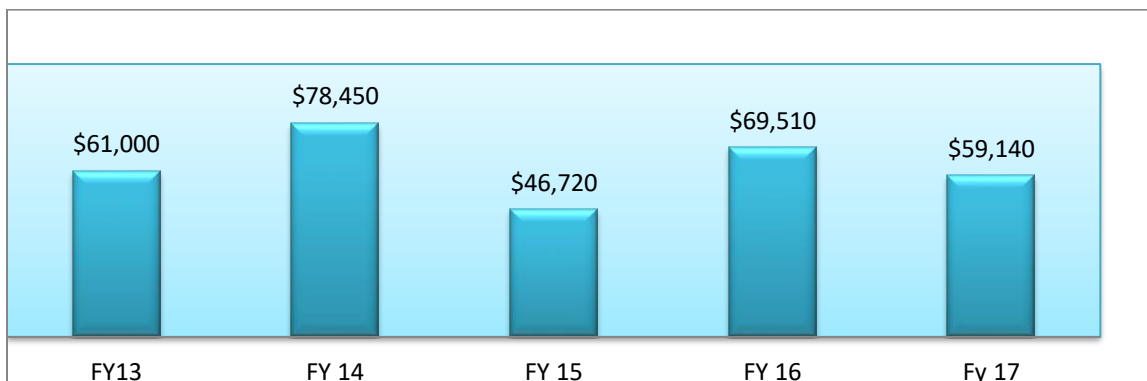
Total expenditures for Fiscal Year 2017 were \$1,290,697. In addition to Scott County funding, the Center received revenue from the Iowa Department of Education, Out of County Funding, and State of Iowa Reimbursements.

### REVENUE



### OUT OF COUNTY FUNDING

Youth from other jurisdictions may be placed in the Center; however the committing jurisdiction must pay a per diem. In FY17 the center received \$59,140 in funding for detaining juveniles from Counties outside of Scott County. This amount slightly decreased from a total of \$69,510 in FY16. For Counties within Seventh Judicial District the charge is \$140.00 per day. Counties outside of this district must pay \$150.00. This funding source will continue to remain steady as long as there is sufficient bed space at the Center to accommodate surrounding counties within the Seventh Judicial District. The Center also continues to have an agreement with Rock Island County, in which Scott County will house residents for the rate of \$150.00 per day. In the last five years, Out of County Revenue has averaged approximately \$63,000 per year.



**STATE OF IOWA REVENUE**

State of Iowa reimbursement for Fiscal year 2017 was: \$248,781 which is approximately 19% of the centers total operating budget. This revenue is a dedicated funding stream, which is a pool of money resulting from first offender OWI fines, and is reimbursed based on the Center’s operating budget for the previous fiscal year. Each of Iowa’s nine detention centers may be reimbursed a portion of their expenses by the state. Iowa Code states that Detention Centers be reimbursed at rates ranging from 10% to 50% of their operating budgets.

During the fiscal year 2012, the Center management team, in addition to 8 other juvenile detention centers in Iowa, decided to contract with a Lobbyist to work on behalf of the centers to ensure that this funding stream stays protected. The Center management team has decided to retain the lobbyist though Fiscal year 2018.

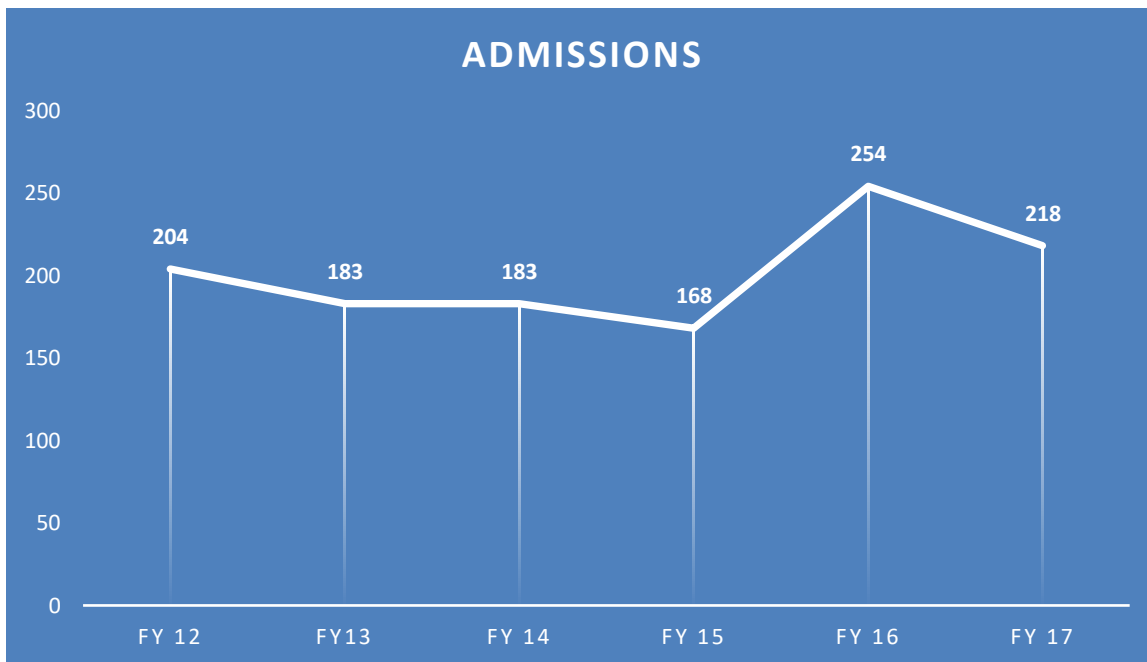
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDING**

This funding is a combination of state and federal funding that are partial reimbursements for breakfast, lunch, and after-school snacks. The total amount of reimbursement received in FY17 was \$24,383. This amount increased from FY16 in which the center received \$18,719 in reimbursements.

**I. POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS**

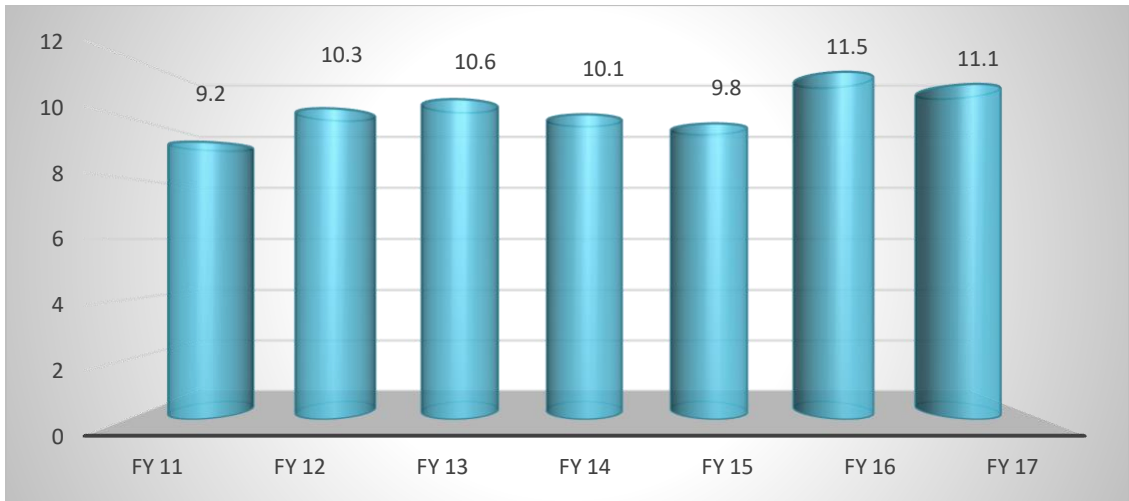
**ADMISSIONS PER YEAR**

The Center processed 218 admissions during the 2016 fiscal year. This was a slight decrease from FY 17 (254). As the graph below illustrates, the number of admissions per year has fluctuated over the past 5 years with the average being 202 admissions per year.



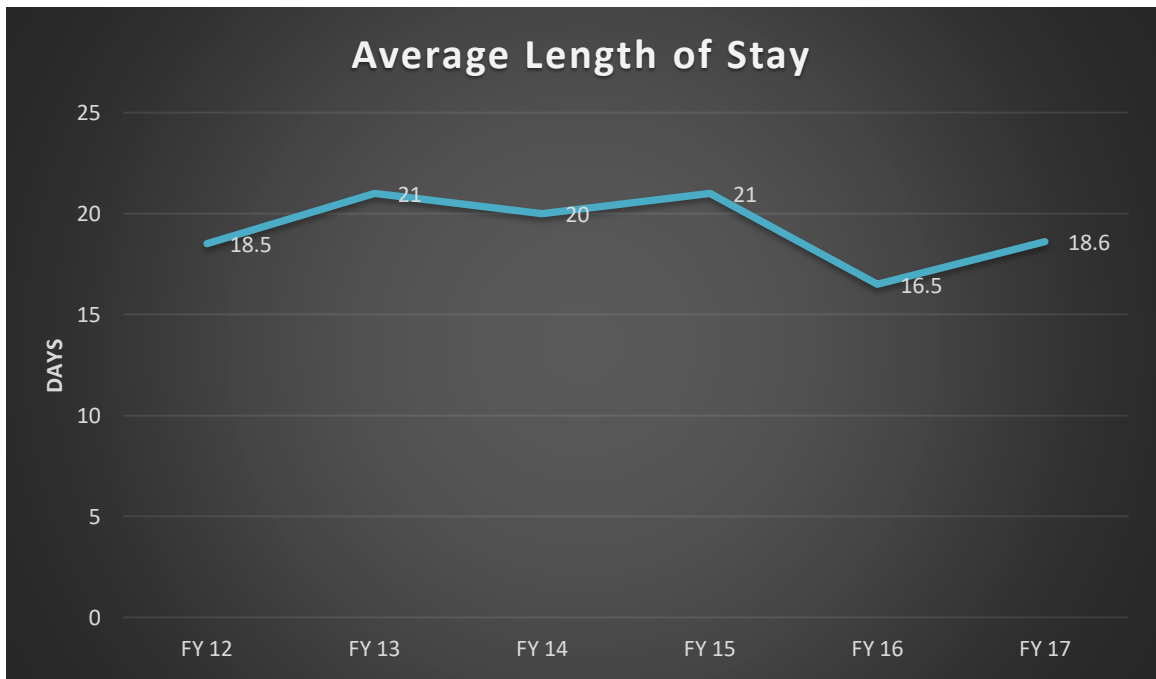
**AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION**

In FY17 the center averaged 11.1 residents per day and had a total of 4055 bed days. The increase in average population over the last six years can be attributed to an increase in resident’s average lengths of stay and the center accepting more adult waiver juveniles from the Scott County Jail.



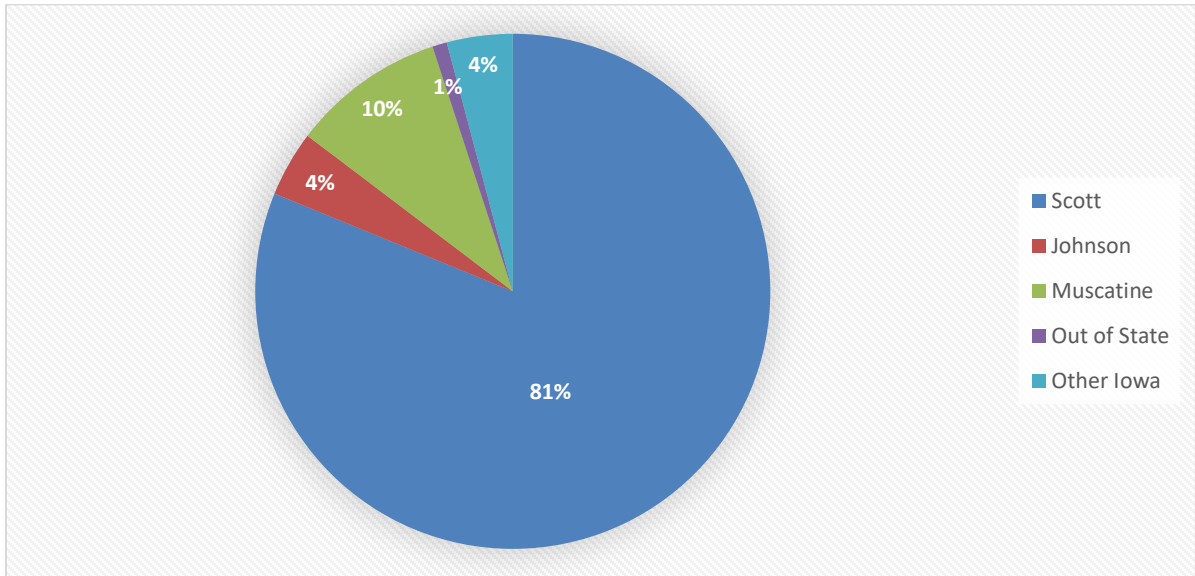
**AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY**

The average length of stay for a Scott County Juvenile Detention Center resident in FY17 was 18.6 days. The chart below indicates the center’s average length of stay has been fluctuating between 16.5 and 21 days over the last six years. The average length of stay over the past six years is 19 days.



**ADMISSIONS BY COUNTY**

Of the 218 admissions in FY17, 177 were from Scott County, 39 admissions came from nine different Iowa counties and 2 were from Out of State as the graph below illustrates.

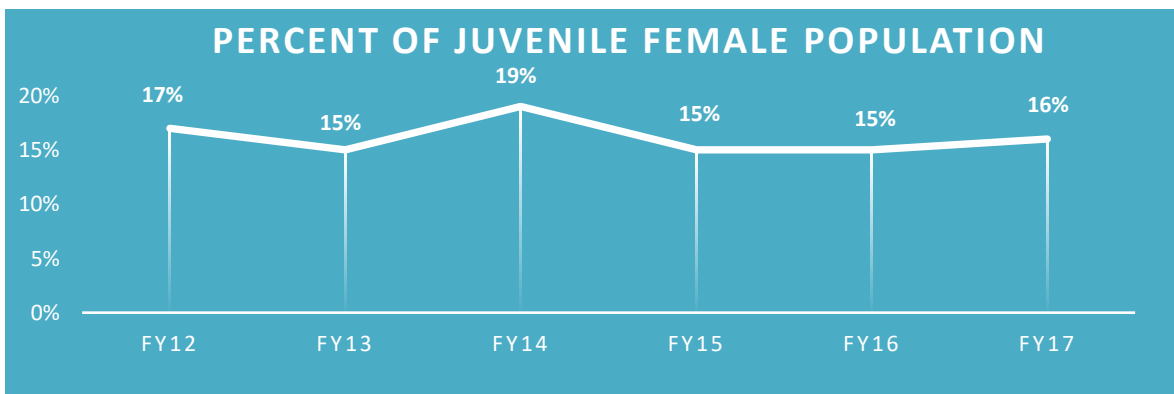


**ADULT WAVIERS**

Juveniles age 16 or older who are charged with a forcible felony are automatically waived to adult court. In addition, juveniles age 15 or above who have a preponderance of charges and have exhausted all services available through the juvenile justice system, may be waived to adult court. Juveniles who have been waived to adult court are initially placed at the Scott County Jail. Due to the decrease in average population in 2009, the Juvenile Detention Center management team made the decision to accept more adult-waiver juveniles from the jail to assist with over-flow population in the jail’s juvenile section. In FY17, the Scott County Juvenile Detention Center detained an average of just under one adult wavier juvenile per day. A total of 316 bed days were adult wavier juveniles from the Scott County Jail. Adult waiver juveniles made up 8% of the center’s total population in FY17.

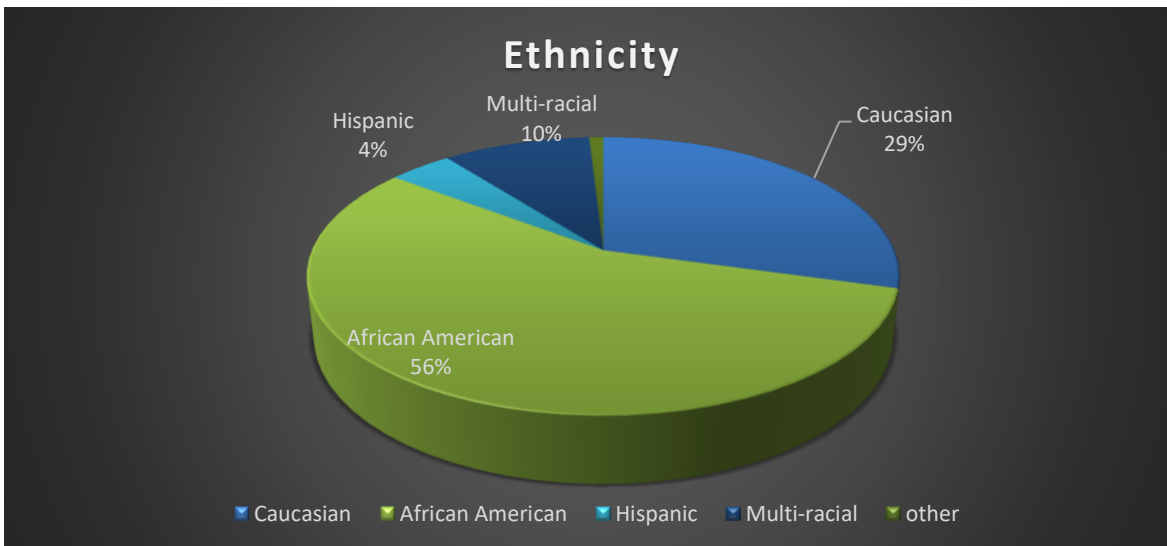
**AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER**

The average age of the youth detained at the Center this fiscal year was 14.5 years old. One hundred eighty three (183) of the admissions were males, which is 84% of the total population. Thirty-five (35) of the admissions were females, which make up the remaining 16% of the total population. The percentage of females has fluctuated over the last six years as the graph below illustrates, however 16% is the average.



**ETHNIC BREAKDOWN**

RACE	Admits	Percentage
Caucasian:	64	29%
African American:	122	56%
Hispanic:	9	4%
Asian/Pacific Is.:	0	0%
Multi- racial	21	10%
Other	2	1%



**J. SPECIAL INCIDENTS**

A special incident is a situation that deviates from normal Center routine (i.e. property destruction, acts of physical aggression, injuries, etc.). In FY17 the Center had 45 special incidents. Of the 45 incidents, 18 incidents required staff physical intervention. The number of special incidents requiring staff physical intervention increased slightly between FY 16 (13) and FY 17 (18). However, the vast majority of the physical interventions in FY 17 were resident transports as opposed to physical restraints. Resident transports have shown to be much safer than physical restraints.

**K. SHORT TERM PLACEMENTS**

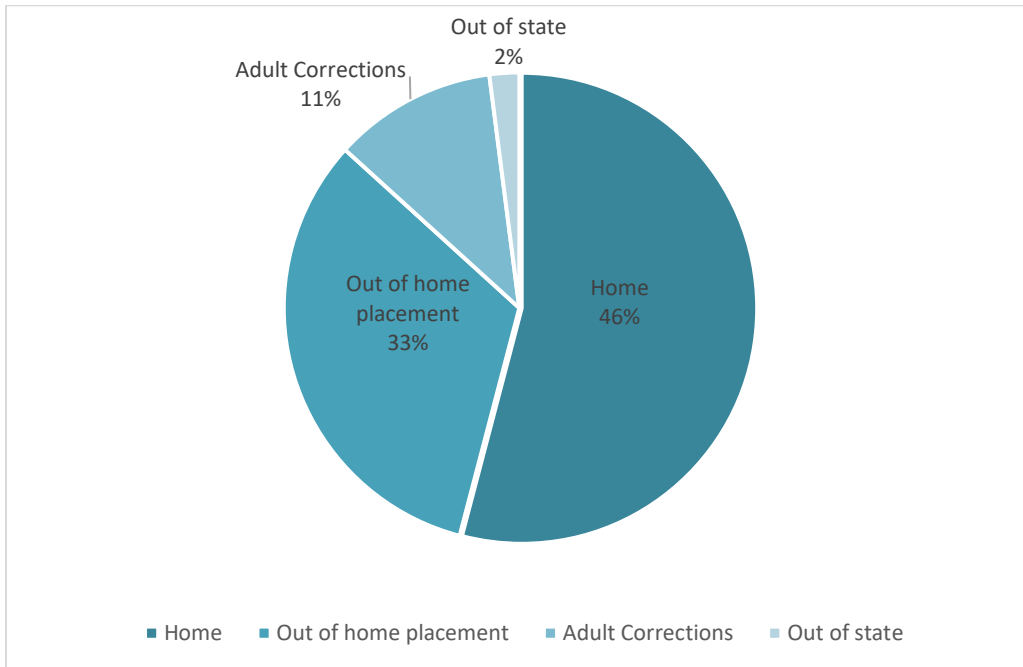
In most cases of short-term placements, the Center holds a youth until transportation can be arranged to place the youth in a state institution. During the 2017 Fiscal Year, one youth was held under this status.

## L. DISPOSITION OF CASES

The following list represents the placements of residents directly after they had been released.:

- Home: Residents who have been released to Home/ Home with Services, Day Treatment, and Independent Living have been returned to the community with varying degrees of supportive structure.
- Adult corrections: residents whose crimes were sufficiently serious, or their age was advanced to such a degree that a Waiver Proceeding was warranted and they were waived to adult court.
- Out of home placement: The remainder of cases represents residents who were placed in other detention centers, residential treatment facilities, state training school, shelters or situations in which charges have been completely dropped.

In a vast majority of these cases, treatment and/or services were provided in an attempt to decrease the chances of future law or probation violations.



## M.SUMMARY OF CRIMINAL CODE

The majority of allegations against detained youth involve felonious acts. Many youth are admitted for multiple allegations of criminal conduct. As seen by the list of offenses, the youth detained at the Center are detained for involvement in the entire range of criminal conduct. The 218 criminal conduct offenses are listed below by frequency:

