

Scott County

Juvenile Diversion Programs

FY 2022 Annual Report

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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 Diversion Programs strive to provide a cutting-edge continuum of community-based programs, focused on diverting youth from secure detainment as well as reducing delinquent behavior.”

COMMUNITY-BASED DIVERSION PROGRAMS

IN-HOME DETENTION AND ENHANCED IN-HOME DETENTION (W/GPS)

Two community-based supervision programs are operated by Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs: 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 youth 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, place of employment, and remain close to their families. Meanwhile they are closely supervised to ensure the safety of the community.

The IHD program 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 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.

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS

During the 2022 fiscal year, the In-Home Detention (IHD) program and Enhanced In-Home Detention (EIHD) program served a total of 71 juveniles combined. Of the 67 clients who were discharged, 49 juveniles completed the program successfully without a new charge or probation violation. Overall, 73% of clients referred to the Community Based programs completed successfully in FY 22. The program has maintained a 73% or above successful completion percentage over the last few years. This can be attributed to Community Based Youth Counselors working hard to develop rapport with juveniles and families as well as vigilant supervision in the community.

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. Scott County Diversion Programs charge \$19.97 per half (1/2) hour of direct client contact for the IHD program and charge \$10.06 per quarter (1/4) hour for the EIHD program. Total revenues received in FY 22 for operating the IHD program were \$18,073. Total revenues received in FY 22 from EIHD service were \$50,097. Total expenses to operate both programs combined in FY22 were \$71,960 and total revenues between both programs combined was \$68,170. The discrepancy between expenses and revenues can be attributed to less referrals and less available funding. In FY23, the programs will continue to work towards balance in these areas.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred for IHD and EIHD services was fifteen (15) years old. Of the seventy one (71) clients, sixty-two (62) clients were males (87%), and nine (9) clients were females (13%).

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

Race	Number	Percentage
Caucasian	11	15%
African American	50	70%
Multi- racial	9	13%
Hispanic	1	1%

YOUTH CENTERED PLANNING MEETING (YCPM) PROGRAM

In Fiscal Year 2018, Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs expanded their services to include the YCPM Program. This program is a “youth-centered,” evidence-based model that assists juveniles in transitioning back to their home community after long term residential placement. In FY22, the program was re-named to “Youth Centered Planning Meeting” (YCPM) program in order to reflect language changes within the new grant.

Once youth are ordered to long term placement, Juvenile Court Services will then make a referral. The Youth are required to have 3 meetings – one meeting within 30 days of initial placement, one meeting 30-45 days prior to discharge from placement and one meeting 30-45 days post-discharge. The goal of the meetings is to gather all “stake-holders” to the child’s success and develop a transition plan. The transition plans will address educational needs, medical/psychiatric/mental health needs, housing, employment, relationship supports, self-sufficiency, social engagement, and behavioral needs.

This model creates a shared responsibility for planning, decision-making and task accomplishment. YCPM’s work because youth are given the opportunity to voice what their goals and dreams are for the future. They are not only giving a say in the planning process, they are leading that process. The empowerment youth experience in the YCPM process results in higher levels of youth engagement, buy-in and ownership. Youth feel empowered and as a result are more motivated to achieve their goals. Our ultimate goal will be to improve outcomes and lower juvenile crime.

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS

There were ten (10) youth referred to the YCPM Program in FY22. Of those ten (10) referrals, all ten (10) youth received the initial “prep” meeting. All ten (10) youth participated in the placement meeting. Five (5) youth participated in a second “prep” meeting, four (4) youth participated in a discharge meeting, and one (1) youth participated in a community meeting and was discharged successfully. Four (4) youth turned eight-teen (18) years of age and were discharged successfully, three (3) youth are still in placement, awaiting the final community meeting, and two (2) youth received new charges and were discharged unsuccessfully.

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

In prior years, operating expenses for this program were off-set by an intergovernmental contract with Scott County Decategorization. However midway through FY22 the contract was terminated, due to the 7th Judicial District receiving funding from the Iowa Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) to fund Youth Centered Planning Meetings. Now operating expenses are funded through an intergovernmental contract with Scott County Juvenile Court Services through that grant. Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs charges \$375 for the initial YCPM meeting and \$300 each for subsequent meetings. Food, transportation, and training costs are reimbursed as well under this contract. In FY22, the program had \$16,158 in expenses and \$13,676 in revenues.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred for YCPM services was sixteen (16) years old. All ten (10) of the admissions were males, which is 100% of those referred. No females were referred in FY22.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Youth	Percentage
Caucasian:	6	60%
African American:	3	30%
Bi-Racial	1	10%

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Currently there are two components to the Restorative Justice Programs operated by Scott County: The Auto Theft Accountability Program and the School Based Restorative Mediation Program

AUTO THEFT ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

Over the last few years, the Scott County area has experienced a dramatic increase in auto theft. This has had a direct impact on the Scott County Juvenile Detention, as average daily population has effectively doubled, causing costs to rise significantly as well. The Auto Theft Accountability Program is a new program designed to target first time auto theft offenders and provide accountability for the harm they have brought upon their victim, their families, and the community.

Established in April 2019, the Auto Theft Accountability program is a victim-offender mediation program which is based upon highly effective programs provided in New Zealand (Family Group Conferencing) and Oakland, California (Restorative Community Conferencing). This model is evidence based, as the National Council on Crime and Delinquency studied the outcomes of the RCC program in Oakland. They found that youth who completed the program were 44% less likely to get a new sustained charge, than youth who were processed through the juvenile legal system.

This program is a restorative justice concept in which victims and offenders are brought face to face in a neutral setting. Staff then facilitate a meeting to discuss the harm that has been done and create a strength-based plan for how the offender is to repair the harm. The youth offender will have three months to complete the plan. If the offender completes the plan, they will have their charge dismissed. However, if at any point they fail to progress, they will revert back to court proceedings.

BENEFIT TO COMMUNITY

There are several reasons this program is in the best interest of the community. In other communities where it has been implemented they have experienced lower recidivism, higher victim satisfaction, and it has promoted a sense of responsibility in offenders. The ultimate goal will be to lower juvenile crime (particularly auto theft), less court hearings, improved court times, and decrease detention usage.

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS

In FY22, the Auto Theft Accountability program had a total of twenty-two (22) youth referred to the program. Of the twenty-two (22) youth, sixteen (16) participated in a Restorative Community Conference. Eight-eight (73%) of those referred completed a pre-conference and the Restorative Community Conference (RCC) with the person harmed.

Of the total twenty two (22) youth referred, eleven (11) youth completed the entire program successfully and eleven (11) youth were reverted back to the court system for either committing a new offense, refusing service, or failing to complete all aspects of the program. The program completion rate was 50% in FY22.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred to the auto theft accountability program this fiscal year was fourteen (14) years old. Fourteen (14) of the referrals were males, which is 64% of the total. Eight (8) of the admissions were females, which make up the remaining 36%.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Admits	Percentage
Caucasian	2	9%
African American	18	82%
Multi- racial	2	9%

OUTCOMES

Eleven (11) youth completed the Restorative Community Conference as well as completed all aspects of their Conference Agreements successfully in FY22. 91% of those juveniles (10 out of 11) did not have a new charge 6 months post discharge and 87% (6 out of 7) of those juveniles did not have a new charge 1 year post discharge. Some juveniles have not made it to their year mark yet.

Since program inception, those who youth who have completed all aspects of the program have rarely received a new charge post program completion. Since program inception, twenty-nine (29) youth have completed all aspects of the program successfully. Of those youth, 90% (26 out of 29) did not have a new charge within 6 months after program completion. 88% of those youth (15 out of 17) have not had a new offense one year after program completion.

SCHOOL-BASED RESTORATIVE MEDIATION PROGRAM

Research shows that suspension and exclusion from school can have a detrimental effect on students. Studies show that students suspended at least once are twice as likely to be arrested as their peers. School based restorative justice practices are a potential protective factor and are proven to be an effective alternative to exclusionary discipline policies in secondary school settings. In fact, Restorative justice efforts in New York City and Denver public schools showed a decrease in school suspensions by approximately 50%. Rather than assigning blame and punishment, restorative justice focuses on non-punitive, relationship-centered approaches to addressing behavioral issues while youth continue to participate in school activities. School-based restorative justice has been shown to be a promising practice for preventing youth incarceration (i.e., school-to-prison pipeline) and reducing racial inequities, thereby protecting youth from current and future negative outcomes.

The Scott County School-Based Restorative Mediation Program is a suspension diversion program implemented in the secondary schools of the Davenport Community School district. Certain incidents that would typically result in out-of-school suspension, can now be referred to the program in which students participate in a Restorative Mediation circle as an alternative to suspension.

In the circle, the two (or more) youth are brought together to learn about why the event happened and then develop a plan to repair the harm that has been done and ensure it does not happen again. Through this process, students will learn the impact their behavior has on others and a resolution will be formed prior to entering regular classes to ensure violence does not occur in the future. Also, through this process, students are kept in school and sent back to regular classes as soon as a resolution has been found.

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS

In FY22, the School-Based Restorative mediation program had a total of seven hundred ninety eight (798) youth referred from eleven (11) different secondary schools in the Davenport, Bettendorf, and North Scott school districts. Five hundred seventy (570) of those youth were unduplicated as two hundred twenty eight (228) youth were referred more than once for having verbal or physical altercations with other students. Of the seven hundred ninety eight (798) youth referred, seven hundred forty seven (747) completed a successful mediation and/or were able to resolve the issue without a mediation. Overall 94% of youth referred participated in a successful mediation and/or created a plan to ensure cooperation between the parties in the future. The remaining fifty one (51) youth did not complete a successful mediation due to having one or both youth refuse to participate, or one youth did not return to school. The program is completely voluntary and requires both youth participate in order to be successful.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred to the school based restorative mediation program this fiscal year was thirteen (13) years old. Two hundred forty nine (249) of the referrals were males, which is 31% of the total. Five hundred forty nine (549) of the referrals were females, which make up the remaining 69%.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Referrals	Percentage
Caucasian	224	28%
African American	388	49%
Multi- racial	161	20%
Hispanic	21	3%
Asian	4	1%

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS - EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

On-going operating expenses for both components of the Restorative Justice programs are reimbursed by an inter-governmental contract with the Decategorization Board. Davenport Public schools also provides supplemental funding. Food, supplies, staff salaries and benefits, transportation, and training costs are reimbursed under this contract. In FY22, the program had \$158,464 in revenues and \$151,515 in expenses.