

Scott County

YJRC: Community Based Programs

FY 2023 Annual Report

Director: Jeremy Kaiser



23

Table of Contents

COMMUNITY- BASED PROGRAMS TEAM 3

BACKGROUND..... 3

PROGRAM VISION 4

PROGRAM MISSION 4

COMMUNITY- BASED PROGRAMS..... 4

IN-HOME DETENTION AND ENHANCED IN-HOME DETENTION 4

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS.....5

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES.....5

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER.....5

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN.....5

YOUTH-CENTERED PLANING MEETING PROGRAM..... 6

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS.....6

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES.....6

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER.....6

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN.....6

AUTO THEFT ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM.....7

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS.....7

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER.....8

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN.....8

SCHOOL BASED RESTORATIVE MEDIATION PROGRAM.....9

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS.....9

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER.....10

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN.....10

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES.....10

After operating a program based in restorative practices and seeing the positive impacts it can have in the community, center management worked with Davenport, Bettendorf, and North Scott Public Schools to develop and implement a School-Based Restorative Mediation program in FY21. The goal of this program was to reduce suspensions and violence in schools and teach youth to resolve disagreements without the use of violence. In FY23, Scott County's juvenile programs expanded again by providing a Pre-Charge Diversion program for youth with first-time simple misdemeanor offenses. By participating in the program, youth are able to avoid the court system and are provided with mentoring and case coordination services. These services are intended to help address each youth's protective factors in order to help get them back on track.

PROGRAM VISION

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

PROGRAM MISSION

"Scott County Youth Justice and Rehabilitation Center provides safe, secure detainment, as well as programs effective in rehabilitating youth."

COMMUNITY-BASED 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 of incarceration. By utilizing the same staff to provide all three services (IHD, EIHD, and secure detainment), stronger relationships can be built between staff and residents as well as resident's families. The relationship no longer ends at discharge from secure detainment 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 2023 fiscal year, the In-Home Detention (IHD) program and Enhanced In-Home Detention (EIHD) program served a total of 97 juveniles combined. Of the 98 clients who were discharged, 79 juveniles completed the program successfully without a new charge or probation violation. Overall, eighty-one percent of clients referred to the Community Based programs completed successfully in FY23. The program has maintained a seventy-three percent 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 YJRC charges \$19.97 per half (.5) hour of direct client contact for the IHD program and charge \$10.06 per quarter (.25) hour for the EIHD program. Total revenues received in FY23 for operating the IHD program were \$23,285. Total revenues received in FY23 from EIHD service were \$78,856. Total expenses to operate both programs combined in FY23 were \$111,152 and total revenues between both programs combined was \$102,141. The discrepancy between expenses and revenues can be somewhat attributed to less available funding. Also, center management has also made the decision to provide EIHD programming when secure detention is full, as an alternative to detaining youth in other facilities when youth have been ordered to EIHD, but state funding is not available. Detaining youth in outside counties is extremely expensive and not ideal to rehabilitate youth. 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) years old. Of the seventy-one (98) clients, eighty-six (86) clients were males eighty-eight percent of the total and twelve (12) clients were females making up twelve percent of the total.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

Race	Number	Percentage
Caucasian	13	13%
African American	75	76%
Multi- racial	8	8%
Hispanic	1	2%

YOUTH CENTERED PLANNING MEETING (YCPM) PROGRAM

In FY18, Scott County YJRC expanded their services to include the Youth Transition Decision Making (Y.T.D.M.) 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 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 three 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 “stakeholders” 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, but they are also 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 twenty-seven (27) youth referred to the YCPM Program in FY23. This was a significant increase from the prior year, in which the program only received ten (10) referrals. Of those twenty-seven (27) referrals, all twenty-seven (27) youth received the initial “prep” meeting. Twenty-six (26) youth participated in the placement meeting. Eighteen (18) youth participated in a second “prep” meeting, and eighteen (18) youth participated in a discharge meeting. Four (4) youth had their case closed prior to discharge, and five (5) 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 (Y.C.P.M.). 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 FY23, the program had \$38,527 in expenses and \$29,971 in revenues. YJRC management officials met with contract stakeholders, and both have agreed to increase meeting rates in order to close the funding gap in FY24.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred for YCPM services was sixteen (16) years old. Of the twenty-seven (27) admissions in FY23, twenty-five (25) of them were male, which is ninety-three percent of the total. There were two (2) admissions that were female, which makes up the remaining seven percent.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Youth	Percentage
Caucasian	16	59%
African American	10	37%
Hispanic	1	3%

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 the 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 forty-four percent 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 FY23, the Auto Theft Accountability program had a total of thirty-nine (39) youth referred to the program. This was a dramatic increase from FY22, in which twenty-two (22) youth were referred to the program. Of the thirty-nine (39) youth referred in FY23, thirty-two (32) youth participated in a pre-conference and the Restorative Community Conference (RCC) with the person harmed. The program's participation rate was over eighty-six percent in FY23.

Of the total thirty-seven (37) youth referred, twenty-four (24) youth completed the entire program successfully and thirteen (13) 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 six-five percent in FY23.

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. Nineteen (19) of the referrals were males, which is fifty-one percent of the total. Eighteen (18) of the admissions were females, which make up the remaining forty-nine percent.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Admits	Percentage
Caucasian	9	23%
African American	25	64%
Multi- racial	4	10%
Hispanic	1	3%

OUTCOMES

Twenty-four (24) youth completed the Restorative Community Conference as well as completed all aspects of their Conference Agreements successfully in FY23. In addition, eighty-nine percent of those juveniles (16 out of 18) did not have a new charge six months post discharge. Six youths have not reached their six-month mark yet. Also, eighty-five percent (11 out of 13) of those juveniles did not have a new charge one year post discharge. Some juveniles have not made it to their one-year mark yet.

Since program inception, those youth who have completed all aspects of the program have rarely received a new charge post program completion. Since program inception, forty-nine (49) youth have completed all aspects of the program successfully. Of those youth, eighty-two percent (40 out of 49) did not have a new charge within 6 months after program completion. Also, eighty-five percent of those youth (34 out of 40) 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 fifty-percent. 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 doesn't 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 FY23, the School-Based Restorative mediation program had a total of seven hundred sixty-three (763) youth referred from eleven (11) different secondary schools in the Davenport, Bettendorf, and North Scott school districts. Six hundred and one (601) of those youth were unduplicated as one hundred sixty-two (162) youth were referred more than once for having verbal or physical altercations with other students. Of the seven hundred sixty-three (763) youth referred, seven hundred and fifteen (715) completed a successful mediation, and/or were able to resolve the issue without mediation. Overall ninety-four percent of youth referred participated in successful mediation and/or created a plan to ensure cooperation between the parties in the future. The remaining forty-eight (48) youth didn't successfully complete 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 to 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 fourteen (14) years old. Two hundred ninety-nine (299) of the referrals were males, which is 39% of the total. Four hundred sixty four (464) of the referrals were females, which make up the remaining 61%.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Referrals	Percentage
Caucasian	221	29%
African American	349	46%
Multi-racial	176	23%
Hispanic	14	2%
Asian	3	>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 FY23, the program had \$160,477 in revenues and \$173,318 in expenses.

PRE-CHARGE DIVERSION PROGRAM

In FY23, Scott County YJRC was awarded a grant from the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) to implement a Pre-Charge Diversion program as an alternative to juvenile court involvement for first-time, non-traffic, simple misdemeanor offenders in Scott County. As opposed to traditional punitive practice, program staff will engage the family and advocate for youth by connecting them to preventative programming that supports them in their home communities.

The first goal of the program will be to engage families and youth as swiftly and effectively as possible. We have trained and experienced Community Based Youth Counselors who are extremely effective in gaining trust with youth and families and encouraging them to participate in programming. It is not only important that we focus on how many youths are diverted from court involvement, but we feel it is extremely important to focus on how many youths are connected to and participating in preventative programming. The core belief of the program is that by committing a crime, they are communicating an unmet need. We are determined to help identify what that need is and find the appropriate service that can help fulfill that need.

Youth Counselors will go to the youth and the family, gain trust, and obtain a full understanding of the circumstances which lead to the criminal activity. Through this process, Youth Counselors will be able to assess what type of service or programming is needed. Youth Counselors will make referrals and connect to services, set goals, and meet with youth weekly to monitor progress and help solve everyday problems in order to keep the youth on track. Youth stay in the program for a period of 3-6 months and complete successfully after showing marked progress towards goals and without any new charges.

REFERRALS AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETIONS

In FY23, the Pre-Charge Diversion Program received forty-six (46) referrals for service. Of the 46 referrals, thirty (30) completed all aspects of the program and were discharged successfully. Sixteen (16) youth didn't complete the program successfully. This was typically due to a lack of desire by the youth or family to engage in programming, the youth receiving a new charge, or failing to make progress towards treatment goals. Overall, the program had a sixty-five percent successful completion rate in FY23.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred to the Pre-Charge Diversion program this fiscal year was thirteen (13) years old. Seventeen (17) of the 46 referrals were males, which is thirty-seven percent of the total. Twenty-nine (29) of the referrals were females, which make up the remaining sixty-three percent.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Referrals	Percentage
Caucasian	17	37%
African American	28	61%
Hispanic	1	2%

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

On-going operating expenses for the Pre-Charge Diversion program are funded by a grant from the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP). Program supplies, staff salaries and benefits, transportation, and training costs are reimbursed under this contract. In FY23, the program had \$30,895 in revenues and \$31,551 in expenses.

OUTCOMES

As the program is fairly young, there is not much data regarding recidivism. Over the first six months of FY23, the Pre-Charge Diversion program served twenty-four (24) youth. Of the twenty four (24) youth served, only three (3) had a new charge within the year post-discharge. Which means 87% of youth served did not have a new charge one year post discharge.