

Scott County

YJRC: Community Based Programs

FY 2025 Annual Report

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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 2025 fiscal year, the In-Home Detention (IHD) program and Enhanced In-Home Detention (EIHD) program served a total of seventy-nine (79) juveniles combined. Of the seventy-nine (79) clients who were discharged, seventy-one (71) juveniles completed the program successfully without a new charge or probation violation. Overall, ninety percent (90%) of clients referred to the IHD and EIHD completed successfully in FY25. The program has maintained an eighty-seven percent (87%) or above successful completion percentage over the last two 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 hour of direct client contact for the IHD program and charge \$10.06 per quarter hour for the EIHD program. Total revenues received in FY25 for operating the IHD program were \$13,160. Total revenues received in FY25 from EIHD service were \$57,094. Total expenses to operate both programs combined in FY25 were \$108,717 and total revenues between both programs combined was \$70,255. The difference between expenses and revenues was \$38,462. Funding for both programs has decreased significantly between FY24 and Fy25, causing a gap between Revenue and expenses. As a result, staff time and resources spent on the programs will be decreased in FY26 in order to balance the revenues and expenditures.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred for IHD and EIHD services was fifteen (15) years old. Of the seventy-nine (79) clients referred during FY25, seventy-five (75) clients were males making up ninety-five percent (95%) of the total and four (4) clients were females making up six percent (5%) of the total.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

Race	Number	Percentage
Caucasian	14	18%
African American	57	72%
Multi- racial	8	10%

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 thirty (30) youth referred to the YCPM Program in FY25. This was an increase from the prior year, in which the program received twenty-seven (29) referrals. Of those thirty (30) referrals, twenty-eight (28) youth have completed the program or are on track to complete the program.

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

Operating expenses for the YCPM program are funded through an intergovernmental contract with Scott County Juvenile Court Services through court ordered services funding. Scott County Juvenile Diversion Programs charges \$410 for the initial YCPM meeting and \$330 each for subsequent meetings. Food, transportation, and training costs are reimbursed as well under this contract. In FY25, the program had \$35,086 in expenses and \$44,350 in revenues.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred for YCPM services was sixteen (16) years old. Of the thirty (30) admissions in FY25, twenty-eight (28) of them were male, which is ninety three percent (93%) of the total. There were two (2) admissions that were female, which makes up the remaining ten percent.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Youth	Percentage
Caucasian	12	40%
African American	16	53%
Multiracial	2	7%

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 FY25, the Auto Theft Accountability program had a total of fifteen (15) youth referred to the program. Of the fifteen (15) youth referred in FY25, seven (7) youth completed the program or are on track to complete the program successfully.

Unfortunately, this year there were several youths who committed crimes during the program and had to be discharged unsuccessfully. This is an outlier as the program has historically been successful engaging youth and families and keeping them on track.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred to the auto theft accountability program this fiscal year was fifteen (15) years old. Of fifteen (15) youth referred, thirteen (13) of the referrals were males, which is one hundred percent (87%) of the total. Two (2) of the admissions were females, making up the other 13% .

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Admits	Percentage
Caucasian	4	27%
African American	7	47%
Multi- racial	2	13%
Hispanic	0	0%

OUTCOMES

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, seventy (70) youth have completed all aspects of the program successfully. Of those youth, 87% did not have a new charge within 6 months after program completion. Also, 85% percent of those youth 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, Bettendorf and North Scott Community School Districts. 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, 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 FY25, the total number of youth referred was seven hundred twenty-seven (727) youth referred from eleven (11) different secondary schools in the Davenport, Bettendorf, and North Scott school districts. Of those youth who were referred, ninety-six percent (94%) participated in a successful mediation.

A small percentage of youth (6%) didn't successfully complete mediation due to having one or both youth refused to participate, or one youth did not return to school. The program is completely voluntary and requires both youth to participate 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. Three hundred forty nine (349) of the referrals were males, which is 48% of the total. Three hundred seventy eight (378) of the referrals were females, which make up the remaining 52%.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Referrals	Percentage
Caucasian	218	30%
African American	349	48%
Multi-racial	153	21%
Hispanic	6	1%
Other	1	>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 FY25, the program had \$201, 249 in revenues and \$194,014 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 FY25, the Pre-Charge Diversion Program received twenty-five (25) referrals for service. Of those referred, twenty (20) completed all aspects of the program and were discharged successfully. Only five (5) 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 seventy percent (80%) successful completion rate in FY25.

AVERAGE AGE AND GENDER

The average age of the youth referred to the Pre-Charge Diversion program this fiscal year was fourteen (14) years old. Fifteen (15) of the (25) referrals were males, which is fifty nine percent (59%) of the total. Ten (10) of the referrals were females, which make up the remaining forty three percent 41%.

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

RACE	Referrals	Percentage
Caucasian	6	22%
African American	17	70%
Multiracial	2	8%

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 FY25, the program had \$24,030 in revenues and \$23,440 in expenses.

OUTCOMES

Recidivism data is tracked independently at the Iowa Department of Management: Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement. They reported that over 2024-2025, youth who were served by the program had a recidivism rate of 11.1%. This means 88.9% of youth of youth served by the program had no new charges after discharge.