

# CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

**DEPARTMENT:** Juvenile Department

**DATE:** May 24, 2016

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Add two Juvenile Services Associate positions

Consent     Hearing     County Manager

---

## **GOALS:**

- Provide cost effective alternatives to juvenile detention
- Enhance community safety
- Reduce negative consequences of non-essential juvenile detention
- Improve positive life outcomes for youth with behavioral health and substance abuse problems
- Provide evidenced based programing, pro-social activities, and case management for participants
- Provide opportunities for youth to make amends for harms to victims and the community
- Provide opportunities for youth to engage and reintegrate with their community

## **BACKGROUND**

The Juvenile Department requests the addition of two new permanent/ongoing Juvenile Services Associate positions. These staff will join the Department's Community Programs Detention Alternatives team.

The prevalence of behavioral health and addiction issues among youth in detention has long been understood. A 2000 Clark County study revealed that 20% of the youth held in detention used 60% of the total detention days. Many had both behavioral health and substance abuse issues. Of the top users, 70% had a behavioral health diagnosis. The unique needs of these youth formed the basis for the Juvenile Department's Connections Program. The Juvenile Recovery Court was implemented in 2007. 100% of the youth in these programs have a behavioral health and/or substance abuse diagnosis.

Non-essential detention has been shown to have negative and unintended effects on youth, including higher recidivism rates, less likelihood of naturally ageing out of illegal behavior, higher rates of mental illness, higher risk of suicide, and less likelihood of success in education and employment at the same level as youth who were never incarcerated. Community based programs have been shown to increase public safety, improve positive life outcomes, and are more cost effective. Therefore, effective community programs that provide for community safety, accountability, and build competencies are necessary.

The Community Programs Detention Alternatives were implemented in 2013 to prevent and reduce the negative consequences of non-essential detention. The most recent evaluation of the program reveals that collectively youth participating in these programs have troubled histories, family situations, and school experiences. 40% have substance abuse problems; nearly 40% have mental health problems. 60% of the youth referred to this program are referred from the Connections and Juvenile Recovery Court programs.

*mjs*  
*OK*

The Community Programs Detention Alternatives offer interventions that are based on best practices for youth struggling with mental health and/or substance abuse issues. The curriculum and programming offer evidenced based skill building programs, pro-social activities and case management. The addition of these two staff will allow expansion of program hours with addition of a weekend reporting program component. This approach reduces the likelihood of exposure to the negative and unintended effects of detention that can exacerbate problems and therefore increases public safety and improves behavioral health and substance abuse outlook. The most recent program evaluation reflects only 8.2% of the youth who experienced only detention alternatives reoffended with a felony as compared to 21.4% of youth who experienced detention only.

The new Juvenile Services Associate positions will work 40 hours a week. The workweek will include Saturday and Sunday. These Associates will be responsible for the operation of a Weekend Reporting Program which will be held at the Hazel Dell Boys and Girls Club. Up to 6 youth will be court ordered to the Weekend Reporting Program as an alternative to detention. Youth can be ordered into Weekend Reporting for one weekend or a maximum of two consecutive weekends. Program hours will be from 10am to 4pm. These Associates will be responsible for reporting to the Juvenile Court no later than 9am to gather necessary supplies for each day, including lunches and snacks, and the county van used for transport. They will arrive at the Boys and Girls Clubs by 9:45am to greet youth and parents as they arrive. The first 30 minutes on Saturday mornings will include a youth/parent orientation. At 10:30am, parents will leave and the Associates will engage youth in programming targeting risk factors. At noon, youth will be provided lunch and then transported to a Restorative Community Service site where these Associates will work alongside youth and community partners on a community project. At 3:30pm, Associates will transport youth back to Boys and Girls Club where they will wait for parents to return home.

These Juvenile Services Associates will also provide coverage to the Community Support Program on weekends and weekdays. Currently, there is only one Associate staffing this program from 1pm to 9:30pm Monday through Friday. Since January the weekend Community Support Program component has been covered by Juvenile Court staff pulled from other program assignments. These new Associates will provide support for up to 12 youth during weekend evening hours, as well as weekdays. They will be responsible for contacting up to 12 youth at homes and schools throughout the county to offer support, ensure court compliance, and offer resources to assist families in addressing their concerns and issues. With the addition of these 2 new positions, staff pulled from other programs to cover the Weekend Program will be able to return to their regular assignments.

In August 2014, a detention pod was closed leaving two pods open and the detention population was limited to no more than 30 youth. Detention Officers were given the opportunity to fill seven Juvenile Services Associate positions to staff a new Detention Alternatives Program. These were not new budget positions. Since implementation of Community Programs, the average daily detention population has been reduced from 39 to 21 youth. However, the premise that reduced population would result in reduced need for Detention Officers proved inaccurate. This resulted in major increases in overtime necessitating the return of 5 Juvenile Services Associates to Detention and the reduction of Community Programs staffing to only 1 Program Coordinator and 2 Associates. This amount is insufficient to maintain an effective program.

The Weekend Reporting Program was eliminated and the Community Support Program weekday hours were reduced from 8:30am - 10:30pm to 1:00pm - 9:30pm and weekend hours were

reduced from 13 hours a day to 8 hours or less. Currently, Juvenile Court staff are being pulled from their assignments in other programs to provide weekend Community Support. This is not sustainable for the long term. With as many as 30 staff rotating weekend shifts, there is lack of consistency in how services are provided to youth and families. Pulling staff from other programs to provide weekend coverage in Community Programs reduces service levels in their assigned programs. For example, when a Juvenile Services Associate is pulled from the Victim Impact Program to cover a weekend fewer crime victims contacts will have been made that week. When a Probation Counselor covers a weekend their availability during the week to youth and families assigned to their caseloads is reduced. Occasionally pulling staff from other assignments to work in other programs is not a problem. Consistently requiring staff to work weekends that otherwise would not, results in reduced quality of services overall. It disrupts continuity of services, reduces service levels in other programs, is disruptive to personal lives and negatively impacts morale.

The addition of these 2 new FTEs is vital to sustaining the Community Programs Detention Alternatives. A lack of consistent, permanent staffing for Community Programs will result in an inability to sustain the programs which will lead to youth being held in detention that would otherwise not be held and will most likely require reopening a third pod in the Detention Center to house low risk offenders who, but for lack of alternatives, would not require detention.

**COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This request does not involve change in Council policy.

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This request does not involve administrative policy change.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

None

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

YES	NO	
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity.
		Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
		Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

**BUDGET DETAILS**

Local Fund Dollar Amount	
Grant Fund Dollar Amount	
Account	Mental Health Sales Tax
Company Name	

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Board staff will post all staff reports to The Grid. <http://www.clark.wa.gov/thegrid/>

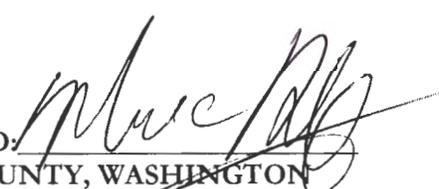
---



Jodi Martin  
Program Coordinator



Ernie Veach-White  
Juvenile Court Administrator, Interim



APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS

DATE: May 31, 2016

SR# 109-16

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark McCauley, Acting County Manager

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# BUDGET IMPACT ATTACHMENT

## Part I: Narrative Explanation

I.

## Part II: Estimated Revenues

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
n/a						
<b>Total</b>						

II. A – Describe the type of revenue (grant, fees, etc.)  
N/A

## Part III: Estimated Expenditures

III. A – Expenditures summed up

Fund #/Title	FTE's	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
		GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
1033/Mental Health Tax Fund	2	0	69,986	0	256,136		ongoing
<b>Total</b>	2		69,986		256,136		ongoing

III. B – Expenditure by object category

Fund #/Title	Current Biennium		Next Biennium		Second Biennium	
	GF	Total	GF	Total	GF	Total
Salary/Benefits		69,986		256,136		ongoing
Contractual						
Supplies						
Travel						
Other controllables						
Capital Outlays						
Inter-fund Transfers						
Debt Service						
<b>Total</b>		69,986		256,136		ongoing

Coding (insert or delete additional lines as needed)

Package number	Fund	Prog	Dept	Basele	Obj	Categ	2015-16 EXP inc / REV dec (DR)	2015-16 EXP dec /REV inc (CR)	2017-18 EXP inc / REV dec (DR)	2017-18 EXP dec /REV inc (CR)	Type
JUV-01	1033	000	231	527401	110	13200	48242		170398		Ongoing
JUV-01	1033	000	231	527401	210	13200	2294		13888		Ongoing
JUV-01	1033	000	231	527401	211	13200	5306		20192		Ongoing
JUV-01	1033	000	231	527401	221	13200	9630		35534		Ongoing
JUV-01	1033	000	231	527401	222	13200	3052		10782		Ongoing
JUV-01	1033	000	231	527401	223	13200	716		2642		Ongoing
JUV-01	1033	000	231	527401	230	13200	396		1464		Ongoing
JUV-01	1033	000	231	527401	236	13200	350		1236		Ongoing

69,986

256,136

FTE info (insert or delete additional lines as needed)

Package number	Fund number	Prog number	Dept number	Type (Operating, Revenue, Project)	Add, Delete, Change	Does this change involve a reclass? (Yes/No)	FTE	Effective date of change (MM/YY)	Position # for existing positions	New job classificati on (for new positions and reclassifica tions)	Grade & Range	Length for new project positions
JUV-01	1033	0	231	operating	Add	NO	1.00	May-16		Juvenile Pro	M3.764	na
JUV-01	1033	0	231	operating	Add	NO	1.00	May-16		Juvenile Pro	M3.764	na

FOR STAFF REPORTS ONLY:

HR APPROVAL

*JM Reis*                      05/19/2016  
Signature                                      Date

BUDGET OFFICE APPROVAL

*Adrian Pro*                      05/17/2016  
Signature                                      Date