

Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice 2009 Annual Report



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Greetings Deschutes County Citizens

I am proud to provide the tenth Juvenile Community Justice annual report. It continues to reflect the fine work and dedication of staff to keep the community safe, hold offenders accountable and restore losses to victims and the community. In 2008, we made special effort to collaborate with community partners and broaden restorative justice opportunities for youth. Last year, we were able to provide Functional Family Therapy to more families, including Spanish-speaking families. We were also able to institute onsite mental health services in the detention center, which has improved safety and helped address the needs of detained youth in crisis.

During these challenging economic times, Juvenile Community Justice reduced its operating expenses. Our objective in the year ahead is complex: continue providing essential services, keep the community safe,

and maintain focus on the unique needs of Deschutes County – all while continuing to reduce costs. It's a challenge, but we can and will be successful.

On behalf of everyone at Juvenile Community Justice, we are proud to serve you. Please call if you have any questions about this report, Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice, or if you would like to become involved as a volunteer.

Respectfully,

J. Kenneth Hales
Community Justice Director
(541) 388-6671

Web Resources



Visit our website

www.deschutes.org/juvenile to review annual reports we have produced since 2002 to demonstrate our effectiveness, and to get an overview of available services at Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice.

Other helpful websites for juvenile and family resources

Central Oregon Resource Guide
www.frconline.org

Drug & Alcohol Treatment
www.rimrocktrailsats.com

Interactive Parenting Program
www.parentingwisely.com

Opportunities for Disadvantaged
www.neighborimpact.org

Myths & Facts on Youth Crime
www.cjcj.org

National Criminal Justice Statistics
www.ncjrs.gov

National Key Indicators of Well-Being
www.childstats.gov

Teens' Online Use Information
www.teencheckup.com

Graffiti removal going strong; other restorative community service projects continue success

Community service is a vital and effective tool in holding youth accountable for their offenses. In Deschutes County, we have adopted a restorative approach to our community service program – viewing a youth's service as more than just punishment for their offenses, but as an opportunity and obligation to repair the harm they caused their victim(s) and community. Restorative community service focuses on meeting the three goals identified in our mission statement: *repairing harm, reducing risk, creating opportunity*. Youth are guided to accept responsibility for their behavior and make amends by paying restitution to their



JCJ service crews remove graffiti from a local underpass.

victims, and ultimately, give positive action back to the community through their service. By completing meaningful and valuable service, youth can present themselves as positive, contributing community members, while also learning empathy, building essential social and vocational skills and developing a sense of social responsibility that we all hope reduces their risk to reoffend.

Contact us...

Give us feedback! Please offer your suggestions or concerns regarding this 2009 Annual Report.

Attn: Communication Specialist
63360 NW Britta Street, Building One
Bend, OR 97701-9475
(541) 322-7651 / jennil@co.deschutes.or.us

2008 Benchmark Results

Each year, Juvenile Community Justice tracks key indicators known to give relevant information on the status of juvenile offenders in Deschutes County. These benchmarks help identify findings, trends, and areas to focus limited department resources.

	2007	2008
Restitution		
Owed	\$72,063	\$106,601
Paid	\$67,287	\$78,044
Percent paid	93.4	73.2
Victim Satisfaction		
Percent highest satisfaction level (based on returned surveys)	65.0	50.0
Community Work Service		
Hours ordered	8,032	11,959
Hours worked	6,795	10,099
Percent completed	84.6	84.4
Recidivism		
Percent with no new referral within one year	67.9	70.2
School Participation		
Percent in school, graduated/GED, employed at case closure	84.0	83.0
Drug and Alcohol Use		
Percent tested positive	54.0	52.7
Drug and alcohol evaluation*	77.0	75.0
Drug and alcohol education*	72.3	84.0
Drug and alcohol treatment*	54.0	59.0
[*percent completed within six months]		
Crime Prevention		
Funds contributed toward programs	\$319,040	\$298,548
Citizen Participation		
Hours contributed	2,256	1,828
Value of hours	\$42,345	\$31,679

Each year, youth offenders performing restorative community service projects through Juvenile Community Justice complete an average of 14,000 hours of service. Youth participate in various projects developed through partnerships with government and nonprofit agencies, community groups and neighborhood associations. The diversity of projects and vital partners this past year included:

- Graffiti removal: Bend Police Department
- Habitat restoration and bird nesting box construction: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Barbed-wire removal from public and private lands: Wild Wings Raptor Rehabilitation Center, Sisters
- New home construction: Bend and Redmond Habitat for Humanity
- Litter patrol and other land cleanup: Deschutes County Solid Waste, Oregon Department of State Lands

- Public works projects: Redmond, Sisters and LaPine
- Fire fuel reduction: Deschutes County, Oregon Department of State Lands, Deschutes River Woods and Starwood Homeowners' Associations.

Working for seniors and clients with disabilities, youth offenders also constructed wheelchair ramps and completed yard projects with Redmond/Sisters Hospice and Transitions programs, and Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers.

Of all community service, graffiti removal has proven to be one of our most visible and successful restorative service projects. In July 2006, Juvenile Community Justice began its graffiti removal program in response to increasing graffiti vandalism. Since then, youth offenders have cleaned up over 450 sites throughout Deschutes County. While most referrals in the first two years came from the City of Bend police department and from citizen calls to their reporting hotline, the partnership has grown and community awareness of our graffiti removal service continues. About 50 percent of current requests for cleanup come to the program directly from local business owners and private citizens. There is no cost for graffiti removal services. When receiving a report, staff attempt to identify the victim(s) and get a release to either remove or paint over the graffiti. If the property owner does not have paint available or cannot buy it, staff do their best to match colors and get paint through donations, or the department buys it directly from local suppliers.

Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice views graffiti removal as one of its best examples of restorative community service for youth offenders. Graffiti removal offers youth active participation and an opportunity to help victims and their community in a meaningful and measurable way. The youth and our community can see immediate results of their service—a result that is both tangible and gratifying. Our department is committed to continuing graffiti removal and strongly encourages citizens to immediately report graffiti and other acts of vandalism to law enforcement. To help expedite the graffiti cleanup process, victims should also call the Juvenile Community Justice hotline at (541) 385-1720.

If you have questions about the graffiti removal program or would like to donate paint supplies, please call Jim Smith, community service supervisor at (541) 322-7653, or send e-mail to jamess@deschutes.org.

Updates to Juvenile Resource Center

During the past year, Deschutes County Juvenile Resource Center implemented some programming changes to expand services available to youth offenders and their families. A full-time mental health specialist was hired to better address the needs of youth held in detention with issues like depression, self-harm, suicidal ideation, and severe alcohol and drug abuse. With the ability to conduct mental health assessments, court officers and intake staff can now identify specific treatment and programming needs for this special population. An assessment also better equips Resource Center staff to quickly identify a youth in need of extra support or supervision, while also promoting a safe environment for everyone. Daily check-ins with the specialist also increase the likelihood of individual responsibility and positive action.

Two new evidence-based curriculums were introduced to challenge youth to address two critical areas where most youth experience deficiencies: social skills and thinking patterns.

The first program includes a set of 50 prosocial educational competencies, known as “skillstreaming.” It teaches youth age-appropriate skills to meet their needs in social settings without causing harm to the community, others or themselves. These skills range from simply introducing themselves to adopting assertive, problem-solving skills and resolving situations with a productive outcome for all.

The second curriculum, *Truthought*[®], a cognitive-behavioral program, challenges youth to examine how they engage thinking patterns that can lead them to hurting others and also typically cause trouble at school, with parents, or law enforcement. Youth are required to identify their negative thinking, known as “thinking barriers” or “time-bomb tactics,” and learn appropriate replacement behaviors, or “responsible thinking steps.” For youth with behavior disorders or learning disabilities, the program is used in a group setting, and includes role-playing exercises to learn the information. The real progress occurs in the daily routine when staff confront youth who are using barriers and tactics and challenge them to practice the newly learned skills of responsible thinking and positive action.

To promote intervention and treatment experience, selected Juvenile Resource Center staff completed a training series designed to enhance existing service delivery and expand crisis intervention techniques. Facility staff received instruction on best practice and evidence-based intervention and treatment concepts, delivered through several approaches like *Motivational Interviewing*, *Truthought*[®], and *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention*[®]. Others attended training on group facilitation and ASIST—a suicide identification and intervention program designed to help identify risk factors so staff can provide support and supervision to youth during a critical time. The on-staff mental health specialist is also skilled in using Dialectical Behavioral Treatment (DBT), the preferred treatment method for females and youth with severe trauma history.

Parenting Wisely kiosk now offered to public

In partnership with Central Oregon Family Resource Center, Juvenile Community Justice provides parents access to a groundbreaking program, *Parenting Wisely*. Designed for families with youth, ages 9-18, it offers a series of 20-minute, interactive videos to help parents manage a child’s challenging behavior. Topics range from chore compliance, school attendance, sibling fights to peer supervision and more. The series teaches skills to improve unwanted behavior experienced in many families. Also, parent intervention has been shown to be a deterrent for risky behavior like substance abuse and crime.

Parenting Wisely develops a parent’s confidence with immediate, ready-to-use skills. The series guides a parent in effective discipline, supervision and communication with simple, but powerful instruction. Available from a kiosk in the Juvenile Community Justice lobby, the interactive videos take parents only a few minutes to complete.

Among other favorable research, the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention distinguish *Parenting Wisely* as a model and exemplary program. It is available through a partnership between Central Oregon Family Resource Center and Deschutes County Commission on Children and Families with funding secured from county crime prevention funds.

Visit Juvenile Community Justice and ask for instruction at the front office. We are pleased to offer this free information

to parents who are dealing with typical frustrations and want to guide their child to success! *Parenting Wisely* kiosks are available at four locations throughout Deschutes County and differ in the specific age target. Call Family Resource Center at (541) 389-5468, to access other *Parenting Wisely* locations, including a Spanish-translated kiosk.

Cultural considerations in family therapy

Luisa and Tomás moved to the United States as young adults from a Spanish-speaking country. Luisa is more comfortable communicating in Spanish, although she is able to speak in English, if necessary. Tomás, Luisa’s husband, is proficient and comfortable in either language. Born and raised in the United States, Janina, their 14-year old daughter, prefers communicating in English, but also speaks fluent Spanish. At age 11, Janina began spending time with new, older friends – many were in high school. She began using marijuana and alcohol and her parents saw her behavior change. She became defiant, deceptive about her whereabouts and activities, and took money from them without permission. Janina’s grades began to fall and she occasionally skipped school. Shortly after turning 14, she was caught stealing and was referred to an in-home, family counseling program – Functional Family Therapy (FFT), offered by Juvenile Community Justice.

FFT communicated with the family in Spanish and English to help everyone feel comfortable and supported, while also helping the family recognize that some of their challenges resulted from multicultural issues. Luisa had typical assumptions and ideas consistent within her culture—views not completely shared by her daughter, who was fully engaged in American culture. Counseling and intervention services were completed within the framework of the family’s existing cultural beliefs, practices, preferences and individual differences.

After completing the FFT program, Janina’s attitudes and beliefs about school had improved and she was consistently attending classes, regularly completing schoolwork and she had raised her grades. Ultimately, Tomás, Luisa and Janina had a strengthened sense of family and their relationships improved through effective communication skills and conflict management.

Officials in the juvenile justice system often need a whole-family approach to understand, address and change behaviors that bring young people to the attention of law enforcement. The goal is not to make all families look and act alike, or to blame the family for a young person’s poor choices, but to understand if and how the most important part of a young person’s life, their family, can be involved in addressing the delinquent behavior.

Deschutes County is fortunate to have a team of highly trained and effective therapists providing FFT services to young people involved or close to being involved in the juvenile justice system. FFT works with youth between ages 10-18, whose issues include, but are not limited to acting out, conduct disorder, and alcohol/substance abuse by providing short-term intervention that focuses on interpersonal relationships within each family. The program deals with real issues like missed curfews, truancy, drug use, and criminal behavior and finds relevant solutions that work for the youth and their family.

A family meets with a therapist 8-12 times, usually for one-hour sessions. First, the therapist finds ways to motivate the

family to change identified problems and eliminate obstacles that might be encouraging delinquency. Such interventions include improving communication skills, fostering positive family interactions and developing problem-solving skills. Next, families learn to talk about their differences and achieve goals together. Accomplishing these goals helps family members develop inner strength and a sense of well being, which ultimately improves their situation through self-sufficiency and skills gained for change that extend beyond the initial support of the therapist and other social systems.

Since 1969, FFT has been studied many times. Findings show that when compared with standard probation services, residential treatment and alternative therapeutic approaches, FFT is highly successful. Outcome findings of the research conducted during the past 30 years show that when compared with no treatment, other family therapy interventions and traditional juvenile court services (e.g., probation), FFT reduced adolescent re-arrest by up to 60 percent. FFT also significantly reduces potential offending by siblings of treated adolescents. For more FFT information, contact Ken Mathers at (541) 385-1738, or email kennm@deschutes.org.

PSU distance option for MSW program

In 2000, Juvenile Community Justice (JCJ) became a field practicum site for the Portland State University (PSU) Graduate School in Social Work, with four masters' candidates participating in various department projects. After a few years' hiatus, in the fall of 2008, PSU again began offering a distance learning option for MSW candidates in Central Oregon. Besides the JCJ site, PSU maintains locations in Salem, Eugene and Ashland.

The master of social work program distance option involves a three-year commitment for about fourteen students.

Onsite instruction includes technology-based learning and field training at a local community agency. In the first year, students attend four intensive training weekends per term at the main campus in Portland. For the second and third years, students attend Friday classes at the JCJ site, including 16 hours per week of field practicum work experience at an approved

agency. In general, students can develop program curriculum of their interest, while also learning medication management and monitoring of side effects and ongoing symptoms. Students also help train staff in mental health issues and behavior management interventions.

Currently, JCJ supervises one practicum student who conducts substance use and mental health assessments, works with youth in custody and facilitates groups. At JCJ, students work with youth experiencing a broad range of mental health and substance use diagnoses, and often serve as a youth's first contact with a mental health professional.

For more information on the MSW distance learning option, call (541) 389-9012. To download an application, visit www.ssw.pdx.edu.



Two community service crew youth install a bird nesting box as a part of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife collaboration.



Did you know?

The United States of America does not have a juvenile justice system; it has 51 separate systems.

Source: www.ncjj.org

U.S. Department of Labor shows today's learners will have 10 to 14 jobs by their 38th birthday.

Today's 21 year olds have:

- watched 20,000 hours of TV
- played 10,000 hours of video games
- talked 10,000 hours on the phone
- sent 250,000 emails or instant messages

More than 70 percent of U.S. four year olds have used a computer.

Source: *Fisch, McLeod, XPlane, Did You Know, June, 2007*

MySpace was invented in 2003. Today, more than 70 percent of online teens use social network sites.

Source: www.teencheckup.com

A survey said that 31 percent of youth stating they had been drunk in the past year were perceived by their parents to be non-drinkers.

Source: http://oregon.gov/OLCC/alcohol_and_minors

Over 81 percent of Oregon 11th graders say it would be very easy or sort of easy to get alcohol if they wanted.

Source: *Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 2005*