

## Program #15101A - Juvenile Court Trial Unit

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**Department: District Attorney Program Contact:** 

**Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program** Program Offer Stage: As Requested

**Related Programs:** 

Program Characteristics: In Target

# **Executive Summary**

The Juvenile Court Trial Unit primary function is now reduced to include only delinquency matters. This unit, working with Multnomah County's Juvenile Services Division, prosecutes serious felonies and certain misdemeanors committed by those under 18 years of age. This program seeks community protection, reformation of the youth and restitution to victims of crime.

### **Program Summary**

The purposes of the Oregon juvenile justice system are to protect the public and reduce juvenile delinquency and to provide fair and impartial procedures for the initiation, adjudication and disposition of allegations of delinquent conduct. This Unit prosecutes juveniles who have committed all but the most serious (Ballot Measure 11) crimes. This includes cases ranging from minor misdemeanors to serious felonies. The unit works closely with the Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Juvenile Division in developing appropriate sanctions aimed at accountability, community protection and reformation of the child or youth. Additionally, one of the goals of this program is to reduce the number of youth who are exposed to the adult criminal system.

For over 25 years this program has been involved in the Anne E. Casey Foundations Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The current interagency agreement with the Juvenile Services Division provides for opportunities for youth to have their matters handled informally, either through the CHI Early Intervention Program, or through informal handling by the Juvenile Department. The current agreement calls for MCDA to provide legal sufficiency screening of all referrals, to insure that youth are held accountable only for acts that are legally sufficient. Legal sufficiency screening by non-lawyers often results in youth being held accountable inappropriately. The goal of these programs is to provide the principles of accountable and reformation without pulling a youth further into the Juvenile System.

MCDA provides victim's advocates to help those involved navigate the complicated and often unfamiliar juvenile system, insure victim safety and restitution or restorative justice when appropriate. Additionally, these DDAs coordinate with the Department of Human Services, DCJ and juvenile court counselors to serve families impacted by the juvenile system.

This program will no longer accomplish community protection, youth reformation and family preservation and skill building to the extent it has in the past. This Unit will no longer have its own Sr. DDA but rather these DDAs will be coordinated by the Sr. DDA in the MDT Program Offer.

Performance Measures								
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY18 Actual	FY19 Purchased	FY19 Estimate	FY20 Offer			
Output	Cases reviewed for Delinquency, Dependency, TPR	2043	N/A	1363	1363			
Outcome	Early intervention program participants% less likely to recidivate than non-participants	40%	N/A	40%	40%			
Input	Number of attorneys needed to fulfill program description	N/A	11	7	3			

#### **Performance Measures Descriptions**

For additional MCDA Budget Information:

http://mcda.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MCDA-Budget-Informational-Packet-FY-20.pdf

2/20/2019

## **Legal / Contractual Obligation**

Juvenile Trial Court/Termination of Parental Rights: 8.685 Assisting juvenile court; right to appear. (1) The District Attorney shall, upon request of the juvenile court, appear in the juvenile court to assist the court in any matter within its jurisdiction. (2) In counties having a population of more than 150,000, according to the latest federal decennial census, the district attorney shall designate a deputy to assist the juvenile court as provided in subsection (1) of this section. (3) The District Attorney is entitled to appear on behalf of the state in the juvenile court in any matter within the jurisdiction of the court. [1959 c.432 §63 (enacted in lieu of 8.750); 1991 c.681 §4.

### **Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2019	2019	2020	2020
Personnel	\$1,531,078	\$1,342,289	\$940,187	\$0
Contractual Services	\$12,000	\$25,000	\$12,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$33,800	\$0	\$36,300	\$0
Internal Services	\$146,099	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,722,977	\$1,367,289	\$988,487	\$0
Program Total:	\$3,090,266		\$988,487	
Program FTE	11.75	8.60	6.00	0.00

Program Revenues							
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$1,367,289	\$0	\$0			
Total Revenue	\$0	\$1,367,289	\$0	\$0			

#### **Explanation of Revenues**

#### Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2019: 15101-19 Juvenile Court Trial Unit

Due to county, state and federal funding decisions, this program has lost two important child protection functions: (1) dependency and (2) termination of parental rights. This is a dramatic reduction in FTEs in this program. This program no longer advocates for proactive child protection efforts in dependency court proceedings. This program is no longer able to fashion plans which will provide protection for children and develop opportunities for the parents to mitigate the dangers which brought the child to the attention of the court in dependency. This program no longer litigates cases where the abuse or neglect of a child necessitates effort be made to free the child for adoption (Termination of Parental Rights). Certain crimes will not longer be prosecuted; unit will also lose a Sr DDA which will detrimentally impact both public safety and victim safety.