

Program #15103 - MDT - Child Abuse Unit

Program Contact: John Casalino

Department: District Attorney **Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program** Program Offer Stage: As Requested

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics: In Target

Executive Summary

This program is child-centered. It serves three primary functions: 1) Prosecute felony crimes against children including homicide, physical abuse, abandonment and neglect, sexual exploitation and sexual assault (rape sodomy, for example) of children where the perpetrator is considered family, 2) Protect vulnerable children through litigating dependency cases in juvenile court; and 3) Coordinate the Multi-Disciplinary Child Abuse Team's (MDT's) child protection efforts and develop equitable practices and policies to investigate and prosecute abuse—which disparately impacts families of color-- while working to help keep children safe and strengthen families.

Program Summary

The MDT is part of a larger team comprised of representatives from law enforcement, public schools, hospitals, courts, health departments, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Oregon Department of Employment Child Care Division. The team provides services to child victims, minimizes the number of victim interviews, prevents abuse of other potential victims, advances public safety and increases the effectiveness of prosecution of both criminal and dependency cases. Cases in the MDT unit are often time and emotion intensive.

This program prosecutes some of the most troubling homicides (abusive head trauma), and serious felony sexual and physical assaults against children, in the county. These deputy district attorneys (DDAs) respond to child death crime scenes all hours of the day. This team reviews all unexpected child fatalities. DDAs also work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and other agencies to protect children who are abused and neglected. They work with our Victim Assistance Program to ensure all practices are trauma-informed and mitigate the life-long consequences of child abuse.

These attorneys litigate some of the most high risk/high lethality child protection cases in Juvenile Court. With the court, DHS and other agencies and community partners, the office develops plans that provide protection for the child and opportunities for the parents to mitigate the dangers which brought the child to the attention of the court in the first place, with the goal that the child(ren) and parents be safe and to further parenting skills.

MDT DDAs coordinate discussion and resolution of inter-agency issues, assist in training with agencies involved in child abuse, participate in policy meetings with regard to child abuse and neglect, prepare and update the protocols for the larger MDT, and advise community partners on child abuse legal issues. The senior deputy district attorney is on call 24/7 to assist law enforcement, medical personnel and DHS in regard to infant deaths and immediate physical and child sexual assault cases. This program also coordinates the distribution of state Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) funds to a variety of local partners on an annual basis for projects/services associated with child abuse intervention.

Performance Measures								
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer			
Output	Number of Dependency/Criminal Case reviewed	238	285	231	285			
Outcome	Percentage of presumptively prison eligible defendants diverted from prison to community supervision	57%	41%	42%	42%			

Performance Measures Descriptions

3/2/202

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 8.660 - Attending court and prosecuting offenses. (1) The district attorney shall attend the terms of all courts having jurisdiction of public offenses within the district attorney's county, and, except as otherwise provided in this section, conduct, on behalf of the state, all prosecutions for such offenses therein

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds	
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022	
Personnel	\$1,222,831	\$204,523	\$1,258,162	\$216,969	
Contractual Services	\$18,000	\$703,557	\$31,700	\$672,039	
Materials & Supplies	\$16,300	\$25,275	\$18,000	\$22,375	
Internal Services	\$0	\$37,449	\$144,683	\$37,506	
Total GF/non-GF	\$1,257,131	\$970,804	\$1,452,545	\$948,889	
Program Total:	\$2,22	\$2,227,935		\$2,401,434	
Program FTE	5.00	2.00	5.00	2.00	

Program Revenues							
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$970,804	\$0	\$948,889			
Total Revenue	\$0	\$970,804	\$0	\$948,889			

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$37,506 in indirect revenues.

State Fund: Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) Grant

\$216,969 1.00 FTE Victim Advocate; 1.00 FTE Legal Assistant

\$672,039 Pass-Through Program Support (Grant Contractual Partners)

\$22,250 Travel & Training Shared budget with program partners

\$125 Dues & Subscription: medical literature on the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

\$37,506 Indirect Costs

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2021: 15103 MDT - Child Abuse Unit

Since FY2020 the MDT unit has been at the Juvenile Court Building on 68th and Glisan. This Unit is no longer co-housed with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and a specialized police unit comprised of detectives from the Portland Police Bureau and the Gresham Police Department (Child Abuse Team). In part because of this, in the current FY, Gresham PD now is also no longer cohoused with Portland child abuse detectives. LE, DHS and Medical partners have noted that this move—combined with full representation by DOJ in dependency matters—has reduced coordination, collaboration and communication regarding child abuse investigation and planning in the MDT here in Multnomah County. COVID conditions, emergency procedures and LE obligations have reduced the number of mandatory reports and investigations of child abuse which has resulted in far fewer LE and DHS investigations submitted to this unit to review. Because of COVID, trials have stopped; this delay in resolution negatively impacts child victims and their families. Internal service charges are increased reflecting a change to allocate facilities, data, distribution, telecommunications, and fleet services in individual units. Previously these costs were consolidated in 15001-Administrative Support Services, 15002-Information Technology, and the Div I, II, III, and IV Admin program offers.