

Program Brief

The San Francisco Juvenile Collaborative Reentry Team (JCRT)

JCRT is a Federally-funded Second Chance Reentry grant to the City and County of San Francisco's Juvenile Probation Department. It is currently one of five model sites around the country.

The JCRT team establishes coordinated and comprehensive reentry case planning and an aftercare component for youth returning to the community from out-of-home placement, through a combination of intensive case management and wraparound services. Youth who are eligible for JCRT are those whom have been committed to out-of-home placement as part of a juvenile justice court disposition and are being represented by the Office of the Public Defender. The average length of stay in the JCRT program is 6-24 months. JCRT youth are considered for discharge, at the time in which they have been dismissed from probation and extensive aftercare planning has been completed.

The team is managed by the Juvenile Probation Department and works with a dedicated judge to ensure that the youth are assisted in a compressive, thoughtful, and clinically appropriate reintegration process. The team works collaboratively with each other and with other community partners, toward the development of comprehensive reentry plans.

The following is a selected excerpt from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Performance Data Report created for the City and County of San Francisco's Juvenile Probation Department and represents performance measurement data entered into OJJDP's Data Collection Tool (DCTAT) for Federal award number 2009-CZ-BX-0030

Program Goals

1. To reduce recidivism for youth returning from out-of-home placement by 50% over five years through comprehensive aftercare service linkages and monitoring, thereby reducing the disparate rates of juvenile crime and recidivism in San Francisco's low-income, minority communities.
2. To improve collaborative inter-agency case planning and coordination for juvenile justice involved youth in out-of-home placements beginning at commitment through termination of probation.
3. To implement a collaborative enhanced placement court as part of the Office of Collaborative Justice Programs (Juvenile and Family Programs) of the Superior Court of California.

Program Objectives

1. Approximately 100 youth per year will be enrolled in the program based on assessment and referral by the probation officer or social worker.
2. 100% of enrolled youth undergo a full risk-needs assessment at adjudication using the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) to inform appropriate placement and service planning.
3. 100% of enrolled youth will receive an updated assessment as part of case planning at the time of their review hearing, six months prior to close.
4. 100% of families of enrolled youth will receive intensive support beginning three months prior to release.
5. 100% of enrolled youth will have a comprehensive and coordinated individualized reentry case plan that addresses housing, vocational training, completion of education, therapy or drug treatment, and any additional services they require to succeed outside of placement based on assessed needs.
6. At least 75% of enrolled youth will have successful linkages with aftercare services six months post-release.

Outcome Summary for Reporting Period January 1 - June 30, 2011

As previously reported, San Francisco is proud to have accomplished at least two of its goals: to improve collaborative inter-agency case planning and coordination for juvenile justice system involved youth in out of home placements; and to implement a collaborative enhanced placement court as part of the Juvenile and Family Programs of the Superior Court of California. The first goal, to reduce recidivism for youth returning from out of home placement by 50% could not be tracked before now. This reporting period offers the first indication of the long term effects of the JCRT program and San Francisco pleased with the initial results.

San Francisco has already met or is close to meeting almost all of the objectives developed for this program. The attached report shows that six months after receiving the initial service, 72% of youth continue to show improvements anti-social behavior, 78% show continued improvements in their family relationships and 79% show improvements in social competence. Perhaps the most challenging services to sustain are those related to substance abuse programs. While the enhanced model described in the accomplishments section above is expected to help, San Francisco is still in need of additional program options for substance abuse services.

Of all the listed objectives, it is unlikely that San Francisco will meet the first objective of serving an average of 100 youth per year. The JCRT team continues to accept youth who meet the criteria of the program including Public Defender represented youth with no psychotic diagnoses. However, consistent with national trends, San Francisco has seen a considerable reduction in its bookings, referrals, and dispositions over the past two years. In 2008 there were a total of 3,446 referrals to San Francisco Juvenile Probation. In 2010 that number was down to 2,814 an 18% decrease.

Correspondingly, total out-of-home placements went from 218 in 2008 to 130 in 2010, a 40% decrease. Considering that approximately half of all out-of-home placement youth are

represented by private or conflict attorneys, it no longer is reasonable to expect that the JCRT program will serve 100 youth per year.

Of those youth who were served by JCRT, 7 of the 58 have been adjudicated for a new offense since participating in the program, translating to a 12% recidivism rate for JCRT youth. A recent analysis showed that of the 847 youth sent to out-of-home placements between 2005 and 2010, 349 or 41% had at least one new sustained petition after the initial placement. The JCRT program has resulted in a 29% improvement in recidivism rates for participating youth compared to the same population in prior years. San Francisco will continue to work towards a 50% reduction, and is optimistic that the program will meet its goal by the end of the grant period.

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