

# Juvenile Court Services Joint Human Resources Appropriation Subcommittee

February 19, 2013

**We have three very important points we want to make this morning:**

1. The importance of the Graduated Sanctions funds and Court Ordered Services Funds in the Department of Human Services Child Welfare budget.
2. The outcomes and value of the services these funds provide.
3. The impact on Iowa if we can restore these funds to previous levels.

**1. Graduated Sanctions and Court Ordered Services** represent 96% of the funds available to Juvenile Court Services for programs that target community safety and rehabilitation services for delinquents and their families. These programs are specific to juvenile delinquency, delinquent behaviors and criminal thinking.

Delinquency programming addresses different issues than those addressed in most mental health and child welfare services. Delinquency programming is carefully targeted to address criminogenic risk factors, those risk factors that specifically contribute to an individual youth's delinquent behavior.

We have stretched the \$13 million we current receive to provide the following services to many of the 15,000 juveniles we served in 2012 in Iowa's 99 counties.

- Juvenile Court School Liaisons. Liaisons are placed in schools where they work with delinquent and "at-risk" students.
- Behavioral treatment programs for delinquents and their families, such as Functional Family Therapy, Day Treatment, in-home and in-office behavioral counseling.
- Electronic Monitoring for sex offenders and as an alternative to detention.
- Enhance community supervision (tracking) for our highest risk delinquents.
- Life skills classes like Aggression Replacement Training (ART) that reduce school bullying and teach our clients socially acceptable ways to deal with frustration.
- Mentoring programs.
- Diversion programs for shoplifters or first time alcohol possession clients.
- Probation Violators' programs that have helped reduced the need for long-term out of home care.
- Drug Court programs and substance abuse treatment.
- Court Ordered translation services
- Court Ordered transportation by Sheriffs or private contractors.
- Drug testing.
- Psychiatric, psychological or sex offender evaluations.
- Outpatient sex offender treatment.
- Victim/Offender mediation programs.

- Victim restitution programs.
- Community services programs.

Keep in mind that the three major goals of Juvenile Court Services are to **ensure community safety, rehabilitate youth and to make the victim of a crime or community whole**. These diverse goals require highly targeted programs.

It is fair to say that most of our efforts and funds focus on the public safety and rehabilitation programs. One of the best ways to ensure public safety is to rehabilitate the young people whose criminal thinking leads them to be a threat to the community safety. Consequently, the Chief Juvenile Court Officers as a group have focused on programs that are recommended as “Best Practices” programs to ensure a high degree of success and to ensure that Iowa’s money is spent wisely.

## **2. How is Juvenile Court Services doing with the funding we have?**

Research based programs such as **Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Drug Courts** are have been researched nationally and found to be best practice programs. They have proven outcomes and cost-effective results. For example, FFT has been proven in nationwide studies to reduce repeat delinquent behavior and reduce the need for out of home residential care.

In Mason City, in my Second Judicial District, my FFT outcomes report last fall showed that 100% of the delinquent youth who had completed FFT 6 months earlier were still in their homes and had no new charges. For the youth who had finished one year earlier, 100% were still in their homes and had no new charges. The two other FFT programs in my district are also very good, though closer to 80% long term success.

In those schools where ART is being done, office referrals and disorderly conduct cases are down dramatically for young people completing the program.

**Juvenile Court Services has done well with the limited resources in improving public safety, dropping felonies 27% between 2006 and 2010 and violent offenses by 19% during the same period.**

**For victims we recovered \$454,000 in 2012, and our clients performed 90,559 hours of community services, helping improve parks and cemeteries, adopting highways and help with city clean ups.**

Drug Court programs have also been quite successful in reducing delinquent behavior and helping our clients get drug free.

### 3. Value to Iowa in the services these funds provide

Iowa has the opportunity to be the safest state in the union from delinquent crime by reducing delinquency to the lowest rate of all states. The services that Juvenile Court Services are utilizing and the delivery techniques we have developed are second to none in the country.

**The problem we face is that we cannot offer these services at adequate levels to all the youth who need them because we have a seriously under-funded system.** Juvenile Court Services is in a unique position because the funds we use for our client services are in the budget of a collaborative agency that has to prioritize our services in respect to services they use for their clients. Not only that, when the services we provide save the State money, as they do in reducing group care placements or training school placements, those savings do no return to us to expand our quality community based programs.

**The Chief Juvenile Court Officers requested an additional \$5.5 million dollars** be added to the Graduated Sanctions budget this year. That request was included in the initial DHS budget but was eliminated in the final draft to meet the Department's own target. These additional dollars were to allow Juvenile Court Services to expand our successful researched-based programs state-wide.

Currently, Functional Family Therapy is available in most of 4 of the 8 Judicial Districts. Aggression Replacement Training is available on a spotty basis in many schools and community programs. Day Treatment has all but been eliminated by new Medicaid policies implemented by Magellan. That \$5.5 million dollars would help expand all these programs to a more saturated delivery level across Iowa.

The \$5.5 million dollars is targeted to do the following:

- Create 9 new Functional Family Therapy sites that would serve 500 families each year.
- Create 7 new day treatment programs that would serve 120 clients at a time. Since each client would spend approximately four months in the program, the total client number served would be 360 clients who are being diverted from residential treatment. To ensure the continuity of best practices, Aggression Replacement Training would be used as the skill development components of the treatment portion of the program.
- The final piece of these funds would be to restore the \$500,000 in treatment dollars cut from the budget in 2009 to help ensure the success of client's court ordered to Drug Court.

The programming that these additional funds would provide will place Iowa at the forefront in community safety from delinquent activity in our nation. We have this within our grasp. Each of your communities will see and feel the differences.

**To summarize:**

1. The small section of the Department of Human Services budget providing Court Ordered Services and Graduated Sanctions is 96% of the funds that Juvenile Court Services has available to serve our clients and their families.
2. Juvenile Court Services, with the limited funds we have had available, has shown great success in the pockets where we have been able to develop these “best practice” programs.
3. The budget request of \$18.7 million restores us to the funding level had in 1999 – 2002. In addition, it brings a proven quality of service for the state and helps move Iowa closer to our goal of having the lowest level of delinquent activity of any state in the nation.

Quote forwarded by Gary Niles, Chief JCO, Third Judicial District...

**Dr. Mark Lipsey with Vanderbilt University’s Peabody Institute** used meta-analysis to combine 700 controlled studies of interventions with juvenile offenders that used the Comprehensive Strategies model. Lipsey then developed a **Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)**, a tool for comparing juvenile justice programs to what is found effective in the research and this is the tool we will be deploying in **3 jurisdictions in Iowa**. The SPEP creates a metric by assigning points to programs according to how closely their characteristics match those associated with the best recidivism outcomes for similar programs.

The body of research on programs for juvenile offenders shows that **three general characteristics of those programs are most strongly related to their effects on juvenile delinquency:**

- The type of program
- The **amount and quality of service** actually delivered, and
- The risk level of the youth in the program.

When Lipsey’s work is linked with the JCS IDA validation completed by Dr. Robert Barnoski, Iowa has nearly all of the elements needed for one of the best service delivery systems in the country. **The ability to match the level of risk of a youth using the IDA with the programming that can be most effective** in treating the youth’s presenting issues established two of the three components Lipsey identified. The weak link in Iowa’s Juvenile Justice System is **inadequate funding to properly deliver the treatment dosage necessary to reduce recidivism**. A properly funded treatment system using the SPEP tool to measure results can reasonably produce a 20% reduction in recidivism with high risk youth.

State of Iowa Juvenile Justice Funds

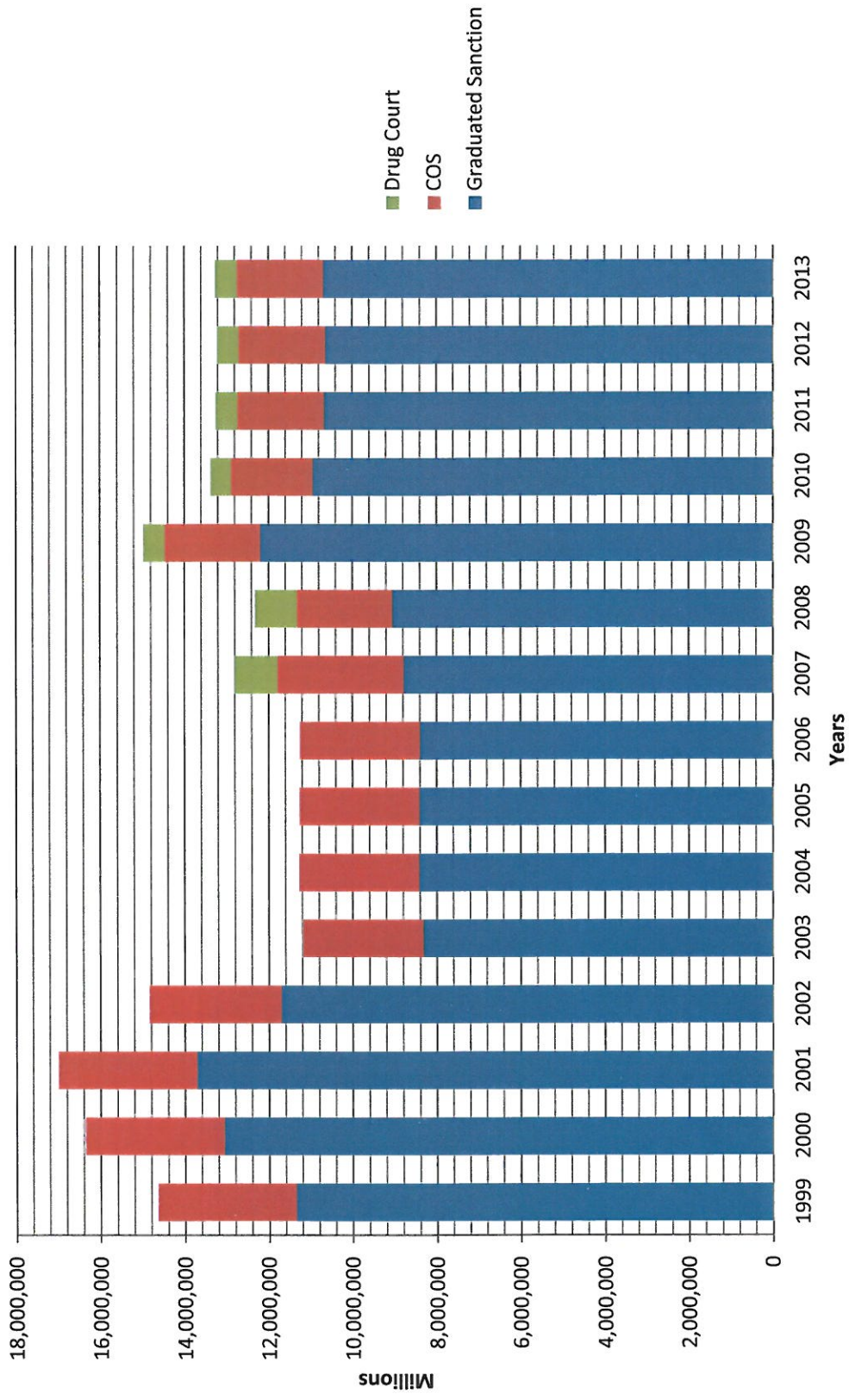
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning	\$ 4,641,700	\$ 4,438,300	\$ 4,541,508	\$ 3,955,100	\$ 3,174,000	\$ 1,966,000	\$ 1,920,000	\$ 1,502,154
Graduated Sanctions	\$ 11,354,870	\$ 13,061,370	\$ 13,711,370	\$ 11,701,297	\$ 8,319,417	\$ 8,419,141	\$ 8,409,509	\$ 8,396,641
Court Ordered Services	\$ 3,290,000	\$ 3,290,000	\$ 3,290,000	\$ 3,148,530	\$ 2,859,851	\$ 2,859,851	\$ 2,859,851	\$ 2,859,851
Juvenile Drug Court	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Funds	\$ 19,286,570	\$ 20,789,670	\$ 21,542,878	\$ 18,804,927	\$ 18,804,927	\$ 14,353,268	\$ 13,244,992	\$ 13,189,360
	7.79%		3.62%	-12.71%	-23.67%	-7.72%	-0.42%	-3.27%

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning	\$ 1,281,501	\$ 987,523	\$ 1,022,779	\$ 1,203,105	\$ 1,031,333	\$ 687,327	\$ 538,199
Graduated Sanctions	\$ 8,781,642	\$ 9,052,732	\$ 12,193,146	\$ 10,939,082	\$ 10,667,150	\$ 10,637,124	\$ 10,680,746
Court Ordered Services	\$ 3,002,844	\$ 2,268,963	\$ 2,268,963	\$ 1,944,892	\$ 2,062,488	\$ 2,062,488	\$ 2,062,488
Juvenile Drug Court	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 517,381	\$ 489,837	\$ 520,150	\$ 520,150	\$ 520,150
Total Funds	\$ 14,065,987	\$ 13,309,218	\$ 16,002,269	\$ 14,576,916	\$ 14,281,121	\$ 13,907,089	\$ 13,801,583
	10.25%	-5.38%	20.23%	-8.91%	-2.03%	-2.62%	-0.07%

Change in funding from SFY1999 to SFY2013

-27.96%

# State of Iowa Juvenile Justice Funds



# State and Federal Juvenile Justice Funds

