

**SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
JUVENILE COURT SERVICES**



Chief Juvenile Court Officer  
Patricia M. Hendrickson

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March 7, 2002

Senator Johnnie Hammond  
Iowa General Assembly  
State Capitol  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Senator Hammond:

I appreciated the opportunity to visit with the Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday. I applaud the commitment to Decat and its many successes.

Enclosed are the program descriptions you wanted. Each of these is about a \$30,000.00 program. What a lot of bang for our buck!

If you have questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Hendrickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patricia M. Hendrickson  
Chief Juvenile Court Officer  
Seventh Judicial District

PMH:kmg

Enclosure

CC: Sue Lerdal  
Legislative Fiscal Bureau

**FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM - Muscatine County Community Services'**

**Program Description** - This program provides support and treatment services that are targeted to children and adolescents with severe emotional disorders as well as their families. These children and adolescents have had a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration.

The program is designed to:

- Reduce/prevent psychiatric hospitalizations or institutionalization.
- Divert children/adolescents from the child welfare system or foster care.
- Assist parents in maintaining sufficient mental health stability.
- Identify older teens and assist with transitional planning into adult services.
- Use interdisciplinary team staffings to improve communication and coordination.

These service components are included in the program as well as others:

- Outreach
- Meeting basic human needs
- Housing and living arrangements
- Mental health treatment
- Crisis intervention
- Social and vocational assistance
- Family education
- Natural support systems
- Protection and advocacy
- Service coordination

**Future Program Plan**

The amount allocated through Decat by Promoting Safe & Stable Families funding will be applied to this program. This will allow them to hire a full-time Child Welfare worker and eliminate the waiting list.

How Much Did We Put In?		How Much Did We Do?	How Well Did We Do It?	What Difference Did It Make?
Decat	\$ 6,944	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1563 hours of service provided</li> <li>• 70 parents secured parental skill building assistance</li> <li>• 40 older teens rec'd transitional planning into adult services</li> <li>• 123 parents received direct parenting skills training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoided 50 foster care placements.</li> <li>• Avoided 66 psychiatric hospitalizations.</li> <li>• Improved parenting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with severe emotional disorders were able to remain in their home.</li> <li>• Parents have skills necessary to keep children in their home.</li> <li>• <u>Older teens have skills to transition into adult services.</u></li> </ul>
CMHS	\$ 16,688			
Musc Co	\$ 6,944			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 30,576</b>			



# ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

20,000

## Administration

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## Horizon Center Campus

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## DART Facility

School-Based Programs  
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## FIELD LOCATIONS

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## RESOURCE and PREVENTION RAP

The Resource and Prevention program in Cedar County provides law enforcement officials with a tool to help families whose problems have not yet reached the need for court-ordered intervention, but are severe enough to justify early assistance and resources before issues escalate out of control. The RAP program was started November 1, 1999, renewed July 1, 2000 and then renewed again July 1, 2001 until June 30, 2002. This is partially funded by the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant and funds by Cedar County Decat. Staff of Alternative Services met with staff from the Juvenile Justice funding source and we reviewed the program in June of 2001. They were pleased with the program and had positive feedback for us.

The RAP program serves youth who are living in Cedar County and are between the ages of birth to 18 years. The main focus for services is for kids between the ages of 9-17 years. We have identified that group as being the most in need of intervention and also these parents request information regarding how to discipline and parent kids in this age group.

For the 2nd Quarter, October thru December 2001, we have served approximately 18 kids and their families. We work with the identified kids, but also the families and siblings. They range in age from middle school up to 18 years old and there have been mostly males referred to the program because we are seeing that they tend to be the biggest gender in need of intervention. Heath runs most of this program and he has made a tremendous impact on these kids. They look up to him and don't want to get in trouble because it might disappoint him. He discusses school, probation, law issues, relationships and social expectations with them. He has also done some group outings and taught what is acceptable and what is not, mainly by peer association. In the past quarter we have had a couple of referrals for females. They tend to be very defiant and show major attitude. Cortney has assumed a lot of the responsibility for these girls. She has made a connection with them and it seems to work. The Sheriff's dept. does not discriminate when it refers a kid. They look at the phone list we provided them and give the referral to the first person that answers their phone. They are very good about giving us a copy of the police report and also updating us on the family background, especially if the family is new to the area.

The budget remains the same for this quarter, is obtainable from administration.

Problems=The program has not seen too many problems for this quarter. It is being utilized well, although the main source of referrals comes from Tipton. The biggest problem continues to be the lack of program surveys returned. We have had a lot of verbal praise from parents, but not any luck in getting surveys returned. We have started calling past families and conducted a phone survey. Staff who have not worked with the family are the ones making the calls and they ask the families to be honest. The phone

surveys are fairly new, but the response has been mostly positive. All of the officers that we have had contact with are very happy to have the service. We continue to work on this area, as it is the most problematic. We have started talking to the officers about the possibility of not having this program next year due to all the cuts in DHS and trickling down to Decat/Juvenile Justice. They are very concerned because they feel it is very useful to the community. The agency is checking into other funding sources and we will hopefully be able to carry on with the program, even if it's just part time.

Success=The program continues to be a very positive service in Cedar County. As stated earlier, there has been much verbal praise for the program from officers and parents. The kids also have shown that the service is working. Several of the families have been able to stay out of the DHS system and work through their problems in a non-threatening (meaning court involvement) manner. We have an awesome working relationship with the Sheriff's department and the local police officers have been extremely helpful. There is a new police chief in Tipton and he will be starting soon. (At the time of this report he had started and we have made some very important contacts with him. This will be in the next report) With all the cuts in everyone's budget, we are getting a lot of positive feedback regarding the service and inquiries about what we are going to do to continue the service. To me this shows that the program is widely known and accepted and everyone feels it is good.

The activities have included individual and family meetings, but mostly meetings with the kids. Some of this quarter's activities have included bowling and going to the mall. The cooler weather has stopped some of the outdoor activities, but Heath still tries to get the guys outside and just hang out whenever possible. Heath has worked with 3-5 boys in a group and discussed what is appropriate in public settings and also how to interact with each other. This has overflowed into their home lives and made a difference in their attitudes and interactions with family members. He tries to do this with all the boys he works with because he reports that they seem to talk through things better in a small group setting. Heath is a valuable asset to the program. He reports that if we are unable to get funding for the program, he will have bake sales and car washes to raise money. We may expand on this in the future.

Our collaboration has included: Cedar County Sheriff's office, Cedar County Juvenile Probation officer-Chuck Hubble, Tipton High School and Mr. Droll, West Branch High School, West Branch Police Dept., Tipton Police Dept., Clarence, Lowden and Stanwood Police Dept., DHS, Mecca, Community Mental Health services, University of Iowa Clinics, and the parents of these kids. The parents have assisted in working with their kids and without their assistance, our efforts would not make much difference. We have earned the trust of many parents and some of them have told us how thankful they are for the program. The kids have made some positive changes and the parents are seeing these changes in all aspects of their lives. If we can help the home environment, then the services will have been successful when the kids are discharged from the program.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the staff.  
Submitted by: Lisa Kepford, Supervisor 2-01-02

*Lisa Kepford*



# ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

20,000

## ALTERNATIVE SERVICES AT-RISK PROGRAM ASAP

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ASAP serves kids and their families who live in Cedar County. The age of the child is generally between birth and 15 years old and the referrals come from the schools, day care facilities, Public Health office and families seeking services for themselves. For the 2nd Quarter, October thru December 2001, we served 25 kids and their families. The referrals came from the Bennett School, Tipton School, West Branch School, the Sheriff's dept. and the North Cedar Schools. Also started in September of 2001, but not actually counted in last quarter's report, is a Jr. High Boys group in the Bennett School. There are approximately 15-20 boys in this group and they meet each week. Bobbie Conrad has been facilitating the group and she reports that it is going well.

This program has been going on since June 1998 and has been renewed three times by the Cedar County Decat. Board. It has been given the OK to go another year through Alternative Services. The schools that utilize the program are pleased with the flexibility of the program and the flexibility of the staff. The schools are learning to ask for assistance and they seem to appreciate the involvement. We have a very good relationship with the school counselors and they have helped us communicate directly with some of the teachers. There are a couple of new counselors in the schools and we have had contact with them and introduced them to the program.

One of the successes of the program is the consistency and availability of staff to go where needed and cover the large area of Cedar County. We are very pleased with having referrals come from the Bennett School and currently there are four kids receiving services from the school. It took three years, but they are now finding that the ASAP program is very helpful to families and to the school. We also feel that having more than one staff person work in the program gives us greater flexibility and we can match the family with a worker's style. If the staff isn't making progress or the family makes a request, we can have another person go in the home. We hired Bobbie Conrad in January of 2001 and it is directly related to her hiring that we have been able to get into the Bennett School with the program. The kids that participate in the ASAP program are having a higher rate of school attendance while we are working with them, compared to before we worked with them.

Our collaborative efforts have been involvement with the schools during special meetings, input from the Juvenile Court Officer and also assistance from/with the At-risk coordinators in Tipton and North Cedar. The At-risk coordinators have been extremely positive about our program and they call us, even if they are not referring a student. We

are able to brainstorm with them and help each other out. Our services involve the entire family and getting the parents involved is very important for the success of the kids. We continue to collaborate with DHS, Mecca, Mental Health Center, Public Health/Case Management office, Sheriff's Dept., several police departments in Cedar County and church organizations on occasion. Once the family has utilized our services, we try to make sure they have continued support and this has included: the Mental Health Center, Public Health, Genesis Hospital, DHS, church group and Kirkwood.

A barrier to the success of the program is that it is voluntary and the parents can stop at any time. If things get a little too uncomfortable for them, they stop the service and then the kids are without in-home services. The only way to make this work is to court-order the service, but then the parents become defensive and the program doesn't work as well. This may be a barrier that we have to live with. We continue to advertise the program to the school counselors, teachers and principals. The teachers are doing a great job selling the program to the parents. We are able to meet with them in a neutral setting and we are not the school or DHS so this part is positive. Some parents are resistive to any type of change on their part and this presents a barrier that is very hard to overcome. We have been partially successful in convincing the parents to try new styles of parenting or discipline, but there will always be those who will not change.

We have been discussing all the needs of the schools in Cedar County and we are constantly thinking about how to make the best of this program or even change it to fit the changing needs of the schools. Our goal continues to have every school involved on a constant basis. At the end of 2001, the Decat. Board agreed to fund the ASAP program full time and with this extra ¼ position we will offer Family TEAM Meetings to any family in Cedar County. We have three staff who have been trained to facilitate these meetings and we feel it would be an added benefit to families. At the time of this report the meetings have been offered to two families in Cedar County and we are waiting to see if they will agree to have one. Even without the Family TEAM meetings, we are running at full time hours with the kids. In talking with several school personnel and DHS staff, it is apparent that this program is highly likely to get cut at the end of the fiscal year. We are in the process of checking into any and all alternative methods of funding because this is such a valuable program for the kids involved. Our staff have offered to have bake sales and car washes to raise funds and we are even looking into a "Goodwill" type of second-hand store to have kids work at for detention or suspension. We are committed to continuing the program in some form and we appreciate all the support that Decat. Has given us over the past several years. The ASAP program is well known in Tipton, North Cedar, Bennett and West Branch Schools and the teachers and counselors are utilizing it well. We have maintained a population of approximately 15-20 families for each quarter and we are not seeing it slow down at this time. This quarter we were up 5-10 students and we feel that the students are responding very positively to the help.

Submitted by: Lisa Kepford, Supervisor

2-01-02

