

2014



22nd Judicial Circuit

Juvenile Justice System in the City of St. Louis

A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

The purpose of this Report Card to our Stakeholders is to provide citizens with a snapshot of how the St. Louis juvenile justice system is performing. We have established a set of benchmarks to inform the community about our ability to protect children, further safety, restore justice for victims, and reduce the risk of re-offending. The community can expect us to strive for improvement each and every year. The categories we measure here of client service, competency, safety, child protection and accountability, provide a reliable gauge of our progress. We can and should be held accountable for our performance in these measures.

Citizens have offered a clear, firm and consistent message when expressing what it is they want the juvenile justice system to accomplish in their community.

- Citizens want the justice system to further community safety;
- Citizens want victims of crime to receive justice;
- Citizens want offenders to be accountable for their behavior;
- Citizens want offenders to cease their criminal activity and become responsible, productive citizens, and
- Citizens want all children to have safe and permanent homes.

Ultimately, the juvenile justice system strives to reduce recidivism and connect children to the community in a positive fashion. Practitioners offer services and reduce opportunities to re-offend through secure detention, detention alternatives, or supervision. The mission of the City of St. Louis Family Court employs the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice to heal, repair, and reintegrate not only the offender, but the victim and the community as well.

We know that the highest form of public safety results from community involvement in the creation of a safer community. Working together we can build a safe and more just St. Louis. To perform better in each of these critical areas, we need participation from community citizens. For those who wish to help St. Louis youth by working directly with children, our Community Justice Project and Detention Center have volunteer opportunities. If you wish to become involved with these efforts, please contact John Williams, Detention Program Coordinator, at (314) 552-2293, or Sara Butler, Supervisor of the Community Justice Project, at (314) 552-2446. To learn more about volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for abused or neglected children, please call (314) 615-4594.

Respectfully,

David C. Mason
Presiding Judge
Juvenile Division

Kathryn S. Herman
Assistant Court Administrator
Juvenile Officer

A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

Client Services to Victims, Offenders, and the Community

JUVENILE REFERRALS TO THE FAMILY COURT: Of the 1,239 delinquency referrals received by the Family Court during 2014, 93 percent were African-American youth, and 71 percent were male.

INNOVATIVE CONCEPT ACADEMY: The Academy is an Alternative School and a collaboration between the St. Louis Family Court, St. Louis Public Schools, and MERS/Goodwill. The Partnership also includes a number of community agencies that provide a myriad of services for at-risk youth between the ages of ten and nineteen.

DIVERSION PROGRAMS: The Family Court offers diversion programs staffed by Deputy Juvenile Officers (DJO) to keep juveniles from entering deeper into the juvenile justice system, while repairing harm caused to victims.

DETENTION CENTER: The Detention Center is a secure facility where juveniles are held pending a hearing on delinquency matters. They are detained only if they are considered a risk to themselves or the community or are at risk of failing to appear for their Court hearing.

DETENTION ALTERNATIVES: Research shows that youth should only be securely detained if absolutely necessary. Pre-adjudicated youth who are not detained may be put on a Detention Alternative such as Electronic Monitoring or Home Detention.

Juvenile Division Referrals

Year	Total	Delinquency
2014	2,297	1,239
2013	2,395	1,338
2012	2,702	1,826
2011	3,031	2,015
2010	3,444	2,480
2009	3,540	2,719

Innovative Concept Academy (as of 2-6-2015)

Males: 39
Females: 37
MERS/GOODWILL: 26

Cases referred in 2014:

Neighborhood Accountability Boards: 47
Victim Offender Dialogue: 35
Cases receiving informal services through a DJO: 518

Detention Admissions 2014

Total Juveniles Detained:	390
Females:	46
Males:	344
African American	377
White:	9
Other:	4
Average Age:	15.5
Average Stay:	22.6 days

Detention Alternative Services 2014

Total Juveniles in Alternatives:	560
Home Detention:	71
Electronic Monitoring:	125
Weekend Community Service:	181
Evening Reporting Center:	36
Weekend Home Detention:	89
(Numbers represent referrals)	



Competency

A Report Card to Our Stakeholders

Developing Youth Competency

SERVICES PROVIDED: The Family Sub-Contracted Services program provides services to youth and their families who are clients of the Family Court. The services consist of: individual, family and group counseling, anger management, violence/bullying prevention, mentoring, life skills, parenting skills, psychological evaluation, sex offender evaluation and treatment, victim-offender dialogue, tutoring and respite care. This program is partially funded by the St. Louis Mental Health Board of Trustees.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION:

The Truancy Initiative Project is a voluntary diversion program designed to improve the school attendance of referred juveniles. In the 2013-2014 school year, the Truancy Initiative Project served 271 students, 81 percent of whom improved their attendance.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Volunteers in the Detention Center provide services to help aid youths' personal development and growth while detained. These services include education, arts, recreation, special events, Chaplaincy, cultural presentations, and other activities.

Volunteers for Neighborhood Accountability Boards meet with offenders in their neighborhoods to work out an agreement for the youth to repair the harm caused. These volunteers meet regularly with the youth to ensure the plan of action is being followed.

Family Contracted Services Provided 2014

Vendors: 18
 Number of youth served: 225
 Average cost per child: \$909

Truancy Initiative Project Results 2013-2014

Total students served: 271
 Number improved: 219
 Average improvement for all who improved: 16.0%

Detention Center Volunteers

of Volunteers: 224
 Hours Contributed: 4,977

Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) Volunteers

of Volunteers: 55
 Neighborhoods Served: Jeff Vander-Lou; Walnut Park; Shaw; Forest Park-Southeast; Penrose/O'Fallon; Gravois Park; Carr Square/Columbus; West End; Benton Park/Benton Park West; Hamilton Heights/Wells Goodfellow; Kingsway/Ville; Dutchtown South; Carondelet; and Baden.



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Furthering Community Safety

JUVENILE CRIME: An important indicator of juvenile crime trends is the number of felony offenses referred to the Court. In the year 2014, 660 felony offenses were referred to the Court and 14 youth were certified to be tried in adult court.

FIVE MOST FREQUENT DELINQUENCY OFFENSES REFERRED TO THE FAMILY COURT:

The delinquency offense most frequently referred to the Family Court is stealing under \$500. There was only one felony offense in the top five offenses referred to the Family Court.

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR: Of the 96 juveniles who completed Official Court Supervision in 2014, 64 had no new legally sufficient law violations referrals to the Juvenile Court or adult criminal court while on Official Court Supervision.

CURFEW COMPLIANCE: Juveniles on supervision receive curfew checks by Deputy Juvenile Officers and Police Officers through the Nightwatch Program. From October 2013 through September 2014, juveniles were home for curfew 82.5 percent of the times that they were visited. Youth who comply consistently are given positive reinforcement, while violators receive swift sanctions.

Felony Referrals and Certifications		
Year	Felony Offenses Referred	Certifications
2014	660	14
2013	692	11
2012	688	11
2011	718	10
2010	946	15
2009	1,115	13
2008	1,192	9

- 2014 Most Frequent Offenses Referred to the Family Court**
- 1 - Stealing Under \$500
 - 2 - Assault 3rd
 - 3 - Possess up to 35 Grams Marijuana
 - 4 - Property Damage 2nd
 - 5 - Statutory Sodomy

Law-Abiding Behavior

No Legally Sufficient Referrals for New Criminal Offense: 67 %

Nightwatch Average Compliance Rate

2013-2014: 82.5%
 Number of Visits Made: 4,281
 Number of Visits Since Program Inception in 2000: 127,739 (through December 2014)



Child Protection

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Keeping Children Safe

CHILD PROTECTION AND PERMANENCY: Child abuse and neglect cases are handled by the Child Protection and Permanency Units of the Family Court. These units provide appropriate services to children until they achieve permanency, including assisting them through the Court process.

CHILDREN IN CARE: The Court grants custody of abused and neglected children to the Missouri Children’s Division. The Children’s Division investigates cases of child abuse or neglect and provides foster care and adoption services for families. The number of children in custody of the Children’s Division has vastly decreased since 2008.

TIMELINESS OF HEARINGS: The Missouri Supreme Court sets timelines for Child Protection hearings to ensure they are conducted in an expedient manner to achieve permanency for children. The Family Court received a **2014 Supreme Court Permanency Award** from the Missouri Supreme Court for the seventh year in a row for holding 99.8 percent of Family Court hearings within the timelines required by Missouri Statute and Missouri Supreme Court Rule.

PERMANENCY OUTCOMES: Children who are involved with the Court achieve permanency through reunification with their families, aging out of the system, adoption, or guardianship. A small number of cases are transferred to another Circuit.

Child Protection and Permanency Referrals 2014

Male	374
Female	295
African-American	566
White	85
Other	12
Total Referrals	677
Children Entering Care	282

*These numbers include 8 youth whose gender was not recorded and 14 youth whose race was not recorded.

Number of Children in Children’s Division Custody at End of Year

2014	603
2013	609
2012	609
2011	685
2010	805
2009	950

Hearings Held Within Time Standards for Fiscal Year

Year	Hearings Held	% Timely
2014	2,371	99.8%
2013	2,382	99.7%
2012	2,511	100%
2011	2,953	99.8%
2010	3,671	99.9%
2009	4,481	100%

Child Abuse and Neglect Permanency Outcomes 2014

Adoption	68
Reunification	105
Achieved Independence	38
Legal Guardianship	63
Transfer to DYS	1
Other	8
Runaway	3
Transfer to Other Jurisdiction	7



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Ensuring Offender Accountability

RESTITUTION: Crime victims are clear about their expectations of offenders. Offenders should be expected to pay back for the harm they have caused. In the year 2014, offenders were ordered to pay \$50,521 in restitution to victims. The actual amount of restitution paid during the year was \$40,619.

Restitution to Victims

Ordered:	\$50,521
Paid:	\$40,619
% Ordered that was paid:	80%

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Offenders are expected to perform work service to repay the community for the loss of peace suffered by the community. In the year 2014, 2,972 hours of service were performed by offenders. The value of this work to the community calculated at minimum wage was \$22,290.

Restorative Community Service Work

Ordered:	2,617
Worked:	2,972
\$ Value	\$22,290

Hours worked include youth whose hours were ordered in 2013 but were worked in 2014.

WEEKEND COMMUNITY SERVICE: Juveniles who violate the terms of their supervision or who are on Detention Alternatives may participate in the Weekend Community Service program.

Weekend Community Service Work

Hours Worked:	530
Youth Participating:	212

MEASURING SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY

Crime victims who are served by the St. Louis Family Court are provided surveys to determine their level of satisfaction. Surveys were returned by 11 victims. All of the respondents rated their overall satisfaction with the victim advocate as "Excellent", "Good", or "Fair."

Victim Satisfaction

How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the victim advocate?

"Excellent"	64%
"Good"	27%
"Fair"	9%
"Poor"	0%