

BANNOCK COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE

CLASSES AND PROGRAMS SUMMARY

PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION

YOUTH COURT

Youth Court was started in Bannock County in November 1991. It is a diversion program designed to give first or second time juvenile offenders a “second chance”. Juvenile offenders who have committed a misdemeanor are given a chance to attend Youth Court. If they complete their outlined program, they will not have a juvenile record.

In cooperation with the School District 25 Experienced Career Based Education Program, ten to twelve EBCE students are trained as a Youth Court panelists. These volunteers question the offender and their parents to gain information that will help them in deciding a disposition for the offender. Pocatello Police also assigns a school resource officer to attend Youth Court to help panelists understand important things to consider by different types of offenses. The program helps over a hundred juveniles a year to take a second look at their mistakes and make a decision to stay out of the juvenile system. In addition, it provides high school students with a realistic view of juvenile law. Youth court is held every other Wednesday at 6:00 pm.

*Ram Court is a cooperative program between Bannock County Juvenile Justice and Highland High School that uses the Youth Court Model to divert students with minor offenses and behavioral problems as an alternative to referral to the courts or a formal major discipline. Referrals to the program come from the School Resource Officer or a Vice Principal. Students referred to the program appear before a panel of student peers that is comprised of the student officers.

STATUS OFFENDER PROGRAM (Grant Funded – Increase in Funding FY 08)

The Status Offender Program is a diversion program funded by the Idaho Supreme Court that focuses on the special needs of status offenders and their families. Each family is assessed in order to develop a comprehensive treatment plan that addresses the needs and risks of the family. The Status Offender Officer meets with the family and juvenile regularly to monitor progress and help mediate family issues.

The program contracts with a counselor to provide services to families that are unable to afford counseling. This allows the families to access in a timely manner needed therapy to deal with the issues that are contributing to the maladaptive behavior in the family.

TRUANCY COURT (Grant Funding through the Balanced & Restorative Justice Grant

Truancy Court was developed as an early intervention program in partnership with the juvenile court, juvenile justice, school district #25, and other community based agencies to address the increasing problem of truancy. Students charged with a 3rd truancy are given the option to participate in the program as an alternative to probation. Cases are evaluated by the Truancy Court Team, which consists of the Juvenile Court Judge, School Resource Officer, School Official, and the Truancy Court Coordinator. A case management plan is developed based on the Balanced Approach and the needs of the juvenile and family. Additional services such as mental health services, substance abuse counseling, parent education or family therapy, and

individual counseling may be implemented as part of the case management plan based on the family's needs.

Truancy Court is a mini drug court model and consists of three phases. The juveniles and their parents attend weekly scheduled Truancy Court meetings to evaluate their compliance with the conditions of the Truancy Court program. The juveniles receive rewards for compliance and sanctions for violations. In order to graduate from the program, juveniles and parents must comply with the conditions of the Truancy Court program for an extended period of time, and the Truancy Court team must reach a consensus that the needs have been adequately addressed and the likelihood of further truancy significantly reduced.

INTERVENTION

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Juveniles are typically assigned 20 hours of community service on each juvenile charge. Community Service is completed under the supervision of a male and female Community Service Supervisor. There are several sites where Community Service takes place including The Holt Arena at Idaho State University, The Bannock County Fairgrounds, the Idaho Food Bank, ISU Daycare, and the Juvenile Detention Center. Other sites may be used when available.

Through this program the juveniles will learn how to give back to the community what they have taken through committing juvenile offenses

CONSTRUCTING A FUTURE

“Constructing A Future” is a program designed to aid juveniles on probation in the development of construction related skills and train them for future employment by teaching them responsibility while laboring in a goal oriented environment. “Constructing A Future” also enables program employees to pay off restitution and court fees. All income earned by “Constructing A Future” employees goes directly toward these debts. Those who complete the program are at an advantage in that they have acquired valuable skills that will benefit them throughout their working life and in that they are able to repay the community financially in a timely manner.

The program partners with Pocatello Neighborhood Housing (PNHS) to be able to purchase and sell the homes. They also provide oversight in some cases in regard to code issues and remodeling plans. PNHS can also assist couples wishing to buy the remodeled homes in getting financing.

School District 25 has a construction class through high school. They have helped draft the plans of the addition to the most recent home, and plan to possibly help in developing the blueprints for our next home.

HOME DETENTION / ELECTRONIC MONITOR

Under the standard terms and conditions of Probation, juveniles may be placed on house arrest at the probation officer's discretion by using the Electronic Monitor Program or the Home Detention Program. Currently up to ten clients can be supervised on Home Detention and fourteen Electronic Monitors are utilized which allows the use of graduated sanctions regarding incarceration.

JUVENILE SEX OFFENDER GROUP

The Juvenile Sex Offender Group is a community based out-patient program that treats juveniles dealing with sex offender issues. The program has 4 units that participants progress through sequentially, and must master the clinical issues within each unit prior to moving onto the next. The program includes risk assessment of juvenile sex offenders, community-based group treatment, family participation, and a monthly wrap-around team meeting.

RESTITUTION

Every effort will be made to see that each victim who has possibly sustained an out of pocket loss will have an opportunity to make a fair and accurate claim for restitution, and to see that each victim is compensated in full for their documented loss.

SHORTSTOP

“Shortstop” is a family program that was developed by members of the Orange County Bar Foundation in 1978 as a diversion program for first time offenders. In November of 1991, Bannock County purchased the rights from the foundation to implement the program as an alternative to detention for court ordered youths. The operation of the program is a joint effort between Bannock County Juvenile Justice, the Bannock County Sheriff’s Department and community volunteers.

“Shortstop” is a two session program held on Tuesday nights from 5:45 until 9:00 at the Bannock County Criminal Justice Center. Each session is facilitated by a trained instructor who volunteers his or her time to the program.

In the first session, offenders are given a dose of “reality therapy”. They are shown what their life will be like if they continue to commit crimes and become an adult criminal. In this session, offenders are assigned number and referred to by number through the rest of the session. They are searched and shackled by jailors and then transported to a holding cell in the facility. Parents are allowed to accompany the juveniles to the holding cell. Once in the cell, several inmates come in to talk to the kids and their parents about what life is like in jail and the decisions they made that led them to jail.

Afterwards, parents and kids return to the classroom where each offender in place on the “Hot Seat”. During this portion of the program, the instructor questions the offenders one at a time about their crimes. Offenders are prompted to think back about their actions and five ideas of what they could have done differently in the decision making process.

After each juvenile is questioned by the instructor, parents and kids are given a book that has 100 pages of easy to read text and ten homework assignments. The homework assignments include a business interview with a community volunteer and spending time together with the family, along with other assignments.

In the second session, kids are given name tags instead of number tags. They are shown a video entitled “Twice Pardoned”. After the video, the instructor reviews the homework assignments with the participants by asking for their responses to each assignment. Kids are able to see how the homework relate to patterns of behavior that lead to success in their lives.

The program concludes with a graduation, since each juvenile is allowed to go through the program only once.

VICTIM OFFENDER MEDIATION / VICTIM IMPACT PANEL

Victims of property crimes will be given an opportunity to participate in the accountability area of the juvenile's case plan through either victim offender mediation or a victim impact panel. Referrals to the program can be made by the Restitution Officer, and/or Probation Officers.

INTENSIVE INTERVENTION

THINKING FOR A CHANGE

"Thinking For A Change" (TFAC) is a 10 to 12 week class that is taught twice a week. Classes are taught at the school by the Probation Officers. TFAC is taught with two main components: Social Skills and Cognitive Self Change. The first three sessions teach the students how to listen and communicate better with others. The next five lessons teach the skill of cognitive self change. Cognitive self change is designed to help the students recognize their thought patterns and "risky" thoughts or beliefs that often lead to making poor choices and getting into trouble. The students are taught to replace their "risky thinking" with new thinking which should lead to new outcomes. The cognitive self change component is followed by four more social skill lessons

FAMILY MEDIATION

Family Mediation is a solution-focused technique to reduce conflict in the home between family members. Sessions are facilitated by trained mediators, and results in a contract or agreement signed by all participants.

JUVENILE DRUG COURT

The Bannock County Juvenile Drug Court utilized a team approach to address the challenges presented by chronic juvenile substance abusers. Members of the team include the Juvenile Drug Court Judge, a deputy prosecutor, a deputy public defender, probation officer, treatment providers, and the Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator.

Participants progress through 3 program phases. The first phase requires the juvenile to attend Drug Court weekly. Participants are graduated to Phase 2 when they have had five straight weeks of remaining clean and sober and have met all other treatment goals. Participants in Phase 2 attend every other week for 3 months. When participants successfully complete Phase 2 by remaining clean and sober and meeting treatment goals, they graduate to Phase 3. Participants in Phase 3 attend Drug Court once each month. They fully graduate the program by remaining clean and sober and meeting the treatment goals for Phase 3.

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM

The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) deals with the most high-risk youth. It is the desire of the staff that the youth's time in this program be productive. Our program goals include:

- Providing a means to hold the youth accountable for their actions by being on time, going to their appointments, managing their time and meeting daily obligations.
- Offering ways for the youth to develop skills in education and pre-vocational areas by working with computers, dealing in public relations, practicing proper social etiquette, cooking, cleaning, money management, practicing job interviews, resume writing and substance abuse education. We also tour the community to expose the youth to different areas of career possibilities. This includes ISU Vo-Tech, the fire department and paramedics, banks, stock brokerage offices, insurance companies, radio and T.V. stations and various other businesses. We distribute a monthly newsletter in which everyone has a part. This ranges from editorials, art -work, poems, photographs and selling advertising. Once a week we go out and perform community service. We do trash pickup, painting, cleaning, sandbagging, etc.
- Addressing areas of special needs through group processing and community providers. This includes utilizing sports, conflict management, smoking cessation and working on self-esteem.

The educational backgrounds of the youth in this program vary from elementary to high school. They work at these different levels on history, math, writing, science and literature. Some take and pass their G.E.D. tests and others are reinstated into school.

For many of these youth, this program is an alternative State's custody. For others it is a transition from State's custody back into the community. The program is committed to providing the youth with an opportunity to develop the skills they will need to become productive members of our community.