

Programs and Services Funded by the Cumberland County Youth Services Commission

State / Community Partnership & Family Court Services Funds

Sex Offender Services (Disposition) - ASAPP Healthcare

Referral Sources: Family Court, Juvenile Probation

Sex Offender specific services to court involved youth who have been adjudicated delinquent of a sexual offense by the Juvenile Justice System. Services to include:

- (1) Forensic Sex Offender Evaluations – Evaluate and diagnose referred clients to establish perpetrator's sexual abuse/assault history. Evaluation reports include recommendations for service planning. Evaluations are completed by, minimally, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with experience evaluating juvenile sex offenders. Clinical supervision and review of sex offender evaluations for juvenile sex offenders are provided by, minimally, a Licensed Psychologist with experience working with juvenile sex offenders.*
- (2) Individual Sex Offender Therapy – Therapy will include an Individual Service Plan to address the specific emotional, physical and social needs of the youth sex offender in order to reduce the likelihood of recidivism, delinquency and other criminal behaviors. Service includes monthly reporting to referring agency (usually Juvenile Probation), and a Discharge Summary / After-Care and Safety Plan. Therapy is provided by, minimally, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) experienced with juvenile sex offenders.*

In Home Counseling (Disposition / Diversion) - Disposition: Robins' Nest / Diversion: ASAPP Healthcare

Referral Sources for Disposition: Family Court, Juvenile Probation

Referral Sources for Diversion: Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)/Mobile Response and Stabilization Systems (MRSS), Juvenile Conference Committee (JCC), Intake Service Conference (ISC), Law Enforcement and Schools

In Home Counseling services provided to Cumberland County youth who are involved with, or are a risk of involvement with, the Family Court System.

Goals include helping families improve family functioning through individual and family counseling; crisis intervention; education advocacy with the school system; linkages with extended family neighbors, and other community resources; and aftercare planning with family and appropriate agencies in order to prevent service gaps. Services include assisting families to negotiate the education system and secure an appropriate education program suited to the individual youth when requested by referral source. Program provides juvenile anger management training on how to cope with violence; and recognize, understand, and control anger.

Individual Mentoring (Disposition / Diversion) - Youth Advocate Program, Inc.

Referral Sources for Disposition: Family Court, Juvenile Probation

Referral Sources for Diversion: Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)/Mobile Response and Stabilization Systems (MRSS), Juvenile Conference Committee (JCC), Intake Service Conference (ISC), Law Enforcement and Schools

Individual Mentoring Program for Cumberland County youth who are involved with, or at-risk of involvement with, the Family Court system. Services are provided through a consistent one-on-one relationship between a supportive trained Advocate and referred youth. Advocates assist with compliance of Court Orders and/or Probation requirements, if applicable. Services include: Develop and implement an Individual Service Plan to address youth's immediate needs and specific goals and objectives; facilitate both male and female responsive services and appropriate gender specific linkages available in the community; and cultural and educational activities. Cultural sensitivity, language barriers and special interests of clients are considered when matching advocates with youth.

In-Home Detention Alternative Program (Detention) - Youth Advocate Program, Inc.

Referral Source: Family Court

"Detention" is defined as the temporary care of juveniles in physically restricting facilities pending court disposition. An objective of detention is to provide secure custody for those juveniles who are deemed a threat to the physical safety of the community and/or whose confinement is necessary to ensure their presence at their next court hearing.

Detention Alternative Programs provide supervision to juveniles who would otherwise be placed in a secure detention facility while awaiting his/her adjudicatory hearing, expanding the array of pre-adjudication and pre-disposition placement options available to the judiciary.

The court will have the option to provide an alternative to incarceration on pre-adjudicated/pre-disposition matters for juveniles who are charged with a delinquent offense.

Services to minimally include: frequent, random face-to-face contact with juveniles and their families, and monitoring of school and/or work attendance. Although supervision may include phone contact via a landline telephone, a landline should not supersede admission to the program. Reliance on a landline should not create a barrier to admission to the program

Service provider should respond to requests from the Court for program intake on a twenty-four (24) hour basis, thus allowing for juvenile's release to family/parent/guardian. A formal program intake process should be completed within 24 hours of release to family.

Non-compliance with a home detention alternative program may result in the youth being placed in the Juvenile Detention Center. A weekly progress report to Family Court is requested and program infractions should be reported as soon as possible.

Cognitive Skills Program (Disposition) - Robins' Nest, Inc.

Referral Source: Family Court, Juvenile Probation

Cognitive Skills training in order to teach a small group (10-15) new life skills in an effort to provide them with alternative methods and options to deal with their anger, frustration, and perceived lack of choices. Program services address negative peer influence, anger management, conflict resolution, disruptive school behavior, truancy, personality type assessment, healthy boundaries, substance abuse, gang involvement, communication skills and cognitive processes.

Program elements include meals for participants when and if the program is conducted during lunch or dinner time; team building exercises; and Juvenile Probation involvement/participation in program services. Incentives and a recognition ceremony for youth who successfully complete the program are included in the project.

Adolescent Drug and Alcohol Services (Disposition / Diversion) - Cumberland County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Addiction Services

Referral Source for Disposition: Family Court, Juvenile Probation

Referral Sources for Diversion: Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU)/Mobile Response and Stabilization Systems (MRSS), Juvenile Conference Committee (JCC), Intake Service Conference (ISC), Law Enforcement and Schools

Services include:

- Alcohol and Drug Evaluations
- On-site/Expedited evaluation, as needed, for the Family Court or Juvenile Detention Center
- Urine Drug Screens
- Synthetic Drug Testing
- Level I Outpatient Treatment Services
- Education and Support Services
- Substance Abuse Specific Family Counseling
- Transportation

Adolescent transportation needs and locations for services are addressed to help ensure participation.

Wawa Summer Employment Program (Prevention) - Cumberland County Department of Workforce Development

Referral Sources: Cumberland Regional, Bridgeton, Millville, and Vineland High Schools

Services include: Transportation from high school locations to Wawa stores in shore communities and return, as well as job coaching services to students during their summer employment. The funding for this program will increase the number of working days, thus allowing the youth employees to work an additional shift during the months of May, June and September where the schedules are limited to weekends only. This expansion will keep the at-risk youth engaged in a productive activity and will reduce the potential for getting involved in delinquent activities.

Client Specific Funds (Disposition / Detention / Re-Entry) – Youth Services Commission Multi Disciplinary Team

Referral Sources: Judge/Family Court, Juvenile Detention, Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Parole

Purpose of MDTs – There are three purposes of the Multi-Disciplinary Team:

- 1) Detention – as an alternative to detention for a juvenile charged as delinquent;
- 2) Disposition – as a recommendation for a disposition option for a judge of the Family Court upon an adjudication or delinquency; and
- 3) Reentry – as a component of aftercare following the commitment of a juvenile to the Juvenile Justice Commission by a judge of the Family Court.

Operating Procedures of the MDT – Referrals will have a general outline of basic information needs, which should include: background (history); present issues (what is needed) and

disposition and/or reentry information (what referral source is recommending or services available). The process must clearly show that all other avenues or funding sources were exhausted or inappropriate. The MDT's mission is expediency. Part of the MDT's objectives is to make sure that timeframes are met according to the juveniles' and the courts' needs. The MDT assists in moving juveniles expeditiously through the system with reliable facts.

Membership and Responsibilities

Membership - In order to assure a comprehensive approach to assessing and planning for the needs of the target population, the membership of the MDT shall consist of a wide range of youth-serving systems within the Family Court and the community. The MDT will be staffed with members of the county's Youth Services Commission along with other related personnel from the Family Court, JJC, and DCP&P. Core members of the MDT may include representatives from Family Case Management Office, Probation Department, Detention Program, Providers, DCP&P, JJC, Schools, and Mental Health Providers.

Responsibilities - The primary responsibility of MDT members is to develop client specific plans and service to insure that the client doesn't become re-involved in the juvenile justice system. Members should adhere to rules of confidentiality and actively participate in appropriate case conferences.

Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Innovations Funds

Probation Enrichment and Transportation w/Life Skills Component - SODAT of New Jersey, Inc.

Referral Source: Juvenile Probation

The goal of this program is to reduce barriers which often interfere with juveniles' compliance with their terms of probation, resulting in Failure to Appear (FTA) and Violation of Probation (VOP). FTAs and VOPs lead to bench warrants, which usually lands a juvenile in the Juvenile Detention Center. SODAT, in partnership with Cumberland Juvenile Probation, provides opportunities for probationers and their families to ensure their understanding and ability to comply with the terms of their probations.

SODAT will partner with Cumberland Juvenile Probation to provide a Probation Orientation every other month, which will give the juvenile and family the information needed to help them successfully complete their probation term. Dinner will be provided for probationers, their families and probation staff at each orientation.

In addition to the Probation Orientation, SODAT will coordinate one educational/cultural Enrichment Trip per month. Juvenile Probation Officers and SODAT staff accompany juveniles on the trips. These trips are offered to probationers at certain benchmarks during their probationary term. Meals are provided for juveniles, probation staff and SODAT staff. An Enrichment trip, including meal times, promotes positive relationships between the Probation Officers and Juveniles.

Life Skills Lessons are offered each month. Dinner will be provided at each Life Skills session. Youth and their families will be encouraged to attend. Various topics, such as Daily Living Skills, Self-Care/Hygiene Skills, Relationships/Communication Skills, Housing/Money Management Skills, Career/Education Planning, will be offered to juveniles and their families. Speakers may be invited to present for a topic and/or trips to shop for items pertaining to the lesson may be provided.

Because transportation continues to be a huge barrier in Cumberland County, assistance is provided for youth and their families who have charges pending in the Family Court, and probationers and their families for court appearances, hearings or appointments, court ordered evaluations, service or treatment appointments, appointments with the Public Defender, Probation reporting, probation orientation sessions, and other appointments relative to the juvenile's charges or conditions of probation supervision. Bus passes may be issued to the probationers; however, other modes of transportation may be arranged if public transportation is not available. Transportation will also be provided for youth participating in community-based healthy/educational incentives as described.

In addition to providing bus passes and/or taxi fare, SODAT will utilize an agency-owned van to make transportation easier for youth and their families who are not on a public transportation route (i.e., Commercial Township, Lawrence Township, Fairfield Township, etc.).

Court Notification Program

A court notification system that provides text, email and voice notification to youth and their families who have pending court hearings before a Superior Court Judge. In addition, a SMART television placed in the family waiting area where general information about family court, transportation services, and general information on a variety of community-based services available to youth and families.