

Court Services

Department Overview

In FY 05, six programs were consolidated into the Court Services as recommended in the Criminal Justice System Report. The Department's vision is "To provide effective, evidenced based community criminal justice programs to Gallatin County." The Department's mission is to "Provide logical and fiscally responsible programs that are effective in reducing costs to the system and the taxpayers, contribute to reductions in recidivism, enhance public safety, and support victim's rights."

Some of the more unique programs the Department provides are Justice Councils, Money Management, the Virgil Project, Community Service, Electronic Monitoring (includes Global Positioning System and Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring) and random drug testing.

Court Services continues to focus on two priorities established by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) in 2011; reduction of recidivism through successful re-entry (Re-Entry Task Force) & supporting mental health services.

The Office of Court Services recognizes the needs identified by the CJCC and is actively involved in the reduction of recidivism and successful re-entry and mental health initiatives. The Director of Court Services is an executive board member on the Re-Entry Task Force. The Pre-Trial Supervisor is the coordinator for the "Virgil Program" and a member of the Mental Health Central Service Area Board that coordinates mental health services for our community. Court Services, in conjunction with Western Montana Mental Health Center (WMMHC) and the Montana Sheriff and Peace Officers Association, were awarded a Department of Justice grant to continue the Pretrial mental health case management and compliance monitoring while WMMHC are providing wrap-around mental health services. Although the grant has expired, Court Services has incorporated the program components into the daily business plan. Post-trial programs such as Treatment Court, Misdemeanor Probation, and Justice Councils assist to identify and refer defendants to WMMHC, local providers and the Veteran Outreach Specialist whom provide mental health services.

Department Goals

- Provide logical and fiscally responsible programs that are effective in reducing the cost to the system and tax payers; contribute to the reduction of recidivism and victimization while enhancing public safety and supporting victims' rights.
- Provide exceptional customer service that focuses on support and changing behaviors while reducing recidivism and victimization.
- Maintain the trust of the Courts by providing highly trained staff certified through the statutory requirements of the Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) as well as other state and nationally recognized training opportunities, that are empowered to accomplish their duties in a responsible manner.
- Improve communications between Court Services and other County programs.
- Continue to increase revenues through the collections of fees.

Recent Accomplishments

- Continued development of the Virgil Program, a mental health diversion program that codifies efforts to address the needs of that population identified by the CJCC.
- Community Service workers provided 13,199 hours or \$102,952 worth of service to many recognized community programs including the Fairgrounds, Special Olympics, city and County parks, the city firearms range, the MSU homecoming event, Adopt-A-Highway, HATCH and many others.
- Provided an in-depth educational briefing to the Legislative Law and Justice Interim Committee on Alternative Sentencing programs.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Court Services

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2013	Final FY 2014	Actual FY 2014	Request FY 2015	Preliminary FY 2015	Final FY 2015
Personnel	\$ 550,496	\$ 605,501	\$ 587,463	\$ 645,863	\$ 630,851	\$ 633,351
Operations	433,775	553,954	484,640	433,615	433,615	433,615
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	13,000	8,000	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 997,271	\$ 1,167,455	\$ 1,072,103	\$ 1,079,478	\$ 1,064,466	\$ 1,066,966

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ 997,271	\$ 1,159,455	\$ 1,072,103	\$ 1,079,478	\$ 1,064,466	\$ 1,066,966
Special Revenue Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	8,000	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 997,271	\$ 1,167,455	\$ 1,072,103	\$ 1,079,478	\$ 1,064,466	\$ 1,066,966

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 511,075	\$ 508,773	\$ 503,685	\$ 459,339	\$ 471,902	\$ 444,749
Non-Tax Revenues	406,610	502,783	452,505	420,965	420,156	460,805
Cash Reappropriated	79,585	155,898	115,913	199,174	172,408	161,412
Total	\$ 997,270	\$ 1,167,454	\$ 1,072,103	\$ 1,079,478	\$ 1,064,466	\$ 1,066,966

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2013	FTE 2014	FTE 2015
1	Full-Time	Director of Court Services	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Full-Time	Pretrial Supervisor	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Full-Time	Pretrial Officers (.50 Grant Funded)	3.50	4.00	4.00
0	Full Time	Community Corrections Officer	1.00	0.00	0.00
1	Full-Time	Misdemeanor Probation Supervisor	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Full-Time	Misdemeanor Probation/Community Corrections Officer	0.00	1.00	1.00
0	Full-Time	Misdemeanor Probation Officer	0.50	0.00	0.00
0	Full-Time	Assistant Misdemeanor Probation Officer	0.50	0.00	0.00
1	Full-Time	Project Coordinator	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Full-Time	Administrative Technician	1.00	1.00	1.00
10		Total Program	10.50	10.00	10.00

Court Services

2015 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- Increase On-Call pay by \$1,166

Operations

- Rewrite Drug Court policy and establish new procedures as outlined by the National Association of Drug Court professionals and Drug Court “Best Practices”

Capital

- Software \$80,000

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established a set of overarching goals for the County government. Listed below are the goals, followed by the methods by which the Department is striving to fulfill those goals.

Align community needs with budgetary decisions

- Provide logical and fiscally responsible programs effective in reducing costs to the system and tax payers; contribute to reductions in recidivism and victimization while enhancing public safety and supporting victim’s rights.

Adhere to long-term plans

- Meet or exceed customer service standards by measuring complaints & tracking their resolution.

Exceptional Customer Service

- Provide services consistent with federal and state laws - Equal Employment and Opportunity, Governmental Fair Practice Act, Americans with Disability Act, and County’s standards.
- Maintain system requirements for Criminal Justice Information.
- Meet or exceed federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Be Model for Excellence in Government

- Continue to provide technical expertise to counties in the State of Montana.
- Continue to be recognized as the leader in Court Services programming in the State of Montana.
- Engage in community activities and programs that support the goals of the Commission.

Improve Communications

- Engage in education that improves team building skills.
- Be available, empathetic and listen to others including victims, customers & collateral agencies.

To be the Employer of Choice

- Continue to pursue state and national training opportunities that educate staff on evidence based practices that contribute to optimal efficiencies to meet the needs of the courts.
- Empower staff through professional growth opportunities and involvement in system development.

Court Services

Workload Indicators / Performance Measures

Workload Indicators	Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected
Indicator	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY2015
1. # of complaints and responses	<3	<3	<3	<3
2. # of people served in programs	2,245	2,300	2,350	2500
3. Treatment Court average participants per month	23	23	27	26
4. Total number of Pretrial Defendants screened	1,016	1,000	1,250	1300
5. Justice Council/Money Management referrals	41	50	60	70
6. Misdemeanor Probation sign-ups	110	125	70	75
7. EM total days of monitoring	11,613	12,500	15,223	15000
8. Community Service clients served	430	400	310	350
9. Victim Impact Panel clients served	545	550	450	450
10. Estimated # of breath tests for alcohol		16,400	17,000	17000
11. Estimated # of drug tests		7200	7,200	7200
12. Average Pretrial Caseload		450	450	450
13. Restitution and fees paid by probationers *		\$44,166	\$55,000	\$50,000
14. Revenues generated by each program (grants and fees) (FY 15 revenue reduction due to grants completions)	\$237,306	\$251,000	\$296,107	\$230,000

Performance Measures	Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected
Measure	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
1. Pretrial Success Rates*	85%	85%	77%	80%
2. Rate of Treatment Court success**	84%	84%	85%	85%
3. Total hours of completed community service	10,726	10,400	13,199	13,000
4. Re-Entry bed use days (FY 10 & 11 - 3,650/yr FY 12 – 2190/yr)	975	1,465	1,178	1,460
7. Misdemeanor Probation completion rate		>85%	>80%	80%
8. Justice Council Completion Rate		61%	65%	70%
9. Money Management Completion Rate		50%	55%	70%

*Pretrial success defined as not committing a new crime while on pretrial supervision.

**Treatment Court success defined as not committing a new felony in Montana since graduation.

Comments

Please review the Court Services home page for more information.