

OKLAHOMA COUNTY JUVENILE BUREAU FY 2002-03

YEAR IN REVIEW

This past fiscal year has seen the last of the most significant modifications for the daily operation of the Juvenile Bureau. Most significantly, we have expanded the operation of our Intake/Diversion Unit from a work-week of Monday-Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM, to having personnel on-site seven days a week, for seventeen hours a day (7 AM to 12 AM). This availability of our staff promotes opportunities of us to be more readily available to respond to youth placed in the detention center, to parents/families during evenings and weekends, and to law enforcement agencies that have youth in custody and needing immediate attention.

In addition, we implemented a significant expansion to our community service and work restitution program. We have been able to place youth in the community on a variety of projects that provides opportunities for them to repay the victims with the local community through both service hours and payment of actual Court-ordered restitution. More details of this program will follow within this Annual Report.

In keeping with our commitment to our vision to “Provide Opportunities for Success,” these modifications in our daily operations continue to reflect our commitment to the implementation of procedures and services that reflect the “Broken Windows Model of Probation.”* This Model reflects a commitment to community-based probation procedures and services that place the safety of the community first in its objectives, and at the same time, promotes effective intervention for the offender. A summary of the “Broken Windows Model” key strategies follows this Review. We continue to work toward the development of new services and interventions that are community-based and focus on the needs of youth and their families in an effort to assist the youth to live productively within the community. This approach is supported through programs that not only enhance accountability, but also provide intervention and support services. The pages that follow will describe these initiatives in each area of our operation.

It would be an oversight to neglect the work and dedication of the Program Administrators who have worked diligently over the past year to implement the programs and services described within this Report. Melissa Gonzalez was

promoted from a Court Unit Supervisor to Administrator of Intake/Diversion Services after the retirement of the previous administrator in March 2003. She has provided tremendous leadership in the implementation of new procedures for the expanded hours of this Unit. Eric Remington as Administrator of Court Probation Services continues to develop and implement procedures and practices in support of our commitment to community-based probation services. As Administrator of Special Probation Services, Doris Stevenson continues to provide leadership and management in the implementation of new specialized services for youth and families. Larry Hicks continues to provide effective leadership for the Detention Center, maintaining a commitment to exceeding both State and National standards, as he serves as the Administrator of Detention Services. Mr. Tom Tapscott, as Administrative Services Specialist, has further developed and enhanced our ability to gather and report critical statistical data; to submit more effective grant applications; and to better coordinate data collection for Title IV-E funding. And finally, Mike Green, as Support Services Director/Building Manager, continues to assist this Director in the management of the Juvenile Justice Center complex. Having this group of leaders who are committed to our shared vision is an asset to not only the Juvenile Bureau, but also to the citizens of Oklahoma County.

In closing, I want to again personally thank Judge Nan Patton, Presiding Judge for the Juvenile Division, Oklahoma County, for her continued support and leadership for the Juvenile Bureau. Through our shared vision for the Bureau, we share a commitment to the citizens of Oklahoma County.

I continue to look forward to the challenges and opportunities that will come our way as we work to have a positive impact on youth and families in Oklahoma County.

Sincerely,

Randy Turner, M.A.
Director

- Transforming Probation Through Leadership: The “Broken Windows” Model, by the Reinventing Probation Council, published by the Center for Civic Innovation at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, 52 Vanderbilt Ave, New York, NY, 10017.