

COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA ACTION SHEET

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| Meeting Date: | BC 05/09/23 FC 05/23/23 |
| Subject: | Include Mental Health Component to PST funded Juvenile Drug Court Program |
| Presenter: | David Wheeler |
| Prepared By: | Rosa Garcia |
| Reviewed By: | David Wheeler |
| PA Review, Approval to Form: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A (If no, include reasoning for no approval) |
| Type of Agenda Item: | Type of Action Needed: (Multiple boxes can be checked, if necessary) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Pass Motion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision / Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Pass Resolution |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scheduled Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Letter / Document <input type="checkbox"/> Pass Ordinance |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Execute Contract |

Summary / Background Information

The Juvenile Drug Court Program is funded through public safety tax dollars and supported by joint resolution Benton County 2022-968 and Franklin County 2022-316, along with a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the allocation of Adult and Juvenile Drug Court and Functional Family Therapy (FFT) programs.

Referrals to Juvenile Drug Court have reduced. Factors likely contributing to reduced referrals include the change in drug possession laws as a result of the Blake decision in 2021, which requires law enforcement to submit two community treatment referrals prior to prosecution. The Washington State Supreme Court also instituted Juvenile Court Rule 7.16 in February 2021, which limits the Superior Court's authority to issue warrants for failing to appear at court hearings to only those cases where the circumstances present a serious threat to the community.

The Juvenile Drug Court team has researched and revamped their program to include a mental health component to the therapeutic court process and has proposed the name Individual Treatment Court. Individual Treatment Court will encompass both the current Juvenile Drug Court along with the proposed mental health component. Juveniles with a mental health diagnosis could therefore be referred, provided they meet the proposed criteria. There would be no additional costs as referrals to either those juveniles with a substance abuse diagnosis and/or mental health diagnosis would continue to be limited to the 25 total slots currently funded by the joint resolution and MOU. The Juvenile Drug Court team has vetted this proposal through local stakeholders, to include Benton Franklin Counties Superior Court Judges, Benton County Prosecutor and their Juvenile Deputy Prosecutors, Franklin County Prosecutor and their Juvenile Deputy Prosecutor, and the Juvenile Defense Panel. All have expressed support and recognize the benefits of extending the therapeutic court model to include juveniles with a mental health condition and is budget neutral to Benton and Franklin Counties.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact to the county budgets.

Recommendation

Support no cost expansion of Juvenile Drug Court to include a mental health component and renaming of the program to **Individual Treatment Court**.

Suggested Motion

NA.