

2006 Showcase in Excellence Awards Recipient

Maricopa County Juvenile Probation – “Special Supervision for Juveniles - A Balanced Approach”



Testimonial of Value

The Juvenile Probation Department Special Supervision Unit has derived great benefit from participating in the AZ Quality Award process, submitting a process that has a balanced and systematic approach in working with adjudicated juvenile sex

offenders. It is truly a team effort and the unit is viewed as a model program by those who work in the field of juvenile justice.

- Rudy Mayfield, Treatment Services Division Director

Company Information:

Highest Ranking Official:

Carol L. Boone,
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Contact Person:

Barbara Hernandez,
Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
(602) 506-2508
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Type of work:

Provides access to evidence-based early intervention, supervision, treatment and secure care for youth and families.

Workforce:

955 Authorized Positions

Highlights of Organizational Process:

Established in 1995, the Special Supervision Unit (SSU) focuses on the individualized and holistic needs of juveniles who commit sexual offenses in Maricopa County. The process is designed to meet the special needs of the offender, while maintaining a direct focus on victims and community protection. Use of a non-traditional approach through collaborative efforts with clergy, tribes, schools, and behavioral health networks supports a vision of serving citizens by working collaboratively, innovatively, efficiently, and effectively.

Evaluation is systematic and integrated throughout the process. Team members use the Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS) system to manage processes with a focus on results: for the juveniles and families; for the community; and for the department. Risk assessment efforts include clinical interviews, use of polygraph testing procedures, behavioral observation, and case record and reports review.

The Special Supervision Unit (SSU) participates in annual training events sponsored by nationally recognized professional organizations. SSU team members attend these training events as a unit, dividing instruction time and networking with colleagues from nationally and internationally known organizations to absorb the most content for maximum benefit to the team. Monthly staff meetings ensure unit-wide training efficiency is realized.

Performance measures such as the downward trend in recidivism among juvenile sex offenders indicate that the supervision and surveillance processes are beneficial. A twenty percentage point decrease (30% to 11%) in the recidivism rate for juvenile sex offenders between 2002 and 2005 far outpaces the constant 31% rate for the general juvenile population over the same time period. These figures support the department mission and vision.

The SSU utilizes a balanced approach in the supervision and treatment of juvenile sex offenders that demonstrates an effective, systematic approach that is responsive to the individual needs of this specialized population. The approach, deployment, learning, and integration aligns individualized child and family teams with the juvenile sex offender's treatment and supervision. Outstanding leadership is evident and contributes to very good relative performance.

Quality Results

- ❖ The MCJPD measures process performance and value to the organization through standard recidivism data. Results show a downward trend in recidivism among juvenile sex offenders. This performance demonstrates the vision of the SSU to help juvenile offenders become responsible citizens. From 2002 to 2005, this program demonstrated a decreasing trend in the recidivism rate for juvenile sex offenders from 30 % to 11 %, as compared to a constant rate of 31% in the general juvenile population.

Quality Processes

- ❖ The MCJPD utilizes a balanced approach in this process that demonstrates an effective, systematic approach that individualized child and family teams with the juvenile sex offender's treatment and supervision. A collaborative approach enables treatment to include non-traditional partners such as churches, tribes, and schools within the process, as well as behavioral health networks. This approach is designed to meet cultural needs of all concerned and exemplifies citizens serving citizens by working collaboratively, innovatively, efficiently and effectively.
- ❖ Fact based, systematic evaluation and process improvement and a commitment to organizational learning are evident throughout the SSU, contributing to organizational success by providing guidance to the multidisciplinary team and applying control measures that aid in standard-of-care decisions for the offender. Team members share successes and barriers to success as a method to improve the process so that key requirements are met.
- ❖ The team approach in place is aligned with the Department Mission and Strategic Priorities, along with the core values of social responsibility, managing for innovation and organizational and personal learning. The team philosophy means that everyone knows where they fit in the process and encourages a mutual respect for roles.