

Alternatives to Juvenile Pre-trial Detention

Home or Community Detention

- **Program Generally**
 - these programs started in the late 1970s
 - either public employees or community-based non-profit agencies run these programs
- **Program Elements**
 - many programs enter into a written agreement between the youth and his parents to establish clear behavioral expectations
 - these contracts clarify where the youth may go and expectations for school and employment
 - the responsibilities of the parent are also outlined
 - many program use electronic monitoring in 1 of 2 situations:
 - as a more restrictive option for youth who have failed to comply with standard program rules (this should be in addition to face-to-face contacts – not in their place); or
 - as a means to release youth who might not otherwise meet routine program eligibility criteria
- **Target Population**
 - youth who can safely reside in their own homes or with relatives
 - the youth observe a weekday curfew (e.g., 6:00 p.m.) and must restrict their movement outside of home to pre-approved activities (including location & time of these activities)
- **Staff**
 - home detention staff provides frequent, random, unannounced face-to-face community supervision to monitor youth's behavior
 - staff keeps in contact with the youth through frequent telephone calls
 - a violation does not necessarily result in return to secured detention – staff first considers increased supervision
- **Capacity**
 - the capacity varies depending on the program, but the average capacity is just under 200 youth
- **Length of Stay**
 - this varies depending on the program, but the average length of stay is between 30 and 45 days
- **Cost**
 - they are more cost-efficient than secure detention – on average \$10 per day per youth
- **Successful Completion Rate**
 - they have remarkable success rates: 90% - 95% make all of their court appearances and remain arrest-free
- **Sample Location: Multnomah County**
- **Program Generally**
 - all youth are started at the same contact levels, but alters supervision levels weekly depending on compliance with the program (i.e., a youth's curfew may be eased or he may be able to attend a special activity)
- **Staff**
 - hourly workers from Volunteers of America work with the detention program

- **Program Elements**
 - Week 1
 - 4 calls per day from the youth
 - 2 face-to-face daily
 - 2 face-to-face curfew checks a week
 - 5 curfew phone checks
 - Week 2
 - 3 calls per day from the youth
 - 1 face-to-face daily
 - 2 curfew checks a week
 - Week 3
 - 2 calls per day from the youth
 - 3 face-to-face contacts a week
 - Week 4
 - 1 call per day from the youth
 - 2 face-to-face contacts a week
- **Sample Location: Sacramento County**
 - **Staff**
 - the probation department operates this program
 - **Program Elements**
 - the officers conduct unannounced home and school visits, make collateral contacts and install electronic monitoring devices when needed
 - **Capacity**
 - 160 youth are supervised daily
 - **Cost**
 - daily costs for supervision is approximately \$16 per youth
- **Sample Location: Cook County**
 - **Staff**
 - probation staff operate this program
 - each team of probation officers (2 officers make up a team) is responsible for 25 cases
 - **Program Elements**
 - at least 3 weekly face-to-face contacts in youth's home
 - random telephone conversations
 - youth restricted to home except for school and church and other approved activities
 - collateral contacts to check on school attendance and other activities
 - electronic monitoring as needed
 - the parent must be willing and cooperative
 - **Target Population**
 - secure detention-eligible youths with no more than 1 outstanding arrest warrant and no previous failures on home confinement
 - willing and cooperative parent
 - **Length of Stay**
 - the length of stay in program is generally 30 – 45 days
 - **Cost**
 - daily costs for supervision is approximately \$10 per youth
 - **Capacity**
 - the program has a capacity of 225 youths
 - on average, between 180 and 200 youths make up the average daily population

- **Successful Completion Rate**
 - 91% of participants remain arrest-free and make their court hearings during their time in the program
- **Sample Location: Philadelphia Youth Advocate Program**
 - **Staff**
 - non-profit, private agency trains community residents to operate this program
 - a staff member supervises no more than 4 youth at a time
 - **Program Elements**
 - 15 – 30 hours a week of face-to-face supervision in the community
 - youths are referred to recreational, educational, and vocational opportunities in the community
 - daily checks on school attendance and curfews
 - electronic monitoring as needed
 - staff accompany all youth to court appearances
 - **Target Population**
 - secure detention-eligible youths referred by court
 - **Cost**
 - 15 supervised hours a week costs \$225 per week, per youth
 - 30 supervised hours a week costs \$325 per week, per youth
 - **Successful Completion Rate**
 - 92% of participants remain arrest-free and make their court hearings during their time in the program

Day and Evening Reporting Centers

- **Program Generally**

- non-secure community programs that provide 6 to 12 hours of daily supervision and structured activities for youth
- these youth require more intensive oversight than an in-home program can provide because they are often not enrolled in school at the time of their release from detention
- the community is protected by the center's intensive daily supervision of each youth
- electronic monitoring is used as needed

- **Length of Stay**

- the length of stay for youths is approximately 30 days

- **Cost**

- the cost for supervision is between \$32 and \$35

- **Sample Location: Broward County, FL**

- **Program Generally**

- day reporting is used in conjunction with non-secure residential placements
- youth participate in educational and recreational programming at the day reporting center that could not be offered at their group home

- **Sample Location: Cook County**

- **Program Generally**

- this county created a system of evening reporting centers that provide structure and supervision for youth between 3:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M.
- over 60% of the referrals to the evening reporting centers would have been sent to secure detention if the evening reporting centers did not exist

- **Program Elements**

- 6 hours of daily supervision, tutoring, counseling and recreation
- curfew checks
- evening meals and transportation home
- youths are referred for additional recreational, educational, and vocational opportunities in the community
- collateral checks on school attendance and school work
- program supervision can be enhanced by linking participants to home confinement program and/or electronic monitoring

- **Target Population**

- secure detention-eligible youths
- chronic VOPs

- **Staff**

- non-profit, community-based service organizations train community staff
- each staff member supervises no more than 5 youth

- **Length of Stay**

- the length of stay for youths is approximately 21 – 30 days

- **Cost**

- the cost for supervision is \$33 per youth per day

- **Successful Completion Rate**

- 90% of youth make their court hearings, remain arrest-free while in the program

Residential Alternatives

- **Program Generally – Shelter Program**
 - a non-secure residential facility staffed to provide time-limited housing
 - this alternative provides age-specific services including education, recreation, tutoring, and life skill training
 - some students attend education at the shelter whereas others attend public school
 - shelters are staffed to handle emergency medical situations
- **Target Population**
 - this is for youth who need 24-hour supervision to be considered for release from secure detention
- **Staff**
 - youth are supervised by staff 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – staff must report even when shelter population is low and should represent the ethnic diversity of the shelter’s population
- **Length of Stay**
 - the length of time in a shelter generally does not exceed 30 days
- **Cost**
 - the cost is \$90 - \$130 per youth, per day
- **Sample Location: New York**
 - **Program Generally**
 - it is the most restrictive detention alternative within the detention continuum
 - **Target Population**
 - this program is directed towards higher risk youth
 - **Staff**
 - requires a minimum direct staffing ratio of 1 staff per 6 youth
 - an on-site director and case manager must always be on site
- **Sample Location: Cook County**
 - **Program Generally**
 - many youth stay in the shelter while they await a slot in non-secure residential treatment alternative
 - **Program elements**
 - 24-hour residential supervision
 - educational instruction
 - independent living skills
 - individual and group counseling
 - transportation to court & other required appointments
 - probation outreach to arrange return to parental custody
 - **Target Population**
 - lower risk youth for whom no family member has been identified or is available
 - youth designated by judicial order as “release upon request”
 - **Staff**
 - non-profit community-based agency trains professional and non-professional staff
 - **Capacity**
 - this program holds up to 20 youths
 - **Length of Stay**
 - a youth’s stay does not exceed 30 days and is generally only a few days

- **Sample Location: Sacramento County**

- **Program Generally**

- rather than developing a separate shelter, this program contracts with existing group care providers to reserve beds for youth
 - a downside is that mixing pre-trial youth with another client population does not work too well because the existing program is not equipped to handle the challenges these youth present

- **Cost**

- this is cost-efficient and administratively convenient because they avoid start-up costs and early-program dilemmas

Foster Care

- **Program Generally**

- foster care is used to supplement the non-secure residential program
 - foster parents are given special training about youth referred by the juvenile justice system and have access to staff resources for help

- **Target Population**

- this program targets younger children, girls, lower-risk cases, and other youth who are not suitable for a group care facility
 - younger children in particular are better suited for foster care

- **Sample Location: Multnomah County**

- this program contracts with the Boys and Girls' Society, a private child care agency, for individualized host home slots, paying on an as-used basis