

Genesee County STSJP Plan SFY 2013-2014
Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program

The Genesee County Department of Social Services submits the following plan in response to Social Services Law § 529-b (3)(a). Genesee County DSS has been designated as the lead agency for planning and administering the STSJP Program. Jerry Moran, Director of Social Services 5130 East Main St. Batavia NY 14020 (585) 344-2580 ext. 6400 will be the lead agency contact person. This plan is for the State Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

I. ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITIES

As stated in previous STSJP Plans, the population of Genesee County was 60,079, according to the 2010 Census. There are no known significant changes in the population in the past 3 years. The racial make-up of the County is 94.69% White, 2.7% Black or African-American and 1.5% Hispanic or Latino of any race. Nearly 15,000 children (18 and under) reside in the County. Interestingly, Batavia and Leroy make up nearly 50% of the population in Genesee County and disproportionately 63% of our youth referred to the juvenile justice system live in these communities. It may just be coincidence, but the fact that both the City of Batavia and the Village of Leroy have their own local Police Departments may contribute to the enforcement of juvenile offenses. During SFY2012-13 Genesee County Probation JD/PINS Intake received requests for 116 Juvenile Delinquents and Person In Need of Supervision, less than ½ of the 282 intakes for the previous year. Of the 86 cases opened for PINS Diversion 41 youth were successfully diverted, 29 were petitioned to Family Court and 16 cases were adjusted by the conditions of their probation. During the SFY April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 a total of 14 JD/PINS youth were placed in DSS care and custody (40 JD/PINS were placed last year). During this same period two (2) JD's were placed in OCFS care and custody. Two other youth were placed via Genesee County Court in the care and custody of OCFS in the summer of 2011. The confinement for one youth was 2-6 years (in DSS budget until August 18, 2016) and for a now-20-year-old, 3 to 9 years (in DSS budget until March 1, 2014). These youth will most likely remain at Goshen and transferred to the Department of Corrections upon their respective 21st birthdays. Nearly 44% of the JD/PINS youth were from the City of Batavia and 19% were referred from Leroy. During the SFY 2012-13 six youth were placed in non-secure/secure detention for a total of 77 days, 28 non-secure and 49 secure days (the secure days were attributed to two youth awaiting placement at OCFS). The detention days increased 60 days from the SFY 2011-12, when Genesee County used 49 days for secure detention and 28 days for PINS in non-secure placement. The primary alternative to detention exercised during the period of April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 was the use of Electronic Monitoring, purchased from Behavioral Interventions, Inc. for GPS supervision of 18 youth for a total of 888 days.

In 1992 Genesee County convened a Juvenile Justice Planning Committee (JJPC) to review juvenile justice matters, respond to changes in laws, and increase public education and to take a community approach to new rules with connections to the

various service provider agencies who will be ultimately involved in the process. The JJPC consists of active representation from entities including, but not limited to, Law Enforcement, schools, DSS, Family Court, Probation, Assistant County Attorney, STAR, Mental Health, Youth Bureau, GCASA, etc. The JJPC continues to meet on a monthly basis to communicate, collaborate and to discuss relevant issues and develop strategies for problem resolution. Expedited agreements for services have been developed with the above-named agencies that serve the juvenile population. Genesee County has identified several priorities to serve families in the same context that we always have, utilizing least restrictive level of placement/intervention, strength based and solution focused services, and the involvement of any/all family resources.

II. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES AND PROGRAM TO BE FUNDED

The Genesee County Probation Department will continue to be the direct service provider for Juvenile Delinquents and Persons in Need of Supervision. The current STSJP allocation of \$40,000 will be used to provide assessment, case management and supervision services for Persons in Need of Supervision, Juvenile Delinquents, and Juvenile Offenders. More specifically, STSJP funds will be used in cases where a PINS petition has been filed in Family Court and/or the youth has been adjudicated ungovernable, incorrigible or unmanageable as a Person in Need of Supervision (Article 7 FCA); a petition has been filed in regards to the respondent Juvenile Delinquent and/or a youth that has been adjudicated a JD (Article 3 FCA); and finally, in the event a youth has been charged with a JO criminal offense and/or has been convicted as a Juvenile Offender. While all of Genesee County will be included, efforts will be focused on youth from Batavia and/or Leroy, as these are the communities from which the greatest numbers of intakes are received.

Genesee County moved \$57,035 of its allocated detention funds to STSJP during SFY 2012-2013. Once again, if necessary, Genesee County will move the balance of unused detention funds to STSJP during the SFY 2013-2014. OCFS will be notified as to the specific amount upon reallocation, if necessary. Genesee County closely monitors the use of detention services, by our own internal data tracking system, as well as the JDAS system. We assess the need for detention on a case-by-case basis. However, this process will change in the last Quarter of 2013, with the approval and community training for the new Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI). For now, we evaluate alternatives to detention with the Courts, ACA, family, youth and other community agencies. If the youth can be managed at home and in the community, we will apply the least restrictive and most appropriate plan, up to and including Electronic Monitoring. In the cases where it appears that placement in secure/non-secure detention is imminent, the caseworker and Probation Officer evaluate use of the Electronic Monitoring system as an alternative. Electronic Monitoring allows youth to remain at home and at the same time that other necessary and appropriate services can be applied, such as counseling, substance abuse treatment, and other preventive

services. In cases where parental cooperation is fairly certain, the youth will be enrolled, with the services being funded through this allocation. Genesee County has a purchase of service agreement for an electronic monitoring system with Behavior Interventions, Inc.

We estimate that approximately 50 youth will be served with our \$40,000 STSJP allocation.

III. DISPROPORTIONALITY

Per OCFS Data warehouse Genesee County has been identified as a district that has an “extreme disparity” for the disproportionate minority representation (DMR) of youth in foster care. On July 1, 2013 the Genesee County DSS foster care census had 71 children in the Commissioner’s care and custody. Nineteen youth in a minority category are currently in out-of-home placement (27%) with the Department. Last year (SFY 2011-2012) the DMR ratio was 32%. In SFY 2012-13 Genesee County had a total of 6 unique youth in secure and/or non-secure detention. Of these youth, 67% were White and 33% were African-American/Black. In SFY 2011-12 100% were Caucasian/White, and none African-American/Black.

The OCFS data has identified Genesee County as a district where children of color, belonging to various cultural, ethnic and racial communities, are disproportionately represented in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The CY2012 (1/1/12-12/31/12) local data for Probation intake and STAR students are quite similar in their disproportionate minority representation as well. The responsibility of the Genesee County child welfare system is to ensure that the needs of all children are equitably, equally and legitimately served. Children, regardless of their cultural, ethnic or racial identity, receive services that address the full range of their needs in a method that reflects the cultural strengths of their families. A primary goal for the Genesee County Juvenile Justice Planning Committee and in particular DSS is to ensure safety and well-being for all youth. At this time, Genesee County DSS, Probation, and other members of the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee continue to be uncertain as to the reasons and solutions for DMR within our system, despite examining the issue over the past 3 years. We have recognized the disparity. It is for these reasons Genesee County will continue working in concert and collaborate with community partners and cross-systems and further study the factors that contribute to disproportionality. During the SFY 2013-2014, we hope to gain a better and greater understanding of the causes for DMR. The JJPC will also develop concrete action steps for the future. On September 15, 2011 Genesee County was awarded a \$20,000 OCFS grant to evaluate and recognize potential problems to DMR. Monies are still available and have been “rolled over” until December 31, 2013. We have been working with a consultant, Khatib Waheed, to assess our local practice and identify, if any, concrete systemic barriers to eliminating DMR. Finally, it is noted in the Genesee County Foster Care Retention and Recruitment Plan (12/17/10), that we have included strategies and approaches to recruit minority foster homes to

meet the needs of the above-identified population of youth, when they may require placement. A new R&R-MEPA 3-year plan will be developed by the end of FY2013.

IV. EFFICACY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The SFY 2013-2014 Genesee County edition of the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juvenile Program (STSJP) will focus on youth petitioned to Family Court as an alleged Person in Need of Supervision or Juvenile Delinquent and/or youth adjudicated as a PINS or JD. Genesee County DSS and Probation have maintained a partnership in providing services to these youth and families for many years. The previous Probation Director was recently appointed to the NYS Parole Board and we look forward to continuing the positive relationship with the Probation Department and a newly appointed Director. The target population will also include youth that are charged and/or convicted Juvenile Offenders. The primary purpose of the program will be to prevent the use of detention and out-of-home placement. Specifically, the prevention of placement will focus on adjudicated youth at risk of being placed in Residential Treatment Centers. Probation Officers serve youth in many capacities. At intake, for either JD and/or PINS, the officer conducts a risk assessment of the respondent and outlines a safety plan for services that allows the youth to remain at home. As noted above 86 PINS Intakes were closed in the SFY 2012-2013, 41 as "successful". Twenty-nine PINS and 21 JD's were petitioned to Family Court. The current practice is for the Probation officer to contact SPOA when out-of-home placements are being considered. Probation, in conjunction with DSS, Mental Health, schools, and other service providers meet to discuss collaborative efforts to improve alternatives to detention, reduce the number of PINS/JD placements and more specifically, direct efforts to reduce the Genesee County DMR placements. As noted above only 14 JD/PINS were placed in DSS care and custody during the SFY2012-13. Community stakeholders, including, but not limited to DSS, Probation, ACA, OCA, STAR, Law Enforcement, GCASA, Genesee County Schools, Hillside Children Center and others continue working to improve DMR rates. Probation also works very closely and directly with DSS concerning youth at greatest risk of placement. As an alternative to detention, Probation will recommend that the Court consider electronic monitoring or respite services with DSS, instead of detention, providing that their YASI assessment establishes a reasonable risk level. It is noted that the YASI includes a parental component, helping to ensure family focused child-centered treatment. As noted previously the DRAI will be used starting later this year, hopefully contributing to further reduction of detention and out-of-home placements.

Per the most recent OCFS Data Packages, Genesee County is one of the leading districts in New York State not to place children directly into Residential Care (Congregate Care). As of July 1, 2013 Genesee County has three youth in RTC placements. Approximately 92% of youth placed outside their home are initially placed (first placement) with a relative or in the least restrictive level of foster care. Genesee County DSS programs, policies and practice reflects our commitment to the well-being and safety of children, families and communities. The importance of our Cluster Home Program is emphasized

here as many of the youth that would otherwise be placed in the RTC level of care are placed locally and remain in the Genesee County community.

Our approach to casework is child centered and family focused. This means the child is the center of the family and we establish a comprehensive and coordinated continuum of services to meet their needs. We have a family centered assessment on the whole family, value family participation, value and respect the family's culture and ethnicity. The family identifies their strengths, needs and resources so that together we develop a service (FASP) plan that assists them in achieving and maintaining safety, well-being and permanency.

Other communities could indeed replicate our successes, but it is recommended that this be accomplished through the committed efforts of a planning group such as our JJPC. Most importantly, we have a group of individuals and agencies that are enthusiastic in our mission of serving the best interests of children and families living in Genesee County.

V. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Genesee County is considered a small county in OCFS Region I. Accordingly, we are very familiar with our children, families and the needs of our communities. Genesee County DSS will continue the effective program as contracted with the Genesee County Probation Department. Probation Youth Officers serve intakes at Probation and focus on youth at greatest risk for possible detention and residential placement. The use of Electronic Monitoring has also been very effective in reducing the number of detention days. Probation Officers and DSS staff together has met with the 8 local school districts over the past year to discuss collaborative efforts and to educate the community and stakeholders. As previously identified, Batavia and Leroy make up over 50% of our County population. Youth Officers from the Batavia Police Department and Leroy Police Department are represented on our Juvenile Justice Planning Committee. Probation, DSS and both police agencies, identified above, along with the Genesee County Sheriff's Department, and the respective school districts and other agencies continue collaborative efforts to reduce JD/PINS placements in the County and in these communities. Both communities have Youth Courts and DSS Cluster Homes in these neighborhoods. In particular we have discussed ways to improve alternatives to detention, reduce the number of PINS/JD placements and have identified the need to reduce the Genesee County DMR placements. Our efforts to accomplish the above have been significant, and the use of STSJP funds will allow us to continue these successes.

VI. PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Genesee County forecasts formidable performance outcomes for SFY 2013-2014. Clearly the targets are to eliminate detention, ameliorate PINS/JD adjudications, reduce residential placements and enrich the community. In SFY 2012-2013 Genesee County

had 6 youth in 77 care days of secure and non-secure detention. In 2012-13 the Probation Department had 116 JD and PINS intakes, with 50 subjects petitioned to Family Court resulting in 14 out-of-home placements. In 2012-2013 Genesee County had 8 youth in RTC level care for a total of 1221 care days.

Our performance targets for SFY2013-14 are as follows:

#1 – The number of detention care days, including secure and non-secure, will be 75 days or less. As an alternative, electronic monitoring will continue to be utilized.

#2 – The number of Probation Department intakes will not exceed the SFY2012-13 level. Of those intakes, no more than 15 out-of-home placements will occur. Probation will continue to utilize DSS respite for youth, as necessary and appropriate.

#3 – No more than 8 youth will reside in RTC level care, for a total of less than 1,221 care days.

#4 – The STAR program will maintain its level of service to community youth.

#5 – Youth Court will serve an increased number of youth, successfully diverting 100% of youth served from Family Court petition.

VII. ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESS ACHIEVING PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

The following performance targets were accomplished: Genesee County achieved and/or exceeded the goals developed in our 2nd STSJP plan, dated August 1, 2012. In SFY 2012-13 Genesee County utilized 77 days of detention. In SFY 2011-12 Genesee County utilized 85 days of both secure and non-secure detention. Of the 77 days, nearly 45% of the total days (36 days) were used awaiting an OCFS pick-up. As previously noted we had 14 JD and/or PINS in placement outside of their homes in 2012-13, 40 JD/PINS had been placed in 2011-12. The numbers of RTC days have been drastically reduced during the last years' reporting period, with 8 youth placed in RTC level care for a total of 1221 days. Our STAR program served over 175 youth during the school year 2011-2012. The Genesee County Youth Court served 14 youth. One Hundred and six children have been served since the origination of Genesee County Youth Court and only 1 child has entered the Juvenile Justice System during this time. Utilizing STSJP and COPS funding, these programs all join together with PINS Diversion at Probation to become very successful preventive programs that contribute to the success described above.

1. The following information reflects countywide data for 2012-2013:

a) Number of youth under 16 arrested = 27

b) Number of days youth were placed in detention programs = 77

- Non-Secure = 28
- Secure = 49

c) Number of youth in out-of-home placement as a disposition in JD/PINS cases:

- JD's placed with OCFS = 2
- JD's placed with DSS = 14 (8 initially placed in 2012-13)

- PINS placed with DSS = 12 (6 initially placed in 2012-13)
- d) # of youth who participated in services and programs receiving STSJP funds = 50

2. List of programs that received STSJP funds:

- a) Probation via DSS started using 2012-2013 STSJP funds retroactive to April 1, 2012.
- b) How many “slots” were created? No “slots” were created. Genesee County provided services to 50 youth, who were at risk, alleged or adjudicated juvenile delinquents (JD), youth alleged or adjudicated to be a person in need of supervision (PINS); and youth alleged to be or convicted as juvenile offenders (JO) in order to divert these youth from detention or residential care.
- c) No data for average length of stay, as no “slots” were created
- d) 50 youth were served with STSJP funds using definition described above.
- e) How many youth experienced these outcomes?
- All youth appeared in Court and not re-arrested (anecdotal – no data track)
 - All youth appeared in Court when directed to do so (no data track)
 - No youth moved to detention because of non-compliance or re-arrest

3. Services and programs in the Genesee County STSJP Plan achieved the projected detention utilization, with 77 days used for both secure and non-secure detention). 14 JD/PINS were placed in 2012-3 and 26 JD/PINS were placed in SFY 2011-2012; residential placements (RTC): 18 children for 4033 care days in 2010-2011 to 1068 care days for 9 children in 2011-2012 and now 8 youth placed in SFY 2012-2013 for a total of 1221 care days.

4. No changes in allocations or change in practice planned for 2013-2014 based on the experiences of 2012-2013. Current MPS services, PINS Diversion and other COPS programs, along with just plain hard work and diligent casework with children and families, seem to be the correct recipe which results in success. As noted, detention assessments for JD’s will change in coming months to comply with our DRAI plan.

VIII. COOPERATIVE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY TWO OR MORE MUNICIPALITIES

N/A.

APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As Chief Executive Officer of the applicant municipality named on Page 1, I certify that I approve of this Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program Plan.

Name Jay A. Gsell

Title: Genesee County Manager

Signature: