

PROGRAM NAME: Teen Court & Neighborhood Accountability Boards
DEPARTMENT NAME: Court Administration, 4th Judicial Circuit, FL

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Type of Allocation: City Directs Delivery

Program Strategy: Juvenile Prevention & Intervention Services

Program Summary:

Duval County Teen Court and Neighborhood Accountability Boards are the two designated programs designed to provide consequences and services for juvenile civil citations in Duval County. Teen Court is a diversion program designed for misdemeanor offenders between the ages of 10-17. The juvenile defendants come before a jury of their peers who decides the consequences (under the supervision of adult court staff). Teen Court added Neighborhood Accountability Boards (NAB) as an additional strategy to address juvenile crime in Duval County's highest crime zip codes. It offers assistance to elderly guardians who have difficulty commuting to the Duval County Courthouse and provides victim awareness to the juvenile offender. Additionally, it serves as a way to give various community members a voice in regard to unacceptable /unlawful behaviors occurring in their community. These community members assign consequences and services to the juvenile offender.

Program Overall Status:

Month	Teen Court	NAB	TOTAL
January 2014	17	12	29
February 2014	29	6	35
March 2014	17	9	26
April 2014	23	7	30
May 2014	21	9	30
June 2014	22	3	25
July 2014	24	8	32
August 2014	10	2	12
September 2014	23	4	27
October 2014	35	4	39
November 2014	13	5	18
YTD	234	69	303

Month of: November 2014

of Cases open for the month: 18

of Cases open YTD (Jan – Present): 303

Program Update:

The numbers for November 2014 are 18 which are down from 39 in October 2014. Most of these cases have come from JSO patrol officers. The Case Coordinator positions funded by the Jacksonville Journey closely monitors the youth who have been referred to the program. A comprehensive assessment revealed that 64% of the referrals received via Civil Citation are using marijuana and/or other illegal substances. These cases are intensely monitored by the Case Coordinator to include surveillance visits, curfew checks, random drug testing and counseling compliance checks. While this program is designed as a 90 day program, most of the juvenile participants are monitored for up to 7 months to allow the facilitation of completion of mental and substance use treatment. This monitoring could not be conducted without the aid of the Case Coordinators. They serve a vital community safety function as they not only monitor those who are compliant but they assist in identifying those youth and families who are or have become most at-risk for violence despite their presenting charges. These cases (though limited) are referred to the State Attorney’s Office for a more restrictive level of criminal justice involvement.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards start at 2:30 p.m. Current locations include:

- 1 Northside/Ribault initiated October 2012 (1st and 3rd Thursday)**
- 2 Westside initiated April 2013 (1st and 3rd Tuesdays).**
- 3 Beaches/Mayport initiated February 2014 (2nd and 4th Thursday)**

In regards to the Neighborhood Accountability Boards specifically, there have been **125** cases accepted as of October 31, 2014. Of these, **73** completed successfully, **7** cases were unsuccessful, **11** cases did not qualify (determined to have a disqualifying offense after the referral had been made) and **32** cases remain open.

Referrals

	<u>Open</u>	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Disqualified</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ribault	16	41	5	7	68
Westside	6	23	2	4	36
Beaches	12	9	0	0	<u>21</u>
				TOTAL	125

Ethnicity

	<u>Black</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ribault	65	3	0	0	68
Westside	25	9	1	1	36
Beaches	4	14	0	3	<u>21</u>
				TOTAL	125

Gender

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Ribault	39	29	68
Westside	18	18	36
Beaches	13	8	<u>21</u>
			TOTAL 125

Successes:

- 1) Three law enforcement agencies are now regular attendees at the Neighborhood Accountability Boards. As attendance of law enforcement increases, they buy into the system and referrals at those sites increase as well.
- 2) New community service partners added this period include: Hands on Jacksonville and Job Corps.
- 3) The new Civil Citation video is being utilized as a training tool for Law Enforcement throughout Jacksonville.

Challenges:

- 1) Dealing with youth who present with a criminal charge but have several co-occurring mental health factors has caused cases to remain open longer as we attempt to locate community resources available to address those issues long term.
- 2) There has been a spike in the number of transient and homeless juvenile offenders in the past quarter. The Jacksonville Journey funded positions are utilized to locate these families to facilitate the completion of these sanctions/services. Without these positions, several cases would have to be referred to the State Attorney's Office where they may have a custody order issued and the youth may not get much needed counseling services. These youth may fly under the radar until a violent act occurs.
- 3) Continuing to train new law enforcement patrol officers about Civil Citations as they transfer in and out of various departments is a challenge. School Resource Officers were more stable in their positions and have knowledge of the students within their jurisdiction (making them more likely to refer).