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Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections

Legislative Briefing The Juvenile Gun Offenders Program

Introduction

The Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections' Juvenile Gun Offenders Program is a unified response to the problem of youth firearms involvement. Probation-based education and community service combined with definite consequences and further intervention in a correctional environment, when necessary, will hopefully provide a unique and effective approach to one of the most critical issues facing juvenile justice.

Overview

The Gun Offender Program is a court-ordered condition of probation for juveniles adjudicated delinquent for firearms - related offenses. Participation in probation groups and community service is ordered, along with a stayed commitment to the short-term work program at the County Home School (CHS) known as the Beta program. If a juvenile fails to complete the Gun Program as ordered by the court, he will be sent to the CHS Beta program to serve a six week commitment. A small number of juveniles with more serious weapons offenses may bypass the probation component of the program and be sent directly to Beta.¹

¹ In some cases, noted in the footnote on page 2, a different out of home placement is used as a consequence for not completing the probation Gun Program. For example, the Beta program does not accept girls.

The Program

Hennepin County's Juvenile Probation Department has been operating a program for juveniles with weapons convictions since November of 1995. The Gun Program combines an educational/competency model with community service hours. Its objective is three-fold. First, the program seeks to reduce the number of weapons in our communities, reducing violence and increasing public safety. The program also attempts to underscore for juvenile offenders the seriousness of their offense, educating them about the direct impact of violence on individuals and communities, and providing them with viable alternatives to being armed. Finally, the community service component of the program fits into the restorative justice model, essentially "paying back" the community for the offense committed by the juvenile.

The Gun Program lasts four months, and includes both group meetings and community service. The educational group component consists of 16 weekly 2 1/2 hour educational groups. This 40 hour violence prevention curriculum covers six basic areas:

- Orientation,
- Community perceptions of violence,
- Anger management & alternatives in conflict resolution,
- Victim impact,
- Offender impact, and
- Community connections/choices.

Groups are held one night a week, with an average of 10 to 15 youths in a group. Curriculum areas are presented with a mixture of outside speakers, videos, field trips, and other group experiences. The sessions emphasize practical, hands-on, and experiential learning. Tours of a hospital trauma unit and correctional facilities, presentations from community leaders, and the "Calling the Shots" program at the Hennepin County Medical Center are included in the group programming.

In addition to the group sessions, offenders are required to complete 60 hours of focused, offense-related community service. This can include participating in neighborhood "clean sweep" projects, cooking and serving lunch to disadvantaged persons, planting gardens for victims of violence, and similar activities.

Throughout the program, staff conducts random curfew checks and visits the juveniles' homes and schools. There are monthly aftercare groups for those who successfully complete both the education groups and the community service requirement.

Not all of those sent to the probation program complete it. A juvenile can fail this part of the Gun Program in many ways. These include disruptive behavior, chemical use, committing a

new offense, not attending weekly groups, and not completing the required community service.

If the juvenile fails to complete either the group process or the community service requirement of the program, he or she is subject to revocation of the stayed sentence: that is, those who fail are sent to serve out their six week commitment to the CHS Beta program.²

The Consequence

The Beta Program at the CHS is a short-term work sanction for juvenile offenders. Beta participants spend a full day of work either in the Hennepin County community or assisting in the maintenance of CHS property.

Beta has modeled a violence prevention curriculum after the probation Gun Program. Beta's curriculum is as consistent with the community-based model as is possible in an institutional setting. Juveniles who fail in probation find themselves placed in a setting that requires work and school, in addition to a violence prevention curriculum. This provides a unique "continuum of care" for young people who have their stayed sentence executed.

Like the Gun Program, Beta incorporates videos, community speakers, and group sessions into a comprehensive violence prevention program. Decision making, communication, and problem solving are emphasized in the programming. There

² A small number of those who fail the Gun Program will not be sent to Beta. These juveniles may have either committed a new, serious offense that requires a greater sanction than the Beta program, or they may have serious mental health or chemical dependency issues that result in alternative placements. The Beta program is also for juvenile males only

is also a focus on the impact of violence, and gun violence in particular, on victims and communities, as well as on the perpetrators themselves.

Barriers

The Juvenile Gun Program/Beta continuum of care model appears to demonstrate success in reducing the recidivism of participating juveniles (see *Outcomes*, below). While the preliminary numbers indicate the program is effectively serving a significant number of the young people who participate, there were a number of issues identified by the program that make effective service provision more difficult. These include:

- ***Waiting lists***

With current staffing, only a limited number of clients -- no more than two groups of 15 -- can participate in the probation program at any one time. Usually, there are also a number of youth on a waiting list. Gun Program staff monitor not just those juveniles who are actively participating in the program, they also provide home and school checks, and monitor compliance with court orders for those young people waiting to enter the program.

- ***Wide age-range of clients***

Clients range in age from 12-18. Designing educational and experiential programming to meet the cognitive and intellectual abilities of this wide age-range is problematic.

- ***Widely differing client characteristics***

There is also considerable variation in other characteristics of the juveniles the court sent to the program. While all have been adjudicated on a weapons offense, the criminal history, education

level, chemical dependency, and health status of the individuals are all quite different.

- ***Chemical Issues***

One of the greatest barriers to effective service identified by the program is the serious substance abuse issues presented by Gun Program clients. These issues make maintaining a youth in the program much more difficult.

In 1998, program staff increased efforts to monitor chemical use by clients. They found that more than a quarter of clients referred to the program exhibited severe enough substance abuse issues to merit referrals to outpatient chemical dependency treatment through Rainbow Bridge, another program run by Hennepin County Juvenile Probation.

Those clients were sent to Rainbow Bridge before entering the Gun Program. A young person's substance abuse problem can make addressing the issues of violence and their use of firearms much more problematic. It is generally accepted within the treatment community that substance abuse issues must be addressed before accompanying behaviors may be resolved. Of those referred to CD treatment, nearly half (47%) went on to complete the Gun Program.

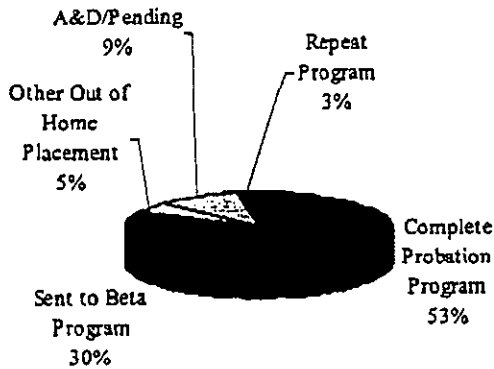
Outcomes

It is really too soon for a definitive look at the outcomes of the Juvenile Gun Offender program. The grant that helps support the County Home School component of the program has six months left to run, and not enough time has passed since the groups' graduation to allow a true look at recidivism. But

the information that is available appears promising.³

Fifty-three percent of the 74 referrals to groups that finished in 1998 resulted in successful completion of the program, as shown in the accompanying chart. Of those who did not complete, 22 went on to the Beta program.

Program Outcomes - 1998 Referrals



n=74

All of the program participants appear to have a low re-offense rate. Juveniles who successfully completed the probation component in 1998 have had no new criminal offenses since their graduation, and only two had status offenses. Of those who did not complete the probation component, one was charged with a status offense, one with a misdemeanor, and one with a felony. This makes a criminal recidivism rate of 5.9% for those not completing the

³ While the Gun Program has been in operation since late 1995, this briefing paper only presents data from 1998. This is because the program was changed in late 1997 by significantly increasing the length of the stayed Beta commitment. Thus, 1998 is the first full year under the new sentencing system, and data from previous years would not be comparable

probation component, and an overall criminal recidivism rate of 2.8%.⁴

This extraordinarily low recidivism rate can and probably will change as more time elapses since the youths left the program. However, given the tendency of juveniles to re-offend quickly, the low incidence of recidivism to date is encouraging. The combination of the probation based program, the Beta consequence, and the programming given to these juveniles while at the County Home School appears to hold real promise as an effective intervention.

⁴ Eight of the 1998 clients (11% of those referred) were adjudicated delinquent for offenses that occurred while they were officially enrolled in the program. Most of these offenses took place while the juveniles were on the waiting list, and thus before there had been any intervention beyond standard supervision. Three of these eight clients were adjudicated for new weapons offenses. Only one of the eight graduated from the probation portion of the program. That client had a new disorderly conduct charge while on the waiting list. Also note that while there were 74 admissions in 1998, there were 72 clients. Two clients were re-referred to the probation program. Recidivism data is based on the number of clients, not the number of referrals.



Quarterly Progress Report

ORGANIZATION NAME: Hennepin County Juvenile Probation	ADDRESS: 626 South 6th Street, Mpls 55415
PROGRAM DIRECTOR NAME: Jeanne Torma GRANT # A 09518	TELEPHONE: 612 348-3711 FAX: 612 348-6598
PREPARED BY:	

REPORTING PERIOD	DATE DUE	REPORTING PERIOD	DATE DUE
<input type="checkbox"/> 01-01-98 - 03-31-98	04-20-98	<input type="checkbox"/> 01-01-99 - 03-31-99	04-20-99
<input type="checkbox"/> 04-01-98 - 06-30-98	07-20-98	<input type="checkbox"/> 04-01-99 - 06-30-99	07-20-99
<input type="checkbox"/> 07-01-98 - 09-30-98	10-20-98	<input type="checkbox"/> 07-01-99 - 09-30-99	10-20-99
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10-01-98 - 12-31-98	01-20-99	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-01-99 - 12-31-99	01-20-00

ETHNICITY (number of participants)

3 American Indian/Alaskan Native
8 African American
1 Hispanic
0 Asian/Pacific Islander

3 White, not of Hispanic origin
0 Other _____
0 Unknown _____

13 on waiting list.
 New group begins 1-13-99.

Jeanne E. Torma MSW

1/15/99

Signature of Program Director

Date

Please send two (2) copies to:
Theresa Davis
Office of Drug Policy & Violence Prevention
 550 Cedar Rm 365
 St. Paul, MN 55101

Services Provided Through This Grant

DOCUMENTATION OF SERVICES	THIS PERIOD (New)	TOTAL GRANT TO DATE
NUMBER OF YOUTH (21 YEARS & UNDER) SERVED BY THE PROGRAM	26	98
NUMBER OF ADULTS SERVED BY THE PROGRAM		
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED	131	373
NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES PROVIDED (List below the # of sessions provided, not participants served)		
Performances (plays, concerts, art shows)	1	7
Classes/Workshops/Presentations	16	72
Events (field trips, recreational activities)	4	17
Support groups		
Counseling sessions (individual, family)	56	194
Mentoring sessions	12	31
Vocational training or employment sessions		
Neighborhood meetings, neighborhood clean-up, neighborhood watch	6	36
Community meetings: e.g. strategic planning, block club, task force	3	9
Hours of community service provided by participants	712	2880
Other activities (please list)		

NARRATIVE SECTION

Write a narrative response to each question below on a separate sheet of paper. The work plan should be your guide in writing your response.

1 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

What activities, tasks listed on your work plan **were conducted during this quarter**? Explain any changes that have occurred.

2 BARRIERS

Describe any difficulties or problems that limited your program's success **this quarter**. How did you resolve them? If they are not resolved, what are the implications for your program?

3 PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

What feedback have you gotten from participants **this quarter**? How will this feedback be used?

4 SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Tell us, in your own words, how you now see the program unfolding or working. Describe some special moments, stories, or anecdotes **from this quarter** that capture the essence of your program.

5 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

What outcomes have been documented **this quarter** that were listed in your workplan? How were the results obtained?

NARRATIVE SECTION OF THE QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE GUN PROGRAM

I PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

As always, the Gun Program has had a number of different activities for the clients to engage in, to be educated by, to serve the community and to learn from in order to become constructive and positive members of the community. Some of the activities which are fairly common to each group include discussions by members of the Parents of Murdered Children group, participation in Calling the Shots program, viewing videos such as "Five American Kids, Five American Handguns" and speakers from Lino Lakes and the Red Door Clinic. This quarter, some new presentations and community service sites were added. The new presentations for group included viewing the film "Dead Homiez" which is a documentary illustrating the effect that gangs have on a city and on kids. Gangs and their influences are portrayed in a destructive light in this film. Another video the groups watched was "One Last Chance." This video follows a young man who continues to get chance after chance after chance in the juvenile justice system, but who just cannot or will not straighten out. No matter what people do to help him, he continually gets into trouble and does not change his behavior. He remains in the system and eventually is charged as an adult. A new speaker was also added. Sam Williams works for the Timber Wolves and addressed the groups on the topic of choices. Another speaker who seemed to impress the young men was Ed Lemons. His presentation to the group involved anger management and anger control. He discussed "mind over matter," and controlling one's emotions" and introduced the clients to a new way of thinking in order to handle difficult situations.

Two (2) of the community service sites this quarter included working at a high rise on 25th and Franklin and participating in a day program at the Children and Elders Lodge, a Native American church on the south side. In addition to cleaning up and doing tasks around the church, the youths in group cook meals on Saturdays for the kids in the day program, serve and clean up and interact with the kids. Youths in the group seem to enjoy helping this way. The kids in the program gave the Gun Program staff dream catchers they had made as a symbol of their appreciation.

II BARRIERS

Some of the barriers the program continues to face are very much the same as were documented in the last report of October 7, 1998. Thirty-eight (38) of the eighty-nine (89) referrals or forty-two point seven percent (42.7%) this year have been age fifteen and under. This continues our trend of younger referrals. In this quarter we have seen another twelve (12) year old, two (2) additional thirteen (13) year olds and three (3) additional fourteen (14) year olds. Groups continue to range in age from twelve (12) to eighteen (18). This makes it difficult to program specifically for any one age range, cognitive or intellectual ability or educational level. Gun Program staff, however, continually observe clients during group, ask them for feedback in order to determine

whether they understand what is being presented, and look over written assignments for ability to comprehend the nature of the assignment. If assignments or presentations must be changed due to ability, age or other issues, staff make a point to do so if necessary.

It should also be noted that if one is to read the written assignments participants complete after each weekly group, it is quite clear that the majority of Gun Program youth are behind in grade level. Composition, writing skills, grammar, punctuation and spelling are oftentimes almost nonexistent. In spite of their limitations, group members, however, are usually quite able to get their points across through their writing.

The Gun Program continues to have a high number of referrals. As was noted on the cover page, a new group has begun as of January 13, with thirteen (13) referrals. Average group size runs about fifteen (15), which the lowest number of referrals this year being nine (9) and the highest eighteen (18). Program staff continue to monitor closely not only clients who are actively involved in group and community service. Mike Sandin, PO in the program is responsible mostly for monitoring clients on the waiting list. This includes checking school attendance, behavior in the home and the community and compliance with other court orders. Xa and Demetrius, special programs counselor and case manager, help with the monitoring of the waiting list and are solely responsible for monitoring those clients who have completed the active group participation, successfully graduated and are now in the aftercare program. The aftercare program meets as a group monthly with Xa and Demetrius doing home and school checks.

As in the past, referrals continue to be quite ethnically diverse, with the majority of the referrals being African American consistently. On several occasions Hispanic group members have required interpreters to be present for all group, community service and other interactions with Gun Program staff. Although most of the Asian clients, themselves, speak English, their parents oftentimes do not. At that point, Xa Vang, our special program counselor, will act as interpreter for the parents and the program if necessary. It is felt that with one of the program staff having the ability to communicate with the parents in Hmong helps the parents feel more comfortable and more able to relate to and support the program.

As has occurred at times in the past, the court will occasionally present the program with an order which is difficult to enforce properly. At times, the court will order a client to participate in "a special project." What this means is that the client is not to participate in the full Gun Program; rather, the staff is to design a specific intervention for that particular client. This may take the form of videos, written assignments, community service and/or any other appropriate assignments Gun Program staff feel are necessary depending on the particular case circumstances. At times, too, the court has ordered clients to participate in some programs which may conflict with the Gun Program. Examples may include outpatient chemical dependency programs which may meet on the same evening as the Gun Program group. On one occasion, the court ordered a young man to complete an inpatient, long term chemical dependency program, with the Gun Program to follow. It is difficult for Gun Program staff to monitor an order like that, as their time and energy ought to be devoted to clients who are participating to one extent or

another in the program. We have handled this case by speaking with another unit, our Rainbow Bridge (chemical dependency) staff. These staff will accept and monitor the case while the young man is in inpatient treatment. Once he completes treatment and is ready to come to the Gun Program, the case will be transferred to Gun Program staff for supervision.

One of the greatest barriers program staff has identified for quite some time has been the use of chemicals. Particularly since the beginning of the new grant period, January, 1998, program staff have been monitoring chemical use more closely through UAs and have continued to make referrals for both outpatient and inpatient treatment if warranted. This year, of seventy-four (74) referrals to the Gun Program, nineteen (19), or almost twenty-six percent (26%), were noted to have a significant enough chemical issue to result (several dirty UAs) in a referral to Rainbow Bridge for at least ten (10) sessions. Of these nineteen (19) referred, nine (9) clients completed the Gun Program and ten (10) were revoked to out-of-home placements. One (1) client who was referred to inpatient chemical dependency treatment came back and completed the Gun Program following his successful treatment.

This quarter, ten (10) of forty-seven (47) referrals or approximately twenty-one percent (21%) have been referred to Rainbow Bridge. These numbers illustrate a continuing problem not only with the Gun Program, but working with youth on probation as a whole. Many of them are using chemicals which makes it more difficult to maintain them in programs unless the chemical issues are resolved.

III PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK

It is always gratifying, not to mention interesting, to read the assignments and evaluations these program participants write regarding the presentations and the final assignment about what they learn from the Gun Program. One young man who began to write about what he didn't like ended up being thankful for it; "They all ways were working us hard and making us do STS or dumb stuff and doing all that walking made me mad, but it was cool because I wasn't in jail and I was free and I want to thank the Gun Program because they saved me from being in jail and letting me get another chance with my life." (S.E.) Many group members were very impressed with the "Calling the Shots" program and noted how scary it was seeing what they initially thought was a gun-shot victim die before their eyes. They also were impacted a great deal by having to tell his parents and relatives and seeing the reactions of the family. Even when they were told that it was not a real scenario, the members often commented what an impact this program made upon them. N.B. writes about the "Calling the Shots" program and another of the group members stating "I looked at that little kid that's in the Gun Program with us and I thought to myself, if every little kid had to see this, it would probably scare them away from guns forever."

Another young man, H.F., said in his final essay, "My mother said that I learned a lot out

of this program and it's keeping me in place. I never thought that I would ever learn so much." J.P. wrote that he would try to stay out of trouble from now on "So I think I'm ready to change."

Nothing illustrates the impact and importance of the Gun Program than the comments of the participants who take part in it.

IV SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

This quarter, the staff in the Gun Program divided their tasks so that each would more specifically know which part of the program he was responsible for. As stated earlier, it was determined that the case manager and special programs counselor, Demetrius and Xa, in addition to facilitating the groups and, (along with Maurice our part-time staff), the Saturday community service, would also have sole responsibility for the aftercare caseload and group. It was decided that Demetrius would take on some of the written tasks, including preparing progress reports and some court reports. Xa would continue to be our computer wizard, would enter data, continue to work on refining the program with our MIS staff, and be responsible for updating client information as well as obtaining stats for reports when needed. Mike, the program probation officer, would continue to coordinate the overall program, be responsible for court reports, court hearings and the supervision of the clients on the waiting list, as well as the active clients in group. Mike would also be mostly responsible for maintaining the accuracy of the caseload and/or placement printouts, as well as other case management duties associated with these referrals.

Staff initiated more curfew calls and checks in the evening. Sometime ago, it was decided that staff would begin to do random curfew calls, so that clients would be more closely monitored and be unable to figure out when or if they were going to be contacted. It has been possible with the division of tasks, for staff to call more clients more frequently. It has also been possible this quarter for staff to make more face to face home and school visits with all clients, including those on the waiting list, those in active group and those in the aftercare portion of the program.

A new volunteer, Patti Hosfeld, has been working with the program. She spends evenings during group meetings, as well as weekends during community service with staff and group members. A social work intern from Metro State has also begun to work with the program. She will be spending eight (8) hours a day, three (3) days per week, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays with the program. It is expected that she will also assist the staff in continuing to increase the frequency of calls and face to face contacts with clients. One of her tasks will be to compare the twenty (20) seventeen (17) year olds from the first five (5) groups of 1998 to determine if there are any differences between those who graduated (4) and those who did not (16). With such a high failure rate, it would be beneficial to attempt to explain it and perhaps target some programming toward that area of need.

Although the Web site design is not completed, Mike Sandin is working on it and it is hoped before too long that we will have a Web site for Hennepin County and those

external to the County to access for information about the Gun Program. It has also been possible this quarter to retrieve statistics and data more easily. Data is being consistently kept on all new referrals in 1998. Gradually, Xa is adding information regarding referrals from past groups when time permits.

V PROGRAM OUTCOMES

To date this quarter, fifty-three (53) referrals have been received. Two (2) groups have graduated; one group remains active (will graduate 3-2-99); and one group began on this date (1-13-99). Of forty (40) referrals (the 13 who just began on this date are not counted in these numbers) thirteen (13) have graduated, thirteen (13) have been revoked to out-of-home placement, eight (8) remain in the active group, one is to redo the Gun Program and five (5) have active A & Ds (warrants). Of the two (2) groups which graduated, the first on October 20, 1998, of sixteen (16) referrals, eight (8) graduated successfully or fifty percent (50%), seven (7) went to out-of-home placements, one (1) of whom will return to the program; and one (1) has an A & D. Of the group which graduated on December 9, 1998, five (5) of nine(9) graduated or approximately fifty-five point five percent (55.5%); one (1) was sent to an out-of-placement; one (1) will redo the program; and two (2) have active A & Ds. Of those revoked to out-of-home placement, the majority went to the six (6) week Beta Program. Three (3) others went to the long term Male Juvenile Offender Program at the County Home School.

1998 OUTCOMES

The percentage of clients completing the groups successfully in 1998 has risen a few percentage points from forty-eight percent (48%) reported on June 26, 1997 to approximately fifty-three percent (53%) of the seventy-four (74) referrals in 1998. In the report of June 26, 1997, approximately fifty-two percent (52%) of the group participants were unable to complete the groups. That number has decreased to forty-seven percent (47%) for the five (5) groups which have graduated since January of 1998. Again, the majority of clients who did not successfully complete the program went to the six (6) week Beta Program. However, some clients went to the long term program at the Home School, one (1) to Chisholm House and one (1) to inpatient treatment at Fairview.

In these six (6) groups, five (5) graduated groups and one (1) active group, approximately forty-two point seven percent (42.7%) of the clients were age fifteen and under. Forty-nine percent (49%) of the referrals were ages sixteen (16) and seventeen (17), with twenty-five percent (25%) of referrals ages twelve (12), thirteen (13) and fourteen (14).

Most of our referrals continue to be African American-fifty-two (52) of eighty-nine (89) or fifty-eight point four percent (58.4%). Approximately sixteen point eight percent (16.8%) are Caucasian, seven point eight percent (7.8%) Asian, and four point five percent (4.5%) are Hispanic.

Seventeen (17) year olds have the lowest graduation rate, with only twenty percent (20%) of them successfully completing the program (4 of 20). The highest percentage of graduates were twelve (12) year olds; however, there were only three (3) in the sample (two of them graduated), so it is impossible to know whether this is a trend or a fluke. Sixteen (16) year olds had the highest graduation rate. Seventy-five percent (75%) or twelve (12) of the sixteen (16) graduated successfully.

If one were to look at graduation by ethnicity it would look as follows:

SUCCESSFUL GRADUATIONS

	1998	DATA FROM REPORT OF JUNE 26, 1997
African American	43% (19 of 44)	36% (21 of 58)
Native American	37.5% (3 of 8)	25% (2 of 8)
Asian	57% (4 of 7)	78% (7 of 9)
Caucasian	83% (10 of 12)	73% (19 of 26)

Note regarding Hispanic referrals: In the report of June 26, 1997, Hispanic clients were not singled out from bi-racial, other mixed heritage or unknown, as there were not enough in the sample. In this reporting period, four (4) Hispanic youths were referred to the program and three (3) graduated successfully. One (1) is in the presently active group.

The low recidivism rates have continued to be quite extraordinary, given that this group of referrals has no selectivity to it; that these are oftentimes serious weapons offenses; that the referrals oftentimes have some court history; that issues identified with these clients include use of chemicals, dysfunctional families, gang involvement, educational/learning problems, et cetera. As stated, the five (5) groups which have graduated to date include seventy-four (74) referrals. Of those referrals, thirty-nine (39) graduated (38 from the Gun Program and 1 as a special project). Of these successful clients, to date there have been no felonies or misdemeanors. Three (3) clients were charged with violations: two (2) with Curfew and one (1) with a Minor Consumption, all status offenses (7.6%).

Of the twenty-six (26) clients who were revoked, did not complete the program and were sent to out-of-home placements (usually Beta), one (1) was charged with a Felony, Controlled Substance Fifth Degree, one (1) with a Misdemeanor, False Information to Police, and one (1) was charged with a Truancy, a Status offense. These offenses occurred at some time following their discharge from the placement (11.5%).

Several clients reoffended while in the program before they had an opportunity to take advantage of what the program provided. Eight (8) clients were charged with a new offense while in the program as follows:

Shoplifting and Certain Persons Not to Have Pistols: this client had been a “special project” client, had not done well with the project assignments. After he reoffended he was ordered to the full program; however, he has already missed his first meeting. He will most likely be revoked very soon.

Theft of Motor Vehicle: client had only been in program for three (3) to four (4) weeks; was sent to the long term program at the County Home School (CHS).

Controlled Substance: this client was a “no show” after the orientation groups and was sent to Beta. He went to individual supervision.

Certain Persons Not to Have Pistols: client had been in the program about thirteen (13) weeks but refused to break his gang ties. He was sent to the long term program at CHS.

Certain Person Not to Have Pistols: Client re-ordered to the program after failing it the first time; he did not show up the second time and was sent to Beta (age 18).

Other offenses included No Driver’s License and a Minor Consumption. All of the above failed the program (27%)

One (1) participant was charged with Disorderly Conduct while in the program, which occurred prior to beginning the program. He was retained in the program and went on to graduate.

It can be seen from this data that the Gun Program continues to have a very successful, nonrecidivism rate, especially for those who complete the program successfully. For those who do not complete the program and are sent to Beta or other out-of-home placements, the rate of reoffense is higher.

The most frequent of serious reoffenses were committed by clients who either did not engage in the program or had demonstrated by past behavior that they had no motivation or intention to change.

By analyzing the data and pinpointing problem areas and areas where it has been difficult to serve clients in specific circumstances, the Gun Program has continued to change and adapt, including more frequent UA monitoring, more frequent curfew checks, changing times of Saturday community service, more referrals to chemical dependency interventions, more frequent home and school monitoring, implementation of an aftercare program, use of interpreters and a wide range of programming which addresses numerous facets of the client’s lives. With these changes and adaptations, the program has been able to increase the numbers of participants who complete it, in spite of having no ability to select those who may be more motivated to change.

JJ/jc