



## Juvenile Services 00100.851.

### Mission Statement

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The Juvenile and Family Services Department is committed to providing quality, innovative, comprehensive, and effective prevention, treatment, and accountability services to youth, families, and the community. We envision a community where every child and family lead productive and fulfilling lives. Our goal is to EQUIP young people with safe opportunities to improve their lives. We provide services focused on our core values of Empathy, Quality, Unity, Integrity, and Professionalism.

EMPATHY: provide real solutions by truly understanding our client's needs

QUALITY: maintain rigorous standards and deliver high-value services

UNITY: many voices, one message: equality, teamwork, and collaboration

INTEGRITY: be gracious, respectful, honest, trustworthy, and responsible

PROFESSIONAL: be competent, reliable, accessible, and approachable

### Function

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The Juvenile and Family Services Department provides comprehensive services to youth, families, schools, the community, and Juvenile Justice System. The Department is responsible for maintaining the balance between community protection, treatment, and accountability for our most vulnerable citizens - youth arrested for criminal activity, children who have been abused or neglected, and those demonstrating high risk behaviors. The Department provides support to the Superior Court, operates a juvenile corrections facility including a secure unit for crisis residential placement, probation, diversion, drug court, non-offender services for truant, at-risk youth, abused and neglected children, and the Child Advocate Program/Guardian ad Litem (CAP/GAL's) program assigned to dependency. True Star Behavioral Health, a licensed and certified agency providing drug/alcohol and mental health treatment, is also operated by the Department.

### Trends

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- 1 Challenging recruitment and retention efforts continue, currently attempting to fill three vacancies (2 JCO's, 1 Mental Health). We are requesting to reinstate our Probation Officer position, previously deferred for 2024. Vacancies in Prosecutor's Office have impacted the sporadic nature of juvenile offender filings.

- 2 Caseloads in many areas are increasing as a result of increased juvenile offender referrals, filings, and diversion referrals. Non-offender filings have been impacted in response to recent legislation, however truancy, at-risk youth, and CHINS (Child in Need of Services) filings exceed 2020 rates. Dependency has seen a dramatic decrease yet filings are trending upward in 2024 compared to 2023 after implementation of HB 1227 - Keeping Families Together Act.
  - a. After nearly doubling from 2021-2022, criminal offenses against persons and property have continued to increase during 2023 (Assault, Disorderly Conduct, Harassment, Malicious Mischief, and Theft). Additionally, referrals for drugs and alcohol have increased steadily after the reversal of some of the "Blake Bill" language. Probation supervision caseloads continue to rise with the majority of youth being assessed as moderate or high risk. Clallam County had seven youth sentenced to Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) so far during 2024, that was the total number of commitments for calendar year 2023.
  - b. Statutory changes affecting the procedure of filing a At Risk Youth (ARY) petition as well as the limits of using detention as an accountability tool has impacted the accessibility and effectiveness of the At Risk Youth program. Over 30 families have reached out in the past year inquiring about the ARY program but it did not result in increased filings. The elimination of the use of detention has also impacted the effectiveness of the Truancy program. Filings have increased post-pandemic when schools were not allowed to file truanancies. However, schools and parents continue to grapple with chronic truancy issues without a clear path toward accountability and re-engagement.
  - c. During the COVID-19 pandemic, dependency filings slowed as children were isolated from school, day care, and other service providers resulting in lower reports of child abuse and neglect. During that time, legislative changes regarding decriminalizing drug use/possession coupled with changing state policy focused on family reunification reform resulted in HB 1227 which requires "imminent harm" before the state may remove a child and file a dependency. This has resulted in reduced numbers over the past few years and significantly reduced filings in 2023. These numbers have increased slightly YTD24 as caseworkers have adjusted to the change in reporting. Dependency services help young children "up stream", significantly reducing ongoing trauma and build protective factors and resiliency. The outcome of these changes resulting in a lack of state interventions will not be seen for many years.
- 3 Continued focus on providing enhanced and individualized services to youth and families at the local level supporting reunification (Coordination of Services - COS, Ancillary Treatment Services - ATS, Community Prevention Wellness Initiative, ICWA Court, Mental Health Court, HB 1227 - Keeping Families Together).
- 4 Legislation to reduce or eliminate legal financial obligations for juveniles (ESHB 1169) passed. Juvenile Courts are no longer able to collect fines or fees, only restitution.
- 5 Legislation passed allow more flexibility with Evidence Based funding at the local court level however there was no increase in funding.

## Events

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1. **Child Advocate Program (CAP) updates**

- a. Therapeutic courts continue to be a focus, enhancing relationships with community partners and tribal members through - LIFT (Living in Families Together) and ICWA Court (Indian Child Welfare Act).
- b. Continue to offer in-house, in-person training during 2023-24, as well as online offerings to accommodate a variety of volunteer involvement. Three in-person trainings held last year.
- c. Volunteer recruitment continues to be a struggle. Our Volunteer Coordinator resigned in late 2023 and the position was eliminated for 2024. We currently have 30 volunteers and 14 unassigned cases. Although there is community interest, it is a very challenging volunteer commitment, subject to secondary trauma, ongoing training, and often intense court scrutiny.
- d. Over the past 12 months, we have offered 11 in-service training events for volunteers and have hosted 4 outreach/recruitment events including participation in the Home Show and Lefties promotion. Additionally, we had the privilege of assisting with Reunification Day and Adoption Day, celebrating families.

## 2 Detention

- a. Continued our recruitment and staff development efforts – 100 applicants screened and vetted during 2023, hired three Juvenile Corrections Officers, and had two departures. So far in 2024, we have screened and vetted 15 applicants, hired one new officer, and accepted one resignation. We continue to do our best to operate with 12 officers (out of 16) while we seek to fill two vacancies and have two officers out on extended leave.
- b. Completed relicensing and on-site review of our Secure Crisis Residential Center and the Ancillary Treatment Services (ATS). We also successfully completed our CNP (Child Nutrition Program) audit as required every three years.
- c. In recognition of the ongoing stress and exposure to traumatic events as well as secondary trauma, we successfully received grant funding from the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to develop an Officer Wellness & Recognition Program. Facilitator training and officer recognition and support efforts will begin during the second half of 2024, through June of 2025.
- d. In 2024, we filled the vacant Care Management Coordinator position within the Ancillary Treatment Services program providing direct services to the Secure Crisis Residential Center; promoted one Juvenile Corrections Officer II to the vacant Senior Juvenile Corrections Officer shift lead position; sending two officers to be certified as Taser Instructors and one officer will be attending Defensive Tactics Instructor training.

## 3. True Star

- a. Passed annual Salish BH-ASO fiscal and personnel file audit
- b. Continue to provide mental health support to Port Angeles School District
- c. Continue to provide detention based services, SUD (Substance Use Disorder), MH (mental health), and case management through BHAB support
- d. Ancillary Treatment Services (ATS) provided to youth in our Secure Crisis Residential Center (SCRC) including Youth At-Risk ordered by the court. Case Manager and Clinicians provide wrap-around services, referrals, and supports for youth during stay and upon release, in response to RCW 13.32A.250.

- e. Renewed a small grant through the City of Sequim (Liquor Tax & Profit Distribution Fund) and Haller Funds for incentives to acknowledge SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time based) Goals toward positive behavior change for youth participating in treatment programming
- f. Seeking new opportunities to provide needed services for all adolescents, including Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and grant funding opportunities for low income, uninsured and under-insured youth (HCA and SBHO).
- g. As of 7/9/2024, we continue to seek qualified applicants to fill our open Licensed Mental Health Counselor Associate position. The position was posted 1/9/24; 182+ days advertised, and over 4,572 views, no qualified applicants. Working with HR to review job description.

#### 4. **Agency**

- a. Continue to pivot and respond to legislative and state changes. HB 2217 (RCW 13.40.300): Provides the Juvenile Court with jurisdiction over cases pertaining to individuals accused of committing a criminal offense under the age of 18 when charges are brought before the age of 21, rather than only when charges are brought before the age of 18. Due to this new statutory language, we will see an increase in our caseloads although after speaking with the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney the total impact is unknown at this time. Additionally, on 7/5/2024, the Juvenile Rehabilitation administration suspended all intakes of juveniles sentenced to commitments due to overcrowding and safety concerns. Local detention centers continue to navigate and respond to this unanticipated announcement.
- b. Continue to restructure teams due to staff vacancies, changing workload, and funding
- c. Focus on Employee Recognition by coordinating internal recognition of longevity and celebrating employee milestones and accomplishments. All annual evaluations completed on time. Received Haller grant to provide Basic Supports to youth and families when no other funding is available.
- d. Renewed Community Prevention & Wellness Initiative (CPWI) Grant through the Washington Health Care Authority (HCA), in partnership with PASD High School to assess, evaluate, and plan prevention activities needed for youth in our community.
- e. Continue to work with the Finance Department, legal, and county administration to review and renew contracts for detention services, while acknowledging increased costs over time.

## Goals

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1. Achieve and maintain full staffing and volunteer positions:
  - a. Detention: goal is to recruit enough staff to reach total capacity and increase our retention percentage to over ninety percent
  - b. Increase Child Advocate Program (CAP) Volunteer base to 35 so as to provide a volunteer for all children in Dependency, reflective of current caseloads
  - c. Continue to work with Human Resources to review job descriptions, classifications, salaries, and benefits related to recruitment and retention efforts of the county.
2. Continue to adhere to professional standards and training by ensuring all certified staff maintain requirements and ongoing professional and program development.

- a. Probation Officers: ensure all Probation Officers remain in compliance with certification standards for Case Management and maintain required 20 hours of continuing education.
- b. True Star Counselors: maintain licensure and continuing education standards annually
- c. Juvenile Corrections Officers: Complete minimum of 40 hours of annual training including all SCRC requirements (24 hours) and Defensive Tactics (16 hours)
- d. CAP Volunteers: Complete 12 hours of annual training in required categories
- e. Legal Process: Ensure timely filing and processing of all legal documents within two business days
- f. Management:
  - i. Director and manager participated in the Professional Development Academy (PDA) "alumni program" follow up training offered through the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy. Juvenile Corrections Manager scheduled to participate in 2025.
  - ii. Obtain Career Level Certification for Juvenile Corrections Manager and two Sr. Corrections Officers through the Criminal Justice Training Commission. Court Manager achieved
- g. Ensure all staff and volunteers complete required on-line training annually
- 3. Continue to evaluate effectiveness of Juvenile Programs and expand services, use of evidenced-based programs, and increase community partnerships through exploration of new programs and funding options. (Expanded EBE language provided more flexibility but did not increase
  - a. Re-start Education & Education Training (EET) – engage 2 youth
  - b. Provide Adolescent Suicide Prevention Training (in-house by True Star) – all staff
  - c. Continue offering evidence-based program, Coordination of Services (COS), engaged 46 families
  - d. CPWI building capacity for Guiding Good Choices (GGC) parenting classes - engage 20 families - six new facilitators starting FY24-25!
  - e. Renewing True Star & Port Angeles School District Counseling Services – continue to provide much needed mental health services to elementary and middle schools within Port Angeles. Reviewing needs of Sequim and West End partners.
- f. Program considerations:
  - i. Establish a steady curriculum of social and emotional learning (SEL) and trauma-based training for both youth and staff (starting with Suicide Prevention training)
  - ii. Offer CPR training and Food Handler's class coordination for youth
  - iii. Reinstigate Yoga / Meditation / Mindfulness offerings in detention
  - iv. Continue to develop Community Service Work Crew
  - v. Explore mentor opportunities for youth-at risk, truant, and dependency youth (currently partnering with program for foster youth through Olympic Angels)
- 4. Ensure all staff receive annual evaluation
- 5. Maintain compliance with federal, state, county, and department training, licensing, and audit requirements including the Department of Health (DOH), the Salish Behavioral Health
- 6. Follow all laws, rules, and codes specific to the Juvenile Justice Act and treatment including 13.50 and 13.34.

## Workload Indicators

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	6/30/24 Actual
<b>OFFENDER:</b>			
New Filings	102	137	96

New Supervision Cases	54	66	86
Offender Proceedings Held	890	1,165	675
Total Offender Cases Resolved/Disposed	84	101	69
CDDA Average Monthly Caseload	1	4	5
SSODA Average Monthly Caseload	5.5	5.7	3.1
Diversions Processed/Referred	72	76	35
Total Number of Offense Referrals	329	422	158
<b>NON-OFFENDER:</b>			
Dependency Filings	71	18	17
At-Risk Youth Filings	25	18	3
CHINS (Child in Need of Services) Filings	9	13	2
Truancy Petitions Filed	142	126	96
Non-Offender Proceedings Held	1,965	1,242	580
<b>CORRECTIONS/SCRC:</b>			
Total Annual Corrections Bookings	205	265	133
Total Bed Days	1,958	2,857	1,720
Average Daily Corrections Population	5.5	7.8	9.5
Peak Corrections Population	14.0	14.0	16.0
Average Monthly Utilization Rate - SCRC	3.8	2.1	1.2

*\*Dependency filings include guardianships and terminations*

## Grant Funding Sources

1. Department of Agriculture (Federal)
2. Department of Commerce
3. Salish Behavioral Health Organization (BH-ASO)
4. Managed Care Organizations (*Amerigroup, Molina, United Behavioral Health, Coordinated Care, and Community Health Plan of Washington*)
5. Port Angeles School District
6. Department of Children, Youth, & Families
7. State of Washington Administrative Office of the Courts
8. Washington Health Care Authority

## Revenues

	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	6/30/24 Actual	2025 Budget
Taxes	1,942,645	1,989,424	927,566	2,140,000
Licenses and Permits	10,649	10,902	4,922	12,000
Intergovernmental Revenues	848,243	1,044,251	488,074	2,430,055
Charges for Goods and Services	394,458	486,664	230,091	338,951
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	1
Miscellaneous Revenues	591	350	387	2,000
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
Transfers In	0	0	0	0
General Tax Support	-3,883	-79,017	148,149	40,548
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,192,703</b>	<b>3,452,574</b>	<b>1,799,189</b>	<b>4,963,555</b>

## Expenditures

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	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	6/30/24 Actual	2025 Budget
Salaries and Wages	2,008,699	2,094,390	1,058,891	2,342,630
Personnel Benefits	858,163	919,156	484,770	1,094,990
Supplies	93,781	114,390	56,203	140,977
Other Services and Charges	197,322	290,401	164,912	236,238
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlays	1,883	0	16,339	1,000,000
Debt Service: Principal	32,855	34,238	18,074	41,720
Interfund Payments for Services	0	0	0	0
Transfers Out	0	0	0	107,000
Total	3,192,703	3,452,574	1,799,189	4,963,555

## Staffing

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	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	6/30/24 Actual	2025 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	36.53	37.53	35.53	35.53