

1.1. FY20 Budget Coversheet

General Information

Office/Department: Blaine County Probation

Budget Contact Person: Teresa Espedal

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Office/Department Profile

Operational Description

The Blaine County Probation Department is responsible for supervising adult clients that have been placed on probation as the result of a misdemeanor offense, and juveniles that are placed on probation.

Additionally, the Blaine County Probation Department provides accountability and supervision through an effective program utilized to help young people avoid the formal court system when they have committed a criminal or status offense. This program is called Diversion and is utilized more frequently and is often more effective than formal court processes for juveniles.

We make efforts to explore and utilize strategies that may reduce the likelihood of individuals having further involvement with the criminal justice system. These strategies include a focus on risk assessment to assist with addressing criminogenic risk factors. Criminogenic risk factors are areas that significantly contribute to whether an individual may continue with high risk and criminal behavior. The risk assessment can also identify protective factors, which are areas that increase the likelihood that an individual will be a successful, productive member of the community. Supervision includes administering a risk assessment tool, creating a case plan, monitoring compliance with court ordered probation terms and conditions and using incentives and graduated sanctions to promote positive behavior changes. The intake interview and ongoing supervision contacts provide us with information that is needed to help a client be successful. It is important to note that sometimes our strategies include helping an individual get their basic needs met. It is difficult to be successful when you are struggling with food, shelter, employment and transportation. It is not uncommon for a probation officer to “walk” a client through the steps they need to take to get their needs met (role playing, practicing, making appointments, getting additional information regarding resources, taking them to appointments or classes, introducing them to someone that can help with a resource). This work plays an important role in helping improve a client’s likelihood of success and we also believe that it may increase community safety and reduce recidivism.

It is also important to note that our current operation also includes assisting with monitoring of court ordered conditions of release for misdemeanor and felony offenders. The Blaine County Probation

Department staff has been working hard with our judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys to make significant changes in this area in the upcoming fiscal year.

Finally, our department engages in community-based partnerships and initiatives to attempt to prevent individuals from having formal contact with the criminal justice system. These collaborative efforts include long and short-term partnerships.

Probation services in Blaine County are provided in accordance with two separate Idaho Code Sections, specifically: **Adult Misdemeanor Probation Services – Idaho Code Title 31, Chapter 8 (31-878)**, which states “The County Commissioners shall provide for misdemeanor probation services to supervise misdemeanor offenders, in those cases where such probation supervision has been ordered by the sentencing court, and perform such functions as prescribed by the administrative judge in each judicial district; and **Appointment of County Probation Officer (Juvenile Probation Officers Under the Juvenile Corrections Act) – Idaho Code Title 20, Chapter 5 (20-529)**, which states “The Courts in the several counties of the state shall enter into a contract or agreement for probation services in the counties, or if the court deems local probation services are preferable, may appoint one (1) or more persons to serve at the expense of the county with the concurrence of the county commissioners.”

As mentioned previously, the Blaine County Probation Department provides all aspects of supervision for court ordered probation clients. Listed below is more specific information about the other services that are provided:

DIVERSION

This is a program that is offered as an alternative to formal court involvement and is offered to teenagers, including individuals that are 18 or over if they are still in high school. The Blaine County Probation Department is open to accepting adult diversion cases and there has been statewide movement and a new law that would allow first time DUI offenders to participate in a Diversion program. The program is designed to serve low risk and first-time offenders, but there have been situations where a young person has been allowed to access Diversion more than once. Referrals to our Diversion Program come from many sources, including:

- The Prosecuting Attorney’s Office – they review cases for appropriateness of Diversion after receiving a request for petition, but prior to formal filing in juvenile court.
- Law Enforcement – an individual law enforcement officer or agency can refer a case directly to probation for Diversion. This is the least common referral source.
- The Blaine County School District – these referrals can come from a School Resource Officer, Administrator or Guidance Counselor. It is not uncommon for these cases to involve school attendance issues (a status offense in juvenile court) or violations of the School Drug Policy. We have referrals from elementary schools, middle and high schools for Diversion
- Juvenile and Magistrate Court Formal Cases – a judge can refer a case to the probation department for Diversion even after a formal case has been filed. The judge may say that Diversion is the

sentence or may keep the case open until the Diversion has been successfully complete and then a decision is made on how or if to proceed with the case.

- Probation officer – a probation officer can and does conduct risk assessments and background interviews to determine appropriateness of Diversion and can bring this to the attention of the prosecuting attorney to request that the juvenile be referred for diversion. This can also occur after a formal case has been filed when a probation officer has background information and risk assessment data to suggest that diversion is more appropriate.

Diversion requires that the young person takes responsibility for their behavior by admitting that they have done something wrong (criminal offense, juvenile offense, status offense – only a crime due to age). In addition, the Blaine County Probation Department needs cooperation and approval from the parent(s) in the process. The young person and their parent(s) enter into a contract with the Blaine County Probation Department that outlines how they will be held accountable for their behavior, an opportunity to repair the harm that has been done to the victim and community (if applicable), and a timeline to complete the terms of the contract. The benefits of participation in the Diversion Program include: accountability that occurs not long after the offense was committed (this is in contrast to the formal court system which can take several months to resolve a case); an individualized contract based on risk factors, history, parental response, efforts that have been made to “fix” what happened prior to the Diversion meeting; increase the potential for positive outcomes; and avoid the long-term consequences associated with the formal court process.

CONDITIONS OF RELEASE TESTING PROGRAM

Blaine County currently does not offer a Conditions of Release Program, although this is offered in several other counties in the state. An Order of Conditions of Release outlines specific terms and conditions that a defendant must follow in order to remain out of jail, while they are awaiting the resolution of their case. The predominant requirement listed on Conditions of Release in Blaine County is related to random drug and alcohol testing. The Blaine County Probation Department is currently supervising and monitoring the random drug and alcohol testing portion of the Conditions of Release for our magistrate and district judges. It is important to note that the Blaine County Probation Department is only responsible for supervising adult misdemeanor and juvenile offenders, but clients on conditions of release include those with Felony charges. Felony Probation is supervised through the Idaho Department of Corrections.

The Blaine County Probation Department’s involvement in Conditions of Release drug and alcohol testing has been increasing over the past several years, from an occasional drug test in an informal way to something that has the structure of a program. The Blaine County Probation Department has been responsible for signing up clients, creating testing agreement, creating and managing a random on-call calendar (recorded each morning by a Blaine County Probation Department staff), observing client urinalysis tests in our office, packaging and mailing samples, documenting testing results and collecting funds for alcohol and drug tests, and submitting reports of violations to the Blaine County Prosecuting

Attorney's Office or the City Attorney when there was a violation because of alcohol or drug use, and complying with a court summons to testify regarding violations.

Our work with Conditions of Release also included building rapport, helping individuals find resources, addressing treatment needs, and working on strategies that would make it more likely they could be successful in the community. Addressing needs could mean that they are less likely to harm others or engage in high-risk behavior related to use of alcohol or illegal substances.

We continue to work with our local judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys on strategies to limit our involvement in the Conditions of Release Program and eventually remove our department from the process.

SCRAM AND RANDOM ALCOHOL/DRUG TESTING

The Blaine County Probation Department uses all five (5) staff members (including our office manager) to operate our random alcohol and drug testing program. It is not uncommon for clients on adult misdemeanor, juvenile probation and diversion to have offense that are directly related to use of alcohol or illegal substances. Driving Under the Influence is the most common case for adults that are convicted of misdemeanor crimes and placed on supervised probation. The process includes: signing up clients, answering questions regarding our random testing calendar, creating a random testing calendar where clients call in to determine whether they are scheduled for testing each day, observing urinalysis tests, packaging specimens, documenting results and collecting funds for testing. The Blaine County Probation Department utilizes the Judgement of Conviction for clients on supervised probation to determine the type of testing and the types of drugs tested for and the frequency (low, medium, or high risk). Decisions regarding alcohol and drug testing for Diversion cases is made by the supervising officer. Random urinalysis testing is the first level of testing available and we have two other options through our Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) Devices. One device uses 24 hour per day transdermal technology and alcohol consumption is measured through a device that the client wears for the program duration (it cannot be removed unless it is cut off) or a SCRAM remote breath test machine, which requires random or scheduled breath tests daily.

The Blaine County Probation Department provides information and education to stakeholders regarding the devices; installs the SCRAM device on individual clients; provides regular supervision and maintenance to the SCRAM devices and responds to alerts (tampering, damage, alcohol consumption); collects funds for payment of the devices; and is responsible for the removal and cleaning process. We currently own 14 SCRAM devices that were purchased through a federal grant and three (3) SCRAM remote breath tests machines that were purchased through Blaine County Probation. There are daily costs associated with an individual being monitored on the SCRAM, plus a significant amount of staff time is dedicated to installation, monitoring and maintenance. The primary benefit of utilizing a SCRAM is that it provides supervision for individuals that are high risk because of their alcohol use. It is also used as an alternative to jail and has proven to be helpful to use as a graduated (and immediate) sanction.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Blaine County Probation Department continues to coordinate community service projects through our department. This coordination involves relationships with local non-profits and working with individuals to help them identify projects and areas of interest. We work with the Blaine County Facilities Manager to determine whether there are projects around the county campus that may need assistance. This information is shared with clients that have court ordered service hours to complete. The Magistrate Judges have also asked some of our clients to utilize part of their community service hours to complete a project that has a connection to their offense. This can be challenging and the probation department staff can work with adults, juveniles and those on diversion to help them identify options. The Blaine County Probation Department also has flexibility in the summer and we have previously used time to work directly with clients on a project. This has been a great opportunity to model behavior and skills, build rapport, and create more opportunities for service because we can provide supervision.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This continues to play a significant role in the daily work of each Blaine County Probation Department Staff member. We are committed to involvement in community-based programs, initiatives and local/statewide training that can decrease the likelihood that an individual becomes formally involved in our department. We provide resources and referrals to children and families that are at-risk or high-risk based on needs that have been identified through our relationships with the school and community organizations. The Blaine County Probation Department uses our knowledge of community-based resources and relationships with other agencies to improve the likelihood of success for the client (and families) we serve. It is not uncommon for officers to work on assisting a client (or a former client) with getting their basic needs met (food, clothing, housing) and assisting with transportation issues; employment issues; mental health and medication issues. Supervision of probation is more than making sure that clients complete a term and checking off a box to indicate that it has been done. We are willing to do whatever we can to assist someone in moving forward and making positive changes in their lives. We want to be a resource to current clients, past clients, families, treatment providers, the school, law enforcement, non-profits and other community stakeholders and I believe that this area is a strength for us. This type of community outreach and connection can reduce an individual's risk to the community.

Department Philosophy

The Blaine County Probation Department respects and values each individual's capacity to change. It is important to note that a person can improve and change at any time and we are witnesses to small and large positive changes daily. We remain mindful of this and notice changes in our client, families, representatives of organizations and the general community

Department Vision

Our community will be a safe and healthy place where people are connected and have the opportunity to reach their full potential

Department Mission

To increase public health and safety through improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Department Values

I-Hear

- I Integrity – we are honest, fair and professional with strong moral and ethical principles and seek to encourage this in the individual we serve.
- H Hope - we have an expectation of positive changes and a belief that things can improve within individuals, organizations and communities.
- E Empathy – we have the ability to share and understand someone’s feelings and this translates to the individuals we serve, their families, victims and the greater community.
- A Accountability – acknowledge your behavior and assume responsibility for your actions.
- R Respect – act in a way that shows that you care about others’ feelings, points of view and well-being.

Organizational Structure

The Blaine County Probation Department consists of five (5) full-time staff. The Director of the Blaine County Probation Department directly supervises three (3) probation officers and one (1) office manager. The office manager provides assistance to all staff and customers. We work as a team to make decisions about our department and continue to focus on new projects, initiatives and strategies that relate to our philosophy, vision, mission and values.

1.2. FY19 Budget Overview – Template “A”

FY19 Proposed Outcomes

(Provide a bulleted list of your three to five proposed outcomes)

- Outcome 1 Improve Consistency and Efficiency in the Blaine County Probation Department
- Outcome 2 Creation and Maintenance of Results Teams to increase effectiveness of Criminal Justice System
- Outcome 3 Promote Officer Safety

The Blaine County Probation Department takes great pride in our work and we take it very seriously. We aim to hold individuals accountable and to do no harm. We are committed to efforts to increase our effectiveness and the ability to motivate individuals to make positive changes in their lives. We coordinate our efforts with other departments, individuals and agencies, inside and outside of the county organization, to increase the health and safety within our community. Our greatest interest and motivation is the potential for our efforts to have significant, positive community impacts. We believe that our efforts are already making a difference in the lives of individuals we supervise, their families and the community at large.

Outcome 1

Improve Consistency and Efficiency in the Blaine County Probation Department

The Blaine County Probation Department has two distinct branches, adult misdemeanor and juvenile probation/diversion. Probation Officers are primarily dedicated to one branch or the other, although each officer has limited information about the overall operations so that they can provide some support, supervision, and assistance when necessary. There are different grant funding and substance abuse funding streams for both and each branch requires a specific certification through POST at the Idaho Department of Law Enforcement within one year of being hired for the position.

The Blaine County Probation Department Staff has worked together for a long time and we have been exploring ways to be more efficient and effective and have come up with an idea that will transform the way that we operate in the Blaine County Probation Department and will likely include a department name-change/rebranding in the future.

Our goal in this outcome is to review the standards for each department – adult misdemeanor probation and juvenile probation/diversion and rewrite our policy and procedures and standard operating procedures.

We have already taken the step of exploring all the aspects of all of the individual jobs and responsibilities and are working on writing the procedures together.

Each staff member will take the portion that they are most comfortable/familiar with (in the beginning) and will write a draft operating procedure. It will be shared with the rest of the staff so that they can provide feedback, and staff will also use the policy to try to complete job responsibilities as they come up. This will be completed under the supervision of the individual that created the policy.

We will be working with partners inside and outside of the county organization to review our policy and standard operating procedures and give feedback.

Our final plan in the upcoming Fiscal Year is to complete our policy and standard operating procedures, and work on completing training so that each probation officer will share the caseload – dividing adult and juvenile cases.

Our believe is that this process will help with efficiency, consistency, team building, job satisfaction, and allow us flexibility to staff cases based on which officer might be the best fit for the individual client based on their needs

Strategic Alignment

We believe that this outcome aligns with the following strategic objectives

- Understands and focuses on customer and client service
- Works to meet community needs when determined appropriate and possible
- Provides leadership reflecting the goals and values of the entire Blaine County Community
- Is unified in its sense of purpose
- Promotes a collaborative, team approach to issues and problem solving
- Provides a desirable, responsive work environment
- Strives for consistency and strives to exceed expectations

Indicators of Success

- A portion of Policy and Procedures are updated and approved
- A portion of Standard Operating Procedures are updated and approved
- Staff receive cross training within the department, in the community and in the state
- Cases are divided more evenly between all four probation officers
- Staff reports feeling better job satisfaction
- Staff demonstrates increased cooperation and consistency

Outcome 2

Creation and Maintenance of Results Teams to Increase Effectiveness of Criminal Justice System

It is important to note that this has been an outcome for several years as the Blaine County Probation Department is working with partners on effort to increase the effectiveness of our work in criminal justice in Blaine County.

The Blaine County Probation Department continues its involvement in several collaborative efforts that involve stakeholders working towards a common goal, and we would categorize these groups as results teams. We plan to continue working with these teams and will explore others in order to continue our progress towards this outcome.

Several of our results teams groups find that they need to continue to work together to make changes, look at successes and challenges, research best practices and explore training opportunities to keep our projects effective and sustainable.

Updates on existing and new results teams are listed below:

- **DIVERSION** – This results team has been one of our most successful, but also seems to need the most care, attention and evaluation. As mentioned before, Diversion is a process of taking responsibility for your actions when you have committed a crime or status offense, and being held accountable without proceeding through the formal court process. Diversion has a long history with the Blaine County Probation Department and Fiscal Year 2019 was no exception. We had our largest number of referrals for Diversion and this translated to very few juveniles being referred to juvenile court, and a dramatic decrease in detention days/dollars spent. Diversion has proven to be very effective, but it also presents as a fragile program. A program that can see changes in referral types or numbers based on many factors, for example: a stakeholder feeling that the terms of the diversion contract were too lenient/too harsh; not believing that certain cases should be diverted or that second time offenders should not have another change at diversion. The results team for Diversion includes the prosecuting attorney; magistrate judge; school district personnel (including the School Resource Officer), local law enforcement; probation; counselors or guidance counselors. Information about our progress in Fiscal Year 2019 progress is attached.
- **MENTAL HEALTH** – This results team has continued to grow and the Blaine County Probation Department is still engaged in its efforts. The team includes the local National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) team members; local law enforcement; probation; mental health and health care; individuals that have been affected by mental health issues. The Blaine County Probation Department supervised individuals that have serious, ongoing mental health struggles as well as individuals that may have a need for temporary or short-term support related to mental health. Involvement in this group helps identify gaps in services, training issues, crisis intervention training, community education including recognizing the impact of mental health, and support for families. The group continues to meet to define its goals and objectives and has been an invaluable resource to the probation department, as well as to the magistrate judges. Information about our progress in Fiscal Year 2019 progress is attached

- **CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT** – This results team continues to involved seven (7) of the juvenile justice departments in Region V in Idaho and is focused on accessing community based resources, through probation, for young people on probation or diversion that are struggling with abusing illegal substances. The results team also includes the juvenile magistrate judge in our county, as well as the Idaho Social Learning Center (OSLC). The OSLC is conducting a research project that is aimed at reducing risk and usage by training probation officers to provide treatment services within our departments and during our office visits with youth and their families. We began this results team on October 1, 2018 and it will continue through 2020. If we are happy with the results of the study, then the OSLC will train anyone that is interested in our department and may also include treatment providers; school counselors and guidance counselors. There is also a possibility that this training could provide a valuable tool to deal with adult misdemeanor offenders as Contingency Management has proven to be effective with that population. Information about Fiscal Year 2019 progress is attached
- **DUI COURT AND DIVERSION FOR ADULT DUI OFFENDERS** – this will become a newly formed results team. There has been a little discussion and interest in DUI court, but a formal results team has not been created. A new law in Idaho allowing Diversion for 1st Time DUI Offenders will take affect July 1, 2019, so we are committed to doing some work with a results team in this area.
- **OFF SITE RANDOM TESTING** – This will continue to be a focus. We have and will continue to work with our team to help identify options to off site or off-load random alcohol and drug testing to a contract provider. Information about Fiscal Year 2019 progress is attached
- **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR ADULT MISDEMEANOR/JUVENILE PROBATION, INCLUDING STATE STANDARDS**
Plan for a newly formed results team, but has not been formed

Strategic Alignment

We believe that this outcome aligns with the following strategic objectives

- Uses citizen and taxpayer resources efficiently and effectively
- Promulgates appropriate inter-governmental cooperative action
- Understands its constituency and believes county government exists to serve their needs
- Understands and focuses on customer and client service
- Works to meet community needs when determined appropriate and possible
- Provides leadership reflecting the goals and values of the entire Blaine County Community
- Is unified in its sense of purpose
- Promotes a collaborative, team approach to issues and problem solving
- Engages in excellent intra-and-inter departmental communication
- Optimizes employee training and improvement opportunities
- Is equipped, trained and very well prepared to protect public safety and health.

Results Teams

This outcome requires the ongoing support and involvement of members of the results teams. We have at least two big results teams operating, and three that we are aiming to make a focus in the next fiscal year. The existing teams have and will continue to have an impact on the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. We already have one big example, which was keeping over 80 juveniles out of the formal court system and out of detention with only a small percentage of recidivism. Improving outcomes without compromising public safety. We will continue to address issues and seek to improve by collaborating with our results team. Current result teams for the above-mentioned outcomes include: the prosecuting attorney's office; magistrate judges; local law enforcement; probation; school administrators; guidance counselors and social workers; St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center; the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections; the OSLC; state juvenile justice administrators; state adult misdemeanor administrators; local professionals and concerned citizens.

Outcome 3

Promote Officer Safety

It is important to note that this has been an outcome for several years. The Blaine County Probation Department continues to serve a variety of clients in our office. The ages range from infants who are brought in by their mothers to senior citizens and everyone in between. It is not uncommon to find a juvenile waiting to see the probation officer or diversion officer and an adult client that is coming in to submit to a drug test. We are never certain exactly who might be coming in to our office after being sentenced to probation or being released from jail on conditions of release. Our current practices also mean that we may have clients with pending or current adult felony charges in our space. We want to be mindful of the safety of our staff and our staff takes the safety of our clients very seriously.

The layout of our office is unique and a comparison to other probation office spaces (or professional spaces in general) is striking. We continue to be a part of a small number of county probation departments that provides supervision services to adults and juveniles in the same space, in the same waiting area. Our office door brings you face-to-face with our office manager and her desk is surrounded by chairs for visitors. There are consistently several clients waiting for their probation officer; individuals that are waiting to be drug tested; new clients signing up for probation; clients in crisis or community members that need questions answered/resources suggested.

We have consistently used a strategy in our interactions with clients and families/guests to promote the safety of our staff. This strategy includes consistently treating individuals respectfully; listening to concerns and answering questions; recognizing tone and body language (theirs and ours). This strategy begins at the initial point of contact with a person. Each staff member makes a concerted effort to positively engage with all clients. The policy we have created and will continue to use is:

- Acknowledge – some way to acknowledge that they have come into the office or waiting area (a smile or nod)

- Greet/Introduce – say hello, introduce yourself or ask them to remind you of their names (i.e.: I don't think that we have met before, my name is, or can you remind me of your name again)
- Inform – answer questions that they have and spend time listening to what they have to say or concerns they may want to share.
- Thank/Close – an acknowledgment that they came in, followed through and are leaving (i.e.: have a nice day, thanks for coming in today, see you later)

Strategic Alignment

We believe that this outcome aligns with the following strategic objectives

- Understands and focuses on customer and client service
- Works to meet community needs when determined appropriate and possible
- Provides leadership reflecting the goals and values of the entire Blaine County Community
- Is unified in its sense of purpose
- Promotes a collaborative, team approach to issues and problem solving
- Provides a desirable, responsive work environment
- Strives for consistency and strives to exceed expectations

Indicators of Success

- Staff continue to use the policy and it has become practice
- Staff report feeling safe in their office space and in the office in general
- No reports of physical aggression or verbal aggression towards staff in the front office
- No reports of an unsafe situation in the office in the Fiscal Year.

PROGRESS ON FY 2019 OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1 – Results Teams to Increase Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System

Results Teams continued throughout the last fiscal year and listed below is an update on the progress in the individual areas identified in for last year.

DIVERSION – This is a successful program and strategy and it needs attention and ongoing evaluation to ensure its success. As mentioned previously, we recognize that we must continue dialogue, information sharing and statistics to ensure that the program continues. The move to *divert* low-risk and first-time offenders is something that continues to be a focus throughout the region and the state and offers more benefits than the traditional court system.

We continue to work with our partners including: prosecuting attorney's office, magistrate judges; school district; law enforcement; probation and guidance counselors/social workers. Ongoing information and education in the past fiscal year included:

- Continued information shared regarding the juvenile justice system – the process; time frames; potential unintended consequences; the limits and judicial approach
- Basic education regarding the effectiveness of Diversion
- Implementing guidelines and options to deal with juvenile cases that are now considered infractions, including Minor Consumption and Possession of Alcohol.
- Ongoing contact and information sharing regarding Diversion referrals and progress on contracts
- Sharing resources that are available to support students and their families in being successful and these services can be accessed even if a referring party chooses to deal with a case MORE informally than Diversion.

The Blaine County Probation Department has seen consistent numbers of referrals and have served a total of 83 Diversion clients and their families since the beginning of the fiscal year (October 1, 2019). This compares with 80 Diversion Referral in Fiscal Year 2018, and 72 in Fiscal year 2017. Prior to this time, we had an average of 25 Diversion Referrals each year, with remaining cases being referred to juvenile court or to criminal court. The current referrals include:

- 57 Diversion Referrals from law enforcement or the prosecuting attorney
- 15 YES Referrals, which are referrals for compulsory attendance (under 16 is required to go to school – a status offense)
- 5 Attendance Court Referrals, these are middle or elementary aged students that have excessive absences and trancies (a status offense) and involves significant case management and support for the young person and their family to be successful. Case management efforts and resources for these cases include: parenting classes; evaluations; individual and family counseling; in-home intervention support teams and mentoring to prevent them from further involvement with the juvenile justice system.
- 5 School Drug Policy Referrals – these could constitute an offense and originate out of a school discipline referral related to substances (including tobacco/vapes)
- 1 Court Referral – a case that made its way to a formal court filing and the judge wanted the case referred to Diversion.

Of the 83 cases in the current fiscal year, 53 have successfully completed and 30 have open contracts and timelines to complete the terms of their Diversion. Four (4) current Diversion cases involve juveniles that have previously been referred and were given a second opportunity in lieu of formal court action. One (1) case was referred to formal court action because the juvenile continued to commit crimes and had greater needs than could be addressed through Diversion. 90% of the Diversion referral cases were classified as low risk while the remaining 10% were categorized as medium risk to reoffend. Our Diversion program has also continued to see an average of 5 days from referral to contact with juveniles and their parents to schedule an appointment to discuss the program. This continues to be a success, and immediate

accountability and consequences provide substantial benefits. It can take several months, and sometimes up to one year, for cases to be resolved through formal court processes.

Our efforts to hold juveniles accountable for their involvement in criminal and status offenses results in a dramatic reduction in the number of juvenile cases filed and juveniles placed on probation. Less than 10% of our juvenile caseload is receiving supervision and accountability through formal probation. This is significant. It means that the cases formally processed through the juvenile court could include repeat offenders, high-risk offenders, and more serious types of offenses. They need the formality supervision and resources that the court process provides.

It is important to note changes in the ways we work with juveniles has resulted in dramatic decreases in the amount of funds spent on detention days, specifically detention is utilized when we are concerned about community safety and not as a method of dealing with problem behavior.

MENTAL HEALTH:

The Blaine County Adult Misdemeanor Probation Officer is a member of the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) local advisory board. This board/team includes representatives from our local chapter of NAMI; local law enforcement; probation; mental health and health care providers and individuals that have been affected by mental health issues. The group works within NAMI's mission which is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education and advocacy, and to bridge the gap between urban and rural mental health services. The work of this team is important to our community but has also been helpful in the work that is being done with probation and diversion clients.

Accomplishments with this results team have included:

- Ongoing support of the Blue Birds, a mental health group for middle and high school students, providing a safe place for teens that are struggling with mental health issues.
- Planning for a Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT) Tentatively looking at May 2020 for the training, and expanding to include all first responders and firefighters. CIT is an innovative, first responder model of police-based crisis intervention with community, health care and advocacy partnerships. It provides the foundation necessary to promote community and statewide solutions to assist individuals with a mental illness. It reduces stigma and provides a forum for effective problem solving regarding the interaction between the criminal justice and mental health care system.
- Partnering with the 5B Suicide Prevention Alliance Group to launch a program to make gun locks available and to support suicide prevention strategies.
- Creation and planned distribution of a Do and Don't information card on how to deal with someone in a mental health crisis

- Promote involvement of clients in the NAMI Peer to Peer support group for individuals experiencing or supporting someone with mental health issues. The group is focused on getting more facilitators trained as well as working to put together gender specific groups.
- The results team continues to work together to help individuals with mental health issues address basic needs (which can also include therapy and medication).
- Ongoing discuss and work towards identifying and closing gaps in services.

DUI COURT

The results team currently includes the Magistrate Judge and the probation department, although there has been preliminary conversations with stakeholders about the need or benefit of this program. Creation of a DUI court would require the involvement of the prosecuting attorney’s office; defense attorneys; magistrate judges; the trial court administrator; probation and local treatment providers. DUI Courts work to reduce repeat offenses and provide community protection through “cost effective, integrated care through the development and utilization of community resources. Interest in this program is based on a desire to have more support and accountability for misdemeanor adult probation clients that are facing their second conviction for a DUI offense or have been charged with an excessive DUI (below a .20, which is 2 ½ times the legal limit of .08 for a Driving Under the Influence Offense). The magistrate judge and probation department feel that this program is needed to deal with a growing number of individuals with repeat DUI and excessive offenses, including a significant number of clients who experience “back to back offenses.” Specifically, they are still on probation and receive another DUI offense or have recently been released from probation. In addition, it appears that a significant percentage of the repeat DUI offenders have identified mental health struggles and could benefit from more structure, support and resources than can be provided in our current probation supervision model.

Progress in the move towards creation of a results team for DUI court include:

- Research and discussion regarding caseload, changes in volume and needs of clients
- Visitation to a local drug court to observe and identify components that may be beneficial for our community
- Planned meeting with the 5th Judicial District DUI Court Coordinator
- Commitment to meet with the Trial Court Administrator
- Commitment to create a proposal and formalize a results team upon the completion of this proposal

OFF-SITE RANDOM ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING: The Blaine County Probation Department worked with a results team in this area because of the impact this job responsibility/program has on the operations in our department. It may be helpful to explain the impact. Individuals that are sentenced to adult probation, juvenile probation or diversion are often given terms that include abstaining from alcohol and illegal substances and a requirement to submit to random testing. The most effective alcohol and drug

testing option that we currently have available is urinalysis. Serving an average of 275 clients at a time means that there is significant impact to other supervision requirements when individuals need to be tested for alcohol and illegal substances. In addition, the court has previously utilized the Blaine County Probation Department to monitor testing for clients that are being supervised on conditions of release from jail.

Testing is something that is time consuming and involves the efforts of all five (5) probation officers. We have scheduled three testing times for a total of 2.5 hours and there needs to be a minimum of three (3) officers available at each time frame to manage the case file, observe tests, complete test packaging, and documenting testing, and collecting funds for testing. Our testing times were created to help manage the number of clients testing, as well as recognizing the importance of individuals being able to maintain employment and other commitments. It is common for all five (5) officers to allocated the first hour of each day, to monitor testing, which amounts to 20 hours per week. Our physical space is not conducive to the number of individuals that drug test mixing with clients (and families) that have scheduled appointments with their probation officer. The Blaine County Probation Department has an informal waiting area that does not have a clear barrier between clients and the office manager. There is also no separation between the waiting area and the staff office spaces. This may pose a security and safety issue and we have managed in the best way possible, but need to make changes in the testing process as soon as possible.

In the past fiscal we have made some progress towards changing the way we monitor and provide alcohol and drug testing for clients and individuals on conditions of release, specifically:

- Put together a proposal on how to provide off-site alcohol and other drug testing to allow more time to provide supervision services for clients.
- Worked with our results team and have removed Conditions of Release Testing (the observation, collection and payment) off-site. The Blaine County Probation Department is still responsible for clarifying expectations, monitoring compliance and reports violations of compliance. This change has reduced the amount of time that we are spending on monitoring testing and we will continue to work with our partners to remove monitoring of Conditions of Release Monitoring from our job duties.
- The Blaine County Commissioners graciously budgeted funds for the Blaine County Probation Department to pay for off-site alcohol and drug testing services and we have not accessed any of these funds in the past fiscal year. We continue to work with a drug testing company and exploring other options and are committed to removing drug testing from our physical space for many reasons. We request that funds are allocated for the next fiscal year so that we may continue our pursuit of options for testing our clients.

CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT: This results team includes seven (7) juvenile justice departments in Region V that are working on a research project to identify strategies to reduce the harm of substance use and abuse by juveniles that are informally or formally involved with the juvenile justice system. The initial training was completed by staff and the Blaine County Juvenile Probation Officers continue training for the next year.

The project is ongoing and we will not have data regarding our work until the completion of the research study with the Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC). It is a blind study so two of our probation officers have been trained in the methodology and one of our probation officers continues his strategies without knowledge of the contingency management methodology.

We will share outcomes at the completion of the study and will make decisions about how best to move forward with what we have learned. Our results team will continue to include the prosecuting attorney's office, the magistrate judge, law enforcement, the school district, and the rest of our probation staff. The OSLC staff has indicated that they will share training on contingency management at the completion of the study and this training tool can be used with adult misdemeanor offenders and juvenile offenders.

Blaine County Probation Department
Department Caseload Information
Budget Hearing – June 3, 2019

ADULT MISDEMEANOR PROBATION: The Blaine County Probation Department currently supervises approximately 230 clients. This does not include individuals that have active warrants for probation violations or clients that are being supervised as a courtesy by another county. Listed below is some brief information about the adult misdemeanor caseload.

- All adult misdemeanor clients that are placed on supervised probation participate in an initial intake appointment, which includes a semi-structured interview that is utilized to conduct a risk assessment. The Level of Services Revised (LSI-R) is utilized to assess the likelihood that an individual will reoffend and also identifies areas of risk that should be addressed and the need for services. It also can provide information about protective factors, which are areas that are strengths for individuals (ie: employment; education; relationships). The risk assessment utilizes the information to provide a score of low risk, moderate or high risk and decisions regarding supervision are made accordingly. Statewide statistics are gathered regarding risk level of clients on probation in individual counties. The data for 2018 indicated that approximately 63% of our adult misdemeanor offenders were classified as low risk; 35% moderate risk and 2% high risk. This seems to be fairly accurate. A risk assessment is not 100% accurate and has approximately a 15-18% margin of error. Human behavior can be unpredictable, but we are utilizing a state recommended, validated risk assessment tool that can provide us with the best information available
- Low risk offenders need minimal supervision and you can increase their risk to re-offend by providing supervision/resources that are unnecessary. Clients that are moderate or high risk to re-offend can work with a probation officer on a case plan that will help to address issues that may contribute to re-offending. Clients on the high end of moderate risk and high risk clients are having contact with the probation department more frequently. It is not uncommon for us to schedule weekly appointments with clients and to support clients through a team effort, involving the support of multiple probation officers (office appointment, contact during drug testing, phone support or helping a client access resources). We continue to focus time and resources on strategies that have been shown to be evidence-based (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Rapport and Relationship building).
- 9% of the adult misdemeanor probation clients referred to probation for supervision on a criminal case were repeat offenders during the time frame 10/1/19 to 5/30/19. This simply means that 91% of the referrals were first time offenders and we are hopeful that This number can definitely fluctuate for several reasons and it is difficult to utilize this information as the sole basis to measure success of our efforts. We have recent examples where cases took over a year to be resolved; cases where someone received several individual charges before any of the cases were resolved; individual cases are dismissed as part of a plea agreement.
- Approximately 18% of the adult misdemeanor probation caseload has significant mental health issues and often co-occurring disorders that interfere with their level of functioning in a community and require regular case management services, resources assistance (including basic needs of shelter, food and clothing) and crisis intervention.

- Adult programming funds dedicated to the Blaine County Adult Misdemeanor Probation Department have proven invaluable in providing access to services that have the potential to decrease the likelihood that a client will re-offend. These services have included: counseling; drug and alcohol testing; evaluations; psychotropic medication; transportation; and short term housing. I am not aware of any other county that has allocated county funds to assist in treatment and support funds for adult misdemeanor clients. These funds have proved invaluable in providing resources that can have a positive impact on community safety, reduction in probation violations and jail days, reduction in recidivism and formal law enforcement contact, and increase in the likelihood that an individual will experience success in the community. This cannot be overstated. We are so grateful for the support of the Blaine County Commissioners in providing this much needed resource.
- The Blaine County Probation Department receives a small amount of state funds to assist adult misdemeanor clients with costs associated with drug/alcohol treatment. Currently we receive \$3,200 annually and this does little to support treatment for indigent clients. To contrast, Blaine County Juvenile Probation has an average of \$40,000 dedicated annually to serve substance abuse treatment needs of juveniles.
- We are anticipating a large increase in the number of clients that will be supervised on adult misdemeanor probation. This is due to a law change in the State of Idaho beginning January 1, 2019. It requires all first time DUI offenders to have an interlock installed in their vehicle for a minimum of one year. Previously, clients were placed on supervised probation based on their risk level and taking into consideration the amount of time that it would take to complete court ordered active terms of probation. It was not uncommon to have individuals placed on probation for two (2) to six (6) months. We are now responsible for providing minimum level of supervision for the entire period that the client is placed on an interlock device, meaning an average of 15 months (clients are placed on an interlock for one year after their restricted driving privileges have expired).
- An average of 65 adult misdemeanor clients are submitting to alcohol and drug testing, including: being called in for suspicion of usage; randomly called in for a test, or participating in a daily on-call program for truly random testing. We believe that the number of clients that are required to submit to random testing through a daily on-call program will continue to increase.

JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES The Blaine County Probation Department has served approximately 92 juveniles on probation and diversion from October 1, 2018 to May 30, 2019. These juveniles include those that were referred for formal court action and those that were referred for Diversion.

- 90% of juvenile cases were handled through the Diversion Program and only 10% were handled through a formal court process. Diversion continues to grow and has proven to be an effective program, with very low rates of recidivism.
- Increases in referrals for Diversion do not necessarily represent an increase in crime. This is difficult to measure. The success of the Diversion program and our partnerships with stakeholders may be the reason for the increase. We are viewed as a resource and positive support for youth and families, so it is possible that cases are being referred that would not have risen to the level of a formal court referral (even though a crime or status offense has been committed).

- Only 4% recidivism for Diversion cases
- 24% of Diversion referrals were school based referrals as the result of attendance issues, including attendance court (for elementary and high school students that needed case management for them and their family) and the YES! Program for high school students that were in violation of compulsory attendance laws. These cases tend to require longer-term supervision and support and we do accept repeat referrals for attendance, as a general rule. These may have been 0% of Diversion referrals were from school based incidents, although it is important to note that we recognize that previously we would have served this cases through formal juvenile court.
- Attendance court referrals were about 7% of the total and over half of these cases were not successful, and nearly half were carryover cases from the 2016 (midway through the school year). These cases involve case management, coordination with outside agencies, and support services to red
- 54% of Diversion referrals are based on alcohol or drug possession/consumption cases. Alcohol consumption and possession cases are currently infractions, meaning that a juvenile can simply pay a fine for a first offense. It is significant that juveniles and their parents have selected Diversion, which requires more accountability, supervision and structure.
- 33% of the clients on formal probation are repeat offenders and are high risk offenders. The remaining 66% are moderate to low risk offenders.
- No clients supervised on probation during the current fiscal year have committed new offenses during the same time frame.
- We currently have one juveniles committed to the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. This is consistent with prior years and we average between 0 and 2 juveniles in custody. This juvenile will be released before the end of the fiscal year and we have not identified any juveniles that are currently at-risk for commitment.
- All juveniles on formal probation participate in a semi-structured interview with the probation department. Information from the interview and collateral contacts is used to administer the Youth Level of Services Inventory – Revised (YLSI-R) to determine overall level of risk to re-offend. This standardized assessment tool helps provide information about risk that needs to be addressed to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.
- The Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections continues to provide funding for juveniles services and programming in Blaine County, including the Juvenile Corrections Act funds; Tobacco Tax Funds; and Lottery Withholding Funds. These funds roll over if not utilized each year and have guidelines regarding their use.