

1.1. FY21 Budget Coversheet

General Information

Office/Department: Blaine County Probation

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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 informal program that is designed to hold young people accountable when they have committed a criminal or status (an offense that is only a crime because of the age of the individual) and help them avoid formal court action. This program is called Diversion and is currently used more frequently and more effectively than the formal court process for juveniles.

Our department is committed to making efforts to explore and utilize strategies that may reduce the likelihood of individuals having further involvement with the criminal justice system. These strategies include focusing on risk assessments to assist with addressing criminogenic risk factors and needs. Criminogenic needs are factors 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, collateral contacts and ongoing supervision contacts provide us with information that can assist a client in being 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 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, specifically to discontinue our formal involvement in administering and reporting compliance with testing related to conditions of release.

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 program 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 (for example: a young person referred to Diversion for truancy, a status offense and later referred for a criminal offense). Diversion could not operate successfully without cooperation from a variety of partners. Referrals for our Diversion Program come from many sources, including:

- The Blaine County 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. They have also asked for or agreed to Diversion after a formal petition has been filed, if appropriate.
- The City Prosecuting Attorney – review infractions for appropriateness for Diversion and this can occur before or after citations are entered. The most common type of infraction that is referred or accepted for Diversion from this source is Minor Consumption.

- 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, as they ordinarily submit a request for petition to the prosecuting attorney and may indicate that they feel that Diversion would be appropriate.
- 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. School based referrals represent a significant amount of Diversion referrals.
- 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 completed 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 take 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: an opportunity to take responsibility for your actions no long after the offense occurs (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 formal Pre-Trial or Conditions of Release Program, although this is offered in many other counties in the state. There is a variation of this type of program in Blaine County. Judges in Blaine County have ordered that clients submit to drug and alcohol testing, as a Condition of Bail or Release while their criminal case is pending. 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 or utilization of a Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor

(SCRAM) to monitor alcohol use on a 24 hour a day/7 days a week basis. There is not a department that has been dedicated to provide this service. The Blaine County Probation Department currently provides information to Conditions of Release clients on how to set up testing, testing locations, and answers questions regarding non-compliance with court orders regarding testing. The Blaine County Probation Department also documents and reports non-compliance with orders regarding testing (no shows for testing, positive tests). 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 was increasing over the past several years, and the administering and monitoring of tests has taken up a significant amount of all five (5) staff members' time. We have now moved all the conditions of release test administration off-site, but provide all the other aspects of the testing set-up and reporting regarding compliance.

Our work with Conditions of Release clients has also included building rapport, helping individuals find resources, addressing treatment needs, and working on strategies that would make it more likely that 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

Prior to the Blaine County Annex Building closure due to COVID-19, the Blaine County Probation Department used 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 offenses that directly relate 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, and we are also seeing an increasing number of Excessive and Second Offense DUI cases. 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. Alcohol consumption is measured through a device that the client wears for the program duration (it cannot be removed unless it is cut off). The other option is a SCRAM remote breath test machine, which requires random breath tests throughout the day. The SCRAM remote breath test machine takes a photo of the individual blowing into the device and face recognition to make sure that they do not have another person take the test for them. SCRAM devices are expensive options to use with a client and are reserved for high-risk clients and clients that have failed on a lower level of testing.

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, and 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. Probation Officers regularly 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 its completion. 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 his 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, 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. FY21 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.

We continue to explore ways to be more efficient and effective and our ongoing goal is to continue our review and rewrite of our standard operating procedures, forms and resources for both adult misdemeanor probation, juvenile probation, diversion, and conditions of release (until we are no longer responsible for the reporting of testing compliance). There have been many discussions about job responsibilities and we will work on procedures and job responsibilities that we had not considered previously (i.e.: reconciliation of funds received, billing and claims), so there is a clear road map current staff and for the future

We will continue to work with all staff to assist in writing, editing and utilizing the steps outlined in the policy to complete the job responsibility. It is important that we recognize the unique abilities of each of our staff members (some are more comfortable dictating or talking through it, some prefer writing or editing).

Information on draft procedures will be shared with the group through email, staff meeting or work sessions and can give their feedback. The expectation is also that staff members try out the policy and see if they are able to understand it and complete a job task/responsibility given the information in the operating procedure. We have some very important procedures that must be followed, but may not be common responsibilities, and we want to make sure these are explored as well. The job responsibility will be completed with the supervision and support of the individual the created the draft policy or the director of the department.

We will continue to work 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 more our policy and standard operating procedures, have the training and practice the skills needed to confidently assist with supervision of a case (whether it is your assigned case or not), have a more equitable workload, and cooperation on strategies to be more effective and efficient in our efforts.

Our belief 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

- Providers 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 are actively engaged in “test driving,” updated procedures and giving feedback regarding experience
- Officers can open a supervision case and have the information that they need to address client needs or have a supervision appointment.
- Staff are comfortable and competent at using basic Odyssey features
- 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 2020 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 2020 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 has included 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.
- 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 September 30, 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 2020 progress is attached
- DUI COURT– this is a newly formed results team. There has been ongoing discussion with the probation department and magistrate judges about a DUI court and the need for it as a sentencing option, but it expanded in Fiscal Year 2020 to other stakeholders including: prosecutors; public defender office and public defenders; law enforcement; felony probation; treatment providers the Idaho Supreme Court and a trial court administrator. There has been an increase in Excessive DUIs (above .20 and level limit is .08) and Second Offense DUIs. Second Offense DUIs can include individuals with more than two DUIs, but may be more than 10 years apart. A new law in Idaho allowing Diversion for First Time DUI Offenders took effect July 1, 2019. Blaine County

Probation is committed to this and has signed an MOU, along with other stakeholders to move forward with the development and implementation of a DUI Court

- OFF SITE OR CONTRACT 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 2020 progress is attached. We are hopeful that a request for an office remodel and fund allocation for a contractor to perform drug testing will be approved. Our office space is not designed to serve the number of clients that need to participate in random or scheduled alcohol and drug testing, and we have conditions of release clients that are testing off-site, but could be asked to test with a contractor if we had office space/resources for this. This area has been an ongoing discussion with county stakeholders.

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 78 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. Our general office waiting area may include a juvenile waiting to see the probation officer or diversion officer and an adult misdemeanor client waiting for a probation appointment or to drug test; and misdemeanor and felony client signing up for testing for conditions of release. 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. We take the safety of our staff and 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 spent several years talking about our office layout and recognize that there is a need to change our space to improve officer safety, client safety and improve customer service. Our current space does not offer the amount or type of space that we need to improve safety, security and privacy for the work that we do. Any individual walking into the office can walk directly into any space because there are no barriers, with the exception of closing office doors. There can be a number of clients or other individuals in the waiting area and they are able to hear what is happening in two of the probation offices, can hear phone conversations of staff, and adults and juveniles (and their families are in the same space). Juvenile cases are ordinarily sealed from the public and we keep information regarding juvenile cases confidential. Mixing adult and juvenile clients does not help with these efforts. We have seen an increase in the number of Adult Misdemeanor Probation clients and expect an increase in clients being tested for alcohol and illegal substances, which would lead to increased clients in the lobby. Our office manager is the first face that clients and other individuals see when they enter the office. She does an excellent job following our initial contact policy, provides information and gets needed information from clients. She does not have any barrier or safety in case behavioral or safety issues arise, especial when probation officers may be in their individual offices with the doors closed. Our office manager may also find herself being the only person in the office, with no barrier between her and individuals that come to the office. We have been fortunate that there have been no officer safety or client safety incidents, but are excited about the option to design a space that meets officer safety needs; client safety needs; and the need to be efficient and effective in our daily work.

We have worked with the Blaine County Facilities Manager on an option to remodel our current space and consulted with an architect that provides contract services to Blaine County. Our proposal includes expanding into the former Blaine County Public Defender's Office and changing our office layout and security. The proposed change include creating an office space design that is similar to traditional offices with a barrier between clients and the office manager; office spaces are not available to client unless door are opened to them by probation department staff; a separate bathroom and space for contract drug testing; separate waiting areas for juvenile and adult clients; and a locked records room for confidential records. If we are approved to move forward with a new office space, then probation staff will need to be intentional about our efforts to connect with clients (and their families).

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. It is important for staff members to be intentional in their efforts to positively engage with clients.

- 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. Give them information about what they can expect while waiting in the front office.
- 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 2020 OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1 – Improve Consistency and Efficiency in the Blaine County Probation Department.

The Blaine County Probation Department is unique in that it monitors and supervises both adult misdemeanor clients and juvenile clients. In addition to individual clients that can range from elementary school age to senior citizens, we also have created an environment where you can expect families, partners, employers and other community stakeholders to enter our space.

Adult and juvenile cases, whether formal probation or informal (Diversion) are treated in very different ways. There are limits, expectations and boundaries that vary and even the principles that are considered in sentencing are very different. The guiding principles when dealing with juvenile offenders is weighing community protection, accountability and competency development equally. There is no mention of punishment when you are working with juvenile clients. Goals of sentencing for adults include punishment, protection of society, deterrence and protection of society.

Probation officers were initially hired to work for the Blaine County Probation Department as either a juvenile probation officer or an adult misdemeanor probation officer. Both types of officers must be state certified through the Idaho Department of Law Enforcement Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy. It appears that POST training for adult misdemeanor probation officers has more of a law enforcement approach than juvenile probation officer training.

One of the ways that we believed we could make things more efficient in FY 2020, was to review our policies and procedures for adult misdemeanor probation, juvenile probation, diversion and our involvement in the conditions of release program. In addition, we would re-evaluate our existing policy, work together to write/edit/finalize new policy and give it a test drive. Our intention was to create a roadmap so that any officer in our department could answer questions and serve customers; regardless of whether this was part of their daily practice and experience. Some added benefits that we thought that it might bring included: more equitable distribution of daily workload, improved job satisfaction and improved customer service.

Our accomplishments and actions included:

- Review of policy and procedures for adult misdemeanor and juvenile probation and identification
- Creation of a list of areas that need to be revisited and areas that needed to be addressed.

- Prioritized which standard operating procedures needed to be created or updated
- All staff were engaged in the process and participated in the writing or editing of standard operating procedures. We approached it in a variety of different ways, from a staff member dictating the steps that were taken in a procedure and another staff composing the policy, to brainstorming with several different staff members contributing to the writing, to a specific staff member taking a specific procedure.
- We completed over 18 drafts of adult probation operating procedures, focusing on high priorities, and including forms and resources to assist in the specific procedure. Staff that are not specifically assigned to a case were asked to try out the procedure and give feedback about questions/did it work/too much information/not enough. Other operating procedures are in process. Some examples of the final draft operating procedures include: initial contact; intake process; interstate compact; transfer of supervision; restricted driving permits; discretionary jail time; interlock; criminal history; withheld judgments; drug/alcohol testing; SCRAM; File Retention and confidentiality.
- The work on operating procedures also highlighted our need to review forms, notices and court reports that have been utilized by our department. These documents were reviewed, edited by staff and are currently in use.
- Adult probation procedures have been reviewed and edited first because we have a higher number of adult probation cases and all four (4) probation officers are actively supervising cases.
- We have completed final drafts of juvenile operating procedures including: diversion; drug and alcohol testing; in lieu of detention agreement; informal adjustment; social history; rule 19 screening; reporting abuse; record retention; discretionary detention time.
- One probation officer that is certified as a juvenile probation officer will complete POST for Adult Misdemeanor Probation Officers on June 18, 2020. He has been engaged in this process since March 2020 and has already taken some of the existing and new workload off the primary adult misdemeanor probation officer's caseload.
- One probation officer who has juvenile probation officer certification is working with adult probation clients that have been ordered to complete community service as the primary term of their probation. The plan is for him to attend POST for Adult Misdemeanor Probation if he continues to supervise adult clients.
- We continue to work on juvenile operating procedures and will explore sharing assignments of cases in the future, but currently adult misdemeanor is our greatest need. We currently have 310 clients on adult misdemeanor probation and have served 89 juveniles on Diversion and Probation. Juvenile clients tend to have short periods of supervision unless they are a high risk or high needs person.
- Actively worked with the magistrate judges for a category of supervision for adults called Interlock Supervision. We are now required to keep clients on probation for the full time period of their Ignition Interlock Order (usually one full year after their suspension). This leads to an average supervision time of 15 months when we previously would have supervised first time offenders from 3-6 months. It has increased the number of adult misdemeanor clients that we supervise and

we only expect this number to increase. There is now an agreement for a lower level of supervision. We still need to keep track of records and maintain appointments, but they are less frequent and less time consuming. Our clients have increased in the past year and we will be eager to see what the next year holds.

The office shutdown due to COVID-19 was a challenge for our department but also gave us an opportunity to reflect our practices and what we need to do to be more efficient and accountable. We worked as a team on strategies to approach supervision of clients in a consistent way and used tools that were available to us to make this a reality. The lessons were invaluable and the practices will remain, specifically:

- Blaine County Probation made another step towards creating paperless case files. This was necessary because we had staff working remotely and some staff that were in and out of the office. A significant amount of our supervision records are in a “paper file” and this made it very difficult for an officer to review the case and have the pertinent information that they needed to deal with a client that was being supervised. Utilizing a resource that is available to the county probation department, we moved nearly all our records into Odyssey, a court management program that is being used throughout the state.
- Every time a probation officer “touched” a paper file, they were instructed to upload relevant information regarding compliance to the clients Odyssey record. Probation officers that did not have a lot of experience or confidence with components of Odyssey were given the opportunity to practice on a regular basis, regardless of whether it was a client that was assigned to them.
- Each probation officer took one day per week to manage the Blaine County Probation Department general email, uploaded information into Odyssey (drug testing, court hearing, interlock monitoring, emails or texts from clients), detailed the uploaded information into a contact note, and directly emailed the assigned probation officer if it was an issue that needed to be addressed before the next appointment.
- Forms for changes in probation status, requests for transfer, travel permits and other documents that are accessible on Odyssey were used to manage client information and could be used remotely.
- Clients, except those that were high risk, were contacted for supervision through a phone appointment. All four (4) probation officers dealt with clients that were not assigned to them and worked cooperatively with the assigned probation officer to get information about things that might be missing from the electronic file.
- Updated forms were helpful and continued to be modified based on our change in business processes due to COVID.
- E-Filing documents became standard practice and was required regardless of whether it was a client assigned to you or not.
- Drug testing is now taking place off-site for clients on probation. Although we would like to make some changes to the current off-site option, we do not have an interest in bringing testing back to

our department. Our staff continually struggled to take care of our supervision responsibilities with the large amount of time that we spent administering, recording and reporting tests. We have not been testing juveniles on probation or diversion and will need to make a decision in the near future how to address this. We are hopeful that a remodel to our current space will mean that we can bring an outside provider to our space to conduct all our testing.

OUTCOME 2 - 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 78 Diversion clients and their families since the beginning of the fiscal year (October 1, 2020). This compares with 82 Diversion Referral in Fiscal Year 2019, 80 in Fiscal Year 2018, and 72 in Fiscal Year 2017. This represent consistent referrals over the past four (4) years. 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:

- 88% of all juvenile cases were Diversion in the current fiscal year
- 64% of the total were drug and alcohol related, with 38% of these related to alcohol and 62% drug related (paraphernalia, under the influence, possession)
- 21% were school based attendance referrals with 8% of these being attendance court referrals. Attendance referrals at high school are based on kids that are in violation of the compulsory age for attending school (under 16) and attendance court is primarily used for elementary school and middle school kids that are not getting to school, and there is may be also concern regarding parents getting their children to school. Case management and support was provided to these young people and their families and a large number of these cases carry over from one fiscal year to another and often involve siblings (currently or future referrals).
- 6% recidivism for diversion cases – either new infractions or a referral to the juvenile court system during the fiscal year.
- Age break down – 4% 11-12 years old at time of referral; 84% 14-16 years old at the time of referral and 12% 17-18 years old at the time of referral.
- Of the 78 cases in the current fiscal year, 45 have successfully completed and 33 have open contracts and timelines to complete the terms of their Diversion. Six (6) current Diversion cases involve juveniles that have previously been referred and were given a second opportunity in lieu of formal court action. 80% of the Diversion referral cases were classified as low risk while the remaining 20% 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. 12% 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.

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE:

The Blaine County Probation Department was part of a results team with the Hunger Coalition and the Advocates for Survivors of Domestic Violence. The interest in working together came due to knowledge that we often work with the same clients and families and working together can improve outcomes. The group also was interested in a trauma informed team response to guide the work and services provided to clients and families:

Accomplishments with this results team have included created of a Memorandum of Understanding between Blaine County, The Hunger Coalition and The Advocates. The purpose of the MOU was to develop timely and efficient communication between the parties to collaborate and enhance services to mutual clients. The parties are committed to providing trauma informed team response with a focus on building resiliency for mutual clients, including: safety; trustworthiness and transparency; peer support; collaboration and mutuality; empowerment, voice and choice; and cultural, historical and gender context.

This MOU allowed information to be shared, utilizing the individual agency's release of information; and created an option to staff and collaborate with agencies when needed to support a client and their family.

The effort and the team response is essential in our work with cases that require case management and are often long-term cases.

DUI COURT

The results team continued to work together and moved forward with local stakeholders, and the Trial court Administrator for the Fifth Judicial District on a Blaine County DUI Court Planning Meeting. Stakeholders included magistrate judges; Blaine county prosecuting attorney's office and the city attorney; defense attorneys and the Blaine County Public defender's office; the trial court administrator; probation and local treatment providers. The planning meeting was focused on having a conversation around stakeholder roles for problem solving courts and to answer any questions that stakeholders may have about the program. In addition, the Trial Court Administrator indicated that approval must be obtained from the Statewide Drug and Mental Health Court Coordinating Committee. 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 by probation was 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 two ½ times the legal limit of .08 for a Driving Under the Influence Offense).

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
- Planning Meeting with the Trial Court Administrator regarding interest in DUI Court in Blaine county

- Signed Memorandum of Understanding by Proposed for DUI Court in Blaine County – committed to the development and implementation of a DUI Court. Parties that agreed to the MOU included: Administrative Director of Idaho Supreme Court; Administrative District Judge; Trial Court Administrator; Blaine County Commissioner; Blaine County Clerk; Blaine County Magistrate Judge; Blaine County Prosecuting Attorney; Blaine county Public Defender; Problem Solving Court District Manager; Blaine County Sheriff; Felony Probation; and Misdemeanor Probation.

OFF-SITE RANDOM ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING: The Blaine County Probation Department has been on pause in this area because of our inability to find a provider to administer tests without a dedicated space. We have been committed to finding a solution and been interested in working with a team in this area because of the impact of this job responsibility on our ability to actively supervise a large number of adult misdemeanor probation and juvenile probation and diversion clients. I believe that many may be aware of the impact of testing clients and those on condition of release on my department. 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 a current total of 310 clients on adult misdemeanor probation and 89 juvenile probation and diversion clients during Fiscal Year 2020 has meant that there is a substantial 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 had scheduled three testing times for a total of 2.5 hours, but a few months in to Fiscal Year 2020 we reduced our testing times to two times per day (unless prior arrangements were made) for a total of 2 hours per day. 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 was common for all five (5) officers to allocate 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 current fiscal year 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:

- Reduction in testing time from three times per day to two times per day, recognizing that male staff are more negatively impacted because the majority of our clients are male and need a same gender individual to observe tests.
- Continued to test adult misdemeanor clients, juvenile probation and diversion clients due to the requirements we have for a testing provider.
- Continued contact with contract providers regarding testing services if we had an ability to provide space for them.
- Consultation with facilities manager about concerns appropriate office space for testing and consultation with county contracted architect.
- Offsite testing during COVID-19, beginning after the Blaine County Annex closure on March 16, 2020. We worked with the magistrate judges, prosecuting attorneys, and defense attorneys on a strategy to continue testing of high-risk clients without compromising the safety of our clients or probation department staff. Not ideal, but did provide an opportunity for the department to evaluate the impact that testing has on appropriate supervision of probation department caseload. 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.
- 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 be 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.

OUTCOME 3 – Promote Officer Safety

We continue to use our initial contact policy: Acknowledge, Greet, Inform and Close when working with clients. Our Office Manager is usually the first person to have an interaction with clients, but other probation staff work to utilize some or all of these policy components when they see a client. A simple nod, a hello, a reminder of your name, anything that I can help you with question or a thank you for coming is all part of our effort to promote safety of our officers and others that might be in our work space. It is possible that treating others with respect and listening, may also improve their behavior when they leave our office space. We have some anecdotal examples of this.

Our other effort has been to work as a team and with Patrick Boyle on options to expand and redesign our space to improve safety. Office members gave feedback about needs and concerns. We had a discussion about how we could improve safety without compromising the important of the personal contact that we have with clients and other individuals. Patrick Boyle contacted the architect that contracts with Blaine County and a proposed remodel plan was created. We believe that it is important that the Blaine County Probation Department have an office space that serves are needs and promotes officer safety.

Blaine County Probation Department
Department Caseload Information
Budget Hearing – June 23, 2020

ADULT MISDEMEANOR PROBATION: The Blaine County Probation Department currently supervises approximately 310 Adult Misdemeanor Probation 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.

- 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) or Level of Services Revised Short Version (LSI-R:SV) is utilized to assess the overall likelihood that an individual the full version 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 (i.e.: employment; education; relationships). The risk assessment utilizes the information to provide a score of low risk, moderate or high risk and decisions regarding level of supervision are made accordingly. Our data for our current caseload is 66% of our adult misdemeanor clients were classified as low risk, 30% moderate risk and 4% high risk. These percentages seem to be consistently from last year and seems fairly. 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.
- The Blaine County Probation Department was closed to the public for over two months, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, but we continued to supervise clients through phone contact, text and email contact; in person contact when necessary; and through a plan to move our drug-testing program off-site for probation clients. The closure to the public provided an opportunity for our department to examine our supervision practices.
- We anticipated an increase in the number of clients ordered to probation supervision based on a change in the state law regarding DUI offenders. The law change started on January 1, 2019 and required First Time DUI offenders to have an ignition interlock device installed in any vehicle they operate for a minimum of one year. Previously the Blaine County Probation Department received Judgments of Conviction with supervised probation periods that were based on their risk level and took into consideration the amount of time that it would take to complete active terms of probation (i.e.: court alcohol school; victim's panel; community service). It was common for first time offenders to be placed on probation for three (3) to six (6) months. After the law change, we saw supervised probation periods of an average of 15 months. We are now responsible for supervising clients during the entire period that they are ordered to comply with an Ignition Interlock Device Order (this period usually begins after their suspension and restrict driving privileges have expired) This likely has contributed to an increase in our active supervised probation caseload from 240 in Fiscal Year 2019 to 310 currently. The Blaine County Probation Department has worked with the Magistrate Judges on options to minimize the level of supervision for clients that remain on probation for the duration of their ignition interlock order, but it still requires us to maintain a record, address issues with probation compliance and interlock compliance, and continue with scheduled appointments.

- Each month we monitor the number of clients that are placed on supervised probation and have an intake (1st appointment) with a probation officer. In addition, we monitor the number of clients released from supervised probation. Fiscal Year 2020 saw an increase in number of intakes compare to releases every month. December 2019 records show more than double the number of intakes to releases from probation, February 2020 saw almost quadruple the number of intakes to releases. May 2020 Intakes through mid-June 2020 already has 55 intakes for supervised probation, and 60% of these are DUI offenses.
- 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).
- Offense breakdown for current offenses is 58% DUI offenses and 17% of the total is Excessive or Second Offense DUIs, 8% are Domestic Violence, No Contact Violations and Battery Offenses. Please keep in mind that this is related to total offenses charged and not individual clients. This is because clients may have multiple offenses and they are each counted. The majority of clients on our adult misdemeanor probation caseload are DUI offenders with additional offenses (i.e.: driving without privileges; open container; resisting arrest; possession of controlled substance or paraphernalia).
- Approximately 16% 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. Clients in this category have more frequent phone and in person contact.
- 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. Blaine County was

only able to access approximately \$500 of these allocated funds, due to other county probation departments billing for services beyond their allocation. It is important to contrast the significant amount of funds available for substance abuse services for juveniles through the state, approximately \$32,000.

- An average of 70 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. It is important to note that the Ignition Interlock Requirement for first time offenders means that individuals that are operating a motor vehicle cannot consume alcohol or their vehicle will not start. As mentioned above, the court order usually runs a minimum of one year from the day they can reinstate their driver's license. This means that individuals are being "tested" when they operate a vehicle.

JUVENILE PROBATION AND DIVERSION SERVICES The Blaine County Probation Department has served approximately 89 juveniles on probation and diversion from October 1, 2019 to June 16, 2020.

As mentioned previously, Diversion is a process that allows us to hold young people accountable for their offenses, criminal or status (only offenses based on the age of the individual) offenses, outside of the formal court system. We are able to access the same resources as probation, with the exception of court imposed juvenile detention (incarceration) or commitment to the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections.

Additionally, participation in Diversion is voluntary and probation is court ordered. Diversion.

- 88% of the juvenile cases referred to the Blaine County Probation Department were for Diversion and 12% were referred to the Blaine County Juvenile Court for formal court action.
- 63% of formal court referred cases were first time offenders and the remaining 27% referred were repeat and high-risk. Only one (1) female was referred for formal court action and the remaining referrals were male. Common reasons for first time offenders to be referred for formal court action include category of offense, seriousness of offense, amount of restitution ordered.
- One (1) client that was on probation during the fiscal year committed additional offenses while on supervision. The remaining formal juvenile probation clients have not committed offenses during the fiscal year and during their period of supervised probation.
- The most serious option for community protections, accountability and competency development for a juvenile on probation is incarceration or commitment to the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. The Blaine County Juvenile Probation Department accesses community based services and resources to help young people be successful. We do not have a juvenile in custody with the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections currently and do not have any cases where there is a suspended commitment.
- 88% of juvenile cases were served through our Diversion Program. This is a total 78 cases. Diversion referrals come from a variety of sources including school district administrators; school resource officers; local law enforcement; the Blaine County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Blaine County City Attorney. Diversion continues to be our first choice in holding young people accountable and the number of referrals have been steady over the past several years.

- 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 steady referrals. 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).
- Decreases in referrals or interest in participating in Diversion can be the result of many factors. One that has played a role has been the classification of Minor Consumption of Alcohol to an Infraction, instead of a Misdemeanor, unless the case is formally petitioned into formal juvenile court or is a 2nd or subsequent offense. An infraction can be paid without a court appearance, similar to a ticket, and this has resulted in some young people choosing to pay a significant court fine (nearly \$500) upon receipt of the ticket. This can occur because someone does not want to deal with the requirements of the Diversion program or they are unaware of the option.
- 64% of Diversion referrals are based on alcohol and drug offenses. The offense range from alcohol possession and consumption; minor under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances; possession of drug paraphernalia; or possession of a controlled substance (most often marijuana). We only had one case that involved possession of a vape device for tobacco. 38% of the alcohol and drug related diversion cases were related to alcohol and the remaining 62% related to drugs.
- 21% of Diversion referrals were school based referrals as the result of attendance issues, including attendance court (primarily for elementary school children and their families, but it has also been made available to high school students under the compulsory age of attendance, currently 16). Attendance court is a semi-formal process that involves the student, their parent(s) or guardian(s), school administration and social work representation, probation and a magistrate judge. The purpose is to explore barriers to the child getting to school and to work together on solutions to help the young person be successful. The YES! Program is a straight referral to the Diversion program within the probation department for high school students that are in violation of compulsory attendance laws. The majority of these cases require longer-term supervision and support and we do accept repeat referrals for attendance, as a rule. In addition, we will accept a second diversion referral for a young person, if their first referral was for attendance or truancy issues.
- Attendance court referrals were about 8% of the total of Diversion cases. These cases regularly carry over from one fiscal year to the next and the Blaine County Probation Department provides ongoing case management and support to students and their families, and coordinates with outside social service agencies and community supports. This has been a helpful tool in preventing the referred child from having further formal court referral, reducing the risk of formal involvement with siblings, and increasing the likelihood that the parent will be successful in the community. It is an area where we believe that we can have a significant positive impact. .
- 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 Magistrate Judge uses information from our formal interview and YLSI-R to make decisions on sentencing.

- The Blaine County Probation Department is fortunate to have ongoing financial support from the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. This funding has allowed our department to provide invaluable services to youth and families on Diversion and Probation. We receive funds from the Juvenile Corrections Act (assists in paying for a juvenile probation staff person), Tobacco Tax Funds and Lottery Withholding Funds (pays for programs and services), and the Substance Use Disorder Funds (pays for Substance Abuse Treatment and Drug Testing for juveniles). These funds roll over if not utilized each year and have guidelines regarding their use.