

JJ&RA - JUVENILE REHABILITATION

Managing Medical/Medication Costs

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET



ML Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0	0
GF-State	\$938,000	\$938,000	\$1,876,000
Total	\$938,000	\$938,000	\$1,876,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration (JJRA) requests client service funding in order to address increases in medical and medication costs caused by inflation and the increasing needs of the population. By funding this request, JJRA is expected to manage medical and medication costs without drawing on resources designated for other direct client services.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Medical and mental health medication costs have continued to increase each year for Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR). The increase in costs is associated with both inflation and the increase in medical and mental health needs of JR youth. JR has absorbed the cost increase over the years. However, with the increase in youth acuity, both physically and mentally, the ability to absorb these costs has impacted other client service areas.

JR institutions provide basic medical care for youth in residence via registered nurses and onsite contracted medical professionals. Medicaid eligibility does not apply to youth in residence unless a youth is admitted for an overnight hospital stay. In addition, fiscal staff attempt to bill the family insurance provider if the youth is covered, but coverage is rare. More off-site medical appointments are becoming necessary due to the increasing medical needs of youth (such as existing conditions or as a result of an injury or condition that developed). Off-site medical visits include optometry, radiology, orthopedics, specialized dental and emergency room visits. In 2010, the medical expenditure cost for all three JR institutions was \$1,843,479. In 2013, the institution medical expenditure cost was \$2,774,569, which is a 50 percent increase.

Costs for mental health medications have increased as well. JR does emphasize psychosocial programming but the increase in youth with mental health problems has resulted in an increase in medication costs. Since 2011, Green Hill School's medication costs increased by 80 percent and Naselle Youth Camp's by 20 percent. Approaches taken to address the increase include: utilization of generic medications; application of a formulary for prescriptions; medication prescription review during quarterly psychiatric quality assurance meetings; use of sleep studies and other behavioral analyses prior to prescription. Overall medical and dental costs per youth have increased since 2011. In Fiscal Year 2011, costs per youth, per day were approximately \$29.67. Costs for Fiscal Year 2014 are estimated at \$34.00 per youth, per day.



DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

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PROPOSED SOLUTION

This proposal requests funding totaling \$938,000 per year to manage the increase in both medical and medication costs for youth in JJRA institutions. The fiscal year request by institution is as follows:

- Green Hill School-Medical costs of \$500,000 and Medication costs of \$82,000
- Naselle Youth Camp-Medical costs of \$175,000 and Medication costs of \$58,000
- Echo Glen Children's Center-Medical costs of \$123,000

EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 1: Health - Each individual and each community will be healthy. The decision package is essential to implementing JR's Strategic Objective 1.1: Providing youth increased access to a coordinated delivery of medical, behavioral health and long-term services and supports to improve their health status. This request supports the Results Washington goal for healthy people by providing access to good medical care to improve people's lives.

Youth in JR are entitled to comprehensive care that includes medical, mental health, behavioral health and education. Adequate funding for increasing medical and mental health medication costs that are a direct result of the increased needs of our youth will prevent JR from diverting funds from other equally important areas of care associated with client services.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Stakeholders supporting this proposal include youth, families, JR staff and the community. Adequately funding youth medical and mental health medication needs without sacrificing other JR client services is necessary. One youth with significant injury, chronic illness or complex mental health needs can have a significant impact on the institutional budget. This impact can result in funding being diverted from youth and family related transition activities, treatment services, facility maintenance and on-call staffing needs. JR is not in a position to forego funding medical and mental health medications, but being forced to divert funding from other areas has just as much of a negative impact in the overall comprehensive care plan for youth.



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