



## *Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County*

616 ADAMS AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38105  
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### **MEMORANDUM:**

To: Countywide Juvenile Justice Consortium (CJJC), Shelby County, Tennessee

From: Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court (Court)

Date: November 16, 2015

Subject: Response to CJJC Inquires and Recommendations

### **Response by Juvenile Court to CJJC Inquiries and Recommendations**

#### **Business Meeting Report No. 1**

**1. What, if any, is the psychological impact of jumpsuits, especially orange suits, for juvenile offenders who are being detained?**

**Response:** The Court cannot determine the psychological impacts on youth being detained as it relates to the orange jumpsuits. However, the Sheriff's Department is currently looking into new uniform options for detained youth, and when we are advised of any final decision on changes we will so advise the CJJC.

## **Business Meeting Report No. 1 (cont'd)**

**2. Do lower detention numbers equate to less juvenile crime? What is the correlation between the two?**

**Do lower detention numbers in Juvenile Court impact juvenile behavior in the community?**

**Response:** Yes, lower detention numbers equate to less juvenile crime in a general sense. The correlation is that if fewer youth are detained, less crime has been committed by youth offenders. The increase in daily population may be attributed to youth staying longer due to continuances of court. Since the Court does not formally track crime numbers, we recommend follow-up with Operation Safe Community, Memphis & Shelby County Crime Commission, or the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Memphis (K.B. Turner) for their data on national juvenile crime trends.

**3. What, if any, will be the CJC's involvement with the development and implementation of the Juvenile Court Community Survey?**

**Response:** Dr. Harig was hired by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to create the survey. Several Juvenile Defender panel members (James Sanders, Alicia Washington, Warren Campbell, Matthew John, Autumn Chastain, and James Franklin) were invited to meet with and be involved as stakeholders during the interview process with Dr. Tom Harig back in June of this year. The framework for the survey has been completed and Dr. Harig awaiting final approval from the OJJDP to begin.

### **Public Feedback Report No. 3**

**1. Would the Court provide information to the CJC about the costs related to delinquency matters? Also, what is the process used by court personnel to collect the money and what is the money used for?**

**Response:** All Court costs & fees (including delinquency matters) are available on the Shelby County Government website for the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office, visit <http://www.shelbycountyttn.gov/index.aspx?NID=360>. Court personnel do not collect nor use money collected; collection is a Juvenile Court Clerk function (see *TCA 8-21-401* for state mandated clerk's fees and costs). In addition, all fees and costs collected go directly to the Shelby County Government general budget fund. Please note, some fees may be waived in court proceedings, but that is a matter discussed between the youth and his/her attorney (see *TCA 37-1-126* for fees imposed for appointed attorneys). Court costs and fees are mentioned by Court personnel (probation/detention personnel) to parents and youth for information only purposes.

#### **Recommendations**

**1. There should be clarity about the process for family members of juveniles as soon as possible, preferably before fourteen days. A liaison should be available to explain to parents what is going on in the process in an expeditious manner.**

**Response:** Currently, the probation counselors are available to give general information to clarify all Court procedures and processes. Per the CJC recommendation on this matter, the Court will look into creating a form with information explaining how the Court processes work which will be made available to youth/families with delinquency matters before the Court.