Mission Statement
The mission of the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA) is to improve the quality of life on Guam for all people by the development and implementation of programs and services that promote youth development, decrease juvenile delinquency and status offenses, strengthen the family unit, protect the public from juvenile delinquents, ensure that offenders are held accountable for their actions and are provided with appropriate treatment, and provide restitution to the victims.

Objectives
Ensure staff are qualified and well trained;
Maintain proper facilities and equipment; and
Develop and implement effective and efficient programs/services.

DYA’s three divisions are:
1) Vocational Rehabilitation and Support Services - Administrative Services Unit oversees all budgetary and administrative duties, including personnel, procurement and accounting;
2) Special Services - Youth Correctional Facility and Cottage Homes provide 24-hour care and custody of juveniles; and
3) Youth Development - Counseling Case Management Unit provides case work, treatment and rehabilitation services to clients remanded/adjudicated to YCF and establish, update and maintain data collection and statistical information;

About Us

As per Public Law 14-110, the purpose for DYA is to plan, coordinate and/or implement programs, services and activities geared toward youth development, rehabilitation and involvement in the community.

Goals
Reduce the recidivism rate of youth remanded to the Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) by 10% a year;
Increase the quantity and quality of youth programs and services for youth within the YCF and Cottage Homes; and
Increase programs that promote community oriented programs for youth to divert away from criminal / status offenses via the three Resource Centers.

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**Youth Development**
-Lagu (Northern) Resource Center
-Central (Kattan) Resource Center
-Haya (Southern) Youth Center

After-School Care Program – Provides after-school activities including case management services that support early childhood, academic, and social development to children who are at risk of becoming involved in crime, are victims of crime, or at-risk of engaging in dangerous behaviors.

Jumpstart – A treatment-oriented program designed to integrate and reunify clients with their families, schools and community through an extended furlough concept and reducing the confinement time period in the Youth Correctional Facility.

Aftercare – A community-oriented outreach program that provides intensive monitoring and an array of services including case management, school shadowing mentoring and other services for clients released from the Youth Correctional Facility and Cottage Homes.

Chansa – A three-hour workshop consisting of Youth Laws, Realities of Institutional Living and Department of Corrections Parolees’ Testimonies to divert at-risk children and youth from entering the juvenile justice system.

SCORE – School presentations on the realities of institutional living in a correctional institution and the process of the juvenile justice system.

Other Services: Computer Labs; Homework Assistance; Outreach Counseling

* Prevention Intervention
  - Counseling Case Management Unit
  - Client Assessments/Drug and Alcohol Screening; Case Management; Crisis Intervention; Individual and Family Counseling; Clientele Database; Support Groups

* Prevention Unit
  - Youth Year – Students organize and coordinate activities from January to May; Theme/Poster Contest; Proclamation Signing/Spirit Wave; Oratorical Contest; Island Leadership Day

* YCF and Cottage Homes
  - Intake Processing
  - Step Plan Program
  - Client Vocational Program
  - DOE Liheng Famagu’ on School
  - Client Activities/Visitations
  - Faith-based Organizations

Data were based on compilations from the Counseling Case Management Unit.

For additional information, contact the Director’s Office at (671) 735-3010.

Adopted from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 1995, DYA’s comprehensive strategy for combating crimes involve several key principals: strengthening of the family unit; supporting core institutions such as education, religious, and community organizations; promoting prevention and outreach; intervention; and treatment, rehabilitation, and aftercare services. Illustrated in the chart below is the DYA comprehensive continuum of services and graduated sanctions.
The Department of Youth Affairs will face a $37,000 decrease in the After School Care Program, which funds the Resource Centers in Dededo, Agat, and Toto satellite locations; approximately 16% cut in Office of Justice Program Grants; and operations will experience an approximate 11% cut in local funds. Despite budget cuts both locally and nationally, DYA will continue most of its programs to the youth and their families.

Complete financial reports and information can be found on DYA’s website at www.dya.guam.gov
FUTURE CHALLENGES

Chronic shortage of personnel, facilities are dilapidated and inadequate, such as modular offices used for administrative personnel and inadequate facilities, including inefficiencies of the Cottage Homes (e.g., Distance, location).

Increasing numbers of younger children and youth in need of early intervention services to better curtail or prevent these at-risk populations from entering the juvenile justice system, including the limited opportunities to cross-train personnel within the department’s community-based programs, chronic shortage of personnel and lack of adequate facilities for personnel and youth.

Lack of vehicles and equipment, limited data information systems, and lack of a training academy for youth correctional staff.

OUTLOOK

Despite challenges, personnel strengths are strong teamwork and ethics along with optimism and advanced planning within areas of the department’s divisions. An array of expertise combined with years of institutional knowledge drive the treatment efforts of all children and youth involved with the courts and community.

A team of workers contribute to grant writing and program proposals, such as the Capital Improvement Project funds to renovate the E-Unit to establish an in-house Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program and the Community Development Block Grant through GHURA to rehabilitate existing facilities for a new Central Regional Youth Center.

Long term plans are being drafted to address and achieve accreditation for DYA while partnerships from agencies and organizations support Systems of Care for families, training and staff development opportunities for personnel, enforcement of underage drinking activities, etc.

A New Youth Correctional Facility

A brand new facility is critically needed for the safety, security, and management of its current juvenile and certified youth population and must be conducive to their treatment and behavioral needs for effective intervention and rehabilitation, to include additional bed spaces in anticipation of Guam’s population growth. The design and construction of a new 150 bed-space facility is vital for becoming an accredited institution in the future.

Administration Offices

DYA is also in dire need of permanent Class A buildings for its Administration Office, which currently consist of Buildings A, B, C, a Maintenance/Carpentry/Automotive Shop that will replace and expand the current Maintenance Shop and a new Counseling and Case Management Unit. These new buildings will include air-conditioners, typhoon shutters, generators and staff/visitors parking areas. The design and construction of a Class A Administration Building and Maintenance, Carpenter, Automotive Shop are also needed. The cost estimate is $3,000,000 however value engineering will reduce costs including construction costs as well. With poor conditions of the existing modular buildings and damages sustained from past typhoons, the replacement of these buildings is critical for the safety of personnel, protection and security of computers and other equipment, records, documents, files, etc. In addition, these buildings will no longer be able to withstand severe weather conditions and any funding source from FEMA may not be granted due to the lack of insurance coverage.

Juvenile Information System

A Juvenile Information System (JIS) is needed to upgrade its current database system. DYA is the last public safety agency to become automated. Since 1996 to present day, limited records of juveniles are kept through Microsoft Works via the Counseling Case Management Unit. This database system is in dire need of an upgrade and expansion while it has been the goal of the department to develop a uniformed database capturing information needed from within the internal and external units and sections of the department and a system of sharing specific information as authorized. Critical data are needed for client case tracking, grants, and other funding opportunities, reporting requirements, etc. DYA has submitted its grant proposal to the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs to develop an automated JIS and analyze, design, program, test, update, and maintain other division/section programs, and interface with the Judiciary of Guam and the Office of the Attorney General. There is also a critical need to provide the juvenile clientele with online educational and distance learning opportunities, and expansion and upgrade of the video teleconference from its current location in the YCF to the Director’s Office and Cottage Homes facilities.

Comments and suggestions may be submitted to the Director’s Office at (671) 735-5010 or adonis.mendiola@dya.guam.gov