

**Cheyenne Office of Youth Alternatives**Database Number: FDocument Number: 14372**THE JUVENILE SCREENING COMMITTEE (JSC)****1. History**

The Juvenile Screening Committee began screening juvenile cases in the Municipal Court in 1998. The need for this committee grew out of concern that the various courts functioning in juvenile matters were often unaware of ongoing proceedings at other court levels. As a result, a juvenile could have been involved in three different courts with a variety of charges and dispositions. An accurate picture of the youth was lacking, allowing him at times to avoid accountability for his choices. There was not an overall direction, nor were services coordinated. This placed an inordinate demand on the family to comply with the numerous court orders.

The Juvenile Screening Committee began providing services to the Circuit Court of the First Judicial District of Laramie County on November 1, 2000. On March 1, 2002, these services were terminated due to the low number of cases appearing in Circuit Court. In 2005, the Committee again began reviewing cases for the Circuit Court. Below is a statistical overview for the Juvenile Screening Committee for both the Municipal and Circuit

**Circuit Court Screening**

Year	# Screened	# Diverted
2000	34	9
2001	290	11
2002	33	1
2003	0	0
2004	0	0
2005	110	5
2006	149	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>31</b>

**Municipal Court Screening**

Year	# Screened	# Diverted
2000	750	249
2001	712	112
2002	557	138
2003	891	118
2004	770	128
2005	770	118
2006	797	137
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,247</b>	<b>998</b>

**2. Purpose**

The purpose of the JSC is to provide the Court with information regarding other court

involvement, a brief assessment of the juvenile and possible sentencing alternatives.

### 3. Process

- a. **Composition:** The committee meets weekly and is composed of: Court Representatives, Law Enforcement, City Attorney, District Attorney, Public Defender, Department of Family Services, Youth Alternatives, School Resource Officer, Probation Officer, and Drug Program Coordinator. Others are invited as needed
- b. **Referrals:** All non-traffic juvenile cases cited into the Municipal and Circuit Court are reviewed by the committee.
- c. **Records:** Youth involvement in other courts is researched and provided.
- d. **Other Pertinent Information:**
  - Law enforcement information about previous law enforcement contact is provided.
  - School history, including grades, attendance and disciplinary referrals is provided. The School Resource Officers play a vital role in this committee.
  - Agency Involvement is provided through the multi-disciplinary committee.
- e. **Disposition Recommendations** are discussed, based on available information. These recommendations are offered to the court for review upon sentencing.

### 4. Summary

- a. **What Worked Well:**
  - Court Coordination: The Juvenile Screening Committee has been instrumental in providing a coordinated effort between the Municipal Court, Circuit Court, District Court, the District Attorney's Office, Police Department, and the Department of Family Services.
  - Timely Assessment: The multi-disciplinary team provides a timely snapshot of the Juveniles appearing before the Court's.
  - Individualized Sentencing: The brief assessment that is provided allows the judge to provide sentences that will hold the juvenile accountable but also are tailored to the juveniles individual needs.

- **Determining the Appropriate Court:** a significant benefit to the screening committee is their review of repeat offenders. The committee will recommend that a juvenile, who has had multiple contacts, should be referred to a different court when the court he is cited into has exhausted its services.

**b. Areas of Concern:**

- **Limited Information:** Due to available funding and the brief amount of time from the point that a citation is issued and the scheduled arraignment, only a limited amount of information pertaining to each juvenile is obtained.
- **No Direct Interview:** The number of citations inhibits the committee from conducting individual interviews with each of the juveniles and their parents. As a result, recommendations are made without a thorough in-depth assessment, which would provide a clearer picture of the situation.