



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 22, 2009

To: Bellevue Parks & Community Service Board

From: Tandra Schwamberg, Probation Division Manager
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Probation Division Overview
(Information only; No Board action is requested.)

Mission

To monitor adult misdemeanor offenders and hold them accountable to court ordered sanctions in order to protect the public and curtail recidivism.

What is Probation

Probation is a court ordered sanction that allows a person to remain in the community under the supervision of a probation officer. The conditions of this community-based sanction can vary. They could include jail time, fines, restitution, community service, treatment, or other sanctions. Probation can require a predetermined number of visits to the probation officer. If a person does not follow the rules of their probation, they could go back before the judge and be sent to jail.

What is a Probation Officer

A probation officer is someone who supervises a person who has been placed on probation. Some of the officers' duties include the following:

- Monitoring compliance with court orders
- Assisting offenders in obtaining needed services, such as housing and employment
- Overseeing the rehabilitation of offenders
- Administering drug tests and evaluations

Probation officers must become competent in addressing the following issues:

- Drug and alcohol use
- Sexual deviancy
- Child abuse
- Domestic violence
- Mental illness

Probation officers work hand in hand with community groups and social service agencies to provide offenders and victims with the support they need. Probation officers maintain partnerships with law enforcement and other justice agencies to share information and expertise.

Who is on Probation

Offenders are eligible for probation who are deemed appropriate for community supervision and have completed a portion of their sentence.

History

The City of Bellevue Probation Division began in 1972 with a request from the King County District Court Judges to monitor misdemeanor offenders sentenced in King County District Court, East Division, Bellevue. The office opened with one (1) probation officer and 5 volunteers. Soon after a program coordinator was hired.

The Probation Division was initially assigned to the Police Department Crime Prevention unit. In 1976 we were reassigned to the City Manager's Office. In 1992, during the City reorganization, the division was reassigned to the Parks & Community Services Department.

The Division has had five (5) previous locations and has been located at its present location since 1987---the location of the former Surrey Downs Elementary School and now the site of the King County District Court, East Division, Bellevue.

The City of Bellevue has contracted Court services with King County District Court throughout the existence of Bellevue Probation. During the past 37 years there have been several efforts by the City to form its own Municipal Court. In 1994 the City entered into its first Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the District Court. We currently have a full District Court contract. Service level expectations are part of the contract and regular meetings are held to evaluate the service level---City staff from Police, Prosecutor, Probation, Defense Bar, representatives from the City Manager's Office, and County staff, including the Court Administrator, Presiding Judge, and one Bellevue Judge make up the committee.

In 1979 a Probation Advisory Board was formed. In 1975 we hired our first chemical dependency certified officer and in 1988 we hired our first domestic violence specialist.

In 1982, Bellevue Probation became State Certified to conduct Alcohol assessments and in 1983 the Bellevue Domestic Violence Stipulated Order of Continuance Program began.

Budget and Staffing

Currently, the Probation Division has 14 full-time staff and up to 25 volunteers with an operating budget of approximately \$1,000,000. There are two (2) District Court Judges assigned to Bellevue.

2008 Probation/ Electronic Home Detention (EHD) revenue - Over \$370,000 and jail costs savings, through EHD, of approximately \$290,000.

Programs

- **Pre-Sentence Investigation & Pre-Trial Diversion Interviews**
In-depth interviews with offenders as requested by the Judges in order to gather accurate data regarding background, present situation, and circumstance of the offense, review past criminal records, resulting in recommendations for sentencing or program participation.
- **SOC (Stipulated Order of Continuance)**
Serves the first-time offender in domestic violence cases. An alternative to the usual court procedure (arraignment-trial-sentencing). Not everyone is eligible. The offender must prove that she/he qualifies. The case is continued for a minimum of 18 months without a plea and the offender agrees to enter into a domestic violence program.
- **In-Custody Interviews**
Pre-or-post sentence - Offenders are interviewed while on in-custody status as requested by the Judges. Probation Officers make recommendations for jail time, release from jail, or probation status.
- **Court Duty**
Probation Officers are assigned to weekly court duty on a rotation basis for the purpose of conducting court interviews for arraignments, domestic violence program screening, in-custody Pre-Sentence interviews or updates, and revocation hearings. Officers also respond to any emergencies in the office and provide coverage for Probation Officers who are on vacation and/or ill.
- **Certified DUI Assessment**
All Probation Officers meet or will meet all requirements per WAC 44-22-040 for certified/qualified DUI (Driving Under the Influence) assessment officers. Bellevue Probation is approved to conduct DUI assessments with results being forwarded to Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA), Department of Licensing (DOL), and the Court.
- **Cast Management of Offenders**
Includes supervision of offenders: intake interview of offender, includes Spanish intake group for non-English speaking Latino offenders; risk level and risk to re-offend determined; record check reviews; referrals to appropriate agencies; monitoring compliance to court orders; consultation with referral agencies; holding offenders accountable; random breathalyzers and urinalysis (BA/UA) if abstinence is required; collection of Probation fees; counsel offenders; write reports to court; attend community meeting.
- **Record Check Program**
Monitor offenders that have been given a Deferred Prosecution to assure that the offender has not committed any new offenses such as DUI, Physical Control While Under the Influence, or No Proof of Insurance.

Recently expanded the Program to include offenders in the SOC program who have successfully complied with all conditions of supervision but still have 6 months or less left on the Program.

- **Electronic Home Detention (EHD)**

Provides 24-hours continuous monitoring of offenders (an alternative to total confinement). EHD is under the Chief of Police and managed by the Probation Division manager. Jail costs savings through EHD are credited to the Police Department budget. EHD allows the community to sanction the offender without the expense of incarceration. However, the punishment aspect of home confinement is never far from the offenders mind. EHD coupled with remote alcohol testing and drive-by equipment, provides an aggressive, proactive stance against a return to substance abuse and re-offense and serves as an early warning of problems. In short, EHD:

- ✓ Satisfies the public's sense of justice
- ✓ Promotes offender accountability
- ✓ Enhances public safety
- ✓ Offers an alternative to costly incarceration

- **Volunteers In Probation**

The Volunteer Program has been in existence since the beginning of the Probation Division. Volunteers are integrated into every function of the Division. The profile of our volunteer represents a variety of occupations as well as retirees and students.

Future Opportunities

As the population in Bellevue grows and with the current economic picture in the Country, there is an increased need for Probation Division Services.

2009-2010 proposed programs:

- City of Bellevue Probation Division DUI Record Check/Compliance Monitoring Program. – Grow the program to include all cases placed on compliance monitoring by the Bellevue Judges.
- City of Bellevue Probation Division Community Service Hours Program – Monitor Court ordered community service hours and/or community service hours in lieu of paying probation supervision fees.
- City of Bellevue Probation Division “Gateway” Program – Through the Volunteer Program, promote offender accountability while providing more extensive management of defendants beginning at sentencing.
- City of Bellevue Probation Division Relicensing Assistance – Assists defendants on supervision with the Probation Division with reinstating driving privileges that have been revoked and/or suspended.