

**Public Safety Budget Reductions Impacting Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Treatment Services**

Barry Green
Deputy Secretary of Public Safety
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Department of Corrections

Mental Health Staffing (October 15 reductions) – Reduction of \$321,540 in FY03 and \$1.8 million in FY04; 30 Positions

- DOC operates 28 Correctional Centers and 14 Correctional Units
- 24 Institutions have Qualified Mental Health Professionals
- 20 of these lost one or more mental health staff
- 3 of these (Botetourt and Pulaski Correctional Units, and James River Correctional Center) will no longer have professional mental health staff

Immediate impacts will include reductions in:

- Levels of psychological testing
- Monitoring and updating of offender mental health classification codes
- Less time for planning aftercare services for offenders (except for most difficult cases)
- Psychoeducational groups
- Individual contacts will be reduced, except for crisis intervention, monitoring in Special Housing and other required contacts.

Regional Substance Abuse Clinical Supervisors (October 15) – Reduction of \$40,111 in FY03 and \$178,802 in FY04; 4 positions

- Reduce oversight of therapeutic community programs in prisons
- Reduce oversight of substance abuse programming in communities
- These positions provided training to field staff

- Estimated 80% of offenders have substance abuse problems
- Programming will not be reduced
- Waiting times to enter programs will not be increased
- Loss of oversight positions may impact program consistency

Treatment Program Supervisors (Chapter 899) – Reduction of \$1.4 million each year; 31 positions

- TPS position was in each major prison
- Supervised, approved paperwork, and coordinated program services for case management counselors
- Senior counselor position created from existing case manager position to approve paperwork
- Supervision of positions added to duties of Assistant Warden
- Limits direct oversight of case management
- Increases wait time for case management services

SABRE (Chapter 899) – Reduction of \$4.4 million each year; 31 positions

- Moves substance abuse treatment for offenders in communities back to FY01 levels (prior to SABRE)
- In FY02 19,000 offenders received substance abuse treatment services in their communities
- In FY03 expect to reduce that number by 6,700
- Estimate that 60% of offenders placed in community programs require some level of substance abuse services

Department of Juvenile Justice

Substance Abuse Screening and Assessment (October 15) – Eliminate Funding: \$765,461 in FY03, and \$1.3 million in FY04 (General and Nongeneral Funds); 35 positions

- Additional funding for these positions had been provided by federal grants, which could not be renewed after this year
- In FY02, funding provided for screening of 8,800 juvenile offenders, and additional assessments for 3,670 of those
- Without SABRE funding, limited ability to provide treatment for these juveniles in the community
- Treatment and screening continue in institutions (which did not receive SABRE funding)

SABRE Funding (Chapter 899) – Reduction of \$2.3 million each year

- Prior to FY2002, funding was limited for providing substance abuse treatment for juvenile offenders on probation
- SABRE funding provided treatment for approximately 3,000 juveniles in FY02
- DJJ has limited resources for continuing treatment for probates

VJCCCA Funding (Chapter 899) – Reduction of \$15 million each year

- Funding reduced from \$29.5 million to \$14.5 million per year
- Allowed localities to purchase or provide varied services for juveniles
- About 100 juveniles were placed for mental health assessments with these funds
- Just over 2,000 placed for substance abuse assessment and treatment
- Impact on these services depends on how localities decide to use remaining funds, and to the extent that they supplement the lost funding

Funding for Purchase of Private Provider Treatment Beds (Chapter 899) – Reduction of \$350,000 each year

- Funding used to purchase beds in treatment hospitals/centers for juveniles with needs that DJJ could not meet
- These treatment beds are costly
- Reduces DJJ's ability to place four to five such juveniles each year

Department of Criminal Justice Services

SABRE (Chapter 899) – Elimination of Funding: \$2.5 million each year

- Initially, DCJS was appropriated \$1.5 million for SABRE
- Increased to \$2.5 million in FY02, but \$1 million was removed at 2002 Session
- Only \$1.5 million programmed by localities
- Part of Community Corrections Program grant allocations
- Funding used for drug testing and assessment
- No data on number of misdemeanants provided treatment with these funds prior to reduction

Drug Courts (Chapter 899) – Elimination of funding: \$2.1 million in FY04 (reduction in FY03 partially covered with federal grant)

Eleven court programs received state funding

Clients numbered between 10 and 100, depending on the court

Some treatment funding provided through Drug Courts; some through SABRE