

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CIRCUIT COURT OF LAKE COUNTY



TO: Audrey Nixon, Chair – Law & Judicial Committee
Randy Whitmore, Vice-Chair
Carol Calabresa, Member
Steve Carlson, Member
Mary Cunningham, Member
Judy Martini, Member
Pam Newton, Member

FROM: Bob Zastany & Members of SMAART Team *Z*

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2008

RE: Performance Report – Public Service and Restitution

C: Circuit Judges
County Board Members
Barry Burton

The attached report reflects the performance measures dealing with the Court's Public Service and Restitution function. The report does provide a brief Statement of Purpose, a program description along with additional features of the services provided. A number of charts have been included to provide a current snapshot of our organization's efforts over a seven (7) year period. The information collected is critical to the Circuit Judges and our management team so that we may make adjustments with the various programs and services provided.

I encourage you to take some of your valuable time to review our results, and if you would like a formal presentation or staff available to address questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND RESTITUTION

PROGRAM DEFINITIONS:

Adult and juvenile offenders are often ordered to pay back the community and victims of crime in the form of public service work and/or restitution. Public service is a sanction recognized by statute (Illinois Public Act 84-823) and ordered by the Court for juvenile or adult offenders as part of a dispositional alternative to incarceration. Public service allows the offender the opportunity to publicly vindicate himself/herself with the court and restore his/her status within the community. It is restitution to the community. An offender may also be ordered to make monetary payments to victim(s) to compensate for losses incurred as a result of the offender's crime; this is referred to as restitution to victims.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Public service has been a sentencing option in Lake County for over 25 years. Today, there are public service units in both adult probation and juvenile probation. The units are responsible for the timely and effective coordination and assignment of court-ordered community service. This involves offenders doing work wage-free in the community at not-for-profit agencies. Public Service is a sentencing option readily employed by the court as a creative alternative for juveniles, traffic offenders, misdemeanants and designated felons. Public service staff assign offenders to worksites, monitor work hours, provide supplementary reports for the court, and develop new worksites.

In adult probation, the public service unit reports to an assistant director and consists of a unit coordinator and four additional clerks. In 2007, this unit processed 389,437 work hours, with 219,019 hours completed at 226 different sites. The juvenile probation public service unit is much smaller, consisting of one full-time clerk. In 2007, this unit recorded 13,711 work hours completed. Data from 2000 to 2007 are presented on the following page.

Adult and juvenile probation are both committed to actively pursuing the payment of restitution to victims of crime. The juvenile program is called the Victim Assistance and Restitution Program (VARP). VARP officers work closely with victims to determine a fair dollar value of the victims' tangible losses and recommend restitution orders in juvenile court. They also assist victims with the return of recovered property and conduct victim-offender (reparation) meetings for the purpose of in-person apologies in addition to monitoring the payment of restitution by offenders and their parents. Restitution collections data are provided in the statistics section.

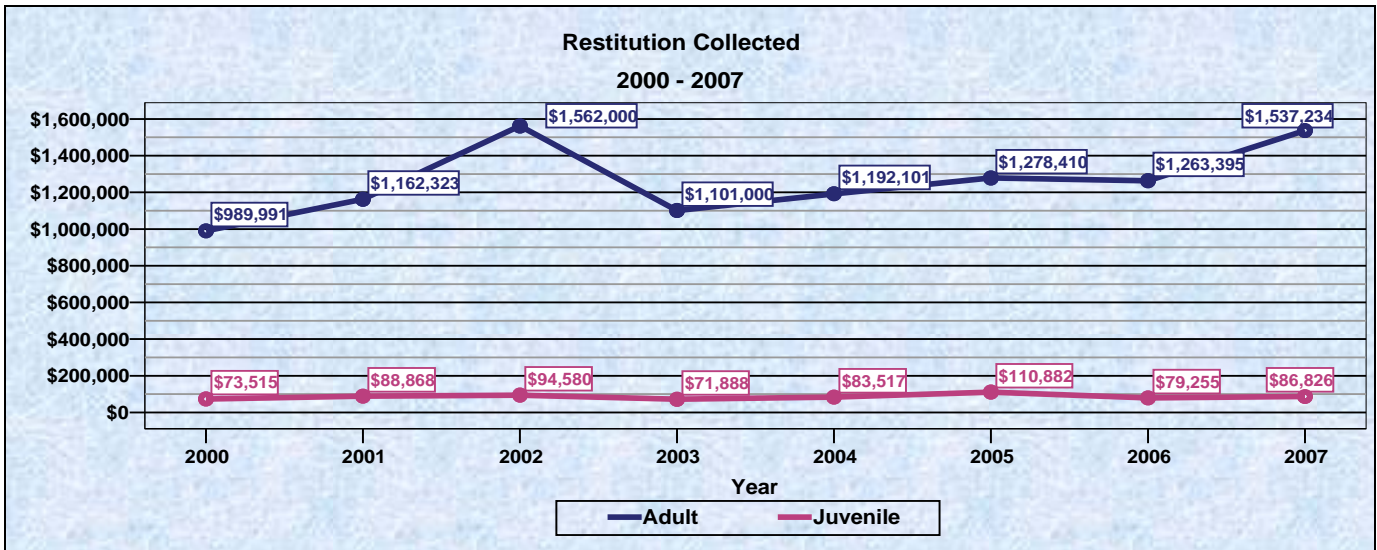
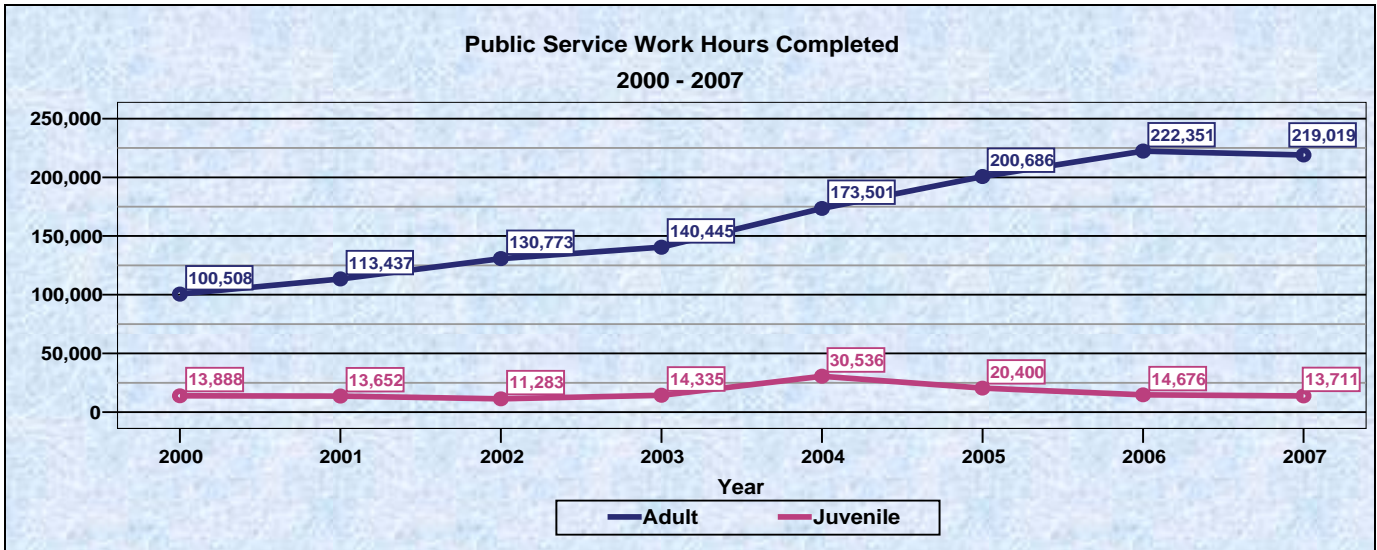
ADDITIONAL FEATURES:

Administrative Fees The court generally charges administrative fees to adult offenders who receive a public service sentence. In 2007, these fees generated \$54,422 in revenue.

Awards The Nineteenth Judicial Circuit has received recognition for its efforts in the areas of public service and restitution. The adult public service program won a National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award in 1980, while the juvenile VARP and public service programs were recognized in 1985 and 2002, respectively.

STATISTICS:

The first two charts on the following page illustrate the number of public service hours completed and the amount of restitution collected in both the adult and juvenile divisions. Although the hours completed in adult probation has steadily increased since 2000, it should be noted that participants are now able to earn hours by participating in selected group activities in addition to earning double hours for special projects. Also, the number of hours completed at juvenile peaked in 2004 when the staff handled ordinance violation cases for the branch courts; since then, they have focused on juvenile court referrals only.



Adult probation defines outcome measures for the public service and restitution programs as follows: the percent of ordered service hours actually completed; the public service success rate, which is based on the number of public service cases that are successfully terminated; and the restitution collection rate, which is based on the number of probationers that meet their restitution obligations.

