



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Rick Scott, Governor

Christina K. Daly, Secretary

July 17, 2015

Dear County Representative:

With the completion of the 2014-15 Fiscal Year, the Department now has final expenditures and actual utilization days needed to calculate each county's share of the pre-dispositional detention costs for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year. The billings adhere to the ruling by the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) issued in April 2015 regarding the Detention Cost Share Administrative Rule.

The methodology utilizes the following from the 2014-15 Fiscal Year:

$$\frac{\text{Actual detention care expenditures}}{\text{Actual detention utilization days}} = \text{per diem of } \$274.04$$

Each county's annual share was calculated by multiplying the per diem rate by the pre-disposition days utilized by that county. The annual share is equally divided over a twelve month period to arrive at a monthly billing amount for each county.

The Department is aware of the difficulty in dealing with changing bill amounts but we have been required to adjust methodologies in response to various court rulings and funding levels. Additionally, as detention utilization fluctuates from year-to year, so does each individual county's share of the overall cost. Some counties will experience significant changes from previous year billings as a result of the DOAH ruling. This is due to various factors:

- At the time of the June 2014 billing, the revised rule was not in place and the data system was still based on the premise that the state was responsible for all probation youth, including those with new law violations. This required the bill to be based on the appropriated 2014-15 funding split of 57/43 which was based on probationers with new law violations being pre-disposition and the responsibility of the counties. Thus 57% was applied to all counties across the board.
- The recent DOAH ruling requires billings to include actual costs and actual pre-disposition days. Under the ruling, pre-disposition includes probationers with open charges. Thus, counties whose actual pre-disposition days are significantly higher than last year's billed 57% rate will incur an increase in their associated costs.
- The DOAH ruling also invalidated the proposed "two day rule" wherein counties would pay only if a new charge had a referral date between zero and two days prior to the

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The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.

detention admission date. A referral date later than two days would have been the state's responsibility which is no longer the case.

A copy of the 2015-16 Secure Detention Cost Sharing spreadsheet is attached as well as a July 2015 invoice, which reflects the new monthly amount for your county indicated on the enclosed spreadsheet. Invoice amounts are due and payable on the first of each month for that month's service.

The Department appreciates our partnership in providing safe and secure environments for our youth. The Department supported proposed legislative changes to the cost sharing statute during the 2015 session and is committed to continuing to work with the Legislature in order to move towards a predictable and clear billing system that meets the needs of both the counties and the state. It is essential to ensuring a stable funding stream to support the needs of the youth in our care.

If you have any questions regarding your 2015-16 billing, please contact me at 850-717-2704 or Libby Grimes at 850-717-2351 (e-mail at libby.grimes@djj.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,



Fred Schuknecht
Chief of Staff

cc: The Honorable Andy Gardiner, Senate President
The Honorable Steve Crisafulli, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Tom Lee, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Richard Corcoran, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Joe Negron, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice
The Honorable Larry Metz, Chairman, House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee
Cynthia Kelly, State Budget Director, Executive Office of the Governor
Libby Grimes, Chief of Finance and Accounting, Department of Juvenile Justice
Lisa Hurley, Florida Association of Counties

Enclosure