



COLLIN COUNTY BOND ELECTION

Juvenile Detention Facility Expansion

Executive Summary: Growth and Capacity Analysis

H. Lynn Hadnot, Director of Collin County Juvenile Services
hhadnot@co.collin.tx.us

Date: February 17, 2023

To: County Judge Chris Hill & Collin County Commissioners
Mr. Bill Bilyeu, Director of Administrative Services

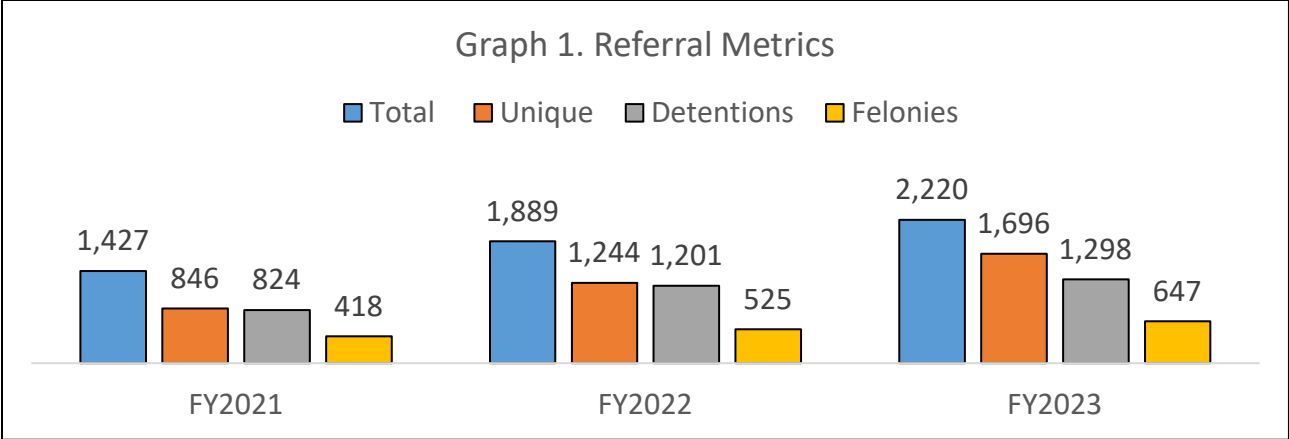
From: Collin County Juvenile Probation Department
H. Lynn Hadnot, Director

Re: Juvenile Detention Facility Expansion

The John R. Roach Juvenile Detention Center currently operates with a total of 144 operational beds for both pre-adjudicated and post-adjudicated youth. Pre-adjudicated youth are those alleged to have engaged in delinquent conduct and are pending court resolution referred most typically by law enforcement to ensure community-protection. Whereas, post-adjudicated youth are those lawfully ordered to secure-detention subsequent to an adjudication for delinquent conduct as a term or condition of probation or supervision. Pre-adjudication and post-adjudication populations are governed by a number of the same provisions of law, but must be housed, supervised, and provided with educational and rehabilitative services separate and apart per statute. The facility is required to adhere to annual, physical inspection by members of the Collin County Juvenile Board who are required to certify the facility is fit for the confinement of children. The facility is also subjected to an annual audit by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the juvenile probation department's governing authority, to ensure compliance with rigorous Texas Administrative Code (TAC) and Prison-Rape Elimination Act (PREA) operational requirements prescribed by law. Additionally, the juvenile detention facility is subject to unannounced visits by the Office of the Ombudsman for Texas who reports directly to the Texas Governor's Office. This department ensures children's rights are protected, and those would victimized this vulnerable population are brought to justice. The existing facility is made up of three (3) clusters with each cluster having four (4) pods, each pod containing twelve (12) individual single-occupancy housing units (SOHU).

Violent juvenile crime has increased in Collin County and citizens expect to have services in place to foster safe communities and schools. Over the past several years, the department has seen assaultive and felony offenses increase consistently. Historical data also shows an increase in the number of youth who pose a risk to community safety and warrant detention in the county's juvenile detention facility. With the department's historical data showing future projections for increase in the number of youth being taken into custody and lawfully detained in the juvenile detention center, and the timetable for bringing additional facility capacity online for use, it is imperative for the agency to anticipate future needs for detention services. This will ensure the county can take timely action to ensure community protection for citizens. It is also important to ensure the department is well positioned to provide rehabilitative services for referred youth pursuant to applicable juvenile law. The following graph shows the current data and trend lines for increases including the number of total referrals managed by the juvenile probation department, unique youth served by the department, youth referred to the detention center, and felony referrals:

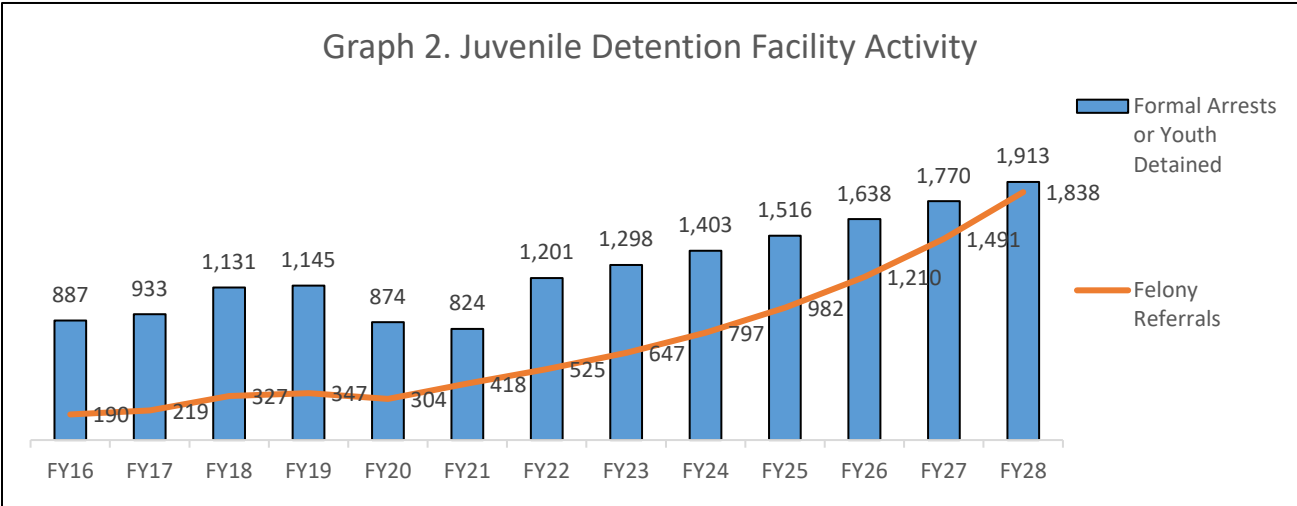
Graph 1 (below): A snapshot of juvenile metrics for FY21-FY23 (projected) shows recent activity of the department increasing rapidly on all referral metrics:



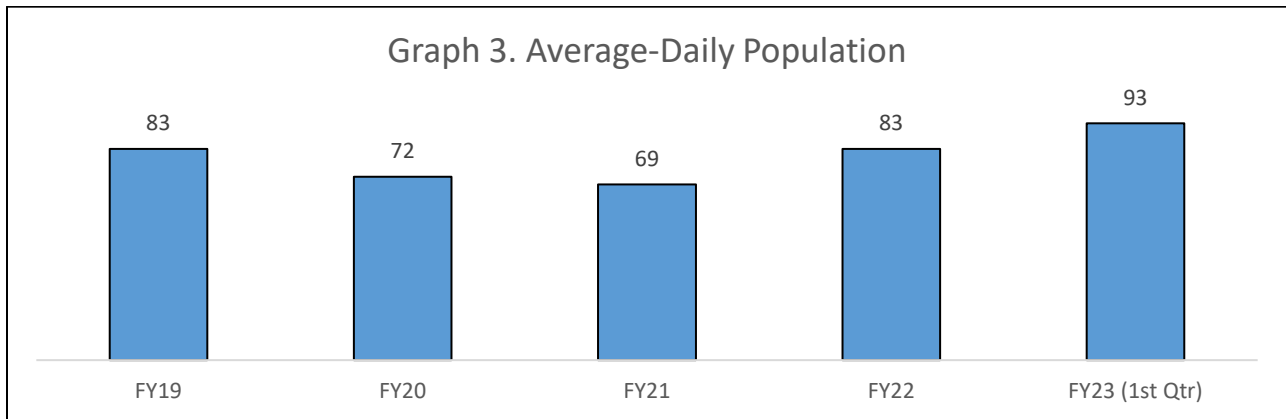
The following chart shows the previously displayed data (Graph 1) with percentage increases:

| Referral Data | FY21-22 Difference | FY22-23 Projection |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Referrals | +32% | +18% |
| Unique Youth | +47% | +36% |
| Detentions | +46% | +8% |
| Felony Offenses | +26% | +10% |

Extrapolating historical data to forecast future projections, it is important to glean a more broad data sample. In evaluating several more years of historical data, departmental metrics show juvenile arrests increasing steadily each year. From FY17 to FY18, formal arrests increased by approximately 21%. While the pandemic slowed detention referrals over a two year period, juvenile arrests for violent and assaultive crime has returned to previous pre-pandemic growth projections. Future forecasting for growth demonstrate the department should expect both felony referrals and formal arrests to continue to increase. When controlling for years impacted by the global pandemic, the department should expect an 8.1% increase (average) for detention referrals each year based on the previous 5 year average of complete data (FY16 – FY22). Extrapolating for average increase in felony referrals for FY16 – FY22, the department can project an average increase of approximately 23.3% for a yearly average in felony referrals, controlling for FY20 only (see Graph 2):

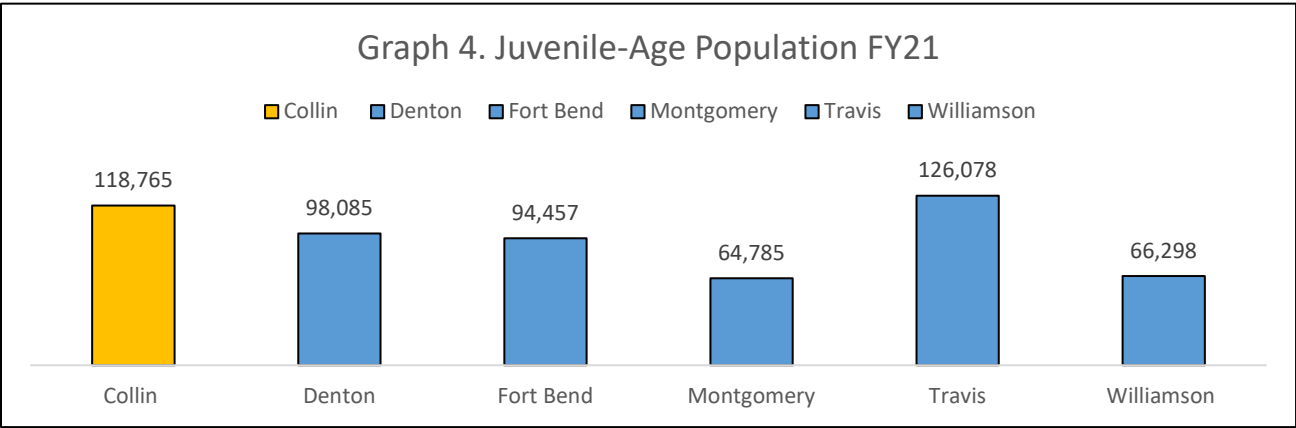


Over the past few years, the department has seen the detention population peak at approximately 110 youth. With projected growth, the department can expect these peak numbers to increase as well. The department must plan to provide pre-adjudication and post-adjudication services to all detained youth during these peak times. It is not only probable, but foreseeable the department will need to account for peaks reaching and exceeding a population which can be safely and lawfully managed with the three (3) existing clusters. While the average daily population for the juvenile detention facility has historically been manageable to date, increases in felony referrals and the number of youth being referred to the detention will continue to increase the department's average daily-population overtime. It is critically important the agency plan for future capacity needs to ensure law enforcement is never turned away due to the department's inability to receive a dangerous youthful offender. This would result in the department or juvenile court knowingly having to release a dangerous juvenile offender back into the community putting citizens at risk. Graph 3 (below) shows the average-daily population for the juvenile detention center returning to and exceeding pre-pandemic levels in the sample.



Note: FY23 1st Quarter includes the months of October, November, and December which is historically lower census with holidays.

As Collin County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Texas and nation, the juvenile probation department too has experienced consistent increases in demand across all service metrics. With low taxes, robust economic opportunity, great schools and housing, and numerous other characteristics which make Collin County arguably the most attractive county to live, work, and raise a family in the entire country, Collin County is projected to see consistent and sustained growth over the next several years and decades. While Collin County now ranks as the 4th largest county in the state of Texas for overall population, Collin County is a minuscule 6% from surpassing the juvenile-age population of Travis County which is the 4th most populous county according the 2021 data analysis from the Texas Legislative Budget Board (LBB). It is not unreasonable to think Collin County will soon surpass a number of more populated counties (juvenile-age population) with new business attractions specifically tailored to attract families.



All departmental metrics show there will be a need for additional detention capacity in the next few years to come. Should a new cluster be approved by the voters, it would obviously be years into the future before the space could be utilized. As roads and other infrastructure needs are considered, the county should also make needed preparations to account for rising juvenile crime and account for the future business growth designated to attract families to relocate, visit, and conduct business in Collin County.