

OSLC COMMUNITY PROGRAMS MONITOR PROGRAM

The OSLC Monitor Program is designed to provide a community-based treatment alternative to institutionalization for 12 to 18 year-old youths who have a history of law violations and other problems, such as school failure, family problems, aggression, drug and alcohol use, poor peer relations, poor coping and social skills, minimal work skills, and low self-esteem.

Participating youths are placed with OYA-certified foster parents who are recruited, trained and supervised by OSLC staff. Staff, foster parents, and family members together develop and implement individualized treatment programs. One or two youngsters are placed in each home. The program takes advantage of the natural parenting abilities of the foster parents, their stable and nurturing family relations, and treatment methods that have been directly developed for dealing with conduct problems and delinquency. Family members are encouraged to contact their children's case managers to obtain progress reports and to arrange home visits. Individual and family therapy are provided for all participants. Monitor Program program supervisors coordinate services for the youths in school, work, with parole/probation officers, and special interest areas to ensure an integrated approach. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, we collect arrest records for all participating youths.

The OSLC Monitor Program focuses on helping the youth's natural family or aftercare placement family reintegrate the youngster after the placement period, and helping them continue to make progress in areas where positive behavior changes were achieved during placement.

The assumptions of the program are twofold: first, that the conduct of these youngsters can be altered by the circumstances that influence them; and second, that their natural or aftercare placement families can be helped to support positive social behaviors so that good community adjustment can be made, reducing the likelihood of further delinquency or institutionalization. The Monitor Program has been operating since November 1983, and receives referrals from the state juvenile courts, attorneys, parole officers, and caseworkers.

The OSLC Monitor Program is one of 13 statewide diversion programs funded by the Oregon Youth Authority.

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