

Teen Court

Myra Ann Weeks, M.A., Program Coordinator Wichita County Teen Court

I. National Growth

1994 there were 78 programs nationwide

2004 there were 972 programs nationwide

2009 there were 1280+ programs nationwide

National Youth Court Center

National Association of Youth Courts

II. Texas Governing Statues

Chapter 45, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure

A justice or municipal court may defer proceedings against a defendant who is under the age of 18 or enrolled full time in an accredited secondary school in a program leading toward a high school diploma for not more than 180 days if the defendant specific criteria as further outlined in this section.

Chapter 102, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure

Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Funds are collected from defendant convicted of an offense under Section 28.08, Penal Code, in a county court, county court at law, or district court shall pay a \$50 juvenile delinquency prevention and graffiti eradication fee as a cost of court.

Chapter 54, Texas Family Code

A juvenile court may defer adjudication proceedings under Section 54.03 (delinquent conduct) for not more than 180 days if the child is alleged to have engaged in conduct indicating a need for supervision that violated a penal law of this state of the grade of misdemeanor that is punishable by fine only or a penal ordinance of a political subdivision of this state...

Chapter 103.021, Texas Government Code

(16) a request fee for teen court program (Art. 45.052, Code of Criminal Procedure) . . . \$20, if the court ordering the fee is located in the Texas-Louisiana border region, but otherwise not to exceed \$10;

(17) a fee to cover costs of required duties of teen court (Art. 45.052, Code of Criminal Procedure) . . . \$20, if the court ordering the fee is located in the Texas- Louisiana border region, but otherwise \$10;

III. Process

- a. Teen must plead guilty or no contest with a finding of guilt imposed by the Judge
- b. The teen must request the Teen Court Program and pay the \$20 fine.
- c. The teen then appears at an intake hearing conducted by Teen Court Program.
- d. Trial date is set.
- e. Trial – Court may use one of the four models utilized by the Teen Court Program.
- f. Teen then has 90 days to complete *all* sentencing requirements to be deemed successful.
- g. Disposition is entered
 1. If the teen is successful disposition is entered and case is closed with dismissal of the citation.
 2. If the teen is unsuccessful the original find is imposed and case is disposed as a conviction.

IV. Teen Court Models

- a) *Adult Judge Model* – An adult volunteer, usually a local attorney, presides over the court ruling on courtroom procedure and rules on legal issues only. Youth serve as attorneys, jurors, clerks, bailiffs, etc.
- b) *Youth Judge Model* – Volunteer youth, usually senior youth volunteers serve as judges.
- c) *Youth Tribunal Model* – Volunteer teen attorneys present the case to a panel of three volunteer youth judges, who decide the appropriate disposition for the defendant. No jury is used.
- d) *Peer Jury Model (Master Jury)* – This model does not use youth attorneys, however may have a youth advocate. The case is presented to a peer jury. The youth jury then questions the defendant directly.

V. Community Service Partners/Projects

Youth Organizations

Boys & Girls Clubs – YMCA – Communities In School

Civic Organizations

Rotary Club – Lions Club – Optimist Club

Area Resource Centers

Food Banks – Homeless Shelters - School Districts

Armed Forces Centers

National Guard – Recruiter Offices

Government Resources –

Parks & Recreation Dept. – Fire & Police Dept.

VI. Benefits to Community

Community Service

Civic Involvement – Jury Duty

Education to Youth & Defendant

Reduce Recidivism

Positive Role Models & Mentors

Create Positive Work Force

VII. Start-Up Funding Sources

Junior League

School Districts

Service Clubs

City/County Government

Private Foundation

State & Federal Grants

Partner with Non-Profits

VIII. Data Collection (Suggested Areas)

Recidivism Defined – Define reoffend on municipal level or more serious offense along with how long youth will be tracked.

Total Numbers Served – Track Defendants & Volunteers both youth and adult.

Cultural Diversity – Ethnicity is often linked to funding sources.

Poverty - First poverty level must be defined (often by funding sources). Most common definition tied to school funded lunch programs.

School Data – Age of offender tracked to determine program target areas.

IX. CAYC Cost – Benefit Analysis (National Estimates)

Criminal Justice System	1,125,000	\$23,000	\$25,875,000,000
Teen Court	125,000	\$450	\$56,250,000
		Total Cost	\$25,931,250,000
Total Number of Youth	1,250,000	\$43,000	\$8,707,500,00
Recidivism – Rate of Return		\$43,000	\$430,000,000
Criminal Justice System – 18%	202,500		
Teen Court – 8%	10,000		
		Total Recidivism	\$9,137,500,000
		Total Annual Cost	\$35,068,750,000

X. Sacred Bundle - Taco