

SELECTIVE AGGRESSIVE PROBATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Selective Aggressive Probation Program (SAP) is a multi-agency, collaborative effort to impact the serious, violent, habitual juvenile offenders in Benton and Franklin Counties. The focus of SAP is to enhance community safety by working closely with law enforcement, county prosecutors, schools, and other community resources to increase the accountability of youthful offenders. SAP is operated through the Community Supervision Department in Benton and Franklin Counties; however, it is a program that depends on the efforts of several different departments.

SAP was modeled after the SHOCAP Program, which targets the serious, habitual offenders in the community. There are some distinct differences between SHOCAP and SAP, which makes SAP unique. SHOCAP is a national program that is based on national statistics, and nation wide trends of criminal activity. SAP is a program that has been designed specifically to address the needs of Benton and Franklin Counties. Typically, the police departments operate SHOCAP Programs. SAP is operated through the Juvenile Justice Center.

Funding for SAP has been provided by The Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG). Funds were allocated to The City of Kennewick, The City of Pasco, The City Richland, Benton County, and Franklin County. Law and Justice Councils of Benton and Franklin Counties approved for the funding to be pooled together to operate the SAP Program. Cities in the outlying areas of Benton and Franklin Counties were not allocated any funds; however, money was awarded as part of a competitive grant to service these areas.

SAP personnel are under direct supervision of the Community Supervision Manager, and report to The Multi-Agency SAP Committee, as well as the Law and Justice Councils of Benton and Franklin Counties. The SAP Committee is made up of at least one representative of each law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, and the Juvenile Department of Benton and Franklin Counties. Committee members meet on a monthly basis to discuss progress of the SAP Program, and to share information on all youth in the program. The Committee consists of personnel from the following agencies:

- BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNTIES JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
- BENTON COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S and SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- FRANKLIN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S and SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- CITY POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO INCLUDE: PASCO, KENNEWICK, RICHLAND, CONNELL, WEST RICHLAND, AND PROSSER

A SAP Selection Committee is responsible for screening all youth that have been referred to SAP. This committee is made up of seven members of the SAP Committee; they screen each referral and determine if they meet the SAP criteria. The Selection Committee also discusses each referral one by one to determine if SAP would be an appropriate placement. The current Probation Counselor of each youth referred to SAP is usually present during the screening so that the committee is fully aware the activities of each youth.

Once placed on the SAP program, the youth will remain in the program until one or more of the following occur: youth reaches the age of 18, youth's Community Supervision has terminated, youth moves out of Benton and Franklin Counties, or youth completes one full year without any new offenses or probation violations.

SAP counselors work a nontraditional work schedule which includes nights and weekends and are able to monitor the youth more closely at various times and places. Many of the contacts made with SAP youth are made at night, and at the residence of the youth. Police departments have been very helpful in providing police support whenever needed during the home checks

The youth selected to the SAP Program have an extensive criminal history and have chosen not to take advantage of past rehabilitation efforts. Although the focus of SAP is accountability, SAP counselors do assist youth that decide to make changes in their lives. In some cases, the strict supervision provided through SAP can be an excellent motivator for youth to choose to make more of an effort to take advantage of rehabilitation services.

In order to provide this type of strict supervision, it is imperative that the proper communication and cooperation of several different departments. Juvenile Detention was able to adjust their screening criteria for all youth on SAP so that it would allow for these youth to be taken to Detention immediately upon any probation violation or new offense. The Legal Process Unit at Benton and Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center changed their procedure so that it could accommodate the immediate consequences through Court. Benton County Prosecutor's Office has designated a Deputy Prosecutor to handle court hearings involving SAP youth. Pasco Police Department has formed a School Safety Committee, which provides an excellent forum in which SAP counselors could share certain information with police and school officials about youth on the SAP Program. SAP counselors have also taken certain measures to increase the communication between them and law enforcement agencies.

It is important to remember that treatment is the key to long-term rehabilitation, however, there is a small population that chooses not to respond to various rehabilitation efforts. This population can be a severe threat to the safety of the community. Consistent strict supervision can be a tool to hold these individuals accountable for their actions and help provide more community protection. The effort to supervise these individuals on a strict level must be an effort that is not agency wide, but community wide. This type of community wide effort has been the key to the success of the SAP Program.