

Benton Franklin Counties Diversion Statistics (2011)

- 1003 referrals screened from Prosecutor's Office
- 2996 hours community service assigned
- 740 youth referred for Educational/Informational Clinics (1850 hours)
- \$6,403.64 restitution collected on behalf of victims

17 volunteers contributed 309 hours to the Community Accountability Boards



Why Volunteer?

- To Never Give up on a Child.
- To foster change.
- To improve your community.



For more information about Diversion or volunteering, please contact:

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Benton Franklin Counties
Juvenile Justice Center

Diversion Program

Serving the community by:

- Holding youth accountable
- Compensating Victims
- Supporting Families
- Fostering Change in behaviors
- Relieving Court Congestion
- Engaging Volunteers (CAB's)

What is Diversion?

In Washington State, the Juvenile Justice Act of 1977 mandated Diversion Services for minor and first time juvenile offenders. The intent of the legislation is to hold youth accountable for their criminal behavior, involve local citizens, repair harm to victims, and save the more expensive court services for chronic and repeat offenders. Typically, these cases involve 12-17 year old youth referred by the Prosecutor's Office for offenses such as shoplifting, minor assaults, malicious mischief, trespassing and drug/alcohol related offenses.

Youth willing to accept responsibility for their offense sign a Diversion Agreement, without going to court.

A Diversion Agreement holds youth accountable through:

- Community Service
- Restitution to Victims
- Fines
- Apology Letters
- Revocation of Driver's License for alcohol and/or drug related offenses
- School Notifications

Youth and Families are served by requiring:

- Counseling
- Educational and Informational Clinics
- Drug and/or Alcohol treatment
- Mediation Services

What are CAB's?

Community Accountability Board's (CAB's) are made up of Volunteers with diverse backgrounds (retired teachers, parents, business owners, college students, etc.) who are trained to meet with youth and families regarding their offense. They develop Diversion Agreements (within the boundaries of the law) that hold youth accountable for their criminal offense. The intent is to impress upon the youth and their families the connection between their criminal behavior and its impact on the community.



Who can volunteer?

A person over the age of 19 that cares about the youth of our community. You will need to pass a criminal background check.

What would I do there?

- Review police reports
- Interview youth and their families
- Sign Diversion Agreements
- Meet with youth returning to CAB to turn in their obligations.

Where are the CAB's held?

Juvenile Justice Center, 5606 W. Canal Pl. Kennewick

When?

The 1st Tuesday of every month and the 3rd Thursday of every month, 4:30 to 7:30 pm