

Great Game Huddle Notes
June 21, 2016

Angie Crews welcomed huddle participants including several first time visitors from the Juvenile Division. Angie proceeded to brief the huddle regarding the Juvenile portion of the General Fund 101 and added that detailed information concerning this fund is accessible through the Greene County website.

The Juvenile Division accounts for 10.57% of the General Revenue budget. The total employees in Juvenile total 64 individuals which is an extremely modest number given the myriad duties performed by this department.

Much of the revenue for Juvenile is received from the State, however this funding only accounts for 10.4% of total expenses. To offset the shortfall, the citizens of Greene County passed the LEST I in 1997 and LEST II in 2012. The revenues from these sales tax initiatives help fund department salaries, contractual obligations, travel and training, supplies and capital and equipment. Angie added that the County is planning a strategy to lobby for increased State reimbursement.

Angie introduced Joe Montanez, Lead Family and Community Specialist with the Juvenile Justice Center. Joe reiterated the disparity between the State reimbursements provided to treat and house area youths versus the reality of actual costs. He then introduced Jerod Beatty, Probation Officer with Juvenile.

Mr. Beatty focused on recent programs established and catered for male youth. Boys suffer from a higher suicide rate, gang involvement and resulting violence, drug abuse, including a spiking incidence of heroin use, and HIV diagnosis again tied directly to sharing syringes related to drug use. The Juvenile Division is actively working on remediating these problems through programs such as the Greene County Youth Academy and SPARTAN community engagement. The Youth Academy is an intensive community based treatment program that provides educational services along with group, family and individual counseling, life skill development, recreational opportunities and cognitive behavioral treatment in a well-structured and supervised environment. The SPARTAN program includes numerous activities for youths to get a sense of and become involved with the community.

Following his presentation, Mr. Beatty fielded several question from huddle attendees.