Hillbrook
Department of Probation

Joanne M. Mahoney
County Executive

Jacqueline DeNero
Director of Juvenile Justice and Detention Services

Mary C. Winter
Commissioner of Probation
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Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center

4949 Velasko Road

Syracuse, New York 13215

(315) 435-1421
Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Facility embraces the philosophy of restorative justice for youth within the juvenile justice system. We endeavor to ensure the public safety of the community by providing an intensive child-care program with specific emphasis on educational, pro-social, and life skills development.

**Vision**

- To provide individualized and short-term care that supports the emotional, educational, pro-social, and physical development of youth.
- To provide a safe, secure and least restrictive environment for youth placed in juvenile detention without compromising public safety.

**Goals**

- To provide an environment that is conducive to and supports educational growth and development through structured classroom instruction and activities.
- To ensure that proper medical evaluations, care and treatment are provided to support the overall well-being of youth in juvenile detention.
- To enhance Therapeutic Crisis Intervention techniques to address specific needs of youth experiencing behavioral problems.
- To facilitate communication, positive interaction, and support services for youth and their families.
- To provide a catalyst for change in the lives of youth through cost effective programming that promotes the use of best practices and alternatives to secure detention.
- To provide professional development opportunities for staff to ensure quality assurance of juvenile detention standards.
- To promote the development of a professional, accountable and respectful work environment.

- A best practice in juvenile detention that supports a safe, vibrant, and healthy community designed to encourage the individual success of each youth through engagement with the family, juvenile justice system providers, and community.
The Onondaga County Probation Department administers Juvenile Detention Services. Additionally, the Director of Juvenile Justice and Detention works with the Juvenile Justice Unit in Probation to provide a coordinated continuum of services. Effective evidence-based practices are utilized to increase positive outcomes for youth and families.

Hillbrook Detention Center

Hillbrook Detention Center provides mandated secure services for youth ages 10 to 16. Family Court remands Juvenile Delinquents (JD) to Hillbrook until the conclusion of their case in Family Court.

Youth prosecuted in criminal court, charged as Juvenile Offenders (JO), may also be housed in Hillbrook until their sentencing. Hillbrook is located at 4949 Velasko Road in the Town of Onondaga. We are certified by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for 32 beds.

Our mission is to provide safe and secure detention. We work diligently to improve the pro-social skills of our residents to foster character development and tools for successful reentry into the community.

Hillbrook’s facility is over 40,000 square feet and sits on fourteen acres. It runs twenty-four hours, seven days a week and for 30 years has been a temporary residence to over 15,250 youth.

Daily maintenance is provided by three employees. We continue to incorporate new products and equipment to provide environmentally safe maintenance and efficient delivery of services. In 2008, staff received additional training on all systems and look forward to maintaining the upgraded building.
Resident Programs and Services

Education Department

All Hillbrook residents receive instruction in English/Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, Science and Art. Hillbrook has two full-time certified teachers. Education is enhanced through Federal Title I funds that are administered through the Westhill School District.

Hillbrook’s education department continues to offer outstanding education and programs to youth in our facility. Beyond the classroom, on-going communication with schools has allowed students to make a smooth transition back into their home schools. Highlights from 2008 include:

- Our Education Department implemented The Summer Education and Action Program. This was a 6 week course which focused on life skills, civics, and volunteerism.
- A Student of the Week program was implemented to encourage residents to actively participate and model appropriate classroom behavior. Students have responded well to this incentive and are proud when they have earned the right to be named “Student of the Week”.
- A new project was created in the art department that incorporates conservation into the classroom. Students learn how to make beautiful and creative paper out of recycled paper used in the facility. The goal is to continue and expand this project in 2009.
- Our Life Skills teacher, continues his mission to get the community involved with youth at Hillbrook. In 2008, a group of students from his Criminology course at LeMoyne College volunteered at Hillbrook two nights each week. Students brought exciting programs designed to reiterate the importance of community building, personal responsibility and interpersonal skills.
- Poetry Behind Walls, volume I, was the inaugural edition of Hillbrook Quarterly. Hillbrook Quarterly features poetry, essays and art completed by residents.
- The education program at Hillbrook continues to progress in all areas. The educational staff at Hillbrook are highly qualified and dedicated. We welcomed a new Language Arts/Social Studies teacher. Our staff meets daily to discuss all residents, review curriculum plans and develop new ideas that will further advance our ability to meet student’s needs.

Classroom Mission Statement

All students who come to Hillbrook will be given the opportunity to develop more confidence as a student. The educational staff at Hillbrook will foster the development of skills and character needed to become productive, responsible, citizens who can succeed in a rapidly changing world.
Social Work Department

Hillbrook Detention Facility's Social Work Department consists of two full time Social Work Assistants and a Master’s level Supervisor. Upon admission, youth are assigned a social worker. Social workers are responsible for contact with parents, attorney for the child, probation officers, caseworkers, Family Court, and all persons involved with the resident during their time at Hillbrook.

The department is responsible for collaborating with other inter-department agencies (DSS, Probation, Mental Health, Syracuse City School District, etc.) to identify needs and establish a plan to provide the best possible interventions and services for residents. The Social Work Department, Education Department, and Medical Services work together to provide a comprehensive assessment of each youth and encourage pro-social development. Engaging parents and families is the key to the future success of youth. Visits and phone calls are encouraged and scheduled by the social worker. Social Workers are responsible for facilitating communication between residents and their families. Multi-Systemic and Family Functional Therapy (MST & FFT) have been offered at Hillbrook this year to provide comprehensive therapeutic support to residents and families in need of additional services.

Social Work staff have been certified to utilize CANS, the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths survey. This tool supports a better understanding of the resident and begins the development of their individualized reentry plan. This assessment has helped our social work staff determine resources, abilities and strengths of the resident and their family in addition to a comprehensive, prioritized assessment of their needs. This is particularly important for youth in a detention setting who are often used to deficit-oriented interventions that don’t utilize existing skills and strengths in goal planning. This model has aided in goal development by helping families prioritize needs.

Staff also implemented the YASI assessment tool, which identifies risk and protective factors related to education and victimization of violence and substance abuse. This tool allows staff to determine the fit between youth and specific substance abuse and therapy programs in the community. Staff have been able to make referrals in a more accurate and timely manner.

![Resident art projects: SpongeBob Squarepants, Spider Man, a resident's self portrait and a tree leaf. Projects were created from recycled paper.](image)

In 2008, residents published Volume 1 of Hillbrook Quarterly featuring poetry, essays and art.
Medical Department

Upon admission, each youth receives a physical through a contract with Family Medical Services as well as routine medical care. Resident needs include OB/GYN care for pregnant females, diabetes, seizure disorders, sexually transmitted diseases, injuries and immunizations. Emergency dental work is also available through contract.

Registered Nurses (R.N.’s) provide pre-physicals, medication distribution and health education. R.N.’s also communicate with parents and guardians regarding the medical needs of a resident.

We are continuing a project begun in 2003 with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the Center for Disease Control. Each resident is voluntarily tested and if necessary, treated for sexually transmitted diseases. Funding is provided by the Center for Disease Control.

An increasing number of residents have mental health needs. Psychiatric consultation is available eight hours a week. Dr. Adrienne Allen evaluates and monitors residents who are admitted to Hillbrook with prescribed medication. Hillbrook uses a mental health assessment tool called VDISC. VDISC is a diagnostic tool used in a variety of juvenile justice settings to identify youth with mental health issues. It was developed by Columbia University’s Center for the Promotion of Mental Health in Juvenile Justice. Dr. Allen reviews results and provides recommendations to families and residents. It has been fully evaluated and certified by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Twiggy Billue of American Friends Service Committee, Anthony Nocella, LeMoyne College Professor and Hillbrook staff with Syracuse University Professor Arthur Paris during Black History Month Celebration.

Members of the Syracuse University Football team along with their Assistant Coach shared their life experiences with Hillbrook residents.
Community Sponsored Programs

Hillbrook has been very fortunate to partner with a number of programs, speakers and organizations to enhance the personal and pro-social development of residents. In 2008 residents participated in the following:

- Southwest Community Center FACES Program (HIV/AIDS Prevention)
- Central Tech Vocational Presentation (Syracuse City School District)
- Help Increase the Peace Project (HIPP) - American Friends Service Committee
- Interfaith Works—provides residents and families with spiritual guidance
- Foster Grandparents of P.E.A.C.E. Inc. employs one grandfather who spends the day with residents
- Onondaga County Public Library partners with Hillbrook weekly
  - Provides books, resources and speakers
- Syracuse University’s football team and women’s basketball team sent players to Hillbrook. Residents had the opportunity to learn about the importance of education, focus, healthy behaviors and commitment— all while being college athletes.,
- Black History Celebration in February. All staff participated in programming and residents learned about the amazing accomplishments of African American people in the United States.
- The Zen Center of Syracuse teaches residents meditation and yoga
- LeMoyne College Partnership— facilitated by Anthony Nocella, our life skills teacher. Youth empowerment group volunteers their time and talents at Hillbrook weekly. Students provide pro-social activities for the residents to become positive role models and achieve their goals.
- The nationally renowned exhibit, Eyes Wide Open, was on display at Hillbrook for a day. This exhibit features over 180 pairs of combat boots memorializing the U.S. soldiers from New York who have fallen in the Iraq War. Each pairs is tagged with the name and age of the deceased. The families of the deceased have personalized many of the boots. Residents engaged in discussions around violence, peace and freedom. Residents were able to reflect on their own lives, their family’s connections with the war and their future.

Literacy

Literacy has been the prime focus. In 2008 Hillbrook continued to add books and resources for all ages and abilities. English/Language Arts skills development is an integral part of all activities and programs.
Detention Reform

In 2005, the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, contracted with the Vera Institute of Justice to provide technical assistance to interested counties on detention reform. Onondaga County developed a stakeholders group and began efforts to assess local issues related to public safety, over utilization of detention, length of stay and disproportionate minority confinement. The goals of detention reform are:

- Ensure detention is reserved only for those who pose a risk to public safety or are at risk of failing to appear in court.
- Pursue the least restrictive setting for youth without compromising public safety.
- Advance long term efforts to guarantee fair, equitable, race neutral and culturally sensitive juvenile detention policies and practices.

Hillbrook administration and staff fully participate in this effort. Working subcommittees include PINS, court processing, detention alternatives, risk assessment and data quality assurance.

A Risk Assessment Instrument was utilized on 2008 admissions.

Risk Assessment Instrument

Hillbrook continues to utilize the Risk Assessment Instrument screening tool. The Risk Assessment Instrument is an objective screening tool used to indicate the level of risk related to the basic premises of risk of failure to appear or of re-offense. Senior Counselors use the overall score to determine whether to detain or release an arrested youth. Youth that do not score high enough for secure detention may be referred to an alternative to detention.

Throughout 2008, Hillbrook trained additional staff members to complete Risk Assessment Instruments.

Onondaga County’s risk assessment tool will continue to be evaluated as to maintaining public safety while assuming fair, equitable, race neutral detention decisions.

Alternative to Detention

Cayuga Counseling manages Onondaga County’s Alternative to Detention program called Special Supervision. This program provides intensive monitoring and reports client progress weekly to Family Court. In 2008, Special Supervision served 169 clients. Placement was diverted for 84% of the youth. An enhanced level of supervision was provided in 2008 to meet the needs of clients identified through the Risk Assessment Instrument.
**Training**

Child care staff include Senior Counselors, Counselor I’s and Detention Home Aides.

The versatility of Hillbrook Detention Facility employees allows us to conduct many of our mandatory training “in-house”. Child care staff completed the following training programs in 2008:

- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention - Four staff members were certified as TCI trainers by Cornell University.
- Fire Prevention, Safety and Emergency Procedures
- Mandated Reporter/Child Abuse
- HIV/AIDS Confidentiality
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator
- TCI Training Boosters - These trainings are meant to refresh staff in best practice working with youth to help them build positive assets while in our care.
- Risk Assessment

Ken Motyka, Maintenance Worker I attended a weeklong training seminar on repairing and maintaining Southern Folger Adams locks.

Social Work Department completed training in:

- CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths, Comprehensive Multi-system Assessment)
- Risk Assessment Instrument
- Asset Champions Network
- High Fidelity Wraparound
- Teens and Loss– Focus on Adolescent Grief
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention
- Trauma Informed Care

Casework Supervisor Deborah Wright completed training in Multi-Systemic Therapy, an evidence based practice for families of children with delinquency behavior.

Hillbrook continued to improve its New Employee Orientation and Training Program. In 2008, we successfully hired and trained several new staff members who bring diverse and extensive backgrounds of working with youth to our facility. Our staff is fully committed to the principles of our mission and are committed to youth in detention and providing them the tools while they are here to be successfully transitioned back into the community. Our new employees, along with our well-trained experienced staff allow Hillbrook to set aggressive goals for 2009 to support the residents and their families through the juvenile justice system.
Hillside Children’s Center
Non-Secure Detention

85 Admissions
54 PINS
31 Juvenile Delinquents

6 PINS Admitted Were 16 & 17 Year Olds

Average Length of Stay: 9.15 Days

Hillside Children’s Center provides non-secure detention to Onondaga County. Hillbrook manages the contract for beds at a group home located in Auburn, NY.

In 2008, Onondaga Family Court utilized non-secure detention for 31 juvenile delinquents.

The Onondaga County Probation Department provides a variety of services tailored to meet the needs of families and adolescents.

In 2008 through detention reform efforts, Onondaga County dramatically reduced its use of non-secure detention.

The contract has been reduced from 16 to 8 beds. Families are more successfully served through evidence based programs such as Multi-Systemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy as a diversion from court.
Upon admission, youth are assigned a social worker. Social workers are responsible for contact with parents, law guardians, probation officers, caseworkers, Family Court and all persons involved with the resident during their time at Hillbrook. The Social Work Department and Education Department work together to provide a comprehensive assessment of each youth and to encourage pro-social development.

Parents and families are the key to the future success of youth. Visits and phone calls are encouraged and scheduled by the social worker.

Non-secure detention beds are also coordinated by the social workers. When we exceed the 16 beds we contract for at Hillside Children's Center, Hillbrook purchases a bed in an out-of-county program. We provide transportation to court and services.

Donna Modliszewski, R.N., and counselor Ed Mahar teach CPR and Safety Skills to Hillbrook staff. They both became certified CPR trainers in 2003.

Hillbrook Secure Detention
2008 Statistics

262  Total Admissions
179  Onondaga County Residents
83   Out-of-County Residents

Gender        Race
Female: 43    White: 77
             Other: 22

Hillbrook Detention Center
Occupancy Rates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Max. Capacity</th>
<th>Actual Care Days</th>
<th>Utilization %</th>
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<td>2006*</td>
<td>7,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>11,680</td>
<td>6,369</td>
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2008 Juveniles Detained by Age—Hillbrook

Juveniles Detained by Age and Gender in 2008:
83% Male
17% Female

2008 Juveniles Detained by Age/Gender/Race

2008 Annual Report Page 11
Hillbrook Secure Detention
Median Length of stay—23 days

2008 Average Length of Stay
Hillbrook
Average Daily Population Report 2008

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<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>AFRICAN-AMERICAN</th>
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2008 Detention by Race/Gender

African-American Males 54%
White Males 22%
Other Males 6%
African-American Females 8%
White Females 7%
Other Females 3%
2008 Annual Report

Out of County Resident Admissions to Hillbrook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Admissions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broome</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayuga</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemung</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chenango</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinton</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cortland</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutchess</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herkimer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis</td>
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<td>Madison</td>
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<td>Ontario</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interstate Compact</td>
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Employee Milestones And Recognitions

In 2008, two Hillbrook employees celebrated over 25 years of service with Onondaga County. We congratulate William Blanck, and Kevin Grome on their years of public service.

The following employees celebrated over 20 years of service to Onondaga County:
- Richard Cassidy
- Gary Coleman
- Barbara Metzger
- Sheri Riddell

Congratulations to them on their years of public service.

Employee of the Month

The following employees were named as Employee of the Month during 2008:
- Sheri Riddell
- Deborah Wright
- James Garvey
- Kenneth Motyka
- Dana Rentas
- Sandy Masello
- Gary Coleman
- William Blanck
- Troy Hopson
- Tiffany Wright
- Anthony Nocella

Mrs. Deborah Wright, Casework Supervisor was named the New York State Secure Worker of the Year. This prestigious award was presented by the New York State Juvenile Detention Association.

John Treahy, JDA President, Deborah Wright and Hillbrook Director Jackie DeNero
2009 Goals and Objectives

Education

• Increase literacy efforts with residents.
• Communicate effectively with home schools toward successful reentry of students.
• Encourage and strengthen residents’ motivation to attend school and maintain success.
• Develop Hillbrook Life Readiness Academy. Students will learn through a thematic, collaborative curriculum.

Social Work

• Increase communication and visits with parents and guardians.
• Implement youth development strategies in behavior modification program.
• Increase use of CANS—Child Adolescent Needs Assessment.
• Increase collaboration and partnerships with local community agencies, schools and families to support successful reentry planning for residents.
• Provide wrap around services to facilitate successful reentry.

Medical

• Enhance the effectiveness and administration of medical services through advanced training.
• Improve the intake and screening process of each resident to ensure that we receive the most accurate medical data to inform healthcare provisions during and after detention.
• Increase communication with parents and guardians.
• Provide health education to residents.

Training

• To provide the best possible service to our residents and the community.
• We are committed to enhancing the competency and professionalism of all staff. We will continue to seek new opportunities for growth and learning that will improve our ability to work effectively with the youth in our care. Training for 2009 will include:

  • Adolescent Development and Behavior
  • Cultural Diversity
  • Report Writing and Documentation Skill Building
  • Juvenile Care Worker Self—Instructional Courses
  • Wraparound Initiative