

## **Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office**

### **JAG Grant Final Local Evaluation**

The Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office was not initially awarded JAG funding after our project proposal. Midway through the funding cycle we were awarded partial funding which allowed our office to complete and or sustain several of the project components in our initial proposal. The overall degree of effectiveness of our project components was based off data collection.

Data collection regarding project related activities was on-going during the course of all projects with a case management system. The District Attorney case management system was also used for data retrieval and case tracking, as well as Probation and CWS file information when necessary. All data was compiled into month-end, quarterly and annual reports. These reports were used to collect final data for this report.

#### **Project component #1 Tuolumne Narcotics Team**

This component continued the established county-based task force called Tuolumne Narcotics Team (TNT). TNT is a cooperative and collaborative, multi-jurisdictional/disciplinary task force comprised of law enforcement, prosecution and probation components. The efforts of the Tuolumne Narcotics Team were focused within the jurisdictional boundaries of Tuolumne County. The primary goal of TNT was to act as a multi-jurisdictional task force is to strengthen rural enforcement and prosecution efforts targeted at street level drug sales. This was accomplished through enhanced enforcement activities, including law enforcement presence and availability, in all areas of the County, including schools, in cooperation with other government and private agencies, outreach public awareness, rehabilitation, and educational components. Through drug awareness presentations, efforts were made with school age populations, local elementary and high schools, junior college and the relatively youthful population within Tuolumne County. We feel the project activities effectively impacted the target area by reducing mid and street level sales and distribution of illegal drugs, reducing the drug availability and profits, improving the health and wellbeing of the population and decreasing the related violent crimes perpetrated within the target population. The following statistics obtained during data collection are a reflection of the efforts put forth by the task force during the JAG funded period:

Community presentations: 8

Drug Investigations: 64

Arrests made: 77

Firearms seized: 3

Asset seizures total: \$4,058.00

Methamphetamine seized: 504 grams

Heroin Seized: 48.89 grams

Marijuana seized: 129.51 grams

### **Project component #2 NADDI Rx Drug Drop Box Program**

The National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) Rx Drug Drop Box program addressed a vital public health and safety issue. Medicines that languish in home medicine cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high. These same drugs unfortunately have become the target of theft and misuse, oftentimes by people who have access to the residence. More and more adults have recognized the need to remove these substances from the home and legally and safely turn them over to law enforcement for proper chain of custody and court ordered destruction. As part of the drug drop box program we have taken control of and destroyed drugs on a regular basis as part of our regular operations. We have increased the ability for patients to easily and properly dispose of unneeded, expired, or unwanted medicines. The NADDI drug boxes are in addition to our successful Drug Take Back events in which hundreds of thousands of dosage units of medicine has been collected from patients and to the growing number of expired, unused and unwanted pharmaceuticals in the home. Through this component and with JAG funding we were able to purchase an additional 2 NADDI drug drop boxes and secure them at law enforcement facilities within Tuolumne County. The following statistics obtained during data collection are a reflection of the drug drop box and Rx take back day program put forth by the task force during the JAG funded period:

Total lbs. of Rx medication collected and destroyed: 307

### **Project Component #3 Life skills training**

The Life Skills Training curriculum was centered on the development of drug resistance, personal self-management and increased social skills in students. The middle school program was designed to be taught in a sequence over 3 years, with the first year's curriculum more intensive (with 15 class meetings) and booster sessions in the following 2 years' acting as a refresher and review for participants. The elementary school program offered 24 classes to be taught during either third, fourth, fifth, or sixth grade. This component was not fulfilled due to lack of JAG funding. We were able to accommodate and participate in an established mentoring program with high school age students through a partnership with the Amador Tuolumne Calaveras Community Action Agency (ATCCA) where we met monthly for 8 months and supported the program. This program, which was geared towards life

skills and mentoring, was done in lieu of like skills training. The overall effectiveness of component #3 was not tracked due to lack of funding and being able to complete the component.

### **Project Component #3 Drug Store Project**

The Drug Store Project is a comprehensive middle school drug prevention program designed to educate youth about the dangers of substance use and abuse. The Drug Store Project has a long history of over 15 years and continues to be one of the largest collaborative prevention activities that are conducted for the education of drugs, tobacco and alcohol for youth. Representatives from the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office attended a drug store project event in South Lake Tahoe in preparation for fulfilling this component of our project, however due to lack of JAG funding from our original proposal we were unable to complete this component.

### **Summary**

As outlined above, we feel overall there was a high degree of effectiveness in our program components in which we were able to complete with the funding allotted. It is important to stress that our original proposal was not funded as initially requested therefore we had to accommodate the program accordingly. The funding awarded allowed our office to successfully continue established programs such as the Tuolumne Narcotics Team, by way of additional staffing and equipment, and we were able to establish a drug take back program that will continue for years to come.