

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health  
and Substance Abuse Services

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**ODMHSAS EMPHASIZES ‘SMART ON CRIME’ IN FY 2012 BUDGET REQUEST**

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) has posted its FY 2012 budget request and support materials used in presentations to the Governor, House and Senate.

In addition to funding for continued maintenance of existing programs, the department has requested funding for its “Smart on Crime” initiative that targets treatment services for at-risk populations, reduces crime and incarceration rates, and saves tax dollars. “Smart on Crime” uses evidence-based programs in the areas of criminal justice diversion, pre-sentencing engagement, and reintegration to reduce recidivism and decrease demand for correctional beds. The department has a tremendously successful track record with the operation of these innovative programs, which makes “Smart on Crime” an even better investment for the people of Oklahoma.

The “Smart on Crime” package would include placing non-violent offenders, whose primary issue is an untreated mental or addictive disorder, in a closely monitored program such as drug court, mental health court, day reporting or jail diversion programs, or other proven programs that proactively address the problem and reduce incarceration. The proposed cost for full implementation of the “Smart on Crime” package is estimated at \$95.6 million annually. By the third year of full implementation, it is expected that program cost would be offset by cost savings, resulting in an annual net gain to the state.

The average cost to maintain an inmate in prison is \$48 per day. For someone on a prison mental health unit, the cost jumps to approximately \$175 per day. Providing appropriate mental health services to someone in the community to keep them from entering the criminal justice system costs approximately \$25/day; and, providing appropriate substance abuse services to someone in the community to keep them from entering the criminal justice system costs less than \$15/day.

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