



**KENLYN FOSTER**  
JUDGE, GENERAL SESSIONS COURT, DIVISION II  
JUVENILE COURT  
BLOUNT COUNTY, TENNESSEE

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: BLOUNT COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE

FROM: KENLYN FOSTER *CK*

DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2018

RE: DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES JUVENILE JUSTICE PREVENTION GRANT

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The Blount County Juvenile Court has been the recipient of a Department of Children's Services (DCS) Juvenile Justice Prevention Grant since at least 1995. During that time (and under my predecessor Judge Denton), the Juvenile Court subcontracted with Helen Ross McNabb (McNabb) to provide Home Base, an intensive probation and prevention program. The grant is \$98,000 per year for a three year grant period. The current grant is set to expire at the end of this fiscal year.

In years past, we had as many as four McNabb employees serving our community. Since 2011, we have gone from two McNabb employees to just one. The number of children and families served has dwindled to only five as of this date. The reasons for this are myriad, but in many respects this low number is a result of the current provider's lack of satisfactory supervision. The Youth Services Officers who are employed through Juvenile Court have taken on many of the supervisory responsibilities. Furthermore, the McNabb employee who serves the Court is paid approximately \$26,000 per year exclusive of benefits. This means that most of the grant funds are being used elsewhere, outside Blount County.

Given these circumstances, Juvenile Court intends to apply for a grant extension, as we have done in years past, but we will not subcontract with McNabb. We intend to provide intensive probation and prevention services in-house, including supervision services, alcohol and drug assessments, psychological and mental health assessments, individual and family therapy services, and other support services as needed.