

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**  
**JUVENILE JUSTICE CRIME PREVENTION ACT (JJCPA)**  
**YOUTHFUL OFFENDER BLOCK GRANT (YOBG)**  
**CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PLAN**  
**FY24/25**



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## **Part I. Service Needs, Priorities, and Strategy**

### **A. Assessment of Existing Services**

**Include here an assessment of existing law enforcement services, probation, education, mental health, social services, drug and alcohol and youth services, resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.**

The San Bernardino County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) encompasses partnerships between a wide variety of diverse agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) throughout the county to provide prevention, intervention, and re-entry services designed to serve at-risk and system involved youth and their families. Many resources are strategically positioned for early interaction, with the hope youth can avoid the juvenile justice system entirely. From the first point of contact with any of our partners, efforts to deter youth from the criminal justice system and preserve family unity take precedence. Attempts are made to wrap the family with trauma informed services so an effective and all-inclusive outcome can be achieved. However, when this cannot be accomplished and a youth does find themselves justice involved, JJCC partners continue to work with the youth and their families by merging strengths and leveraging resources within the county agencies and CBOs to assist the youth and their family with successful navigation through the system, completion of supervision and/or detention, and re-entry into the community. An individualized plan with a variety of services is developed to plan an effective path forward. No single entity could effectually address these needs alone. It is through the abundant partnerships and willingness to work together toward a shared goal that success stories are achieved with youth and families. The following are a few examples of the varying collaborative relationships the San Bernardino County JJCC engages to provide services/resources to youth and their families.

**Countywide Gangs and Drug Task Force:** The San Bernardino Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force is committed to a leadership role in advocating the prevention and suppression of gang membership and drug use throughout San Bernardino County through coordination, collaboration, and communication between education, law enforcement, the criminal justice system, elected officials, private enterprise, and the community at-large. Their mission is to prevent and combat the alarming trends of gangs and drugs that negatively impact neighborhoods and communities. They provide information, resources, and support to address the challenges faced by families and youth affected by gang-related activities and substance abuse. They offer resources and college scholarships to empower students and provide hope for their future.

**Children's Policy Council:** The purpose of the Children's Policy Council is to improve coordination, planning, communications, and cooperation among children and youth-serving agencies. The Children's Policy Council is composed of the department heads or designees of County agencies providing services to children or administering such programs, as well as, representatives from outside the County government structure including, but not limited to: the Board of Supervisors; Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), Human Services; Child Care Resource Center; Children and Family Services (CFS); Children's Fund, Inc.; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); District Attorney (DA); Inland Counties Regional Center, Inc.; Preschool Services Department; Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court; Probation Department; Public Defender (PD); Department of Public Health; San Bernardino County Superintendent

of Schools (SBCSS); Transitional Assistance Department; Children's Advocacy Group; Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino; Sheriff's Department; Loma Linda University Medical Center; First 5 San Bernardino; Department of Child Support Services; and United Way/211.

Mentoring Task Force: This task force facilitates the connection of at-risk and system-involved youth served by DBH, CFS, and Probation with mentors through community-based mentoring agencies and coordinates a Mentoring Network.

The Homeless, Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP): This is a collaborative program between Probation, CFS, and DBH which provides homeless intervention and prevention services to youth between the ages of 12 and 24 years old. Youth may be eligible if they are system involved or have previously received services from any of the three collaborative partners. Services that may be accessible to the youth and their family are move-in assistance for an apartment or home, rental assistance, hotel vouchers, and other financial assistance to prevent the youth from becoming homeless.

Smart Start Program: The Smart Start Program is offered through the California Highway Patrol. This class takes place monthly at Probation's youth Day Reporting Center (DRC) in San Bernardino. The youth and a parent must attend the class and participate in discussion with the officer. It consists of a 2-hour curriculum which prepares young drivers to drive responsibly. Youth learn about safe driving practices, the rules of the road, and new driver licensing requirements. Also offered are new driver education classes. Youth who have been issued traffic citations may also participate.

Children's Fund: A partnership between numerous county agencies, CBOs, and Children's Fund assists at-risk youth who are lacking in necessities including food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, and other equal opportunity and social development assistance.

Juvenile Justice Programs: A collaboration between Probation and DBH to combine resources to establish a comprehensive and effective continuum of adolescent behavioral health care to meet the needs of the juvenile population with mental illness. Multi-disciplinary teams work closely with youth and their families, in addition to other agency partners like CFS, the DA, the PD, and the Juvenile Delinquency Court in development of an advocacy plan for each youth that will best meet their treatment needs and provide access to community resources. For example, DBH's Forensic Adolescent Services Team (FAST) provides behavioral health services to youth who are detained at the Central Valley Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center (CVJDAC) or the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), A Restorative Integration for Successful Engagement (ARISE). Types of services include, intake/screening, triage, assessment, medication support services, crisis stabilization, individualized treatment plans, multidisciplinary team linkage, and reintegration. For youth in the community, a social worker and a drug/alcohol counselor, located onsite at several of Probation's DRCs, work to immediately identify the needs of the youth and family, provide referrals for needed services such as clothing, food, beds, groceries, appliances, reintegration plans, finding employment, transportation to job interviews, and family assistance with rent and utilities.

Juvenile Justice Community Reintegration (JJCR): JJCR is a collaboration between Probation and DBH to serve the behavioral health needs of youth leaving the CVJDAC. The purpose is to develop a reintegration plan for each youth that will best meet the individual treatment needs and provide access

to community resources. JJCR's goal is to provide management and intervention services designed to empower and build resilience factors for families with youth involved in the juvenile justice system that require behavioral health services.

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Governing Board: Created for advisory and oversight functions related to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which included the Family First Prevention Services Act. Members of this board include Probation and CFS personnel. The objective of the FFPSA governing board is to 1) Enhance support services for families so children and youth can remain at home; 2) Reduce the use of congregate care placements by increasing options for prevention services; and 3) Create increased oversight and requirements for placements and 4) enhance the requirements for congregate care placement settings. A County Comprehensive Prevention Plan was recently created and is in the process of implementation.

System Improvement Plan (SIP) Joint Committee: This committee was developed to create and implement the SIP for all CFS and Probation foster youth. The objective of the SIP is to use data measures to identify strengths and barriers then build upon previous progress to improve outcomes for children and their families. The process includes a large-scale county self-assessment, workgroups, focus groups, training plans, and implementation plans.

Youth Action Project (YAP): This program provides at-risk juveniles and youthful offenders with job readiness and professional development training, career coaching, and paid work experience that enables them to find their passion and develop marketable skills.

One on One Learning/Professional Tutors of America/Studentnest/Thrive Academics: These four programs offer tutoring services to deliver educational assistance beyond the normal school curriculum. They are designed to bring students' academic performance up to grade level or enhance current educational skills. The tutoring services program is designed to increase the academic success of youth including those at risk of delinquency.

Greater Hope Foundation for Children: This program offers individual therapy, child abuse therapy, trauma informed care, behavior treatment, parent anger education/management, life skills, and cognitive behavioral therapy.

White Stone Counseling Center: This program offers therapy for trauma, loss, and educational issues.

A New Beginning Therapeutic Solutions Counseling Center: This program provides individual and group therapy, family therapy, sex offender therapy, grief therapy, gender dysphoria therapy, and domestic violence therapy.

Bridge Vision: This program offers individual, group, family, grief, and domestic violence counseling.

The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center: This program offers individual, group, family, and specialized sex offender counseling.

Metzli Counseling: A counseling resource focusing on mental health awareness workshops, including psychoeducation on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), self-esteem groups, trauma informed yoga, and inner child healing/creative expressions groups. This program also offers horticulture therapy.

Life Builders: This program offers individual, group, family, grief, gender dysphoria, and domestic violence therapy. They also provide resources for family reunification, mediation, anger management, substance abuse, phobias, psychotic disorders, and life skills.

Youth Hope: This program offers individual, family, grief, and domestic violence counseling. They also offer therapy for anger management, depression, and dysthymia treatment.

Highlander's Boxing Club: This club employs an upbeat coach led program, Iron Strong, that teaches social and emotional skills development through fitness training and stress reduction in a safe and supportive learning environment. The program promotes affirmative youth development and uses a trauma informed approach to positively change people's lives.

CHORDS: This program utilizes a music production studio and podcast room to learn basics of podcasting and teaches students how to DJ. Additionally, the curriculum focuses on the development of film production, movie scripts, video treatments, education on lighting, creating short films, creation of movie content, hip hop/dance, and introductory drumming. For example, the 12-week film class teaches students how to write and format a story into a script, how to copywrite scripts, develop intellectual properties, how to act, produce, and direct a film.

Operation New Hope: A mentoring/coaching program that utilizes a curriculum focused on improving cognitive life skills, gang intervention/prevention services, anger management, financial literacy, employment introduction, food handler's certification, and readiness training to prepare youth for entry level, age-appropriate employment opportunities. This agency also teaches a 10-week class called The Beat Within, a series of workshops that give youth an opportunity to share their ideas and life experiences and learn how to develop the kind of critical thinking skills and social and emotional literacy needed to change their lives. Topics include tips for acquiring jobs, work permits, completing job applications, meeting potential employers, submitting applications, the call back and interview process, dressing for success, how to be a good employee, odd jobs, and self-employment for teens. There is also employment preparation that focuses on referrals aimed at youth aged 18-23 years old.

San Bernardino Community College District: The college works in conjunction with Probation and SBCSS to provide vocational training and transitional work program opportunities to youth currently in detention and those living in the community. Programs such as Utility Line Clearance, Arborist training, Forklift and OSHA 10 certification, Entry-level Construction Training, Certified Nurse Assistant, Home Health Aide Training, Food Handler's certification, Acute Care Nursing Assistant Training, Career and Industry Exploration Certification, Career Preparation, Career Success, and Personal Growth, Development, and Wellness are offered to help youth and their families provide for successful and stable futures.

SB Fatherhood: This is a mentoring/coaching program focusing on educational services for fathers of all ages. The program uses the 24/7 Dad/Fathering curriculum to improve the knowledge, behavior, and skills needed to navigate fatherhood. Participants examine their own fatherhood history, learn the five

characteristics of a 24/7 dad, and discuss other important topics such as: What it means to be a Man, Showing and Handling feelings, Men's Health, Communication, The Father's Role, Children's Growth, and Proper Discipline. Other events, such as: Daddy and Daughter dance, Father's Day weekend, and International Men's Day are also offered.

Simple Solutions: This resource provides group therapy for youth with a strong focus on how to become a successful part of their community. Youth are taught how to embrace a lifestyle that reflects their cultural preferences, to learn to be independent and productive, and to have stable living arrangements. It also discusses topics such as how to refrain from affiliation with gangs, avoid illegal drug use, and remain free from criminal activity. Other curricula include art therapy, self-exploration through colors, emotions and expressions, self-identity, art as a tool for healing, reflecting on progress, creative journaling, healthy relationships, poetry, self-care, and sports mindfulness. In addition, the Change Companies curriculum using interactive journal instruction is also taught. This program also offers The Barbering Theory, a 10-week lecture which aims to introduce detained youth to the art and skill of barbering. Participants learn foundational aspects of hair cutting, grooming, and business skills. The course is designed to supply them with practical vocational skills, while fostering personal growth, self-esteem, and positive mental health.

The Love Program: This is a mentoring/coaching program with self-development workshops that build awareness and leadership skills focusing on self-empowerment, academic achievement, and career building and planning in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Student learning outcomes are to formulate a sense of self-love, self-esteem, and self-empowerment, to demonstrate strong communication and critical thinking skills, and to establish leadership skills with short term and long-term goals in the internal and external environment. An example offering is the 6 Universal Laws of Survival, which is a 12-week mentorship program where students will be educated in the process of budgeting, saving, spending, and overall usage of money. Students also receive mentorship services from facilitators in anger management and talk about life goals.

Advantage Public Institute: This is a counseling program that provides screenings and intervention groups for general mental health through a cultural lens. It explores identifying emotions, triggers, coping, and self-care for depression, anxiety, and trauma. For example, The Empower Girls program is 9-week class which focuses on the tenets of healthy living for young women who have experienced challenging lives. Youth explore education, motivation, personality, overcoming, wisdom, effort, and responsibility. The program aims to strengthen young women by repairing self-image, improving attitude, reducing defiance, and nurturing a future vision.

Dvine Intervention: This is a mentoring/coaching/self-development training program that aims to inspire youth to be more successful. It provides life skills development, self-improvement, active listening training, anger management, creative problem solving, public speaking, stress management, emotional intelligence, and body language. It also focuses on dealing with difficult people in the workplace, work-life balance, organizational skills, goal setting, influence and persuasion at work, financial literacy, and how to become a successful entrepreneur.

Moses House Ministries: This resource offers a class called Nurturing Fathers which is designed to teach parenting and nurturing skills, healthy family relationships, and child development. In addition, another

program provided is Nurturing Families, a trauma-informed and nationally validated family systems intervention that focuses on bonding and attachment, healthy relationships, emotional regulation, healing and recovery, empathy and self-awareness, sense of belonging, self-identity and self-worth, age-appropriate expectations of children, and dignified discipline alternatives.

Life Builders, Inc: This is a multi-faceted program that focuses on youth empowerment and group therapy services for those experiencing behavioral difficulties at school and/or in the home. They offer family management and problem-solving skills. The goal of the program is to decrease incidents of substance abuse, unwanted behaviors, increase awareness of mental health, and create positive environments. The program utilizes group and cognitive behavioral therapy to develop interpersonal, emotional, and intellectual skills. They also offer the YES Program which is a healing curriculum that examines the relationship between trauma and justice involvement, discusses building safety and trust, emotional regulation, communication skills, self-esteem and identify, addressing shame and guilt, trauma processing, resilience and post-traumatic growth, and future planning and community reintegration.

Empowering Success Now: This program offers career pathway exploration including introduction to career development, exploring career opportunities, career planning, goal framework, fundamentals of career execution, entrepreneurial mindset, developing resilience and adaptability, and embracing a growth mindset. This program also provides youth engagement, pro-social community service activities, educational, social, and life success strategies, employment preparation, employment readiness training, and social and professional etiquette.

Telios: This community-based resource offers life skills classes focusing on money management, budgeting, saving, spending, and overall usage of an individual's money. Additionally, it offers training that educates participants on topics like computer coding, computer graphics, web design, and business office productivity. It also includes Microsoft certifications in Word, Excel, and Access programs.

Inland Empire Rebound: This program uses a mentoring/coaching approach utilizing My Brother's Keeper curriculum. This provides participants with the structure and guidance needed for success by creating individualized plans and wraparound services. Mentors can provide one-on-one mentoring to foster healthy alternative behaviors conducive to reentry and personal and social success, as well as, to help participants build and strengthen social bonds with their families and communities.

Young Visionaries: This is a mentoring/coaching program that provides an anger management component, gang intervention/prevention services, gang circles, youth leadership development conferences, creative arts, life skills, acting and improv, cognitive life skills, community service opportunities, and victim impact classes.

Citrus Counseling Services: This resource offers group therapy which focuses on allowing individuals to think differently about their problems, organize the change they need, and develop a pattern to recognize how their present problems can be related to past experiences. They work to help provide a plan for the individual to make steps for change in their life. They also offer an Equine Therapy program that incorporates horses into the therapeutic process. Youth will engage in activities such as grooming,

feeding, and leading a horse while being supervised by a mental health professional. The goal of this therapy is to help people develop skills such as emotional regulation, self-confidence, and responsibility.

Victor Community Support Services: This group assists with facilitation of Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs). These are a collaborative partnership formed to meet the needs of a youth and ensure the family voice, choice, and ownership of the individualized case plan. This team can include the youth, parents, caregivers, relatives, county social workers, probation officers, behavioral health clinicians, and anyone else the family has identified as a supportive member in the youth's life.

**Describe what approach will be used to facilitate collaboration among the organizations listed above and support the integration of services.**

San Bernardino County is fortunate to have strong communication and collaboration as a fundamental base to all activities surrounding our youth and their families. Whether through structured meetings, contracts, events, or just during the day-to-day operation of providing resources to our community, all our partners continue to be dedicated to continuing to strengthen and broaden our communicative and collaborative processes.

Moreover, communication with our JJCC partners, CBOs, and volunteers continues to occur through our quarterly JJCC meetings. For example, during the meetings there is a standing agenda item for contracted CBOs to come introduce their programs. These presentations help to educate members, augment existing partnerships, assist with the development of new services, and strengthen collaboration among the organizations.

In addition, a collaborative approach is also facilitated through Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs), contracts, protocols, coordinated workgroups to vet proposed services, planning and implementation teams, and team meetings for coordinating oversight of existing programs. Our CBOs are frequently involved in planned events in the community to introduce and educate all partners about services offered through their organization.

As well, the San Bernardino County Probation Department has recently added a Programming Unit to oversee, track, and manage the services offered to youth and families. This unit facilitates quarterly meetings with contracted community providers and interacting agencies to ensure fidelity. These meetings allow for team members to come together to discuss things like services provided, billing regulations, and it also offers a platform to discuss integration of new services, new ideas, or differing collaborations. The Programming Unit has also streamlined processes and support to ensure efficiency and consistency of services. CBOs recently began giving presentations detailing their offerings during these quarterly meetings and will continue to do so in FY24/25 to further educate and enhance the overall knowledge of all community-based providers. The Programming Unit is also working diligently to streamline all CBO services into one formalized access point where a link would be provided to access program information.

## B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

**Identify and prioritize the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas of the county that face the most significant public safety risk from juvenile crime.**

San Bernardino County covers a geographical area of approximately 20,105 square miles. It is the largest county in the contiguous United States with an estimated population of 2.2 million as of 2023, with 25% of the population being under the age of 18.

Between 2021 and 2023, the Probation Department research unit queried all San Bernardino County law enforcement agencies to obtain statistical data as to juvenile arrests, inclusive of violent crime. Data was not pulled for traffic citations, minor drug offenses and victimless crimes. Out of the top twenty (20) agencies, nineteen (19) had an increase in juvenile arrests from 2021 to 2023.

Top 20 SB County Law Enforcement Agencies	Juvenile Arrests 2021	Juvenile Arrests 2022	Juvenile Arrests 2023	Total Juvenile Arrests 2021-2023	Crime Percentage Increase from 2021 to 2023
Apple Valley Unified School District Police	19	78	63	160	231.58%
Hesperia Unified School District Police	33	69	90	192	172.73%
Rialto PD	81	142	217	440	167.90%
Ontario PD	84	215	202	501	140.48%
Sheriff - Victorville	105	169	252	526	140.00%
Sheriff - Victor Valley	29	56	66	151	127.59%
Sheriff - Rancho Cucamonga	135	231	294	660	117.77%
SB City Unified School District Police	51	173	167	391	69.46%
Chino PD	78	114	128	320	64.10%
Redlands PD	44	69	119	232	63.03%
Upland PD	35	49	55	139	57.14%
Barstow PD	48	75	74	197	54.17%
Sheriff - Chino Hills	42	65	83	190	49.40%
Fontana Unified School District Police	120	227	166	513	38.33%
San Bernardino PD	143	188	184	515	28.67%
Sheriff - Hesperia	44	32	53	129	20.45%
Sheriff - Yucaipa	36	54	42	132	16.67%
Sheriff - Apple Valley	50	61	56	167	12.00%
Fontana PD	127	144	129	400	1.57%
Montclair PD	57	63	51	171	-10.53%

Overall, countywide juvenile arrest data also reveals a 71% increase between the juvenile arrests in 2021 and the juvenile arrests in 2023.

<b>Countywide Juvenile Crime Referrals by Year</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>1,699</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>2,902</b>	<b>7,222</b>

It should be noted, that with the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, it is not unexpected to see an increase in the rate of reported juvenile crimes in 2022 and 2023. As stay-at-home orders were lifted, youth returned to school, and levels of adolescent supervision decreased with work from home situations ending and businesses opening back up, juveniles were permitted to move more freely throughout their communities. With increased freedom and decreased supervision, it is normal the prevalence and incidence of delinquent behavior would rise. In addition, there have been general concerns as to how the pandemic and the restrictions put in place to keep people safe from COVID-19 have put some youth at increased risk of future delinquency and juvenile justice system involvement. Some of the risk factors for juvenile delinquency that were impacted or aggravated by the pandemic have been noted to include disconnection from prosocial connections and activities, mental health issues or trauma, strained family circumstances, disengagement from school, and substance use issues and disorders.

As a result of the above, the JJCC and the County of San Bernardino has continued to focus its resources on early prevention and providing resources at contact stages prior to entry into the justice system. This is a sustained and long-term goal, where we will continue to leverage partnerships between a wide variety of diverse agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide prevention and intervention services designed to serve these youth and their families at the earliest opportunity. By engaging resources that are strategically positioned for early interaction, the hope is youth can avoid involvement in negative life pathways such as gangs, substance abuse, and the juvenile justice system. Studies have shown that improving skills for connection with others has the potential to increase prosocial engagement and reduce antisocial interactions.

An example of some of the programs the JJCC partners facilitate to accomplish this are:

Let's End Truancy, a collaborative, multi-agency program designed to combat the rate of truancy within the San Bernardino County and City School Districts. The District Attorney (DA), Public Defender (PD), probation officers, school personnel, and community resources cooperate to work with the youth and their families to bring awareness to the youth's truancy and the impact that truancy has on the youth's overall chances for success. The goal of the program is to increase the average daily attendance of students while reducing the negative impacts caused by truancy, including juvenile delinquency. The program is dedicated to working in a holistic fashion with students and families to identify the root cause of their truant behavior, by implementing a goal-oriented strategy to improve attendance in the short and long term. This program targets youth in grades K-12 who are struggling with their school attendance.

School Probation Officers are part of a comprehensive resource strategy, working alongside San Bernardino County School District teachers, administrators, and parents to create a safe learning environment and identify at-risk and system involved youth in need of services. In addition, truant

behavior can precede poor achievement, school drop-out, delinquency, and ultimately adult criminality. This proactive approach also contributes to crime prevention in schools. Having a school probation officer on campus allows staff to address emerging concerns promptly and potentially avoid future escalation. School probation officers work collaboratively to supervise and guide the youth on campus to make growth decisions, help mediate conflicts among students, aid in resolving disputes, prevent fights, promote peaceful interactions, and help all students feel safe on campus. This includes guiding at-risk youth away from the criminal justice system by providing resources like pro-social activities, classes on campus for minor behavioral infractions, and mentoring students. School probation officers also serve as a support system and positive role models for the youth.

Probation's Youth Day Reporting Centers are strategically placed throughout the county to ensure access to services for youth and families. They serve as a hub for programming and resources that can improve the likelihood of success and decrease involvement in the justice system, potential recidivism, and/or sustained system involvement. They provide DBH referral services, offer classes and resources from community providers, and provide a venue for prosocial activities for youth and families. Each DRC provides access to specialized services, programming, and activities for both system and non-system involved youth and their families.

Youth Accountability Boards are collaborative programs between the Probation Department and community partners working together with families to divert first time, low-risk youth from further interaction with the criminal justice system. The YAB panel members meet with youth and their families to discuss the circumstances that led to the behavior and how the situation could have been avoided by making better choices and surrounding themselves with peers on a positive path. Youth are often assigned to complete community service hours, educational programs, essays, or other rehabilitative activities within a 4-to-6-month period. The goal is to promote positive and pro-social activities and thought processes to assist in refocusing their life path.

### **C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

**Describe your county's juvenile justice strategy. Include an explanation of your county's continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency as well as a description of the approach used to ensure a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.**

San Bernardino County's juvenile justice strategy is designed to unite city and county agencies, community-based organizations, and local law enforcement partners in working towards the shared goal of increasing positive opportunities for our community's youth and their families. By offering access to needed resources and increasing educational and healing opportunities through such services as counseling, mentoring, rehabilitative classes, educational and vocational interaction, and prosocial activities, our approach advocates for a system of preventative and supportive services to assist youth and families in creating and sustaining resiliency and avoiding entry into the justice system. In addition, by enriching existing family strengths and building new skills our county partners hope to continue to solidify a multifaceted and integrated response to crime prevention for at risk youth and youth already involved in the juvenile justice system. It is the county's belief that the stronger and more fundamentally

equipped the youth and their families are, the more successful they will be in creating positive life pathways.

As such, county resources are strategically situated for early interface, with the hope youth can avoid the juvenile justice system completely. From the first point of contact with any of our partners, efforts to direct the youth away from the criminal justice system and preserve family unity take precedence. Attempts are made to wrap the family with trauma informed services so an effective and all-inclusive outcome can be achieved. However, when this cannot be accomplished and a youth does find themselves justice involved, our county and community partners continue to work with the youth and their families by merging strengths and leveraging resources to assist the youth and their family with successful navigation through the system, completion of supervision and/or detention, and re-entry into the community.

A sampling of the interventions and programs used throughout the graduated response to achieve these goals include:

The Mentoring Task Force facilitates the connection of at-risk and system-involved youth served by DBH, CFS, and Probation with mentors through community-based mentoring agencies and coordinates a Mentoring Network.

The Homeless, Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) is a collaborative program between Probation, CFS, and DBH which provides homeless intervention and prevention services to youth between the ages of 12 and 24 years old. Services that may be accessible to the youth and their family are move-in assistance for an apartment or home, rental assistance, hotel vouchers, and other financial assistance to prevent the youth from becoming homeless.

Children's Fund is a partnership between numerous county agencies that assists at-risk youth who are lacking in necessities including food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, and other equal opportunity and social development assistance.

The Juvenile Justice Program is a collaboration between Probation and DBH to combine resources to establish a comprehensive and effective continuum of adolescent behavioral health care to meet the needs of the juvenile population with mental illness. Multi-disciplinary teams work closely with youth and their families, in addition to other agency partners like CFS, the DA, the PD, and the Juvenile Delinquency Court in development of an advocacy plan for each youth that will best meet their treatment needs and provide access to community resources.

The Youth Action Project is a program provides at-risk juveniles and youthful offenders with job readiness and professional development training, career coaching, and paid work experience that enables them to find their passion and develop marketable skills.

The Highlander's Boxing Club employs an upbeat coach led program, Iron Strong, that teaches social and emotional skills development through fitness training and stress reduction in a safe and supportive learning environment. The program promotes affirmative youth development and uses a trauma informed approach to positively change people's lives.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Juvenile Intervention Program (JIP) is for parents or guardians who need intervention in their youth's life. Youth are exposed to the realities of jail life and are also taken the Coroner's Division to see the realities of death. During this time, the parents receive information on various topics such as parenting styles, communication, drug and alcohol recognition, gang awareness, and addressing various teenage problems. This program is designed to address criminal and or negative behavior, provide collaboration between law enforcement and the community and schools, increase understanding and awareness of the criminal justice system and emphasize the legal consequences of violating the law.

DBH provides crisis walk in centers and crisis stabilization units for urgent mental health needs for individuals of all ages. This may include risk assessments, intervention, and evaluations for hospitalization when necessary. They are open for service 365 days a year, 24 hours a day including holidays. Additionally, DBH runs the community crisis response team (CCRT), a community based mobile response program for children and adults experiencing a psychiatric emergency. DBH also has many outpatient services regionally based throughout the county. Additionally, The STAY (Serving Transitional Age Youth) is a short-term crisis residential facility available to youth aged 18-26.

The San Bernardino County 241.1 committee is a collaborative effort between CFS, Probation, DBH, the PD, and the DA. The mission is to address cases where a youth appears to fall within the description of both Welfare and Institutions Code 300 and Welfare and Institutions Code 602. The committee aims to determine, through a jointly developed written protocol, which status (dependent child or ward of the court) serves the best interest of the youth and the community. Staff from all agencies discuss and exchange information about the minor's behavior, parental capacity, community safety, and family needs to determine which services would create a more beneficial outcome.

The Probation Department's Community Service Team (CST) will often step in when youth are arrested for low level offenses. CST was established to divert youthful offenders from the juvenile justice system through preventative services. The Probation CST unit handles matters informally where youth have not been adjudicated by the Juvenile Delinquency Court and typically includes a six-month informal agreement with the youth and their parents. The CST officer monitors the youth's performance and adherence to the stipulations set forth in the six-month agreement, which may include education components, community services hours, apology letters, counseling, or other measures deemed appropriate.

The Youth Accountability Board (YAB) Program is a diversion program primarily run by volunteer community members in collaboration with the Probation Department. The YAB panel members meet with youth and their families with the goal of holding the youth accountable for their actions. Youth are assigned to complete community service hours, educational programs, apology letters, essays, or other rehabilitative activities within a 4-to-6-month period.

School Probation Officers are currently assigned to 13 school districts throughout the County serving thousands of youth in middle school, high school, and community day school. This allows for school staff and Probation to work together not only to identify and service the needs of youth and their families but to potentially deter delinquency. School personnel and school probation officers work together to divert difficult behaviors of students on campus by mentoring, developing professional relationships with

students, and providing intervention and prevention services, including prosocial activities. The focus is on rewarding positive and often incremental achievement despite barriers. In some cases, the strong bonds developed between students and school probation officers have encouraged these same students to mentor other students to reconsider inappropriate conduct.

The House Arrest Program (HAP) is often utilized when a youth is taken into custody. The Court, Attorney's, and Probation Department evaluate the option of the youth being released back into the community to remain with their family pending further court hearings. The program provides limited probation supervision services while allowing the youth to maintain a familial bond and needed support systems while dealing with the court process.

The Central Valley Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center (CVJDAC) and Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), A Restorative Integration for Successful Engagement (ARISE), are the facilities where a youth may be detained or committed following an arrest. The primary goal during the youth's stay is to provide the tools and rehabilitative resources necessary to prevent recidivism and support successful reintegration. The depth of collaboration with our partner county agencies, CBOs, and volunteers in our community allows for these resources to be available for our youth. Our CBOs facilitate classes and offer resources to the youth inside the facilities during their day and evening program time. Mentors and one-on-one meetings with supportive CBO and volunteer staff with targeted goals for the youth are also utilized. The overall aim is to assist youth in developing individual decision-making skills through role modeling, counseling, individual/family therapy, and developing personal responsibility. By helping the youth garner a better understanding of themselves through specialized programs, the primary objective is to foster healthy thinking and appropriate behavior patterns that result in a happy and productive life that shuns return to the criminal justice system.

Formal Probation and Re-entry community supervision programs are often utilized following a court disposition and/or release from custody. The Probation Department works in conjunction with partner county agencies and CBOs to provide resources, education, and supervision to facilitate successful community interaction on the part of the youth and their families. Some of the programs that may be used are:

- 1) Success First/Early Wrap is a collaborative program involving Probation and DBH that concentrates on serving youth with emotional and behavioral needs and those with mental health issues. The program focuses on strengthening the whole family so at-risk and system involved youth can remain in the home. This is a team approach with a probation officer, therapist, parent partner, DBH, CFS, school officials, and community members identified by the family and team as a strengthening force.
- 2) Girls Court is a partnership with the Court, Probation, the DA, and the PD to provide specialized services to female youth who are considered vulnerable to sexual exploitation or experiencing an increase in at-risk behaviors. The goal of the program is to build self-esteem and empower female youth. A variety of presentations, interpersonal discussions, and workshops are provided to aid in rehabilitation, confidence building, and health-conscious choices. Services, resources, and needed classes are often provided by our partner CBOs in conjunction with the team focus.
- 3) Drug Court and CITA (Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents) are specialty courts focusing on alcohol, drug, and mental health concerns. They use a team approach with

collaborative interaction between allied agencies such as the Court, Probation, DA, PD, DBH, CFS, contracted treatment providers, and CBOs. The team is focused on the goal of reducing incarceration, decreasing recidivism, advocating for treatment services, and enhancing community protection.

- 4) Integrated New Family Opportunities (INFO) works with youth aged 13-17 and their families. This is a collaborative effort between Probation and DBH which combines resources to establish a comprehensive and effective continuum of adolescent behavioral health care to meet the needs of the juvenile population with mental illness in or out of custody.
- 5) Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) is a collaboration between DBH, CFS, Children's Network, the DA, the PD, the Department of Public Health, County Superintendent of Schools, the Sheriff's Department, and the Juvenile Court. This team approach is crucial to the success of this group. The Probation Department also provides specialized case supervision services for adolescent youth involved in, or at-risk of, being sexually exploited.
- 6) Juvenile Intensive Supervision and Specialized Caseloads are targeted toward specific treatment concerns or when offenders need more singular direction or require more focused case management methods. For example, a specialized caseload of youth who have been arrested for possession and/or use of a firearm, youth who are adjudicated for sex offenses, and specialized caseloads revolving around human trafficking victims, CFS involved youth, mental health, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.
- 7) Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Caseload consists of youth who were committed and incarcerated at DJJ and those discharged by the California Juvenile Parole Board from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).
- 8) ARISE Community Supervision Caseload consists of youth committed to ARISE and those granted re-entry supervision by the Juvenile Court.

Placement/Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) are used when diversionary, community based, and pre-placement preventative services have been exhausted or are inappropriate. These are short-term residential therapeutic programs within the community that provide structured therapy in a less restrictive setting than custodial sanctions.

Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs) are utilized when youth that are committed to ARISE have the opportunity to be transferred from the secure youth treatment facility to less restrictive program, such as a halfway house, a camp or ranch, or a community residential or nonresidential service program.

#### **D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions**

##### **Describe how your plan has been updated for this year.**

While overall the County's plan has not changed, there have been several service and resource additions that work to round out the options available to youth and their families. This includes a new group of community-based providers that augment the previously available programming available to youth and their families both in the community and while navigating through the juvenile justice system. The goal is to continue to supplement and strengthen the community resource base so that youth and families have access to the services they need to avoid entry into the criminal justice system or assist with successful completion and/or re-entry if already involved.

## **Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)**

### **A. Information Sharing and Data**

**Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how data is used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.**

A long-established goal for our county agencies is to create efficient methods of cross-system data sharing. Over the years and as needed, participating organizations have formed multiagency disciplinary teams with system partners to coordinate case planning for youth associated with specific populations/programs. As there are often external factors creating limitations to our data sharing, we continue to strategize and work around these limitations to inform best practices. Recently, the county law and justice group has created a sub-committee to further discuss the ability to share client information between appropriate county agencies to create a more seamless transition of data.

In addition, the San Bernardino County Probation Department utilizes Caseload Explorer (CE) to document the case management services and activities of juvenile offenders while adhering to jurisdictional security and judicial requirements. CE also tracks active referrals, past and current caseworkers, and statistical data which includes, but is not limited to, services offered and rendered in conjunction with the Probation Department. Our partner agencies who work within the Probation system also have access to document and review information appropriate to their job duties. CE can also interface with other agencies and with the Court's information database system. All information contained in CE is confidential. The data accessed by authorized users is shared only with those who have been identified as a person with a need and right to know and complying with state and local regulations regarding the use of the California Law Enforcement Tracking System information. This authorized dissemination of information amongst agencies facilitates collaboration and best practice case management.

The San Bernardino County Probation Department also has a dedicated Research and Programing Unit which is responsible for querying statistical data gathered from CE and other agency partners. The Research Unit generates custom-designed queries providing precise data information displayed in a manner easily interpreted by all staff. Some reports are used by supervision and management to inform and to steer department strategies. The data provided also measures performance outcomes. This information, as applicable, can also be shared with other county and JJCC partners as allowed. The Research Unit is also compiling data through the Microsoft Access database on youth referred and receiving services through the Day Reporting Center that are not justice involved. The Programing Unit analyzes data from youth pre and posttests surveys to ensure the fidelity of programming and to identify any service gaps.

### **B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils**

**Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) as prescribed by Welfare and Institutions Code 749.22.**

Yes. The San Bernardino County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Board consist of the following members:

- 1) Probation Department: Chief Tracy Reece and Division Director II Kathleen Huaman
- 2) County Administrative Office/Board of Supervisors: CAO Deputy Executive Officer Robert Saldana and Finance Analyst Illiana Rodriguez
- 3) Public Defender: Chief Deputy Public Defender Richard Sterling and Supervising Deputy Public Defender Daniel Edber
- 4) Sheriff's Department: Captain James Porter and Lieutenant Kenneth White
- 5) District Attorney: Assistant District Attorney Robert Brown
- 6) Children and Family Services: Director Jeany Zepeda
- 7) Department of Behavioral Health: Acting Program Manager II Gayle Morrow and Program Manager II Cynthia Roth Felter
- 8) Redlands Police Department: Chief Rachel Tolber
- 9) County Superintendent of Schools: Superintendent of County Schools Dr. Scott Wyatt and Assistant Superintendent of County School Myrlene Pierre
- 10) Juvenile Court Presiding Judge: The Honorable Judge Lynn Poncin
- 11) Community Member at Large: Retired Supervising Probation Officer Cynthia Wallace Guerrero
- 12) Community Based Drug and Alcohol Program (Mental Health Systems): Vice President Theresa Rodriguez
- 13) A Community Based Organization (Youth Action Project): Director of Operations Kimberly Knaus and Director of Programs Mara Montelongo

### **Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)**

#### **A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders**

**Describe your county's overall strategy for dealing with the non-707(b) offenders who are not eligible for a commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice. Explain how this plan relates to or supports that strategy.**

San Bernardino County's overall strategy for dealing with non-707(b) offenders is similarly aligned with the overall juvenile justice plan, which is to provide prevention and intervention services at the earliest possible contact point to deter youth from entry into, or prolonged engagement with, the juvenile justice system. However, when this cannot be accomplished and a youth does find themselves justice involved, agency and community partners continue to work with the youth and their families by integrating strengths and leveraging resources within the county agencies and CBOs to assist the youth and their family with successful navigation through the system, completion of supervision and/or detention, and re-entry into the community. An individualized plan with a variety of services is developed to design an effective path forward.

On the preventative front, regularly implemented educational and prosocial activities open to all community youth and their families provide them with an opportunity to engage with CBO's, county, and city agencies to learn what services and resources are available to them. Youth who become involved in delinquent behavior often show early warning signs such as academic struggles, behavioral problems,

or exposure to trauma. Early intervention through access to services can help inform youth about the different pathways to access success and can help mitigate the emerging risk factors before they escalate into delinquency. For example, the Probation Department in conjunction with allied partners and our community-based providers, hold community resource fairs, where local youth and their families can gather needed resources, listen to speakers, and engage with local services. By providing information, resources, and support to address the challenges faced by families and youth, the goal is to continue to supplement and strengthen the community base so that youth and families have access to the services they need to avoid involvement in negative life choices. In addition, the Probation Department, in partnership with community-based organizations, holds regional Summer Camps, offering resources, programming, and activities for local youth and their families. Each Summer Camp is a week-long event and is scheduled for the months of July/August at each of the three (3) regional Juvenile Day Reporting Centers (San Bernardino, Montclair, and the High Desert). The aim of the camps is to promote prosocial alternatives focused on prevention and education, while offering a variety of fun and informative experiences that encourage positive involvement in the community, healthy lifestyle choices, healthy relationships, and exposure to new experiences.

In addition, to facilitate delivery of services, Probation has youth DRCs that are strategically placed throughout the county to ensure access to services for youth and families. They serve as a hub for programming and resources that can improve the likelihood of success and decrease involvement in the justice system, potential recidivism, and/or sustained system involvement. They provide DBH referral services, offer classes and resources from community providers, and provide a venue for prosocial activities for youth and families. It also allows for youth currently involved in the system to meet with their probation officers. Each DRC provides access to specialized services, programming, and activities for both system and non-system involved youth and their families. Probation partners with various county agencies and CBOs to provide the resources offered. The DRCs also work with county and community partners to provide a restorative justice focused community services program. Participating youth complete community service by working with charitable organizations setting up, breaking down, and cleaning up for events, along with participating in clothing, food, and toy drives, and assisting with giveaway distribution.

Once a youth does become justice involved, the approach remains to utilize the least restrictive option available via a graduated method.

Diversionary options, when appropriate, such as the Probation Department's Community Service Team (CST) will often step in when youth are arrested for low level offenses. This unit handles matters informally where youth have not been adjudicated by the Juvenile Delinquency Court and typically includes a six-month informal agreement with the youth and their parents. The youth may also be referred to the Youth Accountability Board (YAB) program, which offers a diversion option run by volunteer community members in collaboration with the Probation Department. Youth are assigned to complete community service hours, educational programs, apology letters, essays, or other rehabilitative activities within a 4-to-6-month period.

Formal Probation and Re-entry community supervision programs are often utilized following a court disposition and/or release from custody. Probation will utilize the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) tool to measure the risks, needs, and strengths of the youth. This evidence-based gender

responsive tool also determines the most appropriate supervision level while simultaneously assisting staff with identifying treatment and reentry programs which best address the youth's needs. The Probation Department also works in conjunction with partner county agencies and CBOs to provide resources, education, and supervision to facilitate successful community interaction on the part of the youth and their families. Youth subject to a grant of court ordered probation will be monitored in the community in lieu of detention under terms and conditions ordered by the Court. In general, supervision consists of methods such as home compliance checks, monitoring of school attendance, regular meetings with the youth and parents, case management services, educational and trauma informed classes, exposure to prosocial activities, mentoring, and individual and family counseling. The use of Global Positioning System (GPS) may also be employed in specific circumstances as a graduated method to redirect delinquent behavior. In addition, probation officers may recommend court ordered custody time to redirect a youth following a violation of probation or a new law violation.

As previously mentioned, some of the supervision and specialty programs that may be used are:

- Success First/Early Wrap is a collaborative program involving Probation and DBH that concentrates on serving youth with emotional and behavioral needs and those with mental health issues. The program focuses on strengthening the whole family so at-risk and system involved youth can remain in the home. This is a team approach with a probation officer, therapist, parent partner, DBH, CFS, school officials, and community members identified by the family and team as a strengthening force.
- Girls Court is a partnership with the Court, Probation, the DA, and the PD to provide specialized services to female youth who are considered vulnerable to sexual exploitation or experiencing an increase in at-risk behaviors. The goal of the program is to build self-esteem and empower female youth. A variety of presentations, interpersonal discussions, and workshops are provided to aid in rehabilitation, confidence building, and health-conscious choices. Services, resources, and needed classes are often provided by our partner CBOs in conjunction with the team focus.
- Drug Court and CITA (Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents) are specialty courts focusing on alcohol, drug, and mental health concerns. Using a team approach, with collaborative interaction between allied agencies such as the Court, Probation, DA, PD, DBH, CFS, contracted treatment providers, and CBOs, it is focused on the goal of reducing incarceration, decreasing recidivism, advocating for treatment services, and enhancing community protection.
- Integrated New Family Opportunities (INFO) works with youth aged 13-17 and their families. This is a collaborative effort between Probation and DBH which combines resources to establish a comprehensive and effective continuum of adolescent behavioral health care to meet the needs of the juvenile population with mental illness in or out of custody.
- Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE) is a collaboration between DBH, CFS, Children's Network, the DA, the PD, the Department of Public Health, County Superintendent of Schools, the Sheriff's Department, and the Juvenile Court. This team focus is crucial to the success of this group. The Probation Department also provides specialized case supervision services for adolescent youth involved in, or at-risk of, being sexually exploited.

- Juvenile Intensive Supervision and Specialized Caseloads are targeted toward specific treatment concerns or when offenders need more singular direction or require more focused case management methods. For example, a specialized caseload of youth who have been arrested for possession and/or use of a firearm, youth who are adjudicated for sex offenses, and specialized caseloads revolving around human trafficking victims, CFS involved youth, mental health, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.
- Placement/Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) are used when diversionary, community based, and pre-placement preventative services have been exhausted or are inappropriate. These are short-term residential therapeutic programs within the community that provide structured therapy in a less restrictive setting than custodial sanctions.

## **B. Regional Agreements**

**Describe any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported with YOBG funds.**

None.

## **Part IV. JJCPA/YOGB Funded Programs, Strategies, and/or System Enhancements**

**Describe each program, strategy, and or system enhancement that will be supported with JJCPA and/or YOGB funds.**

### **Let's End Truancy (LET)**

Education is one of the biggest contributing factors to ending cycles of abuse, addiction, incarceration, poverty, and many other negative early experiences. Youth who become involved in the justice system often show early warning signs such as academic struggles, behavioral problems, or exposure to trauma. Early intervention with access to services can help inform youth about the different pathways to access success and can help mitigate the emerging risk factors before they escalate into delinquency or more serious criminal behavior.

LET is a collaborative, multi-agency program designed to combat the rate of truancy within the San Bernardino County and City School Districts. The District Attorney (DA), Public Defender (PD), probation officers, school personnel, and community resources cooperate to work with the youth and their families to bring awareness to the youth's truancy and the impact that truancy has on the youth's overall chances for success. The goal of the program is to increase the average daily attendance of students while reducing the negative impacts caused by truancy, including juvenile delinquency. The program is dedicated to working in a holistic fashion with students and families to identify the root cause of their truant behavior, by implementing a goal-oriented strategy to improve attendance in the short and long term. This program targets youth in grades K-12 who are struggling with their school attendance.

The LET process may include mediation, school visits, and mentoring. SARB (Student Attendance Review Board) meetings may also be utilized to successfully contact families in-person, online, and in a

hybrid format. The goal is to locate and assist students and their families who had little to no contact/engagement with their assigned school sites and classes. At SARB meetings, students and their families receive referrals, tutoring, and counseling to address anxiety or lack of motivation. They can also work with the team to obtain basic needs such as transitional housing. Pre-paid gift cards are often used as an incentive to recognize students who demonstrated improved attendance and engagement at school after involvement in the SARB process.

The DA and PD LET units also made efforts to partner with Youth Courts to address low-level delinquent behavior at the school level and keep minors out of Juvenile Delinquency Court when appropriate. The DAs served in both an advisory and participatory capacity. The PDs office uses Social Service Practitioners (SSP) to provide a strength-based and family systems-oriented intervention strategy. SSPs meet with students and families in their communities to establish long-term connections with local resources and support services such as food resources, job/employment options, scholarships, counseling and mental health referrals, mentorship, and tutoring. Additionally, SSPs implement Parent Engagement at partnered school districts. Parent Engagement is facilitated by an assigned SSP, who works with the school district to create a program that effectively targets children struggling with school attendance. Parent Engagement is a set curriculum designed to engage parents in their child's academic progress with a focus on ending truancy. The program takes a proactive approach and tailors the curriculum to specific needs that arise.

### **School Probation Officers**

School probation officers are part of a comprehensive resource strategy, working alongside teachers, administrators, and parents to create a safe learning environment and identify at-risk and system involved youth in need of services. In addition, truant behavior can precede poor achievement, school drop-out, delinquency, and ultimately adult criminality. This proactive approach also contributes to crime prevention in schools. Having a school probation officer on campus allows staff to address emerging concerns promptly and potentially avoid future escalation. School probation officers work collaboratively to supervise and guide the youth on campus to make growth decisions, help mediate conflicts among students, aid in resolving disputes, prevent fights, promote peaceful interactions, and help all students feel safe on campus. This includes guiding at-risk youth away from the criminal justice system by providing resources like pro-social activities, classes on campus for minor behavioral infractions, and mentoring students. School probation officers also serve as a support system and positive role models for the youth. In San Bernardino County, schools that have a probation officer assigned to their district, report high satisfaction with the program.

Overall, the program is designed to assist in providing prevention, intervention, and rehabilitative services to students who exhibit concerning behaviors, have been identified as needing services, and/or those who self-report. This includes youth with behavioral, mental health, expulsion, attendance, and educational performance issues. The school probation officer may contact a youth and make referrals for the appropriate services such as tutoring, individual and/or family counseling, component classes, attendance support, and SARB meetings. School probation officers may also coordinate home visits with school attendance review teams and participate in SARB meetings.

## **Youth Day Reporting Centers (DRCs)**

Probation has four youth DRCs that are strategically placed throughout the county to ensure access to services for youth and families. They serve as a hub for programming and resources that can improve the likelihood of success and decrease involvement in the justice system, potential recidivism, and/or sustained system involvement. They provide DBH referral services, offer classes and resources from community providers, and provide a venue for prosocial activities for youth and families. It also allows for youth currently involved in the system to meet with their probation officers.

Each DRC provides access to specialized services, programming, and activities for both system and non-system involved youth and their families. Probation partners with various county agencies and CBOs to provide the resources offered. For example, a few of the classes accessible at the DRC's include Anger Management, Drug and Alcohol, Truancy, Gang Intervention/Prevention Services, Cognitive Life Skills, Graffiti, Shoplifting, Curfew, Bullying, Victim Awareness, Weapons Diversion, Petty Theft, Deceptions (human trafficking awareness), Healthy Relationships, Work Readiness, Forklift/OSHA Certification, Food Handler's Certification, CPR/First Aid, ROP/US Forestry Program, Automotive Program, Traffic Safety, JOBTEC (Job Skills), Boy's Council, and Girl's Circle. Youth may also be offered tutoring or other specific counseling or programming that is determined to be culturally competent, community-oriented, and/or gender specific.

The DRCs also work with county and community partners to provide a restorative justice focused community services program. Participating youth complete community service by working with charitable organizations setting up, breaking down, and cleaning up for events, along with participating in clothing, food, and toy drives, and assisting with giveaway distribution. Probation provides meals, transportation to and from, appropriate supervision, and recognition upon completion of their community service obligation. Some of the Community Service events include Thanksgiving turkey giveaways, multiple holiday toy drives, fall backpack and school supply giveaways, Earth Day clean up, and A Flag for Every Hero Memorial Day Event.

The DRCs also continue to organize and host summer day camps for youth in various regions as a pro-social alternative, exposing them to positive and engaging learning opportunities. Summer Camp offers youth a variety of fun and educational experiences that promote becoming involved in the community, healthy lifestyle choices, healthy relationships, and exposure to new experiences.

## **House Arrest Program (HAP)**

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the option of house arrest can minimize disruption to youth lives, education, and social connections. It can help decrease the social and psychological costs of incarceration and allow the youth to remain connected to their family and their community. Allowing youth to remain in their homes while awaiting court hearings instead of staying detained also reduces the financial burden on the justice system while ensuring limited supervision and accountability. Appropriate participation in the program can also have a positive effect on Court proceedings.

With HAP, the Probation Department and the Courts have an alternative to custody and youth are provided an opportunity to remain in their home environment while going through court proceedings. HAP

utilizes risk specific guidelines to determine eligibility and participation in the program. Probation staff assigned to HAP provide monitoring, which can include electronic monitoring, and limited supervision. Probation Officers work with parents of justice-involved youth to supervise, monitor, and encourage youth to comply with house arrest rules. Supervision includes the documentation of behaviors and compliance with the program. HAP may also include the youth's involvement in community-based programs designed to identify areas of concern and assist in the youth's rehabilitation.

### **Diversions Programs/Community Supervision/Intensive Supervision**

San Bernardino County's approach for dealing with non-707(b) offenders is to provide services and resources to youth in the community as an intervention and prevention strategy. However, once a youth becomes justice-involved, the process is to utilize the least restrictive option available. Youth who are eligible to participate in diversionary programs or are granted probation can be monitored in the community in lieu of detention. Supervision can consist of home compliance checks, monitoring of school attendance, and includes prevention, intervention, and rehabilitative services for youth and their families. Probation has long established collaborations with JJCC partners and CBOs who help provide various programs, resources, and alternative methods in support of community supervision.

#### **Community Service Team (CST)**

According to the Annie Casey Foundation, "Juvenile diversion programs and approaches hold youth accountable for their behavior without resorting to legal sanctions, court oversight, or threat of confinement. Regardless of the form diversion takes, its goal is for young people to mature into adulthood without being thrown off track by the negative effects of the juvenile justice system involvement, including a criminal record that can seriously damage young people's future opportunities for employment and higher education. Further, when youth assessed as low risk are diverted, they are 45% less likely to reoffend than comparable youth facing formal court processing."

CST was established to divert youthful offenders from the juvenile justice system through preventative services. Cases handled in this manner are generally low-level offenses. The Probation CST unit handles matters informally where youth have not been adjudicated by the Juvenile Delinquency Court. The authority is derived from W&I Code 654 and includes a six-month informal agreement with the youth and their parents. The CST officer monitors the youth's performance and adherence to the stipulations set forth in the six-month agreement, which may include education components, community services hours, apology letters, counseling, or other measures deemed appropriate. The youth will typically be referred to a partner agency or CBO to assist in completion of the varying components.

#### **Youth Accountability Boards (YABs):**

The YAB is a collaborative program between the Probation Department and community partners working together with families to divert first time, low-risk youth from further interaction with the criminal justice system. The YAB panel members meet with youth and their families to discuss the circumstances that led to the behavior and how the situation could have been avoided by making better choices and surrounding themselves with peers on a positive path. Youth are often assigned to complete community service hours, educational programs, essays, or other rehabilitative activities within a 4-to-6-month

period. The goal is to promote positive and pro-social activities and thought processes to assist in refocusing their life path. Once successfully completed, the matter is returned to the probation officer, the case is closed, and the youth's record is sealed.

#### Wraparound/Success First/Early Wrap Success

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, studies have shown that wraparound services do reduce the need for out of home care, are more cost effective, and positively impact school functioning. Moreover, wraparound services may hold potential for reducing disparities in outcomes for youth of color.

Success First/Early Wrap is a collaborative program involving Probation and DBH that concentrates on serving youth with emotional and behavioral needs and those with mental health issues. This program is 4-6 months in length, does not require detention findings or insurance, and serves youth on Informal or Formal Probation. The program focuses on strengthening the whole family so at-risk and system involved youth can remain in the home. This is a team approach with a probation officer, therapist, parent partner, DBH, CFS, school officials, and community members identified by the family and team as a strengthening force. The team meets with the youth and family regularly and helps by coordinating services, working through new coping skills, and supporting the family and the youth in dealing with entrenched emotional, behavioral, and mental health issues. Services, resources, and needed classes are often provided by our partner CBOs in conjunction with the team focus.

#### Girls Court

According to the Center for Children and Youth Justice, justice-involved girls have greater histories of trauma and other adverse childhood experiences than justice-involved boys. For girls, the prevalence of adversity is highly correlated with offending and other high-risk behaviors, including trafficking and gang/group involvement. Learning disabilities and adolescent parenthood among justice-involved girls are associated with higher risk for mental health challenges and substance use and greater reliance on public assistance in the future.

Girls Court is a partnership with the Court, Probation, the DA, and the PD to provide specialized services to female youth who are considered vulnerable to sexual exploitation or experiencing an increase in at-risk behaviors. The goal of the program is to build self-esteem and empower female youth. A variety of presentations, interpersonal discussions, and workshops are provided to aid in rehabilitation, confidence building, and health-conscious choices. Services, resources, and needed classes are often provided by our partner CBOs in conjunction with the team focus.

#### Drug Court and CITA (Court for the Individualized Treatment of Adolescents)

These are specialty courts focusing on alcohol, drug, and mental health concerns. General research shows drug courts can reduce recidivism among program participants. The National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice found that 70 percent of youths in the juvenile justice system are afflicted with a mental health disorder. As such, a team approach with collaborative interaction between allied agencies such as the Court, Probation, DA, PD, DBH, CFS, contracted treatment providers, and CBOs is focused on the goal of reducing incarceration, decreasing recidivism, advocating for treatment services,

and enhancing community protection. The hope is that while working collaboratively, the team can help eliminate future criminal behavior and improve the quality of life for youth living with drug/alcohol addiction and/or mental health issues.

### Integrated New Family Opportunities (INFO)

The INFO program works with youth aged 13-17 and their families. This is a collaborative effort between Probation and DBH which combines resources to establish a comprehensive and effective continuum of adolescent behavioral health care to meet the needs of the juvenile population with mental illness in or out of custody. Positive outcomes have been realized in that youth who complete the program served fewer days in detention after the program, had fewer sustained misdemeanors or felony offenses, and recidivated fewer times after the program. The types of services provided are intake/screening, triage, assessment, medication support services, crisis stabilization, individualized treatment plans, multidisciplinary team linkages, and reintegration.

### Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE)

Probation participates as part of the San Bernardino County CASE Executive Steering Committee that includes representation from DBH, CFS, Children's Network, the DA, the PD, the Department of Public Health, County Superintendent of Schools, the Sheriff's Department, and the Juvenile Court. The collaboration between the involved stakeholders is crucial to the success of this group and helps promote shared goals, a robust system of services for victims of human trafficking, and education of the public. The Probation Department also provides specialized case supervision services for adolescent youth involved in, or at-risk of, being sexually exploited.

### Juvenile Intensive Supervision Caseloads

Youth who are system involved are often assigned a probation officer who specializes in providing supervision in the community. This enables the youth to stay in the home which helps maintain the cohesion of the family unit. Probation officers may also refer the youth and their families to community-based services supported by an individualized case plan created with their input.

In addition to general supervision caseloads and caseloads targeted toward specific treatment concerns, the Probation Department also has several specialized supervision caseloads for offenders who need singular direction or require more focused case management methods. For example, a specialized caseload of youth who have been arrested for possession and/or use of a firearm. This program works with highly sophisticated active juvenile gang members who require intensive supervision by highly trained probation officers. In addition, youth who are adjudicated for sex offenses may be placed on a specialized caseload. And as previously mentioned, the Probation Department also has dedicated caseloads revolving around human trafficking victims, CFS involved youth, mental health, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.

### Placement/Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs)

When diversionary, community based, and pre-placement preventative services have been exhausted or are inappropriate, youth are screened for suitability and medical necessity eligibility for placement into

an STRTP. These are short-term residential therapeutic programs within the community that provide structured therapy in a less restrictive setting than custodial sanctions. The focus is to ensure youth receive appropriate rehabilitative services to address individual needs. Upon completion of the treatment program, youth receive 6 months of Wraparound services to provide supportive resources to the entire family while the youth transition into their permanent living arrangement in the community.

### **Recidivism Prevention and Growth Services at the Youth Detention Centers**

Whether a youth is detained at the Central Valley Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center (CVJDAC) or committed to our Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), A Restorative Integration for Successful Engagement (ARISE), the primary goal is to provide the tools and rehabilitative resources necessary to prevent recidivism and support successful reintegration. The depth of collaboration with our partner county agencies, CBOs, and volunteers in our community allows for these resources to be available for our youth. Our CBOs facilitate classes and offer resources to the youth inside the facilities during their day and evening program time. Mentors and one-on-one meetings with supportive CBO and volunteer staff with targeted goals for the youth are also utilized. The overall aim is to assist youth in developing individual decision-making skills through role modeling, counseling, individual/family therapy, and developing personal responsibility. By helping the youth garner a better understanding of themselves through specialized programs, the primary objective is to foster healthy thinking and appropriate behavior patterns that result in a happy and productive life that eschews return to the criminal justice system.

Some of the programs/resources available while youth are in custody include, anger management, podcasting, computer graphics, barbering, job development, the YES program, the Iron Strong program, mentoring, Operation New Hope, Communication Building, Music Production, Music and Self-expression, Sport Mindfulness, My Brother's Keeper, The Road We Travel, Entrepreneurial Mindset, Self-Care, financial literacy, music theory, Nurturing Fathers, Nurturing Families, Empower Girls, Victim Impact, Gang Intervention, Cognitive Life Skills, Film class, Career Pathways, Healthy Relationships, Computer Coding, Six Universal Laws of Survival, therapy and creative writing, Spanish classes, and K-9 therapy.

### **Re-entry Continuity for Incarcerated Youth**

#### **Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Caseload:**

This caseload consists of youth who were committed and incarcerated at DJJ and those discharged by the California Juvenile Parole Board from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Prior to DJJ closing on June 30, 2023, Probation Officers conducted bi-monthly visits at the two DJJ detention facilities and one fire camp and worked closely with DJJ staff focusing on pre-release rehabilitation plans and identifying and connecting youth to services. The youth on this caseload are now supervised in the community with a focus on successful re-entry and reintegration.

#### **ARISE Community Supervision Caseload:**

This caseload consists of youth committed to ARISE and those granted re-entry supervision by the Juvenile Court. The Probation Department currently has a dedicated ARISE Re-entry Coordinator who supports the youth with initial rehabilitative services. Re-entry supervision officers conduct bi-weekly visits at ARISE for youth who are still incarcerated and routine home visits for youth who have been

granted the opportunity to return to their homes or move to a less restrictive program. The overall goal is to help with successful reintegration into the community by ensuring the youth are closer to their families and receive age-appropriate treatment that is evidence-based to help reduce the likelihood of the youth re-entering the criminal justice system. During re-entry supervision, the youth, Probation Department, CBO's, county and state human service agency providers, and the youth's personal support network collaborate in the youth's adjustment back into the community.

### Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs)

Youth that are committed to ARISE may have the opportunity to be transferred from the secure youth treatment facility to less restrictive program, such as a halfway house, a camp or ranch, or a community residential or nonresidential service program. In making the determination, the Court will consider the youth's overall progress in relation to the rehabilitation plan during the period of confinement in a secure youth treatment facility. They will also take into consideration the programming and community transition services to be provided, or coordinated by the less restrictive program, including, but not limited to, any educational, vocational, counseling, housing, or other services made available through the program. The purpose of a less restrictive program is to facilitate the safe and successful reintegration of the ward into the community.

The Probation Department currently partners with several LRPs.

Boys Republic: Is a private, nonprofit, nonsectarian school and treatment community for youth. Since its founding in 1907, it has guided more than 32,000 at-risk teenage boys and girls toward productive, fulfilling lives. At its central school and farm in Chino Hills, and in residential and day treatment centers in other communities, Boys Republic and its companion program, Girls Republic, help youth find the resources and skills to begin meaningful lives on their own. Boys Republic seeks to give adolescent youth with behavioral, educational, and emotional difficulties an opportunity to achieve their maximum potential for responsible, self-directed life within the community. Every attempt is made to involve family members in the rehabilitation process and to bring about the reunification of the family. Boy's Republic considers the development of academic, vocational, and social skills essential so that all youth returning to the community can feel confident in their ability to be successful and productive citizens.

Coastal Valley Academy (CVA): Located in San Luis Obispo, CVA is a custody commitment camp for 14 to 17-year-old male and female youth who are moderate to high risk and in need of residential treatment. Youth are ordered to stay 6-12 months and receive intensive case management, treatment, and educational services through collaboration with a local treatment provider, Family Care Network, and the County Office of Education. While CVA is located onsite with Juvenile Hall, the program is completely separated in programming, having its own classroom, recreation yard, and living unit. The physical features of the unit are more homelike and provide a safe and effective alternative to group homes, engaging the families in the treatment and reunification process. Youth participate in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings as well as individual, family, and group treatment. CVA staff is trained in Comprehensive and Substance Abuse Curriculums designed by the University of Cincinnati and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Groups are facilitated by both treatment staff and CVA Probation Officers. Youth participate in pro social activities, including off-site activities, community service projects, and home passes.

Pine Grove: The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LAC FIRE), jointly operate 35 conservation camps, commonly known as fire camps, located in 25 counties across California. CDCR employees oversee the fire camps, which are all minimum-security facilities. Camp participants support state, local, and federal government agencies as they respond to all types of emergencies such as fires, floods, and other natural or manmade disasters. Crews also maintain parks and assist with sand bagging during flood fighting operations and reforestation. The program paves the way for several job opportunities and benefits after release, including advanced training and criminal record expungement. These pathways allow formerly incarcerated individuals to seek professional emergency response certifications that were not previously available to them.

California Conservation Corps: A state agency that enrolls youth aged 18-25 for a year of natural resource work and emergency response. The CCC puts youth and the environment together to benefit both. The young adults of the CCC work hard protecting and restoring California's environment, responding to disasters, becoming stronger workers, citizens, and individuals through their service.

**In addition, the following new projects have been funded for the upcoming fiscal year and are currently being developed for implementation.**

#### **Literacy 4 Life (L4L)**

A partnership between the Sheriff's Department and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS), the L4L Program aims to impact youth of incarcerated parents by working to rebuild the loss of the youth-parent bond that follows incarceration. The program also seeks to build literacy in both the youth and their incarcerated parent(s). By the nature of this program, every youth who participates is the youth of an incarcerated parent and every inmate who participates is a parent of an at-risk youth. Under the direct supervision of the literacy coaches, youth of incarcerated parents are brought into a day-care like setting within the jail system. There, the youth are reunited with their incarcerated parent(s) for a weekly one-hour learning session. Using the Footsteps 2 Brilliance application, the youth and their parent read and learn together using tablets and books, play music together, dance, and sing. Educational field trips are also a component of this program. For example, the youth and the incarcerated parent(s) learn about zoo animals and then take a trip to the zoo. The incarcerated parent can share the field trip experience virtually with their youth.

#### **Community Access Program (CAP)**

Another new program this year will be CAP, which will enable SBCSS to provide access to justice involved youth, or youth who are at-risk of becoming involved in the justice system, to programs and opportunities not offered at traditional school sites. CAP will allow the school to interact more closely with youth at risk of truancy through home visits and wellness checks to ensure students are regularly attending school. In addition, since job skills development and job placement are key interventions to improving attendance, reducing truancy, raising graduation rates, reducing crime, and ensuring a successful transition from high school to college and/or a career, the CAP program will provide SBCSS the resources/vehicles they need to transport the students to job training programs, job fairs, jobs, higher education opportunities, and various field trips. The goal of the

program is to increase average daily attendance and student achievement/graduation rates while reducing the negative impacts caused by truancy and lack of resources, which can often include juvenile delinquency.

### **The Go Ruck Tribe 'N Training, Jiu Jitsu, and Mental Well-Being Program**

This program will be run by Redlands Police Department as an after-school program that will foster physical challenges, social and community fitness, and mental well-being among local youth. Lasting 90 minutes, it will be overseen by on duty personnel and community members, offering Go Ruck Tribe 'N Training, Jiu Jitsu, and mental well-being exercises. It will operate twice a week, one day consisting of a preprogrammed Go Ruck workout and Jiu Jitsu, while the second day will focus on Go Ruck training and emphasize mental health and leadership. Redlands Police Department will collaborate with local high school counselors and teachers to select 20 at-risk local youth to participate alongside at least 10 Redlands Police Department employees and community members. This comprehensive program will be unique to the local community because it will provide physical and mental growth with mentorship and guidance. The implementation of Jiu Jitsu, taught by practitioners within the department, would give youth the ability to work on decision making in high stress environments, focus and concentration, respect, humility, and personal safety. The feeling of personal safety is a critical component in one's daily success, as it can minimize bullying, build confidence, and create a more positive daily outlook.

### **Children Deserve Success Program**

This is a collaboration with San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) to enhance four existing programs:

- 1) The University of Redlands Student Success Partnership: This program will serve current and former justice involved youth placed in Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP) in all regions of San Bernardino County to provide workshops, activities, leadership training, and other activities via the Saturday Success Academies, the Wellness Summit, Expanding Horizons College and Career Conference, and Summer Success Academies. The goal is to enhance academic skills and expose youth to learning opportunities and academic experiences that result in high school graduation and enrollment in post-secondary colleges, universities, or career technical programs.
- 2) California State University of San Bernardino Office of Pre-College Programs: This partnership will primarily work with the First Star and CALSOAP programs for youth on probation, youth in foster care, and youth experiencing homelessness. Youth will receive academic support and enrichment, participate in workshops rooted in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM), participate in project-based learning to build foundational skills in communication, conflict resolution, problem solving and leadership, mentoring and networking, college/career readiness support and life skills training.
- 3) San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Student Counseling Services: This partnership will provide SBCSS probation youth and foster care youth with career days, college readiness support, educational case management, transitional services, life skills training, job/vocational aid supports, and peer supports.

- 4) Give Something Back Pre/Post College Mentoring Program: This partnership will provide monthly school-based mentoring sessions to small groups of middle school and high school youth in participating school districts which include San Bernardino Unified School District, Fontana Unified School District, Hesperia Unified School District, Colton Unified School District, Redlands Unified School District, and Victor Valley Unified School District. This adds up to approximately 100 individual schools and 1000 youth. Mentoring sessions will consist of developmental themes to encourage and empower youth to meet the challenges of being a successful student and citizen. This program also includes 2 field trips per year that focus on providing an educational or cultural experience such as participating in a college tour or visiting a museum. In addition, youth who participate may be eligible for a scholarship.

### **Juvenile Program Administrator**

This system improvement will identify and allow for collaboration between the Probation Department and a qualified professional and/or community-based organization (CBO) that can act as a Program Administrator and oversee the development, management, and coordination of subcontracted non-residential programs with an array of treatment and rehabilitative services. The program will be designed to offer evidence-based services that target risk/need criteria strongly correlated to preventing criminogenic behavior and/or re-offending tendencies and to provide at-risk youth and their families the programs and resources to support successful foundations. The outsourcing of this vital function would shift these duties from the sworn probation officers working at the DRCs who currently complete these tasks along with regular supervision and probation duties and would allow for an external Program Administrator to manage the scheduling and delivery of treatment, rehabilitative, educational, and vocational services, and to oversee organization and implementation of pro-social activities and events for at-risk youth and/or their families. As such, this would provide for a more seamless, consistent, and streamlined presentation of service delivery and ensure the youth and their families receive focused and quality assistance based on their specific risks and needs. In addition, it will help limit duplicative efforts and prioritize resources by housing these services under one roof with the goal of a one-stop service delivery arena. While Probation's DRCs currently endeavor to meet these needs, existing infrastructure and design combines the service milieu with enforcement operations and officers also must often balance on-site service provision with needs-based referrals, given not all essential services can be currently co-located in the existing environment.

The Program Administrator would be responsible for developing a comprehensive strategy to work with relevant county partners and CBOs to provide evidence-based programs and strategies that have been found to reduce concerns such as recidivism and substance abuse and promote pro-social behavior. They will also be able to assist with transportation for youth and/or their families and will also provide client interaction and daily tracking including documentation of interactions, attendance, or lack thereof. Additionally, they will provide such things as monthly measurable outcome reports to access progress and change, conduct monthly instructor reviews, administer, collect, and provide participant pre-test/post-tests and/or surveys, deliver quarterly program reviews displaying the numbers of participants who have been referred, enrolled, and attended each type of service, including those that were removed with reason for removal. They shall complete or utilize the designated assessment tool approved by Probation and provide an annual program review displaying trending data from the quarterly review.

### **Housing Support and Navigation Initiative**

This program will expand upon a successful Housing Navigation Initiative that supports families involved with Child Welfare Services, as well as former foster care young adults between the ages of 21-24. With the allocation of this funding, CFS will provide direct housing support and housing navigation to prevent youth from being removed from their families, to support families during the reunification process, and to divert youth from the justice system. For young adults, the goal is also to provide stability and offer programs such as living skills to help them maintain their independence. Staff members (also known as Housing Navigators) provide housing navigation and work with homeless/at-risk families and young adults. Staff will assist in identifying financial resources and provide direct assistance in securing long-term stable housing. Housing Navigators will assist families in locating properties, advocate on the family's behalf with landlords, issue housing vouchers, and pay for housing related costs including security deposits; rent; utilities; basic household goods; and associated moving costs. Housing Navigators, working in conjunction with CFS social workers, help families/young adults develop a plan to become independent and self-sustaining. The plan includes identifying and referring clients to appropriate resources. Homelessness alone is not a reason for the removal of youth from their parents/guardians. However, research shows that poverty, financial stress, unemployment, and low income serve as stressors that lead to child abuse, neglect, and other forms of maltreatment. Statistics demonstrate that approximately 4.2 million youth and young adults experience homelessness each year in the United States. Approximately 57% of those are estimated to have prior records of foster care, juvenile justice involvement, or both. In 2023, during the San Bernardino County's annual point in time count for homeless individuals and families, there were 4,195 homeless. There were 28 youth who were under the age of 18 and 250 youth between the ages of 18-24. While some of those counted were unaccompanied, some were with their families and were unable to rely on a stable income to afford housing.

Homeless assistance programs are essential to keeping families housed. This in turn provides youth with a more solid foundation from which to succeed and not feel the need to participate in illegal activity. Homelessness creates challenges, such as hunger, possible violence, and lack of parental attention, which can impact a youth's well-being from an early age. Families experiencing homelessness often lack access to housing subsidies and supportive services. Many have experienced domestic violence. Unfortunately, these situations place individuals on the path of entering or returning to the judicial system as they see no other means to survive. CFS will monitor outcomes for 1) families who have had referrals closed prior to removals due to finding appropriate housing and 2) families who have been able to reunify quicker than expected due to a lack of housing no longer being a barrier. CFS will collaborate with Probation to determine if assisting a family with housing deterred the youth from becoming involved in the justice system. With young adults, if they have an open case, CFS will be able to determine if assistance with housing 1) deterred the young adult from becoming involved in the justice system, and 2) was able to maintain stable housing.

### **Mentoring for CFS Youth at Risk of Juvenile Justice Involvement**

CFS will create an innovative mentoring/counseling program for youth with open CFS cases who are at risk of juvenile justice system involvement. The mentoring program, which will be established through contracts with CBOs, may include mentors who have experience in overcoming and healing from trauma like those experienced by CFS youth. The benefits to the youth will include learning effective strategies

for regulating their emotions; building positive relationships; changing negative core beliefs about themselves; a reduction in risky behavior; healing from past trauma(s); learning alternative coping strategies regarding substance abuse; and developing social and emotional resilience to be successful in life, work, and school. The target population for this program will include youth with complex needs who regularly spend time in CFS offices awaiting placement because of the same maladaptive behaviors that put them at risk of juvenile justice system involvement. Mentors will be incorporated into Child and Family Team Meetings to support the youth in safely transitioning from CFS office/shelter settings to appropriate placements where they may stabilize and flourish while in care. Mentors will also promote connections for youth with loved ones who have a positive impact in their lives, but who may not be able to directly care for them. Contracted services will be tailored to the needs of the youth.

Statistics demonstrate that approximately one-fifth of the prison population in the United States is comprised of former foster youth. Approximately 70% of youth who exit foster care as legal adults will be arrested at least once by the age of 26. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that mentoring has been shown to improve a young person's life and self-esteem. Proper mentoring can also reduce depression, aggression, and delinquent acts. Mentoring can be utilized as an effective measure to prevent youth with complex care needs from entering the justice system at any age. A four-year randomized controlled trial, conducted in 2018 by the Institute for Health Research and Policy at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health, revealed notable reductions in arrest rates (with mentees 51% less likely to be arrested) and substance use (41% less likely to engage in substance use) among Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) participants after 18 months. The study observed improvements in various developmental areas, including enhanced school engagement, self-control, social skills, grit, self-advocacy, and family functioning.

Trauma informed mentoring as a juvenile justice diversion strategy will be effective in improving child welfare and juvenile justice outcomes. San Bernardino County CFS will measure program effectiveness in the following outcomes: 1) improvement in placement stability, including a decrease in placement changes, a decrease in time awaiting placement in a CFS office or shelter; 2) improvements in permanency of the youth, including a decrease in timeframes to permanency and increases in number and percentage of youth who achieve permanency. CFS will work with San Bernardino County Probation to develop a method to determine number and percentage of participating youth diverted from the juvenile justice system. CFS will also measure the value of the program from the youth perspective through qualitative interviews.

### **Extracurricular Programs Sponsored by the Public Defender and Children's Fund**

Youth involved in the juvenile justice system face many challenges. Those at risk of becoming justice-involved include children experiencing poverty, abuse, neglect, mental health challenges, and/or have parents who have been incarcerated. Additional risk factors associated with youth ending up in the juvenile justice system are cognitive deficits, low school involvement, living in poverty, or being runaway or homeless. Scientists have recognized the significant role of organized, extracurricular activities for child development and socialization. An ever-growing body of research suggests that extracurricular participation is linked to a broad range of positive outcomes for youth including socialization (Mahoney 2000), school performance (Roeser and Peck 2003), avoidance of violence (Jiang and Peterson 2012),

identity development (Dworkin et al. 2003) self-esteem (McGee et al. 2006), health (Fredricks and Eccles 2010), physical activity (Halpern 2003), and civic orientation (Denault and Poulin 2009).

However, participation in extracurricular activities comes with barriers that many youth who are justice-involved or at risk of becoming involved need assistance to overcome. Participation in extracurricular activities requires financial commitments. Registration fees vary by activity, and although a fundraising component may be available, youth may not have the support network to participate in fundraising. They are unlikely to approach their parents/caregivers/friends/family to purchase chocolate bars, script, a ticket for a car wash, etc., knowing that food and housing are their priorities. Beyond the registration fees, equipment and uniforms burden struggling families. As such, the Public Defender (PD) in conjunction with Children's Fund will be working to provide a minimum of 200 youth at risk of, or already involved in the juvenile justice system, with everything they need to participate in extra-curricular and/or recreational diversionary activities/programs for one year, two seasons, or two activities throughout the year.