City of Corning

Proposition 47 Grant Cohort 2

Final Local Evaluation Report

August 15, 2019 through August 31, 2023

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Executive Summary

Project Purpose

BSCC Cohort 2 "RESTORE" was a diversion program located in Tehama County designed for juvenile and adult offenders with diagnosed mental health issues frequently exacerbated by the presence of substance use disorders. RESTORE provided evidence-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment through a case management system that also linked participants to housing, employment, education assistance, and referrals to community-based support services. The RESTORE Cohort 2 Program was comprised of three main components.

COMPONENT 1: DIVERSION

The RESTORE diversion program was founded on an evidence-based program validated by the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (crimesolutions.org). Diversion is associated with a significant reduction in the rate of recidivism as compared to non-participating offenders formally processed within criminal justice systems. The RESTORE diversion program utilized strengths-based advocacy-oriented strategies that took place over an 18-week period for juveniles ages 12-18 and 12-months for adults ages 18-26. The diversion strategies moved offenders from formal processing within the Tehama County justice system and provided them community-based, restorative services and linkages to trained adult advocates for juvenile participants and to paid Case Coordinators for adult participants. The goal of RESTORE diversion was to prevent future criminal activity by strengthening offenders' attachment to pro-social individuals, by the creation of empathy and personal responsibility, and by increasing access to education, employment, health, and housing resources within the community.

COMPONENT 2 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental health services were provided to all participants. Each referred individual was assessed by a licensed mental health therapist using DSM-V cross-cutting measures to determine the presence and the severity of mental health disorders. Individual DSM assessments were subsequently provided as indicated and included measures of trauma, mood, and anxiety disorders because research has shown linkages between exposure to violence and later depression and social maladjustment. In addition, those exposed to violence are more likely to have "poorer educational attainment, lower levels of employment, and higher levels of criminal activity". Mental health therapists provided counseling sessions for RESTORE clients using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). CBT is the only mental health approach that has shown to be effective by multiple randomized trials. CBT was provided to juvenile participants in English and Spanish in individual and familial group sessions.

COMPONENT 3 SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT

Drug and alcohol referrals were made to Tehama County Health Services Agency's Substance Use Recovery treatment program. Each referred individual was assessed to determine the presence and severity of substance use disorders. Drug and alcohol counseling provided ongoing individual and group treatment services and integrated family-based programming. The treatment was linked to Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) that addressed the interrelation

between trauma and symptoms of trauma such as substance use, eating disorders, depression, and anxiety. RESTORE clients were also provided Moral Reconation Therapy to address criminogenic thinking related to substance use. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) was offered to those who were abusing opioids. MAT combined behavioral therapy and medications to treat substance use disorders. These intensive therapeutic approaches showed increased positive outcomes for clients with dual-diagnoses.

Goals and Objectives

Project RESTORE made significant progress toward achieving its three program goals and objectives: 1) RESTORE decreased the recidivism rate for youth and adult offenders; 2) RESTORE participants had higher levels of mental health functioning and fewer anti-social behaviors at program completion than at intake, and; 3) RESTORE participants had lower levels of illegal drugs and alcohol use at program completion than at intake.

Research Design

The RESTORE Cohort 2 original research design was to utilize a quasi-experimental model with non-equivalent group design and a reliability-corrected analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) to make adjustments to both RESTORE Cohort 2 participants and regular probation participants for baseline and end-of-project assessment results. There have been multiple new Tehama County Probation regulations since the implementation of RESTORE Cohort 2 that precluded access to data for comparing non-equivalent groups using a quasi-experimental model. New rules for juvenile probationers went into effect during the grant period including the removal of youth offenders from probation requirements and to seal their records after six months within the probation system, even if they had not completed their corrective action plans. A regulation also went into effect during COVID-19 that required Tehama County Probation to issue citations rather than file criminal charges, which kept many juvenile and adult offenders out of the probation system, and therefore no formal assessments or probation activities could be conducted.

The revised design analyzes the rates of diversion program completion for both juvenile and adult participants along with pre-post comparison of mental health functioning levels and the levels of substance use.

Major Findings

The RESTORE process and outcome evaluation analyses found that both the juvenile and adult diversion programs were implemented and maintained over the life of the grant with fidelity to the diversion models described in the grant proposal and was successful in substantially reducing recidivism through strengthening offenders' attachment to pro-social individuals, by bolstering empathy and personal responsibility, by increasing access to education, employment, and stable housing, and through improved mental and physical health.

There were two unintended positive outcomes for Cohort 2: the first of which was that many juveniles who successfully completed the diversion program remain in contact with their RESTORE adult Advocates; and second, many of the juveniles who successfully completed the

diversion program have subsequently contacted their RESTORE Therapists for further counseling.

One unintended negative outcome for Cohort 2 was that a service gap developed in RESTORE's ability to provide consistent evidence-based substance use recovery support for some juvenile and adult participants.

Project Accomplishments

RESTORE youth were case managed by River Cities Counseling (RCC) through December 31, 2022 with the accomplishments listed below. RCC RESTORE youth who were still active on December 31, 2022 transitioned into Cohort 3 on January 1, 2023.

- 36 juveniles successfully completed the diversion program

- 2,518 therapy sessions were conducted with enrolled youth

- 13.8% overall recidivism rate at the end of Cohort 2 on August 31, 2023

- 75% of juveniles who successfully completed the RESTORE RCC diversion program self-reported discontinuing chronic drug use and 100% self-reported discontinuing chronic alcohol use

RESTORE adults are case managed by Empower Tehama's (ET) Project Restore for Young Adults (PRYA) program through August 2023 with the following accomplishments:

- 23 adults successfully completed the RESTORE PRYA diversion program

- 1,680 mental health group therapy sessions and 325 individual counseling sessions were conducted with participants

- 4.4% overall recidivism rate at the end of Cohort 2

Barriers Faced and Addressed

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation can be a significant barrier in a rural region such as Tehama County. RCC Case Coordinators, Advocates, and Drug and Alcohol Counselors frequently provided transportation for youth to and from activities. During the school year, services including counseling were conducted at the youth's school sites.

ET completed renovation of a larger facility that helped provide PRYA services more centrally located in Red Bluff, which is the county seat and more easily accessible by driving or walking. The facility is on the Tehama Rural Area eXpress (TRAX) bus route, making it ideal for the provision of PRYA services. TRAX services were offered at no charge through one-time COVID-19 funding and then PRYA provided participants bus passes when TRAX returned to requiring fares.

COVID-19

COVID-19 restrictions created a transportation challenge as well as in-person constraints on RCC youth to attend weekly meetings with probation officers, weekly meeting with Advocates, weekly meetings for therapy and counseling services, and weekly meetings for substance use counseling.

RESTORE programs were also negatively impacted by a reduction in the number of referrals to RESTORE because the court system, jail, and probation department all experienced significant reductions in operational capacity during COVID-19 restrictions.

RCC RESTORE therapists witnessed a 300% increase in youth suicide assessments in the 2020-21 academic school year from the previous school year as a result of increased levels of stress, depression, and suicidal ideation related to COVID-19 pandemic societal issues. RCC RESTORE Therapists adapted counseling sessions to meet the needs of the youth through a combination of social distanced in-person sessions, video conferencing platforms such as TeleHealth, and over the phone.

Near the end of the 2020-21 school year, there was a return to RCC in-person therapy and Advocate and Case Coordinator activities for many of the participating youth, which helped reestablish the more effective approach to individual supports for youth. Virtual therapy or other digital interactions with youth, though individual, tended to be much less effective.

HOUSING

The PRYA program encountered challenges assisting program adults in obtaining stable housing due to a lack of available rental units in the area. When units became available, landlords and property managers received a number of applications and PRYA applicants often had screening barriers such as criminal records and derogatory or insufficient credit histories that tended to not score well in the application process. For young adults just starting out on their own, the process was often discouraging, and ongoing housing insecurity often hindered continued progress towards other case management goals.

PRYA staff drew upon the experiences of Empower Tehama's other programs with housing staff who had developed strategies for assisting participants increase their chances at becoming approved for rental units. The strategies included working with participants to develop clear responses to hard questions regarding past legal challenges, developing plans for addressing negative items on credit reports, and ensuring that participants submitted applications to get on waiting lists.

Lessons Learned

The protocol for handling referrals from community agencies was immensely important in establishing trust between RESTORE staff and participants. It was particularly important for both the youth and their guardians. The "hand-off" was a critical component in securing the success with youth referred to RESTORE. When representatives of referring agencies introduced RCC Case Coordinators to the youth and their guardians a heightened understanding of the urgency and the necessity of the program for the youth was instilled that resulted in increases in positive engagement during the program that contributed to a higher completion rate. The ET adult participant referral process became more efficient and timelier with ongoing direct communication with Tehama County Probation representatives who helped facilitate referral management with their agency.

RCC Case Coordinators maintained ongoing and positive relationships with each youth's school administrators that increased positive youth participation in school along with a reduction in RESTORE youth being removed from school for disciplinary reasons.

The Job Training Center (JTC) is a community-based organization that provided critical employment and training services to RESTORE youth and adult job seekers. It was advantageous to have JTC staff participate in both the program and data system design.

The data collection system was a valuable tool for tracking activities and reporting that contributed to the success of the RESTORE program. RCC, ET, and JTC staff worked closely with the RESTORE Evaluator to make periodic modifications to the data system to streamline data collection and analysis that helped monitor participant progress.

Conclusion

Project RESTORE was a successful Proposition 47 funded grant program that reduced recidivism in Tehama County through evidence-based diversion practices that included improving mental health functioning and reducing substance use disorders for justice involved juveniles and adults within the county.

Project Background

Essential Information

The Tehama County RESTORE Cohort 2 Program expanded an existing Cohort 1 Adolescent Diversion Program (ADP), that was serving only juvenile offenders, to provide similar services to transitional adult offenders in Tehama County.

RESTORE utilized Michigan State's 18-week Adolescent Diversion Program for juvenile offenders and Empower Tehama's 52-week Adult Diversion Program. Both strategies employed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy along with evidence-based drug treatment combined with coordinated case management services that focused on education, family dynamics, housing, and employment. Juvenile and transitional adult offenders were assessed for program suitability and to establish case plans the activities of which were measured to help determine their impact on decreasing recidivism.

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives identified in the Proposition 47 Project Work Plan of the proposal are shown in the table below.

Goal 1	The recidivism rate among offenders participating in RESTORE Cohort 2 will decrease.
Objective 1	By June 2020, and each year thereafter, 90% of RESTORE Cohort 2 clients will not commit a criminal offense as measured by police arrest and/or County probation records.

Goal 2	RESTORE Cohort 2 clients with diagnosable mental disorders will have higher levels of functioning and fewer anti-social behaviors.

Objective 2	By June 2020, and each year thereafter, 90% of RESTORE Cohort 2 clients completing the program will self-report higher levels of functioning and pro-social behaviors including securing stable housing, employment, or engagement in an education or job training program as measured by the Tehama County Probation Assessment and Intervention System.

Goal 3	RESTORE Cohort 2 clients with diagnosable substance use disorder will no longer use illegal drugs and alcohol.
Objective 3	By June 2020, and each year thereafter, 90% of RESTORE Cohort 2 clients completing the program will not test positive for illegal substances or alcohol.

Evaluation Method and Design

Process Evaluation

The RESTORE Cohort 2 data collection plan included data collection agreements with service providers for ongoing collection and evaluation of baseline, process, and outcome data for each client. The specific process variables, interventions, and instruments for each program are described in the "Process Evaluation Data Collection" table below.

RESTORE activities were carried out by determining initial participant eligibility through a referral process. The RESTORE Cohort 2 program intake process included processing referrals from local partner agencies as well as screening for mental health and substance use disorder issues. Program Case Coordinators and Case Managers entered baseline information, including Bureau of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) demographic data, into a RESTORE Data System. Crime and probation information were provided to the local evaluator, the Center for Evaluation and Research, LLC (CER), by Tehama County Probation. CER imported the data into the RESTORE Cohort 2 Data System. Service delivery data from providers was collected by Case Coordinators and Case Managers, which they entered into the RESTORE Data System for quarterly reporting.

The RESTORE Cohort 2 Data System was a secure data collection and reporting tool used by RESTORE Cohort 2 Case Coordinators, Case Managers, and CER. The system was designed to provide monitoring of service implementation, to generate local and BSCC progress reports, and to analyze the impacts of the supports and activities conducted by service providers and community-based organizations. The data system provided for real-time comparison of baseline data with process and outcome data over the life of the program.

There were four RESTORE process variables for which data was collected:

1) RCC 18-week adolescent diversion program measured by quarterly analysis of participant participation and fidelity to the model;

2) PRYA 52-week adult diversion program measured by quarterly analysis of participation and fidelity to the model;

3) Mental Health and Substance Use therapy measured quarterly to analyze the frequency of services provided to participants, and;

4) Support services measured quarterly to analyze the frequency and type of services provided to participants.

Procedures to help ensure that the RCC and PRYA programs were being conducted with fidelity included the collection of evidence to verify that specific activities were being accomplished as planned. This was done in part by analyzing case management data for activity dates and descriptions. These data were analyzed quarterly at the participant level to help ensure that enrolled participants received the proper dosage in their respective programs. A RCC Case Coordinator and a PRYA Data & Outcomes Manager oversaw data collection for their programs and worked collaboratively with the local evaluator to ensure data integrity, timely data collection, and entry into the RESTORE Data System.

Process Evaluation Data Collection

Source	Methodology	Frequency	Collection
RCC and ET Mental Health Therapy	Therapy date by participant	Quarterly	Therapy records
TCHSA Substance Use Therapy	Therapy date by participant	Quarterly	Therapy records
RCC Case Coordinator Contacts	Contact date and type by participant	Quarterly	Case Coordinator records
RCC Advocate Activity	Activity date and type by participant	Quarterly	Advocate records
ET Mental Health Services	Mental Health Service date any type by participant	Quarterly	Case Management records
RCC and ET Support Services	Support Service date any type by participant	Quarterly	Case Management records
JTC Support Services	Support Service date any type by participant	Quarterly	Case Management records
RCC and ET Training	Training date any type	Quarterly	Training records

Outcome Evaluation

RESTORE eligible participants were those with assessed mental health issues and/or substance use issues within the Tehama County criminal justice system. Eligibility for RCC juveniles was determined by an initial screening for suitability along with guardian consent. Eligibility for PRYA adults was determined by an initial screening for suitability.

The outcome measures were quantifiable and matched Proposition 47's intent to make measurable improvements in juvenile and adult recidivism, mental health, and substance use. The specific outcome variables, interventions, and instruments for each program are described in the "Outcome Evaluation Data Collection" table below.

RESTORE Cohort 2 programs and interventions were 1) the Michigan State Adolescent Diversion Program, 2) the PRYA Perspective 52-week Adult Diversion Program, 3) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and 4) substance use treatment services.

Successful program completion was when a RCC participant successfully accomplished all of the adolescent diversion program milestones or when a PRYA participant successfully accomplished all of their individualized diversion case plan goals.

Outcome Evaluation Data Collection

Source	Methodology	Frequency	Collection
RCC Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)	Assessment	Intake and Completion	Case Coordinator records
RCC Teen Assessment of Functioning Inventory (TAFI)	Assessment	Intake and Completion	Case Coordinator records
RCC and ET Diversion	Completion date	Completion	Case Coordinator/Manager records
RCC and ET Substance Use	Completion date	Completion	Case Coordinator/Manager records

Process and Outcome Data Collection and Management Protocols

An integrated online data management system was created to track information for engaged and enrolled participants. The data system security protocols defined hierarchical password protected remote access to specified staff members for data entry. The relational database was designed and managed by the Local Evaluator who produced progress monitoring reports and summative reports for specific data collection components. Individual participant records were maintained for each enrolled client with related tables for tracking multiple activities across the entire program.

The participant records included demographic information, referral details, and service delivery data. The Local Evaluator developed the data system along with training materials and provided technical support as needed. Some data was entered on a daily/weekly basis, and some data was imported on a quarterly basis depending on the most efficient method for each partner organization.

Data was analyzed quarterly at the individual level for progress monitoring and for reporting. It is noteworthy that RESTORE Staff and the Local Evaluator developed a level of trust and accountability in the data collection and analysis protocol so that when a data issue arose it was resolved efficiently, which minimized any challenges that could have influenced the final analysis.

Evaluation Results and Discussion

Discussion

A particular strength of the process evaluation protocol was the frequent collaboration that took place between the Case Coordinators/Managers and the local evaluator that helped ensure that program components were implemented and maintained with fidelity to their respective intervention models. Any adjustments made to the data collection methodology or data systems were accomplished with efficiency so that accurate analyses could drive decision-making for timely and effective service delivery.

For example, the Job Training Center (JTC) identified a need to improve how it was tracking RESTORE participant service delivery and reached out to the local evaluator for advice. The local evaluator designed a prototype secure, online database that was modified to align with JTC suggestions for data collection and then provided training to JTC staff. The data system made JTC

data collection more efficient and the local evaluator obtained real-time access to the data for quarterly reporting.

The tables below show participant demographics as well as the number of participants who received various services over the life of the grant.

Total Number of Participants (Unduplicated)

RESTORE Unduplicated Participants	RCC Count	ET Count
Assessed/engaged/screened/linked to services, but not currently enrolled	112	40
Completed program requirements	37	22
Exited without completing program requirements (regardless of reason)	25	70
Enrolled when Transitioned into Cohort 3	21	87
Total	**195**	**219**

DEMOGRAPHICS

Youth AGE at Referral	Frequency		Adult AGE at Referral	Frequency
11	1		18	18
12	7		19	13
13	18		20	14
14	42		21	18
15	52		22	16
16	44		23	21
17	26		24	25
18*	4		25	33
(unknown)	1		26	23
Total	**195**		27	9
			28	7
			29	12
			30	8
			31	1
			35	1
			Total	**219**

*18-year-old senior student in high school

GENDER	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
River Cities Counseling	69	126	**0**	**195**
Empower Tehama	92	123	**4**	**219**

RACE ETHNICITY	RCC Count	ET Count
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	5
Asian - Other	1	1
Black or African American	2	8
Decline to State	2	4
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish	77	54
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - Native Hawaiian	2	0
White	107	133
(Unknown)	6	14
Total	**195**	**219**

SERVICES - RCC ADVOCATE DIVERSION ACTIVITIES

RCC Advocates interacted with youth weekly for mentoring activities including time to establish effective youth-Advocate relationships and conduct the 18-week Michigan State Adolescent Diversion Program. RCC overall Cohort 2 data listed 89 RESTORE Advocates in the data system specifically trained to mentor RESTORE youth. The table below shows the unduplicated frequency of diversion program curriculum activities and milestones delivered over the life of the grant.

RCC Diversion Weekly Curriculum	Frequency
Week 1 General Information	100
Week 2 Family & Friends/School	96
Week 3 Strengths, Interest & Hobbies	96
Week 4 Support System/Coping Ability	86
Week 5 Identity/Current Life Perception	80
Week 6 Smart Goal Created	80
Week 7 Smart Goal Milestone	75
Week 8 Smart Goal Milestone	73
Week 9 Midterm Intervention Report	74
Week 10 Smart Goal Milestone	73
Week 11 Smart Goal Milestone	69
Week 12 Smart Goal Milestone	68
Week 13 Smart Goal Milestone	69
Week 14 Smart Goal Milestone	64
Week 15 Smart Goal Milestone	62
Week 16 Smart Goal Milestone	62
Week 17 Smart Goal Milestone	62
Week 18 Smart Goal Milestone	57
Total	**1,346**

SERVICES – ET DIVERSION ACTIVITIES

ET Case Managers generated individualized participant case plans that defined the diversion components for each client and they tracked participation data to determine program completion and for quarterly reporting purposes. ET overall Cohort 2 data is shown in the table below.

ET Diversion	Frequency
Mental Health: Batterer Intervention Program	1,680
Mental Health: Individual Counseling/Advocacy with Psychiatric Services	335
Case Management	2,489
Total	**4,504**

SERVICES - RCC SUPPORT SERVICES

RCC Advocates and Case Coordinators supplied youth participants information about available support services and frequently assisted participants to access specific support services. The table below shows duplicate counts of support service information distributed to participants and services participants accessed over the life of the grant.

	Information Supplied Frequency	Accessed Services Frequency
Basic Necessities	272	435
Education Services	670	535
Employment Services	439	335
Food	240	1526
Health Services	3	4
Housing Support	143	59
Legal Services	151	44
Social Services	909	732
Transportation Assistance	912	2671
Other Services	80	144
Total	**3,819**	**6,485**

SERVICES - ET SUPPORT SERVICES

ET Case Managers supplied participants available support services. The table below shows duplicate counts of support services participants accessed over the life of the grant.

	Frequency
Basic Necessities	88
Education Services	7
Employment Services	141
Food	0
Health Services	0
Housing Support	585
Legal Services	0
Social Services	0
Transportation Assistance	53
Other Services	191
Total	**1,065**

Progress Towards Goals

Goal 1 focused on reducing recidivism among offenders participating in RESTORE Cohort 2.

Both RCC and ET realized much lower rates of re-offending among their program completers than enrolled participants who had exited their programs without completion.

The baseline recidivism rate for juveniles in Tehama County noted in the grant proposal was 43%. RCC enrolled 122 youth participants into Cohort 2 of which a total of 10 were known to have re-offended for an overall recidivism rate of 8.2% (10/122). However, there were 37 who successfully completed the program, of which 4 were known to have re-offended for a recidivism rate of 10.8% (4/37). Also, there were 25 who exited the program without completing it, of which 6 were known to have re-offended for a recidivism rate of 24.0% (6/25).

The baseline recidivism rate for adults noted in the grant proposal was 23%. ET enrolled 181 participants into Cohort 2 of which 8 were known to have re-offended for a recidivism rate of 4.4% (8/181). However, there were 23 who successfully completed the program, of which 1 was known to have re-offended for a recidivism rate of 4.3% (1/23). Also, there were 64 who exited the program without completing it, of which 3 were known to have re-offended for a recidivism rate of 4.5% (3/67).

Goal 2 focused on achieving higher levels of mental health functioning and reducing anti-social behaviors among offenders participating in RESTORE Cohort 2.

The grant proposal noted that 80% of both juveniles and adults in Tehama County's criminal justice system had diagnosable mental health and/or substance use disorders.

RCC therapists conducted a total of 2,518 therapy sessions with enrolled youth over the life of the grant. An analysis of the data showed that participants who successfully completed the program averaged 29 therapy sessions while participants who did not successfully complete

the program averaged 12 sessions. The positive impact of the therapy toward meeting Goal 2 was measured in part by the Teen Assessment of Functioning Inventory (TAFI); whereby 100% of TAFI pre-to-post scores for youth participants who successfully completed the program showed higher levels of mental health functioning at program completion. Additionally, an analysis of YLS/CMI data showed that 86% of youth participants who successfully completed the program self-reported appropriate positive changes in the Attitudes/Orientation domain for antisocial/pro-criminal attitudes including seeking help, not defying authority, and concern for others.

ET recorded 2,489 case management activities with adults over the life of the grant. An analysis of the data showed that participants who successfully completed the program averaged 18 case management activities while participants who did not successfully complete the program averaged 9 sessions.

Goal 3 focused on reducing the use of illegal drugs and alcohol among offenders participating in RESTORE Cohort 2.

The grant proposal noted that 80% of both juveniles and adults in Tehama County's criminal justice system had diagnosable mental health and/or substance use disorders.

RCC pre-to-post scores for the YLS/CMI for youth participants who successfully completed the program showed that 75% had reduced or eliminated self-reported chronic drug use and that 100% had reduced or eliminated self-reported chronic alcohol use.

The level of change for substance use in the ET adult population was difficult to determine. The ET program only measured substance use at enrollment for case planning purposes. It is expected that ET will implement a type of substance use post-measurement tool when it begins serving clients in September 2023 as Cohort 3 participants.

Recidivism

RESTORE's ability to reduce recidivism aligned with the BSCC definition, "Recidivism is defined as conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of release from custody or committed within three years of placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction." The word "committed" referred to the date of the offense, not the date of the conviction.

There were a few nuances related to recidivism data for RESTORE participants over the life of the grant. The COVID-19 pandemic played a significant role in limiting how the Tehama County justice system could manage juvenile re-offenses and adult probation violations. Public settings for criminal justice activities were suspended during the pandemic and many activities did not return to their pre-pandemic level of functionality prior to the end of the Cohort 2 grant cycle.

Accessing court information for juvenile recidivism was a challenge when records became sealed by a presiding judge, which can be a common action taken within juvenile justice, thus reducing the ability to acquire some of the recidivism data among the RESTORE juvenile population.

Accessing adult recidivism data was adversely impacted when probation rules and regulations changed during the grant cycle that increased the use of counseling and sanctions for new offenses that subsequently reduced the frequency of court issued probation violations. The result

was inconsistent rates for adult recidivism over the life of the grant. An outcome variable analysis showed a 33% reduction in the frequency of county-wide adult probation violations during COVID-19 BSCC quarters 7 through 10 than in quarters 1 through 6. There was a slight rebound to a 3% reduction in quarters 11 and 12, but then an even greater reduction of 46% in quarters 13 through 16.

The rationale for determining that recidivism was lower at the end of the project relative to before the project began utilized an analysis of both process and outcome variable data for RESTORE participants.

- RCC data showed that 80 youth were enrolled from August 16, 2020 (because Cohort 1 services were extended until August 15, 2020) through December 31, 2022, of which 11 youth participants reoffended over the life of the project for an overall recidivism rate of 13.8%. Process variable analysis showed that 4 of the 11 did so shortly after being enrolled into the diversion program and had engagement in fewer than 4 weeks of diversion activities prior to exiting the program, and that 3 of the 11 had experienced at least 16 weeks of diversion activities prior to exiting the program. Outcome variable analysis showed that 4 of the 11 who reoffended did so at least 199 days after successfully completing the RCC diversion program. These relatively low numbers reflected: 1) lessons learned from Cohort 1 that improved the effectiveness of the RCC intake process and its ability to determine if referred juveniles were appropriate prospects for the program, and 2) that frequent participant engagement in diversion activities combined with mental health therapy likely provided the necessary supports for enrolled juveniles to avoid reoffending while actively involved with the program.

- ET data showed that 172 adults were enrolled from August 15, 2019 through June 30, 2023, of which 9 adult participants reoffended over the life of the project for an overall recidivism rate of 5.2%. Process variable analysis showed that 3 of the 9 participants exited the program after acquiring new offenses. Additionally, 5 of the 9 participants re-offended while active in program, they remained in good standing without any new offenses, and were transitioned into PRYA Cohort 3. Outcome variable analysis showed that 1 participant reoffended 569 days after successfully completing the PRYA diversion program.

The rationale for concluding that the reduction in recidivism was mostly due to the RESTORE Cohort 2 project and not some other factor unrelated to the project is essentially that RESTORE Cohort 2 treatments and interventions were unique to the RESTORE Cohort 2 program and were not being conducted by other agencies within Tehama County during the same time period. However, it is undeniable that the COVID-19 pandemic was a factor unrelated to the project that impacted how re-offenses were managed for both juveniles and adults in the Cohort 2 RESTORE program.

Additional Outcome Measures

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS

RCC Case Coordinators administered pre-post YLS/CMI assessments as part of determining social, emotional, and behavioral status and to measure pre-post change. The instrument provided

indicators of Low, Moderate, or High for eight domains that included Offenses/Depositions (OD), Family Factors (FF), Education/Employment (EE), Peer Relations (PR), Substance Abuse (SA), Leisure/Recreation (LR), Personality Behavior (PB), and Attitude/Orientation (AO). The charts below display the shift from pre- to post- YLS/CMI assessment and illustrate that all 37 RCC graduates self-reported substantial movement from high and moderate levels to mostly low levels across all eight domains.
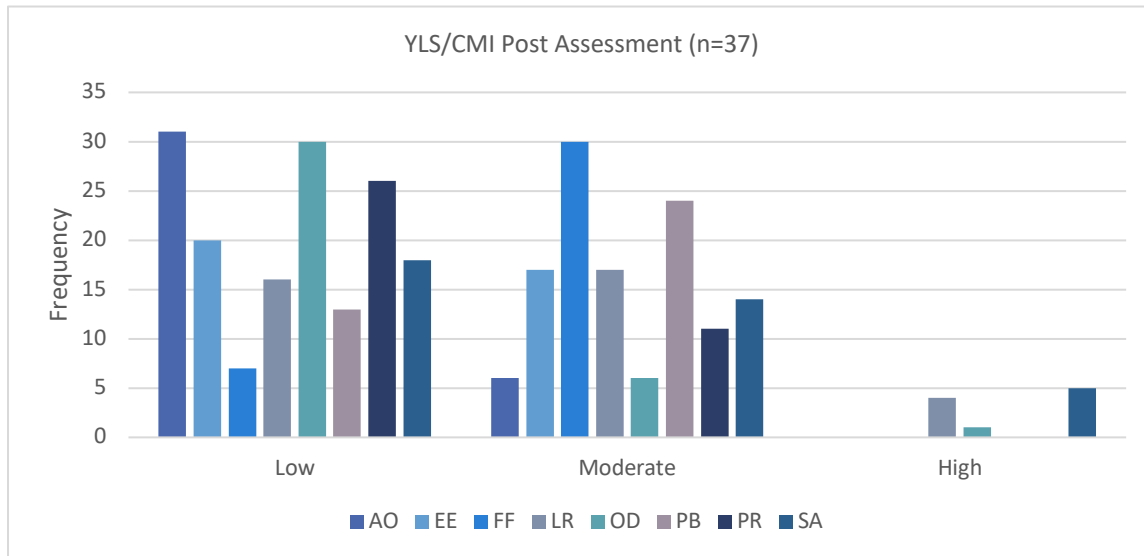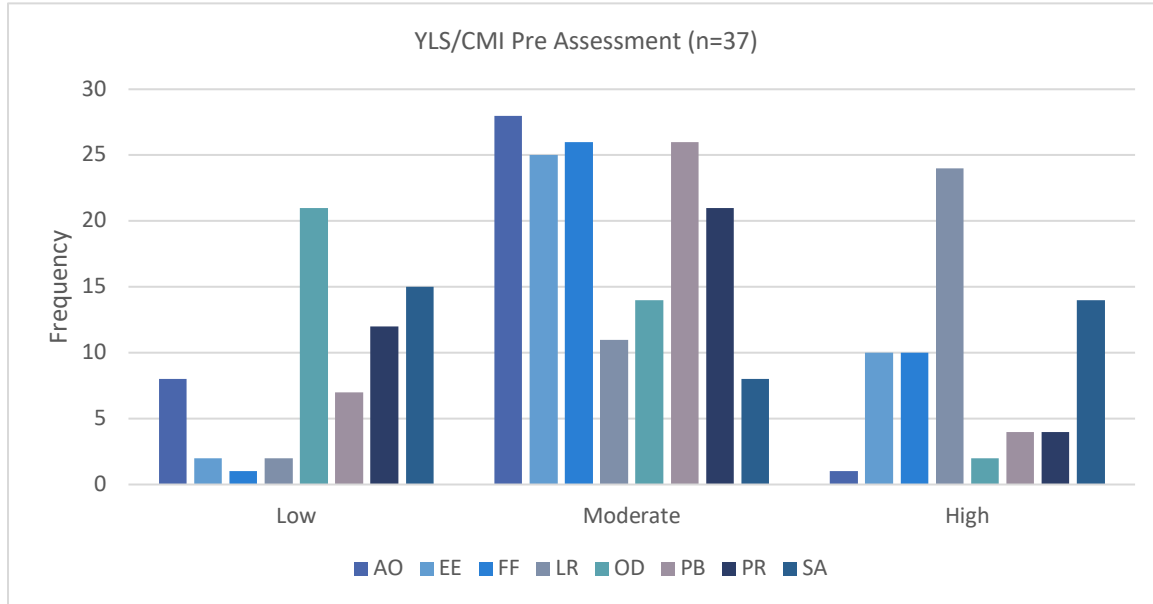
RCC Therapists administered the Teen Assessment of Functioning Inventory (TAFI) assessment at intake for initial case planning and again at program completion to see the change over time in juvenile functioning. A TAFI scale score is a numeric value within a 100-point scale from 1 indicating, "*Persistent danger of severely hurting self or others OR persistent inability to maintain minimal personal hygiene OR serious suicidal act with clear expectation of death*" to 100

indicating, "*Superior functioning in a wide range of activities, life's problems never seem to get out of hand, is sought out by others because of his or her many positive qualities. No symptoms.*" A higher post-scale score indicated a higher level of functioning at program completion. The analysis showed that <u>all</u> youth completing the program significantly increased their social, emotional, educational, and behavioral functioning. The central tendencies for the TAFI scale scores for youth who completed the program are displayed in the table below.

TAFI Pre-Post Change (n=37)

Range of Change in Scale Scores	Mean of Change in Scale Scores	Mode of Change in Scale Scores	Median of Change in Scale Scores
4-45	23	10	23

In addition to the *Project Accomplishments* listed previously in this report, RESTORE analyzed the level of specific support services accessed by participants as well as the level of wrap-around support activities conducted by RESTORE staff that helped facilitate program success for participants.

SUPPORT SERVICES

An analysis of support services reported to the BSCC each quarter at the participant level showed the following when aggregated for the entire grant period:

- RCC juveniles who successfully completed the diversion program were assisted in accessing support services by their Advocates an average of 17 times.

- RCC juveniles who successfully completed the diversion program were assisted in accessing support services by their Case Coordinators an average of 3 times.

- ET adults who successfully completed the diversion program were assisted in accessing support services by their Case Managers an average of 8 times.

WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

- RCC Case Coordinators logged 1,297 meetings, phones calls, trainings, Advocate recruitment events, completing various forms, etc. with school officials, law enforcement officers, custodial adults, community members, etc. in support of juveniles who participated the diversion program.

- ET Case Managers logged 3,587 meetings, phones calls, trainings with law enforcement officers, community members, etc. in support of adults who participated the diversion program.

<u>**Conclusions and Recommendations**</u>

The results showed that maintaining fidelity to the diversion models produced the expected results of increasing mental health functioning, decreasing illicit substance use, and reducing recidivism. The implemented strategies sustained their effectiveness for participants from intake to completion in correlation with consistent dosages over time. For example, both diversion and mental health activities were consistently delivered to participants on time according to prescribed delivery schedules based on individualized case plans. The participants who willingly adhered to their prescribed plans achieved the goal of successful program completion, and as a group had a lower rate of recidivism than those who either exited without completion or were non-participants.

The importance of establishing an efficient referral process with local law enforcement agencies as soon as possible was one of the lessons learned during the implementation of a juvenile diversion program in Cohort 1 that provided valuable insight when expanding Cohort 2 that also included an adult diversion component. Collaboration of both juvenile and adult diversion staff with law enforcement representatives during the Cohort 2 implementation phase was vital for eventually establishing an efficient referral process.

The effectiveness of the RESTORE strategies that were implemented was evident in the results analyzed and described within this report. The strongest concluding recommendation is that the comprehensive structure of diversion activities, mental health therapy, and substance use recovery be replicated to achieve similar results in future endeavors. The key factors were: 1) having volunteer adult advocates who were linked to juvenile participants; 2) proactive case managers, and; 3) maintaining weekly or monthly contact with local law enforcement personnel.

A secondary recommendation for future endeavors is to bolster employment, housing, and education support services. All three services were provided in Cohort 2; however, it became clear that more substantial partnerships should be established that would, to an even greater positive impact, help achieve RESTORE's program goals.

City of Corning Proposition 47 Grant Cohort 2 Program Final Local Evaluation Report

Logic Model

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Process Measures	Outcomes	Impact
BCSS Proposition 47 Grant Funding City of Corning In-kind Funding CBO In-kind Funding	RESTORE Cohort 2 Adolescent Diversion Program RESTORE Cohort 2 Transitional Adult Program Mental Health Services Substance Use Treatment Interagency Case Management (Housing, Education, Employment, Legal)	RESTORE Cohort 2 Program Graduates	Objective 1: By June 2020, and each year thereafter, 90% of RESTORE Cohort 2 clients will not commit a criminal offense as measured by police arrest and/or County probation records. Objective 2: By June 2020, and each year thereafter, 90% of RESTORE Cohort 2 clients completing the program will self-report higher levels of functioning and pro-social behaviors including securing stable housing, employment, or engagement in an education or job training program as measured by the Tehama County Probation Assessment and Intervention System. Objective 3: By June 2020, and each year thereafter, 90% of RESTORE Cohort 2 clients completing the program will not test positive for illegal substances or alcohol.	Goal 1: The recidivism rate among offenders participating in RESTORE Cohort 2 will decrease. Goal 2: RESTORE Cohort 2 clients with diagnosable mental disorders will have higher levels of functioning and less anti-social behaviors. Goal 3: RESTORE Cohort 2 clients with diagnosable substance use disorder will no longer use illegal drugs and alcohol.	Reduction of illegal substance use Higher levels of juvenile and transitional adult functioning behavior in the community Change the culture of incarceration of juvenile and transitional adult offenders Change and improve the lives of RESTORE Cohort 2 participants

Grantee Highlights

FOUR SUCCESS STORIES

1. A 16-year-old girl was referred to RCC diversion program for fighting on school campus. She struggled with English as her second language and inevitably fell behind in school. She was also working for a family member as a daycare helper after school. We watched this young lady improve her grades, create healthy boundaries within relationships, and face several fears. For example, her Advocate found out that she didn't know how to swim and was able to arrange swimming lessons and also found free martial arts classes to help with self-defense and anger management. The Advocate discovered that the youth was quickly spending every paycheck and taught her how to follow a budget, to save, and to spend more wisely. This youth has thanked us for her therapist and has mentioned how much the therapist helped her to process life. She has expressed multiple times how grateful she is for her experience with Project Restore. The youth successfully completed the diversion program in 2022.

2. A 17-year-old boy was referred to the RCC diversion program for having marijuana at school. When we first met him, he was depressed and unmotivated. He couldn't picture a life without getting high every day. His therapist helped him gain coping skills and view his future differently. His Advocate came alongside him to assist with getting his driver's license, his first job, and graduating high school. In fact, he made such a turnaround that his alternative school asked him to be the senior speaker at his graduation! When speaking to him recently he stated, "You know I used to be a bad kid, but ever since this program, I've been on my feet. I can do things on my own. I learned communication skills and can talk better. I even saved up and bought a truck, have a good job, and I'm helping to take care of my mom." He is one of several youths who have mentioned that they would like to be a mentor one day and help someone the way we helped him. The youth successfully completed the diversion program in 2022.

3. At twenty-one years of age, a female came to Empower Tehama as a victim of human sex trafficking and domestic violence. She had prior convictions and was on Probation. She had felt she had no future and was hopeless. She had been living with mental health disorders and struggled with substance abuse. She was depressed, experiencing nightmares regularly, and having thoughts of suicide. Through advocacy, the client was identified as an individual who could benefit from services provided through the Project Restore Young Adult Program "PYRA" program. The client was immediately enrolled in the PRYA program and was provided with wrap-around services through Empower Tehama. The client was provided with legal support and a safe place to live in our shelter while she got on her feet. The client also started individual therapy sessions and attended the Survivors Support Group.

   Once settled, PRYA Case Managers referred the client to the drug and alcohol program through Tehama County Health Services Agency, where she was enrolled and began engaging in services. She worked with PRYA Case Managers to identify goals and barriers. She had an idea of what she wanted her future to look like but needed help with identifying life goals because she had spent so long struggling to survive in her situation and was not given an opportunity to dream about the personal goals that she wanted for her life. She knew that

she wanted to be mentally stable and independently housed but did not have the life skills to navigate that path on her own. During her time spent in the PRYA program, Case Managers assisted the client in enrolling in college classes through Shasta College, obtaining a driver's license, finding permanent employment, and securing independent housing utilizing the PRYA rental assistance step-down program while the client continued to develop new life skills, engage in therapy, and group services. Upon exiting the program in July of 2022, the client reported having stable housing, full-time employment, attending college with studies majoring in English, and having her own vehicle. During her exit meeting, she shared, "Now that I am working full time, attending college, and have stable housing, I am feeling confident in my new path and as stable as I've ever been."

4. Once enrolled in the program, PRYA Case Managers referred the client to individual counseling and the Tehama County Health Services Agency's Substance Use Recovery Program. PRYA Case Managers accompanied the client to his intake appointment and assisted the client with advocating his needs. He expressed interest in getting into a 30-day residential treatment program. The client felt he could only make the change with the specialized treatment. Through continued case management, the client was accepted into a 5-day detox treatment program with the continuum care plan of transitioning into a 30-day residential treatment program after the detox program was completed. Once treatment had been completed, PYRA Case Managers referred the client back to the Drug and Alcohol Program for continued services. The client had set goals for himself of completing all court requirements, completing his probation period, and attending college. The client self-referred and was enrolled into the 32-week Perspectives Program at Empower Tehama to work on himself and to learn better ways to have healthier relationships, as this was something the client had come to realize he struggled with. PYRA Case Managers assisted the client in recalling warrants and back in good standing with the courts. The client was able to maintain his sobriety and completed the Drug and Alcohol Program. The client secured stable housing while completing all court requirements. At the time of this individual's program completion, he had maintained his sobriety, obtained full-time permanent employment, was stably housed, and had started attending classes at Shasta College. The client was able to repair past family conflicts and had plans to move out of the county to be close to his family and support team.