

Mendocino County
Restorative Justice Youth Court
Local Evaluation Plan
COVER PAGE

Submitted by Grantee Recipient:

Mendocino County

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Project Background

Project Synopsis

“Restorative Justice Youth Court” is a public private partnership between Mendocino County Probation and The Arbor- Drug Free Communities Coalition, a Division of Redwood Community Services, Inc. Using youth-driven, restorative, approaches based on Youth Court, we will partner with high-risk youth and young adults to advocate for restorative practices in schools and law enforcement, providing trauma-informed alternatives to juvenile justice and suspension systems. Youth will participate in peer-with-peer support and mentorship activities to increase protective factors and independent living-skills. To ensure equity to access across the rugged rural community, program services will be provided through a varied model of service, with both in person and virtual activities.

History of the problem in the community

Mendocino County faces significant impacts to the social determinants of health for its residents. 75% of residents have experienced 1 or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and 31% have experienced 4 or more ACEs. At 23% Mendocino County is the 5th highest in the state for the percentage of children who have experienced two or more ACEs^[1]. In 2018, Mendocino County’s rate of child abuse was 17.7/1,000, more than double the statewide rate of 7.8/1,000, and as of July 2018 the foster care rate of 11.3/1,000 was also more than double the statewide rate of 5.3/1,000^[2]. The 2018 suspension rate within the largest school district in the county Ukiah Unified, was 7%, 3% higher than the statewide suspension rates^[3].

Despite the level of need, numerous gaps remain to address the social determinates of health for children and youth living in Mendocino County which puts them at higher risk for entry into the juvenile justice system and is evidenced in the juvenile felony arrest rates. Mendocino County’s juvenile felony arrest rate in 2018 were 9.8/1,000 more than double the state rate of 4.1/1,000 and then 3rd highest rate statewide. When isolating arrest rates by race/ethnicity Hispanic and Latino youth are arrested at 14.9/1,000 and white youth at 5.4/1,000 these rates are both over double the state rates, 4.1/1,000 Hispanic and Latino, and 2.3/1,000 for white youth^[4]. At 6.3% Mendocino County has the 5th largest population per capita of Native American persons in California^[5]. There are 10 Tribal Nations within Mendocino County each with its own unique customs and traditions. Native American youth are arrested on drug-related charges at twice the rate of their White counterparts. Gang involvement for Native American youth is 67% higher than statewide averages^[6].

Due to environmental risk factors, such as exposure to trauma, poverty, and violence there is a great community need to provide youth with a program that will mitigate risk factors while offering an alternative to further traumatization by entry in the juvenile justice system.

Activities, Services, and Intervention Assignment

Activities	
1. Social Media Campaigns	Create a social media campaign supporting campus peer restorative efforts
2. Youth Leadership Training	Provide training in restorative and trauma-informed practices for youth.
3. Adult Champion Training	Identify 5 adults to champion the youth efforts to sustain and expand the youth court.
4. Respondent Referred to the Court.	Primary referral sources include: Juvenile Probation, Ukiah Police Department, Local Tribes, Schools, and Parents.
5. Intake with Restorative Justice Youth Coordinator	Participants at Intake include: Respondent and Family.
6. Assignment of Peer Recovery Coach (PRC)	Provides guidance and mentorship throughout the observation period, the hearing process and completion of the assigned sanctions.
7. Case Summary Review by Court	Closed session review 1 week prior to court hearing review of summary records: Reason for referral, intake packet, evidence to educate the court members on the case.
8. Court Hearings 2x Monthly	Respondent is invited to observe a hearing with their PRC prior to participating in their own hearing. Court process: 1 adult presiding official, 5 youth jurors, the defense (Coordinator or PRC), 1 youth bailiff, 1 youth stenographer.
9. Assignment of Restorative Justice Case Plan	Case plans will be developed to track assigned sanctions, steps to achieve said sanctions, identified support person to assist with completion (i.e. Peer Recovery Coach, adult mentor, parent etc.) and target dates for all identified activities.
10. Completion of Program	Respondents will have 3-4 months to reach case plan objectives. At this point the respondent will return to court to have their case closed. Respondents can continue to volunteer with RJYC after completion of case.
Services	
1. Weekly meetings with PRC	To evaluate progress, identify and problem solve barriers to accomplishing tasks, and celebrate successes in real time.
2. Drug and Alcohol Safety Training	12 hours of Drug and Alcohol Courses, 1 6 hour course attended by Responded and family, and 2 additional 3 hour courses attended by the Respondent. Courses will be offered monthly.
3. Individual and Family Therapy	Provided as discretionary activities to Respondents' and families based on the individualized needs of the case.
4. Family Support Sessions	Access to parenting, and family focused skills building courses.
5. Substance Use Disorder Services	Youth specific SUDS provided as discretionary activities to Respondents based on the individualized needs of the case.
6. Job Training	Provided on-site at the Arbor YRC through the Employment Services Program.
7. Positive Skill Building Activities	Provided on-site at the Arbor YRC through additional programming.
8. Community Engagement Projects	Provided throughout the community through linkage to additional youth programming and cultural engagement activities.

Intervention Assignment

Interventions for individual respondents will be sanctioned by the Restorative Justice Case Plan. Sanctions are a combination of compulsory and discretionary activities. Compulsory activities are designed to give youth the greatest opportunity to take accountability for their actions, reflect on their behavior, make a commitment to repairing the harm, and restoring relationships with

their families and community. Discretionary activities are rooted in trauma informed and strengths-based practices, they take into consideration the individual respondent’s cultural practices and personal needs, all while enhancing peer connections and giving youth the opportunity to guide the program model for future respondents.

Compulsory Activities	Discretionary Activities
Willingness to take accountability for behavior Willingness to repair harm done Willingness to fix relationships Youth will return to participate in Peer Court 3-5 times Youth will complete 25-30 hours of community services/civic engagement activities Youth will complete a 12-hour Drug and Alcohol Course (1 6-hour session that is also attended by the parents. 2, 3-hour courses with only youth participants). Reflective Essay	Discretionary Activities include a combination of culturally relevant individualized wellness activities. Discretionary activities are determined from information presented in the case file and the hearing. These activities can include but are not limited to: individual or family therapy, substance use disorder treatment, culturally specific engagement activities (i.e. interview an elder from your tribe, learn to make a traditional dish from your cultural heritage) job training, life skills courses, music lessons, community theater or sports programs.

Services are discussed during the intake process with the Restorative Justice Youth Coordinator, and these options are reviewed at the Respondents hearing. The formal Restorative Justice Case Plan will be delivered as the official sanctions by the Restorative Justice Youth Court.

Target Population Eligibility and Recruitment

Restorative Justice Youth Court will have 20 participant slots for youth ages 12-17 residing in Mendocino County. Eligible youth participants will be youth ages 12-17 who are first time offenders of non-violent crime and or a non-violent school offense.

Examples of crimes include low-level offenses, such as alcohol or drug possession, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, petit larceny, trespassing and truancy matters. While a school court case may be heard for behaviors such as habitual tardiness, violation of school rules, gang related activity on campus, and possession of weapons.

All youth respondents will be required to participate as a jury member in 3-5 court cases after their own. For youth who do not reside in the greater Ukiah area, where the Arbor is located, they will be accepted to youth court and invited to participate through zoom, and at school when the team visits their school site

All Mendocino County youth can be recruited and trained as volunteers for the jury. The project will aim to accept participants based on demographics that are reflective of juvenile arrest and suspension rates in Mendocino County. Ensuring that this diversion resource is provided equitably to those who are most exposed to the juvenile justice system in our community.

Similar Efforts in the Region

Currently there are no Restorative Justice Practices for youth in Mendocino County. Previously, a Teen Peer Court was established in Ukiah in 2013. This program had barriers specifically regarding the number of participants required to start court proceedings which kept the program from serving in a consistent manner. The strong partnerships and youth leadership behind the Restorative Justice Youth Court is establishing a foundation for a sustainable project.

How Activities and Services Address the Need

Restorative Justice Youth Court will provide trauma-informed alternatives to juvenile justice and suspension systems. Youth will participate in activities to increase protective factors and independent living-skills. Focusing on the main domains of a youth's life: Individual, family, social, neighborhood and community, the compulsory and discretionary activities of the RJCP are designed to improve or enhance the positive elements in a respondent's life in an effort to increase resiliency and decrease the likelihood of recidivism.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: To increase youth community engagement and leadership development.

Objective A: Build leadership skills in youth participants to positively impact their peer community.

Goal 2: To create a culture of Peer-to-Peer recovery support

Objective A: To provide youth with peer modeling of healthy coping skills and opportunities to heal trauma in order to be free from harmful substances.

Goal 3 To create a culture of Peer-to-Peer recovery support

Objective A To provide youth with peer modeling of healthy coping skills and opportunities to heal trauma in order to be free of harmful substances.

Goal 4: Community engagement. Positive impact on the community.

Objective A: A. Increasing awareness among youth about their impact on their environment, both local and global.

Process Evaluation Method and Design

RJYC will utilize the following research design to implement a Process Evaluation, Information from process evaluations will provide an understanding how the program impacts and outcomes were achieved and for program replication.

Research Design

Program will use a Database to track the following information for statistical analysis:

- 1) Demographic Information will include:
 - a. Race
 - b. Ethnicity
 - c. Age
 - d. School of Origin

- 2) Client Contacts
 - a. Individual Contacts
 - i. Meetings with RJCM
 - ii. Meetings with PRC
 - iii. Attendance at Court Hearings as a respondent
 - iv. Career/Job coaching
 - b. Group Contacts
 - i. Substance use prevention/education trainings
 - ii. Group mentoring
 - iii. Pro-social group activities
 - iv. Life-skills training
 - v. Workshops
- 3) Participant progress
 - a. Start Dates
 - b. attendance
 - c. drop-outs
 - d. Completion of activities in restorative justice case plan
 - e. successful completion of RJYC

Separately from CandFdatabase the following process metrics will be tracked

- 1) Monthly adult coalition meetings
- 2) Quarterly training opportunities for adult champions
- 3) # of community education events
- 4) # of social media campaigns
- 5) # of school education events
- 6) Results of community survey

Overall Process evaluation will look to measure success by tracking the following data:

- 1) Cases initiated
- 2) Cases resolved
- 3) Engagement projects
- 4) Community partners support of program
- 5) # of School champions
- 6) # of Adult champions

Process Variables and Data Tools

The following variables and tools will be utilized to support the overall structure of the process evaluation:

- 1) Program decision making structure:

Decisions regarding programming will be decided by the Director in conjunction with the Youth Advisory Board, and supported by evidence provided by the RJYC team.

 - a. RJYC staff will document services in CandFdatabase and on project data sheet, and reported in the monthly monitoring reports.
 - b. RJYC staff will complete monthly monitoring reports- these reports will be reviewed by RCS Directors, Mendocino County Probation, and Ukiah Valley Youth Leadership Coalition:
 - c. A quarterly evaluation of progress will be made based on these reports
 - d. Adjustment to service delivery will be made as necessary on a quarterly basis.

Process Evaluation Analysis.

Process evaluation analysis will utilize quantitative measures and qualitative measures.

- 1) Quantitative Analysis-

- 1) Descriptive statistics report
 - i. A descriptive statistics report will be utilized to quantify the numerical data collected in the process evaluation.
- 2) Chi-square analysis of the following data points to see if they are statistically significant to the population will be reviewed, to demonstrate impact of the project.
 - i. # of referrals
 - ii. # of participants
 - iii. # of discretionary activities chosen/participated in
 - iv. # of compulsory activities assigned and completed
 - v. # of youth participating in group services including: life skills groups, education groups, and community projects.

2) Qualitative Analysis-

- 1) RJYC will invite respondents and peer participants to join a digital story-telling project to analyze the impact RJYC has on individual youth and the community. Questions to be utilized in the RJYC digital story telling project are:

Questions
1. How did RJYC teach you leadership skills?
2. Who did you learn from in RJYC? What are things you learned in RJYC?
3. How do your decisions impact your community, the environment and the world?
4. What tools do you have now that you didn't have prior to RJYC?
5. What did your relationship with your family look like before RJYC and what does it look like now?

2) Content analysis

- i. RJYC will use a content analysis to document the purposes, messages and effects of the communication content distributed and utilized for the RJYC Process.
- ii. Content analysis will look for key phrases including:
 1. Substance use
 2. Cannabis
 3. Restorative Justice
 4. Restorative Practice
 5. Health
 6. Well-being
 7. Youth Leadership
 8. Community
- iii. RJYC will be looking to research:
 1. What is the importance of restorative justice practices, youth well-being and prosocial behaviors in Mendocino County?
 2. Is youth leadership fully utilized in Mendocino County?
 3. RJYC will also be looking at qualitative data to see if there is a relationship between the use of the key phrases and the use of supportive (i.e. opportunity, justice, healing, wellness) or stigmatizing (i.e. lazy, wasteful, burden) language.

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design

- 1) Outcomes evaluation will utilize a pre and post survey with a 10 point Likert scale to measure the following:
 - a. Individual happiness regarding the circumstances of their life looking at the following areas:
 - i. Cannabis, Alcohol and other drug use.
 - ii. Relationships with friends, relatives, romantic partners.
 - iii. School, social and recreational activities
 - iv. Personal habits, money management, emotional life
 - v. Legal issues, views of the justice system
 - vi. Communication and general happiness.
 - b. Relational happiness between the functioning of the family
 - i. Completed by both the youth participant and their parent
 - ii. Questions include:
 1. Time spent with one another
 2. Communication
 3. How the home feels
 4. Mutual affection
 5. Communication
 6. Emotional support

Outcome data to be tracked for participants overall will include the following:

- 1) Participant outcomes:
 - a. Was there a decrease in juvenile offenses?
 - b. Was there an increase in protective factors/resiliency skills?
 - c. Was there an increase in pro-social behaviors?
- 2) Family Development
 - a. Increase parent/caregiver perception of negative impacts of use and familial use around youth
 - b. Increase family engagement
- 3) Academic Performance
 - a. Improve school attendance
 - b. Increase peer support access on campus
 - c. Decrease incidents of anti-social behavior
 - d. Decrease on-campus bullying incidences
 - e. Improve relationships between caregivers and schools
- 4) Justice System Involvement
 - a. # of youth without justice system contact
 - b. # of youth diverted from drug-related suspension or citation

Outcome data will be tracked in relation to the activities of the project and will include:

- 5) Number of activities to be achieved for the following activities
 - a. Court meetings
 - b. Court hearings
 - c. Alcohol and Drug Safety Courses
 - d. Peer Coach Meetings w/clients
 - e. Intake process (I.E. the time it takes from referral to plan to completion).
 - f. Youth development workshops
 - g. Linkage to referrals
 - h. Individuals

- i. Leaders/Mentors/Champions trained
- 6) Criteria for determining success
 - Program success for individuals will be decided by the successful completion of activities.
 - a. Completion of compulsory activities
 - b. Completion of discretionary activities
- 7) Community Survey
 - a. A community survey will be utilized to gather information from the general public about their awareness of the impacts of illicit substance use, restorative justice practices, and youth well-being.
 - b. Survey will look to gather information about the following expected outcomes:
 - i. Community Awareness Outcomes
 - 1. Youth perception of harm of substance use.
 - 2. Parent/Caregiver knowledge of negative impact of youth substance use and familial use around youth.
 - 3. Community awareness of restorative justice practices.
- 3) Outcome Variables- Quantitative Analysis-
 - Outcome variables will be analyzed using the following quantitative data.
 - 1) Descriptive statistics report
 - i. A descriptive statistics report will be utilized to quantify the numerical data collected in the outcome evaluation.
 - 2) Chi-square analysis of the following data points to see if they are statistically significant to the population will be reviewed, to demonstrate impact of the project.
 - i. Recidivism rates at 6, 12, and 18 months for participants.
 - ii. Recidivism rates for youth not assigned to RJYC.
 - iii. Relationship between # of discretionary activities assigned and recidivism rates?
 - iv. Relationship between # of compulsory activities completed and recidivism rates?
 - c. Change in Social Bonds
 - i. Commitment to Pro-Social Norms
 - 1. How did youth change their perceptions towards illicit and antisocial behaviors?
 - ii. Perceptions of Justice
 - 1. How did the perception of justice for juvenile offenders change in Mendocino County?

Mendocino County: Restorative Justice Youth Court

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Community Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prop 64 Grant funding • Leveraged Funding • Arbor Youth Resource Center- Job Training Life Skills Training Pro-social Activities Workshops • Agency/institutional partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership between RCS and Mendocino Probation and Ukiah Valley Youth Leadership Coalition • Partnerships with the following community agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mendocino County Office Of Education • Ukiah Unified School District • Sherwood Valley Rancheria • Pinoleville • Mendocino County Youth Project. • Staff- Restorative Justice Coordinator Restorative Justice Case Manager Peer Recovery Coaches 	<p>Restorative Justice and impacts on Social Determinates of Health Awareness and Education in Schools and Community (general outreach/audience; non-enrolled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media campaign • School education events • Community education events • Community surveys <p>Case Management (enrolled participants)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing assessment of risk/needs • Restorative Justice Case Plans • Referral/linkage to community-based support, mental health, substance use, and/or other services as defined by the discretionary activities on the RJCP <p>Youth Development Activities (enrolled participants)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance use awareness education • Academic support/tutoring • Career counseling/job shadowing • Leadership/mentor training • Individual/group counseling 80 • Individual/group mentoring • Individual/family support services • Life skills training • Pro-Social activities/ recreational events • Workshops <p>Staff Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance use identification • Cannabis use prevention • EBP Training- Collaborative Problem Solving, Motivational Interviewing, Safety Organized Practice 	<p>Restorative Justice and impacts on Social Determinates of Health Awareness and Education in Schools and Community (general outreach/audience; non-enrolled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 social media/marketing deployments • 1,000 of target audience reached by campaign • 12 of events/workshops/information sessions • 15 of individuals who attended events • 200 of responses to community surveys <p>Total Youth Enrolled Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84 referred • 80 enrolled <p>Case Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 of youth receiving case management • 60 of youth who received assessments • 160 referrals/linkages to community-based support, mental health, substance use, and/or other services. • 80 of youth exiting project (complete programming, dropout, other) <p>Youth Development Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 of youth engaged in the program • 30 receiving SU treatment • 30 tutored/receiving academic support • 25 receiving career counseling/ job shadowing • 25 receiving individual/group counseling • 80 receiving individual/group mentoring • 75 attending workshops • 50 workshops/trainings held • 30 leaders/mentors trained • 15 participating as a mentor • 50 Court sessions held • 240 pro-social activities attended • 60 parents/caregivers engaged in workshops/ training • 20 of parents/caregivers receiving services 	<p>Restorative Justice and impacts on Social Determinates of Health Awareness and Education in Schools and Community (general outreach/audience; non-enrolled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase youth perception of harm of substance use • Improve parent/caregiver knowledge of negative impact of youth substance use and familial use around youth • Improve community awareness of restorative justice practices <p>Participant Outcomes</p> <p><i>Youth Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease juvenile offenses • Increase youth positive perception of justice process • Increase youth leadership skills • Increase protective factors/resiliency skills • Increase pro-social behaviors <p><i>Family Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase parent/caregiver perception of negative impacts of use and familial use around youth • Increase family engagement <p><i>Academic Performance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve school attendance • Increase peer support access on campus • Decrease incidents of anti-social behavior • Decrease on-campus bullying incidences • Improve relationships 	<p>Long Term Youth Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease rate of youth cannabis users by 3% • Decreased rate of drug-related youth arrests / citations by 5% • Decrease rate of youth on probation by 5% • Decrease rate of youth substance use related disciplinary incidents • Increase youth graduation rate by 2% • Increase commitment to pro-social norms by 3% <p>Other Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase perceptions of justice • Increased community awareness of illicit substance use/production impacts on environment. • Increased taxed revenue due to legal purchases of cannabis.

- Volunteers- Ukiah Valley Youth Leaders
- Judges
- Training- Youth Transforming Justice Training
- Referral process
- Social Media Marketing
- Data collection/ evaluation
- Quality assurance

- Risk factor identification
- Trauma Informed Care
- Counseling

Staff Training

- 10 staff trained

between caregivers and schools

Justice System Involvement

- 60 youth without justice system contact
- 25 youth diverted from drug-related suspension or citation