

(2021-2022) Annual Plan

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County Name: Santa Cruz

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Instructions:

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institution Code Section 1961(b) call for consolidation of the annual plans required for JJCPA and YOBG.

Please submit your most up-to-date consolidated plan. The following is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. If you find it helpful to use this template, please do so. Each field must be completed before submitting your plan to the BSCC. If you have nothing to report for a field, please indicate 'N/A'. At the end of the template please press the 'Submit' button to be recorded with the BSCC. Your work will be saved each time you log in, if you need to make any edits.

Your Submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website. robert.doty@santacruzcounty.us

If you have any questions on completing your annual plan, or wish to use your own plan, please email:

JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov

Juvenile Justice Plan

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**Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy
(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))**

A. Assessment of Existing Services

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

During the past year, our approach to collaboration has never been more tested and yet it has never been more successful! We have had to shift strategies due to the COVID-19 pandemic and adopt new ways to interact with not only youth and families, but also our CBOs. This shift required a new way of thinking and a new way of conducting our business of making sure youth and families were engaged and supported while also maintaining a focus on victims and public safety. Our approach included moving to a virtual platform including Microsoft TEAMS, Zoom and texting/facetime when possible but also prioritizing youth and families who still needed face to face visits. Internally, we created a system of checking on families in which we would meet with them at their homes while maintaining a safe social distance and wearing appropriate PPE to limit potential exposure to the virus. It was and remains important that we continue to meet families where they are and to support them the best way possible. We named these visits “curbside wellness checks” and even though the pandemic continues into year two, we still provide these field visits on an on-going basis. We have relied a great deal on our community partners during this unprecedented time and in so doing, we have strengthened these relationships to a point where the work is getting done at a high level and youth and families in some instances are getting more than services than before the pandemic. Our community has come together because of the pandemic and it is the Probation Department’s goal to keep these relationships at this high level and take the lessons learned during this challenging time to propel us forward even when the pandemic is over, and things return to pre-pandemic normalcy.

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

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department works closely with many of the partners. We have very strong partnerships with Children's Behavioral Health (CBH) and Family and Children's Services (FCS), as well as the County Office of Education (COE) and the County Sheriff. Our staff meet regularly with staff from the departments identified above as we work with many of the same youth and families, and we have a shared interest in providing services in a collaborative manner so that each youth and family can benefit. Probation also works very closely with law enforcement in the county and frequently attends the same task force meetings in which we share information and strategize on the best approaches to ensure public safety while at the same time providing supervision for youth who may be placed on probation as the results of new law violations. One example of our partnership with law enforcement is our involvement with the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Our focus is increasing school success and increasing credit accruals for youth who struggle to achieve the number of school credits needed to graduate. The lead agency with this grant is the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. We also work very closely with our Court partners which include the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office, the Santa Cruz County Public Defender's Office, private attorneys, and the Superior Court.

Finally, many of the above partners as well as representatives from several community-based organizations (CBOs) regularly participate with Probation in Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM). These meetings, which became a statutory requirement in January of 2017 as part of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), also known as AB 403, are designed to ensure services and supports are provided to a youth and his or her family to improve safety, permanency, and well-being. Probation has a long history of partnering with CBOs in Santa Cruz County and the following CBOs are regular partners who help serve Juvenile Justice Youth: Barrios Unidos (BU), Community Action Board (CAB), Community Bridges, Conflict Resolution Center (CRC), Encompass Community Services, Food What, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA), Positive Discipline Community Resources, and United Way of Santa Cruz County.

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.

The population of Santa Cruz County is 274,255 and a majority of these residents reside in three distinct areas of the county. These three areas are: North County, Central County and South County. Probation caseloads (CAP and non-CAP caseloads) are represented as follows: South County 76%, Central County 20% and North County 4%. As can be seen in the numbers listed above, most of the youth on probation reside in South County and most reside in the City of Watsonville, which is a community of 53,920 people. Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) is the largest school district in the county and several of the schools in the district have a history of gang activity including gang recruitment by known gang members.

To support the youth and families in South County, much of the Juvenile Probation Department's staff are physically located in Watsonville. The Luna Evening Center is also located in South County as are a majority of CBO's who provide direct services to youth on probation and their families. The Probation Department has recently teamed up with PVPSA, CAB and CRC to implement a new grant project known as Community Reclaiming Youth Justice (CRY-J). This grant, which is funded by the BSCC, focuses on the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in the youth justice system; achieving accountability without resorting to legal sanctions or the threat of confinement; and, promoting the well-being of youth and families impacted by the youth justice system. The research done in advance of applying for the grant supported that the new programming be focused on youth residing in South County. Specifically, data indicated that Latino youth were 3.3 times more likely as White youth to be committed to Juvenile Hall. And in 2018, Latino/a youth in Santa Cruz County represented 70% of all bookings into the Juvenile Hall; of those 87% were from Watsonville. Local data also indicated that a higher percentage of arrests also involved Latino/a youth and 41% of all arrests in the county in 2020 occurred in Watsonville. The CRY-J grant has been in place for nearly two years now and during this time diversion services have been provided to nearly 60 youth and the success of the program in assisting families has been very notable thus far with very few youth, two to date, having new contacts with the justice system.

C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

Describe your county's juvenile justice action 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.

Santa Cruz County Probation is committed to using the least restrictive alternatives when youth contact the Juvenile Justice System. These efforts are aligned with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) and are applied to youth when contact is made at the earliest point in the Juvenile Justice System. These efforts seek to eliminate the unnecessary use of secure detention; utilize data-driven decision making; improve court processing; develop risk-based detention criteria; increase the use of community-based detention alternatives; improve conditions of confinement; and reduce racial disparities. Many of the programs in our Continuum of Services are designed to help meet the goals and objectives of JDAI.

Focusing on diversion strategies when possible, Santa Cruz County utilizes different assessment tools to inform case management decisions. These tools include the RAI (Risk Assessment Instrument) and the JAIS (Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System). The RAI is a tool to make objective admissions to detention. The RAI ensures that detention is used appropriately and that unnecessary or inappropriate uses of detention do not occur. The RAI measures two forms of public safety risk: the risk to reoffend prior to the court hearing and the risk of failure to appear to a court hearing. The RAI is linked to detention alternatives such as home supervision, electronic monitoring, and a referral to the Luna Evening Center (LEC). The JAIS is a supervision model that builds rapport between a young person and a worker while bringing valuable information to the surface. At the heart of JAIS is a one-on-one conversation that focuses on who the young person is, particularly their underlying motivations for behavior. Once a determination is made that a youth may not be eligible for diversion, there is the possibility they may be eligible for Informal Probation. If the youth is deemed ineligible for that option, then the matter is referred to the District Attorney's Office to review for filing a petition. If a petition is filed, there are several options the court can consider including Court – Informal Probation, Deferred Entry of Judgement, Six months without Wardship and Wardship.

If a youth is unable to complete the court ordered term of Probation, the next steps in the graduated continuum of care could include placement in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), a commitment to a Ranch Camp, and finally a commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). After July 1, 2021, there will no longer be new commitments to DJJ, but instead to a new secure youth treatment facility pursuant to SB 823. The Santa Cruz County Probation Department System of Care (SOC) includes the following essential values: family preservation in which children shall be maintained in their homes with families whenever possible; Interagency collaboration and coordinated service delivery in

which the primary child service agencies shall collaborate at the policy management and service levels to provide a coordinated, goal directed system of care for seriously emotionally disturbed children and their families; Least restrictive setting which requires youth must be placed in their natural environments, where they live and learn, when possible; Family involvement and participation is an integral part of assessment, evaluation, and treatment; And cultural competence which requires service delivery to be both culturally relevant and competent.

All juvenile programs and services utilized by Santa Cruz County Probation are developed and implemented with the SOC values as fundamental guideposts. Balanced and restorative justice encompasses an alternate framework for the juvenile justice system that acknowledges three primary stakeholders: the victim, the community, and the youth; the goals being accountability, competency building, and public safety.

The Probation Juvenile Division is committed to ensuring public safety through the reduction of recidivism by increasing life skills and competencies of the youth and families we serve. The Division accomplishes this by adhering to the Principles of Risk, Need and Responsivity which focuses on key supervision strategies including evidence-based supervision, family engagement, decreasing criminogenic risk factors, increasing protective factors, utilizing alternatives to detention, and providing services/interventions and programs that increase critical thinking skills. Probation has strategically and successfully partnered with community-based organizations and key stakeholders to provide comprehensive and culturally responsive supervision. Additionally, the Juvenile Division utilizes a Violation of Probation (VOP) Response Grid for technical violations and minor law offenses to ensure a graduated response.

D.Comprehensive Plan RevisionsDescribe how your Plan has been updated for this year.

Our plan was significantly modified beginning in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 16, 2020 when the Governor ordered a Shelter in Place (SIP) which changed things dramatically relating to service delivery and how Probation staff would safely execute the performance of their duties. Our department's management team took immediate action to identify what staffing levels would be needed to ensure that youth and families were supported as much as possible during the on-set of the pandemic. It was also imperative to reach out to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to identify what the impact of the pandemic would mean to their organizations and their ability to deliver direct services. These conversations were also held with our court partners and law enforcement. Our department assured the courts that there would be little to no disruption in preparing reports, providing supervision, and maintaining regular attendance (virtually) at daily court hearings.

For the past 14 months we have remained true to this promise, true to our community partners, and most importantly we have never stopped working to support youth and families who have been impacted in ways that could not have been anticipated as challenges mounted with food and housing insecurities, youth not being able to attend school, and the social isolation that have weighed on the mental health of so many. These factors led to many changes in 2020 and a couple of the biggest will be highlighted below, but it also provided an opportunity to explore new ways to connect with youth and families, new ways to connect with our own staff, and created a sense of unity and resiliency within our department that did not previously exist at the level it does today.

As for the plan itself, one of the most significant changes was the closing of the Luna Evening Center (LEC). This closing coincided with the SIP order and schools closing county wide. However, the Probation Department, Children's Behavioral Health and CAB worked together to transform the LEC to a Virtual Evening Center (VEC). The planning took approximately 6 weeks, but in the middle of May 2020, services to youth and families resumed via curbside wellness checks, food delivery, and programming delivered via videoconferencing. This virtual approach lasted throughout 2020, but as this report is being written, we have begun to bring back some youth to the LEC maintaining social distancing and the requirement for PPE to be worn by all staff, community partners, and the youth. This is now coinciding with youth returning to school for the last part of the school year. We anticipate a continuation of the gradual reopening of our LEC with additional youth and families being served in accordance with county approved health guidelines.

Another significant change to our plan is the continued utilization and reliance on technology as the pandemic persists but we are now seeing increased opportunities for more face-to-face contacts with youth, families, and CBO's. The expansion of virtual service delivery and

contacts with youth and families began in March of 2020 and continues today. The Probation Department continues to assess changes with the pandemic on a weekly basis and we anticipate that we will likely continue to combine the virtual platforms (Microsoft Teams, Zoom and Google) with face-to-face contacts to communicate and support youth and families, our providers, and our staff.

Finally, because of COVID-19 our department identified a plan for staff to be able to work at the office and remotely. This prompted management to implement weekly Juvenile Division meetings (via Microsoft Teams) with all staff to provide updates on county wide directives, share information about creative supervision strategies that were working, and to do a wellness check-in with staff. These meetings started in March of 2020 and have continued every week since. The meetings have provided a chance for staff to receive on-going work updates and most importantly stay connected with one another during an unprecedented time. By all accounts, these weekly meetings have greatly increased the overall level of communication in the Juvenile Division.

If your Plan has not been updated this year, explain why no changes to your plan are necessary.

N/A

**Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)
(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))**

A. Information Sharing and Data Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate the sharing of data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how those data are used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.

The Juvenile Division of the Santa Cruz County Probation Department relies extensively on a case management system, AutoMon's Caseload Explorer, which is used for several functions. The information system requires regular trainings for staff to remain current on updates and allows for our staff to suggest functionality options to be built into the system as needed. An overview from AutoMon is as follows: Caseload Explorer helps efficiently track and manage Juvenile Offenders while adhering to jurisdictional security and judicial mandates. Caseload Explorer stores demographic and personal information such as gender, DOB, address, and phone, as well as information related to their offense such as charge type, restrictions, and conditions. Caseload Explorer also tracks Active Referrals or Case file(s), as well as the assigned Supervisor and/or Caseworker. If the Juvenile is placed into a juvenile facility, Caseload Explorer allows caseworkers to easily manage intake with a customizable intake/release workflow, providing the functionality to track appointments and release information, manage property, record behavioral habits, and access events and disciplinary action.

As noted in the presentation to the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the data obtained through our internal case management system is used in a variety of ways including a review of recidivism numbers, tracking caseload size, and looking at individual program outcomes to determine public safety performance. In the end, it is the responsibility of the department to ensure good, accurate data to inform management on how best to allocate resources to provide the programming needed for youth to be as successful as possible on probation. In addition to the utilization of Caseload Explorer, there are other standalone data bases that have been created to capture information specific to certain programs in the department. One of those is the Evening Center Data Base allowing data to be entered on a nightly basis for real time tracking of youth who are participating in our Evening Center program. The key data points that are tracked include: name, zip code, DOB, ethnicity, and the reason for referral. The above information is important for our department to monitor, but the reason for referral speaks to trends in the department that allow for bigger discussions when preparing our annual division report and is essential when trying to determine allocation of important resources. The reasons for referral to the program include positive drug tests, Probation Violations (non-compliance), school violations, new offenses, Alternative to Detention (ATD) violations and self-referrals.

The department also updates information in our operational plan and division annual reports that capture data trends occurring in the County. This information is shared with the Board of Supervisors and made available to the public on our website. We also share information internally with Probation staff in monthly data blasts.

During 2020, the Probation Department was either the recipient of grant funding or a primary

partner with a CBO that had been awarded grant funding focusing on diversion and reentry services for youth in Santa Cruz County. The four primary grants are the Community Reclaiming Youth Justice (CRY-J) Program, the Stable Transitions After Reentry (STAR) Program, the Luna Y Sol Familia Center Program, and the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) focusing on a Comprehensive School Safety Program. These four programs have a data collection component required by the funding entities, but this also allows for the Probation Department to get additional information regarding our youth which has greatly enhanced our ability to track outcomes.

B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils

Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Council (JJCC) as prescribed by Welfare & institutions Code 749.22?

Yes

If no, please list the current vacancies that exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies occurred, and your plan for filling them.

N/A

C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

JJCPA Funded Program(s), Strategy and/or System Enhancement

Below are JJCPA funded programs reported by the county.

Program Name:

Community Accountability Program (CAP) - Risk-based Supervision for youth on formal probation.

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Validated Risk/Needs Assessment (JAIS), Restorative Justice Practices, Aggression Replacement Training (A.R.T.), Cognitive Behavior Self Change Programming, Substance Abuse Intervention.

Description:

The CAP program was established to increase local responses to juvenile delinquency and provide creative interventions that increase competencies among at-risk youth or those youth at imminent risk to be moved further into the justice system. CAP provides geographically based supervision services in three areas throughout the county: San Lorenzo Valley (North County), Live Oak (Central County) and the City of Watsonville (South County). The program relies on close partnership with law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations providing services in the three distinct county locations. Services are built upon the Santa Cruz County Probation Department's Balanced and Restorative practices as well as the use of risk-based assessments that identify principal service needs based on assessed risk and protective factors.

Probation Officers, in partnership with community-based organizations, ensure youth meet their conditions of probation by creating linkages for them to increase competency building. Additionally, in partnership with the Conflict Resolution Center, youth and their families have access and participate in Parent Teen Mediation (PTM), and when appropriate, youth also participate in the Victim Offender Dialogue Program (VODP). For youth whose offenses have harmed the school, community referrals are made to the Teen Peer Court. These are examples of restorative justice programming that is at the center of CAP programming. Victim reparation and restitution payments are also a program focus. Staff who are assigned to supervise youth on the CAP caseloads are trained in using tools to assist in case planning and overall supervision. The utilization of the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention

System (JAIS) allows officers to better serve youth as "agents of change" who encourage pro-social behaviors and improved decision-making skills. It should be noted that in 2017-18, staff were trained to develop case plans based on risk and needs but using a trauma informed lens when considering supervision goals for youth and the impact of previous trauma on the youth. Every month, JAIS information is compiled by the Department Data Analyst and shared with staff in the form of a monthly Data Blast. Included in this monthly report is information on the number of JAIS assessments completed during the month, the number of reassessments due, and the number of overdue reassessments. These monthly data blast reports allow Probation Supervisors to monitor that work is being conducted on a timely basis and that adjustments to individual case plans are being made by staff to ensure the youth and their families are reaching positive outcomes while on Probation. The reports also track data on the number of youth who had their risk score increase, the number of risk scores which decreased, and the number that stayed the same. The monthly data typically indicates around 36% of the youth risk scores stay the same or are stable and about 44% of the risk scores decrease which are indicative of significant progress toward successful completion of probation.

Finally, Probation Officers assigned to the CAP caseloads routinely participate in Child and Family Team Meetings. The Santa Cruz County Probation Department believes that family engagement is critical for youthful offenders' overall success not only when they are in custody but also when they are out of custody. "Family" can include biological family members or extended family members (including godparents and foster siblings). Equally important are other identified life-long connections such as coaches, mentors and teachers. We refer to these connections as "natural supports" and have created a thorough process of identifying them to better support youth during their time in contact with the juvenile justice system. It has been shown that individuals who have diverse support systems have better outcomes. Involving families and other supportive individuals in crucial decision-making activities facilitates the identification of the services and resources an individual might need to succeed upon their release.

Child and Family Teams are decision-making bodies for justice involved youth and their families. Consistent with Systems of Care (SOC) principles, Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM) are family driven, inclusive, family centered, strength-based and solution focused. Since 2018, there have been 225 CFT Meetings facilitated by 11 different Probation Officers. In 2020, there was a decrease in the number due primarily to COVID-19, but staff were able to conduct 45 virtually in the nine months of 2020 following the SIP order.

In 2020, the CAP officers remained actively involved in the Student Success Project (SSP) which is part of the JAG grant previously mentioned. The SSP program focuses on youth who are on probation and youth who are not on probation but may be experiencing low academic achievement. The project also serves to provide a framework to support innovative responses to student behaviors in school settings and engages community partners to be

resources for this effort. The SSP requires CAP officers to be assigned to different schools during the year and to be present at the school two to three times a week. JJCPA funding goes directly to salaries and benefits for CAP officers and a smaller portion also goes to help support the involvement and oversight of the CAP caseloads by the Juvenile Division Director and the Assistant Juvenile Division Director.

Program Name:

Luna Evening Center (LEC)/ Virtual Evening Center (VEC)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

EC/VEC - Promoting pro-social behavior, building accountability, diversion/restorative justice.

Conflict Resolution Center - Victim Awareness Education (VAE).

Children's Behavioral Health - Family engagement, youth engagement, referrals to mental health clinicians as needed.

County Office of Education - Focusing on educational needs and advocating for youth/family school rights.

Community Action Board - Employment skill building, job preparation and mentoring, resume building, and job placement.

Description:

LEC/VEC - A partnership between Probation, the community-based organizations and county agencies listed above. The program helps provide additional support to probation-involved youth that might be struggling with court orders, use of drugs and alcohol, and other at-risk behaviors. Prior to COVID-19, the LEC provided a structured after-school environment where youth can examine the thoughts and feelings that affect their decision-making and are coached and guided on how to make better choices. It is a short-term immediate intervention designed to maintain youth in their home and in their community. The program serves as an alternative to detention for many youth and this is best illustrated by the fact that in 2020, nearly 32% of youth who attended the program were referred to the program for Probation Violations or self-referrals. The next most common reason for a referral to the program in 2020 was for positive drug tests which represented 15% of the referrals. As noted above, the referrals for Probation Violations are important because it is an option for youth to avoid being detained in Juvenile Hall. Staff often make the referral in lieu of filing a Probation Violation as outlined by the Violation of Probation (VOP) Sanctions Grid. It should be noted that each year a large number of youth self-refer themselves to the program. Clearly, this is a great example of their experience while previously attending the program that they would voluntarily choose to return for the structure and programming it provides them.

Prior to COVID-19, the LEC operated Monday through Friday from 4:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. Dinner is provided each evening as part of the program and there are also snacks available

for youth after they arrive to the program. Staff begin their day preparing for each evening's program by identifying youth who have been referred for programming and youth who have contacted LEC staff asking if they can self-refer that evening. Once a determination has been made on who will be attending, staff provide transportation by picking up each youth at their home. There is an average of 5-6 youth who attend every evening and sometimes more, but the program is capped at not more than 8 youth at any given time. Each evening the program is staffed by probation staff and staff from CBH. During the week, there is a schedule identifying which CBO will be providing programming to the youth on a particular evening. Services at the LEC are aimed at addressing areas of need that are identified through the JAIS as well as other promising and evidenced based practices.

Due to COVID-19, the LEC has transitioned to a virtual platform with a curbside wellness check-in component built in to continue to provide services to youth. This transition took approximately six weeks to develop and the response to the virtual platform was challenging initially but as time has gone on youth have become more comfortable with the virtual services. It should also be noted that curbside visits have been conducted by probation staff to drop off food provided by a local community-based organization, Barrios Unidos.

As a result of the pandemic and the forced isolation of many youth, one staff person, Group Supervisor Andrew Martinez, who has worked at the LEC for more than a decade is creating a program for youth and families that requires them to take a time-out from the concerns of the pandemic and the juvenile justice system, and instead shift their thoughts and attention to, for most, a new experience in creativity. This "experience" introduces youth and families to four distinct modules: an art and literature module, followed by a leather module, then a graphic art module and finally culminating in the creation of a book to capture their experiences. The idea behind the innovative programming is that by trying something new, you might, in the process, be able to let go of something old, these could be the first steps to a new future and a distant past!

As noted earlier in this report, in the past two years there were four different grant programs awarded to Santa Cruz County, most of the funding being earmarked directly to CBO's to work with youth and families. One of these grants was awarded to the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County (CAB) who was going to use the funds to work more closely with youth and families at the LEC and create a "hub" for families in South County. Unfortunately, almost immediately after learning of the award, the SIP was ordered and for the past year we have worked closely with CAB to modify service delivery and ensure the most support possible for youth and families. We continue to look forward to shifting and adapting as COVID-19 restrictions are eased to make the "hub" a reality as it was designed prior to the pandemic. The funding provided by JJCPA and YOBG contribute directly to salaries of staff assigned to the LEC and ensure that we can offer this important program to youth on a nightly basis.

Outlined below is an example of the work being done at the Luna Evening Center:

Counseled youth and transported her to El Pollo Loco where she has a potential job proposition. I will be supporting youth alongside STAR Reentry Specialist Monica in creating a safety net network through the AB12 resource guide. UC Berkeley developed the vital transitional resource pack. I have connections with hope scholars and underground scholars of UC Berkeley. I intend to reach out and find the necessary resources to benefit or provide additional support. Creating a road map that youth can see alongside real people to connect with will be an empowering network for her.

The following link is attached <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/fostering-connections-after-18-ab12-online-resources-guide/housing-placement>

Supported youth with Azteca soccer. He is getting more familiar with the sport and is opening more about his feelings and concerns. Youth has his first day of school face to face tomorrow. He is excited. He has reached a milestone and has been a downgraded from the electronic monitor to home supervision. Youth still has multiple area he is working on including awareness of his surroundings and the fact that he seems to act younger than he is.

(EC After Care): Was contacted by youth. She was in distress. She needs support finding housing and disclosed no longer with her baby's father. I informed her that I would be communicating with the public health and Housing Authority to find solutions.

Although B. has been defiant with wearing oppositional clothing, he has been outstanding at playing soccer and participating. I want to stress this because he is making progress as he is engaging everyone in a pro-social and enjoyable way. He is the first on the field and the last off the field.

Youth was not home for school pickup will attempt to pick him up tomorrow. He has also not been answering his cell phone.

I will be meeting with two youth tomorrow. They have picked up gun charges and need to sit down and develop a plan. Both still need to graduate high school. I want to ensure them that we are still here to support and not judge, but at the same time, I will engage with them via a scenario skill building exercise (Skill Stream) and identify mistakes and alternatives to their actions.

**Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)
(Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))**

A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

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

Assessments: The Juvenile Division remains focused on the continued use of evidence-based practices by implementing Risk-Based Supervision, JAIS Assessments and case planning with a trauma informed lens for the purpose of addressing the needs of the youth and to increase opportunities for youth to be successful on probation. It is the hope that with success on probation, youth will avoid future contact with the Juvenile Justice system. There are several ways that our county works to this end and the first area of focus is to increase the use of diversion and prevention programs available to youth. By assessing each youth with a validated risk and needs instrument we can determine an appropriate level of supervision which is essential in providing services and not contributing to a youth's unwarranted advancement in the Juvenile Justice system. By re-assigning caseloads based on risk level and regularly re-assessing risk levels, probation staff can focus on an increased level of supervision to youth assessed with moderate and high-level risk factors. Additionally, through treatment/intervention matching, probation staff can ensure the correct level of dosage and not "net-widen" by increasing engagement with youth assessed with lower risk factors.

Out of Home Placements: One of the county's strategies to match and provide appropriate services to youth based on their level of need continues to be the utilization of out of home placements. As required by AB 403, the 2017 Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Act has worked to eliminate congregate care in the form of traditional group homes and instead replace them with Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP). These programs were created to place a higher level of emphasis on mental health treatment while at the same time offering shorter lengths of stay. The anticipated length of an STRTP program is six to nine months while traditional group home placements frequently lasted more than a year. The Probation Department attempts to use local STRTP's when possible and in 2020 there were only five new placement orders.

YOBG funds are utilized to fund a portion of one Probation Officer who is responsible for providing supervision for youth who are placed in out of county or out of state placement programs. This also includes visiting youth who may be housed in a ranch camp program. In 2020, there were only five new ranch camp commitments from Santa Cruz County.

The Continuum of Care Reform Act has done more than change how congregate care is evolving. It also established Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM) which are opportunities to increase the voice and choice for youth and families. When a youth is

ordered into an STRTP, probation staff work tirelessly to find appropriate placements and in a timely manner, but our staff are focused more than ever at reducing out of home placements and rely on identification of natural supports and increasing the number of CFT Meetings. In 2019, probation staff completed 94 CFTM which was 14 more than the previous year. In 2020, probation staff were still able to complete 45 CFTM despite having to adjust for COVID-19. It is fully anticipated that once the COVID-19 restrictions are removed the numbers will return to the pre-COVID-19 level.

Finally, as the department continues to look at ways of providing youth much needed services and keep youth in the community, the FUERTE/Wrap program continues to be fully utilized. This program, which is the successful combination of the FUERTE program and the Wraparound program, provides youth the benefit of close supervision which includes a team approach while offering mental health treatment as provided by our community partners at Encompass Family Services.

Listed below is a description of the FUERTE/Wraparound (FW) Program which provides a team approach for youth experiencing behavioral and mental health issues. The team includes a Probation Officer, a Transitional Specialist, and a Clinician and generally lasts between 6-12 months.

Eligibility: Youth must have mental health symptoms consistent with at least one DSM-V diagnosis and exhibit functional impairment in at least a couple major life domains (“medical necessity”, required by MediCal).

Referral process: If Probation, in conjunction with the host county, determines a youth on probation would benefit/be a fit for FW, they will schedule and Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM) to include one member of the existing FW program from the Community Based Organization. This meeting is to introduce the program to the youth and family and conduct a brief screening to determine eligibility and interest. Following the CFTM, the FW team will decide to accept or not accept the youth into the program at which time the Probation Officer would advise the Court via a memo that outcome.

Funding: Contracted with Probation (cost reimbursement) and CBH (fee for service, EPSDT MediCal billing for specialty mental health services).

Direct service providers: Four; two dyads of one Clinician and one Transitional Specialist (TS) that work as a team sharing a caseload.

Caseload size: 10 clients per dyad (20 total)

Services include: Frequent CFT meetings with FW staff, PO, parent/caregiver, and anyone else the youth identify as their “team” or wants to attend; case management; individual therapy; family therapy; collateral support (for family and non-family); crisis intervention and de-escalation; and 24-hour crisis phone line.

Models used: EBP Wraparound, CFT meetings, targeted case management, Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), and therapeutic modalities such as: CBT, TF-CBT, MI, DBT, and more.

Clinical tools used: DSM-V, CANS, MSE, PPQ, PSC, Psychosocial Assessment, co-created Treatment Plan, and more.

Timeline: Typically, 6-12 months, can be longer if needed.

The Juvenile Division is focused on meeting children's medical, emotional/behavioral, developmental, and educational needs. The use of YOBG funds allows for these opportunities by providing.

B. Regional Agreements

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

N/A

YOBG Funded Program(s), Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement

Below are YOBG funded programs reported by the county.

Program Name:

Juvenile Intake Unit

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Detention Assessments

Description:

The Juvenile Intake Unit continues to represent the "gateway" to the Juvenile Justice System in Santa Cruz County. The Intake Unit is responsible for receiving citations and arrest reports on youth who have had contact with law enforcement. These referrals are either in the form of out-of-custody or in-custody referrals where youth are being held in Juvenile Hall until they can meet with an Intake Officer. The use of a detention assessment instrument continues to be an essential tool utilized by staff to determine if youth will remain in custody until they can appear in front of a Judge or if they are going to be released to their parents/guardians pending court. Depending on the score of the assessment instrument, youth may be eligible for release directly to their parents/guardians or they may be placed on the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) or a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) device to enhance their supervision in the community. These programs are staffed by the Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Unit. In 2020, there was a 31% decrease in the number of youth who participated in the ATD program and the success rate (youth who returned to court as scheduled without any new law offenses or technical violations) for youth on the program was 96%. Although a large number of youth get placed on diversion, a slightly larger number actually get referred to the District Attorney and a petition is filed. In 2020, there were 88 youth placed on diversion and 152 youth were referred to the District Attorney's Office resulting in petitions being filed. The probation staff assigned to the Intake Unit and the ATD program are essential to youth avoiding unnecessary detention and ensure that every effort is made for youth to be deterred from the Juvenile Justice System. In some instances, based on the types and seriousness of the offense this is not the case, but most of the time it is. The funding from the JJCPA-YOBG contribute significantly to being able to adequately staff these positions and have the proper assessment tools to do the work.

Program Name:

Continuous Quality Improvement

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Ensure that the Department in administering quality assurance of Evidence Based Programming (EBP)

Description:

The Santa Cruz County Juvenile Probation Department has recognized for a long time the importance of providing Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) as it relates to the work being performed by staff that lead to the overall results and outcomes being sought by the department. To assure the CQI is occurring daily, the department has assigned one of the five Juvenile Supervisors (this includes the Intake Supervisor) with duties related to CQI. In this role, the CQI Supervisor has the responsibility to monitor the number of initial JAIS assessments being conducted within the first 30 days of probation, the number of re-assessments being done within the first six months, and the number of EPICS (Effective Practices in Community Supervision) sessions that staff are completing monthly. These are important for several reasons and when done to fidelity and in a timely manner, the department is more closely aligned with EBP to ensure the best results and outcomes for youth.

At the end of 2020, the department began to work on a new five-year County System Improvement Plan (SIP) which going forward will build in additional EBP that will provide a framework for the Juvenile Division for at least five years, but likely much longer. This framework will be based on The California Integrated Core Practice Model for Children, Youth and Families (ICPM). The ICPM is supported by the CCR and indicates that highly integrated and coordinated cross-system service planning and delivery better meet the needs of children, youth and families and results in improved outcomes, as well as lower rates of re-entry or recidivism. The funding that is provided in this section helps to pay for our CQI Supervisor and is essential to further efforts at introducing additional EBP to the Division.