



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
COMPREHENSIVE MULTI-AGENCY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN  
&  
JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT PLAN  
2023 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PLAN



ARTWORK BY YOUTH AT THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

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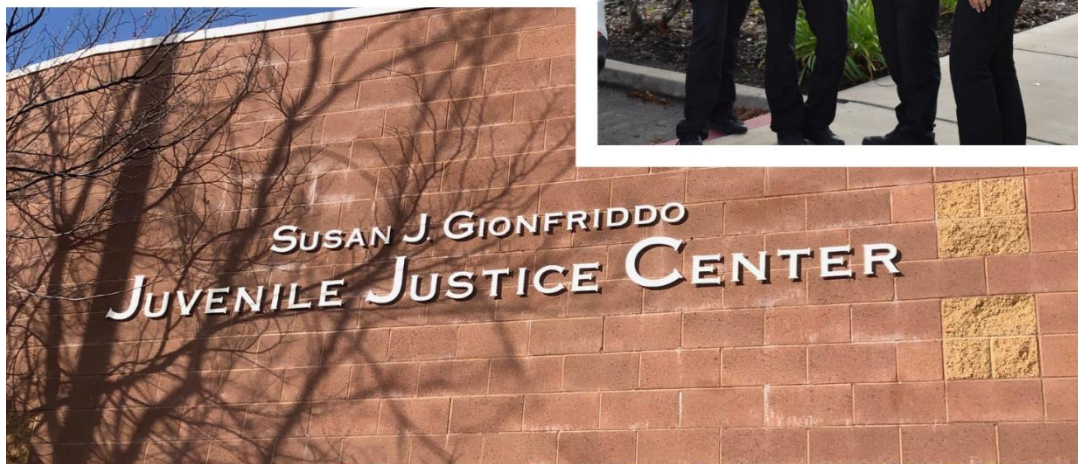
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The background of the page is a colorful, hand-drawn illustration. At the top left, there's a bright sun with orange and yellow rays. To the right, there are two pennant-like shapes with the words "EDUCATION" and "GROWTH" written on them. Further right, the word "OPPORTUNITY" is written vertically. In the bottom right corner, there's a dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. The overall style is artistic and child-friendly.

# OVERVIEW

Contained within the following pages is Santa Barbara County's annual plan addressing local juvenile justice strategies and responses in Santa Barbara County. While the Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and the Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP) each have individual required components, they have been integrated into one document to provide the reader with an understanding of the totality of prevention, diversion, and intervention services provided to justice-involved youth and their families throughout our community.

The CMJJP is required under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) as enacted in 2000 and codified under Assembly Bill (AB) 1913. JJCPA provides for consistent funding for programs and services to reduce juvenile delinquency and establishes the local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) charged with collaborating to identify local needs and developing supportive programming while considering budget priorities. The CMJJP includes an assessment of local law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, social services, drug and alcohol, and other youth resources that serve at-risk youth, youth on probation, and their families. The plan also identifies and prioritizes neighborhoods, schools, and other areas in local communities that face significant public safety risks from youth crime. Next, this plan provides for a continuum of responses to juvenile delinquency while demonstrating a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth as well as youth on probation. Lastly, the plan provides a description of the programs, strategies, and system enhancements funded through JJCPA and the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG). Annually, the CMJJP is submitted to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

The JJRP is required by Senate Bill (SB) 823 which took effect July 1, 2021. SB 823 realigns the responsibility for the care, custody, and supervision of local justice-involved youth, who would have previously been committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), to the counties in which they reside. The JJRP, as codified in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) §1995, provides a description of the realigned population supported and served by the allocated Block Grant funds. This includes the number of youth served, disaggregated by factors including their ages, offense, offense histories, gender, race or ethnicity, and by the programs, placements or facilities to which they are referred. The plan describes how these funds address the need or development for realigned youth in the following areas: mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma based needs; support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development; family engagement; reentry including planning and linkages to employment, housing, and continued education; evidence-based, promising trauma-informed, and culturally responsive programming; and a description of how data will be collected on youth served, including outcomes to measure the results of programs and interventions utilized. The plan also includes services and programs for realigned youth that are provided by non-governmental or community-based partners. The JJRP is submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) every third year.





# COMPREHENSIVE MUTLI-AGENCY JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN

## JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEMBERS

- **Craig Bonner**, Undersheriff  
*Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office*
- **Laura Capps**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor  
*County of Santa Barbara*
- **Gabriela Ferreira**, Community Member  
*Chair, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJPC)*
- **Tanja Heitman**, Chief Probation Officer (Chair)  
*Probation Department*
- **Amy Krueger**, Deputy Director  
*Department of Social Services*
- **La Mer Kyle-Griffiths**, Assistant Public Defender  
*Office of the Public Defender*
- **Mona Miyasato**, County Executive Officer  
*County Executive Office*
- **Toni Navarro**, Director  
*Department of Behavioral Wellness*
- **Bob Nelson**, 4th District Supervisor  
*County of Santa Barbara*
- **Darrel Parker**, Court Executive Officer  
*Superior Court*
- **Susan Salcido**, Ed.D., Superintendent  
*County Education Office*
- **John Savrnoch**, District Attorney  
*Office of the District Attorney*

## TWO-YEAR MEMBERS

- **Michael Cash**, Police Chief  
*Guadalupe Police Department*
- **Kelly Gordon**, Police Chief  
*Santa Barbara Police Department*
- **Anne Hubbard**, Ed.D., Superintendent  
*Hope Elementary School District*
- **Michelle Kerwood**, Director of Child & Adolescent Treatment Programs  
*Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse*
- **Brittany Nelson**, Program Manager  
*Casa Pacifica*
- **Marc Schneider**, Police Chief  
*Santa Maria Police Department*
- **Saul Serrano**, Program Officer  
*Hope and Heal Fund*
- **Jill Sharkey**, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research and Outreach  
*Gevirtz Graduate School of Education*
- **Dawnette Smith**, Programs Director,  
*Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley*
- **Victor Vega**, Community Member
- **Brian Zimmerman**, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
*Santa Maria Bonita School District*

# JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL WORKGROUP

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) appointed a workgroup tasked with collaborating on the development of the CMJJP and the JRP, as well as identifying priorities and strategies for the local juvenile justice system. It also includes discussion of Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJ) initiatives, and Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusion (REEI) data review and development. In fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024, the Workgroup will meet monthly. The JJCC workgroup voting members are listed below:

- **Melinda Barrera**, Deputy Chief Probation Officer (Chair)  
*Probation Department*
- **Craig Bonner**, Undersheriff  
*Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office*
- **Jordan Killebrew**, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative  
*County of Santa Barbara*
- **Amy Krueger**, Deputy Director  
*Department of Social Services*
- **Kenneth Kushner**, Commander  
*Santa Barbara Police Department*
- **Mag Nicola**, Chief Deputy District Attorney  
*Office of the District Attorney*
- **Nicole Parmelee**, Fiscal and Policy Analyst  
*County Executive Office*
- **Lea Villegas**, Chief Trial Deputy  
*Office of the Public Defender*
- **Alana Walczak**, President and Chief Executive Officer  
*Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM)*
- **Alison Wales**, Associate Director  
*North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center*
- **John Winckler**, MFT, Division Chief of Clinical Operations  
*Department of Behavioral Wellness*

## JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT PLAN

### JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with juvenile justice realignment, the local JJCC must create the Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS). The subcommittee's primary responsibility is to develop a plan that describes the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth. The

JJRS voting member are as follows:

- **La Mer Kyle-Griffiths**, Assistant Public Defender  
*Public Defender's Office*
- **Tanja Heitman**, Chief Probation Officer (Chair)  
*Probation Department*
- **Amy Krueger**, Deputy Director  
*Department of Social Services*
- **Toni Navarro**, Director  
*Department of Behavioral Wellness*
- **Darrel Parker**, Court Executive Officer  
*Superior Court*
- **Susan Salcido**, Ed.D., Superintendent  
*Santa Barbara County Education Office*
- **John Savrnoch**, District Attorney  
*District Attorney's Office*
- **Saul Serrano**, Program Officer  
*Hope and Heal Fund*
- **Jill Sharkey**, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Research and Outreach  
*Gevirtz Graduate School of Education*
- **Victor Vega**, Community Member



# I. CRIME & POPULATION TRENDS

## CRIME TRENDS

A Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) fact sheet published in October 2022 (Exhibit 1) of California's violent and property crimes, displays peaks in statewide property crime in 1980 and violent crime in 1992. As illustrated in Exhibit 1, the 2021 violent crime rate is lower than its peak in 1992 with rates fairly stable over the last decade. After its peak in 1992, the violent crime rate fell, reaching a 50-year low in 2014 and while it has fluctuated year-over-year, has remained relatively stable over the past decade.

Between 2020 and 2021, California's violent crime rate increased by 6% with the surge at the state level driven by aggravated assaults and homicides. The statewide property crime rate also increased in 2021, although remaining well below its 1980 peak with motor vehicle thefts and larceny the largest drivers of the uptick between 2020 and 2021.

Santa Barbara County's violent and property crime rates are compared to trends at the state level in Exhibit 2. As displayed, between 2020 and 2021, Santa Barbara County experienced a 4% decline in its local violent crime in comparison to a statewide increase of 6%. However, examining the trend over time reveals an increase in violent and property crime rates in Santa Barbara County with violent crime rates similar to 2010 levels. In the last two years, between 2020 and 2021, the County experienced an increase in homicides (similar to the state). Additionally, locally, the property crime rate increased 11% between 2020 and 2021 and is nearly the same rate as California. Between 2020 and 2021, Santa Barbara County experienced increases in burglary and larceny-theft as compared to the state as whole where the uptick was driven by motor vehicle theft and larceny.

Exhibit: 1

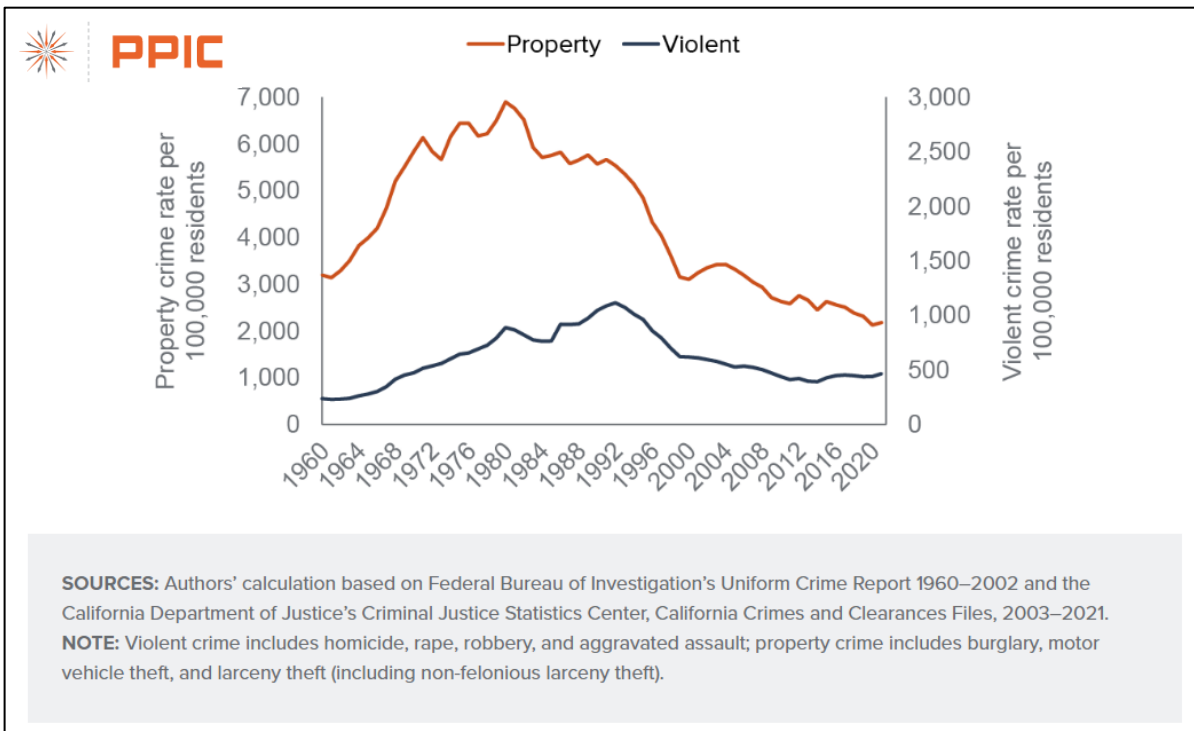


Exhibit: 2

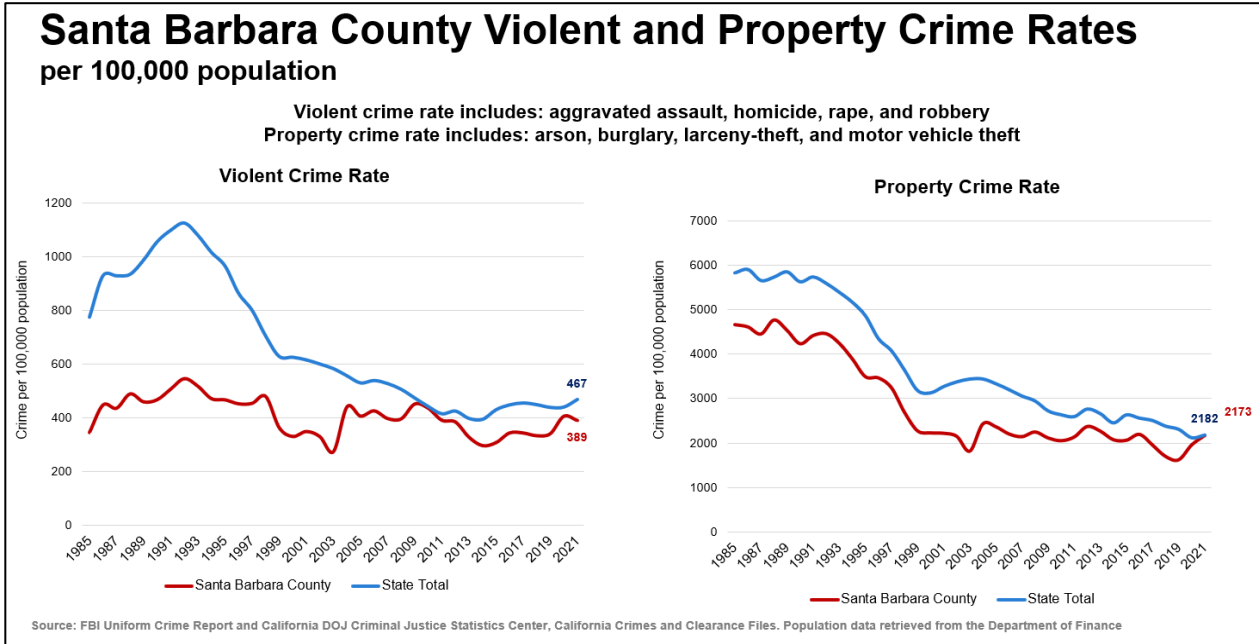
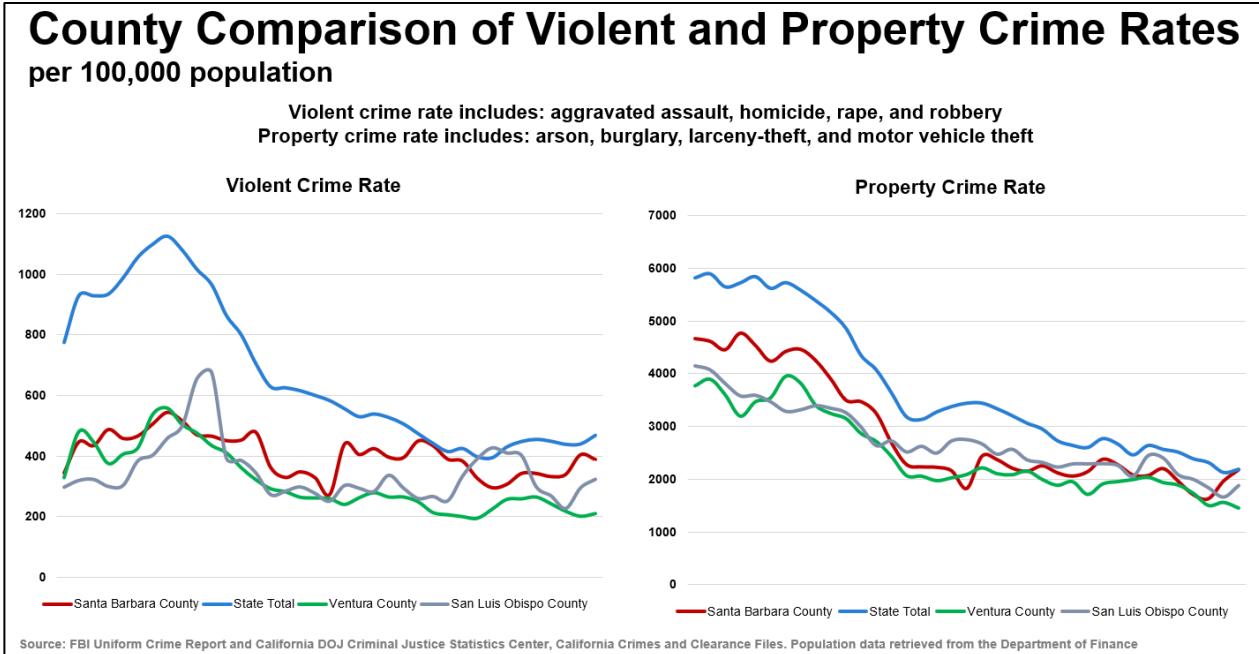


Exhibit 3 displays Santa Barbara County's crime rates in comparison to Ventura and San Luis Obispo. While still below California's rates, Santa Barbara County appears to historically have a higher crime rate in comparison to surrounding counties.

Exhibit: 3



# Juvenile Arrests

Total juvenile arrests and citations decreased 86% between 2011 and 2021 statewide and have decreased 75% locally as illustrated in Exhibit 4. How and to what extent COVID-19 influenced crime is yet to be determined. With this acknowledged, when comparing juvenile crime over the last three years (2019 to 2021), total juvenile arrests are declining both at the county and state level, although locally, misdemeanor arrests and citations comprise the majority of total arrests of juveniles in Santa Barbara County (Exhibit 5). Of felony arrests, the composition of offenses is changing, with violent offenses increasing to 51% of total juvenile felony arrests in 2021 - up from 45% in 2020 (Exhibit 6). Additionally, 3.2% of felony juvenile arrests were for sex offenses (up from 0.6% in 2020), 24% of felony arrests were for all other offenses (up from 20% in 2020), 17% of juvenile felony arrests were for property offenses (down from 31% in 2020), 4% of juvenile felony arrests were for drug offenses (same as in 2020).

Exhibit 6 illustrates the trend of juvenile felony arrests by offense type over the last decade. Keeping in mind that juvenile felony arrests have decreased 66% since 2011, the composition of felony arrests has changed with juveniles arrested for a felony violent offense rising. Violent offenses include homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Felony juvenile arrests for property offenses are declining, as are felony arrests for drug offenses while sex and 'other' offenses appear to be somewhat stable.

Exhibit: 4

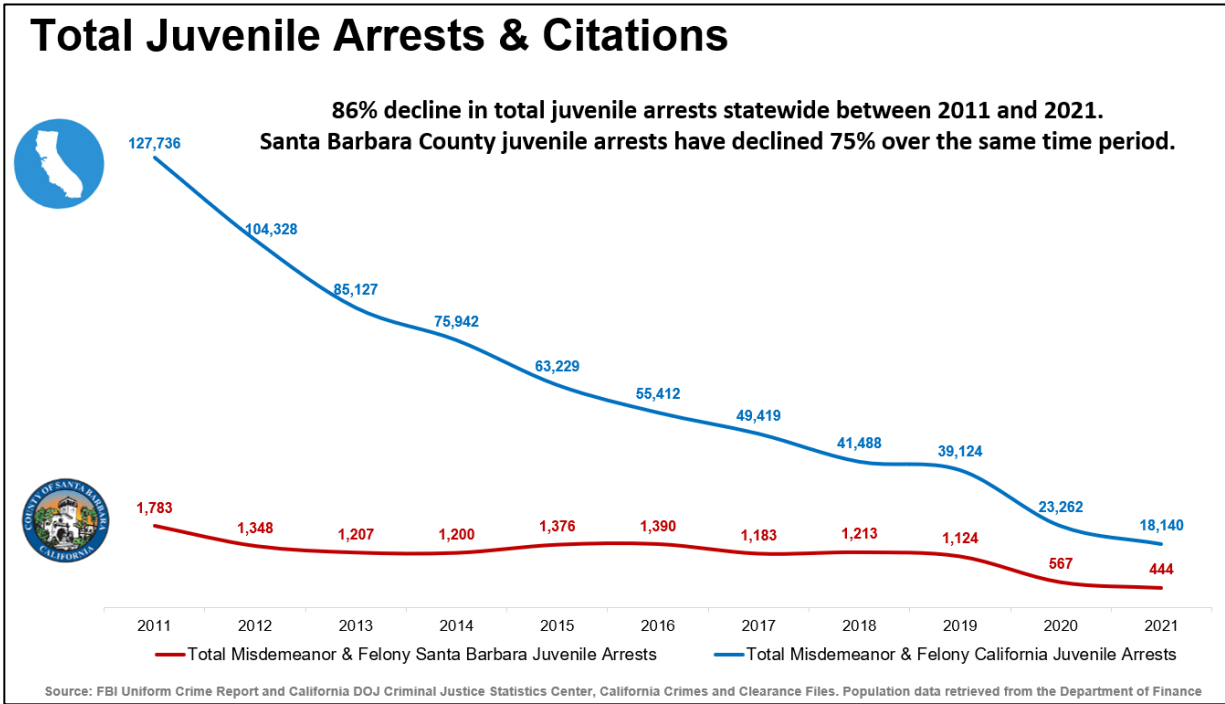


Exhibit: 5

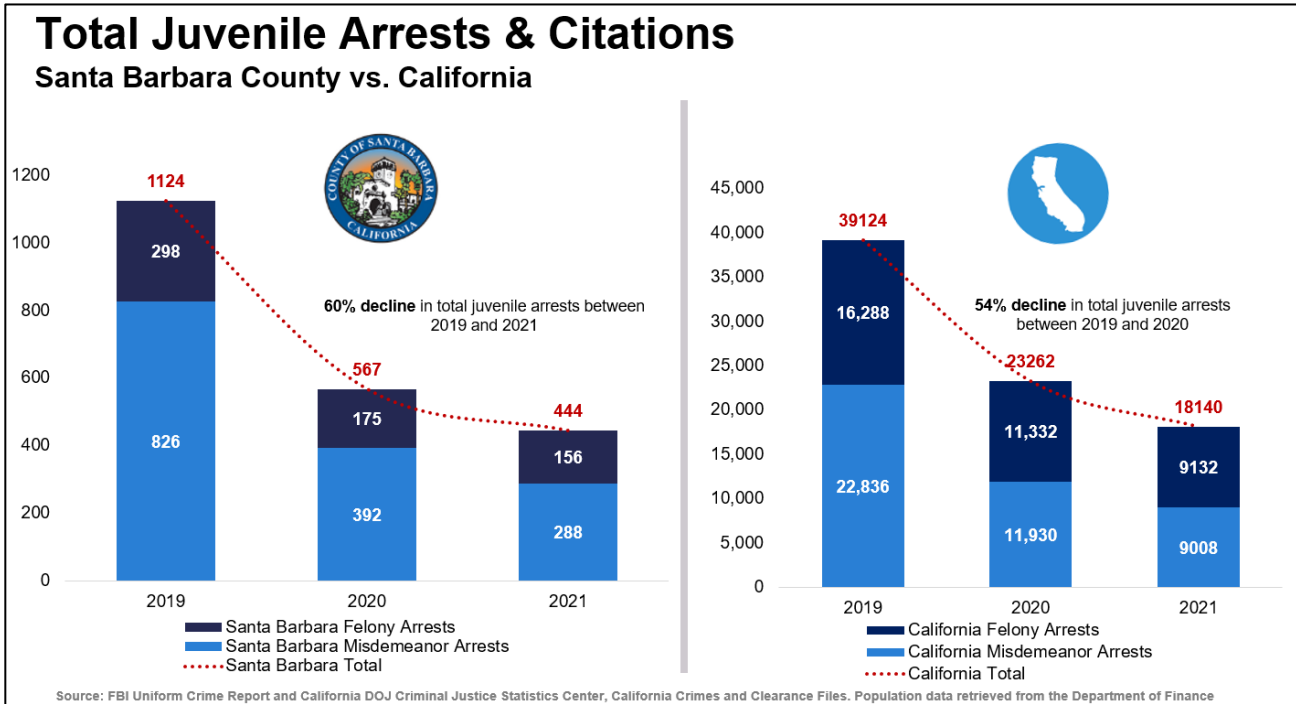
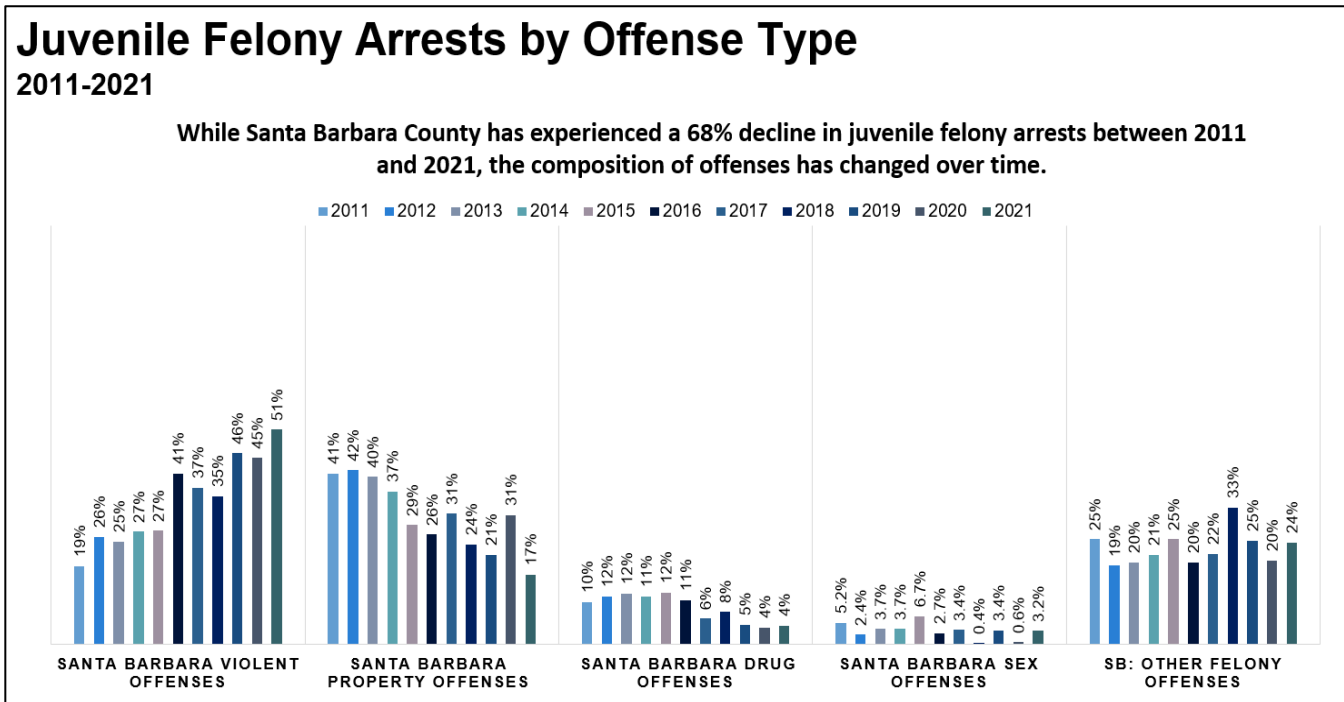








Exhibit: 6



# Demographics

The County is diverse not only in its geography but also in the profile and needs within each of its communities. According to the latest data available from the American Community Survey (2020), 82% of the Santa Barbara County population over the age of 25 is a high school graduate or higher. However, percentages differ when broken down by city. Differences can also be seen across the County in other areas such as the percentage of those foreign born, and language other than English spoken at home. Some of the largest variances can be seen in the economic characteristics of Santa Barbara County. The 2020 median income of the County was approximately \$79,000. The percentage of households below that median varies widely within the County from 44% in Santa Barbara to nearly 60% in Lompoc. There is also a wide distribution in the percentage of households receiving supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits with Lompoc at 15%, nearly two and a half times greater than the city of Santa Barbara at 6%.

<b>Santa Barbara County</b>	<b>County of Santa Barbara</b>	<b>City of Santa Barbara</b>	<b>City of Santa Maria</b>	<b>City of Lompoc</b>
 Population (age 25+) high school graduate or higher	82.3%	89.7%	69.4%	79.5%
 Foreign Born	22.7%	20.0%	28.2%	19.6%
 Language other than English spoken at home	40.1%	31.5%	54.8%	38.3%
 % of households below County median income of \$78,925	-	44.0%	50.5%	59.3%
 % of households receiving public assistance or food stamp/SNAP benefits in past 12 months	9.0%	6.1%	12.3%	15.2%
 % of people whose income in last 12 months is below poverty level ~\$26,200 per year for a family of four	12.9%	15.1%	10.9%	13.6%

Source: 2020 American Community Survey

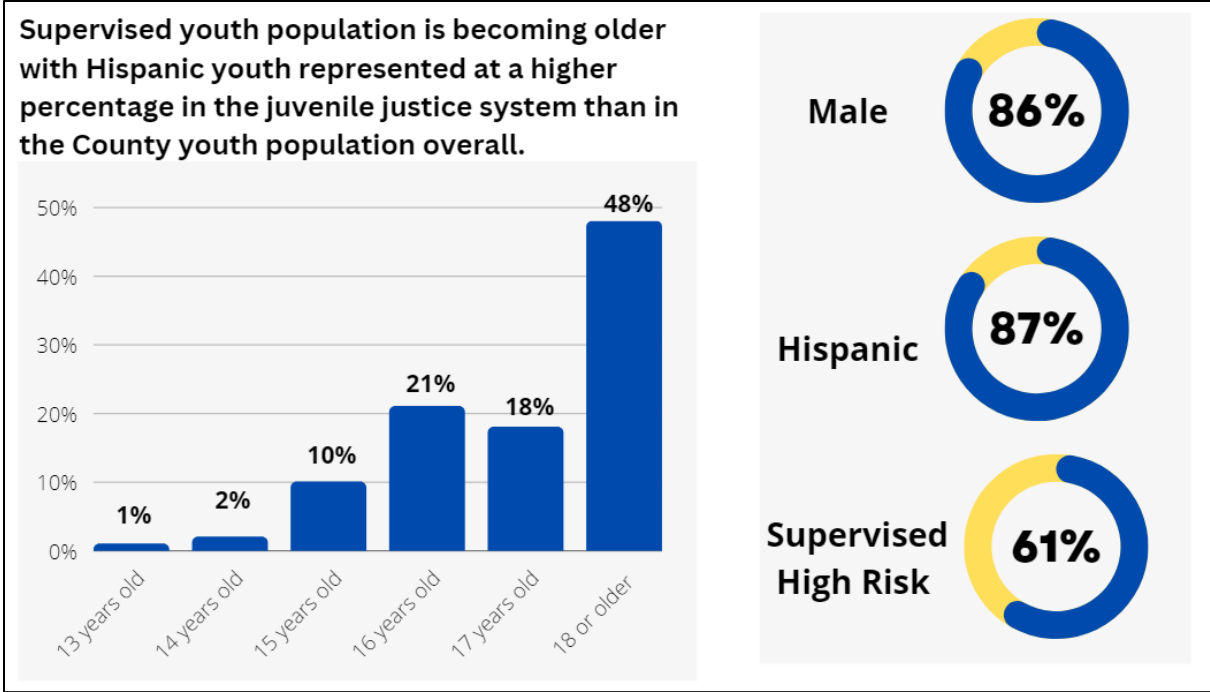
## Supervised Population Trends

In Santa Barbara County, the supervised population is primarily male (86%), between 16 and 18 years of age and Hispanic (87%) (Exhibit 7). Hispanic youth are represented at a higher percentage in the juvenile justice system than in the County youth population overall<sup>1</sup>.

Youth under supervision of the Probation Department are assessed using the comprehensive evidence-based Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). While providing an individualized approach, it identifies the youth’s risk to re-offend and their criminogenic needs, which are the needs that drive the youth’s criminal behavior. This information allows our officers to tailor interventions and responses to each youth and family.

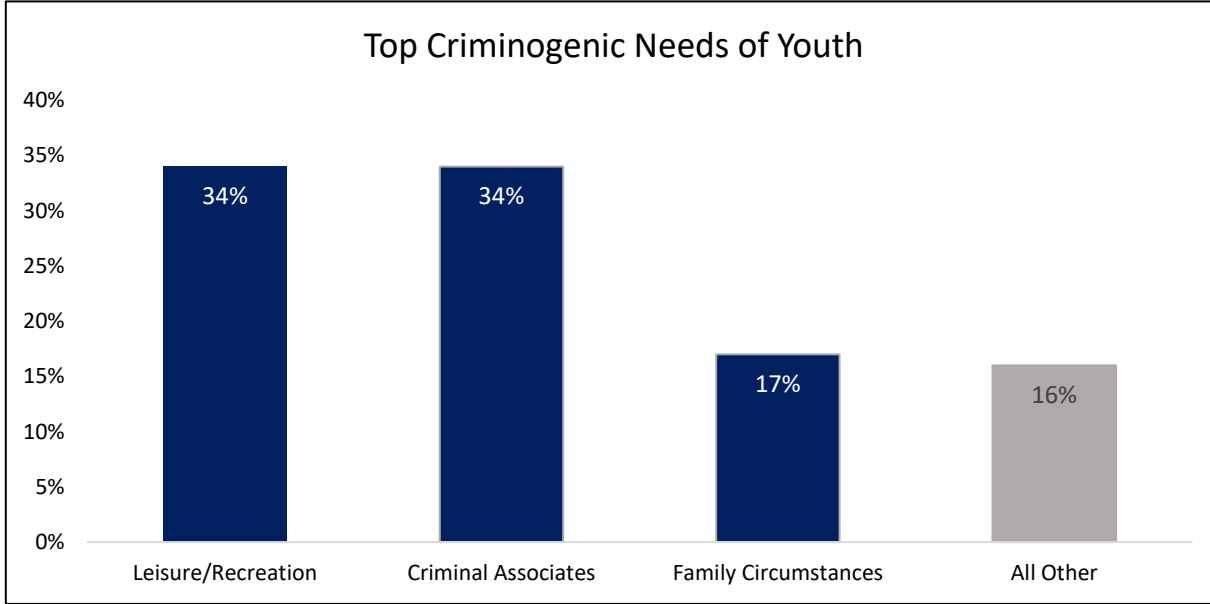
<sup>1</sup> As compared to 54% in the County of Santa Barbara. Data from the Department of Finance was used for Santa Barbara County’s youth population (age 13-19). (<http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/>). The California Department of Finance (DOF) produces population projections for the state and counties of California on a regular basis. The Demographic Research Unit is responsible by statute for maintaining up-to-date postcensal population estimates and projections, which are both calculated using the identity known as the demographic balancing equation.

**Exhibit: 7**



A November 1, 2022, snapshot (Exhibit 8) reveals the top needs<sup>2</sup> of assessed youth as 1) Leisure & Recreation (34%) 2) Criminal Associates (34%) and 3) Family factors such as inconsistent supervision, neglect, abuse, and/or family criminality (17%). The juvenile supervision caseloads are designed to allow officers to have sufficient time and resources to be proactive in their case management of those youth that pose the greatest degree of risk to the community and have the highest need.

**Exhibit: 8**

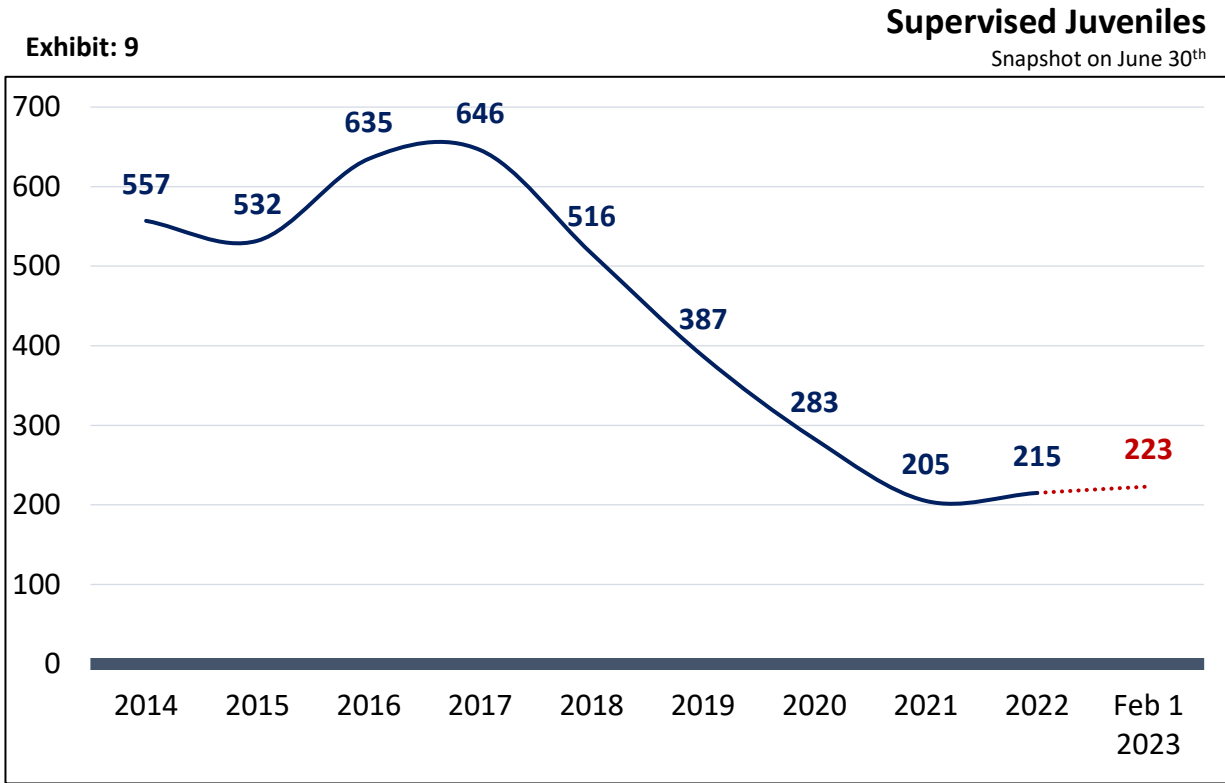


<sup>2</sup> Data for assessments as of 11/1/2022. Data displays the frequency that different need areas are selected as the top need for all youth in the system. Data includes the most recent completed assessment for each youth, only indicates need areas. This is a point in time report, as new assessments are performed, this data will change.



In the last fiscal year, the Department experienced a 64% increase in misdemeanor referrals and a 28% increase in felony referrals. Of the total number of youth supervised on June 30, 2022, 15% were on some type of non-ward diversionary supervision (654, 654.2, 725(a), 725(b), 790 WIC). However, this does not include what is often referred to as “true diversion” or pre-adjudication diversion such as the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program, implemented in 2020 in partnership with the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA). This is a direct diversion by referral from law enforcement, schools, and Probation for youth with specific low-level offenses and education code violations. As of December 31, 2022, 602 youth had been referred to the program. This program will be discussed in greater detail later in this plan.

Overall, the number of juveniles supervised by the Santa Barbara County Probation Department increased 5% from the previous fiscal year (FY). However, from its peak in FY 2016-2017 (Exhibit 9), the supervised juvenile population has decreased 67% as of June 30, 2022.



## Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusion (REEI)

Santa Barbara County seeks to improve its outcomes in the area of racial and ethnic equity in child-serving systems, including juvenile justice. This involves assessing local services to determine where disparities exist. REEI data has been shared with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), the Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ) cohort, and community partners via the JJCC Workgroup. Probation staff regularly participate in REEI training to increase their awareness and provide opportunities to address disparities. In addition, in April 2023, Public Defender staff participated in training which focused on race, culture, and bias.

### Relative Rate Index (RRI)

On June 15, 2021, the Probation Department presented to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (BOS) a report on “Assessing Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Criminal Justice.”<sup>3</sup> Areas of data examined to assess where disparities exist within the juvenile justice system included a calculation of an RRI. The RRI is an established framework used by a variety of agencies including the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to measure over or under representation at specific decision points within a system.

The RRI calculates the rate of youth at various decision points in the justice system based either on the total population of that group in the county *or* the population of that group actually at risk of experiencing a particular event<sup>4</sup>. The RRI also reveals how disparities accumulate as youth move further into the system<sup>5</sup>.

A value of 1 indicates that the race or ethnic group is represented at the same rate as Whites. Values greater than 1 indicate a greater representation than Whites and values less than 1 indicate representation less than Whites.

For a racial group to be included in the rate calculation they must account for at least 1% of the county’s total population. At the time of the analysis, Black and Hispanic youth represented 63% of Santa Barbara County’s total youth population.

The data indicated the point of referral contributed the most to the overall disparity between youth of color and White youth in the juvenile justice system in FY 2019–2020. Referral is the first point of entry into the juvenile justice system and is where a youth has been cited by a law enforcement agency and referred to Probation. At the point of referral, youth of color are 2.6 times more likely to be referred than White youth. Additionally, in comparison to White youth, youth of color were more likely to be booked (2.4 times more likely), charged (1.7 times more likely), found guilty- known as a sustained petition (1.4 times more likely) and committed to secure detention (1.5 times more likely).

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3

[http://sbcounty.granicus.com/player/clip/4143?view\\_id=3&meta\\_id=489697&redirect=true&h=dfc5fda09941f640c37958331fe552f2](http://sbcounty.granicus.com/player/clip/4143?view_id=3&meta_id=489697&redirect=true&h=dfc5fda09941f640c37958331fe552f2)

<sup>4</sup> At the first decision point-the point of referral-the population used as the denominator is the total population of each group in the county because the opportunity of entering the justice system exists for all youth. However, while using general population - makes sense when assessing for disparity at the first point of entry (e.g. referral) it’s not as useful and can actually mask disparities when examining points deeper in the justice system because doing so would include a large number of individuals who never entered the system and therefore don’t have the same opportunity for the next event. Using general population for all decision points after referral results in adding together the disparities present from all prior decisions making it difficult to determine at which points disparities exist in order to target them for intervention. As such, for all decision points after referral, the denominator used is the number of youth at risk of experiencing a particular event (e.g., for youth booked, the denominator used is referred into the system because a youth cannot be booked into the JJC unless first referred).

<sup>5</sup> There are a variety of interrelated factors that influence racial inequities in the criminal justice system. The RRI does not consider other factors that may influence the likelihood of criminal justice involvement, such as the severity of offense, prior offense history, or socioeconomic status.

## II. GOALS, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

As required by statute, the following goals and objectives identify and prioritize focus areas based upon the current population and needs of youth in the county, as reviewed and approved by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Workgroup, the JJCC, and the Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS). The goals outlined below build on those established in last year’s plan, with updated objectives that demonstrate progress made in reaching those goals, highlighting the importance of a strong foundation of assessment, data-driven decision making, individualized case planning, collaboration, and youth, community and family engagement.

### GOAL 1

#### Maintain public safety by reducing recidivism.

*Maintaining public safety is a primary focus of the JJCC and JJRS. Strategies for affecting the drivers of criminal behavior require the use of evidence-based programs delivered to model fidelity.*

OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROJECTED OUTCOME	FY 2023-2024 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
Utilize evidence-based approaches with youth adjudicated of a crime to decrease the youth’s risk of committing future offenses.	Of youth that successfully exited Probation January through December 2021, 99% had no new sustained petition or conviction for a felony offense within one year of successful completion of supervision exceeding the goal of 95% for this objective.	Recidivism <sup>6</sup> is a key outcome measure for practitioners to evaluate the extent to which programs and services are changing behavior. Establish a data collection framework in FY 2023-2024 and report the percentage of youth without a new felony sustained petition or adult conviction one year from the start of supervision or release from a juvenile institution.
	Of youth that exited Probation supervision as of December 31, 2022, 83% had no new sustained petition for a felony offense during their term of Probation supervision exceeding the goal of 80% for this objective.	Maintain the percentage of youth with no new sustained petition for a felony offense during their term of Probation supervision to no less than 80%.
	It is projected that 75% of funded evidence-based programs will have completed curriculum-specific fidelity reviews in FY 2022-2023 not meeting the 90% goal for this objective.	To assess quality and monitor program fidelity <sup>7</sup> ensure no less than 90% of funded evidence-based programs have completed curriculum-specific fidelity reviews.

<sup>6</sup> Historically measured as a youth without a new sustained petition or conviction for a felony offense within one year of successfully completing Probation. In FY 2023-2024 the new measure will allow practitioners to examine the rates in which youth are reoffending in comparable time frames as other youth. An increased rate may be experienced as the methodology now includes all youth (not just those who successfully completed probation), sustained petitions that have since been sealed and youth with adult convictions. Additionally, an increased rate may be experienced over time as the Santa Barbara justice system directs more of its resources toward higher risk youth and diverts lower risk youth.

<sup>7</sup> Fidelity reviews assess how closely a program adheres to its research-based design.

# GOAL 1

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OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROJECTED OUTCOME	FY 2023-2024 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
Expand the use of best practices for evidence-based supervision that utilizes a youth’s specific risk-needs, and responsivity measures.	The Tara Haaland-Ford Restorative Justice Project (THFRJP), a restorative justice diversion pilot program to promote youth accountability, community healing, and decrease risk of committing future offenses, was launched August 2022, meeting the goal for this objective.	Train eligible juvenile supervision officers in the structured case management approach using Carey Guides.
Support professional training to advance system-wide knowledge of evidence-based practices (EBP) in the criminal justice field	28% of juvenile facility and probation supervision officers certified in Motivational Interviewing (MI), attended an advanced training in applied MI <sup>3</sup> , not meeting the goal of 50% for this objective. Significant challenges related to staff vacancies limited participation in trainings in FY 2022-2023.	80% of eligible Probation staff will be certified in MI. MI is an EBP that has been demonstrated to change behavior. When used by a skilled officer, MI can increase a youth’s motivation to comply with supervision requirements, participate in treatment, and address criminogenic needs thereby reducing their failure rate on community supervision.
	On June 2, 2022, 18% of eligible Probation staff working with justice-involved youth attended Trauma Informed Care training not meeting the goal of 100% for this objective. Significant challenges related to the staff vacancies limited participation in training in FY 2022-2023.	Of those not trained in the last year, 90% of eligible Probation staff working with justice-involved youth will attend Trauma Informed Care training.



## GOAL 2

### Enhance the use of diversion for appropriate youth.

*The JJCC and JJRS are committed to reduce the reliance on detention through the utilization of evidence-based alternatives and diversion options for appropriate youth, utilizing confinement only when necessary for the safety of victims, the community, and youth.*

OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROJECTED OUTCOMES	FY 2023-2024 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
Expand the diversion of appropriate youth from the juvenile justice system.	As of December 31, 2022, 62% of youth referred for diversion to Youth Empowerment Services (YES) <sup>8</sup> enrolled in the program (373 youth enrolled of 602 youth referred) not meeting the goal of 75% for this objective.	No less than 75% of youth referred for diversion to YES will enroll in the program.
	As of June 30, 2022, the percentage of technical Probation violations filed was reduced from 13% to 7%, in FY 2021-2022 exceeding the goal of 10% for this objective.	Ensure the percentage of Probation violations filed does not exceed 10% of all referrals received by the Probation Department.
	The percentage of youth supervised on non-ward supervision (654 WIC, 654.2 WIC, 725(a) WIC, 790 WIC) in lieu of wardship increased from 11% to 15% in FY 2021-2022 meeting the goal for this objective.	No less than 20% of youth will be on non-ward supervision (654 WIC, 654.2 WIC, 725(a) WIC, 790 WIC) in lieu of wardship in FY 2023-2024.
Enhance partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) to offer diversion alternatives for youth who are at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system.	Beginning August 2022, the Probation Department partnered with the THFRJP, to offer diversion alternatives for youth at risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system thereby meeting the goal for this objective.	Continue the YES program to provide pre-adjudication diversion to youth ages 12 to 17.
		Ensure no less than 15 eligible youth are referred <sup>9</sup> and successfully complete the THFRJP.

<sup>8</sup> YES is a partnership of the Santa Barbara County Probation Department and the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) to provide pre-adjudication diversion to youth ages 12 to 17.

<sup>9</sup> Youth referred include those not eligible for a lower level diversion program as there is a direct victim, and those that are not a mandatory referral to the District Attorney's Office or a case that has been reviewed by the District Attorney's Office and deemed appropriate for referral to the program in lieu of formal handling.

# GOAL 3

## Coordinate efforts and improve system collaboration to support connection of youth and families to the community.

*Working collaboratively, the JJCC and JJRS are able to address emerging issues, support justice-involved youth, and promote community safety. These efforts include increased community and family engagement, and strategies to engage youth and families with needed resources and services to support the whole family.*

OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROJECTED OUTCOME	FY 2023-2024 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
Collaborate with justice and community partners for information sharing and coordination of efforts and best practices.	A part-time Reentry Navigator position was launched October 4, 2022, to provide supportive services and assist coordination of reentry services for youth returning to the community following long-term commitments.	Increase services to all long term committed youth at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) by expanding the Reentry Navigator position.
	Presentations by CommUnify to Probation staff explaining the services available for youth and families through 2-1-1, including housing, food, transportation, healthcare, mental wellness and substance use treatment occurred on February 8, 2023, meeting the goal for this objective.	Develop a plan for Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings <sup>10</sup> to occur within 30 days of identification as at risk for out-of-home placement and expand participation to include additional community partners invested in the youth and family's success.
	By December 31, 2023, it is projected that 100% of youth will be screened for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) via an assessment upon entry into the JJC or at intake and referred to appropriate community interventions/resources as needed, meeting the goal for this objective.	Train new/remaining eligible staff working with justice-involved youth on CSEC identification, maintaining 100% compliance.
Solicit input from justice-involved youth and families on the challenges faced and opportunities to improve system delivery.	On August 24, 2022, a Community Virtual forum was held to receive input and participation in designated work groups to inform the design of a treatment program at the Juvenile Justice Center, meeting the goal for this objective.	Host information/education- "Family Engagement Nights" in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Lompoc to solicit input from justice-involved youth and families, share information, and strengthen partnerships between youth/family and Probation.
		Survey families to identify service gaps and/or barriers to accessing services.

<sup>10</sup> CFT meetings are held to determine how best to address the child's needs and achieve positive outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being for all youth identified to be at risk of out of home placement as well as utilized in case planning for youth not at risk of removal from their home to help establish case plan goals and services to address criminogenic needs.



# GOAL 3

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OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROJECTED OUTCOME	FY 2023-2024 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
<p>Collaborate with justice partners and coordinate efforts to promote accountability and youth and family wellness.</p>	<p>Two "Safe at Home" community wellness operations for youth and their families to assess living environments, determine needs of the youth and/or family members, and provide information on community resources were provided, not meeting the quarterly goal for this objective.</p>	<p>Provide two annual community wellness operations targeting assistance for back-to-school readiness and family supports during the holiday season.</p>



## IN THE NEWS

SPOTLIGHT

On December 20, 2022, 11 Deputy Probation Officers with the Santa Barbara County Probation Department conducted county-wide wellness checks of youth on community supervision. A wellness check involves the assessment of the living environment and the needs of the youth and/or family members, in addition to providing information on probation and community resources. To support families in need during the holidays, grocery store gift cards and toys for younger siblings, generously donated by CommUnify's Toys for Tots program, were delivered to families. In total, 30 homes were visited during which these care packages were distributed and information was provided to families on additional resources available to meet a variety of needs during the winter months. The Santa Barbara County Probation Department supervises over 200 youth in the community. Deputy Probation Officers provide both accountability and opportunity to those they supervise. They are committed to community safety as well as family wellness.

# GOAL 4

## Support a systemic approach to studying and addressing disparities in the juvenile justice system including but not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

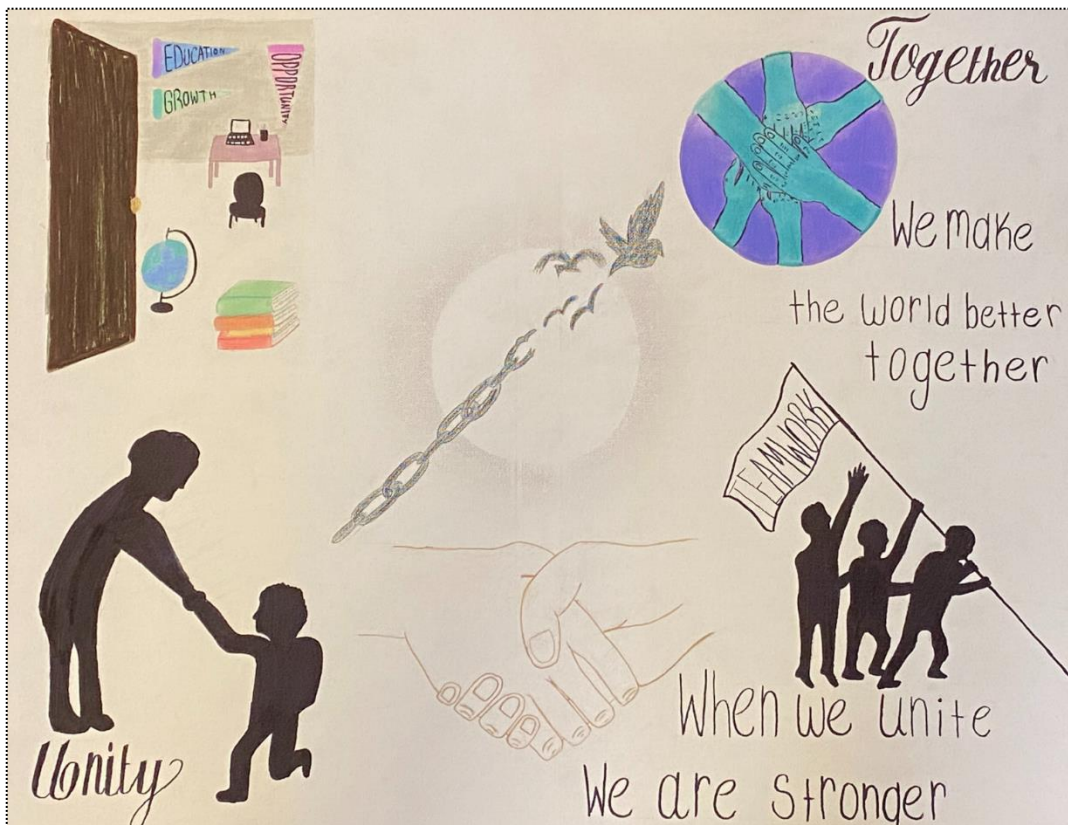
*The JJCC and JJRS are committed to understanding the extent to which disparities exist within the criminal justice system, and addressing and implementing processes to assist in reducing disproportionality.*

OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROJECTED OUTCOME	FY 2023-2024 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
<p>Utilizing data on disparities to inform decision-making, collaborate with local justice partners to educate staff and stakeholders, and strategize approaches to address disparities in the local justice system.</p>	<p>Probation and Public Defender’s staff participated in “Understanding and Addressing Implicit Bias in the Justice System”, only partially meeting the goal for this objective for at least one implicit bias training for staff working with youth at the Probation Department, District Attorney’s Office and Public Defender’s Office.</p>	<p>Ensure 90% of Probation Staff working with youth have completed an implicit bias course in the previous three years.</p>
	<p>Language inserted in FY 2022-2023 juvenile Probation service contracts prioritizing the selection of culturally proficient bilingual and bi-cultural staff with the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes and beliefs to work well with, respond effectively to, and be supportive of people in cross cultural settings and persons from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, meeting the goal for this objective.</p>	<p>Probation service contracts will include a requirement to address lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender nonconforming and transgender (LGBQ/GNCT) youth by their preferred pronoun.</p>
	<p>As of March 1, 2023, the creation of a framework to collect data on youth’s Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (SOGIE) to inform strategies to allow agencies to engage authentically with LGBQ/GNCT youth and improve services to this population was in progress but not completed.</p>	<p>Implement data collection on youth’s SOGIE to inform strategies to allow agencies to engage authentically with LGBQ/GNCT youth and improve services to this population.</p>
	<p>As of March 1, 2023, the creation of a framework to capture individual-level data of indigenous youth population served to create a baseline measure of trends in booking, detention, court disposition, and other probation outcomes was in progress but not completed.</p>	<p>Design a framework to capture individual-level data of indigenous youth populations served to create a baseline measure of trends in booking, detention, court disposition, and other probation outcomes to include strategies for staff to approach families and record this information.</p>

# GOAL 4

*Continued from previous page*

OBJECTIVES	FY 2022-2023 PROJECTED OUTCOME	FY 2023-2024 PROPOSED OUTCOMES
<p>Partner with CBOs serving LGBTQ/GNCT and/or indigenous youth populations to improve services.</p>	<p>As of March 1, 2023, an inventory of existing community programs serving LGBTQ/GNCT and/or indigenous youth populations to assess gaps in services, identify potential community partnerships and training opportunities was in progress but not completed.</p>	<p>Develop an inventory of existing community programs serving LGBTQ/GNCT and/or indigenous youth populations to assess gaps in services, identify potential community partnerships and training opportunities.</p>
	<p>Training for all juvenile and facilities staff in approaches to collect SOGIE information was held February through March 2023. Subsequent to training, data-entry related to youth's SOGIE for all youth upon intake at the JJC or during intake and investigations at Juvenile Field Services began, meeting the goal for this objective.</p>	<p>Initiate data collection of youth's SOGIE to inform service delivery and related program and policy decision-making.</p>



# III. ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING SERVICES

## Youth Service Gaps

The Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJJ) annually identifies service gaps that exist in the local juvenile justice system as well as any challenges that can impede progress toward goals and in carrying out the operations of the local juvenile justice system. Ongoing service gaps have been identified in the following areas:

- Countywide programs that are culturally responsive
- Challenges to accessing mental health treatment for youth prior to juvenile justice involvement
- Challenges to substance use disorder treatment options, on a continuum from community intervention to inpatient treatment
- Intervention and treatment for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and those at risk of CSEC, as well as gender-responsive interventions for these youth
- Community-based, pre-juvenile-justice prevention services and interventions for youth
- Limited voice of “lived experience” involved in service provisions to youth and families.

## Local Efforts to Address Service Gaps

### ▪ **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)**

The FFPSA requires the child welfare system to pivot its approach from reactionary to preventative. The main objective of this initiative is to reduce entries into foster care through culturally responsive interventions to incidents of child maltreatment thereby allowing more children and youth to remain safely at home with their families. A multi-agency work group named “Together for Children,” convenes bi-monthly to develop intervention plans to address the underlying factors that often lead to referrals for abuse and neglect. Providing families with needed resources can negate Probation or Child Welfare Services (CWS) involvement. FFPSA is an opportunity to provide alternatives to drawing families of color into formal system involvement.

### ▪ **Secure Families**

In this past fiscal year, CommUnify received the Secure Families grant, a collaborative violence prevention program designed to address root causes of rising rates of violence in the Santa Maria community. The program utilizes partner agencies to offer family focused support and evidence-based programming to prevent and deter violence with a focus on 7th and 8th grade youth and their families. The program offers case management, mental health treatment, mentoring, and transitional services for youth as they advance to high school. Each of these reflects the understanding that youths’ underlying traumas, prior abuse or neglect, and underlying mental health issues contribute to their anti-social behaviors including gang involvement. Thus, programs utilized for gang-involved youth focus on addressing and treating these underlying causes rather than the symptom which manifests as anti-social behavior.

### ▪ **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**

SUD treatment continues to be an identified gap for youth. During the last year, one of the programs providing SUD treatment to youth in Lompoc and Santa Maria closed, leaving the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA) as the primary program available for youth under the age of 18.

While CADA has continued to provide services to all appropriately referred youth countywide, there still remains an absence of in-patient adolescent drug and alcohol program. Under the direction of Behavioral Wellness (BeWell), Youth Opioid Response (YOR) Place in Lompoc continued to offer services to youth who suffer from opioid addiction, but as the opioid epidemic continues to escalate, in-patient services continue to be an unmet need.

- **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)**

Addressing CSEC also continues to be an area of need. The District Attorney's Office recently appointed a new coordinator to the local task force after a significant period of vacancy. In addition, the Probation Department will secure a tool to identify those at risk for CSEC as well as current survivors. Training to utilize the tool to screen all youth at intake both in field services and at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) will be provided to staff. Once complete, staff will be able to better identify youth and ensure gender specific services are in place to address their needs and opportunities for data collection will increase.

## **Diversion Services**

- **Youth Empowerment Services (YES):** Diversion services have increased greatly in recent years and will continue to be expanded in the coming year to close this gap. As the Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG), locally referred to as YES ended in February, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funding will be used to continue to provide school-based pre-adjudication diversion to youth ages 12-17. A similar model, as was provided for in the YRG grant, will be sustained allowing Probation to divert youth to CADA for case management with no court involvement and limited Probation oversight.
- **Tara Haaland-Ford Restorative Justice Program (THFRJP):** To further embed diversion practices, Probation continues to partner with the THFRJP to divert youth who are not eligible for the YES program, but who do not require formal court intervention. Here, utilizing an evidence-based Restorative Justice model, trained facilitators work with the youth, family, and victim providing opportunity for meaningful dialogue, mutual understanding, and to repair the harm or damage that occurred as a result of the youth's actions.
- **Community Partners:** The incorporation of community partners with lived experience has continued to be a priority focus this past year and will continue into the coming year. Through participation on various planning groups, to post-secondary academic partnerships, to the expansion of alcohol and drug services at the JJC, individuals with lived experience and former involvement in the justice system have and will be providing direct services to youth, and will provide input on program development, details of which will be provided further in this plan. The inclusion of people with lived experience will inform policy, shape services, and educate service providers to better meet the needs of our youth.

## **Current Service Challenges**

Through the efforts of county and community agencies, gaps in services have been mitigated. However, our youth continue to experience challenges which require further assessment and evaluation:

- **COVID-19:** Even as restrictions have been lifted, the pandemic continues to impact service delivery. Youth have not completely reacclimated to in person contacts, often preferring to continue services



virtually. Providers continue to offer a virtual option which also presents a range of challenges related to enrollment, engagement, and retention.

- **Information Sharing:** The ability of agencies and organizations to move information easily between parties regarding a youth's case is often limited by federal and state laws that control the circumstances under which confidential information can be shared. Information sharing is supported when Releases of Information are in place, however, reviewing these documents, addressing concerns related to them, and securing signatures from youth and parents can delay communication and access to services.
- **Engagement and Retention in Programming:** Engagement in services has historically been a challenge for youth on probation, and as Probation has focused on supervising the highest of risk youth, this continues to present as a significant challenge for both youth and families. Many local providers are now offering options for virtual, in person, or a combined modality for service delivery to suit the needs and interests of those participating in services. Many agencies are also utilizing reminder text messaging for pending appointments which appears to have some impact on successful engagement.

## Existing Community Resources

Many public and private organizations throughout the County seek to positively impact youth who are either in the juvenile justice system, or at risk of entering it, by providing services through either formal or informal referrals. Many of the community organization and school system interventions identified have been designed to be responsive to local community concerns focused on youth wellness, SUD, and to improve and mitigate significant public safety risks posed from youth crime.

### ▪ **Education**

Local school districts and colleges continue to support their students and families in a variety of ways including academic guidance, family engagement, and service referrals.

The Santa Barbara Unified School District offers the following:

- Family Resource Centers at local elementary schools.
- "What is Love" after school program conducts youth outreach activities that includes education on healthy relationships and relationship violence.
- The Alternatives to Violence Project, whose goal is to reduce violence by learning about relationships, communication, and conflict resolution.
- Parent education workshops with topics to include: healthy relationships, social media, understanding changes in children's behaviors, communication between parents and children, mental health 101, and grief and loss.



The Lompoc Unified School District has many programs and services including:

- The Lompoc Youth Prevention Project that addresses disruptive on-campus behaviors that impact student achievement and safety. This group





meets monthly and is receiving technical assistance from the New Jersey non-profit organization “Community Based Public Safety Collective” which has shown success in addressing school violence.

- Five full-time social workers facilitate parent engagement, parenting classes, individual counseling, restorative practices, and workshops for parents.
- 16 social emotional learning (SEL) counselors implement SEL Academies, individual supports to students, classroom lessons, and art therapy lessons.
- Culturally-relevant leadership programs including Joven Noble, Xinacthli, and Girasol conducted by district staff for students to participate in a rites of passage program from children to young adults.
- Individual schools have outreach consultants who provide individualized interventions with students through mentoring, skill building, and activity-based programming.
- An intensive group support with Dr. Victor Rios from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) to promote personal transformation and civic engagement.
- Student Scholar System is in place to improve student motivation, self-reflection, and student goal setting.

The Santa Maria Joint Union School District contracts with CADA to utilize the Teen Court program for youth appropriate for school-based diversionary services.



The Santa Maria Bonita District has a three-tiered response to youth’s needs based on SEL. The robust program includes:

- 42 outreach mentors;
- 17 psychologists;
- Four homeless liaisons;
- Four truancy mentors;
- One foster youth liaison;
- A crisis response teams at each of the 21 schools;
- Eight bicultural Family Outreach Advocates, four of whom are also trilingual (English, Spanish, and Mixteco);
- Family Resource Centers located at three elementary schools and one in the community which are supported by Family Service Agency (FSA);
- Two Food Bank distributions offered monthly for families.



The Santa Ynez District also has a three-tiered approach to student support and mental health utilizing SEL and includes:

- Mental wellness center on campus for youth to access both during and after school;
- Mentoring;
- On-site mental health counselors from People Helping People and Hospice of Santa Barbara;
- Restorative justice circles, social skills building, and mediation, with training offered by UCSB;
- Quarterly Parent Cafes;



- An annual health fair;
- Parent education workshops, one in English and one in Spanish, facilitated by a therapist who brings topics of interest to the groups including but not limited to fentanyl and mental health needs and resources.

Allan Hancock College’s (AHC) Rising Scholars is a program that serves both current and formerly justice involved students. They offer services for students which includes: connecting them with supportive services/resources both on and off campus, academic support, and mentorship. Each student is assigned a formerly justice involved mentor who will assist them with navigating their academic career. Services are currently offered to students at the JJC both virtually and in person.

AHC’s Rising Phoenix program is a juvenile outreach program that offer access for probation youth to enroll in courses that lead to degrees, certificates, and specialized training that result in enhanced workforce skills or the ability to transfer to a four-year university. The program is offered to youth residing in north county.

Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) offers the Transitions Program with specialized services and support for those recently incarcerated.



- **Behavioral Health**

The behavioral health wellbeing of Santa Barbara youth is currently addressed with the following programs:

- BeWell facilitates a number of programs throughout the county including:
  - Prevention Services
  - Psychiatric evaluations
  - Assessment of youth
  - Outpatient individual, family and group therapy
  - Medication support for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with specialty mental health needs
  - Children’s Mobile Crisis Services
  - Services for transitional age youth
  - Resiliency services for youth who are at risk of sexual exploitation
- YouthWell provides resource linkages, outreach, education and support to both parents and youth.
- “YOR Place” in Lompoc to address opioid addiction in transitional age youth.
- While youth are at the JJC and Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC), BeWell provides for initial assessment including the completion of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS). BeWell then provides individual and family counseling as needed for youth, as well as formal assessment to be utilized for case planning and service referrals. Further, BeWell provides for transition services prior to reentry and once in the community which includes continued provision of services, as well as referrals to other agencies to meet identified needs.

- The **California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Initiative** increases the opportunity for youth to access services through BeWell. Under this initiative, many barriers to services have been reduced and BeWell is able to provide services while an assessment and treatment plan are being completed.
  - The **Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA)** grant program is a continued partnership between the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) and BeWell, to collaborate with school districts throughout the county through 2024. The partnership first piloted the program in north county schools, but plans to expand to other districts in 2023. MHSSA has partnered with YouthWell to develop a uniform directory of mental health resources, to provide education on mental health issues to the community, and to engage youth voice in terms of mental health services available on school campuses. Together, BeWell, identified schools, and YouthWell are working to reduce the stigma regarding mental health needs.
  - Casa Pacifica facilitates **Senate Bill (SB) 163 wraparound services** for youth at risk of out of home placement, youth in alternative of home placement, other than short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP), and those returning home from an STRTP or other out of home placement. This program is available to youth supervised by Probation and CWS and offers a holistic “wraparound” approach to providing intensive in-home services to youth and families.
- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**  
Countywide SUD programs offered to youth through CADA include the following:
    - SUD counseling
    - Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
    - Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT), an evidence-based therapeutic intervention treatment for adolescent SUD and behavioral problems that place families in crisis.

In addition, CADA provides school-based therapeutic services at Hapgood Elementary School and Maple High School which are located in Lompoc.

Beginning March 1, 2023, CADA will provide counselors with lived experience to facilitate the individual and group SUD counseling at the JJC.

- **Employment Readiness/Vocational/Employment**  
Employment readiness, vocational training, and employment opportunities are important for youth to positively occupy free time and to provide a variety of paths to future successes.
  - Youth Career Services, a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program of the Workforce Development Board, as operated by Goodwill Industries in Santa Barbara County, offers a variety of services for youth ages 14 to 24 regardless of whether they are currently enrolled in school. Services include paid work experience, training opportunities, employment preparation, skills certification, leadership development, job and school placement, as well as other supportive services. Goodwill Industries has offices in Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria and holds weekly office hours for this program at each of the local Probation offices.
  - Dos Puertas School (DPS) at the JJC also provides access to Career Technical Education (CTE) courses. Youth have access to modules in 15 different industry sectors determined to be relevant in the local workforce. Students are able to earn industry recognized certifications in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and ServSafe, which can be used in a résumé and future employment.

- AHC's Rising Scholar program offers Career Readiness Training to enrolled youth that includes assessment, exploration, training, and assistance in search for and securing employment.

## **Amplifying Youth & Family Voice**

In an effort to incorporate input from those directly served, a youth survey was distributed in December 2022. Questions included the youth's perceptions of feeling "accepted" to being "unnoticed" and feeling "unimportant" in various settings. Youth were also asked to respond to questions around the extent to which they felt safe in their neighborhoods, had a trusted adult in their lives, perceived level of involvement in their case planning, and additional support needed for themselves or their families.

In total, 66 youth responded, including those under consideration for diversionary services and supervised youth, as well as youth serving long term commitments at the JJC. Results were overwhelmingly positive. When asked, "My Probation Officer recognizes when I do something good and/or make a positive change," 86% responded "always" or "very often." A majority of youth (84%) also "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that their parents' input was respected in their case. Nearly all youth (97%) knew what they needed to do to successfully complete probation and 94% "agreed" or "strongly agreed" that they knew what their goals were and felt included in decision-making. Most youth reported feeling safe in their neighborhood, with 86% responding "always" or "very often" and 14% "sometimes." Most youth (88%) also reported "always" or "very often" having a trusted adult in their life that can help them when support is needed with 13% responding "sometimes" or "never."

Areas of opportunities are also acknowledged. For example, though few youth (8% or less) felt "ignored," "judged," "invisible," "unnoticed," or "unimportant," collaborative work is needed to address and eliminate these experiences for youth.

## **Community Voice**

In 2021, Probation and CWS conducted a formal County Self-Assessment (CSA), a five-year plan formulated to improve outcomes for youth in foster care. During the next four subsequent years, the County will be required to submit an annual System Improvement Plan (SIP) to address the progress towards achieving the goals outlined in the CSA.

While developing both the CSA and subsequent SIP, two stakeholder meetings were conducted. The participants included community members, community-based organizations (CBO), and other county departments who shared their thoughts on both systems, including what they believed each did well and identifying areas for improvement. In addition, Probation held a focus group with parents of prior foster youth. Based on information gathered in these forums, strategies were developed in this year's SIP to expand the use of regular Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings to all youth identified as at-risk of removal from their home. The CFT allows both youth and family to have a voice in creating an action plan to support the family while the youth remains in the community. In addition, the youth has the opportunity to identify and choose other networks of support to attend the CFT. A second related strategy involves building a stronger network of community partners and collaboration to participate in the CFTs to enhance service provision and support for youth and families.

These stakeholder meetings and focus groups have helped elevate the need for extensive case management in the form of CFTs. In addition, they highlighted the need to collaborate to ensure their effectiveness and success in further supporting youth and families while at the same time, potentially addressing many of the gaps listed earlier in this plan.

## IV. JUVENILE JUSTICE STRATEGIES

### Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Community Supervision Model

Following the deployment of an RNR model in fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020, supervision caseloads were restructured to incorporate a differentiated approach as informed by the new risk and needs instrument. Resources are now concentrated on the youth that present with the highest need and risk



to reoffend, with a smaller ratio of officer to youth for those caseloads. As of January 1, 2023, Officers supervising high-risk caseloads have an average caseload size between 20-30 youth per officer. The most appropriate caseload size is continually evaluated, particularly for high risk youth, to maximize case management to best reflect the RNR principles.

RNR principles are significantly amplified by practitioners skilled in techniques proven to influence youth to change behavior. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based technique designed to enhance intrinsic motivation. As such, and as is noted earlier in the report, to further grow staff's MI skills, an increase in staff proficiency and advanced MI training opportunities for proficient staff are outcomes to be attained in the year to come.

### Assessment Tools

Standardized risk and needs assessments provide structure and consistency to the decision-making process and allow the juvenile justice system to focus on higher-risk youth.

- The Positive Achievement Change Tool© (PACT) is a risk and needs assessment that identifies criminogenic needs (those needs that research has shown are associated with criminal behavior but which a person can change) that should be targeted with appropriate interventions to reduce further offending.
- The Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool II (JSORRAT) is a sexual recidivism risk assessment tool designed for male sex offenders between the ages 12-17.99 years of age.
- The Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool is a trauma informed behavioral health evaluation tool designed to support case planning and the linkage between the assessment and service implementation.
- Individualized Education Plans (IEP) are utilized in case planning and the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) works to ensure these are regularly updated to meet youth's needs both in the facility and upon reentry to their community schools.
- The Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI) is a behavioral health tool designed for juvenile justice programs and is utilized upon intake at both the JJC and LPBC. The tool asks 52 questions regarding thoughts and behaviors in the following areas: alcohol and drug use; anger/irritability; depression/anxiety; somatic complaints; suicidal ideation; thought disturbance; and traumatic experiences.

## Evidence-Based Interventions

The use of interventions proven to be effective with juveniles are prioritized to achieve the greatest benefit. This includes working with providers to support delivery of curriculum to ensure programs are provided with fidelity and in accordance with research-based models. In FY 2020-2021, various monitoring efforts were implemented including self, peer, and onsite assessments of program sessions completed either by an individual within the organization providing the service, a peer organization delivering the same program, or Probation Department staff. The assessments rate various aspects of the sessions, and allow for open-ended comments to the session facilitator(s). Additionally, beginning in FY 2020-2021, providers were asked to provide quarterly data on performance measures related to those services including pre- and post-surveys administered to youth to assess changes in thought patterns before and after a program or intervention was delivered. In FY 2021-2022, fidelity assessments continued to be administered to ensure services are keeping with the evidence-based models on which they are based, providing feedback to providers to allow for immediate adjustments to programming to improve fidelity, and to highlight areas of success.

## Diversion

Diversion plays a pivotal role in the juvenile justice system by diverting low level youth from formal processing while providing supportive services for youth and families. The Sentencing Project recently published an article<sup>11</sup> for which research was funded through the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The article noted diverting youth from formal court involvement should be a central focus not only to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, but also to potentially avert future arrests and school failures noting that formal involvement with the justice system tends to “undermine rather than enhance public safety” while reducing youth’s opportunities for future successes. Diversion on the other hand is shown to reduce future arrests and violent acts, while increasing school completion and future incomes earned.

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<sup>11</sup> [Diversion-A-Hidden-Key-to-Combating-Racial-and-Ethnic-Disparities-in-Juvenile-Justice.pdf \(santa-barbara.ca.us\)](#)



# V. FUNDED PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## Diversion

- **Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG)**

The Youth Empowerment Services (YES) diversion program as described on page 27 of this plan, was initially supported through the YRG. The program allowed for direct referrals from schools, law enforcement and Probation, with the focus on minimal involvement from the juvenile justice system to decrease the likelihood of youth being drawn deeper into the system. The program has had 602 youth referred by schools, Probation, and law enforcement. As of December 2022, 373, or 62% of youth referred enrolled in services and 211 youth successfully completed the program. These represent youth who would have otherwise been referred to Probation for further processing into the juvenile justice system. Further, to date, less than 5% of youth who enrolled in and completed this program had a formal petition adjudicated in juvenile court one year from program discharge. This program has demonstrated substantial success in the use of diversion to address the needs of youth and families without further system involvement. As of March 1, 2023, JJCPA funding is being utilized to continue this program.

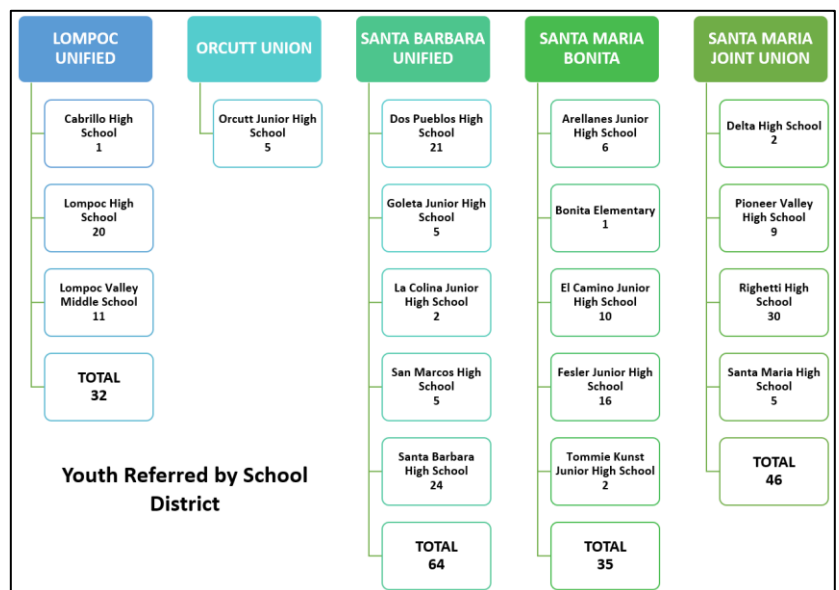
- **Restorative Justice Diversion**

As outlined earlier, Probation in partnership with the Tara Haaland-Ford Restorative Justice Program (THFRJP), piloted a diversion program. The program offers opportunities for youth not eligible for other diversion opportunities due to the nature of the offense, to participate in the restorative justice process. The youth and family work with facilitators to help make survivors whole, while completing Restorative Action Plans that address the needs of youth and families. Initial review of this program shows positive successes, and thus, Probation intends to provide this program with JJCPA funding to increase the number of youth served through this diversionary option.

- **Cannabis Education Program**

The Probation Department partners with Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley (FBSMV) to provide educational classes and community service work opportunities for youth cited for the possession of marijuana as required by the Health and Safety Code. This program is funded through the YOBG, and it allows for youth to receive this diversionary education intervention to provide tools to address their substance use before it escalates. The classes include an evidence-based curriculum designed for youth and modules for initial and subsequent

**Exhibit: 10**





referrals. As of December 2022, 61 youth successfully completed the program. Exhibit 10 illustrates the vast number of schools taking advantage of this opportunity to not only provide for education that deters further

substance use, but also the significant use of another diversionary option for youth. For FY 2023-2024, this program will be expanded to offer three regional specialists to help guide youth through this program, which in turn will ideally bring more successful completions and a strong foundation for youth to abstain from future marijuana use.

## Department of Behavioral Wellness

Based on referrals for Probation, mental health practitioners provide services for youth who are pending adjudication, under supervision, in the facilities, and/or entering the reentry phase. Many of these services are funded both through JJCPA and YOBG. Clinical activities include:



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**Behavioral Wellness**  
A System of Care and Recovery

- **Assessments:** Practitioners conduct Brief Mental Health Assessments and JJCPA Service Needs Assessments. As the name implies, the former is a brief assessment that generally entails a file review and clinical interview of the youth. This assessment is more suitable for youth who present with mild behavioral health difficulties. The latter form of assessment is more in-depth and reserved for youth who have not previously been assessed or treated or whom appear to experience a greater degree of symptoms and impairment. The practitioners provide reports of these assessments to Probation. In addition, youth will be assessed to determine medical necessity and suitability for treatment at BeWell clinics or through community providers.
- **Treatment:** Practitioners provide short-term treatment, sometimes starting when the youth are at the JJC and LPBC to provide a bridge until the youth can connect with a longer-term care provider in a BeWell clinic or other community program. For some youth, the short-term treatment is sufficient, but others will require individual and/or family psychotherapy. They may also provide this short-term treatment and linkage to youth under supervision in the community.
- **Engagement and Linkage:** Since justice-involved youth tend to not perceive themselves as experiencing behavioral health problems, they are less likely to pursue treatment on their own. It is often necessary to engage them in a gradual, non-threatening manner to help them identify problems and understand how they might benefit from treatment. Practitioners achieve this in institutional settings, where they can develop a rapport and a level of trust, and this is conducive to linkage activities with the youth post-release. They work closely with the youth, their families, their BeWell clinic counterparts and community service providers to facilitate follow-through on treatment referrals.
- **Child and Family Teams (CFT):** Practitioners are invited to attend CFT meetings to participate in the discussions about treatment goals and objectives. Practitioners complete the Child Adolescent Needs Survey (CANS) and may use this tool to assist the youth, family, and Probation in charting a course of treatment, as well as offering guidance about the presumptive transfer of specialty mental health services for youth in foster care.

## Evidence-Based Treatment Interventions

Since 2018, a number of evidence-based treatment interventions have been implemented. These interventions either have demonstrated outcomes in reducing risk factors and addressing criminogenic needs:

- **Family Focused Interventions** such as Strengthening Families have been found to reduce depression, increase parents' "satisfaction" with adolescents, reduce adult alcohol use, and reduce illicit drug use for both adolescents and adults. These interventions are provided through JJCPA funding.
- **Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment (CBT) Programs** for teaching the cognitive skills, social skills and values such as "Seeking Safety," are utilized as an intervention for youth with a history of trauma and substance use disorder (SUD). The program is designed to help youth improve post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, interpersonal skills and coping strategies, and is funded through JJCPA.
- **EI Joven Noble** is a trauma-informed culturally sensitive program that aids in comprehensive character development that supports and guides youth through their "rites of passage" process while focusing on violence prevention and intervention. This intervention is funded through YOBG.
- **Mentoring**, also funded through YOBG, is for high-risk youth through a community-based organization (CBO) to provide support and increase resiliency which has demonstrated a positive effect in the reduction of alcohol and drug use, academic failure, teenage pregnancy, and gang violence.
- **Sex Offender Treatment** to provide outpatient treatment for those youth assessed as appropriate to remain in or returning to their homes and under community supervision. YOBG funding supports the referrals to this program through the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center (CPC), in both individual and group settings. In addition, Probation contracts with two psychologists to complete evaluations on all youth referred for sex offenses to determine their risk to reoffend and appropriate intentions to prevent them from doing so.

## JJC Behavioral Aid

Youth detained at the JJC often struggle with a variety of challenges including separation from the stability of their friends and family, school, and mental health issues. Behavioral Aids, provided through Community Solutions Inc. (CSI), assist these youth by spending quality time with them, engaging them in positive, pro-social activities and games, providing tutoring, and working with staff to address any case goals or objectives for their treatment. This program is funded through YOBG.

## Targeted Interventions/Alternative Sanctions

The Probation Department is also partnering with FBSMV to provide interventions to youth who are in violation of their probation grant for minor reasons that do not require a formal response. Programming addresses goals and objectives set forth in youth case plans, provides targeted interventions and alternative sanctions in the community setting, incentives for meeting goals, and encourages prosocial involvement in school, family, employment, and other life domains. This program specifically aims to improve school attendance and performance, and to prepare youth to obtain employment. From July to December 2022, 23 youth from both Lompoc and Santa Maria were referred to this program. This program is funded by YOBG.

## Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression

In 2020, the Whole Youth Project (WYP) was launched, a two-year initiative in partnership with Ceres Research Policy designed to help agencies collect data on every young person's sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) and help departments more effectively affirm young people's many identities. Additional technical assistance has been sought this year through a contract with Pacific Pride. This allows for a local agency to train all juvenile and facilities staff on SOGIE, rather



than using a training for trainers model as previously identified. This shift was made after staff expressed concern that more expertise was needed to obtain accurate information from youth. These trainings, coupled with additional data collection fields being added to Probation's case management system, will allow for the development of anti-discrimination and data sharing policies. The compiled information will be analyzed to develop data-driven plans to improve services, community outreach, and a continuum of care that affirms lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender nonconforming and transgender (LGBQ/GNCT) youth. YOBG funds are utilized for this training.

## Youth Support Funds

A portion of YOBG and SB 823 funds are set aside to meet a variety of needs for youth who are transitioning from a custody environment to the community setting. This can include support in achieving a prosocial goal (such as school activities, clothing for sports activities, etc.) or for maintaining stability (such as bedding, clothing, and certain housing costs). Funds target needs that are not readily supported through other programs, are generally short-term, and which are consistent with case plan goals. Officers working with youth in the community also regularly provide youth with incentives for making progress toward their goals and for reaching milestones. This can range from a small token showing recognition of improved school or program attendance, improved behavior at home and/or at school, to larger incentives for completing programs or for graduating from high school.

## VI. REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

At times, counties may be required to consolidate or leverage resources to address gaps in services or limitations with available funding. Currently, Probation maintains mutual aid agreements with Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties for assistance in times of disaster (including housing of detained youth) and for the joint training of staff. In addition, to serve the realigned juvenile population, Santa Barbara County has joined the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) statewide collaborative consortium network designed to assist counties in filling gaps that cannot otherwise be addressed in the short term. The purpose of the consortium is to ensure that there is a high quality, secure youth treatment program available for any youth in the state.

## VII. INFORMATION SHARING & DATA COLLECTION

Locally, data is used to assess program performance, explore the drivers of Santa Barbara County trends, assist in decision-making, and inform our collective practice. The data is nearly exclusively contained in the Probation Department's case management system. For youth in foster care, data is also entered in the State database utilized by Child Welfare Services (CWS). Within this document, robust data that is utilized to assess and project progress on system goals and objectives is highlighted. Further, youth demographic and state and local juvenile crime data is evaluated and purposed to inform decision making in needed program enhancements or changes in supervision strategies. Data is used internally and externally for a variety of purposes including research, resource management, and trend analysis. These include informing committees such as the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) or the Board of Supervisors (BOS) about current supervision trends, population demographics, programming and recidivism outcomes. Information is also shared with our community-based organizations (CBO) to respond to grant requirements or support their mission.

As outlined earlier, staff will begin collecting information on youth's sexual orientation, gender identify and expression (SOGIE) as well as begin screening for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Additionally, Probation will assume data analysis of the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) diversion program from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). These data elements will be explored and shared with stakeholders through presentations and written reports to prompt conversation about how to improve practice or services.

To further support information sharing, Santa Barbara County has established collaborative groups in the cities of Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria that meet regularly to focus on youth violence and prevention strategies, and to share information on programs available in those specific regions. Each group works toward increasing collaboration and creating strong networks to provide appropriate services for youth and families. Santa Barbara continues to host the **South Coast Youth Safety Partnership**, Lompoc has continued to grow the **Lompoc Youth Violence Coalition** as part of the Youth Violence Prevention Project grant, and Santa Maria launched the **Prevention and Intervention Meeting** led by the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

**YouthWell** is also working to support information sharing by partnering with over 60 agencies to identify gaps in services, identify barriers to treatment, and eliminating the stigma often associated with mental health needs. They educate youth, families, and the community on resources available throughout Santa Barbara County.

**KIDS Network** is a multidisciplinary umbrella organization that was established as an advisory body to the Santa Barbara County BOS to address issues related to children, youth, and families. KIDS Network promotes comprehensive and collaborative approaches among service providers and community stakeholders to identify priorities and improve outcomes in the areas of health, education, human services, and juvenile justice. Bi-monthly meetings of the KIDS Network include updates and activities designed to support the ongoing evolution of Resilient Santa Barbara County. KIDS Network general membership is open to all.

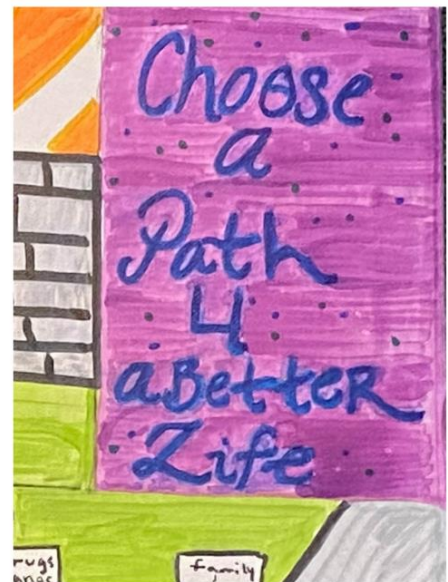
**Resilient Santa Barbara County** is a countywide, cross-sector network dedicated to preventing and reducing the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Santa Barbara County. This group provides a forum to educate, exchange ideas, share opportunities, and work collectively to transform lives through practical and community-centered solutions.





# JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT PLAN (JJRP)

Senate Bill (SB) 823 provided funding for county-based care as long as counties submit a plan to address the complex needs of this population. To be eligible for funding, the local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) was to create the Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS). Members are detailed on page 10. The subcommittee's primary responsibility is to develop the JJRP that describes the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth. In accordance of Section §1995 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, county plans will be submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) by May 1<sup>st</sup> of every third year.



Santa Barbara County’s plan is grounded in the 8 Guiding Principles Elevating Care for Youth in Custody developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation:

Annie E. Casey Foundation

## 8 Guiding Principles Elevating Care for Youth in Custody



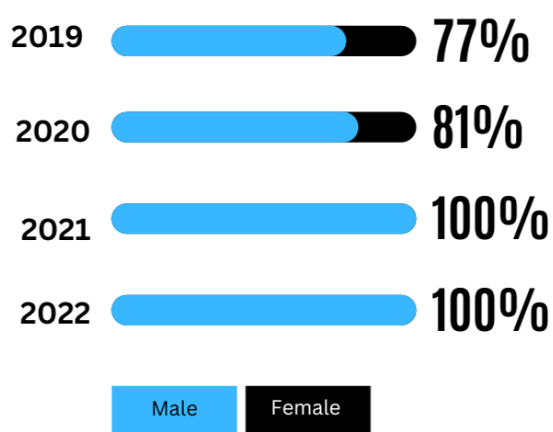
AEC Juvenile Justice Explainer – Elevating Care for Youth in Secure Custody:  
<https://youtu.be/npY5Hlp9coA&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1633644075974000usg=AOvVaw24rmLeZtOE4d7CO5zYck24>

## I. POPULATION

### Welfare and Institutions Code Section §707(b) Youth

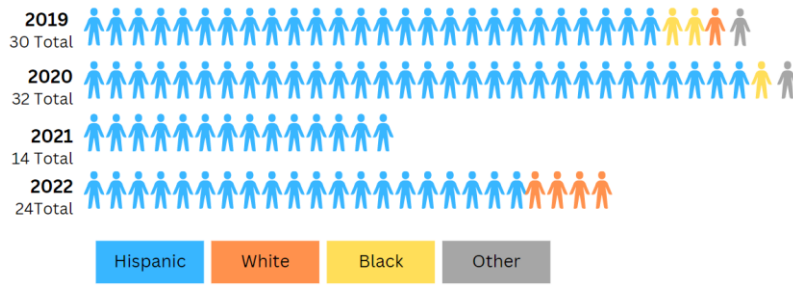
Youth who may be committed to a Secure Track program, under SB 823, have an adjudicated offense that falls under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section §707(b). In total, 24 youth were adjudicated for a WIC §707(b) offense in 2022, an increase of 10 youth from the year prior (see Exhibit 11). The majority of youth (63% or 15 of 24) were adjudicated for a §245(a)(4) penal code (PC), assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury. All WIC §707(b) adjudications made in calendar year 2022 are outlined in Exhibit 12.

### Gender of Youth Adjudicated for a WIC §707(b) offense



**Exhibit: 11**

**Youth Adjudicated for a WIC §707(b) offense**



Youth with multiple adjudications for a WIC §707 (b) offense in the same reporting year are counted only once.

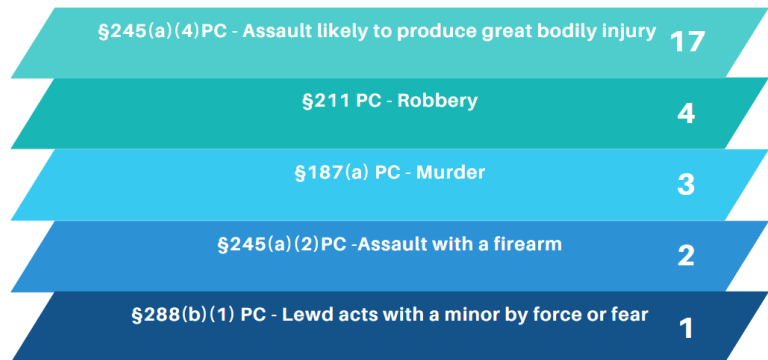
Of the youth adjudicated for a WIC §707(b) offense in 2022, 63% (15 of 24) returned home on probation. Of the remaining youth, six were placed at the Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge (PEAK) program, the local program for youth committed to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) (see page 44 for additional information on the PEAK Restoration Program), and three were committed to the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC).

Initially, it was anticipated that between two to five youth annually would be served by a Secure Track program. The population was anticipated to generally be Hispanic/Latinx males between the ages of 15-24, who had committed serious or violent offenses involving harm (physical, psychological and/or monetary) to a victim. This projection was based on analysis of local youth commitments to DJJ from July 2017 through December 2020.

As of December 31, 2022, local commitments exceeded the anticipated projection with a total of 6 youth committed to the Secure Track program in Santa Barbara County. All youth are male and Hispanic with committing offenses of murder (n=2), assault with a firearm (n=2), or assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury (n=2). At their projected release, one youth will be 16, two youth will be 17, one will be 18, one will be 23 and one 24 years of age.

**Exhibit: 12**

**Adjudications of WIC §707(b) Youth**



NOTE: Exhibit 12 counts each adjudication of a WIC §707(b) or PC 290.008 offense. If a youth has multiple adjudications for a WIC §707(b) offense, they are each counted.

## II. SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT FACILITY PROGRAM: PEAK RESTORATION PROGRAM

The intent of the legislative changes under Senate Bill (SB) 823 includes keeping realigned youth closer to their families, delivering age appropriate evidence-based treatment to improve the youth’s outcome and public safety, and reducing the transfer of youth into the adult system. This realignment of youth from state jurisdiction to the counties of residence is designed for youth to be placed in the least

restrictive appropriate environment that will reduce and/or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities while decreasing the use of confinement in the juvenile justice system.

Further, the legislation requires counties to develop a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) option for youth ages 14 and over who are adjudicated of a WIC §707(b) offense. If the Court finds that a “less restrictive alternative disposition is unsuitable for the ward,” and determines the youth is both eligible and suitable for a SYTF based on specific criteria, the youth will be ordered to serve a baseline term of confinement<sup>12</sup>.

For youth eligible to be tried as an adult, reports are completed which review the five criteria required by WIC §707(b). Further, as of January 1, 2023, and pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 2361, the Court must retain youth under juvenile court jurisdiction unless there is a finding that the youth is no longer amenable to interventions with jurisdictional time limits. Amenability is carefully examined and thoroughly reviewed in each report resulting in most youth being found fit to remain in juvenile court this past year.

## **Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge**

Probation has developed the PEAK Restoration Program, a SYTF for realigned youth. PEAK provides focused individualized interventions that promote behavior change through data-informed programs delivered in a safe and secure environment for those who are at the highest risk of reoffending. Youth committed to the PEAK program are housed at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) according to classification and individual needs. The Residential Positive Achievement Change Tool (R-PACT), an evidence-based risk and needs tool is used to identify youths’ criminogenic needs, areas of strength, and risk to reoffend, as specifically designed for youth in a detention setting or other out-of-home placement. Upon completion of the R-PACT, the Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP), discussed in more detail below, is developed to address those criminogenic needs with available programming and with input from partner agencies and through Children and Family Team (CFT) meetings.

The program aligns with an intentional pro-social Positive Youth Development (PYD) model that:

- **Engages youth** within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive;
- Recognizes, utilizes, and **enhances youths’ strengths**; and
- Promotes positive outcomes for young people by **providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships**, and furnishing the support needed to build on their **leadership strengths**.

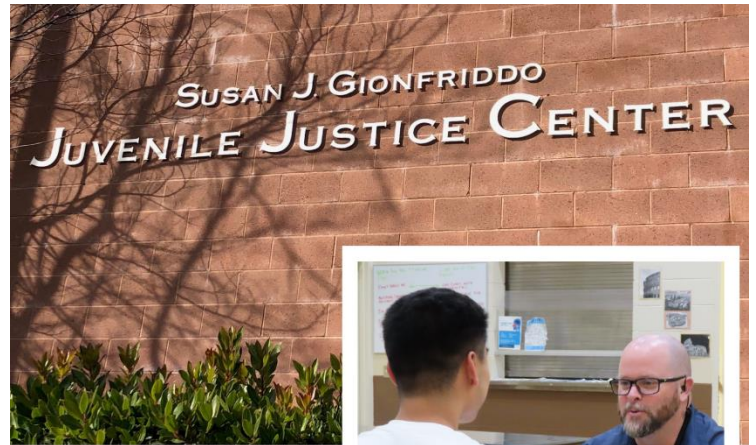
Processes, interventions, and programs include: the ARISE gang intervention program, El Joven Noble, Healthy Relationships curriculum, Seeking Safety©, Courage To Change © interactive journaling, art and culture, Moral Reconciliation Therapy©, Rising Scholars post-secondary/vocational support and mentoring, Cal Poly University at Pomona’s Prison Education Project (PEP), religious services, sexually transmitted infection prevention and education, incentives, Multidisciplinary Treatment Teams, CFT meetings, and an assigned Reentry Navigator.

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<sup>12</sup> Baseline terms of confinement are outlined in Senate Bill (SB) 92 and available for review here: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB92](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB92)



Within 15 days of court commitment into PEAK, a multidisciplinary team consisting of Probation, youth, family or other adult supportive partner, mental and behavioral health, education, defense attorney, and other treatment providers convenes to develop an IRP. Guided by criminogenic, education, and mental health risk and needs assessments, the IRP is individually tailored and includes input from the youth and family to develop a case plan with appropriate program interventions. The IRP addresses services necessary for the youth to successfully reenter the community upon release. The IRP is provided to the Court within 30 days of commitment. Review hearings occur every six months with the purpose of evaluating the youth's progress relative to the IRP, and to determine whether the baseline term of commitment should be lowered up to six months.



Locally, consideration is given to utilize the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) as a step-down facility for those serving PEAK commitments with Juvenile Court concurrence. Youth referred for this option are subject to meeting specific criteria set forth for this purpose as youth must be able to safely engage in treatment and transitional programming in an open setting. Through this step-down plan, youth participate in gradual and supportive transitions back into the community.

### **Multi-County Collaboration**

The Santa Barbara County Probation Department has joined the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and California State Association of Counties (CSAC) statewide collaborative consortium designed to assist counties in filling gaps that cannot otherwise be addressed in the short-term. The purpose of the consortium is to ensure that there is a high-quality secure youth treatment program available for any youth in the state who would previously have been committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The shared principles underlying this collaborative effort include:

- Prevent an increase in youth transferred to adult criminal court by ensuring secure track placement options are available when required by the judge and ensuring sufficient specialized treatment and programming options exist at the local level to meet high-need youth and garner confidence of juvenile court judges.
- Prevent “justice by geography” by ensuring the availability of high-quality programs in different regions that are culturally responsive, trauma-informed, evidence-based, age appropriate, as close to home as possible, centered on youth and family engagement, and based on positive youth development.
- Prevent net-widening by avoiding the need to establish and staff in all 58 counties a secure treatment facility and specialized programming for youth with the highest needs.

The specific functions of the consortium are determined by participating members, but are expected to include: the development of standardized language and rates for counties who contract with each other for secure youth treatment beds or services; assistance with finding appropriate housing or treatment

options for youth ordered by the court into a secure youth treatment facility; and other supports, as funding allows, to ensure high-quality services and programs across the state.

## III. AMPLIFYING VOICES TO INFORM DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION

### Youth & Family Voice

As noted in the fiscal year (FY) 2022-2023 Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP), Youth Voice and Parent Surveys were conducted to help determine preferred programs and services, outdoor activities, suggested improvements in communication efforts between Probation and parents, additional support and services for parents, and pro-social and religious opportunities for youth. These surveys have contributed to the current design of the Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge (PEAK) program, as well as many pending facility updates. In addition, there has been program expansion that included religious services, post-secondary education support, mentoring from lived experience facilitators, as well as the implementation of the Reentry Navigator.

In the coming year, a Youth Leadership Council consisting of youth from each unit at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) will be implemented to discuss comments, concerns, and suggestions submitted by youth. This group will convene monthly and will be facilitated by Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley's (FBSMV) Conflict Mediation facilitator who will support youth in asserting their voice. In addition, the Reentry Navigator position is being expanded to address the growing realigned population and to incorporate more in-depth collaboration with parents and natural supports prior to release.

### Community Voice

Throughout the past nine months, numerous community listening sessions have convened to discuss the closure of the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) and the creation of a treatment program within the JJC. Through this process, significant feedback and creative input was gathered from various stakeholders which has been utilized to enhance the PEAK program as well. Input again reiterated the desire for improved reentry services and desire to have formerly justice-involved individuals provide program delivery and youth support.

### Staff Development

- **Trauma Informed Care Training**

Understanding the underlying causes of youth's behavior is fundamental to making positive change. As such, Santa Barbara County Probation Department remains committed to Trauma Informed Care<sup>13</sup> for youth by providing annual training to staff.

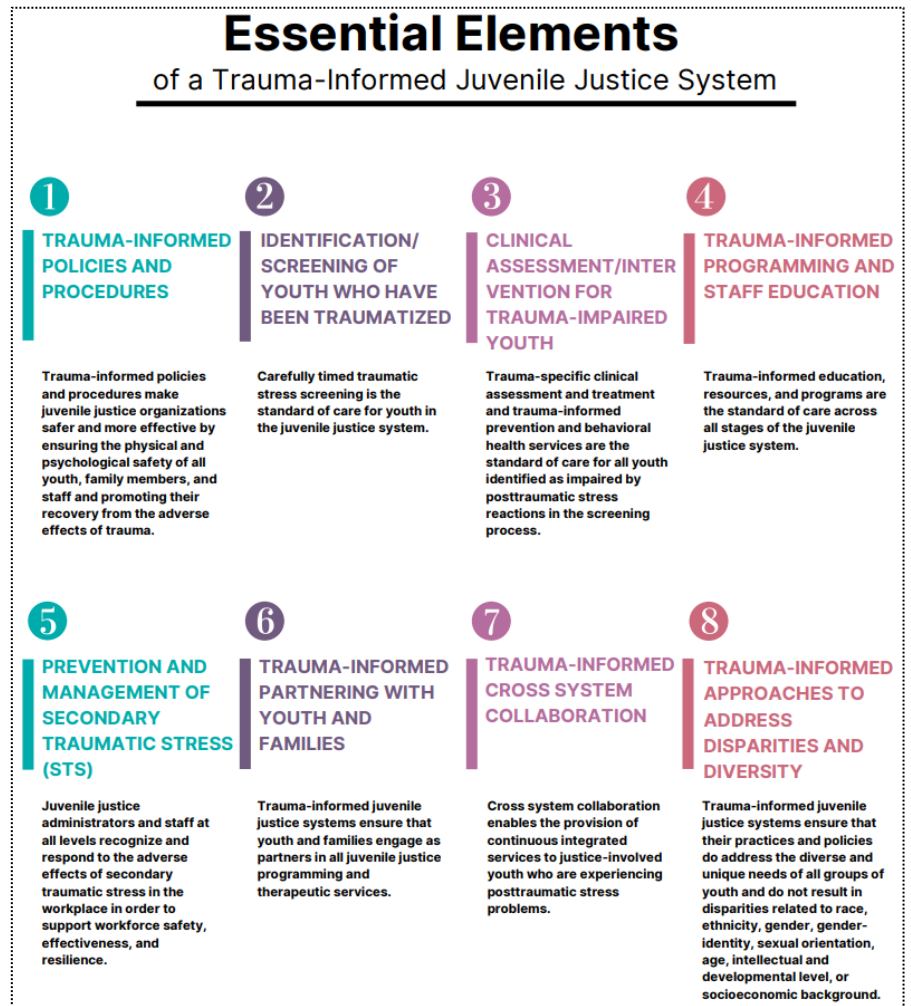
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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.nctsn.org/resources/essential-elements-trauma-informed-juvenile-justice-system>



- De-escalation Training**  
 De-escalation training provided for staff development is based on the MANDT© system<sup>14</sup> originally designed as a holistic training to reduce workplace violence. All facility staff are required to be trained in MANDT© philosophies and exposed to corresponding physical interventions.

In addition to focusing on these principles that are proven to reduce harm, Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs including RADAR (recognize, assess, decide, act, and review) as well as the Crisis Cycle are being integrated into scenario-based trainings offered quarterly to staff. It is recognized how important it is to reinforce the principles and review responses to incidents in order to concentrate efforts toward continued trauma informed interactions with youth.



- Motivational Interviewing (MI) Training**  
 To maintain skills, staff receive training in MI, an evidence-based practice that has been demonstrated to change behavior. When used by a skilled officer, MI can increase a youth’s motivation to comply with supervision requirements, participate in treatment, and address criminogenic needs. MI skills are particularly valuable in the facility setting to engage youth to become active participants in case planning, resolving conflict, and in feeling heard, seen, and valued. Training of officers in MI began in 2013 and advanced training to facilitate groups and engage families started in 2022.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.mandtsystem.com/> and <https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/the-mandt-system/detailed>

## IV. PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### Screening

Upon intake into the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), staff utilize screenings to quickly assess the youth's need for immediate care and further assessment:

- **Medical** – The Probation Department contracts with Wellpath to provide medical services. Medical staff will conduct a screening which includes obtaining information on current and past illnesses, special health requirements, infectious disease history, current symptoms, past mental health issues (including hospitalizations), dental issues, allergies, dietary needs, use of prescription medication, legal and illegal drug use, risk for potential withdrawal, sexual health history (including pregnancy), victimization abuse, and any medical issues that require immediately referral to a higher level of medical care. When medical is not onsite, a health trained Probation staff completes the receiving screening and notifies the on-call clinician of any immediate health care needs.
- **Mental Health** – Staff utilize the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI) upon intake to both the JJC and Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC). The purpose of MAYSI is to identify youth who may need immediate attention (e.g., staff response to suicidal feelings; need for the attention of a mental health professional).
- **CSEC** – Probation staff screen for commercial sexual exploitation to determine whether youth are at risk for CSEC or a survivor.

### Assessments

Standardized risk and needs assessments provide objective structure and consistency to case planning. For more in-depth knowledge of youth's needs and to develop targeted case plans, assessments are used as follows:

- **Behavioral Health** – Within 14 days of admission, the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool is administered to all youth as required by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The CANS reviews the strengths and needs of the youth considering past behavior, but focuses on the current needs to help inform treatment planning. The tool collects information in a consistent manner and improves communication between those providing services and families receiving services. The CANS measures improvement towards goals and monitors how needs and strengths change over time. The data collected from the tool can be used to assess service strengths and gaps at the individual, program, and system levels. Behavioral Wellness (BeWell) will also assess all youth at the JJC for a significant period of time for substance use disorder (SUD) to then refer youth to SUD counseling at the JJC.
- **Education** – Upon entry to Dos Puertas School (DPS), the Santa Barbara County Office of Education (SBCEO) conducts both English and math assessments for each youth to understand assess their current needs. They also review Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and update plans as needed.
- **Criminogenic Risk and Needs** – Since 2019, the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) has been incorporated as a continuous case planning process for all youth under supervision. The PACT is an evidence-based, risk/needs assessment and case planning tool implemented to assist officers in accomplishing these basic objectives:

- Determine the level of risk for re-offending (low, moderate, or high) to focus resources primarily on moderate and high-risk youth;
- Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so rehabilitative efforts can be tailored to address youths' unique assessment profiles; and
- Develop a case management plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.

In 2022, the use of the R-PACT was implemented for all youth serving a commitment of six months or longer, including youth committed to the Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge (PEAK) program. This residential version of the PACT guides staff on how to best respond to youth's needs with available facility services. Further, addressing the youth's criminogenic needs while detained can reduce the risk to reoffend when released to the community.

## Cognitive Behavioral & Prosocial Programming

Youth committed to the PEAK Restoration Program have access to a variety of programs and services designed to promote healthy adolescent behavior. All programming build on youth's strengths and assets; assist with building empathy, positive relationships and supports; and are developmentally appropriate.

To further support the development of youth committed to PEAK, each youth is assigned a probation officer embedded within the facility. This officer:

- **Builds rapport** with the youth and their family.
- **Conducts Child and Family Teams (CFTs)** to ensure youth and family voice are integrated into case plans.
- **Guides and supports the youth** towards completing the goals identified in the youth's IRP to ensure successful reentry into the community.
- **Maintains regular contact with the family** to enhance family engagement and increase communication, through home visits while the youth is in the facility.

The following programming options are available to youth in PEAK:

- **Seeking Safety®:** An evidence-based treatment intervention that provides coping skills to help youth attain safety from trauma and/or SUD. This program directly addresses both trauma and addiction without requiring clients to delve into the trauma narrative. Sessions are highly flexible and conducted in a group or individual format for different genders, ages, environment, and trauma/SUD. Seeking Safety offers 25 topics, each representing a safe coping skill. They can be conducted in any order and scaled to accommodate available treatment sessions.
- **Moral Reconnection Therapy® (MRT):** An evidence-based, cognitive behavioral treatment program focused on SUD that targets recidivism reduction and designed to facilitate the development of higher stages of moral reasoning. The course is to be completed in 20-30 sessions and in open-ended groups where participants can enter at any time and work at their own pace. Completion of the program is defined when the youth successfully passes MRT's 12th step.

- **Courage to Change® Interactive Journaling:** Through a structured and experiential writing approach, Interactive Journaling goes beyond standard educational materials and resources to make the individuals the center of their own change process. This evidence-based methodology is a structured and experiential writing process that motivates and guides participants toward positive life change through a variety of different topics covered through multiple journaling packets.
- **El Joven Noble®:** Assists youth in character development through open discussions that promote critical thinking skills. Group sessions focus on topics that include: reducing and preventing unwanted or unplanned pregnancies, SUD, community violence, and relationship violence. Active participation within the meetings is encouraged. This includes practice working on: developing options thinking, acknowledging positive qualities in self/others, social/familial relationship pattern realization with development of ideas and options.
- **ARISE®:** A gender-neutral interactive program designed for youth ages 13-25. The curriculum is an open program allowing gang involved youth to participate in the varied topic stand-alone sessions, irrespective of the length of time in the facility. Curriculum topics include violence and conflict, gang dynamics, fatherhood, and managing finances. In addition, the curriculum teaches core life skills, strategies and techniques, including problem solving, critical thinking, effective communication, decision-making, creative thinking, empathy, self-awareness building, coping with stress and emotions, and interpersonal relationships. ARISE addresses various topics through open discussions between the instructor and youths, quizzes, as well as pre and post assessments.
- **Individual/Group Substance Use Disorder Treatment:** In March 2023, the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA) began providing individual and group drug and alcohol counseling. CADA collaborates with BeWell staff to ensure underlying causes for abuse and addiction are addressed to maximize the success of the intervention.
- **Conflict Mediation/Restorative Justice Circles:** Youth detained at the JJC typically have histories of violent and serious behaviors, and many have high Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) scores; leaving youth with limited conflict mediation skills, coping skills, and abilities to self-regulate emotions that can be amplified in a detention setting. Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley (FBSMV) will utilize evidence-based programming and promising practices including the Community Resiliency Model (CRM) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL), during individual and group interactions with youth, as well as during Restorative Justice Circles. Youth will be referred for services and ongoing intervention, as well as during times of imminent need to prevent or resolve conflict. FBSMV will compliment and support BeWell services by providing conflict mediation to youth at the JJC during the evening hours and on weekends.

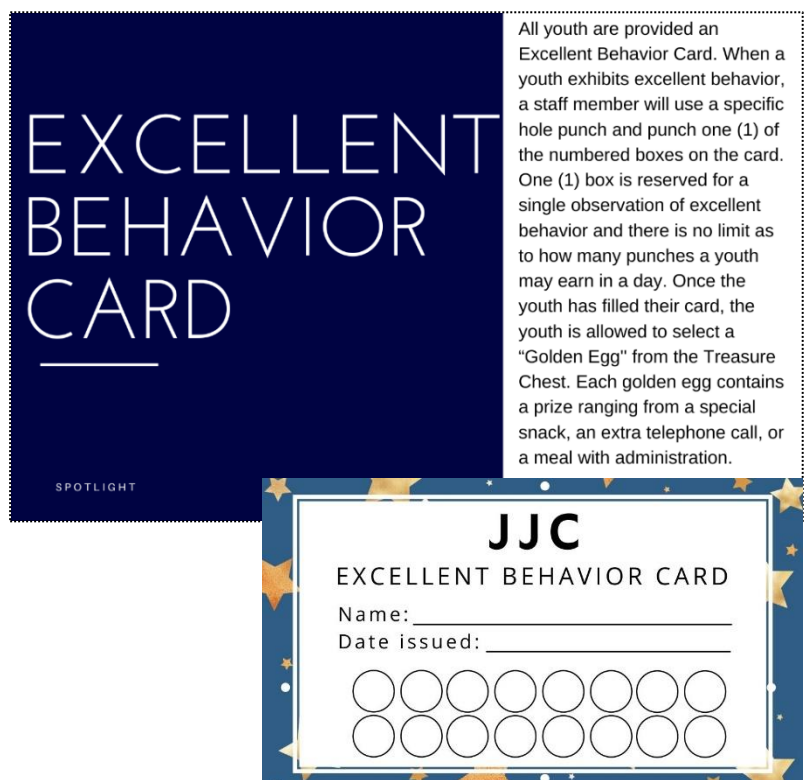


## Reentry Navigator

The Reentry Navigator provides a culturally competent case management and reentry services for detained youth in Santa Barbara County. Case management services address and target criminogenic needs in a manner that is both flexible and customizable, based upon individual risk, responsivity, and programmatic needs, and provides skills to enable youth to react more appropriately to situations that trigger their criminal behavior. Criminogenic risk factors are defined as characteristics, traits, problems, or issues of an individual that directly relate to the individual's likelihood to reoffend, including the following: Understanding Criminogenic Responsivity; Social Values; Responsible Thinking; Self-Control; Peer Relationships; Family Ties; SUD; Seeking Employment; and Leisure/Recreation. The Reentry Navigator supports and guides youth through the reentry process, celebrating achievements, promoting goal-setting and leadership development, taking strategic steps that empower them with a hopeful view of their future. The goal is to increase mentorship, job skills, socio-emotional improvement, and a stronger sense of belonging. Participants also gain the necessary skills to overcome life's obstacles and thrive in our local community. It is planned to increase funding for this position to allow the navigator to work with all youth who are committed to the JJC for six months or more. The navigator will work with these youth six months prior to release, while at the same time working in the community with families to ensure they have the support to successfully transition home. The "navigation" is then being expanded to help families work through obstacles such as housing, employment, and accessing SUD and mental health services. This position is funded through Senate Bill (SB) 823 realignment funding.

## Incentives

PEAK utilizes a point-based behavioral modification system to help youth use their time in a positive manner and to provide feedback on areas for future growth. Behavior modification focuses mainly on positive reinforcement, which involves rewarding youth for good behavior by encouraging adherence to facility rules, providing pro-social activities, skill-building chores to willing youth, and recognizing hard work and good behavior as youth advance to reach excellent conduct and enhanced privileges. Youth who show positive behavior will earn various points throughout the day. Depending on the total amount of accumulated points, the youth has the opportunity to participate in daily incentive activities such as a later bedtime, participation in the unit clean-up and special projects, and the privilege to pick the movie or television show the unit will watch. Weekly incentives include increased time in the recreation room, Saturday night movies, special snacks, and extra telephone calls.





- **Trust Unit**

The Trust Unit officially opened in January 2020. The core principle of the unit is to ensure the youth are respectful, responsible, learn skills to work with their peers, become positive leaders and to promote positive behavior in the other units. All staff assigned to work the Trust Unit are proficient in MI. Youth interested in residing in the Trust Unit must complete an application and exhibit a period of respectful behavior including participation in school and evidence-based programming. Youth committed to the PEAK Program are also eligible to apply to the Trust Unit. Once a completed application is submitted, the youth will participate in an interview with the Trust Unit Board. If a youth is accepted to the Trust Unit, the youth will sign a behavior contract and immediately move to the unit.

The Trust Unit has couches, a large flat screen television, a gaming system, foosball, ping-pong, and exercise equipment. To further replicate a home like setting, youth are encouraged to decorate their rooms and are provided space to store personal hygiene items and food. To promote independent living skills youth are provided different clothing that they wash and store in their rooms. Youth have the freedom to move about the unit and recreation yard without staff permission, rooms are not locked during the day, and they do not have time restrictions for telephone usage. For female youth, due to the extremely low population, an individual unit is not available, however, rooms in general population have been designed similarly and additional privileges are offered.



## **Specialized Programming**

For youth with specialized needs, Santa Barbara County will partner with other probation departments who have programs to address these unique populations. Examples include youth adjudicated for having committed a sex crime or females with a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) commitment. Due to the infrequent nature of these cases, establishing contracts and leveraging already established specialized programming in other counties will ensure each youth's needs are addressed with quality programming. See page 45 for information on the statewide consortium.

## **Behavioral Health**

BeWell clinical staff provide individual psychotherapy, group, and family therapy. Driven by case plans generated through the CANS assessment, BeWell offers a variety of curriculum to meet youth's needs. The group therapy sessions provided include MRT®, Seeking Safety®, gender-specific programming, Forward-Thinking journaling modules all conducted with a trauma informed care approach. Family therapy sessions focus on improving communication, destigmatizing mental health treatment, learning



new skills to promote conflict resolution, and supporting the youth’s community reintegration. Psychiatric and medication evaluations are provided as needed. Crisis interventions are provided by BeWell during normal operating hours and are available after hours, weekends, and holidays as needed.

## Educational/Vocational

SBCEO ensures a seamless transition of special education services as identified in student’s IEP which allows students to work on their goals and receive accommodations in their general education classroom. Dos Puertas School (DPS) provides educational services to youth in PEAK who have not obtained their high school diploma. The school focuses on credit recovery so students can graduate with their cohort. For youth returning to a traditional school setting, DPS has a robust transition process to ensure successful enrollment in their home school enabling students to continue their academic career. This may include collaborating with community partners to create a safety net to help prevent youth from reentering the juvenile justice system. Additionally, SBCEO partners with Probation to provide access to dual enrollment and post-secondary educational opportunities through local community colleges.

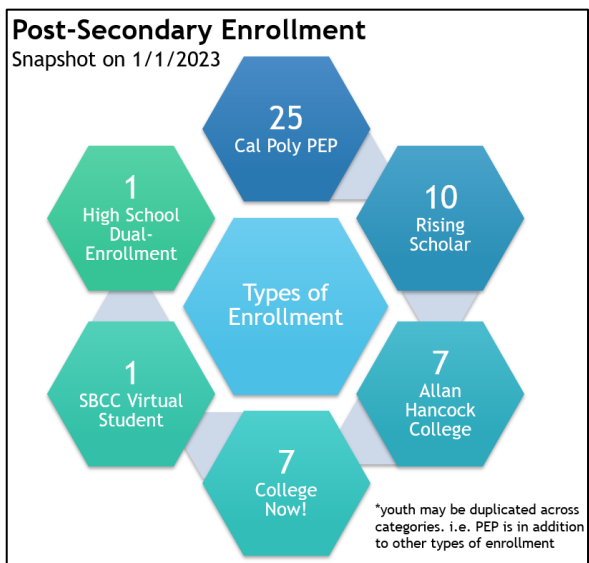
- **Post-Secondary Education**

The “College Now” program is offered for high school students at the JJC who are in good standing academically and are not credit deficient. The program allows those students to attend college course virtually as a “zero period” before they start their high school course each day.

Allan Hancock College’s (AHC) “Rising Scholars” program provides services to college enrolled youth at the JJC on a weekly basis. This provides an in person supportive element to supplement online courses while at the same time preparing youth to continue in the program upon release.

Cal Poly University at Pomona under the Prison Education Project (PEP) program is offered once a week, on weekends, to provide additional educational opportunities for youth outside of regular school hours. This volunteer-based program includes university students and other academic supports to create a “prison to school pipeline.”

The overarching goals are to reduce recidivism, enhance youths’ personal development, and support youth in becoming economically responsible participants in society. The Creative Expressions course seven-week curriculum involves: Self-Expression, Creativity, and the Fundamentals of Artistic Practice; Expressing Impulsive Thoughts and Overwhelming feelings Through Art; Brainstorming, Ideas, Imagination; Giving Shape to Ideas; Introspection, Reflection, Metaphors; Telling Your Own Story; Performance Art, Graphic Art, Graffiti, Tattoos; Create the Cover of Your Music Album; Poetry, Musical Lyrics, Songwriting, Rap, Spoken Word; and Student Presentations.



- **Learning environment**

To promote an environment that is conducive to learning and to provide a positive experience for the youth, a number of initiatives have been undertaken:

- AHC created a hybrid class consisting of part-time on-demand learning with a live class via Zoom.
- Youth are exposed to pro-social peers who are dedicated to their higher education.
- Santa Maria Library provides a mobile library, a book club and “Adulting 101” classes.
- A space was renovated at the JJC into a post-secondary educational room. It has a two-part design with appropriate furniture in an effort to offer a quiet, supportive space where youth can focus on their academic work in the company of like-minded youth also pursuing their post-secondary education. Half of the area is designed with a more neutral background for the youth as they attend virtual classes. The other half of the room emulates a study/lounge area while to the degree possible, simulating a college classroom and supporting virtual learning.

- **Vocational**

In addition to general education courses, DPS also provides access to Career Technical Education (CTE) courses. Youth have access to modules in 15 different industry sectors determined to be relevant in the local workforce. These include: Information and Communications Technologies; Engineering and Architecture; Building and Construction Trades; Transportation; Fashion and Interior Design; Education, Child Development and Family Services; Hospitality, Tourism, and Recreation; Arts, Media, and Entertainment; Marketing, Sales and Services; Energy, Environment, and Utilities; Health Science and Medical Technology; Manufacturing and Product Development; Public Services; Business and Finance; and Agriculture and Natural Resources. Students are able to earn industry recognized certifications in OSHA and ServSafe, which can be used in a résumé and to secure employment. Vocational opportunities for youth graduating from high school and not entering college will be expanded in the future as PEAK population youth expand and age.



## V. SUPERVISION & REENTRY STRATEGIES

### Case Management

A Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach<sup>15</sup> to case management has been implemented. This includes strengthening natural supports, engaging youth's family or other supportive members, incorporating youth voice in meaningful ways for case and treatment planning, and building upon developmental assets. In addition, the Department continues to strengthen the essential aspects of healthy adolescent development, including providing opportunities for youth leadership while in custody. Family engagement, expanding the involvement of a youth's natural network of support is facilitated and encouraged. When prescribing services, case plans are created in collaboration with youth, families, and service providers, and risk, needs, responsibility is also considered in terms of the appropriate dosage. This entails determining the appropriate number of services to utilize at any one time, and how much of each services or intervention is appropriate for youth to meet their criminogenic needs.

### Transition/Reentry Planning

The average length of stay for youth formerly committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was approximately 28 months. Youth currently in the Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge (PEAK) program are projected to have a 24-month median length of stay. Many of the youth will reenter the community as an adult upon release. This substantial milestone requires additional support in areas of housing, food, clothing, transportation, vocation, and education. Therefore, transition planning for youth begins immediately and involves detailed plans developed 180 days in advance of release.

Required elements of the transition plan include best practices for youth and family engagement. Key areas addressed include: basic personal needs, employment, education support, mental health services, and drug and alcohol counseling. More specifically, the plans include employment plans, suitable housing and alternate plans, continuation of educational programs, successful enrollment in a secondary, post-secondary, or vocational program (if not already completed), and life skills planning. As of March 2023, one youth has been released from the PEAK program.



<sup>15</sup> From <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/positive-youth-development>. "PYD is an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths."

## **Furloughs**

To ensure that youth are prepared for their reentry, furloughs will be used to obtain identification cards, visit schools to enroll and explore the campus, attend appointments with job training and vocational programs, and engage with family. Partnerships with local transitional age youth (TAY) programs continue to be explored to ensure the youth can overcome barriers to success.

## **Discharge**

Prior to discharge a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting with the youth's Multidisciplinary Team, network of support, Reentry Navigator, and supervision officer will be held. The plan will be reviewed to clarify the youth's expectations and reaffirm participants service delivery. In addition, the youth will be provided documentation indicating follow-up or specialty care regarding their medical and dental health. Lastly, in accordance with California Advancing and Innovating MediCal (CalAIM), all eligible youth will be enrolled to receive MediCal and any other eligible benefits immediately upon release.

## **Community Supervision**

If community supervision is ordered by the Court, the assigned probation officer at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) will continue to supervise the youth for a period of 90 days. During that period, the on-going supervision officer will be identified and introduced to the youth and their support system through a CFT. The officer will update the case plan frequently and will utilize the Probation Report & Resource Centers if age-appropriate to ensure the youth's programming, housing, and employment needs are met.

# **VI. DATA COLLECTION & OUTCOMES**

As youth progress through the Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge (PEAK) program, data is collected and outcomes measured to assess the effectiveness of the services and programs youth are receiving. Continuous data collection and assessment allow for adjustment of needed treatment and services.

Four surveys are administered to youth at varying points in time to assess changes in thinking patterns and level of satisfaction with the programming and services. Three of the four surveys were developed by the Texas Christian University (TCU) Institute of Behavioral Research and adapted for this use. Selected questions required rewording before consolidation to ensure comprehension and to minimize survey burden for the youth completing them. The fourth survey was developed by Tufts University and focuses on the research area of Positive Youth Development (PYD). All four surveys are described in Exhibit 13 including outcomes measured and timeframes for administration.

Over the last year, the frequency of survey administration as well as staff approaching youth to provide feedback has been adjusted to ensure youth feel supported and are able to fully participate. Specifically, the PEAK Supervision Officer, with rapport established and being aware of a youth's unique needs, is now the assigned staff to administer the surveys. Additionally, the frequency at which youth are



approached to complete surveys now includes specific direction to ensure youth understand their participation is voluntary and are approached when they are able to fully participate and not distracted.

Youth have identified some questions as difficult to understand as written. In response, staff are reviewing and revising questions to a lower reading level and removing anything redundant so as to allow youth to complete surveys on their own (if preferred) and reduce the potential for survey fatigue.

Upon completion, survey responses are reviewed and a meeting held to discuss the results with staff. Since implementation of the PEAK program, a total of seven youth have participated in some frequency of survey feedback. Results should be interpreted with extreme caution due to the small sample size. However, of all youth, the majority of evaluated domains are showing encouraging improvement. For domains with unexpected responses, the overall negative change has been minor and somewhat expected as youth learn about positive social supports and express concern about returning to the community. Of note, PYD scores for all youth have increased with the largest increases seen specifically in the Character and Caring domains.

Within the facility, the use of interventions shown to be effective with youth are prioritized to achieve the greatest benefit. Quality assurance process in place includes working with providers to support delivery of curriculum to ensure programs are provided in accordance with the research-based models. Various monitoring efforts have been implemented including self, peer, and onsite assessments of a program session completed either by an individual within the organization providing the service, a peer organization delivering the same program, or Probation staff. The assessments rate various aspects of the sessions, in addition to allowing for open-ended comments to the session facilitator(s). Additionally, local providers are required to provide quarterly data on the performance measures related to those services.



**Exhibit 13 – Youth Surveys**

Survey	Outcomes Measured	Frequency of Administration <sup>16</sup>	Staff to Deliver
Thinking/Social /Psychological	Various domains of thinking are assessed such as premeditation, attention, self-esteem, depression, hostility, and social support.	Administer within two weeks of youth arrival at the JJC, then administer every six months thereafter	PEAK Supervision Officer
Trauma	This mental trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) Screen contains 17 symptom-severity items representing PTSD.	Administer within two weeks of youth arrival at JJC, then administer every 6 months thereafter	PEAK Supervision Officer
Treatment Engagement	Assessment comprises four scales that address treatment participation, satisfaction, and relationships established in treatment.	Administer within two weeks of the youth’s program/treatment start date; re-administer within 60 days of the program/treatment start date	PEAK Supervision Officer
Positive Youth Development	Survey measures five psychological, behavioral, and social characteristics that indicate youth are thriving: Competence, Confidence, Character, Caring, and Connection.	Administer within four weeks of youth arrival at the JJC, then administer once annually thereafter	PEAK Supervision Officer

<sup>16</sup> Frequency of Administration are ‘targets’ and are adjusted to ensure youth are approached when they are able to fully participate



## VII. FACILITIES

The Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) is located in Santa Maria and has a rated capacity of 140. Individuals requiring secure detention will be housed and receive programming and services at the JJC. The JJC comprises three newer living units that include a classroom, a living room, a counseling room, a kitchenette, a dining room, a dayroom, and an attached outdoor recreation area. The three remaining units are smaller and are not regularly used as living units, but are available on an as needed basis as they have limited common space and do not have attached green space. These living units are available for medical separation and programming or visiting in inclement weather. The Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge (PEAK) Restoration Program, within the JJC, is designated as the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) for realigned youth.

### Health Services

Youth in PEAK receive on-site medical services provided by Wellpath seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Wellpath also coordinates offsite services, including dental, as required. Probation and Wellpath, were awarded accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) in 2020. This accreditation represents the highest level of care in correctional facilities for youth. Information on accessing services and the list of services provided to youth are posted in each unit and at Intake.

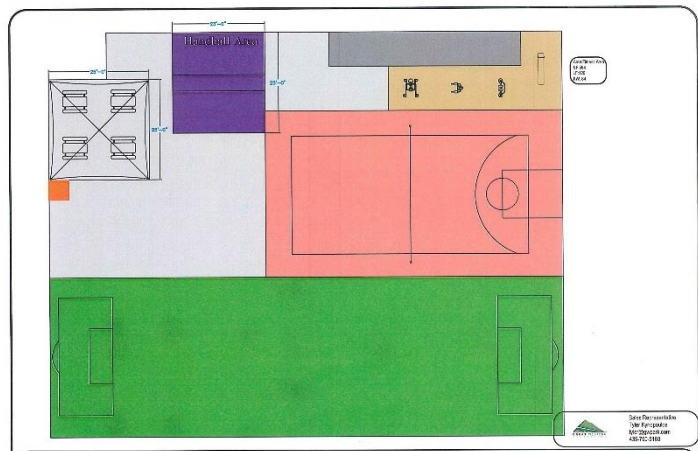


Discharge planning is provided to all youth who approaching release. Medical staff coordinate plans and arrange for care of any identified acute or chronic medical condition or dental services needed. While in the community, Probation works with parents to assess services in consultation with Public Health and provides information on neighborhood clinics offering low cost and free services. Families are also connected to 2-1-1, a public resource which provides linkage to a variety of services including medical and dental resources.

### Green Space

Current research suggests that detention facilities with higher proportions of natural vegetation within its perimeter exhibit lower levels of self-harm and violence between youth and toward staff. Additionally, research suggests beneficial associations between green space exposure and reduced stress, positive mood, less depressive symptoms, better emotional well-being, improved mental health and behavior, and decreased psychological distress in adolescents.

Redeveloping the outdoor spaces into multi-function spaces that incorporate green space will increase opportunities for operational and programmatic efficiencies while helping to mitigate a variety of negative impacts associated with traditional secured detention.



Through the Youth Programs and Facilities Grant Program (YFPG), the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) has allocated funding of \$152,571 to Santa Barbara County for infrastructure improvements. With these dollars, construction will soon begin on the large communal outdoor yard which will be improved with green space including soccer goals. The existing hardscape will be resurfaced with individual exercise stations, removable volleyball/pickleball system, and a new basketball and handball court. A multifunction space is also being developed for outdoor visiting and other special events such as graduations.

## **Visiting**

To maintain familial ties, regular in-person or virtual visiting is accessible to parents or caregivers. When completed, visiting will occur in the green space to allow families to engage in therapeutic services and outdoor activities with their child. As the youth progress through PEAK, they can earn additional visits with identified supports. For youth who are parents, opportunities to have regular onsite visits with their children and their parents/caregivers are available and encouraged.

## **Additional Safety Measures, Protections, and Security**

The JJC has a Master Control Room (MCR) where non-sworn personnel monitor cameras and provide keyless entry and exit within the interior and exterior of the facility. To enhance security, a new camera system is being added to increase facility coverage. These added measures will help ensure safety and security while allowing for robust service delivery.

As mentioned previously, the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI) questionnaire is completed on each youth upon admission to screen for acute mental health needs. This risk assessment tool is utilized in determining the youth history, current state of mind and potential for self-harm or suicidal ideation. Youth are also assessed by BeWell and more frequent safety checks can be implemented if needed.

Policies and practices are in place to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender non-confirming, and transgender (LGBQ/GNCT) youths' needs. As outlined in the Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP), sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) data collection design and training for staff will be completed in the coming months. Current best practices in the field of juvenile justice state that collecting SOGIE data is an important first step to better understanding the lives, experiences, and possible unique challenges of LGBQ/GNCT youth. Pacific Pride provides technical assistance in the developing anti-discrimination policies, formulating data-driven plans for better service delivery, and creating a continuum of care that affirms SOGIE youth.

To provide an opportunity for redress and complaint, youth are able to file a grievance with staff at any time. In addition, each unit has grievance forms and a confidential grievance box for youth. Supervisory staff check and address the grievances each shift. Additionally, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson is available for youth to express concerns regarding conditions of the facility or other concerns. Informational flyers are posted at Intake and in all units at the JJC and LPBC dormitory advising youth of the Ombudsperson and youth are provided with access upon request.

## VIII. ON THE HORIZON

In the coming year, there are many exciting changes highlighted in the goals and throughout the plan. The focus on training in the areas of trauma informed care, implicit bias, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE), and the screening of youth for commercial sexual exploitation allows those working with youth an opportunity to better meet their needs. These also bring opportunities for improved data collection to accurately capture the number of youth served in each population and to evaluate existing resource capacities and capabilities.

As the population at LPBC has declined and the complex needs of youth have increased, the County is in the process of moving the camp program to the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). Relocating youth to a treatment program at the JJC will provide opportunities for youth to maintain family relationships, enroll in additional services, and engage in more robust reentry planning. Youth advocates, community members and County partners provided direct input into program design. As a result, three workgroups were formed and have met to decide how to address needs in the areas of Vocation/Education, Therapeutic Enrichment, and Evidence Based Programming. In the coming year, programs identified by the workgroups will be piloted with youth at both JJC and LPBC.

### **Additional Programming**

Life skills programs to teach communication skills, résumé and employment application assistance, employment interview practice, and athletic programs/recreational activities, including art and poetry are offered to youth at the JJC. Additionally, a local community-based program provides an activity coach to assist with projects, homework, reading skill enhancement, and mentoring.

## IX. CLOSING

The inclusion of both the Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and the Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP) in one document allows for a holistic view of the agencies serving youth throughout the county with a look at a continuum of youth's needs, from diversion to secure treatment facilities. The document begins with goal setting to work toward continually improving outcomes for all youth with a focus on special, higher need youth. The plan then focuses on current services available from schools, county agencies, and other collaborative organizations for youth involved in the juvenile justice system on the front end, through reentry, and including youth who no longer require Probation intervention but need continued support. It highlights programs supported through Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funding and looks ahead to programming on the horizon to further support youth and families in the County.

The JJRP highlights the varied treatment and educational needs of youth ordered into the Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge (PEAK) Restoration Program, with the focus on improving their

quality of life and long-term outcomes. It also affirms the need to adopt strategies grounded in trauma informed care and Positive Youth Development (PYD). Utilizing continuous data collection and assessment, adjustments to treatment and services have been implemented as indicated. Further, through the use of comprehensive needs assessments, family and youth engagement, and multidisciplinary approaches, individualized treatment plans addressing each youth's needs are regularly designed and reviewed in a multidimensional team setting or a child family setting. The officer specifically assigned to PEAK youth received extensive training in Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Child and Family Team (CFT) facilitation. Staff strive to work collaboratively with youth, families, and providers to help prepare youth for reentry as soon as they are ordered into the program. Prior to release, comprehensive and holistic reentry plans are created to support positive outcomes for youth, while supporting their families in preparing for their return, thereby enhancing the safety and well-being of Santa Barbara County.



# X. ATTACHMENT

## List of Acronyms

AB .....	Assembly Bill
ACE .....	Adverse Childhood Experiences
AHC.....	Allan Hancock College
BEWELL .....	Department of Behavioral Wellness
BOS.....	Board of Supervisors
BSCC .....	Board of State and Community Corrections
CADA .....	Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
CalAIM.....	California Advancing and Innovating MediCal
CALM .....	Child Abuse Listening Mediation
CANS.....	Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths
CBO.....	Community-based Organizations
CBT .....	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
CFT.....	Child and Family Team
CHC.....	Community Health Centers
CMJJP .....	Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan
CPOC .....	Chief Probation Officers of California
CSA .....	County Self-Assessment
CSAC.....	California State Association of Counties
CSEC .....	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
CSI .....	Community Solutions, Inc.
CTE .....	Career Technical Education
CWS.....	Child Welfare Services
DHCS.....	Department of Health Care Services
DJJ.....	Division of Juvenile Justice
DOF.....	Department of Finance
DPO .....	Deputy Probation Officer (Senior)
DPS .....	Dos Puertas School
DSS .....	Department of Social Services
EBP .....	Evidence-Based Practices
FBSMV .....	Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley
FFPSA.....	Family First Prevention Services Act
FSA .....	Family Service Agency
FY.....	Fiscal Year
IEP .....	Individualized Education Plans
IRP .....	Individual Rehabilitation Plan
JJC.....	Juvenile Justice Center
JJCC.....	Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
JJCPA .....	Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act
JJDPC .....	Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission
JJRP.....	Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan
JJRS.....	Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee
JSORRAT.....	Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool II
LGBQ/GNCT.....	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Questioning, Gender Non-Conforming and Transgender

LPBC .....	Los Prietos Boys Camp
MAT .....	Medication-assisted Treatment
MAYSI .....	Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument
MCR.....	Master Control Room
MDFT.....	Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy
MHSSA.....	Mental Health Student Services Act
MI .....	Motivational Interviewing
MOU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
MRT .....	Moral Reconation Therapy
NCCHC .....	National Commission on Correctional Health Care
OJJDP.....	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
OSHA .....	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OYCR.....	Office of Youth and Community Restoration
PACT.....	Positive Achievement Change Tool
PC .....	Penal Code
PEAK.....	Perseverance, Equity, Accountability, and Knowledge
PEP .....	Prison Education Project
PPIC .....	Public Policy Institute of California
PTSD .....	Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
PYD .....	Positive Youth Development
RADAR .....	Recognize, Assess, Decide, Act, and Review
REEI .....	Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusion
RJJ.....	Reimagining Juvenile Justice
RNR.....	Risk Needs Responsivity
R-PACT.....	Residential Positive Achievement Tool
RRI .....	Relative Rate Index
SB .....	Senate Bill
SBCC .....	Santa Barbara City College
SBCEO.....	Santa Barbara County Office of Education
SBNC.....	Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinic
SEL .....	Social Emotional Learning
SIP.....	System Improvement Plan
SOGIE .....	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression
STRTP.....	Short-Term Residential Treatment Program
SUD .....	Substance Use Disorder
SYTF .....	Secure Youth Treatment Facility
TAY .....	Transitional Age Youth
TCU.....	Texas Christian University
THFRJP.....	Tara Haaland-Ford Restorative Justice Program
UCSB.....	University of California, Santa Barbara
WIC.....	Welfare and Institutions Code
WIOA .....	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
WYP .....	Whole Youth Project
YES .....	Youth Empowerment Services
YPFG .....	Youth Programs and Facilities Grant Program
YOBG .....	Youthful Offender Block Grant
YOR.....	Youth Opioid Response
YRG .....	Youth Reinvestment Grant





COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
COMPREHENSIVE MULTI-AGENCY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN  
&  
JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT PLAN  
2 0 2 3 C O N S O L I D A T E D A N N U A L P L A N

