



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Department Name: Probation
Department No.: 2022 APR 10 PM 3: 51
For Agenda Of: April 22, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) *Beverly A. Taylor*
Contact Info: Beverly A. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer, 882-3652
Wendy J. Stanley, Probation Manager, 739-8606
wstanle@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
SUBJECT: Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to Submit the Application to Pursue Twelfth Year Allocation Funding Under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer, as your lead agent, to submit the Application for Approval to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) in order to utilize funding in the amount of \$1,204,519 allocated to Santa Barbara County under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.
- B. Review and approve the attached County's Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) Fiscal Year 2014-15 (FY14-15) for submission to the BCSS for approval.
- C. Assure that the County will adhere to the BSCC's contract terms and statutory requirements, participate in the collection of the required data, and use grant funding to supplement and not supplant existing programs.

Summary Text:

The use of JJCPA funds continue to address the primary areas of concern regarding at-risk youth and youthful offenders. The 2014 Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) identifies gangs, substance abuse, mental health issues, and female-specific services as priorities of the local

juvenile justice system. Funds provided through the JJCPA remain geared toward these and related issues. The current use of JJCPA funds remains consistent with past years' uses.

Over the years, one-time funding in the form of reserves has been used to balance the JJCPA budgets while keeping the program options at a status quo (staffing and services). In an effort to reduce the continued use of one-time funding, and slow the depletion of the JJCPA reserves the FY 14-15 budget proposes to eliminate one School-Based Deputy Probation Officer (DPO). The budget proposal also recommends the elimination of the mentor program through the Community Action Commission (CAC), which will be mitigated by re-directing JJCPA youth to CAC's mentoring program funded through the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG).

JJCPA funds have historically been used to provide counseling services to juvenile offenders by Community-Based Organizations (CBO). The proposed budget eliminates the individual contracts with CBOs and redirects a portion of those funds to acquire two (2) counselors/therapists, one in north county and one in south county, who will be located at the Alternative Report and Resource Centers and will provide those services to the JJCPA youth. Together, the proposed reductions realize a savings of \$201,688, with a net savings of \$71,332 in FY14-15 over the current year due to the increased costs of the positions remaining in the budget.

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), at their April 4, 2014, meeting voted to use JJCPA funds to continue to support four (4) Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) positions for the School-Based Officer Program and three (3) DPOs in the Early Intervention (EI) programs. Both programs operate on a countywide basis. The JJCC also approved JJCPA funds to continue to support an Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services clinician to perform mental health assessments on juvenile offenders and the funding for two (2) counselors/therapists to provide counseling services.

Background:

Assembly Bill 1913 was signed into law on September 7, 2000, as the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act. Subsequent legislation renamed it the JJCPA. The JJCPA is a State-funded initiative that supports local programs and services that address crime and delinquency among at-risk juveniles and juvenile offenders. The JJCPA requires the County to establish and maintain a multi-agency JJCC for the purpose of developing, reviewing, and updating a CMJJP that describes the local juvenile justice system and its efforts to address delinquency.

The CMJJP is reviewed annually and revised as necessary by the JJCC. The current CMJJP was approved by the JJCC at their February 7, 2014, meeting.

County funding under JJCPA was historically used for three core programs: Truancy Mediation, Initial Assessment/First Offender Intervention, and Aftercare Services. Due to reductions in annual JJCPA allocations, the original truancy component was modified and the aftercare component and one Assessor were redirected from this funding source in FY 2008-09; the two remaining Assessors were redirected in FY 2010-11. Probation utilized funds from the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) to fund the Assessors and the Aftercare component. In addition to JJCPA, the Probation Department utilizes a variety of other funding sources to provide services to at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families. These sources include Federal Title IV-E funds, Juvenile Camp and Probation Funding, County General Fund Support, and YOBG funds.

The four School Based Officers (SBOs) serve secondary, continuation, and community school campuses throughout the County, and work closely with school staff and administration. They coordinate their activities with law enforcement School Resource Officers (SRO). The SBOs presence on school campuses seeks to deter delinquent acts and foster a safe school environment. The program has enjoyed wide support from school administrators and SROs.

The three Early Intervention (EI) DPOs supervise caseloads consisting of both formal and informal cases, and coordinate closely with counselors providing life skills education or individual counseling to youthful offenders. These caseloads provide most of the supervision efforts geared toward younger, first-time offenders. The DPOs focus on assisting the entire family which increases parental accountability and involvement in the youth's treatment and needs.

Performance Measure:

The Probation Department tracks and reports 18 performance measures related to the JJCPA. The following are representative of JJCPA outcomes:

Ensure that 90 percent of youth successfully completing the Early Intervention Program will not be admitted to the Juvenile Hall within six months of program completion. For the 30 youth who successfully exited in FY 12-13, 96.7 percent were not admitted to the Juvenile Hall within six (6) months of successful program completion.

Ensure that 90 percent of youth successfully completing the School-Based Officer Program will not be admitted to the Juvenile Hall within six months of program completion. For the 43 youth who successfully exited in FY 2012-2013, 97.7 percent were not admitted to the Juvenile Hall within six (6) months of successful program completion.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no anticipated facility impacts. The project will continue to use existing facilities owned or operated by the County or schools.

Fiscal Analysis:

| <u>Expenditures</u> | | FY 2014-15 |
|------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Probation | | \$1,338,670 |
| ADMHS | | \$84,549 |
| Community Based Organization | | \$154,281 |
| Total Expenditures | \$ | 1,577,500.00 |

| <u>Funding Sources</u> | FY 2014-15 |
|--|-------------------|
| JJCPA State Grant | \$ 1,204,519 |
| Use of Reserve Funds | 149,572 |
| Federal Title IV-E | 198,697 |
| ADMHS Medi-Cal Funds for Init. Assmnt/First Offender | 24,712 |
| Total Funding | \$ 1,577,500 |

Aside from the funding for services provided under the JJCPA, program services are supported by other revenue sources. These include Federal Title IV-E (\$198,697) and Medi-Cal (through ADMHS) \$24,712. This funding approach should remain constant in coming years.

The JJCPA budget for FY 2014-15 does not cause the County General Fund contribution to increase.

Staffing Impacts:

None

Special Instructions:

Please return (2) Certified Minute Orders to Benjamin Meza, Probation Department, 117 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Attachments:

Attachment A – 2014 Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan

Authored by:

Wendy J. Stanley, Probation Manager

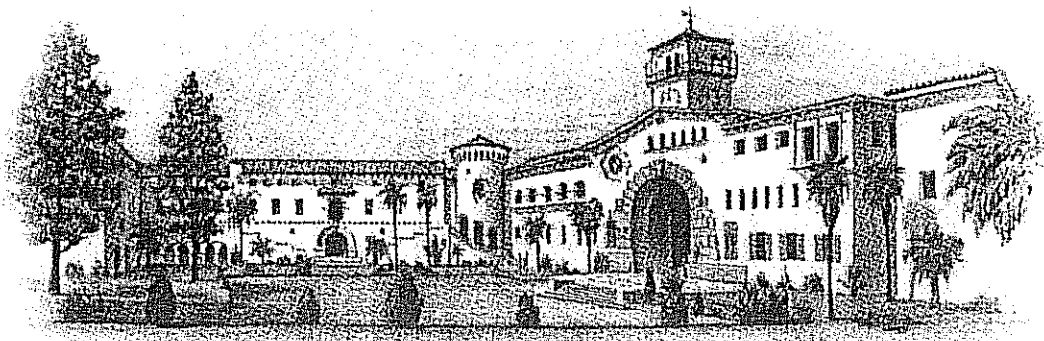
CC:

Takashi Wada, MD, ADMHS

Bob Geis, Auditor-Controller

Michael C. Ghizzoni, County Counsel

Attachment A



Santa Barbara County

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act

Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan

2014

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1. Executive Summary

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) provides funding to local jurisdictions to support initiatives and strategies that target juvenile crime and delinquency, and juvenile offenders and at-risk juveniles. The JJCPA requires counties to annually review and approve their individual Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and update it as necessary. The CMJJP identifies priorities, discusses strategies, and reports on the programs utilized. The JJCPA was created in 2000 and is codified in Section 30061 of the Government Code, et seq.

This document is Santa Barbara County's 2014 CMJJP. It describes the County's juvenile justice system and provides State and local juvenile crime information. It identifies and discusses the strategies the County employs to address juvenile crime and related funding capabilities.

Santa Barbara County received \$1.46 million at the inception of the JJCPA and has seen that amount decrease over time to \$991,491 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12. As a result of the 2011 Public Safety Realignment Act, the FY 2013-14 JJCPA allocation was \$1.2 million. Through the use of other funding sources such as Title IV-E and the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG), Probation has been able to fund personnel and services. This has helped maintain JJCPA funded programs and services, and prevented reductions to community-based programs. However, allocations from those sources have also decreased over time, further limiting Probation's ability to be flexible with funding and resources. Overall, Probation's Juvenile Division has experienced a nearly 34 percent decrease in sworn and non-sworn positions since FY 2007-08; this coincides with a 53 percent decrease in caseload during the same timeframe.

JJCPA funds are used to provide Early Intervention (EI) Officers and School Based Officers (SBOs) in each of Probation's regional areas. Funds also support counseling services by community-based organizations (CBO). Referrals are made by Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) for juveniles who may benefit from a counseling program that addresses the juvenile's specific needs and challenges based on their risk and needs assessment. When an established counseling program is not available to meet the needs of a juvenile in certain cases, Probation has been able to develop an individual intervention to meet those needs. These are usually short-term interventions provided to detained youth or youth with serious mental health issues, and are not funded by JJCPA.

A review of at least the last two CMJJP reports will reveal that the areas which will be addressed in this report have been previously identified as needs in our communities. As a result of those findings, the juvenile justice agencies have worked collaboratively to address those gaps in services over the last several years. While those areas continue to remain the highest need, ongoing strategies have netted positive results. In addition, the at-risk and juvenile probation population has morphed over the last years, thus changing the focus on the agencies that serve them. This document will show that juvenile crime and referral data is trending down; at the same time, over 85 percent of those youth under probation supervision in Santa Barbara County are considered high risk, as opposed to approximately 75 percent only a few years ago.

To address this changing population, Probation has used one-time JJCPA funds to provide training to Probation, Mental Health and CBO staff for such programs as Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and Seeking Safety, an evidenced-based program for people recovering from difficult life experiences and traumas. MRT has since been implemented in both the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) and Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH). MRT groups are also being facilitated in the community through the Probation Department's Alternative Report and Resource Centers (ARRC) in two geographical areas of the county. Funds have also been utilized to purchase a gang intervention curriculum, which is currently under review for implementation in LPBC, SMJH or the community the end of March 2014.

2. Santa Barbara County

Santa Barbara County is the 19th largest county by population with an estimated total of 432,238 residents as of January 2013, or 1.13 percent of the State's total population. In this respect, it is between Tulare and Monterey Counties. From January 1, 2012, to January 1, 2013, the County experienced an increase of 6,133 residents making it the 15th largest county in terms of numeric change. In this respect, it is between San Mateo and San Joaquin Counties. For the same period, the County was 30th in total percentage change with an increase of 1.44 percent. In this respect, it is between Santa Clara and Placer Counties. This growth was primarily attributed to foreign and domestic migration so did not likely impact the youth population as much (December 2013 *California County Population Estimates and Components of Change, Revised July 1, 2012 and Preliminary July 1, 2013; State of California, Department of Finance*).

There are eight incorporated cities in the County, noted here by name, population, and State size rank out of 482 cities:

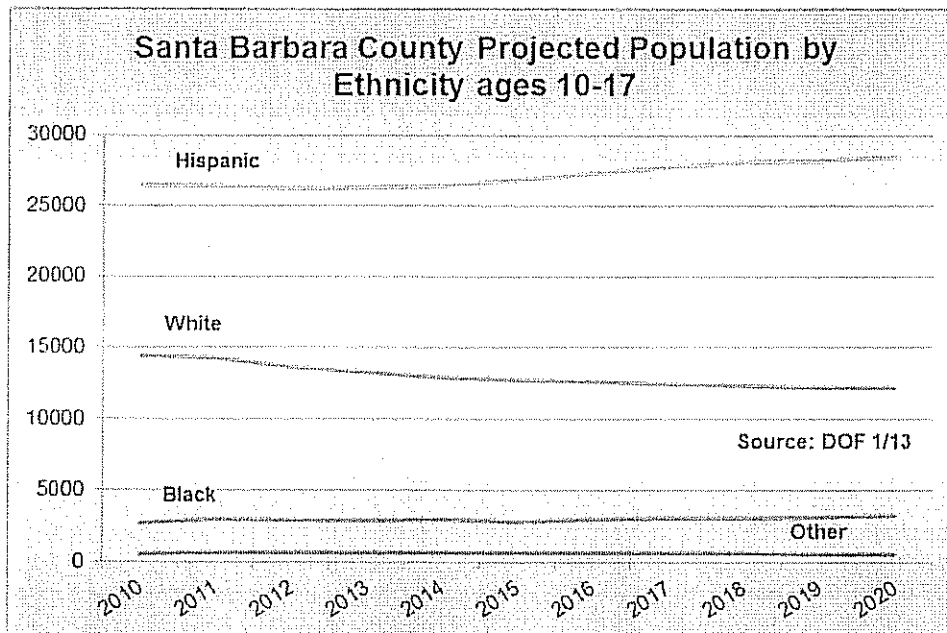
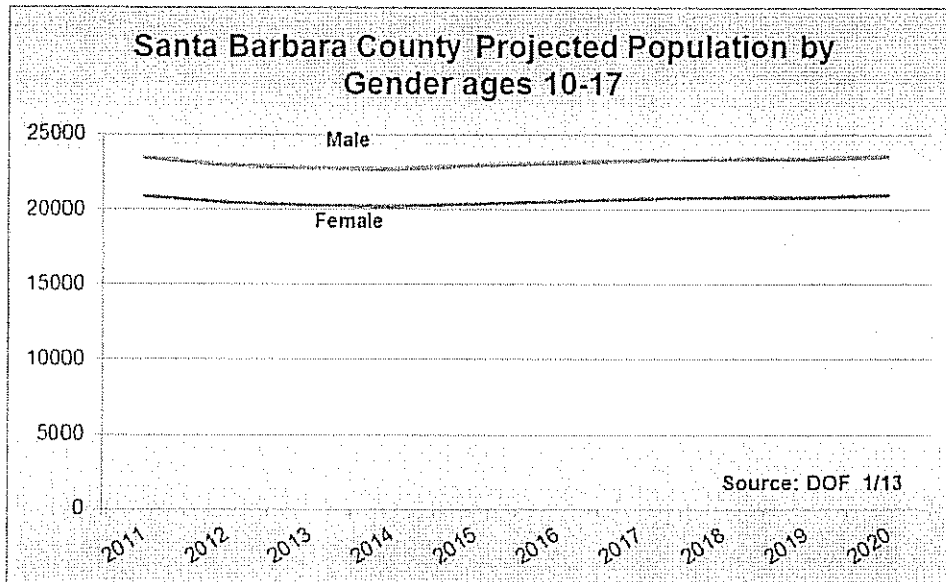
| | | |
|---------------|---------|------|
| Santa Maria | 100,306 | #69 |
| Santa Barbara | 89,681 | #83 |
| Lompoc | 42,730 | #193 |
| Goleta | 29,962 | #238 |
| Carpinteria | 13,099 | #341 |
| Guadalupe | 7,100 | #405 |
| Solvang | 5,292 | #422 |
| Buellton | 4,863 | #430 |

Except for Lompoc, each city experienced an increase in population between July 2010 and July 2013 (*State of California, Department of Finance, January 2013, Tables of City Population Ranked by Size, Numeric and Percent Change, Sacramento, Ca, May 2013*).

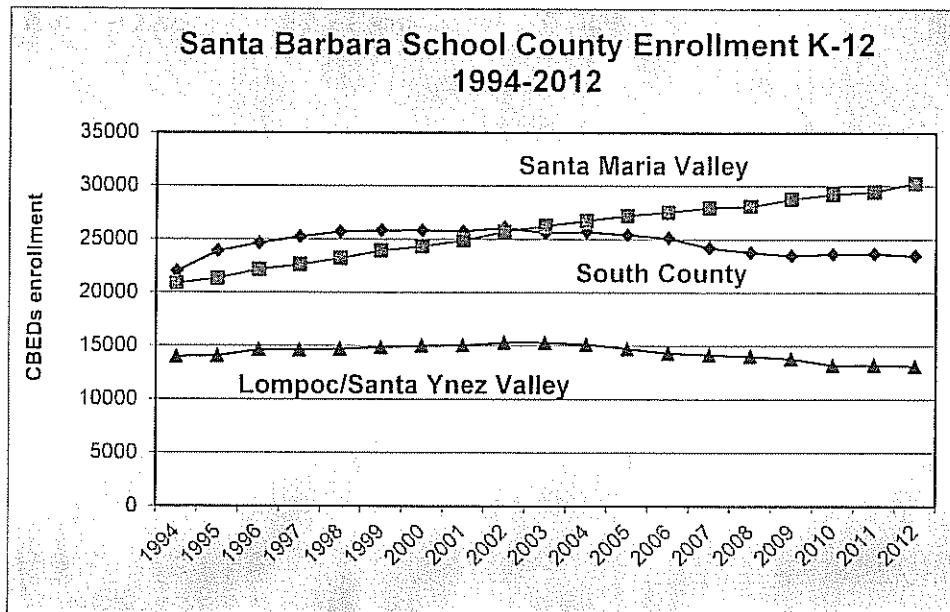
The net growth in the County population from 2000 to 2013 was 8.1 percent, most notably in the Santa Maria area, which grew by 22,883 or 29.6 percent.

In terms of the youth population, it is estimated that there were a total of 43,106 persons in the 10 to 18 age range, inclusive, residing in the County in 2013. Of these youth, 61 percent were Hispanic. It is estimated that in 2020, there will be a total of 44,528 persons in this age range residing in the County and the percentage of the Hispanic youth will increase to 64 percent.

(State of California, Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000 – 2050, Sacramento, California, January 2011).



There were 20,328 students enrolled in public schools in grades 9 through 12 in Santa Barbara County public schools in school year 2012-13. This number is projected to be almost the same with 20,286 students in 2015-16. For the 2019-20 school year, the number is expected to increase by 838 to 21,116 students, or 4.1 percent. The number of high school graduates is expected to be 4,484 for 2013-14, 4,577 for 2015-16, and 4,391 for 2019-20 (State of California, Department of Finance, California Public K -12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2012 Series, Sacramento, California, December 2013). The rate of high school graduates is projected to decline in 2019-20 compared to 2013-14 and 2015-16.



School population continues to show growth only in the Santa Maria Valley through school year 2012-13 based on the official school enrollment data. South County and Lompoc/Santa Ynez Valley areas continue to decline. (*State of California, Department of Finances, California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2012 Series, Sacramento, California, December 2013*)

3. Santa Barbara County Juvenile Justice System

Numerous State and local agencies perform various duties and functions that either directly or indirectly support the objectives and efforts of the juvenile justice system. Some are detailed here.

Probation Department

Probation is the primary agency responsible for handling matters relating to juvenile crime and delinquency in the County. Through legal mandates, formal arrangements, and informal coordination, it balances the needs of the individual offender and the community, and develops appropriate case plans that meet those needs. It also plays a prominent role in many other venues where the general welfare of youth is the focus. Officers from all levels within Probation participate in a number of initiatives and programs geared toward improving opportunities for young people.

Probation maintains intake, investigations, and supervision functions in the three largest communities in the County, making Probation services accessible to all residents. Supervision caseloads are kept at low levels whenever possible to enable officers to devote the time and attention necessary to meet the needs of juvenile offenders and their families. There are specialized caseloads in each area office including EI, SBO, Juvenile Drug Court (JDC), and YOBG.

A centralized placement unit is responsible for supervising all youth placed with relative and non-relative caregivers, and in group homes. Foster care placement is sought only after other options have been attempted or considered. While Probation actively seeks to limit placement into foster care, the number of youth in foster care programs has risen in the last couple of years. A reason for the increase is a high number of youth in foster care who have been adjudicated for a sex offense. They tend to remain in treatment for lengthy periods and often times cannot readily return home because of victims remaining there.

The Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) houses detained youth from all regional jurisdictions. Probation also operates a Special Purpose Juvenile Hall in Santa Barbara, which operates as a holding facility for the adjacent juvenile court as well as alternative detention services such as Electronic Monitoring and Home Detention. Presently, the SMJH is staffed to accommodate 80 detained youth. The ARRCs sited in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara are operated by the Institutions Division. Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) surveillance technology is also utilized by the SMJH and the Juvenile Division for specified youth.

Since 1997, the Probation Department has maintained two Camp programs in a rural location on land subject to a conditional use permit with the United States Forest Service. These long-term commitment programs are designed to provide consistent, structured, supportive, and predictable environments in which a youth can make the necessary changes to return to their communities as law-abiding and productive citizens. Since 1998, both Camp programs have consistently maintained an 85 percent to 90 percent successful completion rate. In October 2013, due to a multi-year reduction in overall juvenile crime, law enforcement referrals, and commitments to these programs, Los Prietos Boys Academy (LPBA) and Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) merged to create one 52-bed Camp program for male offenders between 13-18 years old.

Juvenile Court

The Juvenile Court maintains two courtrooms in the County, one in Santa Barbara and one in Santa Maria, with a judicial officer hearing delinquency and dependency matters at both locations. The majority of cases are heard in the northern portion of the County as it draws matters from two of the largest communities, Santa Maria and Lompoc. The JDC calendars are heard in both those locations, as well as in Lompoc. The Juvenile Court in Santa Barbara County received 1,424 filings in first eleven months of 2013 for delinquency matters. These resulted in 867 dispositions, 834 of which were reached following a hearing. This is a decrease from the 1,925 filings in calendar year 2012. This resulted in 1,302 dispositions, 1,263 of which were reached following a hearing. (*Santa Barbara County Superior Court*)

District Attorney

A Deputy District Attorney (DDA) is assigned to each juvenile court location. A third DDA and a Legal Office Professional are assigned exclusively to the county-wide truancy prevention program. DDAs review referrals from probation and law enforcement and will file a formal petition with the Juvenile Court, refer a matter back to Probation for informal handling, or refer a matter back to the referring law enforcement agency for additional investigation. They argue cases at trial, disposition, subsequent hearings, and in probation violation hearings. In addition to

their traditional role as prosecutor, DDAs will regularly consult with law enforcement, Probation and crime victims on matters regarding the handling of a case or a disposition. DDAs participate in various collaborative efforts including collaborative treatment courts, partnerships with educators on truancy efforts, and membership in the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC).

Public Defender and Defense Counsel

Youth coming to the juvenile delinquency court are represented by the Public Defender unless private counsel is retained or a conflict is declared; the court maintains a contract for conflict counsel. The Public Defender/Defense Counsel works with the other juvenile justice partners to achieve a fair resolution of the youth's case by investigating the facts, presenting legal issues regarding adjudication to the Court, and assessing and evaluating the youth's needs. In appropriate cases, Counsel will advocate for the youth in educational/school settings, truancy meetings, mental health appointments, etc. By working collaboratively to help youth and families access appropriate drug treatment, counseling and educational services, the Public Defender/Defense Counsel are important partners in the countywide effort to reduce juvenile delinquency and recidivism. Public Defender attorneys are also active participants in collaborative efforts, such as JDC, and are active members of the JJCC.

Law Enforcement

There are eight incorporated cities in the County that provide police services by four municipal law enforcement agencies. The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO) provides police services to four contract cities (Buellton, Solvang, Carpinteria, and Goleta) and the unincorporated areas of the County. The SBSO also operates the County Jail. These agencies are the source of most referrals to Probation. There are also four State law enforcement agencies in the County that make limited referrals (California Highway Patrol; University of California, Santa Barbara; Santa Barbara City College; and Allan Hancock College). The SBSO, Santa Maria Police Department, and Lompoc Police Department devote some resources to juvenile delinquency matters, most notably in the form of School Resource Officers (SROs) at middle school, junior high, and high school campuses. These Officers perform traditional law enforcement services in the school setting and conduct outreach in the form of crime prevention and education, and truancy intervention. Agencies may also have a specific unit or Officer dedicated to gang issues in the respective jurisdictions. Most Officers are familiar with local juvenile gang members and often coordinate suppression activities with Probation and other agencies. Law enforcement Officers are active in a number of initiatives and programs, such as restorative justice efforts, PAL (police activity leagues), Youth Corps, DARE and GREAT, and are active members of the JJCC.

Education

There are twenty-three K-12 school districts in the County that include 122 schools and a total public school student enrollment of 66,048. The Santa Maria Bonita Unified School District is the largest district in the County with 14,182 students while the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District has the largest 9-12 grade student enrollment with 7,793 students. Total 9-12 grade level student enrollment for the County is 20,328 (*State of California, Department of*

Finance, California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2012 Series, Sacramento, California, December). Schools participate in mitigating juvenile crime and delinquency primarily through truancy reduction efforts, referrals to community agencies for counseling services and drug and alcohol abuse, as well as special educational settings that cater to the specific needs of at-risk juveniles and youthful offenders. They also maintain regular contact with and coordinate education activities with law enforcement and DPOs. The different districts have programs in place to address truancy issues at their respective schools and exercise their discretion in removing students from their campuses that are subject to suspension or expulsion because of criminal or delinquent acts.

The Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) maintains community schools in the County that specifically target at-risk juveniles and youth who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court as well as expelled youth in Lompoc and Santa Maria. They provide educational services to detained youth at the SMJH and the Camp program; of note is the implementation of a credit-recovery program within the probation facilities that tailors courses specified to the needs of the student. This one program alone has increased the number of youth graduating high school from an average of two graduates a year to 22 graduates a year at the Camp programs between 2007 and 2013. The increase at SMJH has been an average of one graduate a year to six graduates a year over the same time period. The SBCEO participates in a number of community efforts targeting juvenile crime and at-risk students through collaboration with partner agencies in efforts to improve school attendance and performance.

Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services (DSS) provides services that seek to prevent child abuse and neglect, and coordinates treatment for children who have been abused. They provide family maintenance and family reunification services, and other mandated and voluntary services to persons subject to dependency laws. DSS licenses foster families and supervises children placed in foster care as dependents. DSS is responsible for coordinating the financial reimbursement of various programs that benefit delinquent youth and for which Probation receives funds. Through this statutory function, DSS has limited oversight for some activities performed by Probation, including Title IV-E and Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care (AFDC-FC) entitlement payments. DSS holds the contracts for many programs that benefit at-risk youth and youthful offenders, including SB 163 Wraparound services, the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP), and the Independent Living Program (ILP). In addition to the investigations they conduct for dependency cases, DSS conducts investigations with DPOs in specified cases to determine the appropriate venue for their handling. DSS personnel also provide technical assistance regarding various foster care related programs and legislation, and coordinates the development of local responses to State and Federal mandates.

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) serves the workforce needs of businesses and youth, as well as adults and laid-off workers, throughout Santa Barbara County. The WIB is a public/private partnership created by the Federal Workforce Investment Act legislation and is staffed by the County of Santa Barbara Department of Social Services. Free services are provided through the two Workforce Resource Centers (One-Stops) located in Santa Maria and

Santa Barbara. Referrals for probation and at-risk youth are made to the WIB with the goal of increasing skills and employment for the youthful population.

Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services

Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) operates the County's various substance abuse and mental health programs, or holds the contracts for private vendors who provide similar or other counseling and behavioral services. In that capacity, and as the entity responsible for Medi-Cal compliance, ADMHS maintains oversight of various rehabilitative and behavioral programs that service at-risk youth, including the juvenile justice population. Mental health clinicians provide direct service to Medi-Cal eligible youth and some non-Medi-Cal eligible transition aged youth, including those supervised by Probation. Probation contracts with ADMHS to provide crisis care, transitional and discharge planning, psychotropic medication management and stabilization and behavioral interventions to detained youth and consult with Probation regarding the care and maintenance of youthful offenders exhibiting suicidal, aggressive, and/or other problematic behaviors. The contract includes on-site mental health clinicians assigned to the Camp and SMJH programs to provide individual, family and group counseling sessions, a clinician to provide early intervention needs assessment and counseling services to Probation-referred youth on a countywide basis; a psychiatrist and psychiatric technician for medication management; and a team supervisor to provide daily oversight and supervision of the clinicians, quality assurance of service delivery and program development and maintenance. Contracted non-ADMHS psychologists conduct in-depth psychological evaluations on referred youth exhibiting significant emotional, cognitive and/or behavioral problems for the benefit of the Juvenile Court and concerned parties. In addition to the contract with ADMHS, Probation contracts with Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth (SAFTY) to provide after-hours crisis management.

Medical Services

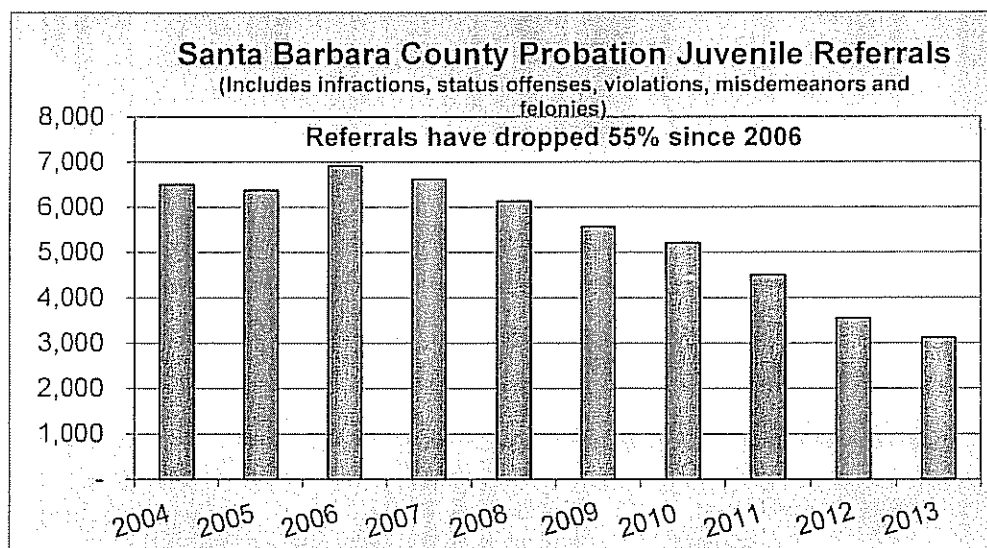
Corizon continues to provide quality health care services to youth detained in the SMJH and Camp that surpass the community standards, including the immediacy in which care is provided, access to medical care and the frequency in which follow-up care is provided. A Pediatrician serves as the Institution's Medical Director. Medical staff members are consistent in the delivery of services and aftercare follow-through with youth. Corizon provides seven-day per week medical care at the SMJH and Monday – Friday at LPBC. The services provided by Corizon are accredited through the Institute of Medical Quality (IMQ).

Community-Based Organizations

Members of various CBOs provide most of the interventions and services offered to at-risk juveniles and youthful offenders in the County. Private vendors provide the direct services for the Wraparound program (SB163), THPP, ILP, Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS), and diversion services. Additionally, various private organizations provide life skills training, mentoring, substance abuse counseling, and individual, family, and group counseling throughout the County. All of the foster care programs used by Probation are operated by privately run organizations located within and outside the County. The following are CBOs that Probation relies on to provide services to offenders: Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center (SMVYFC), Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA), Zona Seca, Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center (CVSATC), Family Service Agency (FSA), Casa Pacifica, Community Action Commission (CAC), YMCA/Noah's Anchorage, and Family Care Network.

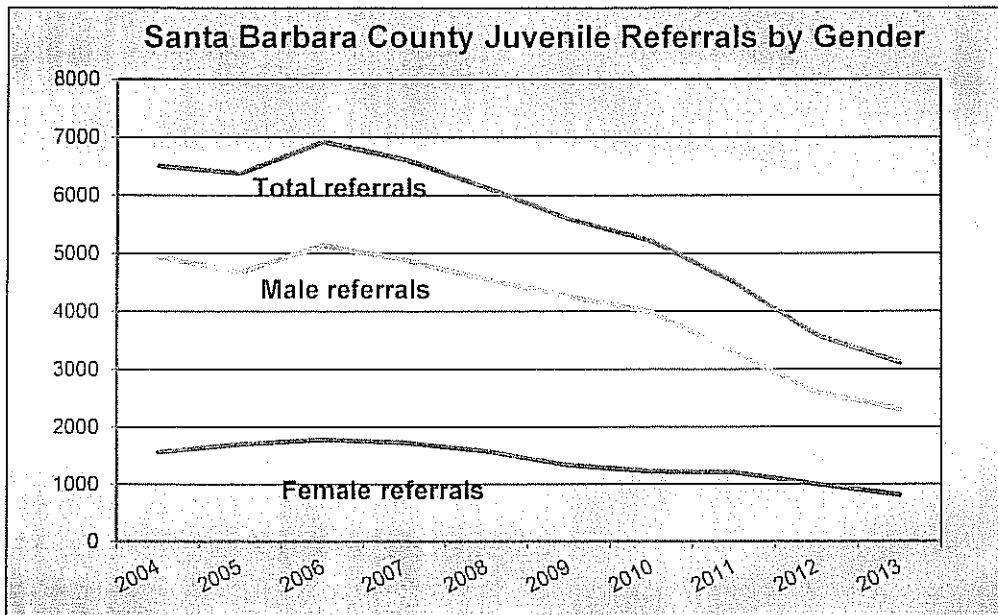
4. Santa Barbara County Juvenile Justice Information

Over the past seven years, there has been a significant reduction in juvenile criminal justice activity data at the national, state and local level. From 2007 through 2012 the number of juveniles arrest or cited for a felony, misdemeanor or status offense dropped 49 percent statewide and 57 percent in Santa Barbara County. Every indicator of juvenile justice activity has dropped from 40 percent to almost 60 percent in Santa Barbara County with the exception of youth in group/foster home placements.

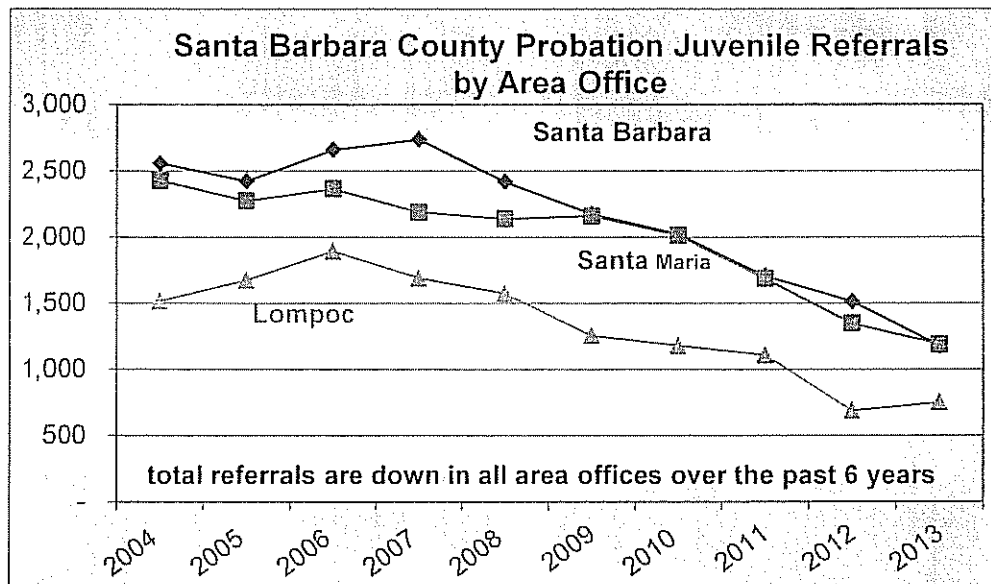


Referrals to Probation continue to decline, decreasing 55 percent between 2006 and 2013 (6,920 referrals to 3,118 referrals). Felony referrals increased through 2009 and have decreased 46 percent since then (940 to 504).

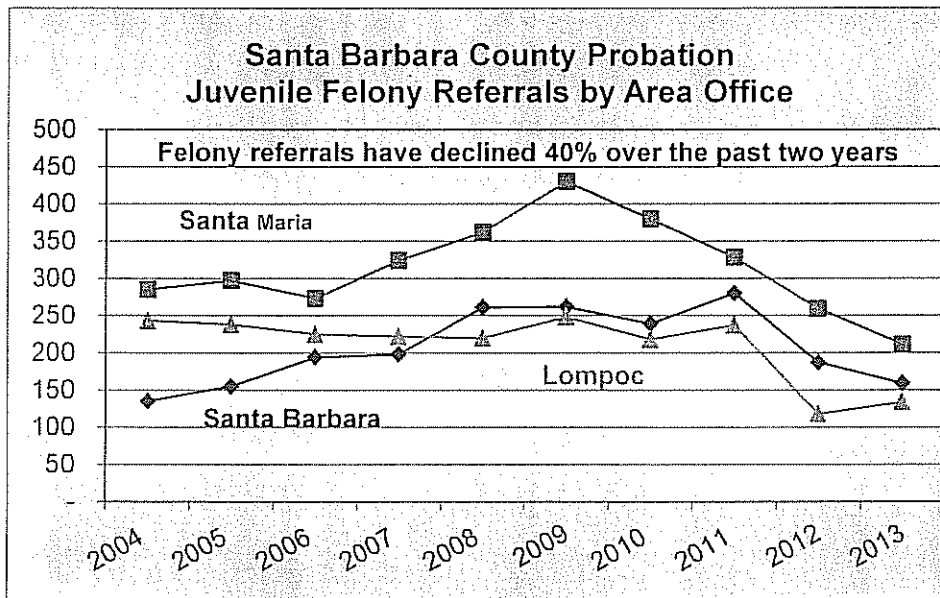
The percentage of referrals for female offenders decreased slightly in 2013 to 26.1 percent (814 of 3,119) from 27.9 percent (1,004 of 3,597) in 2012. Ten years earlier they constituted almost 23 percent of all referrals (1,689). The growth of referrals for female offenders has slowed in recent years and appears to be leveling off in the 27 percent range.



The highest percentage of Probation supervision cases (50 percent or 301 cases in January 2014) are supervised by the Santa Maria office, with most cases primarily in and around the City of Santa Maria. Felony referrals were also the highest in the Santa Maria office in 2013, with 211 or 42 percent of all felony referrals in the County. Santa Maria is the largest city in the County and the only municipality in which the juvenile population is increasing. As a result, most Probation resources for juveniles are concentrated in Santa Maria.

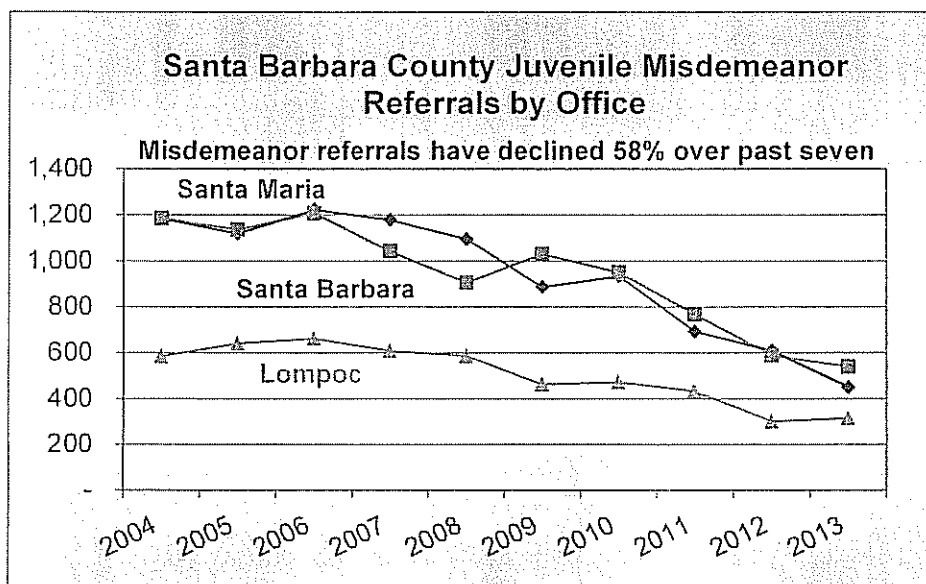


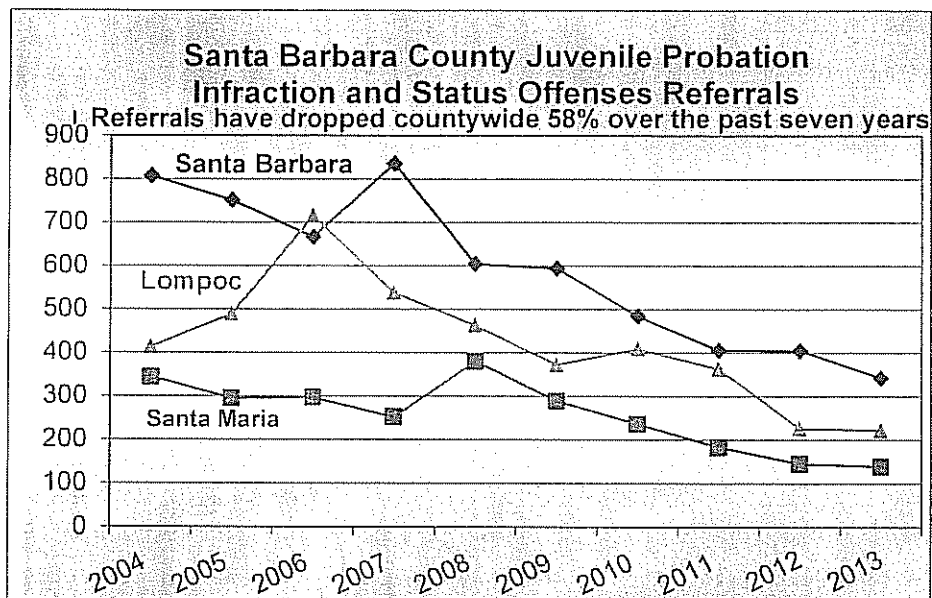
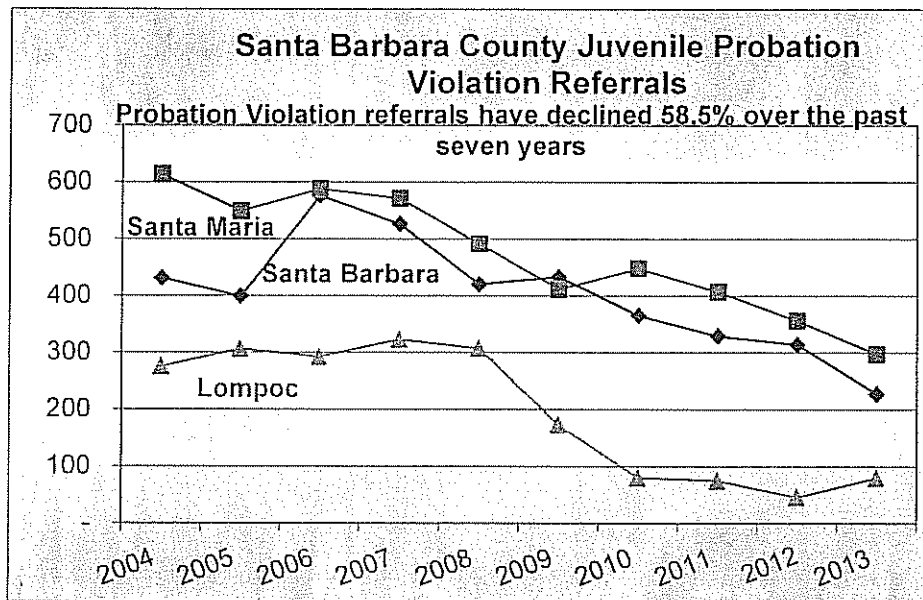
It is noted that overall, juvenile referrals have decreased in all areas of the County. There are, however, some significant differences in specific trends, as illustrated by the following charts.



Felony referrals have increased in the Lompoc and Santa Barbara offices through 2011 but decreased 42 percent over the past two years. When looking at the sustained felony petition rates, the countywide rate of sustained felony petitions to felony referrals was approximately 33 percent; however, only about 25 percent of felony referrals were sustained as felonies in South County, while about 40 percent of felony referrals were sustained as felonies in North County.

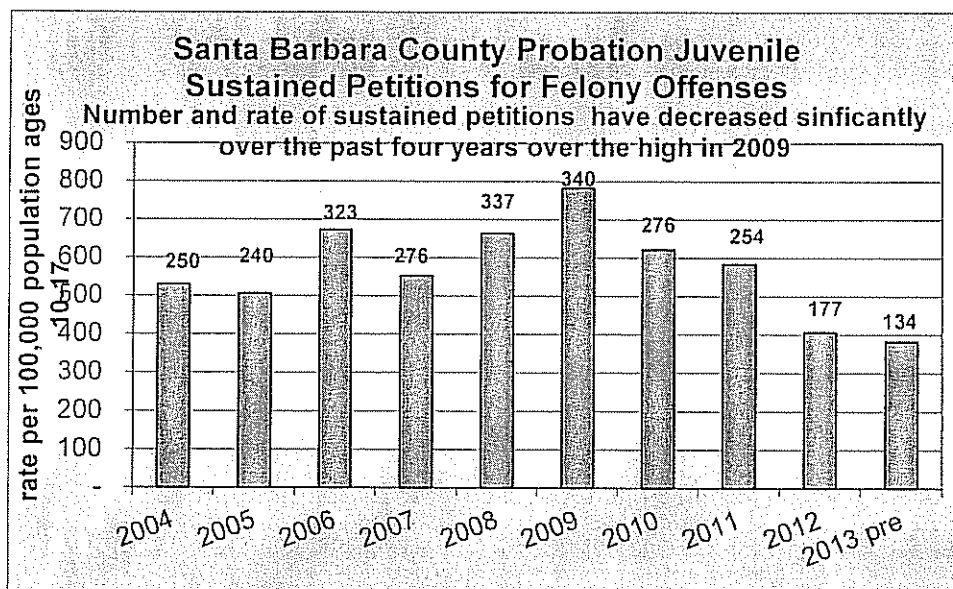
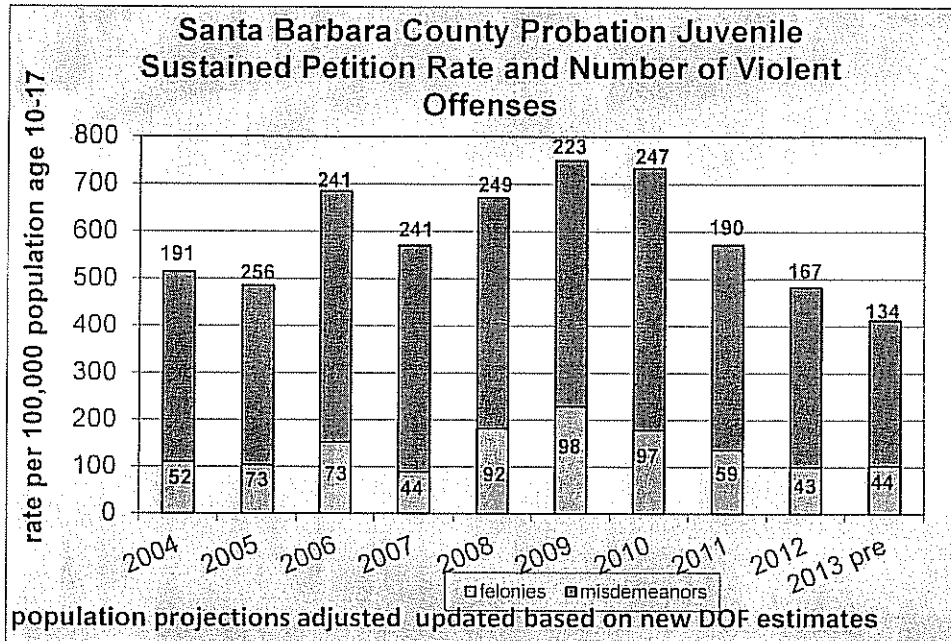
All other types of referrals including misdemeanors, probation violations, infractions, and status offenses, have dropped in all regions over the past six years, with all referrals decreasing by another 31 percent (4,503 to 3,118) from 2011 to 2013.





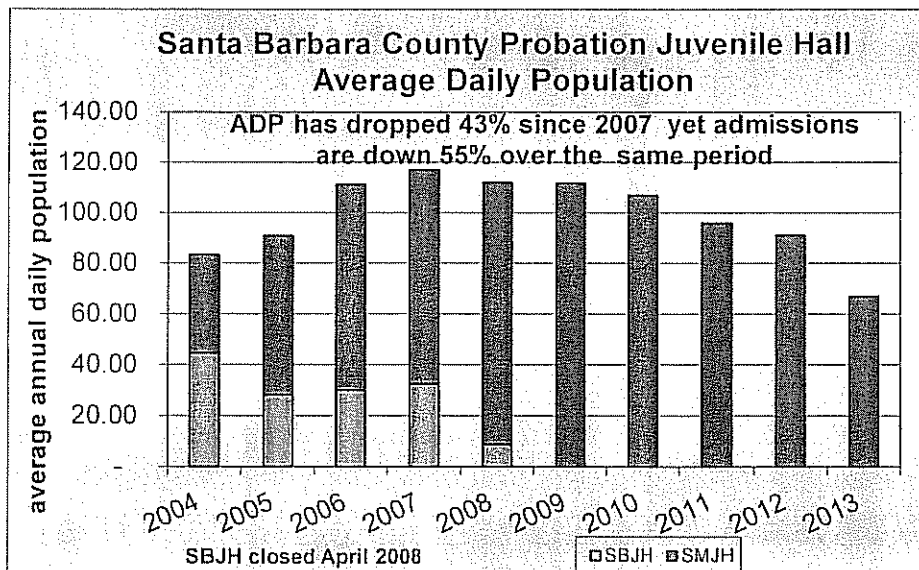
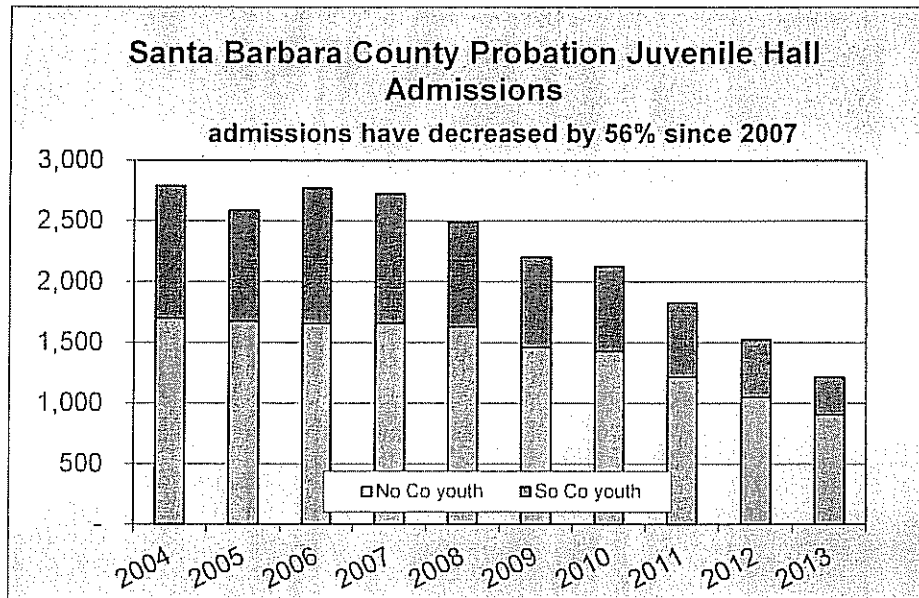
Overall, the total number of juvenile referrals in 2013 was the lowest level in 19 years and has declined 55 percent from 6,920 to 3,118 over the past seven years. Even though juvenile population has declined over the past several years the rate of referrals which takes into a count the decrease in population has still decreased 50 percent since 2006. In concert with the slowly declining population of younger youth, there has been a significant decrease of first time offenders by 52 percent from 2,267 to 1,093 during the same period. The number of female referrals has declined but their percentage of all referrals has increased.

Violent crime for juveniles, as measured by number of sustained petitions for violent offenses, peaked in 2010 at 344, with the number dropping to 178 or 48 percent over the past three years. Proposition 21 cases (juvenile cases filed directly in the criminal courts) are always felony offenses and often are violent; however, while they are counted in the juvenile referral data, they are not included in sustained petitions counts. The number of direct file cases also peaked in 2007 with a total of 23 but declined down to nine in 2012 and ten in 2013.

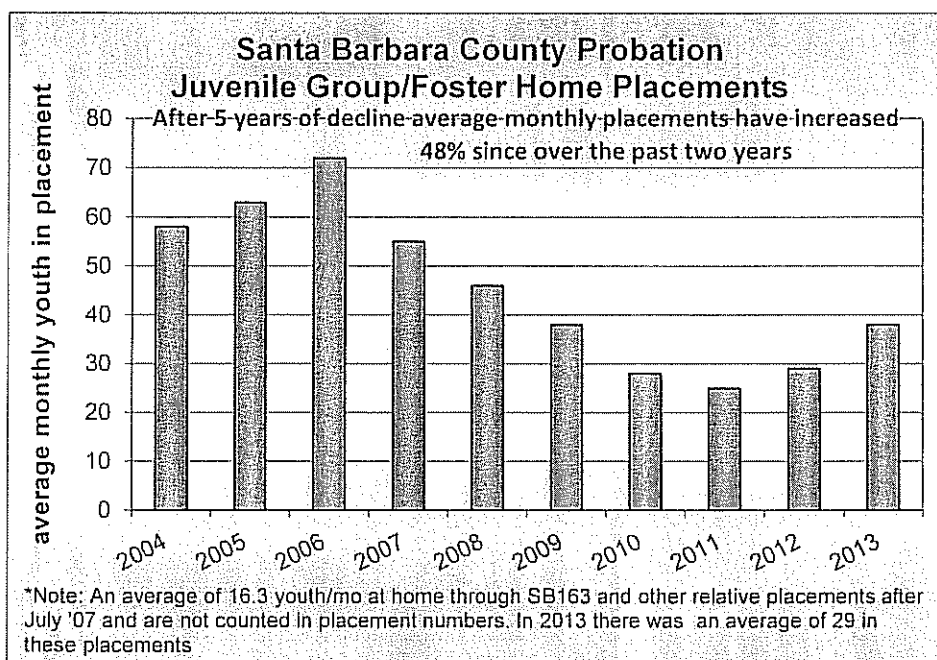


The drop in referrals over the past seven years has contributed to a 56 percent drop in the number of admissions at the SMJH from 2,722 in 2007 to 1,216 in 2013. As a consequence, the average daily population of SMJH has dropped 43 percent during the same period. However, due to an increase in the percentage of juveniles being remanded to the adult criminal court, on holds for

group home placements as well as long delays in getting youth transferred to the Department of Juvenile Facilities (DJF) the average length of stay has increased.



Foster care placements decreased 61 percent from 2006 through 2010. Fewer referrals and the advent of local treatment options (such as SB163 Wraparound) had contributed to this decrease. Placements hit their lowest number of 18 in March 2011 and have steadily increased for 33 straight months since then. Currently, about 40 probation youth are in group or foster home placements at any given time. In spite of the recent increases, the average number of placements in 2013 was still 47 percent below the level in 2006. There were an average of an additional 29 youth in SB163 and other relative placements at any one time in 2013 which are not counted in the next chart.



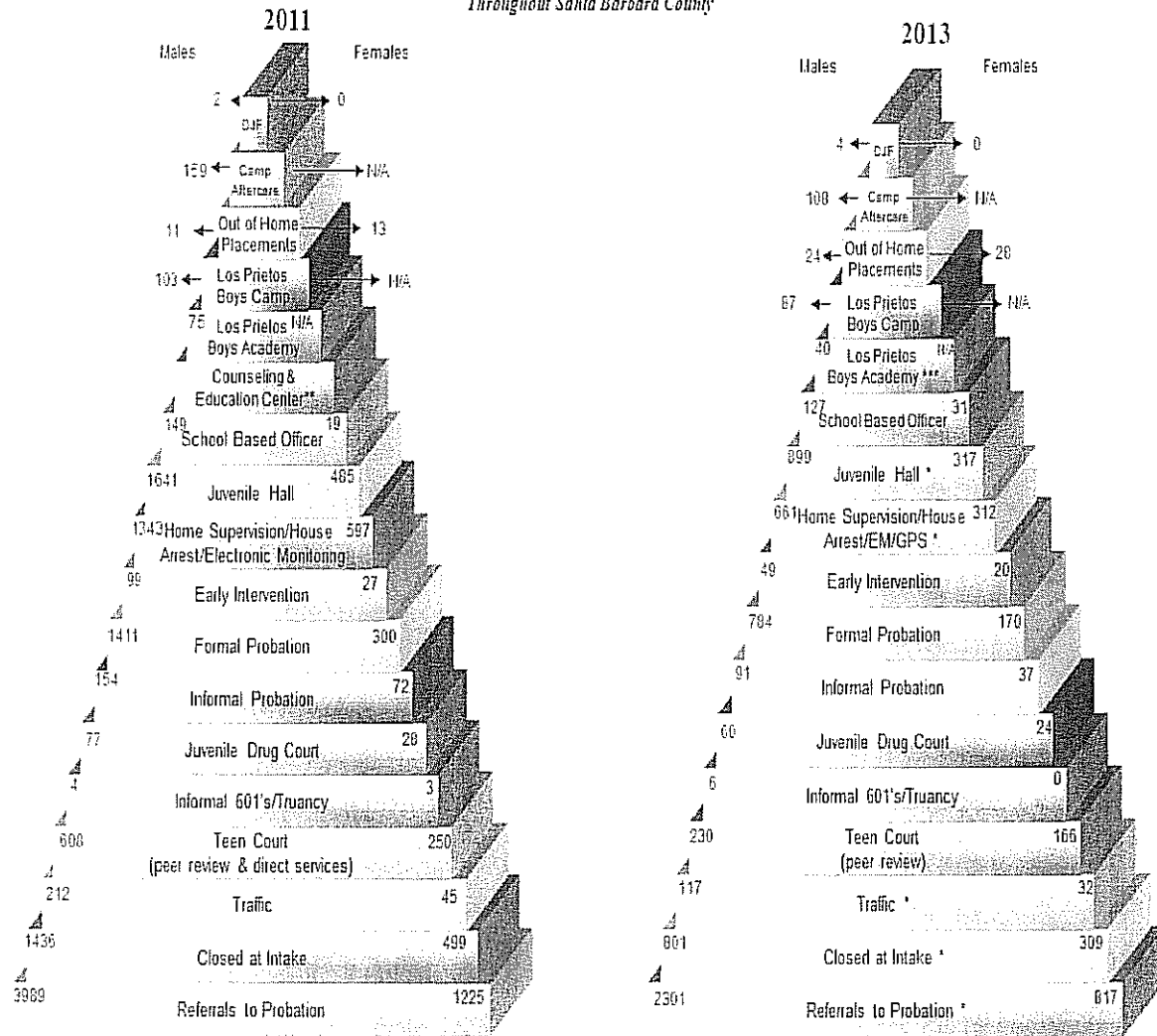
5. Juvenile Justice Continuum

The County's juvenile justice continuum chart shows changes in certain system components between 2011 and 2013. The processing of juvenile delinquency cases is controlled by a number of Federal and State laws, regulations, codes, and other requirements that standardize many juvenile justice processes. There remain some discretionary actions that further influence case outcomes, most notably in the decision to proceed with a petition or not. Santa Barbara County adheres to a general practice where lower risk, younger first-time offenders are handled informally through diversion options. Higher risk, older, more sophisticated offenders, or offenders who are accused of committing violent acts, are subject to more formal handling that may include wardship, probation supervision, long-term commitment, placement into foster care, or commitment to DJF.

The information in this chart illustrates the County's continuum of responses to juvenile crime. The numbers represent the disposition of referrals, not necessarily individual offenders. There have been notable changes in recent years including decreases in referrals, DJF commitments, and the number of youth on formal and informal probation. There have been changes in the interventions available to youth, and increases in the number of referrals to diversion programs, and in the percentage of female offenders. Of note, there is a reduction in juvenile crime occurring throughout the State.

← Continuum of Responses to Juvenile Crime

Throughout Santa Barbara County



* Duplicated Youth

** CEC's closed June 2010

*** LPBA Combined with LPBC October 2013

The continuum clearly indicates that most referrals to Probation do not result in formal handling and are diverted or otherwise handled informally. For those cases that do result in probation supervision, most are supervised in the community with the youth remaining in the home. Few are actually placed in foster care or commitment programs, and many are not detained, especially for lengthy periods. DJF commitments remain relatively rare.

The continuum and the numbers associated with it include the use of direct filing pursuant to Proposition 21 for serious or violent criminal acts committed by a juvenile offender. Direct filing in the criminal courts removes some of the more serious or violent offenders from the juvenile justice system. The limited access to DJF mandated by law also impacts dispositions in the juvenile justice system by reducing the use of State resources. The advent of community alternatives and the expanded use of other options have reduced the number of juvenile offenders committed to institutions.

Initial Assessment

In 2013, Probation received 3,118 referrals for felony, misdemeanor, status or infraction offenses. Included in this total were approximately 1,093 first-time offenders. The *Santa Barbara Assets and Risk Assessment* (SBARA) is a validated risk-needs assessment instrument. It exists in two forms; an initial screener and a full version. One or both of the instruments is used on most referrals to Probation. Some referrals are handled informally, without the benefit of an assessment, but these are generally lower level infractions or ordinance violations with no custody time associated with them. Most referrals will be assessed with the SBARA screener. In 2013, Probation Officers conducted 284 such assessments. This instrument is designed to provide a brief and quick, but reliable assessment to determine what referrals may be diverted at the initial intake point. The SBARA screener has been examined for its continued validity in collaboration with the University of California, Santa Barbara. For those cases that are handled in a formal manner, the SBARA full assessment is used. The full assessment is in its second version and was revalidated in February 2010. Probation Officers conducted 372 assessments with the full version in 2013. Two Officers currently perform the majority of assessments done at the intake level. They were previously funded through JJCPA, however, with reductions to JJCPA funding, the Intake Officer positions were eliminated. Currently they are being funded with YOBG funds.

Community Diversion

Probation agencies may elect to not refer certain law enforcement referrals to the District Attorney's (DA) Office for the filing of a petition. Instead, Probation may handle a case informally pursuant to Section (§) 654 Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). If a youth successfully completes the six month program of informal probation pursuant to §654 WIC, Probation may close the matter without referring it further. In cases where the youth does not successfully complete a program of informal probation, Probation can refer the matter to the DA's Office for the filing of a petition.

Probation may also consider diverting the youth from Probation supervision by having the youth participate in specific activities directed by Probation, such as community service work or education classes, or a more structured program such as those provided by *Teen Court* through CADA or restorative justice through Conflict Solutions Center. The *Teen Court* program provides consequences for lower level, first-time offenders in a court-like environment involving peers and professionals who act as judges during hearings. Restorative justice relies on a voluntary mediation process where the youthful offender and a victim participate in direct services aimed at restoring the loss incurred by a criminal or delinquent act. The offender must

meet specific eligibility and suitability requirements for participation in the program.

Starting in June 2013, law enforcement agencies were provided the option of referring youth that they had contact with for non-detainable offense directly to *Teen Court*, as long as the youth had no-prior history with the Probation Department. The purpose is to enhance the efforts to divert low risk, first time offenders to community-based options and avoid involvement with the juvenile justice system. Preliminary data indicates that the practice is showing promise as the percentage of direct referred youth who have not successfully completed the program is only 11 percent (3/26).

SB163 Wraparound

The SB163 Wraparound program provides State AFDC-FC funds to local jurisdictions to use to keep youth at risk of placement in foster care in their homes in the local community instead. The idea behind Wraparound is that money spent at the local level to provide services to a youth in their own home will have greater impact and better outcomes than the same amount of money spent for group foster care. Intensive in-home services, support, and case management are provided to participating families and cover a broad range of services designed to keep a family intact and in a safe home. A multidisciplinary team provides administrative oversight to the program operated by Casa Pacifica. Presently, Probation, DSS, and ADMHS share 25 slots for these services. In some cases, the services can be started while a youth is detained (but nearing release) or as the youth is preparing to leave foster care placement. In 2013, Probation had 39 youth participate in these services at various times. Presently, 13 youth are participating. While 20 of the slots for the program are reserved for Medi-Cal eligible youth, the County has set aside five (5) slots for non-Medi-Cal eligible youth who may benefit from the services.

Youthful Offender Block Grant

Probation has a YOBG caseload in each region of the County that together serve up to 75 youthful offenders countywide. Generally, youth on these caseloads have a history of gang involvement, have a sustained petition for a violent offense, and have not been successful in other treatment or commitment programs. Youth on these caseloads are assigned a case manager from the CAC, a local CBO. These case managers work closely with the assigned YOBG Officer and assist youth with life skills issues, school enrollment, pro-social choices, and other needs, as well as acting as mentors. YOBG funds also support a long-term commitment program at SMJH in which youthful offenders who might otherwise have been committed to DJF are detained locally for up to 15 months. Participants receive MRT and individual, family or group mental health counseling. A Juvenile Institutions Officer (JIO) at SMJH is assigned to work closely with these youth and collaboratively develops and manages their case plans while they are in custody. During 2013, there were 19 participants in the commitment program at the SMJH. Most were Hispanic (18) and male (18); of the thirteen (13) participants exiting the program in 2013 four (4) exited successfully and nine (9) exited unsuccessfully. In terms of the YOBG supervision component, during 2013, there were 88 participants in the program. The majority were Hispanic (77) and male (78); of the thirty-six (36) participants exiting the program in 2013, nineteen (19) or 52 percent exited successfully and seventeen (17) exited unsuccessfully. This completion rate was a dramatic outcome improvement for the program from an average of 35 percent for the

previous two years. Those youth that end up in the adult criminal justice system result in an unsuccessful program completion.

Juvenile Drug Court

Probation participates as one of the collaborative team members (Judge, DA, PD, Treatment, Bailiff) in a JDC program in each area of the County. A DPO in each area supervises JDC cases. The assigned Officer appears in Court with youthful offenders and discusses treatment progress and probation compliance with the Juvenile Court Judge. Local treatment providers in each region are responsible for conducting the individual and group counseling services for the program. The JDC program accommodates participants in both pre-adjudication and post-adjudication case statuses. The program is voluntary and participants must meet eligibility and suitability requirements. During 2013, there were 114 participants in JDC. Most were Hispanic (76) and male (74); of the sixty-nine (69) participants exiting JDC in 2013, thirty-nine (39) or 57 percent exited successfully and thirty (30) exited unsuccessfully. Only 15 percent of the youth exiting successfully had a new felony or misdemeanor within six months of completion.

6. Programs Funded by JJCPA

School Based Officer Program

Probation continues to assign DPOs to act as SBOs for various school sites throughout the County in an effort to address truancy, delinquency, and criminal behavior. While not physically stationed at the school sites, the SBOs spend the majority of their time on school campuses engaging students, school faculty and administration, and coordinating efforts with local police SROs. SBOs primarily serve area high schools while maintaining some presence at junior high and middle schools. Probation continues to deploy five (5) JJCPA funded SBOs at Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Lompoc schools. Each SBO maintains a caseload of up to 30 youth assigned to a school or group of schools, and meets regularly with those youth at the school sites and in their homes. Probation continues to use JJCPA and Federal Title IV-E entitlement revenue to fund SBOs.

The SBO program served 176 youth during FY 2012-13, a decrease in total youth served from FY 2011-12, when 244 youth were served. The average length in the program for FY 2012-13 increased to 194 days compared to 263 days for FY 2011-12.

In FY 2012-13, 107 juveniles exited the SBO program versus 126 in FY 2011-12. Fifty juveniles exited the program successfully in FY 2012-13 for a completion rate of 47 percent. This was an increase from 44 percent in the previous year.

The new felony or misdemeanor arrest rates for youth while they were in the program in FY 2012-13 was 41 percent, down from 44 percent in FY 2011-12.

The overall outcomes of the SBO program remain strong. The probation completion rate for SBO participants was 67 percent in both FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13. Completion of community service work decreased slightly in FY 2012-13 over FY 2011-12 (70.83% from

71.11%) and the restitution completion rate increased in FY 2012-13 over FY 2011-12 (87.5% from 83.3%); however, the total number of youth actually required to complete community service work and restitution in FY 2012-13 was relatively small.

Additionally, SBOs regularly contact other students not on probation, some of whom are exhibiting truant or other problematic behavior. The benefits of the SBOs are realized for both probation and non-probation youth on campuses. Officers routinely meet with probation youth throughout the day to review their on- and off-campus behavior, school attendance and academic concern. Additionally, non-probation at-risk youth are contacted and counseled when concerning behaviors are observed or at the request of school administrators.

Early Intervention

Each region in the County maintains one DPO for early intervention efforts. These Officers are funded by JJCPA. While Probation supervises principally those youth who are wards of the Juvenile Court, some youth are on informal probation pursuant to §654 or §654.2 WIC or Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) pursuant to §790 WIC and are also subject to supervision. Offenders in this program are generally younger, less sophisticated, first-time offenders who nevertheless have demonstrated a high risk for re-offending. Thus, as EI cases, they are subject to closer supervision and intervention. Youth participating in this program may be referred to the same JJCPA funded counseling and mentoring programs available for youth in the SBO program.

In FY 2012-13, the EI program served 126 youth, a decrease from 181 in the FY 2011-12. The average length of time in the program increased from 167 days to 199 days from the previous year. The decrease in the number of youth served is in part due to the decrease in the number of referrals received from law enforcement as well as a reduction in 2013 in the number of youth placed on §654 WIC Informal Probation contracts. This was seen as a benefit to the youth as they are able to remain in services for greater lengths of time on the EI caseloads.

Seventy youth exited the EI program in FY 2012-13, as opposed to 102 in FY 2011-12; 34 exited successfully, for a successful completion rate of 49 percent. This was slightly below the completion rate of 51 percent in FY 2011-12. Thirty-six youth exited the program unsuccessfully in FY 2012-13.

Recidivism improved in FY 2012-13 as the new felony or misdemeanor arrest rates for youth while they were in the program in FY 2012-13 decreased to 34 percent, down from 41 percent in FY 2011-12.

The overall probation completion rate for EI program participants decreased slightly from 97 percent in FY 2011-12 to 81 percent in FY 2012-13. The completion of community service work declined slightly and the restitution rate remained the same in FY 2012-13 from FY 2011-12.

Counseling Component

Participants supervised by the SBOs and EI may be referred to individual counseling and mentoring programs provided by local CBOs and funded through JJCPA. The counseling component is provided by CADA in Santa Barbara, FSA in Lompoc, and SMVYFC in Santa Maria. The mentoring component is provided by CAC countywide.

Mental Health Assessor

Youth who demonstrate a need for a mental health evaluation are referred to the JJCPA funded mental health assessor who conducts an assessment to determine what, if any, mental health services may be needed. The assessor will also assist in determining if a comprehensive psychological evaluation is needed.

7. Service Gaps

In the 2012 report, as well as in the 2010 report, the County identified gangs, substance abuse, mental health services, and female-specific treatment as areas in which services were lacking, needed improvement, or missing altogether. Surveys were distributed to four distinct groups within the County: Court, Law Enforcement, Education, and Community/Service Partners though all geographical areas of the county. All groups continued to identify gangs, drug/alcohol use and abuse, mental health needs and female-specific treatment as areas that remain challenges for agencies and organizations in addressing juvenile crime and delinquency, and rehabilitating juvenile offenders. This year's surveys also identified lack of parental involvement as a pressing issue. In general, the perception of resources and youth's needs was positive and that resources and needs were fairly aligned.

Gangs

There have been ongoing and successful efforts at the local level such as the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs (SCTFYG) serving Santa Barbara and the South County. The City of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria and Lompoc in collaboration with CAC and Probation were successful in applying and receiving grant funds to address gang issues in those cities. Probation will work collaboratively with applicant agencies that desire to obtain grant funds to address the gang issues in Santa Maria. In addition to the SCGTF receiving three (3) CalGRIP grants, most police agencies have some resources devoted to gang crimes and activity, though they have diminished in the last few years due to budget reductions.

There continues to be strong collaboration between Probation and local law enforcement agencies in terms of individual gangs, gang members, or gang-related crimes, but countywide collaboration is generally limited to periodic information sharing. Local service providers continue to offer interventions with offenders who are involved with gangs. While some interventions, such as MRT and the *El Joven Noble* curriculum used by CAC, have shown promise in mitigating gang involvement, there is presently no specific gang intervention strategy employed countywide to address the problems associated with gangs. Successful strategies should include a combination of enforcement, intervention, and prevention, and target those

involved in gangs or at risk of becoming involved in gangs across various age ranges. Close collaboration with education providers in developing school-based interventions targeting at-risk students may also prove to be effective.

Currently, 238 of the 622 (38.2 percent) youth on Probation are subject to gang terms and conditions. This is down 5.4 percent from 2012 when 382 of the 876 (48.8 percent) of youth on Probation were subject to gang terms and conditions.

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse among youthful offenders remains a concerning problem and contributes to continued delinquency, interpersonal problems, and poor school performance. Marijuana (and synthetic variations of marijuana), alcohol, methamphetamine, and prescription drugs, among other drugs, continue to be used by youth. Local interventions do exist to address this problem. Counseling services are available in all areas and are provided by CBOs who work closely with Probation and who are familiar with youthful offenders and their needs. Additionally, the JDC program remains a viable option for addressing this problem more formally. ADMHS has also established Youth and Family Treatment Centers in each region, which provide consistent substance abuse treatment services throughout the county. These services are contracted through ADMHS with CBOs; Zona Seca in Lompoc, CADA in Santa Barbara, SMVYFC in Santa Maria, and Coast Valley located in Santa Maria and Lompoc. Those programs utilize the same curriculum, *The Matrix Model*, which ensures an evidenced-based program is provided to all youth. Youthful offenders may be referred to CBOs for substance abuse issues specifically or for any of the myriad underlying issues that may contribute to substance abuse. These opportunities are primarily provided on an individual basis although there are some group interventions offered as well. Attendance and participation in these counseling services can be sporadic because of the nature of adolescent clients in general, but can be further impacted by a youth's custody status, interest in obtaining treatment, ability to attend, and maturity level.

Many of the CBOs receive funding from one of several grant options to provide services to youth, either through ADMHS or Probation. Those funding sources include Alcohol/Drug Program (ADP) funding through ADMHS and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) and YOBG funding through Probation. The level of services varies depending on the specifics of the funding source.

Through collaboration, the County of Santa Barbara ADMHS Department was awarded a grant through SAMHSA to provide a coordinated, multi-agency approach to juvenile offender reentry for high-risk male youth with substance abuse and/or co-occurring disorders. The program provided community-based, culturally appropriate substance use treatment, mentorship and home visiting case management designed to build family participation and support youth through their recovery and reentry process. Though the grant ended September 30, 2013, the philosophy using evidence based programs has continued in the approach taken with all high-risk clients.

Mental Health

Probation and ADMHS have been challenged over the last few years by the number of youth who have exhibited troubling and self-injurious behavior. This is especially true in the custody setting at the SMJH. At any given time, there may be four or five youth detained who are suffering from one or more severe mental health issues. These include active psychosis, personality disorders that cause significant acting out behaviors, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and impaired cognitive functioning. Several of these disorders increase the risk of suicide attempts and aggression toward others, which require closer monitoring by Probation and mental health staff. They can also be a dual-diagnosis case if they have serious substance abuse issues as well. Frequently, these youth enter the facility in withdrawal, which also increases the demands on medical and mental health resources. While Probation and ADMHS have resources in place to meet the mental health needs of detained youth, the impact these more severe cases have on time and personnel resources is significant. The behavior of some of these youth has periodically required hospitalization and specialized care locally and outside of the area. Despite the severity of their mental health needs, some needing hospitalization must remain in juvenile hall due to their flight risk at a hospital. The SMJH is not equipped to provide the level of care and treatment that these youth require on an ongoing basis. Additionally, these youth may not be suitable for higher level foster care programs if they are eligible due to the severe nature of their mental illnesses. Transitioning them to a community setting is a significant challenge as resources to treat, supervise, and house these youthful offenders is limited in availability or duration, don't exist, or are not equipped to address their needs. Often times, family members are similarly ill equipped to handle their son/daughter and may not be fully aware of the implications of the mental illness. Probation and ADMHS have been successful in creating community-based alternatives to detention, specialized care, or hospitalization through collaboration, creativity, and resourcefulness. Some youth have been able to take advantage of local mental health programs that offer oversight, medication compliance checks, emergency consultation, and housing. Programs are provided through the Medi-Cal program and a participant must be Medi-Cal eligible to receive most programming. Programs include Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), SPIRIT, New Heights, and Prevention/Early Intervention – Transitional Age Youth (PEI-TAY) services. In some cases, a youth's mental health needs are not known or clearly understood until they commit an offense and are committed to either the Camp program or the SMJH. Through staff observation and interview, assessment with such tools as the Massachusetts Youth Screening Inventory (MAYSI-II), and the exhibited behavior of a detained youth, previously undiagnosed mental health issues are made known to mental health professionals who can then follow up with other providers and family members for an appropriate treatment plan. Unfortunately, in many cases these youth are handled in the juvenile justice system augmented by mental health services when they are most appropriate for a distinct mental health system of care.

Female-specific services

Santa Barbara County's juvenile justice system lacks a comprehensive female-specific strategy to address the unique needs of female offenders. Despite this, there is recognition among professionals who work with juvenile offenders that female-specific interventions should be used whenever possible and efforts have begun with partner agencies including the UCSB to identify female specific resources that can be implemented. To that end, Probation maintains female-

specific counseling groups. The groups are available in each regional area of the County and are provided by local CBOs. Additionally, female groups are offered at the SMJH for detained youth. While attendance at and participation in these groups have been inconsistent they remain a valuable option for female offenders. Efforts are being made to improve this service offering. Additionally, a female-specific supervision caseload was created in Santa Maria. The caseload showed promise as an effective supervision strategy for the female offenders as they are able to participate in regularly scheduled gender-specific group activities. These activities provide not only education and recreation, but have also provided opportunities for exposure to unfamiliar people, places, and topics, and have allowed for meaningful discussions to take place between offenders with a common history. Resource limitations prevented similar caseloads from being developed in Santa Barbara and Lompoc and required the caseload in Santa Maria to be disbanded and the females on the caseload were distributed to other caseloads within the unit. Many of the female offenders under probation supervision have experienced trauma earlier in their lives, engage in behaviors that place them at high risk for harm, have been victims of or witness to family violence, and make poor choices and decisions in relationships. Many others have found themselves involved in prostitution, though since they are rarely viewed as the traditional prostitute, they do not consider their behavior as such. This behavior often leads to sexual and physical abuse and the girls suffer from that trauma for many years. In addition to the female group counseling, the SMJH offers *Girls Circle* sessions provided by a JIO. This supplements other efforts with this population. Additionally, CBOs that provide counseling services to juvenile offenders are well versed in female-specific intervention strategies.

Over the last two years, the number of youth being removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home placement has continued to increase. Probation youth that are placed in foster care due to their delinquent behavior almost exclusively are placed in group homes, though a smaller portion are placed in either relative or extra-familial homes. Many of the females that are placed in these facilities are engaging in the high-risk behavior as previously mentioned. In addition, the girls frequently run away from home and from the group homes when they are placed. Often, they run away before they are able to take advantage of any of the services the placement has to offer. Since many of the groups homes are outside Santa Barbara County, the runaway behavior creates additional risks for the girls. Without another option, these girls end up in a revolving door between the juvenile hall and the group home.

8. Strategies to Bridge Gaps

Santa Barbara County and the State of California continue to experience a decrease in the number of juvenile offenders referred to and placed on probation. The involvement in violent acts has been decreasing and the downward trend is promising. Additionally, gang, drug, and mental health issues that continue to permeate many of the cases and offenders handled by the juvenile justice system pose a persistent challenge in mitigating further delinquent acts. Meeting these challenges requires a great deal of coordination and collaboration among the professionals who work with juvenile offenders. Fortunately, the County has demonstrated its capacity to do so through its long history of successful partnerships with allied agencies and service organizations.

Strategies that aim to impact juvenile crime and delinquency need to include effective and evidence-based treatment programs, services, and strategies. Appropriate assessment of an

individual offender's recidivism risk, treatment needs, mental health issues, and family history can only aid in the understanding of an offender and will contribute greatly to case management decisions. Probation already utilizes two versions of the SBARA for this purpose. ADMHS uses its own mental health assessment and psychological evaluations to determine mental health issues and needs, and together use the MAYSI-II at the SMJH and Camp.

In addition to assessment, strategies to address juvenile delinquency and crime should be based on effective evidence-based models. Private organizations and the Federal Government maintain resources that identify and describe models for addressing delinquency in various ways, in various venues, and at various ages. As these are discovered, agencies in the Juvenile Justice Continuum examined, considered, and adopted them where possible to bolster the County's efforts at mitigating delinquency and providing opportunities to juvenile offenders to change. Some examples include MRT, CBT and Motivational Interviewing. These models can be employed in strategies that target gang offenders, substance abusing offenders, mentally ill offenders, and female offenders. Additionally, they describe how collaborative efforts that include probation, law enforcement, mental health agencies, community organizations, education providers, or child welfare agencies can be effective in addressing delinquency and at-risk behavior. Strategies that appear applicable to the County's youthful offender population and which may be realistically implemented will continue to be considered by Probation and pursued where possible.

In the summer of 2013, using JJCPA funding, the Probation Department purchased the gang intervention curriculum *A New Freedom* from Phoenix Resources, Inc. Evaluation of the program is currently underway to determine where to implement the program to optimize positive results. Options that have been considered include completion while at SMJH, LPBC, in the community and a hybrid program in which it is started while the youth is committed to LPBC and continues the program in the community after his graduation. *A New Freedom* curriculum will be implemented the end of March 2014 at the facilities and/or the ARRC.

The availability of meaningful and appropriate treatment options for youthful offenders is an important consideration when discussing how to curb juvenile offending and cannot be understated. The current availability of various counseling options for juvenile offenders has provided some community-based solutions. These options needed to be augmented, updated or expanded, and even further developed to meet the needs of offenders with mental health issues and histories of trauma and abuse. To that end, Probation sponsored training on *Seeking Safety*, and included staff from CBOs in the class. Additional opportunities will be shared with agencies as they become available. Agencies have had a variety of approaches with *Seeking Safety*. Some utilize the program in its entirety, some include components of the program and some are not utilizing it at this time. Probation, Corizon, UCSB and ADMHS have been collaborating over the last several months to create an effective response to the unique needs of the female offender population. What is being developed is an in-custody program in which the girls will receive female-specific trauma-informed treatment and services in a separate housing unit that will have a more therapeutic atmosphere and tone. Some treatment modalities for which training has already been provided through JJCPA funding, such as MRT and *Seeking Safety*, will be utilized as well as additional services from ADMHS. UCSB through one-time JJCPA funding will research evidence-based assessments and programs and will monitor the fidelity of any

female specific programming implemented in SMJH. This partnership should provide effective programming and reducing the at risk behavior of our female population. UCSB has assigned a staff member and their Institutions Review Board is reviewing the contract prior to its execution. Additionally, the Probation Department is participating in the Countywide Human Trafficking Task Force which is chaired by the District Attorney's Office and includes collaborative partners from other county agencies, law enforcement, advocacy groups and CBOs. The mission of the task force is to develop resources in the county to educate, prevent, intervene and treat victims of sexual exploitation and coordinate services tailored to the characteristics and circumstances of victims, promote training of law enforcement on investigation and detection, and coordinate public outreach and education to prevent exploitation and abuse. Since this is also a recognized issue across the country, law enforcement agencies have availed themselves of training opportunities at the national and state level to educate themselves on the issues and appropriate responses.

As previously mentioned, diversion efforts were expanded for those low-risk offenders who do not need the interventions provided in the juvenile justice system. The efforts include the addition of direct law enforcement referrals to *Teen Court*. The ability to appropriately handle more cases at the community diversion level allows Probation to focus on high risk offenders. The use of restorative justice and other victim-centered programs also create additional opportunities at the community diversion level. The concept of restorative justice practices has broadened locally and with greater familiarity with it may come wider use of it. Diversion strategies not currently in use will be considered for implementation when they appear to be applicable and offer a meaningful alternative.

9. Conclusion

The communities of Santa Barbara County continue to identify the same issues, effecting the youth in the county; gangs, drugs, mental health issues and, more recently, female-specific concerns. Several strategies have been put into place over the last several years in response to those concerns, some specific to a local area and some on a more county-wide level.

In January 2008, the SCTFYG was created in response to several high profile gang-related homicides in the Santa Barbara area. From this task force, efforts were made in two municipalities to secure funding through the CalGRIP grants for efforts to combat the gang crime and violence in those communities. In addition, the City of Lompoc in North County also secured a CalGRIP grant to address similar concerns. This strategy is believed to have had an impact in reducing the number of youth placed on probation with gang terms and conditions as evidenced by the decrease in the percentage of gang members on probation. The plan will be to collaborate with agencies who desire to apply for a similar grant for Santa Maria that will include employment and vocational development for at-risk youth. The Probation Department in conjunction with ADMHS offers MRT to this population while they are in custody as well as expanding MRT to the community at the ARRCs, and will be implementing *A New Freedom* gang curriculum.

To address the issue of drugs and alcohol, CBOs countywide are now using the same program, the *Matrix Model*. This allows for consistent, evidence-based programs and avoids the risk of information being duplicative and ineffective. The design of the *Matrix Model* helps youth understand complex cognitive-behavioral and clinical concepts while letting youth know exactly what is expected of them and reinforcing positive behavior change. By involving the family in the treatment process, there is a greater understanding and ability to participate in the new life of recovery.

Previously, strategies to address specific mental health concerns were identified. Though that need appears to have diminished, the needs of our female population specific to mental health needs has emerged. Female youth on probation spend less time on probation than their male counterparts and have a higher rate of successful completion. The issues facing Santa Barbara County are the young females that are used for sex trafficking and that these female offenders use sex to obtain drugs. This population has proven to be challenging to serve as once they are in a placement as they have a high rate of running away. In fact, female offenders in placement have a higher failure rate than boys in placement, due to their run away behavior. Santa Barbara County is moving forward in a new endeavor to treat these young women for their underlying mental health concerns (PTSD, trauma) which contributes to their delinquent and risky behaviors.

JJCPA funding provides the opportunity for local jurisdictions to respond to needs in their communities. The collaboration that exists in Santa Barbara County makes our systems fluid and dynamic, which allows for quick response to emerging concerns and issues. CBOs, law enforcement, social services agencies, local officials and representatives from UCSB have open lines of communication and are working together to address the juvenile justice trends with a comprehensive and evidence based approach that best serves the youth in Santa Barbara County.