

***JUVENILE JUSTICE CRIME PREVENTION ACT***



***PROGRAM STATEMENTS  
MAY 1, 2018***

## **(1) Informal Probation Prevention Program**

Informal probationers, although located at the entry level of the Juvenile Justice System, these youth are not necessarily considered high risk, but have high needs. Unless effective evidence based practices are employed with this population, further and more criminogenic behavior can be expected.

The program goals are to reduce arrest, incarceration and a higher level of restitution collection and community service completion. As a component of their program, youth and families are assessed promptly after Court and seen by the Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) to review their terms and conditions of informal probation. In a collaborative environment, they will also be referred to agencies which will monitor their completion of special conditions, such as therapy, drug treatment, anger management, family counseling, and other programs designed to meet their overall rehabilitative needs which have been shown to be effective in reducing recidivism with this population. DPO's supervising these informal probationers can refer these probationers to the Community Justice Conference (CJC), which is a program of Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) of the Central Valley. Both CJC and VORP utilize evidence based practices including cognitive behavioral therapy. With the assistance of locally trained mediators, CJC facilitates a mediation and restitution process which takes into account the needs and the concerns of the victim, offender, and the community. CJC gives the people involved an opportunity to decide how to best address the offense and how to keep it from re-occurring. Once the agreement is met with the offender and the victim, CJC reports to the Court the outcome of the mediation. CJC monitors the plan and assists the parties in keeping agreements. The DPO's will also work in collaboration with school districts and treatment providers to ensure compliance with orders of the Court and in particular restitution collection.

## **(2) Fresno County School Based Officers Intervention Program**

The second identified area of the program is in intervention. The Fresno County Probation Department's plan is to strategically place DPO's in the communities where the youth live and spend a majority of their days. By placing the DPO at the youth's school, they are in a position to be aware of the youth's behavior, his/her study habits, and other factors that can help officers gain a realistic perspective of the overall adjustment. The DPO can more readily intervene when called upon, where situations demand, in order to affect more timely resolutions to problems as they arise. Parents too, as well as other family members, can be called upon to assist when needed. For those who live in the rural areas, this plan also addresses their needs.

The School-Based Program is well established for creating a partnership between Juvenile Probation Departments and local schools that place DPO's

directly within the confines of the school. This program targets youth who are under the supervision of the Court. The benefit of school-based probation is that it increases the contact between the officers and the youths. The primary focus is a collaborative effort of probation, police, and schools to closely monitor juvenile probationers attending high school campuses while developing and implementing school based interventions i.e. restorative justice, youth courts, informal sanction and interventions. Some interventions also include non-traditional events such as school sporting events and other school large happenings where “high visibility” and proactive approaches avoid delinquency and promote a safe environment for youth and the community. The program goals are to reduce the arrest, incarceration and violation of probation rate and to increase the successful completion of probation rate, a higher level of collection of restitution and a greater level of community service completion.

Under a traditional probation model, an officer may contact the youth only once a month, but with DPO’s directly in the schools, officers can provide almost daily informal contact as well as much more frequent formal meetings during, before, and after school hours. Being located in the schools also permits the DPO’s to check attendance, discipline records, and other information about probationers, as well as to check with teachers about academic progress. Consequently, DPO’s develop more substantial personal relationships with youth, resulting in improved communication and understanding.

The Department will utilize five DPO’s in five separate mainstream high schools in the Fresno Unified School District, the largest school district in the City and County of Fresno: Bullard, Sunnyside, Roosevelt, Edison and Cambridge/DeWolf. They also have access to the connected alternative high schools, as well as their feeder elementary and middle schools. Supervision of youth on formal probation will be carried out by DPO’s who are assigned full-time to the Campus Unit.

Two DPO’s are assigned to Central Unified School District, which will also provide supervision for youth on probation, in order to ensure accountability and compliance with Juvenile Court orders. Officers assigned to the campuses will help to maintain school safety, monitor student attendance and behavior, and provide a partnership with other law enforcement officers assigned by their agencies. A probation/police partnership also exists, in order to take enforcement action, when necessary.

The next largest city in Fresno County is the city of Clovis. There will be two DPO’s assigned to work with probationers at the five Clovis Unified high schools within the city and its environs. They will be assigned full-time to the Clovis Unified School District (CUSD) campuses, where they will provide an adjunct to CUSD’s Police Department team and will also work closely with the Clovis Police Department in a united effort to divert youth from further involvement with the Juvenile Justice System. Offices for DPO’s are available on campus, as well as

in the Clovis Police Department, in order to allow closer and more frequent interaction between the youth and the DPO.

There is also one DPO assigned to the Sanger Unified School District and one assigned to the Kings Canyon Unified School District. These DPO's also provide supervision for youth on formal probation in order to ensure accountability and compliance with Juvenile Court orders. Officers assigned to the campuses will help to maintain school safety, monitor student attendance and behavior, and provide a partnership with other law enforcement officers assigned by their agencies. A probation/police partnership also exists, in order to take enforcement action, when necessary.

The Fresno, Central, Sanger and Kings Canyon Unified School districts have collaboratively agreed to promote youth development to include an age-appropriate prevention/ intervention program for youth enrolled in their respective School District elementary schools. The goal is promote positive behaviors in the school, home, and community by fostering positive, proactive relationships with DPO's. Contacts with probationers will be made on campus, in the youth's home, and in other areas of the community. In addition, all of the FUSD High Schools involved in this project operate Juvenile Youth Courts, an evidence based practice, where students who are first-time offenders are held accountable by their peers. Sanger Unified and Central Unified School Districts also implement the Juvenile Youth Court practice. The Campus DPO can also use the Youth Courts as an alternative to filing a formal petition, thus avoiding the Delinquency Court.

The next school partnership is found in the geographical outlying areas of the county. East and West County Supervision officers will provide supervision with collaborative partners' school and police partners. There will be four DPO's assigned full-time to the rural areas of Fresno County. Two DPO's will be assigned to the Eastern area. There will also be two DPO's focusing on the Western area with one collaborating with the Coalinga Police Department and the other collaborating with Kerman High School Campus. The DPO's will build collaborative partnerships with law enforcement entities as well as schools in various towns located within their assigned areas. Each DPO will become a case manager for his/her geographical area and will make personal contact with probationers in their homes, in their schools, and in the community.

The DPO partners include the following: School Resource Officers, School Administrators, Community-Based Organizations, Mental Health Services Providers, and Public Health Services. The multidisciplinary team will focus on restitution and other probation conditions.

The elementary schools chosen for this program were identified by school district Administration. In addition, DPO's will be assigned to the schools based on the student progression to the respective high school campuses. Each elementary

site will be scheduled a variety of hours of service per week; however, this may vary based on other factors i.e. training, Court mandates, or deployment to other schools.

**Deputy Probation Officer services may include but not limited to:**

- Develop and maintain a relationship with students and school staff by increasing trust and reducing barriers.
- Greeting students in the morning
- Classroom presentations i.e. Character Counts, Tobacco/Drug prevention, bullying
- Recess and Lunch time interaction
- Student/Parent resource; Guide school staff and parents of available programs/services within the community to address the family needs as well as individual student need.
- Participate in After School Programs (ASES, EDEP, Greenshack)
- Attend/Support school assemblies i.e. Red Ribbon Week
- Attend/Support/Supervise Sporting events
- Attend/Support special school functions (i.e.: Jog-a-thons, field trips)
- Promote reading programs
- Work with Child Welfare and Attendance staff
- Support specific school site initiatives / goal

**(3) Violet Heintz Educational Academy/Day Reporting Center Intervention Program**

The Violet Heintz Educational Academy (VHEA) is a Community School Program that provides educational programming for students who are referred by the Probation Department or home school district. Students are also identified and referred through the transition team from the Juvenile Justice Campus for those probationers who were not attending any other school or have been expelled from district programs. Grade 7-12 students are provided with an educational program tailored to meet their individual academic learning level and behavioral needs.

VHEA also provides the Day Reporting Center program (DRC) for those probationers that are Court-ordered to complete the 180 day substance abuse or mental health component of the program, which also consist of 30 days on the Global Positioning System (GPS). Upon completion of the program, youth are eligible to continue with their education at the school site or reintegrate back into their home school district. The students eligible for DRC are youth in grades 9-12.

The DPO assigned to VHEA provides supervision for youth on formal probation, in order to ensure accountability and compliance with Juvenile Court orders. The Fresno Police Department also partners with the school to provide a collaborative

approach to ensuring safety, security, mentoring and to take enforcement action when necessary. Officers assigned to the campuses will help to maintain school safety, monitor student attendance and behavior, and provide a partnership with other law enforcement officers assigned by their agencies.

The program goals are to reduce the arrest, incarceration and violation of probation rate and to increase the successful completion of probation rate, a higher level of collection of restitution and a greater level of community service completion.

The DRC at VHEA is a multidisciplinary, community-based alternative to incarceration for juvenile offenders. It is a treatment-oriented program comprised of probation, mental health, substance abuse programs, and a school for students who are having mental health or substance abuse problems. Through a combination of intensive supervision and direct services for these youthful offenders, they will be encouraged to live a criminal free lifestyle. Anger management and parenting classes are also sometimes offered by the school staff or on site mentors.

School-based DPO's can also provide the following:

- Intervene in crisis situations involving juvenile probation clients.
- Assist schools in handling disruptive behavior by probationers or other youth.
- Coordinate interventions with the schools and other agencies.
- Coordinate re-entry efforts for youth returning from a Juvenile Justice facility.
- Serve as an agent of early intervention for disruptive or truant youth who are not yet involved in the juvenile justice system.

#### **(4) Fresno County Family Behavioral Health Court Intervention Program**

Another program component of intervention will be the Behavioral Health Court (BHC). The Juvenile Delinquency Mental Health Court was one of the projects of the Juvenile Justice Services Collaborative. To avoid the stigma attached to "Mental Health Court" the court was named "Behavioral Health Court" or BHC, and then subsequently changed to "Family Behavioral Health Court" or FBHC to underscore the importance of family involvement. FBHC is a Juvenile Delinquency Superior Court program designed to adjudicate and provide treatment plans for youth who are at high risk to the community as indicated by their assessed and demonstrated mental health impairment.

A DPO will be assigned to a caseload of high needs probationers, who have demonstrated mental health needs requiring specialized assistance. Many have a history of violence and failed response to past treatments. The program goals are to reduce the arrest, incarceration and violation of probation rate and to increase the successful completion of probation rate.

The focus of FBHC is the protection and safety of the community, the youth and their families, the assessment and treatment of youth needing mental health services; and the monitoring of the youth's subsequent mental health treatment plan. FBHC establishes connections with community-based organizations and family support systems that previously were not being effectively utilized. FBHC also includes procedures to evaluate the success of the program.

The focus of FBHC supervision is:

1. Provide protection to the community, youth and their families;
2. Ensure that each youth appearing before the Court is held accountable and receives the treatment and services he or she needs to effectively address their delinquent behavior and to avoid further contacts with the juvenile justice system;
3. Ensure that government, nonprofit, and private organizations provide the treatment and services that they are obligated or have agreed to provide.
4. Reduce placement in custodial facilities and group homes by engaging participants and their families in the treatment process.

The Family Behavioral Health Court team comprised of the assigned Juvenile DPO, FBHC Coordinator, Defense Counsel, Deputy District Attorney, Department of Behavioral Health Clinician, and the Juvenile Court Judge. The FBHC team uses a collaborative approach to review and suitably address each youth and family referred to the program and sustain participation based on the youth's and family's needs.

The youth must be an adjudicated ward of the court unless the FBHC Team agrees that the youth is suitable for diversion. The youth must have a diagnosed mental illness (i.e. major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, mood/anxiety disorders) or a developmental disability (i.e. intellectual disability, autism), or organic brain disorder. Exclusionary diagnoses are of a youth with Conduct Disorder or ADHD only. The mental illness or developmental disability primarily contributed to the delinquent conduct. The youth and family must agree to voluntarily participate in the program and cooperate with team members, including compliance with any medical protocol.

The FBHC team will meet prior to each FBHC session. The FBHC team will review all referrals for suitability. The FBHC team will review the probation report, mental health assessment, and any other evaluations to determine if the youth is suitable for the FBHC. All members of the FBHC team may present additional information and opinions regarding the youth's suitability.

Subject to capacity limitations, cases deemed both eligible and suitable will be accepted into the program. If there is not unanimous agreement of the team members, the FBHC judge's decision regarding eligibility and suitability will be final.

The DPO assigned to the FBHC serves as part of the FBHC team in the development, documentation and implementation of the individualized treatment plan. The DPO is also responsible for supervision of the youth. The probation officer is trained to recognize and empathetically handle issues of youth and family in FBHC. Based on the needs of the youth and family, the FBHC DPO may have increased contacts at school and home, participate in Child Family Team (CFT) meetings with treatment provider, attend Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) meetings, attend community outings, mediate free exchange of information amongst invested parties to include school, treatment, and medical providers, and assist with ensuring compliance with developed treatment plan.

The primary contracted provided for FBHC is currently Uplift Family Services Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program which is an evidence based treatment modality designed to reduce barriers to accessing treatment services. The clinical staff of ACT may provide the following treatment services based on the needs of the youth and family.

- Higher intensity levels of treatment that provides 24/7 availability to clients when needed
- Individual therapy
- Group therapy
- Family therapy (as indicated and therapeutically appropriate)
- Parenting coaching
- Behavioral coaching
- Addiction and prevention services
- Educational and vocational services
- Medication management
- Other various case management services to families as they are needed

The FBHC program takes approximately one year to complete and is comprised of three stages: assessment, intervention and learning new skills to manage the mental health condition, and stabilization. In each stage, the goal is that the behavior is demonstrated in each of four areas for a period of time before being eligible to promote to the next stage. The time period is flexible and promotion may be based upon individual circumstances.

The FBHC team will determine whether the youth and family have successfully completed the FBHC program by considering the following factors. The youth has complied with the terms and conditions of his/her probation for a significant period of time. The youth and his/her family are no longer in need of treatment services, the youth's condition has stabilized over a significant period of time and

the family can obtain the needed services in the community without the involvement of the FBHC.

#### **(5) Fresno County SAU Aftercare Intervention Program**

Another program component is a DPO assigned to the Fresno County Probation Department Juvenile Substance Abuse Aftercare caseload. Youth that have completed the 180-day Floyd Farrow Substance Abuse Unit (SAU) dual diagnosis treatment program are assigned to this caseload. While in the in-patient program, youth will be assigned to a group with approximately 10 to 15 youth, a mental health clinician, and a substance abuse counselor. Case management services are provided by the treatment team. Evidence based practices include Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Curriculum. Services included but not limited to the following: Individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, multi-family groups, psycho-education, and case management. Medical treatment and medication therapy will be utilized when appropriate by Corizon Health.

In addition, the substance and mental health counselors will apply the Therapeutic Community and Motivational Interviewing with the youth in the SAU program. These practices are evidence-based and they also use Gender-Responsive Services. Once these youth complete the in-patient component of the program, they will be released back in the community.

The DPO assigned to this caseload has case management responsibility for the duration of the youth's period on probation. It is the responsibility of the DPO to refer the youth, living in the city of Fresno, to Family Youth and Alternatives (FYA) for their substance abuse treatment. This particular program uses the same modalities as the SAU program.

Further, for out-patient treatment, the provider uses the Teen Matrix Model, which incorporates Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Curriculum. The modality consists of research-based techniques integrated into an approach that includes individual sessions, family sessions, group sessions, Twelve Step programs, and separate parent and adolescent substance-education groups.

A transition meeting is held prior to the youth's release involving multiple collaborative agencies such as a home school district representative, Focus Forward, The Boys and Girls Club, the youth, the parents, and the DPO. The focus of the transition meeting is to determine the best school placement to meet the youth's educational needs, provide the youth with appropriate referrals that will assist in rehabilitation once released to the community, and connect the youth to any supportive services that will promote a positive integration back into the community.

Once the youth is released from custody, the DPO will ensure compliance with substance abuse treatment, they will also ensure compliance with all their conditions of probation, which will include drug testing. The program goals are to reduce the arrest, incarceration and violation of probation rate and to increase the completion of probation rate, and a higher level of collection of restitution.

The DPO will continue to work with law enforcement agencies, substance abuse treatment providers, and local school districts. Intensive supervision is provided for those high risk offenders, which can include contact with the offender in the home, school site, Probation Department, at varied hours and/ or on the weekends, in order to ensure the compliance of the offender. The DPO will work with all treatment providers, law-enforcement agencies, school districts, to ensure the youth's compliance with his/her conditions of probation.

#### **(6) Fresno County Sex Offender Program**

Another program component will be a County Probation Department Juvenile Sex Offender caseload. This caseload is comprised of youth adjudicated in the Delinquency Court or who have been placed on Deferred Entry of Judgment for a sexual offense that requires them to complete out-patient Sex Offender Treatment. The program goals are to reduce the arrest, incarceration and violation of probation rate and to increase the successful completion of probation rate, a higher level of collection of restitution and a greater level of community service completion.

The assigned DPO will continue to work with treatment providers, to ensure compliance, as well as working with the offender's family and the local school districts. Intensive supervision is provided and can include contact with the offender in the home, school site, Probation Department, or at treatment facilities.

The DPO assigned to this caseload has case management responsibility for the duration of the youth's period on probation or DEJ. It is the responsibility of the DPO Officer to refer the youth to an acceptable out-patient Sex Offender Treatment program, which usually takes a minimum of 18 months to 3 years to complete, as well as individual and family counseling. The Sex Offender Treatment programs utilize Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and/or Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) interventions, which are evidence based, in the group setting as well as others but these interventions are effective for this population. The group environment is experiential in nature in order to minimize the participant's defenses so that the group therapists can experience the client as he would operate outside the office environment. Each treatment provider is responsible for reporting the progress and attendance in treatment.

The DPO will work with all treatment providers, law-enforcement agencies, school districts, the District Attorney's Office, and the Child Abuse Review Team

(C.A.R.T.) to ensure the ward's compliance with his/her conditions of probation or DEJ.

## **(7) Fresno County Auto Theft Program**

The last component is a DPO assigned to an intensive supervision caseload for auto theft. An intensive supervision caseload is comprised of youth in the Delinquency Court for an Auto Theft related offense. In some instances, the youth may be granted Deferred Entry of Judgment.

The Fresno County Probation Department is currently identifying the following cases between the ages of 14-18

- CVC 10851(a)
- PC 496d(a)
- PC 496(a)- auto theft related
- PC 459/460(b)-auto theft related
- Other auto theft related offenses, i.e. PC 466, PC 487(d)(1), CVC 10801, CVC 10802, CVC 10803, CVC 10804 and any dismissed charges reserving right to comment and restitution.

The assigned DPO will work with law enforcement agencies, treatment providers, and local school districts. Intensive supervision is provided and can include contact with the offender in the home, at their school site, Probation Department, at varied hours and on the weekends, in order to ensure the compliance of the offender and for the protection of the community. The program goals are to reduce the arrest, incarceration and violation of probation rate and to increase the successful completion of probation rate, a higher level of collection of restitution and a greater level of community service completion.

The assigned DPO will work collaboratively with the assistance of law-enforcement agencies and the Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) program, which is a mutual approach in Fresno County. The H.E.A.T. program consists of officers from, the California Highway Patrol, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. This multi-agency task force is dedicated to effectively enforcing vehicle theft laws and to investigate other criminal activity related to vehicle thefts. The officer assigned also collaborates with the Fresno Police Department's Career Criminal Auto Theft Team (CCAT). In addition, the officer will work collaboratively with school districts and treatment providers to ensure compliance with the orders of the Court.

## **Summary**

The Fresno County Probation Departments JJCPA program focuses on programming for not only at-risk youth, but for juvenile offenders under the formal supervision of the department. The program design features seven separate programs with specialized populations and unique needs to be addressed. Though the provision of juvenile services in these seven areas, based on prevention, intervention and suppression, the Fresno County Probation Department will ensure that appropriate services for these identified populations are successfully addressed.

The Fresno County Probation Department utilizes the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) to identify risk levels and needs for services. The PACT assessment process is described by the originators as the cornerstone of their efforts to implement evidence-based services and interventions throughout the Juvenile Justice System in the state where it originated. Those probationers, male or female deemed to be at higher risk, as identified through the use of a screening tool, PACT, may be referred to Thinking for a Change, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in lieu of returning the minor to Court for a violation of Probation. The program includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development and development of more effective problem solving skills. The program is designed for delivery to small groups in 25 lessons and can be expanded upon to meet the needs of specific participant groups.

In August 2015, Fresno County began utilizing the Community Service Work Program as an alternative to incarceration. Anka Behavioral Health is the current vendor utilized to implement the program and maintain supervision of the youth assigned to the program. The youth are tasked with performing cleanup details to ensure beautification at specific sites within the County with the intention to expand cleanup efforts to other non-profit organizations. Work crews comprised of up to thirteen youth are assigned Wednesday through Sunday every week to the detail. The program assists with accountability and rehabilitation while providing the youth with mentoring, responsibility, teamwork, and skill building.

Fresno County also utilizes JJCPA appropriations to fund two Probation Tech positions. The Probation Techs are tasked with collection of data, documentation pertaining to the JJCPA programs, assisting with review/monitoring of the GPS/EM duties, assisting with JJCPA caseload management responsibilities to include conducting interviews with youth and their families and linkage to appropriate rehabilitative/supportive services. The Probation Tech is also responsible for DNA collection, DNA data entry and maintaining DNA records. Further, the Probation Techs are utilized to assist in any area of need that directly correlates to the JJCPA programs, the youth, and families on the respective JJCPA caseloads