

# **KINGS COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**



## **COMPREHENSIVE MULTIAGENCY JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN**



### **Background and Summary of Juvenile Justice System**

Kings County is located in the heart of California's rich San Joaquin Valley and was founded in 1893, measuring 1,392 square miles with over 70% of its acreage dedicated to agriculture. The county seat is Hanford and includes the incorporated towns and cities of Lemoore, Corcoran, Avenal, Stratford, Kettleman City, Stratford, and Armona.

Due to its primary emphasis on agricultural production, Kings County attracts individuals and families either migrating and/or immigrating from other California counties, states, and countries. The agricultural workforce operates 365 days per year via seasonal rotations to produce and harvest products such as cotton, grapes, raisins, oranges, walnuts, peaches, plums, pecans, corn, alfalfa, tomatoes, almonds, kiwis, pistachios, garlic, watermelon, honeydew, melons, wheat and broccoli. Local, independent farmers produce various products such as strawberries, squash, chilies, and bell peppers.

Along with regular migration and immigration to the area, Kings County hosts a transient population made up of individuals and families following seasonal work patterns throughout

the state. Major socio-environmental issues stemming from this dynamic include: poverty, unemployment, illegal immigration, acculturation or cultural differences, language barriers, education, homelessness, lack of affordable housing, health problems and isolation of the family. This transient population poses challenges to service delivery.

Kings County is the home of the Lemoore Naval Air Station, approximately 7,200 military and 1,300 civilians work at NAS Lemoore and around 11,000 military dependents. Lemoore's Naval Air Station is the Navy's largest master jet base, hosting the Navy's largest west coast attack/flight capability. Military life within the Naval Air Station is unique in that families often experience extensive periods of time without the presence of the active duty member. This means at least six (6) months of duty at sea on rotating cycles. The absence of this member causes a great deal of stress for the other parent at home (assuming there are two parents available) and the children. Regular deployment causes an unstable home environment in which unclear expectations and continuous family transitioning exists. There is also a possibility the military member could die, which intensifies anxiety and stress for these family members. Aside from the duty at sea component, military life includes other elements, which impact its citizens. Due to frequent relocations that remove families from extended family support, these families experience isolation and sudden, forced adaptability to constant environmental changes. Further, trauma and stress active duty members experience can increase the risk of Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, leading to domestic violence, substance abuse, and child abuse/neglect.

The Santa Rose Rancheria (Tachi-Yokut Tribe) is located within Kings County, which further adds to its uniqueness and diversity. The Santa Rose Rancheria is officially listed on the Federal Register and has a long history of spirituality within its people. For several years, the Tribe has been working to establish itself as autonomous, in part via their gaming resort. It has been expanding services available within its boundaries in an effort to further meet the needs of its members. Due to gaming revenue, the Tribe has been successfully improving the lifestyle of all its families. Housing has been improved. New recreation and office facilities have been built. Education has improved for its children due to technological and curriculum improvements. Employment has risen due to opportunities available at the casino and hotel. Unemployment

has dropped below 25% for this population and most members are now off public assistance (<http://www.tachi-yokut.com/rancheria.html>).

Avenal State Prison, California State Prison at Corcoran and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility at Corcoran are located within the boundaries of Kings County; however, two other State Prison facilities (Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga and Central California Women's Facility) are close-by, which attract the families of inmates and correctional staff. Realignment began in 2011 and as a result, the population of Avenal State Prison, Corcoran State Prison and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility has declined. One factor was attributed to the state policy which keeps state prisoners in the counties where they committed their crimes rather than sending them to distant state lockups. The added challenge of rehabilitating incarcerated individuals, as well as providing supportive services to their families and the correctional staff, presents an interesting component to the diversity of Kings County. The presence of California State Prisons in the area causes an increase in probation and parole cases, as well as families exposed to criminal behavior, which amplifies the following issues for individuals and families connected to the inmates: substance abuse and addiction, alcoholism, domestic violence, gang activity, mental illnesses, poverty, unemployment and crime.

### **Substance Abuse Data**

Kings County Behavioral Health reports that 1 in 13 adults are alcoholics with most between the ages of 18 and 24. There are over 19 million drug addicted persons age 12 and older in the United States and over 50% of high school seniors reported using an illicit drug by the time they graduated.

Risk factors for drug and alcohol abuse are chaotic home environments, faulty parenting, lack of healthy relationships, poor social skills, school failure, improper behavior, association with deviant peers and the belief that others approve of using drugs. Primary substances currently being abused in Kings County are heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, alcohol and marijuana.

The following contracted providers are available to assist the residents of Kings County: Champions Recovery Alternatives, Kings View Substance Abuse Treatment Services, WestCare Youth Treatment Program, Eminence Healthcare, Hannah's House, AA/NA/AI-Non Gamblers Groups of Kings County, Friday Night Live Partnership, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators' Association of California (CADPAAC), The Partnership at Drugfree.Org, the Meth Project and Natural High.

### **Mental Health**

Kings County Behavioral Health strongly advocates for prevention and early intervention for those suffering from mental health issues. Three promising new prevention and early intervention programs: Suicide Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction and Student Mental Health are tackling some of the most serious problems with proven approaches. The programs have the power to greatly reduce the amount of money spent on crisis services for people with serious mental illness, more importantly the programs will help thousands of children, adults and seniors stay healthy.

According to Kings County Behavioral Health more than half of mental issues begin by age 14 but unfortunately most children do not receive help during this critical time. Those children who do receive mental health support are more likely to be successful in school and as adults.

### **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council**

The Kings County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council was formed in March of 1997 and has worked to coordinate activities throughout the county since that time. The development of this project started with the research/planning phase. This phase involved probation officers and a department specialist within the Kings County Probation Department. This probation group was divided into several teams that were responsible for gathering data and performing research that would provide assistance and guidance in the collaborative phase of this project. There were a total of 13 meetings that took place during this research/planning phase.

The Collaboration phase involved the selected probation team and representatives from outside agencies, such as Kings View Mental Health, Kings County Office of Education, Kings County Welfare Division, Kings County Child Protective Services, Kings County Minor's Advocacy

Officer, Kings County Community Action Organization, as well as other community based organizations. An attempt to work with a specific community based organization was planned, however after budget complications and information provided by the Board of Corrections the intention was discontinued. Due to the time limits and constraints, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Counsel supported the efforts of the probation department to continue writing a Restorative Justice Program with continued collaboration.

A draft was compiled and submitted to the Kings County Juvenile Justice Commission for review and input. All corrections and modifications were completed and submitted to the Kings County Board of Supervisors for review and approval. It should be noted that additional collaboration with the Santa Clara County Probation Department took place, along with technical support from a specialist from the Board of Corrections.

The final plan was submitted to the Board of Corrections on March 26, 2001.

In response to the continuing incidences of Juvenile Crime, various programs have been implemented to attack the problems at different stages. These stages include Prevention, Intervention, Suppression and Incapacitation. The Kings County Probation Department is actively involved in all stages of the juvenile justice system within Kings County.

### **Existing Continuum of Services**

#### **Prevention:**

The Facilitating Accountability Victim Offender Restoration (F.A.V.O.R.) Unit provides intake services countywide. When local law enforcement makes an arrest or issues a citation, all said arrests and citations are referred to the department. Disposition of these cases may be achieved by warnings, performance agreements, 6-month contracts and ultimately referral to the District Attorney for filing of a petition in Juvenile Court. The F.A.V.O.R. Unit also conducts various life skills programs that target specific behavioral issues such as petty theft or substance abuse education. The F.A.V.O.R. Unit hosts a summer program called the Youth Expanding Self Efficacy (Y.E.S.) Program. The program is five (5) weeks long during the summer months and is geared toward youth in first through fourth grades. The youth are exposed to positive role models in our community and are taught an abbreviated version of Aggression Replacement

Therapy (A.R.T.). Recently, the F.A.V.O.R. program implemented a College Tour Program in partnership with Behavioral Health through their Pathways Program. At risk youth are taken to college campuses throughout the state to learn about educational opportunities available to them. They are given a tour and a presentation from campus officials.

During the Fall Semester 2016, our F.A.V.O.R. Unit began teaching Aggression Replacement Therapy (A.R.T.) in two of our local schools. A.R.T. is a 10 week course that covers anger control, skill streaming and moral reasoning. Classes have an average of 10 students per class. The school selects the students who participate and provide us with classroom space to conduct the program. We are hoping to expand this program by having more officers trained as trainers for this program and by securing more schools in our county.

The F.A.V.O.R. unit also conducts community outreach, and is a regular participant in numerous community activities. The F.A.V.O.R. program is a past recipient of the Kings Partnership for Prevention Service Award recognizing "Excellence in Prevention in Partnership with Law Enforcement".

**Intervention:**

At the intervention level, the probation department continues to provide numerous opportunities to the youth of our community with the goal of deterring continued involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The field unit is responsible for supervising approximately 143 court adjudicated youth that are either placed on probation or Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ). Cases are assigned geographically to ensure consistent visitation and to develop relationships with the agencies and resources in those areas. Officers are trained to utilize Motivational Interviewing (MI) tenants in their supervision where the youth is engaged in his or her treatment and rehabilitation. It is the officer's responsibility to spend a sufficient amount of time on each visit with the youth or his or her family to accurately assess current needs and risk factors. There are currently probation officers assigned to supervise Hanford and the surrounding areas, Lemoore, Armona, Avenal/Kettleman City and Corcoran. In effort to make the most appropriate use of supervision, a high risk caseload was established. This particular caseload is lower in number, but higher in need. These youth have often committed serious and/or violent offenses or exhibit mental

health issues and have been determined to be at high risk to re-offend through our PACT assessment tool. The high risk caseload is comprised of those youth we are utilizing all local resources on.

One juvenile probation officer is assigned to supervise a placement caseload, where youth who are not able to be rehabilitated in their own home for any number of reasons, are placed at appropriate group, foster homes and relative care. These youth can be placed at various institutions throughout the State of California or with special approval, in out of state facilities. These youth are supervised in accordance with Division 31 regulations, which have very specific supervision guidelines. This includes monthly visitation, mandatory six month case plans, and permanency planning. This assignment requires an officer to travel to each group/foster home on a monthly basis in order to make contact with the youth. The placement officer also employs motivational interviewing, requiring a significant amount of time and commitment from the officer to ensure the youth are being provided all necessary tools for successful rehabilitation. This officer works closely with the local child welfare system, and has worked diligently to maintain a strong working relationship that has been a model for other counties.

The placement officer is responsible for supervising youth eligible for services pursuant to AB 12. These youth are those transitioning out of juvenile placement, and are offered additional services to allow them to continue to receive support to assist them into adulthood. The placement officer approves and supervises youth in supervised independent living plans (SILPS); ensures all NYTD (National Youth in Transition Database) surveys are completed for youth that are no longer in placement, and ensures credit reports are provided for all youth age 14 and above that are in and out of home placement.

The Kings County Probation Department offers an electronic monitoring program as an alternative dispositional option. Youth are able to benefit from services provided in the community while serving a court ordered commitment. Additionally, youth participate in the program prior to disposition upon court order, when physical custody is not a matter of public safety.

The Kings County Probation Department currently contracts with our local county mental health department, Kings View, for one full time therapist and two part time therapists to provide

expanded adolescent drug and alcohol treatment. These services are provided to youth in outlying areas of the county that do not have adequate public transportation to participate in services in the county seat. Historically, services have been limited in the outlying areas. Additionally, services are provided in the county seat. The therapist has an office on the premises of the probation department and works exclusively with probation youth. Individual and group counseling services are provided, along with family counseling and dual diagnosis services. Extensive assessments are completed with probation youth to determine level of services needed and ancillary referrals to other agencies are made when appropriate. Kings View is required to employ evidence based practices in their treatment and have incorporated Dialectical Behavioral Therapy in their treatment. DBT is a comprehensive cognitive-behavioral treatment for complex mental disorders. DBT services these five functions: enhances behavioral capabilities, improves motivation to change, assures that new capabilities generalize to the natural environment, structures the treatment environment in ways to support the client and enhances therapist capabilities.

The Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) is utilized to identify the top criminogenic needs, or the dynamic risk factors that have been clinically proven to be predictive of future criminal behavior in our youth. The top criminogenic needs are addressed through the principles of effective intervention: risk principle; need principle, responsivity principle; treatment principle and the fidelity principle. The tool identifies the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the youth's unique assessment profile. Our supervision and court units utilize the PACT assessment tool to determine the needs of the individual youth and recommendations and services are provided appropriately.

Our Juvenile Work Program services the county, providing clean up, graffiti removal, participating in community events and other community based activities. This program works with those youth adjudged a ward of the court and the youth complete their court ordered community services hours through this program. This program positively impacts the community by addressing the effects of vandalism and graffiti quickly. An effective partnership has been developed with local law enforcement, businesses throughout the county and the general public. This program accepts requests for services from anyone in the county. This

program offers a lower level of intervention for our youth that are determined to be at a lower risk to reoffend, thereby reducing the exposure of those youth to higher risk youth and more criminally sophisticated youth.

**Suppression:**

Programs at the suppression level include two multi-agency task forces that have been established in the county. The Kings County Narcotics Task Force was established in 1978 and includes members from local law enforcement, the Sheriff's Department as well as a representative from the District Attorney's Office. The Kings County Gang Task Force was established in 1992 and is under the direction of the Sheriff's Department, and includes members from all local law enforcement agencies. Both multi-agency task forces provide education to the community as well as enforcement.

**Incapacitation:**

The Kings County Probation Department is the only agency in the county that provides incapacitation services in the way of the Kings County Juvenile Center. While there are a number of agencies involved across our continuum of services, the Kings County Probation Department can be considered the primary provider as the department is involved at every level in the continuum.

Our juvenile center provides educational services through the Kings County Department of Education. Educational services are provided on a year-round basis and include services to address special education and Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs).

Individual mental health counseling is provided to our youth within the juvenile center by a contracted provider, Naphcare. Naphcare also provides substance abuse and anger management groups to youth that are assessed to be in need of those services or are court ordered to complete those programs. The juvenile center staff and correctional officers are trained and are facilitating evidence-based programming such as Forward Thinking and Aggression Reconciliation Therapy (A.R.T.).

Currently, we have a Transitional Probation Officer assigned to the juvenile center. This officer assists youth with re-entry services prior to their release from custody. Upon the youth's

commitment, the Transitional Officer conducts a risk and needs PACT assessment and develops a case plan with the youth, setting relevant goals and interventions to assist with their rehabilitation. The Transitional Officer reviews the youth's terms and conditions of probation and makes the necessary and appropriate referrals for school enrollment, mental health treatment and/or substance abuse treatment and arranges for enrollment upon the youth's release from custody. The Transitional Officer is responsible for "intake" and determines if a youth will remain detained when booked or if their case will be handled out of custody. The officer utilizes the PACT Pre-Screen tool to determine the youth's risk to re-offend and uses this information to assist in making a decision. We are able to decrease the amount of time the youth may have to wait for services upon their release from custody.

Prior to a youth's release from custody, a Transitional Re-Entry Team meeting is conducted with the youth, the family, school officials, the assigned probation officer, juvenile hall correctional officers, Behavioral Health, Kings View and any other relevant service providers and county partners. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the strengths of the youth, the orders of the court, the needs of the youth and their case plan in addition to other factors that impact the youth and their rehabilitation. This meeting allows for services to be provided immediately upon release from custody to ensure the best outcome for the youth and their family.

### **Assessment of Current Services**

Kings County has a wide range of services available within the Juvenile Justice System. It relies heavily on cooperation and collaboration between agencies and uses the strengths of each to maximize services.

The relatively small population tends to make for closer cooperation between agencies, as most of the county agency offices are within walking distance of one another.

There are many roadblocks that are problematic in providing optimum services to our juvenile population and their families. Specifically, the rural areas of our county have limited access to the full complement of services available to the population centers of Hanford and Lemoore. A lack of transportation services makes it difficult for the people we serve to receive needed services. Efforts have been made to assist our families by providing bus passes that would allow for transportation from the outlying areas into the county seat. However, bus and train

services are limited in the outlying areas and are often only available once per day. Some services have been made available in the outlying areas to alleviate the transportation barrier. Those services are limited.

Kings County has a large migrant farm-worker population and oftentimes the language barrier prohibits this important segment of our community from receiving information regarding available services. Although some services are offered in the Spanish language, many are not, excluding some families from participating.

### **Primary Service Providers**

**Kings View Mental Health** is contracted by the county to provide services to the citizens of Kings County and work with juvenile wards and probation clients who are in need of mental health counseling. The agency also provides crises intervention and substance abuse counseling.

**Human Services Agency** provides protection to the children and adults in the county who are at risk. They promote safety and well-being of the families of Kings County to achieve family permanence, stability and self-reliance. They provide temporary economic assistance for those in need and provide comprehensive employment and training services.

The Kings County Human Services Agency Social Services Division oversees Adult Protective Services, In Home Support Services, Child Protective Services, and Adoption Services. The Social Services Deputy Director manages the Social Services Division.

The Emergency Response Unit is responsible for telephone intake hotline for all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect and follow-up investigation of referrals. The Court units file petitions; jurisdiction/disposition reports and manages the cases until the Disposition decision is ordered. They have ongoing case management units for the Family Reunification, Family Maintenance, Permanency Planning, and AB 12 services for Non-minor Dependents (NMD). There is one Adoptions Services unit and two public health nurses submitting health and CHDP data entry. Additionally, there is a unit dedicated to the Resource Family Approval process.

**Behavioral Health** strives to empower individuals and their families to achieve sustained well-being from mental illness and addiction. They promote, support and invest in the wellness and

recovery of individuals living in the communities of Kings County by creating opportunities to contribute, learn, work and find hope in each day.

**Department of Education** raises student achievement throughout the county. They promote academic success by meeting the needs of both educators and students and by broadening educational opportunities. They provide district and school support in professional development, instructional technology, alternative instructional programs, youth development, early childhood education and special events.

There are 15 school districts within Kings County as follows: Armona Union Elementary, Central Union Elementary, Corcoran Joint Unified, Delta View Joint Union Elementary, Hanford Elementary, Hanford Joint Union High, Island Union Elementary, Kings County Office of Education, Kings River-Hardwick Union Elementary, Kit Carson Union Elementary, Lakeside Union Elementary, Lemoore Union Elementary, Lemoore Union High, Pioneer Union Elementary and Reef-Sunset Unified.

**Local law enforcement agencies** provide proactive, professional and courteous law enforcement services to our community. They reduce the impact of crime and fear it causes to victims of those crimes. They support a policing philosophy that promotes and supports organizational strategies to address the causes of crime and social disorder through problem solving tactics and community/police partnerships.

There are five law enforcement agencies within Kings County as follows: Kings County Sheriff's Office, Hanford Police Department, Lemoore Police Department, Avenal Police Department, and the Corcoran Police Department. In addition to retaining criminal jurisdiction on Tribal land, the KCSO is responsible for overseeing areas outside the city limits of Hanford, Corcoran and Lemoore, as well as the towns of Armona, Stratford and Kettleman City.

**Champions** seek to serve those community members afflicted by social and emotional issues, family dysfunction, substance use, mental health and criminal justice involvement. They strive to serve the community, specifically focusing on those members who have experienced trauma and brokenness, those who need hope and guidance and those who seek to be healthy.

## **Roles of Current Collaboration**

Currently, Behavioral Health, our local county mental health provider, Kings County Probation, Department of Education and Human Services Agency are working collaboratively to develop a strategic work plan to identify gaps in services in our community and are working toward addressing those gaps. The group is identified as the Kings County Child and Family Partnership. Together, several goals have been identified to streamline services for the youth in our county including family engagement teaming, access to timely and effective intensive mental health and care coordination, staff/caregiver development and training, client specific information sharing and timely, meaningful universal assessments. The team meets regularly to work toward implementing services to attain the identified goals.

The probation department has recently made great strides in changing its approach to rehabilitating its confined youth. This is shown by the probation department's dedication to lowering the population of juvenile offenders in the community, as well as rehabilitating youth who are currently involved with the juvenile justice system. The probation department's dedication has resulted in a commitment to provide more programs and services to our confined youth, provide transitional services to youth who are returning to their communities to prevent re-confinement, provide services to youth who are in danger of becoming involved in the criminal justice system and incorporate best practices and evidenced based practices in the services being offered to the youth of Kings County.

The Kings County Probation Department, sought funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to assist with the implementation of the Preventing Recidivism and Incidences of Delinquency with Education (PRIDE) program to reduce recidivism rates and improve youth outcomes with moderate to high risk youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Although funding was not received, the probation department will engage stakeholders from education, child welfare, behavioral health, healthcare, law enforcement and the courts to reform juvenile justice practices and establish strategies, practices and policies that have been proven effective in reducing recidivism with moderate to high risk youth.

The Kings County Probation Department collaborated with the Kings County Juvenile Reentry Task Force (JRTE) to establish a five year strategic plan that would drive system-wide change to

reduce recidivism. During this process, the probation department has reviewed department policies and procedures, reviewed the department and county-wide system of juvenile data collection, reviewed recidivism and other available outcome data, conducted focus groups with probation staff and external stakeholders, identified key barriers to improving reentry outcomes, consulted with experts on reentry and model juvenile reform programs throughout the nation.

The probation department will 1) develop formal policies and processes of transforming the Kings County Juvenile Center into a treatment facility that provides youth with the services needed to reduce recidivism and promote other youth outcomes; 2) develop formal reentry processes beginning in the Juvenile Treatment Facility and continuing into the community that ensures youth receive supervision and services tailored to their assessed needs; 3) develop agency capacities and formal processes for measuring, analyzing, and utilizing recidivism and other youth outcome data for all youth under Kings County Probation Department supervision; 4) identify youth's criminogenic needs through a standardized validated risk assessment tool; 5) conduct mental health and substance use disorder screening on all youth ; 6) implement and track the effectiveness of a small number of evidence based programs; and 7) adopt supervision approaches proven to be effective with adolescents such as trauma informed care and motivational interviewing to create internal discrepancy and assist them through the stages of change.

The County of Kings sought funding under Senate Bill 81, to renovate and remodel an existing adult detention facility, the Kings County Branch Jail, into the new Kings County Juvenile Center. The proposed 56 bed facility would replace the current juvenile facility and provide much needed programming, support, treatment and educational spaces to deliver the services necessary to rehabilitate the youth confined therein. The Kings County juvenile Center will be constructed to emphasize the provision of programs, education and treatment to its confined youth and will be designed to facilitate as home-like an environment as possible to help prevent these youth from becoming institutionalized, thus decreasing the likelihood of future incarceration. The new facility will include an adjacent Juvenile Day Reporting Center, which will be used to provide transitional services to youth leaving the Kings County Juvenile Center,

as well as services to youth who are at-risk of future confinement or involvement in the juvenile justice system.