

# Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan

Lassen County

April 2021



# **OVERVIEW**

The Probation Department receives state funds to address juvenile justice issues in Lassen County. These funds are overseen by the Board of State and Community Corrections who requires counties to submit an annual plan and track data outcomes. Each county must also convene the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council to discuss strategies to reduce juvenile crime and provide healthy alternatives for youth.

## **Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)**

JJCPA was created by the Crime Prevention Act of 2000 as a stable funding source for local juvenile justice issues and youth at risk of entering the delinquency system. The Probation Department applied for these funds in 2000 creating the Truancy Reduction Program, Mobile Treatment Services and the Probation Alternative Community Education.

## **Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)**

The Youthful Offender Block Grant was enacted in 2007 through Senate Bill 81 and shifted control of non-violent, non-serious, non-sexual juvenile offenders from state to local jurisdictions and precluded commitments to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for crimes not listed in section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institution Code. YOBG provides funding for the new responsibilities for the Probation Department.

## **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)**

The JJCPA grant created the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council outlined in section 749.22 of the Welfare and Institution Code. The council is required to develop a comprehensive multiagency plan identifying strategies and resources for prevention, intervention, supervision and treatment of juvenile offenders. The plan must include an assessment of existing resources and services, identification of areas with higher concentration of juvenile crime, strategies to address juvenile crime and descriptions of funded programs. Membership consists of county, education, community and law enforcement partners and the chair is the Chief Probation Officer.

## **Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)**

The passing of Senate Bill 823 closes DJJ by June 30, 2023, and stops intake on June 30, 2021. The closure of DJJ will create the need to provide intensive services designed to reduce criminally sophisticated behavior to youth who commit serious or violent felonies in 707(b) of the Welfare and Institution Code ("WIC").

Youth charged with these types of crimes move further into the juvenile justice system by recidivating at a higher frequency. The Youth Wellness Program will provide evidence based services to juveniles who would be eligible for DJJ prior to its closure to reduce recidivism and upon re-entry from secure detention. The JJCC subcommittee is currently working on a request for proposal for services for the realigned population.

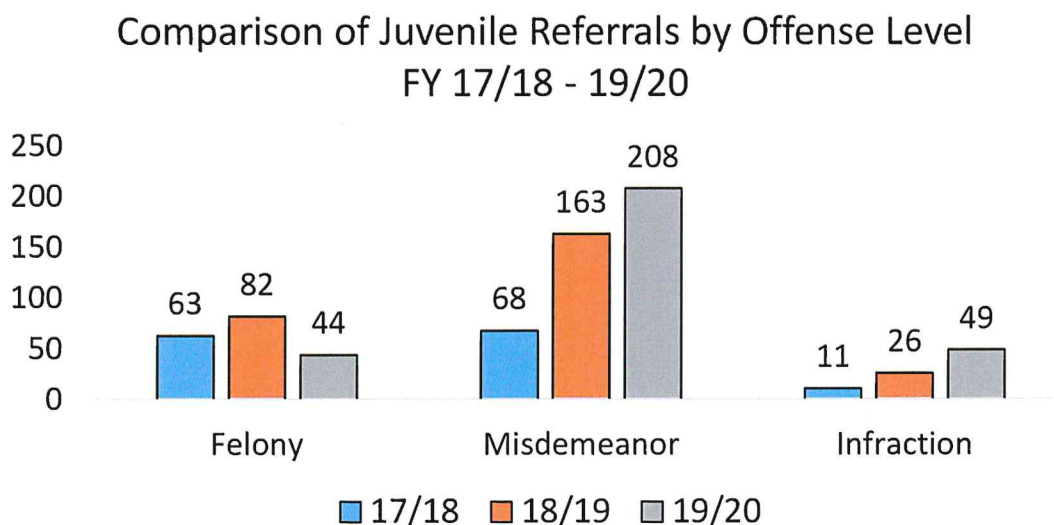
## Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan

The Probation Department has submitted an annual plan to the BSCC supporting Deputy Probation Officers providing mobile probation and truancy reduction services in Westwood, Herlong and Bieber. These programs have been the most successful in linking juveniles and families to services designed to prevent entry into the juvenile justice system. Our plan must include:

1. Assessment of the services and resources provided to youth and their families.
2. Identification and prioritization of areas with significant public safety risk from juvenile crime.
3. How we will work on reducing juvenile crime, strategies for addressing juvenile crime and reducing out of home placements.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA

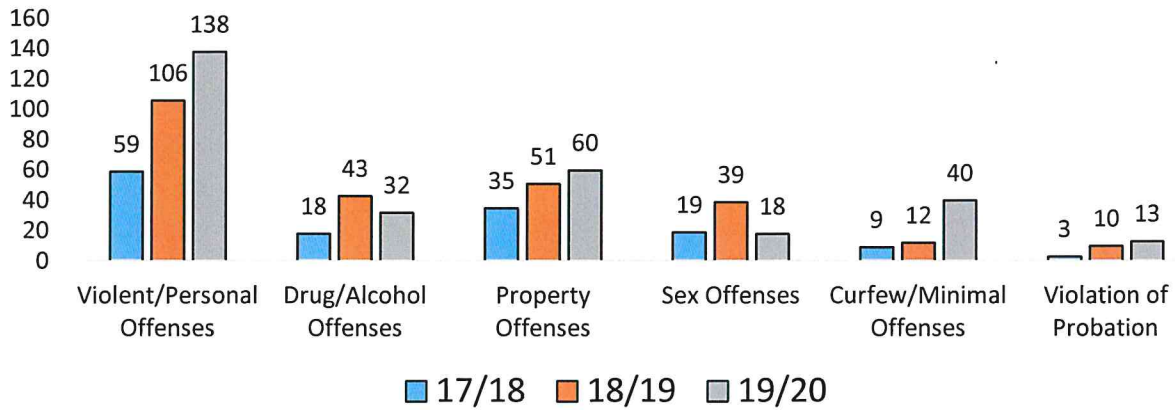
In Fiscal Year 2019-20, there were a total of 193 referrals received by the Lassen County Probation Department. Of the referrals received, there were 44 felony charges, 208 misdemeanor charges and 49 infractions. Referrals often contain more than one charge, and this is why the number of referrals does not match the number of charges.



The 193 referrals resulted in 301 charges being referred to the Lassen County Probation Department. Those 301 charges are categorized by the following offenses: Violent/Personal – 138, Drug/Alcohol – 32, Property – 60, Sex – 18, Curfew/Minimal – 40 and Violations of Probation – 13.

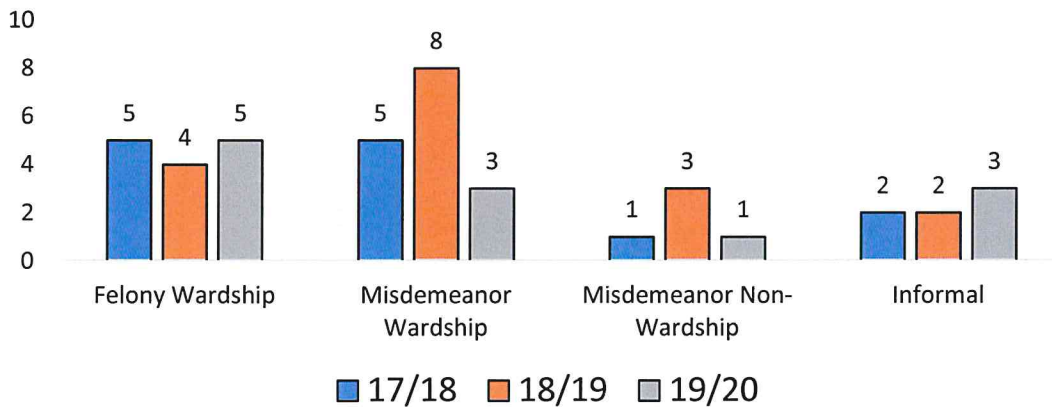


### Comparison of Juvenile Referrals by Category FY 17/18 - 19/20



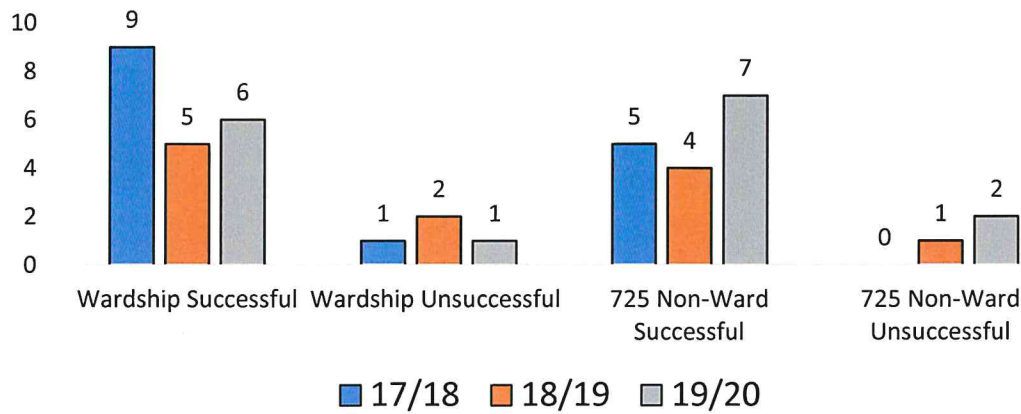
As of June 30, 2020, there were 12 juveniles under supervision in Lassen County. 5 juveniles were on felony wardship, 3 on misdemeanor wardship, 1 on misdemeanor non-wardship and 3 juveniles on informal supervision.

### Comparison of Supervision Type FY 17/18 - 19/20



In Fiscal Year 2019-20, Lassen County Juvenile Probation had a total of 16 probation terminations. There were 6 successful wardship terminations, 1 unsuccessful wardship terminations, 7 successful non-wardship terminations and 2 unsuccessful non-wardship terminations.

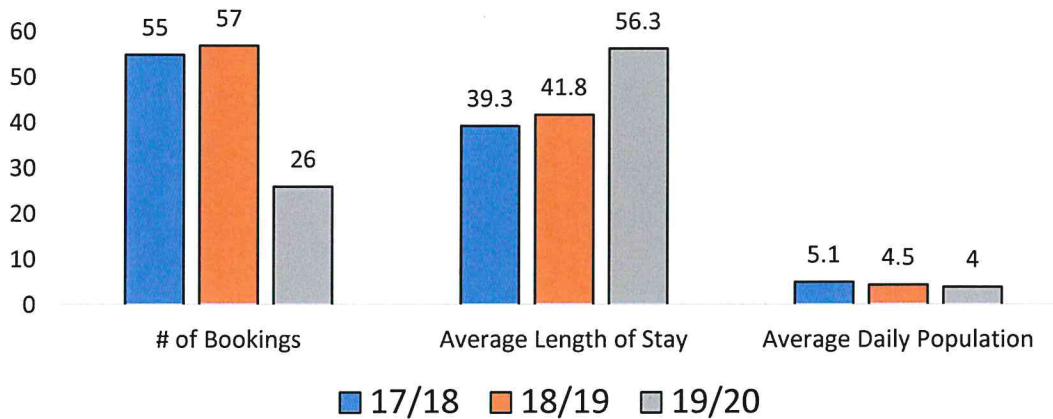
### Comparison of Termination Type FY 17/18 - 19/20



### Juvenile bookings in Lassen County

With the implementation of evidence-based practices and prevention services, the average daily population decreased to 1.5 in late June of 2020.

### Bookings, Length of Stay, & Daily Population FY 17/18 - 19/20



### Juvenile Justice Action Strategy/ Agency Collaboration

Lassen County Probation's action strategy is to continue open dialogue with community partners by attending meetings within the county. We will continue consistent collaboration and engagement with local services providers, Lassen County Office of Education, School Districts, our Juvenile Court Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, Behavioral and Public Health, Criminal Justice and Community Partners. We utilize least restrictive services and a risk and needs assessment to ensure we are focusing our services on the high-risk youth and focusing our preventative services on the at-risk youth in the community. The Probation Department is

currently collaborating with local Law Enforcement and participates as a stakeholder for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

## **Current Services and Resources**

Lassen County has several programs and services available to prevent juvenile crime and promote healthy choices.

Children System of Care partners seek to ensure all public programs for children, youth and families will provide services in an integrated, comprehensive, culturally responsive, evidence-based/best practice manner, regardless of the agency door by which children and families enter. This mission includes an awareness of and a commitment to incorporate foster youth experience and voice into county level collaborations and partnerships that manage or oversee the delivery of services affecting youth in foster care.

Multi-Agency Prevention and Education Program offers life skills training to reduce alcohol, drug abuse and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote risky behaviors.

Youth Diversion Program encourages youth to engage in more positive and constructive behaviors; intervene with participants at an early stage to avoid progression toward more serious offenses; help participants avoid formal entry to the juvenile justice system and access services and support as needed. Referrals come from schools, parents and law enforcement.

Tobacco Prevention provides tobacco prevention programs in schools and retail enforcement.

Family Solutions, Wraparound Program surrounds families and youth at risk of placement with customized, strength based services.

Alliance for Workforce Development provides core services focused on meeting the needs of job seekers and employers.

Substance Use Disorder provides treatment plans, groups and assistance with addiction.

Foster Youth Services provides educational support to current and former foster youth.

Juvenile Work Program works with non-profit, local, state, and federal agencies in the community and surrounding areas. There are several benefits for the youth and community partners that participate in the JWP. The youth benefits from being in a less restrictive environment, while learning necessary life and work skills. The youth will also be involved in a positive, supportive and team-oriented atmosphere. The community partners receive support in reaching their project goals, while performing necessary work that most agencies do not have the resources to address.

Strategies to reduce juvenile justice involvement and promote successful probation terminations require the use of evidence based services and interventions. Evidence and Strength-based services have been a focus of Lassen County for several years now and new programs and intervention strategies are assessed in a team environment.

## **Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

### **Truancy Reduction Program**

The Lassen County Probation Department will continue to provide truancy services to participating schools. Truancy services have been effective in reducing absenteeism, providing targeted behavior interventions and reducing arrests in focus areas and Susanville. Officers consider emotional and behavioral disorders, and assess students' needs to develop an individualized intervention plan. Prevention Services consist of referrals to Public Health, Diversion, Youth Support Groups, Family Solutions Wraparound Program and Lassen Family Services. The biggest barrier for our County is transportation since our County Schools are spread throughout a large geographical area encompassing 4,720 square miles. The Lassen County Probation Department's goal is to help the schools improve their attendance, increase their ADA funding, improve academics, reduce juvenile crime, and improve overall citizenship.

### **Mobile Treatment Services**

A Deputy Probation Officer will continue providing services to youth in the focus areas of Westwood, Herlong and Bieber to reduce violations of probation and recidivism while increasing successful outcomes. Families in these outlying areas typically have barriers to transportation or accessing services in Susanville, which creates education barriers for youth and interfere with working hours for adults.

### **Strategies for Non-707(b) Offenders**

Lassen County will continue to apply the Ohio Youth Assessment System to the population in order to ensure services are targeted to the specific needs of youth. Monitoring youth in this category through the Tyler Supervision database is essential to tracking outcomes and ensuring services are effective. The evidence-based interactive journaling program, Forward Thinking, will be used to provide skills dealing with difficult situations, anger, peers and emotions. We will continue exploring the use of the Positive Behavioral Intervention System with all populations serviced.

### **Regional Agreements**

Lassen County does not have regional agreements with any other jurisdiction at this time.

### **Information Sharing and Data Collection**

Data is used to assess program performances, exploring trends and assist in decision making. Data is reported through the annual report from the Lassen County Probation Department and is available upon request.

Lassen County Probation continues the operation of our Case Management System with Tyler Supervision. This is necessary to maintain the database in order to report our JCPSS statistics to the California Department of Justice. In addition, this case management system tracks all minors on probation, detained in Juvenile Detention Facilities, supervised under electronic monitoring, ordered to probation for committing minor offenses, traffic offenses and minors tracked under the

department's Truancy Reduction Program. This case management system also provides statistical information for the department for other funding opportunities, evaluating current program/services and the development of new programs and services available to minors.