



# County of Yuba

## Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan

And

## Youthful Offender Block Grant Juvenile Justice Development Plan

2020/2021

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction to JJCPA.....	3
2. Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan.....	3
A. Assessment of Services Targeting At-Risk Juveniles.....	3
B. Identification of County Areas Facing Significant Public Safety Risk from Juvenile Crime.....	11
C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy.....	11
D. Programs Proposed to be Funded.....	13
3. Gaps in Services.....	16
4. Strategies to Meet Gaps.....	16
5. Introduction to YOBG.....	16
6. Programs and system enhancements.....	17
7. Strategies related to non DJJ eligible youth.....	19
8. Regional agreements supported by YOBG.....	19
9. Programs and strategies coordinated with JJCPA.....	19
10. Conclusion.....	20
11. Project Contact.....	20

## **Yuba County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council 2020/2021**

Jim Arnold, Chief Probation Officer, Yuba County (Chair)  
Clint Curry, District Attorney, Yuba County  
Wendell Anderson, Sheriff, Yuba County  
Al Wightman, Chief of Police, Wheatland Police Department  
Chris Sachs, Chief of Police, Marysville Police Department  
Jennifer Vasquez, Director, Health and Human Services  
Rick Bingham, Director, Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health  
Mike Leahy, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, Yuba County  
Brian Davis, Public Defender, Yuba County  
Francisco Reveles, Ed.D., Superintendent, Yuba County Office of Education  
Judge Debra Givens, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Yuba County Superior Court  
Janet Siller, Community Representative

### **1. Introduction to JJCPA**

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) 2000 (AB 1913) provides funding to law enforcement, district attorneys' office and criminal justice agencies to support initiatives that target juvenile crime and delinquency. The JJCPA requires counties, and they Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) to annually review and approve the Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP), which discusses the strategies employed to address juvenile crime, to report out on the programs utilized and their effectiveness, and indicate the cost associated with any program funded by the JJCPA. The JJCPA is codified in Section 30061 of the Government Code.

The CMJJP is updated and reviewed annually by the Yuba County JJCC.

JJCPA funds are used primarily for early intervention efforts and supervision of juvenile offenders. Funds also support a variety of assessments, counseling services and an array of individualized services/programs.

### **2. Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan**

#### **A. Assessment of Services Targeting At-Risk Juveniles**

The same Juvenile Court Judge hears juvenile delinquency and dependency cases. A Deputy District Attorney is assigned to prosecute delinquency cases. Contracted counsel and private defense counsel provide legal representation for juveniles. Probation receives juvenile referrals and citations from local law enforcement agencies and uses a validated assessment tool to determine the risk for recidivism. It also identifies areas where a juvenile may possess protective factors. Offenders who score as a high risk are generally referred to the District Attorney's office for the filing of a petition. Those who score as a lower risk are generally handled informally with referrals to programs or Juvenile Traffic Court. Some may be placed on informal probation, without appearing in Court pursuant to Section 654 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

The Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (Juvenile Hall) is a Tri-County (Yuba, Sutter and Colusa) facility, but the operations and management fall under Yuba County Probation. Most detained juveniles in the juvenile hall are awaiting adjudication of a formal matter or are pending Transfer to Adult Court. Some are committed to Juvenile Hall for extended periods, waiting for

out of home placement or are pending a commitment to either the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC) or the Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Yuba County Probation Department maintains the MSYGC. The facility was built in 2002, and is located next to the Juvenile Hall. The primary objectives of the MSYGC are community protection and the redirection of delinquent behaviors by holding juveniles accountable for their behavior. Programs are provided by a myriad of individuals and organizations accomplish this. Supervising Juvenile Corrections Officers, Juvenile Corrections Officers, Behavioral Health Therapist, Drug and Alcohol Counselors, Intervention Counselors from Sutter and Yuba County Probation Departments, Community Based Organizations, faith-based organizations and volunteers all work together to provide programming to the juveniles. Programs vary in time, but range from 30 minutes to two (2) hours in length. The programs are partitioned throughout the week to improve the effectiveness of the programs by ensuring the juveniles have time to fully absorb the content. Yuba County has a dedicated Intervention Counselor to facilitate, find, track and coordinate programs and services to the juveniles. MSYGC provides services to youth from 11 counties: Yuba, Sutter, Colusa, Placer, Calaveras, Tehama, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Amador, Napa and Lake.

The Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE) operates Harry P.B. Carden School. YCOE strictly adheres to all Special Education and Individualized Educational Plans. Probation and YCOE personnel collaborate closely to ensure the highest degree of academic achievement.

Probation has long-standing collaborative relationships with a number of agencies including Yuba County Child and Adult Protective Services (CAPS), Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Marysville Joint Unified School District, Victor Community Support Services, Sutter-Yuba Children's System of Care and local law enforcement agencies. Youth 4 Change, a local non-profit, also provides a myriad of services to youth, and is contracted through Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health. Yuba County CAPS and Probation maintain a Memorandum of Understanding with Victor Community Support Services to provide Child and Family Team (CFT's) services, as mandated by Assembly Bill 403/Continuum of Care Reform.

Mental health assessments are widely used in determining specific risks and needs of a juvenile offender, to focus treatment efforts where they will have the greatest impact, while insuring public safety.

Preference is given to the least restrictive intervention necessary to address delinquent behavior. In most cases, lower level, local non-custody treatment and intervention options are explored and exhausted before long-term commitment or removal to foster care are considered. Youth requiring services that are more intensive are discussed at the bi-weekly Yuba County Assessment Team (YCAT) meeting and monthly Super CAT meetings. Participants include probation, child welfare, behavioral health and local school districts. After the passage of AB 403, Super CAT incorporated staffing youth in placement on a regular basis. During these meetings, the interagency placement committee discusses how to maintain placements for specific problematic youth, any services needed to assist the youth, and transition plans for youth returning to the local area.

Probation and child welfare continue to utilize the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT). The tool is utilized for youth over ten years of age who have contact with either department. Results from the tool are documented and youth are referred to appropriate services.

Members of the CSEC Youth Response Team provide ongoing education on CSEC at community forums and school based gatherings.

Judges, deputy district attorneys, defense counsel, probation officers, other law enforcement, social workers, behavioral health clinicians, and local treatment providers all play pivotal and active roles in the adjudication of juvenile justice cases and the development of related case plans.

*Existing services that target at-risk juveniles and juvenile offenders:*

a. Probation Department:

Probation is the primary agency responsible for handling matters relating to juvenile crime and delinquency in the County. Through formal arrangements and informal coordination, it exercises discretion, having the best interests of the youth and the community in mind. 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. Many officers and probation staff are involved in coaching various sports activities outside their work schedule. Officers also participate in events for the extensive homeless population in the local community. Additionally, officers participate in a number of events related to the Marysville Joint Unified School District; such the annual Bicycle Rodeo (teaching bicycle safety), Read Across America, Prom, Graduation and Grad Night.

The probation department hosts a weekly Gang Meeting to discuss gang trends and identify needs in the community. Local law enforcement, district attorney's office and school district administration attend these meetings. This is an information-sharing meeting where school officials often identify youth and discuss what services might be beneficial. Oftentimes these youth have not yet touched the criminal justice system. This makes it the perfect time to provide prevention and early intervention.

Prevention and early interventions are important aspects of Yuba County's juvenile justice continuum and have been the focus since the 1980's. In 1986, the probation department and the Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD) began a partnership appropriately named the Probation and School Success (P.A.S.S.) Program. In 1990, the P.A.S.S. Program collaborated with the Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE) and placed a probation officer at a Community/Court School (Thomas E. Mathews). The primary goal of the program has been to counteract factors interfering with student learning and performance with a comprehensive and multifaceted approach, based on interventions facilitated by probation personnel. This collaborative approach includes the on-campus probation officers facilitating student and family access to services and special assistance as needed; providing intervention to families and students in crisis situations; providing student and family support as student's transition through grade level changes; increasing the relationship and/or partnership between home and school; and increasing community involvement and support to enhance the use of volunteers at the school site.

The P.A.S.S. Program is a preventative program, which focuses on reducing violence at home and at the school site; identifying and providing intervention services in relation to child abuse; reducing the number of referrals to the criminal justice system using proactive measures; and providing a coordination of resources and behavioral strategies which foster resiliency.

This proactive approach is the core of the program. The P.A.S.S. Program incorporates high standards for learning, related to social and personal functioning. Enhancing the individual potential of student's results in measurable outcomes that have increased academic performance, increased promotion rates, reduced violence at the school sites, reduced out-of-school suspensions and improved attendance among all students, since truancy issues have proved to be a contributing factor in juvenile crime and delinquency.

Many of the students involved in the program are from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and often from families with lower educational levels. The P.A.S.S. Program provides multifaceted services to address barriers faced by these families. The officers account for the human diversity in their daily practices, help to address barriers to learning, and promote healthy development in these students. Additionally, officers are trained in trauma informed practices and approaches. Many of the students and families served, have a history of trauma, and only by understanding and approaching each case with empathy can the officer be truly effective. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the Governor's stay-at-home order, P.A.S.S. Officers were limited in their interaction with youth from March 2020, until the end of the school year. However, P.A.S.S. Officers were able to support school personnel by contacting youth at their homes to provide them school support including, but not limited to, technical support regarding distance learning, child abuse prevention and food.

In order to further enhance the P.A.S.S. Program, the probation department, in conjunction with the MJUSD and YCOE, provides a truancy mediation program, including a Truancy Officer, to keep students in school. Truancy is often a gateway to delinquent behavior and is indicative of family dysfunction on a larger scale. The Truancy Officer is the Probation Department's representative on the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). This officer is instrumental in developing relationships with multi-generational truant families. The knowledge this officer possess about family dynamics allows other deputy probation officer to make more appropriate decision when disposing of a youths referral. With early intervention, we hope to prevent at-risk youth from becoming part of the criminal justice system. Based on Juvenile Supervision numbers, it is estimated the P.A.S.S. program contributes to a significant reduction in the number of youth referred to the Court.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, local school districts, budgets have been impacted significantly. However, school officials recognize the important and value of having P.A.S.S. Officers embedded in the school. As a result, the school have agreed to continue to support the probation departments' efforts in reducing juvenile delinquency by continuing the P.A.S.S. program.

#### b. Juvenile Court:

The Juvenile Court maintains one courtroom with a Judge hearing delinquency and dependency matters at separate times. Members of the probation department, child welfare services, district attorney's office, and private defense counsel, regularly work collaboratively to address a variety of issues related to the juvenile justice system. Historically, at the lead of the juvenile judge, many members from these various agencies and the school districts have teamed up and attended the annual Beyond the Bench Conference and the Foster Youth Education Summit.

In addition, the Probation Department employees a Juvenile Traffic Court Officer using general fund allocations. This Officer is yet another safeguard to ensure low risk youth do not enter delinquency proceedings.

c. District Attorney:

A Deputy District Attorney (DDA) is assigned to the Juvenile Court. In addition to their traditional role as prosecutor, the DDA will regularly consult with law enforcement and probation officers on matters regarding the handling of a case or a disposition.

d. Defense Counsel:

Private defense attorneys, contracted through the Court, represent youth in most delinquency matters. Defense Attorneys regularly consult with probation officers and the DDA on what is the best outcome of a case involving youth.

e. Law Enforcement:

There are two city police departments and one County Sheriff's Department. in Yuba County. The police departments are the Marysville Police Department (MPD) and Wheatland Police Department (WPD). The Yuba County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) is responsible for the outlining and rural areas of Yuba County. All three of these law enforcement agencies are the source of most referrals to the Probation Department.

MPD has a dedicated a School Resource Officer (SRO) to the MJUSD and YCOE. The SRO interacts with the youth; problem solves at the school level, and handles crimes on identified campuses. With the SRO handling the calls for service on campuses, this reduces the number of calls for service being handled by the patrol division. The SRO provides training on Active Shooter and Lockdown procedures and is a first responder when incidents occur. The SRO also identifies gang trends, learns to know the different groups of juveniles, and establishes relationships, which have been proven valuable investigative tools.

MJUSD recently agreed to contract with YCSO for a full-time deputy to serve schools not located within the city limits. The Probation Department will work closely with YCSO to ensure unnecessary applications for petition are not referred, and to educate deputies to the various resources offered because of the JJCPA.

All agencies have a specific unit or officer dedicated to gang issues in the respective jurisdictions. Most officers are familiar with juvenile members of local gangs and often coordinate suppression activities with probation and other agencies. They also conduct gang awareness presentations to families and schools. They hold other types of educational or informational forums that address issues of concern for their respective communities.

Local law enforcement, including the probation department participates in a multi-agency task force, Yuba-Sutter Area Gang Enforcement to target gang activity. The task force convenes and patrols the local area in order to suppress gang involvement, by contacting individuals, vehicle stops and/or searches of residences.

f. Education:

There are 23 schools (K-12) in MJUSD. In addition to the probation department's P.A.S.S. Program, MJUSD has incorporated Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) into their school systems. This program allows school staff, including the probation officer, to appropriately reward and reinforce positive behavioral choices in students, while at the same time addressing and eliminating problem behaviors at the earliest possible intervention point. P.A.S.S. Officers offer an array of services and individual and group programs as well. These interventions are related to bullying, conflict resolution, gang involvement and anger management.

YCOE maintains Thomas E. Mathews (TEM), the community court school in the County which specifically target at-risk juveniles, expelled juveniles, and juveniles who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Like MJUSD, TEM incorporated PBIS into their daily interaction with students. The probation department has dedicated a full-time probation officer to TEM. The officer has a caseload of probation youth who attend TEM. The officer offers an array of services and programs to all students on location. The officer is the liaison between school, social services, parents and law enforcement. The officer is co-responsible for the safety and security of all youth who attend the school, and the officer utilizes progressive discipline to gain compliance of school rules. The programs facilitated include Social and Emotional Needs, Behavioral Redirecting, Relationship Building and School Culture.

YCOE also provides educational services to detained youth at Juvenile Hall and the MSYGC. Institutions staff and YCOE has incorporated PBIS facility-wide. This program allows school staff, including the probation officer, to appropriately reward and reinforce positive behavioral choices in students, while at the same time addressing and eliminating problem behaviors at the earliest possible intervention point. Students are encouraged to be positive, respectful, have integrity, be dependable and be empowered.

Schools participate in mitigating juvenile delinquency primarily through truancy reduction efforts, as well as special educational settings, which cater to the specific needs of at-risk juveniles. They also maintain regular contact, and coordinate education activities with, law enforcement and probation officers.

g. Child Welfare Services:

Child and Adult Protective Services (CAPS) provides traditional services geared to preventing neglect and physical and emotional abuse. They provide family maintenance and family reunification services, as well as other mandated and voluntary services to persons subject to dependency statutes. The California Department of Social Services is responsible for coordinating the financial reimbursement of various programs that benefit delinquent youth and for which probation receives funds. Through this statutory function, CAPS has limited oversight for some activities performed by probation, including Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, and Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC-FC) entitlement payments. CAPS hold the contracts for many programs, which benefit at-risk juveniles, including the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) and the Independent Living Program (ILP). In addition to the investigations, CAPS Social Workers will conduct investigations in concert with probation officers on dual-status juveniles and make recommendations regarding the appropriate venue for a case pursuant to Section 241.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

The Yuba County Probation Department maintains a strong relationship with Yuba County CAPS and collaborates on many State and Federal mandates. The two departments, along with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health, work closely together on the implementation of AB 403/Continuum of

Care Reform. Probation and CAPS also jointly work on the Systems Improvement Plan, Peer Review and County Self-Assessment relating to youth in out-of-home placement.

#### h. Behavioral Health Services:

SYBH operates Sutter and Yuba County's various mental health programs, or holds the contracts for private vendors who provide similar or other counseling services. In that capacity, and as the entity responsible for Medi-Cal compliance, SYBH maintains oversight of various programs that service at-risk juvenile or juvenile offenders. Mental health clinicians provide direct service to Medi-Cal eligible youth, including those supervised by Probation.

SYBH is the primary entity responsible for youth outpatient needs in Sutter and Yuba Counties. They provide a wide array of Specialty Mental Health Services including evidence-based programs such as: Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and intensive community based services such as Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), Full Service Partnership Programs (FSPs) and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS).

SYBH also has staff assigned to the Juvenile Hall and the MSYGC to provide crisis counseling to detained youth and consult with Probation personnel regarding how to treat or handle offenders exhibiting suicidal, violent, aggressive, or otherwise problematic behavior.

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funding via Mental Health Services Act has expanded crisis intervention capacities to Children and Transitional Age Youth (TAY). SYBH offers an array of programs in both Sutter and Yuba Counties. The following programs are school-based:

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART) is a ten-week course offered for adolescents on a high school campus. A cognitive behavioral intervention trains participants to cope with their aggressive and/or violent behaviors.
- Girls' Circle is a high school or middle school girls' support group that will run in eight, ten, or twelve week sessions. Each session will have a theme, and each week will include activities and/or discussion related to topics within that theme.
- Life Skills Training High School Program is designed to promote positive health and personal development for high school youth. The program helps adolescents navigate the challenges of the high school years, and prepares them for the independence and responsibilities they will encounter as young adults. The program uses developmentally appropriate, collaborative learning strategies to help students achieve competency in the skills that have been shown to prevent substance use, violence, and other health risk behaviors.
- Second Step training develops social and emotional learning by building communication skills, increasing self-confidence, and helping students identify goals and responsibilities.
- Signs of Suicide (SOS) is a middle school suicide prevention and risk awareness training. Using an age-appropriate DVD and follow-up discussion, the training is provided to middle school staff, students, and families to give youth the skills to "Acknowledge, Care, and Tell" if they feel that they, or someone they know, is showing signs of depression or may be at risk of suicide.

- Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October.
- Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Trainings are designed to address youth/teen suicide prevention and suicide risk awareness in high school. Student leaders can be trained by PEI staff to present information to their peers with the support of PEI staff, or PEI staff can present the information to the student body. Presentations can be scheduled throughout the year at high schools.

SYBH also offers the following off site programs for the families of youth:

- Nurtured Heart Approach is a relationship-focused methodology focused on helping children (and adults) build their Inner Wealth and use their intensity in successful ways. Originally developed for working with the most difficult children, including children diagnosed with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder and other behavioral, emotional and anxiety related symptoms, it has been used effectively to help all kinds of families and children to better communicate and interact. Classes are offered in multiple locations in Yuba and Sutter counties in English and Spanish.
- Strengthening Families is a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and family-strengthening program for high-risk and general population families. It is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviors, delinquency and alcohol and drug abuse in children, and to improve social competencies and school performance.

Behavioral Health services are also provided to youth at the Juvenile Hall and MSYGC by Well-Path therapist and Psychiatrist. The Institutions contracts with the Well-Path company for medical and limited behavioral health services. Youth with significant mental health needs are primarily seen by Well-Path employees to work more closely with the Psychiatrist.

i. Community-Based Organizations:

Children’s System of Care provides a wide array of community and home-based services and supports to youth and their families. Services are available to youth who are experiencing significant emotional, psychological or behavioral problems that are interfering with their well-being, and their families, utilizing a multi-agency team approach. Referrals are made through SYBH Youth and Family Services through YCAT for Yuba County residents.

SYBH contracts with Youth 4 Change to provide community based specialty mental health services to children and youth ages 0-21 in Yuba and Sutter Counties. The specific programs offered are Community Based Behavioral Health services, Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Therapeutic Behavior Services (TBS), and Full Service Partnership (FSP) services. Services provided include assessments, plan development, individual, group and family therapy, individual and group rehabilitation services, case management and collateral services and medication support. Clients receiving Full Service Partnership services have access to a crisis line answered by someone on their treatment team 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Yuba County CAPS and Probation contracted with VCSS to facilitate Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. CFT's are a requirement under the Continuum of Care Reform. This contract remains in effect. VCSS provides a Family Advocate and a CFT Facilitator. The Family Advocate is responsible for processing CFT referrals from probation officers and social workers; completes a Connection Map with youth, probation officer or social worker; engages natural support for the youth; and sets up CFT meetings. The Facilitator coordinates with the Family Advocate to schedule CFT's; conducts initial and follow-up CFT's; and completed the CFT Meeting Success Plan. On a monthly basis, the Family Advocate, Facilitator and their immediate Supervisor from VCSS meet with Yuba County Probation and CAPS Program Managers and Supervisors to discuss progress and any needed changes. SYBH Clinical Program Manager of Youth and Family Services also attends the meetings for input regarding mental health services.

## **B. Identification of County Areas Facing Significant Public Safety Risk from Juvenile Crime**

Yuba County is primarily a rural county. The county has a population of 78,668 (US Census, 2019). Marysville, the County seat, is the largest city with a population of 12,518 (US Census 2018). Wheatland has a population of 3,842 (US Census 2017). Most of the Residents of the county live in unincorporated areas. A large portion of Yuba County consists of foothills and mountains. The economy of the county is primarily agriculturally based. However, Yuba County recently added a large, destination type, Casino. As the Casino opened during the last fiscal year (19/20), it is unknown the impacts of having a large Casino within the County will have on crime and juvenile referrals.

As of July 1, 2019, the United States Census Bureau estimates that 17.2% of the residents in Yuba County live in poverty and consistently has had one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (December 2018), Yuba's unemployment rate was 7.0%.

Yuba has a high rate of citizens suffering from substance abuse (methamphetamine and heroin as the drug of choice). This in turn leads to high domestic violence and child abuse rates.

While the various jurisdictions may be able to identify specific areas that represent the greatest risk to public safety because of juvenile crime, Yuba County has taken the approach that most, if not all communities within the County, face the same general risks posed by juvenile crime and delinquency. For example, gang involvement and behavior have affected most communities within Yuba County. The same is generally true concerning truancy, mental health needs, and substance abuse among adolescents.

There have been a number of schools identified as having a significant population of at-risk youth. This is based on a number of circumstances including: homelessness, truancy and high crime neighborhoods. One of these schools includes Lindhurst High School. For reasons mentioned, the probation department has collaborated with this school to provide an on-campus P.A.S.S. Officer. The P.A.S.S. Officer offers many services and supports to youth and their families in order to deter youth from the criminal justice system.

## **C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

The probation department implements several strategies that constitute a continuum of responses for juvenile offenders and at-risk juveniles, which include prevention and intervention at all levels.

The goal of the department is to provide services up front to juveniles and families to divert juveniles from the delinquency system.

The first step in the Action Strategy is prevention. Many of the juvenile services provided by probation are open to referrals from all other agencies, community based programs, and self-referrals. Currently, P.A.S.S. Officers are placed at two high schools (Lindhurst High School and Marysville High School), one middle school (McKenney Intermediate), and one continuation school (Thomas E. Mathews). P.A.S.S. Officers provide supervision of all probation supervised juveniles, as well as assist with truancy matters, aid in triaging school behavior issues, identify at-risk juveniles, refer juveniles and families to appropriate programs and services, and provide direct-service evidence-based programming to juveniles in need. Unless detained, all services are conducted as individual meetings with the juvenile and their family. All Yuba County probation officers are trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI) to create a foundational relationship for change. Probation keeps MI at the forefront of probation officer's tools by providing booster trainings. From prevention to out-of-home placement, services are provided along a continuum to maintain rehabilitation of juveniles and the safety and best interests of the community.

The next step in the Action Strategy is diversion. Once a juvenile is cited and/or arrested by law enforcement for a criminal offense, the Juvenile Intake Unit completes a lengthy interview process with the juvenile and their family. Using MI, the probation officer interviews the juvenile and family to gather information to complete the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) assessment, in order to determine the juvenile's risk to reoffend, as well as any immediate risks and/or needs to be addressed. The probation officer will complete the assessment and if the youth is a low risk to reoffend, appropriate referrals to services and/or programs will be made. These services could include Individual/Family Therapy, The Parent Project, Anger Management, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Children Systems of Care (CSOC), Youth 4 Change (Y4C) via SYBH, Grief Counseling, Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) via SYBH, Yuba County Assessment Team (YCAT), Yuba County Health and Human Services Department and Alta California Regional Center. Some of these services are offered through Yuba County Probation Department, while the rest are offered by other local agencies.

The next step in the Action Strategy is working with the District Attorney's office to determine which youth would truly benefit from Court intervention. If a juvenile is cited and/or arrested for an offense that is a mandatory referral to the District Attorney pursuant to Section 653.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code or the PACT assessment indicated moderate or high risk to reoffend, the probation officer begins to address the needs of the juvenile and the family as noted above. The Probation Department has a close working relationship with the District Attorney's office and works closely with them to identify which youth are truly in need of Court intervention.

The next step in the Action Strategy is Court involvement. At the Detention Hearing, the juvenile and family are ordered to report to the probation department for a Family Intake Assessment administered by the Substance Abuse Counselor and Therapist. During the assessment, several tools are utilized to determine a preliminary understanding of the needs of the youth and family. Those tools include Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), Youth Self Report (YSR), Adolescent Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) and Parent Adolescent Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ). The youth and family are subsequently referred to appropriate programs/services based on the outcome of each assessment tool. If/when a juvenile is placed on some type of supervision, the risk and needs of the assessment, along with a collaborative conversation with the juvenile and their family, translates into a written case plan. A review of the

assessment tools indicate they may be dated. During the 2020/2021 year, it is a goal to find and establish evidence based, and effective assessment tools.

The next step in the Action Strategy is supervision techniques, including the use of a Juvenile Response Matrix. While on supervision, the probation officer utilizes the Juvenile Response Matrix. The matrix includes graduated sanctions for technical probation violations and incentives to positively reinforce positive behavior. The Response Matrix is presented to a supervisor when a violation of probation (VOP) is considered and a supervisor must approve the filing of a VOP when the VOP only includes technical violations and/or misdemeanor offenses. An updated PACT assessment is completed no less than every six months for a juvenile who is under any type of probation supervision. This allows for updated risk and needs information to inform team decisions and case planning. The Juvenile Response Matrix is currently being evaluated for effectiveness. It is estimated an updated Juvenile Response Matrix will be implemented after collaborating with youth, families and program providers.

At any point in the process, a juvenile's case can be staffed at the weekly YCAT meeting, which allows for several county agencies and community based organizations (per a release of information) to discuss how the juvenile and family might best be served.

#### **D. Programs Proposed to be Funded**

The following programs are proposed to be funded by JJCPA:

##### **Truancy Intervention Program**

The Yuba County Probation Department has dedicated a full time Truancy Officer to serve school in the Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD) and Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE). The Truancy Officer provides essential services to the school district, probation department, students, and their families and plays a vital role as a member of SARB. The Truancy Officer has established a phenomenal relationship with youth and their families and maintains contact with them depending on the family's needs. Some of the duties of the Truancy Officer include the following: home visits and family intervention services; referrals to social services and other service-related agencies in Yuba and Sutter Counties; liaison between school and law enforcement; assisting P.A.S.S. Officers with truancy, recovery and attendance-related issues; and transportation of youth to school sites. As a member of SARB, the Truancy Officer services Juvenile Citations, Subpoenas and Infraction Complaints (violation of SARB Contract); recovers students who are not enrolled in any school or education programs within Yuba County; and coordinates/participates in truancy sweeps for MJUSD and YCOE. The Truancy program has shown its effectiveness, as there has been a year over year reduction in SARB cases by approximately 10% from 2018/2019 to 2019/2020.

The Truancy Officer is an active member of the Yuba County Displaced Youth Multi-Disciplinary Team (DYMDT). Yuba County has a significant homeless population, which also involves a large number of displaced youth. The DYMDT was initiated out of the Yuba County Children's Wellness & Child Abuse Prevention Council. The DYMDT was designed to provide a team approach to build on a youth's strengths and respond to his/her needs in a coordinated manner, to assist displaced children/youth and their families in achieving and maintaining a permanent and healthy living environment.

With the election of a new District Attorney, the SARB committee is now able to refer only the most truant parents/guardians to a Court of criminal prosecution for failing to abide by school

attendance standards. Despite the 368 active SARB cases, there has only been one case during the 2019/2020 year in which a referral to criminal Court was going to be prepared. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, that referral was not submitted. It is expected there may be no more than five requests to have parents charged in criminal Court because of their non-compliance during the 2020/2021 year.

### **Stepping Stones**

This multi-tiered program incorporates a graduated scale of supervision and family based service interventions to youth and their families. The focus on this program is for youth committed to the MSYGC. The MSYGC provides youth programming and structure in order to address maladaptive behavior while simultaneously transitioning the youth from a custodial setting back into their respective homes and communities. Programs provided are based on the needs of the individual and the group. MSYGC staff takes a multi-disciplinary approach by involving the youth's parent/guardian, Deputy Probation Officer, school professionals and mental health therapist in order to provide programs to best address those served.

Yuba County Probation Department Intervention Counselor and Substance Abuse Counselor collaboratively begin to identify the needs of the juvenile and family, as the juvenile has been out of the home for a significant amount of time. Services are offered and/or provided to the family, which could involve some form of counseling or household items to reintegrate the juvenile into the home. Intensive probation supervision and support of the youth and his/her family by the same probation officer continue from the date of commitment to and including six months after release from the MSYGC program. Services for these juveniles are family-centered and include detention based as well as intensive community based treatment, supervision, drug treatment, education, recreation, life skill building and other capacity building activities. A full-time probation officer has regular contact with the youth while in the MSYGC. The Stepping Stones program benefits from the team approach of MSYGC staff, the probation officer, and by families and the juvenile joining together to develop a case plan collaboratively.

Collaborative partners involved in the MSYGC program and The Stepping Stones program includes the Counties of Sutter and Colusa, as the MSYGC is a regional facility. Yuba County maintains the MSYGC facility. The full-time Yuba County Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor facilitates drug and alcohol counseling, individually and in group sessions. Additionally, the Intervention Counselor offers a Parent Support Group. This group assisted parents of youth who are committed to the MSYGC and are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. The program assists parents to grow and learn with the growth of the youth who participate in the MSYGC. The support group is held once per week. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health provides counseling and family support services. Yuba County Office of Education and Yuba County One Stop provides education and employment services to eligible juveniles.

Upon the youth completing the MSYGC, the majority reintegrate into the school system by attending Yuba County Office of Education Thomas E. Mathews (TEM) Community Court School. The probation officer works with the school staff and a full-time Deputy Probation Officer positioned at the school site to reintegrate the youth into society and the school system. Both the school probation officer and the supervising probation officer maintain constant communication and oversight of the MSYGC youth attending TEM. The probation officer at TEM offers an array of services and programs on location. The probation officer is the liaison between school, social services, parents and law enforcement. The probation officer is co-responsible for the safety and security of all youth who attend the school and he utilizes progressive discipline to gain compliance of school rules. The programs facilitated include Social and Emotional Needs,

Behavioral Redirecting, Relationship Building, School Culture, Positive School Environment and Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). \

Stepping Stones was first implemented in 2017/2018, and it appears the wrap-around type program was working as the number of youth in juvenile probation decreased year over year by approximately 25%. However, the number of youth on juvenile probation has increased by approximately 10% from 2018/2019 to current. As a result, a new Juvenile Response Matrix will be implemented during the 2020/2021 year, and assessment tools utilized by the Therapist will be evaluated.

In order to maintain all JJCPA programs and services, a percentage of a Supervising Deputy Probation Officer and Probation Program Manager are paid for with JJCPA funding. They are responsible for supervising and managing the entire Juvenile Division, creating and/or implementing programming and procedures, as well as reporting requirements.

### **Day Reporting Program**

After a youth's Detention Hearing, the family is referred to the Probation Department for a thorough Family Intake Assessment administered by a full time Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor and part-time Therapist. During the assessment, several tools are utilized to determine a preliminary understanding of the needs of the youth and family. Those tools include Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), Youth Self Report (YSR), Adolescent Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) and Parent Adolescent Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ). The youth and family are subsequently referred to appropriate programs/services based on the outcome of each assessment tool. Many of the programs the Yuba County Probation Department offers occur at the probation department. These programs include Anger Management, Healthy Communication, Victim Awareness, Tobacco Cessation, and Independent Living Program. The Drug and Alcohol Counselor facilitates drug and alcohol education and intensive individual drug and alcohol counseling utilizing a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model. Additionally, the part-time Therapist provides individual therapy to youth and families. The Therapist provides probation families the opportunity to access immediate individual or family therapy using a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy approach at no cost to the family. The number of youth on juvenile probation has increased by approximately 10% from 2018/2019 to current. Additionally, family counseling is a need that is constantly identified. As a result, the capacity to provide services to families will be evaluated. The Intake Assessment process takes approximately 3 hours. That time can be spent providing services to families directly. The assessments, and the process, will also be evaluated to streamline and optimize services.

The Yuba County Probation Department also receives referrals to programs from the Yuba County Juvenile Traffic Hearing Officer for youth who have been cited for an Infraction offense. These programs typically include Tobacco Cessation and Drug and Alcohol Education. An Intervention Counselor meets with the youth and family, processes the referral and facilitates the program. Upon the youth's completion or failure of completion, the Intervention Counselor provides the Juvenile Traffic Officer with a written completion/non-completion notice.

A goal of the 2020/2021 fiscal year is to implement a youth-only space where programs and services can be provided. Currently, youth report directly to the Probation Department. As adult offenders report directly to the Probation Department as well, this can have negative impacts on youth. A youth only building, office or space would provide for a safe space for youth to work on their identified needs, provide support to parents, and remove the possible contamination of adult

offenders interacting with youth. JJCPA funds would be used, at least partially, to rent a suitable space for these services to be offered.

### **3. Gaps in Services**

Yuba County has identified gang intervention and prevention as being the primary gap in services for juveniles. The County presently lacks a comprehensive strategy to address the challenges presented by the presence and activities of juvenile offenders who are members or associates of criminal street gangs.

### **4. Strategies to Meet Gaps**

Yuba County Probation, in collaboration with YCOE, has endorsed YCOE's efforts to obtain a CALVIP grant through BSCC. YCOE hopes to employ a Prevention Assistant and mentor specifically targeted to youth identified either as gang members, or at risk of entering gangs. Additionally, the Juvenile Hall and MSYGC, have partnered with a volunteer who will be facilitating gang intervention services to youth in custody. With these services, we hope to address this gap in services.

Additionally training has been provided to Juvenile Probation Officers as well. The officers participated in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) online training, Protecting Youth from Gangs on Social Media.

Gang issues pose serious problems for local communities and agencies that attempt to combat them. The probation department will continue to focus its efforts with intervention and prevention and target truancy, first time offenders and elementary school youth. Efforts aimed at curbing gang involvement and focus on intervention, education and suppression is all-important. The services through P.A.S.S. and Truancy will be enhanced to offer ongoing gang education to families and youth, with the focus on younger children. Probation officers, school officials and local law enforcement will collaborate on a regular basis to provide gang education presentations.

The Yuba County Probation Department intends on creating a recreational program for probation youth. The intent of the recreational program is to provide probation youth with pro-social activities during school breaks (Spring, Winter and Summer). An Intervention Counselor and Deputy Probation Officers will facilitate the recreational program.

### **5. Introduction to YOBG**

The Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) provides funding to the probation department to enhance the capacity of local communities to implement an effective continuum of response to juvenile crime and delinquency. YOBG is codified in Sections 1950 to 1978 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Allocations from YOBG funds shall be used to enhance the capacity to provide appropriate rehabilitative and supervision services to youthful offenders.

The YOBG requires counties to submit an annual Juvenile Justice Development Plan that discusses programs and system enhancements, strategies related to non-DJJ eligible youth, pursuant to Section 733 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, regional agreements supported by YOBG and programs/strategies that are coordinated with JJCPA.

On January 1, 2017, Assembly Bill 1998 went into effect, making significant changes to the reporting requirements for YOBG and JJCPA. The most significant change was that beginning

January 2018; counties are required to submit a combined Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan for JJCPA and Juvenile Justice Development Plan for YOBG. Counties had the option of submitting a combined plan in 2017. As a combined plan, the information below outlines the requirements for the Yuba County's Juvenile Justice Development Plan for YOBG.

## **6. Programs and system enhancements**

YOBG funding is essential for juvenile probation and is utilized in many ways to provide evidence-based programming/services and assessments to youth, with the primary goal of reducing recidivism. These programs include, but are not limited to, alcohol and drug treatment, anger management, communication skills, parent education, juvenile offender work program and the utilization of a Juvenile Response Matrix. In order to determine appropriate programs, youth and their families participate in a Family Intake Assessment; which helps create a case plan. All staff has been trained and has the ability to create a comprehensive and collaborative case plans, using Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely (SMART) interventions. Additionally, the P.A.S.S. and Truancy programs are a crucial part of assisting with not only prevention and intervention, but in assisting with keeping youth in school and reducing their chances of being removed from their homes.

The Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) risk/needs assessment and case-planning tool is one aspect of the department's efforts to implement evidence-based practices. The PACT determines a minor's level of risk to reoffend; identifies the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the minor's unique criminogenic needs; pre-populates an automated and customizable case plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors. Every juvenile that enters the juvenile justice system is assessed with the PACT, with either a pre-screen or the full screen assessment. The PACT revitalizes the role and responsibilities of the probation officer from that of one who monitors sanctions, to that of one who is provided a working tool to assist while modeling pro-social behavior and one who will continue to work with the juvenile and the juvenile's family to reduce the juvenile's risk to re-offend. YOBG funding pays for the contracted juvenile Assessment licensing fees through Noble Software Group.

All youth who have been charged with an offense and are pending Court, are subsequently referred to appropriate programs/services based on the outcome of the Family Intake Assessment conducted by the probation departments Drug and Alcohol Counselor and Therapist. Many of the programs the Yuba County Probation Department offer, occur at the probation department. The Drug and Alcohol Counselor facilitates drug and alcohol education and intensive individual drug and alcohol counseling utilizing a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model. The Therapist provides individual therapy to youth and families. YOBG funding pays for the Therapist and a percentage of the Drug and Alcohol Counselor.

A Yuba County Probation Department Intervention Counselor provides many other services including, Anger Management, Healthy Communication, Victim Awareness, Tobacco Cessation, Independent Living Program and Juvenile Offender Work Program. YOBG funding pays for the Intervention Counselor, Family Intake Assessments, materials for programs, training, and incentives. To assist youth with transportation needs to and from programs, the probation department provides bus passes to youth; which is paid for by YOBG funding.

As mentioned in JJCPA, the probation department operates the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC) and JJCPA pays for many services offered to youth while participating in the program and during their transition into the community. YOBG funding pays for a percentage of

the Drug and Alcohol Counselor, who provides additional substance abuse services to MSYGC youth who are not successfully participating in the program. These youth could be in the MSYGC or temporarily located in juvenile hall. As a new addition in 2020/2021, YOBG will pay for a percentage of an Intervention Counselor who provides for, and facilitates a myriad of programs for the youth detained at the institutions. The Intervention Counselor also facilitates programs designed to support parents through the youth's detention. Funding may also be used to purchase new programs as they become relevant and available to the specific needs of the youth. YOBG funding will also pay for a percentage of a Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, who supervises the Intervention Counselor, and is responsible for supporting, finding and promoting programs for youth and parents at the institutions. These positions will help to ensure a continuum of care for youth entering and exiting the facility.

Some juveniles are adjudicated for offenses involving inappropriate sexual conduct. Often times these juveniles are court ordered to be removed from their homes and placed in congregate care. Having these juveniles participate in a psychological evaluation, could establish a framework of local services and help reduce the amount of youth being removed from their homes. The psychological evaluation would indicate if the juvenile needs education and counseling around boundaries and normal sexual behavior or if they require services that are more intensive. YOBG funding would assist in paying for psychological evaluations in order to make the most appropriate recommendation, while keeping the best interest of the juvenile in mind. Additionally, funding will assist in paying for treatment at the local level. This will assist with unnecessary removal of youth from their parents if the youth does not actually need out of home placement, but the parents are unable to pay for treatment on a local level.

The probation department collaborates with the Marysville Joint Unified School District and YCOE to provide P.A.S.S. Officers to be located at Anna McKenney Intermediate School, Lindhurst High School, Marysville High School, and Thomas E. Mathews Community School. Each school site pays a percentage of those salaries and YOBG funding will pay the remaining percentage. P.A.S.S. Officers provide supervision for juvenile on probation at the school, as well as assist with discipline, provide program, and intervention services for all students. The P.A.S.S. Program incorporates high standards for learning, related to social and personal functioning. Enhancing the individual potential of student's results in measurable outcomes that have increased academic performance, increased promotion rates, reduced violence at the school sites, reduced out-of-school suspensions and improved attendance among all students since truancy issues have proved to be a contributing factor in juvenile crime and delinquency. YOBG funding pays for a percentage of four P.A.S.S. Officers.

To enhance the P.A.S.S. Program, the probation department dedicates a full-time Truancy Officer to Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD) and Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE). The Truancy Officer provides essential services to the school district, probation department, students, and their families and plays a vital role as a member of SARB. Some of the duties of the Truancy Officer include the following: home visits and family intervention services; referrals to social services and other service related agencies in Yuba and Sutter Counties; liaison between school and law enforcement; assisting P.A.S.S. Officers with truancy, recovery and attendance related issues; and transportation of youth to school sites. Funding for the Truancy Officer is appropriated from YOBG and JJCPA.

In order to maintain all YOBG programs and services, a percentage of a Supervising Deputy Probation Officer and Probation Program Manager are paid for with YOBG funding. They are responsible for supervising and managing the entire Juvenile Division, creating and/or implementing programming and procedures, as well as statistical and reporting requirements.

Due to training needs and the increase in juvenile justice reform, an additional full time Supervisor will be divided between the Juvenile and Adult Divisions, with the juvenile percentage being paid with YOBG funding. The additional Supervisor will network with other agencies and community based organizations to enhance services to youth and their families.

## **7. Strategies related to non-DJJ eligible youth**

The above programs and interventions align with the overall strategy of Yuba County: diverting juveniles out of the Justice System at all levels and rehabilitating those that are in the system. By being involved at all levels; truancy, school-based, multi-agency, etc., probation officers are offering services, referrals, and support to juveniles and their families in the entire community, not just those involved with probation.

Minors who commit an offense, which does not fall under Section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and are no longer eligible for a commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation (DJJ) facilities are offered services in two areas.

- a. A 365-day commitment in the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC). If a minor is ordered into the MSYGC and actively participates; they can successfully complete the program in 180 days. Upon completion of this program, the minor is released to their family and must participate in the aftercare program. The minor will be under intensive supervision and referred to the necessary programs/services in assisting them with their transition in returning home. The programs/services can include individual drug and alcohol counseling, Healthy Communication, Anger Management, Independent Living Program, Victim Awareness and Juvenile Offender Work Program.
- b. Out of home placement in a Resource Family or Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program.

## **8. Regional agreements supported by YOBG**

Services at the MSYGC are a multi-agency collaborative process. Partners involved in the MSYGC program and The Stepping Stones program includes the Counties of Yuba, Sutter and Colusa, as the MSYGC is a regional facility. Yuba County maintains the MSYGC facility. The full-time Yuba County Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor facilitates drug and alcohol counseling individually and in group sessions and a Parent Support Group. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health provides counseling and family support services. Yuba County Office of Education and Yuba County One Stop provides education and employment services to eligible juveniles.

## **9. Programs and strategies coordinated with JJCPA**

Programs and services co-exist under YOBG and JJCPA funding. Although the focus and intent varies, the primary goals are to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system and then focusing on reducing recidivism. Ultimately, these are addressed by working with the juvenile and their family with comprehensive assessments, case plans and evidence-based programs. The probation department has placed a lot of effort into streamlining both the YOBG funded programs and the JJCPA funded programs to be inclusive of all minors on probation. This means that a minor on informal probation has the same opportunities and services available as minors who are on formal probation. Both minors would participate in programming that is offender/risk

appropriate; but the important aspect to keep in mind is that both, regardless of offense/status, have the same programming availability.

## **10. Conclusion**

JJCPA and YOBG funding provides for the majority of the allocated funds utilized for Juvenile Probation. With partnerships with MJUSD and YCOE, the Probation Department has been able to increase its capacity to provide services to youth. However, these services can be limited by cost and availability of providers given Yuba County's location within California. Despite the limitations, Yuba County continues to provide a myriad of programs and services to juvenile justice involved youth, and youth at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. Gaps in services include gang intervention and prevention, family counseling/services, and a dedicated space to provide services to youth and families. While it is expected to implement changes during the 2020/2021 year, including updating the Juvenile Response Matrix and reviewing assessment tools and processes by the Therapist, further challenges remain. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the subsequent stay-at-home order from the Governor, providing services to youth and families has become difficult. Funds will now be used to provide for an Intervention Counselor and Supervising Deputy Probation Officer assigned to the Juvenile Institutions. These positions will have the ability to dedicate time to find, implement and assess programs. Providing services seamlessly, despite location of the youth, is shown to greatly increase effectiveness of programs. With their efforts, coupled with the lofty goal of finding and staffing a youth and family specific location for a hub of services, Yuba County Probation hopes to positively impact the youth and their families to a greater degree.

## **11. Project Contact**

James Moralez, Yuba County Probation Program Manager  
(530) 749-7595 – office  
(530) 749-7364 - fax  
[jmoralez@co.yuba.ca.us](mailto:jmoralez@co.yuba.ca.us)