



**Corona-Norco
Unified School District**

BSCC Prop 47 Cohort 3 Local Evaluation Plan

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

Proposition 47 was a voter-approved initiative on the November 2014 ballot that reduced specified low-level drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. Each year, the state savings generated by the implementation of Proposition 47 are deposited into the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund. Sixty-five percent of these savings are set aside annually for the BSCC to administer a competitive grant program. Proposition 47 requires that these funds be awarded to public agencies to provide mental health services, substance use disorder treatment and/or diversion programs for those in the criminal justice system. Additional legislation (AB 1056, Chap. 438, Stats. of 2015) requires that the grants be awarded competitively, and specifies that funds may serve both adults and juveniles. It allows funds to be used for housing-related assistance and other community-based supportive services, including job skills training, case management or civil legal services. The BSCC further requires that at least 50 percent of the award made to grantees is passed through to community-based service providers.

Need:

Corona-Norco Unified (CNUSD) has a significant need for Cohort III Prop. 47 funding for our Youth Diversion Program (YDP). As a large urban school district, in Western Riverside County, with over 51,000 students in 52 schools, CNUSD serves a diverse student population, which includes 53.6% Hispanic, 22.5% White, 11.3% Asian, 5.8% African-American, and 3.2% Filipino. Forty-three percent of CNUSD students are eligible for free and reduced meals, and 13.1% are classified as English Learners. CNUSD serves the cities of Corona, Norco and Eastvale. The need for our project is driven by both the number of youth and young adults involved with the criminal justice system and gaps in current services.

As of January 31, 2019, 386 CNUSD students were on formal probation, with an additional 71 students who are also being supervised (informal probation) by a Deputy Probation Officer. Crime reports from our law enforcement partners reveal significant increases in juvenile crime. Data collection has experienced unanticipated interruption because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the following data describes CNUSD students



involved with the criminal justice system in 2018: 971 citations, 782 arrests, 89 sentenced to juvenile detention, 12 sentenced to juvenile camps, and 3 incarcerations. The most recent report of 2020 Arrests by Age for Riverside County show that although only 14.4% of the Riverside County population is between the ages of 10-19 years, 5.2% of arrests were of this school-age population. Of significant concern is the indoctrination of middle school and high school students into gang life. California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) data for 2019-2021 shows that 1.75% of all students enrolled in Grade 7, 9, and 11 reported that they belong to a gang. Although alarming, CHKS gang membership data for 2017-2019 showed that 4% of all students enrolled in Grade 7, 9, and 11 reported that they belong to a gang.

In the 2021-22 school year, CNUSD served a large population of 213 Foster Youth and 88 Homeless students. In 2019, 59% of Foster Youth and Homeless students had been involved with the juvenile justice system. Many Foster Youth become homeless once they turn 18 years of age and must live on their own. Children in foster care are frequently involved in the juvenile legal system that it is known as the *foster care-to-prison pipeline*. The ACLU published in 2002 the results of one study that found that by age 17, over half of youth in foster care experienced an arrest, conviction, or overnight stay in a correctional facility. Without targeted diversion services, Foster Youth and Homeless students may never have the resources to exit the school-to-prison pipeline.

The Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder Treatment, and Diversion Programs Funded by this Grant advance principles of restorative justice while demonstrating a capacity to reduce recidivism rates among the target population. Trauma-informed counselors provide therapeutic mental health services to youth who are referred through probation, the juvenile courts or the Youth Diversion Team. Additionally, the contract with FSA includes substance use disorder treatment to the target population with known substance use, including individual and group counseling, case management, and recovery support services. Addressing mental health needs and associated behavior problems at school helps students stay in school and become more connected to their school and community. Providing this protective factor creates a positive competing pathway to the lure of delinquent behavior and gangs. Drug and alcohol treatment



classes provided by FSA meet the requirements of the juvenile court. The CNUSD YDP enhances and expands existing diversion programs conducted by the Corona Police Department YDT and Riverside County Sheriff Department.

CNUSD recognizes the impact of trauma on the target population. Based on service logs at least 80% of youth in the target population referred to school-based counseling have been impacted by trauma, including abuse, neglect, community and home violence, drug addiction, and incarceration of caretakers. The CNUSD YDP fully integrates knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.

As a result of analysis of a comprehensive Needs Assessment conducted with community partners and stakeholders to inform Prop. 47 Cohort 3 proposal development, the CNUSD YDP includes the following services:

Intermittent Support for Diversion Programs: - Current efforts to support our target population implemented with BSCC Cohort 2 funding are showing good results, however the effects of school closure because of the COVID-19 pandemic have caused significant interruptions in delivering services to targeted students. Corona Police Department Youth Diversion Team (YDT) provides services to juvenile offenders. Resources in our community continue to decline as city and county agencies have seen reductions in their budget over the past several years. For example, a key Riverside County Probation Officer retired and the support services he delivered have not yet been assumed by any other Officer.

Resources to Support Foster and Homeless Populations: – Once Foster Youth leave CNUSD because of being moved to a different Foster placement in Riverside County, or because of dropping out, the school district is no longer able to continue providing diversion and other services. Through community agency partnerships that provide case management for services, these youth can continue to receive services without interruption. This is similar for Homeless students who may leave CNUSD to stay somewhere outside of the district boundaries, and for whom case management by agency partners will ensure that after they move their needs are not forgotten. When Foster Youth turn 18 years of age, many become Homeless because no housing is provided. Case managed resources need to continue, including



mentoring, housing, job skills training, etc. to reduce recidivism of these most vulnerable young adults.

Resources to Support Mental Health and Addiction Needs: - The Riverside Department of Mental Health estimates that the number of CNUSD students under age 18 experiencing severe mental health issues increased 110% since 2018. CNUSD has responded by hiring additional counseling staff for students at every school site, however students who have been involved in the criminal justice system need more intensive mental health counseling and addiction counseling that needs to be coordinated with other services for the targeted population.

Resources to Support Recidivism Reduction: - Significant barriers to breaking free of recurring involvement with the criminal justice system is the inability to find gainful employment and obtain financial independence. These barriers are exacerbated by substance use disorders. Case managed support services by community agency partners for CNUSD students who have been involved with the criminal justice system need to be increased so that all target students receive these services.

Resources to Address Housing Needs: Supplemental and supportive services include a partnership with the California Family Life Center that will provide Rapid Rehousing, Transitional Housing, job readiness and placement services, and legal consultation to the target population. Housing services include: Standardized Assessment & Interventions for Rapid Re-Housing and/or Prevention; and Coordinated Individual Service Plans for Supportive Housing. Homeless students (over 18 or emancipated) receive a rapid rehousing intervention designed to move participants from homelessness to permanent housing. California Family Life Center provides job skills and readiness training as well as placement through their Workplace Development program. Legal consultations will provide participants with an overview of how the juvenile justice system works, their rights, and how to find representation.

The target population is identified, measurable and correlates to needs and gaps in service. Eligibility to receive services under the YDP project includes juvenile offenders age 12 to 17 1/2 who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense and have a history of mental health issues or substance use disorders.



Individuals age 18 through 21 who have either dropped out of CNUSD or are enrolled in an Adult or Alternative Education program and also meet the above criteria will also be served.

The July 2020 – June 2021 Riverside County Juvenile Synopsis Report describes the extent of CNUSD students who have been involved in the criminal justice system:

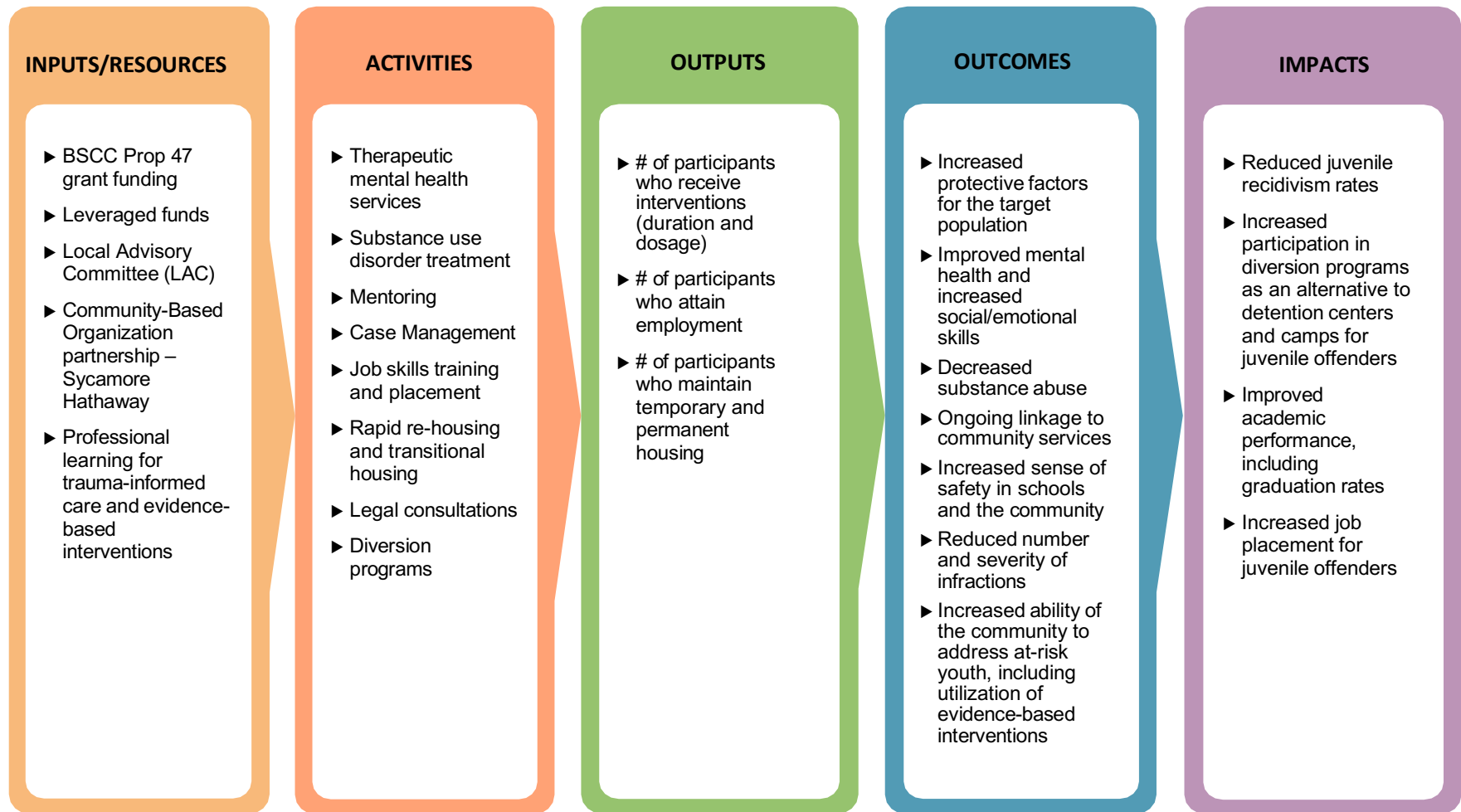
- Juvenile Probation Students 279
- Juvenile Informal Probation Students 118
- Juvenile Detention Students 767
- Students Admitted to Juvenile Camp 279

Project goals and objectives:

Goals	Objectives	Impacts
(1) Goal: Reduce the number of Chronic Juvenile Offenders	A. Decrease juvenile recidivism rates for the target population by 50% by June 1, 2026, as measured by citations, arrests and court records.	Reduce recidivism of people convicted of less serious crimes
(2) Goal: Divert Non-violent Juvenile Offenders from Juvenile Correctional Institutions	A. Increase participation in diversion programs as an alternative to detention centers and camps for juvenile offenders by 100% by June 1, 2026, as measured by court records, status reports, and attendance logs.	Reduce recidivism of people convicted of less serious crimes
(3) Goal: Improve Academic Performance and Employment Opportunities for Juvenile Offenders	A. Increase the number of individuals who improve school-based performance by 25%, by June 1, 2026, as measured by academic records. B. Increase the number of individuals who secure employment by 60% by June 1, 2026, measured by employment records.	Provide community-based supportive services such as job skills training and case management



Logic Model



PROCESS EVALUATION METHOD AND DESIGN

CNUSD received \$1,634,390 in grant funds to implement the Youth Diversion Program (YDP) that will support youth (ages 12 to 21) by providing mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, housing-related assistance, job skills and placement services, case management, mentoring, and legal consultations to our target population in the criminal justice system. Our Prop 47 grant program expands and enhances the BSCC Prop 47 Cohort 2 YDP by hiring one full-time (1 FTE) Youth Services Officer to support the department's Youth Diversion Team. The Youth Services Officer will provide case management, mentoring, and evidence-based interventions, such as Check-In/Check-Out. Through existing Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), the Corona Police Department will continue to provide four full-time School Resource Officers (SRO) to work exclusively at CNUSD school sites. The department will participate in all aspects of data collection and participate in all Local Advisory Committee meetings.

CNUSD contracted an outside evaluator, California Consulting, Inc., to perform an objective and impartial evaluation of the BSCC Prop 47 Cohort 3 project. In addition to the day-to-day data collection and analysis, and quarterly reports to the state, California Consulting is responsible for the Local Evaluation Plan, the Two-Year Preliminary Evaluation Report, and the Final Local Evaluation Report. These documents will adhere to the formats and timelines prescribed by the BSCC.

The research design is quantitative and utilizes multiple sources of data. Quantitative data collection and analysis will provide a comprehensive assessment of grant funded efforts. Sources of quantitative data include: crime data; disposition data; service delivery logs; and school records. Quantitative data analysis will include individual and system level measures to examine service referral and receipt as well as outcomes of treatment and interventions on recidivism.

CNUSD and the Program Evaluator will use process and outcome evaluation components to maintain focus on mission, purpose, goals, and objectives; develop strategic plans; measure progress; and promote sustainability. Process evaluation will



examine the extent to which Prop 47 programs, interventions, and services were implemented as intended.

Process Measures:

Inputs/Resources	Activities	Outputs
Contract with Sycamores	Mental health and substance abuse counseling	Provide 1,400 hours of trauma-informed counseling annually by Licensed Clinical Social Workers and 600 hours of addiction counseling services annually to our target population. Sycamores will provide both individual and family psychotherapy services, in addition to crisis intervention services, individual rehabilitation, and group services, when appropriate.
Contract with Corona Police Department	Hire a Community Resource Officer (1 FTE)	Provide case management, mentoring, and evidence-based interventions, such as Check-In/Check-Out
Identify project participants	Referrals of the target population	The number and type of referrals made to the target population
Project Partners	Provide services for participants	The type, frequency, and duration of services received by each participant in the program
Local Advisory Committee	Participate in collaboration meetings	The number, frequency, and duration of meetings
Employment Training	Job skills training for participants	The number of participants, the number of training hours, the number of participants who receive employment as a result of training

Output data will be collected from CNUSD and YDP Partners and distributed to the Program Evaluator on a monthly basis. Data sources will include:

- Participant referrals
- Attendance logs
- Academic records
- Status reports
- Treatment logs
- Mental health referrals
- Discharge reports
- Housing placement records
- Citations
- Arrests
- Employment records

Data will be analyzed and distributed monthly by the Program Evaluator, allowing CNUSD and the Local Advisory Committee to make changes when necessary to ensure maximum impact. Successful program completion for participants is defined by program partners based on the services they provide and identified completion goals.



OUTCOME EVALUATION METHOD AND DESIGN

The Outcome Evaluation will assess the impact of the CNUSD Prop 47 Cohort 3 program for the target population. Outcome Evaluation combines qualitative and quantitative techniques to triangulate multiple sources of data and significantly enhance the validity of the evaluation. Sources of quantitative data will include: crime data; disposition data; service delivery logs; and school records. Sources of qualitative data include: open-ended surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, meeting minutes, and pre- and post- surveys from evidence-based curriculum programs.

Each program, activity and intervention will determine the definition for successfully completion. Status on individuals completing programs will be submitted to the Program Evaluator on a quarterly basis.

Outcomes that will be assessed will provide evidence of project effectiveness and include:

- Number of juvenile offenders who complete a diversion program and have not reoffended;
- Number of individuals placed in transitional and permanent housing;
- Number of individuals who complete alcohol and addiction treatment and avoided relapse;
- Number of juvenile offenders who receive jobs skills training and secure employment;
- Number of juvenile offenders who receive Prop 47 support services and improve their attendance, academics, and behavior; and
- Juvenile crime and recidivism rate by the end of the grant period.

Data sources used for the CNUSD BSCC Prop 47 Cohort 2 grant program will continue to be used to evaluate the Cohort 3 program, including:

- Universal mental health/substance use disorder referral form
- Treatment logs
- Termination forms
- Partner criteria for evaluating student progress in meeting treatment goals
- Attendance forms
- Tracking sheets for each community partner providing services
- Questions and metrics for focus group interviews
- Interview protocols



Limitations include variables that will be identified and tracked in an effort to measure their effects on outcomes, including:

- Staffing (turnover, recruitment and hiring process);
- Staff training (professional learning, trauma-informed care, on-the-job training);
- COVID-19 (interruptions in services)

Outcome Evaluation will determine the impact of the project on juvenile offenders across project performance indicators (goals and objectives). The following table provides an overview of activities that support the identified goals and objectives and how each will be measured:

Activity	Responsible staff/partner	Measurement Instrument
Goal 1		
Referrals for therapeutic mental health services and provide treatment	CNUSD will refer students from the target population to Sycamores for therapeutic mental health services.	Referrals, treatment logs, and discharge forms
Referrals for treatment for substance use disorders	CNUSD to refer students to Sycamores for substance use disorder treatment.	Referrals, treatment logs, discharge forms
Refer participants who are homeless or aging out of the foster system to transitional and/or reentry housing	CNUSD to refer students and Sycamores will provide housing.	Treatment logs, Housing Placement logs
Refer participants and provide mentoring programs	CNUSD to refer students and the Community Service Officer and California Family Life Center will provide mentoring services	Activity logs, Attendance logs
Refer participants to legal consultations	CNUSD to refer students and California Family Life Center will provide legal consultations	Attendance and activity logs
Goal 2		
Refer participants to diversion programs through the juvenile courts	Individuals will be referred by CNUSD, law enforcement, juvenile courts, probation and self-referrals	Referrals, Activity logs
Conduct education and outreach for YDP	LAC will work together to create and disseminate materials for the YDP	The # and type of outreach activities



Goal 3		
Refer participants to Workplace Development Program for job skills training and placement	CNUSD to refer and California Family Life Center will provide services	Attendance logs, Training logs, Interviews completed, Employment obtained, Length of employment sustained

Evaluation results will be presented in interim and final reports, in accordance with grant requirements. Project performance, including both implementation and impacts, will be tracked over time using data on program implementation, program service receipts, and student outcomes. Recidivism results will be compared at the end of the project with Final Evaluation results from the Cohort 2 project.

Recidivism rates for each individual served will be calculated from the time they enter the YDP until the grant period ends. Participant recidivism rates will be compared to recidivism rates for the cities that CNUSD serves (Corona, Norco and Eastvale) as well as Riverside county, to the extent that is possible based on data provided by law enforcement, probation and the juvenile courts.

Data analysis will describe participant progress in achieving expected outcomes using a pre/post format. However, as this is not a research study, there is no funding to identify a viable control and experimental group and expand the scope of this evaluation.

