



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



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Chief Probation Officer

April 30, 2018

To: Camina Leeson, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

From: Heidi Szakala, Probation Program Manager

Re: Final Local Evaluation Plan

Effectiveness of the Projects Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: The initial goal of the grant was to start with hiring an Extra-Help Special Projects Coordinator to be used to assist with the implementation of the Peaceful Warrior Project (PWP). The coordinator would work in tandem with Symple Equazion 88 to provide services aimed at healthy lifestyle choices. The coordinator would be responsible for ensuring group participation and keeping all participants focused on the goal of the week.

Objective: The PWP will be facilitated on a consistent basis to the youth assigned to the Bear Creek Academy Long Term and Youth Treatment Programs. The youth will participate in Thinking for a Change, The E.M.P.O.W.E.R (Positive, Objectives, and Words Equal Results) Program, and Fix it City (workshops that focus on life and job skills).

Outcome: The department was successful in hiring an Extra-Help Special Projects Coordinator at the initial stages of implementation. The coordinator worked closely with Symple Equazion 88 and the Probation Program Manager who oversaw the Bear Creek Academy Programs. They all worked jointly in identifying the curriculum that would be facilitated to the youth within the program and specific dates and times to ensure that the PWP was consistent. The dynamics of the program changed in the middle of year 2017, due to the contract provider Symple Equazion's inability to facilitate groups as specified in their contract. The impact was minimal, as the coordinator for the program had already adapted to their absence.

Goal 2: Continuum of care for mental health and drug and alcohol services for youth who were transitioning out into the community. Mental Health plays a key role by providing continued alcohol and drug counseling to participants in the program. The counseling sessions are integral to goal setting and positive living. Prior to release, youth who were identified as needing services for mental health/alcohol and drug services in the community will be referred to a service provider.

Objective: Successful re-entry into the community.

Outcome: Youth who were identified with treatment needs for mental health and/or drug and alcohol services were referred to the appropriate service providers. After

that, it was up to the youth to report to their scheduled appointments on time and engage in program services recommended.

Goal 3: Collaboration with the Human Service's Agency program called "All Dad's Matter." The male youth who are identified as being fathers, will receive information on the steps that they would need to take to participate in the program once released from the in-custody portion of their program.

Objective: Successful re-entry into the community.

Outcome: The coordinator for the PWP was previously trained in the material for "All Dad's Matter," prior to employment with the department. The coordinator brought with him a wealth of knowledge in regard to the curriculum and manner to facilitate the groups. He also, educated the male youth identified as fathers on the benefits of participating in "All Dad's Matter," and provided them with material on how to enroll prior to their release.

Goal 4: Collaboration between Workforce Investment and the PWP to assist the youth with job readiness skills. Workforce Investment has collaborated with the PWP to assist with the job readiness portion of the program. Once the youth transitioned into the community, they would have learned interview skills to assist them with obtaining a job. The youth could also take advantage of the typing lab and resume building services offered at the Merced Workforce Investment Site.

Objective: Successful re-entry into the community.

Outcome: The collaboration between Workforce Investment has been established. Personnel from Workforce Investment have met with youth that were eligible and provided them an orientation on the services that the program offered. Unfortunately, the only youth who could participate in the services are those who had reached the age of 18. Therefore, this specific goal is only effective with a specific population of 18 years of age and above.

Target Population

The target population is male/female 14 to 18 years of age.

Number of Participants

37	2015
36	2016
22	2017

The criteria for determining participant success and failure in the project.

Success: Originally the department had defined success for new participants of the PWP as, no new law violations within 6 to 12 months. The definition/measurement changed to no new referral, which captures new law violations and violations of probation. The decision to change the definition/measurement was to maintain consistency with how the department measured recidivism for other programs implemented.

Failure: Originally defined as a new law violation within 6 to 12 months. The definition/measurement changed to a new referral and/or violation of probation.

Outcomes:

In custody youths recidivism rate for 2015 to 2017.

- In 2015, 26 out of 37 youths were identified as having a new law violation or referral. A 70% recidivism rate for 2015.
- In 2016, 25 out of 36 youths were identified as having a new law violation or referral. A 60% recidivism rate for 2016.
- In 2017, 8 out of 22 youths were identified as having a new law violation or referral. A 36% recidivism rate for 2017.

The aftercare recidivism rate for youth in 2015 to 2017.

- In 2015, 12 out of 20 youths were identified as having a new law violation or referral. A 60% recidivism rate for 2015.
- In 2016, 12 out of 22 youths were identified as having a new law violation or referral. A 55% recidivism rate for 2016.
- In 2017, 4 out of 8 youths were identified as having a new law violation or referral. A 50% recidivism rate for 2017.

Outcome Evaluation

The department worked with Merced County IT to extract data from our case management system for youth who had been committed to the Bear Creek Academy Long Term and Youth Treatment Programs. The youth's records were reviewed and measured for recidivism by identifying new law violations and/or violations of probation. The data was then compared to current data to identify if the program was successful. The conclusion, after review of the recidivism rate for 2015 to 2017 for youth in custody, there is a significant decrease in the recidivism rate from 2015 to 2017, of 43%. In review of the recidivism rate for 2015 to 2017 for youth in aftercare, there is a gradual decrease in the recidivism rate, of 10%. This is believed to be based on the challenges that the youth encounter as they transition back into the community. In observing this, the department has worked on strengthening the aftercare program with a daily reporting center, where the youth will be required to attend and participate in programming similar to the in custody PWP. The coordinator for PWP, will be facilitating groups in the aftercare portion as well to establish continuity between programs. In all, the outcomes for 2015 to 2017 reflect the success of the Peaceful Warrior Project.