

(2021-2022) Annual Plan

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Instructions:

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institution Code Section 1961(b) call for consolidation of the annual plans required for JJCPA and YOBG.

Please submit your most up-to-date consolidated plan. The following is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. If you find it helpful to use this template, please do so. Each field must be completed before submitting your plan to the BSCC. If you have nothing to report for a field, please indicate 'N/A'. At the end of the template please press the 'Submit' button to be recorded with the BSCC. Your work will be saved each time you log in, if you need to make any edits.

Your Submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website. LauraRivas@kernprobation.org

If you have any questions on completing your annual plan, or wish to use your own plan, please email:

JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov

Juvenile Justice Plan

Part I. Countywide Service Needs, Priorities and Strategy

- A. Assessment of Existing Services
- B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas
- C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy
- D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions

Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

- A. Information Sharing and Data Collection
- B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils
- C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

- A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders
- B. Regional Agreements
- C. Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))

A. Assessment of Existing Services

Include here an assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.

Kern County Probation provides a wide range of services directed at the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders entering into and involved in the juvenile justice system, including efforts that support families. Probation's continuum of services is detailed below in, "Section C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy." In addition to the services offered to youth formally referred to the department, there are preventive, and intervention based services with connections to the Probation Department as follows:

Youth Connection is a non-profit organization dedicated to matching pre-delinquent youth with community resources. It is a community effort, supported by Bakersfield North Rotary Club, endorsed by Kern County Probation and financed by the private sector. Youth Connection assists high-risk youth, ages six through thirteen, and acts as a referral agency to services where problems can be resolved before they have escalated out of control. In addition to functioning as a referral source, Youth Connection pays all necessary fees for the services rendered to the child. The Youth Connection goal is, "to provide services to youth to prevent involvement with the juvenile justice system, therefore enabling them to become productive citizens." Youth Connection will accept referrals for children who are exhibiting problems in the areas of social, psychological, physical, personal and educational needs which could eventually lead to juvenile delinquency. The organization assists children who have not previously been processed through the juvenile justice system.

Probation Auxiliary County of Kern (PACK) is a non-profit corporation chartered in October 1976. PACK is an organization that assists youth in the juvenile justice system and those at-risk. It is endorsed by the Superior Court Judges of Kern County, Kern County Probation, and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. PACK's mission is to provide support and services with the Probation Department, enabling people to become responsible citizens. PACK provides materials and services not included in the tax-supported budget for Juvenile Services. These include educational, recreational, and personal necessities for juveniles. Specialized programs include the "Take Away Tattoos" program where gang-related tattoos are removed, the "I'm Thumbody" program designed for second graders to build self-esteem. Stockdale Helping Hands is a program working under PACK which provides clothing and hygiene items to just involved youth. PACK also provides scholarships for financial support toward educational goals for individuals on probation. Supportive services for incarcerated youth and for at risk youth in need are also provided. PACK's goal is to provide resources and materials to help youth understand themselves, the world around them, and to encourage them

to be the best they can be.

Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KBHRS) provides mental health and substance abuse services and the resources necessary to promote wellness and recovery for Kern County children and their families through the Children's System of Care, which includes contracted Medi-Cal providers. KBHRS provides services that are consumer centered, racially and culturally appropriate, flexible, with a focus on individual/family strengths, to promote positive peer and professional relationships, and incorporate each individual/family's natural support system within the treatment process.

The Kern County Sheriff's Activities League (SAL) was created in 2005 to serve as a gang prevention strategy and to prevent juvenile crime and violence by providing civic, athletic, recreational and educational opportunities and programs for at-risk youth. SAL targets youths that may be disadvantaged or considered "at-risk" of becoming involved in criminal activity due to a lower economic base, criminal activity, drug abuse in the family or any number of possible reasons. SAL gives at-risk and underprivileged youth an alternative to gangs and drugs by providing opportunities for recreational activities, academic tutoring, community service, and organized sports programs.

Bakersfield Police Activities League, BPAL, is a non-profit charitable organization formed in 1994 by police officers and concerned citizens. It is one of the Bakersfield Police Department's approaches to juvenile delinquency prevention. BPAL is about cops and kids. Police officers and other community members volunteer their time as coaches, mentors, role models, and friends to children in our community. BPAL provides positive self-esteem, mutual trust, and respect. BPAL targets at risk youth in high crime neighborhoods. Bakersfield PAL is a chapter member of the state organization California Police Activities League.

Created in 1992, the Kern County Network for Children (KCNC) harnesses the power of community action in identifying and addressing the most critical children's issues in Kern County, including the prevention of child abuse and neglect. KCNC programs and initiatives serve many functions to improve child safety outcomes for Kern County children and families and are carried out through the active involvement of government leaders, local community collaboratives, nonprofit agencies, organizations, businesses and private individuals.

Under the KCNC umbrella, the Dream Center assists current and former foster youth transition to independence and self-sufficiency. Services utilize a formal case management system, with co-located staff from Probation, BHRS, Bakersfield College and the Department of Human Services Independent Living Program on-site and available to reduce the duplication of services and increase service accessibility for youth.

The Probation Department collaborates with Public Health and the Department of Human Services through an Interagency Agreement to assure compliance with Federal and State regulations and the appropriate expenditure of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment funds in the implementation of the Child Health and Disability Prevention program.

Describe what approach will be used to facilitate collaboration among the organizations listed above and support the integration of services.

Kern County Probation staff are active members of numerous local collaborative efforts where ideas are exchanged, and oversight is given. Examples of such are as follows:

- The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) consists of high-ranking members of local county and city agencies and other non-profit service providers. Chaired by the Chief Probation Officer, this group advises, oversees and approves operational plans for funded juvenile programs administered by the Probation Department, including the combined JJCPA/YOBG plan.
- The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) meets with the Probation Department quarterly, inspects each institution annually and receives for review and input a quarterly update of all juvenile programs and services, offering recommendations for improvement when applicable.
- The Kern County Network for Children (KCNC) Governing Board is led by the KCNC Executive Director and has a robust membership that includes parents and community leaders from a wide range of non- profit and government agencies who provide direct services to youth. KCNC programs and initiatives serve many functions to improve child safety outcomes for Kern County children and families and are carried out through the active involvement of government leaders, local community collaboratives, non-profit agencies, organizations, businesses and private individuals.
- Special Multi-Agency Resource Team (SMART) and SMART sub-committee provides administrative oversight for the Wraparound contractor. SMART consists of administrators from Probation, Human Services, Public Health, Behavioral Health, and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office. SMART is responsible for monitoring the Wraparound process to ensure compliance with agreed upon services, policies and procedures. The SMART sub-committee will utilize established eligibility criteria to determine which children and families will be eligible for Wraparound services and specialized out of home placements.
- The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Implementation Team is led by Human Services and exists to ensure appropriate and consistent county-wide level CCR implementation efforts. Each county agency impacted by CCR is represented on this committee.

The Kern County System of Care as outlined in the MOU in accordance to AB2083, seeks to provide services in a manner that is integrated, comprehensive, culturally responsive and reflects evidenced-based/ practices, regardless of the agency door by which children and their families enter. Participating agencies ensure the programs and policies of each participating agency reflect coordinated, integrated, and effective service delivery to children, youth and families.

Additionally, the Probation Department has staff who serve collaboratively on local Student Attendance Review Boards, the Kern High School District Interagency Facilitation Committee, after school program boards, the Bakersfield Police Activities League board, the Youth

Connection board and the Probation Auxiliary board.

B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

Identify and prioritize the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas of the county that face the most significant public safety risk from juvenile crime.

Kern County is the third largest county in the state in terms of square miles. The city of Bakersfield is the main metropolitan area, having the highest concentrated population. Rather than focus on a specific type of crime or zip code, JJCPA and YOBG funded programs primarily serve youth deemed moderate-risk or high-risk to re-offend who reside in the general Bakersfield area. However, YOBG funded programming that occurs within the three juvenile institutions will support youth committed to those programs from throughout Kern County and are not specific to Bakersfield area residents.

The PACT (Positive Achievement Change Tool) is an evidence-based, risk/needs assessment, and case planning system implemented by the Kern County Probation Department. The Probation Department's evidence-based risk assessment tool is used to assist in reducing recidivism of juvenile offenders. Thus, this assessment has been proven through empirical evidence, research, data, and results from controlled studies. The results from empirical research on what works in reducing recidivism in youth has led to the identification of four key principles of effective intervention which are: Risk (target higher risk offenders), Need (target criminogenic risk factors), Treatment (use behavioral approaches), and Fidelity (implement program as designed). The assessments assist Probation staff in accomplishing four basic objectives: determining a youths' level of risk to re-offend; identifying risk and protective factors to tailor rehabilitation efforts; developing an individualized case plan to reduce risk and increase protective factors; and reassessing after a period to determine if Court intervention has had a positive effect.

C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

Describe your county's juvenile justice action strategy. Include an explanation of your county's continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency as well as a description of the approach used to ensure a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

Kern County Probation submitted its original multi-agency juvenile justice plan in 2001, which included the creation of an Early Intervention Program (EIP) in multiple geographic areas of the county and a Gang Intervention and Suppression Team (GIST) in targeted areas of metro-Bakersfield.

In 2002, the original plan was modified to add a Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP) in metro- Bakersfield and in the outlying areas of northern Kern County. This program was designed to address first time offenders, providing supervision and linkage to services with the goal of reducing recidivism.

In 2004, the plan was modified to eliminate EIP services entirely, while expanding GIST services to encompass the entire county, as it was determined the mobility and influence of gang member involvement exceeded the previously designated boundaries. Additional staff were added to ROPP because of this modification as well.

In 2009, another modification to the plan was made, eliminating ROPP and enhancing the Aftercare program. This change was deemed appropriate and necessary because of the results obtained from the department's implementation of a risk/needs assessment tool, the PACT, which showed that approximately 63% of youth served by ROPP were at low-risk to re-offend without intervention. Meanwhile, Aftercare program services were directed at youth exiting department custodial commitment programs, with a goal of bridging services and providing accountability to youth on furlough release.

In November of 2019, the plan was modified to eliminate the GIST unit and create a stand alone Juvenile Programming Unit to be funded with JJCPA dollars. This change occurred to provide enhanced evidenced based resources across our continuum of juvenile services.

The Probation Department continues to provide investigative and supervision services for the Superior Court concerning the criminally delinquent behavior of juveniles. The Probation Department serves as gatekeepers of all law enforcement referrals and help to determine the most appropriate course of action to redirect behavior, reduce recidivism and provide for public safety based on the requirements set forth in California law and on results of evidence-based assessments and case plans. Below is an overview of some of the services provided as part of the juvenile justice action strategy.

Juvenile Investigations:

When the Probation Department receives a referral from law enforcement on a youth who is not currently on probation, it is referred to a Juvenile Investigations assessment unit that conducts PACT pre-screen evaluations which calculate risk to reoffend. Options regarding the handling of

referrals include sending warning letters, referrals to Traffic Court and various community resources. Referrals assigned to officers for pre-screen assessment are those in which a formal Petition request is in question, including many in which Welfare and Institutions Code 653.5 mandates. The officers are required to have all felony cases reviewed by the District Attorney's Office to determine if a Petition request should be submitted. The primary goal of a pre-screen assessment is to divert low-risk offenders and forward moderate and high-risk offenders through the justice system. Those diverted are often referred to counseling services and parents/guardians are provided a list of local resources, including evidenced-based treatment programs, which can be contacted for further assistance and support.

Once a Petition is filed, Juvenile Investigations units interview youth and their families, gather outside information, and complete full PACT assessments in preparation of making dispositional recommendations to the Court for all youth appearing before the Court because of a sustained new law violation. In addition to routine cases filed under WIC 602 based on new criminal law violations, Investigations officers are responsible for reports on the following types of hearings: Transfer of Jurisdiction Hearings - The District Attorney or other appropriate prosecuting officer may request a hearing to determine if a minor is an appropriate candidate to be dealt with in Juvenile Court (WIC 707 (a)). It will also be requested that minors who have been found not amenable for Juvenile Court be detained in jail upon reaching the age of nineteen (WIC 208.5). WIC 709 Hearings - These hearings are initiated by the youth's counsel to address issues related to the youth's competency. When the Court determines substantial evidence raises doubt as to a youth's competence, then the youth's proceedings are suspended. A Court appointed psychiatrist/psychologist completes an evaluation to determine whether the youth is competent to participate in court proceedings. If found incompetent, the youth is then referred for an evaluation of eligibility for services with the Kern Regional Center. If ineligible for services with the Kern Regional Center, then the Probation Department will provide competency training. If the youth is in custody, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services shall provide the Court with suitable alternatives to confinement in Juvenile Hall. If competency is not achieved, then the Court will dismiss the petition. If the youth has re-mediated, the Court shall reinstate proceedings.

Deferred Entry of Judgment - Youth eligible for the Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) Program pursuant to WIC 790 are referred for a DEJ Assessment to determine suitability for the program. Investigations officers will report to the Court concerning DEJ suitability. If granted DEJ, youth are placed on probation without wardship for a period of no less than 12 months and no greater than 36 months. Status hearings to evaluate compliance of Court ordered probation terms are calendared every 12 months, at which time the assigned probation officer reports on the youth's progress. If, after 12 months the youth is found to be following the orders and has met all financial obligations, probation may be terminated by the Court. If, however, at any time during the DEJ term, the youth is not compliant or has committed a new law violation, DEJ status may be lifted pursuant to WIC 793, and the youth will be adjudged a ward of the Court.

Probation Without Wardship - Youth who have a sustained petition for certain misdemeanors, with less than \$1000.00 restitution, can be placed on probation for a period not to exceed six months pursuant to WIC 725. The Court may order specific terms of probation, excluding incarceration. Once granted, the matter is calendared for a Status Hearing just prior to the expiration of the probation term for a compliance report. If the youth has complied with the terms, the probation officer may submit a memorandum prior to the status review and request probation be terminated, vacating the pending status hearing. If the youth has not satisfied all the orders of the Court, the Court may adjudge the youth a Ward and place him/her on formal status for a specified term of up to their 21st birthday.

Juvenile Supervision:

Once placed on formal probation by the Court, Juvenile Supervision units are responsible for the supervision of youth and for ensuring they are following the terms and conditions of their probation. Officers are instrumental in ensuring youth enroll in a school setting and continue to work at ensuring they receive mental health services when available and necessary. Based on results from the PACT assessments, cases are determined to be low to high-risk to re-offend. Officers then work collaboratively with youth and their families to develop and fulfill their case plans. Low-risk offender caseloads have been developed to monitor low-risk and WIC 725 status youth.

The Blanton Academy is a collaboration between the Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS), KBHRS, and Probation. Students receive treatment services that include Matrix, Aggression Replacement Training, and general counseling. The three probation officers on campus focus on school attendance and behavior modification to assist in increasing successful Blanton Academy completions.

The Regional Supervision unit covers juvenile probation supervision for all regional offices in Kern County. Additionally, the unit supervises the 18-year-old caseload and regional low-risk caseload. The unit continues to utilize an evidence-based infrastructure by cultivating strategic alliances with local providers and ensuring appropriate delivery of services to youth. Additionally, the Regional unit continues to provide Aftercare services in all outlying areas for youth released from a commitment program. Officers continue to work collaboratively with local area law enforcement officers in each area and share information to stay abreast of ongoing area activity. Officers continue to utilize the department's risk/needs assessment tool to develop a case plan by identifying the top criminogenic needs of each youth and matching them with the proper referrals needed, utilizing evidence-based programs where possible. The supervisor of the Regional unit acts as the department contact for Interstate Compact. The supervisor processes all new requests for transfer between states as well as other inquiries from the State Interstate Compact office via the Juvenile Interstate Data System (JIDS).

The Placement unit is responsible for supervising youth in out of home placements and AB 12 youth. Officers must maintain monthly face to face contact with each youth in out of home placement. Placement officers are diligent in finding the least restrictive, most family like

environment possible. The ongoing implementation of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), which includes recruiting and developing Resource Families, participation in Child and Family Team meetings with allied agencies and those invested in youth's lives, and remaining aware of group home transitions to Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) remain at the forefront of Placement unit activity. The SB 163 Wraparound program is a family-focused, strength-based program used as an alternative to out of home care in order to provide in-home support. Screenings for this program flow through the Placement unit. It is unique in that it allows a youth to remain in their home through a foster care agency, which in turn provides intensive in-home services in a collaborative effort with Probation and KBHRS. Weekly team meetings in the youth's home are held. Additionally, one officer assigned to the Placement unit works in collaboration with KBHRS through a Mental Health Services Act funded program.

The Home Supervision program is a pre-disposition program a youth is placed on in lieu of incarceration. The Probation Department actively supervises the youth and may bring them back into custody depending on the level of violation. The Electronic Monitoring Program is for youth released early from a Juvenile Hall commitment due to high population, with ten or more days remaining on their commitment. If they violate Electronic Monitoring, they are returned to Juvenile Hall to finish their commitment. Youth leaving commitment programs on furlough release are eligible for the Electronic Monitoring Program as well.

The Juvenile Court Work Program is a frequently used option whereby the Court orders youth, as a condition of probation, to perform a specified number of community service work hours to be supervised by the Probation Department. It should be noted that some of the outlying area offices have limited Work Program sites available. There are few, and sometimes no, activities for minors with physical limitations.

The Aftercare Unit is committed to providing wards of the Juvenile Court furloughing from Kern County Probation Department custodial treatment programs with intensive supervision and referrals to community based educational and counseling programs in order to redirect delinquent behaviors. Youth are under commitment to these programs for one year, serving a portion of that time in custody and the remainder of the time on furlough release. The primary goal of the Aftercare Unit is to increase efforts towards successful transitions from custody to community; geared toward eliminating the youth's criminal and delinquent behaviors that have been identified through evidence-based assessments.

The Juvenile Programming Unit (JPU) is tasked with providing evidence-based programs with the goal of decreasing recidivism in our community. Staff members have been trained in various cognitive behavioral programs and techniques including Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA), Thinking for a Change (T4C), Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), Motivational Interviewing (MI). Specific programming for Commercial Sexual Exploited Children (CSEC) include the Empowerment Project and Ending The Game (ETG). Staff are equipped to provide services proven to reduce recidivism to youth supervised by the Department while in-custody at our

detention and commitment facilities, regional offices and on site at the Juvenile Treatment Center.

The Bridges Career Development Academy serves youth on probation, primarily between ages 16-19, who have been released from Kern County Probation commitment programs and DJJ, and others who have been assessed as high-risk to re-offend. The Bridges Academy affords youth the opportunity to engage in educational programming, evidenced based programming, job development, enrichment activities, and incentive-based participation in extra-curricular activities. Incorporating a balance of accountability, redirection, and positive reinforcement through a school-based Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) model, with the overall goal of reducing recidivism and educating the students.

Garden Pathways has been awarded a contract from JJCPA Growth Funds to provide supplemental services to youth involved, or at-risk of being involved, in the Juvenile Justice System. Garden Pathways will provide best practices and evidenced based mentoring and case management services to further reduce recidivism in our community.

Juvenile Institutions:

James G. Bowles Juvenile Hall is a secure detention facility for youth who fall under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Youth detained at Juvenile Hall are alleged to have committed a law violation and are detained for the protection of themselves and/or the community. The Juvenile Hall program is structured to provide individual and group activities and a well-balanced school program. Youth are provided with the necessities of life including food, clothing, and living quarters, as well as mental health, medical, and dental care. Juvenile Corrections Officers are trained to provide support and assist youth adjusting to detention. They closely observe and document behaviors in the form of a report. This information, which might include gang affiliation or traits, disruptive behavior, quality of peer interaction, and readiness to receive instruction, is reported to officers in the Probation Department's investigative or supervision divisions.

Detention Reports are also provided to the Court, which uses it as a factor in dispositional decisions. Both the Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation Program and the Pathways Academy are located on the Juvenile Hall campus.

Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation is a 30-bed short-term in-custody program designed for youth who are on furlough release, or who are pending transfer to a court ordered treatment facility, which may include Camp Erwin Owen or the Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility. Pathways Academy is a highly structured commitment program for female offenders. Pathways Academy works collaboratively to ensure each youth successfully completes her commitment and makes a smooth transition into the community. At Pathways Academy, staff continuously strive to rehabilitate and provide resources in an effort to reintegrate youth into the community. They are provided with evidence-based services and linked with outside service organizations. The girls participate in an educational program administered by KCSOS and receive mental health services through Juvenile Probation Psychiatric Services.

The Kern Crossroads Facility is a secure residential institution with an operational capacity of

120 beds. It was created to provide a local institution option for juvenile male offenders, ages 14-18, in lieu of a Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment. The rehabilitative function of the Kern Crossroads Facility relies on a program design that includes evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy, incentives, education, work experience, vocational training, athletics, physical education, group living and a mental health counseling component. Youth attend school and participate in vocational/work programs and/or counseling when not in the classroom. The custody portion of the program is a two-tiered, 168 or 252 day program to be followed by intensive Aftercare supervision. The facility programming includes two evidence-based risk assessment tools, the PACT and the MAYSI-2 (Mental Health Screening).

In July 2021, all youth previously committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice will be committed to the Kern Crossroads Facility. The new program is modeled after the Crossroads program with modifications to account for the youth's age and length of commitment.

Camp Erwin Owen is a 125-bed juvenile forestry camp for young men ages 14-18. It is in Kernville, California, and opened in 1938 as an honor and work camp. Camp holds true to that tradition today, as staff and allied agencies provide services which promote discipline, a strong work ethic and individual responsibility. All programming is geared to provide youth with the necessary tools to remain crime free upon their return to the community. Youth attend school, participate in evidence-based treatment and contribute to the maintenance of the facility on work crews. The work crews include caring for chickens and pigs, working in the garden which produces food for the Dining Hall, as well as being assigned to kitchen, laundry, maintenance, grounds and community service projects.

Most notable at all three facility settings is the Re-entry, ADA and Programming Units (RAP). The RAP units have staff dedicated to providing additional programming to the youth in custody. The staff are not assigned to normal supervision duties, but instead offer a continuum of services to aid in their well-being and rehabilitation.

D.Comprehensive Plan RevisionsDescribe how your Plan has been updated for this year.

The community-based organization, Garden Pathways, was awarded a contract to provide mentoring and case management services to at promise and youth involved in the justice system. This change occurred to provide enhanced evidenced based resources across our continuum of juvenile services. See Part II, C for more information.

If your Plan has not been updated this year, explain why no changes to your plan are necessary.

N/A

**Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)
(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))**

A. Information Sharing and Data Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate the sharing of data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how those data are used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.

Kern County Probation has an internal case management system that allows officers to manage the juvenile probation population. The department, along with other county agencies, has been involved in the implementation process of a new system with the intent of increased integration. In addition, the department has developed an application, Juvenile Data Management (JDM), to be utilized by supervision officers. This application tracks participants in the JJCPA and YOBG programs and retains historical data for analysis.

The Department has a committee who is working with the Research and Analysis Data Unit to collect data to ensure consistency throughout the Juvenile Programs and Services Divisions. This will allow the Department to ensure reporting accuracy and provide the ability to identify trends that impact services including programs funded by JJCPA and YOBG.

The Probation Department routinely reports information in the JCPSS system and annually through the CPOC annual report, and collects monthly statistical reports from probation officers. This information is used to direct resources and helps guide decision making for the department management team.

In addition, the Superior Court has authored a Standing Order that allows for information sharing on juvenile matters between specific agencies that have a vested interest and involvement in juvenile offenders' treatment plans and rehabilitation.

B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils

Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Council (JJCC) as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code 749.22?

yes

If no, please list the current vacancies that exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies occurred, and your plan for filling them.

N/A

C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

JJCPA Funded Program(s), Strategy and/or System Enhancement

Below are JJCPA funded programs reported by the county.

Program Name:

Aftercare Program

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

The Aftercare Program will focus on youth exiting local commitment programs who have been deemed moderate or high-risk to re-offend based on the PACT assessment. Developing a plan for community re-entry prior to release and providing immediate corrective sanctions when necessary through proactive supervision serves to decrease the frequency of sustained new law violation petitions. The PACT is an evidence-based, risk/ needs assessment and case planning system implemented by Kern County Probation, in conjunction with NOBLE, to assist officers in accomplishing four basic objectives:

1. Determine level of risk for re-offending to focus resources on moderate and high-risk youth.
2. Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address youth's unique assessment profile.
3. Develop a case management plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
4. Allow managers to determine if targeted factors change because of the Court's intervention.

Philosophy

The underlying philosophy of the PACT enables the department to reduce recidivism by helping youth under supervision to increase personal accountability and make positive changes in attitudes and behavior, thereby increasing community protection.

Role of Staff

The implementation of the PACT revitalizes the role and responsibilities of staff from that of monitoring sanctions to that of an "agent of change," who models pro-social behavior and works with youth and families to reduce the risk to re-offend.

Officers will have the ability to refer youth for services available at the Bridges Academy (see YOBS section for details) and at the Probation Department's Juvenile Programming Unit (JPU). The mission of the JPU is to empower youth by providing support and intensive skill training through evidence-based practices to reduce criminal behavior for a safer community. The JPU is

designed to offer juveniles a respectful and safe environment for individualized treatment of criminogenic needs by using evidence-based and cognitive behavioral treatment models with fidelity. The treatment provided promotes accountability, development of attainable goals, and a framework for making positive changes in personal values for increased success and reduced recidivism.

Description:

Youth are under commitment to local custodial programs (Pathways Academy, Camp Erwin Owen, and Kern Crossroads Facility) for one year, serving a portion of that time in custody and the remainder of the time on furlough release. These youths are composed primarily of those who, because of their level of delinquent behavior and risk to reoffend, require intensive supervision. Aftercare caseloads are typically comprised of probationers who may be criminal street gang members or gang affiliated, violent offenders, habitual offenders and substance abusers. The primary goal of the Aftercare Program is to increase efforts towards successful transitions from custody to community; geared toward eliminating the offenders' criminal and delinquent behaviors that have been identified through evidence-based assessments.

Other responsibilities include continual monitoring of completion of Court-ordered programs, restitution payments, weekly reporting, school attendance and behavior and monitoring any new law violations. Any violations of the terms and conditions of probation, furlough terms, and new law violations may result in referrals to appropriate resources, furlough detention, the filing of a WIC 777(a) Petition, or referring the matter to the District Attorney's Office. Aftercare probation officers are also responsible for monitoring referrals made to community agencies and the documentation of all referrals to community resources, along with progress made, or lack thereof.

The Aftercare unit consists of (1) Probation Supervisor, (2) Deputy Probation Officer III and (8) Deputy Probation Officer I/II's, (1) Juvenile Corrections Officer and (1) Office Services Technician. They continue to participate in both the Review Board and Pre-Release meetings at all three facilities. These meetings give the probation officer an opportunity to have input on the services the youth will receive while in commitment and in designing an appropriate transition case plan for the youth as they re-enter our community. All Aftercare officers have been trained in Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). EPICS enhances officers' abilities to effectively engage the youth they supervise in developing skills directly tied into their criminogenic needs.

Program Name:

Juvenile Programming Unit

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Providing evidence-based treatment (EBT) to juvenile probationers from custodial to community-based sites is an effective way to target criminogenic needs and reduce recidivism. The mission of the Kern County Probation Department is to reduce the incidence and impact of criminal behavior in those we supervise. The Department has a long history of implementing policies and programs to achieve this goal. Conducting research and reviewing national best practices in the area of community corrections is vital to ensure the Department is on the cutting edge of offering the best services to the residents of Kern County. Providing evidence-based treatment (EBT) to probationers is a proven and effective way to reduce recidivism.

Description:

The Juvenile Programming Unit (JPU) is tasked with providing evidence-based programs with the goal of decreasing recidivism in our community. Staff members have been trained in various cognitive behavioral programs and techniques including Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA), Thinking for a Change (T4C), Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), Motivational Interviewing (MI), Empowerment Project and Ending The Game (ETG). Staff are equipped to provide services proven to reduce recidivism to youth supervised by the Department while in-custody at our detention and commitment facilities and on site at the Juvenile Treatment Center. The unit is currently working closely with the department's Research and Data unit by providing statistical information which will be used to track recidivism. The unit receives their referrals from Probation Officers based upon what program the Court has ordered them to complete or needs identified by their supervision officer. The JPU is designed to work rotating shifts to better meet the needs of youth. JPU staff will ideally carry a caseload of 20 youth and be required to meet with assigned youth using the EPICS model. Staff will facilitate cognitive behavioral programs, ensure accurate and timely documentation, provide consistent responses violations of the program, and strive to meet the individual needs of the youth in the program.

The Juvenile Programming Unit consists of (1) Probation Supervisor, (1) Deputy Probation Officer III, (1) Deputy Probation Officer I/II and (8) Probation Program Specialists.

Program Name:

Garden Pathways

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Positive youth development research has long demonstrated youth benefit from close, caring relationships with adults who serve as positive role models. Mentoring is an intervention strategy which provides youth with mentors who can develop an emotional bond and provide support, guidance, and opportunities to help the youth succeed. Mentoring relationships can be formal or informal with substantial variation, but the essential components include creating caring, empathetic, consistent, and long-lasting relationships, often with some combination of role modeling, teaching, and advising.

Description:

Garden Pathways will provide mentoring and case management to at promise and youth involved in the justice system. Intensive case management services will include home visits, school site visits, and appropriate linkage to services based upon their risk factors which could lead to further negative and delinquent behavior. Additional services, include housing and emergency food assistance. Mentoring services will utilize evidenced based curriculum, assist in job readiness, educational success, and college readiness. Weekly support services, community services, enrichment activities, industry recognized certification trainings and vocational trainings will also be provided to the youth. Best practices and evidenced based curriculum will include Transformative Education, Seeking Safety, Employment Strategies, and Youth on a Mission.

**Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)
(Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))**

A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

Describe your county's overall strategy for dealing with non-707(b) youthful offenders who are not eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice. Explain how this Plan relates to or supports that strategy.

Kern County Probation provides a continuum of services for minors who enter the Juvenile Justice System. The department continues to provide services to non-707(b) offenders assessed as high or moderate-risk to reoffend, utilizing a system of graduated sanctions. The department's approach to providing services to youthful offenders remains focused on the principles of effective intervention: risk, needs, treatment and fidelity. Upon being placed on probation, every youth is assessed using the PACT assessment to determine his/her risk level and top criminogenic needs. As a result, dispositional options to address the most critical needs are recommended to the Court. Case planning based on the results of the PACT assessment drives the treatment plan. Youth who remain in community supervision are directed to services available through the Probation Department's Juvenile Programming Unit and through local service providers. Youth committed to one of our in-custody treatment facilities are provided with evidence-based programming and treatment with the goal of providing a higher dosage of treatment hours to the youth with the highest probability to reoffend. Prior to release, a pre-release meeting is held with the minor and his/her parent(s), along with multidisciplinary team members who work together to determine the community re-entry plan as it relates to probation, education and mental health.

B. Regional Agreements

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported with YOBG funds.

None

YOBG Funded Program(s), Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement

Below are YOBG funded programs reported by the county.

Program Name:

Bridges Career Development Academy

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Kern County Probation is utilizing JJCPA grant funds to support two separate programs which have been identified as being essential components of the department's continuum of services. The first program is the Juvenile Programming Unit. The Juvenile Programming Unit is tasked with providing evidenced based programs with the goal of decreasing recidivism in our community. The second JJCPA funded program is the Aftercare program. Probation officers in this program provide intensive supervision and transitional assistance to juvenile offenders who have been released on furlough following successfully completing the in-custody phase of their commitment to one of our department's residential treatment facilities. Some of the juvenile offenders in the JJCPA funded programs are also youth who receive services provided in the Bridges Academy program. The coordination between the two plans occurs in that the YOBG funded services at Bridges Academy focus on assessing and treating the youth while in a specialized school setting and the JJCPA funded programs focus on the same youth when in community supervision.

Description:

The purpose of Bridges Academy is to provide a structured and supervised school environment where youth between 16 and 19 years of age can learn vocational skills, as well as life skills, while working to complete a high school degree or the equivalent with collaborative partner Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS). In addition to traditional educational opportunities, Bridges' youth also are routinely afforded opportunities to participate in enrichment activities. The school has developed a Running Team and has organized a fundraising 5K run to help offset the costs associated with students' entry fees and equipment throughout the year. The Bridges Academy Annual Open House includes a silent auction of student art projects to support the art program moving forward. Probation has contracted services through KCSOS Kern Youth @

Work program for service delivery to Bridges youth in the area of job readiness and development. The Career Associate assists the students in obtaining job readiness skills and enrolling in Bakersfield College. Specific evidence-based programming provided by the Juvenile Programming Unit includes: Motivational Interviewing, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), Thinking for Change (T4C), Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA). Daily contact and oversight with the youth are effective tools in redirecting them and preventing new law violations. YOBG funds pay for the school site and staffing, to include: (.5) Probation Supervisor, (1) Deputy Probation Officer III, (3) Deputy Probation Officer I/II's, (1) Juvenile Corrections Officer II, (1) Office Support Technician, (2) Probation Program Specialists, (1) Career Associate and (0.10) School Administrator.

Program Name:

Mental Health Services at Camp Erwin Owen and Pathways Academy

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Kern County Probation is utilizing JJCPA grant funds to support two separate programs which have been identified as being essential components of the department's continuum of services. The first program is the Juvenile Programming Unit. The Juvenile Programming Unit is tasked with providing evidenced based programs with the goal of decreasing recidivism in our community. The second JJCPA funded program is the Aftercare program. Probation officers in this program provide intensive supervision and transitional assistance to juvenile offenders who have been released on furlough following successfully completing the in-custody phase of their commitment to one of our department's residential treatment facilities. The population of juvenile offenders in the JJCPA programs are also offenders who receive services provided in the Camp Erwin Owen and Pathways Academy programs. The coordination between the two plans occurs in that the YOBG funded services focus on assessing and treating youth while they are serving a Court ordered commitment to Camp Owen and Pathways and the JJCPA funded programs focus on the same youth prior to release and when in community supervision.

Description:

Camp Erwin Owen is a 125-bed forestry camp for males, ages 14-18. The program varies in length from six months to nine months in custody. Youth receive evidence-based treatment such as Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Thinking for Change (T4C), Seeking Safety and substance abuse treatment through the Cognitive Behavior Intervention for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA) program. Youth receive these services in both group and individual therapy sessions. YOBG funds will be used to provide the identified amount of dosage treatment hours that match the youth's identified risk level and criminogenic needs, thus reducing the youth's risk to reoffend. Youth will be reviewed for the appropriate model based on the PACT assessment results.

Pathways Academy is an all-female commitment program for offenders whose ages range from 14 to 18. The program length varies from 12 to 36 weeks, which is determined at a program assessment meeting. Youth receive individual and group evidence-based services targeted to meet their criminogenic needs as identified by the PACT.

YOBG funds pay for mental health staffing at each respective facility as follows:

Camp Erwin Owen: (2) Recovery Coordinators, (1) Pre-Licensed Therapist, (1) Licensed Therapist

Pathways Academy: (.5) Therapist, (1) Recovery Specialist

Program Name:

Kern Crossroads Facility

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Kern County Probation is utilizing JJCPA grant funds to support two separate programs which have been identified as being essential components of the department's continuum of services. The first program is the Juvenile Programming Unit. The Juvenile Programming Unit is tasked with providing evidenced based programs with the goal of decreasing recidivism in our community. The second JJCPA funded program is the Aftercare program. Probation officers in this program provide intensive supervision and transitional assistance to juvenile offenders who have been released on furlough following successfully completing the in-custody phase of their commitment to one of our department's residential treatment facilities. The population of juvenile offenders in the JJCPA programs are also offenders who receive services provided in the Kern Crossroads Facility program. The coordination between the two plans occurs in that the YOBG funded services focus on assessing and treating youth while they are serving a Court ordered commitment to the Kern Crossroads Facility and the JJCPA funded programs focus on the same offender prior to release and when in community supervision

Description:

The Kern Crossroads Facility is a secure residential institution with an operational capacity of 120 beds. It was created to provide a local institution option for juvenile male offenders, ages 14-18, in lieu of a Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment. The rehabilitative function of the Kern Crossroads Facility relies on a program design that includes use of a validated risk-needs assessment tool, evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy, incentives, education, work experience, vocational training, athletics, physical education, group living and a mental health counseling component. Youth attend school and participate in vocational/ work programs and/or counseling when not in the classroom. The custody portion of the program is a two- tiered, 168 or 252 day program to be followed by intensive Aftercare supervision. The facility programming includes two evidence-based risk assessment tools, the PACT and the MAYSI-2 (Mental Health Screening). These tools identify criminogenic needs and monitor changes in behavior and attitude. Other evidence-based programs include: Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Thinking for a Change (T4C), Strengthening Families, Stages of Change and Choices and Changes.

YOBG funds pay for (3) Juvenile Corrections Officer III's and (10) Juvenile Corrections Officer I/II's who work with the youth in the program.

Program Name:

Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation Program

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Kern County Probation is utilizing JJCPA grant funds to support two separate programs which have been identified as being essential components of the department's continuum of services. One of the JJCPA funded programs is the Aftercare program. Probation officers in this program provide intensive supervision and transitional assistance to juvenile offenders who have been released on furlough following successfully completing the in-custody phase of their commitment to one of our department's residential treatment facilities. The population of juvenile offenders in the JJCPA Aftercare program are also offenders who receive services provided in the Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation (FTR) program. The coordination between the two plans occurs in that the JJDP services focus on assessing and treating youth while they are serving a short-term commitment to FTR for furlough violations and the JJCPA funded Aftercare program focuses on the same offender prior to release and after release when the youth is in community supervision.

Description:

The FTR program is a short term, 30 day maximum, in-custody program exclusively for male offenders on furlough release from Camp Erwin Owen and the Kern Crossroads Facility. The program emphasizes accountability for delinquent behaviors and assists youth in their rehabilitation. FTR commitments benefit from the daily structured routine, education and bi-weekly life and social skills groups. A bi-weekly substance abuse group and bi-monthly parents' group is facilitated by Juvenile Probation Psychiatric Services. While in the program, FTR youth are responsible for the majority of the Juvenile Hall custodial work, grounds work and assisting in the warehouse and kitchen. Once released, the continuum of care is maintained as the youth return home on a supervised Aftercare program (see JJCPA section). The program also houses and provides orientation to youth awaiting delivery to Camp Owen and Crossroads. YOBG funds pay for the staffing ratio required to supervise the youth in this program, specifically (1) Deputy Probation Officer III, (2) Juvenile Corrections Officer III's and (7) Juvenile Corrections Officer I/II positions.