

# (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. [tmilder@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:tmilder@co.slo.ca.us)

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

**[JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov](mailto: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
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### Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

- A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders
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**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.**

EXISTING YOUTH SERVICES AND RESOURCES

A. Law Enforcement

San Luis Obispo County is served by eight (8) primary law enforcement agencies whose responsibilities include addressing juvenile delinquency. The following is a listing of those agencies as well as any specific services or resources they provide that target at-risk youth, youthful offenders, and their families.

1. County of San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office

The County of San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office (SLOSO) is responsible for law enforcement in the unincorporated areas of the county and has established three separate patrol stations, one in each region of the county, for this first line law enforcement function. In addition, the SLOSO includes a School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit that serves schools throughout the unincorporated areas of the county. SROs provide ongoing support and training to specific school sites in their respective areas of responsibility, in addition to providing valuable prevention and intervention services. Prevention and intervention services include teaching Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT), an evidence-based gang and violence prevention program, in elementary schools and collaborating with other agencies to provide regional youth summer camps to supplement this classroom experience. SROs also assist in active shooter training at various school sites and the SLOSO offers active shooter training to all county law enforcement agencies. The SLOSO also runs the county's Gang Task Force (GTF), which includes four multi agency street teams, that conduct gang related criminal investigations in addition to providing valuable outreach and gang education to other law enforcement agencies as well as community organizations.

2. Arroyo Grande Police Department

The Arroyo Grande Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which include a School Resource Officer, to the City of Arroyo Grande.

3. Atascadero Police Department

The Atascadero Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which include a School Resource Officer (SRO) to the City of Atascadero.

#### 4. Grover Beach Police Department

The Grover Beach Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services to the City of Grover Beach.

#### 5. Morro Bay Police Department

The Morro Bay Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which include a School Resource Officer and Explorer program, to the City of Morro Bay.

#### 6. Paso Robles Police Department

The Paso Robles Police Department (PRPD) provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which includes two School Resource Officers, to the City of Paso Robles.

#### 7. Pismo Beach Police Department

The Pismo Beach Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services to the City of Pismo Beach, which include Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) at the local elementary school.

#### 8. San Luis Obispo Police Department

The San Luis Obispo Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which include a School Resource Officer, to the City of San Luis Obispo.

### B. Probation

The County of San Luis Obispo Probation Department includes a Juvenile Services Division that provides services across the juvenile justice continuum. This continuum includes school and community-based prevention and intervention programming, intake and court investigative activities, supervision services for youth residing in the community or in approved out of home placements, and care and control of youth detained in Juvenile Hall or committed to the Department's Coastal Valley Academy camp program. The Division is comprised of three separate units that are identified as follows:

1. Court and Prevention Services
2. Field Supervision Services
3. Placement and Commitment Services

A detailed description of the services provided by the Probation Department within the continuum of juvenile justice services in the county will be provided in the Juvenile Justice Action Strategy section of this report.

### C. Education

San Luis Obispo County is served by ten (10) school districts and three (3) charter schools, in

addition to the County Office of Education. The districts vary in size from 60 to over 10,000 students enrolled and are identified as follows:

- Atascadero Unified School District
- Cayucos Elementary School District
- Coast Unified School District
- Lucia Mar Unified School District
- Paso Robles Joint Unified School District
- Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary School District
- San Luis Coastal Unified School District
- San Miguel Joint Union School District
- Shandon Joint Unified School District
- Templeton Unified School District

The districts offer a variety of traditional and alternative educational settings for youth as well as a variety of programs to meet the needs of individual students such as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, School Attendance Review Boards, bully prevention programs, Advancement Via Individual Determination, Career Technical Education, restorative justice practices, violence prevention programs, Student Study Teams, and Individualized Education Programs and 504 Plans for students with disabilities. Therapeutic Learning Classrooms are located within the county as follows:

- Arroyo Grande (Arroyo Grande High School)
- Atascadero (San Benito Elementary School, Fine Arts Academy Atascadero High School)
- Los Osos (Los Osos Middle School)
- Morro Bay (Morro Bay High School)
- Paso Robles (Virginia Peterson Elementary School, Daniel Lewis Middle School, Paso Robles High School)
- Pismo Beach (Shell Beach Elementary School, Judkins Middle School),
- San Luis Obispo (Sinsheimer Elementary School)

The County Office of Education's (COE) responsibilities include educating specific student populations, monitoring and oversight of student academic environments, providing academic support and assistance to school districts, and implementing regional support activities. COE provides alternative education programs for youth such as the Grizzly Youth Academy Charter School and Court and Community Schools. The COE provides Intensive Therapeutic Learning Programs at Chris Jespersen School in San Luis Obispo, with one classroom for grades 3-8 and another for grades 7-12. The COE is also responsible for a county wide School Attendance Review Board.

#### D. Mental Health

The County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department's Youth Services Division provides a wide variety of mental health services with a primary goal of reducing psychiatric

symptoms/behaviors so that youth can remain safe, healthy, at home, in school and out of trouble.

- Outpatient services are provided at five main clinic sites located in Atascadero, San Luis Obispo (2) and Arroyo Grande (2). These services include assessment, individual, family and group therapy, rehabilitation services, crisis intervention, psychiatric evaluation, medication monitoring, case management, Intensive Care Coordination and Intensive Home-Based Services, and Therapeutic Behavioral Services.

- Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) teams convene in 4 areas of the county (Paso Robles, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, and Arroyo Grande) to provide various levels of service and multi-agency collaboration and coordination to seriously emotionally disturbed children and their families. The SAFE teams receive referrals and design individualized, collaborative interventions. The goals of SAFE are to reduce the number of children requiring out of home care such as foster home, congregate care or hospitalization; to reduce recidivism in Probation involved youth; to improve school attendance; and to stabilize the child in their own home. The SAFE team is comprised of staff from Behavioral Health, Social Services, Probation, Education, The Link, CAPSLO, other community agencies and the family.

- Mental Health Services Act Full Service Partnership (FSP) provides intensive community- and home-based mental health services to youth and their families. This service is provided by a contractor for the Behavioral Health Department with referrals processed through a Behavioral Health program supervisor.

- Mental health services at the Juvenile Hall provides assessment, individual therapy, rehabilitation services, crisis intervention and referrals for youth currently in the Juvenile Hall. A psychiatrist from Behavioral Health provides medication and evaluation and monitoring once a week.

- Mental health services at the Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) provides assessment, individual therapy, rehabilitation services, crisis intervention and referrals for youth currently in the CVA. A psychiatrist from Behavioral Health provides medication and evaluation and monitoring once a week.

- Mental Health Services Act School and Family Empowerment Program Provides a full array of mental health services for students enrolled in alternative education programs at Loma Vista Community School, Lopez and Leffingwell High Schools and the Grizzly Youth Academy.

- Abused Children's Treatment Program (ACTS) provides mental health services for sexually abused children, ages birth to 18, and their families. The primary goal of this program is to treat the symptoms and emotional trauma associated with sexual abuse, disclosure and court involvement, to reduce the possibility of further sexual abuse and to coordinate with other agencies in providing comprehensive services for victims and their families.

- Mental Health Services Act Latino Outreach Program provides a full array of mental health services in the community that are culturally appropriate for both adults and children.

Therapists in the program are bilingual/bicultural and work to increase access to mental health

care for monolingual Latinos and to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness and treatment amongst the Latino population.

#### E. Health

The Health Department provides a variety of confidential services available to at-risk youth, youthful offenders and their families.

- Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Services include birth control, condoms, pregnancy testing, sexually transmitted infection testing & treatment, Hepatitis C testing, and PrEP (HIV prevention). Services, testing & treatment are available by client consent starting at the age of twelve at clinics in Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo.
- Public Health Nurses are available to complete home visits for pregnant and parenting teenagers to assist them to have a healthy pregnancy, link them to community resources, assist with infant/child needs such as parenting information, growth and development assessments of their child, safe sleeping habits, feeding information, assisting with doctor's information and a variety of other topics.
- Public Health is a member of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Collaborative and the CSEC Multi-Disciplinary Team. The Public Health Nurse (PHN) is there to support the CSEC youth to make sure that his/her medical needs and questions are addressed. Referrals and resources are available to the youth as needed. If the CSEC youth is pregnant, she can be referred to the Field Nursing program and assigned accordingly to one of the PHN's. Home visits can begin and potentially continue until the child turns 3 years old.
- The Public Health Department has two PHNs assigned specifically to the foster care program. The PHN's role with probation foster youth is care coordination and medical case management. The PHN maintains the youths' health and education passports by updating them when medical information is received. The PHN also oversees and provides insight and monitoring of the psychotropic medications/JV220 process.

#### F. Social Services

In addition to the regular array of services available to the families of at-risk youth and youthful offenders through CalFresh, Cash Assistance and child welfare services programming, Social Services has an array of services available to probation youth in or at risk of foster care placement, as follows:

- The Resource Family Approval (RFA) program recruits, trains and approves prospective foster parents to provide care to youth in a home-based foster care setting.
- Intensive Services Foster Care provides resource families, foster families approved through the RFA program, with additional training and support to provide an intensive level of care to youth who are at risk of congregate care placement or who need additional support transitioning back to the community from congregate care.
- Central Case Staffing is a weekly multi-agency meeting for line level staff to discuss the needs

of foster youth on their caseloads and identify resources available to meet those needs.

- Funding for enrichment activities, can be provided to encourage youth to participate in positive pro-social activities as well as to support existing youth strengths and interests.
- Independent Living Program (ILP) services are available to all foster youth age 14-21 years old. ILP provides case management and focuses on preparing the youth for adulthood. Services provided include assistance with long term education planning, job readiness, navigating public transportation, securing housing, healthy living and more. ILP also hosts several social events each year that youth are encouraged to attend such as the popular TAYs-Giving feast, Holiday Social, and end of the year awards banquet. ILP services also include a financial stipend for youth who participate in the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Survey as well as assistance with completing the survey.
- Respite Care is available to resource families to assist them scheduling personal time needed to attend appointments or to provide them with time away from foster care responsibilities to recharge.
- College and Career Counseling is available to foster youth through a professional college and career planning specialist who will work with the youth during their high school years to identify their college and career goals and take concrete steps to meet them. Assistance provided includes choosing high school classes, applying to college, applying for scholarships, and preparing for the college years.
- An Annual Youth Wellness and Resource Fair is held for foster youth to become familiar with the resources available in the community to provide them with training and services in a variety of areas.
- The Transitional Aged Youth Financial Assistance Program (TAY-FAP) provides financial assistance to current or former foster youth participating or eligible to participate in the Independent Living Program. The special emphasis of the program is to enhance enrollment in higher education or vocational training so that the youth served become self-sufficient.
- Level Of Care (LOC) is a new state mandate put into place to standardize foster care rates across all counties. The LOC Protocol is designed to identify the needs of the foster child and the expectation of the care provider to meet those needs, and then match their needs to the appropriate rate level. The Protocol consists of five domains that cover the primary care and supervision needs of the child. The Protocol allows the Social Worker/Probation Officer to score each domain based on the child/youth's care and supervision needs to identify the appropriate Home-Based Family Care (HBFC) LOC rate, including if applicable, Intensive services Foster Care (ISFC).
- Family Finding services are specialized services provided upon request by the Probation Officer to locate family members of the probation involved youth. Family members may be invited to establish or grow their relationship with the youth, support family reunification, or provide placement for youth in need of out-of-home-care.
- ASSIST is a pilot program that provides specialized permanency supportive services to youth in

need of long-term connections, particularly those who will be stepping down from congregate care. Services include team-based permanency exploration; transition and stabilization; Family Finding; file-mining; trauma-informed psychoeducation and therapy for youth and any possible caregiver; pre- and post-placement family therapy; pre-placement visitation and normalizing activities; and flexible funding to support youth and family specific placement needs.

- The Family Urgent Response System (FURS) program provides immediate, trauma-informed services to current and former Child Welfare and Probation foster youth (and their families) up to the age of 21. Youth or caregivers are invited to call a free hotline 24/7 when seeking assistance and support during "situations of instability." These services are intended as early interventions to reduce or mitigate the need for law enforcement involvement, psychiatric hospitalization, and/or placement in congregate care; preserve the relationship between the caregiver and youth; and stabilize placement.

#### G. Behavioral Health Prevention and Outreach

The County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department, Prevention and Outreach Division provides a continuum of substance abuse treatment and education services to youth and families in the county.

- The Middle School Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) project builds resiliency while reducing risk factors and stressors among students. Student Assistance Programs (SAP) are established at selected middle schools including Atascadero Junior High School, Lewis Middle School, Flamson Middle School, Judkins Middle School, Los Osos Middle School, Laguna Middle School, Mesa Middle School, Paulding Middle School, Santa Lucia Middle School, Lillian Larsen School, Shandon Middle School School and Templeton Middle School. The PEI SAP programs include a Student Support Counselor, a Family Advocate and a Youth Development Program (Friday Night Live).

- School Site Prevention and Early Intervention Counseling is provided for selected students in middle and high school exhibiting risk indicators consistent with children of addiction. Counselors work directly with at-risk youth through student support groups, individual counseling, classroom presentations, parenting programs, and assessments and referrals. School sites include Cappy Culver/Lillian Larsen, Coast Union High School, Morro Bay High School, Pacific Beach High School, San Luis Obispo High School, and Templeton High School.

- Drug Medi-Cal on Campus allows for substance abuse treatment to adolescents in a school environment at Loma Vista Community School to provide greater access to treatment services.

- Friday Night Live (FNL) is a school-based universal prevention program at every high school and middle school in the county. All programs provide participants with a safe environment and opportunities for involvement and connection with community and schools, opportunities for leadership and advocacy, opportunities to engage in skill building activities, and opportunities to develop caring and meaningful relationships with youth and adults.

- Preventive Health Grant (PHG) programs link individuals and families with services to prevent

the progression of substance abuse among vulnerable community members. Services include school site prevention counseling, outreach to youth and local students, education for families regarding addiction prevention, and family strengthening activities that reduce risk factors and promote protective factors. Currently, the PHGs serve the communities of Cambria and San Miguel.

- Youth and Family Substance Abuse Treatment Services are provided at Drug and Alcohol Services clinics in Atascadero, Grover Beach and the Prevention and Outreach clinic in San Luis Obispo. Clinicians provide substance use disorder screening, intervention, and treatment for Drug Medi-Cal eligible youth and their families.
- Co-Occurring Treatment for Adolescents is provided for youth entering the Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder treatment programs who have a dual-diagnosis.

#### H. District Attorney

The County of San Luis Obispo District Attorney's Office (SLODA) is responsible for prosecuting crime and protecting victim rights in the County of San Luis Obispo. One Deputy District Attorney (DDA) is assigned specifically to juvenile delinquency court and works closely with the Probation Department and other local law enforcement agencies to coordinate the filing and prosecution of juvenile offenses. This DDA represents the SLODA in all juvenile delinquency court proceedings and also facilitates regular School Resource Officer meetings that are open to area law enforcement agencies. These meetings provide a valuable venue for the sharing of juvenile justice information such as legal updates, recent trends and available resources.

This DDA also coordinates victim involvement in juvenile delinquency court proceedings through the department's Victim Witness Assistance Center. Victim Witness services are often accessed by at-risk juveniles and their families as they have frequently been the victims of crimes themselves. These services include but are not limited to linkage to therapeutic services as well as support in obtaining restitution for losses or damages incurred.

The SLODA also provides annual juvenile legal update training to the Probation Department as well as training as needed to other local law enforcement agencies. In addition, the SLODA supports a vertical prosecution strategy for gang involved cases by providing an identified prosecutor and investigator to work with the Gang Task Force in the county.

#### I. Public Defender

San Luis Obispo Public Defenders represent youth at all stages of juvenile court proceedings, beginning with initial hearings, either detention or jurisdiction, contested hearings or resolution, disposition and post-disposition. Defenders represent the youth's expressed interest at all stages. The approach is holistic, looking beyond the petition allegations to the youth's home circumstances, school records, mental health, immigration status, and other relevant aspects of the youth's life.

## J. Other Services Resources

### 1. Aaron's Boys Home

A Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) located in the City of Atascadero that serves male youth who are wards or dependents of the juvenile court. The program provides treatment, education, recreation and reunification services.

### 2. Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Provides community and school-based mentoring programs for youth in the county with offices in San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles.

### 3. Boys and Girls Club

Provides after school programs for youth 6-17 years of age with a focus on academic success, character development, good citizenship and healthy lifestyles. Clubs are located in Atascadero, Oceano and Paso Robles.

### 4. Center for Family Strengthening

In their role as the designated Child Abuse Prevention Council of San Luis Obispo County, Center for Family Strengthening (CFS) serves as the nonprofit home for prevention programs such as the Child Advocacy Center, Parent Connection, Promotores Collaborative and The Link Family Resource Center. Their goal is to build programs to keep children and youth safe with their families, not from their families, and ensuring strong families is a priority in San Luis Obispo County.

### 5. Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo (CAPSLO)

CAPSLO Family and Community Support Services Division partners with county agencies including Social Services, Probation and Behavioral Health to provide countywide prevention services.

- Family Preservation Program and In-Home Parenting Education helps families who are struggling to meet basic needs, experiencing co-parenting challenges or need parenting education by providing assistance with basic necessities such as food, clothing and household resources as well as in-home parenting sessions and support accompanied with linkage to additional resources and referrals as needed.
- Positive Opportunities for Parenting Success (POPS), Supporting Father Involvement program seeks to enhance the father-child relationship as well as the quality of the father's relationship with the child's mother through the provision of weekly parent educator led groups and family advocate support for assistance with additional needed resources.
- Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE). CAPSLO provides family advocates and case management to support the SAFE teams in South County, San Luis Obispo/Coast and

North County to help families access services and monitor services that are provided to families. Family Resource Centers provide assistance with accessing basic needs resources and are located in the cities of Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Los Osos, Nipomo, Oceano, Paso Robles and San

Luis Obispo.

#### 6. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

CASA provides a variety of services to at-risk and delinquent youth.

- A CASA Educational Advocate provides support and advocacy for probation referred youth and their families to ensure appropriate education services are provided and the youth is connected to appropriate resources. The advocate prepares reports on the youth's educational status for the court and at times is appointed as a youth's educational representative.
- CASA Mentorship is a program developed to assist young adults transitioning to adulthood out of foster care and serves both delinquency and dependency court involved foster youth. The program matches a mentor with a youth to provide the youth with a committed, caring adult and role model to help guide the youth during this difficult time of transition.
- CASA Advocacy provides trained volunteers to advocate for dependency and delinquency court youth by meeting with the youth regularly and gathering information from the agencies and individuals involved with the youth to provide comprehensive information and recommendations to the court. While assigned in the dependency court, these advocates stay involved with the youth if the youth transitions to the delinquency court and fall under the supervision of the Probation Department.

#### 7. Creative Mediation at Wilshire Community Services

Creative Mediation provides an array of free mediation services to youth and families experiencing conflict through the Restorative Dialogue Program. Primary service components include Parent Teen Mediation, Youth Conflict Mediation, Restorative Conferences, and Resource Coordination. Services are intended to prevent involvement in the justice system or prevent those already in the system from further escalation. Services are easily accessible through a variety of referral sources including probation, child welfare, schools, law enforcement, parents and self-referral.

#### 8. Department of Rehabilitation

Provides services and advocacy for individuals with disabilities including career counseling, supported employment programming and independent living. Services can be provided to qualifying juvenile justice involved youth, including those detained in Juvenile Hall or the Coastal Valley Academy.

#### 9. Eckerd Connects Workforce Development for Young Adults

Helps young adults, ages 16-24, who are not attending school and have challenges getting or

keeping a job, prepare for college or a career. Services include job readiness training, GED and high school diploma assistance, national certifications, internships, paid work experience, leadership and soft skills training.

#### 10. Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI)

Partners with county and private agencies to provide a wide variety of services for youth and families in the community.

- Foster Care Programs include Basic Foster Care, Emergency Shelter Care, Intensive Services Foster Care, Wraparound Foster Care, Transitional Housing Placement Program for Minor Children (THPP-M), Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THPP-NMD) and Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP+).
- FCNI's Familia de Novo Wraparound Program partners with Social Services, Probation and Mental Health to provide intensive and coordinated home based services to keep families together whenever possible and prevent congregate care. Services can be provided in a parent/caregiver home, foster home, transitional host family or in a transitional housing apartment setting with a residential assistant.
- Children and Youth Full Service Partnership (FSP) is modeled and built upon strengths and success of the current Children's System of Care (SOC) and Wraparound Programs. Services for participants may include individual and family therapy, rehabilitation services, case management, crisis services and medication supports.
- The Transitional Aged Youth Full Service Partnership (and housing) provides wraparound like services and includes intensive case management, housing and employment linkages and supports, independent living skill development and specialized services for those with a co-occurring disorder.
- The Independent Living Program (ILP) provides services to current or former foster youth age 14-21 in partnership with Social Services and Probation. Services include assessment, skill development training, coaching and individual learning activities, group life skill classes and trainings, job resource development, job shadowing, and college preparation and participation.
- FCNI is a contracted provider for the County Behavioral Health Department to provide Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) to youth meeting the criteria for these services. ICC provides cross agency collaboration in care and planning of services IHBS are intensive mental health services that are individualized and strength based to help youth and their parents/caregivers achieve the goals and objectives of the plan developed through the child and family teaming process. TBS are intensive one-to-one mental health interventions designed to help youth and their parents/caregivers manage behaviors utilizing short term, behavioral interventions.
- Treatment Services in the Probation Department's Coastal Valley Academy camp commitment program are supported by an FCNI case manager who facilitates group sessions of the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute - Comprehensive Curriculum (UCCI-CC) and

provides additional support to youth and families participating in the program.

- The Housing Support Program (HSP) and Family Unification Program (FUP) are additional resources available to justice involved youth depending on individual case criteria. HSP provides support services for homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless families. Services include safe housing, one-on-one guidance, life skills development and community linkage. FUP provides additional support services for homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless families or youth.

- Bringing Families Home (BFH) is a program launched in partnership with Social Services in 2017. The Purpose of BFH is to reduce the number of youth in the foster care system by connecting homeless families with affordable and stable housing when the lack of safe housing is the greatest barrier to family reunification.

#### 11. Restorative Partners

Serves offenders and others impacted by crime in partnership with county and state agencies, with a focus on institutional and re-entry services. Youthful offender services include comprehensive volunteer programming in the Juvenile Hall and Coastal Valley Academy such as tutoring, religious services, art, creative writing, sports programming, bible study, meditation, Alcoholics Anonymous, chess club, and the Anti-Violence Program.

#### 12. Transitions Mental Health Association Youth Treatment Program (YTP)

A Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) located in the City of San Luis Obispo that serves male and female youth who are wards or dependents of the juvenile court. The program provides trauma informed treatment in a highly supportive and supervised environment.

#### 13. Seneca Family of Agencies San Luis Obispo County

Provides supportive services for children and youth, foster and adoptive families, and relative caregivers, with a focus on supporting or achieving permanency for every child. Services include outpatient mental health, foster care, adoption, support groups, and parent education.

### IDENTIFIED SERVICES AND RESOURCES GAPS

In early 2018, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) conducted a comprehensive review of the above array of services and resources available to at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families by regional availability as well as by criminogenic need area and identified the following gaps/needs.

- Enhanced community diversion services
- Regionally delivered evidence based cognitive behavioral group interventions
- Improved family engagement in juvenile justice system
- Mentoring services for juvenile delinquency involved youth

- Educational/vocational services for high school graduates in juvenile hall
- Consistency of School Resource Officer (SRO) services across all school districts
- Increased capacity of home-based foster care
- Behavioral Health (DAS and MH) youth services in the City of Paso Robles
- Family conflict/restorative justice services in North County
- Youth feedback and input in service delivery
- Improved understanding of juvenile justice system across agencies

Several of these service gaps have been addressed with additional resources in the intervening years and included in subsequent annual plans. For instance, Probation refocused staffing efforts on diversion programming, implemented regional Forward Thinking Journaling groups, expanded restorative justice programming, with a specific focus areas of North County and expanded educational opportunities for high school graduates in Juvenile Hall.

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

The County of San Luis Obispo has a history of collaboration and integration in service delivery to at-risk youth, youthful offenders and their families. The approach used is having regular meetings with all stakeholders across a wide breadth of service delivery areas as well as holding interdisciplinary trainings and combining resources for collaborative programming. In April of 2021, the County finalized a Memorandum of Understanding between entities serving children and youth in foster care pursuant to the requirements in Assembly Bill (AB) 2083.

Some examples of collaborative meetings, trainings and programming include the following:

Inter-agency Meetings

- Alternative Education Operations Committee
- Anti-gang Commission
- Children's Services Network
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Collaborative
- CSEC Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Gang Task Force Inter-agency
- Human Trafficking Task Force
- Inter-agency Placement Committee
- Juvenile Justice Commission
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- Juvenile Probation and Social Services Quarterly Management
- Juvenile Stakeholders Advisory Committee
- Pathways to Well Being/Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Stakeholders
- Quarterly Inter-agency
- School Attendance Review Board (SARB)
- School Resource Officer
- Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE)
- SAFE Management Support Team
- System of Care Inter-agency Team (SOCIT)

Example: The System of Care Inter-agency Team (SOCIT) was created as part of the County's implementation of AB 2083, which required each county to create an inter-agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for those entities serving children and youth in foster care. The SOCIT consists of representatives from system partners who entered into the AB 2083 MOU and supports the mission and goals of the MOU as well as provides direct management and operation of the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Children's System of Care.

## Interdisciplinary Trainings

- Active School Shooter
- Child and Family Teaming (CFT)
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Joint Quarterly Inter-agency Training (New AB 2083)
- Juvenile Probation Overview for Social Worker Induction Classes
- Juvenile Legal Update from District Attorney's Office
- Mandated Reporting
- Mental Health First Aid
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Safety Organized Practice (SOP)
- Trauma Informed Care

Example: As part of the AB 2083 MOU creation and implementation process, The Department of Social Services, the Probation Department and Behavioral Health agreed to create, coordinate and deliver a joint quarterly training for new and existing staff of each agency that covers an overview of the roles and responsibilities of each agency, the Integrated Core Practices Model and Trauma Informed Care principles.

## Collaborative Program Endeavors

- Coastal Valley Academy
- Court and Community School
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Services
- Drug and Alcohol Services in Juvenile Hall
- Foster Parent Recruitment Retention and Support (FPRRS)
- Health and Medical Services in Juvenile Hall
- In-home Parenting Education and Support
- Inter-agency Placement Committee
- Mental Health Services in Juvenile Hall
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports in Juvenile Hall
- Resource Family Approval
- Restorative Justice Programming
- Services Affirming Family Empowerment
- Transitional Aged Youth-Financial Assistance Program
- Volunteer Programming in Juvenile Hall
- Wraparound Services

Example: Probation and Social Services collaborate in a shared Resource Family Approval

program that recruits, trains and approves prospective foster parents to provide care to youth in a home-based foster care setting. Probation conducts referral and emergency approval activities and then transitions prospective families to Social Services for completion of the approval process.

## **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.**

Most youthful offender services and resources are available across San Luis Obispo County; however, some specific areas of the county have been identified as at greater risk from juvenile crime. In reviewing delinquency referral data, the northern part of the county, and specifically the City of Paso Robles, was identified as the geographic region with the most delinquency referrals to the Probation Department in fiscal years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. As a result, priority consideration was given to this area when delivering some of the services referenced in this plan. For instance, Forward Thinking Journaling Groups are conducted in the City of Paso Robles and school districts in the northern part of the county were the first districts targeted for outreach when the Restorative Dialogue Program was expanded. Furthermore, planning efforts are underway to strengthen the Inter-agency System of Care in this area of the county, as not only are delinquency referrals higher, but child abuse referrals and substantiations are greater in the northern part of the county as well.

## 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.**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County of San Luis Obispo developed its Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) in 2000. Following changes made to JJCPA reporting requirements enacted by Assembly Bill 1998 and effective in 2017, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) conducted a thorough review of the county's existing continuum of county-based responses to juvenile crime in order to submit a consolidated plan for fiscal year 2018-2019.

The JJCC met on three occasions in early 2018, conducting an assessment of existing services, identifying focus areas for prioritization of new services and activities and developing an action plan. This process culminated with the submittal of a consolidated CMJJP for 2018-19.

In April of 2019, May of 2020, and April of 2021, the JJCC met again prior to completion and submittal of each year's consolidated plan. The group reviewed juvenile justice data points and Probation's recommended updates to the CMJJP. Members also assisted in updating the "Existing Youth Services and Resources" section of the report.

### STRATEGY

The County of San Luis Obispo uses an evidence informed and collaborative approach in addressing the continuum of juvenile delinquency responses in the county. The Probation Department serves as the primary juvenile justice agency in the county but works closely and integrates services with the many other entities serving youth and families. A risk-need-responsivity model is followed which first identifies an offender's risk to re-offend and a corresponding level of treatment aimed at reducing that risk. Next it focuses correctional treatment on criminogenic needs, those dynamic risk factors directly linked to criminal behavior. Finally, responsivity refers to maximizing the youth's ability to learn from an intervention by providing cognitive behavioral treatment and tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities and strengths of the youth.

Validated risk assessment is a key component at all stages of the process. Probation uses the Youth Level of Service - Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI) as its primary assessment tool, but incorporates other tools where needed, including the Juvenile Sex Offender Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (JSORRAT-II) and court ordered psychological evaluations. Depending on the nature of their referring offense, low risk youth are considered for admonish and closure,

referral to community services or community diversion programs where needed. Moderate to high-risk youth are targeted for more formal services and interventions.

Case plans are developed for all youth placed on court ordered supervision using Targeted Case Management practices. Case plans target the highest identified criminogenic needs by referring youth to evidence based programming. Programming is provided in collaboration with a wide variety of county agencies as well as community-based organizations. Responsivity issues are addressed through referral to cognitive behavioral interventions as well as by using motivational interviewing techniques and child and family teaming processes where appropriate. Graduated sanctions and positive reinforcement through incentives are used as responses to youths' behavior through their stages of change. Reasonable efforts are made to safely maintain youth in the community by utilizing increasingly intensive community-based services, culminating with in-home services such as Full Service Partnership, Intensive Care Coordination, or Wraparound where needed.

Community safety is emphasized through risk-based supervision and juvenile probation caseloads with low officer to youth ratios. This provides more intensive supervision for those youth who pose the greatest risk to the community. It also allows officers time to participate in child and family teaming processes and use direct officer to youth interventions such as Forward Thinking Journaling.

When removal from the home is necessary for the safety of the youth and/or community, collaborative efforts are made to provide a safe and structured environment at the individual level needed by the youth. This could include home based foster care, juvenile hall, residential treatment at the Coastal Valley Academy or in limited cases, placement in a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program. Commitment to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) - Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was previously reserved for the most serious and violent youthful offenders who posed the greatest imminent risk to the community; however, with the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 823, efforts are underway to finalize a county plan to address the needs of these youth locally based on the imminent closure of the DJJ.

County agencies and community-based organizations work collaboratively to ensure services across the continuum are evidence based, trauma informed, culturally sensitive and consider adolescent brain science.

A description of specific programming and services provided across the delinquency service continuum is listed below. Some services were reduced or paused entirely during the past year due to negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. Most impacted services have at least partially resumed. Probation made significant efforts to modify service delivery where possible, to avoid

completely shutting down some services. For instance, probation obtained loaned Chromebooks from Library Services, as well as purchased some additional ones, in order to continue to facilitate the Forward Thinking Journaling program as well as to assist youth and families in appearing for court through videoconferencing.

## CONTINUUM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY SERVICES

### A. Prevention

Probation supports comprehensive prevention services through a collaboration with Creative Mediation at Wilshire Community Services that provides restorative justice programming county wide. Referrals can be made by youth and families themselves or by staff from all variety of agencies including probation, child welfare, schools, and law enforcement. Probation provides additional prevention programming through a contract with the County Office of Education (COE) which provides a probation officer at the COE Community School campus in the county. This officer monitors attendance, addresses behavior, provides supervision, conducts truancy reduction activities and assists with casework services, including linking youth and families to services on and off campus. Probation officers are standing members on all three regional Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) teams and routinely attend School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meetings around the county. A juvenile probation supervisor also sits on the multi-agency truancy board that serves in an advisory capacity to district SARBs. Another juvenile probation supervisor sits on the county prevention strategic planning team as well as attends quarterly inter-agency prevention services meetings.

### B. Intervention

Probation has two probation officers assigned to community diversion services. These officers review out of custody referrals sent to Probation by outside law enforcement agencies to determine if referral to the District Attorney is necessary or alternative resolution such as admonish and close with referral to community services or placing the youth on a voluntary Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 654 contract is appropriate. These are the same officers that participate in SAFE and SARB so they are familiar with the at-risk youth population in the county as well as with all prevention related services.

Probation officers assigned to the Prevention and Court Services Unit investigate new intakes into the Juvenile Hall, submit detention, suitability and disposition reports to the court, and handle Home Supervision and Electronic Monitoring duties. In conducting social history investigations for the court, officers utilize a detention risk assessment, the long and short forms of the YLS-CMI, the JSORRAT II, the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE IT) and other tools such as court ordered psychological evaluations to assess risk and needs and inform recommendations to the court. A senior officer from the unit also serves as the court

officer in all juvenile delinquency proceedings to represent Probation's position on cases and assist the juvenile delinquency court judge. Case planning and service referral occurs at this intervention stage in the continuum and available services and resources include most of those previously referenced in Section A of this report, Assessment of Existing Services. Some highlighted services are mental health and drug and alcohol services, restorative justice programming, parenting education or in-home parenting support and Wraparound services. Probation also has several officers trained in Word on Street, a curriculum targeting CSEC at-risk or involved youth, that can be delivered individually or in a group setting. The Court Unit supervisor sits on the CSEC Multi-Disciplinary Team and officers from the unit also work closely with Social Services in the WIC 241.1 assessment process for youth who cross over between the delinquency and dependency systems.

### C. Supervision

Supervision services utilize a risk-based supervision model where officers are required to contact offenders at a higher frequency based on risk level. Caseload sizes are small, allowing for intensive supervision as well as participation on Child and Family Teams (CFTs). Officers perform Targeted Case Management (TCM) activities with eligible cases and conduct case plan updates and risk level reassessments at regular intervals on all supervised cases. They also utilize a graduated sanctions and incentives matrix to address behavior and Forward Thinking Journaling as an intervention with offenders in addition to referral to external providers for other evidence based programming. All of the programming identified under the above Intervention section is available to court ordered supervision cases. Special consideration is given to services such as Full Service Partnership (FSP), Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) with In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS) and Wraparound in order to provide intensive services to youth and families to exhaust all reasonable efforts before removal from the home. CFTs are utilized with all youth in foster care, the Coastal Valley Academy and those youth receiving Specialty Mental Health Services. Probation is in the process of obtaining training for two (2) probation officers to be CFT facilitators in order to extend CFTs to all youth under court ordered probation supervision. A designated probation officer also facilitates Forward Thinking Journaling groups regionally across the county.

The Supervision Unit includes a senior officer that acts as the Field Training Officer (FTO) for the Division to ensure uniform and comprehensive field training standards as well as to provide quality assurance regarding field safety activities by officers in the community. Caseloads in the unit include one gang offender caseload and two intensive caseloads targeting high risk/needs youth participating in intensive services such as Wraparound. Officers receive training at regular intervals on Motivational Interviewing, Stages of Change, and Trauma Informed Care. They have additional resources at their disposal for higher risk offenders such as Electronic Monitoring. In addition to the juvenile probation officer assigned a gang offender specific

caseload, Probation Adult Services has three officers assigned to the county Gang Task Force that conduct gang investigation and incapacitation activities.

#### D. Placement and Incarceration

The Probation Placement and Commitment Services Unit includes one probation officer assigned to work with youth in foster care and extended foster care as well as two additional officers assigned to the Coastal Valley Academy.

Foster care services are thoroughly integrated between Probation and Social Services. The departments consolidate foster care services funding, Social Services conducts most Resource Family Approval activities for both dependency and delinquency youth, and the departments share home based foster care resources in the county including shelter homes, Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) and Foster Family Agency (FFA) homes. Activities are well coordinated through regular meetings between management from both departments as well as other collaborative meetings such as the Inter-agency Placement Committee (IPC) and The System of Care Inter-agency Team (SOCIT). Foster care funding and activities that are available to foster youth from both departments include the Independent Living Program (ILP), respite care for foster parents, stipends for youth to participate in pro-social activities, combined recruitment efforts and an annual Youth Wellness and Resource Fair. Limited capacity for home based foster care for teenage youth continues to be a resource gap and area of focus for both departments. As a result, Probation has included a strategy in the recently completed 2020-21 Child and Family Services Review System Improvement Plan to develop a specialized foster home for high needs probation foster youth.

Youth who require removal from the home who cannot be safely provided treatment and programming in a home-based foster care environment are served in the Coastal Valley Academy (CVA). CVA is a camp commitment program run by probation which provides residential treatment for wards of the delinquency court. The program serves youth aged 14 to 17 who previously would likely have been sent to group homes or Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). Probation partners with Behavioral Health, the Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI) and the County Office of Education (COE) to provide intensive treatment, educational and recreational services to youth. Treatment includes trauma focused cognitive behavioral individual and family counseling as well as a youthful offender curriculum called the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute Cognitive Behavioral Interventions: A Comprehensive Curriculum (CBI-CC). Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) are used in the classroom and living unit and the youth participate in regular recreational and community programming such as "Run Club", community work service activities and local community fun runs and events including the Miracle Miles for Kids Run/Walk fundraiser. The goal of CVA is to safely return youth to the community after reducing their risk of future

delinquent behavior by improving their reasoning and avoidance skills and providing them with positive pro-social replacement activities.

Probation also runs the San Luis Obispo County Juvenile Hall which provides traditional detention incarceration services for youth undergoing delinquency court proceedings as well as for youth serving periods of post disposition custody commitment. The Juvenile Hall collaborates with multiple county and outside agencies to provide comprehensive services to incarcerated youth. COE provides Juvenile Court School services, in both CVA and Juvenile Hall, which include dually (general education and special education) credentialed teachers and Behavior health Specialists, as well as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. A mental health therapist from the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) works with youth who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans. Probation contracts with Behavioral Health to provide mental health assessment, crisis intervention, psychotropic medication, and linkage to community-based services prior to release. Public Health provides medical staffing which includes a nurse or nurse practitioner on duty 15.5 hours a day. Restorative Partners, a local non-profit, provides comprehensive volunteer services that include pro-social and skill building activities highlighted by programming including tutoring, religious services, art, creative writing, sports programming, bible study, meditation, Alcoholics Anonymous, chess club, book club, guitar lessons, and the Anti-Violence Program. Outside community-based organizations such as Eckerd and the Department of Rehabilitation provide intermittent vocational services. Due to an identified gap in programming for high school graduates, all youth now have access to COE funded "Learn to Earn" electronic tablets. These tablets provide educational learning modules as well as electronic recreational options in a safe, structured and incentivized manner. High school graduates have access to college courses through the Modern States program.

At the height of the incarceration continuum, the probation officer who facilitates the Forward Thinking Journaling Program also conducts case management on youth requiring commitment at the State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). This officer visits youth at their assigned DJJ location on a quarterly basis and supports case planning, intervention, and reintegration planning for these youth, so they are prepared for their ultimate return to the community, and completes their post release disposition reports. When the youth return to the community, this same officer conducts post release supervision if the youth remains under juvenile delinquency court jurisdiction. With the planned closure of DJJ and other changes resulting from SB 823, the county is finalizing a plan to address the needs of these youth locally. This plan includes use of both the Juvenile Hall and Coastal Valley Academy, as well as yet to be identified Secure Youth Treatment Facilities in other counties, for housing of this realigned youth population when necessary. The probation officer previously identified will continue to supervise these youth.

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

Minimal updates have been made to this year's plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as a more pressing need to focus on developing a Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan as required by SB 823. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) reviewed the "Existing Youth Services and Resources" section of the annual report and provided updates where needed. In addition, in October 2020, the JJCC reviewed juvenile justice related data including school enrollment numbers, juvenile arrests, law enforcement referrals to probation (by overall number and agency/region), and probation supervision information. The JJCC also reviewed and approved a change to the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) components of the plan, redirecting some JJCPA funding away from a school-based prevention program. This change was made because of the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the schools' ability to provide on-site prevention programming as well as the positive impact of expanded availability of the Restorative Dialogue Program to provide replacement services.

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

Not applicable. Some updates have been made.

**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.**

The Probation Department's internal case management system (CMS) is called Monitor. Monitor houses an array of information covering juvenile bookings and detention, referrals and court processes and informal and formal grants of supervision. Data elements extracted from Monitor provide quality assurance and management oversight for evidence-based practices within community corrections. Along with supervision practices, enrollment and retention in supportive services and recidivism measures are monitored in Juvenile Probation STAT meetings. Annually, juvenile performance measures are shared with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the County Board of Supervisors and with the wider community through Probation's Annual Statistical Report. This report was not completed during fiscal year 2020-21 due to involved staff being reallocated to disaster service worker assignments due to COVID-19.

Outside of this regular data review, Probation conducts additional stakeholder feedback measures such as the Juvenile Supervision Services Survey, which gathers input from parents after their child's juvenile probation case is closed. Additionally, Probation uses the Texas Christian University Criminal Thinking Survey (TCU-CTS), as a pre and post-program survey of juvenile offenders assigned to the Coastal Valley Academy (CVA). Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), utilized in both the Juvenile Hall and CVA, includes quarterly data-based progress reviews.

Additionally, information from Monitor is part of an integrated Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) that allows for the sharing of criminal and juvenile justice information amongst justice partners including the Court, Probation, District Attorney, Sheriff's Office, and local law enforcement agencies. While each main justice agency has their own information system, these systems exchange information through a central CJIS hub and the information then becomes accessible to the justice partners through a multi-agency portal.

Probation enters state and federally mandated information into the Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CWS/CMS) on all probation foster youth. SafeMeasures is a reporting service shared by Social Services and Probation that compiles foster care information pulled from CWS/CMS into a variety of user-friendly reports that are used to measure foster care service delivery and outcomes such as placement stability and reunification rates. California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) is a longitudinal data system used by schools that is available not only for state and federal reporting but also accessible for review at the county level. For instance, data on middle and high school enrollment were reviewed by the

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council this year.

Information sharing and data review occur in other manners within the county as well, including through mechanisms such as the COE Annual Education Report, The California Department of Education Schools Dashboard, the SLO County Healthy Kids Survey, the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Community Services Assessment (CSA) Report, System Improvement Plan (SIP) and SIP Annual Reports.

## **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.**

There are no vacancies on our Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

## **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:**

Restorative Dialogue Program

## **Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

According to a 2006 report by the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking, studies have shown that Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD)/Victim Offender Mediation (VOM) participants have high rates of satisfaction with the service and their experience in the criminal/juvenile justice system overall. Of those cases that reached a meeting between victim and offender, typically 90% or more reached agreements and in 80-90% of those cases, contracts were reported as completed. A meta-analysis of fourteen juvenile specific studies by Nugent, Williams and Umbreit (2003), found that VOM youth recidivated at a statistically significant 26% lower rate than non-VOM youth and when they did reoffend, they committed less serious offenses than their counterparts.

## **Description:**

Probation contracts with Creative Mediation at Wilshire Community Services to provide restorative justice programming to probation involved youth. The program was expanded over the past two years due to additional grant funding received. The primary service components include Restorative Conferences, Parent Teen Mediation, Youth Conflict Mediation and Resource Coordination. The program accepts referrals from all variety of referral sources including probation, child welfare, law enforcement, schools, families and even self-referral from youth.

**Program Name:**

Community Diversion

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

- Crossroads Study on Formal versus Informal Processing in the Juvenile Justice System
- Adolescent Diversion Project (Michigan State University)

**Description:**

Probation has two probation officers assigned to community diversion services. These officers review out of custody referrals sent to Probation by outside law enforcement agencies to determine if referral to the District Attorney is necessary or alternative resolution such as admonish and close with referral to community services or placing the youth on a voluntary Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 654 contract is appropriate. Officers use an evidence-based assessment tool, the Youth Level of Service Short Version (YLS-SV), to aid in case processing decisions and broker resources to youth and families wherever needed. They also participate in regional SAFE and SARB meetings, which makes them familiar with the at-risk youth population in the county as well as with all prevention related services. Planning is currently underway for these officers to be trained as Child and Family Team (CFT) facilitators. This will allow Probation to incorporate CFTs for all youth under court ordered supervision. Having a neutral CFT facilitator, instead of having the case carrying officer or social worker facilitate CFT meetings, is a recommended best practice.

**Program Name:**

Juvenile Intensive Caseloads

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Juvenile intensive caseloads with low officer to youth ratios and supervision services supplemented by intensive home-based services allow for high-risk offenders to be maintained in the community. Small caseloads allow time for greater levels of contact between officer and youth/family, including participation in promising practices such as Child and Family Teams and Wraparound services. It also allows time for greater engagement between officer and youth using evidence-based practices such as motivational interviewing and best practices such as collaborative case planning. Furthermore, it adheres to the risk principle of providing the most intensive supervision and services to those at higher risk of recidivism.

**Description:**

Juvenile probation officers with intensive caseloads are assigned less than 25 youth each. Resulting standards and expectations include frequent contact with the youth/family, regular case plan updates and risk level reassessments and referral to interventions targeting the youth's highest criminogenic needs at a dosage commensurate to the youth's risk level. Officers are required to participate in Child and Family Teams and are trained in Motivational Interviewing, Stages of Change, Trauma Informed Care and Forward Thinking Journaling in order to assist them in engaging with youth and family to best facilitate positive behavior change.

**Program Name:**

Forward Thinking Journaling program

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Forward Thinking is an interactive journaling series that uses evidence informed practices by incorporating content from cognitive behavioral therapy and using motivational interviewing to provide interventions for youth in the most common areas of criminogenic need. This intervention provides standardized material and delivery techniques to use expressive writing exercises and guided discussions to enhance motivation and elicit behavior change.

**Description:**

The Probation Department has in-house trainers who provide Forward Thinking Journaling training to all case carrying juvenile probation officers. The officers in turn can use any of eight (8) different journals to target specific criminogenic need areas identified in individual offenders through assessment with a validated risk assessment tool. A designated probation officer provides ongoing small group facilitation for moderate to high-risk offenders newly placed under court ordered supervision. Specific journals used include "What Got Me Here" and "Responsible Behavior", with the youth also completing an "Individual Change Plan" during time in the group activity. This provides a platform for the assigned probation officers to further use other journals in the series as needed during the course of the youth's supervision as well as provides officers with additional tools such as "Behavior Check Sheets".

**Program Name:**

Coastal Valley Academy

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) uses an evidence-based curriculum designed for justice involved youth who are at moderate to high risk for re-offending. The curriculum was developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute and is called Cognitive Behavioral Interventions: A Comprehensive Curriculum (CBI-CC). This curriculum uses a cognitive behavioral approach to teach strategies for identifying and managing risk factors and places emphasis on skill building activities.

**Description:**

CVA is a camp commitment program run by Probation that provides residential treatment for wards of the delinquency court. The program serves as an alternative to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). The goal of the program is to safely return youth to the community after reducing their risk of future delinquent behavior by improving their reasoning and avoidance skills and providing them with positive pro-social replacement activities. JJCPA funds support some staffing and services for the program, including case management services provided by a local community-based organization as well as the above mentioned CBI-CC.

**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.**

San Luis Obispo County's strategy for dealing with non-707(b) youthful offenders is similar to the overall Juvenile Justice Action Strategy identified in Section C of this consolidated plan. It includes validated risk and needs assessment, individualized case planning targeting a youth's highest criminogenic need areas with evidence informed interventions, effective engagement with youth using motivational interviewing skills as well as incentives and graduated sanctions, risk-based supervision, intensive supervision of high risk offenders, and the provision of readily available and easily accessible intensive home-based services. This allows for reasonable efforts to be exhausted before removing youth from their homes. Should removal be necessary, the strategy includes short term detention in Juvenile Hall when needed, with services available to them during their period of incarceration.

For those youthful offenders that need an extended period of removal for residential treatment, a recommendation will be made for the Probation Department's Coastal Valley Academy, a camp commitment treatment program connected to the Juvenile Hall, in lieu of congregate foster care placement. This program provides comprehensive services and supports in a secure setting, while keeping youth closer to home and therefore better connected to their families and community. This plan supports that strategy by helping to fund key components such as intensive gang supervision, electronic monitoring where needed, and Juvenile Hall and Coastal Valley Academy treatment services.

**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:**

Gang Supervision

## **Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The probation officer assigned to the juvenile gang caseload is part of the Field Supervision Unit and works closely with other intensive supervision officers as well as refers cases to Forward Thinking Journaling Groups or facilitates individual journals with youth as needed.

## **Description:**

One probation officer is assigned to an intensive caseload (25 youth or less) that primarily includes youth on probation who have been identified as at risk of gang involvement, associated with gang members or currently a member of a gang. This officer received specialized training in local and statewide gang issues and trends and works in conjunction with probation officers on the county-wide gang task force when needed for investigation or suppression purposes. The small caseload size allows the officer to work closely with youth and families, including spending time in the activities referenced with other intensive caseloads such as frequent contact and referral to intensive services. The assignment also requires use of evidence based and best practices such as risk assessment, case planning and participation in child and family teaming processes.

**Program Name:**

Electronic Monitoring

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Electronic Monitoring is used in the intervention and supervision phases of the juvenile justice continuum where needed. This includes with youth on JJCPA funded intensive caseloads as well as in conjunction with JJCPA funded services such as Forward Thinking Journaling.

**Description:**

Probation uses Electronic Monitoring (EM) to supplement home supervision as well as post disposition supervision of wards of the delinquency court, including offender populations of heightened community safety risk such as gang offenders, sex offenders and serious violent felony offenders released from county or state custody facilities. EM can be used as a graduated sanction and alternative to detention in a custody facility. It allows for enhanced supervision and accountability through global positioning capacity that can monitor a youth's constant whereabouts including verifying that they are remaining at home when required and staying away from excluded areas such as the homes of victims or other designated areas. It also allows youth to remain in the community and engaged in positive pro-social activities such as sports and jobs when a response is warranted but 24-hour secure detention is not necessary.

**Program Name:**

Coastal Valley Academy

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) is integrated with the rest of juvenile probation services, as it provides for a safe and secure residential environment for juvenile offenders to receive intensive treatment services when they cannot be safely maintained in the community. Both YOBG and JJCPA funds support elements of the CVA program.

**Description:**

CVA is a camp commitment program run by Probation that provides residential treatment for wards of the delinquency court. The CVA serves as a secure alternative to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) as well as an option for youth adjudicated for serious violent felonies that do not require long term confinement such as that provided at the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The goal of the program is to safely return youth to the community after reducing their risk of future delinquent behavior by improving their reasoning and avoidance skills and providing them with positive pro-social replacement activities. YOBG funds support some staffing and services for the program, including trauma focused cognitive behavioral treatment from Behavioral Health staff.