



EMPLOYMENT

SOLANO COUNTY



2023 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)
Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

<https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/probation>

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INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) program was created by the Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Chapter 353) to provide a continuous revenue source to counties for local juvenile justice programs that have proven effective at reducing recidivism and delinquency among at-risk youth. JJCPA funding supports prevention and intervention strategies that provide for a continuum of responses with a collaborative and integrated approach for implementation.

Assembly Bill 1998 (Chapter 880, Statutes of 2016) was enacted with legislation taking effect on January 1, 2017, addressing the reporting requirements for JJCPA and the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG). YOBG funding was implemented to enhance the capacity of local communities to provide an effective continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency. Services seek to enhance the capacity of county probation, mental health, behavioral health, and other agencies to provide appropriate rehabilitative and supervision programs to youth who are no longer eligible for commitment to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and must be supervised locally. This legislation requires counties to submit the most recent version of its Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). The below JJCPA-YOBG annual plan reflects the updated services and supports funded with JJCPA and YOBG funding to provide preventative and rehabilitative services to at-risk and justice involved youth.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Solano County has a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Council as prescribed by California Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) 749.22. The Solano County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) is funded by the State of California, in recognition of the need for resources and the value of local discretion and multiagency collaboration in addressing the problem of juvenile crime in communities. Solano County government agencies and community-based organizations play a critical role in delivering the determined services. Members of the JJCC include the Chief Probation Officer as Committee Chair, and one representative each from the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Department, Board of Supervisors, Health and Social Services Department, a community-based drug and alcohol program, a city police department, County Office of Education or a school district, and an at-large community representative. The Coordinating Council also includes representatives from nonprofit community-based organizations providing services to youth.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Members

Krishna Abrams, District Attorney

Linda Connelly, Community Based Organization Representative

Elena D'Agustino, Public Defender

Terrye Davis, Juvenile Court Judge

Leticia De La Cruz, Mental Health Services Administrator, Behavioral Health

Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools

Tom Ferrara, Sheriff/Coroner

Erin Hannigan, 1st District Supervisor

Christopher Hansen, Chief Probation Officer (Chair)

Julie Hilt, Member of the Public

Dan Marshall, Chief, Fairfield Police Department

Neely McElroy, Deputy Director, Child Welfare Services

Michael Pendergast, Member of the Public

OVERVIEW

To encourage coordination and collaboration among the various local agencies serving at-risk youth, the BSCC advises county Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils (JJCC) to review and update the county's juvenile justice plan, as necessary, each year. This document will provide an overview of the JJCPA and YOBG plan, a review of ongoing efforts toward meeting action plan recommendations, goals and objectives, strategies that are being deployed or are being planned, and summaries of spending plans.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1998 Consolidation

Assembly Bill 1998 combined reporting requirements for the JJCPA and the YOBG programs. As of January 1, 2018, counties may submit a consolidated annual plan describing the programs, placements, strategies, services, and system enhancements supported by either JJCPA or YOBG funding. This report is Solano County's 2023 consolidated comprehensive juvenile justice plan.

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

JJCPA was created by the Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Chapter 353) to provide a stable funding source for local juvenile justice programs aimed at reducing crime and delinquency among at-risk youth. The amount allocated is based on the county's overall population. In order to maintain program continuity in uncertain budget times, the plan recommends a minimum of 20% reserve to address unanticipated budget, program cost fluctuations, and program sustainability. This initiative involves a partnership between the State of California, 58 counties, and various community-based organizations to enhance public safety by reducing juvenile crime and delinquency.

State law requires that counties provide programs that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing delinquency. Targeted interventions that have resulted in lower crime rates among juveniles statewide include intensive family interventions, after-school programs for at-risk youth, gang and truancy prevention, job training, and diversion programs.

Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

YOBG, sometimes known as "Juvenile Realignment," was enacted in 2007 by Senate Bill 81 (SB81) (Chapter 175, Statutes of 2007) which reassigned from State to local jurisdictions control over youth that do not fall under 707(b) of the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). These youth who might have been committed to DJJ in previous years are supervised at the local level. The program has three primary goals: to reduce the number of youth in the DJJ facilities and the need for long term detention,

to reduce state costs for incarcerating lower level offenders, and to keep lower level offenders closer to home and local support systems. With the onset of SB 823, Solano County recognizes that this goal will expand as counties begin to provide alternatives to DJJ facility detention and create appropriate secure housing and programming services for this realigned population.

In recognition of the increased county responsibilities for supervising and rehabilitating youth subject to SB81, the State provides annual funding through the YOBG program. The amount allocated is based on the county’s juvenile justice population, and the number of juvenile felony dispositions. In order to maintain program continuity in uncertain budget times, the plan recommends a 20% reserve to address unanticipated budget, program cost fluctuations, and program sustainability.

Comprehensive Plan Revisions

The County developed its first Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) in 2000- 2001 in accordance with AB1913, The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA). JJCPA requires programs to be modeled on strategies that demonstrate effectiveness in curbing juvenile delinquency. Additionally, JJCPA requires counties to collect and report information related to annual program expenditures and juvenile justice outcomes. At the local level, this enables stakeholders to assess progress towards desired goals, refine their programs, and target available resources. The 2000-2001 CMJJP was updated in 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and most recently in 2022. Each subsequent report has highlighted the services currently available and provided an assessment of additional services needed. This Solano County Probation Department (Department) plan reflects recommendations from the revised 2022 CMJJP and has been updated to include service expansions and areas of enhancement for the juvenile justice systems model in the County.

The Department continues to look closely at the systems, procedures and relationships throughout the juvenile justice system. The Department continues to work diligently with members of the JJCC, The Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.) Committee, and other county and community partners to determine opportunities for improvement. The County remains committed to examining key decision making points in the system, creating culturally relevant, trauma informed, and strength-based programs and services, and incorporating both into the framework of an evidence-based Risk, Need, and Responsivity supervision model.

Toward that end, the Department embraces the long-standing, well-researched, and strength-based Youth Asset Development framework in conjunction with the Risk, Need, Responsivity model of matching treatment needs to risk of reoffending in all intensive, diversion, and prevention programs for youth touching the juvenile justice system.



EXTERNAL ASSETS

- Support
- Empowerment
- Boundaries & Expectations
- Constructive Use of Time

INTERNAL ASSETS

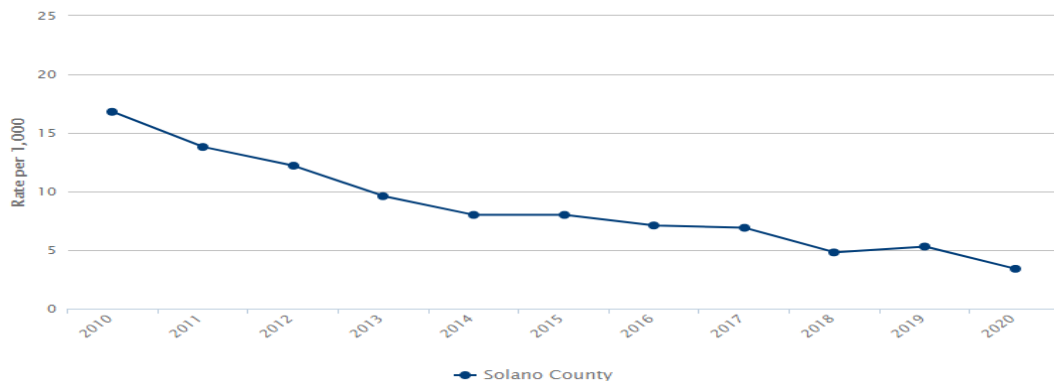
- Commitment to Learning
- Positive Values
- Social Competencies
- Positive Identity

POPULATION

Solano County has a growing and diverse population which is located in an urban-country-waterfront setting, with families located over the 909 square miles of the County. Within the county there are seven jurisdictions in addition to its unincorporated rural areas; Vallejo, Benicia, Fairfield, Suisun City, Vacaville, Dixon, and Rio Vista. The city of Fairfield is centrally located and designated as the county seat. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, the Census 2022 facts for Solano County report the total population as 447,241. According to the U.S. Census Bureau report from July 2022, the number of youth under the age of 18, within the county, maintained at 22% of the population. The median household income was \$84,638. The percentage of residents within Solano County with a household income below the poverty level is 10%.

The three largest cities (Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville), pose the most significant public safety risk and account for most arrests. The number of youth arrested within the county and coming under the jurisdiction of the Department continues to decline, now falling to less than 150 youth under jurisdiction. It is noted that after an increase in felony arrests in 2019, there has been a steady decline in the felony arrest rate, down to 3.7 per 100,000, as well as a decrease in violent offenses. The youth entering the juvenile justice system today present a complexity of needs, and pose a higher risk to recidivate, requiring significant rehabilitation needs. The Department continues to provide multiple diversion options for youth in the community, serving approximately 200 youth annually.

Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate: 2010 to 2020



Definition: Number of felony arrests per 1,000 youth ages 10-17 (e.g., in 2020, the felony arrest rate among California juveniles was 2.7 arrests per 1,000 youth ages 10-17).

Data Source: [As cited on kidsdata.org](https://kidsdata.org), California Dept. of Justice, Crime Statistics: Arrests; California Dept. of Finance, population Estimates and Projections (Dec. 2021).

ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING SERVICES

The County operates a range of prevention and diversion programs to provide intervention services at the lowest level possible. This includes services through the youth services divisions of local police departments, a community-based organization (Alternative Restorative Communities), and Probation, all intended to divert lower risk youth with a limited criminal history from entering the formal juvenile justice system. Services include mentoring, Interactive Journaling skill development activities, and

counseling, as needed. In addition, the Fairfield Police Activities League (PAL), and the Youth Achievement Centers (YAC) deliver more intensive services to at-risk youth, and those formally involved in the juvenile justice system.

A continuum of educational services is offered within the community, at the YAC, and at the JDF to ensure individual educational needs are met. Formal partnerships with the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) and Five Keys Charter School allow the Department to customize educational services to youth and increase their likelihood of graduation.

The newly updated CMJJP includes new strategies to guide the Department's full-service behavior change and positive youth development model based on the science of Risk, Need, and Responsivity, which places an emphasis on matching criminogenic needs with treatment interventions and intensity. The Department offers diversion services to appropriate youth, while referring only the highest risk youth for formal intervention. In 2014, the Department diverted approximately 4% of all juvenile arrests (52 of 1,244). With increased diversion services in place, by 2017, the number of cases diverted rose to nearly 25% of all juvenile arrests (258 of 1,021). With the decline in arrests continuing, coupled with the youth referred for services having increased risk and needs, there was a slight drop in the number of youth diverted in 2018 (173 of 815, approximately 21%). This trend continued in 2019, as the number of arrests and youth diverted again decreased slightly to 18% (128 of 727). In 2020 the number of arrests continued to decline, as well as the number of youth diverted significantly decreased to 6% (61 of 348). In 2021, with increased activity in the community post-pandemic, the number of arrests and the percentage of youth diverted increased to 8% (55 of 443).

The Department currently operates three diversion programs for youth which includes the Juvenile Community Accountability Program (JCAP), Felony and Misdemeanor Diversion Program, the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Program (MIOCR), and also funds a private diversion program. For the JCAP program, a community-based organization, Alternative Restorative Communities, facilitates diversion hearings. Youth are held accountable for their behavior and given an appropriate consequence to address their delinquent behavior. The Felony and Misdemeanor Diversion program provides diversion services for youth that are either unsuccessful in the JCAP program or need additional support. The MIOCR program provides diversion services to youth with mental health challenges. Together, these programs have contributed to a decline in the number of youth referred for formal Court action. For youth requiring the filing of a formal petition, a screening and assessment of risk and needs is completed to understand the challenges and areas of need the youth and family are experiencing. Once under jurisdiction, the Department makes every effort to remove barriers and provide interventions geared toward increasing their likelihood of success as they transition to adulthood.

The Department was recently awarded \$1.3 million dollars over a three-year period to provide prevention services as a part of the Juvenile Accountability Grant (JAG). The grant will focus on four areas: (1) Developing a plan for a one-stop Youth Prevention and Resource Center, (2) Expanding mental health services for youth on diversion as well as youth at the Juvenile Detention Facility, (3) implementing Interactive Journaling with youth in Traffic court and, (4) facilitating cannabis education workshops in partnership with the local school districts. A committee will be developed to work on the startup activities for the grant. The Department continues to focus on collaborative partnerships with external agencies to strengthen services for youth. In the Northern region of the county, the Juvenile Supervision Unit and Youth Achievement Center (YAC) were recently reunited and co-located at the Solano County Youth Services Center near the Juvenile Detention Facility. The new location is secured

with a 5-year lease and was occupied in January of 2023, providing updated space and programming opportunities for youth to engage in services. A music studio and a lounge area for youth were included in the design, as well as creative art and murals. The Youth Services Center provides a welcoming environment for youth to connect with their assigned supervision officer and to participate in a wide array of evidence-based services. The proximity to the Juvenile Detention Facility allows youth to receive services in and out of custody and increases the connection between youth and service providers to improve outcomes for youth upon their return to the community.

Community partners remain actively providing mental health, substance abuse treatment, and skill development services. Partners include: A Better Way, Seneca, Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA), Aldea, Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), and a variety of organizations who deliver specialized youth-interest workshops and programs.

IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITIZING FOCUS AREAS

The Department continues to focus on the following overarching system goals:

- Promote public safety and reduce recidivism by focusing on Positive Youth Development strategies and Evidence Based Services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system
- Utilize evidence-based assessment tools to determine supervision, treatment needs and interventions
- Develop and support effective partnerships with local agencies and community-based organizations to ensure youth and families in the County have the right supports and services to thrive

As discussed above, the updated CMJJP plan was approved by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council in November 2022. The 2022 CMJJP provides direction and guidance of juvenile justice priorities in Solano County and includes recommendations in the following areas, some of which are being addressed and/or will be implemented as outlined in the 2022 CMJJP.

Summary of CMJJP Recommendations

The CMMJJP identified short-term and long-term areas of recommendation for the next three years:

System Foundation Work Recommendations (shorter term)

1. Strengthen and solidify the plan to create the capacity to implement and prioritize the recommendations, including operationalizing JJCC's vision, establishing guiding principles, and identifying outcomes.
2. Continue implementing the Probation Juvenile Data Project Plan¹ and establish a mechanism for data sharing throughout the continuum.
3. Create a comprehensive community map of resources for youth/child/family-serving agencies in the County that depicts services for Prevention, Early Intervention, Community Based Services and Supervision, Residential Services, and Secure Care.
4. Develop a plan to provide training and education on available resources and current initiatives.
5. Explore options for sharing access to existing program services across departments, agencies, and with the community.

6. Build upon the work of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.) Steering Committee to work through recommendations of the W. Hayward Burns Institute's May 2017 Readiness Study.²
7. Develop options for involvement of individuals with a lived experience in committees and boards.

Service Continuum Work Recommendations (longer term)

8. Maximize funding through Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to add well-supported preventative services in Solano County.
9. Identify programs addressing gaps in prevention services for youth and families at the community/neighborhood level based on identified needs and strengths throughout the County.
10. Strengthen family engagement initiatives.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ACTION STRATEGIES

Risk and Needs Assessment Tool

The Department utilizes the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI), an evidence-based assessment tool used to identify and prioritize the risk factors and needs of each individual youth under supervision. Data from 2022 indicates that youth in Solano County have a myriad of needs. The Risk, Need, Responsivity model calls for the prioritization of those needs, and the matching of the right treatment intervention to address each need. While higher risk populations tend to have multiple risk factors, local assessment data demonstrates that the following issues impact justice involved youth at the highest rates:

- lack of structured and pro-social activities to fill idle time
- association with other individuals who are justice involved and/or affirm anti-social behavior choices
- challenging family circumstances and lack of parenting
- demonstration of anti-social attitudes
- lack of educational supports and underdeveloped employment skills
- use of illicit substances, most often reporting marijuana as their drug of choice

Risk Need Responsivity Model (RNR)

The **Risk Principle (WHO)** is the prioritization of supervision and treatment services for clients at a higher risk of reoffending. Shifting resources to these clients results in much greater gains in public safety, while targeting clients with lower risk factors can increase their likelihood of recidivism. By focusing on clients with higher risk factors, programs can address multiple criminogenic areas with greater intensity, thus resulting in greater impact on behavior.

The **Need Principle (WHAT)** directs intervention resources to address primarily those areas which are directly linked to criminal behavior. While probationers have a variety of needs, not all have an equal impact on their risk to reoffend. Primary criminogenic needs include criminal personality; antisocial attitudes, values, and beliefs; criminal peers; family dysfunction; and low self-control. Secondary criminogenic needs include substance abuse disorder; low educational and vocational attainment; and

low involvement in pro-social leisure activities. All services should target primary criminogenic needs as well as any other identified areas of need.

The **Responsivity Principle (MATCHING)** requires that service delivery match specific characteristics of individuals in order for them to benefit. This includes consideration of culture, gender, motivational stages, and learning styles, as well as logistical considerations and community functioning. Community functioning includes factors such as transportation, housing, food, or behavioral and physical health. While these factors are not themselves criminogenic, they should be addressed to the extent that they create barriers to an individual’s ability to receive services.

The **Dosage Principle** directs programs to provide direct client services at a minimum of 100-150 hours for moderate risk and 200+ hours for high risk (across multiple criminogenic need areas) in order to achieve measurable reduction in recidivism. Dosage under one hundred hours produces relatively small effects for this population. High intensity programs should be provided and should occupy 40% to 70% of participant’s free time to be effective.

RNR Supervision Model

The Department has adopted the following evidence-based or best practices for community supervision to meet the objectives of reducing recidivism, reducing victimization, increasing life skills, and family engagement.

Supervision Strategies	Methods	Implementation Strategies
Use of evidence-based assessments to guide decisions for effective case plan services and supervision	Use of Risk Based Supervision: matching intervention and dosage with risk/needs	Utilization of risk/needs assessment: Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLSCMI)
Youth and Family Engagement	Meetings to include supervised youth and their family	Family participation in case plan development and opportunities for home and or community-based family treatment services
Focus on Skill enhancement and reduction of criminogenic risk factors	Effective use of supervision practices and tools	Utilization of Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) and Case Planning Carey Guides

<p>Increasing Protective Factors/Developmental Assets</p>	<p>Increasing youth/family capacity and understanding of needs, including behavioral health diagnosis; engaging support, services and prosocial activities.</p>	<p>Use of manualized cognitive behavioral interventions such as Aggression Replacement Training (ART). Train staff in 40 Developmental Assets enhancement.</p> <p>Specialized caseload assignments, behavioral health support, education, treatment, life skills development and prosocial activities.</p>
<p>Utilizing alternatives to detention</p>	<p>Offering appropriate programs to youth in lieu of detention such as Community-based treatment, Home Supervision, or Electronic Monitoring</p> <p>Application of graduated responses</p>	<p>Utilizing the Risk Assessment Instrument at the Intake level to assess the risk to reoffend and/or appear for court hearings pending adjudication</p> <p>Use of Rewards/Incentives; utilization of Violation Response Grid.</p>

Evidence-based Interventions

Strategies for impacting juvenile crime and delinquency require the use of evidence-based treatment programs, services, and interventions to address the needs of youth and families. The County continues to direct resources toward interventions for youth that target the needs most likely to reduce offending behaviors. Interventions are cognitive behavioral and teach youth basic problem-solving skills; skills in emotional regulation; social skills; conflict management and negotiation skills; and the prosocial values, attitudes, and beliefs that make up prosocial competence.

The Department’s Quality Assurance program monitors program delivery and fidelity to curricula in multiple areas and works closely with the contract managers to ensure provider support and collaboration.

Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.)

With the support of JJCPA funding, the County has partnered with the W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI) to look closely at the systems, procedures, and relationships throughout the youth justice system. Through this partnership the Department continues to work diligently with county leadership and other youth justice stakeholders to determine opportunities for improvement and is committed to

examining key decision making points in the system and creating a culturally relevant, trauma informed, and strength-based programs model.

Since 2017, representatives from Solano County Law and Justice Agencies, the Solano Office of Education, and community-based organizations have been working to identify whether, and to what extent, racial and ethnic disparities exist in Solano County's youth justice system. The Solano County Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.) workgroup, a subcommittee was formed under the JJCC in August 2018 with the goal to utilize a data-drive process to identify disparities, analyze, strategize, pilot or adopt policy change that reduces disparate entry, and deeper advancement of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.

The Solano County R.E.D. Committee continues its work in collecting and reviewing cross-sector data to determine points in the juvenile justice system that need further review. The committee provides updates to the JJCC and provide guidance to the Department in culturally relevant program practices. The committee provided oversight and direction to the Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) which ended in 2023. YRG funding is aimed at diverting youth from initial or subsequent contact with the juvenile justice system using approaches that are evidence-based, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate.

Education and Employment Readiness

The Department's efforts include a push for expansion of education and vocational services. The 2013 Rand Corporation study on correctional education found strong evidence that education's role in recidivism reduction is substantial. In fact, the study found that involvement in education programs reduce the likelihood of returning to correctional supervision by as much as 43%. The Department continues to support educational efforts at many points in the juvenile justice system, also with an eye on prevention. In Fiscal Year 2018/2019, 22 Department staff adopted a third-grade classroom at a local elementary school to support students who are statistically at a higher risk to enter the juvenile justice system simply because they struggle with reading. Every week, staff worked on math learning projects and reading with the students. These efforts continued in 2020 but were interrupted with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department also worked with a local children's book author to create a book targeted at the third-grade population. The book was distributed widely and is used as part of the adopt a school program where probation officers' partner with teachers to facilitate in-classroom learning.

At the JDF, the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) ensures youth continue their educational pursuits and offers the support of a specialized teacher who works closely with youth with special needs. The Department has also expanded tutoring and vocational services and implemented an online program with Solano Community College to assist youth who have completed high school and wish to continue their education. To date, over 100 youth have earned a high school diploma while detained in the facility. In March of 2019, JDF partnered with the SCOE to provide vocational and employment services to youth in custody. Under this partnership, SCOE hired a Career and Technical Education (CTE) certified instructor to teach youth and provide them with the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue postsecondary career opportunities in the construction and trades profession.

JDF continues to expand the connection and relationship with Solano Community College Students Overcoming Adversity and Recidivism (SOAR) program. SOAR is a program for formerly incarcerated students, which is expanded to serve foster youth, homeless, and other vulnerable student populations,

at Solano Community College. SOAR provides a stigma-free environment where SOAR Scholars can study, learn, and grow on their path from reentry through graduation and beyond. SOAR also provides mentorship to formerly incarcerated students/re-entry, foster youth, unhoused students, and other vulnerable students and connect them with college and community resources so they can achieve their educational, personal and career goals.

On March 2, 2022, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the JDF to celebrate the creation of a dedicated classroom for the construction/trades program. The subjects covered in the trades program include occupational safety, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, masonry, concrete, drywall, roof framing, and woodworking. Upon completion of each area, students will receive a National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) Safety Certification, as well as credits towards their high school graduation. These skills can be applied towards a career in construction if the students decide to pursue such.

In early April 2023, the JDF started discussions with Aramark about bringing their IN2WORK program to the facility. The purpose of IN2WORK is to teach students how to function in a workplace setting, work as a team, and to teach the fundamental skills for success in the food service industry. Students will learn accountability and responsibility through disciplined classroom and hands-on training. By building competent and confident graduates, IN2WORK sets graduates up for success upon reentry. The JDF staff are working to put this program in place.

The Department continues a long-standing partnership with Five Keys Charter School, a free community-based education program that focuses on providing services to individuals and communities that have historically been underserved and underrepresented within the traditional educational system. Co-located with the Department's Youth Achievement Center in Vallejo, services include assisting with High School Diplomas, GED Test Preparation, HiSET Test Preparation, and Independent Study. With the help of dedicated teachers who work with diverse students at all educational levels, Five Keys has contributed to a continued increase in graduation rates. Five Keys Charter School serves youth who are on the verge of adulthood and are no longer able to attend public school, traditional, or continuation school. Educational supports such as college readiness and tutoring are also offered at the Fairfield Youth Achievement Center, and a Five Keys Charter School provides instruction at the main probation building in Fairfield.

Substance Use Treatment Expansion

To fully develop Substance Use treatment services for youth across the continuum of care, the Department secured the Youth Opioid Response (YOR) grant to build capacity for the provision of services for youth and young adults with substance use disorders related to opioids and/or stimulants as part of the California Youth Opioid Response. The Department contracted with Aldea Youth and Family Services on March 1, 2023, to provide comprehensive services focused on assessment, individual treatment, group treatment, and aftercare. Utilizing the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria, Aldea will offer and engage youth in services at the appropriate level of care.

FUNDED PROGRAMS, STRATEGIES AND/OR SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

Mental Health Assessment and Services

The Department adopted the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument -2 (MAYSI-2), a brief behavioral health screen that assist in determining the need for a referral to mental health services. Depending on the outcome of the screening or other presenting concerns, the youth is referred to a community-based partner, A Better Way, for clinical assessment, triage, counseling or group treatment services depending on the needs of the youth and their family. A Better Way clinicians are collocated with Department staff at the Youth Services Center which enhances communication. In addition, by being on site, the clinicians can provide immediate assistance as necessary.

Civics and Competency

For Probation youth that fall under the provisions of 709 California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), SCOE provides competency training, utilizing a curriculum that includes basic civic instruction and the operation of the court system. Youth are given an initial assessment and re-assessment to gauge their understanding of civics and the components of the juvenile justice system

Diversion

Restorative/Alternative Justice services are offered in partnership with a community-based organization, Alternative Restorative Communities (ARC). The Juvenile Community Accountability Program (JCAP) is designed to hold the youth accountable for their behavior. JCAP is an early intervention and prevention diversion program designed for low level or first-time offenders. Community members serve as arbitrators for youth in the program. The program uses restorative justice techniques to help the youth understand the harm their actions have had on the community or victim, and youth are then given an opportunity to make amends. Youth only remain on JCAP as long as needed to successfully complete their contract (most contracts range between 20-30 days). Those who are successful on JCAP do not enter the formal juvenile justice system.

Motivational Interviewing (MI)

MI is a person-centered communication method of fostering change by helping a person explore and resolve ambivalence. Rather than using external pressure, MI looks for ways to access internal motivation for change. It borrows from client-centered counseling in its emphasis on empathy, optimism, and respect for client choice. MI also draws from self-perception theory, which notes that a person becomes more or less committed to an action based on the verbal stance they take. Thus, a person who talks about the benefits of change is more likely to make that change, whereas a person who argues and defends the status quo is more likely to continue their present behavior. The Department has embraced the use of MI and, in partnership with a Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT®) Master Trainer, has developed a Personal Mastery project to develop proficiency through an intensive staff coaching and feedback training model.

Youth Achievement Centers

The Department developed a multi-disciplinary treatment and services model to support youth under jurisdiction with an array of evidence-based services. These services are designed to reduce the likelihood of a youth's further involvement in the juvenile justice system and enhance prosocial family and community connections. The Department partners with community-based agencies and treatment providers to create co-located team models that are comprehensive and mobile. Services are delivered at multiple locations with two main community-based centers located in Fairfield and Vallejo. YAC staff, along with the treatment providers, work hard to ensure that access to services is not a barrier to treatment and support.

The YAC's are equipped with a computer lab. Staff work with youth to engage them in service-learning projects, homework help, and structured activities that support education and future employability. For continuity of education, youth in need have access to chrome books. Chrome books continue to be available to students at the JDF to further enhance education. The JDF Wi-Fi project and the addition of Edovo® educational tablet access for youth in custody have been delayed due to backlogs in service equipment but remains a priority for the Department.

Evidence-Based Treatment Interventions

Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART)® is a 10-week, 30-hour intervention administered to groups of 8 to 12 youth three times per week, Aggression Replacement Training (ART) concentrates on the development of youth competencies to address various emotional and social aspects that contribute to aggressive behavior. Program techniques are designed to teach youth how to control their angry impulses and understand perspectives other than their own. The main goal is to reduce aggression and violence among youth by providing them with opportunities to learn prosocial skills in place of aggressive behavior.

Reasoning and Rehabilitation (R&R2)® is a cognitive and emotional skill development curriculum designed for youth ages 13-16 who are under supervision of juvenile justice agencies, and for those who are engaging in various disruptive and antisocial behaviors at home, in school, in community residences, probation, or juvenile institutions. It also targets youth who are developing patterns of antisocial behavior which involve risk-taking, opposition to adult values, and/or persistent antisocial or offending behavior. The group normally meets twice a week for six weeks.

Individual Supervision Interventions - Probation Officers guide the youth to improve their pro-social thinking and behavior. Training in MI and Effective Practices in Community Supervision-II (EPICS), along with the youth face-to-face contact guides included in policy assist the Probation Officer in this process. All supervision Probation Officers are trained in the use of the Forward-Thinking Interactive Journals® and Carey Guides®.

Seeking Safety® is a present-focused, coping skills training to help youth attain safety from trauma and/or substance abuse. The treatment may be conducted in group or individual format and consists of 25 topics (i.e. PTSD: Taking Back Your Power, Asking for Help, Recovery Thinking) that can be conducted in any order and number.

Substance Abuse – Multiple levels of education and treatment based on assessed need

The Interactive Journaling Series “Keep it Direct and Simple” (KIDS) can be delivered by the youth’s supervision officer and/or case manager as a psychoeducational group or individual intervention.

A more intensive SUD program is being developed as a partnership with Aldea, County Health & Social Services and the County’s Medi-Cal Administrator to offer youth with substance use treatment needs services through the County’s Organized Delivery System (ODS) as determined eligible by the American Society of Addiction Medicine’s (ASAM) criteria. Some components of the program are funded by Drug Medi-Cal, but outreach, youth, and family engagement and collaborative supports are funded utilizing JJCPA with additional support from the short-term Youth Opioid Response (YOR) grant.

The Interactive Journal “What is Marijuana?” was also added to the array of services to meet youth where they are in varying levels of substance use. This journal, delivered in group format, is an opportunity for youth who may be using marijuana to explore the reasons for use, determine possible consequences, and learn about the impact cannabis use may have on their lives.

Youth Development and Civic Engagement projects and activities support increasing job skills, employability and increasing opportunities for meaningful contributions that enrich the lives of youth and are socially beneficial to the community. Community service learning occurs when youth engage in reflection activities after their service experience and apply their learning and experience to real life activities. The goal of this program is to combine these concepts to enhance the youth’s positive involvement with the community, improve life skills, teach basic work skills, and facilitate connections with pro-social adults and positive peers in the community.

Prevention and Early Intervention

There are plans to introduce \$50,000 annual grants to up to five community-based agencies to support and/or build capacity for youth prevention programs in Solano County. The proposed program is designated to last three years for a total investment of \$750,000 for improving prevention and early interventions services for at promise youth.

Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

Mental Health Services

Individual and family mental health services are offered through the Solano County Health and Social Services Department (H&SS), Kaiser Permanente, and two community-based organizations (A Better Way and Seneca Center). The Department currently works with all the noted providers to ensure youth and families receive services. In addition, the Department increased the number of mental health clinicians on-site to three (3) to meet the needs of the youth. Clinical evaluation and consultation services are afforded, and treatment models utilized include Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). The level of service provided is based on the results of an evidence-based assessment, which include the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument - Version 2 (MAYSI-2) mental health screen or the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment. Services are offered in the home, community, or at the provider's office as appropriate. For youth detained at the JDF, each youth receives a mental health screen utilizing the Massachusetts Youth

Severity Index (MAYSI). Youth with identified mental health needs are provided services by contracted mental health providers at the facility.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy 2.0

CBT 2.0 is facilitated by JDF staff. The most important active ingredients in CBT 2.0 are (a) getting youth to realize how often they act without thinking; (b) helping youth recognize the key high-stakes situations in which their current set of automatic responses can get them into trouble; and (c) leading youth to either become more effective in high-stakes situations or develop new automatic responses. CBT 2.0 is a combination of small group facilitation, a positive behavior management system, and specific tools to address behaviors and thinking errors.

Initial training for new staff is provided and a booster training curriculum has been developed for staff to improve their skill set after receiving the initial training. Additionally, the facility provided an instructor development course to increase the number in-house instructors.

Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Program

The MIOCR program was originally started as a diversion program for youth who were arrested and, upon interview, showed signs of mental health challenges. The program provided early intervention and treatment services to divert youth from formal involvement in the juvenile justice system. The youth received an assessment, the Global Assessment of Individual Needs - Short Screener (GAIN-SS) tool to determine their level of need. Each referred youth was paired with a clinician from a community-based organization, A Better Way. However, given the number of youth under jurisdiction with mental health needs, the MIOCR program was expanded beyond diversion to include informal and formal cases under the Department's jurisdiction. The clinician embedded within the Department provides therapeutic interventions and subsequent referrals as appropriate. The Probation Officer maintains supervision and provides supportive services. The goal of the program is to address and improve the health and safety of mentally ill youth, and to increase positive functioning so they can exit the system successfully.

Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP)

The EMP program affords enhanced supervision and increased monitoring services. In lieu of detention, youth receiving location monitoring services can remain in the community and attend school, employment, and community-based treatment and programming. Youth placed on EMP are monitored by a contracted agency, SCRAM, who employs a Client Services Representative (CSR) or a Case Manager. Scram staff are responsible for equipment installation and removal, and case management. Probation Supervision staff supervise youth placed under the Home Supervision Program, an additional type of conditional release program ordered by the Juvenile Court while youth are pending proceedings. Youth participating in these programs are contacted weekly at home, or in the community, and can be referred to treatment services operated in the community and/or the Department to address individual needs.

Substance Use Treatment Services

Substance use treatment services are provided within the community setting, at JDF, and following foster care placement as part of re-entry. As noted above, substance abuse services (KIDS and What is Marijuana?) are offered in the community, and at the JDF to include the Challenge Academy which is a

camp program offered on the grounds of the JDF. To support treatment, supervision officers have incorporated the use of Carey Guides and Interactive Journaling to support behavioral changes.

As of March 2023, a more intensive SUD program was developed as a partnership with Aldea, County Health & Social Services and the County's Medi-Cal Administrator to offer youth with substance use treatment needs services through the County's Organized Delivery System (ODS) as determined eligible by the American Society of Addiction Medicine's (ASAM) criteria. While youth in detention are not currently eligible for Medi-Cal funded treatment services, The Department contracted with Aldea to provide in-detention services following the same model offered in the community. Services include ASAM assessment, intake, individual and group treatment.

In Custody Mental Health Services

Wellpath provides medical, mental health, and psychiatric support services for youth detained at the JDF to include nursing, medication monitoring, and screenings for suicidal ideations or other emergency situations. For continuity of services, Wellpath also provides services following a youth's release to the community, or foster care placement. Probation continues to collaborate with SCOE who was contracted to provide an additional full-time mental health clinician to enhance support related to trauma and address individual youth needs. SCOE also introduced wellness rooms on each POD (living unit) at JDF.

Restorative/Alternative Justice

Restorative/Alternative Justice programs are offered in partnership with a community-based organization, Alternative Restorative Communities, to hold the youth accountable for their behavior. This includes restorative justice conferences which are facilitated meetings between victims, youth, and community members. It is a non-adversarial, community-based process that responds to crime by holding youth accountable for their actions, and repairs the harm caused to the victims and the community. For youth in custody, restorative justice programs offer support and accountability circles. The restorative justice group occurs weekly with the youth in custody, where the emphasis is not only the cause of delinquency, but also includes programs such as Self as Victim, Cycle of Offense, Forgiveness, Crime Impact, Victim Empathy, Grief, Loss, and Conflict Resolution.

XL Mentoring

The Department, in conjunction with Alternative Restorative Communities, continues to offer a community mentoring program which pairs trained volunteer mentors with youth in the community as well as those detained at the JDF. Because of the training from certified XL Mentoring trainers, mentors understand the mentoring process and its effectiveness, and have knowledge of youth culture, how to work with youth, how to sustain a mentoring relationship, and how to help youth set personal goals.

Mentoring is an evidence-based intervention with positive outcomes in behavior change, recidivism reduction, and school/community engagement. XL Mentoring is a formalized program with specific training and support that is a best practice for ensuring program fidelity and appropriate mentor/mentee matching. Youth being released from the JDF are matched with an adult mentor to support positive youth development and reduce likelihood of further immersion in the juvenile justice system. The Department continues to expand the XL Mentoring program to include system involved mentors whose lived experience encourages positive change. In addition to youth at the JDF, youth

under diversion as well as community supervision are now offered an opportunity to receive mentoring services.

In April 2022, select youth participants of the XL Mentoring Program, along with their mentors participated in a trip to London to meet youth and mentors participating in the program in London, where XL Mentoring was developed. The week-long trip included tours, spending time with the developers of the XL Program, and amazing exposure to the world beyond the only one they know in Solano County. In 2024, the program plans to take another trip to London as well as host a visit from program participants from London with the goal of establishing a rotating exchange program

Wraparound

Wraparound provides family-centered, strength-based, highly individualized, and culturally competent services. This service, provided by Seneca Family of Agencies, is a preventative intervention for those at imminent risk of being removed from home and is also intended to support clients who are returning to a family-like setting upon release from a group home or the JDF. The population of youth and families served in the Wraparound program are often multi-stressed families that have complex needs and require an intensive and comprehensive service.

The County Wraparound Program offers a range of flexible services including intensive behavioral intervention, permanency planning, team building, parenting support, therapeutic crisis intervention, case management, safety planning, individual and family therapy, and team meeting facilitation. Youth and families also have access to a 24 hour, 7 days a week support line that helps with safety planning and problem solving when a potential crisis or escalation arises.

The Department's Family Preservation Caseload carries youth at imminent risk for removal from home with identified family-based issues. Family Preservation youth need a higher level of service, which is afforded through the utilization of Wraparound Services. Additionally, in effort to provide more family, clinical and mental health support, the Department assigned a clinician to support the youth and families on the Family Preservation caseload. This added service is an effort to keep youth in their home and family environment. For youth returning home from foster care placement, this service will help strengthen the family unit and provide supportive services upon reentry.

Placement/Foster care

The Department continues to provide services and supports to youth in Resource Family Agency (RFA) and Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) homes. YOBG funding is used to support youth in out of home placement during and following their placement episode.

RFA homes offer youth an opportunity to remain in the community in a home environment when they are not able to remain in the home of their parent or legal guardian. STRTP programs provide a higher level of service in a residential setting. These live-in facilities provide treatment and rehabilitative services to address substance abuse, mental health needs, or other complex behavioral challenges. Also, as part of the Foster Youth Continuum of Care Reform (CCR, AB403), Solano County remains committed to increasing home-based family care, improving access to services without changing placements to get those services, and increasing the role of youth and families in the assessment and case planning process. As part of the continuum of care reforms, the Department and Child Welfare Services (CWS) staff are working to reduce the time youth spend in group home placements, and to

increase the number of Resource Families that can provide support to youth in a home like environment.

Extended Foster Care (also known as AB12/AB212) is based on the federal Fostering Connections Act and became effective January 1, 2012. Because most 18-year-olds struggle with living independently, Extended Foster Care benefits offer support to prevent former foster youth from becoming homeless. It extends monetary supports and services to Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) under the age of 21 who are eligible on a voluntary basis. NMDs meet with their Probation Officer monthly, attend a court hearing every six months, sign a voluntary agreement, and agree to work with their probation officer to meet the goals of their Transitional Independent Living Case Plan (TILP). In addition, NMDs receive financial benefits. Services can include mental health and support services, employment assistance, healthy relationship skill development, monthly face to face contact, and case management. The youth works with a Probation Officer and the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) provider to develop the TILP.

California's highest risk youth in need of removal and placement in a secure setting are placed in the Solano County Reaching Into Successful Endeavors (RISE) Program. The program is operated on the grounds of the JDF and youth housed in the RISE Program are those that have committed serious and/or violent felonies that require intensive treatment services conducted in a structured and secure environment. The RISE Program remains the incarceration site of last resort for youth adjudicated under WIC section 707(b) and other specified offenses. Following release, the youth will be supervised by the Department and referred to appropriate community-based intervention services. With the passage of SB823 and continued juvenile realignment efforts, the Department provided county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to DJJ prior to its closure, scheduled for June 30, 2023.

Child and Family Teams

With a focus on continuum of services, the Department enhanced services with the training for and implementation of Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. This family center service model will provide support to youth and families with the goal of serving the family unit, and avoiding out of home placement, or conversely providing reentry step down services to help support the family while reunification occurs. As a component of the CFT, the Department will recruit a Parent Partner from a community-based organization. The Parent Partner will work to connect families to services, serve as a liaison in CFT meetings, and aid in the coordination and collaboration efforts to support the family system. Identification of a Parent Partner has been a challenge for the Department and contracted providers. However, the commitment remains to round out the Child and Family Team with this important role.

Transitional Education

Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides transitional education services to youth exiting the JDF and returning to a local school in the community. YOBG funding supports a Transitional Education Specialist position that helps youth transition back to their home school site. This includes ensuring that all credits are transferred in a timely manner. For youth not returning to their home school site, the Transitional Education Specialist works directly with a probation officer to expedite referrals to the court and community school via the Bridge Program.

Revisions in Detention Decisions

As discussed above, the Department, in partnership with the W. Haywood Burns Institute revised the booking criteria at the JDF, and a Detention Screening Tool (DST) was revised, tested, and implemented, ensuring objective measures are utilized in detention decisions. Moving forward, a review of data will continue to support that only youth who present a threat to community safety or are likely to flee the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court are detained.

STRATEGY FOR NON-707(B) OFFENDERS

The overall strategy for the County is to provide a continuum of evidence-based services to address the identified risks and needs of youth under jurisdiction. This entails a variety of interventions, including cognitive behavioral therapy, substance abuse, mental health services, barrier removal efforts, and teaching of independent living skills to address delinquency and reduce recidivism rates for youth in the juvenile justice system.

REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

The County does not currently have regional agreements or arrangements. However, with the onset of SB823 and Juvenile Realignment, the Department is in discussions with neighboring counties to determine best practices to serve special populations including youth who have sex offense commitments and girls.

INFORMATION SHARING AND DATA

The Department transitioned from the previously utilized CASE database system for electronic data storage, case management, and tracking information to a new platform. The Department's data conversion and migration was completed and the new system, e-Probation, went live in October 2020. The Department remains in Phase one of the program, with roll out of expanded systems operations to continue moving forward. The Department conducts assessments via the CE Assessments system. Information housed within these systems can be queried and shared with external agencies when needed. The information contained is utilized to look at data such as the number of youth referred for diversion services and handled informally rather than facing the filing of a formal petition. Statistical information can be gathered on the number of youth under formal jurisdiction, youth in the formal system referred for programming, re-arrest rates and returns to court, and the number of youth entering foster care, group home, or congregate care settings, as well as the number of non-minor dependents receiving AB12 services and benefits. In addition, the YLS-CMI assessments within the system can show the varying risk and need levels of youth. A second assessment administered, the Massachusetts Youth Severity Index (MAYSI), shows data on the level of mental health needs for youth under jurisdiction.

Interagency protocols and agreements authorize the sharing of information between the Department, Child Welfare Services (CWS), Mental Health, and the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) as well as each local school district for assessing the educational and treatment needs of youth and families in the community. These agencies come together each week at joint Interagency meetings to make case decisions related to youth at risk of removal or placement in a STRTP. Through the Safe Measures database maintained by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Department and CWS staff input information regarding placement youth and measure their progress while in placement. In collaboration with SCOE, student information is also shared for educational purposes, and for enrollment in on-line college courses when appropriate.