



## AGENDA

### KERN COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Kern County Probation Department  
2005 Ridge Road  
Bakersfield, California 93305  
(Access via Teleconference)

Wednesday, April 29, 2020  
8:30 a.m.

All agenda item supporting documentation is available for public review by contacting the office of the Kern County Probation Department, 2005 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, California 93305 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding County recognized holidays, following the posting of the agenda. The agenda is posted on-line at [www.kernprobation.com](http://www.kernprobation.com).

#### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (Government Code §54953.2)

Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council may request assistance at the Kern County Probation Department, 2005 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, California, or by calling (661) 868-4100. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternative formats. Requests for assistance should be made five (5) working days in advance of a meeting whenever possible.

1) Call to Order

Council Members: TR Merickel, Cynthia Zimmer, Robin Walters, Donny Youngblood, Leticia Perez, Dena Murphy, Jennie Sill, Linda Hoyle, Greg Terry, Mary Barlow, Henry Castaneda, Jamie Henderson, Anthony Meeks, Tamarah Harber-Pickens, Tom Corson

2) Roll call

3) Minutes from the Meeting of November 13, 2019  
APPROVE

4) Public Comment

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Council on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Council. Council members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Council at a later meeting. SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE AND SPELL YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD BEFORE MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION. THANK YOU.

5) Chairperson's Report (Chief Merickel)

General update and/or information relating to Juvenile Probation (Fiscal Impact: None) –  
MAKE PRESENTATION; NO ACTION REQUIRED

6) Juvenile Services Report (Thad Kennedy, Probation Division Director)

General update on Juvenile Services.  
MAKE PRESENTATION; NO ACTION REQUIRED

7) Juvenile Programs Report (Shay Molennor, Probation Division Director)

General update on Juvenile Programs  
MAKE PRESENTATION; NO ACTION REQUIRED

- 8) Approval of FY 2020/2021 Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Plan (Chief Merickel)  
Present and discuss Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Plan and request approval to submit grant application for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) in the amount of \$2,458,299 (Fiscal Impact: \$2,458,299)  
APPROVE; AUTHORIZE PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR APPROVAL
- 9) Council Member Announcements or Reports  
Council members may make an announcement or a report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda.  
MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS
- 10) Next JJCC Meeting  
NOVEMBER 2020, WITH DATE TO BE DETERMINED
- 11) Adjourn



## MINUTES

### KERN COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Kern County Probation Department  
2005 Ridge Road  
Main Conference Room  
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Wednesday, November 13, 2019  
8:30 a.m.

1) Call to Order

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN MERICKEL AT 8:30 A.M.

2) Roll Call

Members Present: TR Merickel, Cynthia Zimmer, Robin Walters, Donny Youngblood, Cindy Uetz for Dena Murphy, Jennie Sill, Mary Barlow, Henry Castaneda, Jamie Henderson, Anthony Meeks, Jayme Stuart for Tom Corson

Members Absent: Leticia Perez, Lyle Martin, Tamarah Harber-Pickens

Staff Present: Scott Royer, Thad Kennedy, Shay Molennor, Rebecca Jamison, Rosanne Vela

Guests Present: None

3) Approve minutes of the April 10, 2019 meeting

**APPROVED; Youngblood-Castaneda: 11 Ayes; 3 Absent**

4) Public Comment

An opportunity was provided for members of the public to address the Council on issues not listed on the agenda.

NO ONE HEARD

5) Chairperson's Report (Chief Merickel)

General update and/or information relating to Juvenile Probation (Fiscal Impact: None) -

CHIEF MERICKEL ANNOUNCED THE JJCC AGENDA AND MINUTES ARE NOW ON THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT WEBSITE. THE STATE IS AUDITING SEVERAL COUNTIES THAT RECEIVE JUVENILE JUSTICE CRIME PREVENTION ACT FUNDS AND KERN COUNTY IS ONE OF FIVE COUNTIES THAT WERE CHOSEN TO BE AUDITED.

6) Approval of Request for Proposal for Youth Services Utilizing FY 18/19 JJCPA Growth Funds (Chief Merickel)

*A memo was presented and attached/incorporated herein to these Minutes as "Request for Proposal for Youth Services Utilizing FY 18/19 JJCPA Growth Funds" including information regarding the request.*

**APPROVED; AUTHORIZED PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO OPEN REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO YOUTH THROUGH DIVERSION, IN-CUSTODY, AND ON PROBATION STATUS OVER A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,363,374.15;**

**AUTHORIZED PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR GRANT FUNDING**

**Henderson-Barlow: 11 Ayes; 3 Absent**

7) Approval of Modification of FY 19/20 JJCPA Plan (Chief Merickel)

*Two documents were presented and attached/incorporated herein to these Minutes as "Kern 2019-2020 JJCPA Plan Modification - Juvenile Programming Unit" and "Kern 2019-2020 JJCPA Plan Modification - Gang Intervention and Suppression Team/High Risk Supervision" including information regarding the modification.*

**APPROVED; AUTHORIZED PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT MODIFICATION TO BSCC Youngblood-Castaneda: 11 Ayes; 3 Absent**

8) Juvenile Services Report (Thad Kennedy, Probation Division Director)

HEARD REPORT BY THAD KENNEDY, PROBATION DIVISION DIRECTOR, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON EACH UNIT OF THE PROBATION JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION.

9) Juvenile Programs Report (Shay Molennor, Probation Division Director)

HEARD REPORT BY SHAY MOLENNOR, PROBATION DIVISION DIRECTOR, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON EACH UNIT OF THE PROBATION JUVENILE PROGRAMS DIVISION.

JAYME STUART EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION OF HAVING PROBATION STAFF AT THE DREAM CENTER.

10) Council Member Announcements or Reports

NO REPORTS MADE

11) Next JJCC Meeting

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN APRIL 2020, WITH THE DATE TO BE DETERMINED.

12) Adjourn

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:55 A.M.

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

**FY 2020-2021  
Consolidated Annual Plan**

Date: April 17, 2020

County Name: Kern

Contact Name: Shay Molennor

Telephone Number: (661) 396-4501

E-Mail Address: molennors@kernprobation.org

**Instructions:**

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institutions 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 rest of this document is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. If you find it helpful to use this template, please do so.

Your submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website.

*Please e-mail your plan to:*

**JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov**

# Juvenile Justice Plan

## Part I. Countywide Service Needs, Priorities and Strategy

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

## Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

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

## Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

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

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

### A. Assessment of Existing Services

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

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

- Youth Connection is a non-profit organization dedicated to matching pre-delinquent youth with community resources. It is a community effort, supported by Bakersfield North Rotary Club, endorsed by Kern County Probation and financed by the private sector. Youth Connection assists high-risk youth, ages six through thirteen, and acts as a referral agency to services where problems can be resolved before they have escalated out of control. In addition to functioning as a referral source, Youth Connection pays all necessary fees for the services rendered to the child. The Youth Connection goal is, "to provide services to youth to prevent involvement with the juvenile justice system, therefore enabling them to become productive citizens." Youth Connection will accept referrals for children who are exhibiting problems in the areas of social, psychological, physical, personal and educational needs which could eventually lead to juvenile delinquency. The organization assists children who have not previously been processed through the juvenile justice system.
- Probation Auxiliary County of Kern (PACK) is a non-profit corporation chartered in October 1976. PACK is an organization that assists youth in the juvenile justice system and those at-risk. It is endorsed by the Superior Court Judges of Kern County, Kern County Probation, and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. PACK's mission is to provide support and services with the Probation Department, enabling people to become responsible citizens. PACK provides materials and services not included in the tax-supported budget for Juvenile Services. These include educational, recreational, and personal necessities for juveniles. Specialized programs include the "Take Away Tattoos" program where gang-related tattoos are removed, the "I'm Thumbbody" program designed for second graders to build self-esteem. PACK also provides scholarships for financial support toward educational goals for individuals on probation. Supportive services for incarcerated youth and for at risk youth in need are also provided. PACK's goal is to provide resources and materials to help youth understand themselves, the world around them, and to encourage them to be the best they can be.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas**

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

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

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

## **C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Juvenile Investigations:***

When the Probation Department receives a referral from law enforcement on a youth who is not currently on probation, it is referred to a Juvenile Investigations assessment unit that conducts PACT pre-screen evaluations which calculate risk to reoffend. Options regarding the handling of referrals include sending warning letters, referrals to Traffic Court and various community resources. Referrals assigned to officers for pre-screen assessment are those in which a formal Petition request is in question, including many in which Welfare and Institutions Code 653.5 mandates. The officers are required to have all felony cases reviewed by the District Attorney's Office to determine if a Petition request should be submitted. The primary goal of a pre-screen assessment is to divert low-risk offenders and forward moderate and high-risk offenders through the justice system. Those diverted are often referred to services which include Aggression Replacement Training, Parent Project, Volunteer Center, Job Corps and various counseling services.

Once a Petition is filed, Juvenile Investigations units interview youth and their families, gather outside information, and complete full PACT assessments in preparation of making dispositional recommendations to the Court for all youth appearing before the Court because of a sustained new law violation. In addition to routine cases filed under WIC 602 based on new criminal law violations, Investigations officers are responsible for reports on the following types of hearings:

- **Transfer of Jurisdiction Hearings** - Upon a motion by the District Attorney or on its own motion, the Court may request a hearing to determine if a minor is an appropriate candidate to be dealt with in Juvenile Court. It will also be requested that minors who have been found not amenable for Juvenile Court be detained in jail upon reaching the age of eighteen (WIC 707(a), WIC 707(c), and WIC 208.5).
- **WIC 709 Hearings** - These hearings are initiated by the Court to address issues related to youth competency. The evaluation is conducted by a Court appointed psychiatrist and includes a determination of whether the youth is competent to participate in court proceedings. If found incompetent, the youth is then referred for an evaluation of eligibility for services with the Kern Regional Center. If ineligible for services with the Kern Regional Center, the youth is referred to Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS). If a youth is ineligible for Kern Regional or not provided services by BHRS, the Probation Department will provide competency training.
- **Deferred Entry of Judgment** - Youth eligible for the Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) Program pursuant to WIC 790 are referred for a DEJ Assessment to determine suitability for the program. Investigations officers will report to the Court concerning DEJ suitability. If granted DEJ, youth are placed on probation without wardship for a period of no less than 12 months and no greater than 36 months. Status hearings to evaluate compliance of Court ordered probation terms are calendared every 12 months, at which time the assigned probation officer reports on the youth's progress. If, after 12 months the youth is found to be following the orders and has met all financial obligations, probation may be terminated by the Court. If, however, at any time during the DEJ term, the youth is not compliant or has committed a new law violation, DEJ status may be lifted pursuant to WIC 793, and the youth will be adjudged a ward of the Court.

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

### ***Juvenile Supervision:***

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

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

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

The Placement unit is responsible for supervising youth in out of home placements and AB 12 youth. Officers must maintain monthly face to face contact with each youth in out of home placement. Placement officers are diligent in finding the least restrictive, most family like environment possible. The ongoing implementation of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), which includes recruiting and developing Resource Families, participation in Child and Family Team meetings with allied agencies and those invested in youth's lives, and remaining aware of group home transitions to Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) remain at the forefront of Placement unit activity. The SB 163 Wraparound program is a family-focused, strength based program used as an alternative to out of home care in order to provide in-home support. Screenings for this program flow through the Placement unit. It is unique in that it allows a youth to remain in their home through a foster care agency, which in turn provides intensive in-home services in a collaborative effort with Probation and BHRS. Weekly team meetings in the youth's home are held. Additionally, one officer assigned to the Placement unit works in collaboration with BHRS through a Mental Health Services Act funded program.

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

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

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

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

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

The Probation Department has been approved to open a Request for Proposal (RFP) to utilize JJCPA Growth Funds to enhance the involvement of community based organizations in providing supplemental services to youth involved, or at-risk of being involved, in the Juvenile Justice System. Increasing the use of best practices, such as evidenced based treatment, mentoring, diversion, educational services or other proven effective methods, would help further reduce recidivism in our community.

***Juvenile Institutions:***

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

Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation is a 30-bed short-term in-custody program designed for youth who are on furlough release, or who are pending transfer to a court ordered treatment facility, which may include Camp Erwin Owen or the Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility.

Pathways Academy is a highly structured commitment program for female offenders. Pathways Academy works collaboratively to ensure each youth successfully completes her commitment and makes a smooth transition into the community. At Pathways Academy, staff continuously strive to rehabilitate and provide resources in an effort to reintegrate youth into the community. They are provided with evidence based services and linked with outside service organizations. The girls participate in an educational program administered by KCSOS and receive mental health services through Juvenile Probation Psychiatric Services.

The Kern Crossroads Facility is a secure residential institution with an operational capacity of 120 beds. It was created to provide a local institution option for juvenile male offenders, ages 14-18, in lieu of a Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitment. The rehabilitative function of the Kern Crossroads Facility relies on a program design that includes evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy, incentives, education, work

experience, vocational training, athletics, physical education, group living and a mental health counseling component. Youth attend school and participate in vocational/work programs and/or counseling when not in the classroom. The custody portion of the program is a two-tiered, 168 or 252 day program to be followed by intensive Aftercare supervision. The facility programming includes two evidence-based risk assessment tools, the PACT and the MAYSI-2 (Mental Health Screening).

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

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

**D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions**

Describe how your Plan has been updated for this year.

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

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

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

**A. Information Sharing and Data**

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

Kern County Probation has an internal case management system that allows officers to manage the juvenile probation population. The department, along with other county agencies, has been involved in the implementation process of a new system with the intent of increased integration.

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

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

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

**B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils**

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

YES

NO

If no, please explain what vacancies exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies began and your plan for filling them.

### **C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

Using the template on the next page, describe each program, strategy and/or system enhancement that will be supported with funding from JJPCA, identifying anything that is co-funded with Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) moneys. For additional template pages, simply click the "copy template" button below.

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# JJCPA Funded Program, Strategy and/or System Enhancement

*This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, strategy and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.*

## **Program Name:**

Aftercare Program

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

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

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

## **Philosophy**

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

## **Role of Staff**

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

Officers will have the ability to refer youth for services available at the Bridges Academy (see YOBG section for details) and at the Probation Department's Juvenile Programming Unit (JPU). The mission of the JPU is to empower youth by providing support and intensive skill training through evidence-based practices to reduce criminal behavior for a safer community. The JPU is designed to offer juveniles a respectful and safe environment for individualized treatment of criminogenic needs by using evidence-based and cognitive behavioral treatment models with fidelity. The treatment provided promotes accountability, development of attainable goals, and a framework for making positive changes in personal values for increased success and reduced recidivism.

## Description:

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

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

The Aftercare unit consists of (1) Probation Supervisor, (2) Deputy Probation Officer III and (9) Deputy Probation Officer i/II's, (1) Juvenile Corrections Officer and (1) Office Services Technician. They continue to participate in both the Review Board and Pre-Release meetings at all three facilities. These meetings give the probation officer an opportunity to have input on the services the youth will receive while in commitment and in designing an appropriate transition case plan for the youth as they re-enter our community. All Aftercare officers have been trained in Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). EPICS enhances officers' abilities to effectively engage the youth they supervise in developing skills directly tied into their criminogenic needs.

## JJCPA Funded Program, Strategy and/or System Enhancement

*This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, strategy and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.*

### **Program Name:**

Juvenile Programming Unit

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

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

### **Description:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**B. Regional Agreements**

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

None

**C. Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

Using the template on the next page, describe the programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded through the YOBG program. Explain how they complement or coordinate with the programs, strategies and system enhancements to be funded through the JJCPA program. For additional template pages, simply click the "copy template" box below.

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## **YOBG Funded Program, Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement**

*This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, placement, service, strategy, and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.*

### **Program Name:**

Bridges Career Development Academy

### **Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

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

### **Description:**

The purpose of Bridges Academy is to provide a structured and supervised school environment where youth between 16 and 19 years of age can learn vocational skills, as well as life skills, while working to complete a high school degree or the equivalent with collaborative partner Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS). In addition to traditional educational opportunities, Bridges' youth also are routinely afforded opportunities to participate in enrichment activities. The school has developed a Running Team and has organized a fundraising 5K run to help offset the costs associated with students' entry fees and equipment throughout the year. The Bridges Academy Annual Open House includes a silent auction of student art projects to support the art program moving forward. Probation has contracted services through KCSOS Kern Youth @ Work program for service delivery to Bridges youth in the area of job readiness and development. The Career Associate assists the students in obtaining job readiness skills and enrolling in Bakersfield College. Specific evidence based programming provided by the Juvenile Programming Unit includes: Motivational Interviewing, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), Thinking for Change (T4C), Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA). Daily contact and oversight with the youth are effective tools in redirecting them and preventing new law violations.

YOBG funds pay for the school site and staffing, to include: (.5) Probation Supervisor, (1) Deputy Probation Officer III, (3) Deputy Probation Officer I/II's, (1) Juvenile Corrections Officer II, (1) Office Support Technician, (2) Probation Program Specialists, (1) Career Associate and (0.25) School Administrator.

## **YOBG Funded Program, Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement**

*This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, placement, service, strategy, and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.*

### **Program Name:**

Mental Health Services at Camp Erwin Owen and Pathways Academy

### **Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

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

### **Description:**

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

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

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

Camp Erwin Owen: (2) Recovery Coordinators, (1) Pre-Licensed Therapist, (1) Licensed Therapist  
Pathways Academy: (.5) Therapist, (1) Recovery Specialist

## **YOBG Funded Program, Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement**

*This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, placement, service, strategy, and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.*

### **Program Name:**

Kern Crossroads Facility

### **Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

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

### **Description:**

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

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

## **YOBG Funded Program, Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement**

*This template should be copied as many times as needed to capture every program, placement, service, strategy, and system enhancement you plan to fund next year.*

### **Program Name:**

Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation Program

### **Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

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

### **Description:**

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

YOBG funds pay for the staffing ratio required to supervise the youth in this program, specifically (1) Deputy Probation Officer III, (2) Juvenile Corrections Officer III's and (7) Juvenile Corrections Officer I/II positions.