



AGENDA

KERN COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Kern County Probation Department
2005 Ridge Road
Bakersfield, California 93305

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
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.

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.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL TO CONVENE

Council Members: TR Merickel, Cynthia Zimmer, Teryl Wakeman, Donny Youngblood, Leticia Perez, Lito Morillo, Jennie Sill, Linda Hoyle, Greg Terry, Dr. Mary Barlow, Jamie Henderson, Anthony Meeks, Tamarah Harber-Pickens, Tom Corson

Roll call

- 1) Minutes from the Meeting of November 16, 2022
APPROVE
- 2) 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.**
- 3) Chairperson's Report (Chief Merickel)
General update and/or information relating to Juvenile Probation (Fiscal Impact: None) -
MAKE PRESENTATION; NO ACTION REQUIRED
- 4) Youth Court and Programs Division Report (Elaine Moore, Probation Division Director)
General update on Youth Court and Programs
MAKE PRESENTATION; NO ACTION REQUIRED
- 5) Youth Supervision Division Report (Joel Walton, Probation Division Director)
General update on Youth Supervision
MAKE PRESENTATION; NO ACTION REQUIRED

- 6) Approval of FY 2023/2024 Juvenile Justice Consolidated Annual Plan (Chief Merickel)
Present and discuss Juvenile Justice Consolidated Annual Plan and request approval to submit grant application for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) in the amount of \$2,486,652 (Fiscal Impact: \$2,486,652)
APPROVE; AUTHORIZE PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR APPROVAL

- 7) Approval of Updated SB 823 Plan and Allocations for FY 2023/2024 as Recommended by the SB 823 Subcommittee (Chief Merickel)
Present and discuss the updated SB 823 plan and FY 2023/2024 allocations and request approval to submit plan to the Board of Supervisors (Fiscal Impact: \$7,905,390)
APPROVE; AUTHORIZE PROBATION DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR APPROVAL

- 8) 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

- 9) Next JJCC Meeting
November 2023, with date to be determined.
DISCUSS; ANNOUNCE

- 10) Adjourn as JJCC



MINUTES

KERN COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Kern County Probation Department
2005 Ridge Road
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Wednesday, November 16, 2022
8:30 a.m.

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JJCC meeting called to order by Chief TR Merickel at 8:30 a.m.

Council Members: TR Merickel, Donny Youngblood, Lito Morillo, Jennie Sill, Linda Hoyle, Greg Terry, Dr. Mary Barlow, Jamie Henderson, Tom Corson

PRIOR TO ROLL CALL: CHIEF MERICKEL ANNOUNCED HENRY CASTANEDA RESIGNED THE COUNCIL AND THANKED HIM FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE.

ROLL CALL: 8 Present; 6 Absent (Zimmer, Wakeman, Perez, Barlow, Meeks, Harber-Pickens)

NOTE: Council member Dr. Mary Barlow arrived during Item No. 4.

1) Minutes from the Meeting of April 6, 2022

MOTIONED TO APPROVE

Public Comment: NO ONE HEARD

APPROVED; Corson-Hoyle: 8 Ayes; 6 Absent (Zimmer, Wakeman, Perez, Barlow, Meeks, Harber-Pickens)

MOTION PASSED

2) Public Comment

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NO ONE HEARD

- 3) Chairperson's Report (Chief Merickel)
General update and/or information relating to Juvenile Probation (Fiscal Impact: None)
NO ITEMS TO REPORT ON
- 4) Youth Court and Programs Division Report (Elaine Moore, Probation Division Director)
General update on Youth Court and Programs.
PRESENTATION MADE BY ELAINE MOORE, PROBATION DIVISION DIRECTOR.
- 5) Youth Supervision Division Report (Joel Walton, Probation Division Director)
General update on Youth Supervision.
PRESENTATION MADE BY JOEL WALTON, PROBATION DIVISION DIRECTOR.

TERRY COMMENDED PROBATION FOR PROVIDING BASIC NECESSITIES AND ASKED ABOUT CLASSIFICATION OF HIGH RISK AND LIKELINESS TO OFFEND. WALTON RESPONDED.

TERRY SPOKE ABOUT YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM THEY ARE TRYING TO BUILD. MOORE RESPONDED SHE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A BPD SERGEANT REGARDING THE PROGRAM AND TOPIC WAS DISCUSSED.
- 6) SB 823 Implementation Update (William Dickinson, Deputy Chief Probation Officer)
General update on SB 823 implementation (Fiscal Impact: None)
PRESENTATION MADE BY WILLIAM DICKINSON, DEPUTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER.

CHIEF MERICKEL EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO TOUR THE CROSSROADS FACILITY WHERE THE APEX PROGRAM IS HOUSED.
- 7) Council Member Announcements or Reports
NONE
- 8) Next JJCC Meeting
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN APRIL 2023, WITH THE DATE TO BE DETERMINED.
- 9) Adjourn as JJCC at 9:02 A.M.

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

**FY 2023-2024
Consolidated Annual Plan**

Date: March 30, 2023

County Name: Kern

Contact Name: Joel D. Walton, Probation Division Director

Telephone Number: 661-396-4501

E-mail Address: waltonj@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 youth, youth offenders, and their families.

Kern County Probation provides a wide range of services directed at the rehabilitation of youth offenders at risk of 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. Probation Officers identify at-risk youth and families on their caseloads who would benefit from these resources and submit a referral to the Youth Connection board. 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 youth 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 delinquency. The organization assists children who have not previously been processed through the youth 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 youth 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 the Probation Department. These include educational, recreational, and personal necessities for youth. Helping Hands is a program working under PACK which provides clothing and hygiene items to justice-involved youth. PACK also provides scholarships for financial support toward educational goals for individuals on probation. Supportive services for incarcerated youth and for at-risk youth in need are also provided. PACK's goal is to provide resources and materials to help youth understand themselves, the world around them, and to encourage them to be the best they can be.
- Kern 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, and 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 (KC SAL) is a 501(C)(3), non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code. The organization was formed to assist the youth of Kern County by exposing them to positive and constructive activities as a way for them to avoid some of the negative influences they might encounter such as gangs and drugs. The organization seeks to use law enforcement officers to coach, mentor and provide positive role models to our community's disadvantaged youth. The SAL program emphasizes participation in organized sports, community service, academic achievement, leadership training and other activities that tend to expose the participants to places and things they otherwise might not be exposed to such as museums, concerts, college campuses, etc. SAL also exists to foster good relations between the Sheriff's Office and the community through its sponsorship of community activities.
- 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 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, KBHRS, 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 ensure 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 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 facility annually and receives for review and input a quarterly update of all 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 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.
- The 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 the Kern County Department of Human Services and exists to ensure appropriate and consistent county-wide level CCR implementation efforts. Each county agency impacted by CCR is represented on this committee.

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

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

Kern County is the third largest county in the state with 8,161 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 youth facilities will support youth committed to those programs from throughout Kern County and is 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 youth offenders. The success of this tool 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: Risk (target higher risk offenders), Need (target criminogenic risk factors), Treatment (use cognitive behavioral approaches), and Fidelity (implement the program as designed). The assessments assist Probation staff in accomplishing four basic objectives: determining a youth's 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 youth 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 youth offenders.

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

In 2002, the original plan was modified to add a Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP) in metro-Bakersfield and in the outlying areas of northern Kern County. This program was designed to address first time offenders and to provide 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 members 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 (now referred to as Youth Re-Entry Supervision) 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 services were directed toward youth exiting department custodial treatment programs, with a goal of bridging services and providing accountability to youth on furlough from those programs.

In November of 2019, the plan was modified again to eliminate the GIST unit and create a stand-alone Juvenile Programming Unit (now referred to as Youth Programs and Supports) funded with JJCPA dollars. This change occurred to provide enhanced evidenced-based resources across our continuum of youth services.

The Probation Department continues to provide investigative and supervision services for the Superior Court. The Probation Department serves as the gatekeeper of all law enforcement referrals and helps 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.

Court Investigations:

When the Probation Department receives a law enforcement referral for a youth who is not

currently on probation, it is referred to an officer who conducts a PACT pre-screen evaluation which assesses the youth's 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 which fall under Welfare and Institutions Code 653.5. The officers are required to have all felony cases reviewed by the District Attorney's Office to determine if a Petition request should be submitted. The primary goal of a pre-screen assessment is to divert low-risk offenders and forward moderate and high-risk offenders through the justice system. Those diverted are often referred to counseling services, and parents/guardians are provided a list of local resources, including evidenced-based treatment programs, which can be contacted for further assistance and support.

Once a Petition is filed, Investigations officers interview youth and their families, gather outside information, and complete full PACT assessments in preparation of making dispositional recommendations to the Court. Depending upon the type of law violation and/or the needs of the youth, Investigations officers are responsible for completing a variety of reports. In addition to dispositional reports and readiness memorandums, officers complete reports for the following types of hearings:

- **Transfer of Jurisdiction Hearings** - The District Attorney or other appropriate prosecuting officer may request a hearing to determine if a youth is an appropriate candidate to be dealt with in Juvenile Court (WIC 707 (a)). It may also be requested that youth who have been found not amenable for Juvenile Court be detained in jail upon reaching the age of nineteen and meeting specific criteria outlined in WIC 208.5.
- **WIC 709 Hearings** - These hearings are initiated by the youth's counsel to address issues related to the youth's competency to stand trial. When the Court determines substantial evidence raises doubt as to a youth's competence, the youth's proceedings are suspended. A Court appointed psychiatrist/psychologist completes an evaluation to determine whether the youth is competent to participate in Court proceedings. If found incompetent, the youth may be referred for an evaluation of eligibility for services with the Kern Regional Center. If ineligible for services with the Kern Regional Center, the Probation Department may be ordered to provide competency training. If the youth is in custody, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services shall provide the Court with suitable alternatives to confinement in the Youth Detention Center. If competency is not achieved, the Court will dismiss the Petition. If competency has been restored, the Court shall reinstate delinquency proceedings.
- **Deferred Entry of Judgment** - Youth eligible for the Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) Program pursuant to WIC 790 are referred to the Investigations officer for a DEJ assessment to determine suitability for the program. The officer will provide the Court with a report outlining whether or not the youth is suitable. 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 with 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 in compliance, 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 may be adjudged a Ward of the Court.
- **Probation Without Wardship** - Youth who have a sustained Petition for certain misdemeanors, with less than \$1,000.00 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 the orders of the Court, the Court may adjudge the youth a Ward and place him/her on formal probation.

- **WIC 241.1** - Whenever a youth appears to come within the description of both Section 300 and Section 601 or 602, the county probation department and the child welfare services department shall determine which status will serve the best interests of the minor and the protection of society. The recommendations of both departments shall be presented to the juvenile court with the petition that is filed on behalf of the minor, and the court shall determine which status is appropriate for the minor.

Youth Supervision:

Once placed on formal probation by the Court, Youth 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 are enrolled in school and are referred for mental health services as appropriate and necessary. Based on results from the PACT assessments, cases are determined to be low to high-risk to re-offend. Officers then work collaboratively with youth and their families to develop and fulfill their case plans. Low-risk offender caseloads have been developed to monitor low-risk and WIC 725 status youth.

The Youth Regional Supervision unit covers probation supervision for all regional offices in Kern County. 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 re-entry services in all outlying areas for youth released from commitment programs. Officers continue to work collaboratively with local law enforcement officers in each area in order to facilitate the sharing of information and to stay apprised 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, including utilizing evidence-based programs where possible. A Deputy Probation Officer II in the Youth Metro Supervision unit acts as the department contact for Interstate Compact. The officer 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 Youth Placement Supervision unit is responsible for supervising youth in out of home placements as well as 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 youths' lives, and remaining aware of group home transitions to Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) remain at the forefront of Placement unit activity. The SB 163 Wraparound program is a family-focused, strength-based program used as an alternative to out-of-home care in order to provide in-home support. Screenings for this program flow through the Placement unit. It is unique in that it allows a youth to remain in their home through a foster care agency, which in turn provides intensive in-home services in a collaborative effort with Probation and KBHRS. Regular team meetings in the youth's home are held. Additionally, one officer assigned to the Placement unit works in collaboration with KBHRS through a Mental Health Services Act funded program, the Multi-Agency Integrated Services Team (MIST).

The Home Supervision program is a pre-disposition program youth may be 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 Youth Detention Center commitment due to high population, with ten or more days remaining on their commitment. If they violate Electronic Monitoring, they are returned to the Youth Detention Center to finish the remainder of 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 supervised by the Probation Department. It should be noted that some of the outlying area offices have limited Work Program sites available. There are also limited activities for youth with physical limitations.

The Youth Re-Entry Supervision Unit is committed to providing wards of the Juvenile Court who are on furlough 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 residential 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 Youth Re-Entry Supervision Unit is to increase efforts towards successful transitions from custody to community and efforts are geared toward reducing or eliminating the youth's criminal and delinquent behaviors that have been identified through evidence-based assessments.

The Youth Programs and Supports (YPS) Unit is tasked with providing evidence-based treatment 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), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). Specific programming for victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) include the Empowerment Project and "Ending the Game" (ETG). Staff are equipped to provide services proven to reduce recidivism of youth supervised by the department while in-custody at our detention and commitment facilities, Bridges Academy, and on site at the YPS office.

The Bridges Career Development Academy serves youth on probation, in grades 9-12, who are Court ordered or have been released from Kern County Probation commitment programs, and others who have been assessed as high-risk to re-offend and referred by their assigned Probation Officer. The Bridges Academy affords youth the opportunity to engage in educational programming, evidenced-based treatment, job readiness, Career Technical Education, enrichment activities, and incentive-based participation in extra-curricular activities. Bridges staff incorporate a balance of accountability, redirection, and positive reinforcement through a school-based Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) model, with the overall goal of reducing recidivism and educating the students.

Garden Pathways has been awarded a contract from JJCPA Growth Funds to provide supplemental services to youth involved, or at-risk of being involved, in the youth justice system. Garden Pathways provides best practices and evidence-based mentoring and case management services to provide support and further reduce recidivism in our community.

Youth Facilities:

James G. Bowles Youth Detention Center is a secure detention facility for youth who fall under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Youth detained at the Youth Detention Center are alleged to have committed a law violation and are detained for the protection of themselves and/or the community. The Youth Detention Center 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. Youth Services 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 determinant factor in dispositional decisions. Both the Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation Program and the Pathways Academy are located on the Youth Detention Center 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 youth successfully complete their commitment and make smooth transitions into the community. At Pathways Academy, staff continuously strive to rehabilitate and provide resources in an effort to successfully 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 facility with an operational capacity of 80 beds. It was created to provide a local commitment option for 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 Re-Entry 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 65-bed youth 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 campus, as well as being assigned to kitchen, laundry, maintenance, grounds, and community service projects.

The APEX (Achievement, Perseverance, Excellence) Academy began in July 2021 as a result of SB823 Juvenile Justice Realignment. The imminent closure of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), created a need for dispositional alternatives when a youth whose most recent adjudicated offense is described in WIC 707(b) and where the Juvenile Court has made a finding that less restrictive dispositions are unsuitable. The program is located on the Kern Crossroads Facility campus and designed to account for the youth's age, length of commitment, criminal sophistication, and educational and mental health needs. Kern County Probation serves youth ages 14-23, and up to age 25 depending on the length of the disposition ordered by the Juvenile Court. There is capacity for 40 youth. APEX services to youth include supervision, medical and behavioral health services, educational programs including opportunities to enroll in college-level courses, vocational training including an Electric Vehicle Lab Program and SERV Safe, forklift safety, and virtual welding certificates, landscaping, Westec, and Department of

Rehabilitation, and volunteer services. All four facility settings have incorporated 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. The RAP unit officers are not considered in the facilities' youth supervision staffing ratios, allowing them to focus on specific services designed to reduce recidivism and effect positive change. The goal of these RAP Units is to increase programming, reinforce positive behavior, improve staff/youth interactions, de-escalate crisis situations, reduce use of force incidents, and change the facility culture. The RAP unit officers receive specialized training and serve as coordinators for different aspects of the program.

D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions

Describe how your Plan has been updated for this year.

There have been several updates and additions to the APEX Academy for year two. Educational and vocational opportunities have expanded and now include a Financial Literacy course and an Electric Vehicle Lab Program. Arrangements have been made for youth to be able to secure a California ID, Social Security Card, and Birth Certificate if needed prior to their release. The Kern Crossroads Facility has partnered with additional Community Volunteers including The Wendale Davis Foundation, Stay Focused Ministries, Garden Pathways, Jack Frost Football, George Vasquez, Fanny Hernandez, and Tommy's Legacy, to facilitate life skills groups and provide mentoring services. A positive behavior based inter-facility sports program has been organized allowing youth from the three Kern County Probation youth facilities to compete against each other. A Baseline Incentive Matrix has been implemented to encourage and reinforce positive behavior, identify program progress, and calculate appropriate reductions to baseline terms. A Youth Council program has been established to maintain productive communication amongst staff and youth, enhance programming, and provide an opportunity for youth to learn valuable leadership and diplomacy skills. An exterior second layer of security fencing is being installed and shelving units have been added to rooms.

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

N/A

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

A. Information Sharing and Data

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

Kern County Probation developed a web-based application, the Juvenile Data Management (JDM) system, which was initially utilized by Supervision officers and has recently been enhanced for use by Investigations officers. This application tracks participants in the JJCPA and YOBG programs and retains historical data for analysis.

The department has a committee who is working with the Research and Analysis Data Unit to collect data to ensure consistency throughout the Youth Court and Programs and Youth Supervision 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 provides data to the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS) and reports annually through the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) annual report. Monthly statistical reports are also collected from Probation Officers. This information is used to direct resources and help guide decision making for the department's Management Team.

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

B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils

Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) as Prescribed 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.

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:

Youth Re-Entry Supervision

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

The Youth Re-Entry Supervision Unit 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 Youth Programs and Supports Unit (YPS). The mission of the YPS is to empower youth by providing support and intensive skill training through evidence-based practices to reduce criminal behavior for a safer community. The YPS is designed to offer youth 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. Youth Re-Entry Supervision Unit 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 Youth Re-Entry Supervision Unit is to increase efforts towards successful transitions from custody to community and to reduce and/or eliminate the offenders' criminal and delinquent behaviors that have been identified through evidence-based assessments.

Other responsibilities include continuous monitoring of completion of Court-ordered programs, restitution payments, weekly reporting, school attendance and behavior, and the monitoring of 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. Youth Re-Entry Supervision 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 Youth Re-Entry Supervision Unit consists of (1) Probation Supervisor, (1) Deputy Probation Officer III and (8) Deputy Probation Officer I/II's, (1) Youth Services Officer and (1) Office Services Technician. They continue to participate in both the Review Board and Pre-Release meetings at the Youth Detention Center, Camp Erwin Owen, and the Kern Crossroads Facility. These meetings give the Probation Officer an opportunity to provide 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 Re-Entry officers have been trained in Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). EPICS enhances officers' abilities to effectively engage the youth they supervise in developing skills directly tied into their criminogenic needs.

Program Name:

Youth Programs and Supports

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

Providing evidence-based treatment to probation youth 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 to probationers is a proven and effective way to reduce recidivism.

Description:

The Youth Programs and Supports (YPS) unit 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), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). Specific programming for victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) include the Empowerment Project and Ending the Game (ETG). Staff are equipped to provide services proven to reduce recidivism to youth supervised by the department while in-custody at the Youth Detention Center, attending school at the Bridges Academy and on site at the Youth Programs and Supports office. The unit receives referrals from Probation Officers based upon what program the Court has ordered them to complete or needs identified by their supervision officer. YPS is designed to work rotating shifts to better meet the needs of youth. YPS 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 to violations of the program, and strive to meet the individual needs of the youth in the program.

The Youth Programs and Supports Unit consists of (1) Probation Supervisor, (1) Deputy Probation Officer III, and (10) Probation Program Specialists.

Program Name:

Garden Pathways

Evidence Upon Which It Is Based:

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

Description:

Garden Pathways provides mentoring and case management to at-risk and justice-involved youth. Intensive case management services include home visits, school site visits, and appropriate linkage to services based upon the individual risk factors of the youth. Additional services include housing and emergency food assistance. Mentoring services utilize an evidenced based curriculum, assist in job readiness, educational success, and college readiness. Weekly support services, community services, enrichment activities, industry recognized certification trainings, and vocational trainings are also provided to the youth. Best practices and evidence-based curriculum includes Transformative Education, Seeking Safety, Employment Strategies, and Youth on a Mission.

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

A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

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

Kern County Probation provides a continuum of services for youth who enter the youth 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 risk levels 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 Youth Programs and Supports unit and through local service providers. Youth committed to an in-custody program are provided with evidence-based programming and treatment with the goal of providing a higher dosage of treatment hours to youth with the highest probability to reoffend. Prior to release, a pre-release meeting is held with the youth and his/her parent/guardian, 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.

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 Youth Programs and Supports unit. The Youth Programs and Supports unit is tasked with providing evidenced based programs with the goal of decreasing recidivism in our community. The second JJCPA funded program is the Youth Re-Entry Supervision program. Probation Officers in this program provide intensive supervision and transitional assistance to youth offenders who have been released on furlough after successfully completing the in-custody phase of their commitment to a residential treatment facility. Some of the youth 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 for youth in grades 9 through 12, who are Court ordered or have been released from Kern County Probation commitment programs, and others who have been assessed as high-risk to re-offend and referred by their assigned Probation Officer. Students learn vocational skills, as well as life skills, while working to earn their high school diploma, or the equivalent, with collaborative partner Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS). In addition to traditional educational opportunities, Bridges' youth are also 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 construction projects to support the construction 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 career development. The Career Associate assists the students in obtaining job readiness skills and enrolling in Bakersfield College. Specific evidence-based programming provided by the Youth Programs and Supports 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 a portion of the staffing. Bridges Academy staffing includes the following: (1) Probation Supervisor, (2) Deputy Probation Officer III's, (5) Deputy Probation Officer I/II's, (1) Senior Youth Services Officer, (1) Office Services Technician, and education staff.

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 Youth Programs and Supports unit. The Youth Programs and Supports unit is tasked with providing evidenced based programs with the goal of decreasing recidivism in our community. The second JJCPA funded program is the Youth Re-Entry Supervision program. Probation Officers in this program provide intensive supervision and transitional assistance to youth offenders who have been released on furlough after successfully completing the in-custody phase of their commitment to a residential treatment facility. The population of youth 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 65-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 modalities 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 are used to provide the identified amount of dosage treatment hours to 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: (1) Therapist, (1) Recovery Specialist

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 Youth Programs and Supports unit. The Youth Programs and Supports unit is tasked with providing evidenced based programs with the goal of decreasing recidivism in our community. The second JJCPA funded program is the Youth Re-Entry Supervision program. Probation Officers in this program provide intensive supervision and transitional assistance to youth 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 youth 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 facility with an operational capacity of 80 beds. It was created to provide a local facility option for male youth 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 Re-Entry supervision. The facility programing 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), Seeking Safety, Strengthening Families, Stages of Change, Choices and Changes, as well as Domestic Violence and Family Therapy sessions.

YOBG funds pay for (3) Sr. Youth Services Officers and (10) Youth Services Officer I/II's who work with the youth in the program.

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 Youth Re-Entry Supervision program. Probation Officers in this program provide intensive supervision and transitional assistance to youth 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 youth offenders in the JJCPA Re-Entry 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 Re-Entry 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 mental health services facilitated by Juvenile Probation Psychiatric Services. While in the program, FTR youth can work with staff in various areas of the Youth Detention Center including food services, grounds, and unit details and maintenance. Once released, the continuum of care is maintained as the youth returns home on a supervised Youth Re-Entry Supervision 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) Sr. Youth Services Officers and (7) Youth Services Officer I/II positions.



JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

Date: March 15, 2023

County Name: Kern

Contact Name: Ahmed Baameur, Probation Division Director

Telephone Number: 661-391-2203

E-mail Address: baameura@kernprobation.org

BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure. The statute language can be found [here](#).

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties shall create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council to develop a plan (WIC 1995 (a)) describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth.

County plans are to be submitted and revised in accordance with WIC 1995, and may be posted, as submitted, to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. There are eight sections to the plan:

Part 1: Subcommittee Composition

Part 2: Target Population

Part 3: Programs and Services

Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds

Part 5: Facility Plan

Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System

Part 7: Regional Efforts

Part 8: Data

PART 1: SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSITION (WIC 1995 (B))

List the subcommittee members, agency affiliation where applicable, and contact information:

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	TR Merickel Chief Probation Officer	merickelt@kernprobation.org	661-868-4102 (assistant)
District Attorney's Office Representative	Gina Pearl Deputy District Attorney	gpearl@kernda.org	661-868-2340
Public Defender's Office Representative	Peter Kang Public Defender	kangp@kerncounty.com	661-868-4770
Department of Social Services Representative	Maria Bermudez Assistant Director	bermudm@kerndhs.com	661-631-6234
Department of Mental Health Representative	Jennie Sill System Administrator	jsill@kernbhhs.org	661-868-7807
Office of Education Representative	Debra Plank Program Director	deplank@kern.org	661-636-4346
Court Representative	Hon. Judge Wendy Avila Juvenile Court Judge	wendy.avila@kern.courts.ca.gov	661-868-7452 (assistant)
Community Member	Tom Corson Executive Director Kern County Network for Children (KCNC)	tocorson@kern.org	661-636-4980
Community Member	Wesley Davis President/CEO Wendale Davis Foundation	wdavis@wendaledavisfoundation.org	661-493-0275
Community Member	Lois Hannible Program Manager Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK)	lhannib@capk.org	661-396-8126
Additional Subcommittee Participants			
Community Member	Ucedrah Osby Chapter President All Of Us Or None	aouonbakersfield@gmail.com	661-616-8625

PART 2: TARGET POPULATION (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(C)(1))) (

Briefly describe the County's realignment target population supported by the block grant.

The "target population" is defined as "youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure and shall further be defined as persons who are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or on offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code." (WIC 1990(b))

Kern County will target both male and female youth whose most recent adjudicated offense is described in WIC 707(b) and is defined under WIC 1990(b), in cases where the Juvenile Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.

Demographics of identified target population, including anticipated numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including age, gender, race or ethnicity, and offense/offense history.

Kern County Probation serves youth ages 14 to 23, and up to age 25 depending on the length of the disposition ordered by the Juvenile Court. Population estimates are 10-15 males annually based on recent rates of commitment from Kern County to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). There is capacity for approximately 40 youth locally. Population estimates for females may vary as Kern County commitments are rare (2 between 2019 and 2021). It is anticipated Kern County will seek a regional contract to have another County provide services for females based on the expected low numbers and to maximize their opportunities for group-based services. It is uncertain what the maximum population of female commitments will be. Absent a contract with another County, Kern County has the necessary amount of living space available to accommodate what is anticipated to be a low number of female commitments based on historical commitment data. Kern County will be seeking to contract locally for specialized services for sex offenders. It is possible certain sex offenders will require a level of treatment necessitating a regional contract with another County who could provide group-based services with like offenders. Probation has entered into an agreement with a consortium of other counties for the purpose of more efficient placements in appropriate programs.

Demographics for youth from Kern County serving commitments at DJJ as of January 2021 are as follows:

- 45 total commitments: 98% (44) males; 2% (1) female
- 60% (27) for robbery related offenses; 18% (8) for assault related offenses; 18% (8) for homicide, attempted homicide, manslaughter related offenses; 2% (1) for arson; 2% (1) for sex offenses
- 24% (11) are under age 18; 74% (33) are between 18-21 years old; 2% (1) is over age 21
- 60% (27) are Hispanic; 31% (14) are African American; 7% (3) are Caucasian; 2% (1) is Pacific Islander

The breakdown of offenders at DJJ statewide as of fiscal year 2019 is as follows:

- 96% male and 4% female
- 74% are between the ages of 18-21 years of age, 19% are under 17 years of age, and 7% are over the age of 22
- 63% are enrolled in vocational programs, 42% are enrolled in high school, and 28% are enrolled in college
- Behavioral health treatment breaks down to 13% being in Sex Behavior Treatment, 8% in Mental Health Program, and 6% in Behavior Treatment

Describe the target population, disaggregated by programs, placements and/or facilities to which they have been referred.

Several lower-level interventions provided by the Probation Department are available to youth prior to a long-term commitment of this nature becoming necessary. However, at times the serious nature of the adjudicated offense(s) and consideration for public safety will outweigh the opportunity for youth to be tried in lower-level options. A brief description of the Probation Department's continuum of care is described below:

Out of Custody Referrals for Youth not on Probation Status

Kern County Probation receives hundreds of police reports a month. Each report is reviewed by a Probation Officer or Supervisor to determine what, if any, action will be taken. Referrals to other services or warning letters are sent to parents of youth with no prior record for any report received alleging charges that carry no confinement time and some low-level misdemeanors.

Evidence-Base Screening for Felony and Misdemeanor Referrals

Probation uses the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) to screen youth referred for most misdemeanor offenses that carry confinement time and for referrals on felony offenses. The PACT is an evidence-based, risk/needs assessment and case planning system implemented to assist officers in accomplishing four basic objectives:

- Determine the level of risk for re-offending (low, moderate, or high) to focus resources primarily on moderate and high-risk youth
- Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so rehabilitative efforts can be tailored to address youths' unique assessment profiles
- Develop a case management plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors
- Allow managers to determine if targeted factors change because of the Court's intervention

The PACT assists in guiding initial decision-making regarding referrals. Dispositions of cases that have been screened by an officer include referrals to the District Attorney for filing or sending a warning letter and relevant referrals to community-based resources. Felony referrals are reviewed by the District Attorney's office. Once on probation status, the PACT case plan is updated regularly by the assigned Probation Officer.

Lower-level Interventions for Youth on Probation Status

Once youth have been adjudged wards of the Juvenile Court, lower-level interventions may be appropriate for redirection prior to consideration for a commitment to a local custodial program. These options include: Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) (it should be noted DEJ youth are not adjudged wards at time of DEJ disposition), community service, Juvenile Court Work Program (JCWP), community based behavioral health services, and school-based services. These interventions are typically ordered by the Juvenile Court in conjunction with terms of probation-based supervision of youth while they live at home in the community. Out of home placement is an option of last resort for youth whose parent/guardian is unable to properly provide care or where the home is unsafe or unsuitable.

Youth Programs and Supports Unit

Officers can also refer youth for services available at the Probation Department's Youth Programs and Supports Unit (YPS). The mission of YPS is to empower youth by providing support and intensive skill training through

evidence-based practices to reduce criminal behavior for a safer community. YPS is designed to offer youth 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.

In-Custody Dispositional Options for Intervention

Youth determined to need in-custody treatment can be committed by the Juvenile Court to local custodial commitment 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 youth are composed primarily of those who, because of their level of delinquent behavior and risk to reoffend, require in-custody service provision and supervision. Upon release, most youth return to the community under Probation Department supervision. The Probation Department operates five distinct custodial programs on three campuses:

- **Youth Detention Center:** James G. Bowles Youth Detention Center (YDC) is a secure detention facility for youth who fall under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Youth detained at YDC are alleged to have committed a law violation and are detained for the protection of themselves and/or the community or are serving a short-term Juvenile Court-ordered commitment. The YDC program is structured to provide individual and group activities, behavioral health treatment, and a well-balanced school program. All youth booked into YDC are screened for risk factors associated with Human Trafficking (HT)/Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), suicidal/self-harming ideation through the MAYSI-II, sexual abuse through the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) questionnaire, and a general health assessment is made.
- **Camp Erwin Owen:** Camp Erwin Owen is a 65-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.
- **Pathways Academy:** Located on the YDC campus, Pathways Academy is a structured commitment program for females. 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 youth by providing resources to reintegrate youth into the community. Youth are provided with evidence-based services and linked with outside service organizations. The girls participate in an educational programming and receive behavioral health services.
- **Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility:** The Kern Crossroads Facility is a secure residential institution with an operational capacity of 120 beds and a current program capacity of 80. It was created to provide a local institution option for male youth 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, physical education, group living and a behavioral 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-day or 252-day program.

- **Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation:** Located on the YDC campus, Furlough Treatment and Rehabilitation is a 30-bed short-term in-custody program designed for youth who are on furlough release from, or who are pending transfer to a Juvenile Court ordered treatment facility (Camp Erwin Owen or the Kern Crossroads Facility).
- **Re-entry, ADA, and Programming Units:** All three facility settings have Re-entry, ADA, and Programming Units (RAP). The goal of RAP is to increase programming, improve staff/youth interactions, de-escalate tense situations, reduce use of force incidents, and change facility culture. RAP staff assist youth in their adjustment to a facility by ensuring youths' individual needs are being addressed. RAP staff conduct Pre-Release Meetings to review youth accomplishments, identify available community resources, and present release expectations to render youth ready for successful re-entry into the community. Youth who engage in misconduct will be seen by a member of the RAP Team to aid in the youth's continued participation in normal programming. The RAP Team has Crisis Awareness Response (CARE) Team members available to respond to youth in crisis and meet regularly with youth to model and encourage pro-social behaviors. The RAP Team will assist youth with ADA accommodations by making sure they understand program expectations and staff are aware of their accommodations. The Special Cases List containing all youths' ADA accommodations will be distributed daily and a weekly Special Cases Meeting with facility staff and partners to review accommodations will also occur. RAP staff will seek industry leading trends in programming to identify and deliver effective structured activities to the youth with the hope of being a catalyst for positive redirection in the youths' lives.

Provide a description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population:

Facility

Kern County utilizes the Kern Crossroads facility to house secure track youth in a program called Achievement Perseverance and Excellence (APEX) Academy. The Kern Crossroads facility is a secure residential institution with an operational capacity of 120 beds. The facility plant is divided into three pods which can house 40 youth in each, separated as two units of 20. One pod will be designated for this realigned population. Each housing unit of 20 has 12 individual rooms and four dorms which can house two individuals in each. Each 20-bed housing unit has a dayroom for structured activities and school if necessary. It also includes an additional room which can be utilized for visiting, mental health counseling or separation of target groups, as necessary. The physical plant includes a full kitchen with an attached dining hall which can seat up to 60 individuals at a time for meals.

Youth Supervision

To provide rehabilitative services to these youth, safety and security must be a core tenant. Youth will only be able to thrive when they feel safe and secure. Youth Services Officers (YSO) will provide this population supervision and guidance in day-to-day activities. They are trained in both de-escalation techniques as well as Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) and defensive tactics. A philosophy of “accountability and opportunity” will be employed in daily supervision efforts. Youth will be held accountable for misbehavior but also provided with an opportunity to redirect their negative behavior.

Re-entry, ADA, and Programming Units

Re-entry, ADA, and Programming units (RAP) will be available to youth housed within the facilities. RAP units have staff dedicated to providing additional programming to youth in custody, assist with crisis intervention, and provide an array of services outside of the normal supervision duties of direct youth supervision line staff. RAP staff will be on-site during programming hours to provide emotional support to youth, initiate daily structured programming to benefit youths’ active program participation and adolescent development, as well as to provide quality control for programming and activities within the institution. Additionally, RAP staff will be involved in the arrival of youth into the facility as well as Pre-Release Meetings to ensure a successful progression of the case plan while in custody and thorough connection to resources for transition upon release into the community.

Medical Services

Medical services will be provided through an agreement with Kern Medical, who provides on-site staff 12 hours each day to meet medical, dental, and vision related needs of the youth. Emergency and after-hours services are provided through Kern Medical Hospital. For families with private insurance, arrangements can be made to transport youth to those providers’ offices.

Behavioral Health Services

Effective July of 2022, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) is the primary provider of behavioral health services on-site. KernBHRS provides an array of evidence-based and best-practice group programs as well as individual therapeutic interventions. For complete details regarding behavioral health services, please refer to that section within Part 4 of this plan.

Educational Program

Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) will operate the on-site educational program. The school consists of a school office, probation office, and six classrooms including a woodshop area. Youth within the program will have access to Redwood High School for continued education until they graduate or complete an equivalency course. Redwood High School serves students in a six-class rotation. The courses offered include English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Careers, and W.I.N. (What I Need). Students will also have an opportunity to enroll in Culinary Arts and Construction Classes. The Construction Class provides students with basic construction skills. Students will be eligible to earn the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Core Certification, which is recognized internationally in the construction industry. Additionally, students may receive certification in CPR, First Aid, OSHA-10, Serv Safe, Forklift Safety, virtual welding, and the Switch Electric Car Lab Program.

Students will have access to a Career Readiness class that provides opportunities for students to develop career ready skills and explore possible career paths that target their interests and strengths. Industry has indicated that possessing strong “soft skills” directly correlates with workplace success. Additionally, students may participate in field trips to local college campuses, will be offered one-stop college registration and testing conducted at the Redwood High campus, and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) workshops will be made available to parents and guardians. A-G courses for students who desire advanced courses will also be available in the lab.

Students who have completed High School will have the opportunity to enroll in local colleges or vocational schools. Depending on the level of security needed with everyone, they will be able to attend classes online with on-site instructors, or possibly attend courses outside the facility if hands-on participation is required and the youth is deemed suitable for this level of responsibility. Youth who have demonstrated a high level of competence in an individual area and are eligible for a less restrictive environment and a lower level of supervision may be eligible for placement within the community for educational, vocational, apprenticeships, internships, or skills development training. Probation has initiated contact with CSUB’s Project Rebound and will continue to develop a relationship with them to facilitate services and opportunities for youth. APEX youth are currently participating in a Financial Literacy course through the Prison Education Project (PEP), which is an affiliate of Project Rebound. Probation has partnered with Bakersfield College for youth participation in college courses through the Rising Scholars Network.

Vocational Training

In addition to the programs referenced in the Educational Program section, youth will have access to work-based programs to enhance life skills and transitional opportunities upon release into the community. Examples of which include:

- **SERV Safe:** Youth earn a certificate by completing tasks designed to mimic the restaurant industry. An online test must be passed to receive the certificate which is good for 2 years. The certificate translates to real world restaurant experience and the ability to step into a job in the restaurant industry immediately upon release.
- **General Maintenance/Landscaping:** Youth will work with both the maintenance and landscape coordinating staff to learn life skills in these areas. Youth learn skills such as equipment operation, tool use, landscaping, lawn care, tree pruning, plumbing repair, painting, floor care, electrical, power washing, etc.

- **Westec:** Youth will earn certificates in Forklift usage, Confined space, and requirements designed to translate to work in the oilfield, warehouse, or construction industry. This course is typically 2 weeks in length and the certificates translate to real world opportunities.
- **Department of Rehabilitation, Students with Disabilities assistance (DOR):** Probation has discussed opportunities for youth services through the DOR. Part of the re-entry plan for youth with disabilities may include referrals to DOR to establish a connection and help transition youth into industries and occupations that can train them for future employment.
- **Bakersfield College:** With assistance from KCSOS, Probation has partnered with BC to set the stage for Automobile Detailing and HVAC on-site training. Classes are tentatively set to begin in the Summer of 2023.

Volunteer Services

Probation has a dedicated department-level Volunteer Services Coordinator position specifically for developing relationships with Community Based Organizations to access services for the department in general and for youth within facilities. In addition, within the facility's RAP unit, there is a site-specific Volunteer Coordinator. The site-specific Volunteer Coordinator directly monitors volunteer activities at the facility, explores volunteer programs, bolsters existing programming to meet unmet programming needs, explores new/additional ways for youth to serve the community, serves as the direct liaison between the facility and volunteers, and works closely with the department-level Volunteer Services Coordinator in every capacity needed. Additionally, the Coordinator will answer all questions from volunteers to help them provide the best quality of service for youth. Collaborations for life skill groups and mentoring have included The Wendale Davis Foundation, Stay Focused Ministries, Garden Pathways, Jack Frost Football, George Vasquez, Fanny Hernandez, and Tommy's Legacy.

Cooperation with faith-based organizations has traditionally been strong. Entities such as Bethany Center, Teen Challenge, Youth for Christ, Symbols of Hope, New Hope Ministries, and Catholic Services will provide opportunities for youth seeking religious fulfillment from their program. In many cases, these services continue once youth are released from the facility into the community. Youth are free to exercise their individual religious liberties as they choose, with safety and security in mind.

Other Unidentified Contracted Specialized Programs and Services

As we move forward with this population it is recognized that service and programming gaps will likely be discovered. These may be vocational, recreational, treatment or some other area. Probation will address these service gaps through contracted services, volunteer-based partnerships, and collaborative agency workgroups to help leverage resources and direct services based on the needs of the realigned population. Probation staff have implemented an incentive based inter-facility sports program allowing youth to compete amongst each other with staff as coaches and team elected captains shouldering many leadership responsibilities at practices and games. Probation has partnered with the All-Out Flag Football league and Jack Frost whose members volunteer time for youth skill building exercises leading up to these tournaments.

PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(C)(3))

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(c)(3)(A))

In July of 2022, Probation contracted with KernBHRS as the primary provider of behavioral health services on-site. KernBHRS provides an array of evidence-based and best-practice group programs as well as individual therapeutic interventions. Further exploration and implementation of programs best suited for this new population will be an ongoing priority. KCSOS oversees the provision of Education Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) and there will be ongoing communication and collaboration with KernBHRS regarding youth plans when those services overlap. Psychological medication management will continue with KernBHRS psychiatrists. KernBHRS will continue to assist in the transition from custody plans related to behavioral health services post-release, as most of these youth will be eligible for services under the Transition Age Youth (TAY) program and the adult system of care once out of custody.

KernBHRS Services

The goal of the behavioral health services offered will be to assist youth in establishing a commitment to change so they may live productive crime-and-drug-free lives, along with the stabilization of their mental health status. It integrates evidence-based approaches with best practices within the field to serve the needs of youth and their families. The program will incorporate assessment, treatment planning, case management, individual and group counseling, and intensive family services. The selected services will target behavioral health and substance abuse issues, decreasing risks of recidivism, along with addressing behavioral, social, and cognitive issues, and introducing new life-skills. Youth will also be assigned a counselor who will actively seek to meet the individual needs of each youth and determine the best path to success for each individual. Youth who do not meet the criteria for group therapy or may have special needs may receive individual counseling.

KernBHRS is currently building staffing capabilities to provide the following services exclusively for the realigned youth population, according to their case plan:

- **Seeking Safety:** This manual presents the first empirically studied, integrative treatment approach developed specifically for co-occurring PTSD and substance abuse. For persons with this prevalent and difficult-to-treat dual diagnosis, the most urgent clinical need is to establish safety to work toward discontinuing substance use, letting go of dangerous relationships, and gaining control over such extreme symptoms as dissociation and self-harm.
- **CBT with Justice Involved Clients (Interventions for Antisocial and Self-Destructive Behaviors):** Grounded in science and clinical experience, this treatment planner provides essential tools for conducting Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with justice-involved clients in a wide range of settings. Guidelines are presented for assessment, case formulation, and intervention to alter criminogenic thinking and destructive lifestyle patterns. With a focus on reducing recidivism, the book demonstrates ways to enhance clients' motivation for change and elicit prosocial values and life priorities.
- **Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Training Handouts and Worksheets:** Featuring more than 225 user-friendly handouts and worksheets, this is an essential resource for clients learning Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) skills, and those who treat them. All the handouts and worksheets discussed in Marsha M. Linehan's *DBT® Skills Training Manual, Second Edition*, are provided, together with brief introductions to each module written expressly for clients. Originally developed to treat borderline

personality disorder, DBT has been demonstrated effective in treatment of a wide range of psychological and emotional problems.

- **CBT Toolbox (A Workbook for Clients and Clinicians):** *The CBT Toolbox* guides youth through evidence-based exercises to help navigate the road to recovery. For a client's use on their own or for use in a therapeutic setting, this book will teach how to overcome unhealthy life patterns, providing fresh and proven approaches to help. Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) is the most empirically supported form of treatment for a broad range of psychological problems.
- **Antisocial, Borderline, Narcissistic and Histrionic Workbook (Treatment Strategies for Cluster B Personality Disorders):** Utilizes unique worksheets, checklists, and other exercises to diagnose, tackle specific issues, reduce problematic symptoms, and keep therapy moving forward. Provides concrete methods to reduce self-mutilation and other risky behaviors, improve attachment, collaboration, and trust, conquer maladaptive beliefs and diffuse narcissistic resistance, assess, transference/countertransference issues, determine narcissistic drives for perfection and excellence, and lessen flirtatious behaviors.
- **A New Direction:** A New Direction is a comprehensive cognitive-behavioral therapy treatment program that trains chemically dependent offenders to challenge their thinking to change their criminal and addictive behavior patterns. *Criminal & Addictive Thinking and Introduction to Treatment:* real inmates tell the real story about recovering from a life of addiction and crime cognitive-behavioral approach helps inmates see how their attitudes and assumptions fuel destructive behaviors. *Introduction to Treatment:* The program introduces justice-involved clients to the treatment process. They are encouraged to consider why they chose to participate in a treatment program, what success looks like, and how to turn their lives around. *Socialization:* clients reflect on past relationships and improve communication skills, so they may build and maintain sober, crime-free relationships.

KernBHRS currently provides the following groups to youth housed within the facility who are committed to the Crossroads program. These programs are also available to the population of realigned youth:

- **24/7 Dad (12-weeks, 12-sessions):** Focuses on parenting skills, children's life skills, and family life. The 24/7 Dad program is based on five principles, which are: how we parent successfully or unsuccessfully in a largely learned set of behaviors, father and mother parents have two different distinct approaches to parenting, there are universal aspects of fathering and parenting that exist in all cultures, and any father, given the chance can learn to be a great dad and parent. The goal is to increase positive parenting skills, involvement, responsibility, and commitment to their children and the mother of their children.
- **The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) (14-weeks, 14-sessions):** A science-based parenting skills, children's life skills, and family life skills training program specifically designed for high-risk families. Parents and youth participate in SFP, both separately and together. Group leader manuals contain a complete lesson for every session. Parent and youth handbooks/handouts are also provided for every session.
- **Aggression Replacement Training (ART) (10-weeks, 30-sessions):** ART is made up of three components including Skill Streaming, Anger Control Training and Moral Reasoning. ART group targets emotions, behaviors, and cognitions that contribute to the complex character of aggression. In Structured Learning Training, the youth will learn social skills so that they can communicate with people more effectively. In Anger Control Training, the youth will learn about anger how to manage it effectively. In Moral Reasoning Training, the youth will learn how to make more decisions that are appropriate.
- **Thinking for a Change (T4C) (8-weeks, 25-sessions):** Focuses on problem solving, social skills, and cognitive restructuring. The youth will learn social skills such as Active Listening, Giving Feedback and

Responding to Anger. The youth will also learn how thinking impacts behavior. The last six sessions focus on problem solving and address goal setting, choices, and consequences.

- **Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBISA) (13-Weeks, 37 sessions):** Focuses on utilizing therapeutic strategies designed to change the cognitions that influence maladaptive behavior. The curriculum is designed for participants who are moderate to high risk in the area of substance abuse. Interventions rely on a cognitive-behavioral approach to teach participants strategies for avoiding substance abuse.
- **Choices and Changes (5-weeks, 16-sessions):** Focuses on teaching youth problem-solving skills, victim empathy, positive self-image, increasing self-esteem and confidence, discusses high risk places/situations for continued negative behavior pattern, avoiding negative peer influences, value clarification, loyalty, respect, dealing with disrespect, building a support system, consequences faced, future goals, the revolving door, and steps to take to help make pro-social choices.
- **Stages of Change (SOC) (3 to 7-weeks, 9 to 20 -sessions):** ****Usually done in individual sessions**** Stages of Change focuses on youth who have substance abuse problems and is based on the model developed by Prochaska & DiClemente 1984. The group offers an integrative framework for understanding, measuring, and intervening in behavior change regarding the use of substances. In this mode, change is seen as a progression through a series of five stages, from initial Pre-Contemplation stage where the youth is not thinking of change to Contemplation, Preparation, Action, and the fifth stage of Maintenance which the youth work to maintain long-term change from substance use.
- **Anger Management (4weeks, 10-sessions):** ****Usually done in individual sessions**** Anger Management focuses on youth who have challenges regulating their emotions when they become angry and is based on the model developed by C. Nuckols & S. Nuckols 2004 for the Hazelden Corporation. The group has three main sections to assist with anger management problems: About Anger, About the Workbook, and Promising Treatments. The group utilizes Relaxation Interventions to reduce emotional and physiological arousal, Cognitive Interventions to reduce anger-inducing information and internal cognitive prompts, and Behavioral Interventions that seek to change angry, aggressive behavior to more adaptive behavior.
- **Anger Management for Substance Use Disorder (10-weeks, 12-sessions):** A Cognitive-Behavioral Anger Management group treatment model developed to help individuals with substance use and mental health problems co-occurring with anger management problems. Theoretically unified by principles of Social Learning Theory, there are four types of CBT interventions utilized in treating anger management and to help develop an understanding of how anger and violence and substance use are linked. The curriculum utilizes Relaxation Training which targets emotional and physiological components of anger; Cognitive Interventions targets cognitive process such as building awareness of cues and triggers, hostile appraisal and attributions, maladaptive beliefs, and inflammatory thinking; Communication Skills Interventions targets strengthening assertiveness and conflict resolution skills; Combined Interventions integrates two or more CBT interventions and targets multiple domains.

Contracted Specialized Services for Youth

- **Sex Offender Services:** Probation has contracted with KernBHRS for specialized services for sex offenders. It is also possible certain sex offenders will require a level of treatment necessitating a regional contract with another County who could provide group-based services with like offenders. Certain youth, depending on their circumstances or specialized needs, may benefit from a non-local custodial placement.
- **Programs and Services for Females:** Female youth have historically been committed to current DJJ programs at a very low rate. Therefore, female youth programming may be better suited where additional like-gender youth can program together. This may be accomplished through a regional contract with another County. If that option is not available or appropriate, female youth committed for

longer terms in custody may be housed in a separate wing, or along with other females within the Pathways Academy. In either case, there will be an individualized case plan developed specific to the youth that is suitable to both meet the youth's needs and is appropriate for longer-term care. It is prudent to ensure all youth have optimal opportunities to be placed in a program that best suits their needs.

Trauma Informed Care Based Approach

Kern County Probation is dedicated to a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) based approach. The first part of TIC in the Juvenile Justice System is to recognize that most of the affected youth have experienced trauma in their lives. The next step is to put policies in place which attempt to minimize the potential for re-traumatization. Providing services and outlets to address trauma through both treatment and positive staff interactions is also key. Ongoing training will be a priority to ensure the permanency of these practices. To support ongoing training efforts, 1 Youth Services Officer III will be dedicated to the Training unit. This staff will assist in researching and coordinating formal and informal training for the Department and collaborative partners, with a primary focus on emerging TIC and behavioral health minded approaches to staff/youth interactions to supplement and enhance current training efforts already in place.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(c)(3)(B))

Youth will have access to a variety of programs and services designed to promote healthy adolescent behavior. Some of the specific evidence-based, pro-social, and best-practice programs related to this area are more fully described in the behavioral health section of Part 4 of this plan. In addition to those, other services directed at healthy adolescent development will include volunteer-based, educational, recreational, redirection and vocational based programs and supports.

Volunteer Services

Probation has a dedicated department-level Volunteer Services Coordinator position specifically for developing relationships with Community Based Organizations to access services for the department in general and for youth within facilities. Examples of volunteer programs designed to help healthy adolescent development are as follows:

- **Garden Pathways Youth On a Mission Program:** Probation partners with Garden Pathways to bring their Youth On a Mission program to the realigned population. Youth will participate in the 10-week program, which focuses on skill building in the areas of leadership development and goal setting. The curriculum is designed to be facilitated in custody, with a significant emphasis on re-entry follow up and application of the skills learned while on community supervision.
- **Marley's Mutts Pawsitive Change Program:** Discussions have begun for this 12-week program which highlights youth caring for and training dogs living on-site, with plans for kennel construction and trainers conducting interviews with youth on site.

Educational and Vocational Services

In addition to the provision of traditional core secondary and post-secondary education, this realigned population will be able to receive additional training and skill building in specific fields. Healthy adolescent

development includes the development of skills that support independence, responsibility, and work ethic. Some examples of these types of programs include:

- **SERV Safe:** Youth earn a certificate by completing tasks designed to mimic the restaurant industry. An online test must be passed to receive the certificate which is good for 2 years. The certificate translates to real world restaurant experience and the ability to step into a job in the restaurant industry immediately upon release.
- **General Maintenance/Landscaping:** Youth will work with both the maintenance and landscape coordinating staff to learn life skills in these areas. Youth will learn skills such as equipment operation, tool use, landscaping, lawn care, tree pruning, plumbing repair, painting, floor care, electrical, power washing, etc.
- **Westec:** Youth will earn certificates in Forklift usage, Confined space, and requirements designed to translate to work in the oilfield, warehouse, or construction industry. This course is typically 2 weeks in length and the certificates translate to real world opportunities.
- **Department of Rehabilitation, Students with Disabilities assistance (DOR):** Probation has discussed opportunities for youth services through the DOR. Part of the re-entry plan for youth with disabilities may include referrals to DOR to establish a connection and help transition youth into industries and occupations that can train them for future employment.
- **Bakersfield College:** With assistance from KCSOS, Probation has partnered with BC to set the stage for Automobile Detailing and HVAC on-site training. Classes are tentatively set to begin summer 2023.

Re-entry, ADA, and Programming Units

The Re-entry, ADA, and Programming (RAP) unit has specific staff positions whose purpose is to help support healthy adolescent development, both through redirection and provision of supports to guide better decision making. Some of those positions and services within the RAP unit are as follows:

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator:** The ADA Coordinator runs Special Cases Meetings, monitors the Special Cases List to ensure accuracy, conducts quality control of the documentation in unit binders, follows up with staff to ensure accommodations are understood and being followed, serves as an ADA liaison with our partnering agencies and other Probation divisions, and evaluates ADA training needs for the facility. The ADA Coordinator will ensure youths' accommodations are communicated during intake, initial assessment, school, and Pre-Release Meetings. The ADA Coordinator will work closely with the School Coordinator to ensure information regarding educational accommodations are received and documented.
- **Special Cases Meeting (SCM):** The SCM attendees include representatives from school, behavioral health, medical, and Probation staff. The primary goal of the SCM is to discuss challenges youth may have while programming, specifically detailing their ADA accommodations. The ADA Coordinator records minutes and disseminates information to unit staff to assist youth supervision.
- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Within the facility's RAP unit, there is a site-specific Volunteer Coordinator. The site-specific Volunteer Coordinator directly monitors volunteer activities at the facility to explore volunteer programs, bolster existing programming and meet unmet programming needs. The Volunteer Coordinator serves as the direct liaison between the facility and volunteers.
- **Programming Coordinator:** The Programming Coordinator directly monitors programming in the facility to determine the effectiveness and appropriateness of existing programming, works closely with partnering agencies to assure our mission and goals are understood, researches new programming, technology, and industry trends in facility programming.
- **Crisis Awareness Response (CARE) Team Members:** The CARE Team consists of all members of the RAP Team. CARE Team members will respond to youth in crisis to de-escalate situations before

they deteriorate further. The CARE Team will motivate youth to interact in the program and counsel youth who need re-direction. All CARE Team members will work shifts that allow the most accessibility to the programming needs of youth. CARE Team members will be present in the units to lead structured activities, engage youth individually when appropriate, build rapport, and gain knowledge about youth to assist with de-escalating future incidents that may occur. Not being part of direct youth supervision staffing ratios will allow CARE Team members to respond directly to incidents without delay.

- **Alternative Program (AP):** Alternative Program (AP) will be a sanction used to address all levels of youth misconduct. Youth who receive AP will not participate in regular recreational programming and will remain in the defined AP area, typically a separate dayroom. RAP staff will facilitate AP and document youth participation. The ADA Coordinator will document youth with ADA accommodations who were placed in AP. All youth in AP will complete any interventions, educational assignments, or Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) assignments during their AP time. Completed interventions and assignments will be reviewed by staff and discussed with the youth. Longer AP periods, which may be given for high level misconduct, may require several Core Correctional Practices (CCP) interventions, educational or CBT assignments over the course of the AP period.

APEX Academy Baseline Incentive Matrix

Pursuant to WIC 875(e)(1) the court may order that a youth's baseline term be modified downward by a reduction of confinement time not to exceed six months for each review period. The APEX Academy Baseline Incentive Matrix is designed to encourage and reinforce positive behaviors, identify program progress, and provide a system to appropriately calculate modifications to baseline terms. The Matrix consists of five phases. Each phase contains a list of objectives and goals that focus on education, programming, and treatment, and each phase includes a maximum number of days earned that may be deducted from a baseline term. The level of responsibility increases as the phases progress and the maximum number of days earned also increases as the phases progress. Youth who do not complete or meet the objectives and goals of a phase will not progress to the next phase or if appropriate, may be required to repeat a previous phase. A report is prepared for the Court prior to every review hearing that summarizes the youth's progress and when earned, provides a recommendation for baseline term modification.

Youth Council

The purpose of Youth Council is to maintain an open line of communication between staff and youth, evaluate and improve facility programming, and give Youth Council members an opportunity to learn valuable leadership and diplomacy skills. Youth Council affords representation for youth in all housing units and provides a venue for ideas, issues, and concerns to be discussed and resolved. Youth are expected to communicate facility expectations back to other youth in their designated housing units to ensure harmonious operations. Youth who have an active role in this process often have a positive impact on how the youth population responds to facility rule and policy changes. Youth Council convenes on the second Wednesday of each month.

Other Unidentified Contracted Specialized Services

As we move forward with this population it is recognized that service gaps will likely be discovered. Some of these may be related to the need for additional supports and services to help further promote healthy adolescent development. Probation will address these service gaps through contracted services, volunteer-based partnerships, and collaborative agency workgroups to help leverage resources and direct services based on the needs of the realigned population.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(c)(3)(C))

Youth will have access to groups designed to enhance the transition back to the community and maintain a strong family unit. Bolstering a robust, sturdy family unit will be a core concept in the program. Family members are preferred to be involved in every step of youths' programs and transitions back into the community. The more involved the family is in the treatment experience, the better the understanding, respect, and trust to solidify the successful return to the community will be.

Visiting

Regular visiting will be accessible to parents or legal guardians to continue and further develop family ties. Visiting will be accessible at the facilities, either in person or remotely via ZOOM conference. Consideration will be given to expand visiting options to include additional family members, such as siblings, grandparents, spiritual advisers, and mentors. As the youth progress through the program, they may earn the privilege to expand their visiting list to close friends who serve as constructive influences. For youth who are parents, opportunities will be available for regular baby visits. Youth will have onsite visits with their children and typically their parent/guardian. Future baby visits may include both the youth and the other parent to allow for family unity. Suitability for this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Probation has established a committee to address the widely held belief that visiting, and telephone communication parameters need to be widened to include extended family members, siblings, and significant others. Taking into consideration the number of APEX youth over the age of 18 adds to this need.

Special Events and Engagements

Youth who are progressing strongly through their program and meet the criteria may be able to be eligible for passes to attend life events such as graduations, births, and funeral services. On-site outdoor picnics will be available to youth doing well in the program who attain certain goals. Additionally, off site picnics may be allowed provided the youth meets classification and behavior criteria.

Family Engagement Programs

Youth and families will have access to several programs intended to increase family engagement and further strengthen and support existing family bonds. Some examples of such programs are as follows:

- **24/7 Dad (12-weeks, 12-sessions):** Focuses on parenting skills, children's life skills, and family life. The 24/7 Dad program is based on five principles, which are: how we parent successfully or unsuccessfully in a largely learned set of behaviors, father and mother parents have two different distinct approaches to parenting, there are universal aspects of fathering and parenting that exist in all cultures, and any father, given the chance can learn to be a great dad and parent. The goal is to increase positive parenting skills, involvement, responsibility, and commitment to their children and the mother of their children.
- **The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) (14-weeks, 14-sessions):** A science-based parenting skills, children's life skills, and family life skills training program specifically designed for high-risk families. Parents and youth participate in SFP, both separately and together. Group leader manuals contain a complete lesson for every session. Parent and youth handbooks/handouts are also provided for every session.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(c)(3)(D))

Re-entry Supports

The current average length of stay at DJJ is approximately 28 months. It is anticipated that will remain similar moving forward with the development of sentencing structures for local commitments. The APEX Baseline Incentive Matrix will assist in identifying any appropriate modifications to the baseline term. Many of the youth will not have been out of custody and in the community as an adult prior to release. Based on their ages, there will also no longer be a legal obligation for parental care and custody. It is anticipated there will be a variety of tangible needs to help the release transition be more successful. Some examples of potential tangible needs may include food, clothing, transportation, vocation, and education supports. In addition, upon release there will be occasional need for housing supports, be it in sober living homes or other temporary housing options and funds will need to be set aside to provide support in this area. To accomplish this, funds will be designated to support efforts in this area, which may include the need to develop contracts with Community-Based Organizations and other support-focused entities. Probation intends to develop a Day Reporting Center program to serve this population.

As we move forward with this population it is recognized that re-entry services gaps will likely be discovered. These may be vocational, recreational, treatment or some other area. Probation will address these service gaps through contracted services, volunteer-based partnerships, and collaborative agency workgroups to help leverage resources and direct services based on the needs of the realigned population.

Re-Entry Coordinator (RAP Unit Staff)

The Re-Entry Coordinator will directly coordinate all details of youth being released from commitments to address both custody and community needs upon release, coordinate services with all of our partnering agencies, oversee Pre-Release Meetings, act as the facility liaison for assigned Probation Officers, facilitate connections with outside entities (Social Security Office, Post Office for draft registration, DMV for ID or CDL, birth certificates, Medi-Cal, etc.), and maintain a presence in the facility to build rapport with youth and determine any special interests or skills to be further encouraged through community referrals.

Vocational Training

Youth will have access to work-based programs to enhance life skills and transitional opportunities upon release into the community. Examples of which include:

- **SERV Safe:** Youth earn a certificate by completing tasks designed to mimic the restaurant industry. An online test must be passed to receive the certificate which is good for 2 years. The certificate translates to real world restaurant experience and the ability to step into a job in the restaurant industry immediately upon release.
- **General Maintenance/Landscaping:** Youth will work with both the maintenance and landscape coordinating staff to learn life skills in these areas. Youth learn skills such as equipment operation, tool use, landscaping, lawn care, tree pruning, plumbing repair, painting, floor care, electrical, power washing, etc.
- **Westec:** Youth will earn certificates in Forklift usage, Confined space, and requirements designed to translate to work in the oilfield, warehouse, or construction industry. This course is typically 2 weeks in length and the certificates translate to real world opportunities.

- **Department of Rehabilitation, Students with Disabilities assistance (DOR):** Probation has discussed opportunities for youth services through the DOR. Part of the re-entry plan for youth with disabilities may include referrals to DOR to establish a connection and help transition youth into industries and occupations that can train them for future employment.
- **Bakersfield College:** With assistance from KCSOS, Probation has partnered with BC to set the stage for Automobile Detailing and HVAC onsite training. Classes are tentatively set to begin summer 2023.

Ongoing Educational Opportunities and Support

Students who have completed High School will have the opportunity to enroll in local colleges or vocational schools. Depending on the level of security needed with everyone, they will be able to attend classes online or possibly attend courses outside the facility if hands-on participation is required and the youth is deemed suitable for this level of responsibility. Youth who have demonstrated a high level of competence in an individual area and are eligible for a less restrictive environment and a lower level of supervision may be eligible for placement within the community for educational, vocational, apprenticeships, internships, or skills development training. Probation has initiated contact with CSUB's Project Rebound and will continue to develop a relationship with them to facilitate service and opportunities for youth. Probation has partnered with Bakersfield College for youth participation in college courses through the Rising Scholars Network. Online Financial Literacy classes with the Prison Education Project, an affiliate of Project Rebound, have begun. On-site instruction is planned for future classes.

Behavioral Health Transitions

KernBHRS will work with Probation to transition youth from in-custody treatment to behavioral health services post-release, as most of these youth will be eligible for services under the Adult System of Care or through the Transition Age Youth (TAY) program once out of custody.

The Adult System of Care provides services to youth (age 18 and over) who are experiencing challenges in life functioning as a result of symptoms related to mental illness and/or substance use. Treatment is client-driven and based on the strengths and goals of the youth served. Key treatment components include a mental health assessment/reassessment, psychological evaluation, medication management services, group therapy, individual therapy, family therapy, case management services, psychoeducation, substance use treatment, rehabilitation and coping skills education, and linkage to community resources. The therapist and recovery specialist form a dyad team to provide tailored services to the client which are outlined on the Clinical Practice Guidelines and reviewed with the youth at the onset of treatment.

The TAY team is a full partnership team which provides support to foster youth between the ages of 16 and 25 who are struggling with mental and emotional health issues. Some specialty services offered include counseling/therapy, drug/alcohol addiction treatment, help with securing financial and health benefits, assistance with accessing medical, dental and vision services, assistance with securing safe and affordable housing, accessing transportation options, food, and clothing resources, help with securing employment or vocational training, and assistance with education classes. Services are provided in the community with locations, such as but not limited to, the client's home, school, work site, or other community agency.

The TAY Team utilizes *The Transition to Independence Process (TIP) Model* which is an evidenced supported practice that helps engage youth in their own futures planning process, provides them with services/supports, involves them and others in a process that facilitates greater self-sufficiency, and successful achievement of

goals related to each transition domain. The TIP Model helps youth with emotional behavioral difficulties to overcome barriers and achieve their goals.

Pre-Release Meetings

Pre-Release Meetings will address the accomplishments and continuing needs of youth being released. A report detailing youths' programs while in the facility and goals for after release will be discussed with partnering agencies from education, behavioral health, family members, and Probation staff to help develop a successful re-entry plan. Probation will maintain a current resource list of community-based service providers to be able to refer youth being released to in order for the youth and family to know what is available to them within the community. The resource list will include agencies who provide support, services, and opportunities in the following areas:

- Employment/Job Readiness
- Housing, Shelter, and Utility Services
- Medical Services
- Transportation Services
- Legal Assistance
- Child Care Services
- Support/Counseling Groups

Youth Programs and Supports Unit and Adult Programs and Supports Unit Services

Staff assigned to the Youth Programs and Supports Unit (YPS) and Adult Programs and Supports Unit (APS) are trained in a wide array of evidence-based and best-practice modalities. Due to anticipated lengths of stay this population will be wide-ranging in age, and many will reach adulthood while in our care. YPS and APS staff can provide services and skill building efforts to supplement on-site supports in place, while allowing for a warm handoff from youth-based services to adult based services which can be continued upon release from custody.

Post Release Supervision

Based on the high-risk level and numerous needs of the realigned population, dedicated caseloads with manageable youth to officer ratios will be key to successful re-entry back into the community. Deputy Probation Officers will begin working and building rapport with the youth while they are in custody. They will provide case management services and individualized case plans to maximize the chance for successful integration. For those youth over 21 the SRNA (Static Risk and Needs Assessment) will be utilized. This tool is used by the Probation Department for their adult offenders and is validated for this older age group. They will also provide a level of accountability to help redirect behavior which is contrary to their success.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma- informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(c)(3)(E))

Evidence Based Practices

Kern County and the Probation Department are committed to Evidence-Based Practices (EBP). EBP includes a wide variety of practices and treatments that have been validated through meta-analysis to reduce recidivism by addressing criminogenic needs and building on supportive factors.

The core of EBP is an evidence-based assessment. Kern County utilizes the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). This assessment both identifies a youth's risk level to reoffend as well as their criminogenic needs. This allows for individualized case plans that focus on those dynamic risk factors that lead to criminal behavior. The PACT is validated for youth up to 21 years of age. For those youth over age 21 the Static Risk and Needs Assessment (SRNA) will be utilized. This tool is used by the Probation Department for their adult offenders and is validated for this older age group.

In addition to an assessment, EBP include evidence-based treatments. These are Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) programs and other best practices that have been proven to address criminogenic needs and reduce recidivism. Examples include Aggression Replacement Training, Strengthening Families, Thinking for a Change (T4C), and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions-Substance Abuse (CBISA). Both sworn and non-sworn staff, as well as contracted service providers, will facilitate these treatment modalities to youth. Additional examples of such programs being implemented for this realigned population are found in Part 4 of this plan.

Culturally Responsive Services

Youth Services Officers within the facilities receive ongoing annual training on topics that include youth development and culturally responsive approaches to youth interaction. Here is one example of a culturally responsive training offered:

- **Cultural Competency (Course Description):** Law Enforcement Professionals are dealing with many challenges, including how to interact and navigate through the diverse communities they are working with. Recent high-profile interactions have also strained police-community relations and has made the jobs more difficult. This interactive course will explore the historical relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. This training will also examine the dynamics of culture, police culture, human relations, and the impact they can have working with a diverse population. Students will also explore effective ways to increase public trust while working within the criminal justice system.

Youth are free to exercise religious expression and have opportunities to request visitation from personal spiritual advisors. Cooperation with faith-based organizations such as Bethany Center, Teen Challenge, Youth for Christ, Symbols of Hope, New Hope Ministries, and Catholic Servicers provide an opportunity for youth seeking religious support during their program. In many cases, these services continue once youth are released from the facility into the community.

Trauma Informed Care Based Approach

Probation is dedicated to a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) based approach. The first part of TIC in the juvenile justice system is to recognize that most of the affected youth have experienced trauma in their lives. The next step is to put policies in place which attempt to minimize the potential for re-traumatization. Providing services

and outlets to address trauma through both treatment and positive staff interactions is also key. Some examples of current trainings provided to staff that support a trauma-informed approach include:

- **Crisis Intervention Training:** This course provides an overview on how to work proactively to increase pro-social behavior, teach skills, and positively change behavior. Information is shared on how to stay ahead of behavior by working the environment to increase success from intake. Specific behavioral interventions and corrective teaching are covered for common mental health diagnoses seen in this setting. ACEs are reviewed with examples of triggers and fight/flight responses.
- **Mental Health 101:** This course provides an overview of mental health issues and diagnoses, interventions, and psychotropic medications. Information is covered on the history of treatment for offenders with mental health issues and the impact now on the Criminal Justice System and Probation. Disability and special education laws are covered as well as how to effectively make accommodations for offenders with mental health issues with regard to developing effective interventions and treatment plans.
- **Crisis Prevention Institute Non-Violent Intervention Strategies:** This course provides an overview of the Crisis Development Model and offers non-violent intervention strategies to address potential escalating behavior. This course identifies both verbal and non-verbal techniques and strategies to utilize when contacting a youth who is showing signs of anxiety.
- **Behavioral Health Unit-Youth Services Officer Core Training:** The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) was created to increase officers' proficiency at identifying possible mental health or behavior issues and support appropriate officer responses, as well as identifying resources that are available to youth within the Juvenile Justice System. This training unit is comprised of ten individual lessons consisting of: Signs and Symptoms of Substance Abuse, Trauma, Interventions and Resources, Stigma and Bias, Roles and Responsibilities, Liability, Suicide Prevention, Foundations and Definitions, Safety, Emotional Survival.

Ongoing Training Support

Ongoing training will be a priority to ensure the permanency of these practices. To support ongoing training efforts, 1 Youth Services Officer III (YSO) will be dedicated to the Training unit. This staff will assist in researching and coordinating formal and informal training for the Department and collaborative partners, with a primary focus on emerging TIC and behavioral health minded approaches to staff/youth interactions to supplement and enhance current training efforts already in place.

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(c)(3)(F))

It is recognized to accomplish the mission of successfully realigning the DJJ population it must be collaborative effort. While the Probation Department will have primary responsibilities for security, services and treatment, numerous other partners will be significantly involved. KCSOS and local colleges will play a vital part in education services. Kern Medical will provide health care services. Other important partners will be KernBHRS, various volunteer groups, and more.

In addition to those core partnerships, as we move forward with this population it is recognized that service gaps will likely be discovered. These may be occupational, recreational, treatment or some other area. Having funds available to address these service gaps is a sensible strategy to ensure that youths' needs will be met. Certain youth, depending on their circumstances or specialized needs, may present specialized treatment needs that could be better served by a community-based entity. Therefore, it is important to begin to prepare for such a contingency and grant funds will be set aside to be available for these types of services. The actual target areas will be directed by the SB 823 Subcommittee.

It is anticipated there will be a variety of tangible needs to help the release transition be more successful. Some examples of potential tangible needs may include food, clothing, transportation, vocation, and education supports. In addition, upon release there will be occasional need for housing supports, be it in sober living homes or other temporary housing options and funds will need to be set aside to provide support in this area. To accomplish this, funds will need to be designated to support efforts in this area, which may include the need to develop contracts with Community-Based Organizations and other support-focused entities.

Kern County Probation has a dedicated position for a Volunteer Services Coordinator specifically for developing relationships with Community-Based Organizations to access services for youth within facilities. The coordinator will routinely analyze institution/youth needs and search for a Community-Based Organization to fill needs.

Probation will maintain a current resource list of community-based service providers to be able to refer youth being released to in order for the youth and family to know what is available to them within the community. The resource list will include agencies who provide support, services, and opportunities in the following areas:

- Employment/Job Readiness
- Housing, Shelter, and Utility Services
- Medical Services
- Transportation Services
- Legal Assistance
- Child Care Services
- Support/Counseling Groups

Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics.

Facilities

Kern County utilizes the Kern Crossroads Facility to house realigned youth. This facility is a secure residential institution with an operational capacity of 120 beds. It was created to provide a local institution option for male youth offenders, ages 14-18, in lieu of a DJJ commitment. The facility plant is divided into three pods which can house 40 youth in each, separated as two units of 20 within each pod. These separate units will allow for some separation by age and/or special needs as warranted and identified during classification. Each unit of 20 has 12 individual rooms and four dorms which can house two individuals in each. Each 20-bed housing unit has a dayroom for structured activities and school if necessary. It also includes an additional room which can be utilized for visiting, behavioral health counseling or separation of target groups, as necessary. The physical plant includes a full kitchen with an attached dining hall which can seat up to 60 individuals at a time for meals. Also included is a school area which currently houses Redwood High school. The school consists of a school office, Probation office, and six classrooms including a woodshop area. Additionally, there is a physical education area with 2 full size basketball/volleyball courts, a weight room, and a field which is utilized for sports and other activities.

Female youth have historically been committed to current DJJ programs at a very low rate. Therefore, female youth programming may be better suited where additional like-gender youth can program together. This may be accomplished through a regional contract with another county. If that option is not available or appropriate, female youth committed for longer terms in custody may be housed in a separate wing, or along with other females within the Pathways Academy. Pathways is located on the Youth Detention Center campus, which is a secure facility.

Facility Upgrades

Some security and programming upgrades have been completed and others are being planned and prioritized. Initially, a holding room has been converted to a padded safety room, an additional recreation slab has been added, and taller railings have been added to the upstairs portions of the pods. Upgraded perimeter fencing has been completed and an exterior second layer of security fencing will be completed by Summer 2023. Additionally, the camera system is in operation and covers all areas of the facility to protect youth and investigate allegations when needed. We are actively exploring all options for upgrading and securing the facility, as well as providing space for programming, recreational activities, school, and behavioral health groups. These added measures will help ensure safety and security while allowing for robust service delivery and increased time spent outside of rooms.

Funding has been allocated to renovate the main field, renovations to a second workout gym have begun, and the process to purchase C-train containers to make room for vocational training needs in the area adjacent to our construction room is underway. Two additional pieces of outdoor exercise equipment have been purchased. These two pieces are weather resistant and have been placed in a grass portion of the recreation area. Additional exercise equipment has been purchased for use within the APEX Academy.

This will provide opportunities to exercise indoors when weather prevents outdoor exercise and will also act as an incentive for youth when they wish to exercise indoors in a climate-controlled environment.

A covered patio has been built on the facility site, adjacent to the dining hall. This covered area was placed strategically next to the dining hall to provide youth the opportunity to eat outside when weather permits. The area will also be utilized to host youth picnics with their families. Staff have also conducted barbecue cooking classes with youth. The covered area will provide staff the opportunity to continue this with the youth outside, in the shade, while being next to the kitchen to get cooking supplies.

All housing units have patio tables and umbrellas placed outside, in front of each unit. This has given youth the opportunity to take a break when they are feeling overwhelmed or need to de-escalate their behavior. The patio tables also have multiple other purposes such as use for visiting, enjoying a snack, and for leisure activity. All other outdoor tables on the facility site are outfitted with colored umbrellas. Youth were involved with staff in the building of the unit patio tables. In addition, we have installed two tier shelving units in each youth's room. This has allowed for more personal items and family photos to be kept off the youth's floor.

Another addition to the outdoor portion of the facility is the creation of a large outdoor garden. Through a collaboration with KCSOS we were able to start construction of a large garden. This garden is designed and constructed in an area behind the units that was never fully utilized. Youth have been directly involved in the physical labor of creating this outdoor space and planting seedlings. Through this collaborative, KCSOS has provided a storage building, large greenhouse, and purchased numerous supplies. Probation has purchased a large, commercial grade rototiller as well as supplies to maintain the garden. Youth work within the garden and learn how to plant and cultivate crops. These crops have been utilized in our kitchen and create a "garden to table" program in which youth reap the benefits of the crops they raised. Youth have also been able to participate in the construction class to build the planter boxes and construct the greenhouse adding to their construction skills. Probation hosted a Harvest Festival on-site in October of 2022, which featured produce from our farm alongside produce from local farms. The festival was held in conjunction with the KCSOS Back to School Night and gave us a chance to highlight some of our youths' accomplishments in front of their parents.

Staffing

Youth will be housed in a safe environment in cooperation with Probation staff and partnering agencies.

- **Probation Staffing:** Youth Services Officers (YSO) will always be on site 24 hours a day for supervision of youth assigned to facilities. There will always be an adequate number of personnel sufficient to carry out program activities, provide for safety and security of youth and staff, meet established standards, and regulations and to ensure that no required services shall be denied because of insufficient numbers of staff on duty (absent exigent circumstances). The shift coverage for the units will be arranged to meet or exceed the Title 15 Standards for youth detention facilities. YSO supervision encompasses all daily activities youth participate in including, unit programming, meals, physical education, school, room and unit clean-up, medical transports, vocational training, off site visits, court appointments, visits, structured activity, baby visits, and all other programs.
- **Behavioral Health Staffing:** Behavioral health staff will be on site every day or on-call 24 hours a day in case an emergency response is needed, or a mental health crisis takes place. Youth can request behavioral health services at any time by either verbal or confidential written request.
- **Medical Staffing:** Medical staff will be on-site for 12 hours every day to provide timely and quality medical care. Youth can verbally inform staff of any medical needs and staff can initiate protocols or refer the youth to medical staff for evaluation. Youth can also complete a confidential medical request

and have that sent to medical staff. Services provided to youth include medical, dental, and vision. Emergency and after-hours services are provided through Kern Medical Hospital. For families with private insurance, arrangements can be made to transport youth to those providers' offices.

Additional Safety Measures and Protections

- **Prison Rape Elimination Act:** Youth will have access to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) hotline. The Probation Department has a policy in place to investigate all sexually based accusations or complaints as serious, truthful, and time sensitive. PREA investigators include supervisory staff at the Deputy Probation Officer III (DPO III) and Youth Services Officer III (YSO III) level. At any time during an investigation, outside law enforcement agencies may be called to conduct a criminal investigation. Victim's Advocates will be available should they need to be utilized in any case. All information is considered confidential.
- **Transgender Youth:** Policies are in place to protect transgender and intersex youth. Upon initial entry to any Kern County Institution, youth who identify as transgender participate with staff in completing a Transgender Youth Preference Form which plays a part in helping to determine housing, clothing, and supervision based on their gender identification.
- **Special Education:** In cooperation with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, youth will have access to continued education and services. Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Education Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) are available for those youth who qualify. Schools also work in cooperation with behavioral health providers, medical staff, and Probation to individualize each youth's program to meet their specific needs.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** The RAP Unit has a position designated as the ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator runs Special Cases Meetings, monitors the Special Cases List to ensure accuracy, conducts quality control of the documentation in unit binders, follows up with staff to ensure accommodations are understood and being followed, serves as an ADA liaison with partnering agencies and other Probation divisions, and evaluates ADA training needs for the facility. The ADA Coordinator will ensure youths' accommodations are communicated during intake, initial assessment, school, and Pre-Release Meetings. The ADA Coordinator will work closely with the School Coordinator to ensure information regarding educational accommodations are received and documented.
- **Special Cases Meeting (SCM):** The SCM attendees include representatives from school, behavioral health, medical, and Probation staff. The primary goal of the SCM is to discuss challenges youth may have while programming, specifically detailing their ADA accommodations. The ADA Coordinator records minutes and disseminates information to unit staff to assist youth supervision.
- **Suicide Prevention:** Probation is committed to deterring and preventing self-harm and suicide within its facilities. Policies are in place for supervision of youth identified as high-risk for this behavior. Each youth completes a MAYSI-II questionnaire upon entry into any facility. This risk assessment tool is utilized in determining the youth history, current state of mind, and potential for self-harm or suicidal ideation. Youth deemed to be an immediate risk are immediately assessed by behavioral health to determine program needs and supervisory objectives. Youth may be placed on Suicide Watch or Special Watch depending on their needs. Programs can be changed at any time during their stay with behavioral health input and approval.
- **Youth Grievances:** Youth will be able to file a grievance at any time. Each youth will have access to grievances during their program or they and may keep them inside their room for completion. A confidential grievance box is made available within each housing unit, or youth may give them directly to supervisory staff. Grievances are taken seriously, handled in a timely manner, and at times can develop into policy change when required. All are reviewed by facility administration.

- **Classification:** Each new youth goes through a series of processes to ensure their safety and security. Upon arrival, youth go through an initial intake assessment. In the event the youth make allegation of abuse the appropriate referral to Child Protection Services or law enforcement is completed immediately. As youth spend time at the facility and more information is obtained based on their performance and input from family, youth, available records, victims, police, behavioral health, and probation staff, their classification needs may change. Classification is not a tool for punishment or discipline. The Duty Supervisor will assign youth appropriate classification designations considering the following factors: age, maturity, sophistication, emotional stability, program needs, public safety considerations, medical/behavior health considerations, gang affiliation, gender, and gender identity. Our classification policy also outlines “no dorm status” and “no roommate status” for youth when there are safety concerns associated with shared sleeping rooms. Other specified classifications include observation period, suicide watch, special watch, special medical watch, medical restrictions, medical isolation, medical bed rest, respiratory concerns, ADA, special program status, Individualized Safety and Security Program, and Alternative Program.

PART 6: RETAINING THE TARGET POPULATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(C)(5))

Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system:

Kern County Probation continues to work within the parameters of the legal system to ensure youth entering the Juvenile Justice System are given opportunities to succeed at the lowest level of intervention possible. Partners within the Juvenile Justice System include the Kern County Juvenile Court, the Kern County District Attorney, the Kern County Public Defender, and community support advocates. These partners work closely to ensure fair, consistent, equal, and individual treatment for each youth.

Each individual case is assessed and evaluated before Court recommendations are made to ensure the best practices and services are directed to each individual youth. Probation utilizes the PACT risk/needs assessment tool and case plan to assess level of risk to reoffend, identify criminogenic needs, and guide services (further information on the PACT is found in Part 2 of this plan). This allows incorporation of goals related to youths' court orders into their program to ensure youth are on track to meet achievable goals of being law-abiding and self-sufficient community members. Working within the existing laws, only offenses eligible for transfer to the adult system would be considered. When considering Court recommendations on those cases, the underlying principle applied to the Court process will be that whenever possible and appropriate youths' cases should remain in the Juvenile Justice System.

Probation will continue to operate rehabilitative programs and refer youth to community-based services when appropriate to reduce youth recidivism and mitigate the need for the transfer of cases to the Adult Criminal Justice System. Only when findings are made by the Juvenile Court that services within the Juvenile Justice System are not appropriate to rehabilitate a youth will a case be transferred to the Adult Criminal Justice System. It is the goal that this program will be adequate with regard to both security and service provision to be a robust alternative and thereby limit the need for cases to be transferred to the Adult Criminal Justice System in all but the most serious of cases.

From July 2021 through December 2021, there were 12 youth with sustained 707(b) offenses in Juvenile Court. 6 of those youth were ordered into a local commitment program (Crossroads, Camp Owen, Pathways), 3 were ordered into our Secure Track program (APEX Academy), 1 was released on probation terms, 1 was ordered into out of home placement, and 1 was given Deferred Entry of Judgement (DEJ). In two instances the offenses would have met the 290.008 offense criteria.

From January 2022 through December 2022, there were 35 youth with sustained WIC 707(b) offenses. 11 youth were ordered into a local commitment program (Crossroads, Camp Owen, Pathways), 7 were committed to the Youth Detention Center, 1 was released on probation terms, 13 were ordered into our Secure Track program (12 in APEX, 1 female housed at the Youth Detention Center), 2 were ordered into out of home placement, and 1 was ordered hours in the Juvenile Court Work Program. In five instances the offenses would have met the 290.008 offense criteria.

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County's block grant allocation:

Kern County will serve youth locally unless substantial case factors indicate the youth would be better served another way. Youth committed to this program are not only at risk of further exposure to the Criminal Justice System, but they are at much higher risk to become disenfranchised with the community to which they will ultimately return. Family structure, family visits, positive peer and mentor involvement, and community service are keys to successful reintegration to the local community. Local programming, vocational training, higher education, and community ties are valuable to a youth's chances for success when released from the program. Kern County is committed to prioritizing both the family bond and commitment to their community for these youth and local programming provides the best opportunity.

Possible Regionally Contracted Specialized Services for Youth

- **Sex Offender Services:** Probation has contracted with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services locally for specialized services for sex offenders. It is also possible certain sex offenders will require a level of treatment necessitating a regional contract with another County who could provide group-based services with like offenders. Certain youth, depending on their circumstances or specialized needs, may benefit from a non-local custodial placement. With the low numbers of sex offenders from Kern County, it is possible for it to be in the best interest of the youth to get services from another County capable of serving more youth with similar needs, allowing for the group counseling dynamics needed in sex offender treatment.
- **Programs and Services for Females:** Female youth have historically been committed to current DJJ programs at a very low rate. Therefore, female youth programming may be better suited where additional like-gender youth can program together to avoid isolation or stigmatization. This may be accomplished through a regional contract with another County. If that option is not available or appropriate, female youth committed for longer terms in custody may be housed in a separate wing, or along with other females within the Pathways Academy. In either case, there will be an individualized case plan developed specific to the youth that is suitable to both meet the youth's needs and is appropriate for longer-term care. It is prudent to ensure all youth have optimal opportunities to be placed in a program that best suits their needs.

Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant:

Data collection and analysis is an important aspect of any new program. Probation is committed to having accurate and relevant data upon which informed decisions can be made regarding what is working, what is not and where resources should best be applied. A Department Analyst from the Department's Research, Analysis and Data (RAD) unit will be added and assigned to this program. The RAD unit is dedicated to finding evidence-based solutions and programs for the clientele served by Probation. In addition, Probation has recently developed an internal case management system allowing officers to manage the Youth Probation population. 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. This system will be further built out to collect data specific to this new population related to demographics and progress, both while in and out of custody.

The Probation Department routinely reports information in the JCPSS system, 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's Management Team. In addition, the Superior Court has authored a Standing Order that allows for information sharing on matters between specific agencies that have a vested interest and involvement in youth offenders' treatment plans and rehabilitation.

Statistical data will also be gathered on youth housed within the facility to gather demographic information and to monitor and gauge significant incidents which may occur. Categories in which statistics will be compiled include but are not limited to mutual fights, assaults, gang related graffiti/signs/comments/ writing, suicide attempts, self-inflicted injuries, PREA incidents, suicides, escapes, and escape attempts. Probation also has a separate program, Benchmark, which tracks all use of force incidents that occur. This data is regularly reviewed by Probation management.

Another important piece of data is getting feedback from the youth themselves. It is vital to understand how the affected youth are perceiving the services and supports being provided. Equally important is to gauge what service gaps exist from their perspective. While this feedback will be received during the normal course of interacting with the youth it is felt a formalized process to collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data is needed. Therefore, formalized surveys will be conducted on a periodic basis. This data will be collated by the assigned Department Analyst and shared with Probation management and the SB 823 subcommittee to help inform decisions moving forward.

Staff working directly with the youth will be continuously engaged in providing feedback to supervisors and management through scheduled unit meetings and ongoing conversations. In addition to these normal avenues of communication, staff will be given the opportunity to complete surveys related to the services and supports being provided in order to formalize a process to collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data.

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds:

Reports will be developed for this population showing rates of entry to programs, successes and failures, recidivism rates, services for youth with disabilities and ultimately where resources should be directed to allow youth the best chance to succeed.

Measuring the success of those committed to the DJJ realignment program will be a significant indicator of how these youth will adjust once released back into the community. Attainable and measurable goals tied to the case plans and Court orders will be set through the course of their program to gauge case plan goal completion, progress, and to adjust to individual needs during their stay. Case managers will establish attainable goals during assessments to focus youth on successful program completion. Examples of these goals would be high school graduation or equivalency, college course completion, vocational training certificate attainment, completion of Court-ordered programs and treatment, job training program enrollment, apprenticeships, and internships.

County of Kern

SB 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment

Plan and Fiscal Summary

FY 2023/24

(A Supplement to the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan – Updated in March of 2023)



SB 823 Subcommittee

TR Merickel, Chief Probation Officer (Chairperson)

Honorable Wendy Avila, Judge of the Superior Court, Juvenile Division

Gina Pearl, Deputy District Attorney

Peter Kang, Public Defender

Jennie Sill, System Administrator – Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Maria Bermudez, Assistant Director – Department of Human Services

Debra Plank, Program Director – Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Tom Corson, Executive Director – Kern County Network for Children (Community Member)

Wesley Davis, President/CEO – Wendale Davis Foundation (Community Member)

Lois Hannible, Program Manager – Community Action Partnership of Kern (Community Member)

Ucedrah Osby, Chapter President – All Of Us Or None (Community Member)

Introduction

Senate Bill 823, passed in 2020, prospectively realigned the DJJ (Division of Juvenile Justice) population from the State to the Counties effective July 1, 2021. This high-risk and older population (up to age 25) brings both new challenges and opportunities. The bill created the SB 823 Subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. This Subcommittee has convened to consider the requirements of WIC 1995 and discussed how to best succeed in providing safety and services to this population.

That plan can be accessed in the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan. This document is a companion to that plan and provides a summary of philosophy, staffing and services along with a fiscal breakdown of allotted funds. The sections below describe the plan as implemented in Year-Three (FY 23/24), with the understanding that the Subcommittee can adjust as appropriate moving forward.

Evidence-Based Practices

Kern County and the Probation Department are committed to Evidence-Based Practices (EBP). EBP includes a wide variety of practices and treatments that have been validated through meta-analysis to reduce recidivism by addressing criminogenic needs and building on supportive factors. The core of EBP is an evidence-based assessment.

Kern County utilizes the PACT (Positive Achievement Change Tool). This assessment both identifies a youth's risk level to reoffend as well as their criminogenic needs. This allows for individualized case plans that focus on those dynamic risk factors that lead to criminal behavior. The PACT is validated for youth up to 21 years of age. For those youth over 21 the SRNA (Static Risk and Needs Assessment) will be utilized. This tool is used by the Probation Department for their adult offenders and is validated for this older age group.

In addition to an assessment, EBP include evidence-based treatments. These are Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) programs and other best practices that have been proven to address criminogenic needs and reduce recidivism. Examples include Aggression Replacement Training, Strengthening Families, Thinking for a Change (T4C), and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions-Substance Abuse (CBISA). Both sworn and non-sworn staff, as well as contracted service providers, will facilitate these types of treatment modalities to youth.

Trauma Informed Care and Training

Kern County is dedicated to a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) approach. The first part of TIC in the juvenile justice system is to recognize that most of the affected youth have experienced trauma in their lives. The next step is to put policies in place which attempt to minimize the potential for re-traumatization. Providing services and outlets to address trauma through both treatment and positive staff interactions is also key. Ongoing training will be a priority to ensure the permanency of these practices. To support ongoing training efforts, 1 Senior Youth Services Officer (SYSO) will be dedicated to the Training unit. This staff will assist in researching and coordinating formal and informal training for the Department and collaborative partners, with a primary focus on emerging TIC and behavioral health minded approaches to staff/youth interactions to supplement and enhance current training efforts already in place.

Facility Supervision and Transportation

In order to provide rehabilitative services to these youths, safety and security must be a core tenant. Youth will only be able to thrive when they feel safe and secure. Youth Services Officers (YSO) will provide this population supervision and guidance in day-to-day activities. They are trained in both de-escalation techniques as well as Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) and defensive tactics. A philosophy of “accountability and opportunity” will be employed in daily supervision efforts. Youth will be held accountable for misbehavior but also provided with an opportunity to redirect their negative behavior. The 24/7 staffing needed will be 1 Deputy Probation Officer III (DPO) (program supervisor) 4 SYSO’s, 20 YSO’s, and 1 additional SYSO to act as a Program Liaison. One additional DPO will be assigned to focus primarily on providing transportation of youth to Court, medical appointments, and other services outside of the facility.

RAP Services

Staff assigned to the RAP (Re-entry, ADA, and Programming) unit are specialized in providing services to youth. They are not part of unit supervision but instead focus on their namesake services. Their goals are to ensure youth have tools and supports to help overcome any barriers they face and successfully navigate through the program and eventually back into the community. These staff are present during the programming part of the day and will include 2 SYSO’s, 3 YSO’s, and 1 DPO.

YPS and APS Services

Staff assigned to the Youth Programs and Supports Unit (YPS) and Adult Programs and Supports Unit (APS) are trained in a wide array of evidence-based and best-practice modalities. Due to anticipated lengths of stay this population will be wide-ranging in age, and many will reach adulthood while in our care. YPS and APS staff can provide services and skill building efforts to supplement on-site supports in place, while allowing for a warm handoff from juvenile based services to adult based services which can be continued upon release from custody. To support this effort, 1 Probation Program Specialists (PPS), will be designated to serve this population.

Post Release Supervision

Based on the high-risk level and numerous needs of the realigned DJJ population, dedicated caseloads with manageable youth to officer ratios will be key to successful re-entry back into the community. Two DPO’s will begin working and building rapport with the youth while in custody. They will provide case management services and individualized rehabilitation plans to maximize the chance for successful integration. They will also provide a level of accountability to help redirect behavior which is contrary to their success.

Data Collection and Analysis

Data collection and analysis is an important aspect of any new program. We are committed to having accurate and relevant data upon which informed decisions can be made regarding what is working, what is not and where resources should best be applied. One Department Analyst position will be assigned to focus on this task.

Behavioral Health

Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) is the current primary provider of behavioral health services on-site. BHRS provides an array of evidence-based and best-practice group programs as well as individual therapeutic interventions. Further exploration and implementation of programs best suited for this new population will be an ongoing priority. Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) oversees the provision of Education Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) and there is ongoing communication and collaboration with BHRS regarding youth plans when those services overlap. Psychological medication management is done in conjunction with BHRS contracted psychiatrists. BHRS will assist in the transition from custody plans related to mental health services post-release, as the majority of these youth will be eligible for services under the Transition Age Youth (TAY) program and the adult system of care once out of custody.

Collaborative Partners

It is recognized in order to accomplish the mission of successfully realigning the DJJ population it must be collaborative effort. While the Probation Department will have primary responsibilities for security, services and treatment numerous other partners will be significantly involved. KCSOS and local colleges will play a vital part in education services. Kern Medical will provide health care services. Other important partners will be BHRS, various volunteer groups, and more.

Contracted Specialized Services

As we move forward with this population it is recognized that service gaps will likely be discovered. These may be occupational, recreational, treatment or some other area. Having funds available to address these service gaps is a sensible strategy to ensure that the youth's needs will be met. The actual target areas will be directed by the SB 823 subcommittee. One specific identified need is the opportunity for a step down/re-entry program to afford youth the opportunity to transition from custody to community in a structured and supportive way. To this end, a Day Reporting Center program will be established that will provide ongoing support to youth by offering pre- and post-release services related to programming, life skills, educational and employment readiness, and support and stabilization.

Contracted Specialized Placement Fund

Certain youth, depending on their circumstances or specialized needs, may benefit from a non-local custodial placement. Youth may present specialized treatment needs that could be better suited in another County's program. These cases, while uncommon, will certainly occur; therefore, it is important to begin to prepare for such a contingency. Contracting with another County will be expensive so having a set fund for such circumstances will be important to avoid impacting our local staffing, programming, and services. It is also a prudent measure to ensure all youth have optimal opportunities to be placed in a program that best suits their needs.

Operating Costs

In order to achieve the stated goals and objectives as listed above, there are numerous associated operating costs. These costs include office and field equipment, licensing rights, vehicle maintenance and fuel, training, overtime, and more. In addition, this funding can help offset future staffing and service cost increases that are sure to occur year over year.

Re-entry Supports

The current average length of stay at DJJ is approximately 28 months. It is anticipated that will remain similar moving forward with the development of sentencing structures for local commitments. The APEX Baseline Incentive Matrix will assist in identifying any appropriate reductions to the baseline term. Many of the youth will not have been out of custody and in the community as an adult prior to release. Based on their ages, there will also no longer be a legal obligation for parental care and custody. It is anticipated there will be a variety of tangible needs to help the release transition be more successful. Some examples of potential tangible needs may include food, clothing, transportation, vocation, and education supports. In addition, upon release there will be occasional need for housing supports, be it in sober living homes or other temporary housing options and funds will need to be set aside to provide support in this area. To accomplish this, funds will need to be designated to support efforts in this area, which may include the need to develop contracts with community-based organizations and other support-focused entities.

Infrastructure Improvements and Equipment

In order to provide an environment for these youth to succeed improvements and additional equipment will be needed. These could include new recreation areas, weight sets, safety and security upgrades, home like furnishings and more. This category allows for a funding source to be available to address the needs of this population on an ongoing basis.

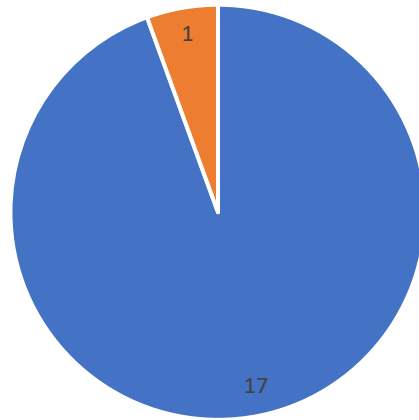
Summary

It is the goal of Kern County to provide safety and services to the realigned population in order to maximize their success both while committed and upon release. This can be accomplished by providing structure, rehabilitative services, and an inclusive atmosphere informed by a Trauma Informed Care and an Evidence-Based approach. It is also recognized that it is a collective effort involving many collaborative partners. Kern County is committed to positive outcomes and will continue to review and modify as appropriate the County's plan.

FY 23/24

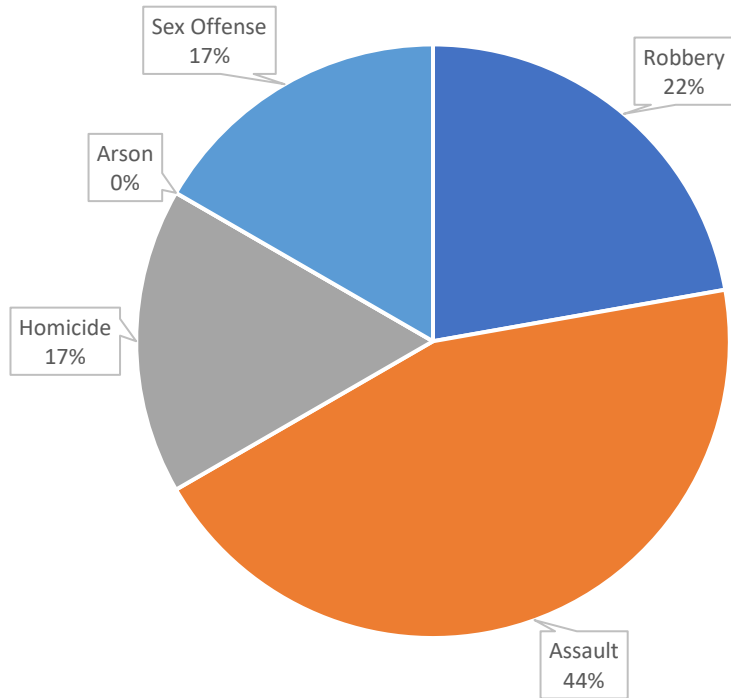
<u>Position/Item</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Cost per Unit</u>	<u>Cost for 1 Year</u>
Deputy Probation Officer III	1	\$187,962	\$187,962
Deputy Probation Officer	4	\$162,129	\$648,516
Youth Services Officer III	8	\$170,462	\$1,363,696
Youth Services Officer	23	\$143,302	\$3,295,946
Department Analyst	1	\$107,541	\$107,541
Probation Program Specialist	1	\$100,929	\$100,929
Additional Behavioral Health Contract		\$572,000	\$572,000
Contracted Specialized Services		\$690,000	\$690,000
Re-entry Support Services		\$100,000	\$100,000
Infrastructure Improvements & Equipment		\$488,800	\$488,800
Contracted Specialized Placement Fund		\$250,000	\$250,000
Operating Expenses		\$100,000	\$100,000
Total	38		\$7,905,390

Gender



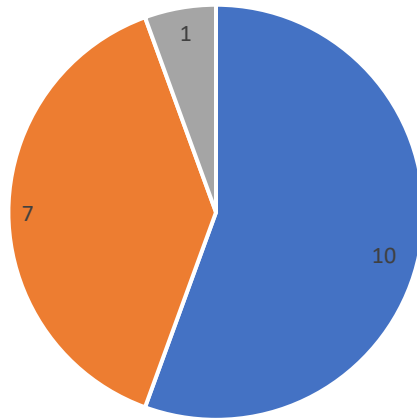
■ Male ■ Female ■

Related Offense Type



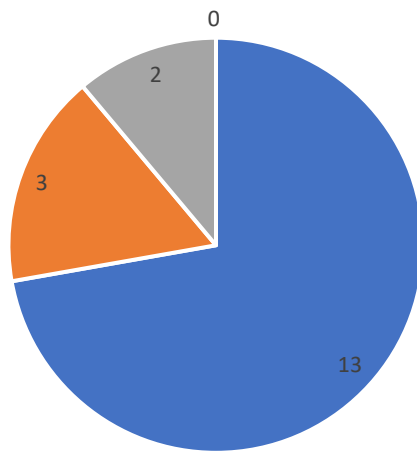
■ Robbery ■ Assault ■ Homicide ■ Arson ■ Sex Offense

Age Range



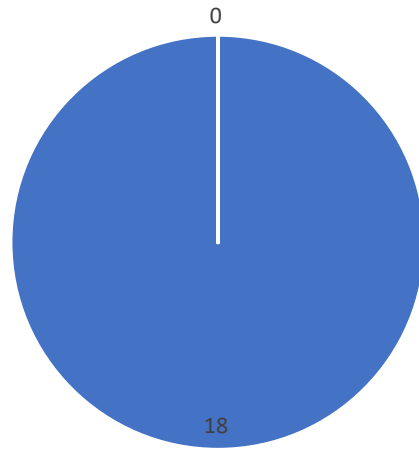
■ Under 18 ■ 18-21 ■ Over 21 ■

Race



■ Hispanic ■ African American ■ Caucasian ■ Pacific Islander

Commitment



■ Original ■ Probation Violation ■ ■