
Kern Probation CMJJP, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) 2002 Modification

3.I MODIFICATION SUMMARY

During the Fall of 2000 and Spring of 2001, after identifying current needs and gaps in the local juvenile justice system, the Kern County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council developed two specific programs aimed at providing a more comprehensive continuum of responses to juvenile crime: the Gang Intervention and Suppression Team (GIST) and the Early Intervention Program (EIP). The California Board of Corrections approved the programs described in Kern County's Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan in the Spring of 2001, and their implementation followed in July. Kern's Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (KCJCC) has recently reviewed and modified its comprehensive plan, to fulfill second year allocation requirements, and determined that while no substantive changes will be made to GIST or EIP, an additional program, the Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP), will be continued under the auspices of the Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan.

Preliminary program evaluation data from the second quarter progress report substantiate the needs assessments upon which GIST and EIP were based. The Early Intervention Program, implemented in East Bakersfield, the North Bakersfield communities of Oildale and 34th Street, and the North Kern communities of Shafter, Wasco, Delano and McFarland, is intended to prevent youth from ever entering the juvenile justice system. This collaborative team effort, involves mental health professionals, family advocates, the schools, and probation, as well as other community service agencies, working to deter youth, ages 8 to 15, who are beginning to show signs of behaviors considered to be precursors of delinquency, such as substance abuse, gang affiliation, school or family dysfunction. Initial assessment data indicate that family issues are the most frequently reported of all risk categories, with 98.3 percent of children in EIP having some

type of family risk factor. Smaller caseloads and constant contact with young participants and their families allow team members to establish a personal relationship that results in improved family support and an increased sense of job satisfaction on the part of staff. The Gang Intervention and Suppression Team, includes Kern County Probation Officers and Sheriff's Deputies, co-located at a facility in the heart of the high-crime target communities of East and Southeast Bakersfield. The intent is to maximize communication and coordination between the

Kern County Probation Department is convinced of the efficacy of the Gang Intervention and Suppression Team and the Early Intervention Program and plans to continue both programs, anticipating no substantial changes to their operation or project goals.

agencies, thereby amplifying their effectiveness. GIST's goal is to reduce gang involvement and increase community safety. The first six months of the program have focused on suppression of gang activities and aggressive probation supervision, including frequent probationer contacts, home calls, court-ordered searches, as well as patrol and surveillance of gang active streets and hang-outs.

On March 15, 2001, the California Board of Corrections (BOC) approved Kern County Probation Department's proposal to expand its existing Bakersfield Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP) and to implement new ROPP programming in the North Kern communities of Shafter, Wasco, Delano and McFarland. Designed to reduce recidivism among first time wards, aged 15 ½ years and younger, through frequent contact and intensive services, BOC funding for these successful and fully implemented programs is scheduled to terminate June 30, 2002. In an effort to sustain and continue valuable services to the children and families in these areas, Kern County proposes subsuming the Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP) into the projects underwritten by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act.

3.II COMMUNITIES FACING RISK

The target communities for the proposed Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice

Plan Modification will remain unchanged, as their needs have just begun to be met by the current Repeat Offender Prevention Programs. The youth and families of these communities are characterized by accepted risk factors associated with juvenile crime such as extreme economic deprivation, community

	Community	Population	Children Aged 5-19
disorganization, low neighborhood attachment, transitions and mobility,	Shafter	12,736	3,818
availability of firearms, family conflict, early and persistent antisocial behavior, academic failure, lack of	Wasco	21,263	4,985
	Delano	38,824	10,428
	McFarland	9,618	2,844
	East Bakersfield	75,860	20,200

2000 U.S. Census Bureau

commitment to school, alienation and rebelliousness, and association with peers who engage in delinquency and violence.

North Kern communities of Shafter, Wasco, Delano and McFarland comprise one of the poorest areas of the state, with high percentages of their Hispanic population having limited English proficiency, and high proportions of the student population eligible for free and reduced lunches. Unemployment and under-employment in this primarily agricultural area is a serious problem. Kern County Departments of Probation, Mental and Public Health, and Human Services all have branches in the targeted communities, however, at the *service level*, providers are often isolated from each other and their efforts are duplicated. In addition, resources that might affect change are not easily reached due to the rural nature of the area and lack of transportation of the families.

The predominantly Hispanic community of East Bakersfield is impacted by unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse, poor transportation, gang activity and other crimes. About 25 percent of East Bakersfield’s children live at or below the national poverty level. In an assessment of community needs by the Kern County Network for Children, East Bakersfield prioritized: 1. Reducing violence in the community, 2. Reducing drug use, and 3. Improving the community’s image. About 20 percent of the countywide total law enforcement referrals in 1999-2000 were in East Bakersfield.

3.III NEW PROGRAM

The Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP) is based on exploratory studies conducted in the early 1990s by the Orange County Probation Department which found that a small percentage of offenders (8 percent) account for a disproportionate number of all referrals to the juvenile justice system. Designed to reduce recidivism among first time wards, aged 15 ½ years and younger, through frequent contact and intensives services, the Repeat Offender Program is a multi-agency collaborative effort, with case management provided by probation officers assigned exclusively to the program.

- The target population is younger, first-time probation wards with a multi-problem profile
- Programs involve a collaborative team approach to case assessment and management
- Both the participating youth and his/her family receive services
- Offender accountability is provided through graduated sanctions and violations of probation
- Community safety is enhanced by close and frequent monitoring as well as creative interventions aimed at redirecting the thinking and behavior of participants

Kern County has two “varieties” of ROPP: the first, which terminates June 30, 2002, has been funded through a grant from the Board of Corrections (BOC), and the other was initially implemented and has been fiscally supported by Kern County’s Probation Department. BOC grant funding has allowed for expansion of the successful Bakersfield program by three deputy probation officers. There are currently 90 participants in the grant program and 66 in the department-funded program. Regardless of the funding source, both programs address specific community needs and resources.

• Program Description

Juveniles who have been declared wards of the Juvenile Court for the first time are referred by the Probation Department’s Investigation Unit to ROPP for eligibility assessment. Within two weeks, the ROPP officer schedules a conference with the ward, the parent(s) or guardian(s) to conduct an in-depth assessment using a specially developed Risk/Assessment tool. These wards

become eligible for ROPP if they meet the age requirement and exhibit three of the following four *risk factors*: 1. Significant family problems 2. School attendance and behavior problems 3. Drug and/or alcohol use 4. High-risk delinquency behavior such as gang involvement, runaway, or a pattern of theft-related crimes.

After satisfying the eligibility requirements, an initial assessment is conducted to collect demographic characteristics, and information relative to individual and family risk factors uncovered in the screening. This assessment has a *strength-based component*, the purpose of which is to inform the multi-disciplinary ROPP team of factors which may be of help, not only in their efforts to deter the juvenile from crime, but to positively influence the youth's future behaviors. Behind the statistics, are young people who live in an environment not usually of their own choosing. The team members, whose responsibility it is to prevent and intervene with juvenile delinquency, can build on whatever strengths exist in that environment. From the initial assessment, an individual plan of action is developed, and program expectations, such as improved school attendance and academic performance, as well as compliance with court orders, are reviewed with the participants. Team members meet with wards two to four times a week to establish rapport and forge relationships.

One program goal is to change the ward's behavior by presenting positive experiences and options. Officers have coordinated supervised activities including tutoring, community clean-ups, basketball tournaments, fishing trips, museum visits and special pizza treats. Transportation provided by ROPP staff has greatly increased families' access to services and activities. Unexpected benefits have come from such activities. Recently, one ROPP probation officer reflected, "I did not expect to find myself working alongside my probationers on volunteer community service projects. I did not expect to find myself breaking bread with my probationers, and above all, I did not expect to find myself wondering what I could have done differently to prevent two of my probationers from re-offending." Smaller caseloads of no more than 20 participants each allow officers and team members to really get to know the families and better identify and address their needs.

• **Collaborations with other agencies**

Community resources such as schools, mental health, public health, social services and law enforcement are critical to the treatment and rehabilitation of juvenile probationers. Second quarter evaluation of the current Repeat Offender Prevention Program reveals 72 percent of the participants have risk factors associated with Family Issues. Among the Family Issues, the most frequent risk factors include “Criminal family influence” (67 percent) and “Lack of Supervision” (57 percent). Key to the success of the program is the multi-agency, multi-discipline approach; problems encountered by the team include socio-economic, psychological and medical. The concept of treating the family unit, and not just the probationer, has resulted in team members being better able to identify and address their needs. *Information sharing*, to improve the coordination of services, is facilitated through the use of a consent form, signed by parents or guardians and authorizing exchange of information. Meeting regularly, Deputy Probation Officers, Sheriff’s Crime Prevention Specialist, a Mental Health Case Manager and two Family Advocates have formed a cohesive team to review and plan cases. They discuss individual cases, address families’ needs, and make immediate linkages to services. Proactive case management includes home visits, drug testing and linkages to “gaps” in services. *Monthly collaborative meetings* bring together representatives from area schools, public health officials and community agencies, to plan and develop strategies to help the high-risk juveniles avoid continued crime. The collaborative meetings also serve as a forum for information and resource sharing. *Case Review Teams* comprised of probation officers, school counselors and vice principals, psychologists, mental health staff, child protective services, public health, and family advocates meet at school sites to discuss family progress, develop case plans, and provide smooth linkages to services.

Information transmitted for program evaluation is assigned an arbitrary client identification number by probation, and all other identifying information is deleted. The master list relating identification numbers to actual participants is maintained within the Probation Department to ensure confidentiality, while preserving the ability to track participant’s progress over time.

Community service projects help to “attach” the youth and sometimes their siblings to their neighborhood. Repeat Offender Prevention Program participants have helped with community and graffiti clean-ups, distributed food, car seats and school back-packs to families, and worked to plant a community garden. *Enrichment activities* have introduced ROPP juveniles to the “fine art of fishing,” after a trash clean up at a local lake. One probation officer encouraged participation by offering one of his own poles, along with reel and tackle box filled with fishing tackle as an incentive for “the hardest worker, projecting the best demeanor.” Picnics and pizza outings have helped isolated, shy youths create better rapport with probation officers and school staff. Even those who do not actively participate in groups held on topics such as anger management, gang issues, and drug prevention, seem to benefit from the positive information. Slight improvements in grades and school attendance are small, but hopeful signs for a thirteen year old boy who had previously associated with older, more sophisticated and streetwise adolescents.

• **Basis upon which program has been determined to be effective**

Statewide: A three-year demonstration project testing strategies for curbing the 8 percent recidivism resulted in a statewide evaluation of eight counties’ programs in 2001, comparing ROPP participants and those juveniles receiving traditional probation services:

- Educational Behavior and Achievement - ROPP participants appear to maintain an increase in school attendance, and pass more classes
- Completion of Court-ordered Obligations - appear similar in both ROPP and traditional groups
- Drug Testing - ROPP juveniles are consistently tested more often, and consistently have fewer positive tests
- Time in Custody - ROPP spend a significantly greater time in custody than the comparison group
- New Offenses - while there is a tendency for ROPP juveniles to have a higher number of petitions filed for probation violations, there have been fewer ROPP juveniles having no sustained petitions (a significantly greater percentage of the highest sustained petitions for

ROPP are for misdemeanors, which is consistent with having a greater likelihood of having a petition filed for a probation violation)

- Warrants - after the initial six months, juveniles receiving standard probation are almost twice as likely to be on warrant status

Local: Kern County's Repeat Offender Prevention Program second quarter progress data indicate less than 4 percent of the program participants have had referrals for new law violations, and about two-thirds have had no days in custody. ROPP participants are engaged in a greater number of interventions such as counseling, social skills groups, tutoring, and mentoring than their counterparts. Most have responsibly paid their fines and 79 percent participated in a court work program. ROPP participants reflect the communities in which the programs are situated; over half (56 percent) are Hispanic, 22 percent, Black, and 19 percent White. The most common family form is a single mother household (41 percent).

•**Staffing for the Repeat Offender Prevention Program**

Incorporating the Repeat Offender Prevention Program under the auspices of the JJCPA will expand the continuum of resources available to meet the needs of the participants and their families. Both ROPP and the Early Intervention Program (EIP) work not only with children, but with their entire families. EIP targets children from eight years old, who are just beginning to show signs of behavior problems and often their older siblings are the first-time offenders who comprise the ROPP cases. As a result of a mutual funding source, opportunities for shared enrichment activities and services will be open.

The existing ROPP team in North Kern consists of three Probation Officers, a Mental Health Case Manager, a Sheriff's Crime Prevention Specialist, and the services of one and a half Family Advocates. The Bakersfield ROPP team is currently made up entirely of Probation Officers. A reassessment of staff configuration has resulted in the proposed changes: Probation will continue to offer crisis outreach, home visits to follow up on truancy or legal issues, prevention training, drug tests, court-ordered enforcement and linkage to job preparation and search opportunities. A Substance Abuse Specialist will be contracted to serve the needs of both

North County and Bakersfield ROPP participants; additional Family Advocate services will enhance the Shafter/Wasco area (Metro Bakersfield's team utilizes school-based Family Advocates); and tutoring and homework through AmeriCorps members will be contracted.

Collaborations with other agencies will enable the Sheriff's Crime Prevention Specialist to continue providing some community education and training aimed at presenting positive alternatives to crime. Mental health services (individual and group, including psychiatric evaluations and medications) will be accessed through existing community-based providers. Public health staff will provide training and intervention related to disease education/prevention, family planning, and home visits for special medical care needs. The schools will assist in recording relevant attendance data as well as space for supervised after-school activities.

Information sharing will occur in a variety of ways. Monthly collaborative meetings will increase the network of community referral opportunities; they will rotate between the cities served, providing an opportunity for sharing ideas, airing problems and developing solutions. In addition, each multi-disciplinary team will meet for weekly case review, to allow in-depth case planning and response to individual needs. All teams will use the same forms to eliminate redundancy, provide consistency, and enable multi-purpose use. Data taken at initial contact and subsequent intervals of 6, 12, and 18 months will be used to track changes in risk factors and determine the effect of ROPP interventions. Reports generated from the data will be distributed to facilitate program improvement.

Training opportunities for all the teams, GIST, EIP, and ROPP, will include topics such as team building, case management, listening skills, stress management, working with the mentally ill offender, learning disorders, and "one-minute counselor."

•Program Time Line

Repeat Offender Prevention Program			
Milestones	Start Date	End Date	Description
MOUs and Contracts With Partners	June 2002	June 2002	Family Advocates, Substance Abuse Specialist, AmeriCorps
Staff Training	Ongoing		WrapAround, Team Building, Case Management, Stress Management
Review and Refine Assessment Tools	July 2002	October 2002	Review for efficiency and redundancy
Train Contract Providers on Billing Procedure	July 2002	August 2002	Clarify required documentation for invoices
Coordination with Schools	8/15/02	9/30/02	Distribute program information
Attend Community Collaborative Meetings	Ongoing		Provide program information to others, network for additional referral resources for program participants

•The goals of the program are related to JJCPA Outcome Measures

Baseline data will be collected that identifies program progress in the following: 1. The rate of successful completion of probation; 2. The successful completion of restitution and court-ordered community service responsibilities; 3. Arrest, incarceration, and probation violation rates of program participants; 4. The quantification of the annual per capita costs of the program.

MANDATED OUTCOMES FOR REPEAT OFFENDER PREVENTION PROGRAM		
Outcome	Measure	Goal
1. Arrest rate reduction in number of program participants with new arrests	Percentage of program participants with new arrests	Percentage of program participants with new arrests will decrease compared to previous year's ROPP
2. Probation violation rate reduction in program participants	Percentage of probation violation rates of program participants	Percentage of program participants who violate probation will decrease compared to previous year's ROPP
3. Incarceration rate reduction in program participants	Percentage of incarceration rates of program participants	Percentage of program participants who are incarcerated will decrease compared to previous year's ROPP
4. Probation completion rate increase for program participants	Percentage of completion of probation rates of program participants	Percentage of program participants who complete probation will increase compared to previous year's ROPP
5. Completion of restitution to victim increase for program participants	Percentage of completion of restitution to victims of program participants	Percentage of program participants who complete restitution to victims will increase compared to previous year's ROPP

6. Completion of Court-ordered community services increase for program participants	Percentage of completion of Court-ordered community services for program participants	Percentage of program participants who complete Court-ordered community services will increase compared to previous year's ROPP
7. The arrest rate per 100,000 population will be compared to the county-wide rate for the year prior to CPA 2000, with the expectation that there will be no significant change in the rate.		

LOCAL REPEAT OFFENDER PREVENTION PROGRAM OUTCOMES		
Outcome	Measure	Goal
Reduction in recidivism (sustained petitions) rate for program participants	Percentage of recidivism for program participants	Percentage of recidivism for program participants will decrease compared to previous year's ROPP
Increase completion of court-ordered obligations for program participants	Percentage of completion of court-ordered obligations by program participants	Percentage of completion of court-ordered obligations by program participants will increase compared to previous year's ROPP
Decrease in the number of sustained petitions for program participants	Percentage of the number of sustained petitions for program participants	Percentage of the number of sustained petitions will decrease compared to previous year's ROPP
Increase in school attendance by program participants	Percentage of school attendance for program participants	Percentage of increase in school attendance by program participants will increase compared to previous year's ROPP
Decrease in positive drug testing by program participants	Percentage of positive drug tests for program participants	Percentage of positive drug tests by program participants will decrease compared to previous year's ROPP

3.IV CURRENT PROGRAM (S) MODIFICATION

- Early Intervention Program (EIP)

There will be no substantive program changes here. A survey of EIP staff resulted in some adjustments, however. Funds have been budgeted to provide incentives for the participants. EIP staff has involved the youth in projects such as community cleanups, food basket give-away, basketball tournaments, and other community activities. The teams would like to be able to provide appropriate rewards for the positive efforts of the youngsters, for example, pizza or hot dog parties, or field trips to museums and sporting events.

Contracted partners will also change based on needs manifested during the previous year. In North Kern, the Sheriff's office has agreed to continue the partial services of the Crime Prevention Specialist without a contract, which has allowed funds to be redirected to support a much-needed Substance Abuse Specialist and tutoring and homework assistance by AmeriCorps members.

The Bakersfield EIP has no planned substantive changes.

- Gang Intervention and Suppression Team (GIST)

There are no planned substantive changes to this team.

Kern Probation CMJJP, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) 2004 Modification

2004-2005 modification

- I. change to increase geographical coverage for GIST is based on two reasons:
 - a. In the course of their field work, the team has documented contact with significant numbers of "non-target" juveniles, associates of the target youth, who do not live in just in East and Southeast Bakersfield. It is important that GIST be able to broaden its jurisdiction outside the original boundaries and incorporate those cases.
 - b. The proposed change for the GIST target area is a result of increased collaboration with law enforcement *outside* the City of Bakersfield that was not originally anticipated. This has proved to be an unexpected bonus of the program by expanding gang intervention in outlying areas of Kern County. Criminal activities that are conducted within Bakersfield city limits are being committed by gang members from Kern County communities in North and South Kern. GIST probation officers need to work with police departments and sheriff's deputies in these areas to continually update information on these individuals, and to assist the District Attorney's office in prosecution of gang cases.
- II. The difficult decision to terminate the Early Intervention Program both in North Kern and metropolitan Bakersfield was made solely because of budget constraints (both JJCPA funding as well as local and other resources). Kern County has been a leader in probation prevention programs for years; this is, however, an exceptional fiscal time and the Probation Department has elected to focus on GIST and ROPP in order to maximize remaining available resources. The positive impact of this decision is:
 - a. an increase in four probation staff for ROPP, bringing total to 4 deputy probation officers and 1 supervisor in North Kern, and 5 deputy probation officers and one supervisor in Bakersfield;
 - b. the addition of a family advocate position for metro-Bakersfield (North Kern will retain the current two family advocates);
 - c. the addition of a second substance abuse specialist so participants in both North Kern and Bakersfield will have access to substance abuse counseling and groups;
 - d. the addition of tutoring in metro-Bakersfield by AmeriCorps workers (North Kern tutoring will continue).

Kern Probation CMJJP, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) 2009 Modification (section 3)

Section 3. Plan Modification

Summarize proposed modifications to your plan with respect to each of the following:

I. Changes in law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol and other resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders and their families: II. Changes in the prioritization of the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas in the community that face a significant public safety risk from juvenile crime: III. Changes in the continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency that demonstrate a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing swift, certain and graduated responses to at risk youth and juvenile offenders:

The Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP) is being deleted while the Aftercare Unit is being enhanced.

In 2009 the Kern County Probation Department purchased and began utilizing a fourth generation actuarial risk/needs assessment known as, the "Positive Achievement Change Tool" (PACT). In collaboration with the District Attorneys Office this has resulted in a petition filing process that is much more focused on youth that are likely to re-offend without intervention. This tool has also verified that the approximately 63% of the probationers receiving services through the Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP) were at low risk level to reoffend. While the work that ROPP was doing was valued and positively impacted both the youth and the community; it became evident that this was not the group that required strong intervention.

At the same time, the PACT has narrowed the screening requirements for our two most intensive youth detention rehabilitation programs; the Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility and the Pathways Academy. This in turn has narrowed the focus of the Aftercare program to target the youth at highest risk to re-offend utilizing interventions based upon their top three criminogenic needs. Assessment results combined with the high concentration of youth nearing transitional age, 17-18 years old, has heightened the need for education and employment services. The Kern County Probation Departments Bridges Academy Career Development program which started in August 2008, in collaboration with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, provides such youth with accelerated academic credits and career development services. With a high percentage of youth and their families struggling with drug and alcohol abuse, the Aftercare program is also building a relationship created through the inception of the Recovery Activities Program (RAP). RAP contracts to provide substance abuse groups to Aftercare youth and crisis intervention service linkage to their families. A community based service focus is also being strengthened by incorporating curriculum based on mentoring services as well as the establishment of an intern program with the California

State University, Bakersfield to provide family advocacy to youth and their families in the program.

The Aftercare Unit staffing level is now being increased from five Deputy Probation Officers to seven Deputy Probation Officers. This will not only keep caseload numbers manageable, it will allow the Aftercare Unit to geographically divide caseloads and focus on specific areas in our community. Therefore, we will secure services available in specific areas, forming community contacts and working closely with the collaboratives and Family Resource Centers in each of these areas.

Another important change to the Aftercare program which was recently implemented is the scheduling of a "Pre-Release Meeting" for each ward whom is preparing to be released from detention. These meetings occur at each facility and include: the probationer, parent, Psychologist, Mental Health therapist, Director of the Recovery Activity Program (RAP), Superintendent of Schools, Probation Officer, and the Institution Supervisor. We are experiencing an 82% participation rate from both the minor and his/her parent at these meetings. It is at this meeting that the decisions are made regarding the school the minor is to enroll in upon release, the counseling program the minor will attend, specific services needed; ie: drug counseling, mental health counseling, mentoring, etc., and any other family issues that may arise that would effect this probationers success upon release. It is also at this time that all paperwork to make the transition is completed, ie: MediCal applications, releases of information, etc.

Within the Aftercare Unit is an established continuum of interventions to assist the probationer with compliance. This continuum includes corrective counseling, frequent field contacts, electronic monitoring, community service, job development/assistance, community referrals, furlough detention time and return to the detention program.

II. Changes in the prioritization of the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas in the community that face a significant public safety risk from juvenile crime:

In November 2009, the Aftercare Unit focused on geographically deploying caseloads. This has not only streamlined the work load, it has assured that the Probation Officer responsible for a specific community or neighborhood has become familiar with available neighborhood services, collaborative partners, and schools. Because many of our youth do reside in lower economic areas, the geographic caseloads results in a stronger probation presence in specific areas.

III Changes in the continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency that demonstrate a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing swift, certain and graduated responses to at risk youth and juvenile offenders:

The geographic caseloads have fostered relationships that otherwise would not exist. It is evident that line staff from various agencies have become familiar with one another and are comfortable in sharing information and supporting one another in the supervision of our Aftercare youth. Furthermore, the officers are very familiar with what specific services are available in specific communities and how to dispatch those services for the ward and often times his/her family. Because our county like so many other areas has experienced an increase in gang activity, the Kern County Board of Supervisors has focused resources in anti-gang programming. With this focus, came a strong collaborative effort with our faith based communities and local collaboratives. There continues to be regular meetings sponsored by community leaders whereas the agencies work together to combat our gang issues. Because of these efforts, officers have become an integral part of the solution.

The Aftercare focus is to enhance the positive work which is completed during detention by the institution and to “bridge” the ward successfully back into his/her community upon their release. This service delivery actually begins occurring at the time the ward is ordered to the detention program when the Probation Officer participates in the “Review Board” held at the institution. It is at this initial process that the Aftercare Officer evaluates the completed assessment on the ward and assists in developing the program that the ward will participate in during his/her detention. The “Pre-Release Meeting” occurs approximately three weeks prior to the wards release. In addition to the development of a comprehensive plan, the team also reviews the minor’s progress in the program and an evaluation of what programming the minor participated in during his /her detention.

The Director of the RAP Program who is also part of the “Pre-Release Meeting” has also assessed the ward for services and is available upon his/her release for either intervention or a referral to another agency.

Kern Probation CMJJP, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) 2009 Modification (section 5)

E. Describe the program's goals, youth who will be served, and services they will receive.

The goals of the Aftercare program is to decrease recidivism (sustained petitions), decrease the number of violations of probation, decrease positive drug tests and increase school attendance in the wards who are returning to community from detention.

The population receiving services from the Aftercare Unit include wards of the Court whom are released on furlough from our two most intensive detention programs; Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility and the Pathways Academy.

The services provided include: frequent home calls, field contact and school visits; referral and monitoring to drug treatment including individual counseling, Recovery Activity Program (RAP) and Matrix; referral and monitoring of Aggressive Replacement Training (ART) and Parent Project; referral and monitoring of school based programs including Bridges Academy and Community Schools; Family Advocacy services, mentoring services, electronic monitoring, the use of furlough detention beds, and return to the detention program.

F. Describe the collaborations that will occur with other agencies.

Geographic collaborative relationships will occur with our local Family Resource Centers and local collaboratives; including the faith based community and other non-profit agencies. The "Wendell Davis Foundation" – a local non-profit which focuses on anti-gang programming has offered both educational and mentoring services to our Aftercare youth. The program is currently undergoing background investigations for 30 volunteers whom once cleared will begin providing services to the Aftercare probationers. In addition, we have formed a relationship with California State University, Bakersfield who will provide interns to serve as Family Advocates. The interns will begin in September 2010 and will run through May 2011. Mrs. Patricia Henry, Associate Professor and Director of Field Education has agreed to supervise these interns as part of the Project 180 program through the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. Since we already enjoy a positive relationship with the Superintendent of Schools, monitoring students in the Court and Community School campuses is another piece of Aftercare that is easily accomplished

G. Describe the basis upon which the program, or elements thereof, have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing juvenile crime and/or delinquency (a pre-requisite for program approval).

In developing an effective Aftercare program, the Intensive Aftercare Program (IAP) model was closely studied. Because this research based approach to transitioning youth from detention to community stresses surveillance and treatment, the model was a natural fit to many of the components already in existence within our department. IAP principles include:

1. Preparing the youth for progressively increased responsibility and freedom in the community.
2. Facilitating youth-community interaction and involvement.
3. Working with both the offender and community support systems on qualities needed for constructive interaction and the youth successful return to the community.
4. Developing new resources and supports where needed.
5. Monitoring and testing the youth and the community's ability to work productively together.

Planning for successful re-integration occurs during detention and for this reason; the Aftercare Unit has taken a key role in weekly review/intake meetings at both the Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility and the Pathways Academy. It is during these meetings, that the Probation Officer along with facility staff and mental health evaluates the risks/needs assessment of the ward and actively develops a case plan. This plan will address programming that will occur for that ward during the time he/she is detained. In addition, the Probation Officer who visits the institution on a regular basis will then monitor, encourage and support the ward during the time he/she is detained.

Another component of successful re-entry is the development of a comprehensive release plan. The "Pre-Release Meeting" is currently in place and is an element of Aftercare which has proven to be extremely important. Parental attendance and involvement in the "Pre-Release Meeting" is at approximately 86%. Evidence has proven that those youth that have parental involvement at the "Pre-Release Meeting" are vested into the Aftercare Case Plan and are far more likely to be successful in complying with the terms of probation and in the community upon release. In fact, since October 2009, 132 youth released from the Larry J. Rhoades Kern Crossroads Facility participated in a Pre-Release Meeting. Of these wards, 72% of them have not recidivated. All youth being released from this detention facility will be monitored and statistics will continue to be secured to evaluate compliance. This number compared to 100 wards that were released from the same facility prior to October 2009 revealed that 52% recidivated within the first six months following their

release. Once again verifying youth and families have more success when they are allowed to participate in the case plan.

Immediately following the release from detention, the ward meets with both the Probation Officer and the Director of the Recovery Activities Program (RAP).

The relationship with the Recovery Activities Program (RAP) has been in place for approximately one year. This on sight program serves all Aftercare youth who demonstrate a need for substance abuse treatment. The Director of the Program meets the youth while he/she is in detention and will arrange for treatment to begin upon the release. The program not only provides evidence based curriculum, including Aggressive Replace Treatment (ART) and Matrix, they have also proved to assist with family crisis situations by making referrals to outside agencies. Of those minors who complete the program, 72% are currently testing negative for illegal drug use.

To enhance a positive relationship between the youth and his/her community, relationships with numerous community partners have been and are currently being developed. These include many faith based programs (Stay Focused Ministries, Set Free Ministries, Reach for Greatness, New Life Construction and Stay Focused.) The Aftercare Unit has also developed a relationship with Career Services Plus which is able to provide job exposure and work readiness to the youth. A relationship with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Job Developer has also had a positive impact on the probationer. Because of this relationship, the probation officer is able to refer wards to job training, workshops, etc. In addition, the Aftercare Unit is a referral agent to local mentoring programs when appropriate including Project 180, and Good Will Industries. The focus during the next six months is to become even more visible in our community and solicit more assistance from the private sector. This has been underway by the presenting the program to service clubs, and at community meetings; including the Network for Children, the City/County Safe Neighborhood Meetings, etc.

Referrals and relationships with our Court and Community School programs including the Bridges Academy has also been an element of Aftercare that has historically been very successful. Because of the open lines of communication and the positive relationship we enjoy with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, school issues are handled in a timely fashion which one again positively effects the outcome for the youth. Regular meetings are held with the Superintendent of Schools where school enrollment statistics are kept. Youth leaving detention are usually referred to a Court or Community School upon release. Because of the probation presence on Community School campuses, contact, support and monitoring are easily completed in this arena. In rare cases when a ward can be returned to a traditional school setting, the Aftercare Officer has monthly contact with the school site to monitor attendance. This will continue to be a key component of the Aftercare Program.

Aftercare Officers are currently utilizing both Electronic Monitoring and Furlough Detention beds at Juvenile Hall as tools to enhance compliance. When a Ward understands that there are definite consequences for negative behavior, compliance always improves. The officer is able to provide "follow through" which gives merit to the program. Since January 2010, 83% of the wards being released to Aftercare are placed on an Electronic Monitoring device. This has assisted with a 78% compliance rate during the electronic monitoring phase.

To evaluate this service delivery model, the Kern County Probation Department has contracted with a local evaluator, "Transforming Local Communities" (TCL). In addition to monthly data collection, quarterly and annual reports done by TLC, the Aftercare Unit will also evaluate data by evaluating (30) youth annually who have received a full scope of aftercare services. These wards will be compared to (30) youth who were furloughed into Aftercare prior to October 2009 when the unit was enhanced. The start date for evaluation is scheduled to begin July 1, 2010. The evaluation period will begin the day the ward is released from detention and will be tracked for the next six months.

H. Describe the nature and time frame(s) for implementation of the major program components.

The additional staff to Aftercare is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2010. At this time caseloads will be geographically arranged and a focus on community partnerships will begin. Because staff coming to Aftercare has worked in regional areas of our community, it is anticipated that transition will be smooth as many of the relationships have already been formed.

The California State University Interns will begin working as Family Advocates in September 2010 and will continue in their roles until the school year concludes in May 2011.

The Mentoring and Anti-Gang workshops with the "Wendell Davis Foundation" will begin once all background work is done. It is anticipated that this will begin in June 2010.