



# County of Yuba

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act  
Comprehensive Multiagency  
Juvenile Justice Plan

And

Youthful Offender Block Grant  
Juvenile Justice Development Plan

2017/2018

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## **Yuba County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council 2017-2018**

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### **1. Introduction to JJCPA**

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) 2000 provides funding to law enforcement, district attorneys' office and criminal justice agencies to support initiatives that target juvenile crime and delinquency. The JJCPA requires counties to annually review and approve the Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) that discusses the strategies employed to address juvenile crime, to report out on the programs utilized and their effectiveness, and indicate the cost associated with any program funded with it. The JJCPA is codified in Section 30061 of the Government Code.

Yuba County developed the current CMJJP in accordance with AB 1998 and the JJCPA to reflect historical progress, and current services and programs. Moving forward, the CMJJP will be updated and reviewed annually by the Yuba County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. The Probation Department will update the plan to reflect the progress made toward completing goals identified in the CMJJP, and present a current picture of the juvenile justice service delivery system.

JJCPA funds are now used primarily for early intervention efforts and supervision of juvenile offenders. Funds also support a variety of Assessments, counseling services and an array of individualized services/programs.

### **2. Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan**

#### **A. Assessment of Services Targeting At-Risk Juveniles**

Juvenile delinquency and dependency cases are heard by the same Juvenile Court Judge. A Deputy District Attorney is assigned to prosecute cases. The Public Defender's Office, contracted conflict counsel, and private defense counsel provide legal representation for juveniles. Probation receives juvenile referrals and citations from local law enforcement agencies and uses a validated assessment tool to determine the risk for recidivism. It also identifies areas where a juvenile may possess protective factors. Offenders who score as a high risk are generally referred for formal handling. Those who score as a lower risk are handled

informally with referrals for programs or to Traffic Court. Some may be placed on informal probation, without appearing in Court.

The Yuba County Probation Department maintains the Tri-County Regional Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (Juvenile Hall), but is co-operated by Yuba, Sutter and Colusa Counties. Most detained juveniles in the juvenile hall are awaiting adjudication of a formal matter or are pending Transfer to Adult Court. Some are committed to Juvenile Hall for extended periods, waiting out of home placement or are pending a commitment to the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC).

The Yuba County Probation Department maintains the MSYGC, but is co-operated by Yuba, Sutter and Colusa Counties. The facility was built in 2002, and is located next to the Juvenile Hall. The primary objectives of the MSYGC are community protection and the redirection of delinquent behaviors by holding juveniles accountable for their behavior. This is accomplished by programs being provided by a myriad of individuals and organizations. Supervising Juvenile Corrections Counselors and Juvenile Corrections Counselors, Behavioral Health Therapist, Drug and Alcohol Counselors, Intervention Counselors from Sutter and Yuba County Probation Departments, Community Based Organizations, faith-based organizations and volunteers all work together to provide programming to the juvenile. Programs vary in time, but range from 30 minutes to two (2) hours in length. The programs are partitioned throughout the week to improve the effectiveness of the programs by ensuring the juveniles have time to fully absorb the content. MSYGC provides services to youth from 10 counties: Yuba, Sutter, Colusa, Placer, Calaveras, Tehama, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Amador and Napa.

Juvenile Court schools operated by the Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE) are located at the juvenile hall and MSYGC. Special Education and Individualized Educational Plan services are adhered to strictly. Probation and YCOE personnel collaborate closely to ensure the highest degree of academic achievement.

Probation has long-standing collaborative relationships with a number of allied agencies including Yuba County Department of Social Services (DSS), Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Marysville Joint Unified School District, Victor Community Support Services, Sutter-Yuba Children's System of Care and local law enforcement agencies.

Mental health assessments are widely used in determining specific risks and needs of a juvenile offender, to focus treatment efforts where they'll have the greatest impact, while insuring public safety.

Preference is given to the least restrictive intervention necessary to address delinquent behavior and is maintained throughout the process and by all participants. In most cases, lower level local non-custody treatment and intervention options are explored and exhausted before long-term commitment or removal to foster care are considered. Youth requiring more intensive services, are discussed at the weekly Yuba County Assessment Team (YCAT) meeting and SuperCAT once a month. Participants include; probation, child welfare, behavioral health and local school districts.

Judges, deputy district attorneys, defense counsel, probation officers, other law enforcement, social workers, behavioral health clinicians, and local treatment providers all play pivotal and active roles in the adjudication of juvenile justice cases and the development of related case plans.

*Existing services that target at-risk juveniles and juvenile offenders:*

*a. Probation Department:*

Probation is the primary agency responsible for handling matters relating to juvenile crime and delinquency in the County. Through formal arrangements and informal coordination, it exercises discretion, having the best interests of the youth and the community in mind. It also plays a prominent role in many other venues where the general welfare of juveniles is the focus. Officers from all levels within probation participate in a number of initiatives and programs geared toward improving opportunities for young people. Many officers are involved in coaching various sports activities outside their work schedule. Officers participate in events for the extensive homeless population in the local community. Additionally, officers participate in a number of events related to the Marysville Joint Unified School District; such the annual Bicycle Rodeo (teaching bicycle safety), Read Across America and Grad Night.

The probation department hosts a weekly Gang Meeting to discuss gang trends and identify needs in the community. Local law enforcement, district attorney's office and school district administration attend these meetings. This is an information sharing meeting, where school officials often identify youth and discuss what services might be beneficial. Often times these youth have not yet touched the criminal justice system; which makes it the perfect time to provide some sort of intervention.

Early interventions are important aspects of Yuba County's juvenile justice continuum and have been the focus since the 1980's. In 1986, the probation department and the Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD) began a partnership appropriately named the P.A.S.S. Program, Probation and School Success. In 1990, the P.A.S.S. Program collaborated with the Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE) and placed a probation officer at a Community/Court School (Thomas E. Mathews). The primary goal of the program has been to counteract factors interfering with student learning and performance with a comprehensive and multifaceted approach, based on interventions facilitated by law enforcement personnel. This collaborative approach includes the on campus probation officer facilitating student and family access to services and special assistance as needed; providing intervention to families and students in crisis situations; providing student and family support as student's transition through grade level changes; increasing the relationship and/or partnership between home and school; and increasing community involvement and support to enhance the use of volunteers at the school site.

The P.A.S.S. Program is a preventative program that focuses on reducing violence at home and at the school site; identifying and providing intervention services in relating to child abuse; reducing the number of referrals to the criminal justice system using proactive measures; and providing a coordination of resources and behavioral strategies that foster resiliency.

This proactive approach is the core of the program. The P.A.S.S. Program incorporates high standards for learning, related to social and personal functioning. Enhancing the individual potential of student's results in measurable outcomes that have increased academic performance, increased promotion rates, reduced violence at the school sites, reduced out-of-

school suspensions and improved attendance among all students since truancy issues have proved to be a contributing factor in juvenile crime and delinquency.

Many of the students involved in the program are from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and often from families with lower educational levels. The P.A.S.S. Program provides multifaceted services to address barriers faced by these families. The officers account for the human diversity in their daily practices, help to address barriers to learning, and promote healthy development in these students.

To further enhance the P.A.S.S. Program, the probation department, in conjunction with the MJUSD and YCOE, provides a truancy mediation program, including a Truant Officer, to keep students in school. Truancy is often a gateway to delinquent behavior and is indicative of family dysfunction on a larger scale. When elementary school-age children are truant, there are many causes such as domestic violence in the home, substance abuse, mental illness, poverty, homelessness, abuse, and neglect. The Truancy program provides a swift response and early intervention to the many issues faced by these students. With early intervention and dedicated multi-agency commitment, we hope to re-direct these children who are possibly on their path to becoming juvenile offenders and/or dropouts. The probation department's Truant Officer provides essential services to the school district, probation department, students, and their families. With early intervention we hope to prevent at risk youth from becoming part of the criminal justice system.

In 2015, a grant was written and awarded to the probation department for Cedar Lane and Linda Elementary Schools, due to limited opportunities to identify or offer services to at-risk elementary age children and their families prior to juvenile justice system involvement. These schools were selected as they had the highest truancy rates and sheriff office service calls than similar schools within the district. An Intervention Counselor and a Therapist from the Yuba County Probation Department/Victim Services were selected and placed in these two schools to help identify at-risk students who are under-served due to the intake criteria of existing programs. The target is 5th and 6th grade students with at least two unexcused absences and one or more episodes of delinquent or maladaptive behavior. In addition, students in all grades with two or more absences (excused or unexcused) for two or more consecutive months will be evaluated for services. These combinations of factors suggest that an at-risk student who demonstrates these patterns of behavior, are often associated with a path towards a future involvement in the juvenile justice system. This grant will expire in December 2017.

b. Juvenile Court:

The Juvenile Court maintains one courtroom with a Judge hearing delinquency and dependency matters at separate times. Members of the probation department, child welfare services, district attorney's office, public defender's office, conflict and private defense counsel, work collaboratively regularly to address a variety of issues related to the juvenile justice system. Historically, at the lead of the juvenile judge, many members from these various agencies and the school districts have teamed up and attended the annual Beyond the Bench Conference and the Foster Youth Education Summit.

c. District Attorney:

A Deputy District Attorney (DDA) is assigned to the Juvenile Court. In addition to their traditional role as prosecutor, the DDA will regularly consult with law enforcement and probation officers on matters regarding the handling of a case or a disposition.

d. Defense counsel:

Private defense attorney's, who are contracted through the Court, represent youth in most criminal matters. Defense Attorney's regularly consult with probation officers and the DDA on what is the best outcome of a case involving youth.

e. Law Enforcement:

The two city police departments in Yuba County are Marysville Police Department (MPD) and Wheatland Police Department (WPD). MPD is responsible for the city limits of Marysville and WPD is responsible for the city limits of Wheatland. The Yuba County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) is responsible for the outlining and rural areas of Yuba County. YCSO also operates the County Jail. All three of these law enforcement agencies are the source of most referrals to the Probation Department.

MPD dedicated a School Resource Officer (SRO) to the MJUSD and YCOE. The SRO interacts with the youth; problem solves at the school level, and handles crimes on identified campuses. With the SRO handling the calls for service on campuses, this reduces the number of calls for service being handled by the patrol division. The SRO provides training on Active Shooter and Lockdown procedures and is a first responder when incidents occur. The SRO also identifies gang trends, learns to know the different groups of juveniles, and establishes relationships that have been proven to be valuable investigative tools.

All agencies have a specific unit or officer dedicated to gang issues in the respective jurisdictions. Most officers are familiar with juvenile members of local gangs and often coordinate suppression activities with probation and other agencies. They also conduct gang awareness presentations to families and schools. They hold other types of educational or informational forums that address issues of concern for their respective communities.

Local law enforcement, including the probation department participates in a multi-agency task force, Yuba-Sutter Area Gang Enforcement to target gang activity. The task force convenes and patrols the local area in order to suppress gang involvement, by contacting individuals, vehicle stops and/or searches of residences.

f. Education:

There are 23 schools (K-12) in MJUSD. In addition to the probation department's P.A.S.S. Program, MJUSD has incorporated Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) into their school systems. This program allows school staff, including the DPO, to appropriately reward and reinforce positive behavioral choices in students, while at the same time addressing and eliminating problem behaviors at the earliest possible intervention point. P.A.S.S. Officers offer an array of services and individual and group programs as well. These interventions are related to bullying, conflict resolution, gang involvement and anger management.

The Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE) maintains Thomas E. Mathews (TEM), the community court school in the County that specifically target at-risk juveniles and juveniles who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. The probation department has dedicated a full time Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) to TEM. The DPO has a caseload of probation youth who attend TEM. The DPO offers an array of services and programs to all students on location. The DPO is the liaison between school, social services, parents and law enforcement. The DPO is co-responsible for the safety and security of all youth who attend the school and the DPO utilizes progressive discipline to gain compliance of school rules. The programs facilitated include Social and Emotional Needs, Behavioral Redirecting, Relationship Building and School Culture.

YCOE also provides educational services to detained youth at Juvenile Hall and MSYGC. YCOE has incorporated PBIS into their school systems. This program allows school staff, including the DPO, to appropriately reward and reinforce positive behavioral choices in students, while at the same time addressing and eliminating problem behaviors at the earliest possible intervention point.

Schools participate in mitigating juvenile crime and delinquency primarily through truancy reduction efforts, as well as special educational settings that cater to the specific needs of at-risk juveniles and offenders. They also maintain regular contact with and coordinate education activities with law enforcement and probation officers.

g. Child Welfare Services:

Child Welfare Services (CWS) provides traditional services geared to preventing child abuse and neglect, and identifying and coordinating the treatment for children who have been abused. They provide family maintenance and family reunification services, and other mandated and voluntary services to persons subject to dependency laws. DSS is responsible for coordinating the financial reimbursement of various programs that benefit delinquent youth and for which probation receives funds. Through this statutory function, CWS has limited oversight for some activities performed by probation, including Title IV-E and AFDC-FC entitlement payments. CWS Social Workers will respond with law enforcement officers in emergency situations to assess the suitability of a home for a child and can remove that child if it is deemed necessary. CWS holds the contracts for many programs that benefit at-risk juveniles and juvenile offenders, including the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) and the Independent Living Program (ILP). In addition to the investigations they conduct for dependency cases, CWS Social Workers will conduct investigations in concert with probation officers on dual-status youth and make recommendations regarding the appropriate venue for a case.

h. Behavioral Health Services:

SYBH operates Sutter and Yuba County's various mental health programs, or holds the contracts for private vendors who provide similar or other counseling services. In that capacity, and as the entity responsible for Medi-Cal compliance, SYBH maintains oversight of various programs that service at-risk juvenile or juvenile offenders. Mental health clinicians provide direct service to Medi-Cal eligible youth, including those supervised by Probation.

SYBH is the primarily entity responsible for youth in patient and out patient needs in Sutter and Yuba Counties. They provide Functional Family Therapy, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Therapeutic Behavioral Services.

SYBH also has staff assigned to the Tri County Regional Rehabilitation Facility and the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center to provide crisis counseling to detained youth and consult with Probation personnel regarding how to treat or handle offenders exhibiting suicidal, violent, aggressive, or otherwise problematic behavior. SYBH staff is also assigned to the Camp programs and perform individual and group counseling sessions. A psychologist also conducts in-depth evaluations on certain referred youth for the benefit of the Juvenile Court and concerned parties.

Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funding via Mental Health Services Act has expanded crisis intervention capacities to Children and the Transitional Age Youth (TAY). SYBH offers an array of programs in both Sutter and Yuba Counties. The following programs at school-based:

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART) is a ten-week course offered for adolescents on a high school campus. It is a cognitive behavioral intervention that trains participants to cope with their aggressive and/or violent behaviors.
- Girls' Circle is a high school or middle school girls' support group that will run in eight, ten, or twelve week sessions. Each session will have a theme, and each week will include activities and/or discussion related to topics within that theme.
- Life Skills Training Elementary School Program is a developmentally appropriate substance abuse and violence prevention program designed for upper elementary school students to help increase self-esteem, develop healthy attitudes, and improve knowledge of essential life skills - all of which promote healthy and positive personal development.
- Life Skills Training High School Program is designed to promote positive health and personal development for high school youth. The program helps adolescents navigate the challenges of the high school years, and prepares them for the independence and responsibilities they will encounter as young adults. The program uses developmentally appropriate, collaborative learning strategies to help students achieve competency in the skills that have been shown to prevent substance use, violence, and other health risk behaviors.
- Second Step training develops social and emotional learning by building communication skills, increasing self-confidence, and helping students identify goals and responsibilities.
- Signs of Suicide (SOS) is a middle school suicide prevention and risk awareness training. Using an age-appropriate DVD and follow-up discussion, the training is provided to middle school staff, students, and families to give youth the skills to "Acknowledge, Care, and Tell" if they feel that they, or someone they know, is showing signs of depression or may be at risk of suicide.
- Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October.
- Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Trainings are designed to address youth/teen suicide prevention and suicide risk awareness in high school. Student leaders can be trained by PEI staff to present information to their peers with the support of PEI staff, or PEI staff can present the information to the student body. Presentations can be scheduled throughout the year at high schools.

SYBH also offers the following off site programs for the families of youth:

- Nurtured Heart Approach is a relationship-focused methodology focused on helping children (and adults) build their Inner Wealth and use their intensity in successful ways. Originally developed for working with the most difficult children, including children diagnosed with ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder and other behavioral, emotional and anxiety related symptoms, it has been used effectively to help all kinds of families and children to better communicate and interact. Classes are offered in multiple locations in Yuba and Sutter counties in English and in Spanish.
- Strengthening Families is a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and family strengthening program for high-risk and general population families. It is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviors, delinquency and alcohol and drug abuse in children, and to improve social competencies and school performance.

i. Community-Based Organizations:

Children's System of Care program provides a wide array of community and home-based services and supports to youth and their families. Services are available to youth who are experiencing significant emotional, psychological or behavioral problems that are interfering with their well-being, and their families, utilizing a multi-agency team approach. Referrals are made through SYBH Youth and Family Services through YCAT for Yuba County residents.

Victor Community Support Services (VSCC) delivers mental health and family support services in the homes, schools and communities in which people live. VCSS delivers programs ranging from prevention and early intervention programs to highly intensive home-based services designed to prevent residential and other institutional placements. VCSS is focused on empowering people of all ages to build upon their strengths and capacities to address the problems and needs they have within their lives. Each of the service sites within this organization share common goals and a treatment philosophy grounded in the belief that children need families, and that support should be provided in the communities where they live and attend school. VCSS offers a multitude of services to a very extensive list of target populations residing in the communities they serve. Some of the many services include: Wraparound, Specialty Mental Health Services, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, Foster Care Assessment and Treatment, Juvenile Justice Assessment and Treatment, 0-5 Services, Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment, Prevention and Early Intervention, and School-Based Services. VCSS has a comprehensive array of Evidence Based Practices as the foundation for its wide variety of community-based mental health services and strives to help children and their families succeed in their home and school environments. Additionally, Yuba County CWS and Probation have contracted with VCSS to facilitate Child Family Team meetings. Child Family Teams are a requirement under the Continuum of Care Reform.

**B. Identification of County Areas Facing Significant Public Safety Risk from Juvenile Crime**

Yuba County is primarily a rural county. The county has a population of 75,275 (US Census, 2016). Marysville, county seat, is the largest city with a population of 12,216 (US Census 2015). Wheatland, the other incorporated city, has a population of 3,725 (US Census 2015). Most of the Residents of the county live in unincorporated areas. A large portion of Yuba County consists of foothills and mountains. The economy of the county is primarily agriculturally based.

The 2016 United States Census reports that 21.6% of the residents in Yuba County live in poverty and consistently has had one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (2012), Yuba's unemployment rate was 15.9%.

Yuba has a high rate of citizens suffering from substance abuse (methamphetamine and heroin as the drug of choice). This in turn leads to domestic violence and child abuse rates that are high.

While the various jurisdictions may be able to identify specific areas that represent the greatest risk to public safety because of juvenile crime; Yuba County has taken the approach that most, if not all communities within the County, face the same general risks posed by juvenile crime and delinquency. For example, gang involvement and behavior have affected most communities within Yuba County. The same is generally true in regard to truancy, mental health needs, and substance abuse among adolescents.

There have been a number of schools identified as having a significant population of at-risk youth. This is based on a number of circumstances including; homelessness, truancy and high crime neighborhoods. These schools include Lindhurst High School, Cedar Lane and Linda Elementary Schools. For reasons mentioned, the probation department has partnered with these schools to provide an on-campus P.A.S.S. Officer, Intervention Counselor and Therapist. The P.A.S.S. Officer is located at the high school and Intervention Counselor and Therapist are located at the two elementary schools. These individuals offer many services and supports to youth and their families in order to deter youth from the criminal justice system.

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

The probation department implements several strategies that constitute a continuum of responses for juvenile offenders and at-risk juveniles, which include prevention and intervention at all levels. The goal of the department is to provide services up front to juveniles and families to divert juveniles from the delinquency system.

Many of the juvenile services provided by probation are open to referrals from all other agencies, community based programs, and self-referrals. Unless detained, all services are conducted with individual meetings with the juvenile and their family. All Yuba County probation officers are trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI) to create a foundational relationship for change. Probation keeps MI at the forefront of probation officer's tools by providing booster trainings. Probation also implemented a Sanction and Incentive Matrix in 2017 to provide swift and certain graduated sanctions and incentives for behavior change. From prevention to out-of-home placement, services are provided along a continuum to maintain rehabilitation of juveniles and the safety and best interests of the community.

School-based probation officers (P.A.S.S. Program) are housed at one high school, one middle-school, and one continuation school. P.A.S.S. Officers provide supervision of all probation supervised juveniles, as well as assist with truancy matters, aid in triaging school behavior

issues, identify at-risk juveniles, refer juveniles and families to appropriate programs and services, and provide direct-service evidence-based programming to juveniles in need.

Once a juvenile is cited and/or arrested by law enforcement for a criminal offense, the Juvenile Intake Unit completes a lengthy interview process with the juvenile and their family. Using MI, the probation officer interviews the juvenile and family to gather information to complete the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) assessment, in order to determine the juvenile's risk to reoffend, as well as any immediate risks and/or needs to be addressed. The probation officer will complete the assessment and if low risk to reoffend is indicated, then appropriate referrals to services and/or programs will be made. These services could include Individual/Family Therapy, The Parent Project, Anger Management, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Children Systems of Care (CSOC) via SYBH, Grief Counseling, Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) via CSOC, Yuba County Assessment Team (YCAT), Yuba County Child Welfare Services, Yuba County One Stop and Adult Education, Alta California Regional Center, Yuba County Public Health, and Yuba County Welfare Division. Some of these services are offered through Yuba County Probation Department, while the rest are offered by other local agencies.

If a juvenile is cited and/or arrested for an offense that is a mandatory referral to the District Attorney pursuant to Section 653.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code or the PACT assessment indicated moderate or high risk to reoffend, the probation officer begins to address the needs of the juvenile and the family as noted above. Additionally, the juvenile may then start the Court process simultaneously. At the Detention Hearing, the juvenile and family are ordered to report to the probation department for a Family Intake Assessment administered by the Substance Abuse Counselor and Therapist. During the assessment, several tools are utilized to determine a preliminary understanding of the needs of the youth and family. Those tools include Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), Youth Self Report (YSR), Adolescent Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) and Parent Adolescent Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ). The youth and family are subsequently referred to appropriate programs/services based on the outcome of each assessment tool. If/when a juvenile is placed on some type of supervision, the risk and needs of the assessment, along with a collaborative conversation with the juvenile and their family, translates into a written case plan. While on supervision, the probation officer utilizes the Juvenile Response Matrix. The matrix includes graduated sanctions for technical probation violations and incentives to positively reinforce positive behavior. The Response Matrix is presented to a supervisor when a violation of probation (VOP) is considered and the filing of a VOP must be approved by a supervisor when the VOP only includes technical violations and/or misdemeanor offenses. An updated PACT assessment is completed no less than every six months for a juvenile that is under any type of probation supervision. This allows for updated risk and needs information to inform team decisions and case planning.

At any point in the process, a juvenile's case can be staffed at the weekly YCAT meeting, which allows for several county agencies and community based organizations (per a release of information) to discuss how the juvenile and family might best be served.

#### **D. Programs Proposed to be Funded**

The following programs are proposed to be funded by JJCPA:

##### **Truancy Intervention Program**

The Yuba County Probation Department has dedicated a full time Truant Officer to Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD) and Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE). The Truant Officer provides essential services to the school district, probation department, students, and their families and plays a vital role as a member of the Student Attendance Review Board (S.A.R.B.). The Truant Officer has established a phenomenal relationship with youth and their families and maintains constant contact with them depending on the family's needs. Some of the duties of the Truant Officer include the following: home visits and family intervention services; referrals to social services and other service related agencies in Yuba and Sutter Counties; liaison between school and law enforcement; assisting P.A.S.S. Officers with truancy, recovery and attendance related issues; and transportation of youth to school sites. As a member of S.A.R.B., the Truant Officer services Juvenile Citations, Subpoenas and Infraction Complaints (violation of S.A.R.B. Contract); recovers students who are not enrolled in any school or education programs within Yuba County; and coordinates/participates in truancy sweeps for MJUSD and YCOE.

The Truant Officer is an active member of the Yuba County Displaced Youth Multi-Disciplinary Team. Yuba County has a significant homeless population, which also involves a large number of displaced youth. The Multi-Disciplinary Team was initiated out of the Yuba County Children's Wellness & Child Abuse Prevention Council. The Multi-Disciplinary Team was designed to provide a team approach to build on a youth's strengths and respond to his/her needs in a coordinated manner, to assist displaced children/youth and their families in achieving and maintaining a permanent and healthy living environment.

### **Stepping Stones**

This multi-tiered program incorporates a graduated scale of supervision and family based service interventions to Wards and their families. The focus on this program is for youth committed to the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC). The MSYGC provides youth programming and structure in order to address maladaptive behavior while simultaneously transitioning the youth from a custodial setting back into their respective homes and communities. Programs provided are based on the needs of the individual and the group. Camp staff takes a multi-disciplinary approach by involving the youth's parent/guardian, Deputy Probation Officer, school professionals and mental health therapist in order to provide programs to best address those served.

The youth are initially committed to the MSYGC for up to one year, as depending upon their progress in the program; the youth has the potential to complete the program sooner than a year. The MSYGC program consists of four phases, the youth obtaining more incentives as they work through the phases. Acceptance into the MSYGC program begins with a multi-disciplinary assessment to determine the needs of the juvenile and his/her family, and to determine the appropriateness for entrance into the program. Phase IV of the program includes a home furlough period with the juvenile returning to the program during the day. The aftercare portion of Stepping Stones is implemented toward the end of Phase III of the MSYGC program to create a solid re-entry plan between the juvenile, their family, and the community. Yuba County Probation Department Intervention Counselor and Certified Substance Abuse Counselor collaboratively begin to identify the needs of the juvenile and family, as the juvenile has been out of the home for a significant amount of time. Services are offered and/or provided to the family, which could involve some form of counseling or household items to reintegrate the juvenile into the home. Intensive probation supervision and support of the youth and his/her family by the same probation officer continue from the date of commitment to and including six months after release from the MSYGC program. Services for these juveniles are family-

centered and include detention based as well as intensive community based treatment, supervision, drug treatment, education, recreation, life skill building and other capacity building activities. A full time probation officer has regular contact with the youth while in the MSYGC. The Stepping Stones program benefits from the team approach of MSYGC Staff, the probation officer, and by families and the juvenile joining together to develop a case plan collaboratively.

Collaborative partners involved in the MSYGC program and The Stepping Stones program includes the Counties of Sutter and Colusa, as the MSYGC is a regional facility. Yuba County maintains the MSYGC facility. The full time Yuba County Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor facilitates drug and alcohol counseling individually and in group sessions. Additionally, the counselor offers a Parent Support Group. This group assists parents of youth who are committed to the MSYGC and are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. The program assists parents to grow and learn with the growth of the youth who participate in drug and alcohol counseling. The support group is held once per week. Sutter County Probation Officers and/or Intervention Counselors provide Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) to youth in the MSYGC. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health provides counseling and family support services. Yuba County Office of Education and Yuba County One Stop provides education and employment services to eligible juveniles.

Upon the youth completing the MSYGC, the majority reintegrate into the school system by attending Yuba County Office of Education Thomas E. Mathews (TEM) Community Court School. The probation officer works with the school staff and a full time Deputy Probation Officer positioned at the school site to reintegrate the youth into society and the school system. Both the school probation officer and the supervising probation officer maintain constant communication and oversight of the MSYGC youth attending TEM. The probation officer at TEM offers an array of services and programs on location. The probation officer is the liaison between school, social services, parents and law enforcement. The probation officer is co-responsible for the safety and security of all youth who attend the school and he utilizes progressive discipline to gain compliance of school rules. The programs facilitated include Social and Emotional Needs, Behavioral Redirecting, Relationship Building, School Culture, Positive School Environment and Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS).

### **Day Reporting Program**

After a youth's Detention Hearing, the family is referred to the Probation Department for a thorough Family Intake Assessment administered by a full time Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor and part time Therapist. During the assessment, several tools are utilized to determine a preliminary understanding of the needs of the youth and family. Those tools include Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), Youth Self Report (YSR), Adolescent Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI) and Parent Adolescent Relationship Questionnaire (PARQ). The youth and family are subsequently referred to appropriate programs/services based on the outcome of each assessment tool. Many of the programs the Yuba County Probation Department offers, occurs at the Day Reporting Program. In July 2016, the probation department partnered with Yuba-Sutter Friday Night Live (FNL) and is utilizing an area at the FNL building, where programs are offered to youth. The Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor facilitates intensive individual drug and alcohol counseling utilizing a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model. Prior to participating in individual drug and alcohol counseling, youth must first participate in a drug and alcohol education group facilitated by a full time Intervention Counselor and the Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. This program is called Sobriety Through Recovery, Outreach and Nurturing Group (STRONG). This is a four week program designed to ensure youth are prepared for intensive drug and alcohol counseling with the Certified Drug and

Alcohol Counselor. Additionally, the part time Therapist provides individual therapy to youth and families. The Therapist provides probation families the opportunity to access immediate individual or family therapy using a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy approach at no cost to the family.

### **3. Gaps in Services**

Yuba County has identified gang intervention and prevention as being the primary gap in services for juveniles. The County presently lacks a comprehensive strategy to address the challenges presented by the presence and activities of juvenile offenders who are members or associates of criminal street gangs. This strategy should begin with prevention and education for younger children (primary grades) and continue through adolescence. Gang interventions should focus on the high-risk characteristics of gang involvement and not label minors as gang members. For example, Aggression Replacement Training (ART) is an effective intervention that addresses behavioral issues of gang involvement. This strategy has been utilized to some extent with youth who are committed to the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center; however, there is not a coordinated system of service delivery consistently targeting youth at-risk for gang involvement. Family focused interventions, including prevention services to the siblings of known gang members, is also a promising approach.

Increased collaboration between Probation and other law enforcement agencies in gang intervention and suppression will be necessary to assist in decreasing gang violence.

### **4. Strategies to Meet Gaps**

Gang issues pose serious problems for local communities and agencies that attempt to combat them. The probation department will continue to focus its efforts with intervention and prevention and target truancy, first time offenders and elementary school youth. Efforts aimed at curbing gang involvement and focus on intervention, education and suppression are all important. The services through P.A.S.S. and Truancy will be enhanced to offer ongoing gang education to families and youth; with the focus on younger children. Probation officers, school officials and local law enforcement will partner on a regular basis to provide gang education presentations.

### **5. Introduction to YOBG**

The Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) provides funding to the probation department to enhance the capacity of local communities to implement an effective continuum of response to juvenile crime and delinquency. YOBG is codified in sections 1950 – 1978 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. Allocations from YOBG funds shall be used to enhance the capacity to provide appropriate rehabilitative and supervision services to youthful offenders.

The YOBG requires counties to submit an annual Juvenile Justice Development Plan that discusses programs and system enhancements, strategies related to non DJJ eligible youth, regional agreements supported by YOBG and programs/strategies that are coordinated with JJCPA.

On January 1, 2017, Assembly Bill 1998 went into effect, making significant changes to the reporting requirements for YOBG and JJCPA. The most significant change was that beginning

January 2018; counties are required to submit a combined Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan for JJCPA and Juvenile Justice Development Plan for YOBG. Counties had the option of submitting a combined plan in 2017. As a combined plan, the information below outlines the requirements for the Yuba County's Juvenile Justice Development Plan for YOBG.

## **6. Programs and system enhancements**

YOBG funding is essential for juvenile probation and is utilized in many ways to provide evidence based programming/services and assessments to youth, with the primary goal of reducing recidivism. These programs include, but are not limited to, alcohol and drug treatment, anger management, communication skills, parent education, juvenile offender work program and the utilization of a Sanctions and Incentives Response Matrix. In order to determine appropriate programs, youth and their families participate in a Family Intake Assessment; which helps create a case plan. All staff has been trained and has the ability to create a comprehensive and collaborative case plans, using SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely) interventions. Additionally, the P.A.S.S. and Truancy programs are a crucial part of assisting with not only prevention and intervention, but in assisting with keeping youth in school and reducing their chances of being removed from their homes.

The Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) risk/needs assessment and case planning tool is one aspect of the department's efforts to implement evidence-based practices. The PACT determines a minor's level of risk to reoffend; identifies the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the minor's unique criminogenic needs; pre-populates an automated and customizable case plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors; and allows managers to run reports to see changes in risk/protective factors over time. Every juvenile that enters the juvenile justice system is assessed with the PACT, whether it be the pre-screen or the full screen. The PACT revitalizes the role and responsibilities of the probation officer from that of one who monitors sanctions, to that of one who is provided a working tool to assist while modeling pro-social behavior and one who will continue to work with the juvenile and the juvenile's family to reduce the juvenile's risk to re-offend. The use of Risk/Need assessments to identify the risk factors and specific needs of each juvenile, and case planning to address those needs, while supporting and building upon a juvenile's identified protective factors are evidence-based practices. YOBG funding pays for the contracted juvenile Assessment licensing fees through Noble Software Group.

All youth who have been charged with an offense and are pending Court, are subsequently referred to appropriate programs/services based on the outcome of the Family Intake Assessment conducted by the probation departments Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor and part time therapist. Many of the programs the Yuba County Probation Department offers, occurs at the Day Reporting Program. The Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor facilitates intensive individual drug and alcohol counseling utilizing a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model. Prior to participating in individual drug and alcohol counseling, youth must first participate in a drug and alcohol education group facilitated by a full time Intervention Counselor and the Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. This program is called Sobriety Through Recovery, Outreach and Nurturing Group (STRONG). This is a four week program designed to ensure youth are prepared for intensive drug and alcohol counseling with the Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. Additionally, the Intervention Counselor provides many other services including, Crystal Clear Communication, Anger Management, Theft Awareness, Tobacco Cessation,

Cyber-Awareness and Juvenile Offender Work Program. YOBG funding pays for Family Intake Assessments, materials for programs, training, and incentives.

Some juveniles are adjudicated for offenses involving inappropriate sexual conduct. Often times these juveniles are court ordered to be removed from their homes and placed in congregate care. Having these juveniles participate in a psychological evaluation, could establish a framework of local services and help reduce the amount of youth being removed from their homes. The psychological evaluation would indicate if the juvenile needs education and counseling around boundaries and normal sexual behavior or if they require more intensive services. YOBG funding would assist in paying for psychological evaluations in order to make the most appropriate recommendation, while keeping the best interest of the juvenile in mind.

The probation department partners with the Marysville Joint Unified School District and provides probation officers (P.A.S.S. Program) to be located at Anna McKenney Intermediate School and Lindhurst High School. Each school site pays a percentage of those salaries and YOBG funding will pay the remaining percentage. P.A.S.S. Officers provide supervision for juvenile on probation at the school, as well as assist with discipline for all students. The P.A.S.S. Program incorporates high standards for learning, related to social and personal functioning. Enhancing the individual potential of student's results in measurable outcomes that have increased academic performance, increased promotion rates, reduced violence at the school sites, reduced out-of-school suspensions and improved attendance among all students since truancy issues have proved to be a contributing factor in juvenile crime and delinquency.

To enhance the P.A.S.S. Program, the probation department dedicated a full time Truant Officer to Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD) and Yuba County Office of Education (YCOE). The Truant Officer provides essential services to the school district, probation department, students, and their families and plays a vital role as a member of the Student Attendance Review Board (S.A.R.B.). Some of the duties of the Truant Officer include the following: home visits and family intervention services; referrals to social services and other service related agencies in Yuba and Sutter Counties; liaison between school and law enforcement; assisting P.A.S.S. Officers with truancy, recovery and attendance related issues; and transportation of youth to school sites. Funding for the Truant Officer is appropriated from YOBG and JJCPA.

## **7. Strategies related to non DJJ eligible youth**

The above programs and interventions align with the overall strategy of Yuba County: diverting juveniles out of the Justice System at all levels and rehabilitating those that are in the system. By being involved at all levels; truancy, school-based, multi-agency, etc., probation officers are offering services, referrals, and support to juveniles and their families in the entire community, not just those involved with probation.

Minors who commit an offense which does not fall under Section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code and are no longer eligible for a commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation (DJJ) facilities are offered services in two areas; a 365-day commitment in the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC) or out of home placement in a Resource Family or Short Term Residential Treatment Program. If a minor is ordered into the MSYGC and actively participates, they can successfully complete the program in 210 days. Upon completion of this program, the minor is then released to their family and must participate in the aftercare program. The minor will be under intensive supervision and referred to the necessary programs/services in assisting them with their transition in returning home. The

programs/services can include individual drug and alcohol counseling, STRONG, Crystal Clear Communication, Anger Management, Theft Awareness, Tobacco Cessation, Cyber-Awareness and Juvenile Offender Work Program.

## **8. Regional agreements supported by YOBG**

Services at the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC) are a multi-agency collaborative process. Partners involved in the MSYGC program and The Stepping Stones program includes the Counties of Yuba, Sutter and Colusa, as the MSYGC is a regional facility. Yuba County maintains the MSYGC facility. The full time Yuba County Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor facilitates drug and alcohol counseling individually and in group sessions and a Parent Support Group. Sutter County Probation Officers and/or Intervention Counselors provide Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) to youth in the MSYGC. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health provides counseling and family support services. Yuba County Office of Education and Yuba County One Stop provides education and employment services to eligible juveniles.

## **9. Programs and strategies coordinated with JJCPA**

Programs and services co-exist under YOBG and JJCPA funding. Although the focus and intent varies, the primary goals are to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system and then focusing on reducing recidivism. Ultimately, these are addressed by working with the juvenile and their family with comprehensive assessments, case plans and evidence based programs. The probation department has placed a lot of effort into streamlining both the YOBG funded programs and the JJCPA funded programs to be inclusive of all minors on probation. This means that a minor on informal probation has the same opportunities and services available as minors who are on formal probation. Both minors would participate in programming that is offender/risk appropriate; but the important aspect to keep in mind is that both, regardless of offense/status, have the same programming availability.

## **10. Conclusion**

JJCPA and YOBG funding strategies are geared toward efforts that stand to have the greatest impact not only on high risk offenders, but at risk youth as well. Future strategies must include a more pronounced prevention and intervention focus on younger youth and their families in Yuba County. Efforts that address violent behavior and promote public safety are a priority. The probation department, juvenile court, partner agencies, and treatment and service providers in Yuba County remain committed to assessing, addressing and effectively serving the needs of juvenile offenders and their families to ensure their success in the community and enhance public safety.

## **10. Project Contact**

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