



TEHAMA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Chief Probation Officer, Richard A. Muench

P.O. Box 99, Red Bluff, CA 96080



April 1, 2022

Kathleen Lucero
Director, Office of Youth and Community Restoration

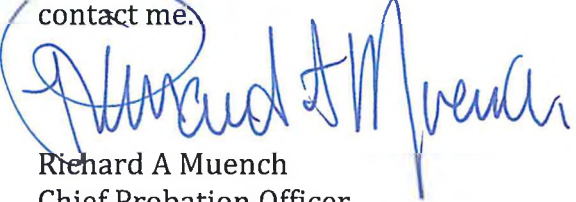
Alisa Hartz
Counsel, Office of Youth and Community Restoration
California Health and Human Services Agency

Dear Ms. Lucero and Ms. Hartz

Appreciate your taking the time to meet with us on March 9, 2022, to review and discuss Tehama County's Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant application and your offer of technical assistance and resources as needed.

As a result of our meeting and per your request attached, please find answers to questions your agency has regarding our original JJRBG plan dated July 26, 2021. Please assume this attachment as an addendum to the original plan.

Should you have any further questions or need any additional clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.


Richard A Muench
Chief Probation Officer

Adult Probation Office: 1840 Walnut Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080 – P: (530) 527-4052 – F: (530) 527-1579

Juvenile Justice Center: 1790 Walnut Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080 – P: (530) 527-5380 – F: (530) 527-2717

Day Reporting Center: 780 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, CA 96080 – P: (530) 527-4048 – F: (530) 527-4021

Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant

Answers to questions from the March 9, 2022, meeting, discussion regarding the Tehama County plan are as follows:

- *Please clarify the demographic information you provided. As discussed, we view the target population as youth who have been committed to DJJ as well as youth with 707(b) and/or 290.008 offenses. To the extent you have not already provided it, please provide the demographic and offense data for the whole target population, ideally for 2019, 2020, and 2021 (if already available).*

We do not have any youth who fall under this category for 2019, 2020, and 2021.

- *Please provide the disaggregated placements for all of your youth with 707(b) offenses and/or 290.008 offenses [e.g., placed in juvenile hall, ranch, home etc.] for 2019, 2020, and 2021 (if already available)*

We do not have any youth who fall under this category for 2019, 2020, and 2021.

- *Please provide further details on the facility improvements that you are making to accommodate youth in the secure track who will be subject to longer commitments, as you described to us. You may include a facilities grant application as an attachment, to the extent that it captures these types of improvements.*

To further enhance details previously provided in our original JRRGB application, we now have a dedicated case manager to oversee all evidence-based treatment programming and services for our long-term commitment youth who are ordered by their jurisdictional judge to serve a commitment of thirty days or more. The case manager will work with the youth and his/her probation officer in completing a full assessment to determine the youth's needs while in the program, with the ultimate goal of rehabilitating the youth by providing evidence-based behavior modification tools and training in order for them to have a successful transition back into to their community. The case manager will be the liaison between the youth and their probation officer in coordinating monthly face-to-face meetings to review the youth's progress and making modifications throughout the youth's program to attain the predetermined set goals. This case manager will be on-site to provide emotional support to youth, initiate daily structured programming to benefit the youth's active program participation and adolescent development, as well as provide quality control from programming and activities within the institution. Two weeks prior to the youth's projected release from the facility the case manager will schedule a pre-release exit meeting with the youth, his/her probation officer, his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or any outside support person(s) who are deemed to be a positive influence in the youth's life, and any service

providers to develop an exit case plan on behalf of the youth to support them as they transition back into their communities.

We have recently completed the addition of a woodshop located in a secured area adjacent to the juvenile detention facility where the woodshop/welding program will be taught, affording youth the opportunity to learn wood working skills from a local craftsman/instructor. The woodshop/welding program was originally developed in Tehama County as a result of the implementation of AB109 and is currently still one of the programs offered at the Day Reporting Center (DRC) to those offenders released from the Tehama County Jail under the supervised release program. Many offenders who have attended the woodshop/welding program have since successfully rehabilitated and used the re-entry skills learned to gain full-time employment and become tax paying citizens.

Another program that has been very successful with our adult offenders at the DRC, and of which we will be offering to our youth is landscaping/gardening. This class will be overseen by our DRC Correctional Officers who will take youth out into the community to do landscaping projects for non-profits and public agencies, as well as work in our on-site Juvenile Detention Facility garden from which the produce grown is used by the Juvenile Detention Facility kitchen to prepare and distribute approximately 200+ meals per day for the Senior Nutrition Program as well as feed the youth in the detention facility. Additionally, through this program the youth not only will learn a trade and work ethic they will gain the experience of giving back to the community by feeding the local homeless shelters and seniors by donating the produce they personally have grown and shared.

Additional improvements planned for the facility to itself include: Improving the fencing around the Juvenile Detention Facility garden with the addition of privacy screen blocks to avoid any potential sight and sound issues from the public, and enhance security by adding additional fencing in the field area that circumferences the woodshop. We also plan to enhance our staffing with the addition of six Juvenile Detention Facility Counselors to work with the case manager supervisor in providing in-house programming and supervision to the SYFT youth.

- *Please provide further details on how you are classifying youth or a classification tool that you will use to make initial housing placements to ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics in the secure facility. You indicated that you are using your current classification system and that it is functioning well; a summary of that system as applied to the SYTF would be useful.*

The goal of the classification system is to promote a safe and secure environment for the youth and staff and to ensure that staff are respectful and equitable in treatment of transgender and intersex youth. The classification system provides suitable levels of

security for each youth and imposes the least restrictive conditions that are practical. Additionally, it is the goal of the classification system to re-classify youth as circumstances warrant.

As is applies to the SYTF youth, we will be utilizing a classification determination process to consider the following factors: Age, Gender, Sophistication, Legal Status, Maturity, Emotional Stability, Program Needs, Medical, Mental Health, Public Safety, and Gender Identity. In addition, the physical design of the facility as well as the changing population is always taken into consideration. In making a classification decision during booking, the highest classification rating shall be the base classification, with 707 findings of unfitness increasing the current classification by one level. Any JDF Counselor can, with proper documentation, raise the classification status of a youth, however, a reduction in classification status requires the joint decision of a Supervising Juvenile Detention Facility Counselor and the Juvenile Division Deputy Chief.

Additionally, the PREA Vulnerability Assessment Instrument is completed on all youth during the initial intake process to measure their risk of victimization and/or sexually aggressive behavior and overall risk, addressing such topics as: Experience in institution, social skills, perception of risk, offense type, arrest history, past behaviors, age, intellectual impairment, and “lack of fit” with the juvenile justice facility culture. An overall risk score of Low, Medium, or High is also taken into consideration when classifying all housing placements.

The classification levels are as follows:

- ✓ General (G) – Minimum potential risk to injure or escape, less sophisticated/less serious offenses, full unrestricted program, schoolroom, day room, community service.
- ✓ Restricted (R) – Moderate potential of risk to injure or escape, less sophisticated/less serious offender, same program participation as (G) status with the exception: no work detail.
- ✓ Security Risk (SR) – Potential of risk to injure or escape. Does not meet criteria for MSR Status but has demonstrated the need for security above (R) status. Reintegration from (MSR) status to a lesser classification, sophisticated/serious offender, but same program as (R) status with the exception: Not allowed out with general population (no group participation), school in their room.
- ✓ Maximum Security Risk (MSR) - Youth booked on 707(b) charges will be initially considered as Maximum-Security Risk (MSR), with their status to be reviewed within 12 hours of booking to determine if change of status is needed based on behavior. (MSR) status applies to youth who have previously escaped with use of force from any locked facility (felony escape), youth who are on parole from any state who pose a maximum potential of risk to injure or escape, or the sophisticated and serious offender.

The youth can also earn points to level up by choosing to show good behavior, follow all facilities rules and staff instructions. Youth initially start out as a Level 1 (Orange Pants) and with positive behavior can attain Level 2 (Yellow Pants) and Level 3 (Green Pants) respectively. Once at a Level 3 youth can potentially participate in activities outside the facility (ie: Woodshop, gardening, community projects, field trips, etc.)

- *To the extent that you have additional details on the culturally responsive services and programs you offer, we welcome that information.*

When developing and/or providing services for diverse populations, Tehama County considers a number of factors that may influence our approach, such as acculturation, ethnic identity, religious identity, generational status, language barriers, recency of immigration, country of origin, political climate, socio-economic status, sexual identity and orientation, culturally based beliefs and practices, and attempt to match between the language and cultural backgrounds of program staff and youth served.

Our goals are to:

- ✓ Promote an environment which attracts, retains and fosters a diverse and multi-cultural staff
- ✓ Facilitate and encourage cross-cultural communication within the facility
- ✓ Ensure the development and implementation of cross-cultural diversity, knowledge, empathy and respect in policy, planning and service delivery systems with the facility
- ✓ In partnership with service providers and the community at large, seek and receive knowledge, information and resources from the community to improve staff knowledge, empathy and respect of the various community collectives

In an effort to increase cultural awareness and avoid varying attitudes, perceptions, prejudices, and biases often found in the juvenile justice system, and accommodate the needs of a growing ethnic population, the plan is to seek out on-going training in an effort to developing cultural understanding amongst the juvenile correctional staff.