

# **Juvenile Justice Realignment**

## **Block Grant Annual Plan**

### **Fiscal Year 2023-2024**



# Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant

## Annual Plan

**Date:** 04-27-23

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### Background and Instructions:

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

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

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

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## **Executive Summary**

Senate Bill (SB) 823 was signed by the Governor on September 30, 2020, and became effective immediately. The bill initiated the closing of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and realigned the responsibility for those youth formerly eligible for commitment to the DJJ from the State to the counties effective July 1, 2021. The bill also raised the maximum age of local jurisdiction and confinement to age 23 or 25 for the realigned population. SB 823 intends for counties to use evidence-based practices and programs to improve youth and public safety outcomes, reduce the transfer of youth to the adult court system and reduce the use of juvenile justice confinement through community-based responses and interventions.

SB 823 established a Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant to fund the Counties' efforts to provide a replacement services continuum for the realigned population. The Block Grant provides funding at designated levels for each county for the first three (3) fiscal years. In order to receive the funding, counties were required to establish a subcommittee of their Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) to develop a local plan (Plan) to serve the realigned population. County Boards of Supervisors were required to consider the Plan in order to receive first year funding. To receive subsequent years funding, the Plan must be submitted annually to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), responsible for oversight and accountability of the realigned system.

The County of San Luis Obispo convened a subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council in December 2020. The Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS) met five (5) times between January and April 2021, with a collective interest in ensuring youth have access to high quality programming to meet their needs and a goal of creating a plan that included a meaningful local replacement program for the realigned population. Preventing an increase of juvenile transfers to the adult court was a parallel goal. The JJRS subsequently met in July of 2022 and February of 2023 to review the existing plan and amend as necessary to meet the needs of the realigned population.

**Part 1: Subcommittee Composition (WIC 1995 (b))**

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
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Community Member	Jonathan Nibbio Chief Operating Officer Family Care Network	jon@fcni.org	(805) 781-3535
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Community Member	Sandra Gomez Youth/Parent Partner Family Care Network	sgomez2@fcni.org	(805) 519-9896
<b>Additional Subcommittee Participants</b>			
Probation Department	Tom Milder Assistant Chief Probation Officer	tmilder@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 788-2116
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Probation Department	Kyle Nancolas Chief Deputy Probation Officer Juvenile Services	knancolas@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 781-4066

**Part 2: Target Population (WIC 1995 (c)(1))**

Briefly describe the County’s realignment target population supported by the block grant:

San Luis Obispo County’s realignment target population includes wards of the court whose most recent sustained offense is a serious violent felony, as described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) or Section 290.008 of the Penal Code (PC), that would have previously made the ward eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice.

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

The initial identified target population in San Luis Obispo County was estimated to be [REDACTED] youth. Currently, San Luis Obispo County has [REDACTED] who meet the realignment target population definition as described above. All [REDACTED] of those youth are males currently between the ages of 15-21. Racial demographics include [REDACTED] youth identified as White, [REDACTED] as Hispanic and [REDACTED] as Filipino. Their WIC 707(b) offense history includes [REDACTED] assault with great bodily injury [REDACTED] lewd act with a child under age 14 with force [REDACTED], oral copulation with person under 14 by force [REDACTED] and shooting at an inhabited dwelling [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

While the current youth who meet the identified target population criteria are all cisgender male, this is a dynamic target population and therefore the needs of all youth, inclusive of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE) were considered in the drafting of this plan. Furthermore, while the total target population was estimated to be [REDACTED] youth at a given time, it is not expected that all of these youth will need “DJJ like” replacement programming in a custodial setting for an extended period. More likely, 1-2 youth per year would require a “Secure Track” option with intensive treatment and other rehabilitative services in a secure facility. Length of commitment to this track will be dependent on the individual circumstances and gravity of the qualifying offenses in conjunction with the assessed criminogenic risk and needs of the youth. County operated secure facilities, configured, and programmed to serve these youth, are designated as Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs). These SYTFs could be stand-alone facilities or a unit or portion of an existing county juvenile facility, including a juvenile hall or camp.

Describe any additional relevant information pertaining to identified target population, including programs, placements and/or facilities to which they have been referred.

Programs, placements, and facilities available to the identified target population prior to the enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 823 included the full continuum available to juvenile justice involved youth in San Luis Obispo County described in greater detail in the “San Luis Obispo County JJCPA and YOBG FY 2023-24 Consolidated Annual Plan”. These programs and services continue to be available to the target population, in addition to supplemental programming identified later in this plan. Some highlights of this currently available service continuum include the following:

- Restorative justice intervention through the Restorative Dialogue Program
- Employment development and vocational educational services through the Department of Rehabilitation, San Luis Obispo County Office of Education, and other Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Parenting education and support through a variety of CBOs
- Coordinated multi-agency intervention and support through The Services Affirming Family Empowerment System of Care (SAFE SOC) with teams located in each region of the county
- Forward Thinking Journaling, an evidence informed cognitive behavioral interactive journaling series delivered individually or in a group setting
- Child and Family Team (CFT) practices across youth and family serving agencies such as the Probation Department (Probation), County Behavioral Health (Behavioral Health) and the Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Mental health services ranging from regionally located clinic-based, school-based, in-home, and custodial-based options at varying levels of intensity including Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS) and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)
- Drug and alcohol services at Juvenile Hall, regionally located clinics as well as numerous school sites.
- Intensive in-home, team-based supportive services such as the Full Service Partnership (FSP) and Wraparound Services
- Mentorship and educational advocacy through the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program

- Residential placement options through all levels of foster care programming for eligible youth
- Independent Living Program (ILP) services
- Camp commitment in the Coastal Valley Academy, a county run alternative to congregate foster care for juvenile justice involved youth who need intensive treatment in a secure setting
- Detention or commitment in the Juvenile Hall, where youth receive secure and safe housing with education, mental health, and medical services along with volunteer led pro-social activities

### **Part 3: Programs and Services (WIC 1995 (c)(2))**

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

This plan intends to make the full continuum of current juvenile justice services available to the target population, while also expanding on some of these services and creating new programming in other areas. Due to the relatively small size and dynamic needs of the target population, general agreements of the subcommittee included developing services that had the potential to reach more than just the target population as well as reserving some realignment funding for specialized services and placement needs as they arise.

As referenced in Part 2 of this plan, the target population is the total population of wards of the court with an adjudication for an eligible felony offense, committed when the ward was 14 years of age or older, on their most recently sustained court petition. This would have previously made them eligible for commitment to the state DJJ. Not all DJJ eligible youth were previously committed to the DJJ. In many cases, the safety and protection of the public, considerations of victims and the best interests of the youth can be served with less restrictive interventions that better meet the rehabilitative goals of the Juvenile Court. Therefore, for the purposes of this plan, the target population can be further broken down into a smaller subcategory of youth designated as “Secure Track” youth. Secure Track youth are those youth who present with such high-level community safety risk and rehabilitative needs that intensive treatment and rehabilitative services are required in a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) for more than one (1) year.

It is important to note that Senate Bill (SB) 823 changed the maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction for some target population youth. Previously, only youth who were committed to the DJJ had their maximum age of juvenile court jurisdiction extended to age 23 or 25. Changes enacted with SB 823 extend the age of jurisdiction for the entire target population, regardless of whether they become Secure Track youth, to the ages of 23 or 25, depending on the nature of their adjudicated charges. By adding Section 208.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), SB 823 also provided additional restrictions on housing wards of the juvenile court in adult facilities, regardless of age. Wards 19 years of age or older cannot be detained in an adult facility without a hearing. The presumption at that hearing is that the ward will be retained in a juvenile facility. Wards serving a commitment in a juvenile facility cannot



have that commitment transferred to an adult facility, regardless of age. For the purposes of this plan, that means there is the potential for more youth between the ages of 21-25 requiring services in the local juvenile justice continuum, up to and including juvenile detention services.

San Luis Obispo County is addressing the needs of the realignment target population, including Secure Track youth, with a program called Seeking Opportunity and Achieving Reentry (SOAR).

SOAR program components are described below, followed by further detailed information regarding the identified facilities, programs, placements, services, and service providers, supervision, and other responses, available to all target population youth.

Core Components of SOAR program:

#### Assessment

- Target population youth are assessed for criminogenic risk (likelihood of re-offense based on individualized factors that make a person more likely to commit a crime) using the Youth Level of Service – Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI), a risk/needs assessment designed specifically for adolescents, and other assessment tools as indicated by individual case/offense circumstances. For instance, youth with qualifying sexual offenses are assessed with the Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool (JSORRAT), a sexual recidivism risk assessment tool for male sexual offenders from age 12 to 17.
- Probation recommends a court ordered psychological evaluation be conducted on target population youth prior to disposition on their qualifying offense.
- Probation completes a Texas Christian University Criminal Thinking Scale (TCU-CTS) assessment with target population youth within 60 days of the disposition hearing on their qualifying offense and annually thereafter. The TCU-CTS is tool designed to assess changes in criminal thinking over time as a result of interventions, services and supports.
- Behavioral Health staff complete a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment on all Secure Track youth committed to Juvenile Hall or CVA at the outset of their commitment and designated intervals thereafter while the youth remain in the facility. The CANS assessment is a comprehensive trauma-informed behavioral health evaluation and communication tool used to aid in identifying placement and treatment needs and inform case planning decisions.

#### Collaboration:

- Probation establishes a Child and Family Team (CFT) process as soon as possible following adjudication on a qualifying offense but no later than 30 days after the disposition hearing. A CFT is a group of individuals that includes the youth, family members, professionals, natural community supports, and other individuals identified

by the family who are invested in the youth and family's success and who hold regular meetings to support the youth and family.

- Probation holds CFT meetings for target population youth no less frequently than every 90 days.
- Probation presents the youth's case at a multidisciplinary team meeting of the Multi-Agency Reentry Team (MART) within 30 days of the date of the disposition hearing on the qualifying offense.
- For Secure Track youth, Probation presents the youth's case again at a MART meeting at least 30 days prior to any planned discharge from custody hearing to gather input from the team for case planning purposes as well as release considerations.
- MART consists of representatives from Probation, Behavioral Health, Department of Social Services, and San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (SLOCOE). Others are invited on a case-by-case basis including local treatment providers.

#### Case Planning:

- Probation completes an Individual Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) for target population youth, with input from the MART, within 30 days of the disposition hearing on the qualifying offense.
- For Secure Track youth, Probation submits a copy of the IRP to the court within 30 judicial days.
- For Secure Track youth, Probation creates a Reentry IRP prior to any discharge hearing where release is recommended by the MART and submits the Reentry IRP to the court prior to the hearing.

#### Court Review:

- Probation recommends court progress review hearings for all target population youth at intervals no less frequently than once every six (6) months.
- Probation provides reports to the court prior to all progress review hearings.
- For Secure Track youth, Probation provides a report to the court that includes input from the MART, prior to any discharge hearing.

#### Facilities:

Target population youth are served in the two existing custodial facilities in the County, Juvenile Hall, and the Coastal Valley Academy. For Secure Track youth, both facilities are designated Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs). For those Secure Track youth whose

needs cannot be met locally, the County will explore SYTF options in other counties as they become available.

- Juvenile Hall - The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Juvenile Hall is 35-bed detention facility, consisting of an intake/admissions area, visitation area, two (2) living units, a medical office and exam room, a mental health counseling room, a fully accredited school with two (2) separate classrooms, a gymnasium and two outdoor recreation areas. Public Health provides medical staffing which includes a nurse or nurse practitioner on duty 15.5 hours a day. Behavioral Health provides mental health clinicians for assessment, crisis intervention, and group counseling, while youth also have access to a psychiatrist for psychotropic medication services on a weekly basis as needed. The SLOCOE runs and staffs the Juvenile Court School, which includes dually (general education and special education) credentialed teachers, and Behavior Intervention Services Specialists. High School graduates have access to college courses through Cuesta College, a local community college with campuses in San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles, as well as Modern States, a program that provides online college courses for those youth interested in pursuing their post-secondary education. All youth have access to SLOCOE funded "Learn to Earn" electronic tablets, which provide educational learning modules in combination with recreational modules in an incentivized manner. Career Technical Education (CTE) is provided through the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education via Patterson Paxton Labs as an introductory and exploratory learning experience in a variety of fields. Lab carts are mobile and can be moved to any school site depending on student interest. Examples of the labs include plumbing skills, electrical skills, and home maintenance fundamentals. A SLOCOE school psychologist works with youth who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans. A local non-profit provides comprehensive volunteer services that include pro-social and skill building activities highlighted by programming including tutoring, religious services, art, creative writing, sports programming, bible study, meditation, Alcoholics Anonymous, chess club, book club, guitar lessons, and the Anti-Violence Program.
- Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) - This camp commitment program provides an in-county alternative to group homes/Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) for juvenile justice involved youth who need intensive treatment in a more secure probation setting. The CVA is co-located with the Juvenile Hall in the Juvenile Services Center complex. The CVA shares some facilities and services with the Juvenile Hall, including the gymnasium, medical services, and volunteer programming; however, it has two separate 15-bed living units as well as a classroom, recreational area, and garden. The CVA is a collaboration between Probation, Behavioral Health, the SLOCOE and a local CBO, the Family Care Network (FCN). The CVA includes educational, recreational, and case management services combined with trauma informed individual and family therapy, a cognitive behavioral evidence based youthful offender curriculum called the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute Comprehensive Curriculum (UCCI-CC) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Youth participate in regular community outings including a twice a week "Run Club" traversing local trails and local events such as the Miracle Miles for Kids fundraiser and annual Independent Living Program College and Awards Nights.

The goal of the program is to safely return youth to the community after reducing their risk of future delinquent behavior by improving their reasoning and avoidance skills and providing them with pro-social replacement skills.

- Combined Use of Programs - Having both Juvenile Hall and the CVA as part of the same physical complex allows flexibility of programming across both. For instance, if a Secure Track youth starts out in the Juvenile Hall but is later determined appropriate for a less restrictive placement, transition to the CVA is easily facilitated. The close proximity also allows for specific programming from one facility, for instance the UCCI-CC curriculum used in CVA, to be utilized at the other facility as appropriate based on the individual needs of the youth.
- Out-of-county Secure Youth Treatment Facilities - The Subcommittee continues to support some realignment grant funds being reserved for Specialized Placement each year as described later in this plan.

#### Programs:

The Probation Department facilitates or utilizes a variety of programs that will be available to target population youth. Some key programming is described below.

- Restorative Dialogue Program - Probation contracts with a local non-profit, Creative Mediation at Wilshire Community Services, to provide restorative justice programming including Restorative Conferences with victims, Parent Teen Mediation and Youth Conflict Mediation. This program will be available to target population youth in the facilities or the community.
- Forward Thinking Journaling (FTJ) - FTJ is an interactive journaling series that uses evidence informed practices by incorporating content from cognitive behavioral therapy and using Motivational Interviewing techniques to provide interventions for youth based on their most common areas of criminogenic need. Juvenile probation officers and FCN Case Managers are trained to deliver this programming and therefore it is available to target population youth both in the facilities and the community.
- University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute Core Curriculum (UCCI-CC) - Designated juvenile probation officers and FCN case managers are trained to facilitate this previously mentioned curriculum in the CVA. This is extended to Secure Track youth in Juvenile Hall as needed.

#### Placements:

Some potential placement options for target population youth are described below.

- Foster Care - Target population youth who are also under foster care placement orders have access to traditional foster care placement options including Resource Family Approval (RFA) homes, Foster Family Agency (FFA) homes, Transitional Housing,

## Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) and Supervised Independent Living Programs (SILPs).

- Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP+) Program - County partners have agreed to allow access to this placement option to target population youth on a case-by-case basis under a “special exceptions” category when there are no other stable housing options available to youth and the youth meet suitability criteria guidelines. This is a key resource for target population youth as some will be over the age of 18 and therefore not eligible for some traditional youth placement options.
- Supportive Housing - The Subcommittee continues to support some of the realignment grant funds being reserved for Supportive Housing as detailed later in this plan.
- Specialized Foster Home for High Needs Probation Youth - Probation has included a strategy in the current Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) System Improvement Plan (SIP) to develop a RFA foster home with specially trained foster parents to work with high needs probation foster youth. This home will be a key resource to foster care eligible target population youth who are often difficult to find foster homes for due to the severity of their adjudicated charges and specialized needs. The Subcommittee has supported the use of realignment grant funds towards this resource as described later in this plan.

### Services and Service Providers:

Probation collaborates with numerous county and community-based providers to access services for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. An overview of many of these services are provided in Part 2 of this plan. Some services of specific significance to target population youth are further described below.

- Wraparound Services – In partnership with Behavioral Health, Probation and the DSS, the Family Care Network (FCN), provides intensive, home-based services in an all-encompassing model to prevent youth from being removed from their homes and support youth in stepping down or returning home from out of home care. Services emphasize the youth and family’s strengths and needs and provide in-home support, individual and family counseling and Family Partners.
- Full-Service Partnership (FSP) and Transitional Aged Youth Full-Service Partnership (TAY-FSP) - Behavioral Health provides for intensive community and home-based mental health services to youth, transitional aged youth (16-25 years old) and their families through a collaboration with the FCN. TAY FSP is of special significance for target population youth as these youth are more likely to be over the age of 18 and not eligible for other intensive youth and family services such as Wraparound.
- Drug and Alcohol Services - Behavioral Health’s Prevention and Outreach and Drug and Alcohol divisions provide a continuum of substance abuse treatment and education services to youth and families in the community, including intensive treatment with drug testing as well as co-occurring treatment. Target population youth

will have access to these services in the community and in the facilities as Probation has contracted for a full-time clinician to provide assessment and treatment for in-custody youth.

- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) - Mentorship and educational advocacy are available to juvenile justice involved youth through CASA of San Luis Obispo County. CASA educational advocacy is accessible to all target population youth with this specific need and CASA Mentors are available to those who have been or are currently under a foster care order.
- Mentoring - Currently, access to mentors is very limited for juvenile justice involved youth. Typically, only foster youth and youth involved in Wraparound Services have access to mentors. The Subcommittee has recommended that some of the realignment grant funds be used to establish and maintain additional mentoring capacity for justice-involved youth, including target population youth, as detailed later in this plan.
- Independent Living Program (ILP) Services - The County contracts with FCN to provide ILP services to eligible foster youth. At the recommendation of the Subcommittee and with the agreement of the involved county agencies, some ILP services are made available to target population youth both in the community and in the facilities. These services include ILP assessment, case management and seminars. This is an important resource for target population youth, especially those on the Secure Track, as they are likely to be transitioning to adulthood during their experience in the juvenile justice system and will need dedicated services to assist in that transition.
- Employment Development and Vocational Educational Services - Target population youth with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or a qualifying disability have access to a variety of Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) program services supporting employment skills development, post-secondary educational planning, work experience and even job placement. Eckerd Connects and SLOCOE Workforce Development programs provide a similar array of services for youth between the ages of 16-24 in the event target population youth do not qualify for DOR services. The programs are able to provide some services to youth while in custody at either of the facilities. Probation is also collaborating with the SLOCOE to pursue additional career technical education opportunities that could be delivered in the facilities in coordination with the Juvenile Court School.
- Parenting Education and Support - A full array of parenting support from educational classes to family advocates to in-home parenting support are available to target population youth and families through a variety of CBOs in the county. Notably, target population youth that are parents themselves can receive parenting education and support, including when they are in custody in the secure facilities, provided by the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo (CAPSLO).
- Post-Secondary Educational Support - Target population youth will have a variety of supportive services available to them for post-secondary educational skills and credit attainment based on their individual circumstances. For those in custody at one of the

facilities, the previously mentioned ILP and DOR programs provide an avenue for college readiness and planning. In addition, Probation and the SLOCOE have a strong working relationship with the local community college, Cuesta College. Cuesta College courses are made available to those interested youth on the Secure Track.

- Mental Health Services in Juvenile Hall – Secure Track youth serving commitments in the Juvenile Hall receive ongoing individual and family counseling services similar to those offered in the CVA. Realignment funds have been used to enhance County Behavioral Health staffing at Juvenile Hall as detailed later in this plan.
- Specialized Services - Target population youth, including those on the Secure Track, may present with specialized needs that cannot be met with existing services in the community or already available in the Juvenile Hall or CVA. To serve these youth, the Subcommittee continues to support some of the realignment grant funds being reserved for Specialized Services each year as described later in this plan.

#### Supervision and Other Responses:

The Probation Department uses a risk-based supervision model where officers are required to contact youth at a higher frequency based on the youth's risk level as determined using a validated risk assessment tool, the YLS-CMI. Officers are also required to complete individualized case plans with each youth and tailor services and interventions outlined in the case plan to the individualized needs of the youth. Target population youth will be supervised according to this same model with some additional elements as identified below.

- Intensive Supervision - Target population youth will be supervised by one designated probation officer with a caseload ratio of 10 or less youth to one officer. Secure Track youth reentering to the community will be contacted (in-person, telephonic, electronic) no less frequently than four (4) times per week for the first 30 days following their discharge in order to support their transition and engage them with coaching and task specific follow up on established case plan objectives.
- Specialized Training - The assigned probation officer is trained in Motivational Interviewing, Stages of Change, Trauma Informed Care, Adolescent Brain Development, Child and Family Teams, Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) and Forward Thinking Journaling.
- Flexible Response - The assigned probation officer uses a graduated sanctions and incentives model to respond to behaviors exhibited in the community and/or in the facility(s).
- Case Planning - The assigned probation officer is responsible for creating and updating the Individual Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) and monitoring service delivery in the plan as well as progress by the youth and family on plan goals and objectives.
- Teaming - The assigned probation officer participates in ongoing CFT meetings which will occur at intervals no less frequently than every 90 days.

- Alternatives to Incarceration - Home Supervision and Electronic Monitoring will be available to the officer to utilize with the youth in lieu of secure detention where appropriate.

#### **Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds (WIC 1995(c)(3))**

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

This plan addresses the mental health and trauma-based needs of the target population by enhancing the mental health clinician staffing at the Juvenile Hall and Coastal Valley Academy. Currently there are a total of four (4) full-time behavioral health clinicians serving both facilities. One (1) full-time position is allocated for trauma based individual and family counseling for target population youth serving long-term commitments on the Secure Track in either facility. This enhancement has had the positive collateral impact of providing this same service for non-target population youth serving commitments at the Juvenile Hall.

Due to the small size, unpredictable nature, and dynamic needs of the target population in San Luis Obispo County, it would be costly and inefficient to create established programming for each specialized treatment need area. Therefore, in order to provide individualized treatment to youth with specialized needs such as sexual offender treatment, this plan reserves some of the realignment grant funds each year for Specialized Needs. This allows the County to contract with local specialists as the need arises for individual youth to address specialized needs or responsivity areas such as sexual offending, gang intervention, and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

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

This plan intends to apply some of the realignment grant funds to expand mentoring services in the county for juvenile justice involved youth. The Subcommittee identified a gap in local mentoring access for the target youth population and agreed that a program that allowed for a variety of mentor options would be most beneficial. Probation will be working with local CBOs to establish additional mentoring capacity that provides for options including trained natural support mentors identified by the youth, volunteer mentors recruited from the community (both short term, task focused options and longer-term permanent connection types), and “credible messenger” mentors that have lived experience in the juvenile or adult justice systems. The benefits of this program will extend beyond the target population youth as it will be made available to other justice involved youth in need.

Stakeholder agreement to extend specific ILP services to target population youth not normally eligible for these services will also support healthy adolescent development. While grant



funds were not identified for this service in the first year, the Subcommittee agreed to direct grant funds towards these services in the coming years.

Another example of an existing program that will support the adolescent development of target population youth is the Restorative Dialogue Program. Restorative Conferences provide for meaningful interaction between youth and those they have caused harm in the community. Parent Teen or Youth Conflict Mediation provides safe venues for youth to develop their conflict resolution skills. These core services can be delivered to target population youth in the community and in custody.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population: (WIC 1995 (c)(3)(C))

This plan supports family engagement for the target population through a variety of services and programming. Some key components include the use of Child and Family Teaming, collaboration with the Department of Social Services to engage in Family Finding for youth in need of permanent connections and the utilization of a variety of options for parenting education and support in the County. The enhanced mental health services at Juvenile Hall previously described also support family engagement by providing capacity for regular family counseling for all Secure Track youth.

Wraparound Services is another key program for promoting family engagement. Target population youth re-entering the community from a Secure Youth Treatment Facility have the opportunity to participate in Wraparound Services if they are under the age of 18. The Subcommittee recognized that the target population is more likely to be over the age of 18 at re-entry compared to other youth on probation; therefore, many will not be eligible for Wraparound Services. Some of these youth will be able to access similar services such as the Transitional Aged Youth Full Service Partnership (TAY FSP) previously described. Where no existing services can meet the need, grant funds are intended to be applied towards replacement services by reserving funds for Specialized Services as described in the next section.

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

This plan intends to apply grant funds to support reentry in a variety of manners as described below:

- Specialized Services – Reserving some grant funds for specialized purpose needs as they arise, will allow for some specialized services, such as “Wraparound” like case management services, to aid with reentry for those target population youth who are not eligible for existing services based on age or other factors. This funding could also be

accessed for youth specific needs such as post-secondary course enrollment for Secure Track youth.

- Supportive Housing - The Subcommittee recognized that some Secure Track youth will not have family homes to return to upon release. Those under 18 will have options for foster care placement settings. Those over 18 may not qualify for Extended Foster Care (EFC) services and therefore be in need of additional support. County stakeholders have agreed to provide “special consideration” for the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP+) Program for Secure Track youth. Even so, some will not meet suitability criteria or otherwise be able to access this limited resource. Probation will work with these youth to explore all other housing options; however, some may still be in need of additional resources to exit custody to stable housing. For this purpose, the County plans to reserve some grant funds each year in a Specialized Housing Fund with a local CBO. This fund will provide time limited funds to support rent, utilities, or security deposits for target population youth. Probation will create a target population specific housing flowchart as a resource to those working with the youth in order to exhaust all other options prior to accessing this fund.
- Specialized Foster Home for High Needs Probation Youth - As previously described in Part 3 of this plan, Probation has included a strategy in the current Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) System Improvement Plan (SIP) to develop a Resource Family Approval (RFA) foster home for high needs juvenile justice involved youth, which could include the target population. The Subcommittee has approved some realignment grant funding being directed towards this resource. Probation has established a contract with a local Foster Family Agency, the Family Care Network, for the provision of a Wraparound Professional Parent Foster Home to serve as a resource for justice involved youth, including the target population, who need a home-based care option as a transition from one of the facilities.
- Specialized Placements - Every effort is made to serve the target population locally in order to keep them connected to their families and community; however, the Subcommittee recognized that there may be a need for specialized placement for some Secure Track youth who present with individualized needs that cannot be met in Juvenile Hall or CVA. For this purpose, this plan reserves some realignment grant funds for Specialized Placement each year to access Secure Youth Treatment Facilities in other counties as they become available.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive services for the target population: (WIC 1995(C)(3) (E))

In 2016, the San Luis Obispo County Probation Department contracted with the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) to conduct a review of the Department’s use of evidence-based practices using the Evidence Based Correctional Program Checklist – Community Supervision Agency (CPC-CSA). The CPC-CSA final report was submitted to the Department in January of 2017. The findings and recommendations were then incorporated into a department wide Evidence Based Practices Strategic Plan II, that covers

six (6) major goal areas. Through the lens of that strategic plan, and the objectives and activities therein that specifically address evidence-based services, the Department will assess new programming funded by the realignment grant.

More specifically, the Probation Department employs a Program Manager who sits on the Evidence Based Practices Strategic Planning Committee and is responsible for data management and assists with quality assurance and program oversight. That Program Manager assists with the data management and outcome measure components of this plan as well as provides guidance related to program and provider selection and implementation to ensure evidence informed practices are prioritized and monitored appropriately.

Evidence based and evidence informed practices are incorporated throughout this plan, including some specific planned grant funding expenditures. As previously described, first year grant funds were directed towards trauma focused cognitive behavioral individual and family therapy through an enhancement of mental health clinician staffing at Juvenile Hall. The Subcommittee is recommending subsequent year grant funding be directed towards existing services accessed by the target population as needed. These services include evidence-based curriculum such as the UCCI Comprehensive Curriculum and evidence informed interventions such as Forward Thinking Journaling. Probation will be researching evidence based mentoring programs as part of the planned expenditure of grant funds to expand these services for the target population and other juvenile justice involved youth.

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

San Luis Obispo County has an extensive history of engagement and collaboration with nongovernmental providers and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). As previously detailed in this plan, numerous existing services for juvenile justice involved youth are provided by CBOs, from early intervention programming in the Restorative Dialogue Program to intensive intervention through Wraparound Services.

Grant fund expenditures previously detailed in this plan for specialized services, mentoring, home based foster care, housing and other purposes are pursued with local CBOs.

### **Part 5: Facility Plan**

Describe in detail each of the facilities that the County plans to use to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics. (WIC 1995 (c)(4))

San Luis Obispo County uses the Juvenile Hall and Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) as the primary facilities for serving target population youth in need of secure confinement. Those

two facilities are described in detail in Part 3 of this plan. In rare instances where the specific needs of Secure Track youth cannot be met locally, Probation will pursue Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) in outside counties and fund these by reserving some grant funds for Specialized Placement.

Decision making on whether target population youth would be best served in the Juvenile Hall or CVA will be based upon the least restrictive option that provides care, treatment and guidance that is consistent with the best interests of the youth and the public as required by Section 202(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC). Generally speaking, the target population youth that pose less risk to the community whose needs can be met in a less secure setting, will be considered for the CVA. The CVA may be utilized as a primary SYTF for the youth or as a step-down from the Juvenile Hall. Only youth with court ordered commitments to the CVA will be housed in the CVA.

Considerations for the safety and protection of all youth in the facilities will take on additional importance given the probability of older (up to and including age 24) and more sophisticated target population youth now remaining in local commitment for extended periods. Youth will continue to be classified for specific housing based on requirements contained in Title 15 and outlined in the Juvenile Hall Policy and Procedures Manual. These requirements are intended to provide for the safety of youth, facility staff and the public by placing youth in the least restrictive housing and program settings that can meet their needs. Classification factors include but are not limited to the following:

- Age and maturity of the youth
- Sophistication
- Emotional stability
- Court status and present offense
- Criminal offense history
- Prior behavior while in the facility or other institutions
- Gang affiliation
- Conflicts with other youth
- Court-ordered restrictions as to the association with other youth
- Medical/mental health considerations
- Gender and gender identity
- Developmental and cognitive processing disabilities

- Program needs
- Legal status

All youth booked into the Juvenile Hall have a Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) assessment and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) screening completed as part of the intake process. This is intended to ensure they receive appropriate services, and any safety issues are accounted for; however, it is not intended to unnecessarily segregate them in the facilities. Title 15 mandates that “Staff shall not separate youth from the general population or assign youth to a single occupancy room based solely on the youth’s actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, mental or physical disability or HIV status.”

Probation has expanded the capacity of the CVA by adding an additional living unit that was part of the Juvenile Hall. This reduced the Juvenile Hall to two (2) living units and a total capacity of 35 and increased the CVA to two (2) living units and a capacity of 30. By expanding to two (2) living units, CVA is able to house youth separately by gender or gender identity instead of on the same unit. Renovations have been completed on both CVA living units to include kitchenettes on each, which has enhanced opportunities for vocational and independent living skills development in the areas of meal planning and preparation.

Additional facility improvements, including commercial laundry facilities, are in progress and will provide additional career technical education opportunities on-site. Furthermore, planned upgrades to the outdoor CVA recreation yard and garden space are moving forward and will provide enhanced recreation and hands on learning experiences.

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

Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system: (WIC 1995 (c)(5))

The County of San Luis Obispo intends to facilitate the retention of the target population in the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system, by conducting thorough assessments, requiring administrative review of transfer recommendations, using multi-agency processes, and creating a comprehensive continuum of services for target population youth.

As previously referenced in this plan, target population youth are assessed with a validated risk assessment tool, the Youth Level of Service Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI), as well as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS). They also participate in psychological evaluation, subject to the discretion of the court. When transfer motions are filed, Probation requires formalized internal staffing of the case prior to submittal of the transfer recommendation report to the court. This internal staffing process includes obtaining

approval from the Chief Probation Officer or Assistant Chief Probation Officer for all transfer recommendations in order to ensure significant administrative oversight of this important assessment and decision-making process. Furthermore, target population youth have their cases presented to a Multi-Agency Reentry Team that provides input for case planning and general oversight of case progress and assists with discharge from custody decision making. Lastly, this plan outlines the significant continuum of facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision and other responses that are or will be available to target population youth through the juvenile justice system in the County of San Luis Obispo.

### **Part 7: Regional Effort**

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County's block grant allocation: (WIC 1995 (c)(6))

The Probation Department has had discussions with two neighboring counties (Ventura and Santa Barbara) to explore a tri-counties approach to managing the target population. This may include the use of the Coastal Valley Academy program for target population youth from the tri-counties that are more appropriate for less restrictive group home type residential treatment and who meet pre-established suitability criteria.

In addition, we will continue to explore regional agreements with our neighboring and regional counties to best serve the target population youth as planning and implementation efforts continue to move forward statewide.

### **Part 8: Data**

Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant: (WIC 1995(c)(7))

The Probation Department Program Manager oversees the collection of data on the target population youth served by this grant. Data is collected in Probation's case management system. Target population youth receive a unique identifier to track data elements and assess outcome measures more easily. Target population youth are further broken down into a smaller subcategory of Secure Track youth. In addition to the use of case management system data, Probation has developed youth surveys to collect information for longitudinal outcome measures. With the support of the Subcommittee, Probation plans to use grant funds to incentivize youth participation in these surveys by providing the youth with gift cards for completing surveys in a process similar to the Department of Social Services National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) surveys.

Data elements to be collected include but are not limited to the following:

- Demographic information - age, gender, ethnicity, etc.
- Assessment information - Youth Level of Service Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI) and Texas Christian University Criminal Thinking Scale (TCU-CTS) at designated intervals

- Custody time – days spent in custody at Juvenile Hall, CVA or other juvenile detention facilities
- New law violations - subsequent adjudications and/or convictions for misdemeanor or felony offenses after becoming a target population youth
- Treatment programming - programs referred to and completion status
- Intervention dosage - number of treatment/intervention hours completed
- Youth feedback – through surveys at various intervals
- High school attainment
- Employment and/or employment skills training participation
- Post-secondary credit attainment
- Housing status

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

Outcome measures will include both process and performance outcomes and will identify youth both as a larger target population as well as smaller subcategory of Secure Track youth.

Outcome measures developed include but are not limited to the following areas:

- Recidivism rates (separated by misdemeanor and felony and measured against DJJ recidivism rates)
- Program completion rates
- Intervention dosage – hours obtained relative to risk/needs
- HS completion rates
- College enrollment rates
- Employment rates - at designated intervals via youth survey
- Re-entry to stable housing rates (Secure Track youth only)