

# **Juvenile Justice Realignment**

## **Block Grant Annual Plan**

**Fiscal Year 2024-2025**





# JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

## MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

**Date:** 04/29/2024

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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. Section 1995 was amended by Assembly Bill 505 (Ting, Chapter 528, Statutes of 2023.) This template has been updated to reflect those amendments which will be in effect on January 1, 2024. All citations are to the law as amended. The statutory language can be found [here](#).

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

County plans are to be submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration in accordance with Welf. & Inst. Code §1995. OYCR may request revisions as necessary or request completion of the required planning process prior to final acceptance of the plan. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995 (f).) Plans will be posted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(g).)

There are nine sections to the plan:

Part 1: Subcommittee Composition

Part 2: Target Population

Part 3: Programs and Services

Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block  
Grant Funds

Part 5: Facility Plan

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

Part 7: Regional Efforts

Part 8: Data

Part 9: Other Updates

**PART 1: SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND PROCESS (WELF. & INST. CODE §§ 1995 (B) AND (C))**

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

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Robert B. Reyes Chief Probation Officer	rreyes@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 781-5370
Co-Chair (If Applicable)			
District Attorney's Office Representative	Steven von Dohlen Deputy District Attorney	svondohlen@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 781-5800
Public Defender's Office Representative	Linda Currey Assistant Public Defender	lindacurrey@hotmail.com	(805) 591-0515
Department of Social Services Representative	Nancy Kuster Deputy Director	nkuster@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 781-1761
Department of Mental Health	Jill Rietjens Division Manager	jrietjens@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 781-4184
Office of Education Representative	Katherine Aaron Assistant Superintendent	kaaron@slocoe.org	(805) 782-7321
Court Representative	Hon. Gayle L. Peron Presiding Juvenile Judge	gayle.peron@slo.courts.ca.gov	(805) 706-3710
Three Community Members (defined as "individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system" (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b).))	Jonathan Nibbio Chief Operations Officer Family Care Network	jon@fcni.org	(805) 781-3535
	Melinda Sokolowski Child, Youth and Family Services Director Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo	msokolowski@capslo.org	(805) 544-4355
	Paloma Hernandez Basulto Behavioral Health Specialist	pbasulto@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 473-7008

	Behavioral Health Drug and Alcohol Services		
<b>Additional Subcommittee Participants</b>			
Probation Department	Tom Milder Assistant Chief Probation Officer	tmilder@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 788-2116
Probation Department	Larissa Heeren Research Manager	lheeren@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 781-4067
Probation Department	Kyle Nancolas Chief Deputy Probation Officer Juvenile Services	knancolas@co.slo.ca.us	(805) 781-4066

**Describe the process used to determine whether to select a co-chair for your subcommittee (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b)):**

On 01/23/24, the Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (Subcommittee) reviewed the changes to Welfare and Institutions Code § 1995 pursuant to Assembly Bill 505. The co-chair was on the formal agenda for the Subcommittee to review and discuss. The Subcommittee collectively considered its ability to make a motion for the nomination of a co-chair to be put forward for a vote. The Subcommittee elected not to add a co-chair at this time. Amendments to the local bylaws adding provisions pursuant to Assembly Bill 505 were approved by the Subcommittee on 1/23/24 and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) on 2/27/24.

**Provide the dates of the last two meetings that the subcommittee convened to discuss your county's JJRBG plan?**

Meeting Date 1:

Meeting Date 2:

**Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable:**

01/23/2024

**Date that the subcommittee approved the plan by a majority vote.**

04/23/2024

**Describe how the plan was developed, including the review and participation of the subcommittee community members as defined in Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b):**

At the meetings of the subcommittee on 1/23/24 and 3/26/24 the current realigned population demographics within the county were reviewed along with the funded plan components. Additionally, subcommittee members had opportunity to provide input and feedback on the plan. The subcommittee reviewed the plan in its entirety and formally approved the plan as written by majority vote on 04/23/24.

The Probation Department Program Manager and Juvenile Services Division Chief Deputy Probation Officer facilitated three focus groups with a total of thirteen (13) youth participants on March 9, 2024. They held two boys focus groups and one girl focus group. There are currently a total of [REDACTED] youth on probation who have adjudicated 707(b) offenses with [REDACTED] of these youth having been committed to the secure track. The focus groups included [REDACTED] 707(b) youth and [REDACTED] the secure track youth.

Youth were highly encouraged to participate and were given an incentive related to participation in the focus group. The purpose of the focus group was briefly introduced via a short presentation two (2) days ahead of

time so that the youth could consider participating. During the focus groups, youth were asked a few “warm up” questions and then the following questions relevant to local juvenile justice planning.

- What is working well in your current program?
- What is missing from current services and supports? What is not working?
- What do justice-involved youth need to be successful/stay out of trouble around the time of first arrest/citation?
- What do justice-involved youth need to be successful on community supervision/after care?
- What motivates you to successfully complete your terms of probation/your case plan goals?

Findings indicated that, while school services are working well, youth would like additional educational opportunities including more school-related activities, increased access to career technical education, tutoring for both high school and post-secondary work being completed outside of school hours, and access to an educational counselor both in the facility and while on supervision in the community.

Incentives and privileges within the facilities were reported as going well with good variety. Youth indicated that opportunities for additional input and choice regarding incentives and privileges is important to them.

Participating youth indicated assistance with employment, housing, and obtaining identification or driver’s license is needed when preparing for re-entry. The Independent Living Program (ILP) was mentioned by name as youth felt the courses and support offered through ILP were helpful in these areas.

When asked what might be needed for youth who were system involved but not yet in a secure detention program, they suggested having someone with lived experience (specifically incarceration) to talk to them about the consequences of further delinquent behavior. They specified that the intent should not be to scare them but to be open and explain the potential consequences of their behaviors. Several youth in the focus groups felt that, in terms of prevention and early intervention, it is important to occupy a youth’s time with prosocial activities, work or other structured activities. They spoke about reminding them to have fun and be kids, especially for those youth with early gang-involvement. Lastly, one youth said simply, “provide the support they need at that point.”

Findings from the focus groups were shared and discussed with the Subcommittee during the 3/26/24 meeting.

## **PART 2: TARGET POPULATION (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(1))**

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

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

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) committed at fourteen (14) years of age or older, 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 6-8 youth. Currently, San Luis Obispo County has [REDACTED] youth who meet the realignment target population definition as described above.

All [REDACTED] of those youth are cisgender males currently between the ages of 16-18. Racial demographics include [REDACTED] youth identified as White, [REDACTED] as Hispanic and [REDACTED] as Black. Their WIC 707(b) offense history includes robbery [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/vehicle [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 current target population is [REDACTED] youth not all of these youth need “DJJ like” replacement programming in a custodial setting for an extended period. Secure Track commitments are reserved for those youth with intensive treatment needs who may require other rehabilitative services in a secure facility. Baseline term to this track will be dependent on the category and range of the adjudicated 707(b) offense as well as the criteria enumerated in Rule of Court 5.806 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 the target population, disaggregated by programs, placements and/or facilities to which they have been referred.**

[REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] youth were committed to San Luis Obispo County Juvenile Hall as an SYTF. [REDACTED] additional youth were committed to the Coastal Valley Academy (CVA), the county camp commitment program which serves as an alternative to congregate care for juvenile justice involved youth with intensive treatment needs in a secure setting. [REDACTED] youth is currently placed in a Sex Offender specific Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) to address his acute risk and needs. [REDACTED] youth has remained at home and in the community under the supervision of the Department.

**PART 3: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(D)(2) and (d)(8)):**

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 2024-25 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, Ekerd Connects Workforce Development and America’s Job Center of California 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 regionally in the county
- Forward Thinking Journaling, 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

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. 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 Justice 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 Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Tools as appropriate for the age and gender of the youth as part of a court ordered psychological evaluation.
- 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 tool is 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. In addition, youth with a history of substance use are assessed by a Drug and Alcohol Specialist for substance use disorder using the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) tools to determine the need for and appropriate level of treatment.

#### 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 hearing to gather input from the team for case planning purposes as well as release considerations.
- The 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 Individualized Case Plan for non-Secure Track target population youth, within 30 days of the disposition hearing on the qualifying offense or as required by Division 31 for foster youth.
- For Secure Track youth, Probation completes an Individual Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) with input from the MART, within 30 days of 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 and reviewed 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 including recommendations regarding reductions in the baseline term of confinement and transition to less restrictive programs.
- 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 San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (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. 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 SLOCOE via Paxton/Patterson 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. The Subcommittee has supported the use of realignment funds for a full-time Program Manager through Restorative Partners, a local non-profit who 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, SLOCOE and the Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI), a local CBO. 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 Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions Comprehensive Curriculum/Substance Abuse Youth Version (UCCI-CBI-CC/SA) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Youth participate in regular community outings including a twice a week “Run Club” traversing local trails, local fun runs and half marathons, 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 program, transition to the CVA is easily facilitated. The close proximity also allows for specific programming from one facility, for instance the UCCI-CBI-CC/SA 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, Youth Conflict Mediation and Re-Entry Circles. This program is 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 FCNI 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 Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions Comprehensive Curriculum/Substance Abuse Youth Version (UCCI-CBI-CC/SA) - Designated juvenile probation officers and FCNI case managers are trained to facilitate this previously mentioned curriculum in the CVA. This is extended to Secure Track youth in Juvenile Hall on a case-by-case basis.

#### 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 contracted with FCNI for the provision of a Wraparound Therapeutic Parent Foster Home for justice involved foster youth. This home utilizes a specially trained and well-resourced full-time foster parent. The concept for this home began to address a gap identified prior to the current Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) System Improvement Plan (SIP) cycle and is a strategy within that plan. This home is a key resource for 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, the Department of Social Services (DSS), FCNI and Seneca Family of Agencies, 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 FCNI. 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 have access to these services in the community and in the facilities as Probation has contracted for a full-time specialist to provide assessment and treatment for Juvenile Hall, CVA or SYTF 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 FCNI to provide ILP services to eligible foster youth. With the support of the Subcommittee and with the agreement of the involved county agencies, Probation has funded ILP services for 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 America's Job Center 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 to 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 enrollment and 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 ten (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.

Since May 1, 2023, the department has added or expanded access to the following programs:

- Independent Living Program- Expanded access to non-foster target population youth transitioning from the Secure Track or Coastal Valley Academy. Focus group discussions indicated that the youth currently on the secure track find this resource useful in preparation for re-entry.

- Specialized Probation Foster Home- Probation entered into a contract with FCNI for the provision of a Wraparound Therapeutic Parent Foster Home to specifically serve the unique needs of justice involved foster youth transitioning from secure detention. The Specialized Foster Home began accepting youth in July of 2023.
- Post-Secondary Education Support- In addition to the aforementioned services referenced in this section, probation has contracted with SLOCOE for a Classified Coordinator to specifically provide post-secondary education/vocational case management, including but not limited to post-secondary and classroom support, career technical education and vocational options, workplace readiness skills training, alternatives to diploma options for justice involved youth and young adults including the target population. Additionally, our local community college Cuesta College has been awarded the Rising Scholars Justice Involved Grant and is partnering with probation to provide Cuesta staff within the facilities to teach direct instruction courses and provide support with access to community college registration, guidance, financial aid and transition to on campus courses. Youth focus group feedback indicated that youth are enjoying currently available education offered through Court school and additional career technical education courses. Youth would like increased access to educational opportunities, including more school-related activities, increased access to career technical education, tutoring for both high school and post-secondary work being completed outside of school hours, and access to an educational counselor both in the facility and while on supervision in the community. Both the Classified Coordinator and Rising Scholars will provide support and access to additional educational opportunities consistent with the youth focus group feedback.

#### **PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(A) and (d)(8))**

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).

Since May 1, 2023, the department has added the following program to provide sex offender treatment across the full juvenile justice continuum within the county including the target population:

- Sex Offender Specific Treatment- Probation has contracted with The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center, Inc. to provide sex offender specific assessment and treatment for youth aged 12-24.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(B) and (d)(8))**

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.

Access to specific ILP services for non-foster target population youth not normally eligible for these services will also support healthy adolescent development.

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 to 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.

Since May 1, 2023, the department has continued to explore mentoring and “credible messenger” mentors with lived experience to serve youth across the juvenile justice continuum within the county including the target population. In focus groups conducted in March 2024, youth feedback indicated that speaking with positive adults with lived experience in the justice system would be impactful for them. The Restorative Partners Program Manager who oversees volunteer programming within our facilities has initiated a pilot with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of San Luis Obispo County to bring in adult mentors to establish relationships with youth through games and activities. Additionally, probation is in the early stages of reviewing the Kid-Creating Awareness Together (Kid-C.A.T.) program that is facilitated by formerly justice involved individuals who utilize an interactive restorative curriculum. On 03/26/24, the Subcommittee approved the use of realignment funds to support this program for secure track youth.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(C) and (d)(8))**

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.**

**Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(D) and (d)(8))**

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 need 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 need 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 contracted with FCNI for the provision of a Wraparound Therapeutic Parent Foster Home for justice involved foster youth. This home utilizes a specially trained and well-resourced full-time foster parent. The concept for this home began to address a gap identified prior to the current Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) System Improvement Plan (SIP) cycle and is a strategy within that plan. This home is a key resource for 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 approved some realignment grant funding being directed towards this resource.
- 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 or Less Restrictive Programs in other counties as they become available.

Since May 1, 2023, the department has added the following programs to address re-entry, employment and continuing education for the target population:



- Specialized Probation Foster Home- Probation entered into a contract with FCNI for the provision of a Wraparound Therapeutic Parent Foster Home to specifically serve the unique needs of justice involved foster youth transitioning from secure detention. The Specialized Foster Home began accepting youth in July of 2023.
- Post-Secondary Education Support- In addition to the aforementioned services referenced in this section, probation has contracted with SLOCOE for a Classified Coordinator to specifically provide post-secondary education/vocational case management, including but not limited to post-secondary and classroom support, career technical education and vocational options, workplace readiness skills training, alternatives to diploma options for justice involved youth and young adults including the target population. Additionally, our local community college Cuesta College has been awarded the Rising Scholars Justice Involved Grant and is partnering with probation to provide Cuesta staff with the facilities to teach direct instruction courses and provide support with access to community college registration, guidance, financial aid and transition to on campus courses.
- Pine Grove Conservation Camp- Probation has entered into a contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for the ability to commit the target population youth to the fire camp or utilize the fire camp as a less restrictive step-down option.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(E) and (d)(8))**

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. In 2023, the Department began work on the third iteration Evidence Based Practices Strategic Plan. The new plan includes completing a Correctional Program Checklist Assessment on the CVA program. Through the lens of the strategic plan, and the objectives and activities therein that specifically address evidence-based services, the Department will assess new programming funded by realignment.

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, 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 continues to be directed towards existing services accessed by the target population as needed. These services include evidence-based curriculum such as the UCCI CBI-CC/SA and evidence informed interventions such as Forward Thinking Journaling.

**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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(F) and (d)(8))**

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.

Since May 1, 2023, the department has entered into the following services contracts with nongovernmental or community-based providers:

- Creative Mediation at Wilshire Community Services- Restorative Dialog Program
- Counseling and Psychotherapy Centers, Inc.- Sex Offender Treatment
- Family Care Network, Inc.- Specialized Probation Foster Home/Wraparound Therapeutic Parent Foster Home

## **PART 5: FACILITY PLAN (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(4))**

**Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))**

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 with reserved 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. Future renovation plans include the addition of a kitchenette on the remaining original housing unit. Furnishings in the rooms of the same unit will also be replaced to make the unit more homelike and conducive to the longer-term commitments of secure track youth. Additionally, a full remodel is planned for all bathrooms in the original three housing

units. Furthermore, the addition of two trailer pads within the outdoor recreation space of West Unit is in the planning phase to support mobile CTE trailers and ongoing CTE options within the facility.

Since May 1, 2023, the Coastal Valley Academy has undergone the following improvements:

- The recreation yard connected to Pismo Unit (CVA Male Housing Unit) has been completely renovated to include a new hard surface basketball court, exercise equipment, lounge chairs and synthetic grass surface throughout. The razor wire on the interior yard fencing has been removed to enhance the recreation experience and reduce the correctional look of the yard without impacting safety and security.
- The garden area adjacent to the CVA recreation yard has been completely remodeled with stone walkway, raised planting beds and drip watering system for the planting beds.
- The addition of commercial laundry facilities have been completed adding additional career technical education and life skills opportunities on-site.
- The second-floor security screens/grates have been removed on the CVA housing units to open up the space and increase the home-like feel of the units.

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

**Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))**

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 evaluations, 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 (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(6))

**Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County's block grant allocation. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))**

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 (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(7))

**Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response:**

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

Since May 1, 2023, the Department has included in its budget submission for fiscal year 2024-2025 the addition of a second program manager, dedicated to the Juvenile Services and Custody Divisions. If allocated this additional dedicated program manager will support the detailed and timely submission of this report as well as the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act and Youthful Offender Block Grant Annual plan along with management of the various contracts needed to support the juvenile justice continuum with the county. The Subcommittee supports the use of block grant funds for this purpose.

**Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response:**

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)

**PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE MAY 1, 2023: (WELF. & INST. CODE (D)(8))**

**Provide a description of progress made regarding any plan elements and any objectives and outcomes in the prior year's plan, to the extent that they have not already been described above.**