

**Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant  
Annual Plan<sup>1</sup>**

**Date:** May 1, 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.

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.

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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<sup>1</sup> Updated November 2023 to add elements required by AB 505 (Chapter 528, Statutes of 2023)

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

List the subcommittee members, agency affiliation where applicable, and contact information. If the subcommittee has opted to select a co-chair, identify the co-chair

Agency	Check box if Co-Chair	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair or Co-Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gina Johnson	Gina.Johnson@ventura.org	(805) 654-2100
District Attorney's Office Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Drescher	Kevin.Drescher@ventura.org	(805) 662-1701
Public Defender's Office Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Rodriguez	Michael.Rodriguez@ventura.org	(805) 654-3199
Department of Social Services Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Department of Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheryl Fox	Cheryl.Fox@ventura.org	(805) 981-1101
Office of Education Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Court Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Judge Gilbert Romero	Gilbert.Romero@ventura.courts.ca.gov	(805) 289-8823
Community Member	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Community Member	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Community Member	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Additional Subcommittee Participants</b>				

**Part 2. Subcommittee Process and Meetings**

Define process utilized by subcommittee to determine whether or not a co-chair was desired (WIC 1995(b)):

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) has adopted bylaws which incorporated the necessary changes as a result of the passage of AB 505. At recent JJCC meetings, the Chief Probation Officer has addressed the need to re-form this subcommittee. Numerous required subcommittee members have been identified and are listed above. The JJCC members are committed to this endeavor and finalization of the actual subcommittee members is pending and should occur at the next meeting, June 12, 2024. In addition, the changes related to a selection of a co-chair was reviewed and it was determined this would be discussed further at a later meeting.

Provide dates of subcommittee meetings held during the year (WIC 1995(e)):

While the JJCC has met regularly, the subcommittee is in the process of being formed as stated above. Consequently, the subcommittee has not yet met this year. The bylaws set the expectation for the frequency of meetings.

Provide date plan was updated (WIC 1995(e)) and approved by the majority of the subcommittee (WIC 1995(c)):

As stated above, the subcommittee is in the process of being developed. As such, the subcommittee did not review or approve this year's plan.

**Part 3: Target Population (WIC 1995 (d) (1))**

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

The target population consists of youth who have been declared a 602 WIC ward and have been committed a 707(b) WIC offense, or an offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code and are under the age of 25.

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





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

Of the 25 youth/TAY who have been committed to the program, [REDACTED] been released from the JF to the following:

[REDACTED] released to the California Conservation Corps, a less restrictive program [REDACTED] completed their SYTF commitment and were released directly into the community under Probation supervision

[REDACTED]

**Part 4: Programs and Services (WIC 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:

The Ventura County Juvenile Facilities complex sits on a 45-acre parcel in an unincorporated area of the county near the community of El Rio and was completed in 2003. The total capacity of the facility is 420 male and female youth. The detention component houses up to 240 youth and the commitment component houses up to 180 youth. The housing units are based on the “new generation” pod design. In addition to the housing components, the Juvenile Facilities includes outdoor recreation areas for both detention and commitment programs, a multi-purpose gymnasium/technology training center, a visiting center, an intake/community confinement area, a booking area, classrooms, program and facility administration offices, medical services, and kitchen and laundry services.

Youth under our care are provided with constructive, approved curriculums that offer individual and group activities, as well as the following programs within the facilities:

**Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE):**

- **Providence Court School** is a Full-Service Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accredited High School. Following a 2019 self-study process and WASC Committee review, Providence school received a 6-year accreditation. This accreditation validates the integrity and quality of the program. All courses necessary for high school graduation are provided through on-site classes or independent study (on-line or bookwork). Every student is provided information on post-secondary opportunities through individual counseling upon entrance to the facility. Providence staff engage with the youth’s parents on Wednesdays for Parent-Connect to allow time for them to ask questions and may discuss an

Individual Education Plan (IEP) prior to their visit with their son/daughter. Parents are also invited to the facility to attend the youth's graduation.

- **Individual Academic Counseling** is provided to each student. Upon enrollment, the Providence School Counselor meets with each student, reviews transcripts, and determines the courses that they need to graduate from high school. Each student is then placed in needed classes. Students are issued partial or full credit as applicable.
- **Reading and Math Assessments** are conducted upon entry using the STAR reading and STAR math assessment tools. These assessments identify student academic performance levels in reading and math. The results inform teaching staff on the students' instructional needs. Students who are in the facility for at least three months will retake the assessments after that time, to measure growth.
- **English Learner Support** is provided as needed. Student's initial language classification is housed on the state data system website. Upon enrollment, the Providence office manager accesses each student's language proficiency status by going onto the state data system website, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). While in class, teachers provide extra support to English learners to ensure that they have access to the content presented (integrated ELD). In addition, teachers work with students individually to help them further develop their English proficiency (designated ELD).
- **Special Education** students receive required special education services to ensure academic success. Parents are often contacted to review any changes or progress to the youth's IEP.
- **High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)** is given to on-site students who participate in test preparation. HiSET preparation is provided by the Providence HiSET Coach. The school counselor reviews transcripts and determines whether preparing, taking, and passing the HiSET would be a viable option for the student.
- **College and Career Readiness Classes** are offered by Providence Court School in an independent elective course called, *"Get Focused, Stay Focused!"* This class, which is provided five days a week, helps students meet California graduation requirements. Students create concrete step-by-step plans that will enable them to materialize their 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year goals and vision for their future. This dynamic curriculum enables students to develop a personal profile, examine the costs of their preferred future lifestyle, select and research an ideal career, identify detours and roadblocks, assess skills, and eventually begin a job search. Students work on decision making, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.
- **Providence Scholars Program** provides students with the opportunity to enroll in and attend online classes through the junior colleges with the Ventura Community College District, either Oxnard, Moorpark, or Ventura College. This program is offered to all graduates and is



designed to give students the opportunity to learn about college and career prospects. Additionally, the Oxnard College Foundation developed a scholarship program to help students who are enrolled in both high school and college classes concurrently. They have awarded laptops to students so that they can use them once they leave the facility.

- **College Mentor Program** involves mentors from local colleges who meet with Providence Scholars twice a month to ensure college success and support them in achieving their one-year, five-year and ten-year goals, and working towards obtaining self-actualization.
- **Career Readiness and Vocational Training** provides up to 600 hours per year of instruction in career exploration, workplace essentials, automotive engine repair, agriculture, and natural resources. This training will assist the target population learn valuable and marketable skills, which may assist with re-entry.
- **Guest Speakers Program** consists of representatives from the local community colleges who present to classes at Providence Court School regarding the available programs and career pathways. Speakers also present to students about available financial aid opportunities. Community members from diverse career paths present to students as well (e.g., nursing, auto-mechanics, actors, theater set-designers, etc.).
- **Transition Back to Home School of Residence** provides guidance and support to students to ensure a smooth transition back to their home school of residence. Annually, English learners take the English Learner Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). All English learners who are attending Providence during the state testing window take the test.

#### **Ventura County Behavior Health (VCBH):**

VCBH provides risk assessment, crisis intervention, treatment planning, medication support, and release planning with care coordination to youth at the facility. They also administer individual, group, and family therapy sessions.

- **Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)** uses a cognitive-behavioral approach and fosters moral development in treatment-resistant clients through education, group counseling, and structured exercises. Moral Reconciliation Therapy outcome studies show a reduction in the recidivism rate of offenders 30%-50% for periods up to 20 years after release. Re-arrest and re-incarceration rates can be up to 65% lower than expected. The group is led by two Ventura County Behavioral Health MRT trained facilitators and the group members complete 12 steps in a weekly group process until completion of the 12 steps.
- **Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)** is an evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy used to treat mood disorders, and suicidal ideation and aims to change behavioral patterns such as self-harm and substance use. The term "dialectical" comes from the idea that

bringing together two opposites in therapy, acceptance and change, brings better results than either one alone. A unique aspect of DBT is its focus on acceptance of a patient's experience as a way for therapists to reassure them and balance the work needed to change negative behaviors.

- **Substance Use Treatment Services (SUTS)** is a pre-treatment group using the Matrix program evidenced based practices to familiarize youth with the alcohol and drug program. Three groups are offered weekly to address substance use, stages of change, relapse prevention and planning. In addition, when released from custody, group members are transitioned to Substance Use Treatment Services in the community. SUTS provides assessments for committed youth and links them to services which includes scheduling appointments in their community when they are released.
- **Co-occurring substance abuse and mental health treatment** provides clinical interventions to those youth who are experiencing one or both substance use and mental health issues. VCBH works collaboratively with probation and medical staff to stabilize youth in crisis including suicidal ideation, suicidal attempts, and severe disruptive or irrational behavior. VCBH assesses and initiates voluntary or involuntary psychiatric hospitalizations and coordinates care with psychiatric facilities while at the Juvenile Facility.
- **Educationally Related Social Emotion Services (ERSES)** is unique to this facility where emotionally disturbed youth with an Individualized Educational Plan can receive school based mental health services. We currently have five clinicians and one school-based therapist. In anticipation of our new population, we plan to add an additional therapist. We also expect an increase in the cost of medication for our new youth population and plan to implement a new suicide risk assessment tool.
- **Co-Parenting Classes** allows youth with their own children to work with the other parent and their child in a supervised and guided manner. It teaches youth to work with the second parent in order to successfully raise their child in a healthy and safe environment. Successful co-parenting has been linked to decreased behavior issues and increased self-esteem of the child.
- **Seeking Safety** is an evidence-based practice; it teaches present-focused coping skills to help clients attain safety in their lives. It is highly flexible and can be conducted in any setting by a wide range of counselors and also peers. There are 25 treatment topics, each representing a safe coping skill relevant to both trauma and/or substance abuse, such as "Asking for Help", "Creating Meaning", "Compassion", and "Healing from Anger". Seeking Safety strives to increase hope through emphasis on ideals; it offers exercises, emotionally evocative language, and quotations to engage patients; and provides concrete strategies to build recovery skills.

### **Human Services Agency:**

- **Specialized Training and Employment Program for Success-Youth (STEPS-Y)** has an employment specialist from the Human Services Agency who assists youth with one-on-one case management, career assessments, development of employment portfolios, job placement, and referrals to internships.

### **Wellpath:**

- **Health Care Services** (Wellpath) for our youth is available onsite, 24-hours per day. Wellpath provides Health Education, Dental Care, Community Healthcare, and Psychiatric Services. Medical offices and examination rooms are on campus. Wellpath provides medical services under contract with the County. In addition, Community Vision Optometric provides Vision care and services to youth in the community. Tattoo removal is offered to all youth in custody at no cost.

### **Community Organization Services:**

- **Interface Children and Family Services Program Coordinator** plans, organizes, coordinates, and delivers structured programming, recreation, and activities for all youth and young adults detained at the JF. Activities will be age appropriate based on adolescent brain development and be culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and proven to be effective for this population based on evidence and/or best practices whenever possible. Programming, recreation, and activities will also focus on reducing criminogenic risk factors, developing life skills, and be client-centered and family focused as family engagement increases a youth's likelihood to succeed and contributes to positive youth development. They will develop, coordinate, and deliver facility-wide pro-social events, develop a Programming Guide/Matrix to assist Probation officers in determining appropriate services for the varying populations in custody, and will publish written daily and weekly programming, recreation, and activity schedules for youth and supervision staff. They will conduct fidelity reviews of existing and future EBP programming. Interface will foster relationships and help develop current and future providers servicing the JF in order to sustain a myriad of community-based organizations delivering services to the youth. They will also manage community volunteers and develop the Volunteers in Probation (VIP) Program by recruiting, onboarding, managing, and celebrating volunteers who work with youth and young adults in the facility.
- **The "Second Chances" Community-Based Youth Reentry Project** (Interface) proposes a reduction in the number of rearrests among Ventura County at-risk youth. The project fills a critical need for high-quality anti-recidivism programming occurring in the community and in juvenile facilities using an integrated community-based set of services and suite of evidence-based practices. Interface seeks to change the life trajectory for the youth served by Second Chances, assist in the transition youth make from juvenile residential facilities to

the community so that the transition is successful and promotes public safety, learn from a rigorous evaluation of their outcomes, and strengthen the community.

- **Reducing Risk for Girls** (Interface) is gender-based programming aimed at providing prevention and early intervention services to girls confined in the Ventura County Juvenile Detention Facility to reduce recidivism through the reduction of risk factors (anger management, mindful management of addiction, avoidance of future exploitation) and promotion of protective factors (e.g., positive peer group, positive/resilient temperament, problem-solving skills.)
- **Alpha Leadership Program** (Women of Substance and Men of Honor) is a 13-week program and is offered to both our male and female youth. Topics cover Priorities and Goals, Individual Identification and Finances.
- **Healthy Lifestyles** (Women of Substance and Men of Honor) is a 10-week gender specific program and is offered separately to both our male and female population. Topics cover Boundaries, Diversity, Feelings, Friendships, Role Models, Hygiene, STDs, HIV, Sexual Assault, Date Rape Drugs and Protection
- **Treatment for Youth who have Offended Sexually** (Anew Therapeutic Services) is a comprehensive program that consists of weekly individual therapy. The program offers a creative and interactive curriculum tailored to the individual youth. They work in collaboration with probation and the Court on client case management services.
- **Comprehensive, California Healthy Youth Act compliant sex education** (Planned Parenthood) is currently taught by Planned Parenthood. Topics include Self-Identity (gender identity and sexual orientation), Anatomy & Physiology, Healthy Relationships, Sexually Transmitted Infections 101, and Birth Control 101.
- **Ventura County Arts Council** provides art, poetry, and guitar classes. They have produced books with youth art and poetry and have completed three murals in the facility, two of which involved youth.
- **Radio broadcasting (107.9FM The Hall)** provides instruction on how to establish and maintain a localized radio station with a broadcasting radius that is limited to the grounds and buildings at the Juvenile Facilities. The Ventura County Arts Council in conjunction with CAPS Media plans to work with youth/TAYs to produce a show called Hall Talk. The goal for this partnership would be to create a workforce training experience for radio and TV.
- **Boys and Girls Club of Greater Oxnard & Port Hueneme (BGC)** is embedded within the facility. An initial Youth Development Specialist was provided by the BGC at no expense;

however, a second Youth Development Specialist is funded by this grant. The BGC is a Targeted Re-entry Program focusing on the development of programming for youth while in the facility with a goal of linking the youth to Boys and Girls Clubs in the community. The BGC has implemented the following programs within the facility:

- **Brent's Club** is an evidence-based substance abuse education and prevention program.
  - **Passport to Manhood** is a gender-specific program targeting young men.
  - **Smart Girls** is a gender-specific program targeting young women.
  - **Money Matters**: Youth are taught how to set goals, budget, save and invest.
- **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Education and Mentoring** (Forever Found) is provided to our youth. They implement awareness programs, provide support and mentorship/advocacy to our youth. Warning signs are discussed as well as how to report them effectively. They are present at all Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings for youth identified as a concern for exploitation according to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT). Mentors talk weekly with their assigned youth and transition with them into the community for support.
  - **Word on the Street** (Forever Found) curriculum educates, equips, and empowers youth with the tools needed to prevent them from unknowingly becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Forever Found mentors talk weekly with their assigned youth and transition with them into the community for support. They implement awareness program within the community and provide support to our population providing them with information about the warning signs of exploitation and how to report them effectively.
  - **Reins of H.O.P.E** is an evidence-based equine assisted psychotherapy program (EAP) that enhances Behavioral Health's therapeutic program and is an alternative therapeutic modality found to assist youth in ways unique and often superior to more passive counseling modalities. EAP addresses a variety of mental health and human development issues such as behavioral issues, depression, anxiety, substance use, PTSD and sexual trauma among the youth. There are typically female and male groups.
  - **Dating Matters** (Coalition for Family Harmony) is an evidence-based teen dating violence prevention model that includes prevention strategies for individuals, peers, families, schools, and neighborhoods. Dating Matters includes seven primary components that work together to reinforce protective factors and reduce risk factors for teen dating violence across the social ecology, at the individual, relationship, and community levels. These components also focus on preventing dating violence and promoting healthy relationships across the lifespan.
  - **ARISE** (Coalition for Family Harmony) is a six-week program that focuses on life skills, as well as gang intervention and prevention. It is taught in a group setting, giving the participants

experience listening to other viewpoints, voicing their thoughts and values, and working on team activities together. ARISE is evidence-based and will augment the facilities' cognitive behavioral programming. Engaging in an ARISE group teaches youth life skills such as communication, mediation and listening skills that they can apply in their daily lives.

- **Lived Experience Mentors** (Coalition for Family Harmony) embeds community mentors, with lived experience, within the facility to assist youth in every aspect of their stay in the facility: from detention, through their commitment and upon release. The mentors will engage youth daily to learn about their passions and goals and support them and their families to reach those goals while in the facility and with Probation and an Interface (pending grant) case manager through release and community reintegration. Because of their shared experience, they would be able to assist with easing anxiety and tension as they work through challenges and conflicts with this population. They would also play a pivotal role on the multi-disciplinary team that works with the youth and their families.
- **Pawbation** is an evidence-based intervention in which therapy dogs and their handlers visit youth to provide comfort and stress relief.

#### **Programming Conducted by Juvenile Facilities Staff Members:**

- **Interactive Journaling** is evidenced based and addresses criminogenic needs. Topics covered over a three-month period include: Substance Abuse Education, Reflections, Feelings and Relationships, Thinking, Values and Behaviors and Life Skills. The youth complete individual written packets while group discussion is guided by unit staff.
- **Paxton Patterson** (engine & construction) is a program which provides youth the opportunity to enhance their skills in construction to ultimately assist with obtaining employment upon release from custody.
- **Music N' Society** provides opportunity for self-expression, growth and teaches the value of teamwork. This program provides youth the understanding of basic song structure and music theory utilizing guitar, drums, and bass. They explore lyrics, artists, and their contributions to society.
- **Futsal & Basketball** provide the youth opportunities to learn and play various team sports.
- **American Prison Data Systems (APDS) Tablets** offer individualized programming, educational, vocational and recreational opportunities to our youth. Tablets provide movies, addiction recovery, assistance with re-entry, financial literacy, anger management and the ability for video family visits. Tablets can also be utilized in conjunction with employment services to enhance the job application experience. Some programs offered are evidence-based.

- **Screen Printing** is a program that provides an opportunity for youth to learn the art of screen printing by engaging in both instructional and practical use of screen-printing equipment.

**Volunteers in Probation (VIP):**

- **JF Library Book Club Program** allows youth to read and discuss topics and issues in a selected book. Youth will work on projects related to the significance of the book and will be required to present their interpretation and feelings of the book at the end of the program.
- **Religious Services** – Religious services from various denominations are offered to all youth in the facility.
- **READ Adult Literacy Program** – The Ventura County Library provides volunteers who work with the 18 and over population. They provide assessment-based literacy services, tutoring, and mentoring.

**Part 5: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds (WIC 1995(d)(3)(A))**

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:

Behavioral Health is in the process of developing the Aggression Replacement Training (ART) program which is a research-based, proven-effective approach for working with challenging youth. It is a cognitive behavioral intervention program to help youth improve social skill competence and moral reasoning, better manage anger, and reduce aggressive behavior. The program consists of 10 weeks (30 sessions) of intervention training and is divided into three components: Social Skills Training, Anger Control, and Moral Reasoning.

Pawsitive Steps Dog Training Program (Canine Adoption and Rescue League) provides a weekly group utilizing Restorative Justice Principles and practices in caring for the rescue dogs, training them, and working together with other youth to support the dog's transition back to the community.

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(d)(3)(B)):

Barber Licensing Program – We are in the process of developing a contract with Smooth’s Barber Academy to launch a barbering academy and mentorship program for the targeted population. Smooth’s Barber Academy offers instructional courses and practicum that will assist youth that are considering entering the barbering industry in preparing for a career. Smooth’s Barber Academy is uniquely qualified to train detained youth for barbering apprenticeship and licensure and provide guidance and support through barbering curriculum, entrepreneurial lessons, coaching, and mentorship. The primary goal is to equip youth with a skillset that will prepare them for financial independence and business success, whether as employees, independent contractors, or business owners.

Success Stories – Success Stories will deliver a 12-week curriculum that helps justice-involved youth clearly identify the people and goals most important to them, as well as the obstacles in their way. The program involves mentoring from lived experience providers and prepares participants to be able to mentor and help others. After graduating, alumni receive support and programming from Success Stories for life.

Youth Health Education (Public Health Nurse) – We are a developing a plan for opportunities to partner with the Public Health Nurse to provide education and support for the youth by bringing in health education and additional support to help youth thrive upon release.

Inside Out – In coordination with California Lutheran University, we will implement the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program which is an educational program with an innovative pedagogical approach tailored to facilitate dialogue. It originated as a means of bringing together campus-based students with incarcerated students for a semester-long course held in a correctional setting. The program has grown into an international network of trained faculty, students, alumni, think tanks, higher education and correctional administrators and other stakeholders actively engaged with, and deeply committed to, social justice issues.

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



Ventura County recognizes the extensive body of research surrounding the role of families in the lives of justice involved youth and the impacts those roles have. It is widely accepted that family is critical in the development of children, yet their involvement when a youth enters the justice system is historically minimized. Instead, families need to be engaged, as they can offer protective factors to youth and increase their success on probation. Family support and engagement is one of the target areas identified in the County's Juvenile Justice Plan, therefore, the principles are embedded in contracts with program providers. The Program Coordinator position explained above will also assure that family engagement is embedded in appropriate programs offered within the facility. Some of these programs will include creation of a parent handbook, pro social events with parents, facilitating an orientation for parents of youth in custody, and conducting focus groups to assess services provided to both youth and parents.

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(d)(3)(D)):

Transitional Housing (Women of Substance & Men of Honor WOSMOH) – WOSMOH will provide transitional housing, case management, employment, community dinners, budgeting, self-help, substance abuse programs, Alpha Leadership Class, and therapeutic services to young adults (18-24) released from juvenile custody. The housing program has four levels: Hope to overcome, Hope2 Work, Eagles Nest and Angels Nest which provides a safe environment for young adults who need employment and housing. The program will start as a 3-month program moving towards a full one-year program.

In the Fall of 2024, in person college courses will be offered in collaboration with Oxnard Community College. This will be the first time that college courses are taught in the juvenile facility. It is our intention to expand course offerings in future semesters.

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

Youth/TAY residents, and their respective families, will receive all programming and services at the Juvenile Facilities and/or locally based programs available in the community. Treatment and programming will be through a multi-disciplinary approach, age-appropriate based on adolescent brain science, trauma-informed, culturally proficient, and family focused-youth centered. Assessments, case plans, and services provided will be strength-based, culturally sensitive, individualized, and tailored to meet the needs of the Youth/TAY residents. Additionally, with Interface embedded in the facility they will also be assessing all current and future programming for the same factors.

Contracted service providers working with this population will have demonstrated training and knowledge in matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including awareness and self-monitoring of implicit bias towards race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, and sexual identity, preferences, and socio-economic status. Providers with knowledge of adolescent brain development and trauma informed care will be sought when incorporating new programs.

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(d)(3)(F)):

Pawsitive Steps Dog Training Program (Canine Adoption and Rescue League) provides a weekly group utilizing Restorative Justice Principles and practices in caring for the rescue dogs, training them, and working together with other youth to support the dog's transition back to the community.

Success Stories will deliver a 12-week curriculum that helps justice-involved youth clearly identify the people and goals most important to them, as well as the obstacles in their way. The program involves mentoring from lived experience providers and prepares participants to be able to mentor and help others. After graduating, alumni receive support and programming from Success Stories for life.

Probation has an existing relationship with GEO services providing an adult reporting and resource center in the community. An independent evaluation conducted by EvalCorp showed promising results regarding the effectiveness of programming in reducing recidivism rates. The eventual goal is to bring some of the services provided at the adult resource and reporting center into the facility.

## **Part 6: 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(d)(4))

All youth in this target population will be housed at the Juvenile Facilities. They will have access to all treatment, programming, educational and vocational services offered at the facility. Secure Youth Treatment Facility Commitment youth/TAY residents will be initially housed in a secure single person room with their own bed and restroom facilities. The housing units are well lit, have high ceilings, an abundance of natural light, and an attached recreation area. Youth/TAY residents who maintain non-violent behavior towards other youth/TAY residents/staff, and who are engaged in programming, will be able to transfer to a less secure dormitory style housing unit on campus. Due to a staffing shortage, the move to a dormitory style housing setting has been placed on hold. All youth/TAY residents, despite housing units, will have access to common areas, unit recreation yards, gymnasium, vocational and career center, workout gym, Boys and Girls Club, library, Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR), and large recreation yards with basketball courts and a soccer field.

All youth/TAY residents will be assessed for appropriate housing. In general, younger youth will be housed separately from the TAY population, however, both populations will be assessed for appropriate housing. For example: A TAY resident who is finishing high school, exhibits some immaturities and does not pose a danger to other residents, may be housed with the youth population. Due to the limited number of female youth/TAY in the target population, housing units have been co-ed, while assuring safety and security and gender specific issues. Youth with special needs have also been accommodated and provided all needed and appropriate housing as well as programming to ensure their safety and security.

Facility transitioning plans to a campus style setting include, but are not limited to, carpet in the housing units, new furniture and paint color schemes, high school mascot and Providence Scholar's Program (college) branding on the gymnasium building, classrooms and courtyards, creation of a school facilitated ASB to give the youth/TAY residents a voice on campus activities, signage throughout the facility, and Information Display Monitors in each unit. In addition, we have begun converting a housing unit into a Vocational and Career Center and are exploring plans to increase recreational areas in the facility.

### **Part 7: 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(d)(5)):

We continue to leverage existing programs and establish new programming and services to target the needs of this population and their families in a safe and positive environment. Youth/TAY residents in the facility will have the opportunity to choose multiple growth paths in which they would like to follow when they arrive. Some may choose a career path and would be able to spend time in the career center discovering their interests and talents and working with Steps-Y to apply for various jobs prior to release. They may also participate in our Paxton Patterson vocational training if interested in construction or engine repair. Some may choose to further their education and can participate in our Providence Scholars program, taking college courses while pursuing an AA/AS degree or trade certification. Coupled with one or more of the above paths, appropriate participants will have the opportunity to choose the path of mindfulness and recovery, working on themselves and their addictions in preparation for a community transition that includes sobriety and mental wellness.

With targeted, trauma-informed, and age-appropriate treatment/programming, a positive environment for growth, youth self-determination, and practices that are family focused and person centered, we will strive to reduce recidivism and promote healthy communities and family relationships with this population. We are committed to the fundamental principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all that we do including training, interactions with residents, partnerships with our facility service providers and members of the public who visit the JF. Beginning at admission and continuing throughout a youth/TAY's stay with us, staff are trained to address them with their pronoun preference.

This section remains unchanged from the year prior as the subcommittee has not met and is in the process of being developed as stated above. This will be a focus area for the subcommittee in the year to come.

### **Part 8: Regional Effort**

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

Ventura County does not have any regional plans in place at this time.

### **Part 9: Data**

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

Data will continue to be collected through the case management system by existing resources (Watch Commanders) at the facility and from service providers within the facility. To ensure the data collected is properly targeted and is evaluated in a meaningful and succinct way that allows for data-driven decision making and to be performance driven, we would seek to apply an analyst to oversee this process. Data will be measured and reviewed on a quarterly basis to determine if efforts need to be shifted if we are not meeting our performance measures and/or achieving our outcome goals.

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to determine the results of the programs and interventions supported by block grant funds (WIC 1995(d)(7)):

Performance Measures:

- Number of youth/TAYs in program
- Number of multi-disciplinary case plans implemented within 30 days of commitment
- Programs and Services enrolled
- Programs and Services completed
- Number of multi-disciplinary community re-entry plans implemented within 60 days of release
- Community Re-entry programs and services referred upon release
- Community Re-entry programs and services enrolled 30 days upon release

Outcome Measures:

- Number of youth/TAY released with stable housing
- Number of youth/TAY released obtained employment within 90 days
- Number of youth/TAY continued education upon release
- Number of youth/TAY remaining in the community conviction-free for 12 months
- Number of youth/TAY remaining in the community conviction-free for 24 months

**Part 10: Progress Report**

Provide a description of the progress made regarding any elements described in Parts 2-9 and any objectives and outcomes in the plan that was submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Supervision in the previous calendar year. (WIC 1995(d)(8)).

Since the completion of the previous years' annual plan, the current SYTF population has grown significantly. We currently have 25 youth/TAY in this program, where last year we had 13.

The Program Coordination position was awarded to Interface Child and Family Services via the Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Two staff are already working within the facility with our staff and youth. They have committed to provide the following services:

- Program Planning & Development: Building off established programming and services, Interface will plan, organize, coordinate, and deliver structured programming, recreation, and activities for all youth and young adults detained at the JF. Programming will target the needs of the individualized case plans and re-entry plans, as well as the interests of youth in the facility.
- Coordination with JF Staff and Service Providers: Interface will work with JF leadership, staff, and mentors, and seek input from the youth and families when appropriate, to develop and coordinate a comprehensive program to be approved by JF Management. The Program Manager will actively engage with JF leadership, staff, and mentors by organizing staff and leadership meetings. In addition, Interface will arrange service stakeholder meetings to gather input from relevant parties, including youth and families when appropriate. This will ensure that the program is tailored to the specific needs of the participants, ultimately improving the delivery of services for Youth/TAY in the Juvenile Facilities and its effectiveness.
- Pro-Social Events: Interface will take a youth-centered approach in fulfilling the requirement of developing, coordinating, and delivering facility-wide pro-social events.
- Programming Guide/Matrix: Interface will develop a comprehensive Programming Guide/Matrix to streamline the process of determining suitable services for various populations in custody. The matrix will focus on describing tailored interventions for each population. Probation currently works with community volunteers and contracts with community-based organizations and other county partners to deliver services. Interface will collaborate with these partner agencies and volunteer services, include them in the matrix and daily schedule developed, and gather youth feedback to identify gaps in services to develop, coordinate and implement comprehensive programming which will remain relevant and effective.
- Program Scheduling: Interface will ensure the timely publication of a comprehensive daily and weekly programming, recreation, and activity schedules for both youth and supervision staff.
- Fidelity Reviews: Interface will conduct fidelity reviews of both existing and future programming to ensure adherence to the EBP model. They will establish and monitor quality assurance milestones, identify any areas of improvement, and guide facilitators through the appropriate changes or develop additional training.

- Assistance with Requests for Proposals, Contracts, and Evidence-Based Programs & Practices: Interface will ensure all deliverables are met for the existing contracted services, assisting with drafting RFPs, MOUs, and contracts in collaboration with Agency Management.
- Audit Assistance: Interface will assist in Title 15 compliance audits as it relates to programming, recreation, and large muscle exercise standards. They will ensure efficient tracking and reporting of individual and cumulative data for each youth involved daily.
- Direct Service Delivery: Interface will foster relationships and help develop current and future providers servicing the JF in order to sustain a myriad of community-based organizations delivering services to the youth. However, with approval of JF Management, contractor may also deliver services in some areas.
- Case Management: Interface will provide an organized system of case management that tracks Title 15 compliance and data points at various stages of a youth's stay at the facility.
- Volunteers: Interface will manage community volunteers and continue to develop the Volunteers in Probation (VIP) Program by recruiting, onboarding, managing, and celebrating volunteers who work with youth and young adults in the facility.
- Quality Assurance & Reporting: Interface will integrate quality improvement processes into its programs, which includes staff training in program assessment, evaluation, and data entry.
- Cultural Competency & Language: Interface will comply with federal and state mandates concerning the delivery of cultural and linguistic competence services to clients and consumers. They will deliver services in a manner which respects ethnic, gender, and cultural differences and diversity.
- Family Services: Interface will embed five family-strengthening objectives into its programs to establish a foundation of violence prevention and mental health:
  - Help parents develop resiliency
  - Help families develop a support system
  - Help families secure practical help when they need it Teach parents how to raise healthy children
  - Help children to develop socially and emotionally
- Interface will coordinate with service providers that offer family support programming that have been identified by VCPA as a need among youth in custody. A Parent Handbook will be developed and be provided for parents/guardians/ caregivers to explain visitation rules/requirements/hours, Juvenile Facility processes, programs and activities, daily

schedule, religious services information, and FAQs about where families can receive additional needed services. Interface will invite families to pro-social, facility-wide events, such as holiday events and graduations.

We continue to engage with the Ventura County Office of Education to expand services to youth which may include additional assigned instructors and access to the community-based Career Technical Education.

We expanded our contract with Wellpath to include a tattoo removal program on site. The first cohort began receiving services in February of 2024. The cohort consists of █ youth who have received two treatment sessions each.

Under our current contract with the Boys and Girls Club, they are responsible for providing one facilitator; however, we have added a second facilitator. The person selected to fill this position is currently going through our background process.

We currently offer the Paxton Patterson construction program to our youth. During the previous year, we purchased the following six additional instruction modules to expand the program:

- Communications Skills
- Surveying and Site Planning Skills
- Employability Skills
- Finish Carpentry Skills
- Masonry Skills
- Occupational Health and Safety – Construction Skills

To support the target population as they transition out of the JF, we have contracted with Women of Substance & Men of Honor to provide transitional housing, case management, employment, community dinners, budgeting, self-help, substance abuse programs, Alpha Leadership Class, and therapeutic services.

We repurposed one of our housing pods to create a vocational center which includes a career center, automotive program, Paxton Patterson, and is the future home of our barber certification program.

In the Fall of 2024, in person college courses will be offered in collaboration with Oxnard Community College. This will be the first time that college courses are taught in the juvenile facility.

We successfully collaborated with the California Conservation Corps as a less restrictive program for multiple SYTF youth.



