

# (2023-2024) Annual Plan

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## Instructions:

Government Code Section 30061(b)(4) and Welfare & Institution Code Section 1961(b) call for consolidation of the annual plans required for JJCPA and YOBG.

Please submit your most up-to-date consolidated plan. The following is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. If you find it helpful to use this template, please do so. Each field must be completed before submitting your plan to the BSCC. If you have nothing to report for a field, please indicate 'N/A'. At the end of the template please press the 'Submit' button to be recorded with the BSCC. Your work will be saved each time you log in, if you need to make any edits.

Your Submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website.donyat@co.sutter.ca.us

**If you have any questions on completing your annual plan, or wish to use your own plan, please email:**

**JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov**

## Juvenile Justice Plan

### Part I. Countywide Service Needs, Priorities and Strategy

- A. Assessment of Existing Services
- B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas
- C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy
- D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions

### Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

- A. Information Sharing and Data Collection
- B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils
- C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

### Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

- A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders
- B. Regional Agreements
- C. Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

## **Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy (Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))**

### **A. Assessment of Existing Services**

**Include here an assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.**

Sutter County Probation focuses heavily on prevention and intervention in juvenile delinquency by intervening early with at-risk youth and families, those involved in the juvenile justice system, and those solely referred for voluntary services from community stakeholders. Sutter Probation emphasizes partnerships and active collaboration among stakeholders to serve, and work with youth and their families. The Family Intervention Team (FIT), comprised of county and partner agencies, continues to seek and implement new programs and practices to effectively work with youth who are at risk for involvement in anti-social behavior, crime, delinquency, being Commercially Sexually Exploited (CSE), homelessness, truancy, dependency, and other social issues. Youth with these risk factors are identified by agencies within the county, including probation, child welfare, behavioral health, community-based organizations, and city and county schools. The youth identified can be referred to the Family Assistance Services Team (FAST), which meets weekly, and is comprised of representatives from all the above agencies, as well as Alta Regional staff. The FAST team meets weekly to discuss referred cases (with appropriate releases of information in place) to brainstorm services that could potentially be provided to meet the needs of the youth and family. Further, local law enforcement collaborates with the probation department to refer youth and families for services when they have calls for service and no citation or arrest is deemed appropriate, to include runaway youth and their families. The common goal of all agencies is to provide prevention and early intervention to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system. Additionally, Probation attends Multi-Disciplinary Intervention Team meetings, bi-monthly, hosted by Sutter County Victim Services Child Advocacy Team to assist with and provide services for youth victims of child abuse or sexual assault, including those that are victims and/or at risk of being commercially sexually exploited.

Responding to the needs of youth and their families, the services, programs, and interventions in Sutter County Probation's PREVENTION array include:

- Digital Citizenship (6th and 8th grades)
- The Change Companies, Forward Thinking Journaling Series; Voices curriculum; and Marijuana Journal
- The Parent Project
- Seeking Safety
- Sutter County Probation Mentoring Program
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents

- Matrix for Substance Dependent Adolescents
- Referral to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH)
- Referral to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH) for Latino Outreach services
- Referral to Youth for Change for individual and/or family counseling
- Referral to SYBH for possible Youth for Change Full-Service Partnership
- Referral to Sutter County One Stop
- Referral to Sutter County Prevention and Intervention Services (PEI) to include the Nurtured Heart program and Strengthening Families program
- Truancy Prevention through Student Attendance Review Team meetings with schools and youths' families
- Referral to ancillary services

In addition to Prevention efforts, Sutter County Probation also focuses on the needs of at-risk youth already displaying pre-delinquent behavior, first-time offenders, status offenses, and youth who have committed minor crimes. Probation's EARLY INTERVENTION efforts include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Digital Citizenship (6th and 8th grades)
- The Change Companies, Forward Thinking Journaling Series; Voices curriculum; Marijuana Journal; and Responsible Decisions- Impaired Driving Program Journal
- The Parent Project
- Seeking Safety
- Becoming Me
- The Sutter County Mentoring Program
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents
- Matrix for Substance Dependent Adolescents
- Intervention with Runaway Youth and their families
- Mobility Mapping and Family Finding and Engagement
- Referral to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health
- Referral to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH) for Latino Outreach services
- Referral to Youth for Change for individual and/or family counseling
- Referral to SYBH for possible Youth for Change Full-Service Partnership
- Referral to Sutter County One Stop
- Referral to Sutter County Prevention and Intervention Services (PEI) to include the Nurtured Heart program and Strengthening Families program
- Truancy Case Management
- Child and Family Team Meetings
- Referral to ancillary services

While investing heavily in Prevention and Early Intervention, Sutter County Probation also

provides a comprehensive array of SUPERVISION AND INTERMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS to work effectively with those youth and families who have entered the juvenile justice system.

Supervision programs and Intermediate Interventions in place include the following:

- Case Management Services: Supervision services provided by the Probation Department to include school monitoring, drug testing, motivational interviewing, and referrals for treatment services.
- Family Assistance Services Team (FAST) and SuperFAST, our Interagency Placement Committee: As noted above, probation partners with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Office (SCSOS), Sutter County's Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA's), Sutter County Social Services, Yuba City Unified School District, Youth for Change, Alta Regional, and Sutter County Public Health to provide multidisciplinary case conferencing for youth who are in multiple systems of care. The team collectively problem solves and brainstorms creative solutions responsive to the needs of the youth and family being discussed. In reference to SuperFAST, the partners also work together on placement for youth with complex and/or special needs, determining, among other things, which system (SYBH, CWS, or Probation) is most appropriate to take the lead with each individual youth and/or family. The SuperFAST team also reviews all Wraparound cases, as these youth are deemed at imminent risk of removal from their homes if services are not effectively provided. FAST/SuperFAST always seeks options to avoid out of home placement and/or to determine most appropriate placements for youth who are removed from their homes.
- Incentives and Sanctions Matrix: Probation utilizes an Incentives and Sanctions Matrix to provide consistency in how incentives and sanctions are used. The use of an Incentives and Sanctions Matrix is an Evidenced-Based Practice proven to motivate positive behavior change by placing an emphasis on positive behavior while applying appropriate sanctions for non-compliant behavior.
- Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT): A web-based risk assessment tool which has been used by Sutter County Probation since 2008. The probation officer receives an output report stating Criminogenic Needs which is used in determining treatment needs/goals and case planning.
- The Change Companies, Forward Thinking Journaling Series; Voices curriculum; Marijuana Journal; and Responsible Decisions- Impaired Driving Program Journal
- The Parent Project
- Seeking Safety
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents
- Matrix Substance Abuse Counseling for Adolescents
- Mobility Mapping and Family Finding and Engagement
- Sutter County Probation Mentoring Program - this program is currently offered to youth with current or past probation involvement. As the population of mentors increases, it is hoped to be able to expand the program to community referrals.

- Referral to Hall for Home Services through the Tri-Counties Juvenile Rehabilitation Facilities
- Referral to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health
- Referral to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH) for Latino Outreach services
- Referral to Youth for Change for individual and/or family counseling
- Referral to SYBH for possible Youth for Change Full-Service Partnership
- Referral to Sutter County One Stop
- Referral to Sutter County Prevention and Intervention Services (PEI) to include the Nurtured Heart program and Strengthening Families program
- Child and Family Team Meetings
- Family Urgent Response System (FURS): FURS is a coordinated statewide, regional, and county-level system designed to provide collaborative and timely state-level phone-based response and county-level in-home, in-person mobile response during situations of instability, to preserve the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth. This program is contracted with a community-based organization, Youth for Change, via Sutter County Health and Human Services, Children's Branch, Child Welfare Services (CWS).
- Referral to ancillary services
- Assisting youth and families with tangible items that would support their rehabilitation efforts
- School Focused Services: Case assignments for most youth under probation supervision are primarily based on the school attended by the youth to provide collaboration between Sutter County Probation and local school supports.
- Youth who are experiencing significant legal and life problems related to a diagnosis of a mental illness are assigned to a probation officer who collaborates and coordinates behavioral health services through Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health, Children's Systems of Care, Youth for Change, school staff, community service providers, and other agencies in the community. Child and Family Team meetings may be held to regularly staff these cases. The goal of the caseload is to provide the youth and their family with the services and intensive supports needed while the youth and family needs are being addressed. This caseload continues to be a successful endeavor in intensively supporting a youth and their family. These youth may be at imminent risk of removal from their home, and every effort is made to continue the youth in their home.
- Wraparound (WRAP): The WRAP program provides intensive case management and support for youth and their family who would otherwise be considered for placement, either in a Resource Family Home or a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) placement. Sutter County Health and Human Services, Children's Branch, Child Welfare Services (CWS) contracts for this intensive therapeutic service with a community-based organization, Youth for Change. Child and Family Team meetings are a service included in WRAP. WRAP is also frequently used when a youth returns home from an STRTP to ensure a smooth transition, as well as youth in danger of moving up from a resource family home to an STRTP.
- Transitional-Aged Youth (TAY): In Spring 2019, Sutter County Probation began supervising youth aged 18 to 21 years that are under an Adult Probation grant within the Juvenile Division.

The two TAY Probation Officers maintain a small caseload of less than 20 youth and supervise said caseload in the spirit of juvenile risk-based supervision: intensive case management, referral to appropriate age-based services (which may include youth services through SYBH), CFTs when needed, etc.; with the understanding that although the youth are legally adults, their brain development is still that of an adolescent. The Sutter County Court recognizes this unique population and considers adolescent brain development during Adult Court proceedings and sentencings. Narratively, this program has shown success through testimony from TAY participants who have expressed they do not feel lost in the system, their probation officer listens to them, and provides one-on-one assistance and support. Further, the TAY probation officers have been able to engage with youth and Child Welfare Social Workers to re-engage many of these TAY participants, who are former foster youth, with Non-Minor Dependency via CWS, providing them with additional case management services, housing, and financial support. These two TAY Probation Officers may also have youth on their caseloads from juvenile delinquency court.

Despite the community and home-based intermediate sanctions available in Sutter County, the need for RESIDENTIAL INTERVENTIONS remains. Options for youth ordered into out of home placement or secure detention by the Court include the following:

- Mobility Mapping and Family Finding and Engagement
- Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) - Sutter County Probation had no youth in STRTP placement in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. This was accomplished through intensive supervision practices, understanding that youth are best served in their family by supporting the whole family to make positive change.
- Resource Family Placement - Sutter County Probation had one youth placed with a Resource Family in Fiscal Year 2021-2022.
- Assisting youth and families with tangible items that would support their rehabilitation efforts.
- Family Urgent Response System (FURS): FURS is a coordinated statewide, regional, and county-level system designed to provide collaborative and timely state-level phone-based response and county-level in-home, in-person mobile response during situations of instability, to preserve the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth. This program is contracted with a community-based organization, Youth for Change, via Sutter County Health and Human Services, Children's Branch, Child Welfare Services (CWS).
- Non-Minor Dependent (AB12) - Sutter County Probation had two youths take advantage of this supportive program in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Services may include Transitional Housing Program (THP-Plus) for housing and support.
- Child and Family Team Meetings

The Probation Department and Juvenile Court use DETENTION and long-term custody when lower-level treatment options are inappropriate or have proven ineffective:

- Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (TCJRF): a 60-bed secure facility for youth pending Juvenile Court proceedings, and adjudicated youth awaiting transfer to a placement, camp/ranch, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Division of Juvenile Facilities (DJF). There were 23 Sutter County bookings in the TCJRF during Fiscal Year 2021-2022.
- Sutter County, Yuba County, and Colusa County continue to collaborate to design an effective Secure Youth Track (SYT) program for youth adjudicated for Welfare and Institutions Code 707(b) offenses, which would have previously been dispositioned to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Since the detention facilities are shared via Joint Powers Agreement with all three counties, collaboration is key to implement a plan that will serve and meet the needs of all three counties. The team meets regularly to adjust and develop the program as needs are identified and arise. The team has been working together with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health, Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, and the Yuba County Office of Education.
- Electronic Monitoring is available to assist in monitoring youth as an alternative to detaining a youth in the juvenile detention facility. Since COVID-19, youth that would normally leave the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC) on furloughs during their 4th Phase, have not been able to do so. Electronic monitoring has been utilized by the Sutter County Court as an alternative to youth remaining in Camp Singer for the last weeks of the program.
- Referral to Hall for Home Services through the Tri-Counties Juvenile Rehabilitation Facilities. Hall to Home (H2H) works with any youth who was detained in TCJRF for at least three days and those youth that are dispositioned to the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC). Services help youth and their families overcome common barriers, and help transition the youth back to school, engage in supportive services, and obtain employment.
- Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings with TCJRF and MSYGC

The Probation Department and its community-based partners are increasingly focused on REENTRY/AFTERCARE services including the following:

- Stepping Stones Aftercare Program: This program of supervision provides intensive support, case planning, and case management services for those youth detained and transitioning out of the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC). The Probation Officer assigned to this caseload also completes The Change Companies Re-Entry journal with each youth prior to them exiting the facility to aid in creating a comprehensive and supportive reentry plan.
- The Yuba County Office of Education leads the Hall to Home program for Yuba, Sutter, and Colusa County youth housed in the Tri-county Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (TCJRF), as well as those housed at the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC). This program assists youth with an individualized reentry plan, to include assistance in enrollment into the appropriate school system, referral to appropriate behavioral health services, referral to ancillary programs, as well as supportive services, and mentoring.
- Youth with behavioral health needs are also eligible for the Augmented Forensic Youth

Program through Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health. The purpose of this program is to increase engagement in services for youth with a psychiatric disorder after their release from detention, reducing the need for higher levels of care, and reducing the length of stay in residential treatment settings or inpatient services.

- Youth returning home from a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) do so with a supportive hand-off from the STRTP to local community services already in place; usually Wraparound or a like service.
- Electronic Monitoring is available as an alternative to detaining a youth both pre and post adjudication.
- All other services available for Supervision/Intermediate Interventions.

Sutter County Probation and the county in whole is lacking in family counseling for youth and families without private insurance. Sutter County Probation previously had provided Functional Family Therapy; however, due to lack of staffing by Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health and low number of referrals, the program was no longer able to be offered. This has been noted as a gap in service. Sutter County Probation entered into contract with Youth for Change, a local community-based organization to provide family counseling (and individual counseling) when needed to either bridge a gap in services or provide the unmet family counseling need.



**Describe what approach will be used to facilitate collaboration among the organizations listed above and support the integration of services.**

Sutter County Probation actively participates in several multi-agency committees:

- AB2083 Memorandum of Understanding: This MOU seeks to ensure that the Systems Partners' programs and policies reflect a coordinated, integrated, and effective delivery of services for children, youth, and families. Partner agencies have been designated by the Interagency Leadership Team - Family Intervention Team (FIT) and approved by the Sutter County Board of Supervisors to provide oversight and accountability for certain state and federally funded programs and services, and to otherwise act as a trauma informed coordinating council and planning body related to the programs and services contained herein to every extent possible. The System Partners agree that consistent trauma informed interdepartmental and interagency leadership is essential to successful collaboration on behalf of youth and families. The goal of this MOU is to address systemic barriers to the traditional provision of interagency services. It is the intent of the agency partners to create a coordinated service plan and maintain an administrative team with collaborative authority over the interrelated child welfare, juvenile justice, education, and mental health children's services. The agencies do not delegate their legal authority with respect to any core function or power of their agency, office, department, or position. The System Partners are not establishing policies that are intended to be averse to any relevant agency-wide policies, rules, or agreements. However, it is the intent of the System Partners to fully support the structure and processes contained in this MOU through a trauma informed lens and to provide the framework that will guide their operations and the activities, decisions, and direction of each of their employees regarding children, youth, and family programming. Accordingly, this MOU should be interpreted in light of this intent and purposes.
- Family Intervention Team (FIT): meets monthly and is comprised of department heads and assistant department heads from Probation, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Sutter County Child Welfare (CWS), Public Health, Yuba City Unified School District (YCUSD), Sutter County Superintendent of Schools (SCSOS) Office, Feather River Academy, Youth for Change (YFC), Yuba City Police Department (YCPD), Sutter County Sheriff's Office (SCSO), Alta Regional, Sutter County Special Education Local Plan Areas SELPA, and Friday Night Live. The team addresses system-wide issues, problem solves, and prepares for new mandates, regulations, and implementation of programs across agencies. This team also serves as our Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council – subcommittee per SB823: meets as needed throughout the year. In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the council met twice to approve the initial Secure Youth Track plan that was submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) in early 2022.
- Family Assistance Services Team (FAST): meets weekly and is comprised of Probation,

SYBH, CWS, Sutter County Social Services, YCUSD, SCSOS, YFC, and Alta Regional. Staff from other agencies may participate as needed, as they may be involved with a youth or family and able to provide insight. The team reviews referrals for information sharing and brainstorming of services available in the community to assist families in need.

- SuperFAST: meets monthly and is comprised of participants from Probation, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Sutter County Child Welfare (CWS), Public Health, Yuba City Unified School District (YCUSD), Sutter County Superintendent of Schools (SCSOS) Office, Youth for Change (YFC), and Alta Regional. The team reviews cases in out-of-home care and/or those that are at risk of entering out-of-home care, including Wraparound cases. This team also serves as Sutter County's Interagency Placement Committee (IPC).
- Resource Family Approval (RFA)/Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention, and Support (FPRRS) Team: This team meets as needed to determine processes for RFA and recruiting for RFA. The team is comprised of Sutter County Probation and Sutter County CWS.
- Commercial Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Team: This team meets as needed to determine processes, protocol, and policies for CSEC youth. The team is comprised of Sutter County Probation, Sutter County CWS, and SYBH.
- Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) Executive Advisory Council: the team meets quarterly for oversight of the educational advocacy program providing a variety of education-related services to foster youth. In accordance with Assembly Bill 490, Foster Youth makes certain that foster youth in-group or foster homes immediately enroll students in school.
- Bi-County Coordination of Care Team: This team is comprised of Sutter and Yuba County Probation, Sutter and Yuba County CWS, SYBH, SCSOS, Yuba County Office of Education, and Youth for Change participants. The team meets quarterly to discuss and trouble-shoot any system-wide issues in relation to services provided, barriers to service, and service gaps, as well as any new multi-disciplinary mandates. This team also addresses Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), discussing and sharing information regarding CCR and trainings attended, as well as upcoming trainings. The team also brainstorms and creates processes for CCR mandates, including Therapeutic Foster Care, Level of Care Protocol, Resource Family Approval (RFA) and recruitment, etc.
- Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Council: The Council's goal of reducing all forms of domestic violence and child abuse in Sutter County continues to be the focus of the council's activities through the multi-disciplinary collaborative work of the organization. This council monitors response rates to family violence and oversees the Child Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment funds (CAPIT) and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention funds (CBCAP). Beginning in 2009, the California Department of Social Services required that programs funded through CAPIT, CBCAP and Promoting Safe & Stable Families funds (PSSF) align with the California Children and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) to strengthen child abuse prevention effort and improve outcomes for children and families. This team meets bi-monthly. The membership of the Council continues to include the following agencies: Sutter

County Superior Court, Sutter County Family Law Court; Sutter County District Attorney's Office; Sutter County Sheriff's Office; Sutter County Probation Department; Sutter County Victim/Witness Assistance Program; Sutter County Health & Human Services Department, Employment & Eligibility Branch; Sutter County Health & Human Services, Children's Services Branch; Child Welfare Services; Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Office; Sutter County Health & Human Services – Public Health Branch; Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health Services; Yuba City Unified School District; Yuba City Police Department; California Highway Patrol, Yuba-Sutter Area office; Children and Families Commission; Yuba Sutter Bar Association; Casa de Esperanza; Adventist Health +Rideout, Family Birthing Center; Adventist Health+ Rideout Emergency Room.

- Displaced Youth Multidisciplinary Team Committee - The purpose of this team comprised of Probation, Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, and Yuba City Unified School District staff is to provide a team approach to build on a youth's strengths and respond to his/her needs in a coordinated manner, to assist displaced youth/children and their families in achieving and maintaining a permanent and healthy living environment.
- Probation Advisory Committee: this Committee is led by the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and is comprised of probation staff from all over California to discuss issues/new mandates for those youth in out of home placement.
- Probation attends local law enforcement briefings at least annually to educate officers and deputies on services provided to youth and families, as well as considerations for booking youth in secure detention, and the numerous different types of juvenile supervision. Collaboration with local law enforcement has resulted in decreased referrals to probation for citation/arrest and increased referral for services to defer youth and families from the juvenile justice system.
- Probation collaborates with Yuba City Unified School District and Sutter County Superintendent of Schools to provide supportive services for youth via education. This includes providing the Change Companies Journaling program to youth on campus, referrals for substance abuse counseling, assistance with case management of habitually truant youth via Student Attendance Review Teams and the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB), and participation in positive on-campus activities (probation vs. youth athletic events, Cookies with a Cop events, Read Across America, etc.).
- Probation is an active member of the county's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC). Probation collaborates and coordinates with the JJJPC on their targeted goal for the year. This past year, the JJJPC continued to focus on creating positive and trusting relationships between youth and local law enforcement by hosting several "Cookies with a Cop" events at local elementary and high schools which included games, a DJ, raffle prizes, and snacks on site at the school, where youth could interact with local law enforcement from Yuba City Police Department, Sutter County Sheriff's Office, and Sutter County Probation, as well as JJJPC members in a positive environment.
- Probation meets regularly with Yuba and Colusa County Probation Departments to discuss

detention facility processes and programs, including the development of the Secure Youth Track program per SB823.

## **B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas**

**Identify and prioritize the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas of the county that face the most significant public safety risk from juvenile crime.**

Based on referrals received through the probation department and areas noted by Yuba City Police Department, areas of concern include:

- North-East Yuba City – area between Highway 99 and Live Oak Boulevard, Yuba City, CA
- East and South-East Yuba City – area between Highway 99 and Garden Highway, Yuba City, CA

## C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

**Describe your county's juvenile justice action strategy. Include an explanation of your county's continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency as well as a description of the approach used to ensure a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.**

### Juvenile Justice System Diversion

Diversion, prevention, and early interventions are integral to Sutter County's juvenile justice continuum. Sutter County Probation provides several Prevention and Intervention services through the Youthful Offender Block Grant, as well as the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, for local schools and the community. These programs include: Digital Citizenship, The Change Companies Forward Thinking Journaling Series, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents, The Parent Project, Mentoring Program, and Truancy Case Management. Additionally, probation officers are stationed at two local high schools, two middle schools, and a local alternative school to provide Prevention and Intervention services to at-risk students. These services are offered to the whole community, taking referrals from all local agencies, community-based organizations, self-referrals, and from Yuba County. Services are offered to the youth's entire family, as Sutter County Probation recognizes and respects the family system and understands that servicing the whole family creates a greater likelihood of positive outcomes, thus reducing the recidivism and at-risk concerns for the youth and their siblings. Further, many youths are diverted from the juvenile justice system at the local law enforcement level, as local law enforcement officers often refer youth to our department in lieu of citation. Those who choose not to take the opportunity for diversion offered by police, and other more serious offenders are sent to the Probation Juvenile Intake Unit for review. If the matter is deemed eligible and suitable for Diversion, a youth may be provided the opportunity to complete a program or task related to their criminogenic needs, including restorative justice type interventions. If the youth completes Diversion successfully, the matter is sealed per 786.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

### Juvenile Justice System – Probation Intake and Supervision

The Sutter County Probation Department has 50 employees and an operating budget of \$8.48 million. The Department has three (3) divisions: Adult Division, Juvenile Division, and Support Division. The Juvenile Services Division is responsible for completing dispositional reports for the Juvenile Court, to include completing assessments, developing collaborative case plans, and providing supervision services to youthful offenders. Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) working in the Juvenile Services Division monitor and support youth and their families using an evidence-based risk assessment tool [Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT)], strength-based behavioral-based case plans, motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral treatment interventions, as well as chemical testing and monitoring school performance/attendance. <sup>13</sup>The

department uses Interactive Journaling via The Change Companies curriculum, Forward Thinking, which is a cognitive-behavioral intervention utilizing evidence-based strategies to assist youth involved in the juvenile justice system in making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

The Juvenile Intake Unit completes a lengthy interview process with the youth and their family. Using Motivational Interviewing (MI), the probation officer interviews the youth and family to gather information to complete the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) assessment to determine the youth's risk to reoffend, as well as any immediate risks and/or needs to be addressed, including screening youth to determine if they have been victimized or are at risk of being victimized through Child Sexual Exploitation. If determined to be low risk to reoffend, the youth may be diverted from the delinquency system with the DPO making appropriate referrals to services and/or programs, which may include: Forward Thinking Journaling, The Parent Project, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents, Matrix for Adolescents, Mentoring Program, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Children Systems of Care (CSOC) via SYBH, Seeking Safety, grief counseling, Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) via CSOC, Family Assistance Services Team (FAST), Youth for Change, Sutter County Health and Human Services, Children's Services Branch, Child Welfare Services, Sutter County One Stop and Adult Education, Alta California Regional Center, Sutter County Public Health, and to the DPO on campus at the school.

At any point in the process, a youth's case may be staffed at the weekly FAST meeting, which allows for several county agencies and community-based organizations (with a signed release of information) to discuss how the juvenile and family might best be served. A youth's case may also be staffed internally at the probation department to brainstorm, and problem solve ideas for case planning and meeting the needs of the youth and family.

If a youth is cited and/or arrested for an offense that is a mandatory referral to the District Attorney's Office or the PACT assessment indicates moderate or high risk to reoffend, the probation officer begins to address needs of the youth and the family immediately as noted above. However, the youth may then start the Court process as well. At times, more information is needed to disposition a case, and a youth may be referred for a psychological evaluation to assist Probation in making an informed recommendation to the Court. If/when a youth is placed on some type of supervision, the risk and needs of the assessment, along with a collaborative conversation with the youth and their family, translates into a written case plan. While on supervision, the probation officer utilizes the Juvenile Response Matrix. The matrix includes graduated sanctions for technical probation violations and incentives to reinforce positive behavior. The Response Matrix is presented to a supervisor when a violation of probation (VOP) is considered and the filing of a VOP must be approved by a supervisor when the VOP only includes technical violations and/or misdemeanor offenses. An updated PACT assessment is completed no less than every six months for a youth who is under any type of probation supervision. This allows for updated risk and needs information to inform team decisions and

case planning. A case plan is updated/modified regularly when need arises, at minimum no less than every six months.

Many of the juvenile services provided by probation are open to referrals from all other agencies, community-based programs, and self-referral. Unless the youth is detained or the program in question is a parenting class, all services are conducted with individual meetings with the youth and their family. Group-based programming is discouraged with youth, as many studies point out the danger of contamination of youth, particularly those that are low risk to reoffend, when introduced to new, potentially negative peers, especially those that are at a higher risk to reoffend. Further, all Sutter County Probation Officers are trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI) to create a foundational relationship for change. Meta-analyses show that the provider-client relationship plays a large role in client outcome (Hubble, Duncan, and Miller, 1999; Wampold et al., 1997). A critical finding drawn from more than 1,000 research studies concludes: "Putting this all into perspective, the amount of change attributable to the relationship is about seven times that of the amount attributable to a specific model or technique" (Hubble, Duncan, and Miller, 1999). Probation keeps MI at the forefront of probation officers' tools by providing booster trainings several times per year. Probation also implemented the Juvenile Response Matrix in 2015 to address the need to provide swift and certain graduated sanctions and incentives for behavior change. From prevention to out-of-home placement, services are provided along a continuum to maintain rehabilitation and safety of the youth and the safety and best interests of the community.

School-based Probation Officers are housed at two local high schools, two middle-schools, and one alternative school. The school-based probation officers provide supervision of all youth on any type of probation supervision, as well as assist with truancy matters, aid in triaging school behavior issues, identify at-risk youth, refer youth and families to appropriate programs and services, and provide direct-service through evidence-based programming to youth in need. This programming includes The Change Companies journaling system - Forward Thinking, which addresses criminogenic factors, including, but not limited to aggression, criminal thinking, relationships, family, substance abuse, and victim awareness. Further, we have two probation officers that assist school districts with truancy-related matters, these DPOs regularly make referrals to programs within probation, as well as community-based organizations to assist families with overcoming barriers to attendance.

Four DPOs and one Intervention Counselor are trained to facilitate Child Family Team (CFT) Meetings and can be utilized to conduct CFTs for youth placed out-of-home (as mandated by Continuum of Care Reform), youth at Imminent Risk of Removal from their home, youth under supervision with a high level of needs/support, and non-probation youth needing support and case management.

#### Juvenile Justice System – Detention and Commitment

Sutter County Probation does not operate a juvenile detention facility; however, partners with

Yuba and Colusa Counties through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), housing youth at the Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (TCJRF) and the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC). Yuba County Probation operates both facilities per the JPA. The 60-bed TCJRF provides safe and secure housing for wards and youth pending Juvenile Court under the care of Yuba County and offers an array of programs and services. The MSYGC is a 72-bed (60 males/12 females) facility. In addition to a full school program, both facilities utilize evidenced based interventions to include: Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), cognitive behavioral groups, case planning, and skill building. In addition, educational services, recreational activities, religious services, grief counseling, medical and behavioral health care are also provided. Aggression Replacement Training (ART), which is a cognitive behavioral program that focuses on skill streaming, moral reasoning, and anger control, is utilized at both facilities. Forward Thinking Journaling and the Matrix Substance Dependence Program for Adolescents are provided for MSYGC by Sutter County Probation to any youth housed in the facility. Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) is offered at TCJRF and is a program which leads youth to enhanced moral reasoning, improved decision making, and increased frequency of appropriate behavior. In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, there were 23 TCJRF youth admissions for Sutter County and 9 youth committed to MSYGC for the same time period. Currently, the MSYGC is not accepting female youth due to staffing concerns; however, the facility is working on creating a program to specifically meet female youths' needs.



## **D.Comprehensive Plan RevisionsDescribe how your Plan has been updated for this year.**

After consideration and collaboration with local school districts, Probation has ceased utilizing the Gang Resistance, Education, and Training (GREAT) program, as it became clear there was a much more pressing concern with how youth were utilizing social media and the internet in general. There was a large uptick in school-based discipline for texting and posting inappropriate content, some of those issues rising to the level of citation/arrest. Probation researched programs and chose to move forward with providing a Digital Citizenship curriculum from Digital Futures Initiative (DFi) to incoming middle schoolers (6th grade) and outgoing middle schoolers (8th grade). DFi's program objectives and goals are as follows:

As a result of this course students will be able to:

- Identify social media platforms objectives influencing our behaviors, attitudes, and emotions.
- Understand behavioral, emotional, and social contagion theory as it applies to digital media.
- Identify the importance of data protection and being more intentional with our attention.
- Explain the effects of misinformation and disinformation.
- View digital consumption from all perspectives to get the correct perceptions.
- Awareness of our personal biases & imitation influencing daily decisions.
- Describe how personal value should come within, not from faceless online groups.
- Empower students to think before they send.

Our goal is to cultivate & maintain a child's values, morals, and beliefs as we become better digital consumers and citizens. Without guidance, digital platforms can manipulate behaviors, attitudes, and emotions with suggestive material to alter how we think and feel. Children will be introduced to the right tools to avoid a SPIRAL, develop their ART skills and acquire GRIT. Avoid the S.P.I.R.A.L. effect of online Suggestions turning to Propaganda pushing a point of view that becomes the Imitation and Rumors we participate in that Alter and Lead us down new paths.

Developing A.R.T. (acceptance, resiliency, & tolerance) skills enables kids to identify empathetic experiences to appreciate the differences we have with others.

G.R.I.T. – Guard our emotions from being infected by digital contagions, Recognize the goal of the platform, media or author behind the post, Investigate for truth/lies or fact/fiction to limit disinformation or biases. Think before participating on platforms, being mindful before we comment or post. With determination & G.R.I.T. kids can combat these infectious online influences.

With these foundations, kids can use practical activities to become safer, emotionally intelligent & conscious of our digital surroundings.<sup>1</sup>

We also included a program that we are firming up, quarterly Education Outings, for youth. Probation will be scheduling quarterly Education Outings for youth to explore and participate in events and activities they would otherwise be unable to participate in, as well as experience and

visit other areas in Northern California. Many of the youth Probation works with have not had the opportunity to venture outside of Sutter County or even their immediate city/town. This program is designed to expose small groups of youth to new and exciting experiences, while filling up their free time, and teaching and practicing pro-social life skills.

1 [www.dfinow.org/digital-citizenship/](http://www.dfinow.org/digital-citizenship/)

**If your Plan has not been updated this year, explain why no changes to your plan are necessary.**

N/A

**Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)  
(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))**

**A. Information Sharing and Data Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate the sharing of data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how those data are used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.**

At this time, data is collected internally within the probation department via our case management system and data spreadsheets. The information is limited in sharing electronically; thus, information is shared during team meetings (FIT, FAST, SuperFAST, etc.). Data collected includes:

- Referrals to probation: crime, arresting agency, mandatory referral, 707 W&I reports, case outcome, restitution owed, case disposition, Court reports ordered, and case closure type.
- Referrals to services provided by probation and community-based organizations.
- Supervision: type of supervision, risk level, criminogenic needs, protective factors, risk factors, violation of probation (VOP), drug testing results, out of home care, CSEC screenings, reasonable candidates for Title IV-E, and placement type/length.
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents (CBT): referrals, sessions attended, successful/unsuccessful completion, risk level, referral source, arrests/ detentions prior to program, arrests/detention in program, VOP, restitution completion, juvenile work hour completion, positive drug tests, out of home care, and length of time in the program.
- The Matrix Model Substance Abuse Program for Adolescents and Transitional Aged Youth: referrals, sessions attended, successful/unsuccessful completion, risk level, and referral source
- Stepping Stones Aftercare: referrals, successful/unsuccessful completion, risk level, arrests/detentions prior to program, arrests/detention in program, VOP, restitution completion, juvenile work hour completion, out of home care, and length of time in the program.
- Yuba City Unified School District and Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Office share information on truancy and school behavior related issues for the purposes of supervision of probation youth, as well as to provide prevention and intervention services to students and their families. This includes several probation officers having access to the school case management system (Aeries).
- Sutter County Probation, Sutter County Child Welfare Services, and Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health share data and outcomes information via a shared drive within the county in relation to the Family Urgent Response System.

Sutter County Probation transitioned to Enterprise Supervision as the new case management system in June 2020. The first year roll out was an adjustment to a significantly different and more modern mode of case management for our department. Probation is still working on training and has been primarily focused on developing consistent expectations for data input and program tracking. Probation continues to work with Enterprise Supervision on being able to provide more meaningful data and analysis so that any data extrapolated can be relied upon.

## **B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils**

**Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Council (JJCC) as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code 749.22?**

yes

**If no, please list the current vacancies that exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies occurred, and your plan for filling them.**

Sutter County utilizes the FIT Team as our JJCC. All partners are invited to attend the meeting regularly.

## **C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements**

# JJCPA Funded Program(s), Strategy and/or System Enhancement

Below are JJCPA funded programs reported by the county.

## Program Name:

Stepping Stones Aftercare

## Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Outcomes have demonstrated the Program to be effective in reducing juvenile crime and/or delinquency. In 2002, Sutter County Stepping Stones Aftercare Program began reporting outcome data. The program continued after 2011, however was funded through the Youthful Offender Block Grant. It has been funded via JJCPA since the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Data from 2002 to 2011 showed goals met in all the following categories:

- Arrest Rates decreased by 46.5% from 98.9% to 52.9%
- Probation Violations decreased by 37% from 71.4% to 44.9%
- Completion of Probation increased from 3% to 41%
- Incarceration Rates decreased by 56.6% from 99.5% to 43.2%
- Rate of Restitution Completion increased from 0% to 30%
- Completion of Court Ordered Community Service increased from 5% to 55.6%

## Description:

This multi-tiered program incorporates a graduated scale of supervision and family-based service interventions to Wards and their families. The youth are initially committed to the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC) for up to one year, as depending upon their progress in the program, the juvenile has the potential to complete the program sooner than a year. The MSYGC program consists of four phases, the juvenile obtaining more incentives as they work through the phases. Acceptance into the MSYGC program begins with a multi-disciplinary assessment to determine the needs of the juvenile and his/her family, and to determine the appropriateness for entrance into the program. Phase four of the program includes a home furlough period with the juvenile returning to the program during the day. The Stepping Stones Aftercare Program is implemented during Phase II of the MSYGC program to create a solid re-entry plan between the juvenile, their family, and the community. Intensive supervision and

support of the juvenile and his/her family continues from the date of commitment to and including six months after release from the MSYGC program. The caseload is maintained by one Deputy Probation Officer who supervises no more than 15 juveniles at a time. Services for these juveniles are family-centered and include detention-based as well as intensive community-based treatment, supervision, drug treatment, education, recreation, life skills building and other capacity building activities. Additionally, participating youth can be connected to the Hall to Home (H2H) program, which is designed to assist in development of successful reentry plans for youth transitioning out of any juvenile detention facility. The H2H program focuses on a carefully developed success-plan to link youth to positive community engagement opportunities, job and vocational skill building, and completion of high school credits or General Education (GED) requirements. H2H utilizes Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings while using evidenced-based practices to support the creation of collaborative and successful re-entry plans in coordination with MSYGC staff, the Aftercare officer, the youth and their families. This approach is an expansion of the multidisciplinary, family-centered approach Sutter County has been working under since 1998. There is success in using this approach in early intervention cases, and we have found similar success through the Aftercare program with juveniles already entrenched in the justice system. This program has been in effect in Sutter County since 2002; however, it has also been previously funded by the Youthful Offender Block Grant. Collaborative partners involved in the MSYGC program and The Stepping Stones program include the Counties of Yuba, Colusa, and Sutter, as the MSYGC is a regional facility. Yuba County maintains the MSYGC facility. Sutter County Probation Officers and/or Intervention Counselors provide Forward Thinking Journaling, The Parent Project, Mentoring Program, intensive supervision, and quality case planning. Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health provides counseling and family support services, as well as alcohol and other drug services. Yuba County Office of Education and Sutter County One Stop provide education and employment services to eligible juveniles.

**Program Name:**

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adolescent Substance Use Disorders (CBT)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

CBT is an evidenced based technique that has been in existence since the early 1950's. CBT is based on the scientific evidence that our feelings are determined by our thoughts and perceptions, rather than by external influences such as people, situations, and events. As for the juveniles who enter the juvenile justice system, the majority, if not all, have been reared and/or exposed to environments that have influenced their negative behavior, resulting in criminal behavior and/or the abuse of controlled substances. By introducing CBT techniques to these identified juveniles, the opportunity to provide ways to take charge of their thought processes can positively impact their feelings in ways that improve their reactions to situations and events. Currently in California, numerous Probation Departments are collaborating with community partners and are utilizing evidence-based practices, including CBT-based programs, as an integral component of intervention and prevention. There are numerous resource documents available noting this evidence-based practice, many of which can be located via the National Association of Cognitive Behavior Therapist's website located at [www.nacbt.org](http://www.nacbt.org). The Mental Health Service Act (Proposition 63) "Mental Health Models that Work for Children and Youth" is a toolkit of information located in the FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS California. The toolkit provides reference to CBT, and further discusses the Purpose, Target Population, Duration of the Program and Cost of Participation, the Evaluation Status and Cost Benefit Evaluation.

**Description:**

The program is 12 to 16 weeks in length, with the CBT Facilitator and the youth meeting weekly for 45 minutes to 1 hour on an individual basis. As noted above, three sessions can be family sessions, if the youth agrees to said sessions. There are three Core Modules and 11 Skills Modules. Each session consists of a Check In/Review of Skills and At-Home Practice; Teaching Skills; and Practice, Practice, Practice. The program utilizes Motivational Interviewing for engagement and change processes, role-playing, and modeling. The program also incorporates chemical testing to hold youth accountable throughout the program. Sutter County Probation utilizes one Intervention Counselor and one Probation Officer to provide CBT services.

The 15 sessions cover the following modules:

1. Motivation/Engagement
2. Functional Analysis
3. Coping with Cravings



4. Communication Skills
5. Anger Awareness/Anger Management
6. Negative Affect Regulation
7. Problem Solving
8. Substance Refusal Skills
9. Social Support
10. Job-Seeking/Education
11. Coping with a Slip
12. Seemingly Irrelevant Decisions
13. HIV Risk Prevention
14. Termination
15. 1, 2, 3 Family Sessions

## **Program Name:**

Forward Thinking Journaling (The Change Companies)

## **Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Forward Thinking Journal Series is a cognitive-behavioral series that uses evidence-based strategies to assist youth involved in the criminal justice system in making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Applying the information presented in the Interactive Journals to their own lives helps participants achieve their goals for responsible living.

The Forward Thinking Interactive Journaling® Series was developed in collaboration with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice's Interactive Journaling® Charter.

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections  
Evaluation, 2007

The Office of Planning, Research, Statistics and Grants of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in 2008 completed an evaluation of the pilot program Changing Offender Behavior (COB), launched in 2006 at five correctional facilities (institutions and community centers). Effectiveness of the COB program was evaluated using multiple sources of information: 1) inmate (n = 102) changes in criminal attitude and thinking measured by differences in pre and post CSS-M assessment scores; 2) program facilitator and inmate participant responses on a self-administered survey about the program; and, 3) program facilitator and inmate participant interviews about the program. Preliminary evidence suggests that changes in CSS-M scores (reduction of criminal thinking and attitudes) are correlated with a decrease in institutional misconduct and recidivism\*.

A summary of findings indicated:

- COB had a favorable impact on inmates' thinking and attitudes about crime as measured in pre and post assessment scores. These changes indicate that criminal attitudes and thinking improved, or became more pro-social, after participating in the COB program.
- Overall, of the inmates who reported changes in their level of criminal thinking, approximately 42% (n = 41) showed decreases that were large enough to place them into a lower range for criminal thinking.
- Staff and inmates indicated a general satisfaction with the COB program including the topics covered, the exercises and examples used and the organization of the workbook.

\*Sigmourd, D. (2006). Validation of risk/needs assessments in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. National Institute of Justice Report, NCJ - 221255. Washington: U.S. Department of Justice.

Citation: Antonio, M.E. (2007). Evaluation of Pennsylvania Department of Corrections pilot program Changing Offender Behavior (COB). Camp Hill, PA: Pennsylvania Department of

Corrections.

**A Summary of Feedback Studies:** To determine the success of Interactive Journaling® with outpatient and inpatient alcohol and drug treatment populations, The Change Companies® conducted nine interview/studies at seven treatment sites using a structured questionnaire provided to participants in the program. The population was made up of individuals who were attending aftercare or continuing care programs at the treatment sites and who had used The Change Companies®' Journals during primary care. The purpose of these studies was to determine the strengths and weaknesses of The Change Companies®' materials in order to improve the Journals.

A total of 287 individuals participated in the questionnaire. The length of time in aftercare ranged from just having completed primary care to 13 months of aftercare with the average length of time out of treatment being 104 days. Key findings throughout all groups are described below. Participants indicated that graphics were found to be very helpful in many instances. Also, participants appreciated pages that offered the greatest amount of journaling opportunities the most. The Journal was found to be very useful with or without counselor involvement and valued the ability to share the Journal with their peers. Less than 5% of all participants reported that the Journal was too difficult to understand.

Nearly 90% of individuals reported that the Journal played an important role during primary care with 74% reporting that the Journal helped them stay clean and sober after primary care. Eighty percent of participants reported that the Journal helped them to recognize and express their feelings, and since completing primary care, seven out of 10 respondents use the Journal on a regular basis (at least once per week).

<https://www.changecompanies.net/evidence/?id=16>

## **Description:**

The Forward Thinking Journal Series is a cognitive-behavioral series that uses evidence-based strategies to assist youth involved in the criminal justice system in making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings and behaviors. Applying the information presented in the Interactive Journals to their own lives helps participants achieve their goals for responsible living.

The Forward Thinking Interactive Journaling® Series was developed in collaboration with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice's Interactive Journaling® Charter.

The program is conducted on an individual basis with youth in and out of detention. Based on their needs, either determined by a PACT assessment and/or at-risk indicators, the youth will complete one or more of the following journal topics with a DPO:

What Got Me Here

Individual Change Plan

Responsible Behavior  
Handling Difficult Feelings  
Relationships & Communication  
Victim Awareness  
Reentry Planning  
Substance Using Behavior  
Family  
Marijuana  
Responsible Decisions – Impaired Driving  
Voices

The program is also conducted at the MSYGC in small group format. All DPOs are trained to facilitate the journals and most utilize the curriculum with not only youth under supervision, but also youth diverted from the juvenile justice system, and youth showing at-risk behaviors, including students at local schools. Referrals are taken from DPOs, schools, community agencies, self-referrals, etc. One DPOs sole assignment is to provide supportive services to youth and families, journaling being an included service.

\*This program serves many different populations and may be partially funded via YOBG.

**Program Name:**

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

At least 20 empirical investigations have been conducted evaluating the impact of TF-CBT on children who have been victims of sexual abuse or other traumatic events (Cohen & Mannarino, 2017). Research has shown that TF-CBT resulted in significantly greater gains for children and parents. Follow-up studies (up to 2 years following the conclusion of therapy) have shown that these gains are sustained over time. TF-CBT has been designated as an evidence-based approach by several organizations, including the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare and the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices. According to the US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, TF-CBT alone has been evaluated across the child and adolescent developmental spectrum (3–18 years), for multiple index trauma types (e.g., sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic violence, disaster, war, traumatic grief, multiple and complex trauma), in different settings (e.g., clinic, foster care, community domestic violence center, refugee NGO, HIV treatment centers) and in multiple countries and cultures (e.g., US, Africa, Europe, Australia) and with both mental health and non-mental health providers. In all the studies, TF-CBT was been found to be superior to the comparison conditions for improving PTSD symptoms/diagnosis, as well as other related mental health difficulties such as depressive, anxiety, behavioral, cognitive, relationship, and other problems.

**Description:**

TF-CBT is an evidence-based treatment that helps children address the negative effects of trauma, including processing their traumatic memories, overcoming problematic thoughts and behaviors, and developing effective coping and interpersonal skills. It also includes a treatment component for parents or other caregivers who were not abusive. Parents can learn skills related to stress management, positive parenting, behavior management, and effective communication. TF-CBT combines elements drawn from multiple approaches and theories:

- Cognitive therapy, which aims to change behavior by addressing a person's thoughts or perceptions, particularly those thinking patterns that create distorted or unhelpful views.
- Behavioral therapy, which focuses on modifying habitual responses (e.g., anger, fear) to non-dangerous situations or stimuli.
- Family therapy, which examines patterns of interactions among family members to identify and alleviate problems.
- Attachment theory, which emphasizes the importance of the parent-child relationship and

Developmental Neurobiology, which provides insight on the developing brain during childhood. TF-CBT is a short-term treatment typically provided in 12 to 16 weekly sessions, although the number of sessions can be increased to 25 for youth who present with complex trauma (Cohen, Mannarino, & Deblinger, 2017). Most sessions last approximately 60 minutes, with the child and parent separately seeing the therapist for about 30 minutes each. There are some conjoint sessions in TF-CBT, particularly later in the treatment when the child shares his or her trauma narrative with the parent. TF-CBT is usually completed within 4–6 months. Some children may benefit from additional services once the trauma specific impact has been resolved. Each individual session is designed to build the therapeutic relationship while providing education, skills, and a safe environment in which to address and process traumatic memories. The therapist, parents, and child all work together to identify common goals and attain them. Joint parent-child sessions are designed to help parents and children practice and use the skills they learned and to assist the children in sharing their trauma narratives. These sessions can also foster more effective parent-child communication about the abuse and related issues. This program has yet to begin, as the community-based organization contracted with is still in development of said program.

\*This program serves many different populations and may be partially funded via YOBG.

**Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)  
(Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))**

**A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders**

**Describe your county's overall strategy for dealing with non-707(b) youthful offenders who are not eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice. Explain how this Plan relates to or supports that strategy.**

Sutter County's strategy for non-707(b) youth includes diverting youth out of the Juvenile Justice System at all levels and rehabilitating those who are in the system. By being involved at all levels: truancy, school-based, multi-agency, etc., Probation Officers are offering services, referrals, and support to youth and families in the entire community, not just those youth involved with Probation.

Almost two decades ago the department and partner agencies committed to providing local services for youth out of concern for the number of youths who were in out-of-home placement or were committed to DJJ with few positive outcomes. A Family Intervention Team (FIT) Policy Group was developed and remains intact to this day to focus on youth shared across systems. Federal Title IV-E, Juvenile Probation Funding (JPF,) YOBG, and JJCPA funding allowed the implementation and maintenance of programs to address youth and family issues with prevention, early intervention, intensive supervision, and individualized counseling and support services within the community. Because of these initiatives, Sutter County Probation has significantly reduced the number of out-of-home placements, the number of youths requiring DJJ commitments, and the number of youths under supervision overall. The implementation of the Principles of Effective Intervention has mandated reduced caseloads to provide officers the time necessary to properly assess and case plan with moderate to high risk juveniles. High risk youth with significant behavioral health issues, multi-generational family dysfunction, CWS history, substance abuse, and developmental disorders require significant time and collaboration to prevent them from entering detention and keep them stabilized within the community. Youth who are low risk are evaluated out of the system when possible, sometimes with referral to other services/agencies, or are managed for a short period of time and only to reach specific, short-term goals (e.g., victim restitution). Sutter County continues to struggle with illegal street gang activity and with violent and serious crimes committed by High Risk youth. With the addition of the Mentoring Program, CFTs for any youth that needs said service, and the TAY program, it is hoped we can continue to further reduce the number of youths entering the juvenile justice system. The department continues to seek effective programs to address this population, along with the expansion of evidence-based practices in general. Thus far, the number of referrals has continued to decrease over the past decade, as well as the number of youths under some type of probation supervision. In 2015, there were 97 youth under supervision and in 2019 that number was reduced to only 38. In Fiscal Year 2021-2022, the average number of youths on some type of probation supervision was 45. Sutter County Probation is not a dual jurisdiction

county; however, through our collaborative relationship with Child Welfare Services (CWS) and our commitment to the most least restrictive placements for youth, we have collaborated with CWS, co-case managing youth on lower levels of (non-wardship) probation while they remain dependents. DPOs and CWS Social Workers work collaboratively to meet these youths' and family's rehabilitative needs.

## **B. Regional Agreements**

**Describe any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported with YOBG funds.**

The following programs are implemented with the assistance of other agencies:

- The Stepping Stones Aftercare program, currently funded by JJCPA, is carried out via the Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (TCJRF), Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC). The regional facility is comprised of Sutter, Yuba, and Colusa counties. Each county provides their own aftercare services for the MSYGC program. This program also leases beds to several other California counties. Sutter County Probation provides the Forward-Thinking Journaling program at MSYGC to all youth in the program, including regional and contracted youth.
- The Parent Project program is also offered to parents of youth detained at the TCJRF and MSYGC facilities, as well as any parents referred by the local schools in Sutter-Yuba Counties, or referred by community-based organizations or other agencies.
- The Digital Citizenship program is provided to local schools via agreements with Yuba City Unified School District and Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Office.
- Yuba City Unified School District and Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Office partially funds six probation officers: two at local high schools, one who serves two local middle schools, one at an alternative school, and two to provide truancy prevention, intervention, and case management.



# YOBG Funded Program(s), Placement, Service, Strategy and/or System Enhancement

Below are YOBG funded programs reported by the county.

## Program Name:

Intensive Probation Supervision

## Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

At minimum, there are annual conversations in regard to how best utilize and coordinate JJCPA and YOBG funds to best serve both the youth formally referred to Probation and those we are providing prevention and intervention services to in order to keep them from entering the juvenile justice system. While state funds are somewhat stabilized, Probation is using YOBG funds to assure that sufficient staffing is available to fully implement the core elements of evidence-based practices. This requires that caseload sizes remain below 15 to ensure officers can best carry out those services. Probation has also blended funding from the schools with Federal Title IV-E funding to ensure that YOBG funds remain available to cover other needs. JJCPA funds will provide CBT, Stepping Stones, and Forward Thinking journaling services to youth served within YOBG programs. Conversely, the YOBG funded "Parent Project" and CFT meetings will serve families in all programs.

## Description:

YOBG funding is utilized in several areas of juvenile probation through reduction of caseload size, providing evidence-based programming and assessment, assisting in utilizing a Juvenile Sanctions and Incentives Response Matrix, assisting in providing multidisciplinary services, providing the training and ability to create comprehensive and collaborative case plans, using SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely) interventions, Family Finding efforts, Child and Family Teaming, and providing parenting education. The Principles of Effective Intervention are used in assessing, case planning, and case management of offenders. EBP curriculum, including The Change Companies journaling series, are utilized. Referrals can also be made to all internal services, as well as community-based services. Sutter County Probation strives to follow evidence-based practices and best practices in all areas. Currently, Probation Officers are assigned caseloads of youth who attend local schools

including: Yuba City High School, River Valley High School, Gray Avenue Middle School, Riverbend Elementary School, Albert Powell Continuation School, Feather River Academy, and Live Oak Unified School District (LOUSD) schools, as well as those in alternative school situations, including adult education. There are three probation officers housed on-site at Yuba City Unified Schools (YCUSD), one at Feather River Academy (a Sutter County Superintendent of Schools site) and one truancy officer for YCUSD and one truancy officer for LOUSD. The probation officers assigned to Yuba City High School, River Valley High School, and the two middle schools provide supervision for the youth on probation at the school, as well as assist with discipline and intervention for all students, provide The Change Companies - Forward Thinking journaling, an evidence based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy program, for identified students, act as a resource broker for students with identified needs, attend after-hours school functions, assist with truancy and sit in on Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meetings. The probation officer assigned to Feather River Academy provides supervision for the youth on probation at the school, as well as assists with truancy issues for all students, provides The Change Companies, Forward Thinking journaling program for identified students, acts as a resource broker for students with identified needs, provides tobacco and vaping prevention services, and attends after-hours school functions, assists with truancy and sits in on Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meetings and the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB). The truancy officers provide case management services to those youth on Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) contracts, attends SARB regularly, attends Truancy Court, and often sits in on SART meetings, and acts as a resource broker for services to youth and their families. Several probation officers and an intervention counselor, even those not assigned to specific school sites, also provide services to identified at-risk youth at school sites. Two Probation Officers focus on high risk youth who receive services from other agencies, particularly those youth with behavioral health concerns but who may not be attending school and youth at Imminent Risk of Removal from their home. Because of the reduced caseload size, the Probation Officers can provide intensive supervision, guidance, and oversight. Often, these Probation Officers will have contact with the youth and their family several times per week, whether it be at home, school, counseling, a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting, or in the office. These Probation Officers provide extensive case management for these youth and their families. Some of these youth are at imminent risk for removal, thus qualifying for Title IV-E Federal funding, which requires detailed case plans and documentation. Others are adjudicated of offenses involving a sexual nature but are not deemed predators by psychological evaluation. The psychological evaluation may indicate the youth needs education and counseling around boundaries and normative sexual behavior. This has been identified as a service gap in the Sutter-Yuba area, as these types of programs tend to be cost-prohibitive and are not covered by insurance and/or Medi-Cal. YOBG funds may be utilized to assist in transportation of these youth to this type of program and counseling, and/or assist in funding of the program/counseling if needed. This assists with keeping youth in home-based care, rather than in out-of-home

placement, a key goal of Continuum of Care Reform.

As stated above two Probation Officers are assigned to assist with truancy issues. The POs' focus is on grades First through Eighth, providing intervention and case management to address the needs of the student and their family to increase attendance and maintain the student in a school setting. This prevention and intervention service has been successful in decreasing youth entering the Juvenile Justice System. The program this past year, due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, has focused on ensuring youth are physically and emotionally well, as many were lost in the move to distance learning. All probation officers assisted the schools in home visits to ensure the welfare of students within the city and county. DPOs support the truancy process which includes Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meetings (similar to a CFT) to address barriers in attending school and provide supportive services to increase attendance. One probation officer and one intervention counselor provide programs and services, including The Parent Project, Seeking Safety, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents, Matrix Intensive Outpatient, The Change Companies Forward Thinking Journaling series, and The Change Companies Voices program. All services are provided to any youth referred, including providing substance abuse services and The Change Companies Forward Thinking Journaling series within MSYGC.

Many youth receiving intensive services have experienced school failure, are gang members/associates, or are at risk of gang involvement. All Probation Officers and our Intervention Counselor may facilitate pro-social field trips or coordinate athletic and extracurricular activities for both offenders and at-risk youth. All Probation Officers also provide truancy services when assistance is needed by local schools. Probation Officers also regularly collaborate with community agencies to provide support for juveniles and families. Further, all Probation Officers provide local schools with the Digital Citizenship program.

**Program Name:**

Risk/Needs Assessment

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

All youth entering the probation department for a delinquency citation/arrest receive an assessment to assist in determination of services needed/offered, as well as how the case will proceed forward in the juvenile justice system.

**Description:**

The Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) risk/needs assessment and case planning tool is one aspect of the department's efforts to implement evidence-based practices. The PACT satisfies the following areas: 1) determines a minor's level of risk to reoffend; 2) identifies the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so that the rehabilitative effort can be tailored to address the minor's unique criminogenic needs; 3) pre-populates an automated and customizable case plan focused on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors; 4) allows managers to run reports to see changes in risk/protective factors over time. Every youth that enters the juvenile justice system is assessed with the PACT, whether it be the pre-screen or the full screen. The PACT revitalizes the role and responsibilities of the probation officer from that of one who monitors sanctions, to that of one who is provided a working tool to assist while modeling pro-social behavior and one who will continue to work with the juvenile and the juvenile's family to mitigate the youth's risk to re-offend by increasing protective factors. The use of Risk/Need Assessments to identify the risk factors and specific needs of each juvenile, and case planning to address those needs, while supporting and building upon a youth's identified protective factors, are evidence-based practices.

Sutter County Probation also utilizes the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) which indicates whether detention, alternatives to detention, release with court-ordered conditions, or release without court-ordered conditions is appropriate when a youth is detained.

**Program Name:**

Sutter County Probation Mentoring Program

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

All youth with current or past probation involvement may be referred to the evidence-based mentoring program. This program serves youth being served via JJCPA funding. This program is mainly funded with Juvenile Probation Funds.

**Description:**

The Sutter County Probation Mentoring Program utilizes the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring with guidance through technical assistance from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which partners with The National Mentoring Resource Center. The program matches youth and mentors who would agree to meet weekly for six months' time. Connecting youth to natural resources in the community is key in reducing recidivism and the hope is that the mentoring program will show positive outcomes in this area. Initially, the program is being offered to youth with current or past probation involvement; it is hoped, the mentor population will increase enough to be able to open the service up for community referrals at some point.

**Program Name:**

Transitional Aged Youth Supervision (TAY)

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

All youth under TAY Supervision may be referred to services provided by JJCPA funding including Forward Thinking Journaling and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adolescent Substance Use Disorders (CBT).

**Description:**

The TAY Supervision program is a pilot program that began in August 2019. Two DPOs supervise, at most, 20 Transitional-Aged Youth aged 18 to 24 each, as well as youth on supervision under juvenile jurisdiction. The TAY offenders, all of whom are under a grant of Adult Formal Probation, are supervised within the Juvenile Services Division under the spirit of juvenile supervision, to include the understanding of adolescent brain development. The TAY offenders are eligible for most juvenile services and programs, and when needed, may be considered to receive youth behavioral health services versus adult behavioral health services as needed. The Sutter County Court are made aware of TAY offenders during pre- and post-dispositional Court proceedings to maintain a more Juvenile Court-like approach, and the TAY DPOs attend adult court hearings on behalf of their TAY youths. Additionally, TAY officers produce written plans for review by both the District Attorney and defense counsel that provide additional information at the time of violations. These VOP Plans again identify TAY offenders and suggest possible resolutions that are more in line with the goals of Juvenile Court whenever possible. Sutter County Probation remains hopeful that servicing TAY youths in this way will result in positive outcomes for youth, as well as lower recidivism for said population, resulting in enhanced community safety. Narratively, there has already been positive feedback from both the TAY offenders, as well as from the POs supervising the TAY offenders.

**Program Name:**

Individual and Family Therapy

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

All youth referred to probation for citation/arrest will be eligible for this program, including the Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy program funded via JJCPA.

**Description:**

Individual and Family Therapy contracted with and provided by a community-based organization (CBO). That therapy would include the following:

- Individual therapy for those youth that do not have Medi-Cal and are either unwilling or unable to access their private insurance for treatment.
- Individual therapy to bridge a warm handoff to Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH) for youth that find themselves unable to or unwilling to engage in services with SYBH.
- Family therapy
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (funded by JJCPA).

Probation is actively collaborating with the community-based organization and County Counsel to institute a contract as soon as feasible. It is estimated the program could provide services for up to 10 youth a year. Probation previously provided Functional Family Therapy; however, lost the program several years ago and since that time, Probation has been researching ways to mitigate the loss of the program. It is hoped, the partnership with the CBO will meet this need. If the program provides successful outcomes, discussions will ensue to increase the number of youth able to be served.

**Program Name:**

Pro-Social Skills Training – Digital Citizenship

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

All youth referred to probation for citation/arrest will be eligible for this program, programs funded via JJCPA.

**Description:**

The Digital Citizenship curriculum from Digital Futures Initiative (DFi) is provided to incoming middle schoolers (6th grade) and outgoing middle schoolers (8th grade). The program objectives and goals are as follows:

As a result of this course students will be able to:

- Identify social media platforms objectives influencing our behaviors, attitudes, and emotions.
- Understand behavioral, emotional, and social contagion theory as it applies to digital media.
- Identify the importance of data protection and being more intentional with our attention.
- Explain the effects of misinformation and disinformation.
- View digital consumption from all perspectives to get the correct perceptions.
- Awareness of our personal biases & imitation influencing daily decisions.
- Describe how personal value should come within, not from faceless online groups.
- Empower students to think before they send.

Our goal is to cultivate & maintain a child's values, morals, and beliefs as we become better digital consumers and citizens. Without guidance, digital platforms can manipulate behaviors, attitudes, and emotions with suggestive material to alter how we think and feel. Children will be introduced to the right tools to avoid a SPIRAL, develop their ART skills and acquire GRIT. Avoid the S.P.I.R.A.L. effect of online Suggestions turning to Propaganda pushing a point of view that becomes the Imitation and Rumors we participate in that Alter and Lead us down new paths.

Developing A.R.T. (acceptance, resiliency, & tolerance) skills enables kids to identify empathetic experiences to appreciate the differences we have with others.

G.R.I.T. – Guard our emotions from being infected by digital contagions, Recognize the goal of the platform, media or author behind the post, Investigate for truth/lies or fact/fiction to limit disinformation or biases. Think before participating on platforms, being mindful before we comment or post. With determination & G.R.I.T. kids can combat these infectious online influences.

With these foundations, kids can use practical activities to become safer, emotionally intelligent & conscious of our digital surroundings.



**Program Name:**

Recreational Activities – Educational Outings

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

All youth referred to probation for citation/arrest will be eligible for this program, programs funded via JJCPA.

**Description:**

Probation will be scheduling quarterly Education Outings for youth to explore and participate in events and activities they would otherwise be unable to participate in, as well as experience and visit other areas in Northern California. Many of the youth Probation works with have not had the opportunity to venture outside of Sutter County or even their immediate city/town. This program is designed to expose small groups of youth to new and exciting experiences, while filling up their free time, and teaching and practicing pro-social life skills.



**Sutter County**  
**Probation Department**  
**Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan**

**Updated April 2023**

**PREPARED FOR THE  
SUTTER COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE  
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**Presented to JJCC on April 4, 2023**

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Sutter County  
Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council  
2023

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Karm Bains, Sutter County Board of Supervisor

\*Jennifer Dupre, Sutter County District Attorney

\*Michael Sullinger, Sutter County Public Defender

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Sarah Feingold, Director of Behavioral Health Programs, Youth for Change

\*Denotes required member

# SUTTER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE MULTIAGENCY JUVENILE JUSTICE ACTION PLAN 2023

## II. INTRODUCTION

Passage of Senate Bill 1760 (SB 1760) in 1996 resulted in the addition of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 749.22, the genesis for Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils in the State. Sutter County developed its Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) in 2000-2001 in accordance with AB 1913, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) of that year and updated it as services and programs changed. The following plan reflects updates and changes that have been implemented since that time. Moving forward, the CMJJP will be updated and reviewed every three years. The next review/update will occur in 2026. The County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) agreed to have the Probation Department update the plan to reflect the progress made toward completing goals identified in the CMJJP, and to present a current picture of the juvenile justice service delivery system.

## III. BACKGROUND AND DEMOGRAPHICS

With a population estimate of 99,633<sup>1</sup>, Sutter County is ranked 37<sup>th</sup> among California counties in size<sup>2</sup>. “Sutter County is a great place to live, visit, work and operate a business. Our community is embedded in a rich agricultural area with abundant wildlife and nature. Yuba City is our primary urban hub and provides many employment, business and development opportunities as well as convenient shopping and entertainment venues.”<sup>3</sup> There are two incorporated cities, Yuba City with a population of 78,885 (2020 census)<sup>1</sup>, and Live Oak with 17,038 (2020 census)<sup>1</sup> residents. The remaining residents live within the small communities of Tierra Buena, Meridian, Rio Oso, Trowbridge, Sutter, Pleasant Grove, Nicolaus, East Nicolaus, Riego, or Robbins, or reside in the vast rural, agricultural areas which make up Sutter County.<sup>4</sup>

The 2019 U.S. Census estimates report the following race demographics for Sutter County’s population: Caucasian 72.7%, Hispanic or Latino 31.9%, Asians 17.0%, Black or African American 2.7%, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.4%, and American Indian or Alaska Native 2.4%.<sup>5</sup>

The median age in Sutter County, according to the 2018 census, was 35.7 years. According to the 2019 census, children accounted for over 32.9% of the population and seniors (65 and older) made up approximately 15.4%.<sup>3</sup>

Sutter County’s average unemployment rate reported in April 2022 was 6.2% per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics<sup>6</sup>. The median household income between 2016 and 2020 was \$63,502, with a poverty level of 11.5%.<sup>1</sup>

1 United States Census Bureau, census.gov

2 California Counties by Population, california-demographics.com

3 Sutter County, suttercounty.org

4 Sutter County Demographics, suttercounty.org

5 United States Census Bureau, census.gov

6 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, bls.gov

## Juvenile Justice System - Arrests

The trend lines for both misdemeanor and felony arrests of Sutter County youths show year over year declines since 2008, and then stabilizing between years 2017 and 2021. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, year 2021 was an outlier.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	2020*	2021*	2022*
<b>Total Misdemeanors</b>	355	366	359	239	275	240	221	164	128	116	93	136	109	71	71
Male	262	260	243	167	171	164	128	110	74	77	58	---	---	---	---
Female	93	106	116	72	104	76	93	54	54	39	35	---	---	---	---
<b>Total Felonies</b>	223	138	159	136	116	97	91	63	66	61	43	58	56	49	48
Male	180	107	119	109	84	78	67	54	51	50	38	---	---	---	---
Female	43	31	40	27	32	19	24	9	15	11	5	---	---	---	---

\*Internal counts, as Open Justice data conflicted with internal statistics.

Sutter County Probation implements several strategies that constitute a continuum of responses for youth offenders and at-risk youths that include prevention and intervention at all levels. A major priority of the department is to provide services up front to youths and families to divert youths from the delinquency system. In FY 2020-2021 there were an average of 45 youths supervised under some type of supervision, ranging from informal probation to wardship.

## Juvenile Justice System – Diversion

Diversion and early interventions continue to be important aspects of Sutter County's juvenile justice continuum. Sutter County Probation provides several Prevention and Intervention services through the Youth Offender Block Grant, as well as the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, for local schools and the community. These programs include: Digital Citizenship, The Change Companies Forward Thinking Journaling Series, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents, Seeking Safety, individual/family therapy via contract with a community based organization (Youth for Change), and The Parent Project. Further, Probation Officers are stationed at two local high schools, one middle school, and one alternative school site, with an additional two officers who assist with truancy efforts for Yuba City Unified School District and Live Oak Unified School District, respectively, to provide prevention and intervention services to at-risk students. These services are offered to the whole community, taking referrals from all local agencies, community-based organizations, and self-referrals.

Sutter County Probation's formal Diversion Program diverts many youths from the juvenile justice system at the local law enforcement level, as well as at the initial intake level of probation. Further, with SB 439, local law enforcement agencies are making direct referrals for prevention and intervention service for those youths that fall under the legislation. Sutter County Probation also receives copies of the missing/runaway juvenile reports in order to contact families and inquire about how services within the department and/or within the community may be of assistance. Those who choose not to take the opportunity of referral for services offered by law enforcement and those more serious offenders that are cited or arrested are sent to the Probation Juvenile Intake Unit for review. As noted above, many of these referrals are diverted at this level, and interventions for diversion are individualized based on the youths' and families' needs.

## **Juvenile Justice System – Probation Supervision**

The Sutter County Probation Department has 50 employees and an operating budget of \$8.48 million. The Department has three (3) divisions, Adult Services, Juvenile Services, and Support Services. The Juvenile Services Division is responsible for completing dispositional reports for the Juvenile Court, to include completing assessments, developing case plans, and providing supervision services to youthful offenders. Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) working in the Juvenile Services Division monitor and support youths and their families through the use of an evidence-based risk assessment tool called the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), strength-based case plans, cognitive behavioral treatment interventions, as well as drug testing, and monitoring of school performance/attendance. In FY 2013-2014, the Department embarked upon the use of Interactive Journaling utilizing The Change Companies curriculum, which is a cognitive-behavioral intervention utilizing evidence-based strategies to assist youths involved in the juvenile justice system in making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Probation has since expanded the use of The Change Companies curriculums to include the Voices program for use with adolescent females, as well as the Responsible Decisions journal, which addresses impaired driving.

The Juvenile Intake Unit completes a lengthy interview process with the youth and their family. Using Motivational Interviewing (MI), the probation officer interviews the youth and family to gather information to complete the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) assessment, to determine the youth's risk to reoffend, as well as any immediate risks and/or needs to be addressed. If determined to be low risk to reoffend, the youth may be diverted from the delinquency system. This could include making appropriate referrals to services and/or programs, which may include: Forward Thinking journaling, The Parent Project, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents, Matrix (substance use disorder program for substance dependence), Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Youth for Change (Y4C) individual or family therapy, Children Systems of Care (CSOC) via SYBH, Seeking Safety, Grief Counseling, Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) via CSOC, Family Assistance Services Team (FAST), Sutter County Child Welfare Services, Sutter County One Stop and Adult Education, Alta California Regional Center, Sutter County Public Health, and Sutter County Welfare Division, etc.

At any point in the process, a youth's case can be staffed at the weekly FAST meeting [with a properly signed release of information (ROI)], which allows for several county agencies and community-based organizations (per the ROI) to discuss how the youth and family might best be served. A youth's case may also be staffed internally with the supervising probation officer and/or the Deputy Chief Probation Officer, to problem-solve and brainstorm ideas for case planning and meeting the needs of the youth and family.

If a youth is cited and/or arrested in a matter for an offense that is a mandatory referral, or the PACT assessment indicates moderate or high risk to reoffend, the probation officer begins to address needs of the youth and the family as noted above. However, the youth may then begin the Court process as well. If/when a youth is placed on some type of supervision, the risk and needs of the assessment, along with a collaborative conversation with the youth and their family, translates into a written, strength and behavior-based case plan. While under supervision, the probation officer utilizes the Juvenile Response Matrix with the youth. The matrix includes graduated sanctions for technical probation violations to deter negative behavior; and graduated incentives to reinforce positive behavior. The Response Matrix is presented to a supervisor when a violation of probation (VOP) is considered and the filing of a VOP must be approved by a

supervisor when the VOP only includes technical violations and/or misdemeanor offenses. An updated PACT assessment is completed no less than every six months for a youth that is under any type of probation supervision. This allows for updated risk and needs information to inform team decisions and regular case planning.

Many of the youth services provided by probation are open to referrals from all other agencies, community-based programs, and self-referral. Unless the youth is detained or the program in question is a parenting class, all services are conducted with individual meetings with the youth and their family. Group-based programming is discouraged with youths, as many studies point out the danger of contamination of youths, particularly those that are low risk to offend, when introduced to new, high risk to offend, potentially negative peers. Further, all Sutter County Probation Officers are trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI) to create a foundational relationship for change. Meta-analyses show that the provider-client relationship plays a large role in client outcome (Hubble, Duncan, and Miller, 1999; Wampold et al., 1997). A critical finding drawn from more than 1,000 research studies concludes: "Putting this all into perspective, the amount of change attributable to the relationship is about seven times that of the amount attributable to a specific model or technique" (Hubble, Duncan, and Miller, 1999). Probation keeps MI at the forefront of probation officers' tools by providing booster trainings several times per year. Probation also implemented a Sanction and Incentive Matrix in 2015, to address the need to provide swift and certain graduated sanctions and incentives for behavior change. From prevention to out-of-home placement, services are provided along a continuum to maintain the rehabilitation of youths and the safety and best interests of the community.

School-based Probation Officers are housed at two of the local high schools, two middle-schools, and one continuation school. The school-based probation officers provide supervision of all youths under probation supervision, as well as assist with truancy matters (particularly as part of the School Attendance Review Team), aid in triaging school behavior issues, identify at-risk youths, refer youths and families to appropriate programs and services, and provide direct-service, evidence-based programming to youths in need. This programming includes The Change Companies journaling system – Forward Thinking, which addresses criminogenic factors, including, but not limited to, aggression, criminal thinking, relationships, family, substance abuse, and victim awareness.

Two probation officers are assigned to address truancy-related issues, one for Yuba City Unified School District, and the other for Live Oak Unified School District. These POs provide supportive services and referrals to students and families to support school attendance. The POs also assist with the Student Attendance Review Team, which is a team of school staff, the PO, and the family, similar to a Child Family Team Meeting, that meets to address any needs/barriers the family may have in getting their child to school. These POs are also members of their respective Student Attendance Review Boards (SARB) and provide case management services to students and families while on SARB contracts.

In August 2019, Sutter County Probation initiated a pilot program supervising Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) aged 18-24 on Formal Probation through the Adult Criminal Court within the juvenile unit to align with research on adolescent brain development. Two caseloads were created with approximately 20 young adults on each caseload, with varying risk levels. Due to AB1950, caseload numbers are reduced to approximately 12 young adults on each caseload. These TAY offenders are eligible for youth services within the department, as well as through Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health. Each case is assumed to be referred to youth services unless the case is



staffed at a supervisor level and screened out of youth services. Thus far, outcomes are looking positive, and TAY offenders have provided positive feedback regarding being on a smaller caseload and receiving more supportive services. These two probation officers also supervise youth offenders on juvenile probation.

### **Juvenile Justice System – Detention and Commitment**

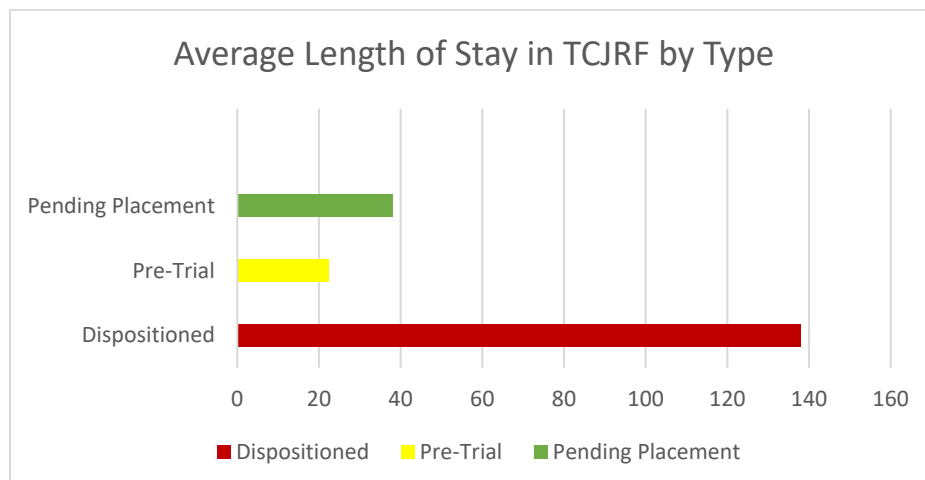
Sutter County Probation does not operate a youth detention facility and is a partner with Yuba and Colusa Counties through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), housing youths at the Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (TCJRF) and the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC) located in Yuba County, and the new Secure Youth Track pod. Yuba County Probation operates all facilities per the JPA. The 60-bed TCJRF facility provides safe and secure housing for Wards and youths pending Delinquency Court under the care of Yuba County and offers an array of programs and services. The MSYGC is a 60-bed facility, providing services to both male and female youths. Currently, the program is only accepting males due to housing and staffing conflicts. The MSYGC will be developing a female-specific program over the next year.

In addition to the fully accredited WASC school program, both facilities utilize evidence-based interventions to include cognitive behavioral groups, case planning, and skill building. In addition, educational services, recreational activities, grief counseling, religious services, medical and behavioral health care are provided to youths during their stay.

Both facilities utilize the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program to incentivize youths' positive behavioral choices. Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) is a program which leads youths to enhanced moral reasoning, improved decision making, and increased frequency of appropriate behavior. MRT is utilized at both facilities. Sutter County Probation provides the Forward Thinking Journaling Series, specifically the Responsible Behavior journal, as part of the MSYGC program curriculum. Sutter County Probation also provides substance abuse counseling services at the MSYGC facility.

In FY 2021-2022, there were 9 Sutter County MSYGC commitments.

In FY 2021-2022, there were 23 Sutter County TCJRF admissions. The Average Daily Population (ADP) was 3 for Sutter County. Average length of stay (days) for detained youths: Pretrial (32); Pending Placement (38); Dispositioned (138).



#### **IV. EXISTING CONTINUUM OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND INTERVENTIONS**

Sutter County takes a proactive approach to preventing juvenile delinquency by effectively intervening with at-risk youths and families. Sutter County also emphasizes partnerships and active collaboration among the many agencies interacting, serving, and working with children and their families. The Family Intervention Team (FIT), comprised of county agencies and partner agencies, continues to look for ways to effectively deal with children who are at risk for involvement in anti-social behavior, crime, or delinquency. For example, this year FIT is working on creating a Multi-Disciplinary Team for Displaced Youth to address homelessness in Sutter County and promote safety and security to increase attendance at schools.

##### **Prevention**

Responding to the needs of youths and their families, the services, programs, and interventions in Sutter County Probation's PREVENTION array include:

- Digital Citizenship
- The Change Companies, Forward Thinking Journaling Series
- The Parent Project
- Seeking Safety
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents
- Child and Family Team Meetings (CFT)
- Referral to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health
- Referral to Sutter North Grief Counseling
- Referral to Sutter County One Stop
- Referral to ancillary services

##### **Early Intervention**

In addition to Prevention efforts, Sutter County Probation also focuses on the needs of at-risk youths already displaying pre-delinquent behavior, first-time offenders, and youths who have committed minor crimes. Probation's EARLY INTERVENTION efforts include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Digital Citizenship
- The Change Companies, Forward Thinking Journaling Series
- The Parent Project
- Seeking Safety
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents
- Child and Family Team Meetings (CFT)
- Matrix Substance Abuse Counseling for Adolescents
- Sutter County Probation Mentoring Program
- Referral to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health
- Referral to Youth for Change
- Referral to Sutter North Grief Counseling
- Referral to Sutter County One Stop
- Referral to ancillary services

## Supervision & Intermediate Interventions

While investing heavily in Prevention and Early Intervention, Sutter County also recognizes the necessity of providing a comprehensive array of SUPERVISION AND INTERMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS to work effectively with those youths and families who have entered the juvenile justice system. Supervision programs and Intermediate Interventions include the following:

- Case Management Services: Include but are not limited to: school monitoring, drug testing, electronic monitoring, referrals for treatment services, Forward Thinking journaling, assistance with scheduling, referrals for community extracurricular programs, educational outings, Child and Family Team Meeting(s), etc.
- Family Assistance Services Team (FAST and SuperFAST) Interagency Committee: Probation partners with Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH), Child Welfare Services (CWS), Sutter County Office of Education (SCOE) and Sutter County's Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs), Yuba City Unified School District, Victor Community Support Services, Alta Regional, and Sutter County Public Health to provide multidisciplinary case conferencing for youths who are in multiple systems of care. The partners also work together on placement for youths with complex and/or special needs, determining, among other things, which system (SYBH, CWS, or Probation) is most appropriate to take the lead with each individual youth and/or family. FAST/SuperFAST also seeks to avoid out of home placement and/or to determine most appropriate placements for youths who must be removed from their homes.
- Incentive and Sanctions Matrix: Probation utilizes an Incentives and Sanctions matrix in order to provide consistency in how incentives and sanctions are used. The use of an Incentive and Sanctions Matrix is an Evidence-Based Practice proven to motivate positive behavior change by placing an emphasis on positive behavior while applying appropriate sanctions for non-compliant behavior.
- Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT): A web-based risk assessment tool which has been used by the Probation Department since 2008. The probation officer receives an output report which is used in determining treatment needs/goals and case planning.
- The Change Companies, Forward Thinking Journaling Series
- The Parent Project
- Seeking Safety
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Substance Abusing Adolescents
- Child and Family Team Meetings (CFT)
- Matrix Substance Abuse Counseling for Adolescents
- Sutter County Probation Mentoring Program
- Referral to Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health
- Referral to Youth for Change
- Referral to Sutter North Grief Counseling
- Referral to Sutter County One Stop
- Referral to ancillary services
- School Focused Services: Case assignments for most youths under probation supervision are primarily based on the school attended by the youth in an effort to provide supportive collaboration between the Probation Department and local school districts.

- Youths who are experiencing significant legal and life problems related to a diagnosis of a mental illness are assigned to a probation officer who collaborates and coordinates behavioral health services through Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health, Children's Systems of Care, Youth for Change, school staff, community service providers, and other agencies in the community. Child and Family Team meetings are held regularly for those youths that need the service. The goal of the caseload is to provide the youths and their family with the services and support needed while the youth's and family's needs are being addressed.
- WRAP - The program provides intensive case management and support for youths who would otherwise be considered for out of home placement, including in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program. Sutter County Health and Human Services, Children's Branch, Child Welfare Services contracts this intensive therapeutic service through Youth for Change, a community-based organization.
- Sutter County began servicing Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) aged 18-24 years old, that are on adult probation within the Juvenile Services Division in August 2019. These approximately 30 TAY offenders are divided between two POs, to establish caseloads of approximately 12-15 young adults per PO. These offenders are provided more intensive services and support than is available on an adult caseload, and their supervision is approached in the same manner as with adolescents with developing brains, rather than as adults, thus aligning with the research that indicates this population is not yet capable of adult-level thinking. Thus, the style of supervision and access to youth services is much different, with the hope being their chances of success and reduction of recidivism will be greater overall.

### **Residential Interventions**

Despite the community and home-based intermediate sanctions available in Sutter County, the need for RESIDENTIAL INTERVENTIONS remains. Options for minors ordered into out of home placement by the Court include the following:

- Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program
- Resource Family Placement

### **Detention, Incarceration, and Long-Term Custody**

The Probation Department and Juvenile Court use detention and long-term custody when lower-level treatment options are inappropriate or have proven ineffective:

- Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (TCJRF): This is a 60-bed secure facility for youths awaiting and pending Juvenile Court proceedings, and adjudicated youths serving a disposition or awaiting transfer to a placement, Secure Youth Track, or the MSYGC program. In FY 2021-2022, there were 23 Sutter County TCJRF admissions.
- Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center: A 60 bed secure program operated by the Yuba County Probation Department which serves as a long-term behavior modification program. The program is approximately 5 months to 1 year in length, based on the positive progress of the youth in the program. In FY 2021-2022, there were 9 Sutter County MSYGC commitments.

- The CDCR, Department of Youth and Community Restoration (DYCR) closed to admissions in July 2020 due to the signing of SB 823 on September 30, 2020. SB 823 includes the closure of DYCR, creating a local program called Secure Youth Track (SYT), whereas youths adjudicated of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 707(b) offenses may be dispositioned to SYT and housed locally at TCJRF. By June 30, 2023, any remaining youths housed at DYCR will return to local counties to enter the SYT program, under the new program's conditions. Sutter County has 1 youth returning from DYCR and said youth should return to Sutter County in late May 2023. The SYT program is a stage-based program, whereby a youth will return to Court for regular six month Progress Review Hearings and may be "stepped down" to lesser restrictive housing at TCJRF and/or MSYGC to Reentry into the community based on their positive progress in the SYT program. STY facility is located on the same campus TCJRF and MSYGC but is a self-contained housing area.

### **Reentry and Aftercare**

- The Probation Department and its public sector and community-based partners are increasingly focused on Reentry/ Aftercare services including the following:
- Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility – the Hall to Home program via Yuba County Office of Education assists youths and families with transition from the facility school back into school when released from detention, as well as connection to supportive services to ease the transition and facilitate success.
- Stepping Stones Aftercare Program - This program provides intensive support, case planning, and case management services for those youths detained and transitioning out of the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center (MSYGC). The Hall to Home program through Yuba County Office of Education also services MSYGC youth with reentry transition services.
- Secure Youth Track (SYT) Reentry - SYT youths returning to the community work with their assigned probation officer the entirety of their in-custody program and collaboratively work together, and with a multi-disciplinary team, prior to release to create a re-entry plan. The youths return to the community with a solid plan in place for housing, counseling services, education and/or employment services. These youth will also benefit from Hall to Home services.
- Youths returning home from an STRTP do so with a supportive hand-off from the STRTP to local community services already in place and can be referred to Wraparound services to assist with the transition.

## **V. PROGRESS TOWARD ADDRESSING IDENTIFIED GAPS, NEEDS AND PROGRAMS**

Sutter County continues to address gaps and needs outlined by the JJCC. Most recently, the feedback provided by stakeholders in the County Self-Assessment process through the California Department of Social Services aided in identifying critical needs for Probation, including family counseling and continued efforts in family finding and recruitment of probation-specific resource families. The FIT committee continues to meet regularly to review programs, services, and gaps in service delivery. The Sutter County Probation Department and its partners conscientiously and

thoughtfully build evidence-based/best practice juvenile justice service capacity and collaborate to leverage resources in ways that effectively address the needs of youth and families throughout the County.

The County Self-Assessment (CSA) noted the following gaps in services:

<b>Assess community-based organizations to provide family therapy services to probation youth and their family</b>
<b>Assess community-based organizations to provide family therapy services to probation youth and their family</b>
<b>Increase availability of services such as Wraparound to serve children/youth in their homes who are at-risk of going into a high-level placement such as an STRTP</b>
<b>Continue utilizing psychological evaluations to accurately assess risk and needs of youth for matching of least restrictive services</b>
<b>Improve access to emergency in-county foster care beds for hard to place children/youth. Research funding opportunities and meet with local FFA providers to assess readiness and ability to address these placement needs</b>
<b>Continue improving upon Family Finding practices</b>
<b>Become more involved in state-wide probation placement consortium</b>

Further, Probation and Child Welfare Service are partnering to implement Part I of the Families First Prevention Services program in 2023. This may include expanding Wraparound services to youths at-risk of entering either the child welfare or probation system. The Comprehensive Prevention Plan is due to the state in June 2023.

## **VI. SUTTER COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE STRATEGY**

Sutter County continues to be proactive in implementing evidence-based strategies, establishing strong collaborative relationships, and developing needed programs and interventions despite limited funding resources. This approach has addressed many of the gaps in services over the years. The members of the JJCC and its partners are committed to continually working collaboratively to develop, expand, and be responsive to the needs and gaps in service in Sutter County as a whole.

The Sutter County juvenile justice strategy continues to be evidence and strength-based, family-focused, and balanced in terms of offender accountability, rehabilitation, and attention to victims. This strategy addresses all elements of the juvenile justice continuum, from prevention through aftercare and reentry, and seeks to utilize available resources to maintain the best service delivery possible across the continuum and throughout the County.