

County of Orange
Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan

2025-26



Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Allocations	1
Eligibility for Funds	2
Target Population.....	3
Additional Target Population Information.....	7
Programs and Services	9
DJJ Realignment Funds.....	11
Facility Plan.....	15
Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System	17
Regional Effort.....	17
Data	18
Other Updates.....	18

Introduction

Senate Bill 823 (SB823), also known as the “Juvenile Justice Realignment: Office of Youth and Community Restoration,” was chaptered on September 30, 2020. Amongst several statutory changes, Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Welfare and Institutions Code (“WIC”) section 1990) was added to Division 2.5 of the WIC to establish a block grant program for the purpose of providing county- based custody, care, and supervision of youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure. Additionally, WIC section 1995 set forth the guidelines for counties interested in becoming eligible for block grant funding.

As a result of SB823, the Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (OCJJCC), during its regularly scheduled meeting on February 25, 2021, approved changes to its bylaws to include the creation of the OCJJCC’s SB823 Subcommittee. Nominations for the new subcommittee were then entertained by the OCJJCC Chair. During the same meeting, the OCJJCC unanimously approved individuals representing the agencies and entities identified in WIC section 1995, subdivision (b) to be part of its new SB823 Subcommittee.

The newly formed SB823 Subcommittee held its first public meeting on April 29, 2021. Over the course of several months, subcommittee members performed the needed analyses, engaged the public, and developed its local plan. The group presented its original draft SB823 plan during the regularly scheduled meeting of the OCJJCC on Thursday, October 28, 2021. The following plan is responsive to the aspects set forth in WIC section 1995, subdivisions (d)(1) through (d)(8) and is the culmination of the collective discussions and partnership between the juvenile court, community, and system stakeholders. This plan will address the needs of youth within the target population improving the outcomes for success and reducing rates of recidivism.

The OCJJCC SB823 Subcommittee convened to discuss and update the County’s JIRBG plan on March 18, 2025, and April 3, 2025. On April 24, 2025, the OCJJCC approved the 2025-2026 plan.

Allocations

Pursuant to WIC section 1991, subdivision (a), and commencing with the 2021-22 fiscal year, and annually thereafter, counties will receive an allocation for use by the county to provide the “appropriate rehabilitative housing and supervision services for the population specified” in WIC section 1990, subdivision (b). The plan required in WIC section 1995 shall be considered by the Board of Supervisors in making allocations and any entity receiving direct allocation of funding from the Board of Supervisors for any secure residential placement for court ordered detention will be subject to existing regulations. “A local public agency that has primary responsibility for prosecuting or making arrests or detentions shall not provide rehabilitative and supervision services for the population specified in subdivision (b) of Section 1990 or receive funding pursuant to this section.” (WIC Section 1991, subd. (a).)

Eligibility for Funds

For eligibility of allocated funds under WIC section 1991, counties must create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council. In Orange County, that council is the OCJJCC which has been in existence since 1996. The subcommittee of the coordinating council must then “develop a plan which describes the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for the population described in subdivision (b) of [WIC] section 1990.” (WIC section 1995, subd. (a).)

Pursuant to WIC section 1995, subdivision (b), the OCJJCC’s subcommittee must be comprised of the following: The chief probation officer, as chair, a representative from the district attorney’s office, public defender’s office, the department of social services, the department of mental health, the county office of education or a school district, and a representative from the court. Also necessary to membership are no fewer than three community members who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates who have expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the system.

The OCJJCC’s SB823 Subcommittee is composed of the following individuals:

Agency	Name & Title	Email	Phone
Orange County Probation Department	Daniel Hernandez Chief Probation Officer	Daniel.Hernandez@prob.ocgov.com	(714) 645-7001
Orange County Probation Department	Jessica Johnson Chief Deputy Probation Officer	Jessica.Johnson@prob.ocgov.com	(714) 645-7004
Orange County District Attorney	Katherine David Assistant District Attorney	Katherine.David@ocdapa.org	(714) 935-7624
Orange County Public Defender	Sara Nakada Chief Deputy Public Defender	Sara.Nakada@ocpubdef.com	(657) 251-8696
Orange County Social Services Agency	Scott Burdick Human Services Deputy Director	Scott.Burdick@ssa.ocgov.com	(714) 245-6131
Orange County Health Care Agency	Dawn Smith Asst. Deputy Director	DawnSmith@ochca.com	(714) 834-5015
Orange County Department of Education	Analee Kredel Associate Superintendent	AKredel@ocde.us	(714) 966-4129
Orange County Juvenile Court	Hon. Craig E. Arthur Juvenile Presiding Judge	carthur@occourts.org	(657) 622-5502
Community Member Waymakers	Hether Benjamin Chief Program Officer	hbenjamin@waymakersoc.org	(949) 250-0488 ext. 254
Community Member Project Youth OC	Laura Corona Marcum Executive Director	laura@pyoc.org	(714) 480-1925 ext. 101
Community Member Project Kinship	Steven Kim Executive Director	steven@projectkinship.org	(714) 909-5225
Community Member Project Kinship	Raymond Sanchez Director of Peer Navigation	raymond@projectkinship.org	(714) 941-8009

Target Population

(WIC section 1995(d)(1): Provide a description of the county's realignment target population including numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including their ages, offense and offense histories, gender, race or ethnicity, and other characteristics, and by the programs, placements, or facilities to which they are referred.)

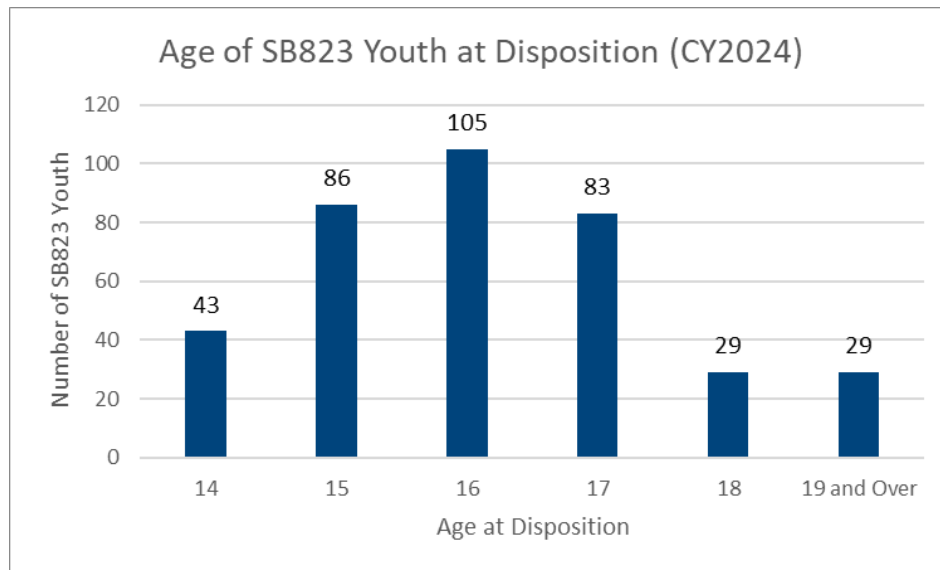
In calendar year 2024, the Orange County Probation Department supervised 375 active youth who met the requirements for SB823 by being adjudicated for WIC section 707(b) offenses and were between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of the offense. These 375 SB823 youth were wards under the jurisdiction of the Orange County Juvenile Court. This includes all who have returned from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) who remain under active supervision. One hundred five (105) SB823 youth had two or more 707(b) offenses. The total number of offenses are listed below:

Department of Justice (DOJ) Hierarchy		
Offense	Total number of 707(b) Offenses	Number of Youth by the Most Serious 707(b) Offense (per youth)
Homicide	14	13
Attempted Homicide	46	32
Robbery	205	130
Assault	277	185
Arson	0	0
Sex Offense	41	<12
Kidnapping	1	<12
Witness Tampering	1	<12
Grand Total	595	375

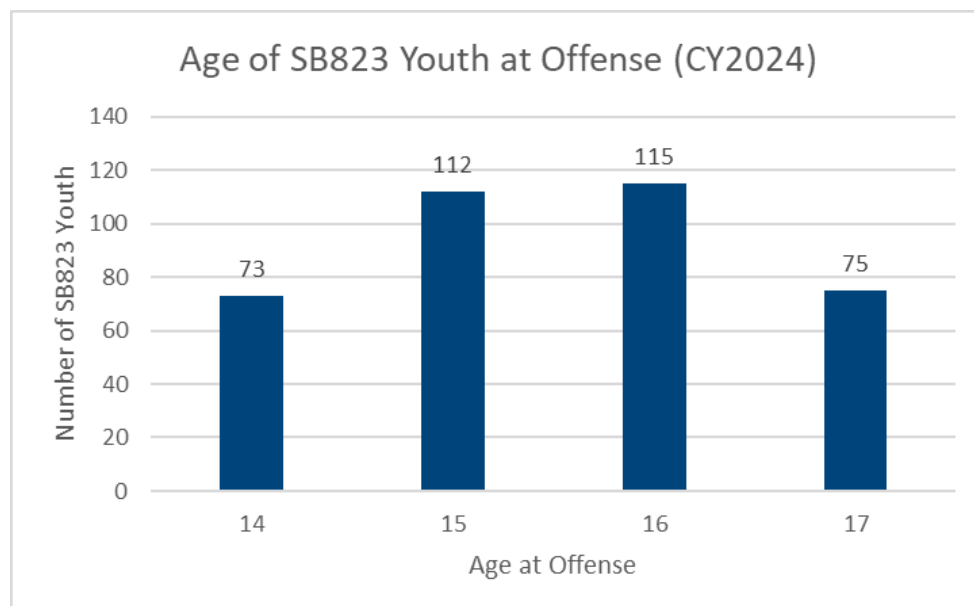
Of the SB823 youth supervised by the Orange County Probation Department, a majority were male; 81% were Hispanic; and 29 of the former minors were 19 years old or older at their first 707(b) offense disposition.

SB823 Demographics of CY 2024
(N=375)

	#	%
Gender		
Male	331	88%
Female	44	12%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	302	81%
Black	27	7%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Other	26	7%
White	20	5%



SB823 requires youth to be between the ages of 14 years old and 17 years old at the time of the 707(b) offense. Thirty-one percent (31%) of youth were 16 years old at the time of their first offense, followed by 30% that were 15 years old.



The Orange County Probation Department completes an Initial Risk and Needs Assessment within 45 days after adjudication. Reassessments occur every six months. For SB823 youth active in CY2024, 82% were assessed to have substance use history and 66% with alcohol use history. In addition, 65% of youth associated with gangs. Overall, 81% were classified as high risk on their Initial Risk Assessment with an average risk score of 21.2. Any score 15 and above is considered high risk.

Initial Risk Assessment

SB823 Youth	
Initial Risk Factors	
Average Initial Risk Score*	21.2
Initial Risk Classification	%
High	81.0
Medium	16.2
Low	2.8
Prior Record	%
No prior arrests or applications for petitions	45.1
Prior arrests, applications for petition or informal probation	37.8
Prior petitions sustained	17.1
Institutional Commitment or Out of Home Placement	%
None	40.6
One or more	59.4
Substance Use (Drugs)	%
No known use; occasional use	17.9
Occasional excessive use	60.2
Dependency	21.9
Alcohol Use	%
No known use; occasional use	33.6
Occasional excessive use	52.7
Dependency	13.7
Parental Control/Influence	%
Generally effective	23.1
Inconsistent/ineffective	53.8
Little or no control	43.1
School Discipline/Employment Problems	%
Attending school, training and/or working	21.0
School attendance or behavior problems	24.1
Truancy or illegal behavior	43.1
Not attending school/not working	11.8
Learning/Academic Performance Problems	%
No significant problems	30.5
Poor academic performance	53.5
Diagnosed learning disability or special class	16.0
Runaway/Escape Behavior	%
None	66.7
Runaway/escape risk	33.3
Negative Peer Influence	%
None	4.2
Negative peer influence or loner	30.5
Gang association	65.3

*Juvenile Initial Risk Classification Score Ranges: 0-5 (Low); 6-14 (Medium); 15+ (High)

Of the 375 SB823 youth supervised by the Orange County Probation Department in CY2024, 46% of youth (171) were adjudicated of at least one 707(b) offense in 2024, and 22% of youth (81) had supervision terminated prior to the end of 2024. Four percent (4%) of SB823 youth (15) were transferred out of Orange County to another county for continued supervision.

Two hundred thirty- eight (238) SB823 youth out of the 375 CY2024 SB823 youth have either completed or are serving a court-ordered commitment; 137 were not ordered commitment time. For these 238 youth with commitments, they had a total of 269 petitions containing at least one 707(b) offense where a commitment was ordered.

Court-Ordered Commitment Days		
Commitment (in days)	Number	Percent
30 or less	14	5%
31-90	76	28%
91-180	79	29%
181-364	33	12%
365-600	26	10%
601-999	15	6%
1,000 or more	26	10%
Total Petitions	269	100%

The average commitment length was 351 days, while the median commitment length was 150 days. Approximately 33% of commitments were 90 days or less with (62%) of commitments having a duration less than 6 months. Approximately 26% of the commitments ordered were one year or longer, and the longest commitment time was 3,064 days.

The Orange County Probation Department gathered the following target population information for the 375 SB823 youth that were active during CY2024:

- # of youth that received ASERT/STEP (alcohol or substance use treatment) at the Youth Guidance Center – 95
- # of youth that participated in the Youth Leadership Academy – 96
- # of youth in the Accountability Commitment Program – 133
- # of youth that participated in the Youth Reporting Center – 79
- # of youth that participated in the Youth Development Court – 40

In Fiscal Year 2023- 2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024), [REDACTED] were transferred to adult court. [REDACTED] had transfer hearings, but their cases remained in Juvenile Court.

Additional Target Population Information

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

Data Summary of Active SB823 Youth on March 20, 2025

In addition to the CY2024 data presented above, the following data offers a one-day snapshot of the SB823 population in Orange County on March 20, 2025. On March 20, 2025, the Orange County Probation Department supervised 274 active youth who were adjudicated for WIC section 707(b) offenses and were between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of the offense. Ninety (90) youth had two or more 707(b) offenses. The total number of offenses are listed below:

Department of Justice (DOJ) Hierarchy		
Offense	Total number of 707(b) Offenses	Number of Youth by the Most Serious 707(b) Offense (per youth)
Homicide	14	13
Attempted Homicide	35	22
Robbery	150	96
Assault	206	137
Sex Offense	30	<12
Kidnapping		<12
Witness Tampering		<12
Grand Total	441	274

Of the SB823 youth supervised by the Orange County Probation Department, a majority were male; 84% were Hispanic; and 36 former minors were 20 years old or older as of March 20, 2025.

SB823 Demographics: Snapshot as of March 20th, 2025 (N = 274)

	#	%
Gender		
<i>Male</i>	243	89%
<i>Female</i>	31	11%
Ethnicity		
<i>Hispanic</i>	229	84%
<i>Black</i>	15	5%
<i>Asian/Pacific Islander/Other</i>	16	6%
<i>White</i>	14	5%

Of the 274 SB823 youth supervised by the Orange County Probation Department, 51 were in custody on March 20, 2025, including 24 youth at the Youth Guidance Center or the Youth Leadership Academy. The remaining 223 youth were supervised in the community.

Location of Active SB823 Youth on March 20 th , 2025		
	Number	Percent
In Custody	51	19%
<i>Juvenile Hall</i>	27	
<i>Camps (Youth Guidance Center or Youth Leadership Academy)</i>	24	
Not in Custody (Supervised in the Community)	223	81%
Total	274	100%

Data Summary of Pending SB823 Youth on March 20, 2025

On March 20, 2025, 138 youth had pending 707(b) charges and were between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of the offense. These youth are SB823 eligible upon adjudication of their WIC section 707(b) charges. Fourteen (14) of these youth have been adjudicated of 707(b) offense(s) in the past and are also included in the active snapshot above as well as here. Fifty-seven (57) youth had two or more 707(b) offenses pending as of March 20, 2025. The total number of pending 707(b) offenses are listed below:

Department of Justice (DOJ) Hierarchy		
Offense	Total number of 707(b) Offenses	Most Serious 707(b) Offense (per youth)
Homicide	30	26
Attempted Homicide	29	<12
Robbery	54	40
Assault	101	57
Sex Offense		<12
Kidnapping		0
Witness Tampering		0
Grand Total	225	138

Of the pending SB823 youth, a majority were male; 71% were Hispanic; and 43 former minors were 20 years old or older as of March 20, 2025.

Pending SB823 Demographics: Snapshot as of March 20th, 2025 (N = 138)

	#	%
Gender		
<i>Male</i>	124	90%
<i>Female</i>	14	10%
Ethnicity		
<i>Hispanic</i>	98	71%
<i>Black</i>	12	9%
<i>White</i>	16	11%
<i>Asian/Pacific Islander/ Other</i>	12	9%

The SB823 subcommittee determined Orange County's local plan would need to focus service delivery on the needs of older male youth. Given the fact that (due to the severity of offenses committed) the majority of the target population youth serve custodial commitments, in reach and reentry types of services (provided through community partnerships) are at the core of Orange County's planning efforts.

Programs and Services

(WIC section 1995(d)(2): Provide a description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population.)

The County of Orange is committed to providing a trauma-informed approach to each youth within the target population that begins the moment a youth enters the juvenile facility. Integral to this approach is the early identification of a peer mentor/navigator who will support the youth throughout the youth's commitment and follow the youth after release to assist in the reentry process. Youth committed to the Secure Track Youth program will be provided with enhanced frequency of services compared to youth in the larger target population.

Part of this approach also includes a case conference meeting that will be held within 10 days from the youth's entry into a juvenile facility. The youth, parent/guardian, peer mentor/navigator, community-based organizations and designated individuals from the following agencies will participate in the case conference: Probation, Health Care Agency, and the Department of Education. The case conference will provide an opportunity for the youth's input in the development of a robust case plan that will assist all service providers in addressing the youth's needs and goals. This case plan will identify a youth's immediate health and basic needs, educational goals, barriers to success (such as tickets and fines, school access or securing vital documents), existing familial supports as well as the youth's support systems. Case plan goals may include, but not be limited to, attaining high school education or the equivalent, participating in programming to improve job readiness (i.e., college or trade school courses), and independent living skills. Any transitional, reentry support services will also be culturally responsive and whenever possible utilize evidence-based, promising, and trauma-informed practices. The case plan will continue to be assessed relying on input from the youth and reviewed every 30 days through additional case conferences.

If a youth is committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility ("SYTF"), Probation must submit an Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) to the court within 30 court days. Their existing case plan and the IRP will consider an assessment of the youth's needs and risk to recidivate as well as any mood/anxiety symptoms, risk of suicide/self-harm, history of alcohol/drug use, history of trauma, current traumatic stress symptoms, risk of violence/sexual victimization and risk of commercial sexual exploitation. Based on this assessment, additional case plan goals, including barriers to prior rehabilitative efforts, short- and long-term goals will be identified and directed at promoting successful reentry for the youth into their community. Case plan reviews for SYTF youth will be reviewed every 30 days through regularly scheduled case conferences. The youth's educational milestones/goals will be reviewed as well as all other reentry goals (e.g., participation in court-ordered treatment, job readiness classes/training). Additionally, SYTF youth will have access to

behavioral health and substance use disorder professionals to address any challenges that may hinder successful re-integration back into the community.

The progress of SYTF youth will be provided to the juvenile court every six months at calendared progress review hearings regarding the youth's case plan development and the youth's progress toward completion of goals along with the youth's readiness for reentry relative to the IRP. At least six months prior to release, a reentry conference will be scheduled with the youth and case conference members. At this case conference, the youth, the youth's family and/or identified support, peer mentor/navigator, assigned deputy probation officer, service providers and community partners will review the youth's case plan progress. Additionally, transition planning (e.g., a review of parent/guardian readiness to receive the youth back home or housing options for our older youth) will be discussed. The youth's peer mentor/navigator will also be crucial to allow the youth to engage in off-site activities designed to improve the youth's successful transition. Upon release, the youth and assigned deputy probation officer will work towards completing final case plan goals until juvenile court jurisdiction terminates, or the youth completes supervision satisfactorily whichever comes first. Any transitional, reentry support services will also be culturally responsive and whenever possible utilize evidence-based, promising, and trauma-informed practices.

Presently, programs and services will be provided on site at each of the County's juvenile facilities. However, the County is currently working on strategic plans to renovate, build and potentially redesign the existing juvenile detention facilities including a relocation of at least one juvenile camp. (This plan is detailed below in the "Facility Plan" section.) As part of this plan, specialized housing for the SYTF population as well as considerations based on a youth's gender, identity, age, behavioral health needs, offense, and severity of the offense are occurring. Through this plan, the County, with input from the juvenile justice stakeholders and community partners, looks forward to creating more therapeutic, trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, and homelike settings which would be appropriate and livable for longer term commitments when necessary. Included in these plans are step-down units or facilities that will meet the needs of the SYTF population and be conducive to the services and programs being delivered.

As for service providers and supervision for the target population, the Probation Department employs a diverse and experienced staff of direct supervision officers who will work with this population. The ratio of at least one deputy probation correctional officer (DPCO) to every eight youth during waking hours is anticipated. Additional staff may be assigned to areas housing committed Secure Track youth. Probation staff receive state approved training curriculum which includes diverse topics such as professionalism and ethics, crisis communication and de-escalation, group dynamics, responding to medical emergencies, fire and life safety, cultural diversity and ethnic disparity, gender identity, case planning, addressing and reporting child abuse, preventing sexual assault, trauma, symptomology of substance use, suicide prevention, and core correctional practices to support safety.

The County will also look to create and build upon existing relationships with service providers through local agencies as well as community-based organizations to provide appropriate programs and services to the target population.

DJJ Realignment Funds

(WIC Section 1995(d)(3)(A) through (d)(3)(F): Provide a description of how grant funds will be applied to address each of the following areas of need or development for realigned youth: Mental Health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs; support programs or services that promote the health adolescent development; family engagement programs; reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education; evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally response; and any services or programs that will be provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers.)

DJJ Realignment funding will be utilized to develop robust, individualized treatment plans for the target population youth focused on the youth's behavioral health, educational and emotional needs, community-based mentorship, and family engagement/support for those youth identified as SB823 and those youth pending SB823 eligibility. Any transitional, reentry support services will also be culturally responsive and whenever possible utilize evidence-based, promising, and trauma-informed practices with an annual review of services and programs through an outside provider to measure the effectiveness of such programming. While funding may be applied to county-based custody, care and supervision of SB 823 eligible youth pursuant to the statute, priority will be given to funding programs and services if funds are limited.

A. Behavioral Health, Sex Offender Treatment, or Related Behavioral or Trauma-based Needs

Allocated funds will be used to expand the number of behavioral health clinicians serving the target population youth and to procure additional evidence-informed services for this population including treatment for violent sex offenders. As set forth above, robust, individualized case planning will occur for each target population youth at the outset and will include information from risk/needs assessments and any behavioral health issues identified through existing screening tools.

Planned additional services in the areas of behavioral health, sex offender treatment and or trauma may include:

- Substance use education and counseling
- Evidence-based cognitive behavior therapy approaches and/or groups
- On site 24-hour behavioral health services that are available 7 days a week
- Medication Assisted Treatment ("MAT")
- Psychiatric services
- Sex offender treatment, including treatment for violent sex offenders
- Trauma-focused clinical interventions
- Gang intervention services and support
- Socially and culturally inclusive restorative practices
- Mindfulness based programs
- Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing ("EMDR")
- Art and Music Therapy

Staff members and involved systems professionals will receive training in national best practices to support reentry needs.

B. Support programs or Services that promote healthy adolescent development

DJJ Realignment funds will be utilized to procure services for the target population which are evidence-informed, rehabilitative, developmentally appropriate, and support the Positive Youth Development Model. Identified services include Restorative Circles, Cognitive Behavior Training, Reentry Services, System Navigator/Peer Mentor/Credible Messenger, Educational/Vocational Services, and Life Skills. Treatment and service providers will be required to support pro-social development by including the youth's voice in programming decisions, offering programs that support healthy relationships, financial literacy, job readiness, pro-social and adolescent development, hygiene and self-care, mindfulness, artistic expression and enrichment, and opportunities for leadership development.

To continue to promote a youth's healthy development, appropriate medical screenings, behavioral health, and dental screenings will occur along with preventative care including dental cleanings every six months.

C. Family Engagement in Programs

Recognizing that family can provide extensive knowledge about a youth and their background, the identification of a youth's family and/or familial supports will be done within 10 days from the youth's entry into a juvenile facility. Once identified, any familial support will be essential members of the case conference with a meeting held within 10 days from the youth's intake at the facility. With the engagement of the youth, family, service providers and peer mentor/navigator, a robust individualized case plan will identify a youth's immediate physical and behavioral health and basic needs, educational goals, and support systems.

The engagement of family through regular onsite visitation at the juvenile facilities is a significant source of support for youth and enabling a youth to connect to family whilst in custody oftentimes promotes the youth's well-being. In recognition of this, the Probation Department has expanded the definition of "family" to allow visitation between an in-custody youth and individuals such as aunts, uncles, cousins, adult siblings, non-biological relatives, and more. In addition, the newly constructed multi-purpose center on the juvenile justice campus will serve as a more welcoming space for visitation.

Additionally, since some of the County's target population youth are parents themselves, programs including the Teen Parenting program and the Just Beginning and Child Bonding curriculum will be provided to youth in custody. Psychoeducation on parenting and resources in the community will also be provided. These programs allow youth to find commonality, strength, and encouragement to assist in meeting the demands of parenthood while in and out of custody. They are facilitated through use of videos,

education materials, activities, and structured visits to assist in their child's development.

D. Reentry, Including Planning and Linkages to Support Employment, Housing, and Continuing Education

Reentry planning for the target population youth will begin upon intake at the juvenile facility. The County will build upon the existing reentry model presently utilized by the County's Youth Development Court ("YDC") which is a post-Prop 57 court developed to assist youth in making a successful transition from lengthy local juvenile commitments as well as those youth who had been committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice to their communities. Through this model, reentry case planning involving the youth that identifies the youth's support network, engages the youth's family/caregiver, services providers, and community providers begins at the time of intake. This process encourages the youth to start planning for their success both in and out of custody and immediately identifies their supportive partners. Thereafter, through regular case conferences involving the youth and identified case conference members, this reentry plan will be a fluid, working document that follows the youth throughout their commitment. Reentry plans include housing, basic needs, employment, education, counseling, behavioral health services, and any other factors, inclusive of culturally appropriate services, involved in promoting the youth's well-being within the youth's community. A validated risk/needs assessment is also used as a valuable tool in guiding the plan.

At least six months prior to release, the reentry plan will focus on a community-centered reentry phase during which the youth will obtain supportive and transitional services from the clinical and educational teams as well as community-based providers whilst in custody. During this phase, educational, vocational, and career opportunities for the youth outside of the facilities will be pursued to allow a measured transition back to the youth's community.

In collaboration with Probation, the Orange County Department of Education (DOE) provides educational opportunities to youth within the County's juvenile facilities. Target population youth engage in educational programming based upon their age and high school graduation status. Youth generally focus on completing credits necessary to earn a California High School Diploma or GED, while former youth not only obtain their diploma, but continue on with advanced studies via transferrable community college courses, career technical education sequences that lead to pre-apprentice certifications, or, depending on length of stay, may engage in upper division university coursework leading to a bachelor's degree.

Community-based organizations who partner with Probation will assist youth in finding housing and employment opportunities for the target population. Community partners will be subject to an objective process like a Request for Proposal. Orange County intends to set aside funding to support rental assistance, clothing for job opportunities, and other related issues needed to maintain or secure housing, services, or employment.

After establishing a reentry plan, assigned probation officers will work collaboratively with the youth, the youth's family/caregivers/support network, the juvenile facility staff, community reentry partners, and other stakeholders (i.e., Department of Education and Health Care Agency) from the time the youth is committed through their termination of wardship.

E. Evidence-based, Promising, Trauma-informed, and Culturally Responsive Services and Programs

The Probation Department is dedicated to providing evidence-informed, rehabilitative, and developmentally appropriate programming to the target population youth. The services and programs will be centered on a Positive Youth Development Model and support a youth's pro-social development by including their voices in programming decisions and working collaboratively to meet their needs.

Services and programs will be provided through existing partnerships and new contracts with providers such as the Orange County Health Care Agency and community-based organizations. Such services will include consistent evidence-based cognitive behavior therapy approaches and/or groups, substance use education and treatment, sex offender treatment, aggression replacement therapy, trauma-focused clinical interventions, gang intervention services and support, positive pro-social programming, creative arts programming, and mindfulness-based programs.

All probation staff are trained in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex (LGBTQI) communities and culture to ensure fairness and respect for LGBTQI youth in the facilities. Such training allows staff to promote environments of sensitivity and professional boundaries for all youth, inclusive of LGBTQI youth, and promotes competency in working with LGBTQI youth. Probation staff are also familiar/trained in corrections supervision strategies that have been proven effective by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute including, but not limited to, trauma-informed interactions, cognitive behavioral strategies that influence behavior, and incentive-based interventions.

Probation staff will have the opportunity to attend training specific to: Addiction and Recovery, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC), Conflict Resolution, Effective Communication and De-escalation, Education as a Tool for Successful Reentry, Cultural Diversity/Humility, Implicit Bias, Racial Profiling, Avoiding Manipulation, Helping Youth Grieve, Impact of Trauma on Development, Managing Stress, Coping with Grief and Loss, Secondary Trauma, Wellness and Self-Care, Youth Trauma, DJJ Realignment: Preparing for Transitional Aged Youth and many courses on youth behavioral health intervention and disorders.

Funding will be used to provide appropriate training to probation staff and collaborative partners in the areas of trauma, culturally responsive practices and other identified need areas. Additional proposed training includes areas such as restorative justice/practices and reentry focused topics.

F. Nongovernmental or Community-based Providers

Utilizing existing relationships with non-governmental and community-based providers through the YDC, new services and enhancements to existing programs provided through such entities will be pursued. Services and programs supported by grant funding will include mentorship, restorative circles, team building and leadership development, financial literacy, creative and culinary arts, pro-social programming, job training, furlough opportunities, enrichment activities, gang intervention services and support, and transportation to secondary education/vocational sites and/or employment.

To ensure continuity and collaboration during reentry, the development of relationships between the primary service provider and organizations such as community agencies, schools, faith-based organizations and public services will be encouraged.

Probation will continue to utilize established protocols and processes to provide linkage and collaboration between community-based providers and non-governmental entities within the County.

Facility Plan

(WIC section 1995(d)(4): Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine realigned youth at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. This should include how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics.)

The County of Orange (through its Probation Department) operates one secure juvenile detention facility, Orange County Juvenile Hall (JH), and two juvenile camp facilities, Orange County's Youth Guidance Center (YGC) and Youth Leadership Academy (YLA). The Probation Department employs a staffing pattern at each of the juvenile facilities that exceeds state/federal recommended minimum staff to youth ratios. In addition, Probation leverages its existing partnership with the Orange County Department of Education as well as the Orange County Health Care Agency to ensure the educational, and behavioral health needs of each youth are met. All sworn Probation staff at these facilities are familiar/trained in corrections supervision strategies that have been proven effective including, but not limited to, trauma-informed interactions, cognitive behavioral strategies that influence behavior, and incentive-based interventions. The environment within Probation's facilities strikes the necessary balance between maintaining safe/secure juvenile facility operations while providing resources necessary to address the rehabilitative needs of all detained youth.

With the above in mind, Secure Track youth will be housed/supported in any unit at JH. The youth's prevailing needs will determine where in JH that youth may be placed. In addition to the above-described staffing/partnership structure, JH currently has specialized housing, programs and considerations based on youth gender identity, age, behavioral health needs, offense type and severity of the offense. Target population youth and committed Secure Track youth, absent

another prevailing housing need, will be housed with their like peers considering the most appropriate setting based on age, risk level and other needs. This strategy will allow Probation the flexibility to house older male Secure Track/target population youth together, while other Secure Track/target population youth, including female and younger individuals may be housed in other areas of JH to better accommodate their specific needs and/or address the different stages of maturity, and program appropriateness.

As Secure Track youth progress through the JH facility program, they can be moved/housed within YGC, or YLA to continue their custodial commitment until they are released. Should the court order a Secure Track youth directly to YGC, or YLA, the committed youth will be integrated into the YGC/YLA populations, absent extenuating circumstances.

The County of Orange is currently working on strategic plans to renovate, build and potentially redesign the existing juvenile detention facilities including a relocation of at least one juvenile camp. To this end, the County has contracted with an architectural design firm for research, development, and a design plan. Phase one of the overall redesign includes plans to build a new facility called the Youth Transitional Center (YTC) on the grounds of the current Juvenile Hall. This new facility will be used as a replacement for the existing YGC facility once completed. The plans for YTC include up to 60 beds in living units and, a transitional housing unit with 8 beds for youth preparing to re-enter the community. Phase two of the redesign proposed two additional 28-bed housing units for youth serving long-term commitments on JH grounds and 40 additional apartment style beds within an Independent Living Program outside the perimeter of YLA/JH. New classrooms (educational/ vocational), a library and a school administration office are also proposed in the second phase of the project. The Probation Department, justice stakeholders and community partners will continue to work together to design and build facilities that create a more therapeutic, trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate setting for all youth including those committed to the SYTF. Specialized housing and considerations based on a youth's gender identity, age, behavioral health needs, offense, and severity of the offense are also being considered. The shared vision/goal of all new or renovated space for target population youth and those committed to the SYTF is a more homelike setting, appropriate and livable for longer term commitments when necessary. Included in these plans are step-down units or facilities that will meet the needs of the SYTF population.

Youth in the SYTF and in the target population will also be provided appropriate space for physical activities and the development of reentry skills as they move through the phases of their commitments. Space will be designed to enhance existing and future services. Activities will include secondary educational programs, career technical education, vocational skills training, and life skills that will assist the youth in successful reentry.

Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System

(WIC section 1995(d)(5): Provide a description of how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system in lieu of transfers of realigned youth into the adult criminal justice system.)

Building off the YDC model, the County has seen a reduction in transfers to the adult criminal justice system through a collaborative endeavor between the Juvenile Court, Probation, juvenile justice stakeholders, and community-based organizations. Planned enhancements to YDC through the services and programs identified in the County's realignment plan will add another layer of rehabilitative services and reentry support for youth within the target population.

Additionally, by developing a robust, well-informed, individualized case plan that also considers criminogenic needs and includes ongoing case conferences which engage the youth, their family/support network, services providers, peer mentor/navigator and any other community-based providers, the likelihood of any target population youth entering the adult system is reduced. Family engagement training and planning will continue to be offered to staff. Additional SB823 DPCO positions have been proposed to provide similar services to the remaining SB823 population when staffing levels are available. Moreover, with a focus on reentry at the outset of a youth's case, planning for continuation of care that minimizes a disruption of services and establishes community and peer support, promotes stronger ties to a youth's community and reduces their chance of entry in the adult system.

Regular assessments of the effectiveness of existing and future programs and services must also be done to ensure appropriate successful outcomes for the target population and the retention of these youth within the juvenile justice system. Programming will be evaluated with a focus on providing services that will decrease the likelihood of transfer to the adult system. Where appropriate, implementation of existing services will be enhanced through continuing education of staff in areas including trauma informed practices, implicit bias, and conflict resolution.

SYTF youth will also be provided step-down opportunities outlined specifically within their individualized plan. Youth will be given specific target goals to effectuate the step-down process. The identification of specific goals will incentivize youth to meet those goals through positive reinforcement.

Regional Effort

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

There are no regional agreements or arrangements that will be supported by the block grant allocation.

Data

(WIC section 1995(d)(7): Describe how data will be collected on the youth served and outcomes for youth served by the block grant program including a description of outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds)

The Orange County Probation Department has a data collection system. This data system has the capability to track “recidivism” related measurements such as risk/needs assessments, number of arrests, and sustained petitions. The system can also produce reports of real time data to provide outcome measures for the programs and interventions supported by block grant funding.

Evaluation of Data

Data will be collected to evaluate the impact of the County’s plan on the youth’s rehabilitation, recidivism, and public safety. Data points may include youth development and wellness data, including, but not limited to, education attainment, employment, behavioral health, housing, family connections, foster care, and other wellness outcomes. Although the current system can capture some of these data points, an evaluation is necessary to determine what added programming and/or personnel resources are needed to capture additional data. Additionally, an independent data evaluator is currently in the process of being contracted to allow for an objective review and report on the outcomes and data regarding our programs.

Other Updates

(WIC section 1995 (d)(8): Describe any progress on elements since May 1, 2024)

The County of Orange has made huge strides in focusing on and fulfilling many of the proposed components of the previous realignment plan. With existing County partners, community-based organizations (CBO), and various service providers, we have implemented several evidence-based treatment programs/services and created a wide variety of supportive and youth focused resources, specific to the target population. The updates below provide specific information on the responsiveness of the County of Orange to meet the needs of the youth and the commitment to provide services, programs, and opportunities to the youth within the target population.

Contracts were signed with the community-based organization, Project Kinship (PK) to provide Restorative Circle Services, Cognitive Behavioral Training Services, Re-Entry Services, and System Navigator/Peer Mentor Services. In February of 2025 the contracted services had been in place for a year. The services are currently being provided to youth within all juvenile facilities and referred youth within the community. Additionally, a PK Youth Transformation Program drop-in site is being constructed within the Juvenile Justice complex with completion set for June 2025, which will allow for additional services within the community for the target population. PK staff are trained in various evidence-based practices, several staff have justice system lived experience, and they provide services within both the juvenile and adult justice arenas within Orange County.

In May 2024, the department contracted with the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp. This is a

new opportunity for eligible male youth who are 18-25, under juvenile court jurisdiction and serving a commitment within our juvenile facilities. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) jointly operate Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp (Pine Grove) in Amador County. Camp partners include Amity Foundation and Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) which collaboratively instill a therapeutic community for youth participating in the camp. Pine Grove provides housing, care and training to county youth. Youth who participate in the program will receive various supportive programming, as well as firefighting specific training. Comprehensive rehabilitative program services are uniquely designed to accommodate youth employment schedules, youth specific needs, and address: positive reinforcement ethics, criminal addictive thinking, violence interruption and knowledge, motivational incentives and success, restorative justice and empathy, substance abuse counseling, reentry and reintegration programs and transitional planning and housing. Additional program services include an athletic fitness/sports program, college coursework, community service, religious services, and volunteer programs. Youth will receive 96 hours of training to receive six professional entry-level wildland fire service certificates. One certificate is received from CALFIRE and five additional certificates are received from the National Wildfire Coordination Group. Youth will use the skills they learn in training on various conservation and fire prevention projects. In early December, a youth from the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) was accepted and was transported to the program.

To fulfill many of the proposed programs within the County's previous plan, the Orange County Probation Department (OCPD) has solicited for providers for various services and resources focused on providing opportunities for the target population. A vendor has been identified to provide contracted services for vocational/educational training, specifically automotive training, that will be provided in the auto-shop within the Multipurpose Rehabilitation Center (MRC). OCPD has released two separate Request for Proposals (RFPs) for vocational and educational services to expand existing services for the target population. College level classes continue to be provided to eligible youth through our partnership with local community colleges.

The department is in the process of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Segerstrom Center for the Arts (SCFTA), a local performing arts venue that hosts a wide variety of performances and provides innovative education programs. Every summer SCFTA facilitates a program with youth from Probation and DOE, which includes several days of instruction and activities in preparation for a musical performance the youth present to collaboratives, community members, and the youth's families. Probation is looking to expand this opportunity by providing teaching artists to instruct dancing, singing, and acting within the facilities. This performance instruction will culminate in musical productions that can be attended by the youths' families, peers and staff.

The number of Transitional Care Coordinator (TCC) DPCO positions increased from four to six staff, allowing for services to expand to all juvenile facilities. These staff work with the target population focusing on developing a robust, well-informed, individualized case plan within case conference meetings including the youth, parent/guardian, peer mentor, CBO personnel, as well as behavioral

health and education representatives. TCC staff also assist with Medi-Cal and public assistance referrals for eligible youth and/or their families, in coordination with the Social Services Agency (SSA).

OCPD has contracted with Open Gate International for culinary arts vocational training. The 12-week program trains youth on the basics of kitchen procedures and focuses on the demands and requirements of food preparation, cooking, and the presentation of food. This program is provided on a rotational basis within all the juvenile facilities.

The Health Care Agency (HCA) provides behavioral health and various other supportive programs to youth within the facilities. Utilizing allocated funds, the number of behavioral health clinicians serving the target population youth has expanded, with clinicians now on site at the facility seven days a week until 9 pm, and clinicians on call after hours. This has allowed for youth behavioral health needs to be addressed when issues are presented or during crisis situations. In addition, several clinicians have received specialized training in various evidence-based modalities to provide enhanced behavioral health services to ensure youth receive the behavioral health treatment they need. These enhanced behavioral health services include Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and the Matrix Model, an intensive treatment designed to address substance use. HCA has also hired Peer Mentors to provide support to the target population while in-custody and for continued assistance and community linkages upon release.

Although HCA provides programming to youth that focuses on life skills such as self-respect, building healthy relationships, financial literacy, job readiness, and other pro-social and adolescent development skill building; the department has identified a vendor to provide life skills specific programming to target population youth. The contract is in the final stages of getting approved and the services are on target to begin in June 2025.

To ensure an objective review of the outcomes related to our current programming, OCPD has contracted with Justice System Partners since August 2024 to provide consulting services regarding research, as an independent data evaluator.

Preparation for construction of the new Youth Transitional Center (YTC) has begun. Several existing buildings need to be demolished to create space for the YTC. This facility will include five-12 bed units and a unit with eight transitional housing beds. The transitional housing program will allow for a step-down option for youth who are preparing to re-enter into the community. This project will be considered phase one of several pending construction projects within the County's juvenile facilities. The County is planning on building two 28-bed housing units for youth serving long-term commitments and 40 additional apartment style beds within an Independent Living Program outside the perimeter of YLA/JH. However, these two projects will now be part of phase two of the juvenile facilities construction projects.