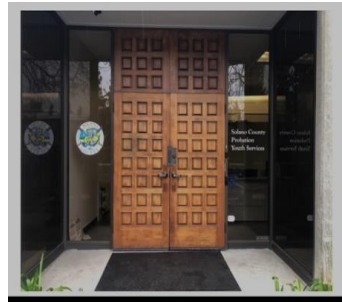


# SOLANO COUNTY



## 2025 Consolidated Annual Juvenile Justice Plan



Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

<https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/probation>

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) program was created by the Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Chapter 353) to provide a continuous revenue source to counties for local juvenile justice programs that have proven effective at reducing recidivism and delinquency among at-risk youth. JJCPA funding supports prevention and intervention strategies that provide for a continuum of responses with a collaborative and integrated approach for implementation.

Assembly Bill 1998 (Chapter 880, Statutes of 2016) was enacted with legislation taking effect on January 1, 2017, addressing the reporting requirements for JJCPA and the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG). YOBG funding was implemented to enhance the capacity of local communities to provide an effective continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency. Services seek to enhance the capacity of county probation, mental health, behavioral health, and other agencies to provide appropriate rehabilitative and supervision programs to youth who are no longer eligible for commitment to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and must be supervised locally. This legislation requires counties to submit the most recent version of its Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). The below JJCPA-YOBG annual plan reflects the updated services and supports funded with JJCPA and YOBG funding to provide preventative and rehabilitative services to at-risk and justice involved youth.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Solano County has a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Council as prescribed by California Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) 749.22. The Solano County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) is funded by the State of California, in recognition of the need for resources and the value of local discretion and multiagency collaboration in addressing the problem of juvenile crime in communities. Solano County government agencies and community-based organizations play a critical role in delivering the determined services. Members of the JJCC include the Chief Probation Officer as Committee Chair, and one representative each from the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Department, Board of Supervisors, Health and Social Services Department, a community-based drug and alcohol program, a city police department, County Office of Education or a school district, and an at-large community representative. The Coordinating Council also includes representatives from nonprofit community-based organizations providing services to youth.

### **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Members**

**Krishna Abrams**, District Attorney

**Linda Connelly**, Community Based Organization Representative

**Elena D'Agustino**, Public Defender

**Terrye Davis**, Juvenile Court Judge

**Leticia De La Cruz**, Mental Health Services Administrator, Behavioral Health

**Lissette Estrella-Henderson**, Superintendent of Schools

**Dean Farrah**, Chief Probation Officer (Chair)

**Tom Ferrara**, Sheriff/Coroner

**Cassandra James**, 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor

**Julie Hilt**, Member of the Public

**Dan Marshall**, Chief, Fairfield Police Department

**Neely McElroy**, Deputy Director, Child Welfare Services

**Michael Pendergast**, Member of the Public

## **OVERVIEW**

To encourage coordination and collaboration among the various local agencies serving at-risk youth, the BSCC advises county Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils (JJCC) to review and update the county's juvenile justice plan, as necessary, each year. This document will provide an overview of the JJCPA and YOBG plan, a review of ongoing efforts toward meeting action plan recommendations, goals and objectives, strategies that are being deployed or are being planned, and summaries of spending plans.

### **Assembly Bill (AB) 1998 Consolidation**

Assembly Bill 1998 combined reporting requirements for the JJCPA and the YOBG programs. As of January 1, 2018, counties may submit a consolidated annual plan describing the programs, placements, strategies, services, and system enhancements supported by either JJCPA or YOBG funding. This report is Solano County's 2025 consolidated comprehensive juvenile justice plan.

### **Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)**

JJCPA was created by the Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Chapter 353) to provide state funding for counties to implement programs that have proven effective in reducing crime and delinquency among at-risk youth and youthful offenders. The amount allocated is based on the county's overall population. In order to maintain program continuity in uncertain budget times, the plan recommends a minimum of 20% reserve to address unanticipated budget, program cost fluctuations, and program sustainability. This initiative involves a partnership between the State of California, 58 counties, and various community-based organizations to enhance public safety by reducing juvenile crime and delinquency.

Targeted interventions that have resulted in lower crime rates among juveniles statewide include intensive family interventions, after-school programs for at-risk youth, gang and truancy prevention, job training, and diversion programs.

## **Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)**

The Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) program, enacted in 2007 by Senate Bill 81 (SB81) (Chapter 175, Statutes of 2007), provides state funding for counties to deliver custody and care (i.e., appropriate rehabilitative and supervisory services) to youthful offenders who previously would have been committed to the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) are supervised at the local level. In September 2020, Senate Bill 823 was signed into law, which initiated the closure of the California Department of Rehabilitation Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Due to the discontinuation of DJJ intakes effective July 1, 2021, Solano County expanded services with the creation of the RISE (Reaching Into Successful Endeavors) program, to provide secure housing, treatment, and programming alternatives to DJJ for realigned youth.

The program has three primary goals: to reduce the number of youth in long term detention, to reduce state costs for incarcerating lower level offenders, and to keep lower level offenders closer to home and local support systems.

In recognition of the increased county responsibilities for supervising and rehabilitating youth subject to SB81, the State provides annual funding through the YOBG program. In order to maintain program continuity in uncertain budget times, the plan recommends a minimum of 20% reserve to address unanticipated budget, program cost fluctuations, and program sustainability.

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVISIONS**

The County developed its first Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) in 2000-2001 in accordance with AB1913, The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA). JJCPA requires programs to be modeled on strategies that demonstrate effectiveness in curbing juvenile delinquency. Additionally, JJCPA requires counties to collect and report information related to annual program expenditures and juvenile justice outcomes. At the local level, this enables stakeholders to assess progress towards desired goals, refine their programs, and target available resources. The 2000-2001 CMJJP was updated in 2005, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, and most recently in 2022. Each subsequent report has highlighted the services currently available and provided an assessment of additional services needed. This Solano County Probation Department (Department) plan reflects recommendations from the revised 2022 CMJJP and has been updated to include service expansions and areas of enhancement for the juvenile justice systems model in the County.

The Department continues to look closely at the systems, procedures and relationships throughout the juvenile justice system. The Department has worked diligently with members of the JJCC, The Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.) Committee, and other county and community partners to determine opportunities for improvement. The County remains committed to examining key decision making points in the system, creating culturally relevant, trauma informed, and strength-based programs and services, and incorporating both into the framework of an evidence-based Risk, Need, and Responsivity supervision model.



Toward that end, the Department embraces the long-standing, well-researched, and strength-based Youth Asset Development framework in conjunction with the Risk, Need, Responsivity model of matching treatment needs to risk of reoffending in all intensive, diversion, and prevention programs for youth touching the juvenile justice system.

EXTERNAL ASSETS	INTERNAL ASSETS
Support	Commitment to Learning
Empowerment	Positive Values
Boundaries & Expectations	Social Competencies
Constructive Use of Time	Positive Identity

**POPULATION**

Solano County has a growing and diverse population which is located in an urban-country-waterfront setting, with families located over the 909 square miles of the County. Within the county there are seven jurisdictions in addition to its unincorporated rural areas; Vallejo, Benicia, Fairfield, Suisun City, Vacaville, Dixon, and Rio Vista. The city of Fairfield is centrally located and designated as the county seat. According to the 2024 Solano County Annual Report the total population as 446,426. The median household income was \$97,037. The percentage of residents within Solano County with a household income below the poverty level is 10%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau report from July 2023, the number of youth under the age of 18, within the county, maintained at 22% of the overall population.

The three largest cities (Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville), pose the most significant public safety risk and account for most arrests. The number of youth arrested within the county and coming under the jurisdiction of the Department continues to decline, now falling to 110 youth under jurisdiction.

According to 2023 Crime Statistics in California produced by the California Department of Justice Office for the Attorney General, in 2023 Juvenile arrests represented 4.1% of all California arrests, of which 6.9% of the Juvenile Arrests were considered violent felonies. The youth entering the juvenile justice system today present a complexity of needs, and pose a higher risk to recidivate, requiring significant rehabilitation needs. The Department continues to provide multiple diversion options for youth in the community, serving approximately 104 youth annually.

## **ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING SERVICES**

The County operates a range of prevention and diversion programs to provide intervention services at the lowest level possible. This includes services through the youth services divisions of local police departments, a community-based organization, Alternative Restorative Communities (ARC), and Probation, all intended to divert lower risk youth with a limited criminal history from entering the formal juvenile justice system. Services include mentoring, Interactive Journaling skill development activities, and counseling, as needed. In addition, the Youth Achievement Centers (YAC) deliver more intensive services to at-risk youth, and those formally involved in the juvenile justice system.

A continuum of educational services is offered within the community, at the YAC, and at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) to ensure individual educational needs are met. Formal partnerships with the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) and Five Keys Charter School allow the Department to customize educational services to youth and increase their likelihood of graduation.

The CMJJP includes recommended strategies to guide the Department's full-service behavior change and positive youth development model based on the science of Risk, Need, and Responsivity, which places an emphasis on matching criminogenic needs with treatment interventions and intensity. The Department offers diversion services to appropriate youth, while referring only the highest risk youth for formal intervention. In 2014, the Department diverted approximately 4% of all juvenile arrests (52 of 1,244). With increased diversion services in place, by 2017, the number of cases diverted rose to nearly 25% of all juvenile arrests (258 of 1,021). With the decline in arrests continuing, coupled with the youth referred for services having increased risk and needs, there was a slight drop in the number of youth diverted in 2018 (173 of 815, approximately 21%). This trend continued in 2019, as the number of arrests and youth diverted again decreased slightly to 18% (128 of 727). In 2020 the number of arrests continued to decline; however, the percentage of youth diverted remained consistent at 18% (61 of 348). In 2021, with increased activity in the community post-pandemic, the number of arrests of youth increased while the percent diverted decreased to 12% (55 of 443). Meanwhile in 2022, the number of arrests and diverted youth increased to 25% (157 of 622). More recently in 2023, the number of arrests continued to increase slightly to 670 with the percentage of youth diverted decreasing to 15% (104 of 670).

The Department currently operates the following diversion programs for youth which includes the Juvenile Community Accountability Program (JCAP) and the Felony and Misdemeanor Diversion Program. For the JCAP program, a community-based organization, Alternative Restorative Communities (ARC), facilitates diversion conferences. Youth are held accountable for their actions and given an appropriate consequence to address their delinquent behavior. The Felony and Misdemeanor Diversion program provides diversion services for youth that are either unsuccessful in the JCAP program or need additional support. For youth requiring the filing of a formal petition, a screening and assessment of risk and needs is completed to understand the challenges and areas of need the youth and family are experiencing. Once under jurisdiction, the Department makes every effort to remove barriers and provide interventions geared toward increasing their likelihood of success as they transition to adulthood.

The Department was previously awarded \$1.3 million dollars over a three-year period to provide prevention services as a part of the Juvenile Accountability Grant (JAG). The grant focused on implemented interactive journaling with youth in Traffic Court, as well as facilitation of cannabis education workshops in partnership with the local school district. Work continues toward a Youth and Family Prevention, Intervention, and Resource Center to open next fiscal year. The grant helped expand mental health services for youth in the community. The Department continues to focus on collaborative partnerships with external agencies to strengthen services for youth. Our partners include Seneca, Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA), Aldea, Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), and a variety of organizations who deliver specialized youth-interest workshops and programs.

## **IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITIZING FOCUS AREAS**

The Department continues to focus on the following overarching system goals:

- Promote public safety and reduce recidivism by focusing on Positive Youth Development strategies and Evidence Based Services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system
- Utilize evidence-based assessment tools to determine supervision, treatment needs and interventions
- Develop and support effective partnerships with local agencies and community-based organizations to ensure youth and families in the County have the right supports and services to thrive

As discussed above, the updated CMJJP plan was approved by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council in November 2022. The 2022 CMJJP provides direction and guidance of juvenile justice priorities in Solano County and includes recommendations in the following areas, some of which are being addressed and/or will be implemented as outlined in the 2022 CMJJP.

### **Summary of CMJJP Recommendations**

The CMMJJP identified short-term and long-term areas of recommendation for the next three years:

#### **System Foundation Work Recommendations (shorter term)**

1. Strengthen and solidify the plan to create the capacity to implement and prioritize the recommendations, including operationalizing JJCC's vision, establishing guiding principles, and identifying outcomes.
2. Continue implementing the Probation Juvenile Data Project Plan and establish a mechanism for data sharing throughout the continuum.
  - *The department hired a Project Manager who is evaluating data governance and delivery options.*
3. Create a comprehensive community map of resources for youth/child/family-serving agencies in the County that depicts services for Prevention, Early Intervention, Community Based Services and Supervision, Residential Services, and Secure Care.
  - *The department social worker created a Padlet, which is an online platform that works like a virtual bulletin board. The information can be accessed via a QR (Quick*

*Response) code. This document can be electronically saved to pull up as needed and shared with others or it can also be printed as needed.*



- 1. Use your phone's camera to access the bulletin board*
- 2. Scroll up/down & left /right to view all tabs*
- 3. Choose your resource and click to view*



4. Develop a plan to provide training and education on available resources and current initiatives.
  - *The Juvenile Division Field leadership team created a Juvenile Division Overview Presentation that was shared at the Solano County System of Care Interagency Leadership team meeting, Child Abuse Prevention Counsel and the Foster Youth Educational Planning Team. This presentation helps communicate the focus of Juvenile Justice, services and interventions.*
5. Explore options for sharing access to existing program services across departments, agencies, and with the community.
  - *The department expanded its substance use treatment services for youth across a continuum of care. See section on Substance Use expansion.*
6. Build upon the work of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.) Steering Committee to work through recommendations of the W. Hayward Burns Institute's May 2017 Readiness Study.
  - *See information on Third Sector in R.E.D Section*
7. Develop options for involvement of individuals with a lived experience in committees and boards.
  - *The Probation Department collaborated with ARC to develop the Rise Up House which is a Less Restrictive Program, sponsored by a grant from the Office of Youth and Community Safety, to help youth develop key life skills for transitioning into the community. The Rise Up House is operated by individuals with lived experience who serve in various capacities from Program Director, Shift Manager, Shift worker and Mentors.*

### **Service Continuum Work Recommendations (longer term)**

8. Maximize funding through Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to add well-supported preventative services in Solano County.
9. Identify programs addressing gaps in prevention services for youth and families at the community/neighborhood level based on identified needs and strengths throughout the County.
  - *The Probation Department awarded two \$50,000 grants over a three-year period to provide Prevention Services for At Promise Youth. There are three remaining awards that will be included in a Request for Proposal (RFP) in Spring 2025.*
10. Strengthen family engagement initiatives.
  - *The Youth Achievement Center (YAC) and RISE Program have sponsored several family engagement activities for youth, such as family holiday gatherings events at Thanksgiving and Christmas.*

# JUVENILE JUSTICE ACTION STRATEGIES

## Risk and Needs Assessment Tool

The Department utilizes the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI), an evidence-based assessment tool used to identify and prioritize the risk factors and needs of each individual youth under supervision. Data from 2024 indicates that youth in Solano County have a myriad of needs. The Risk, Need, Responsivity model calls for the prioritization of those needs, and the matching of the right treatment intervention to address each need. While higher risk populations tend to have multiple risk factors, local assessment data demonstrates that the following issues impact justice involved youth at the highest rates:

- lack of educational supports and underdeveloped employment skills
- association with other individuals who are justice involved and/or affirm anti-social behavior choices
- challenging family circumstances and lack of parenting
- demonstration of anti-social attitudes
- lack of structured and pro-social activities to fill idle time
- use of illicit substances, most often reporting marijuana as their drug of choice

## Risk Need Responsivity Model (RNR)

The **Risk Principle (WHO)** is the prioritization of supervision and treatment services for clients at a higher risk of reoffending. Shifting resources to these clients results in much greater gains in public safety, while targeting clients with lower risk factors can increase their likelihood of recidivism. By focusing on clients with higher risk factors, programs can address multiple criminogenic areas with greater intensity, thus resulting in greater impact on behavior.

The **Need Principle (WHAT)** directs intervention resources to address primarily those areas which are directly linked to criminal behavior. While probationers have a variety of needs, not all have an equal impact on their risk to reoffend. Primary criminogenic needs include criminal personality; antisocial attitudes, values, and beliefs; criminal peers; family dysfunction; and low self-control. Secondary criminogenic needs include substance abuse disorder; low educational and vocational attainment; and low involvement in pro-social leisure activities. All services should target primary criminogenic needs as well as any other identified areas of need.

The **Responsivity Principle (MATCHING)** requires that service delivery match specific characteristics of individuals in order for them to benefit. This includes consideration of culture, gender, motivational stages, and learning styles, as well as logistical considerations and community functioning. Community functioning includes factors such as transportation, housing, food, or behavioral and physical health. While these factors are not themselves criminogenic, they should be addressed to the extent that they create barriers to an individual's ability to receive services.

The **Dosage Principle** directs programs to provide direct client services at a minimum of 100-150 hours for moderate risk and 200+ hours for high risk (across multiple criminogenic need

areas) in order to achieve measurable reduction in recidivism. Dosage under one hundred hours produces relatively small effects for this population. High intensity programs should be provided and should occupy 40% to 70% of participant's free time to be effective.

### **RNR Supervision Model**

The Department has adopted the following evidence-based or best practices for community supervision to meet the objectives of reducing recidivism, reducing victimization, increasing life skills, and family engagement.

<b>Supervision Strategies</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Implementation Strategies</b>
Use of evidence-based assessments to guide decisions for effective c plan services and supervision	Use of Risk Based Supervision: matching intervention and dosage with risk/needs	Utilization of risk/needs assessment: Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI)
Youth and Family Engagement	Meetings to include supervised youth and their family	Family participation in case plan development and opportunities for home and or community-based family treatment services
Focus on Skill enhancement and reduction of criminogenic risk factors	Effective use of supervision practices and tools	Utilization of Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) and Case Planning Carey Guides
Increasing Protective Factors/ Developmental Assets	Increasing youth/family capacity and understanding of needs, including behavioral health diagnosis; engaging support, services and prosocial activities	Use of manualized cognitive behavioral interventions such as Aggression Replacement Training (ART). Staff were trained in 40 Developmental Assets enhancement in 2024. Specialized caseload assignments, behavioral health support, education, treatment, life skills development and prosocial activities.
Utilizing alternatives to detention	Offering appropriate programs to youth in lieu of detention such as Community-based treatment, Home Supervision, or Electronic Monitoring	Utilizing the Risk Assessment Instrument at the Intake level to assess the risk to reoffend and/or appear for court hearings pending adjudication

	Application of graduated responses	Use of Rewards/Incentives; utilization of Violation Response Grid
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### **Evidence-based Interventions**

Strategies for impacting juvenile crime and delinquency require the use of evidence-based treatment programs, services, and interventions to address the needs of youth and families. The County continues to direct resources toward interventions for youth that target the needs most likely to reduce offending behaviors. Interventions are cognitive behavioral and teach youth basic problem-solving skills; skills in emotional regulation; social skills; conflict management and negotiation skills; and the prosocial values, attitudes, and beliefs that make up prosocial competence.

The Department's Quality Assurance program monitors program delivery and fidelity to curricula in multiple areas and works closely with the contract managers to ensure provider support and collaboration.

### **Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.)**

With the support of JJCPA funding, the County partnered with the W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI) to look closely at the systems, procedures, and relationships throughout the youth justice system. Through this partnership the Department worked diligently with county leadership and other youth justice stakeholders to determine opportunities for improvement and is committed to examining key decision making points in the system and creating a culturally relevant, trauma informed, and strength-based programs model.

Since 2017, representatives from Solano County Law and Justice Agencies, the Solano Office of Education, and community-based organizations have been working to identify whether, and to what extent, racial and ethnic disparities exist in Solano County's youth justice system. The Solano County Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.) workgroup, a subcommittee was formed under the JJCC in August 2018 with the goal to utilize a data-drive process to identify disparities, analyze, strategize, pilot or adopt policy change that reduces disparate entry, and deeper advancement of youth of color in the juvenile justice system. Although the partnership with the W. Haywood Burns Institute ended in September 2023, the Department continues to look for opportunities for improvement to include prevention services for youth to keep them from entering the justice system. The Department has contracted with Third Sector, a nonprofit technical assistance organization that advises government agencies on effective ways to reshape policies, systems, and services toward better outcomes for all people no matter their race, background, or circumstances. Third Sector is currently working with the Department and SCOE toward launching a Youth and Family Prevention, Intervention, and Resource Center in Fairfield. This will be a central hub for pre-arrest diversion and education activities to address youth and family behavioral and mental health needs through coordinated services.

## Education and Employment Readiness

The Department's efforts include a push for expansion of education and vocational services. The 2013 Rand Corporation study on correctional education found strong evidence that education's role in recidivism reduction is substantial. In fact, the study found that involvement in education programs reduce the likelihood of returning to correctional supervision by as much as 43%. The Department continues to support educational efforts at many points in the juvenile justice system, also with an eye on prevention.



In Fiscal Year 2018/2019, the Solano County Probation Department adopted a third-grade classroom at a local elementary school to support students who are statistically at a higher risk to enter the juvenile justice system simply because they struggle with reading. Our staff work on math learning projects and reading with the students. Additionally, staff engage in activities with the students during their outside recreation period. During the 2022/2023 school year, the Department adopted two classrooms. While evidence shows the trajectory of being at risk to enter or entering the juvenile justice system increases if the youth has problems with reading and reading comprehension in the third grade, it also shows that the effect of continuing positive relationships promotes academic achievement and reduces risks. Many of the students from the previous third-grade class were placed within different fourth-grade classrooms. Volunteering in two different fourth-grade classrooms allowed staff to continue the Department's efforts in maintaining positive relationships and support with the same group of students. Each classroom had a maximum of 36 students and 32 of our Department's staff volunteered to work with the students during the 2023/2024 school year. It is the Department's goal to continue efforts toward supporting elementary third and fourth-grade classrooms; specifically, those identified as highest risk to enter the juvenile justice system by maintaining our relationship with our local elementary school.

The Department's continued dedication to education and employment readiness initiatives demonstrates a commitment to youth development and rehabilitation. By providing educational opportunities, vocational training, and partnerships with community organizations, the Department is contributing to the positive transformation and future success of youth involved in the justice system.

The Department has undertaken significant efforts to expand education and vocational services, recognizing the crucial role education plays in reducing recidivism rates. The commitment to supporting educational endeavors, particularly within the juvenile justice system, demonstrates a proactive approach towards prevention and rehabilitation.

Partnerships with the Solano County Office of Education and Solano Community College reflect a comprehensive approach to education, including specialized support for youth with special needs and opportunities for post-secondary education.

At the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF), the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) ensures youth continue their educational pursuits and offers the support of a specialized teacher who

works closely with youth with special needs. The Department maintained expanded tutoring services. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the SCOE Educational Support and Tutoring Provider served a total of █ students. Additionally, vocational services and an online program with Solano Community College to assist youth who have completed high school and wish to continue their education have also been maintained. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, █ youth earned a high school diploma while housed at JDF.



During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, thirteen students at JDF participated in college courses. JDF maintained the strong connection and relationship with Solano Community College Students Overcoming Adversity and Recidivism (SOAR) program. SOAR is a program for formerly incarcerated students, which is expanded to serve foster youth, homeless, and other vulnerable student populations, at Solano Community College. SOAR provides a stigma-free environment where SOAR Scholars can study, learn, and grow on their path from reentry through graduation and beyond. SOAR also provides mentorship to formerly incarcerated students/re-entry, foster youth, unhoused

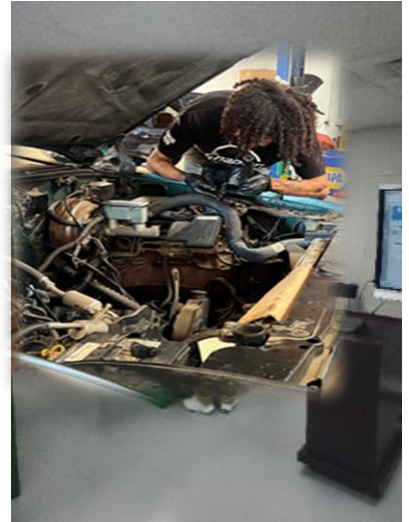
students, and other vulnerable students and connects them with college and community resources so they can achieve their educational, personal and career goals. SOAR students can also be honored for their academic achievements which includes a formal ceremony and induction into their honor society. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, SOAR served █ students enrolled at the Solano Community College from JDF, all who were also committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)-RISE (Reaching Into Successful Endeavors) program. █ re-entering the community remained enrolled in college and connected with SOAR for continued support services.



The Department continues a long-standing partnership with Five Keys Charter School, a free community-based education program that focuses on providing services to individuals and communities that have historically been underserved and underrepresented within the traditional educational system. Co-located with the Department's Youth Achievement Center in Vallejo, services include assisting with High School Diplomas, GED Test Preparation, HiSET Test Preparation, and Independent Study. With the help of dedicated teachers who work with diverse students at all educational levels, Five Keys has contributed to a continued increase in graduation rates. Five Keys Charter School serves youth who are on the verge of adulthood and are no longer able to attend public school, traditional, or continuation school.

Educational supports such as college readiness and tutoring are also offered at the Fairfield Youth Achievement Center, and Five Keys Charter School provides instruction at the main probation building in Fairfield. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, a total of █ justice involved students received a high school diploma/GED through the Five Keys Charter School.

The implementation of vocational programs, particularly the construction/trades program at the Solano County Juvenile Detention Facility, provides youth with valuable skills and certifications for future career opportunities. On December 8, 2022, the construction/trades program opened the doors of a dedicated classroom to in custody youth for the first time. The trades program which includes Occupational Safety, HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, Masonry, Concrete, Drywall, Roof Framing, and Woodworking has continued. Upon completion of each area, youth receive a National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) Safety Certification, as well as credits towards their high school graduation (where applicable). During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, █ students participated in the trades program and █ certificates were awarded. These skills can be applied towards a career in Construction if the youth decide to pursue such.



In partnership with SCOE, in February 2024 the Department launched the Youth Experiential Job Training Program for our justice involved youth, ages 16-24 both in the community and within the JDF. The internship program offers pre-employability skills training, job coaching, assistance with identifying interests and aptitudes, career exploration, and up to 100 hours of paid employment internships. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, 18 youth were referred for services.

The Department's Juvenile Detention Facility contracted with the California Barbering & Cosmetology Apprenticeship Learning Center, Inc. to offer youth in custody the opportunity to begin Pre-Apprenticeship training which includes safety and sanitation rules and regulations of the California Board of Barbering & Cosmetology, Theory and Practical assignments, and performing haircuts under direct supervision of the Barber instructor toward a Pre-Apprentice Certificate of Completion. The opportunity extends post-release, as youth re-enter the community to continue their apprenticeship at one the designated Barbershop or Salon locations to complete the required on-the-job trainings hours toward earning a living wage that will assist them with transitioning to self-sufficiency and enable them to be strong contributors to the community. Upon completion of all Pre-Apprenticeship requirements, youth will receive a Barber or Cosmetology Apprenticeship Certificate of Completion from the Department of Industrial Relations making them eligible to apply to the California Board of Barbers and Cosmetology for their exam to receive their Professional Barber or Cosmetology license. The selection process for participation in the initial implementation of the program, which took place May 2024, consisted of █ who submitted interest and interviewed for acceptance into the two-year commitment. With support and guidance from JDF and YAC staff, the youth prepared through mock-interviewing. Taking this opportunity with the utmost seriousness, all youth appeared for their panel interviews ready and dressed to impress in their chosen professional attire. The next cohort is expected to begin April 2025.

The Department partners with Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) for transitional case management services to support youth both at the Youth Achievement Centers and within the Juvenile Detention Facility. These services include tutoring, employment skill development and job searching, transportation and community service outreach. Additionally, a transitional case manager is assigned to youth within the Department's SYTF-RISE program to assist with facilitating youth reentry planning for transition from detention to the community.



JDF in collaboration with Aramark launched its first cohort for the IN2WORK culinary program within the facility starting late summer of 2023. The purpose of IN2WORK is to teach youth how to function in a workplace setting, work as a team, and to teach the fundamental skills for success in the food service industry. Youth learn accountability and responsibility through disciplined classroom and hands-on training. By building competent and confident graduates, IN2WORK sets graduates up for success upon reentry. A total of [REDACTED] youth participated in the IN2WORK program to date with all [REDACTED] being awarded certificates. The next cohort is expected to begin April 2025.

### **Substance Use Treatment Expansion**

To fully develop Substance Use treatment services for youth across the continuum of care, the Department secured the Youth Opioid Response (YOR) grant to build capacity for the provision of services for youth and young adults with substance use disorders related to opioids and/or stimulants as part of the California Youth Opioid Response. A variety of impactful activities were held from January 2024 – May 2024 through this funding. The Department hosted several trainings to ensure staff, county partners, and community-based organizations are equipped with the skills to properly work with justice involved individuals, including those impacted by a substance use disorder. Although most of the trainings were not YOR sponsored, the Department ensured all staff working with the YOR transitional age youth were equipped with evidence-based knowledge and practice to best meet clientele needs.

In February 2024, the full-time Social Service Worker facilitated an outreach and prevention session at First Place For Youth. 14 transitional-age foster youth attended this presentation and 13 safety bags were distributed. Additional fentanyl test strips, DeTerra bags, and Narcan were delivered to this agency the following week.

In March 2024, the Department held its largest outreach event in the history of the Department. *The 50* was a three-in-one event held at a local theater in Vallejo, CA; a city challenged by gun violence, gang violence, youth violence, and substance abuse. The pre-show included community engagement and Substance abuse resources, followed by a screening of *the 50* film, and a post-show Q&A from certified substance use counselors featured in the film.

In April 2024, the Department led a County-wide training to address opioid addiction issues in our community. A multidisciplinary team was brought together to discuss outlining and integrating effective substance use treatments. This training helped those in attendance understand how proven methods of treating addiction can improve outcomes and community safety. Seventy-nine providers from Probation, County Adult and Children's Behavioral Health, Community-Based Behavioral Health, SUD treatment centers, Opioid Treatment Programs, Sober Living Environments, Public Defenders, Institute for Continuing Education, Drug Safe Solano Coalition, Sheriff's Department and correctional officers, Sheriff's Re-entry Achievement Program, Partnership Health, Police Departments, District Attorney, and Health & Social Services attended the event.

## **FUNDED PROGRAMS, STRATEGIES AND/OR SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS**

### ***Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)***

#### **Substance Use Disorder Treatment**

The Department contracted with Aldea to provide Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment services at the Solano County Youth Achievement Center (YAC) locations as well as within the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) for a continuum of treatment services for youth in custody for short detention periods and youth serving lengthier commitments within the Department's Secure Youth Treatment Facility/RISE program.

Aldea utilizes a clinically appropriate selection of models shown to increase skills and positive outcomes for youth while decreasing emotional and behavioral symptoms and risk for harm. Service activities may include, but are not limited to, assessment, plan development, therapy, case management, rehabilitation, and aftercare. Service modalities may include behavioral, cognitive, and other approaches as determined by each client's treatment plan, personal goals and objectives and will employ a strengths-based, needs-driven, evidence-based, and family centered perspective in treating youth and families. Services are grounded in the following values: individualized and youth/family centered; focuses on empowerment; is holistic; non-linear; strengths-based; incorporates peer-collaborative support; emphasizes respect and responsibility; and emerges from hope. Youth treatment plans promote development of skills to decrease risk factors that contribute to recidivism, increase protective factors, and reduce harm.

#### **Diversion**

##### ***Restorative/Alternative Justice Program***

The Department has established partnerships with community-based organizations, such as Alternative Restorative Communities (ARC), to offer restorative and alternative justice programs aimed at holding youth accountable for their behavior. These initiatives represent a proactive approach to addressing juvenile delinquency while promoting community involvement and rehabilitation. The program includes the Juvenile Community Accountability Program (JCAP). In 2024, 51 youth successfully completed the JCAP program. JCAP serves as an early

intervention and prevention diversion program targeting low-level or first-time offenders. The program emphasizes accountability and amends-making, providing youth with an opportunity to take responsibility for their behavior and make restitution. The structured nature of JCAP ensures that youth are held accountable for their actions while offering a pathway to avoid formal involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The Department's partnership with ARC and the implementation of JCAP demonstrates a commitment to restorative and alternative justice approaches in addressing juvenile delinquency. By engaging youth in meaningful accountability processes and providing opportunities for restitution and rehabilitation, these programs contribute to a safer and more cohesive community while offering youth a second chance to make positive choices and avoid formal justice system involvement.

### **Motivational Interviewing (MI)**

Motivational Interviewing (MI) serves as an evidence-based, person-centered, communication method used within the Department, to guide individuals toward change and growth by empowering them to explore and resolve ambivalence towards behavioral changes. This approach emphasizes internal motivation rather than external pressure, focusing on honoring autonomy, fostering collaboration, demonstrating accurate empathy, and cultivating a partnership built on respect for the client's choices.

The Department partnered with a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT®) to provide a 3-day intensive Introductory MI Training in March 2024 with post-training coaching support from 2 Probation Quality Assurance & Implementation Analysts. In addition, a Probation Quality Assurance & Implementation Analyst became a member of MINT® in 2024; and will lead future Introductory and Advanced MI Trainings, MI learning communities as well as the Personal Mastery project. This project aims to enhance staff proficiency in MI through intensive coaching and feedback training sessions. Through the Personal Mastery project, staff members receive specialized training and support to integrate MI principles into their interactions with clients. Training sessions focus on skill-building exercises, real-playing scenarios, and real-time feedback to enhance MI competencies. This also creates a collaborative opportunity to train Child Welfare staff.

By adopting MI techniques, staff members are better equipped to engage clients in meaningful conversations about change, fostering partnership and autonomy in decision-making. MI's emphasis on drawing out internal motivation and empowerment is expected to lead to improved client outcomes, including increased readiness for change and sustained behavior change over time. The Department's commitment to Motivational Interviewing marks a significant step toward fostering positive behavioral change and helping clients take control of their lives. Through continuous training and support, staff members are provided with the essential skills and mindset to engage clients in a collaborative, empathetic, and supportive manner.

## Youth Achievement Centers (YACs)

The Department developed a multi-disciplinary treatment and services model to provide comprehensive support to youth under its jurisdiction, with a focus on evidence-based interventions aimed at reducing further involvement in the juvenile justice system and strengthening family and community connections. The Department collaborates with community-based agencies and treatment providers to create co-located team models, ensuring access to a wide range of services. These partnerships facilitate the delivery of comprehensive and mobile services, allowing for flexibility and accessibility across multiple locations. Two main community-based centers, located in Fairfield and Vallejo, serve as hubs for service delivery and support. These centers offer a range of evidence-based services tailored to meet the needs of youth and their families, including counseling, therapy, and educational support.



YAC staff and treatment providers continue to work diligently to ensure that access to services is not a barrier to treatment and support, fostering equity and inclusivity. The Department prioritizes outreach and engagement efforts to connect with youth and families in need of services, regardless of their circumstances. By providing evidence-based services and interventions, the Department aims to reduce the likelihood of youth reoffending and further involvement in the juvenile justice system. The multi-disciplinary treatment model prioritizes strengthening family and community connections, promoting prosocial behaviors and support networks.



The YACs are equipped with computer labs. Staff work with youth to engage them in service-learning projects, homework help, and structured activities that support education and future employability. For continuity of education, youth in need also have access to chrome books.

The Department intentionally designed the YAC to offer a welcoming and safe environment for our justice involved youth and families. In addition to the evidenced based interventions provided at the YAC, our staff engage our youth in age-appropriate activities. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, youth participated in gaming events, visited a pumpkin patch, and participated in CPR certification and Narcan training.



## Prevention Services for At Promise Youth

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) was created by the Crime Prevention Act of 2000 and provides funding for local juvenile programs aimed at curbing crime and delinquency among at promise youth. Juvenile diversion is an intervention strategy that redirects youth away from formal processing in the juvenile system, but youth are still held accountable for their actions. Another strategy includes prevention services that provide support and interventions, so

youth do not enter the formal juvenile justice system or receive an arrest or citation. The mission of the JJCC is to develop a comprehensive multiagency plan that identifies the resources and strategies for providing an effective continuum of responses for the prevention, early intervention, supervision, treatment, and incarceration of youth.

In April 2023, the JJCC approved to have funds released to community-based organizations to provide prevention services to at-risk youth in Solano County. The Department facilitated contract agreements with two community-based organizations for these efforts, Fairfield Police Activities League (PAL) and Leaven Kids.

Fairfield (FF) PAL: The FF PAL provides after-school and evening activities that are ideally suited for creating safe and stable environments for youth. Organized sport and recreation programs provide youth with critical development experiences that can help them learn positive ways of regulating their emotions and develop supportive personal relations with authority figures, peers, and community leaders. Exercise, including sports and games, increases the physical, social, and emotional well-being of youth. They help youth develop leadership skills, foster capacity for decision making, and help in the development of positive peer group culture where participants gain friendship, acceptance, and belonging.

The FF PAL offers the “Theory of Change” program. The program moves through distinct phases, including engagement/recreation activities, followed by establishing emotional and physical safety, then relationship building and establishing meaningful participation to create the ideal environment for skill building. In the short term, the FF PAL Teen Center increases: the amount of time spent in supervised, pro-social activities, especially among underserved/disconnected teens, youth perceptions of their own physical and emotional safety, opportunities and access to consistent pro social recreational programming, positive examples and good information, health and wellness prosocial choices/increases in healthy nutrition practices and hydration, awareness of sleep or exercise effects on the body and stress management, interpersonal skills among participating teens (assets/interpersonal skills), a youth’s positive beliefs about their own future and improved bonding with members of the community; particularly those in local law enforcement. Longer-term, the program has been found to increase endorsement and use of prosocial norms on a consistent basis, the ability to utilize executive functioning skills and social and emotional competency especially consistently and effectively during more stressful situations, to improve the larger communities’ perception and belief in the promise of our young people and decrease rates of school and community disconnection among youth and young adults in our community.

Leaven Kids: Leaven Kids’ mission is to revitalize communities through early education intervention by establishing learning centers in the heart of the most challenging neighborhoods and prioritizing the care of children, inspire parents and neighbors to take an active role in supporting their community. As community pride and morale rise, crime rates decrease. Their model has shown how it can help break the cycle of poverty and crime that plagues many neighborhoods, motivating entire communities to achieve a brighter future.

Leaven Kids center provides children access to educational resources, mentorship, and a safe and supportive environment, which enables them to excel in school and reach their full potential.

Families start to believe in a better future, crime and gang activities are deterred, property values rise, and communities are transformed.

Leaven project locations are 1) Sereno Drive, Vallejo; 2) Alamo Gardens, Vacaville; and 3) The Groves, Fairfield. Each Center is in low-income apartment complexes where participants grades K-5 live. Leaven operates after-school 3 - 5:30 pm and weekday afternoons in summer. Targeted participants display pandemic learning loss, demonstrated by low student achievement scores, and are disproportionately affected by poverty, exposure to violence, lack of affordable/accessible after-school care, lack of technology, and a lack of supervision.

In July 2024, the Department developed the School Community Prevention Specialist position in efforts to establish preventative services for non-justice involved youth. In collaboration, with Crystal Middle School, we offered these preventative services during the 2024/2025 school year. These services include group facilitation of the What About Marijuana education journals. Additionally, the Department is extending preventative services to local elementary schools, referring non-justice involved youth/students to mental health and mentoring services through our community partnerships with Alternative Restorative Communities and Seneca Family of Agencies.

### **Evidence-Based Treatment Interventions**

Aggression Replacement Training (ART)® is a 10-week, 30-hour cognitive behavioral intervention administered to groups of 8 to 12 youth; typically, three times per week. Aggression Replacement Training (ART) concentrates on the development of youth competencies to address various emotional and social aspects that contribute to aggressive behavior. The main goal is to reduce aggression and violence among youth by providing them with opportunities to learn prosocial skills in place of aggressive behavior. ART consists of three core components: Structured Learning Training, which focuses on teaching social skills; Anger Control Training, which provides youth with various strategies to manage their anger; and Moral Education, which fosters the development of higher-level moral reasoning.

Reasoning and Rehabilitation (R&R2) ® is a 12 lesson cognitive and emotional skill development curriculum designed for youth ages 13-18 who are under supervision of juvenile justice agencies, those who are engaging in various disruptive and antisocial behaviors at home, in school, in community residences, and those developing patterns of antisocial behavior which involve risk-taking, opposition to adult values, and/or persistent antisocial or offending behavior. The program covers a wide range of skills, including self-control, meta-cognition, critical reasoning, social skills, interpersonal cognitive problem-solving, creative thinking, social perspective-taking, values enhancement, emotional management, and helper therapy. The group typically meets twice a week for six weeks.

Individual Supervision Interventions - Probation interventions integrate evidence-based principles and techniques from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) to enhance client outcomes. CBT is grounded in the understanding of how our thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs (cognitions) impact our behaviors and actions. Probation Officers guide the youth to improve their pro-social thinking and behavior. Training in MI and Effective Practices in Community Supervision-II

(EPICS-II), along with the youth face-to-face contact guides included in policy assist the Probation Officer in this process. All supervision Probation Officers are trained in the use of the Forward-Thinking Interactive Journals® and Carey Guides®.

Voices is a program of self-discovery and empowerment for girls. Voices is based on the realities of girls' lives and the principles of gender responsiveness; it is also grounded in theory, research, and clinical experience. The curriculum advocates a strength-based approach and uses a variety of therapeutic approaches, including psychoeducational, cognitive-behavioral, mindfulness, body-oriented, and expressive arts.

The Department continued with the inclusion of culturally responsive programming through partnership with the Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement (MILPA) program. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, El Joven Noble, historically geared toward Latin/Hispanic youth, was opened to all youth within the Department's Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) and Youth Achievement Centers (YAC) in response to interest from youth from different cultural backgrounds. Joven Noble is an evidence-based rites of passage program developed by the National Compadres Network (NCN) focused on building up the leadership and character development of youth, ages 10-24, through the philosophy of La Cultura Cura, or in other words, Culture Cures/ Transformational Healing. MILPA facilitated the "Circulos de Palabra" (Circles of Support) which focused on recreating a positive familia/community or extended kinship network to provide a supportive and reinforcement process for ongoing healing, growth and development for young men. MILPA shared outcomes from their administered pre- and post-surveys, interviews, and letters written by youth who participated in their program at both JDF and YAC locations during the 2023/2024 fiscal year. A total of 28 youth completed the pre-survey, and 15 completed the post-survey. The outcomes revealed positive impacts on each youth's cultural awareness and provided them with information to help empower their communities.



## **Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)**

### **Mental Health Assessment and Services**

The Department has established partnerships with various organizations, including the Solano County Health and Social Services Department (H&SS), Kaiser Permanente and Seneca Family of Agencies Center, to provide individual and family mental health services. The Department currently works with all the noted providers to ensure youth and families receive services to address mental health challenges effectively. Probation has increased the number of on-site mental health clinicians to three, ensuring that the needs of youth are adequately met. These clinicians provide clinical evaluation, consultation, and evidence-based treatments such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). The level of service provided is determined based on evidence-based assessments, including the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument - Version 2 (MAYSI-2) mental health

screen or the Integrated Practice - Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (IP-CANS) assessment. These assessments help identify mental health needs and inform the development of individualized treatment plans. Mental health services are offered in various settings, including the home, community, or at the provider's office, based on individual needs and preferences. For youth detained at the JDF, those with identified needs receive services from contracted mental health providers at the facility.

The Department's commitment to providing comprehensive mental health services reflects a recognition of the critical role mental health plays in youth rehabilitation and well-being. Effective, July 1, 2024, the department modified contracted services with Seneca Family of Agencies to include expanded services ranging from prevention, early intervention to wraparound services. Upon assessment, Seneca determines the most appropriate resource for the youth. By leveraging partnerships, implementing evidence-based assessments, and increasing on-site clinician support, the Department is poised to make meaningful strides towards improving mental health outcomes for youth and families under its care.

### **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy 2.0**

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) 2.0 is one of the many interventions utilized by the Juvenile Detention Facility staff to support youth in developing effective coping strategies and behavior management skills. Juvenile Correctional Counselors (JCCs) facilitate sessions of CBT 2.0, which was designed to help youth recognize and modify their automatic or impulsive responses in high-stakes situations by slowing down and reflecting on thinking patterns, ultimately promoting positive behavior change.

CBT 2.0 aims to help youth realize the frequency with which they act without conscious thought, fostering self-awareness and mindfulness in their actions. Youth are guided to identify key high-stakes situations where their automatic responses may lead to negative consequences, such as conflict or risky behavior.

The utilization of CBT 2.0 at JDF represents the Department's continual proactive approach to supporting youth in developing essential life skills and promoting positive behavior change. Through comprehensive training, ongoing support, and evidence-based interventions, staff members are empowered to facilitate meaningful therapeutic experiences that contribute to the rehabilitation and well-being of youth in detention.

### **Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP)**

The Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) provides increased supervision and monitoring services for youth as an alternative to detention, allowing them to remain in the community while attending school, employment, and participating in community-based treatment and programming. There were 57 youth served through EMP in 2024. Youth participating in EMP may be referred to treatment services operated by community organizations or the Department to address specific needs. This approach to supervision aims to support youth in accessing

appropriate resources and services to address underlying issues and promote positive behavior change.

### **Substance Use Treatment Services**

Substance use treatment services are integral to the Department's efforts to address the complex needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. These services are provided across multiple settings, including within the community, at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF), and following foster care placement as part of re-entry programs. Community-based substance abuse services, such as KIDS (Knowledge is Drug Safety) and What is Marijuana? Are offered to youth within their local communities. These programs provide education, counseling, and support to address substance use issues and promote healthy decision-making among youth. Substance abuse services are also available at the Juvenile Detention Facility. To further support treatment, supervision officers have incorporated the use of Carey Guides and Interactive Journaling to support behavioral changes.

The provision of substance use treatment services within the community, at the JDF, and following foster care placement reflects the Department's commitment to addressing the unique needs of youth struggling with substance abuse. By offering comprehensive support and utilizing evidence-based interventions, the Department aims to promote recovery, rehabilitation, and long-term wellness among youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

As of March 2023, a more intensive SUD program was developed as a partnership with Aldea, County Health & Social Services and the County's Medi-Cal Administrator to offer youth with substance use treatment needs services through the County's Organized Delivery System (ODS) as determined eligible by the American Society of Addiction Medicines (ASAM) criteria. The department continues to contract with Aldea to provide in-detention services following the same model offered in the community. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, 59 youth within the Juvenile Detention Facility and Youth Achievement Centers engaged in Aldea SUDS services. Services included intakes, ASAM assessment/reassessment, individual and group treatment, and aftercare.

### **In Custody Mental Health Services**

Wellpath provides medical, mental health, and psychiatric support services for youth detained at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF), ensuring their physical and mental well-being during their stay. These services encompass nursing care, medication monitoring, and screenings for suicidal ideation and other emergency situations. Wellpath provides medical services, including routine health assessments, treatment of acute illnesses, and management of chronic conditions. Nursing staff monitor medication administration, ensuring that youth receive prescribed medications safely and effectively. To ensure continuity of care, Wellpath supports youth transitions to the community or foster care placement. Wellpath's comprehensive services aim to improve the overall health and well-being of youth detained at JDF, addressing both physical and mental health needs. Probation continues to collaborate with SCOE who was contracted to provide two full-time Mental Health and Wellness Clinicians to enhance support related to trauma and address individual youth needs. SCOE also introduced wellness rooms on each POD (living unit) at JDF.

During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, SCOE Mental Health and Wellness Clinicians provided mental health services to a total of 39 youth within our JDF and Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)-Reaching Into Successful Endeavors (RISE) program.

### **Restorative/Alternative Justice**

The Department collaborates with Alternative Restorative Communities (ARC), a community-based organization, to offer restorative/alternative justice programs aimed at holding youth accountable for their behavior while promoting healing and repairing harm caused to victims and the community. These programs encompass restorative justice conferences and support/accountability circles, providing non-adversarial, community-based responses to crime. Specifically tailored for youth in custody, these circles provide a structured platform for reflection, dialogue, and personal growth. Weekly sessions cover a range of topics including understanding the causes of delinquency, self-awareness, forgiveness, empathy, conflict resolution, and addressing the impact of crime on victims and communities.

### **XL Mentoring**

The Department, in collaboration with Alternative Restorative Communities (ARC), has implemented a community mentoring program aimed at providing support and guidance to youth both in the community and at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). Through the training provided by certified XL Mentoring trainers, volunteer mentors are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively engage with young people, establish meaningful relationships, and facilitate positive youth development. Mentoring is recognized as an evidence-based intervention with proven outcomes in behavior change, reduction of recidivism, and increased school and community engagement among youth. XL Mentoring provides a formalized program structure with specific training and support mechanisms, ensuring program fidelity and appropriate matching of mentors and mentees.

The Department previously expanded the XL Mentoring program to include youth under diversion and community supervision, offering mentoring services to a broader range of young people. Efforts to expand XL Mentoring services to youth prior to becoming justice involved began in 2024 as an extension of services provided to the families of youth serving commitments in the SYTF-RISE program. By offering mentoring services to youth in various stages of the justice system, the Department aims to provide opportunities for positive youth development and successful reintegration into the community. The expansion of the XL Mentoring program underscores the Department's commitment to fostering positive youth development and reducing recidivism through meaningful relationships and support networks. By providing mentors who are trained and equipped to guide and empower young people, the Department aims to create a brighter future for youth involved in the justice system.

## **Wraparound**

The Wraparound program, offered by the Department, provides family-centered, strength-based, and culturally competent services to youth and families facing imminent risk of removal from home or transitioning back to a family-like setting upon release from a group home or the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). There were ■ youth and families, in 2024, who received Wraparound services. Designed as a preventative intervention, Wraparound aims to address the complex needs of multi-stressed families through highly individualized and comprehensive support services. Youth and families enrolled in Wraparound have access to a 24-hour, 7-days-a-week support line, providing assistance with safety planning and problem-solving during potential crises or escalations.

The Department's Family Preservation Caseload specifically serves youth at imminent risk of removal from home due to identified family-based issues. These youth receive a higher level of intervention through Wraparound Services, which aim to keep them in their home and family environment. To provide additional family, clinical, and mental health support, the Department assigns a clinician to support youth and families on the Family Preservation caseload. This added service strengthens the family unit and provides supportive services upon reentry for youth returning home from group home placement.

## **Placement/Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP)**

The Department remains dedicated to providing services and support to youth in Resource Family Agency (RFA) and Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) homes, utilizing funding from the Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) to support youth during and following their placement episodes. In 2024, ■ youth were placed in RFA homes; ■ youth were placed in STRTP and ■ were awaiting placement.

RFA homes offer youth the opportunity to reside in a community-based home environment when they cannot remain in the home of their parent or legal guardian. These homes provide a supportive and nurturing environment for youth, ensuring their safety and well-being while promoting stability and family-like settings.

Extended Foster Care (also known as AB12/AB212) is based on the federal Fostering Connections Act and became effective January 1, 2012. Because most 18-year-olds struggle with living independently, Extended Foster Care benefits offer support to prevent former foster youth from becoming homeless. It extends monetary supports and services to Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) under the age of 21 who are eligible on a voluntary basis. There were ■ NMD youth in 2024. NMDs meet with their Probation Officer monthly, attend a court hearing every 6 months, sign a voluntary agreement, and agree to work with their probation officer to meet the goals of their Transitional Independent Living Case Plan (TILP). In addition, NMDs receive financial benefits. Services can include mental health and support services, employment assistance, healthy relationship skill development, monthly face to face contact, and case management. The youth works with a Probation Officer and the Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) provider to develop the TILP.

### **Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)**

With the passage of SB823 and continued juvenile realignment efforts, the Department provided county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who would otherwise have been eligible for commitment to DJJ prior to its closure effective June 30, 2023. Within the Department's JDF, our Secure Treatment Facility (SYTF)-Reaching Into Successful Endeavors (RISE) program continues to provide rehabilitative services for our highest risk youth in need of removal and placement in a secure setting. The youth housed in the RISE Program are those that have committed serious and/or violent felonies that require intensive treatment services conducted in a structured and secure environment. The RISE Program is the final attempt of rehabilitation under the juvenile justice jurisdiction for youth adjudicated under WIC section 707(b) and other specified offenses. Youth committed to RISE go before the Court every 6 months to determine progress toward their Individualized Rehabilitation Plans (IRP) for potential reductions to their baseline commitments. Youth within the RISE program also have the opportunity to earn furloughs and/or step down into a less restrictive placement (LRP) as they progress through the RISE program phases and their individualized treatment plans, in efforts to prepare them for community re-entry. Following discharge from their commitment, the youth are supervised by the Department and referred to appropriate community-based intervention services and supports. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, ■ youth were placed in the RISE program. ■ youth completed their commitments and were discharged home on community supervision.

### **Child and Family Team**

In alignment with its focus on providing a continuum of services, the Department enhanced its support for youth and families through the implementation of Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. This family-centered service model aims to serve the family unit, prevent out-of-home placements, or provide reentry step-down services to support families during the reunification process. The CFT meetings prioritize the needs and strengths of the family unit, working collaboratively to address challenges and achieve goals.

The implementation of Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings represents a significant step forward in the Department's efforts to provide comprehensive and family-centered services. By addressing the unique needs of each family and leveraging the expertise of a Parent Partner, the Department aims to strengthen families, prevent out-of-home placements, and support successful reunifications.

### **Transitional Education**

Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) plays a crucial role in providing transitional education services to youth exiting the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) and reintegrating into educational settings within the community. Supported by funding from the Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG), SCOE's Student Support Specialist ensures a smooth transition for these youth, addressing their educational needs, ensuring timely transfer of credits and support services for youth navigating the reintegration process. The Student Support Specialist also collaborates with

Probation Officers to expedite referrals to the court and community schools for youth not returning to their home school sites. During the 2023/2024 fiscal year, the SCOE Student Support Specialist served 112 youth/students, ensuring that these youth received the necessary educational support and services.

## **STRATEGY FOR NON-707(B) OFFENDERS**

The overall strategy for the County is to provide a continuum of evidence-based services to address the identified risks and needs of youth under jurisdiction. This entails a variety of interventions, including cognitive behavioral therapy, substance abuse, mental health services, barrier removal efforts, and teaching of independent living skills to address delinquency and reduce recidivism rates for youth in the juvenile justice system.

## **REGIONAL AGREEMENTS**

The Department will continue to network and partner with other counties to provide services for special population (girls, severe mental health, sex offenders, etc.) which are outside the scope of the Department's exiting programs.

## **INFORMATION SHARING AND DATA**

The Department transitioned from the previously utilized CASE database system for electronic data storage, case management, and tracking information to a new platform. The Department's data conversion and migration was completed and the new system, e-Probation, went live in October 2020. The Department remains in Phase one of the program, with roll out of expanded systems operations to continue moving forward. The Department conducts assessments via the CE Assessments system. Information housed within these systems can be queried and shared with external agencies when needed. The information contained is utilized to look at data such as the number of youth referred for diversion services and handled informally rather than facing the filing of a formal petition. Statistical information can be gathered on the number of youth under formal jurisdiction, youth in the formal system referred for programming, re-arrest rates and returns to court, and the number of youth entering foster care, group home, or congregate care settings, as well as the number of non-minor dependents receiving AB12 services and benefits. In addition, the YLS-CMI assessments within the system can show the varying risk and need levels of youth. A second assessment administered, the Massachusetts Youth Severity Index (MAYSI), shows data on the level of mental health needs for youth under jurisdiction.

Interagency protocols and agreements authorize the sharing of information between the Department, Child Welfare Services (CWS), Mental Health, and the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) as well as each local school district for assessing the educational and treatment needs of youth and families in the community. These agencies come together each week at joint Interagency meetings to make case decisions related to youth at risk of removal or placement in a STRTP. Through the Safe Measures database maintained by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Department and CWS staff input information regarding placement youth

and measure their progress while in placement. In collaboration with SCOE, student information is also shared for educational purposes, and for enrollment in on-line college courses when appropriate.