

**Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act &  
Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG)  
FY 2023-2024  
Consolidated Annual Plan**

---

Date: April 27, 2023

---

County Name: Madera

---

Contact Name: Jose Pantoja

---

Telephone Number: 559-675-7899 Ext 568

---

E-mail Address: [jpantoja@maderacounty.com](mailto:jpantoja@maderacounty.com)

---

**Instructions:**

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

Please submit your most up-to-date consolidated plan.

The rest of this document is a standardized template for a consolidated county plan. If you find it helpful to use this template, please do so.

Your submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website.

MADERA COUNTY  
COMPREHENSIVE  
MULTI-AGENCY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
PLAN

2023



2024

**MADERA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
COMPREHENSIVE MULTIAGENCY JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN (CMJJP)/  
LOCAL ACTION PLAN (LAP)**

**2023-24**

## **INTRODUCTION**

To meet Legislative requirements of the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act of 2000, a State funded grant project, the Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP), was derived from the Local Action Plan. The two plans are consolidated into the CMJJP/LAP. The updated Plan will review the current services and address specific issues which pertain to the area of juvenile crime.

The CMJJP/LAP confronts the problems of youth in Madera County from a systems perspective. This perspective suggests the problems of youth crime are related directly to issues involving families, community, private and governmental agencies, as well as law enforcement, the courts, and the correctional systems. The Plan has its roots in ongoing efforts in collaboration and coordination through locally initiated activities. These activities are summarized below and in a tradition of cooperation and multi-agency initiatives in addressing the complications of youth crime and at-risk populations. The CMJJP/LAP is intended as a blueprint for future planning activities and the development, implementation, and evaluation of future programs and policies.

Madera County has developed an existing continuum of services that strongly emphasizes collaboration across agency boundaries toward reducing crime and delinquency for delinquent and pre-delinquent youth. The County has a history of developing such inter-agency projects through dedication of pre-existing resources and maximizing external funding through a range of projects. The major strengths found through this Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan/Local Action Plan include:

- A commitment to addressing the problems of youth through on-going development of an Interagency Children and Youth Services Council.
- A continuum of care, using graduated services and programs ranging from prevention and intervention to incarceration.
- Collaborative service delivered through programs such as Court Day School and Correctional Academy have been implemented to improve behavior through Corrective Thinking, and Evidence Based Programming. These programs recognize the need to deal with the multiple causes and problems leading to at-risk and high-risk behavior.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan/Local Action Plan has two overlapping purposes. First, as a stand-alone document, this plan summarizes past and current efforts at combating juvenile crime in Madera County. As a Plan, this document reviews the existing system and identifies gaps in services that address juvenile delinquency, crime, and related problems. This description of the range of solutions addressing these problems directs future planning efforts and program development by providing an empirical framework for discussion and planning efforts. Second, this Plan provides the basis for an ongoing application to the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) for funding of specific program initiatives developed through this planning process.

Since being established, the Madera County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council developed a mission statement, goals, and objectives. At the time, the Council examined a diverse body of material, including academic research and community perspectives were solicited from key participants in county and civic affairs. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Mission Statement was established from previous work and research wherein the following was established:

*The mission of the Madera County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council shall be: Enhancing public safety through use of the full continuum of timely and appropriate prevention, intervention, and rehabilitative options. Effective use of these options will hold youth accountable and propel them toward productive and responsible citizenship, which will result in a reduced rate of youths continuing with problem behavior leading to adult crime.*

This mission will be addressed through the meeting of specific goals and objectives. Services and programs will be provided that prepare youths and their families to make responsible decisions and lifestyle changes. Accomplishing these goals will involve the following activities:

- Continuing the development of the continuum of care, through the development of prevention, treatment, and aftercare components.
- Stressing prevention and suppression: encourage and support prevention and intervention services at the front end of the system.
- Involving government and private agencies in all activities.
- Engaging families in these goals.
- Continuing the commitment to future planning and collaborative work.
- Improving services to under-served communities/populations.
- Information sharing by collaborative partners for case management and evaluation and developing empirical indicators that allow evaluation of outcome measures.

## **IDENTIFIERS OF YOUTH AT-RISK**

The problems of at-risk and high-risk youth in Madera County are much like jurisdictions throughout the country and previous research has shown, those youth who exhibit the greatest risk factors are best served in prevention programs.

At-risk and high-risk youth are composed of individuals who meet the following problem criteria:

- **Family:** Those youth residing with families in conflict (including violence and abuse in the home); children of substance abusers; and those whose parents lack fundamental parenting skills. Family issues are often a precursor to youth failing to attend school.
- **School:** Those with truancy and attendance issues; those with behavior and adjustment problems; those in danger of failing; and youth either dropping out or in danger of dropping out.
- **Community: Anti-social peers and premature independence:** Those youth involved in gang or gang-like activities; those youth who are at-risk of developing attachments to anti-social friends and norms, and engaging in activities outside the norm; those exhibiting signs of early independence through rebelliousness and early initiation into problem behaviors such as truancy; and those out of parental control, and/or suffering from a mental health disorder such as depression, anxiety, and trauma impairing their normal functioning. These youth are typically the most likely to avoid the educational system.
- **Sexual activity and resulting parenthood:** Youth, who engage in sexual activity, often resulting in early parenthood, create a range of problems for themselves and their children.

## **EXISTING INTERAGENCY COLLABORATIVE JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS**

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council of Madera County and the Interagency Children and Youth Services Council, the County forms an on-going collaborative body that continues to address these problems in a pro-active, preventative perspective.

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS)**

### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Madera County Behavioral Health provides a broad range of mental health services to children, adolescents, and their families throughout Madera County. These include:

#### **Outpatient Clinics**

Outpatient clinics in Madera, Chowchilla and Oakhurst provide assessment, individual, family and group therapy, psychiatric evaluation & medication services, therapeutic intensive care services and crisis intervention. Case management services are also available to assist in linking or brokering on behalf of clients and their family's access to needed community resources and to augment therapy services by assisting in the development of pro-social skills, behavior management and the like. Crisis response services are available 24 hours a day, and include telephone crisis management, and mobile crisis response. Crisis staff are available to respond to the Juvenile Hall, Jail and to the community of Madera County for involuntary hold (WIC5150) evaluations.

#### **Full Service Partnership (FSP)**

This program is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and we work in close partnership with the Department of Social Services, Probation, Education and Behavioral Health. The FSP provides intensive outpatient community-based services for underserved youth who are at risk of school failure, criminal justice involvement, or out-of-home placement as a result of serious mental illness. Services include therapy, mentoring, rehabilitation, therapeutic intensive care services which includes intensive case management in the community, school and home and are designed to help stabilize children and adolescents to allow for healthier behavior in their life domains. There are two FSP programs; one is geared toward children, ages 5 to 16 and the other to transitional age youth, and ages 16-21. Candidates for this program can be residing in their family home, foster care or an STRTP when services are necessary to stabilize these placements and allow for successful re-integration into their communities.

#### **Juvenile Justice Services (JJS)**

This program has a dedicated BHS clinician co located in the Juvenile Detention Facility and Correctional Academy. Mental Health staff provides individual, family and group therapy as well as case management services for youth who are on probation or are at risk of criminal justice involvement. Youth enrolled at Court Day School are expected to participate in intensive Behavioral Health Services as part of their school program. PTC students are also eligible for services when at risk for criminal justice involvement. This is a collaborative program between Probation, Superintendent of Schools and Behavioral Health. Staff from each agency work closely together to promote pro-social behaviors, decrease recidivism, and alter negative interactions in a youth's home, school, and community.

### **Interagency Child and Family Services (ICFS)**

This committee includes representation from the Department of Social Services, Probation, Superintendent of Schools, Public Health and Behavioral Health. The committee meets monthly to address the needs of Children and Youth in out of home placement. The committee oversees and reviews the status of children and youth who are either placed or being considered for placement in a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) or in an Intensive Service Foster Care (ISFC) home. This also includes stepping down children from their placements in either an STRTP or ISFC home as soon as possible and back into their home community. This may include intensive services from all agencies in an effort to sustain and stabilize their placement. If intensive services are needed, the youth is usually referred to the Full Service Partnership (MHSA) through Behavioral Health Services to help prevent higher levels of care like that of an STRTP or ISFC placement and decrease risk of needing multiple placements. The committee may consult and make recommendations regarding level of care when an existing placement and services are not meeting the youth's needs. The goal of the ICFS is always to determine and recommend the least restrictive and appropriate care.

### **SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES (SUD)**

Madera County Behavioral Health provides an array of alcohol and drug prevention and treatment service to Madera County youth and their families. These include:

#### **Outpatient Substance Use Treatment**

This service is available to youth meeting DSM-V criteria for substance abuse or substance dependence. Youth who are in treatment have significant and dangerous patterns of substance abuse that are affecting them in various life domains and/or leading to involvement in criminal behavior. Referrals come from parents, probation, schools and mental health programs. The program is a minimum of 9 months long and includes focus on drug refusal skills, understanding addiction, character development, resiliency skills and the like. There is close collaboration with JJS mental health and SUD providers regarding services for youth with co-occurring disorders.

#### **Prenatal Alcohol & Drug Treatment**

Treatment services are available for pregnant and/or parenting teen girls who need individual counseling regarding substance abuse; teens receive parenting education, outreach, and case management, linkage to needed health services and prenatal care, instruction in and have an identified substance abuse or dependence diagnosis. In addition to group and daily living skills, there is ongoing support to manage the demands of pregnancy. This program works closely with community partners to assist in linking the young women to all the resources needed to address both the substance abuse issue and their pregnancy or parenting needs.

### **Prevention Education Classes**

The SUD Prevention Coordinator conducts Drug and Alcohol Education Prevention classes with students at Chowchilla Union High School who have been discovered at school or school sponsored events to be under the influence or in possession of drug paraphernalia. Such students are required to complete a 10-week course of drug abuse prevention & education. This course occurs at the school site. Students referred by probation who do not meet the DSM-V criteria necessary for treatment services are also referred to the 10-week prevention education course conducted by the youth SUD treatment counselors. At any time it becomes evident that a youth is in need of treatment, a referral is made for SUD Outpatient Treatment Services.

### **Prevention Education in Juvenile Correctional Facilities**

Weekly drug and alcohol education classes are conducted for all youth residing in the Juvenile Detention Facility or Juvenile Correctional Academy. The youth SUD counselors conduct classes and youth are linked to outpatient prevention and/or treatment services as needed. Using the youth SUD counselors to conduct these classes enables positive continuity and continued support and intervention for these youth as they leave the correctional facilities and return to the community.

### **Other AOD Prevention Initiatives**

All counties are required by the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to have a five-year strategic plan focused on prevention. Madera County's plan includes initiatives targeting youth and pregnant and parenting teens, as well as other parents. A full-time Prevention Coordinator oversees implementation of the plan. In addition to prevention classes, prevention activities include participation in local community events and various health fairs. There is also continuous collaboration with other community agencies, coalitions, and school districts to plan and implement events and disseminate information throughout Madera County. Such collaboration also facilitates various educational presentations and workshops aimed at parents. Statewide campaigns such as Alcohol Awareness Month, Marijuana Awareness Month, Prevention Week, and Red Ribbon Week are also on the prevention activities calendar. The prevention Coordinator provides local media with information and press releases to disseminate information to the broader community, as well as provide updates through social media outlets. All have in common the reduction of alcohol and drug abuse in the community through education, information dissemination, problem identification and referral, provision of pro-social alternatives and involvement within community, and all are conducted with cultural competence in mind.

### **Service Gaps Identified**

- None.

## **MADERA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

### **JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION**

Juvenile Services Division has expanded services through several initiatives introduced since 2010. As the department continues to work to develop practices that align with Evidence Based Practices (EBP), we learned from data collected that fewer youth are being placed on formal probation and fewer violations have been filed in juvenile court since 2010.

Probation and Child Welfare has processed through some significant changes for foster youth care. AB403, also known as Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) increases family-based resources, extended family and Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP) and creates a Child and Family Team (CFT) to help guide placement decisions for foster youth.

In October of 2016, the department received approval to begin a remodel project of the old Correctional Camp facility to convert it into the new Juvenile Services Division building. In May of 2017, the location of the newly remodeled building is adjacent to Pioneer Technical Center and Juvenile Hall. Additionally, the building has the capacity to add vocational training programs to a portion of the building. It has the office capacity to house 30 probation staff, host trainings, two classrooms for youth engagement and large recreation area in the back. It will serve as a hub where probation staff and community-based agencies can co-facilitate programs to motivate youth to change their behavior and to be positive contributors to their community.

Since 2010, the department has put significant focus on training staff both evidence-based practices and officer safety skills. Much of the success of turning troubled youth around and keeping the community safe can be attributed to our hard-working, well trained and dedicated staff.

#### **Community Involvement:**

Madera County Probation Department has partnered with our local County Animal Shelter. Court Day School and Correctional Academy Aftercare students participate in walking and caring for the dogs at the Madera County Animal Services, which is located directly behind the Juvenile Probation Department. The program provides the juveniles an opportunity to develop a sense of nurturing and care for an animal, while developing a sense of empathy. This program is on Wednesdays from 9am-11am.

The Madera Juvenile Probation Departments Court Day School/Correctional Academy Aftercare program has partnered with Habitat for Humanity. Our participants work side by side with Habitat staff on cleanups at local homes, and have worked in helping paint a local church. Often times there are people in our community that need a helping hand and because of age or illness they are unable to clean up their yards, clean windows, remove trash or even paint needed areas. We utilize these opportunities to teach the youth, being part of a caring community.

Madera Unified School District and Probation partnered on the Ripperdan campus with the hope of changing the behaviors of youth at Ripperdan High and Jr. High School. The team consists of the Juvenile Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Program Specialist, and Behavioral Health Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counselor. The Probation Officer is on campus 5 days a week during school hours and provides additional support and services to the MUSD staff and students. The Probation Program Specialist and SUD Counselor are on site to facilitate groups Monday through Thursday in the afternoons. Thursday classes are specifically for the Jr. High Students. The program offered is a LIFE skills curriculum, where the students are taught about Anger Management, Victimization, Communication, Substance Abuse, Responsible Behavior, Relationships, How to get a job, and Resume building.

### **Juvenile Court and Intake**

The Juvenile Services Division oversees all juvenile matters referred to the Probation Department by other law enforcement agencies in Madera County. Juvenile Court Intake staff processes hundreds of referrals from law enforcement agencies for youths alleged to have committed law violations, those who are beyond parental control, curfew violators, truants or runaways. A determination is made whether the youth will be referred to the Juvenile Court for prosecution, placed on informal probation, diverted or reprimanded with the case closed. A Deputy District Attorney assigned to the Juvenile Services Division determines charges to file. The juvenile court investigators are responsible for compiling dispositional reports for the court.

### **Diversion for the First Time Offender**

A face-to-face interview is conducted with first time offenders and their families which typically include a referral for a misdemeanor. Support and guidance for parents is given in the form of a referral to parenting education classes, traffic school, and other community-based resources. In some cases, the youth may be referred to informal probation services for a period of six months.

### **Court Day School**

The Court Day School is a 180-day program in partnership between the Madera County Probation Department, Madera County Superintendent of Schools (MCSOS) and Madera County Behavioral Health Services Department (BHS). The probation officer works in collaboration with counselors, teachers, and administrators from the participating agencies. The components of the program include education, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, electronic monitoring, intensive supervision, community service, recreational activities, mentoring, and work force. Counseling services include Forward Thinking, Aggression Replacement Therapy (A.R.T.), Phoenix New Freedom, Word on the Street, Making Proud Choices, and Safe Dates (CSEC), Moral Recognition Therapy (M.R.T.), Teen Parenting Classes, It's All About Being a Teen, Project Life, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and Battle for Change. Since August of 2017, these counseling services have been provided at the Juvenile Services Division location.

### **Short Term Residential Treatment Program / Resource Family Placement**

A probation officer is responsible for the supervision of youthful offender's court ordered into group homes and/or foster care placement. This officer is responsible for the offender's safety and wellbeing and makes monthly face to face visits to the placement site. The officer works closely with the Child and Family Team that consists of social workers, behavior health specialist, placement provider and the youth's family. This arrangement ensures the youth in placements are given a voice and receive appropriate treatment in a safe and secure environment. During this time, the youth will be enrolled in school, mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, and other counseling if necessary. The probation officer will also work with the youth's parents or recruit foster parents to prepare the youth for transition back home.

### **JUVENILE SERVICES PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY YOBG/JJCPA FUNDING:**

#### **American Community Corrections Institute (ACCI)**

Evidence based workbooks which use cognitive restructuring techniques to change the way youth offenders think. ACCI's workbooks are used for diversion, as alternative sanctions that address criminogenic needs. The workbooks are completed within 30 days by the youth, with the help of a "coach".

#### **Aggression Replacement Treatment**

Aggression Replacement Treatment (A.R.T.) has been implemented and taught to the youth since 2010. It is a cognitive training aimed to reduce aggression and typically is a 10-week curriculum. Probation Program Specialist facilitates this curriculum at both Court Day School and Correctional Academy programs. The program is evidence based.

#### **Battle for Change**

The Battle for Change engages youth in the juvenile justice system to develop positive interpersonal habits to make a positive impact in their community. Battle for Change involves physical workouts and team building activities. The goal of these activities is to teach at risk youth the value of mutual respect, hard work, social responsibility, environmental awareness, proactive activities and help them in forming their opinions through positive independent thought. Probation staff and local community members take youth to participate in activities such as mountain hikes, ropes course, mountain biking and zip lining.

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters**

The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to provide youth facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one on one relationship that change their lives for the better, forever. On any given school day, you can find probation staff and friends of the probation department mentoring local youth at a local school.

### **Correctional Academy Aftercare**

The Aftercare Program is an integral part of the continued rehabilitation process for juveniles being released from the Correctional Academy. Prior to the release, the youth participates in an Aftercare Transition Meeting (ATM) with the parents/guardian, school counselor, AOD Counselor, Mental Health Clinician, Probation Officer, and Juvenile Probation Program Specialist. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the components of the Aftercare Program and the expectations of the youth upon release. The Aftercare Program partners with Madera Probation and Behavioral Health Services to offer services and resources necessary to help the youth with their reintegration back into the community. The programs offered within the aftercare phase are as follows: Aggression Replacement Treatment, Counseling Services, Substance Abuse Treatment, Electronic Monitoring, Life Skills, Job Readiness, Forward Thinking, and Community Service. A probation officer and program specialist are responsible for supervising youth participating in the Aftercare Program.

### **Community Service and Improvement Program**

Together with the City of Madera Public Works Department and the Probation Department, offenders are provided opportunities to perform community service hours under the supervision of the City's worksite supervisors. Additionally, community service is provided by our Correctional Academy/Court Day School youth in partnership with Madera County Animal Shelter and Habitat for Humanity.

### **Electronic Monitoring**

Electronic monitoring services are contracted through BI Electronic monitoring serves as an alternative to incarceration for youthful offenders by providing electronic supervision for youth released from juvenile hall or otherwise sentenced to this additional condition of probation. This alternative is used to monitor youths released early from juvenile hall and as a component of the court day school program and correctional academy aftercare.

### **Graffiti Prevention**

The Madera Police Department, Madera Sheriff Department, Madera Probation Department, and the Graffiti Abatement Team go out to various Madera elementary schools throughout the school year and educate 3<sup>rd</sup> graders about graffiti and its harm to private properties, businesses, schools, and public spaces. The team endeavors to raise awareness for the betterment of our larger community and to the benefit of all. The collaboration is pivotal to the success of this program. The Madera Unified School District, City of Madera Council Members and Board of Supervisors may also be present during the graffiti prevention presentations.

### **Juvenile Arson Prevention**

Youth who have committed arson offenses are referred to complete an evidence-based fire starter prevention and intervention curriculum.

### **Pathways to Recovery**

In collaboration with Madera County Behavioral Health Services a youth sex offender counseling program was developed for youthful offenders. The “Pathways” treatment model is an evidenced based model that consists of a cognitive behavioral framework for persons with sexual behavior problems. The offender’s family and/or caregivers will be included in the treatment process as means of developing their ability and understanding of how to support the offender throughout the entirety of their treatment process.

### **RadKIDS**

Probation officers teach 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders at local elementary schools to resist aggression in a ten-week program. The instruction includes personal empowerment safety education which is designed to empower the children to resist and stop violence, harm or bullying while improving focus to learn in a safe school environment.

### **Redirect**

The Valley State Prison Redirect Program is a one-day reality program presented by staff and volunteer inmates to the at-risk male youth ages 12- 17. The program is voluntary for the youth. The program is comprised of carefully selected inmates who share with the youth their own past behaviors, the choices they made and what they did to be committed to prison. It is supervised by correctional officers and carefully matches the inmates with the youth.

### **Reaching Youth Saving and Empowering (RYSE)**

The Central California Women Facility RYSE Program is a one-day reality program presented by staff and volunteer inmates to the at-risk female youth ages 12- 17. The program is voluntary for the youth. The program is comprised of carefully selected inmates who share with the youth their own past behaviors, the choices they made and what they did to be committed to prison. It is supervised by correctional officers and carefully matches the inmates with the youth.

### **Risk and Needs Assessment**

A key principle to identify behavioral interventions of youth is done with a risk/needs assessment tool and a case plan which becomes a “Road Map” to address youth needs and risk factors. Caseloads are determined by the risk/needs assessment score. A youth who receives a High or Moderate score is assigned to active supervision. A youth who receives a Low score is assigned to bank supervision.

### **Social Media Awareness**

In collaboration with the District Attorney’s office and our local school districts, the Probation Department offers sexting prevention presentations throughout the year. During these presentations, staff provide education to students regarding the dangers of sex crimes through phone texting and social media. Students learn prevention strategies and current laws in relationship to sex crimes by using social media.

### **The Parent Project**

The Parent Project is a 10-week class, during which time parents gain and learn the skills to effectively deal with and control teens who exhibit destructive behaviors. The Madera Police Department, Madera Probation Department, Madera Unified School District, Community Action Partnership of Madera County, and the Madera Ministerial Association work together to bring the national program to life locally.

### **Truancy Prevention**

A probation officer is assigned to work with the County's school districts to identify needs of the county's truant youth with the goal of increasing school attendance throughout the county.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE CRIME PREVENT ACT (JJCPA)**

In 2000, the California Legislature passed the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act, which authorized funding for county juvenile justice programs and designated the Board of Corrections (BOC) as the administrator of funding. A 2001 Senate Bill extended the funding and changed the program's name to the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA). This effort was designed to provide a stable funding source to counties for juvenile programs that have been proven effective in curbing crime among at-risk and delinquent youth.

In 2023-2024 Madera County Probation will use JJCPA funding for one AOD counselor assigned to the Correctional Academy Aftercare and Court Day School Program. The clinician will provide individual and group therapy with juveniles. Additionally, JJCPA funds will be used to purchase evidenced based curriculum, incentives, team building activities and field trips.

The mental health clinician teaches cognitive based programming to juveniles ordered into the Correctional Academy and Court Day School as part of the program's regular evidence based programming. Programs that integrate juvenile cognitive treatment with family intervention during the period of confinement and thru community reintegration have been shown to reduce the percentage of recidivism among juveniles.

A mental health clinician can focus on individual juveniles and their needs by addressing negative factors such as anger, impulse control, and emotional instability. Individual treatment sessions offer the juveniles an outlet to express and work on individual tailored needs.

The AOD counselor will provide both individual and group sessions regarding substance abuse education and treatment. This counselor will work with both in-custody and out of custody youth providing support for substance abuse recovery. Throughout the process, the counselor will continually review, assess, and document their clients' progress and follow up with post-treatment.

In 2023-2024, Madera County Probation will use JJCPA funds to pay for three Deputy Probation Officers dedicated to working with formal probation caseloads. Counseling referrals for parents and youth are offered to break the cycle of delinquency that ultimately leads to future adult criminality resulting in youths' constant series of commitments to detention facilities. Additionally, funds will pay for vehicle lease, travel, office supplies, cognitive workbooks, and associated supplies i.e., alternative sanctions and rehabilitative tools such as written courses with target specific offenses and related issues.

In 2023-2024, Madera County Probation will use JJCPA for one Probation Program Specialist assigned to work with juveniles ordered to the Court Day School Program and the Correctional Academy Aftercare Program. The evidence based services provided will include A.R.T., MRT, ACEs, Project Life, The Phoenix New Freedom and Mentoring, the program specialist is also trained to do A.R.T, MRT, ACEs, Motivational Interviewing, and Forward Thinking.

In 2023-2024 Madera County Probation will use JJCPA funding for specialized treatment providers. To provide services to local youths who have committed arson offenses regarding an evidence based fire starter prevention and intervention program. The youth's family will be included in the treatment process as means of developing their ability and understanding of how to support the youth throughout the entirety of their treatment process.

### **Service Gaps Identified**

- Vocational training-working with local Madera Community College.
- Gang prevention program-identifying a gang prevention program to offer our youth.
- Transportation to and from counseling, community service, and school.

### **Youthful Offender Block Grant:**

In September 2007, the California Legislature enacted SB81 and AB191. This directed the California Department of Juvenile Justice to discontinue accepting juvenile court commitments and parole violators except those adjudicated for violent offenses. Juvenile offenders with less serious offenses served custodial and parole commitments under the jurisdiction of the county probation departments in California.

The new law provided funding through the Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) to counties for the implementation of correctional reform programs for juvenile offenders. The funds cover the costs to counties to oversee juvenile offenders.

In 2023-2024, Madera County Probation will use YOBG funding for one Deputy Probation Officer to work with juveniles ordered to the Court Day School Program and also with juveniles at alternative education school sites located on our Juvenile Justice Campus. The evidence based services include A.R.T., MRT, ACEs, and Mentoring. The deputy probation officer receives training in A.R.T., MRT, ACEs, Motivational Interviewing, and Forward Thinking.

Additionally, funds will pay for program supplies, curriculum, incentives, and team building field trips, snacks, gift cards, and sports equipment. Also, related officer safety equipment office equipment/supplies, vehicle lease, and training.

In 2023-2024, Madera County Probation will use YOBG funds for one deputy probation officer will closely supervise juveniles when released from the residential phase of the Correctional Academy program. The juveniles will serve on house arrest with electronic monitoring, receive job training, counseling, transitional education, A.R.T., MRT, ACEs and Forward Thinking. They will also be provided with incentives and opportunities at field trips and special events as opportunity affords. Additional funds will be used for radKIDS training, office and safety equipment, vehicle leases, and other trainings as needed. Further funds will be used for A.R.T. and MRT curriculum, and lastly a contract with Behavioral Intervention BI, is used for house arrest electronic services as an added service to our youth in lieu of incarceration.

In 2023-2024, Madera County Probation will use YOBG funds to pay annual maintenance and training contract with the Evident Change Company for the JAIS Assessment tool that works in conjunction with our case management system. The assessment tool is utilized on all juveniles passing through the juvenile system who are subject to a filing of a formal petition. As such, a case plan is created to target needs with services and recommendations accordingly. Ultimately the most critical offenders are identified, and supervision efforts are provided based on validated risk/needs scores.

This tool is primary in identifying what EBP programming and services should be provided for the respective identified populations. Meaningful EBP efforts cannot be provided without first assessing the risk/needs of the justice involved youth. The use of such validated risk/needs assessment tools as well as detention assessments and case plans will offer more appropriate supervision/services and the use of staff time. This contract also includes staff training/development/use of the tools to assist in Evidenced Based Practices (EBP) with at risk/target youth.

In 2023-2024, Madera County Probation will use YOBG funds to pay for five Probation Officers dedicated to working with formal probation caseloads and targeted at-risk youth population. Counseling referrals for parents and youthful offenders are offered to break the cycle of delinquency that ultimately leads to future adult criminality resulting in offenders' constant series of commitments to detention facilities. Additionally, funds will pay for vehicle lease, travel, office supplies, cognitive workbooks, and associated supplies i.e., alternative sanctions and rehabilitative tools such as written courses with target specific offenses and related issues.

### **Service Gaps Identified**

- Vocational training-working with local Madera Community College.
- Gang prevention program-identifying a gang prevention program to offer our youth.
- Transportation to and from counseling, community service, and school.

## **JUVENILE DETENTION HISTORY IN MADERA COUNTY**

Juvenile Detention in Madera County began in the 1940's, at the first facility on Lewis Street just west of Madera Avenue. In 1962, the second Juvenile Hall was completed at a cost of \$323,151, including the property. The building was designed for 21 youth. Over the years, remodeling and "double bunking" increased the rated capacity to 40.

Construction of the new Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility started in July 2000 and the facility was occupied in January 2002. The facility is designed for expansion to 130 beds to meet future needs. The facility continues to be a safe, efficient, secure, learning environment for youth and the dedicated staff that supervises them.

The Juvenile Detention Facility currently has 70 single rooms. Twenty-Five (25) beds are designated for the Correctional Academy Program wards. Five (5) Correctional Academy beds are designated for Secure Track Youth who may be eligible for the Correctional Academy Program. Forty (40) beds are designated for Juvenile Hall detention youth.

## **JUVENILE FACILITY SERVICES**

### **EDUCATION SERVICES**

Madera County Juvenile Detention Facility and Correctional Academy both are provided educational services through the Madera County Superintendent of Schools. MCSOS maintains the responsibility for compliance with all educational standards as required through the State of California Department of Education and Title-15. Those youth who have completed High School and are academically eligible may enroll in on-line college classes.

### **EVIDENCE BASED PROGRAMMING**

General life skill programs are offered to detained youth through our on-site full time Probation Program Specialist. These programs provide education in Self Esteem, Trauma, Anger Management, Domestic Violence, Victim Impact, Parenting Skills, and Substance Abuse counseling. Edovo learning based tablet program is also available for youth to listen to music, watch appropriate movies or play a video games. Further, Madera Behavioral Health provides substance abuse treatment in group and individual counseling sessions. Forward Thinking and Adverse Childhood Experience courses are also offered as programs within the facility. The youth leave with a better understanding of positive character development with the tools necessary to become responsible and productive contributors to the community.

### **FOOD SERVICES AND NUTRITION**

Madera County contracts with Aramark Cooperation to provide food services to the facility through the Madera County Department of Corrections kitchen. All meals are prepared off site and served are in compliance with the California Code of Regulations Title-15, and California Department of Education Nutrition Program specifications.

## **MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH**

Madera County contracts with Wellpath for medical services that are provided 12 hours a day, 7 days per week. A registered nurse is on duty 7am-3pm and a Licensed Vocational Nurse is on duty 3pm-7pm. After 7pm a nurse is available as needed from next door at the County Jail. A full time mental health clinician is available on site between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm 5 days a week. Wellpath also provides on call after hours services regarding crisis mental health incidents. All services provided in the facility meet or exceed the standards as required by California Code of Regulations, Title-15.

## **RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

Youth for Christ provide onsite non-denominational religious services to those youth who choose to participate. Youth can request to have their own pastor visit them with the approval of the facility commander. Other religious services and spiritual counseling are offered throughout the year. Bibles are available for all youth and Edovo tablets provide religious literature.

## **WORKFORCE**

Workforce provides services for our youth in and out of detention. The program may include workshops, assessments and career planning, subsidized employment, on-the-job training, job placement, prerelease services, education, vocational training, connections to community-based organizations and other services to assist in transition back to the community. Ideally, workforce services would begin a least 90 days prior to release and continue post-release through the Workforce Assistance Center. The Workforce Investment Corporation, and the Partner agencies at the Workforce Assistance Center, provide a full array of education, training, skill development, and job placement services to support individuals in entering a career pathway that leads to quality employment opportunities and economic self-sufficiency.

Madera County Probation Department has contracted with Madera County Workforce Investment Corporation to provide justice involved youth with digital literacy, financial literacy program, banking information, Life skills, work-based learning, and opportunities for workplace training. There are two curriculums offered based on age or development. The Correctional Community Transitional Program (CCTP) 10 week curriculum is targeted for the 18-25 year old population. The IMAGO lesson plans is suited for the younger population, 12-18 years of age.

## **CORRECTIONAL ACADEMY HISTORY IN MADERA COUNTY**

With the support of our County Board of Supervisors, the Madera County Juvenile Correctional Camp began providing services to troubled youth from our community in May of 1997. The correctional camp, in part, was built as a cost effective alternative for a juvenile commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice, formally known as California Youth Authority. A juvenile placement at the correctional camp allows the County to offer local services, provide safety to the community, and accountability in a structured local program.

In September 2010, because of budgetary restraints, the Correctional Camp Facility was closed, and the program was moved into the Juvenile Detention Facility. In December of 2015, the Correctional Camp program was restructured and formally changed to a Correctional Academy program.

## **CORRECTIONAL ACADEMY PROGRAM**

To be eligible for the correctional academy, the Juvenile Court Judge must order a ward committed to the program under Section 602 of the Welfare & Institutions Code. The program is a collaborative effort between the Madera County Probation Department, Madera County Superintendent of Schools, Madera County Behavioral Health Services and volunteers. The program is typically a twelve month, eighteen month or twenty four month commitment that includes detention and aftercare phases. The program was developed from a correctional model for at risk youth based in part on military protocol.

The academy utilizes a combination of structure, redirection, physical conditioning and accountability in a nurturing approach in order to emphasize self-control and improve self-esteem. Once a youth has been committed to the academy they are referred to as cadets. There are three stages to the custody phase in which the cadets wear colored shirts according to their rank, from lowest to highest, green, brown and black. As the cadets advance in their rank, they become eligible to receive additional privileges such as community service, field trips and early release.

After successful completion of the in custody phase, cadets graduate to the aftercare component and are placed back into their parent's home whenever possible or an alternate living arrangement is made. The cadets are closely monitored as they may be placed on house arrest with electronic monitoring and probation staff provides intensive supervision. The cadet and their family will receive counseling services as determined by a mental health screening process and as resources allow.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Youth committed to the academy program participate in community service. These cadets learn a greater amount of respect and appreciation for their work. It also teaches the cadets to work together and give back to their community building a sense of citizenship. Some of the sites where the work is performed include the following: Veterans of Foreign War, Fair Grounds, Animal Shelter, Food Bank, Madera Love Inc, Rotary Club Events, New Hope Cemetery, Annual City of Madera Parks & Recreation Easter event and Wreaths Across America.

## **Service Gaps Identified**

- Vocational training-working with local Madera Community College.
- Gang prevention program-identifying a gang prevention program to offer our youth.
- Transportation barriers limit service delivery and access in the unincorporated and rural areas of the County.
- Increased pregnancy prevention services throughout the County.
- Culturally Responsive programs and services.

## MADERA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Madera County Superintendent of Schools (MCSOS) serves nine (9) school districts and charter schools, with a combined total of 31,979 K-12 students (Dataquest, 2021-2022). Of these 31,979 students, 76.1% (24,333) are Hispanic, 17.66% (5,648) are White, and small percentages, none larger than 1.8% represent any other ethnic group. The 2021-2022 countywide adjusted cohort graduation rate was 87.9%, compared to the state's rate of 87.0%. The 2021-22 cohort size was 2,355 students and 2,070 received high school diplomas.

The Madera County Superintendent of Schools (MCSOS) has actively pursued positive youth development through the following programs:

### **Alternative Education**

In the past several years, significant changes have occurred at the state level that affected almost all county office court programs. The most significant change was the implementation of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). When Governor Brown implemented the LCFF, one of the most interesting aspects was eliminating a County Office of Education's ability to operate Community Day Schools on a waiver for School Districts. As a result, many counties have closed their court day programs due to lack of enrollment. Governor Brown also added increased incentives for school districts to create new programs to retain students that would normally attend County Operated Programs. This new funding came in the way of Supplemental and Concentration Funds, which added up to an additional \$3,000 per year for student's attendance in three categories: English Learners, Low Income, and Foster Youth. A second change to schools during this time included the usage of Education Code 48900 for Expelled Youth. This policy affected the specific usage of Education Code 48900 (K) to expel a student. These changes resulted in Enterprise Secondary decreasing in enrollment from 125 students to roughly 15 students, making it impossible to operate a functional program. The 2016-2017 school year was the last year Madera County Superintendent of Schools operated Enterprise Secondary School. During 2017-2018, expelled students were enrolled at Pioneer Technical Center (PTC). The following year, PTC was moved to the old Enterprise Secondary School Campus, located at 28261 Avenue 14, Madera. A subsequent address change by the city of Madera now has the PTC campus listed as 1665 E. Olive Ave., Madera.

The Career and Alternative Education Services division offers a wide variety of services to students that need an educational option different from their prior academic placements. These programs are designed to lower student to teacher ratios, allowing for personalizing the educational options for each student. Students meet weekly with their assigned teacher and must enroll in Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways as part of graduation requirements from PTC. Programs currently offered include Designated English Language Development (DELD), Academic Acceleration Classes for remediation in English Language Arts and Mathematics, Edgenuity online curriculum for original course credit, and many opportunities for students to recover credits to graduate with a high school diploma. All MCSOS Alternative Education Programs are fully

accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and the curriculum is aligned to the State Frameworks for Content Standards. High School students are able to earn credits toward graduation and develop employment skills at the same time.

### **Endeavor Secondary School**

Endeavor is a court school that provides educational programs for students grades 7-12. Court schools are mandatory and serve students who have been referred by the Probation Department, Police Department, Sheriff's Department, or the Juvenile Court System.

### **Voyager Secondary School**

Voyager is the Madera County Juvenile Correctional Academy, and a Juvenile Court judge assigns students to the program. Students (cadets) enrolled at Voyager receive an academic program that assists them in earning credit toward high school graduation, along with many opportunities for community service and public speaking. Along with the academic program, cadets receive a highly structured training program to develop self-discipline, physical fitness, healthy choices, and increased behavioral health supports.

### **Pioneer Technical Center (PTC)**

PTC is a public charter school, established in 2002, and winner of the Golden Bell Award under the category Invigorating High Schools. Pioneer Technical Center promotes an Independent Study model that emphasizes vocational and career technical skills leading to career employment after graduation. The PTC charter offers grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, however, PTC currently serves students grades 9-12. Students attend weekly ATT appointments with their teacher of record and have other educational opportunities to attend seat-time classes for additional content area support in English-Language Arts and Mathematics, electives, or CTE courses, in addition to the assigned courses students complete as part of the Independent Study program. Pioneer Technical Center has two campuses, one located in Madera and the other located in Chowchilla. Many students enroll in Pioneer Technical Center having had very poor attendance in their prior school districts. Overall, the attendance rate at PTC is 88.25% (March 2020). Students earning the required 230 credits receive a high school diploma from PTC. The main goals for all students include achieving daily success, earning a high school diploma, and having the option to either enter college or obtain meaningful employment after graduation.

### **Madera County Independent Academy (MCIA)**

Prior to the 2017-2018 school year, MCIA offered grades Transitional Kindergarten through grade 12. That same year, students in grades 9-12 were transferred to Pioneer Technical Center (PTC), for greater access to the offered Career Technical Education Programs. MCIA is an Independent Study program using a Personalized Learning Teacher who leads students and parents through individualized curriculum and learning modes, and provides one-on-one site-based instruction. Our approach encourages students to personalize their instruction, and the freedom for students to utilize resources and activities to create a flexible, educational experiences. All student contracts are developed in accordance with MCIA policies and state curricula standards. While

attending the MCIA program, students learn and practice the self-discipline necessary for future success. The staff assists students in accomplishing their individual goals. In order to provide greater academic support for all students, Academic Acceleration classes are offered daily for all students below grade level proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

### **Special Education**

The Madera County Superintendent of Schools provides a variety of special education services through regionalized programs to identified students with special needs from birth to age twenty-two, offered to the nine school districts and charter schools throughout Madera County. As determined through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process, students may receive special education services individually, in small group settings, or in specialized classroom settings to address their developmental, physical, and social-emotional needs.

Utilizing developmentally appropriate curricula aligned to state standards, instruction focuses on the individual needs of each student with an emphasis on functional life skills leading to independence. Students may receive related services such as speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, deaf/hard of hearing services, services for the visually impaired, specialized health care, counseling and adapted physical education.

### **Youth Development**

Madera County Superintendent of Schools has actively pursued positive youth development through the following programs for Homeless and Foster Youth:

The objective of the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) and the Educating for Homeless Children and Youth Program (EHCY) is to ensure, in accordance with the law, that every Foster and Homeless Youth residing in Madera County is allowed a meaningful opportunity to meet the challenging state academic achievement standards to which all students are held. These programs ensure that all Foster and Homeless students have access to the same educational rights and resources as other students. Through the county-wide facilitation and coordination of services, the FYSCP and the EHCY ensure that the educational needs of Foster and Homeless youth are met in order to help them graduate from high school and be college/career ready. Services include: ensuring immediate enrollment (even if required documentation is not available), assistance to maintain educational stability (including transportation support to maintain the school of origin), ensuring the timely transfer of student records, calculation of full or partial coursework, screening for modified graduation criteria (AB167, AB1806), post-secondary preparation support, individualized academic/support services, and student advocacy. In addition, the FYSCP and EHCY provide professional development opportunities to local school districts and other stakeholders as well as monthly parent workshops.

## **MADERA COUNTY WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT-Title I**

### **Workforce Assistance Center**

The Madera County Workforce Assistance Center is a partnership of community organizations providing a wide variety of services to the residents of Madera County. Services include access to employment opportunities, assistance with resume development and employment applications, on-line tools for job search, career research, and skills evaluation, as well as access to Adult Education, English as a Second Language, Citizenship classes, and information regarding available jobs and training services. All of the services at the Workforce Assistance Center are available to eligible Madera County residents aged 18 and over, and are provided by the various partner agencies located at the Center.

The Madera County Workforce Investment Corporation is housed within the Madera County Workforce Assistance Center and also provides services to eligible out-of-school young adults between the ages of 18 and 24. Young adults (16 and 17 year-olds) who have a high school diploma or GED equivalent and are out of school may be eligible for these services as well as out-of-school emancipated young adults. All young adults who apply for services complete an individual assessment of their basic educational skills, aptitudes, and vocational interests. This assessment process results in the development of an individualized service strategy for each young person that outlines the programs and services that will be of most benefit to them.

Young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 are offered a comprehensive menu of services designed to assist them to transition into employment, advanced training, and/or postsecondary educational opportunities, with the emphasis on developing the skills needed for successful transition into economic self-sufficiency. The program offers a customer-centered approach with services designed to meet the needs of each individual, and includes: tutoring and study skills, alternative secondary education options, paid and unpaid work experience, occupational skills training, education combined with workforce preparation, leadership development, supportive services, adult mentoring, guidance and counseling, financial literacy education, essential workforce skills (soft skills), entrepreneurial skills training, labor market information, postsecondary preparation and transition, and follow-up services. Young adults are offered opportunities for work experience in either subsidized or direct placements into employment. These young adults are also offered assistance with accessing continuing education, including assistance with a GED or HS diploma, if needed, or guidance in selecting and registering for appropriate postsecondary course work, as appropriate. Financial capabilities workshops are also offered by Workforce Assistance Center staff, to help participants identify resources to help them pay for college, focusing on improving credit scores, raising income, increasing saving and reducing debt.

While quite comprehensive, all of these programs and services could benefit from higher levels of funding to allow for services to more youth and young adults in the community. There is a need for more focused collaboration and cooperative planning between agencies when grants are available to strengthen youth services and delivery

systems. Planning is underway to strengthen the existing referral process between both the juvenile and adult divisions of the Probation Department, so that all staff members are familiar with the services available to young adults through the Workforce Assistance Center. Designation of single points of contact at each department will help to streamline referrals between the agencies. In addition, regular presentations to Probation Department staff regarding the current programs and services being offered will assist in the development of appropriate referrals for services for individuals on probation.

## **MADERA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Madera County Department of Social Services (DSS) has responsibility for providing public assistance and social services to the citizens of Madera County. In addition to Child Welfare Services, DSS has developed several specific programs to address the problems of at-risk youth.

### **Promoting Safe and Stable Families**

Madera County Department of Social Services received a planning allocation for Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF). PSSF services are administered by DSS in four categories: Family Preservation, Family Support, Time Limited Family Reunification, and Adoption Promotion and Support. Each category focuses on a specific target population and offers services that can provide the need in that area. DSS uses PSSF, to fund the Prevention Services Program, Strengthening Families Program, and direct services.

Family preservation focuses on families in crisis with the imminent potential of the children's removal from the home. The services help maintain the safety of children in their own homes, support families preparing to reunify or adopt, and assist families in obtaining other services to meet multiple needs.

Family support services are voluntary and focus on services to strengthen the family and teach parents to alleviate stress and develop nurturing skills. They connect families with available community resources and include such activities as parenting education, health services, and a range of center-based activities.

Time Limited Family Reunification facilitates a reunification of the child safely and appropriately within a timely fashion. Services may include but are not limited to, counseling, inpatient, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services, mental health services, domestic violence, and transportation, among others.

Adoption Promotion and Support encourages adoption from the foster care system when adoptions promote the best interests of children, including such activities as pre and post-adoptive services and those designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families.

Clients served under these programs are extremely resource-challenged, and often interact with multiple agencies. DSS has discovered families in crisis who are in need of alcohol and drug counseling services, early mental health and intervention services,

assessment and treatment of high-risk medical needs and developmental delays, and intervention in the areas of domestic violence, immigration, housing, economic assistance and education.

### **Cal-LEARN**

Cal-LEARN services are provided by the Department of Social Services. The Cal-LEARN program is designed to assist pregnant and parenting CalWORKs teens in completing high school. Services include case management and referral, program compliance monitoring, counseling, parenting education, and mentoring. Other programs goals and purposes are:

- Encourage pregnant and parenting teens to stay in school or return to school, earning a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- Employ case management services to link each adolescent parent to community-based, multi-faceted referral networks (including education, health, and social services).

### **Transitional Housing Program - Plus**

The Transitional Housing Program- Plus (THP-Plus) is a traditional housing program designed to provide housing and case management for youth who exited foster care on or after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and are not yet 24 years of age. It supports youth by providing stable housing and services such as education assistance, counseling, employment support and training, and mental health services. The goal of THP-Plus is to provide independent living opportunities for eligible participants to gain and practice life skills in a safe environment and to assist with the transition from dependency to self-sufficiency.

### **Non-Minor Dependent (NMD)**

Non-minor dependents (NMD) are assigned social workers/probation officers that understand late adolescence/young adult development. We ensure that the youth has adequate and appropriate housing and that their minimal basic needs are met, food, medical, employment/education, etc. Once this has been addressed, we follow up with them monthly to assist with independent living needs ongoing. The transition from a 'parental figure' to that of an 'older supportive sibling' ensures they have the support necessary to meet their needs. We assist with transportation needs if necessary and work with them to make alternative transportation plans, so they don't become dependent on the social worker/probation officer or other people from either Department.

We assist with counseling (therapeutic-based and educational) and connect them to resources in both areas. We make sure that we maintain communication with outside agencies that are working with each youth. We assist with connecting them to the Independent Living Program (ILP) if necessary and assist the ILP coordinator in coordinating the necessary classes based on the needs of the youth. We assist with opening bank accounts (if not already open). We will go out with the youth if necessary for life skills (ordering food in a restaurant, pump gas, developing a budget, grocery shopping, oil change, etc.). We teach youth how to change diapers and parenting skills

to reduce risk. Everything we do for the youth is based on the youth and their individual needs and wants.

### **Interagency Child and Family Services**

The Department of Social Services is an active participant in this committee. See pages 5-7 for full details.

### **Independent Living Skills**

Madera County has an active ILS program, which serves youth in out-of-home placement ages 14-21. In addition to case management services, the county engages all foster care youth in this age category in the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment to help them identify areas that need to be addressed as they move toward self-sufficiency. Additionally, the county offers both in-person and home-life skills classes on various topics using a validated curriculum. Workshops are held with foster youth from CWS and Probation. The focus is post-secondary education, work readiness skills, life skills, leadership skills, and occupational skills.

### **Service Gaps Identified**

- Transportation barriers limit service delivery and access in the unincorporated and rural areas of the County.
- Increased pregnancy prevention services throughout the County.
- Lack of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services (inpatient and outpatient)
- Lack of Community-Based Organizations.
- Lack of local services/resources.

## **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**

The mission of BBBS is to help children and youth reach their potential through one-to-one mentoring. Youth participating are shown, through national independent research and local outcome evaluations to do better in school, are less likely to begin using drugs and alcohol, and less likely to engage in risky behaviors such as gang participation and teenage pregnancy. Eligible youth are involved in the school free-and-reduced lunch program, may have an incarcerated parent, or live in a single parent or non-traditional parent household.

The comprehensive screening process of our program assures that we have done everything possible to ensure the safety of the children we serve. The staff of BBBS are professionally qualified in the areas of counseling and crisis intervention and provide regular and consistent support to all matches. Each match has individualized goals and outcome objectives concentrating on promoting positive growth and development. The program also provides empowerment training which familiarizes parents, children and volunteers on child abuse prevention. BBBS is headquartered in Fresno with satellite offices in Madera. The organization serves four counties that include Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare counties. In 2020-2021 over 500 children were served.

## **Madera BBBS**

BBBS serves a greater percentage of children living in poverty, given the local demographics. Big Brothers Big Sister's goal is to take our program to more children with our commitment to help these underserved youth become confident, competent and caring adults. Studies have proved that children that are mentored do better in school, are less violent and avoid drugs and alcohol.

## **Existing and New Programs**

### **Community Based**

In the Community Based program, the youth and the adult meet between two to four times a month, spending time together in activities that build friendship and trust. Activities may include attending arts or sports events, playing games, participating in educational activities, helping with homework, or just hanging out together.

### **High School Bigs**

The HSB program provides mentoring matches between High School and Elementary School students. Group meetings occur twice a month for an hour and a half at the BBBS headquarters office.

### **Bigs With Badges**

This is a specialized program geared toward members of public safety. Due to the nature of their careers, there is flexibility offered for the mentors with regards to frequency of outings. Mentors meet with their mentees between 2-4 times a month.

## **Law Enforcement Agencies**

### **MADERA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

The Sheriff-Coroner of Madera County is an elected official administering approximately 127 sworn deputy positions, 104 correctional officer positions, 60 support staff, approximately 22 members of the Sheriff's reserve unit, and approximately 44 members of the Sheriff's volunteer "Citizen Patrol" auxiliary. The Sheriff's Office headquarters are located near the north-west boundary of the Madera City limits with a large substation in Oakhurst, substations in Madera Ranchos, and Tesoro Viejo. Due to the rural nature of the county, the Sheriff's jurisdiction is divided into seven primary beats with two additional high-country beats.

The Sheriff's Office has several dedicated enforcement programs. These include the multi-agency Narcotics Enforcement Team, Boat Patrol, and Problem Oriented Policing. The Sheriff's Office dedicates personnel to the Special Investigations Unit Task Force, FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force, and FBI Human Trafficking Task Force. The Sheriff's Office has three dedicated School Resource Deputies assigned to our three school districts. The Sheriff's Office also partners with other agencies including Alcohol

Beverage Control, California Highway Patrol, and related county departments including the Probation Department and the Office of the District Attorney.

## **MADERA POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD)**

The City of Madera appoints its Chief of Police. The Chief of Police, one Commander and three Lieutenants manage 75 sworn officers, 37 non-sworn, 1 Reserve Officer, 3 Volunteers and 5 Chaplains. The Department supports a Detective Division (6 Officers and a Sergeant), Special Investigations unit (4 MPD Officers, 2 Probation Officers, and MPD Sergeant), Motor unit (4 Officers and a Sergeant), three School Resource Officers are assigned to the Madera Unified School District, and one Officer is assigned to the City of Madera Housing Authority. The remaining personnel are assigned to patrol functions.

The Madera Police Department strives to make Madera a safer community through superior service and partnerships.

### **Mission Statement:**

It is the mission of the Madera Police Department to be devoted to family and community through superior service and partnerships. We will reduce crime while treating people with dignity and respect.

### **Values Statement:**

The Madera Police Department values professionalism. We strive to provide quality customer service with integrity and endeavor to solve community problems and reduce crime through partnerships built upon a foundation of accountability, trust, and compassion. The badge is a symbol of public faith and trust that we will maintain through adherence to these core values. The badge is a symbol of public faith and trust that we will maintain through the adherence to these core values.

### **Principled Policing:**

The Madera Police Department seeks procedural justice through the use of Principled Policing methods in order to realize positive outcomes during our day-to-day contact with community members. The four tenets of procedural justice are: **Voice:** Allowing community members the ability to tell their side of the story while being sincere and considerate to their views. **Neutrality:** Making unbiased decisions that are guided by transparent reasoning and the law. **Respect:** Taking issues seriously, being polite, respecting rights, and being courteous in treatment. **Trust:** Professional behavior that is sincere, caring, open, honest, considering views of others, with a lack of prejudice throughout.

### **Madera Police Department Kids Camp**

The Camp has been an overwhelming success with over 100 kids attending annually. The camp consisted of a four-day kid's camp for third through fifth graders ran by police personnel. The camp had a sports theme teaching the importance of physical education, good health, and education. The camp also incorporated a daily guest speaker. The guest speakers were from various professional fields, such as Law Enforcement, Fire, Military,

and College Athletes (Fresno State Football). We are in the planning stages for our fifth annual Kids Camp with an estimated enrollment of over 100 third through fifth graders.

### **School Resource Officers**

The School Resource Officers (SRO) are charged with the responsibility of maintaining a safe environment at the Madera High North and South school and middle school campuses as well as surrounding areas. The SROs coordinates activities between the schools, probation system and the courts. The SROs directly represent the juvenile justice system on the middle school and high school campuses. Whenever a juvenile breaks the law the SRO will conduct the investigation and, if necessary, affect an arrest. The SRO also assists in coordinating rallies, necessary traffic control and the security of other special events. The SRO assists with the administration of onsite school security forces. This includes enforcing school policies such as dress code, disturbances and out of control students. SROs may also act as a counselor to students regarding problems on or off campus relating to home, personal or other problems. In this role, matters are kept confidential. The SRO will also assist the student in seeking proper guidance and will contact and refer special problems to an appropriate agency.

### **Learning with the Law Program**

This program provides Madera PD members with opportunities to read and interact with elementary school age kids. The nonprofit, Literacy Center, states there is a link between low literacy and crime. Seventy-five percent of adults incarcerated in state prisons lack a high school diploma or have low literacy skills. The Madera Police Department wants to set the example and show the importance of reading to youth at an early age. The program is active in 13 MUSD campuses where officers meet biweekly during the school year and read a children's book and answer student's questions about our profession and numerous other topics kids come up with! Our officers know that education is a key aspect in reducing crime and building community success.

### **Parent Project**

The Madera Police Department participates in facilitating in several Parent Project classes throughout the year. The Parent Project is a team of instructors from Madera County Probation, Madera Police Department, Community Action Partnership of Madera County, Madera Unified School District, and the Madera Ministerial Association. To strengthen our community these agencies have partnered together and formed a team of certified Parent Project facilitators. This program has been developed by over half a million parents over the last 33 years. These parents have been through the struggles and success raising children who frequently run away, associate with gangs, use of drugs, and anything in between. Our multi-agency team utilizes education techniques and principles to help parents raising strong willed children.

## **CHOWCHILLA POLICE DEPARTMENT (CPD)**

The Chief of Police, employed by the City of Chowchilla, supervises a department of 22 sworn officers and 11 support personnel. The Chowchilla Police assume similar responsibilities to the Madera Police Department.

CPD has two full time Campus Resource Officers, one assigned to Chowchilla Union High School and one assigned to Chowchilla Elementary Schools. The Campus Resource Officer (CRO) concept was introduced to Chowchilla in 1998 through a cooperative effort between the Chowchilla Police Department and local school districts. The goals of the CRO Program are to ensure that our school campuses are safe environments for learning and to increase positive interaction between youth and the police department. In cooperation with school staff, the Campus Resource Officers attempt to provide alternative solutions for our youth when they are faced with a problem. The CROs work closely with the Gang Liaison Officer, MADNET and Madera PD SIU Detectives, and school personnel to keep the influence of gang activity and drug use low among our middle and high school age students. Both current Campus Resource Officers go the extra mile by being involved with our youth. Officer Herring is the lead person in valuable CUHS prevention programs. Officer Aminsalehi works for the CESD and organizes safety/awareness presentations tackling issues such as gang awareness and internet safety.

Chowchilla City Police Officers Association is very active in the community and with the youth. They consist of the sworn and non-sworn officers of the Chowchilla Police Department and function primarily as their bargaining unit. Each year they help fund youth programs in the City of Chowchilla.

Chowchilla CPOA participates in their annual toy and coat drive each year during Christmas. They receive hundreds of toys and coats which are given out to school aged children living in the community. Their yearly goal is to provide children with coats during the cold winter months and toys for their Christmas celebration. CPOA also sponsors a youth little league baseball team and youth girls softball team. They will also sponsor any other boys or girls sport program when asked to do so. Their Chief of Police is also a very active member on the high school campus, announcing football games and assisting with field maintenance. Their Police lieutenant Daniel Denny, is the high school varsity football coach. Police Lieutenant Stacy Burns is also active in the community coaching little league baseball. There are 2 other officers in the department who coach at the high school and youth level football programs. All of them are in constant contact with the youth and those other organizations within the community which support youth programs and mentoring of youth.

**Service Gaps Identified**

Review of law enforcement documents and interviews with key respondents suggest the following gaps in service to juveniles in the county:

- Inadequate recreational activities for youth and children.
- Difficulties in providing law enforcement services in rural and un-incorporated areas.
- Need for increased multi-agency law enforcement sweeps.

**2023-24 PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIES**

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is committed to collaboration and interagency programs. The following matrix of existing programs identifies this - collaboration.

**EXISTING PROGRAMS**

<p><b>PREVENTION</b> Madera Narcotics Enforcement Team Tobacco Use Prevention Education Alcohol and Drug Prevention Police Explorers Drug Resistance Education Parent Education Classes</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b> Probation Officers in Schools Court Day School Community Service Victim Restitution</p> <p><b>PLACEMENTS</b> Continuum of Care- Placements Foster Care Short-Term-Residential-Treatment Programs (STRTP)</p>	<p><b>INTERVENTION</b> Community School Behavioral Health Services/Alcohol &amp; Drug Promoting Safe and Stable Families CalLearn Independent Living Program New Choices/Corrective Thinking Aggression Replacement Therapy Adverse Childhood Experiences Student Attendance Review Board</p> <p><b>DETENTION</b> Correctional Academy Juvenile Hall Secure Track Electronic Monitoring</p>
--	---

Madera County has been effective in reducing juvenile crime in our community. This success can be largely attributed to the collaboration that has been cultivated among city and county agencies and community-based organizations. By embracing the values and principles of collaboration, the county has been able to be responsive to emerging issues and gaps in services within the juvenile justice system, resolve problems cooperatively, and redirect resources as needed to address these issues.

This Local Action Plan update identifies gaps in services, as well as effective strategies to continue quality services to youth in Madera County. As funding allows, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council remains committed to achieving positive outcomes for the youth and families that we serve. This document will provide a blueprint for future plans and will continue to lead us on a path to provide effective multi-agency response to the needs of at-risk youth who find themselves involved in the juvenile justice system.