

**Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act &  
Youthful Offender Block Grant  
(JJCPA-YOBG)**

**Consolidated Annual Plan  
Fiscal Year 2023-2024**



**Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act &  
Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG)**

**Consolidated Annual Plan  
FY 2023-2024**

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**Background and Instructions:**

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

County plans are to be submitted to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), and may be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website.

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## **Executive Summary**

The County of San Luis Obispo developed its Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) in 2000. Following changes made to JJCPA reporting requirements enacted by Assembly Bill 1998 and effective in 2017, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) conducted a thorough review of the county's existing continuum of county-based responses to juvenile crime to submit an updated consolidated annual plan for fiscal year 2018-2019.

The JJCC met on three occasions in early 2018, assessing existing services, identifying focus areas for prioritization of new services and activities, and developing an action plan. This process culminated with the submittal of a consolidated CMJJP for 2018-19. The JJCC met multiple times each year since then in order to update the plan and review the annual data and expenditure report.

In April 2022, the JJCC formally adopted by laws governing its authority, purpose, duties, membership, subcommittees, officers, meetings, procedures, conflict of interest and amendments. This year the JJCC met in March and April of 2023. The group again reviewed juvenile justice data points and Probation's recommended updates to the CMJJP. Council Members assisted in updating the "Existing Youth Services and Resources" section of the report and the other additions and modifications included herein.

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

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

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

#### **a. Law Enforcement**

San Luis Obispo County is served by eight (8) primary law enforcement agencies whose responsibilities include addressing juvenile delinquency. The following is a listing of those agencies as well as any specific services or resources they provide that target at-risk, youthful offenders, and their families.

##### **1. County of San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office**

The County of San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Office (SLOSO) is responsible for law enforcement in the unincorporated areas of the county and has established three separate patrol stations, one in each region of the county, for this first line law enforcement function. In addition, the SLOSO includes a School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit that serves schools throughout the unincorporated areas of the county. SROs provide ongoing support and training to specific school sites in their respective areas of responsibility, in addition to providing valuable prevention and intervention services. Prevention and intervention services include teaching Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT), an evidence-based gang and violence prevention program, in elementary schools and collaborating with other agencies to provide regional youth summer camps to supplement this classroom experience. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office provides young men and women ages 14-21 years of age, the opportunity to experience law enforcement firsthand through the Sheriff's Explorer Program. Explorers have the opportunity to apply their training in Western Region Competitions each summer. The Teen Driver Challenge is held at Allen Hancock College and provides a full day of defensive driving techniques to keep students safe behind the wheel.

SROs assist in active shooter training at various school sites and the SLOSO offers active shooter training to all county law enforcement agencies. The SLOSO also runs the county's Gang Task Force (GTF), which includes four multi agency street teams, that conduct gang related criminal investigations in addition to providing valuable outreach and gang education to other law enforcement agencies as well as community organizations.

2. Arroyo Grande Police Department  
The Arroyo Grande Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which include a School Resource Officer, to the City of Arroyo Grande.
3. Atascadero Police Department  
The Atascadero Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which include a School Resource Officer, to the City of Atascadero.
4. Grover Beach Police Department  
The Grover Beach Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services to the City of Grover Beach.
5. Morro Bay Police Department  
The Morro Bay Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which include a School Resource Officer and Explorer program, to the City of Morro Bay.
6. Paso Robles Police Department  
The Paso Robles Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which includes three School Resource Officers, to the City of Paso Robles.
7. Pismo Beach Police Department  
The Pismo Beach Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services to the City of Pismo Beach, which include Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) at the local elementary school.
8. San Luis Obispo Police Department  
The San Luis Obispo Police Department provides law enforcement and related public safety services, which include a School Resource Officer, to the City of San Luis Obispo.

**b. Probation**

The County of San Luis Obispo Probation Department includes a Juvenile Services Division that provides services across the juvenile justice continuum. This continuum includes school and community-based prevention and intervention programming, intake and court investigative activities, supervision services for youth residing in the community or in approved out of home placements, and care and control of youth detained in Juvenile Hall or committed to the Department's Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) camp program or Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). The Division is comprised of three separate units that are identified as follows:

1. Court and Prevention Services
2. Field Supervision Services
3. Placement and Commitment Services

A detailed description of the services provided by the Probation Department within the continuum of juvenile justice services in the county will be provided in the Juvenile Justice Action Strategy section of this report.

**c. Education**

San Luis Obispo County is served by ten (10) school districts and three (3) charter schools, in addition to the County Office of Education (COE). The districts vary in size from 55 to over 9,000 students enrolled and are identified as follows:

1. Atascadero Unified School District
2. Cayucos Elementary School District
3. Coast Unified School District
4. Lucia Mar Unified School District
5. Paso Robles Joint Unified School District
6. Pleasant Valley Joint Union Elementary School District
7. San Luis Coastal Unified School District
8. San Miguel Joint Union School District
9. Shandon Joint Unified School District
10. Templeton Unified School District

The districts offer a variety of traditional and alternative educational settings for youth as well as a variety of programs to meet the needs of individual students such as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, School Attendance Review Boards, Bully Prevention Programs, Advancement Via Individual Determination, Career Technical Education, Restorative Justice Practices, Violence Prevention Programs, Student Study Teams, and Individualized Education Programs and 504 Plans for students with disabilities. Therapeutic Learning Classrooms are located within the county as follows:

1. Lucia Mar Unified School District
2. Atascadero Unified School District
3. Paso Robles Joint Unified School District
4. San Luis Coastal Unified School District

The COE's responsibilities include educating specific student populations, monitoring and oversight of student academic environments, providing academic support and assistance to school districts, and implementing regional support activities. COE provides alternative education programs for youth such as the Grizzly Youth Academy Charter School and Court and Community Schools. The

COE provides Intensive Therapeutic Learning Programs at Chris Jespersen School in San Luis Obispo, with one classroom for grades 3-8 and another for grades 7-12. The COE is also responsible for a countywide School Attendance Review Board.

**d. Mental Health**

The County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department's Youth Services Division provides a wide variety of mental health services with a primary goal of reducing psychiatric symptoms and behavioral issues so that youth can remain safe, healthy, at home, in school and out of trouble.

- Outpatient services are provided at five main clinic sites located in Atascadero, San Luis Obispo (2) and Arroyo Grande (2). There is an additional satellite office in Paso Robles. Specialty Mental Health Services include assessment, individual, family and group therapy, rehabilitation services, crisis intervention, psychiatric evaluation, medication support, case management, Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS), and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS).
- Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) teams convene in four (4) areas of the county (Paso Robles, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, and Arroyo Grande) to provide various levels of service and multi-agency collaboration and coordination to youth and their families. The SAFE teams receive referrals and design individualized, collaborative referrals and interventions. The goals of SAFE are to reduce the number of children requiring out of home care such as foster home, congregate care, or hospitalization; to reduce recidivism in Probation-involved youth; to improve school attendance, and to stabilize the child in their own home. The SAFE team is comprised of staff from Behavioral Health, Social Services, Probation, Education, The Link, CAPSLO, other community agencies and the family.
- Mental Health Services Act Full-Service Partnership (FSP) provides intensive community and home-based mental health services to youth and their families. This service is provided by a contractor for the Behavioral Health Department with referrals processed through a Behavioral Health program supervisor.
- Mental Health Services at Juvenile Hall and the Coastal Valley Academy include assessment, individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, rehabilitation services, crisis intervention and referrals for youth currently in custody in either facility. A psychiatrist from Behavioral Health provides medication, evaluation and monitoring once a week.
- Abused Children's Treatment Program (ACTS) provides mental health services for sexually abused children, ages birth to 18, and their families. The primary goal of this program is to treat the symptoms and emotional trauma associated with sexual abuse, disclosure, and court involvement,

to reduce the possibility of further sexual abuse and to coordinate with other agencies in providing comprehensive services for victims and their families.

- Mental Health Services Act Latino Outreach Program (LOP) provides a full array of culturally responsive mental health services in the community as well as at clinics and in client's homes. Clinicians and case managers in the program are bilingual and work to increase access to mental health care for monolingual and bilingual Spanish-speaking individuals to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness and treatment amongst the Hispanic/Latino/Latinx population.

#### **e. Health**

The Health Department provides a variety of confidential services available to at-promise youth, youthful offenders, and their families.

- Sexual and Reproductive Health Care Services include birth control, condoms, pregnancy testing, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, Hepatitis C testing, and PrEP (HIV prevention). Services, testing, and treatment are available by client consent starting at the age of twelve at the clinic in Paso Robles.
- Public Health Nurses (PHN) are available to complete home visits for pregnant and parenting teenagers to assist them to have a healthy pregnancy, link them to community resources, assist with infant/child needs such as parenting information, growth and development assessments of their child, safe sleeping habits, feeding information, assisting with doctor's information and a variety of other topics.
- Public Health is a member of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Collaborative and the CSEC Multi-Disciplinary Team. The Public Health Nurse (PHN) is there to support the CSEC youth to make sure that his/her medical needs and questions are addressed. Referrals and resources are available to the youth as needed. If the CSEC youth is pregnant, she can be referred to the Field Nursing program and assigned accordingly to one of the PHN's. Home visits can begin and potentially continue until the child turns three years old.
- The Public Health Department has two PHNs assigned specifically to the foster care program. The PHN's role with probation foster youth is care coordination and medical case management. The PHN maintains the youths' health and education passports by updating them when medical information is received. The PHN also oversees and provides insight and monitoring of the psychotropic medications/JV220 process.

#### **f. Social Services**

In addition to the regular array of services available to the families of at-promise youth and youthful offenders through CalFresh, Cash Assistance and child welfare services programming, Social Services has an array of services available to probation youth in or at risk of foster care placement, as follows:

- The Resource Family Approval (RFA) program recruits, trains, and approves prospective foster parents to provide care to youth in a home-based foster care setting.
- Intensive Services Foster Care provides resource families, foster families approved through the RFA program, with additional training and support to provide an intensive level of care to youth who are at risk of congregate care placement or who need additional support transitioning back to the community from congregate care.
- Funding for enrichment activities can be provided to encourage youth to participate in positive pro-social activities as well as to support existing youth strengths and interests.
- Independent Living Program (ILP) services are available to all foster youth ages 14-21 years old. ILP provides case management and focuses on preparing the youth for adulthood. Services provided include assistance with long term educational planning, job readiness, navigating public transportation, securing housing, healthy living and more. ILP also hosts several social events each year that youth are encouraged to attend such as the popular TAYs-Giving feast, Holiday Social, and end of the year awards banquet. ILP services also include a financial stipend for youth who participate in the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Survey as well as assistance with completing the survey.
- Respite Care is available to resource families to assist them scheduling personal time needed to attend appointments or to provide them with time away from foster care responsibilities to recharge.
- College and Career Counseling is available to foster youth through a professional college and career planning specialist who will work with the youth during their high school years to identify their college and career goals and take concrete steps to meet them. Assistance provided includes choosing high school classes, applying to college, applying for scholarships, and preparing for the college years.
- The Transition Aged Youth Achievers Program (TAY-AP) provides financial assistance to current or former foster youth participating or eligible to participate in the Independent Living Program. The special emphasis of the program is to enhance enrollment in higher education or vocational training so that the youth served become self-sufficient.
- Level Of Care (LOC) is a state mandate put into place to standardize foster care rates across all counties. The LOC Protocol is designated to identify the needs of the foster child and the expectation of the care provider to meet those needs, and then match their needs to the appropriate rate level. The Protocol consists of five domains that cover the primary care and supervision needs of the child. The Protocol allows the Social Worker/Probation Officer to score each domain based on the child/youth's care and supervision needs to identify the appropriate Home-Based Family

Care (HBFC) LOC rate, including if applicable, Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC).

- Family Finding services are specialized services provided upon request by the Probation Officer to locate family members of the probation involved youth. Family members may be invited to establish or grow their relationship with the youth, support family reunification, or provide placement for youth in need of out-of-homecare.
- ASSIST is a program that provides specialized permanency support to youth in need of long-term connections, particularly those who will be stepping down from congregate care. Services include team-based permanency exploration; transition and stabilization; Family Finding; file-mining, trauma-informed psychoeducation and therapy for youth and any possible caregiver; pre- and post-placement family therapy; pre-placement visitation and normalizing activities; and flexible funding to support youth and family specific placement needs.
- The Family Urgent Response System (FURS) program provides immediate, trauma-informed services to current and former Child Welfare and Probation foster youth (and their families) up to the age of 21. Youth or caregivers are invited to call a free hotline 24/7 when seeking assistance and support during “situations of instability.” These services are intended as early interventions to reduce or mitigate the need for law enforcement involvement, psychiatric hospitalization, and/or placement in congregate care; preserve the relationship between the caregiver and youth; and stabilize placement.
- Youth Engagement Program (YEP): Mentor and professional development program for youth with lived experience. Ambassadors are assigned programs, projects, policies etc. based on their interest in which they provide youth voice to guide program and policy development to improve outcomes for children and families in SLO. Youth receive a monthly stipend based on their contributions and years of engagement in the program. This program supports professional development, networking opportunities and provides ongoing connection and support for participating youth.
- Cool Aunt Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention and Mentor Resource: Free online youth led, and survivor informed human trafficking and cyber safety program. Youth are engaged in ongoing communication and offered the opportunity to speak with a mentor with lived experience. This program also provides resources and training for parents, caregivers, and service providers.
- Center for Family Strengthening/San Luis Obispo County Office of Education/AmeriCorps Youth Mentor Program for Middle School Students: This early intervention and prevention program is available at no cost to any youth identified as at-risk in SLO County Middle Schools. A mentor with lived experience provides mentor support, cyber safety, and human trafficking awareness. The framework for this program is aligned with the Casey Program AmeriCorps Mentor Program under

the direction and guidance of The Center For Family Strengthening SLO County Office of Education and the Department of Social Services.

**g. Behavioral Health Prevention and Outreach**

The County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Department, Prevention and Outreach Division provides a continuum of substance abuse treatment and education services to youth and families in the county.

- The Middle School Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) project builds resiliency while reducing risk factors and stressors among students. Student Assistance Programs (SAP) are established at select middle schools including Atascadero Middle School, Lewis Middle School, Flamson Middle School, Judkins Middle School, Los Osos Middle School, Laguna Middle School, Mesa Middle School, Paulding Middle School, Santa Lucia Middle School, Lillian Larsen School, Shandon Middle School, and Templeton Middle School. The PEI SAP programs include a Student Support Counselor, a Family Advocate, and a Youth Development Program (Friday Night Live).
- School Site Prevention and Early Intervention Counseling is provided for selected students in middle and high school exhibiting risk indicators consistent with children of addiction. Counselors work directly with at-risk youth through student support groups, individual counseling, classroom presentations, parenting programs, and assessments and referrals. School sites include Cappy Culver/Lillian Larsen, Coast Union High School, Morro Bay High School, Pacific Beach High School, San Luis Obispo High School, and Templeton High School.
- Friday Night Live (FNL) is a school-based universal prevention program at every public high school and middle school in the county. All programs provide participants with a safe environment and opportunities for involvement and connection with community and schools, opportunities to develop caring and meaningful relationships with youth and adults.
- Youth Substance Abuse Treatment Program Services are provided at Drug and Alcohol Services clinics in Paso Robles, Atascadero, and the Prevention and Outreach clinic in San Luis Obispo. Clinicians provide substance use disorder screening, intervention, and treatment for Drug Medi-Cal eligible youth and their families.
- Co-Occurring Treatment for Adolescents is provided for youth entering the Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder treatment programs who have a dual diagnosis.

**h. District Attorney**

The County of San Luis Obispo District Attorney's Office (SLODA) is responsible for prosecuting crime and protecting victim rights in the County of San Luis Obispo. One Deputy District Attorney (DDA) is assigned specifically to juvenile

delinquency court and works closely with the Probation Department and other local law enforcement agencies to coordinate the filing and prosecution of juvenile offenses. This DDA represents the SLODA in all juvenile delinquency court proceedings and facilitates regular School Resource Officer meetings that are open to area law enforcement agencies. These meetings provide a valuable venue for the sharing of juvenile justice information such as legal updates, recent trends, and available resources. This DDA also coordinates victim involvement in juvenile delinquency court proceedings through the department's Victim Witness Assistance Center. Victim Witness services are often accessed by at-risk juveniles and their families as they have frequently been the victims of crimes themselves. These services include but are not limited to linkage to therapeutic services as well as support in obtaining restitution for losses or damages incurred. In addition, the SLODA supports a vertical prosecution strategy for gang involved cases by providing an identified prosecutor and investigator to work with the Gang Task Force in the county.

**i. Public Defender**

San Luis Obispo Public Defenders represent youth at all stages of juvenile court proceedings, beginning with initial hearings, either detention or jurisdiction, contested hearings or resolution, disposition and post-disposition. Defenders represent the youth's expressed interest at all stages. The approach is holistic, looking beyond the petition allegations to the youth's home circumstances, school records, mental health, immigration status, and other relevant aspects of the youth's life. To ensure the needs of youth are met, the Public Defender utilizes investigators, interpreters, social workers, experts, and other professionals as needed in any specific case.

**j. Other Services Resources**

1. Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Provides community and school-based mentoring programs for youth throughout the county with administrative offices in San Luis Obispo and collaborative office space in North and South County.

2. Boys and Girls Club

Provides programs for youth 6-18 years of age with a focus on academic success, character development, good citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. Clubs are located in Atascadero, Creston, San Luis Obispo, Oceano, Grover Beach, Shell Beach, Pismo Beach, Shandon, and Paso Robles.

3. Center For Family Strengthening

As the designated Child Abuse Prevention Council of San Luis Obispo County, Center for Family Strengthening (CFS) serves as the nonprofit home for the prevention programs listed below.

- Child Advocacy Center: Family Advocates assist child victims and family members at forensic interviews and medical exams.
- Parent Connection: A countywide system of parent education classes and parent coaching services.
- Promotores Collaborative: Latinx community members serve as mental health interpreters at SLO County Mental Health Clinics and provide trusted health outreach.
- The Link Family Resource Center: A team of 13 Family Advocates working with families so children and youth are safe, healthy, at home, in school and connected to their community under the Services Affirming Family Empowerment System of Care (SAFESOC).
- Medically Fragile Homeless Program: Transitional housing with family advocates assisting with basic needs and navigation towards permanent housing.
- Youth Mentor Program: Former foster youth providing one-on-one counseling for foster, homeless and unaccompanied youth.

#### 4. Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo

CAPSLO Family and Community Support Services Division partners with county agencies including Social Services, Probation and Behavioral Health to provide prevention services.

- Family Preservation Program and In-Home Parenting Education helps families who are struggling to meet basic needs, experiencing co-parenting challenges or need parenting education by aiding with basic necessities such as food, clothing, and household resources as well as in-home parenting sessions and support accompanied with linkage to additional resources and referrals as needed.
- Positive Opportunities for Parenting Success (POPS), Supporting Father Involvement program seeks to enhance the father-child relationship as well as the quality of the father's relationship with the child's mother through the provision of weekly parent educator led groups and family advocate support for assistance with additional needed resources.
- Paso Robles Family Resource Center is open to youth as a safe meeting location to access the TAPP Advocate and/or Parent Education, as well as available to the Probation Department to use as a meeting location with parents and youth.
- Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE). CAPSLO provides family advocates and case management to support the SAFE teams in South County, San Luis Obispo/Coast and North County to help families access services and monitor services that are provided to families. Family Resource Centers aid with accessing basic needs resources and are located in the cities of Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Los Osos, Nipomo, Oceano, Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo.

- Teen Academic Parenting Program (TAPP). CAPSLO provides a Youth Advocate dedicated to working with teen parents and families supporting a teen who is either pregnant or parenting. Services can include teen parents and extended family members. The Youth Advocate provides support with school-based services while focusing on completing high school requirements, accessing benefits and connections to a variety of local resources to support the teen parent and child / children with family strengthening activities, public health services, mental health services and basic need resources.

#### 5. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

- A CASA Educational Advocate provides support and advocacy for probation referred youth and their families to ensure appropriate educational services are provided and the youth is connected to appropriate resources. The advocate prepares reports on the youth's educational status for the court and at times is appointed as a youth's educational representative.
- CASA Mentorship is a program developed to assist young adults transitioning to adulthood out of foster care and serves both delinquency and dependency court involved foster youth. The program matches a mentor with a youth to provide the youth with a committed, caring adult and role model to help guide the youth during this difficult time of transition.
- CASA Advocacy provides trained volunteers to advocate for dependency and delinquency court youth by meeting with the youth regularly and gathering information from the agencies and individuals involved with the youth to provide comprehensive information and recommendations to the court. While assigned in the dependency court, these advocates stay involved with the youth if the youth transitions to the delinquency court and falls under the supervision of the Probation Department.

#### 6. Creative Mediation at Wilshire Community Services

Creative Mediation provides an array of free conflict resolution and restorative justice services to youth and families through the Restorative Dialogue Program. Service components include Parent Teen Mediation, Re-Entry Mediation, Youth Conflict Mediation, Conflict Coaching Restorative Conferences, and Re-Entry Circles. Services are intended to prevent involvement in the justice system or prevent those already in the system from further escalation. Services are easily accessible through a variety of referral sources including probation and schools.

7. Department of Rehabilitation  
Provides services and advocacy for individuals with disabilities including career counseling, supported employment programming and independent living. Services can be provided to qualifying juvenile justice involved youth, including those detained in Juvenile Hall, Coastal Valley Academy or Secure Youth Treatment Facility.
8. Eckerd Connects Workforce Development and America's Job Center of California  
Helps young adults, ages 16-24, who are not attending school and have challenges getting or keeping a job, prepare for college or a career. Services include job readiness training, GED and high school diploma assistance, national certifications, internships, paid work experience, leadership, and soft skills training. Offices are located in Atascadero and San Luis Obispo.
9. San Luis Obispo County Office of Education Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Young Adult Program  
Provides orientation and enrollment for youth ages 16-24. Job readiness which includes transferrable skills, job search, resume building, job applications, labor market information, interviewing skills and soft skill building. Upskill programming includes certifications, high school diploma, GED or High School Equivalency Testing, college options and training opportunities.
10. Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI)  
Partners with county and private agencies to provide a wide variety of services for youth and families in the community.
  - Foster Care Programs include Basic Foster Care, Emergency Shelter Care, Intensive Services Foster Care, Wraparound Foster Care, Transitional Housing Placement Program for Minor Children (THPP-M), Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THPP-NMD) and Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP+).
  - FCNI's Wraparound Program partners with Social Services, Probation and Behavioral Health to provide intensive and coordinated home based services to keep families together whenever possible and prevent congregate care. Services can be provided in a parent/caregiver home, foster home, transitional host family or in a transitional housing apartment setting with a residential assistant.
  - Children and Youth Full-Service Partnership (FSP) is modeled and built upon strengths and success of the current Children's System of Care (SOC) and Wraparound Programs. Services for participants may include individual and family therapy, rehabilitation services, case management, crisis services and medication support.
  - The Transitional Aged Youth Full-Service Partnership (and housing) provides wraparound like services and includes intensive case

management, housing and employment linkages and supports, independent living skill development and specialized services for those with a co-occurring disorder.

- The Independent Living Program (ILP) provides services to current or former foster youth ages 14-21 in partnership with Social Services and Probation. Services include assessment, skill development training, coaching and individual learning activities, group life skill classes and trainings, job resource development, job shadowing, and college preparation and participation.
- FCNI is a contracted provider for the County Behavioral Health Department to provide Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS), and Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) to youth meeting criteria for these services. ICC provides cross agency collaboration in care and planning of services. IHBS are intensive mental health services that are individualized, and strength based to help youth and their parents/caregivers achieve the goals and objectives of the plan developed through the child and family teaming process. TBS are intensive one-to-one mental health interventions designed to help youth and their parents/caregivers manage behaviors utilizing short-term, behavioral interventions.
- Treatment Services in the Probation Department's Coastal Valley Academy camp commitment program are supported by an FCNI case manager who facilitates group sessions of the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute – Comprehensive Curriculum (UCCI-CC) and provides additional support to youth and families participating in the program.
- The Housing Support Program (HSP) and Family Unification Program (FUP) are additional resources available to justice involved youth depending on individual case criteria. HSP provides support services for homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless families. Services include safe housing, one-on-one guidance, life skills development and community linkage. FUP provides additional support services for homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless families or youth.
- Bringing Families Home (BFH) is a program launched in partnership with Social Services in 2017. The purpose of BFH is to reduce the number of youth in the foster care system by connecting homeless families with affordable and stable housing when the lack of safe housing is the greatest barrier to family reunification.

#### 11. Restorative Partners

Serves offenders and others impacted by crime in partnership with county and state agencies, with a focus on institutional and re-entry services. Restorative Partners staff and volunteers provide services and programs for those in-custody and in the community. Their restorative justice approach focuses on

mind, body, and spiritual transformation, incorporates trauma informed care, addresses responsibility and accountability, and offers accompaniment through reentry services. Youthful offender services include comprehensive volunteer programming in the Juvenile Hall, Coastal Valley Academy and Secure Youth Treatment Facility such as art, book club, gardening, chess, cooking, sports, education/career preparation, tutoring, religious services, bible study, and Alcoholics Anonymous. Additional services include evidence-based programs and trauma informed groups such as Crossroads, Healthy Boundaries Curriculum, Restorative Justice discussion and Alternatives to Violence program.

12. Transitions Mental Health Association Youth Treatment Program (YTP)

A Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) located in the City of San Luis Obispo that serves male and female youth who are wards or dependents of the juvenile court. Serving San Luis Obispo County Youth only. The maximum capacity is six. YTP is licensed by Community Care Licensing, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and maintains Mental Health Program approval by the Department of Health Care Services. YTP follows a trauma-informed, restorative approach in regard to care and supervision. YTP is a contracted provider for the County Behavioral Health Department to provide crises intervention, medication management, targeted case management/intensive care coordination, intensive home-based services, individual therapy, group and family therapy, plan development and collateral services for residents.

13. Seneca Family of Agencies San Luis Obispo County

Provides supportive services for children and youth, foster and adoptive families and relative caregivers, with a focus on supporting or achieving permanency for every child.

- The Outpatient Clinic in Atascadero focuses on Specialty Mental Health Services to children who are adopted, being raised by a relative caregiver, or in the foster care system. Therapeutic services focus on providing permanency for children, to address the impact of adoption/foster care on a child and family, and to address the impacts on children being raised by relative caregivers. The clinic is staffed by master's degree level therapists offering individual, family, and group therapy.
- Seneca's Wraparound Program serves youth from the Social Services, Probation and Behavioral Health systems with a team-driven, family-centered, strength-based, out-come oriented home-based alternative to congregate care.
- ASSIST Program provides services to youth transitioning from congregate care to home based care and supportive care to identified caregivers. Integrated behavioral health interventions are provided for

youth with the goal of supporting youth and caregivers during the transition process.

- Seneca's Permanency Program offers a wide array of permanency focused programs and services to help ensure that every child has a safe and loving place to call home. Seneca recruits, trains, and certifies foster families.

## IDENTIFIED SERVICES AND RESOURCE GAPS

In early 2018, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council conducted a comprehensive review of the above array of services and resources available to at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families by regional availability as well as criminogenic need area and identified the following gaps/needs.

- Enhanced community diversion services
- Regionally delivered evidence based cognitive behavioral group interventions
- Improved family engagement in the juvenile justice system
- Mentoring services for juvenile justice involved youth
- Educational/vocational services for high school graduates in juvenile hall
- Consistency of School Resource Officer (SRO) services across all school districts
- Increased capacity of home-based foster care
- Behavioral Health (DAS and MH) youth services in the City of Paso Robles
- Family conflict/restorative justice services in North County
- Youth feedback and input in service delivery
- Improved understanding of the juvenile justice system across agencies

Several of these gaps have been addressed with additional resources in the intervening years and included in subsequent annual plans. For instance, Probation refocused staffing efforts on diversion programming, implemented regional Forward Thinking Journaling groups, expanded restorative justice programming, with a specific focus area of North County and expanded educational opportunities for high school graduates in Juvenile Hall. Additionally, through the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process, Probation identified the need for increased capacity for specialized home-based foster care for probation youth. In response to this need, Probation included a strategy in the 2020 County of San Luis Obispo System Improvement Plan (SIP) to develop a foster home with specially trained foster parents to work with high needs probation foster youth or youth transitioning out of the Juvenile Hall, Coastal Valley Academy or Secure Youth Treatment Facility. This home will be a key resource for justice involved foster care youth who are often difficult to find homes for due to the severity of their adjudicated charges and specialized needs. Probation has contracted with a local Foster Family Agency, the Family Care Network, Inc. for the provision of a Specialized Probation Wraparound Professional Parent Foster Home. The recruitment of a foster family/parent for the home is currently underway. Further, Probation, Child Welfare Services and Behavioral Health have engaged in an ongoing collaboration to monitor Wraparound services capacity as recent funding clarification from the State has created the potential

for additional funding needs in order to maintain the current Wraparound service level throughout the county.

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

The County of San Luis Obispo has a history of collaboration and integration in service delivery to at-risk youth, youthful offenders, and their families. The approach used is having regular meetings with all stakeholders across a wide breadth of service delivery areas as well as holding interdisciplinary training and combining resources for collaborative programming. In April of 2021, the County finalized a Memorandum of Understanding between entities serving children and youth in foster care pursuant to the requirements in Assembly Bill (AB) 2083.

Some examples of collaborative meetings, trainings and programming include the following:

Inter-agency Meetings

- Alternative Education Operations Committee (AEOC)
- Anti-Gang Commission
- Children's Services Network
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Collaborative
- Children & Youth Human Trafficking & Labor Trafficking Subcommittee
- CSEC Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Gang Task Force Inter-agency
- Human Trafficking Task Force
- Inter-Agency Placement Committee
- Juvenile Justice Commission
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee
- Juvenile Probation and Social Services Quarterly Management
- Juvenile Stakeholders Advisory Committee
- Pathways to Well Being/Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Stakeholders
- Quarterly Inter-Agency
- School Attendance Review Board (SARB)
- School Resource Officer
- Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE)
- SAFE Management Support Team
- AB 2083 System of Care Inter-Agency Team (SOCIT)
- WIC 241.1 Protocol for Minors and Youth Who Come Within Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 300 and 601 or 602

Example: After a series of collaborative meetings in 2021, the Departments of Social Services and Probation finalized a joint agency protocol pursuant to WIC section 241.1(e) in March of 2022. This protocol provides for youth to be designated as dual status, simultaneously receiving intervention as both a WIC 300 dependent and WIC 602 ward of the court. Specifically, San Luis Obispo County is utilizing the lead court/lead department system within our existing joint assessment process. To ensure the best outcomes for dual status youth and their families, CWS and Probation are working together to provide joint training to staff on the new protocol in an effort to develop mutual understanding of both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

#### Interdisciplinary Trainings

- Multi-Agency Intervention and De-escalation Techniques Training
- Active Shooter
- Child and Family Teaming (CFT)
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Joint Quarterly Inter-Agency Training (AB 2083)
- Juvenile Probation Overview for Social Worker Induction Classes
- Mandated Reporting
- Mental Health First Aid
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- Safety Organized Practice (SOP)
- Trauma Informed Care
- SAFE SOC School Outreach

Example: In September of 2022, Probation, Social Services and Behavioral Health provided a collaborative joint training for county-wide school district staff and community-based youth services providers on the local Services Affirming Family Empowerment System of Care (SAFESOC). The training was presented virtually and provided an overview of SAFE with breakout sessions organized by region. Attendees were briefed on the scope of services available, local contacts and how to make referrals. Attendees then had the opportunity to ask direct questions of their regional county SAFE team coordinators. The idea for this training came out of the AB 2083 System of Care Interagency Team (SOCIT) meeting process.

#### Collaborative Program Endeavors

- Coastal Valley Academy
- Court and Community School
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Services
- Drug and Alcohol Services in Juvenile Hall
- Health and Medical Services in Juvenile Hall
- In-home Parent Education and Support
- Inter-Agency Placement Committee
- Mental Health Services in Juvenile Hall

- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports in Juvenile Hall
- Resource Family Approval
- Restorative Justice Programming
- Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE)
- Transitional Aged Youth-Achievers Program (TAY-AP)
- Volunteer Programming in Juvenile Hall
- Wraparound Services
- Career Technical Education (CTE)

Example: Probation has contracted with Behavioral Health for a full-time clinician to provide Substance Use Disorder assessment and treatment for justice involved youth in the Juvenile Hall, Coastal Valley Academy and Secure Youth Treatment Facility. The clinician is housed at the Juvenile Services Center and fully integrated into the case planning process. Probation has collaborated with the County Office of Education (COE) to bring Career Technical Education (CTE) to the Juvenile Hall, CVA and SYTF. This will give youth an opportunity to explore career paths and expand their understanding of their own skills and talents. High school graduates in Juvenile Hall or CVA, including those serving a Secure Track commitment have access to college courses through Cuesta College and the Modern States program.

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

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

Most youthful offender services and resources are available across San Luis Obispo County; however, some specific areas of the county have been identified as at greater risk from juvenile crime. In reviewing delinquency referral data, the northern part of the county, and specifically the City of Paso Robles, was identified as the geographic region with the most delinquency referrals to the Probation Department in fiscal years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21. As a result, priority consideration was given to this area when delivering some of the services referenced in this plan. School districts in the northern part of the county were the first districts targeted for outreach when the Restorative Dialogue program was expanded. Furthermore, plans are moving forward to strengthen the Inter-agency System of Care in this area of the county by increasing the half-time SAFE intensive coordinator position to a full-time intensive coordinator, as not only are delinquency referrals higher, but child abuse referrals and substantiations are greater in the northern part of the county as well.

## C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

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

This year the JJCC met in March and April of 2023. The group again reviewed juvenile justice data points and Probation's recommended updates to the CMJJP. Council Members assisted in updating the “Existing Youth Services and Resources” section of the report and the updates and modifications included herein.

### STRATEGY

The County of San Luis Obispo uses evidence informed and collaborative approaches in addressing the continuum of juvenile delinquency responses in the county. The Probation Department serves as the primary juvenile justice agency in the county but works closely and integrates services with many other entities serving youth and families. A risk-need-responsivity model is followed which first identifies a youth’s risk to re-offend and a corresponding level of treatment aimed at reducing that risk. Next it focuses correctional treatment on criminogenic needs, those dynamic risk factors directly linked to criminal behavior. Finally, responsivity refers to maximizing the youth’s ability to learn from an intervention by providing cognitive behavioral treatment and tailoring the intervention to the learning style, motivation, abilities, and strengths of the youth.

Validated risk assessment is a key component at all stages of the process. Probation uses the Youth Level of Service- Case Management Inventory (YLS-CMI) as its primary assessment tool, but incorporates other tools where needed, including the Juvenile Sex Offender Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II (JSORRAT-II) and court ordered psychological evaluations. Depending on the nature of their referring offense, low risk youth are considered for admonish and closure, referral to community services or community diversion programs where needed. Moderate to high-risk youth are targeted for more formal services and interventions.

Case plans are developed for all youth placed on court ordered supervision focusing on the individual youth’s risk and needs. Case plans target the highest identified criminogenic needs by referring youth to evidence based programming. Programming is provided in collaboration with a wide variety of county agencies as well as community-based organizations. Responsivity issues are addressed through referral to cognitive behavioral interventions as well as by using motivational interviewing techniques and child and family teaming processes where appropriate. Graduated sanctions and positive reinforcement through incentives are used as responses to youths’ behavior through their stages of change. Reasonable efforts are made to safely maintain youth in the community by utilizing increasingly intensive community-based services,

culminating with in-home services such as Full-Service Partnership, Intensive Care Coordination, or Wraparound where needed.

Community safety is emphasized through risk-based supervision and juvenile probation caseloads with low officer to youth ratios. This provides more intensive supervision for those youth who pose the greatest risk to the community. It also allows officers time to participate in child and family teaming processes and use direct officer to youth interventions such as Forward Thinking Journaling.

When removal from the home is necessary for the safety of the youth and/or community, collaborative efforts are made to provide a safe and structured environment at the individual level needed by the youth. This could include home based foster care, juvenile hall, residential treatment at the Coastal Valley Academy or in limited cases, placement in a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program. Following the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment, a long-term commitment to juvenile hall with intensive services, termed a "Secure Track" disposition, is available for youth with adjudicated WIC 707(b) offenses who previously would have been committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). County agencies and community-based organizations work collaboratively to ensure services across the continuum are evidence based, trauma informed, culturally sensitive and consider adolescent brain science.

A description of specific programming across the delinquency service continuum is listed below. Some of the modifications to service delivery adopted during the COVID 19 pandemic, primarily virtual groups, and meetings, have remained in place in some instances as an efficiency and to reduce transportation as a barrier.

## CONTINUUM OF JUVENILE DELIQUENCY SERVICES

### A. Prevention

Probation supports comprehensive prevention services through a collaboration with Creative Mediation at Wilshire Community Services that provides restorative justice programming county wide. Referrals can be made by probation, and staff from designated school districts. Probation provides additional prevention programming through a contract with the County Office of Education (COE) which provides a probation officer at the COE Community School campus in the county. This officer monitors attendance, addresses behavior, provides supervision, conducts truancy reduction activities, and assists with casework services, including linking youth and families to services on and off campus. Probation officers are standing members on all four (4) Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) teams and routinely attend School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meetings around the county. A juvenile probation supervisor also sits on the multi-agency truancy board that serves in an advisory capacity to district SARBs. Another juvenile probation supervisor sits on the county prevention strategic planning team as well as attends quarterly inter-agency prevention meetings.

## B. Intervention

Probation has two probation officers assigned to community diversion services. These officers review out of custody referrals sent to Probation by outside law enforcement agencies to determine if referral to the District Attorney is necessary or alternative resolution such as admonish and close with referral to community services or placing the youth on a voluntary Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 654 contract is appropriate. These are the same officers that participate in SAFE and SARB, so they are familiar with the at-promise youth population in the county as well as with all prevention related services.

Probation officers assigned to the Prevention and Court Services Unit investigate new intakes into the Juvenile Hall, submit detention, suitability and disposition reports to the court, and handle Home Supervision and Electronic Monitoring duties. In conducting social history investigations for the court, officers utilize a detention risk assessment, the long and short forms of the YLS-CMI, the JSORRAT II, the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) and other tools such as court ordered psychological evaluations to assess risk and needs and inform recommendations to the court. A senior officer from the unit also serves as the court officer in all juvenile justice proceedings to represent Probation's position on cases and assist the juvenile justice court judge. Case planning and service referral occurs at this intervention stage in the continuum and available services and resources include most of those previously referenced in Section A of this report, Assessment of Existing Services. Some highlighted services are mental health and drug and alcohol services, restorative justice programming, parenting education or in-home parenting support and Wraparound services. The Court Unit supervisor sits on the CSEC Multi-Disciplinary Team and officers from the unit also work closely with Social Services in the WIC 241.1 assessment process for youth who cross over between the juvenile justice and dependency systems.

## C. Supervision

Supervision services utilize a risk-based supervision model where officers are required to contact offenders at a higher frequency based on risk level. Caseload sizes are small, allowing for intensive supervision as well as participation on Child and Family Teams (CFTs). Officers conduct case plan updates and risk level reassessments at regular intervals on all supervised cases. They also utilize a graduated sanctions and incentives matrix to address behavior and Forward Thinking Journaling as an intervention with offenders in addition to referral to external providers for other evidence based programming. All of the programming identified under the above Intervention section is available to court ordered supervision cases. Special consideration is given to services such as Full-Service Partnership (FSP), Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) with In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS) and Wraparound in order to provide intensive services to youth and families to exhaust all reasonable efforts before removal from the home. CFTs

are utilized for all youth under court ordered supervision. Probation has staff trained in the facilitation of Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings to aid in their expanded use. CFTs within the Coastal Valley Academy are facilitated by an FCNI Case Manager. A designated probation officer also facilitates Forward Thinking Journaling.

The Supervision Unit includes a senior officer that acts as the Field Training Officer (FTO) for the Division to ensure uniform and comprehensive field training standards as well as to provide quality assurance regarding field safety activities by officers in the community. Additionally, this senior officer facilitates the delivery of a Core Correctional Competencies curriculum to officers within the field training program. Caseloads in the unit include one gang offender caseload and two intensive caseloads targeting high risk/needs youth participating in intensive services such as Wraparound. Officers receive training at regular intervals on Motivational Interviewing, Stages of Change, and Trauma Informed Care. They have additional resources at their disposal for higher risk offenders such as Electronic Monitoring. In addition to the juvenile probation officer assigned a gang offender specific caseload, Probation Adult Services has three officers assigned to the County Gang Task Force that conduct gang investigation and incapacitation activities.

#### D. Placement and Incarceration

The Probation Placement and Commitment Services Unit includes one Senior Probation Officer assigned to work with youth in foster care and extended foster care as well as an officer who works with youth in foster care and the Coastal Valley Academy and two (2) additional officers assigned to the Coastal Valley Academy.

Foster care services are thoroughly integrated between Probation and Social Services. The departments consolidate foster care services funding, Social Services conducts most Resource Family Approval activities for both dependency and delinquency youth, and the departments share home based foster care resources in the county including shelter homes, Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) and Foster Family Agency (FFA) homes. Activities are well coordinated through regular meetings between management from both departments as well as other collaborative meetings such as the Inter-agency Placement Committee (IPC) and the System of Care Inter-Agency Team (SOCIT). Foster care funding and activities that are available to foster youth from both departments include Independent Living Program (ILP), stipends for youth to participate in pro-social activities, and combined recruitment efforts. Limited capacity for home based foster care for teenage youth continues to be a resource gap and area of focus for both departments. As a result, Probation included a strategy in the 2020-21 Child and Family Services Review System Improvement for a specialized foster home for high needs probation foster youth. Probation has contracted with a local Foster Family Agency, the Family Care Network, Inc. for the provision of a Wraparound

Professional Parent Foster Home specifically for justice involved youth. The recruitment of a foster family/parent for the home is currently underway.

Youth who require removal from the home who cannot be safely provided treatment and programming in a home-based foster care environment are served in the Coastal Valley Academy (CVA). CVA is a camp commitment program run by probation which provides residential treatment for wards of the delinquency court. The program serves youth aged 14 to 17 who previously would likely have been sent to group homes or Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). CVA has expanded to include the commitment of out-of-county youth to the program. A rigorous review process and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the sending county precedes the out-of-county youth's acceptance. Probation partners with Behavioral Health, the Family Care Network, Inc. (FCNI) and the County Office of Education (COE) to provide intensive treatment, educational and recreational services to youth. Treatment includes trauma focused cognitive behavioral individual and family counseling as well as a youthful offender curriculum called the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute Cognitive Behavioral Interventions: A Comprehensive Curriculum (CBI-CC). Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) are used in the classroom and living unit and the youth participate in regular recreational and community programming such as "Run Club", community work service activities and local community fun runs and events including the Miracle Miles for Kids Run/Walk fundraiser. The goal of CVA is to safely return youth to the community after reducing their risk of future delinquent behavior by improving their reasoning and avoidance skills and providing them with positive pro-social replacement activities.

Probation also runs the San Luis Obispo Juvenile Hall which provides traditional detention incarceration services for youth undergoing juvenile justice court proceedings as well as for youth serving periods of post disposition custody commitment. The Juvenile Hall collaborates with multiple county and outside agencies to provide comprehensive services to incarcerated youth. COE provides Juvenile Court School services, in both CVA and Juvenile Hall, which include dually (general education and special education) credentialed teachers and a Behavior Intervention Services Specialist, as well as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. A COE school psychologist works with youth who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans. Probation contracts with Behavioral Health to provide mental health assessment, crisis intervention, psychotropic medication, and linkage to community-based services prior to release. Public Health provides medical staffing which includes a nurse or nurse practitioner on duty 15.5 hours a day. Restorative Partners, a local non-profit, provides comprehensive volunteer services that include pro-social and skill building activities highlighted by programming including tutoring, religious services, art, creative writing, sports programming, bible study, meditation, Alcoholics Anonymous, chess club, book club, and the Alternatives to Violence Program. Outside community-based organizations such as Eckerd and the Department of

Rehabilitation provide intermittent vocational services. Due to an identified gap in programming for high school graduates, all youth now have access to COE funded “Learn to Earn” electronic tablets. These tablets provide educational learning modules as well as electronic recreational options in a safe, structured, and incentivized manner. High school graduates have access to college courses through Cuesta College and the Modern States program. Probation has collaborated with COE to bring Career Technical Education to the CVA and Juvenile Hall. This gives youth an opportunity to explore career paths and expand their understanding of their own skills and talents.

At the height of the continuum, Probation provides the Seeking Opportunity and Achieving Reentry (SOAR) program for youth with adjudicated WIC 707(b) offenses who are no longer eligible for commitment to DJJ following the passage of SB 823. A designated probation officer provides case management and supervision of those youth on post-release supervision from DJJ as well as those in the SOAR program, whether they are residing in the community or serving a period of custody commitment on the Secure Track. The needs of these youth are addressed with the full array of services within the continuum. Core components of SOAR include assessment, collaboration, case planning and court review. Each youth is assessed with the YLS-CMI, a court ordered psychological evaluation, the Texas Christian University Thinking Scales (TCU-CTS) and a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths assessment (CANS). Collaboration occurs within the CFT and through periodic review of the youth’s case by the Multi-Agency Reentry Team (MART). The MART consists of representatives from Probation, Behavioral Health, Social Services, and the COE. Individual Rehabilitation Plans are completed with input from the youth, CFT and MART then submitted to the court. Regular court review occurs at intervals of no less frequently than once every six (6) months. Both the Juvenile Hall and Coastal Valley Academy are designated as Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) for those SOAR youth who need the Secure Track. For those Secure Track youth whose needs cannot be met locally, the County will explore SYTF options in other counties as available. Further information on the SOAR program can be found in the County of San Luis Obispo Juvenile Justice Block Grant Annual Plan.

**D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions. Describe how your plan has been updated for this year.**

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) reviewed the “Existing Youth Services and Resources” section of the annual plan and provided updates where needed. In addition, in March 2023, the JJCC reviewed juvenile justice related data including school enrollment numbers, juvenile arrests, law enforcement referrals to probation (by overall number and agency/region), and probation supervision information. The JJCC also reviewed and approved changes to the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) components of the plan at a meeting in April 2023. JJCPA funding for the Restorative Dialogue Program was continued. This change was made due to the expiration of Youth

Reinvestment Grant funding prior to the end of the 2022-23 fiscal year. Additionally, the JJCC approved the ongoing use of JJCPA funds to support the Specialized Probation Foster Home for high needs probation foster youth or youth transitioning out of the Juvenile Hall or Coastal Valley Academy. Furthermore, the JJCC approved the use of JJCPA funds for post-secondary educational support for youth in custody, to explore and expand options for supportive housing for transitional aged youth and to increase capacity for the Independent Living Program in order to better provide these services for non-foster youth.

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

Not applicable. Updates have been made.

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

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

The Probation Department's internal case management system (CMS) is called Monitor. Monitor houses an array of information covering juvenile bookings and detention, referrals and court processes and informal and formal grants of supervision. Data elements extracted from Monitor provide quality assurance and management oversight for evidence-based practices within community corrections. Along with supervision practices, enrollment and retention in supportive services and recidivism measures are monitored in internal performance review meetings. Annually, juvenile performance measures are shared with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the County Board of Supervisors and with the wider community through Probation's Annual Statistical Report. In 2021, Probation created an evaluation plan for youth in the SOAR program, including those on the Secure Track. This plan includes the collection of demographic and juvenile justice related data from local Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) along with longitudinal outcome information collected directly from youth through incentivized surveys.

Outside of the processes described above, Probation conducts additional stakeholder feedback measures such as the Juvenile Supervision Services Survey, which gathers input from parents after their child's juvenile probation case is closed. Additionally, Probation uses the Texas Christian University Criminal Thinking Scales (TCU-CTS), as a pre- and post-program survey of juvenile offenders assigned to the Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) and SOAR program to measure changes in criminal thinking over the course of these programs. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), utilized in both the Juvenile Hall and CVA, also includes quarterly data-based progress reviews.

Additionally, information from Monitor is part of an integrated Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) that allows for the sharing of criminal and juvenile justice information amongst justice partners including the Court, Probation, District Attorney, Sheriff's Office, and local law enforcement agencies. While each main justice agency has their own information system, these systems exchange information through a central CJIS hub, and the information then becomes accessible to the justice partners through a multi-agency portal.

Probation enters state and federally mandated information into the Child Welfare Services Case Management System (CWS/CMS) on all probation foster youth. SafeMeasures is a reporting service shared by Social Services and Probation that compiles foster care information pulled from CWS/CMS into a variety of user-friendly reports that are used to measure foster care service delivery and outcomes such as placement stability and reunification rates. California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) is a longitudinal data system used by schools that is available not only for state and federal reporting but also accessible for review at the county level. For instance, data on middle and high school enrollment were reviewed by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council this year.

Information sharing and data review occur in other manners within the county as well, including through mechanisms such as the COE Annual Education Report, The California Department of Education Schools Dashboard, the SLO County Healthy Kids Survey, the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Community Services Assessment (CSA) Report, System Improvement Plan (SIP), and SIP Annual Reports.

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

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

Yes.

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

There are no vacancies on our Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

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

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

**Below are JJCPA funded programs reported by the county.**

**Program Name:**

Restorative Dialogue Program

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

According to a 2006 report by the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking, studies have shown that Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD)/Victim Offender Mediation (VOM) participants have high rates of satisfaction with the service and their experience in the criminal/juvenile justice system overall. Of those cases that reached a meeting between victim and offender, typically 90% or more reached agreements and in \*80-90% of those cases, contracts were reported as completed. A meta-analysis of fourteen juvenile specific studies by Nugent, Williams and Umbreit (2003), found that VOM youth recidivated at a statistically significant 26% lower rate than non-VOM youth and when they did reoffend, they committed less serious offenses than their counterparts.

**Description:**

Probation contracts with Creative Mediation at Wilshire Community Services to provide restorative justice programming to probation involved youth. The program was expanded over the past three years due to additional grant funding. Service components include Parent Teen Mediation, Re-Entry Mediation, Youth Conflict Mediation, Conflict Coaching, Restorative Conferences and Re-Entry Circles. Grant funding for the program ended in February 2023, leaving a mid-fiscal year gap in funding for the expanded program. The JJCC approved the utilization of JJCPA funding to backfill the loss of grant revenue to ensure access to the full array of programming for all youth on the justice continuum through the full fiscal year in 2022-2023. The program will be continued in fiscal year 2023-2024 at a reduced capacity but still serving all probation involved youth as well as youth at designated school districts.

**Program Name:**

Community Diversion

**Evidence Upon Which It is based:**

- Crossroads Study on Formal versus Informal Processing in the Juvenile Justice System
- Adolescent Diversion Project (Michigan State University)
- A 2013 meta-analysis (Wilson and Hoge) found that diversion was more effective in reducing recidivism than conventional judicial interventions. "It is clear that diversion efforts involving minimal intervention (e.g., cautioning) are appropriate for youth presenting lower levels of risk and needs.... offenders at moderate and higher levels will benefit from more active interventions."

**Description:**

Probation has two probation officers assigned to community diversion services. These officers review out of custody referrals sent to Probation by outside law enforcement agencies to determine if referral to the District Attorney is necessary or alternative resolution such as admonish and close with referral to community services or placing the youth on a voluntary Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 654 contract is appropriate. Officers use an evidence-based assessment tool, the Youth Level of Service Short Version (YLS-SV), to aid in case processing decisions and broker resources to youth and families wherever needed. They also participate in regional SAFE and SARB meetings, which makes them familiar with the at-risk youth population in the county as well as with all prevention related services. One of these officers is formally trained as a Child and Family Team (CFT) facilitator and provides CFT facilitation for youth under court ordered supervision. Having a neutral CFT facilitator, instead of having the case carrying officer or social worker facilitate CFT meetings, is a recommended best practice.

**Program Name:**

Juvenile Intensive Caseloads

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Juvenile intensive caseloads with low officer to youth ratios and supervision services supplemented by intensive home-based services allow for high-risk offenders to be maintained in the community. Officers follow the eight (8) core principles of evidence-based practices for community corrections: 1. Risk/Needs Assessment, 2. Enhance Intrinsic Motivation, 3. Targeted Interventions, 4. Skills Training with Practice Using CBT-based Methods, 5. Effective Use of Positive Reinforcements, 6. Engage Ongoing Supports, 7. Frequent Measurement of Processes/Practices, 8. Measurement Feedback. Small caseloads allow time for greater levels of contact between officer and youth/family, including participation in promising practices such as Child and Family Teams and Wraparound services. It also allows time for greater engagement between officer and youth using evidence-based practices such as Motivational Interviewing<sup>1</sup> and best practices such as collaborative case planning. Furthermore, it adheres to the risk principle of providing the most intensive supervision and services to those at higher risk of recidivism.

**Description:**

Juvenile probation officers with intensive caseloads are assigned less than 25 youth each. Resulting standards and expectations include frequent contact with the youth/family, regular case plan updates and risk level reassessments and referral to interventions targeting the

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<sup>1</sup> McMurrin, M. (2009). Motivational interviewing with offenders: A systematic review. *Legal and Criminological Psychology, 14*, 83-100.

youth's highest criminogenic needs at a dosage commensurate to the youth's risk level. Officers are required to participate in Child and Family Teams and are trained in Motivational Interviewing, Stages of Change, Trauma Informed Care and Forward Thinking Journaling in order to assist them in engaging with youth and family to best facilitate positive behavior change.

**Program Name:**

Forward Thinking Journaling

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Forward Thinking is an interactive journaling series that uses evidence informed practices by incorporating content from cognitive behavioral therapy and using Motivational Interviewing<sup>2</sup> to provide interventions for youth in the most common areas of criminogenic need. It is well established that interventions founded on cognitive-behavioral techniques are effective at reducing recidivism among juvenile and adult offenders<sup>3</sup>. Also, that targeting interventions to needs associated with criminal offending produces positive results when compared to interventions focused on non-criminogenic needs<sup>4</sup>. This intervention provides standardized material and delivery techniques to use expressive writing exercises and guided discussions to enhance motivation and elicit behavior change.

**Description:**

The Probation Department has in-house trainers who provide Forward Thinking Journaling training to all case carrying juvenile probation officers. The officers in turn can use any of eight (8) different journals to target specific criminogenic need areas identified in individual offenders through assessment with a validated risk assessment tool. A designated probation officer provides ongoing facilitation for moderate to high-risk offenders newly placed under court ordered supervision. Specific journals used include "What Got Me Here" and "Responsible Behavior", with the youth also completing an "Individual Change Plan" while engaged in the initial set of journals. This provides a platform for the assigned probation officers to further use other journals in the series as needed during the course of the youth's supervision as well as provides officers with additional tools such as "Behavior Check Sheets".

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Lipsey MW, Landenberger NA, Wilson SJ. Effects of cognitive-behavioral programs for criminal offenders. *Campbell Systematic Reviews* 2007:6 DOI: 10.4073/csr.2007.6

<sup>4</sup> Bonta, J. & Andrews, D.A. (2017) *The psychology of criminal conduct* (6<sup>th</sup> ed). New York, NY: Routledge.

**Program Name:**

Specialized Probation Foster Home

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Specialized Probation Foster Home will use a Wraparound Professional Parent model where the foster parent is provided with enhanced resources and financial support to address the specialized needs of the youth. Evidence based principles and best practices are incorporated, including the use of validated risk and needs assessments<sup>5</sup>, child and family team meetings, Motivational Interviewing<sup>6</sup>, cognitive-behavioral interventions<sup>7</sup>, and incorporation of Wraparound Services<sup>8</sup>.

**Description:**

In general, probation foster youth have more intensive needs than non-probation foster youth or probation youth residing at home with a parent or legal guardian. Standard relative or non-relative foster homes typically do not provide intensive structure, support and specialized services and foster parents are often limited in the amount of supervision they can provide due to having to maintain employment outside of the foster home. Specialized foster homes such as Intensive Services Foster Care and Wraparound Foster Care are in short supply in the County and often unavailable to probation foster youth. Probation has contracted with a local foster family agency, the Family Care Network, Inc. for the provision of a Wraparound Professional Parent Foster Home specifically for justice involved youth. Using the Wraparound Professional Foster Parent Model, the home will provide intensive structure, supervision, services, and support. The target youth population for the program are those high needs probation foster youth who do not have alternative home-based foster care options, including those youth transitioning out of the Coastal Valley Academy or Secure Track.

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<sup>5</sup> Bonta, J. (2002). Offender risk assessment: Guidelines for selection and use. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 29 (4), 355-379.

<sup>6</sup> McMurrin, M. (2009). Motivational interviewing with offenders: A systematic review. *Legal and Criminological Psychology*, 14, 83-100.

<sup>7</sup> Lipsey MW, Landenberger NA, Wilson SJ. Effects of cognitive-behavioral programs for criminal offenders. *Campbell Systematic Reviews* 2007;6 DOI: 10.4073/csr.2007.6

<sup>8</sup> Wraparound is supported by "promising" research evidence according to the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare.

**Program Name:**

Coastal Valley Academy

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) uses an evidence-based curriculum designed for justice involved youth who are at moderate to high risk for re-offending. The curriculum was developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute and is called Cognitive Behavioral Interventions: A Comprehensive Curriculum (CBI-CC). This curriculum uses a cognitive behavioral approach to teach strategies for identifying and managing risk factors and places emphasis on skill building activities. The curriculum is fairly new and published evaluations are not currently available, but UCCI provides a listing of all evidence which informed the development of the program at the following webpage:

<https://cech.uc.edu/about/centers/ucciproducts/interventions/group-interventions.html>.

**Description:**

CVA is a camp commitment program run by Probation that provides residential treatment for wards of the Juvenile Justice Court. The program serves as an alternative to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). The goal of the program is to safely return youth to the community after reducing their risk of future delinquency behavior by improving their reasoning and avoidance skills and providing them with positive pro-social replacement activities. JJCPA funds support some staffing and services for the program, including case management services provided by a local community-based organization as well as the above-mentioned CBI-CC.

**Program Name:**

Supportive Housing for Transitional Aged Youth

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The core components of supportive housing link appropriate, safe, affordable, community-based housing with flexible, voluntary support services designed to help the individual stay housed and live a more productive life in the community. Supportive housing increases housing stability, improves health outcomes and lowers public costs by reducing the uses of publicly funded crisis services, including shelters, hospitals, psychiatric and detention facilities.

**Description:**

Senate Bill (SB) 823, enacted in 2020, resulted in more youth being eligible for juvenile court jurisdiction up to the age of twenty-five thereby increasing the likelihood of greater numbers of transitional aged youth in the local juvenile justice system. Justice involved transitional aged youth in San Luis Obispo County are oftentimes living unhoused or have unstable housing.

Options for housing are limited for this population unless the youth was subject to a foster care order at age 18 and therefore eligible for extended foster services. A supportive housing program would provide extended foster care like housing resources for transitional aged youth who do not meet eligibility criteria for existing programs.

**Program Name:**

Independent Living Program

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Independent Living Program (ILP) is a steppingstone for youth to become empowered and learn how to utilize the strengths and skills they have acquired to enter adulthood successfully. ILP utilizes best practices of assessment and skill building incorporating case management, academic planning, job readiness, career development, referrals, and assistance to promote health and wellbeing, referrals to mentors and mentoring programs, independent living skills, financial and money management, housing resources, personal and community resources and permanent, supportive relationships.

**Description:**

Social Services and Probation partner with a local community-based organization for an Independent Living Program (ILP) that provides services to current or former foster youth ages 14-21. ILP provides case management and focuses on preparing youth for adulthood. Services provided include assessment, skill development, life skill classes, assistance with long term educational planning, job readiness, navigating public transportation, securing housing, healthy living and more. ILP services are available to other justice involved youth on a limited basis and without additional funding. Expanded support for ILP through the use of JJCPA funds will properly resource the program to increase capacity and include more non-foster youth across the juvenile justice continuum.

**Program Name:**

Post-Secondary Educational Support

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Youth who have experienced juvenile justice system involvement can face significant barriers to academic and career success. Youth who do achieve higher levels of education while in the juvenile justice system are more likely to experience positive outcomes in the community once released (Blomberg et al., 2011; Cavendish, 2014). It has been established for some time that participation in post-secondary education during prison is linked with lower recidivism rates

upon release, in addition to other positive outcomes.<sup>9</sup> Providing a designated staff member to assist with the admissions process, completing standardized test, filling out Free Application for Federal Student Aid or gathering information for admissions or aid as well as providing academic and technical support reduces barriers to accessing college courses and enhances the youth college experience.

**Description:**

Youth serving custody commitments in the Juvenile Hall, Coastal Valley Academy or on the Secure Track often receive their high school diploma while incarcerated. The likelihood of some of these youth remaining in these juvenile facilities longer and to a more advanced age has increased due to recent legislative changes including SB 823. These youth often have interest in transitioning to college or vocational programs, but juvenile justice facilities are not typically structured or resourced to meet the educational needs of youth beyond high school. Providing staff and resources to specifically work with youth on individualized post-secondary education will allow the youth the opportunity for continued growth and development within the structure and schedule of the facility including college exploration and enrollment, technical support for virtual courses, tutoring, and transition to on-campus learning.

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

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

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

San Luis Obispo County’s strategy for dealing with non-707(b) youthful offenders is similar to the overall Juvenile Justice Action Strategy identified in Section C of this consolidated plan. It includes validated risk and needs assessment, individualized case planning targeting a youth’s highest criminogenic need areas with evidence informed interventions, effective engagement with youth using motivational interviewing skills as well as incentives and graduated sanctions, risk-based supervision, intensive supervision of high-risk offenders, and the provision of readily available and easily accessible intensive home-based services. This allows for reasonable efforts to be exhausted before removing youth from their homes. Should removal be necessary, the strategy includes short term detention in Juvenile Hall when needed, with services available to them during their period of incarceration.

For those youthful offenders that need an extended period of removal for residential treatment, a recommendation will be made for the Probation Department’s Coastal Valley Academy, a camp commitment treatment program connected to the Juvenile Hall, in lieu of congregate foster care placement. This program provides comprehensive services and support in a secure

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<sup>9</sup> Duwe, G. (2017). The Use and Impact of Correctional Programming for Inmates on Pre- and Post Release Outcomes. National Institute of Justice, Washington, DC.

setting, while keeping youth closer to home and therefore better connected to their families and community. This plan supports that strategy by helping to fund key components such as intensive gang supervision, electronic monitoring where needed, and Juvenile Hall and Coastal Valley Academy treatment services.

## **B. Regional Agreements**

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

None.

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

**Below are YOBG programs reported by the county.**

### **Program Name:**

Gang Supervision

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

The probation officer assigned to the juvenile gang caseload is part of the Field Supervision Unit and works closely with other intensive supervision officers as well as refers cases to Forward Thinking Journaling Groups.

### **Description:**

One probation officer is assigned to an intensive caseload (25 youth or less) that primarily includes youth on probation who have been identified as at risk of gang involvement, associated with gang members or currently a member of a gang. This officer receives specialized training in local and statewide gang issues and trends and works in conjunction with probation officers on the county-wide gang task force when needed for investigation or suppression purposes. The small caseload size allows the officer to work closely with youth and families, including spending time in the activities referenced with other intensive caseloads such as frequent contact and referral to intensive services. The assignment also requires use of evidence based and best practices such as risk assessment, case planning and participation in child and family teaming processes.

**Program Name:**

Electronic Monitoring

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Electronic Monitoring is used in the intervention and supervision phases of the juvenile justice continuum where needed. This includes youth on JJCPA funded intensive caseloads as well as in conjunction with JJCPA funded services such as Forward Thinking Journaling.

**Description:**

Probation uses Electronic Monitoring (EM) to supplement home supervision as well as post disposition supervision of wards of the juvenile justice court, including offender populations of heightened community safety risk such as gang offenders, sex offenders and serious violent felony offenders released from custody facilities. EM can be used as a graduated sanction and alternative to detention in a custody facility. It allows for enhanced supervision and accountability through global positioning capacity that can monitor a youth's constant whereabouts including verifying that they are remaining at home when required and staying away from excluded areas such as the homes of victims or other designated areas. It also allows youth to remain in the community and engage in positive pro-social activities such as sports and jobs when a response is warranted but 24-hour secure detention is not necessary.

**Program Name:**

Specialized Probation Foster Home

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Specialized Probation Foster Home will use a Wraparound Professional Parent model where the foster parent is provided with enhanced resources and financial support to address the specialized needs of the youth. Evidence based principles and best practices are incorporated, including the use of validated risk and needs assessments<sup>10</sup>, child and family team meetings, Motivational Interviewing<sup>11</sup>, cognitive-behavioral interventions<sup>12</sup>, and incorporation of Wraparound Services<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> Bonta, J. (2002). Offender risk assessment: Guidelines for selection and use. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 29 (4), 355-379.

<sup>11</sup> McMurran, M. (2009). Motivational interviewing with offenders: A systematic review. *Legal and Criminological Psychology*, 14, 83-100.

<sup>12</sup> Lipsey MW, Landenberger NA, Wilson SJ. Effects of cognitive-behavioral programs for criminal offenders. *Campbell Systematic Reviews* 2007:6 DOI: 10.4073/csr.2007.6

<sup>13</sup> Wraparound is supported by "promising" research evidence according to the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare.

**Description:**

In general, probation foster youth have more intensive needs than non-probation foster youth or probation youth residing at home with a parent or legal guardian. Standard relative or non-relative foster homes typically do not provide intensive structure, support and specialized services and foster parents are often limited in the amount of supervision they can provide due to having to maintain employment outside of the foster home. Specialized foster homes such as Intensive Services Foster Care and Wraparound Foster Care are in short supply in the County and often unavailable to probation foster youth. Probation has contracted with a local foster family agency, the Family Care Network, Inc. for the provision of a Wraparound Professional Parent Foster Home specifically for justice involved youth. Using the Wraparound Professional Foster Parent Model, the home will provide intensive structure, supervision, services, and support. The target youth population for the program are those high needs probation foster youth who do not have alternative home-based foster care options, including those youth transitioning out of the Coastal Valley Academy or Secure Track.

**Program Name:**

Coastal Valley Academy

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) uses an evidence-based curriculum designed for justice involved youth who are at moderate to high risk for re-offending. The curriculum was developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute and is called Cognitive Behavioral Interventions: A Comprehensive Curriculum (CBI-CC). This curriculum uses a cognitive behavioral approach to teach strategies for identifying and managing risk factors and places emphasis on skill building activities. The curriculum is fairly new and published evaluations are not currently available, but UCCI provides a listing of all evidence which informed the development of the program at the following webpage:

<https://cech.uc.edu/about/centers/ucciproducts/interventions/group-interventions.html>.

Both YOBG and JJCPA funds support elements of the CVA program.

**Description:**

CVA is a camp commitment program run by Probation that provides residential treatment for wards of the delinquency court. The CVA serves as a secure alternative to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) as well as an option for youth adjudicated for serious violent felonies that do not require long term confinement such as that provided on the Secure Track. The goal of the program is to safely return youth to the community after reducing their risk of future delinquent behavior by improving their reasoning and avoidance skills and providing them with positive pro-social replacement activities. YOBG funds support some staffing and services for the program, including trauma focused cognitive behavioral treatment from Behavioral Health staff.

**Program Name:**

Supportive Housing for Transitional Aged Youth

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The core components of supportive housing links appropriate, safe, affordable, community-based housing with flexible, voluntary support services designed to help the individual stay housed and live a more productive life in the community. Supportive housing increases housing stability, improves health outcomes and lowers public costs by reducing the uses of publicly funded crisis services, including shelters, hospitals, psychiatric and detention facilities.

**Description:**

Senate Bill (SB) 823, enacted in 2020, resulted in more youth being eligible for juvenile court jurisdiction up to the age of twenty-five thereby increasing the likelihood of greater numbers of transitional aged youth in the local juvenile justice system. Justice involved transitional aged youth in San Luis Obispo County are oftentimes living unhoused or have unstable housing. Options for housing are limited for this population unless the youth was subject to a foster care order at age 18 and therefore eligible for extended foster services. A supportive housing program would provide extended foster care like housing resources for transitional aged youth who do not meet eligibility criteria for existing programs.

**Program Name:**

Independent Living Program

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Independent Living Program (ILP) is a steppingstone for youth to become empowered and learn how to utilize the strengths and skills they have acquired to enter adulthood successfully. ILP utilizes best practices of assessment and skill building incorporating case management, academic planning, job readiness, career development, referrals, and assistance to promote health and wellbeing, referrals to mentors and mentoring programs, independent living skills, financial and money management, housing resources, personal and community resources and permanent, supportive relationships.

**Description:**

The Independent Living Program (ILP) provides services to current or former foster youth ages 14-21 in partnership with Social Services and Probation. ILP provides case management and focuses on preparing the youth for adulthood. Services provided include assessment, skill development, life skill classes assistance with long term educational planning, job readiness, navigating public transportation, securing housing, healthy living and more. ILP services have

been made available to non-foster youth returning from DJJ or on the Secure Track. Expanded support for ILP through the use of JJCPA funds will increase capacity and create access for non-foster youth across the juvenile justice continuum.

**Program Name:**

Post-Secondary Educational Support

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Youth who have experienced juvenile justice system involvement can face significant barriers to academic and career success. Youth who do achieve higher levels of education while in the juvenile justice system are more likely to experience positive outcomes in the community once released (Blomberg et al., 2011; Cavendish, 2014). It has been established for some time that participation in post-secondary education during prison is linked with lower recidivism rates upon release, in addition to other positive outcomes.<sup>14</sup> Providing a designated staff member to assist with the admissions process, completing standardized test, filling out Free Application for Federal Student Aid or gathering information for admissions or aid as well as providing academic and technical support reduces barriers to accessing college courses and enhances the youth college experience.

**Description:**

Youth serving commitments in the Juvenile Hall, Coastal Valley Academy or on the Secure Track often receive their high school diploma while incarcerated. These youth typically have interest in transitioning to college or vocational programs but need continued structure and support to do so beyond what can be provided by the educational resources with the facility. Providing staff to specially work with youth on individualized post-secondary education will allow the youth the opportunity for continued growth and development within the structure and schedule of the facility including college exploration and enrollment, technical support for virtual courses, tutoring, transition to on-campus learning.

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<sup>14</sup> Duwe, G. (2017). The Use and Impact of Correctional Programming for Inmates on Pre- and Post Release Outcomes. National Institute of Justice, Washington, DC.