

(2024-2025) Annual Plan

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County Name: Del Norte

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Instructions:

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

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

Your Submission will be posted, as submitted, to the BSCC website. tsweeney@co.del-norte.ca.us

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

JJCPA-YOBG@bscc.ca.gov

Juvenile Justice Plan

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

A. Assessment of Existing Services

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

First Responders - Provide in many cases, the first line of enforcement of laws and response to juvenile crime. Del Norte County has a Police Department which provides law enforcement for the only incorporated city within the county, Crescent City, a Sheriff's Office which provides law enforcement for all unincorporated and outlining communities within the County, and the California Highway Patrol which provides county-wide law enforcement primarily enforcing traffic laws. Other LEAs are also present within the county and enforce laws within their jurisdiction, i.e. California State Parks Rangers, Fish & Wildlife Wardens, etc.

District Attorney - The Del Norte County District Attorney's Office assigns a Deputy District Attorney (DDA) to the Juvenile Delinquency calendar. The Juvenile DDA consistently demonstrates an understanding of the nature and intent of juvenile proceedings. They work collaboratively with the Probation Department and defense attorneys to determine appropriate dispositions of juvenile criminal cases that balance community safety concerns, victim services, and the particular youth's risk to reoffend. The Juvenile DDA also reviews petition requests and consistently decides to keep lower risk youth under informal supervision to avoid wardship unless absolutely necessary.

Public Defender - Del Norte County Public Defenders are contract attorneys assigned to the Juvenile Delinquency calendar, trained to understand juvenile law and adolescent development in order to communicate effectively with and evaluate their client's maturity and competency and its relevance to the case. This allows them to act in accordance with the expressed interests of the youth while assuring their constitutional due process rights are protected pre- through post-adjudication. They work collaboratively with the Probation Department and District Attorney, have knowledge of community-based programs, schools, and other resources that enable effective advocacy for the client. They understand the long- and short-term collateral consequences of juvenile adjudication and work to achieve the best outcome for the youth they represent.

Probation Department - Provides all supervision of youth, juvenile and adult, placed on community supervision. The Probation Department is also statutorily tasked with all detention of juvenile youths when needed and/or required. Juveniles are dealt with at the lowest level of intervention possible while still ensuring opportunity for rehabilitation, accountability for actions

and behavior, and the safety of the victims and community. This not only includes all delinquent youth, but truant and many of the at-risk youth residing in Del Norte County as well.

Education - Del Norte County Unified School District and County Office of Education are combined. They provide educational services to approximately 4,000 students. Within the county there are five elementary schools, three K-8 school, one junior high school, one high school, two alternative/continuation schools, and two charter schools. Del Norte County schools and the Probation Department have always worked collaboratively to address truancy and other social issues with the intended outcome of healthy students and families.

Health and Human Services (HHS) - Under the umbrella of HHS, Del Norte County Behavioral Health and Social Services are charged with providing a full gamut of services to citizens of Del Norte County. The Probation Department and HHS collaborate regularly regarding services and strategies to best serve the youth of Del Norte County. Direct services they currently provide are mental health crisis counseling and psychotropic medication, alcohol and drug counseling, Wraparound, intervention and placement of dependency youth, and funding to eligible families and health and wellness programs.

Community Based Organizations (CBOs) - Del Norte County, although rural and small in size and population, has several CBO's. The Del Norte Child Care Council offers parenting classes to both our youth (if needed) and their parents. Also, in the community offering services to children and families are the Family Resource Center of the Redwoods, Building Healthy Communities, and Gateway Education which offers seasonally based programs for youth.

Remi Vista is the only CBO that provides therapists that are trained in psychotherapy and other treatment practices for youth such as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT), Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). They provide individual counseling and help teens gain needed tools to be successful on probation and in life.

Local Tribes - Local Tribal offices provide some counseling services for at-risk youth and families and are regularly invited to meet with juvenile probation staff to coordinate services in Child and Family Team meetings and other venues. Both the Yurok Tribe and the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation operate specific courts to address youth wellness.

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

Del Norte County is a small (1230 square mile), rural county located on the coast of Northern California adjacent to the Oregon border. Population estimates from the US Census Bureau for 2023, indicate the population of the county is 26,589 of which 20.9% are under age 18; this percentage has changed very little in the last few years. The median household income is \$61,149 with 16.5% living in poverty. The unemployment rate in 2023 was 5.8% according to the California Employment Development Department.

Due to the small size and limited resources, county agencies, departments, and community-based organizations collaborate to effectively address issues. Department and agency heads exchange information freely and sit on many boards and committees whereby collaborative approaches are required, such as the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

Memorandums of Understanding are regularly created and utilized for data and information sharing as well as to implement programs, such as the concurrent jurisdiction MOU between the County, the Superior Court, the Yurok Tribe, and others regarding the Tribe's Youth Wellness Court.

Local agencies and organizations on the Council are also committed to sharing and facilitating training/activities for staff that address responses to youth in crisis, staff capacity- and skill-building to effect change in both at-risk and justice-involved youth, as well as training that assists in developing effective, multi-disciplinary local response processes. The Council is committed to utilizing and encouraging the utilization of multiple funding sources within the community to facilitate this training.

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.

As a small rural county, Del Norte as a whole is a very interdependent community. The majority of the population is centered around the only incorporated city, Crescent City, in the county. Included in the City, and a 17 square mile area around it, are 63% of the schools in the county, including the high school, an alternative high school, and 1 of 2 middle schools. This represents the bulk of the student population in the county as well as the schools and alternative schools that contain the vast majority of the juvenile delinquent population in the county. Of those youth on supervision, approximately 80% live within this same small geographic area.

The northern portion of the county, centered around the community of Smith River, contains 18% of the county's schools and 15% of the probation youth population. The eastern portion of the county, encompassing the communities of Hiouchi and Gasquet, contains 1 elementary school accounting for 9% of schools. The southern portion of the county, centered around the community of Klamath, also contains 1 elementary school, or 9% of the county's schools.

The remaining percentage of youth on supervision are either non-minor dependents in independent living environments outside of the county or youth in placement outside of the county. The logical conclusion can be reached, and is borne out in fact, that the bulk of juvenile crime, truancy, as well as the services that address these issues, is also centered on the city of, and the community surrounding, Crescent City.

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.

Del Norte County's juvenile justice action strategy is to provide best practice interventions for at-risk youth at every level of their interaction with the justice system. We strive to address youth at the lowest level of intervention whenever possible, and strive to provide needed services, at the local level, working to avoid the use of out-of-county or state placements whenever possible.

In most cases, youth remain out of custody and citations and misdemeanor offenses are referred to the District Attorney for review as required by statute. Most low-level youth remain out of custody, in the home, and under informal supervision per 654 WIC when possible. Higher risk misdemeanor youth are often placed on probation without Court Wardship per 725(a) WIC. For the highest risk youth, we utilize probation supervision with court wardship and only resort to short- or long-term Juvenile Hall commitments when absolutely necessary.

The Del Norte County Probation Department utilizes the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) as a part of our standard supervision practices. The JAIS is a gender-specific risk assessment supervision strategy model that weaves together a risk assessment and a strength and needs assessment. It is designed to begin with a one-on-one interview with the youth, most of which focuses on the underlying motivation for their illegal behavior. Once the JAIS is completed it is utilized to identify appropriate goals for the youth and evidence-based or other programs which suit the youth's needs.

Del Norte County has a high rate of youthful sex offenders. Of all WIC 707(b) qualifying offenses, almost 54% are sex offenses, and this high rate of sex offenses also carries over to youth committing non-707(b) offenses. Though unlikely given local resources, establishing consistent sex offender treatment locally, likely outpatient and likely provided by an out-of-county provider, would be a boon to our community. Any progress in this arena will have positive impacts for our community, and the Council is committed to exploring various options that may facilitate establishment of such a program.

If a youth is placed in custody in Juvenile Hall, an institutional case plan is created with the same cognitive behavioral strategies listed above, along with school credit recovery and GED testing where applicable.

For bookings, probation staff are on-call to review and assess juveniles who are detained by law

enforcement and to coordinate transport teams. Probation utilizes a Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) to help determine the necessity for detention and appropriateness to release a juvenile offender with or without restrictions; to include a Promise To Appear with or without Home Supervision pursuant to WIC 628.1. Probation staff meet with the arresting agency at our temporary juvenile holding location, take custody of the juvenile, process and then transport juveniles approved for booking to our designated juvenile hall in Humboldt County, or if needed to another contracted juvenile hall. Currently Del Norte maintains custody contracts with Humboldt, Shasta, and Sonoma Counties.

The Youth Opportunity Center has been developed to facilitate engagement with youth involved in the juvenile justice system and those at-risk of becoming involved. This facility is designed to offer a central location for programs of all kinds, including evidenced based programming and prosocial activities, for youth on informal and formal supervision, as well as serving those at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. Programs offered as part of the Youth Opportunity Center facilitate the successful completion of court ordered terms and conditions for those on probation supervision. The programs offered promote accountability for all youth engaging at the YOC and present an opportunity for preventative intervention and positive development. The YOC will provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) such as:

Moral Reconnection Therapy: Moral Reconnection Therapy (MRT) is a systematic treatment strategy that seeks to decrease recidivism among juvenile and adult offenders by increasing moral reasoning. Its cognitive-behavioral approach combines elements from a variety of psychological traditions to progressively address ego, social, moral, and positive behavioral growth. The Department has a number of staff who are trained as MRT facilitators and this program will continue to be offered to youth. This will also remain one of the staple programs in the services provided by the Reentry unit.

Seeking Safety: Seeking Safety is an evidence-based, present-focused counseling model to help people attain safety from trauma and/or substance abuse. It can be conducted in a group (any size) and/or individual modality. It is an extremely safe model as it directly addresses both trauma and addiction and is facilitated by the Department's Program Coordinator.

Coping with Anger: The anger management program, Coping with Anger, is designed to help clients recognize, overcome, and control anger.

Forward Thinking: The Change Companies behavior change resources are built around Interactive Journaling, a structured process that helps people reflect on where they have been, where they are and where they wish to go. The program is based on the latest research in behavior change, tailored to the client being served, and is engaging for the participants, allowing them to recognize that the opportunity and responsibility for change is up to them. The

program can be offered through one-on-one facilitation or in a group format and can be facilitated by a number of Probation staff.

In addition, YOC operation will facilitate the following parenting classes:

Love and Logic: Parenting with Love and Logic is a parenting style whereby parents learn to control their emotions when disciplining their children. This parenting style requires parents to use love and empathy to teach consequences, establish boundaries and build healthy parent child relationships. The parenting style tends to incline on loving kids unconditionally for who they are and not for what they have achieved. The program is a 4-6-week class that is facilitated by the Department's Program Coordinator and is now offered in partnership with the Family Resource Center to the broader community as well.

The Parent Project®: This is the only program of its kind in the country, developed specifically for use in juvenile courts and probation. The program offers concrete, no-nonsense answers for even the MOST difficult parent questions and high-risk adolescent behaviors. The program is need-based, addressing the precise issues parents face and was actually developed by the questions posed by over 500,000 parents of high-risk youth. It includes the components of Behavioral Interventions, Cooperative Learning Norms, Activity-Based Instruction, and Integrated Support Groups for parents. During the coming year the Probation Department will implement this program as a support for the parents of our most challenging youth.

In addition to CBT programs, the YOC will provide other Evidence Based Practices and pro-social activities for the youth to participate in.

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

With the closure of Del Norte County Juvenile Hall in October of 2023 contracts are being used with regional counties for custody and detention when needed. The Probation Department has established a Reentry Services Unit which is responsible not only for transportation of youth in custody, but also helping to provide programs and services for those youth on their return to the community through a center located in the old Juvenile Hall building now the Youth Opportunity Center. This resource will also be available for youth on formal and informal probation as well as at-risk youth who voluntarily participate in programming offered at the YOC.

Funding that was previously utilized for services in-custody in the local juvenile hall has been redirected to support these new reentry services programs. Although still being built out, these services will include programs provided directly by Probation staff such as CBT journaling programs, Moral Reconation Therapy, individual trauma-based interventions utilizing Motivational Interviewing, vocational programs, and others. These will be added to with programs from local partners such as Child Welfare and the Wraparound program, Tribal partners with youth-specific programs, the County Office of Education, and others who are able to bring youth-centric programs to this at-risk population.

The goal in this shift is to aggressively move toward a higher tempo of program and service provision for probation youth and those who show indicators of being at risk of juvenile justice intervention. This will, in some way, help bridge the gap that the lack of local detention leaves in the community.

Additionally, there is ongoing discussion of the need for graffiti suppression and abatement. There have been several instances in the last year where it was identified that juveniles were involved in vandalizing property with graffiti. There is interest by the Council in being involved in some sort of suppression and abatement program, although the details of that have not yet been defined.

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

N/A.

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

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

Del Norte County Probation currently uses an electronic case management system (CMS) provided by the vendor AutoMon. All law enforcement partners through Del Norte Sheriff's Dispatch have the ability to access, in real time, a limited version of the CMS which indicates specific demographic information for youth as well as terms and conditions of supervision. In the coming year the Probation Department is transitioning to a new CMS system. As implementation occurs steps will be taken to ensure continued data and information sharing with the new systems and, depending on the agency and interaction, even more information integration between agencies. The Court has made such a transition to a new system this year. These new CMS systems should allow for a more fluid exchange of information between platforms and agencies. Future goals would be to allow some direct access by program providers and some integration of systems with our DA and Sheriffs Offices.

The Probation Department also has access to the Child Welfare Systems case management system (CWS/CMS).

The Probation Department also has limited access to the Del Norte County Unified School District's CMS which allows us to track our youth who have been placed into foster care. The DPO assigned as the Truancy Officer (TO) has direct access to the District's attendance system.

For the moment, and until further integration, the Probation Department also has limited access to the Del Norte Superior Court's Case Explorer system.

The Probation Department also has limited access to DSSI, which is the system utilized by the Sheriff's Department and jail, and it is primarily used for adult probation supervision, but is also used to gather information on adults who may be family members or may have interactions with the youth.

B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils

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

no

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

All seats are filled with the exception of a Community-Based substance abuse representative; no CBOs which fit this description has been identified. The Council will continue to explore options for a member who meets these requirements. However, until that time this position remains vacant.

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:

Youth Opportunity Center (YOC)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Although the YOC is a new entity for Del Norte County, most of the programs that are and will be offered are proven to be successful. The YOC will offer CBT programs which are based on the scientific evidence that our feelings are determined by our thoughts and perceptions, rather than by external influences such as people, situations, and events. Of the juveniles who enter the juvenile justice system and those deemed to be at risk, the majority (if not all) have been reared and/or exposed to environments that have influenced negative thought patterns, thereby resulting in criminal behavior. By introducing CBT to these identified youth, the opportunity to provide ways to take greater charge of their thought process can positively impact their feelings in ways that improve their ability to react appropriately to situations and events.

Description:

The Del Norte County Probation Department has been and will continue to offer Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) programs such as MRT, Seeking Safety, Forward Thinking, Coping with Anger, Love and Logic, and The Parent Project. In addition to CBT the Youth Opportunity Program will offer other evidence-based programs, community outreach and work service programs. Pro-social activities will also be a staple of the YOC, such as gardening, culinary, open gym, art, movie nights, and other activities that will provide opportunity to positively engage with youth.

Program Name:

Electronic Monitoring

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Much study has occurred and continues to occur regarding the efficacy of electronic monitoring. Most research has concluded that an effective electronic monitoring program does have a positive impact on youth behavior and recidivism. One study by Florida State University's Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research published in 2011 indicated that there was a 31% reduction in youths' risk of failure on supervision. Although there are recurring controversies surrounding EM, the data appears to consistently indicate positive results.

Description:

EM allows the Probation Department to supervise a juvenile in their residence as ordered by the Court. EM closely monitors the youth's activities and alerts the probation officer if the youth is in an area they are not authorized to be and also allows the officer to check their location and make sure they are attending their ordered programs. A juvenile is placed on this program by order of the Court and under strict guidelines to help them become more accountable for decisions and attitudes. EM also assists the parent and probation in closely supervising a youth who has demonstrated problems in school, home and/or with the law. EM is used as a less restrictive alternative to secure detention. Finally, the use of EM for youth in Del Norte County allows the Probation Department to provide information to the Court on youths' behaviors and actions that would not otherwise be available.

Program Name:

Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

The gender-specific risk assessment used in the JAIS system is research-based and has been employed and validated widely. As a regular business practice, Evident Change (the parent company who administrates the tool) validates the risk/needs instrument periodically and customizes the instrument for each agency to ensure it optimally classifies the youth population served. Unfortunately, Del Norte County does not have a large enough population to validate the tool locally, therefore we rely on this established tool to also provide us with an accurate representation of our youth's risk and needs.

In the coming year, our department will be transitioning to a new risk assessment tool concurrently with our transition to a new CMS, that will continue to allow us to determine risks of both youth on formal supervision and youth identified to be at risk of justice involvement.

Description:

The Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) is a gender specific risk assessment supervision strategy model that weaves together a risk assessment and a strength and needs assessment. It is designed as a one-on-one interview with the youth, much of which focuses on the underlying motivation for illegal behavior. The risk assessment used in the JAIS system is research-based and has been employed and validated widely. The JAIS system validates the risk instrument periodically and customizes the instrument for each agency to ensure it optimally classifies the youth population served. Unfortunately, Del Norte County does not have a large enough population to validate the tool locally, therefore we rely on this established tool to also provide us with an accurate representation of our youth's risk and needs.

Program Name:

Graffiti abatement and suppression

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

There have been several instances in the last year where it was identified that juveniles were involved in vandalizing property with graffiti. There is interest by the Council in being involved in some sort of suppression and abatement program, although the details of that have not yet been defined.

Description:

In the coming year the Council, in collaboration with other agencies and bodies will explore and, if able, establish a graffiti abatement and suppression program.

**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.

The overall strategy for handling non-707(b) youth in Del Norte County has been to use validated risk and needs assessments, evidence-based practices, and victim and community focused approaches to provide opportunity for rehabilitation, accountability for actions, and community safety through appropriate levels of supervision while engaging the youth and their family in the least restrictive way possible. We strive to keep youth local by working with their families and local support systems utilizing evidence-based programs (EBP) for case plan interventions to address their identified criminogenic needs. If violations are persistent and/or serious and a youth is refusing to participate in community-based services, we utilize graduated sanction that can include short-term juvenile hall commitments that also provide EBP services. If a youth continues to refuse to engage in services and the home environment is not conducive to behavior change, the last resort is to consider out-of-home placement or long-term detention.

B. Regional Agreements

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

Del Norte County does not maintain any regional agreements or arrangements that involve YOBG funding. Most needed services are established and maintained agency-to-agency.

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

Below are YOBG funded programs reported by the county.

Program Name:

Paxton Patterson

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

None

Description:

The Probation Department uses funds for staff salaries, stipends, and supplies needed to provide programming for our youth. This program teaches youth vocational building and work skills that will be valuable in helping them obtain employment. This program will be implemented by either hiring an individual to facilitate the program or possibly having an individual volunteer to facilitate the program.

Program Name:

Mental Health Counseling

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

None

Description:

On a case by case basis the Probation Department uses funds for a contract with licensed clinical providers to provide services and counseling for youth who have committed sex offenses and those youth with serious emotional disorders.

Program Name:

Garden Program

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

None

Description:

The Probation Department will continue to provide gardening as part of the new Youth Opportunity Center which will minimally include upkeep of a greenhouse and several raised beds. This will teach the youth the responsibility of taking care of something other than themselves. The Probation Department uses funds to cover the cost of supplies for the program. During the coming year the Department will look to expand this program through partnerships with local entities or individuals who are able to bring a greater depth of knowledge to the program.

Program Name:

ServSafe Food Handlers Program

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

None

Description:

Participants will be youth involved in the Youth Opportunity Center, both on supervision and at-risk. Youth are put through the California ServSafe food handlers' course online in order to provide them usable employment and pro social skills, enhancing youth's ability to compete in the workforce and learn how to positively interact with vocational teachers and employers.