



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## AGENDA

### Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

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Thursday, April 9, 2026

12:00 PM

50 Douglas Dr., 2nd Fl. Martinez

Passcode: 710567

Webinar ID: 844 9671 4614

Call In: +1 669 444 9171 US

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#### DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting

<https://prob-cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/84496714614>

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions
2. Review Group Norms
3. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).
4. CONSIDER approving the Record of Action from December 11, 2025, DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting [26-1386](#)  
**Attachments:** [12-11-25 Draft Record of Action.pdf](#)
5. CONSIDER approving the 2026 DJJ Plan [26-1387](#)  
**Attachments:** [2026 JJRBG County Plan Template - JJCC RSC draft.pdf](#)  
[JJRBG County Plan Data Template.pdf](#)
6. General Announcements
7. The next meeting is currently scheduled for October 29, 2026, at 12:00 p.m..
8. Adjourn

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 50 Douglas Drive, Martinez, CA, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at [www.contracosta.ca.gov](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov). If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact:

Deborah Caldwell, Executive Secretary  
[Deborah.Caldwell@prob.cccounty.us](mailto:Deborah.Caldwell@prob.cccounty.us)



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-1386

**Agenda Date:** 4/9/2026

**Agenda #:** 4.

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Advisory Board: DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee  
Subject: Record of Actions - December 11, 2025

**Information:**

CONSIDER approving the Record of Action from December 11, 2025, DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting.

**Referral History and Update:**

County ordinance requires that each County body keep a record of its meetings. Though the record need not be verbatim, it must accurately reflect the agenda and decisions made in the meeting. Attached for the Committee's consideration is the Record of Action for the Committee's December 11, 2025, meeting.

**Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

Review and provide any edits and corrections, if necessary, before approval.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

## Committee Meeting Minutes

### Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

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Thursday, December 11, 2025

12:00 PM

50 Douglas Dr., 2nd Fl. Martinez, CA

<https://prob-cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/8110178917>

4

Webinar ID: 811 0178 9174

Call in: +16694449171,,81101789174# US

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#### DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

Chief Ehmen-Krause called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

**Present**

Steven Blum, Esa Ehmen-Krause, Jonathan Laba, Lynn Mackey, Julius Van Hook, and Phil Bradley

**Absent**

Devon Bell, Tumani Drew, Priya Moorkoth-Phelps, and Honorable Rebecca Hardie

2. Review Group Norms

3. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

No public comment received.

4. CONSIDER approving the Record of Action from April 10, 2025, DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting.

[25-5214](#)

**Attachments:**

[4-10-25 Draft Record of Action.pdf](#)

**Motion:**

Mackey

**Second:**

Laba

**Aye:**

Blum, Ehmen-Krause, Laba, Mackey, Van Hook, and Bradley

**Absent:**

Bell, Drew, Moorkoth-Phelps, and Rebecca Hardie

**Result:**

Passed

5. Briones Youth Academy Secure Track: Program & Partner Updates

Discussion was held.

Public comment was received.

6. Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant

Discussion was held.

No public comment received.

7. Meeting Schedule

Discussion was held.

No public comment received.

8. General Announcements

The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 9, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m. by Chief Ehmen-Krause.

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[Deborah.Caldwell@prob.cccounty.us](mailto:Deborah.Caldwell@prob.cccounty.us)



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 26-1387

**Agenda Date:** 4/9/2026

**Agenda #:** 5.

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Advisory Board: DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting  
Subject: 2026 DJJ Plan Revisions

**Information:**

The DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee will discuss the revisions to the 2026 DJJ Realignment Plan.

**Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

Review and approve the 2026 DJJ Realignment Plan.



# JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

## MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

**Date:** May 1, 2026

**County Name:** Contra Costa County

**Contact Name:** Esa Ehmen-Krause

**Telephone Number:** 925-313-4188

**E-mail Address:** [Esa.Ehmen@prob.cccounty.us](mailto:Esa.Ehmen@prob.cccounty.us)

## BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 1990 through 1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) program, which supports county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who were previously eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) prior to its closure. Section 1995, which governs the county planning process, was amended by Assembly Bill 118 (Chapter 96, Statutes of 2025). This template reflects those amendments, which take effect January 1, 2026. All statutory references in this document are to the law as amended. The statutory language can be found [here](#).

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties shall create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(a).) OYCR may request revisions as necessary or request completion of the required statutory elements in the plan prior to final acceptance of the plan. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995 (f).) Plans and the date of their acceptance will be posted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(g).)

There are ten sections to the plan:

- Part 1: Subcommittee Composition
- Part 2: Target Population
- Part 3: Programs and Services
- Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds
- Part 5: Facility Plan

- Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System
- Part 7: Regional Efforts
- Part 8: Data
- Part 9: Other Updates
- Part 10: Expenditure Summary

**PART 1: SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND PROCESS (WELF. & INST. CODE §§ 1995 (B) AND (C))**

List the subcommittee members, agency affiliation where applicable, and contact information:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Chief Probation Officer Esa Ehmen-Krause	Esa.Ehmen@prob.cccounty.us	925-313-4188
Co-Chair <i>(If Applicable)</i>	Rev. Julius Van Hook, Community Member	Chaplainjxvanhook@gmail.com	510-815-7183
District Attorney's Office Representative	Stephanie Kang	skang@contracostada.org	925-957-8721
Public Defender's Office Representative	Jonathan Laba	Jonathan.Laba@pd.cccounty.us	925-608-4400
Department of Social Services Representative	Priya Moorkoth-Phelps	moorkp@ehsd.cccounty.us	925-655-4338
Department of Mental Health	Steven Blum	Steven.blum@cchealth.org	925-957-2739
Office of Education Representative	Lynn Mackey	LMackey@cccoc.k12.ca.us	925-942-3388
Court Representative	Judge Rebecca C. Hardie	rhardie@contracosta.courts.ca.gov	925-608-1105
Three Community Members <i>(defined as "individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system, or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system" (Welf. &amp; Inst. Code § 1995(b).))</i>	Tumani Drew	tumani@youngwomenfree.org	510-646-7646
	Phil Bradley	ptb272@gmail.com	650-302-0560
	Rev. Julius Van Hook, Community Member & Co-Chair listed above	Chaplainjxvanhook@gmail.com	510-815-7183

**Adding membership changes.**

**Describe the process used to determine whether to select a co-chair for your subcommittee (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b)):**

Consistent with the Contra Costa County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council bylaws, this subcommittee functions with a Chair/Co-Chair model. The Co-Chair is a representative of a community-based organization and is selected by the members of the subcommittee.

**Provide the dates of the last two meetings that the subcommittee convened to discuss your county’s JJRBG plan:**

Meeting Date 1:

Meeting Date 2:

Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable: Not applicable.

**Date that the subcommittee approved the plan by a majority vote:**

**Describe how the plan was developed, including the review and participation of the subcommittee community members as defined in Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b):**

In 2021, the Contra Costa County Probation Department hired Impact Justice to help the Juvenile Justice Realignment Planning Subcommittee develop its first realignment plan. Impact Justice reviewed best-practice literature, held sessions with youth and stakeholders, and led planning meetings and targeted workgroups. Additionally, IJ developed a research-based Social Emotional Learning (SEL) tool that was utilized as a decision-making tool in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility.

Since 2021, the plan has been reviewed for updates and revised annually, and then approved by a majority vote of the JJRP subcommittee after input and consideration.

**PART 2: TARGET POPULATION (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(1))**

**Briefly describe the County’s realignment target population supported by the block grant.**

*The “target population” is defined as “youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure and shall further be defined as persons who are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or an offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code.” (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1990(b))*

Contra Costa County will continue using these block grant funds to support the total population of youth who, prior to the promulgation of Senate Bill 823, were eligible for commitment to the California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). This includes not only youth that returned from DJJ, but also youth committed to the local Secure Youth Treatment Facility since 2021.

**Demographics of identified target population, including anticipated numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including age, gender, race or ethnicity, and offense/offense history.**

The County anticipates continuing service to a youth population very similar to the population currently under its custodial care. The attached data template includes point in time data, collected April 1, 2026.

**Describe the target population disaggregated by programs, placements and/or facilities to which they have been referred.**

The target population will continue to be supported by programming in three distinct custodial treatment programs maintained and operated by the Probation Department:

- (1) the Briones Youth Academy (BYA) Secure Pathway, also the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)
- (2) the Briones Youth Academy (BYA) Commitment Pathway (not a SYTF) and
- (3) the Girls in Motion (GIM) program (not a SYTF)

The least restrictive custodial treatment program is recommended based upon consideration of the facts and circumstances of the underlying offense, and a careful analysis of the risks and individualized needs of the youth. All three residential programs use a phased approach to offer robust, evidence-based services for varied length of stays, designed to address mental, behavioral, and cognitive needs, as well as to provide education, job, and life skills.

According to the attached data template the total number of eligible youths committed to a custodial treatment setting is 33 as of April 1, 2026; roughly 64% (21) are in the SYTF, and roughly 34% (12) are in the non-SYTF, BYA Community Pathway program. Four more youth have transitioned to LRP settings.

## PART 3: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(2))

Provide a description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):

The County has created a treatment program roadmap for the Briones Youth Academy (BYA) Commitment Pathway and Secure Pathway (SYTF) to serve the needs of the target population. These programs include three components following disposition:

### 1) Orientation

During orientation, the following assessments will be completed:

- Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS)
- Youth Outcomes Questionnaire (YOQ)
- Skill Streaming Checklist
- Criminal Thinking Scale (CTS)
- Career Aptitude Test
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Real Colors Personality Inventory

Developed collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team (MDT), these assessments inform the Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) for youth committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility, and aid tracking of progress.

Notably, Choices is provided as a Cognitive Behavioral Treatment during the orientation period.

### 2) Pathway

Within the designated pathway, the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) develops the youth's case plan. This is an Individualized Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) for youth in the BYA Secure Pathway SYTF, and an Individualized Case Plan (ICP) for youth in the BYA Commitment Pathway or Girls in Motion (GIM). The MDT will include Deputy Probation Officer, Juvenile Institutional Officer, Behavioral Health, Medical, Education, and supportive individuals. These supportive individuals may include anyone the youth identify as supportive, such as mentors, coaches, faith leaders, social workers and/or family members. The Department will also work with the young people to ensure they have a mentor to work with.

In addition to plan development, the MDT will meet regularly to check-in on the youth's progress. Following best practice, the MDT includes only stakeholders relevant to the actual and current needs of the youth while in-custody. Research also illustrates the connection between meaningful engagement and participation of youth within the decision-making and treatment plan, and successful plan completion.

Programming will include evidence-based cognitive behavioral treatment classes, life-skills development, post-secondary coursework, vocational and career technical education, and

exposure to programs, services, and activities that encourage positive youth development.

3) Reentry

For youth court ordered to the BYA Commitment Pathway, programming includes connection to educational and vocational opportunities, and collaboration with community-based organizations, with a goal of continuing their rehabilitative work in their home communities.

Re-entry programming for the Secure Pathway includes various onsite and off-site educational and Vocational opportunities, recreational activities, family and community engagement, and collaboration with community-based organizations, when eligible and court approved.

Once BYA Secure Pathway youth have reached specific individual goals and benchmarks, they become eligible to apply for transition to the less restrictive SYTF unit, known as the Tamalpais Unit. On Tamalpais, the emphasis on goal setting is developing independence and life skills, practicing learned skills, demonstrating rehabilitative progress, and preparing youth for transition to their home communities. A re-entry plan is developed within the first 30 days of youth's transition to Tamalpais.

Onsite opportunities include gaining financial literacy, work experience, attending college or pre-apprenticeship programs, and participating in family events like movie or game nights. Offsite, youth can secure jobs, attend college in person, obtain driving permits or licenses to overcome transportation barriers, and support their emotional well-being through tailored activities.

Examples of individualized activities offered to youth as part of their reentry planning include grocery shopping, opening bank accounts, voting, eating at restaurants, attending sporting events, clothing shopping, touring college campuses, and participating in union hall tours and presentations. Youth celebrate graduations from college or trades programs, enjoy nature hikes, and sailing excursions through Blue Water is scheduled to begin in May. These activities are designed to help youth gain essential life skills, foster independence, and support their successful reintegration into the community.

**PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(3))**

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):**

Research shows high rates of mental health disorders among youth in the justice system. Serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI) is a major issue, especially as most disorders first appear during adolescence and early adulthood. Youth in this system are much more likely to have at least one mental health diagnosis compared to their peers. The Department partners with trained Behavioral Health clinicians who create and implement individualized rehabilitation plans for those identified with mental health concerns. The Department regularly assesses these needs and will continue seeking ways to better coordinate resources to serve these groups.

To address concerns regarding practical delivery of care, Contra Costa County has expanded its capacity to locally serve the rehabilitative needs of youth with behavioral health needs by funding the hiring of new

clinicians and additional resources. The partnership between County Probation and Behavioral Health (BH) now includes six clinicians, plus two doctoral interns and one master's level intern. The BH Program Manager is a licensed MFT who provides 24/7 crisis response, and the Program Supervisor is a licensed psychologist. In total, there are 10 BH clinicians, three of whom can provide bilingual services. Every youth is offered at least one meeting with BH per week, and a psychiatrist is present 32 hours per week. Behavioral Health staff are also trained to provide competency remediation services to detained youth.

Group work with youth in custody includes family therapy, and trauma processing/recovery, anger management, and "inside/out" – a group designed to help youth navigate semi-independence and prepare for their eventual release.

In accordance with California statute (AB-133 Health; Chapter 143), effective October 2026, the Department will implement the mandatory CalAIM process in collaboration with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). This initiative is designed to ensure uninterrupted Medi-Cal coverage, 90 day prerelease reentry coordination, access to necessary behavioral health services and supports upon release. and that youth continue to receive behavioral health services in the community following their release. Covered pre-release services include reentry case management, physical and behavioral health clinical consultation via telehealth or in-person to support diagnosis, treatment, and the development of post-release plans, and discharge planning. Additional covered services include laboratory and radiology services, along with medications, medication administration, and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) utilizing all FDA-approved medications.

An anomaly, the Department offers ongoing behavioral health services with the same assigned clinician to every youth after release from the facility. Clinicians follow up with young people who initially decline the continuum of services to reengage. Additionally, three licensed clinicians work as MH Liaisons in each of the three county regions to provide BH services and linkage to other service providers.

There are fulltime Alcohol and Other Drugs Service (AODS) providers in the facility and community. Youth who require additional support related to substance use may participate in AODS counseling, which utilizes motivational interviewing and individualized sessions to help youth explore the impact of substance use and develop healthier coping strategies. Youth may also attend Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous (AA/NA) support groups facilitated by community volunteers.

Behavioral Health staff co-leads Cognitive Behavioral Therapy-based treatment classes with Probation staff and continues to work towards implementing "Safety-A" in partnership with Dr. David Goldston of Duke University. This will involve establishing a safety plan with and for every youth who enters the facility. The County will also explore implementation of "Shield of Care," a suicide prevention curriculum developed by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health designed specifically to prevent suicide in juvenile justice settings.

The Department is expanding the collaboration with Behavioral Health beyond direct service to youth. Behavioral Health continues to provide trauma-informed-care training to facility staff. Behavioral Health is also planning to provide staff training on suicide assessments for youth in juvenile justice settings. In 2024, the juvenile facility introduced a comprehensive Juvenile Facility Training Officer program for newly appointed Juvenile Institutional Officers (JIO), complementing the existing two-week focused onboarding process. As part of the recent expansion of staff training initiatives, Behavioral Health will now offer suicide prevention training during JIO onboarding.

Probation has worked closely with Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3) to convert an existing emergency transitional housing contract into a structured Less Restrictive Program (LRP) option for eligible youth leaving SYTF. As a result, monthly meetings between H3 youth service providers and juvenile facility

administrators will now also include Behavioral Health representatives to better coordinate transitional housing plans for these young people.

In addition to the Department facilitating expanded behavioral health work, a Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR) was created on a repurposed Juvenile Hall living unit. Annual staff training now includes trauma informed modules on de-escalation, suicide prevention, and post-crisis reintegration strategies. Staff are trained to recognize behavioral health warning signs and to apply supportive interventions that promote psychological safety. These training efforts are complemented by using the Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR), a space co-designed by youth, staff, and a local artist with lived experience, which serves as a therapeutic environment to support youth experiencing emotional distress. The Department continues to review and revise related policies and refine training focused on the development of strategies regarding crisis stabilization and management upon return from hospitalization, and there is an increase focus on expanding staff training and enhancing services to reach a greater number of young people.

Probation acknowledges research that shows youth adjudicated for sexual offenses differ from adults convicted of similar crimes, and justice-involved youth with problematic sexual behaviors (PSB) generally have similar rehabilitative needs as other justice-involved youth. Some adjudicated youth may require PSB-specific treatment, and while this population is relatively small in Contra Costa County, the Department has prioritized establishing evidence-based programs and arrangements that serve its dual interest in rehabilitation and public safety.

In exploring an expansion of local capacity, the Department allocated additional resources toward clinical specialists with experience and training in treating PSB, including agreements with private, community-based providers for contract-based services. Contra Costa continues to partner with the Sonoma County RESPECT (Responsible, Empathetic, Safe, Pro-Social, Equal, and Consensual Thought) program to meet the needs of our youth who are committed to a secure facility to receive treatment for sexual offenses. Additional investments have been made toward training facility-based clinical staff to provide supplementary care and to ensure the appropriateness of services provided to all youth, including those adjudicated for sexual offenses. One Behavioral Health clinician has received training to provide treatment to juveniles who sexually offend; this service is available to youth in custody and after reentry.

The Department seeks to maintain strong connections between youth, families and communities, minimize system impact and reduce entries to foster care and custodial care for youth with PSB where appropriate. A comprehensive eligibility and suitability screening is conducted for all youth who have incurred sustained sexual offenses to make informed recommendations about whether community-based outpatient treatment, out of home placement in a short term residential therapeutic program, or commitment to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility, such as Sonoma County's RESPECT program, is deemed most appropriate.

The County continually assesses expanding local capacity and is committed to continuous improvement and supplementation of its programs using an evidence and strength based, trauma-informed lens. Preparations are in progress to issue a Request for Interest aimed at identifying qualified local professionals capable of providing community-based treatment for youth with problematic sexual behaviors.

### **Adding training effort updates.**

Staff development efforts have expanded to include a range of trainings that directly support the rehabilitative goals of the County's realigned youth programs. These include foundational content on common mental health diagnoses among justice-involved youth, adolescent brain development, and trauma's impact on behavior. Additional emphasis has been placed on effective communication, professional boundaries, and the

development of therapeutic alliances between youth and staff. Crisis response simulations and scenario-based learning exercises have been integrated into in-service training days to reinforce the application of de-escalation, decision-making, and rapport-building skills in real-time. The Department is also seeking to implement SB 29 Mental Health Decision-Making training in the upcoming training year, to support staff in navigating mental health crises and clinical decisions with greater confidence and competence.

In support of consistent and developmentally appropriate practice, the Department has implemented Policing the Teen Brain™. This training helps probation and police staff better interpret and respond to adolescent behavior through the lens of brain development and trauma, and trains officers in effective strategies to engage youth based on adolescent brain science, with the goal of improving officer-youth relations. The initiative was made possible by a federal community project grant awarded to Probation in 2023 through Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's office. Using grant funds, Probation partnered with Strategies for Youth, a nationally recognized law enforcement training provider, to offer train-the-trainer and patrol officer courses to all Contra Costa County law enforcement agencies at no cost. To date, more than 100 officers from 11 agencies, including the County's Deputy Probation Officers and Juvenile Institution Officers working with young people, have been trained, and four of the five named agencies, have either completed or become certified trainers in the evidence-based curriculum, Policing the Teen Brain™.

Additionally, PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) training remains a mandatory requirement for all facility-based staff, as well as volunteers, ensuring safety and compliance with federal standards. Training initiatives have been enhanced; previously conducted at minimum every two years, these sessions are now held annually for all support providers and volunteers to refresh participants' understanding of the Department's zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and how to report incidents. Initial PREA training is also included during new JIO staff onboarding.

Another cornerstone of the Department's training strategy is Core Correctional Practices (CCP), an evidence-based framework designed to enhance staff effectiveness in modeling pro-social behavior, delivering cognitive-behavioral interventions, and reinforcing skill acquisition. CCP has been integrated into the training curriculum to ensure that interactions with youth are consistently aligned with the principles of effective rehabilitation. These professionally relevant trainings reflect the County's commitment to equipping staff with the tools and knowledge necessary to build trust, support behavior change, and provide high-quality rehabilitative care to youth in custody. A coordinated initiative has been implemented to emphasize CCP, resulting in a fourfold increase in CCP interventions. Verbal interventions are initiated when the assigned JIO establishes initial contact with youth on their caseload, conducts weekly check-ins, or interacts with youth at any time. Staff members are required to employ CCP verbal intervention techniques during all such engagements.

The Department has adopted strength-based curricula to improve youth mental health services, incorporating creative therapies like arts programs and narrative work. Staff receive training in Positive Youth Development, resilience, and motivational interviewing, equipping them to foster agency, hope, and goal-setting in youth while enhancing their own skills. The Department will continue to explore options regarding arts- and performance-based therapeutic modules, and additional staff training on crisis response strategies, mental health conditions common among justice-involved young people, appropriate strategies and boundaries for building positive relationships between staff and youth, and other topics deemed professionally relevant and useful for achieving the County's goals.

The County is improving care for system-impacted youth and aims to address impacts of historical trauma and racial discrimination. Staff are trained in culturally responsive care and trauma awareness, and clinical assignments are considerate of youths' cultural backgrounds. Continued staff education and updates to policies will also help build a stronger understanding of youth cultures.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):**

The County recognizes the value of using the positive youth development (PYD) framework in youth programs. PYD focuses on building connection, confidence, character, competence, contribution, and sometimes caring. These elements encourage self-worth and successful outcomes, like leadership and community involvement. The approach emphasizes supportive relationships and opportunities, helping youth set and achieve personal goals by involving family, educators, and other adults as partners.

Recognizing youth as experts on their own needs and strengths is a critical component of this framework. Therefore, the County has engaged youth in developing programs and will continue to solicit and value feedback from current and former participants.

Key examples of program development and facility updates based on specific youths' request include:

**Independent Living Skills:** Based on youth feedback, on the transitional unit of the SYTF, youth continue to launder their own clothes and can cook meals; décor and furniture were reimaged according to youth preference.

**Culinary Canvas:** In March 2026, Probation launched Culinary Canvas, a hands-on cooking program designed to equip youth with practical life skills that promote independence and confidence. Through interactive lessons, youth learn foundational cooking techniques, kitchen safety, meal preparation, and healthy eating habits. The program also introduces youth to budgeting and smart grocery shopping, helping them understand how to stretch resources while making nutritious food choices. Culinary Canvas incorporates a farm-to-table component that allows youth to connect food preparation with the ingredients they grow through the horticulture program. In addition to developing daily living skills, the program introduces youth to potential career pathways in culinary arts and food service.

**Horticulture Program:** The Horticulture Program introduces youth to the art and science of growing their own food while developing practical skills related to sustainability and nutrition. Through hands-on instruction, youth learn a variety of gardening techniques, including traditional soil cultivation, artificial lighting systems, and hydroponic growing methods. Participants plant, grow, and care for fruits, vegetables, and other plants while gaining experience maintaining a productive garden. The program emphasizes the connection between agriculture and healthy living, allowing youth to harvest and prepare the food they grow. Through this process, youth build responsibility, patience, and teamwork while developing practical life skills related to nutrition, sustainability, and self-sufficiency.

**Updated Menus:** Menus were thoughtfully updated to prioritize more meals prepared from scratch, improving both nutritional quality and the overall dining experience. Fresh ingredients and culturally relevant recipes are now emphasized to better meet the needs and preferences of youth. In addition, living units are consistently stocked with accessible snacks, ensuring that youth have regular access to food they prefer throughout the day.

These additional upgrades and enhancements to programming included youth input during development:

**Monticello vocational unit:** The vocational unit has undergone remodeling to add a professional culinary kitchen, upgraded bathroom, new flooring and cabinetry, new classroom area, and storage for equipment and supplies.

**Tam Bucks:** On the Tamalpais Unit of the SYTF, youth participate in a structured independent living environment designed to help them develop practical life and financial management skills. Youth are expected to interview for and maintain employment, and they receive Tam Bucks as compensation for their work. Through this simulated financial system, youth learn to budget earnings and manage financial responsibilities, including paying for rent, access to laundry services and supplies, and purchasing special snacks or hygiene items. A structured loan system is also in place to provide youth with guidance and education around borrowing, repayment obligations, and interest. In June 2025, the Tam Store was launched, where youth can purchase from a catalog of items not available through the regular incentive and supply catalog, reinforcing lessons related to budgeting, financial decision-making, and differentiation between needs and wants.

**Beekeeping:** In March 2024, youth partnered with the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association for hands-on training in beekeeping. They learned about honeybee lifecycles, bee roles, hive care, honey production, and practical skills like honey harvesting and landscaping for pollinators. The youth named the project the B3 Family Apiary (B3FA), and it is one of California's first juvenile corrections apicultural programs. It has yielded multiple honey harvests and allowed youth to share their work with loved ones through gifted honey. A partnership with UC Davis provides scholarships for youth to complete the California Master Beekeeper Program while participating in B3FA. Through expert guidance and familiarization with modern equipment, youth can become certified beekeepers, learning about apiculture's role in the ecosystem and developing skills like teamwork, patience, and perseverance.

**Creative Hope Studio:** In May 2024, Contra Costa County launched Creative Hope Studios, a youth-driven initiative offering music and sound engineering as creative outlets. Youth write lyrics, produce music, and learn audio production, channeling emotion into creativity. In November 2024, the program expanded with a podcast project where youth discuss sports, teamwork, and personal growth. Working together to produce episodes, they build skills in collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

**Music Therapy:** In March 2026, Probation launched a Music Therapy program designed to provide youth with a structured, small-group setting for exploring creativity, emotional expression, and personal storytelling through music. Professional facilitators lead participants through the fundamentals of music production, songwriting, and recording, while sharing relevant industry experiences and career insights. The program enables youth to articulate emotions and life experiences through musical composition, fostering communication skills, confidence, and self-awareness. Emphasizing collaboration, creativity, and constructive self-expression, the program also supports positive peer connections and equips participants with practical audio production skills, introducing them to potential creative career opportunities.

**The Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3):** The MC3 is a comprehensive pre-apprenticeship program that provides youth with hands-on exposure to the construction trades and prepares them for entry into union apprenticeship programs and skilled labor careers. Developed by North America's Building Trades Unions, the program introduces youth to foundational construction concepts, workplace safety, and the expectations of professional trade environments. Through structured instruction and practical skill development, youth gain an understanding of multiple construction crafts while building problem-solving abilities, teamwork, and work readiness skills. Participants also learn about post-secondary pathways within the skilled trades and have the opportunity to earn an industry-recognized MC3 certification, helping position them for future employment and apprenticeship opportunities.

**Spiritual Care and Mentorship:** Youth may also access spiritual care services provided through Interfaith Chaplaincy Affirming a New Generation of Excellence (ICHANGE), which offers trauma-

informed faith-based mentoring, individual support, and group services. Many additions to spiritual services have been added based on specific youth request.

Voter registration and civic participation: In 2024, Probation launched an initiative to educate youth about the impact and process of voting, ensure registration of all eligible youth, and provide opportunities for civic engagement. Since that time, all eligible youth have been registered to vote. Youth residing on the Tamalpais Unit of the SYTF are taken to local polling places to cast their ballots in person, reinforcing the importance of civic responsibility and participation in the democratic process.

The County will keep gathering feedback so youth can share their interests, goals, and desired opportunities, as well as influence PYD programming. Probation acknowledges involving youth helps align services with their needs, gives them a chance to advocate for themselves and their communities, and places focus on genuine youth-adult partnerships, where youth input shapes programs and decisions are made together.

The County recognizes the importance of substantial family involvement in developing pathways to success for youth throughout their involvement with the juvenile justice system. Families are informed about the youth's current activities, have a voice in decisions regarding the young person, and are part of the supportive network of adults that contribute to PYD. Supportive adult participation in the MDT is an important part of accomplishing this goal.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):**

Contra Costa County is committed to prioritizing family and community engagement and has made significant strides in this regard. Probation recognizes that strong bonds with family and community support is essential for positive youth development and successful reintegration and adopts a broad definition of family that extends beyond biological parents and legal guardians. The Department will continue to begin its family engagement strategies at the earliest stage of the youth's commitment by engaging caretakers and other supportive individuals identified by the youth for participation in the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) process.

Upon commitment, the youth will be assigned to a counselor, who will meet with the youth's caretaker. The County encourages families to actively participate in their loved one's treatment plan, both at its inception and thereafter, continuing with regular MDT meetings and other meetings with Briones Youth Academy staff.

To promote family engagement, the County has reviewed and updated its policies and aims to ensure that barriers are removed for families to participate in their youth's treatment plan, and that relationships are maintained while in custody. In particular, the County has expanded visits to include designated and flexible family visit opportunities with caretakers, children of youth, siblings and partners. These family engagement opportunities include a wide variety of themed family activities, including holiday family visits, complete with matching pajamas and a photo booth, and prepared holiday meals for families to take home; milestone celebrations for youth birthdays, child birthdays, and program or school graduations; and family mealtimes during game nights or movie nights. Additionally, Behavioral Health staff are available to meet with youth and their family during visit times to help strengthen engagement between the youth and their parent, partner or child, or address difficult topics affecting family dynamics. Transportation support is considered for those in need.

Relatedly, the Department recognizes that our facility visiting space, as originally designed, was not ideal for expanded, inclusive or long-term family engagement for youth and young adults. To the degree possible, the

County seeks to facilitate a family-orientated environment for youth and their families. As such, equipment, furnishings and décor has been completely modernized and updated, to include the purchase of a movie projector, and toys and playmats for child visitors.

An outdoor family engagement courtyard has been developed to support shared activities and connections, featuring amenities such as a half-court basketball area, pickleball space, lawn games, and a designated barbecue area.

Finally, the County will pursue the development of structured feedback mechanisms on engagement efforts for youth and families. The Department is in the process of evaluating options to introduce a quarterly youth and family-themed event, enabling families to participate in decision-making through voting. Gathering input from those directly impacted by programs and services is essential for maintaining high standards of quality assurance and fostering ongoing improvement.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):**

Supporting youth returning to their home communities from confinement means recognizing both the harm caused during this formative stage and the difficulties of reentry. Probation recognizes disconnection from family, friends, and community makes reintegration harder, especially as adolescents transition to adulthood, and justice-involved youth often lack financial support and will not be able to rely on family for help with basic needs. The County will continue to build and sustain its support system around the strengths and needs of justice-involved youth, offering targeted programs for housing, employment, education, mental health, substance abuse, legal and familial support, and transportation.

The County views commitment to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility as the start of reentry. In planning for reentry, Contra Costa continuously reviews its current approach to align with evidence-based practices in four areas: (1) ongoing and pre-service assessments of confined youth, following Risk-Needs-Responsivity principles; (2) continuity of care between in-facility treatments and post-release referrals; (3) building partnerships with community organizations for coordinated case management; and (4) actively involving youths' social support networks in the reentry process.

To enhance the likelihood of successful reintegration for youth returning to their communities, the County, in partnership with relevant agencies and community stakeholders, initiates comprehensive reentry planning at the outset of each youth's commitment. Probation acknowledges that effective coordination and collaboration among various agencies and service providers is essential throughout all phases of the commitment period. The primary objective during treatment is to deliver individualized, high-quality reentry services and supports, as well as to reinforce educational and vocational competencies and develop psychosocial maturity. This is accomplished through activities designed to reflect common adolescent responsibilities, behaviors, and tasks. Previously mentioned examples included providing opportunities for budgeting personal and recreational expenses, assuming responsibility for laundry and meal preparation, and independently managing academic and household schedules.

In 2024, the County partnered with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) and the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to implement a workforce development initiative aimed at providing vocational and employment-focused services to justice-involved young people between the ages of 16 and 25.

The program prioritizes youth in custody and youth under Probation supervision who are eligible for DOR services.

The grant is administered through the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCOE) in partnership with Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network, a community-based organization that provides case management and employment support services. A workforce navigator employed through CCOE works directly with youth while they are in custody, identifying employment interests and vocational needs. The navigator coordinates with Dreamcatchers case managers to ensure services are aligned with each youth's goals and needs.

In 2025, Dreamcatchers Empowerment Network and the Contra Costa County Office of Education began accepting referrals and actively working with youth in custody. Through this process, the workforce navigator connects with youth while they remain in custody, identifies service needs, and relays those needs to Dreamcatchers case managers. Prior to release, the navigator facilitates a warm handoff to Dreamcatchers to ensure continuity of services as youth transition back into the community.

Through this partnership, youth are connected to services including career exploration and vocational assessments, employment preparation such as resume development and interview skills, paid work experience opportunities, job search assistance and placement, job coaching after hire, and education exploration and support. Additional assistance, including transportation and clothing funds, may also be provided to help youth overcome barriers to employment and successfully engage in the workforce.

While the pilot program is expected to sunset after three years, an important outcome of this initiative has been improved awareness of DOR services and Probation's role, which has positively impacted professional connections, collaboration and engagement on behalf of youth. With more County staff, clients and families aware of the DOR's services and the revised eligibility process, more young people have been connected to vital resources. In one example of success, a program participant was able to participate in an off-site vocational program while earning pay during their SYTF commitment; they became a licensed barber and then reintegrated into their home community as a gainfully employed, skilled professional.

The Tamalpais Unit is the County's internal transitional unit for the SYTF. Assessment for readiness begins one year after commitment to the program and can occur every thirty days thereafter. Youth are continually assessed for readiness to participate in reentry activities for the duration of their commitment.

The County is continually seeking innovative approaches to immerse youth in a tailored therapeutic community, with the goal of helping them prepare for reentry and encouraging positive behavior. Recognizing that "positive behavior" varies from person to person, the Department strives to ensure its approach is individualized, culturally aware, and sensitive to trauma. The transitional unit program prioritizes a respectful learning environment, establishing clear guidelines and expectations, and ensuring responses to rule violations are both timely and equitable. Within the step-down program, treatment activities are designed to mirror real-world challenges as closely as possible, turning the experience into a "dress rehearsal" where participants can practice new skills before transitioning back into their community.

In 2024, Probation began planning for a Less Restrictive Program (LRP) to meet the transitional housing needs of youth exiting the Briones Youth Academy SYTF. In 2025, an internal workgroup continued to develop programmatic components of the LRP focusing on five key components: furnishings and decor, safety and staffing, treatment and services, youth and community engagement, and overall program structure and design. Unfortunately, Probation was unable to acquire the originally identified local property due to a combination of significant structural issues and budgetary concerns. However, the planning process helped to highlight key considerations and components of an efficient LRP when considering emerging brick and mortar sites. The

Department continues to find success utilizing college campuses and relative homes as LRP options, in addition to the renewed collaboration with H3.

Given the anticipated youth population described above, Probation recognizes the potential for youth to remain under juvenile supervision for longer periods of time. Most young people exiting commitments will likely be transition-aged youth. The Department seeks to continually implement programs that can address the unique challenges and needs of this specific population while they are still in confinement, and will ensure that transition planning includes the continuum of appropriate behavioral health services for emerging adults. Assessment and planning aim to address barriers to normative developmental milestones and contribute to successful adulthood in areas of education, vocation, independent living, relationship building, and maturation. Contra Costa developed a series of requests for proposals to expand the services designed for and available to this population.

Probation considered this youthful emerging adult population during the planning, creation and funding of a collaborative service network for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY), primarily funded by SB 678 allocations. In 2024, Probation launched the TAY Service Network. The TAY Network is comprised of seventeen actively engaged adult and juvenile justice service providers who work together to provide and coordinate a variety of supportive services for TAY Probation clients. The overall goal is to ensure transitional planning occurs, and that a variety of individualized support and services are available to help young adults manage the unique challenges of navigating young adulthood while involved in the justice system.

In 2025, Probation aligned its resources and insourced case management, referrals, and provider coordination for the TAY Service Network. A Probation Community Associate (PCA) – a newer classification of Probation staff with lived personal, family and/or community experience in the justice or foster care system – was appointed as the liaison between TAY clients, providers, and DPOs. This addition to the network has enhanced referral connectivity, engagement, and communication among stakeholders. Specifically, “warm hand offs,” expedited referrals, connections to supportive adults and mentorship, housing stability, and continuous behavioral health, case management, educational support, and employment services, are the primary goals for TAY transitioning from the juvenile facility. Probation will continue the circle of support to both clients and providers to ensure equitable targeted efforts continue for TAY as they transition to their home communities after long-term care in the juvenile facility, with an added focus of preventing youth’s involvement in the adult criminal legal system.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):**

The Probation Department is committed to providing services that are gender-responsive, trauma-sensitive, and culturally responsive to young people, and to continuous staff training in these areas. The Department aims to establish a high-quality, culturally responsive program that incorporates youths’ cultural experiences and perspectives into program design and delivery, and helps youth, especially ethnic and racial minorities, feel safe, valued, and prepared for the future.

The juvenile facility currently has one unit for youth who identify as female, gender fluid or non-conforming; this is a co-ed unit. The same unit is home to our girls’ gender specific treatment program, Girls in Motion. It is also the designated unit for younger youth, and those with distinct behavioral health needs. The goal is to limit the population size of this unit.

Individual and group counseling is provided by therapists and Probation staff trained on gender-specific issues. Providers affiliated with community-based organizations also participate in counseling and the creation of individualized treatment plans. Additionally, the County has gender-responsive caseloads assigned to Deputy Probation Officers in juvenile, transitional aged youth and adult services.

As the justice systems disproportionately impact youth and young adults of color, it is critical to ensure racial equity is embedded into the County's PYD framework and programming. Following evidence-based and promising practices, the County will continue efforts to ensure that all youth have access to and are engaged by programming, and the Department will collect and examine data on outcomes for youth across racial and ethnic groups.

The County involves youth in designing activities and actively seeks their input on interests, goals, and community issues. Facility staff have participated in training related to trauma informed approaches with a goal of centering youth voice and choice. On the Tamalpais Unit, where the focus is strengthening the youth's readiness for reentry and independent living, youth have increasing opportunities to impact the community of their living environment. For example, a youth led council was developed on the Tamalpais Unit to engage young people in the development and implementation of unit programming and activities. Additionally, a Tamalpais youth created two newsletters, in which the youth highlighted topics important to them, by focusing on their experiences participating in various programs and activities, such as the MC3 program, Creative Hopes Studio, B3 Family Apiary.

Add Examples of culturally responsive programming include the following:

- Braiding Brilliance is a therapeutic, culturally grounded program that uses hair braiding as a tool to promote self-expression, confidence, and identity development among Black girls. Rooted in the cultural significance of hair as a symbol of heritage, resilience, and community, the program creates safe, affirming spaces where participants can explore their identity while building practical skills and positive connections with staff and peers.
- Women's History Month, Men's Mental Health Month, Mother's Day, and Father's Day as used as opportunities to acknowledge important family and cultural connections. Programming during these periods may include celebrations, educational workshops, documentary screenings, and facilitated discussions designed to promote cultural awareness, identity development, and community connection.
- Heritage celebrations such as Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month, during which youth prepare presentations on notable historical and cultural figures and participate in celebrations that include culturally appropriate food. Probation staff, county agency partners and service providers are invited to attend and participate in these large-scale productions.

Staff training is crucial for effective culturally responsive programming, as facility staff play a key role in implementation. The County has taken steps to deepen staff capacity to recognize and respond to both structural and interpersonal racism experienced by youth. Over the past year, equity-focused training has been embedded into the professional development of both line staff and program leadership. These trainings explore the impact of racial bias, privilege, and oppression within the juvenile justice system, and emphasize the use of racial equity frameworks in supervision, discipline, and program planning. Implicit Bias training is offered throughout the Department. Facilitated dialogue sessions and case reviews help staff apply these concepts to real-world situations, supporting a culture of reflection, accountability, and racial justice across facilities. The Department will continue to explore training for program leadership and staff to increase their capacity to recognize and respond to racial inequities, structural and interpersonal racism.

Since youth's realities and needs are likely to change over time, staff is expected to remain flexible and prepared to adapt programs to remain responsive to the youth. Recognizing that youth needs evolve, staff are encouraged to view learning as a continuous process, with ongoing opportunities for professional development that reflect the latest research in juvenile rehabilitation.

**Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by non-governmental or community-based providers. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(2) and (d)(8)):**

Community-based providers play a critical role in the justice apparatus. These providers facilitate connections to support, services, and opportunities that cannot be provided through the traditional justice system, and also support community connections. The support and relationships provided extend far beyond any necessary supervision or involvement within the justice system. The creation of a successful partnership between youth, community-based providers, and justice system partners requires all three partners to begin working together at the earliest possible stage of a young person's justice involvement.

Contra Costa County recognizes the importance of community-based providers in ensuring that youth have access to programs that are run by members of their own communities, center their experiences and needs, and can provide continuity following commitment. Therefore, the County intends to continually incorporate community-based providers into the system of care for the realigned population and will identify the specific services, programs, and components to handle.

Some examples of this collaborative effort in action include robust partnerships with a local spiritual care organization that offers a continuum of educational, religious and mentoring services to youth and families from incarceration to community, and a vocational program facilitated by locals with lived expertise who successfully navigated reentry and now provide valuable job skills training and mentorship to youth committed to the SYTF and those navigating community reintegration. Probation continually seeks to collaborate with service providers who reflect the cultures and experiences of the target population in a positive way.

## PART 5: FACILITY PLAN (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(4))

Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities the county will use to house or confine realigned youth at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need. Include the following (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(4)):

- Any less restrictive programs the county uses, and whether those programs are in facilities regulated by Subchapter 5 (commencing with Section 1300) of Chapter 1 of Division 1 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations
- Any county juvenile facility improvements made to support long-term commitments
- How the county will ensure youth safety and protection, including for youth of different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics
- Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(8))

Contra Costa County has created a plan for facilities that places paramount importance on Positive Youth Development (PYD) and trauma-informed care, with goals of mitigating qualities of jail-like facilities that are often inconsistent with PYD and can increase risks and fully utilizing opportunities to engage youth with their family and home communities throughout the stages of their commitment.

The target population included in this plan is older adolescents and young adults who have incurred sustained serious and/or violent sustained offenses. The County houses currently eligible youth in its Juvenile Hall, a 270-bed, maximum security detention facility located in Martinez.

There are ten (10) living units, of which only five (5) are currently occupied by youth, and youth are classified and assigned to units based on gender, age, offense/commitment, and special needs. Presently there are two designated units for “predisposition” youth; one is a male only unit, and one is co-ed, which is also the home of the Girls In Motion (non-SYTF) program. There are three additional living units dedicated to custodial treatment programs, one for the Briones Youth Academy Commitment Pathway (non-SYTF), and two for the SYTF, including the Tamalpais transitional unit. The remaining five living units have been converted to fulltime therapeutic, vocational and/or recreational environments, including the Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room.



When staffing permits, the Department plans to reopen two living units to reduce the population size of the male only “predisposition” unit, and the BYA Commitment Pathway.

While youth who have incurred sustained W&I 707(b) offense are often committed to the BYA Commitment Pathway to address risky, unsafe behaviors and elevated treatment needs, it is not a SYTF. It is designed for younger youth, and/or those youth needing a shorter length of custodial stay, and less intensive dosage of treatment than the SYTF. GIM is situated similarly for girls.

Young people committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility are typically older and the riskiest youth, who have been adjudicated for serious, violent offenses. Their commitment and individualized treatment plan begins on the primary treatment living unit. After approximately one year, the young people will become eligible to apply for transfer to the internal transitional unit, Tamalpais. Suitability is determined based on several factors, including sustained safety, stabilized behaviors and engagement in treatment and programming.

Once a young person has been accepted for transfer to Tamalpais, Probation focuses on providing engaging opportunities for young people as they prepare for reentry. An individualized re-entry preparation plan will be created to promote a phased, successful transition into the community by addressing three essential areas alongside strengthening of their rehabilitative goals: life skills, healthy relationships, and vocational skills/education. Opportunities may include attending college classes, participating in trades programming at trade halls, and/or other educational and vocational programs. Additionally, these programs may be located within communities, which allows young people to be closer to their families and support networks and facilitate family reunification.

Probation also facilitates life skills development, and chaperones enhanced off-site outings to provide hands-on experience in various skills, such as opening a bank account, pumping gas, grocery budgeting and shopping, and obtaining their California Identification Card or Driver’s license. Youth are able to seek vocational training and/or advance their education. This may require the young person to attend college or vocational courses, or become gainfully employed, off campus. The Department has successfully developed opportunities for in person, on site college courses in partnership with the Office of Education as well.

To build healthier relationships with family and supportive adults, the young people and their identified supportive adults are offered family therapy, extended family visits, and opportunities to participate in family movie and activity nights, and as well as temporary releases, when eligible.

As previously mentioned, substantial progress is exemplified by many updates and additions to the environment and treatment components throughout the facility, and across all programs. The County has collaborated with experts to design spaces that are trauma-informed and support positive youth development to foster a physical environment that allows young people to feel both physically and emotionally safe. In particular, the County has continued to explore all environmental options to ensure that young people have access to relaxing bedroom spaces that provide a level of privacy and autonomy, leisure indoor and outdoor recreational spaces outside of their sleeping environment, functional kitchen space for meal preparation and consumption, and appropriately designed space for family engagement. In 2026, the Tamalpais Unit’s kitchen and shared living spaces will be remodeled to encourage communal cooking and engagement.

As previously mentioned, the process of identifying Less Restrictive Program (LRP) options is creative, individualized and ever evolving. Probation was unable to acquire a local property for a hopeful LRP site due to a combination of significant structural issues and budgetary concerns. However, the planning process helped to highlight key considerations and components of an efficient LRP when considering emerging brick and mortar sites. The Department continues to find success utilizing college campuses and relative homes as LRP

options, in addition to the renewed collaboration with Health, Housing, and Homeless Services (H3), which leverages an existing emergency transitional housing contract to provide a structured Less Restrictive Program (LRP) option for eligible youth leaving SYTF. One youth has been placed thus far.

Subject to formal adoption by the County's Board of Supervisors, the final, long-term plan for youth will involve the creation of a new multi-use campus. Consistent with evidence-based best practices, the intention for the campus is to meet the needs of youth throughout their commitment, which operationalizes a system of decreasingly restrictive housing and programming for youth as they move towards completion of their sentences. The framing of this new facility as a campus is purposeful, conveying the intention to create a space focused on increased programming and academic and vocational education designed to instill hope in currently committed youth.

The County has recently embarked upon the initial stages of deconstructing the previously used juvenile facility, which is an important first step to this plan. The abatement process of the old facility has begun, and is expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

**Adding updated photos throughout section.**

## **PART 6: RETAINING THE TARGET POPULATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(5))**

**Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(8)):**

Broadly, Contra Costa County is committed to the retention of youth within the juvenile justice system in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system. In addition, the County is committed to ensuring that youth who would not otherwise have been considered for commitment to DJJ are not committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility. The County acknowledges and embraces the empirical finding that retention of youth in the justice system, and minimizing the carceral component of juvenile court dispositions, broadly leads to better outcomes for both youth and public safety. As such, the committee agrees in principle that all efforts should be made to exhaust every possible option before transferring youth to adult court.

The County aspires to continue limiting transfers only to a subset of cases wherein (a) the underlying offense entails extreme violence, (b) the young person is demonstrably unamenable to rehabilitation by the Juvenile Court, and (c) incapacitation is the only available option for the preservation of public safety. However, recognizing the special role of the Superior Court, nothing contained in this section shall be construed to direct or compel judicial officers in the course of their duties as neutral arbiters of the law, nor shall it be construed to reflect the judiciary's position on the propriety or impropriety of these or related actions that may appear before it.

The District Attorney's Office follows a formal protocol in determining whether to transfer a case involving a juvenile to the adult court. Among other things, the protocol requires consultation with an ad hoc committee comprising the District Attorney, the Chief Assistant District Attorney, no fewer than three managing attorneys representing relevant units, and the deputy district attorneys assigned to the case. The committee is charged with an affirmative duty to seek mitigating information from defense counsel and to weigh this information against an analysis of all five criteria enumerated in WIC § 707(a)(3), as well as public safety concerns. As a result, in recent years the County has successfully limited transfers to adult court to cases where the accused

faced violent felony offenses. Moving forward, the District Attorney’s Office intends to continue using this protocol. The expectation is that transfer requests will continue to be limited.

The Probation Department has a Jurisdictional Transfer Report Review Protocol that allows for proper communication and review of all Jurisdictional Reports subject to transfer that are reviewed by the Probation Supervisor, Probation Manager and for final review and sign off, the report is reviewed by the Director of Specialty Field Services.

In 2026, a cross departmental Jurisdictional Transfer Report training plan begun. This involves the District Attorney’s Office and Public Defender’s Officer collaborating to provide a comprehensive overview of applicable law and report considerations to Probation staff assigned to Juvenile Court and Investigations.

## **PART 7: REGIONAL EFFORT (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(6))**

**Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County’s block grant allocation. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(8)):**

The County has a regional agreement in place with the Sonoma County Probation Department to serve juveniles who are court-ordered to complete treatment for sexual offenses in a secure setting, as well as youth for which a local conflict may exist.

The Department continues to contract with Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp as a less restrictive step-down option for youth in Amador County. PYGCC is maintained by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Division of Adult Institutions (DAI), and is designed for eligible young adults who are interested in acquiring skills to work in state and county parks performing stream clearance, wild land fire prevention tasks, restoration work, and wildland fire suppression throughout the state of California.

## **PART 8: DATA (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(7))**

**Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(8)):**

As stated above, the County values and recognizes the importance of data and analysis to guide decision-making. Since May 2025, the County has continued to build on the analytical foundation established in May 2024 — when a Senior Business Systems Analyst was hired and Power BI dashboards were first developed against the Tyler Enterprise Supervision (ESup) case management system. Over the past year, the department has moved from initial dashboard development into automated data pipelines, public-facing reporting, and a continuous feedback-driven improvement cycle with probation leadership.

To address the previously noted data challenges and limitations, Contra Costa County has continued to execute a three-part strategy to ensure the appropriate collection and use of data for meaningful analysis:

1. **An internal, immediate-term strategy.** The immediate-term strategy continues to leverage data already collected for and reported to the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS). These data sets include key demographic information (e.g., age, sex, racialization), offense-related details (e.g., charges filed and sustained), and outcome metrics (e.g., disposition and detention). Building on this foundation, the department has developed internal and public facing juvenile dashboards in Power BI that provides a real-time view of the juvenile population. In June 2025, a public-facing version of the juvenile dashboard was made available, providing transparent access to

juvenile population data for stakeholders and the community. The department has also completed a legacy juvenile caseload data cleanup following the mainframe-to-ESup migration, improving the accuracy and integrity of juvenile records available for reporting.

2. **An internal, long-term strategy.** The long-term strategy continues to emphasize maximizing the potential of the ESup case management system (CMS). Beyond supporting individual case management, this system enables comprehensive analysis of both program effectiveness and justice system efficiency. The department has developed optimized SQL queries against the ESup database to support juvenile population reporting. Automated scheduled refreshes have been implemented between the ESup database and the Power BI dashboards, ensuring that juvenile population data is updated consistently without manual intervention. This automation allows leadership and staff to rely on current data at any time without requesting ad hoc reports. Probation continues to convene an internal committee dedicated to reviewing internal data dashboards, identifying and addressing data quality challenges, optimizing CMS functionality, and improving overall system performance.
3. **A combined immediate- and long-term strategy for contract-based partnerships.** The combined strategy for contract-based partnerships incorporates principles of performance-based contracting and standardized progress reporting for contracted service providers. The County has established standardized digital reporting channels that allow provider-level outcome data to feed into the department's broader analytical framework. By establishing clear metrics and reporting structures, the County aims to ensure accountability and enhance service delivery outcomes for justice-involved youth

Since May 2025, the department has made tangible progress in its juvenile data collection and reporting capabilities. The public-facing juvenile dashboard launched in June 2025, making juvenile data transparently available to stakeholders and the community for the first time. Automated scheduled refreshes from the ESup database to Power BI dashboards have been implemented, eliminating the need for manual data pulls and ensuring that both internal and public dashboards reflect current information. Since the public launch, the department has received several rounds of feedback from stakeholders suggesting improvements and new metric implementations. These feedback items are prioritized in coordination with probation leadership and then built into subsequent dashboard iterations, creating a continuous improvement cycle that ensures the dashboards evolve to meet the public and department's analytical needs.

These improvements reflect the department's continued commitment to strengthening its data-driven approach, enhancing transparency, and improving outcomes for justice-involved youth.

**Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds. Describe any progress made on this element since the previous annual plan submission (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(8)):**

In 2025, the Probation Department restructured the Continuous Quality Improvement and Evidence-Based Practices (CQI/EBP) Unit to the Organizational Performance and Innovation (OPI) Unit. This change reflects the evolution and expanded scope of the unit's work and more accurately captures its critical role in driving organizational excellence, innovation, and accountability across the Department. While CQI and EBP remain foundational to the unit's mission, its responsibilities now extend well beyond quality assurance to encompass strategic performance improvement, policy development, innovation, and operational alignment.

Key OPI Unit responsibilities include aligning policies with Lexipol, analyzing and implementing legislation, maintaining case management data quality, and validating risk assessments using OYAS/ORAS. The unit also monitors workflow compliance, conducts internal audits, and is responsible for standardizing and governing data. Additionally, it develops dashboards for both internal and external use, provides supervisory audit tools, tracks performance metrics, and oversees internal programming.

This unit restructuring has established a new leadership role in the Organizational Performance and Innovation Unit to drive departmental excellence. This new supervisor will focus on integrating best practices, leading continuous quality improvement initiatives, and fostering a culture of learning and innovation. Key responsibilities include policy development, strategic planning, supervision of staff and interns, and promoting accountability and professional growth throughout the department.

The Department's reorganized unit reinforces commitment to a forward-thinking, data-informed, and adaptive organization that continuously strengthens how we serve our community, and it will serve a key role in analyzing data, assessing outcomes and determining results and interventions impacting the target population.

#### **PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION: (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995 (D)(8))**

**Provide a description of progress made regarding any plan elements and any objectives and outcomes in the prior year's plan, to the extent that they have not already been described above.**

**Adding summary of all progress included above.**

#### **PART 10: PRIOR-YEAR EXPENDITURES-SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES/IMPACTS: (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(9))**

**Please use the table provided below to summarize prior-year expenditures (e.g. for the 2025 JJRBG plan the summary entered into the table below would be for FY 2024-25 expenditures) in accordance with Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(9), which requires counties to report:**

- Total expenditures of block grant funds;
- Whether these expenditures were consistent with the plan described in subdivision (a); and
- How the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment target population described in Section 1990.

Please itemize expenditures by each subject area described in Part 4 of the **2025** JJRBG County Plan Template.

Expenditure Subject Area <sup>1</sup>	Total Expenditures (\$)	Were the expenditures consistent with the plan described for this subject area (i.e., were the goals described for this expenditure subject area met)? (Yes/No)	Please describe why the expenditures were or were not consistent with the plan described for this subject area.	Please describe how the expenditures improved outcomes for the realignment of target population described in Section 1990.

**Adding fiscal information.**

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<sup>1</sup> This table corresponds to Part 4 of the JJRBG County Plan Template and fulfills the reporting requirements of WIC §1995(d)(9) by itemizing expenditures according to the five areas of need or development for realigned youth described in WIC §1995(d)(3)(A)–(E).

