



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

AGENDA

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

Thursday, April 10, 2025

12:30 PM

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

Zoom Info:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88971525487>

Webinar ID: 889 7152 5487

call in:+16694449171 US

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

1. Roll Call and Introductions
2. Shared Values
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 Actions from October 31, 2024, DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting. [25-1274](#)
Attachments: [10-31-24 Draft Record of Action.pdf](#)
5. CONSIDER approving the 2025 DJJ Plan [25-1275](#)
Attachments: [CCC 2025-JJRBG-County-Plan-DRAFT .pdf](#)
6. UPDATES on BYA STYF [25-1276](#)
Attachments: [BYA SP - April 2025 JJCC DJJ \(002\).pdf](#)

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 12:00 pm.

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. 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



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-1274

Agenda Date: 4/10/2025

Agenda #: 4.

Advisory Board: DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee
Subject: Record of Actions - October 31, 2024

Information:

CONSIDER approving the Record of Action from October 31, 2024, 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 October 31, 2024, meeting.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

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



Meeting Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

Thursday, October 31, 2024

12:00 PM

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85446512902>

Meeting ID: 854 4651 2902

Passcode: 706311

call in: 1 669 444 9171 US

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

1. Roll Call and Introductions

A regular meeting of the DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council was called to order by Chief of Probation Esa Ehmen-Krause on October 31, 2024, at 12:04 p.m. at 50 Douglas Dr., Martinez, California.

Present Steven Blum, Tumani Drew, Esa Ehmen-Krause, Stephanie Kang, Jonathan Laba, Julius Van Hook, and Phil Bradley

Absent Lynn Mackey, and Honorable Barbara Hinton

Non-voting Cindy Vogl, and Honorable Wade Rhyne

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

3. Review of Group Norms and Values

4. CONSIDER approving the Record of Action from the September 28, 2023 [24-3592](#) and March 28, 2024 DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting

Attachments: [Draft 9-28-23 Record of Action amended .pdf](#)
[Draft 3-28-24 Record of Action.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Laba, seconded by Van Hook, that this item be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Motion: Laba

Second: Van Hook

Aye: Blum, Drew, Ehmen-Krause, Kang, Laba, Van Hook, and Bradley

Absent: Mackey, and Hinton

Result: Passed

Consider approving the Record of Action from the March 28, 2024 DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting.

A motion was made by Bradley, seconded by Blum, that this was approved.. The motion failed by the following vote:

Motion: Bradley

Second: Blum

Aye: Blum, Drew, Ehmen-Krause, Kang, Laba, Van Hook, and Bradley

Absent: Mackey, and Hinton

Result: Passed

- 5. Presentation: Briones Youth Academy Program Update [24-3593](#)

Attachments: [Briones Youth Academy Program Update.pdf](#)

- 6. Presentation: Morrow House Less Restrictive Program [24-3594](#)

Attachments: [Morrow House Presentation.pdf](#)

- 7. The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 27, 2025

- 8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m. by Chief Ehmen-Krause. The next scheduled meeting of the DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

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 on line at www.contracosta.ca.gov. 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



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-1275

Agenda Date: 4/10/2025

Agenda #: 5.

Advisory Board: DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting
Subject: 2025 DJJ Plan Revisions

Information:

The DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee will discuss the revisions to the 2025 DJJ Realignment Plan.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Review and approve the 2025 DJJ Realignment Plan.



JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

Date: April 4, 2025

County Name: Contra Costa County

Contact Name: Chief Probation Officer Esa Ehmen-Krause

Telephone Number: 925-313-4000

E-mail Address: Esa.Ehmen@prob.cccounty.us

BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure. Section 1995 was amended by Assembly Bill 505 (Ting, Chapter 528, Statutes of 2023.) This template has been updated to reflect those amendments which will be in effect on January 1, 2024. All citations 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).)

County plans are to be submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration in accordance with Welf. & Inst. Code §1995. OYCR may request revisions as necessary or request completion of the required planning process prior to final acceptance of the plan. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995 (f).) Plans will be posted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(g).)

There are nine sections to the plan:

- Part 1: Subcommittee Composition – page 2
- Part 2: Target Population – page 4
- Part 3: Programs and Services – page 6
- Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds – page 7
- Part 5: Facility Plan – page 17

- Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System – page 20
- Part 7: Regional Efforts – page 22
- Part 8: Data – page 22
- Part 9: Other Updates – page 23

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

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

| Agency | Name and Title | Email | Phone Number |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 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 | Roslyn Gentry | Gentrr@ehsd.cccounty.us | 925-608-4826 |
| Department of Mental Health | Steven Blum | Steven.blum@cchealth.org | 925-957-2739 |
| Office of Education Representative | Lynn Mackey | LMackey@cccocoe.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. & Inst. Code § 1995(b).))</i> | Tumani Drew | tumani@youngwomenfree.org | 510-646-7646 |
| | Ri Scott | ri.m.scott@gmail.com | 415-500-5125 |
| | Rev. Julius Van Hook, Community Member & Co-Chair listed above | Chaplainjxvanhook@gmail.com | 510-815-7183 |

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: N/A

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

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, Contra Costa County Probation Department contracted with Impact Justice (IJ) to assist the Juvenile Justice Realignment Planning Subcommittee (JJRPS) in the initial development of the Division of Juvenile Justice Realignment plan. IJ, in partnership with the JJRPS, conducted a comprehensive review of existing literature on best-practices, convened listening sessions with impacted youth and stakeholders, and facilitated the regularly occurring planning meetings, and breakout workgroups that were focused on specific subject matters.

Additionally, IJ developed a research-based Social Emotional Learning (SEL) tool that has been utilized as a decision-making tool in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility, and IJ is conducting a process evaluation to assess the efficacy of both the planning and implementation of the program model. The plan has been reviewed and revised annually and approved by a majority vote of the JJRP subcommittee.

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 currently housed and supported by programming in three distinct treatment programs maintained and operated by the Probation Department: (1) the Briones Youth Academy (BYA) Commitment Pathway, (2) BYA Secure Pathway (SYTF), and (3) the Girls in Motion (GIM) program. All programs are phased residential programs that offer robust, evidence-based services designed to address mental, behavioral, and cognitive needs as well as to provide education, job, and life skills.

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 following is point in time data, collected April 1, 2025:

Youth presently served. One (1) youth committed to GIM, fourteen (14) youth in BYA Secure Pathway, and twenty-seven (27) youth in BYA Commitment Pathway, for a total of forty-two (42) young people. Across these programs, the population can be described by the following demographics:

Age. As of April 1, 2025, zero (0) young people (0%) were 14 years old; three (3) young people (7%) were fifteen years old; five (5) young people (11.9%) were sixteen years old; eleven (11) young people (26.2%) were 17 years old; thirteen (13) young people (31%) were 18 years old; four (4) young people (9.5%) were 19 years old; three (3) young people (7.1%) were 20 years old; one (1) young person (2.4%) was 21 years old; two (2) young people (4.8%) were 22 years old.

Sex. Of the forty-two (42) young people, forty-one (41, 97.6%) identify as male; one (1, 2.4%) identifies as female.

Racialization. Twenty-one (21) young people (50%) identified as Black; Twenty (20) young people (47.6%) identified as Hispanic; One (1) young person (2.4%) identified as White.

Offense. Thirty-five (35) young people (83.3%) were adjudicated for person related offenses; two (2) young people (4.8%) for property offenses; and five (5) young people (11.9%) for firearms offenses.

Of the 35 person related offenses, eleven (11) cases involved Murder or Attempted Murder; fourteen (14) involved Robbery or Carjacking; eight (8) involved Assault or Battery, and two (2) involved Kidnapping.

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

Given the anticipated youth population described above, Probation recognizes the potential for youth to remain under juvenile supervision for longer periods of time as they approach adulthood. As such, Probation considered this population during the planning, creation and funding of a collaborative service network for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY). The goal is to ensure transitional planning occurs, and that a variety of individualized supports and services are available to help young adults navigate the unique challenges of reaching the age of majority while involved in the justice system.

ADD TAY SERVICE NETWORK UPDATE.

DRAFT

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 on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response (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 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)
- Criminal Thinking Scale (CTS)
- Choices
- Career Aptitude Test
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Developed collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team (MDT), these assessments inform the youth's individualized rehabilitation plan, and aid tracking of progress.

2) Pathway

An individualized "Pathway" will be developed based on a youth's unique, specific needs. The Pathway is developed collaboratively within the MDT, which will include the youth, 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 environment, 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.

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 on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(A) and (d)(8))

Whereas empirical research estimates that the prevalence rate for mental health disorders among juvenile justice-involved young people is exceptionally high—and given the high degree of overlap between the clinical needs of youth adjudicated for sexual offenses and for non-sexual offenses—the County will continue to explore ways to consolidate and leverage its resources to best serve these populations.

Serious and persistent mental illness (“SPMI”) is a critical concern for the juvenile justice system. Although there is wide variation, most mental health disorders emerge between adolescence and early adulthood,¹ precisely the age range of the realigned youth. Relative to their non-system-involved peers, young people in the juvenile justice system are exceptionally likely to meet the criteria for at least one mental health diagnosis.² As described above, the County will assess, on an ongoing basis, the needs of the young people under its care, including mental health needs. For those with identified mental health needs, County-employed behavioral health clinicians possess sufficient training to not only provide guidance with respect to the development of individualized rehabilitation plans but also administer appropriate care consistent with that plan.

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. The County has funded the hiring of new clinicians, and the creation of a Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR) on a repurposed Juvenile Hall living unit. Moreover, the MSDR was curated by staff, youth in custody, and a local artist with lived experience.

Annual training now includes 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 County continues to review and revise related policies to ensure alignment between training and practice in these high-stakes scenarios. The County will continue to update policies, practices, and refine training focused on the development of strategies regarding crisis stabilization and management upon return from hospitalization.

In addition to SPMI, problematic sexual behavior (“PSB”) is a significant area of concern. With respect to Contra Costa County, this population is relatively small. However, given the gravity of these offenses, the County sought evidence-based programs or arrangements that serve its dual interest in rehabilitation and public safety. Contra Costa County 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. 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.

Importantly, the body of evidence consistently demonstrates that youth adjudicated for sexual offenses are psychologically and behaviorally distinct from adults convicted for similar charges. Namely, justice-involved youth with PSB are, on average, remarkably similar to the general population of justice-involved youth (i.e., without PSB) in terms of rehabilitative needs³ and may be appropriately and effectively treated using non-PSB-specific methods.⁴ Nonetheless, there remains a limited proportion of this population who would benefit from PSB-specific treatment methods.

In exploring an expansion of local capacity, the County allocated additional resources toward clinical specialists with experience and training in treating PSB, including an agreement with a private, community based provider for contract-based services for the same purpose. Additional investments have been made toward training for 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.

The County recognizes the value of developing local clinical expertise that, consistent with the articulated intent of SB 823, maintains strong connections between youth and their families and communities. Specifically, family involvement carries empirically validated benefits in terms of therapeutic engagement⁵ and post-release outcomes⁶ for youth with PSB generally and young women with PSB specifically.⁷ Additionally, building capacity from within the existing County infrastructure averts logistical complications related to securing non-MediCal-eligible contract funding and ensuring physical access to juvenile facilities by non-County clinicians, especially for non-routine visits as, for example, during emergent situations.

Moreover, establishing a local continuum of services comprising both County agencies and community-based providers has substantial clinical benefits. Evidence-based clinical standards of care suggest that youth with PSB should be treated in community as soon as is clinically feasible and that continuity of services is critical to successful reentry.⁸ Indeed, research finds that community-based care is more effective than facility-based care in terms of reducing recidivism among youth with PSB.⁹ While this may not be possible in some cases, the County embraces these findings in principle and will appropriately weigh these facts as it determines its programmatic strategies. To this end, Contra Costa will continue to consider and invest in partnerships with local providers who specialize in addressing this service need.

The County has taken steps to minimize system impact and reduce entries to foster care and custodial care for youth with PSB where appropriate. Presently, the County has a contractual relationship with a community-based provider with long-term expertise in providing treatment to juveniles who sexually offend. 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.

For both the SPMI and PSB population, Contra Costa commits to continuously exploring methods by which to improve or supplement its programming using an evidence- and strength-based, trauma-informed lens. The County has committed resources toward continuous training and professional development opportunities for its facility-based staff.

In support of a more rehabilitative and youth-centered approach, the County began strength-based curricula to enhance its mental health programming. This includes the integration of creative and performance-based therapeutic methods, such as arts programming and narrative identity work. Staff training has aligned with these efforts through professional development offerings centered on Positive Youth Development (PYD), resilience-building, and motivational interviewing. These resources ensure that facility-based staff are

equipped with tools to promote agency, hope, and goal setting in youth, while also deepening their own professional competencies.

To ensure effectiveness and integrity in program delivery, the County is concurrently advancing efforts to validate its assessments for the realigned population and conduct fidelity assessments of cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) training. These fidelity checks are designed to monitor facilitator drift and reinforce adherence to evidence-based practice models.

In partnership with the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) unit, the County is also reviewing program implementation and staff training outcomes against key performance measures. This includes a structured review of both youth progress indicators and staff competency metrics to assess whether services and supports are aligned with intended outcomes. These efforts reflect the County's commitment to using data to drive decision-making, inform resource allocation, and continuously refine programming. By linking staff development, curricula, and youth outcomes through a CQI lens, the County ensures that its investments in programming and training remain responsive, equitable, and evidence based.

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.

In support of consistent and developmentally appropriate practice, the Department has implemented "Policing the Teen Brain", a training that helps staff better interpret and respond to adolescent behavior through the lens of brain development and trauma. 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.

The County 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.

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.

The County 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.

Furthermore, consistent with the evidence in culturally responsive and trauma-informed care, the County will be attentive to not only models of treatment, but also the means by which that treatment is delivered. For example, most existing interventions do not take into account the impact of historical trauma, structural racism, and current interpersonal racial discrimination in the lives of system impacted youth. To address this gap, Contra Costa will consider implementing Culturally Adapted Treatments (CATs), which have been defined as the "systematic modification of an evidence-based treatment or intervention protocol to consider language,

culture and context in such a way that it is compatible with the client's cultural patterns, meanings and values."¹⁰

Additionally, the County will continue to explore mechanisms—including training and clinical assignment policies—by which to ensure that mental health clinicians and institutional staff have a reasonable understanding of the cultures and communities from which youth emanate and have the capacity to engage in ways that are familiar to youth.¹¹ To ensure that mental health clinicians and institutional staff can engage effectively with youth from diverse backgrounds, the County has initiated training in culturally responsive care. These efforts include education on historical and intergenerational trauma, cultural humility, and strategies for improving cultural congruence between staff and youth. Policies related to clinical assignment are being reviewed to encourage alignment between providers and the cultural identities of the youth they serve. Additionally, the County is implementing Culturally Adapted Treatments (CATs) to systematically integrate language, culture, and context into evidence-based service delivery.

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 on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(B) and (d)(8))

The County understands the importance and benefits of utilizing positive youth development (PYD) framework for programs involving young people. The PYD framework is commonly conceptualized as building a pathway for youth to work towards the Five Cs: connection, confidence, character, competence, and contribution. A sixth C, caring, is sometimes added. These components focus on the youth's perception of themselves: for example, confidence in this framework means "a sense of self-worth and mastery; having a belief in one's capacity to succeed."¹² They also incorporate desired outcomes, from taking on leadership roles to contributing to the community. The framework outlines a holistic approach that focuses on creating a network of supportive individuals and opportunities that allow youth to build on their strengths and define and work towards goals that speak to their interests and values. This network brings together family, educators, and other trusted adults as community partners to work with youth in building their own individual pathways to success.¹³

Recognizing youth as the 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. Based on youth feedback, youth continue to launder their own clothes and can cook meals; décor and furniture were reimaged according to youth preference, a beekeeping program and a music studio has been developed.

In March 2024, in collaboration with the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association, the youth were provided educational and hands-on training in beekeeping. Training included education around the lifespan of honeybees, the roles of different bees, hive structures/maintenance, and honey production, as well as practical skills, such as honey harvesting, wax processing, and landscaping for pollinators. Subsequently, the youth named this project the B3 Family Apiary (B3FA).

The B3FA is one of the first Apicultural Programs within a Juvenile Corrections setting in California. The B3FA has already yielded multiple successful honey harvests and has given youth the opportunity to share their work with loved ones by gifting the yielded honey.

A partnership with UC Davis was formed to provide scholarships to the youth, allowing them to complete the California Master Beekeeper Program (CAMBP) concurrently with the B3FA program. Through the studies at UC Davis, the use of state-of-the-art equipment, and the guidance of local beekeepers, the participating youth may become certified beekeepers and learn about Apiculture and the important role that honeybees play in the ecosystem, all while subconsciously developing better social and emotional skills, like, teamwork, patience,

courage, forgiveness, and perseverance.

In May 2024, Contra Costa County launched Creative Hopes Studios, an innovative program inspired by the youth and designed to provide the youth with a creative outlet through music and sound engineering. The youth can craft their own lyrics, produce music, and develop technical skills in audio production, offering a transformative experience that channels raw emotion into rhythm and creativity.

Building on this success, in November 2024, the youth and staff expanded the program by launching a podcast project within the Creative Hope Studios. The podcast integrates discussions about sports with broader themes of teamwork, discipline, and personal development. The youth work together to research, plan, and record episodes. This project merges creativity with shared passion for sports, fostering essential life skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

Additionally, the vocational unit kitchen is being remodeled to facilitate a culinary program, based on youth feedback. The practice of actionizing youth expertise is also demonstrated by several expansions of independent living components on the Tamalpais Unit, described later.

The County will continue to collect feedback that allows youth to be consulted both on their individual interests, goals, and desired opportunities and to have a voice in the overall conception and implementation of PYD programming. Engaging youth provides an opportunity to ensure that services are responsive to youth needs and creates a leadership opportunity for youth to advocate for themselves and their communities as part of their PYD progress. Feedback mechanisms vary widely but at their most successful will center authentic youth-adult partnerships, in which youth are consulted, their considerations are incorporated into programming, and youth and adults work together to make decisions.¹⁴ Youth commonly offer input through Youth Advisory Boards or Councils, which may put forth suggestions for improvements to programs and facilities.¹⁵

Contra Costa County recognizes the importance of substantial family involvement in developing pathways to success for youth throughout their involvement with the juvenile justice system. The County ensures 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.¹⁶ Supportive adult participation in the MDT is an important part of accomplishing this goal.

As the juvenile and criminal 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,¹⁷ the County will work to ensure that all youth have access to and are engaged by programming and will collect and examine data on outcomes for youth across racial and ethnic groups.

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. 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 County 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.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(C) and (d)(8))

Contra Costa County is committed to prioritizing family and community engagement. Research demonstrates

that strong bonds with family and community support is essential for positive youth development and successful reintegration.¹⁸ The County adopts a broad definition of family that extends beyond biological parents and legal guardians, allowing individual youth and their caretaker(s) to define the individual who will best serve the youth's positive development. The County will 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.

In order to promote family engagement, the County will review policies and aim 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 meals, and game or movie nights. Transportation support is considered for those in need.

Relatedly, the County recognizes that our 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 modernized and updated, to include the purchase of a movie projector, and toys and playmats for children visitors.

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 on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(D) and (d)(8))

Understanding how to support returning youth requires understanding the harm confinement inflicts during a crucial period of a young person's development.²² The disconnection from one's family, friends, and community impairs the potential for successful reentry.²³ For young people, these challenges are complicated by the already trying transition from adolescence to adulthood.²⁴ Reentry interventions that center adolescent development are effective in reducing recidivism and ensuring long-term success, particularly when they involve the family in treatment and target higher-risk youth.²⁵ To ensure better reentry outcomes as they transition from confinement to their communities, the county's reentry support system will explore methods that tap into the strengths, assets, and aspirations of justice-involved youth and their support systems, and combine targeted programs and services to address the immediate needs of youth returning to their communities. Some of these needs include housing; employment; education; substance abuse, mental health, social-emotional, legal, and familial support; and transportation.

To improve the odds of success for youth reentering their communities, the County, alongside related agencies and the community, aims to consider planning measures of success for youth during their reentry process when youth first enter the juvenile justice system. Coordination and collaboration between agencies and across services and supports are necessary at multiple phases of a youth's commitment.²⁶ Reentry services and supports that are tailored, high quality, and provided in the least restrictive environment will allow youth the greatest chance to succeed.²⁷ Youth in confinement show significantly low levels of psychosocial maturity (e.g., responsibility, perspective, and short-term decline in temperance). As a result, confined youth have lower levels of educational and employment attainment in young adulthood compared to all other youth.²⁸ As these are critical components to successful reentry, the County will provide programming that allows youth to build psychosocial maturity skills through activities that mirror typical adolescent responsibilities, behaviors, and tasks. Thus far, some examples of such activities include opportunities to

manage their own school and chore schedules, budget living and recreation expenses, and take responsibility for their laundry and food preparation.

Many youth with justice involvement have few, if any, financial resources and may not have family members that they can rely on for food and shelter. These young people cannot afford to volunteer, take unpaid internships, or engage in some of the job-search behaviors common among more privileged young people. Involving youth in paid work, service, or other employment related activity as soon as possible is key to success. Examples of successful approaches include wage-subsidized internships, stipends for community service, and transitional jobs—i.e., time-limited subsidized work experiences that help establish a work history and develop skills to access unsubsidized employment.²⁹

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 pilot program in collaboration with the local County Office of Education, aimed at addressing this very issue, by providing vocational and work-focused educational rehabilitation services to justice involved young people aged 16 to 25. While available to all age-appropriate clients who are otherwise eligible for DOR services, the prioritized population of the pilot is incarcerated youth. In one example of success, a participant has been able to participate in an off-site vocational program while earning pay.

The County recognizes that placement into the secure youth treatment facility is the first step in the reentry process.³⁰ As part of the reentry planning process, Contra Costa will examine its extant practices and explore methods by which to align those practices with evidence-based best practices in four key areas: (1) consistent with the Risk-Needs-Responsivity principle, assessing confined youth both continuously³¹ and immediately prior to referring any services, supports, or treatment interventions³²; (2) ensuring continuity of care between treatments provided in facility and those referred upon reentry³³; (3) identifying opportunities for establishing partnerships with community-based providers for non-Probation case management to coordinate care across all service-providing agencies³⁴; and, (4) meaningfully engaging youths' social support systems in the reentry planning process.³⁵

The majority of young people exiting SB 823 commitments will likely be transition-aged youth. The County will look to implement programs that can address the unique challenges and needs of this specific population while they are still in confinement. The multiple problems faced by transition-aged youth present barriers to meeting normative developmental milestones of this age, including vocational and educational success, development of stable relationships, and maturation into productive adults.³⁶ The County will ensure that transition planning includes consideration for the continuum of mental health services, and assesses whether the continued services would be best provided under juvenile behavioral health services, or through the Transitional Aged Youth network of services. Assessment and planning also includes key areas crucial to success in adulthood (e.g., education, vocation, independent living).³⁷ Moreover, to ensure that a continuum of services is in place, Contra Costa developed a series of requests for proposals to expand the services designed for and available to this population.

The Tamalpais Unit is the County's internal step-down treatment unit. Assessment for readiness to transition begins one year after commitment, 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 has explored ways to immerse youth in a modified therapeutic community that prepares them for their reentry and are designed to promote positive behavior. The County recognizes that "positive behavior" should be individualized, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed. Youths' negative behavior can be addressed using a procedural justice model,³⁸ in which rules and expectations are clear and infractions are dealt with swiftly and fairly, but in a respectful and informative manner. This allows the youth time to ask questions during the process and would remind them that this should be a learning experience. Treatment exercises in the step-down program will explore ways to mimic as much as possible the challenges that youth will face in the outside world. The program exercises become a dress rehearsal for reentering youth so that

they can role-play new skills before reintegrating into their community.

In 2024, Probation began planning and development to open a Less Restrictive Program (LRP), the Morrow House, to meet the transitional housing needs of youth exiting the Briones Youth Academy. Ideally, this living space will serve as a short-term, housing option for youth who have demonstrated the skills, maturity, and aptitude to succeed in a supportive, yet largely independent residence with minimal supervision. As the Morrow House will be a Less Restrictive Program, a court order and six-month reviews will be required consistent with SB 823. In 2025, an internal workgroup has continued to develop 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.

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 on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(E) and (d)(8))

Contra Costa County's 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 County currently has one unit for youth who identify as female; this is a co-ed unit. The same unit is home to our gender specific program, Girls in Motion. 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.

The County is committed to designing a high-quality, culturally responsive program. The term *cultural responsiveness* generally refers to an approach that considers and responds to individuals' cultural frame of reference including demographic, sociopolitical, and other contextual characteristics.³⁹ When applied to youth programming, a culturally responsive approach takes into account the cultural characteristics, experiences, and perspectives of youth in the design and implementation of the program.⁴⁰ Effective implementation makes youth, particularly those from ethnic and racial minorities, feel safe and valued and better prepared for their futures.⁴¹ Contra Costa will continue to consider programs that youth find experientially relevant, comprehensible, and practically valuable.

An integral component of a culturally responsive approach is the appropriate training of all facility staff given that they will play an essential role in the implementation of culturally responsive programming. As such, the County has explored opportunities to engage youth in the design and implementation of program activities and actively seeks youth's input regarding their interests, goals, and community concerns.

All 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 has been developed on the Tamalpais Unit to engage young people in the development and implementation of unit programming and activities. Additionally, a Tamalpais youth newsletter is currently under development, in which the youth will highlight 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. The youth plan to also use this media forum to polish their literary skills and feature their art and poetry.

Providing youth with the opportunity to co-create program activities is fundamental to providing culturally responsive programming.⁴² Likewise, the County will continue to assess materials and develop appropriate procedures as necessary to ensure that materials are written in language that is accessible for all literacy levels and remain attentive for when interpretation or translation services are needed.⁴³

Since youth's realities and needs are likely to change over time, staff will be expected to remain flexible and prepared to adapt programs to remain responsive to the youth. Recognizing that youth needs evolve, the County has maintained a flexible training framework that allows for timely adaptation of content to address emerging issues and evolving best practices. Staff are encouraged to view learning as a continuous process, with ongoing opportunities for professional development that reflect the latest research in juvenile rehabilitation.

Staff training has included topics aligned with evidence based and promising practices, with a focus on individualized and trauma informed care, in areas such as, effective strategies for youth and family engagement, group facilitation, conflict resolution, behavior management principles, effective case planning and behavior management plans.

Additionally, the Department has implemented "Policing the Teen Brain", a training that emphasizes adolescent development, trauma impacts, and appropriate staff responses to youth behavior. This training was not only provided to Probation staff but was also offered to partnering county law enforcement agencies to strengthen cross-system understanding and improve consistency in youth engagement across departments. These efforts reflect the County's broader commitment to equipping staff and system partners with the tools, knowledge, and mindset necessary to support youth rehabilitation in a safe, respectful, and effective manner.

More in depth additional training courses that may be considered include:

- Positive Youth Justice
- Restorative justice practices and programs
- Any other specific interventions necessary for individual youth needs

In addition to relying on evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive services, the County values feedback and continually reviews and reflects on whether the plan is meeting the needs of the County and realigned youth, and remains open to amending the plan, as necessary.

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(F) and (d)(8))

Community-based providers play a critical role in the justice apparatus. These providers can 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. 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.

The County has previously relied on collaborative models that bring together justice system partners, community-based providers, and young people. These collaboratives have been shown to reduce recidivism, improve young people's well-being, and have created a diverse network of support around young people.⁴⁴ The County has continued to consider expanding usage of collaboratives where appropriate. When developing partnerships with community-based providers, the County will consider evidence-based models that provide culturally affirming, strength-based, and supportive programming.

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. This early partnership also ensures appropriate reentry planning and continuity of

services. At the other end of the timeline—and to ensure that youth can continue to leverage the relationships and opportunities that community-based providers have built during their commitment—the County will consider the location of community-based providers and their presence in the community that each youth will return home to, and work to remove any existing barriers to accessing relevant services.

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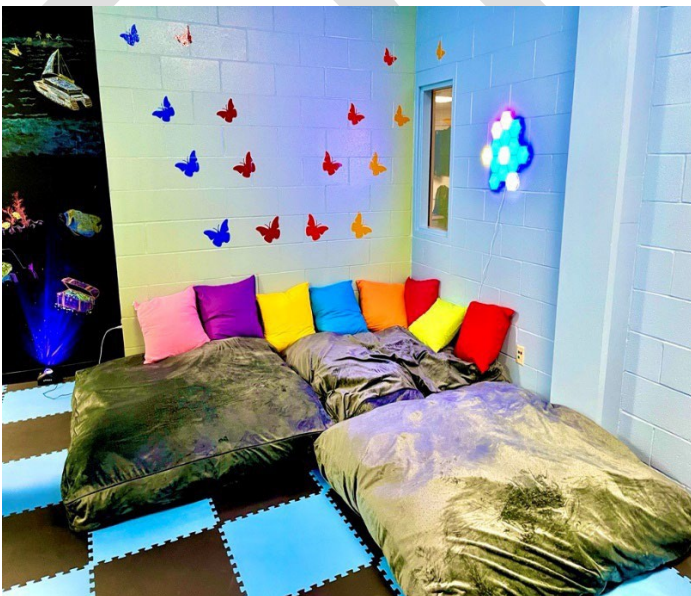
Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (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 serious and/or violent sustained offenses. Contra Costa 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.

The County acknowledges that its interest in rehabilitation is not best served by committing youth with severe and persistent mental illness within juvenile hall, which are neither designed to serve complex treatment needs of this population, nor are they equipped to provide clinically necessary services and support.⁴⁹ Even when services are provided within restrictive settings, evidence indicates that, to the extent youth achieve meaningful progress, that progress either fails to apply in community or decays quickly.⁵⁰ In contrast, research shows that robust community-based provision of mental health care produces better, more durable outcomes in both the immediate and long term.⁵¹ As such, the County is committed to utilizing all available alternatives for young people with serious and persistent mental illness, including finding appropriate housing that comports with evidence-based and therapeutic best practices.

For the target population, two housing units have been repurposed to accommodate academic and evidence-based programming, and a third unit has been transformed into a calm space, with a Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room.



Young people committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility will initially be housed on the primary treatment living unit while they begin their individualized treatment plan. After approximately one year, the young people will become eligible to apply for transfer to the internal step-down housing unit, Tamalpais. Ultimately, the County plans to implement the aforementioned Less Restrictive Program for young people when appropriate to recommend, and when ordered by the Court, which would serve as the final phase of reentry for some youth.

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 is actively developing in person, on site college courses 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.

The County has collaborated with experts to design spaces that are trauma-informed and support positive youth development within the inherent confines of this space. A trauma-responsive physical environment is essential and allows young people to feel both physically and emotionally safe. Trauma-responsive physical environments imbue respect and care for committed young people into the design of the space where they live.





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.





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.

**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 on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (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 youth⁵² and public safety.⁵³ 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)⁵⁴ 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.

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 on this element since May 1, 2024, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (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.

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 on this element since May 1, 202, at the end of your response:

As stated above, the County values and recognizes the importance of data and analysis to guide decision-making. However, the County has also acknowledged past limits of its analytical capacity, and has since sought to rectify these challenges.

In May 2024, Contra Costa County Probation hired a Senior Business Systems Analyst to develop robust internal data dashboards using Power BI. By leveraging this tool, the Department can efficiently capture probation statistics from our newly deployed case management system, Tyler Enterprise.

To address the previously noted data challenges and limitations, Contra Costa County has begun to implement a three-part strategy to ensure the appropriate collection and use of data for meaningful analysis by working on the following:

1. An internal, immediate-term strategy

The immediate-term strategy will focus on leveraging existing 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). To enhance these efforts, the County will explore additional mechanisms for digitizing administrative records, including those related to progress review hearings under WIC § 875(e) and subsequent step-downs to less restrictive placements.

2. An internal, long-term strategy

The long-term strategy will emphasize maximizing the potential of the newly implemented Tyler Enterprise case management system. Beyond supporting individual case management, this system will enable comprehensive analysis of both program effectiveness and justice system efficiency. To facilitate this, Probation continues to convene an internal committee dedicated to reviewing internal data dashboards, identifying and addressing 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 will incorporate principles of performance-based contracting and standardized progress reporting for contracted service providers. By establishing clear metrics and reporting structures, the County aims to ensure accountability and enhance service delivery outcomes.

With the integration of Power BI and the expertise of the Senior Business Systems Analyst, Contra Costa County Probation is committed 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 on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response:

Through the County's contracted partnership with Impact Justice, the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) tool was developed. SEL is the process through which young adults acquire and apply knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, achieve personal and collective goals, feel, and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE MAY 1, 2023: (WELF. & INST. CODE (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.

ADD OVERVIEW OF 2024 PROGRESS.

Endnotes:

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- ² Shufelt, J., & Coccozza, J. (2006). [Youth with Mental Health Disorders in the Juvenile Justice System: Results from a Multi-State Prevalence Study](#). *National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice*; Burke, J., Mulvey E., & Schubert, C. (2015). [Prevalence of mental health problems and service use among first-time juvenile offenders](#). *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 24(12), 3774-36781.
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- ⁵ Yoder, J., Hansen, J., Lobanov-Rostovsky, C., & Ruch, D. (2015). [The impact of family service involvement on treatment completion and general recidivism among male youthful sexual offenders](#). *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 54(4), 256-277.
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- ⁷ Frey, L. (2017). Adolescent females who have sexually abused, in Righthand, S. and Murphy, W. (eds.), *The Safer Society Handbook of Assessment and Treatment of Adolescents Who Have Sexually Offended*, Global Institute of Forensic Research.
- ⁸ Hunter, J. (2012). Management and treatment methods, in Ryan, E., Murrie, D., & Hunter, J. (eds.), *Juvenile Sex Offenders: A Guide to Evaluation and Treatment for Mental Health Professionals*.
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- ¹¹ Khumalo, M. (2021). Considerations for SB823 MH and Program Services.
- ¹² [The 5 C's of Positive Youth Development](#). Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (2015).
- ¹³ [Key Principles](#). Youth.gov.
- ¹⁴ [Youth as Partners](#). Positive Youth Development Toolbox.
- ¹⁵ *This resource on the power and use of Youth Leadership Boards for youth in foster care contains many useful guidelines for ensuring authentic youth engagement that can be extrapolated to youth engagement in the juvenile justice system: Realizing the Power of Youth and Young Adult Voice Through Youth Leadership Boards*. Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. (2014).
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- ¹⁷ The Annie E. Casey Foundation has collected many PYD resources (found [here](#)). In particular, see Redd, Z., Moore, K., & Andrews, K. (2020). [Embedding a Racial Equity Perspective in the Positive Youth Development Approach](#). *Child Trends*.
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DRAFT



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-1276

Agenda Date: 4/10/2025

Agenda #: 6.

Advisory Board: DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee Meeting
Subject: Updates on BYA STYF

Information:

The DJJ Realignment Planning Subcommittee will receive an updated presentation on the Briones Youth Academy Program.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Review the presentation for more detailed information.



BRIONES YOUTH ACADEMY SECURE TRACK

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PROBATION

APRIL 2025

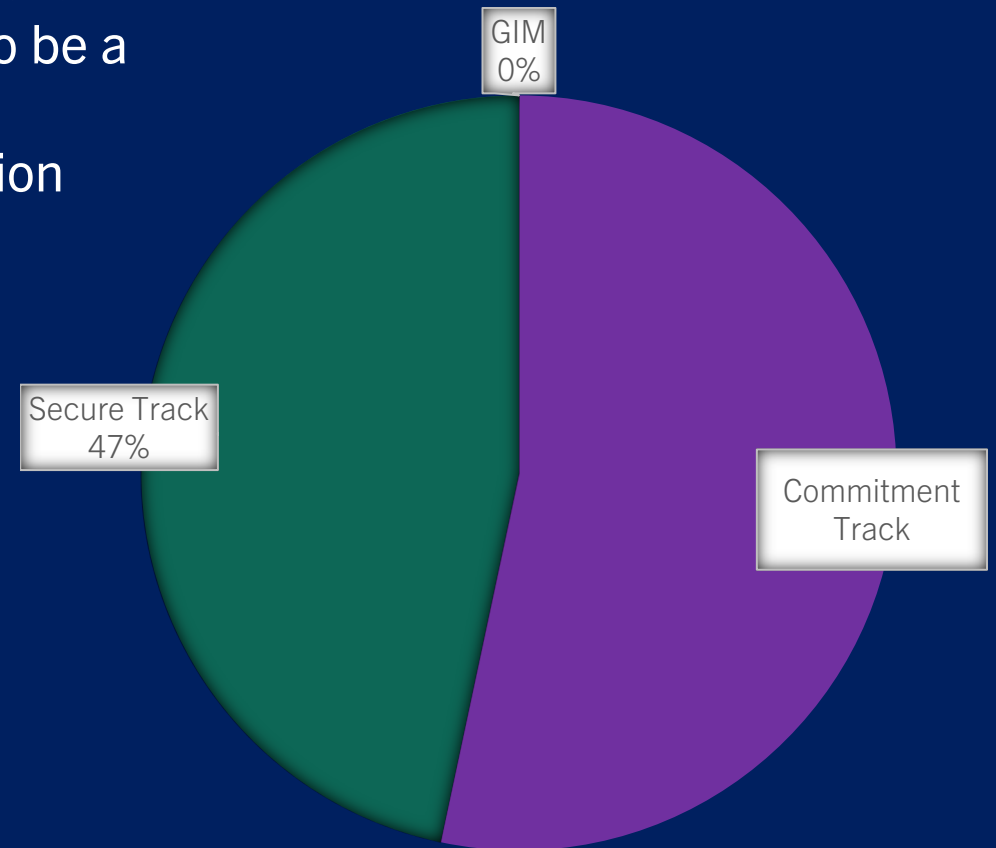
TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE TARGET POPULATION

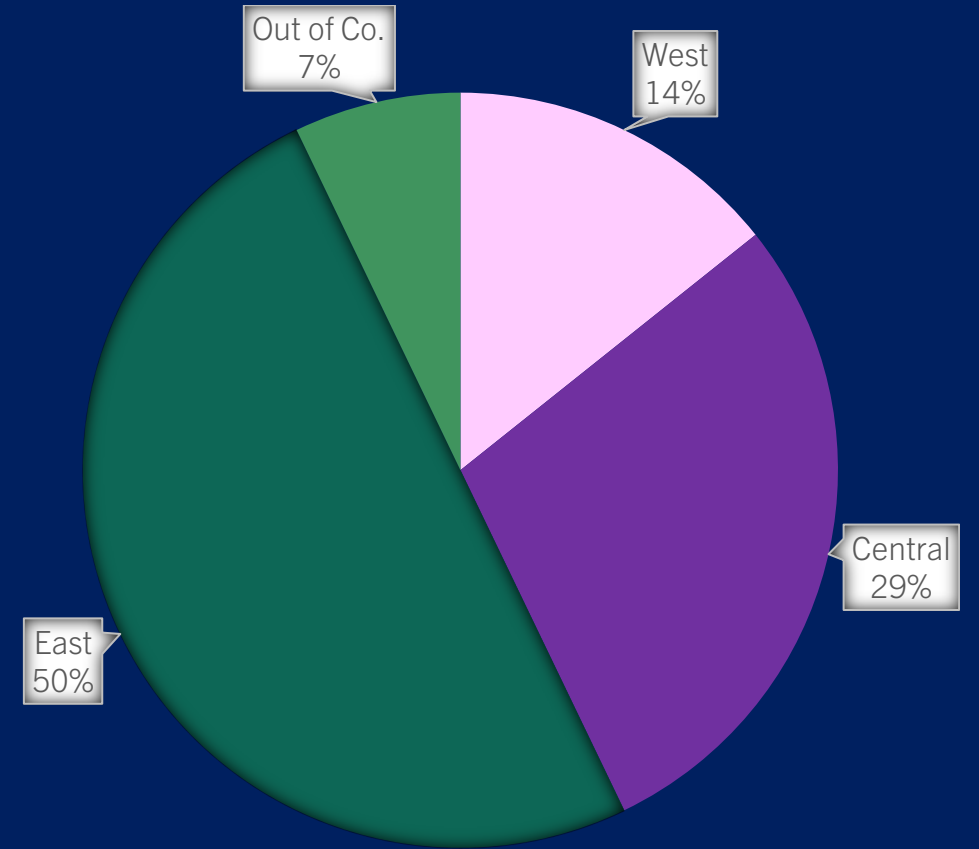
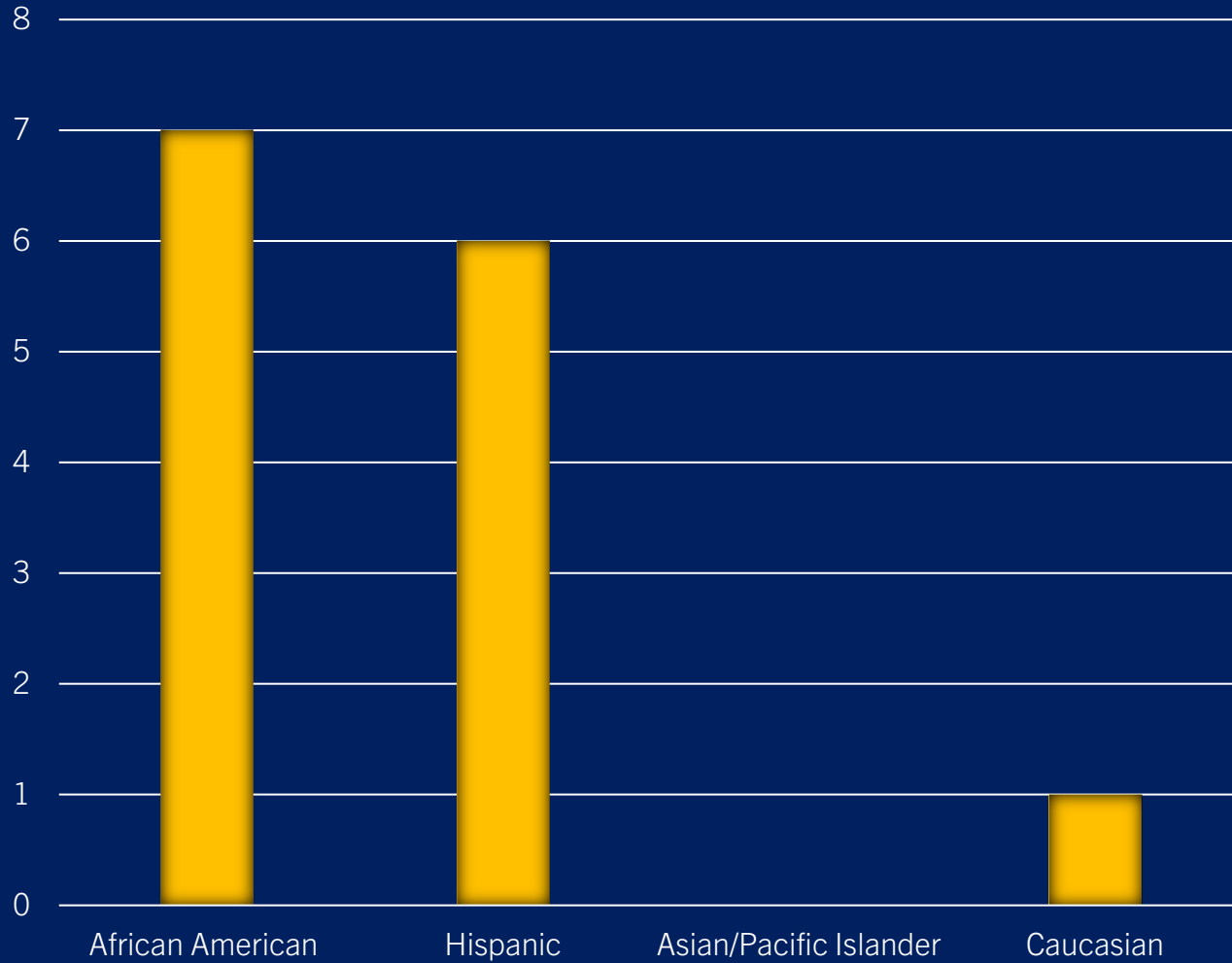
The “target population” is defined as “youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure and shall further be defined as persons who are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or an offense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

Programs include:

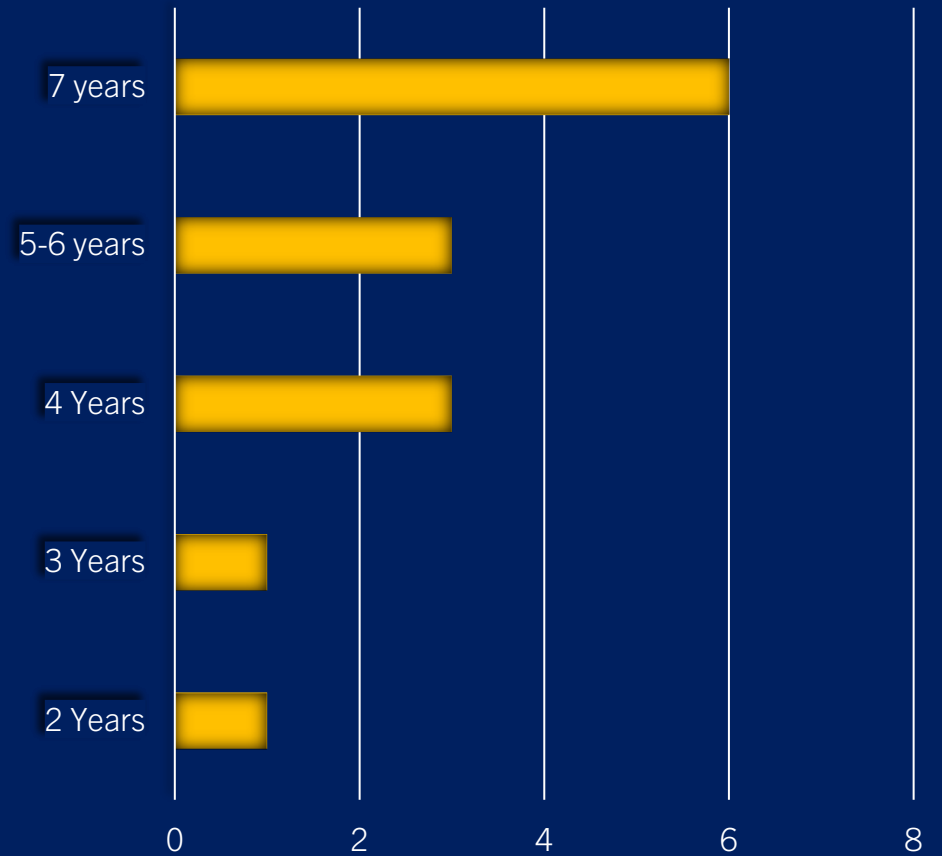
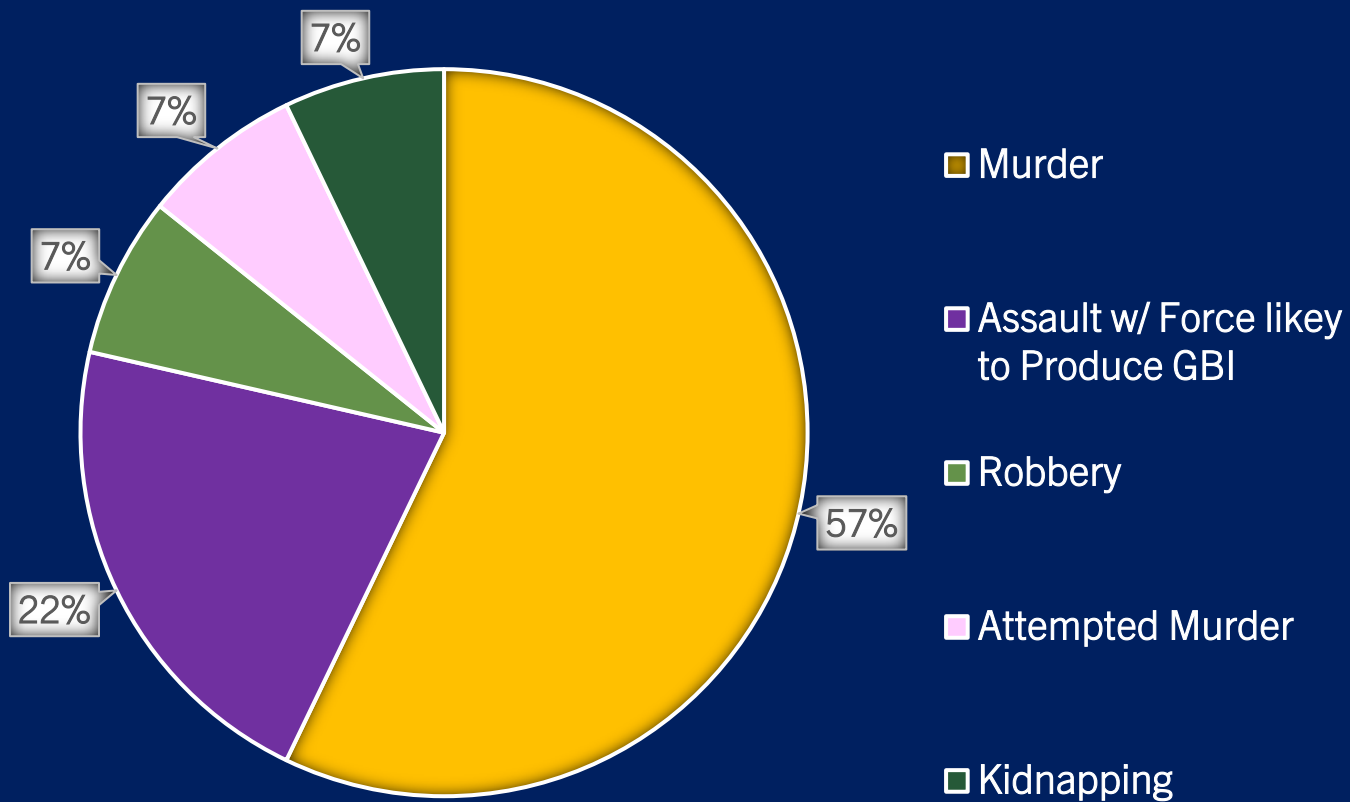
- Girls in Motion (GIM) Treatment Program
- Briones Youth Academy Commitment Track
- Briones Youth Academy Secure Track

Sustained 707(b) WIC Commitments



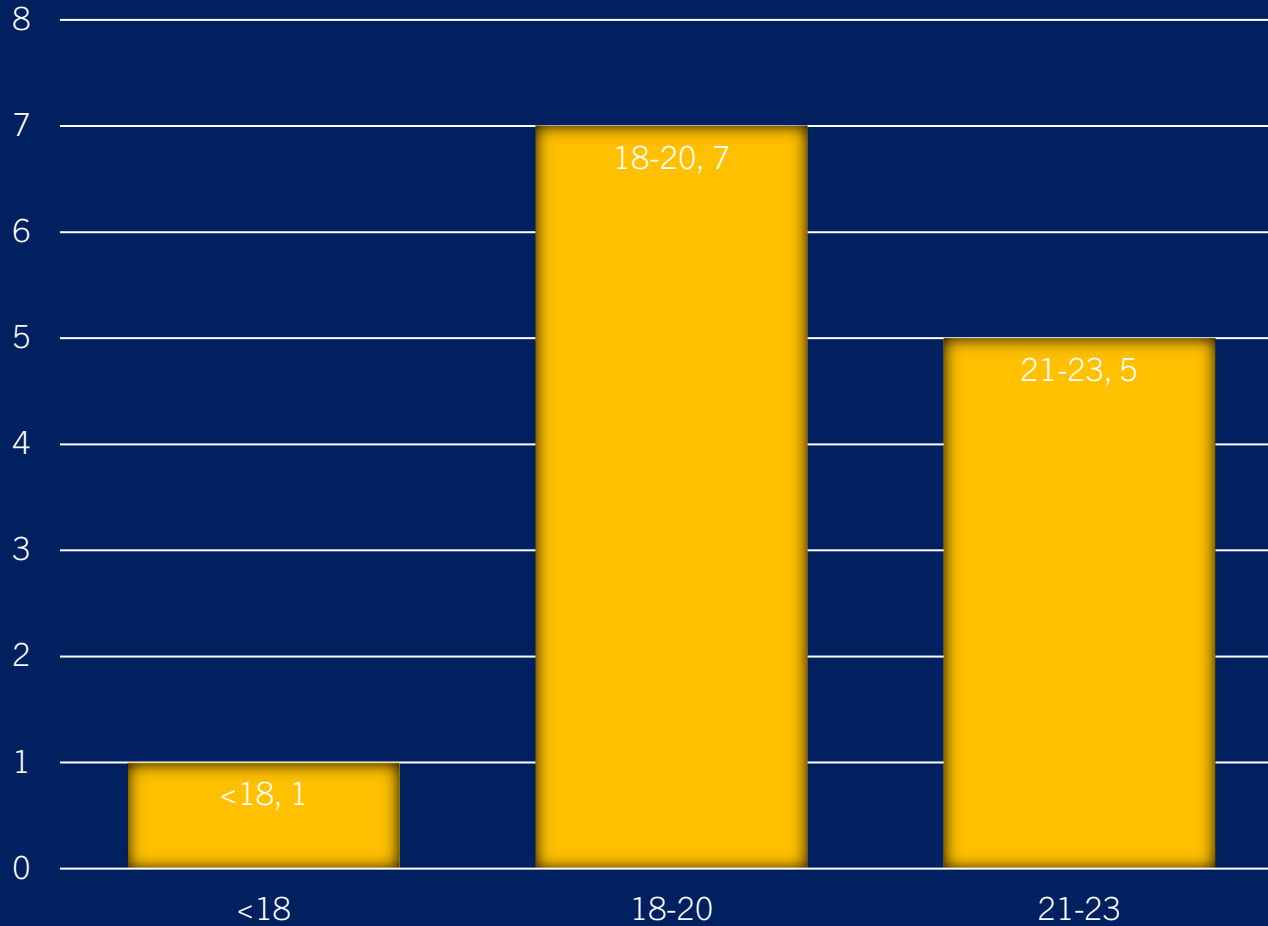


ETHNICITY AND REGION OF COUNTY

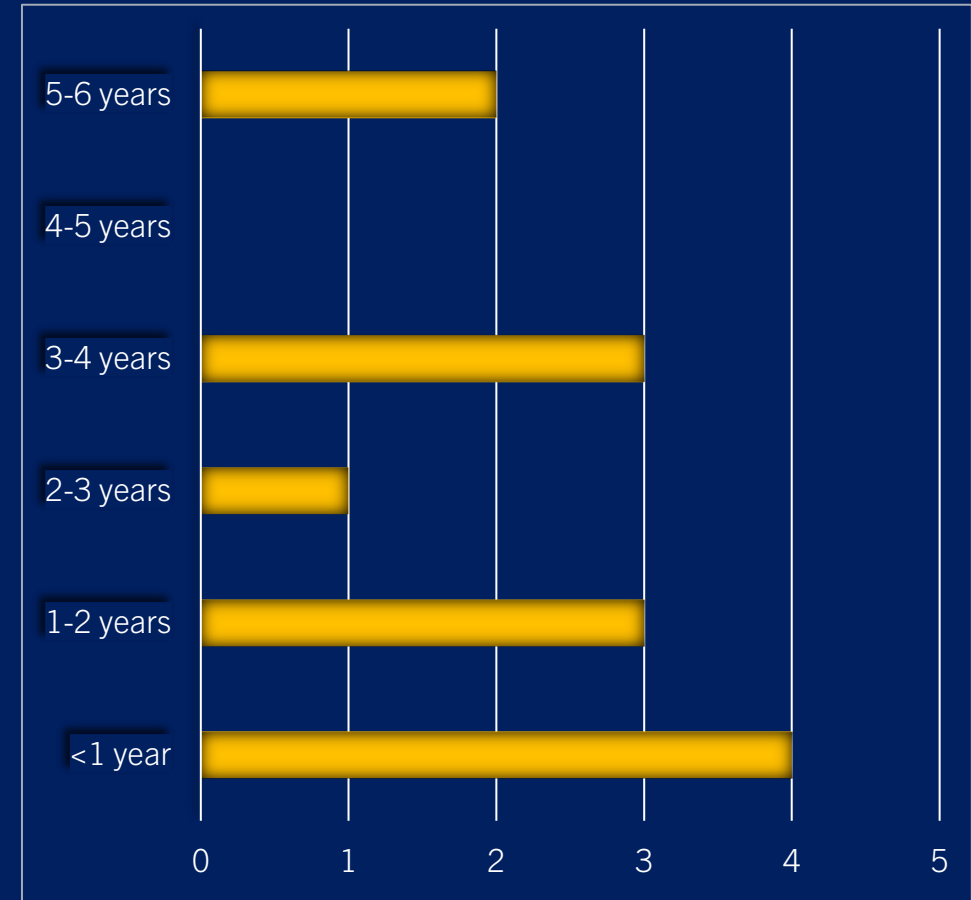


COMMITTING OFFENSES & BASELINES

AGE



LENGTH OF STAY



AGE & LENGTH OF STAY



HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Behavioral Health
On-site or on-call 7-days a week
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Counselor
On-site 40-hours a week
- Medical Staff
On-site 7-days a week
- Contra Costa County Library
Open to youth weekly
- Barber Shop
Staffed by 2 professional barbers and 1 youth apprentice
- The Interfaith Chaplaincy Affirming a New Generation of Excellence (ICHANGE)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 11 high school graduates attending online college courses
- One high school graduate attending in-person Barber College
- Two current high school students

PROGRAMS

- Substance use recovery
- Life skills
- Choices
- Listen-Empathize-Agree-Partner
- Financial Literacy
- Interactive Journaling
- Job Tech
- Real Colors
- The Council for Boys and Young Men
- Criminal Gang Anonymous
- Free Your Mind
- Pathway to New Beginning
- Advanced Practice
- Victim Empathy Class
- Small Engine Program
- Aggression Replacement Training
- Thinking for Change

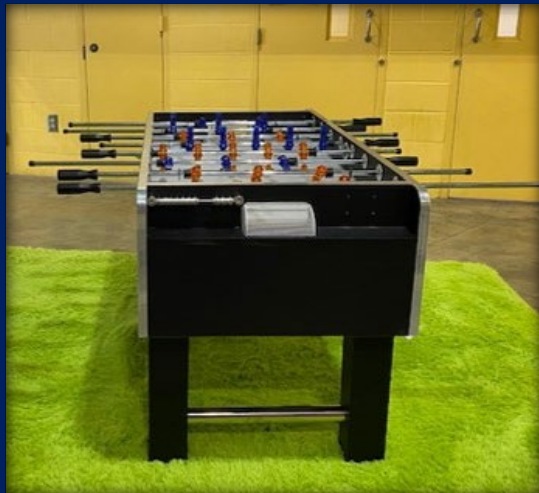
THE HAVEN

The Haven is a Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room (MSDR) that creates a safe, trauma-informed environment that allows youth to de-escalate independently. The MSDR provides the youth an opportunity to remove themselves from their normal environment and separate themselves from other youth who may be triggering to them.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & CHILD BONDING





RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMING



A photograph of a raised garden bed. The bed is constructed from dark wood and is filled with various green plants. In the foreground, there are several tomato plants with green, unripe tomatoes. Behind them, there are other leafy green plants, possibly basil or lettuce. The garden bed is set on a light-colored, sandy or gravelly surface. The background is a dark blue gradient.

HORTICULTURE



B3 FAMILY
APIARY





Young men craft their own lyrics and master the art of sound engineering. The creative outlet allows them to transform raw emotion into rhythm while learning a skill. The music, with permission, is shared with other youth and staff.

BYA youth and staff launched a new podcast project, blending creativity, teamwork, and shared passion for football. The project fostered important collaboration, critical thinking, and communication skills. Youth and staff are preparing to start another series.

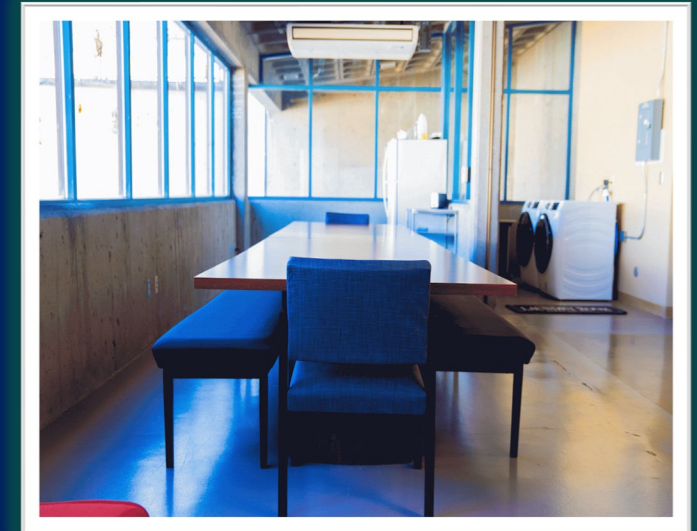
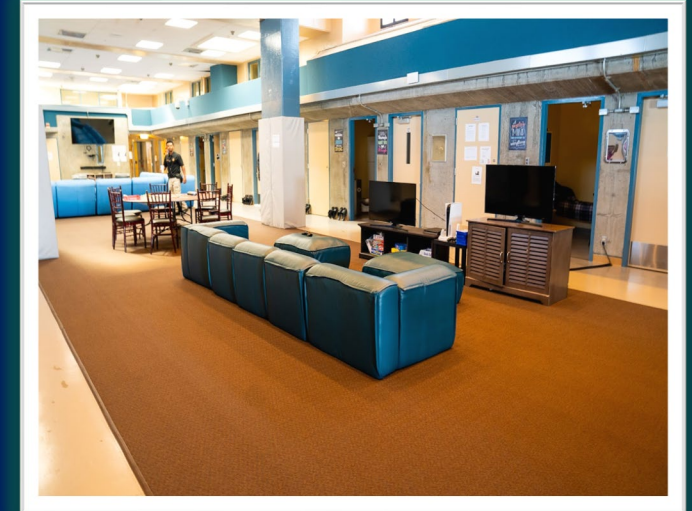




Tamalpais Unit

Once the youth reach the Peak Phase, they may apply to transfer to the Tamalpais Unit, an internal step-down unit to begin re-entry preparation.

Tamalpais



TAM BUCKS



MONEY MANAGEMENT

- Jobs and careers
- Rent and utilities
- Loans and late fees



Personal Budget
-Daily Expenses -Education
-Savings -Hobby
-Invest -Vacation
-Medical -Retirement



Room
for
Rent



CAREER

CAREER

CAREER

TAMALPAIS RECYCLING PROGRAM

Please help us
recycle & reduce
waste.

Please place plastic bottles & Aluminum Cans inside the designated bins.

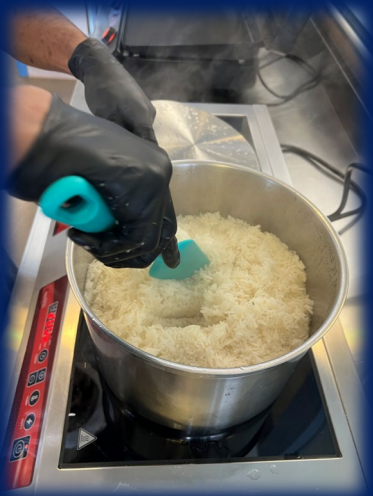
On Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays,
place the recycle bin outside the unit
with the Dinner Cart for collection.

RECYCLING

The youth launched a new recycling program to promote environmental responsibility and as an opportunity to earn money.

MEAL PREPPING

Youth on Tamalpais Unit are ServSafe-certified in food handling and enhance their culinary skills by preparing a new dish each week, which they share in a family-style meal.





RE-ENTRY SERVICES

BRIONES YOUTH ACADEMY PROGRAM CONTACTS

**FACILITY DIRECTOR
TAMARA GUSMAN-TAYLOR**

Tamara.Gusman-Taylor@prob.cccounty.us

(925) 957-2712

**BYA INSTITUTION
PROGRAM MANAGER**

Mila Baranov

Mila.Baranov@prob.cccounty.us

(925) 957-2710

**BYA SUPERVISION &
REENTRY MANAGER**

RJ Dutra

RJ.Dutra@prob.cccounty.us

(925) 957-2714