



Fresno County Probation Department
JJCPA -YOBG Annual Plan

May 2024 - May 2025



Fresno County Probation Department JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024

[Contents](#)

Part 1. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy 3

 Section A: Assessment of Existing Services..... 3

 Law Enforcement 3

 Probation..... 3

 Education 8

 Mental Health 10

 Substance Use 11

 Social Services and Reentry Support..... 11

 Section B: Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas..... 14

 Re-Entry..... 15

 Disparities in Services by Area 16

 Insufficient Access and Availability of Culturally and Gender-Responsive Mental Health Services..... 16

 Gaps in Delivery of Evidence-Based Services..... 17

 Limited Data Collection and Sharing..... 18

 Section C: Juvenile Justice Action Strategy 18

 Section D: Comprehensive Plan Revisions 19

 Part 1 References 21

Part 2. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)..... 22

 Section A: Information and Data Collection..... 22

 Section B: Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils..... 22

 Section C: Funded Program, Strategies and/or System Enhancements 23

Part 3. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)- (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))..... 24

 Section A: Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders 24

 Risk Principle 24

 Need Principle 24

 Responsivity Principle 25

 Specialty Caseloads 25

 Reentry..... 26

 Section B: Regional Agreements 26

 Section C: Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements 27

 Part 3 References 29



Part 1. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy

Section A: Assessment of Existing Services

Fresno County Probation Department (FCPD) partners with a diverse group of county public agencies and community-based organizations to provide services designed to prevent and intervene with at-risk youth, address the needs of youth in the juvenile justice system, and develop plans and broker resources for reentry to the community. This section describes the services most frequently relied upon in an effort to support the needs of the youth and families that are in contact with FCPD.

Law Enforcement

Fresno County criminal justice agencies view the role of addressing the needs of youth in our community as requiring a collaborative approach. Law enforcement efforts are most present in a proactive approach to reducing youth entrance into the juvenile justice system. There are two programs provided by the Fresno Police Chaplaincy, Resilience Center and Stop Teen Exploitation and Liberate through Hope (STEALTH). The Resilience Center provides professional support for children who have been exposed to violence and are identified at high need for services. STEALTH provides outreach to youth and their family when habitual runaway episodes have occurred. Homeless and runaway youth frequently are arrested for theft and assault. Chen (2006) found that over half of youth with an initial runaway episode are subsequently arrested. Additionally, a sample of runaway and homeless youth have an average of 4.4 arrests. Group and mentoring opportunities are available for families and are designed to meet the needs of these families to interrupt this cycle.

The Fresno Police Department participates in the Fresno Police Activities League (PAL). Youth and police participate in positive activities including boxing, gaming, and learning how to use computers. The program serves to increase trust between law enforcement and youth, while engaging them in positive leisure activities. Another program FPD has is the PIVOT Program, which is geared towards teaching elementary school students how to be resilient and better deal with adversity.

The Fresno Police Department's Student Resource Officer (SRO) Unit provides support to both the student and their parents during re-entry; they are there to offer guidance to the student as they proceed through the re-entry process and provide the student with a point of contact should they have any questions or problems. The SRO officers have been accepted into their individual school families, some are now serving as athletic coaches and others participate on faculty boards and committees at their school sites.

Probation

FCPD practices the philosophy of probation having a dual role. The traditional responsibility of monitoring youth and holding them accountable to the conditions of supervision, while also helping them by connecting them with services and operating as an agent of change are equally valued. In furtherance of that belief, FCPD contracted with the University of Cincinnati (UC) to enhance the utilization of evidence-based practices. UC has provided the infrastructure, technical assistance, and

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



training to support FCPD work groups in developing strategies to implement a variety of effective practices. This involved an upgraded behavior management system (sanction and incentive protocols), supervision of caseloads based on risk level, case plan goals driven by assessment of needs, and contact appointments targeting criminogenic needs utilizing cognitive behavioral interventions.

FCPD works towards reducing youth involvement in the juvenile justice by evaluating their needs. The Evaluation of Imminent Risk and Reasonable Candidacy (EIRRC) is used to determine if a youth is at risk of going into foster care. If it is determined the youth is not at risk of removal, the youth is then assessed with a validated risk assessment, the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), that categorizes youth into low, moderate, moderate/high, or high risk for recidivism.

DPOs provide supervision for youth that may be at lower risk for recidivism, however, have many psychosocial needs. The ability to connect the youth and their family to services is a vital contribution to the community and may reduce the likelihood that the youth continue to engage in at risk behaviors. For this reason, FCPD has implemented the Assessment Team comprised of DPOs who conduct the appropriate assessment on youth who have committed a new law violation and have been set for disposition. This helps with making appropriate recommendations that address the youth's criminogenic needs. It also expedites the implementation of services to provide even more details on supports that can be put into place to help youth and family.

FCPD offers opportunities for youth to participate in Truancy Intervention Program (TIP), and Diversion. In collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Court, youth may be placed on CJC/Restorative Justice, Court ordered Informal Probation, or Deferred Entry of Judgement (DEJ). A variety of factors determine eligibility for these alternative options to traditional probation services including the severity of the charge, risk level, and youth and family needs.

FCPD contracts with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools to provide services for the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) for non-probation youth. TIP officers are assigned to the east and west Fresno County school districts of Kerman, Golden Plains, Firebaugh, Mendota, Laton, Washington Union, Caruthers, Washington Colony, Orange Center, Pacific Union, Sanger, Raisin City, Coalinga-Huron, and Violet Heinz Education Academy school sites. Working closely with School Administrators and School Attendance staff, their goal is to reduce truancy, improve student attendance and actively participate in Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) hearings.

The goal of the Diversion program is to reduce recidivism of youth by providing services and support without the need to enter the formal court process. The program redirects youthful offenders from being formally processed in the juvenile justice system and identifies ways of addressing the behavior. This program is offered to those who have been alleged to have committed a qualifying offense and provide these youth and their family services to address the situation that brought the youth within the juvenile justice system. Referrals to community-based services helps families build their protective factors, levels of communication and connects them with extended natural supports within their community. Upon successful completion of the program the youth's record is sealed.

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



FCPD supports a restorative justice approach to raise youth awareness of the consequences of their actions and support making restitution for those actions. Community Justice Conferencing (CJC) provides a Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) that uses a restorative justice approach, provides mediation, and increases restitution services.

Informal probation is a post-filing diversion program under Welfare & Institutions Code 654.2 (WIC 654.2). With this program, a petition (a formal case) is filed with the court and the minor is informally supervised for up to six months. Informal probation is often available for first-time offenders and less serious offenses.

In lieu of jurisdictional and disposition hearings, the court may grant a Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) provided that the minor admits each allegation and waives time for the pronouncement of judgment. Upon the successful completion of the terms of probation, no sooner than 12 months and no later than 36 months from the date of the minor's referral to the program, the court shall dismiss the charge or charges against the minor.

FCPD continues to operate several specialty courts and/or caseloads to address the unique needs of the youth under their supervision. For those youth that have needs related to mental health, or intellectual and developmental disabilities, there is a Family Behavioral Health Court. The goals of the court are to connect youth with serious mental illness to treatment services, take into consideration their mental health concerns, and provide a more intensive treatment and supervision partnership.

FCPD has DPOs designated to work with females who have been identified as at risk of human trafficking. This determination is made through the administration of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT, pronounced "See It"). Those youth that are identified as possible or clear concern may be referred to Unity Court. This specialized hearing allows for the linkage of at-risk youth to a wide array of resources. Unity Court is a collaborative effort which includes representatives from Breaking the Chains, Department of Behavioral Health, Focus Forward, Fresno County EOC - Central Valley Against Human Trafficking, District Attorney, Public Defender, and the Central Valley Justice Coalition. This proceeding is voluntary, serves a positive and supportive role. The DPO undergoes comprehensive training on how to detect, serve, and advocate for those vulnerable to human trafficking.

FCPD has a dedicated caseload for youth who are on probation for a sex-related offense. FCPD has contracted services with The Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of the Greater Boston, Inc. (CPC). There are three psychometric tools to identify treatment needs in regard to sexual offending, including: 1) Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol, 2) Protective and Risk Observations for Eliminating Sexual Offense Recidivism (PROFESOR) and 3) Structured Assessment of Violence Risk Youth (SAVRY). CPC will create case plans for each participant, and which will be reviewed periodically during a multidisciplinary team meeting to include FCPD.

School-based probation has led to a well-established partnership between FCPD and school districts. FCPD strategically places DPOs in the communities where the youth live, thereby, reduce

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



the burden on families to report to the probation office. This is particularly helpful in the rural areas of the county. The DPO has the added advantage of observing the youth in a more natural environment and can note their daily behavior, study habits, attendance, and adjustment with their peers. The school appreciates the added support, as the DPO is available to intervene as situations demand and allows for more expedited resolution. The family is frequently integrated in discussions towards solving problems that otherwise would hinder the youth's progress academically, behaviorally, and socially.

In addition to allowing for this collaborative approach between the family, school, and FCPD, school-based probation allows for interventions and programming, i.e., restorative justice, youth court, and evidence-based practices. The DPO is also available to encourage and support youth's involvement in extracurricular activities (sports, assemblies, clubs, etc.). Having DPOs in the school expands the frequency of informal and formal contacts resulting in improved communication, rapport, and support.

DPOs are placed at mainstream high schools (Bullard, Sunnyside, Roosevelt, Edison, Cambridge/DeWolf, McLane, Fresno, Hoover, and Phoenix) in the Fresno Unified School District, the largest school district in Fresno. By extension, there is greater access to local elementary, middle, and alternative high schools in the area. A DPO is placed at Sanger Unified School District, and two DPOs serve Kings Canyon Unified School District.

In summary, school based DPOs provide the following:

- Coordinate re-entry efforts for youth returning from youth facilities
- Coordinate interventions with the schools and other agencies
- Serve as an agency of change with disruptive or truant youth to reduce risk of entry into the juvenile justice system
- Intervention in crisis situations involving youth on juvenile probation
- Assist in the prevention and management of disruptive behavior by all youth

These efforts have the goal of providing for the unique needs of the youth on probation, reducing entrance of youth into the justice system, and improving the school environment for all youth.

As mentioned, several high schools within Fresno County are involved in Youth Court. This continues to be a promising approach for first-time offenders who are held accountable by their peers. There is a Youth Advisory Council that is actively engaged, as well as an adult group that provides coordination and training for the youth involved. A Fresno County Superior Court judge holds hearings on campus. Because teens understand teens best, the jurors in these hearings are fellow students. These jurors work with the judge to impose sanctions that help the youth understand the impact of the offense on his or her family, school, and community.

The DPO has the option of using Youth Court as an alternative to referring a formal petition to the Juvenile Court. This approach is utilized as evidenced by the handling of 42 In School Year

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



2021/2022, 59 in 2022/2023, and 50 in 2023/2024 (partial year) reflecting its value to FCPD, school, court, and youth involved.

In addition to the assigned DPOs, there are Probation Technician positions that are instrumental in connecting youth to services. The services provided include supporting the DPOs, assisting with placements, collecting DNA, monitoring Global Positioning System (GPS) compliance, and connecting youth to prevention and intervention services. Partnership with the courts, schools, families, law enforcement and public and community-based agencies is essential to the comprehensive services provided for youth referred to FCPD.

FCPD works closely with families, treatment providers, law-enforcement agencies, school districts, the district attorney's office, and the Child Abuse Review Team (C.A.R.T.) to ensure the youth's compliance with conditions.

The CART Team is comprised of members from the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO), Department of Social Services (DSS), Family Court Services, FCPD, and the James Rowland Crime Victim Assistance Center. The mission of the team is to ensure the safety of children at risk of victimization by a parolee, probationer, post-release community supervision offender, mandatory supervised released offenders, and youthful offenders. The objective of the team is to provide ongoing communication and open exchange of information among participating agencies in an effort to reduce further child victimization. In doing so, bi-monthly multi-agency review team meetings are held for ongoing assessment of child abuse related cases. The collaboration also provides on-going education and training on child abuse related topics and cross training related to each agency's function and legal parameters.

For youth with significant needs and pose a higher risk for recidivism, FCPD offers the New Horizon Commitment Program on the Juvenile Justice Campus. This program is supported through contracted services and includes a comprehensive plan to reduce risk of reoffending. The core cognitive behavioral intervention delivered on the unit is Thinking for a Change. This 25-session structured, manualized program is divided into three key areas (cognitive restructuring, social skills, and problem solving). Lowenkamp, et.al (2009) found a statistically significant reduction for recidivism for program completers compared to a matched control group who did not receive the intervention. Findings indicate that across groups, younger and higher risk youth were more likely to be arrested for a new offense during the follow-up period, compared with older and lower risk youth. This suggests that more intensive dosage may be necessary for improving outcomes. The New Horizons program provides additional programming utilizing a cognitive behavior approach, as well as the use of core correctional practices by FCPD staff. Mental health, family and substance use services are provided in group, family, and individual modes of delivery. As discharge nears, a reentry case plan is established and includes assistance with enrollment in higher education programs, vocational opportunities, or employment readiness services. The field supervising officer provides regular contacts and ongoing reassessment to continue building on the benefits the youth gained while in the program.

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



Additionally, youth that complete the program on the Juvenile Justice Campus Floyd Farrow Substance Abuse Unit (SAU) are placed on a specialty caseload to support their reentry into the community. This allows for improved transition from the institution into the community, as well as greater continuity in the treatment goals.

Fresno County Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF/Secure Track) Cultivating Healthy Choices and Independence (CHI) is a program-based commitment for youth 14 years of age or older, whose most recent offense, for which they have been adjudicated, is listed in WIC 707(b). In determining whether a commitment to SYTF is appropriate, consideration shall be given as to whether a less restrictive alternative disposition is suitable in providing rehabilitation to the youth.

The Fresno County Superintendent of Schools maintains a partnership agreement with the State Center Community College District and its respective colleges regarding instructional services for Dual Enrollment. Dual Enrollment courses are offered on campus whereby high school students may earn high school credits and community college credits concurrently. The courses vary from bearing one to three college credits. CSU/UC transferrable courses are available for Dual Enrollment on campus.

Another important resource for youth residing at the Juvenile Justice Campus is Chaplaincy services. In addition to be available for spiritual services and pastoral counseling, several positive events are provided. Youth are invited to participate in youth camps, holiday celebrations, car shows, and other positive social activities. FCPD welcomes and supports community involvement in the lives of the youth in their care and views reentry as a vital collaborative process between the department and the community.

In summary, FCPD is invested in connecting youth to services to reduce the risk to the community and youth by providing direct interventions and connecting families to community-based organizations to meet their needs. With these practices, Fresno County juvenile court and FCPD services remain resolute in their stance to limit involvement and future penetration into the juvenile justice system whenever possible. The objective remains to manage a case at the least restrictive level to reduce the criminogenic effects of court involvement, juvenile record, and detention.

Education

The Fresno County Superintendent of School (FCSS) operates both court and community school programs, all of which are fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, designed to support justice-involved youth in completing their high school education and/or transitioning to other appropriate educational programs. The Alice M. Worsley Court School provides educational services on the Juvenile Justice Campus to middle and high school students, and now also provides educational services to young adults on campus as identified through the juvenile justice realignment process. Career Technical Education (CTE/Regional Occupation Program (ROP) coursed and offered and were established based on the need for high quality technical and career training opportunities for our young people.

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOYG Annual Plan May 2024



The CTE/ROP courses currently offered include 1) Welding Fabrication and Application and 2) Environmental Horticulture Science, where certification in Leadership/Workforce Readiness may be earned. The Workforce Readiness certification focuses on developing soft skills that are needed in today's workforce and has been approved by the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board. Industry certifications in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Safe Serve food-handlers are also offered in the school program. With anticipated growth of our young adult population with high school diplomas, the school in partnership with FCPD, may be expanding CTE course offerings to potentially include: expanding agricultural offerings to include animal husbandry, pre-apprenticeship opportunities, Pinegrove Fire Camp, Building Trades, and Microsoft Office Systems (MOS) certification. JJC is committed to offering expanded Career Technical Education (CTE) course offerings that offer fulfilling career opportunities upon graduation.

The Fresno County Superintendent of School maintains a partnership agreement with the State Center Community College District in its respective colleges regarding instructional services for Dual Enrollment. Dual Enrollment courses are offered on campus whereby high school students may earn high school credits and community college credits concurrently. The courses vary from bearing one to three college credits. A CSU/UC transferrable course was added to the available Dual Enrollment courses on campus in the Spring of 2022.

In addition, the Dr. Novelle & Associates "DNA" School, a court school located at a separate location, services middle and high school students who may be enrolled up to one year. DNA students reside at the DNA short-term residential therapeutic program and receive probation supervision. The Violet Heintz Educational Academy (VHEA) is a community school for students in Fresno County who are identified by FCPD or their home school district as needing more intensive services in a smaller school setting. The site provides a collaborative approach between FCSS and FCPD, and referring school districts to provide behavioral, mental health wellness services, and/or substance use intervention services for students who attend at this campus. Student referrals may be a result of non-attendance in the students; district of residence, expulsions from district programs, or FCPD referred. Grade 7-12 students receive instruction that is tailored to meet their individual academic needs as determined by local and state assessment data. VHEA continues to partner with FCPD, community-based organizations, students, and their families to enhance needed supports to allow the student to demonstrate progress in attendance, school engagement, and behavioral and academic growth. In addition, the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) of the Office of Fresno County Superintendent of Schools is a resource which identifies students with non-attendance patterns with several school districts and contact the family to identify potential needs that contribute to the truancy. The goal for VHEA students is for their successful transition to their district of residence after a semester or a school year, though students may satisfy their high school graduation requirements and earn a diploma.

Focus Forward's Pipeline to Opportunity (P2O) program supports youth both in-custody and post release with higher education support services, including barrier removal, access to technology supports and academic mentors. Academic mentors are specifically trained to assist students with

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



matriculation into any of the three higher education programs at Fresno City College (in custody dual enrollment, in custody regular enrollment, post release regular college enrollment). Services include but are not limited to College Orientation, Student Portal Navigation, support with grade and assignment monitoring, and support with the Financial Aid application (FAFSA). Focus Forward is working with Fresno City College and Clovis Community College to expand and increase higher education opportunities for youth in custody and out of custody.

Mental Health

The Family Behavioral Health Court (FBHC) was mentioned earlier as an FCPD supported initiative for youth who have mental health or intellectual developmental disability (IDD). Identified youth have a diagnosed serious mental disorder (major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, mood/anxiety disorders) or an intellectual disability (autism, or organic brain disorder) that contributed to delinquent conduct. As indicated, this is a partnership with FCPD and several county agencies and community-based organizations. The design includes a court-supported treatment plan for adjudicated youth.

- The team consists of DPOs, a FBHC Coordinator, defense counsel, deputy district attorney, a Department of Behavioral Health clinician, and the juvenile court judge. A comprehensive assessment is conducted to determine eligibility and suitability to the program. An individualized treatment plan is developed based on the needs of the youth and family. These plans are created and maintained by the Child Family Team (CFT) comprised of the youth, family, and a multidisciplinary team. Goals are set to address challenges in school, within the family, and the youth's mental health or IDD diagnosis. Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) is an evidence-based case management system shown to reduce severity of psychiatric symptoms, improve general functioning, and reduce duration and frequency of psychiatric hospitalizations (Vijverbert, R. et.al, 2017). The approach includes an intensive level of treatment including 24/7 availability that includes:
 - Crisis response
 - Individual, group, and/or family therapy
 - Parenting coaching
 - Behavioral coaching
 - Substance use prevention and treatment services
 - Educational and vocational services
 - Medication management
 - Case management services

The providers are involved for approximately one year depending on the individual needs and circumstances of the family, and include three stages, assessment, intervention, and stabilization. Program completion results in successful closure of probation, as well as reduction of community supports, as appropriate.

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



In addition to the DPO making referrals for youth with mental health needs, Fresno County has an initiative to identify youth and link them to behavioral health agencies. This project, All 4 Youth, is provided by the Department of Behavioral Health and FCSS. FCPD supports and assists as needed in these recommendations.

Mental health providers are available for general caseloads and in the JJC. Wellpath provides coordination and direct services ranging from crisis response to ongoing psychiatric and behavioral health care. Wellpath staff are available daily in the JJC for crisis response, assessment, therapy, and psychoeducational services for the youth. They serve as a resource for staff in assisting in developing a plan that increases the safety and success of youth in their care as well as linkage to aftercare treatment with Community Based Organizations. Wellpath coordinates with Mental Health Systems and Focus Forward to conduct treatment with a collaborative approach.

Substance Use

Community-based organizations provide the treatment interventions in the Floyd Farrow Substance Abuse Unit (SAU) in JJC. This designated treatment unit provides for group and family interventions, mental health services, and individual appointments with a substance use disorder counselor. Case management and case planning services include the use of cognitive behavioral interventions and motivational interviewing to reduce the risk of continued substance use and lower recidivism. Youth are on a designated probation caseload upon discharge to support the reinforcement of the strategies learned in the program and referral for aftercare services. Family Youth and Alternatives (FYA) provide the substance use services in the community and use a cognitive-behavioral and motivational interviewing approach in treatment delivery.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services were extended to include youth beyond the age of 17. SUD is not a stand-alone JJC program defined by a set number of days allowing youth to receive SUD services based on assessed need and does not require youth to be screened/committed to SAU program to receive SUD services. Detained youth going through the judicial process are screened for substance use by a contracted medical provider and then referred for appropriate level of voluntary services provided by a community-based organization while in custody, which can be carried over to a commitment that does not require being committed to SAU.

Social Services and Reentry Support

There is an array of services for youth who lack family support and need placement or support. The FCPD has a strong relationship with the Department of Social Services (DSS) in the coordination of placements and other resources. Youth and their family are assessed as eligible for CalWorks, Welfare to Work (WTW), Family Stabilization Program, Cal-Learn, and frequently referred to their neighborhood Resource Center. In addition to housing and emergency services needs, several agencies partner with FCPD to provide for mentoring and emotional support.

Boys and Girls Clubs are utilized to provide targeted reentry programs and positive leisure opportunities for youth in their communities.

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOYG Annual Plan May 2024



Focus Forward currently provides mentoring services, utilizing community volunteers and interns. In recent years, Focus Forward has partnered with Impact Justice and Fresno State's Project Rebound program to place interns and AmeriCorps members at Focus Forward to support mentoring and other programs. These partnerships have increased the number of mentors who have lived experience with the juvenile justice system. Mentors provide social-emotional support to youth while pending trial, during adjudication, and during the re-entry process. Mentors meet with youth typically one day a week for one hour to give guidance and to support youth in meeting their goals. From May 2023- February 2024, at least 69 youth were served by 36 mentors. In addition, in the last seven (7) months, 110 youth participated in 22 Life Skills workshops led by mentoring staff and volunteers. Workshops cover a variety of topics from self-care, emotional intelligence, maintaining a home to community resources, time management, and many more.

Focus Forward has two social workers supporting youth in Placement who work within FCPD to provide coordinated reentry and case management services to the youth and families/caregiver/treatment facility. They coordinate Child Family Team (CFT) meetings to discuss progress and additional needs presented by the youth and family. A plan is developed to address any identified needs and make linkages or provide direct services to support the success of the participants. To develop this plan, treating clinicians or Focus Forward Social Workers will conduct a Child Adolescent Needs and Strength (CANS) assessment within 30 days after being placed. This CANS is presented and discussed amongst all parties to develop a case plan for the youth and family during the CFT meetings. This plan is followed and developed with the team and can be modified should the youth and family's needs change. Focus Forward also provides parent education services to youth and family who have family reunification orders, per their case plan. In addition, a preventative approach to keep juvenile justice youth from entering the foster care system (placement), has been implemented in which the Focus Forward Placement staff supports and facilitates CFT meetings for youth who have yet to identify a family to be reunited with post release. This service aligns with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), in efforts to keep families together.

Focus Forward also has 4.5 full time equivalent staff to provide comprehensive reentry and case management services to youth committed to the Juvenile Justice Campus for a minimum of 45 days, as well as their families. They coordinate wrap-around reentry services with youth and their families in an effort to reduce recidivism among youth committed at the Juvenile Justice Campus. Focus Forward staff assess youth upon their commitment and assign a case manager to develop case plan goals in six key areas of rehabilitation: Academic Education, Life Skills, Mental/Behavioral Health, Workforce, Safety and Relationships. Families of the youth are also offered case management services, which include an assessment, an individualized reentry plan, resources and referrals to needs-based programming in the six key areas. Youth and families are offered separate case managers to guide their individualized case plans and case management services are continuously provided at least 60-90 days after release. Groups on financial literacy (Money Habitudes), teen parenting education (Nurturing Skills for Teen Parents and Just Beginning baby bonding program); job readiness, healthy relationships (Safe Dates), and family sessions (Nurturing Parenting for

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



Parents w/Adolescents) are also provided in custody. Additional services that have resumed after program disruptions due to COVID-19, include out-of-custody excursions and “Siblings Day” events. Recent excursions include a trip to UC Merced and Fresno State, where youth were given a campus tour to encourage higher education pursuits and learn about available programs and support services. Siblings Day is a special event, inviting additional members of youth’s family to attend a themed session to bond over activities, food and festivities. Focus Forward leads a multi-disciplinary monthly meeting called “Youth Services” meeting to bring on-campus providers together to collaborate on committed youth and ensure services are not duplicated. Social Workers and the Family Advocate meet with both youth and family upon youth’s release for ongoing case management including home visits, community service opportunities and referrals to community-based services. Staff guide and encourage youth to engage in prosocial activities including community resource fairs, Focus Forward holiday events, and Focus Forward sponsored group outings such as to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, “game night”, bowling at Fresno State, the Underground Gardens and more. Focus Forward staff have spearheaded a Youth Council program with the support of FCPD to provide leadership and advocacy opportunities to youth in at least 5 of the housing units in the Juvenile Justice Campus. Youth develop proposals and present requests to FCPD Administration, and service provider administrators during a monthly meeting. Lastly, when time and funding permits, Focus Forward supports specialized programming. In the recent year, Focus Forward partnered with a local artist to provide a workshop series with youth to paint a mural in the visiting area on the campus. The mural is meant to inspire and add a positive aesthetic to youth and families during their visitation. A poetry workshop series was also initiated in the last year through a Fresno City College volunteer who taught, and prepared youth to create poetry and compete in a Poetry Slam on campus. Both programs were highly successful with the youth. The poetry course has been expanded to include ongoing writing workshops that will result in an anthology of youth writings.

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBS Annual Plan May 2024



Section B: Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

FCPD is committed to meeting the needs of youth in an effort to reduce entrance in the juvenile justice system and/or to limit further involvement into the criminal justice system. While the services detailed in the prior section are effective in meeting needs, the department is invested in expanding services to fill gaps, improve resources, and respond to additional concerns in the community. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Phased Response Plan Subcommittee was convened on January 29, 2024, February 8, 2024, March 7, 2024, and April 4, 2024, to identify needed areas to focus on in the coming year.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council- Phased Response Plan Subcommittee

Name	Agency
Rosalinda Acosta	Probation Department, Deputy Chief
JoAnna Edwards	Public Defender's Office
Emma Rasmussen	Department of Behavioral Health
Joanna Litchenberg	Focus Forward
Phillip Menchaca	Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
Galen Rutiaga	District Attorney's Office
Kimberli Smith	Department of Social Services
Lt. Matt Alexander	Sheriff's Office
Paco Balderrama	Fresno Police Department, Chief
Marilyn Watts	Fresno County Juvenile Justice Commission
Debra Rush	Breaking the Chains
Sergio Coronel	Youngsters For Change
Angel Duarte	GEO Group Inc.

This collaborative process resulted in the identification of the following areas to further develop over the upcoming year.

- Re-Entry
 - Incorporate planning for the transitioning of youth upon release; however, the measuring of data continues to be a challenge
- Disparities in Services by Area
 - Fresno County is the 6th largest county based on land area (nearly 6,000 square miles) and has a large agricultural area. The eastern and western regions of the county have a dearth of services and access to public transportation is limited.
- Insufficient Access and Availability of Culturally and Gender-Responsive Mental Health Services
 - Support is needed to assist agencies to expand programming that is



responsive to the population served, as well as leveraging collaborative opportunities to share resources.

- Gaps in Delivery of Evidence-Based Services
 - Needed programs include:
 - Core programming to lower recidivism
 - Crisis de-escalation
 - Programming for Gang Impacted Youth
 - Identify at risk CSEC youth at the entry level
- Limited Data Collection and Sharing
 - Information sharing is hampered by outdated and disconnected data systems.

Re-Entry

Providing supportive services to youth and their families as they reenter the community is a priority for Fresno County. Beginning at booking of a youth into custody, plans will be developed to prepare families for the return of their children upon release. This includes the work of Social Workers, Peer Support Mentors, and contracted community supports to work with youth and family, both in custody and post-release, as we will strive to fulfill reentry plans at home and in the community. Individualized reentry case management plans will strengthen families, potentially preventing younger siblings from entering the juvenile justice system and provide a clear pathway to success for youth reentering the community. The focus on re-entry will be bolstered by connecting youth to trusted messengers and community-based organizations while in custody to help bridge youth to services when they are released.

Focus Forward partners with Project Rebound at Fresno State to bring interns with lived experience to support youth in their Pipeline to Opportunity (higher education) program. Focus Forward also partners with the CA Justice Leaders AmeriCorps program through Impact Justice to connect young professionals with lived experience to youth in all Focus Forward programs to youth in and out of custody.

Before the youth is released from custody a transition meeting is scheduled with the youth and parent, the supervising DPO and collaborative partners: Focus Forward, Fresno County Office of Superintendent, Fresno Unified and/or a representative from the school district the youth will be attending, Youth for Christ, SERI, Boys and Girls Club, Department of Mental Health, and LOTO ministries.

The effectiveness of re-entry programs by tracking the percentage of youth who are in stable housing, in educational programs, and working when they are released, as well as by surveying youth regarding adequacy of access of physical health, mental health and substance use services prior to and after release, remains a challenge due to our internal systems being limited in the ability



to collect data. Further, in order to have the capability to do so, data points need to be identified and incorporated into the FCPD case management system.

Disparities in Services by Area

Effective programs collaborate and form connections with other agencies to provide a complement of services that are flexible enough to meet the unique needs of families. Many times, rural areas have limited resources or there are accessibility concerns for families in more remote parts of the county. Current efforts to provide more service coverage include school-based probation, reporting opportunities in local police departments, telephone or video conferencing options, and field visits by DPOs who are assigned cases based on geographic areas.

FCPD has expanded the availability of services throughout the county by supporting remote/virtual services for treatment. This includes using the Mobile Probation Services Center Grant program. FCPD has purchased two vans, equipment, telecommunications, and other technology needed to operate mobile probation service centers to assist youth and their families. The vehicles will be used in inner-city and rural areas such as public libraries, county buildings, homeless shelters located near homeless encampments, and community sponsored events. The goal is to assist youth and families that need assistance with probation compliance due to barriers. By taking the vans out to locations in inner-city and rural areas, FCPD would overcome the transportation barrier by taking services to the youth and their families using evidence-based techniques which could include assessments, referrals to address their criminogenic needs, case plan reviews, maintaining contact orders and reducing unnecessary justice involvement to youth.

FCPD contracted with GEO Group Inc. to provide substance abuse programming utilizing cognitive behavioral interventions. The program places heavy emphasis on skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skill development. The group is designed for youth who are in the juvenile justice system and demonstrate a need on the substance abuse domain of the risk assessment. Due to difficulties executing contractual agreements, there was a delay on the implementation of these services.

Insufficient Access and Availability of Culturally and Gender-Responsive Mental Health Services

FCPD continues to take a stance that inclusion and respect be at the core of every interaction with the youth and their families. In probation, the philosophy of cultural responsiveness is seen in several ways. We are comprised of a diversified staff. It is essential that all youth can look to staff for relatable role models and opportunities to talk with adults with a shared cultural experience. Community-based organizations that specialize in or work with specialty populations are represented in the network of providers utilized by FCPD. In addition, at the Juvenile Justice Campus there is an effort to reflect a variety of cultures most represented among the youth in the artwork that is displayed, stories and books available, menus and snacks, as well as providing cultural heritage events or activities.

While there are some options available to provide a culturally relevant and gender-responsive experience for youth in our care, this opportunity needs to be more expansive, available, and



affordable. FCPD will develop opportunities for agency collaboration to better meet the cultural and gender needs of the families served, to include the LGBTQ population. To ensure this is prioritized, published RFPs will include a provision that services are expected to be delivered in a culturally and gender-responsive style.

Gaps in Delivery of Evidence-Based Services

Reducing youth antisocial behavior, social skill and emotion regulation deficits, problems with family and peer relationships, gang affiliation, substance misuse, mental health issues, self-harm, poor academic performance, aggression and violence requires a comprehensive plan that utilizes proven models of intervention delivered with fidelity. Currently, the availability of programs that incorporate evidence-based practices, and structured interventions based on a cognitive-behavioral model needs further expansion. This emphasis on EBP interventions will also be stated as a requirement within RFPs released by FCPD.

With the expansion of evidence-based treatment, FCPD has contracted services with GEO Group Inc. and the Counseling and Psychotherapy Center of Greater Boston, Incorporated as previously mentioned in this report. As previously mentioned, due to difficulties in executing contractual issues, there was a delay in the implementation of these services. Both organizations will receive training to include core cognitive behavioral curriculum (Free Your Mind), and youth substance use disorder curriculum (Cognitive Behavioral Interventions - Substance Use (Youth)). Our service providers will complete additional modules based on targeting emotion regulation, mental toughness, and gang affiliation and curriculum for youth who commit sex related offenses (I Decide: Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Adolescents to Control Impulses and Create Identity). Additional evidence-based enhancements proposed for the upcoming year include the adoption of a structured crisis de-escalation model for FCPD, Positive Action (classroom curriculum) and Family Systems Trauma Model and/or Multisystemic Therapy (MST).

FCPD has implemented a comprehensive Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) model to provide for on-going monitoring and enhancement of implementation of evidence-based services. Each FCPD division will identify targets for improvement, develop action plans, and monitor for desired outcomes or indicators. A system for reviewing and supporting implementation enhancements for community-based partners will be an essential element in the CQI Plan. One gap in our understanding of what practices are effective and evidence-based, is to identify what drives racial and ethnic disparities in justice-involved youth. Collecting and reporting data on race and ethnicity related to participation in or assignment to a broad range of programs as well as in dispositions, will inform decision-making that can reduce disparities. For this reason, FCPD is committed to considering race and ethnicity data when determining evidence-based practices.

Community based resources are limited in evidence-based programming for gang impacted youth up to age 25. Youth impacted by gangs in the juvenile justice system lack the sophistication, organizational structure, and gang politics compared to gangs in adult institutions. FCPD is committed to seeking out community-based resources and work to address this identified need.



FPCPD recognizes there is a gap in identifying females who may be at risk of commercial sexual exploitation upon entry into the detention facility. FPCPD will work in collaboration with the Juvenile Institution administration to identify an assessment tool and provide the training to better serve the needs of this population.

Limited Data Collection and Sharing

The Juvenile Division data management system continues to be improved upon to accurately capture and collect data. There is no county-wide data base or established relationships for shared data among partners. This hinders the ability to ensure the services provided to a family are congruent, comprehensive, and avoid duplication. Sharing information among county agencies and community-based partners is also inadequate. Limitations in access to information by the court, FPCPD, and providers reduces the efficiency and accuracy of decision-making. Improvements in communication through a shared data system will continue to be an option for exploration.

Section C: Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

FPCPD is an integral component of the juvenile justice system. FPCPD perform intervention, prevention, investigative and supervision services of youth who have been noticed or identified by the juvenile justice system. FPCPD's Intake Unit is the gatekeeper of law enforcement referrals and determines the appropriate course of action within the system. Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) determine the pathway for the youth. They utilize evidence-based assessments to develop an individualized case plan built from the protective factors and needs identified from the assessments.

Juvenile Supervision services are provided for youth placed on formal probation by the Juvenile Justice Court. The Evaluation of Imminent Risk and Reasonable Candidacy (EIRRC) is used to determine if a youth is at risk of going into foster care. If it is determined the youth is not at risk of removal, the evidence-based assessment (PACT) is used. It continues to inform specific goals to lead to outcomes of successful supervision and recidivism reduction. Based on the risk to reoffend, DPOs work collaboratively with the youth, family, and community organizations to develop an appropriate case plan that will meet their needs. DPOs are instrumental in ensuring youth are receiving support and progressing with educational goals, treatment needs, and meeting the orders of the court. DPOs prioritize service selection based on the use of evidence-based options within the youth's home community. DPOs serve the metropolitan and rural communities within Fresno County and work collaboratively with the organizations, schools, and law enforcement agencies from those areas. This coordinated work between these partners increase information sharing and consistency of approach to better meet the needs of the family and the community.

FPCPD provides services to youth that have been ordered by the Court into out of home placement or to receive AB 12 services. Mandatory monthly contact with youth is performed by the DPO to ensure the identified needs of the youth are being met along with continuing efforts to offer reunification services. Every effort is made in identifying a least restrictive, family-like environment for youth whenever possible. Continuing to remain at the forefront of placement services for youth is the continued implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), this includes developing

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOYG Annual Plan May 2024



resource families and conducting meaningful Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings with those involved in the youth's life. Short Term Residential Treatment Programs continue to be an option considered for youth that have been ordered to receive placement services.

FCPD continues to utilize SB 163 wraparound services, a family-focused, strength-based program developed as an alternative to out of home care, while also offering in-home supportive services. This allows an opportunity for the treatment team, youth, family, and supportive individuals to work together while the youth remain in the home with the aim of family stabilization and permanency.

In addition, FCPD adheres to the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). This was established to help strengthen the youth's home-based options and avoid removal from the home. One of the primary goals is to complete thorough family finding efforts, pursuant to WIC 628(d). The probation officer will reach out to the youth's family, including extended family, to advise them the youth is at risk of entering foster care placement, and if they can assist by providing support and/or take the youth into their home.

Additionally, a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting will be conducted pursuant to WIC 706.5 and 706.6, to review the strengths and needs of the youth, and determine if another family-based setting could provide effective and appropriate care, in the least restrictive environment. Using a team-based approach, the probation officer in conjunction with the probation social worker will collaborate with partnering agencies such as Focus Forward, Mental Health and liaisons for the youth's education, to consider additional options for the youth and develop a case plan.

If it is determined that a short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) is appropriate and recommended, then the DPO completes a comprehensive referral to the Qualified Individual (QI) at the Department of Behavioral Health. Additionally, the DPO will present the case to the Interagency Resource Placement Committee (IRPC), for further approval.

FCPD remains focused on strategies for reduction of youth entering the juvenile justice system by utilizing a range of options. The intent is to address the needs of youth without bringing them formally into the justice system. As such, juvenile probation services may include hearings for youth for competency determination, findings of deferred entry of judgement or informal supervision (with or without court orders), and probation without wardship. For this reason, FCPD has an assessment team comprised of DPOs who complete the appropriate assessments on youth who have admitted to a new law violation and have been set for disposition. This team moves FCPD forward in having an evidence-based assessment prior to the youth going to disposition.

Section D: Comprehensive Plan Revisions

The JJCC Phased Response Plan Subcommittee reviewed the focus areas which identified gaps, leading to revisions for this year. Opportunities continue to be hindered to maintain programs due to ongoing staffing issues since the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had an effect on the quality of service. Opportunities to coordinate, develop, and implement new practices were postponed due to difficulties in executing contractual agreements resulting in a lack of required training.

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



Collaboration and coordinated care across engaged agencies is essential in the effective provision of services. The system strives to be flexible in meeting the unique needs of the families. This effort is more challenging in rural areas with limited resources and accessibility concerns for families in more remote parts of the county. Current efforts to provide more service coverage include school-based probation, telephone or video conferencing options, and field visits by DPOs who are assigned cases based on geographic areas.

FCPD was awarded the Mobile Probation Service Centers Grant. As indicated previously in the Disparities section of this plan, FCPD is now utilizing two mobile units to connect with the youth and their families by going to them and eliminating the barrier of transportation.

In addition, FCPD hopes to expand on the availability of services in the eastern and western parts of the county by supporting more satellite sites that provide treatment services, more frequent use of evidence-based practices when field visits are conducted, and training providers to deliver relevant programming in agencies located in these areas. Treatment modalities/curricula and contracted providers will be required to ensure their programs are rooted with evidence-based principles, are culturally and gender responsive, and youth appropriate.

As FCPD continues its commitment to providing effective services, the identification of a validated, and dynamic needs assessment tool will be a priority for youth who commit sex-related offenses. Identifying such a tool is essential to a comprehensive case plan for the individual youth with a sex offense.

As mentioned in the sections on Disparities in Services by Area and Gaps in Delivery of Evidence-Based Services, FCPD will explore opportunities to collaborate with county agencies and organizations. Serving as a liaison between these groups positions the department to build pathways to the establishment of new or expanded services for justice-involved youth and families. Training on the use of newly resourced curricula and tools will be an ongoing initiative to keep staff abreast of the additional techniques being implemented to support families. FCPD will also seek trainings related to CSEC and LGBTQ populations.

FCPD continues to update the sanctions and incentives matrix to clarify the purpose of the system in targeting criminogenic needs and increase the consistency of application. Efforts were made to increase the variety and range of options in the sanctions grid. Finding lower-level sanctions is optimal to reduce the reliance on detention days in response to violations of probation. One common sanction, use of community service work program, is unavailable due to the closure of a prior provider and inability to secure a replacement agency for the oversight of the program. Our continued effort will not only allow for this option to be available, but also enhance the use of community service to a more restorative justice mindset. By putting the community service in a light of helping a charitable organization, non-profit organization, or public agency it may represent the first time a youth has contributed to society in a positive way. While this may be initiated in response to a violation of probation, the hope is the youth receive a more beneficial outcome rather than viewing it as a punishment.



Part 1 References

Chen, X., Thrane, L., Whitbeck, L. B., & Johnson, K. (2006). Mental disorders, comorbidity, and post-runaway arrests among homeless and runaway adolescents. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 16(3), 379-402.

Lowenkamp, Christopher T., Dana Hubbard, Matthew D. Makarios, and Edward J. Latessa. 2009. "A Quasi-Experimental Evaluation of Thinking for a Change: A 'Real World' Application." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 36(2):137-46.

Vijverbert, R. Ferdinand, R., Beekman, A., and Van Meijel, B. (2017) The Effect of Youth Assertive Community Treatment: A Systematic PRISMA Review. *BMC Psychiatry* 17:284-302.

DRAFT



Part 2. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

Section A: Information and Data Collection

The Juvenile Division data management system continues to be improved upon to accurately capture and collect data. There is no county-wide data base or established relationships for shared data among partners. This hinders the ability to ensure the services provided to a family are congruent, comprehensive, and avoid duplication. Sharing information among county agencies and community-based partners is inadequate. Limitations in access to information by the court, FCPD, and providers reduces the efficiency and accuracy of decision-making. Improvements in communication through a shared data system will continue to be an option for exploration.

FCPD provides information to and receives annual data from the California Department of Justice by means of the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS). In addition, annual data surveys are conducted through the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and monthly statistics gathered from the current data base. All shared information and data are used to direct resources and guide decision making within the FCPD management team. This function will be expanded upon with the implementation of a departmental CQI Plan that will target quality improvements based on the developmental abilities of the units.

Section B: Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils

Yes, we have a JJCC.

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



Section C: Funded Program, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

OVERVIEW OF JJCPA AND YOBG FUNDING PROGRAMS						
PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE		TYPE OF SERVICES			
	JJCPA	YOBG	PREVENTION	INTERVENTION	IN CUSTODY	AFTERCARE/ RE-ENTRY
School Based DPOs	X		X	X		
VHEA	X		X	X		X
Family Behavioral Health Court	X		X	X		
Juvenile Justice Campus Substance abuse Unit	X	X	X	X	X	X
DPO Assigned to Youth who commit Sex Related Offenses	X		X	X		
DPOs Assigned to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of children	X		X	X		
Informal Probation (Court ordered)	X		X	X		
Focus Forward Social Workers	X		X	X		X
University of Cincinnati		X	X	X	X	X
Juvenile Justice Campus New Horizons Program		X			X	X
Intensive Probation Supervision		X	X	X		X
Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT)		X	X	X		
Truancy Intervention Program		X	X	X		
Juvenile Justice Campus Boys and Girls Club		X	X	X	X	X
Community Justice Conference (CJC)		X	X	X		
Juvenile Mentoring Program	X		X	X	X	X
Assessment Team	X		X	X		
Diversion	X		X	X		

Evidence Upon Which it is Based: Please refer to Part I for evidence.

Description: Please refer to Part I for program description(s).



Part 3. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)- (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))

Section A: Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

FPCPD seeks to provide services that ensure public safety while addressing the unique needs of the youth placed on supervision. This philosophy drives the decisions related to detention, commitment, informal or formal supervision, and case planning decisions. FPCPD relies on guidance from a large body of research that indicates that recidivism reduction is best achieved through the use of a validated risk assessment to determine intensity of services, focus on criminogenic need areas as targets for change, and utilization of proven interventions implemented with quality and fidelity (Andrews, et.al. (1990), Gendreau, P. (1996), Gendreau, P. et.al., (2002)). The department strives to apply these principles from a policy level and in day-to-day decisions that provide for the best services to the community and the individual youth.

Risk Principle

The risk principle states “who” should be treated. Under this principle, youth’s level of risk should be evaluated using a validated risk assessment tool. More intensive treatment services should be reserved for those who are assessed to be at a high to moderate risk of re-offending in the future. Low risk offenders should be given minimal service. Including low risk individuals in more intensive services can disrupt their lives (i.e. family, school, employment) and can increase their risk of re-offending in the future (Andrews et al., 1990).

FPCPD uses the PACT (Positive Achievement Change Tool) to assess all youth on formal supervision. The tool measures a youth’s risk and protective factors across 12 domains (aggression, alcohol and drugs, attitudes/behavior, criminal history, employment, family, living arrangements, mental health, relationships, school, skills, and use of free time). Risk of recidivism is categorized into low, moderate, moderate/high and high risk to reoffend. (<https://vant4ge.com/assessments-agnostic/m-pact/>). Staff will continue to be trained on an updated version of the PACT (PACT 2020). Select staff will be identified as trainers to allow for greater efficiency in training newly hired DPOs and greater sustainability of the tool.

In further implementation of the risk principle, FPCPD Juvenile Division has reorganized the probation caseloads to be based on risk rather than strictly geographic area. This move allows for a more strategic distribution of cases among DPOs resulting in more frequent contacts and interventions for the higher risk juveniles.

Need Principle

Second, the need principle states “what” should be treated. The most effective treatment programs identify and target those domains that have been shown to be correlated to criminal behavior. These risk factors, or criminogenic needs, are dynamic. They can be changed while static factors, like prior criminal history, cannot be changed. Research has identified a number of criminogenic needs that should be targeted. They include anti-social attitudes, values, beliefs, peer associations, personality, education/employment, family, substance abuse, and leisure/recreation. These should



be the focus of individual case plans while they are on supervision. Luong, D. and Wormith, J.S. (2011) found that having a validated risk assessment without developing a case plan to address the elevated criminogenic needs does little to reduce recidivism. They found that “a match between assessed need and identified intervention was associated with a 37.9% reduction in likelihood of recidivism for high-risk offenders. Furthermore, the absence of interventions to address identified needs (i.e., under identification of interventions) was associated with an 81.7% increase in likelihood of recidivism.” For this reason, an assessment team was created which is comprised of DPO’s who conduct the appropriate assessment on youth who have committed a new law violation and have been set for disposition. This helps with making appropriate recommendations that address the youth’s criminogenic needs and provide even more details on supports that can be put into place to help youth and family.

Responsivity Principle

Finally, the responsivity principle indicates “how” treatment services should be delivered. This principle can be divided into two components. Under specific responsivity, the goal is to remove particular barriers and set offenders up for success while they are receiving treatment. In particular, an offender’s learning style or motivation level can limit an offender’s ability to benefit from treatment. Therefore, these issues should be identified and addressed by practitioners. Treatment services should be matched to offenders according to these characteristics (Andrews et al., 1990). The second component, general responsivity posits that practitioners should implement a treatment modality that most youth respond well to. Cognitive-behavioral therapy strategies have been shown to successfully change behavior when they are designed and implemented with high fidelity (Andrews & Dowden, 2006).

As noted previously in this report, FCPD values an inclusive and culturally and gender responsive environment. Maintaining this approach is a key decision point in the recruitment and hiring of staff, selection of programming and practices, and the creation of policies and procedures. The use of evidence-based practices has been an important consideration in the provision of treatment services. Those providers that contract with FCPD primarily apply a cognitive behavioral model in their services delivery. Evidence-based curricula planned for implementation include Cognitive Behavioral Interventions - Substance Use (youth), Free Your Mind (Core Curriculum) and additional modules on Emotion Regulation, Mental Toughness, and Gang Intervention and Peers, and I Decide (treatment program for Juveniles who commit Sex-related offenses). In addition to these group interventions, there are plans to provide an evidence-based model for crisis de-escalation, programming to increase school success, and family therapy (Multisystem Therapy and Trauma Focused Family Therapy). These additions will allow for a greater capacity to refer youth to effective programming. Existing services will continue to be utilized to provide for mentoring, case management, restorative justice, and mental health services.

Specialty Caseloads

To better meet the needs of youth and families, the court and FCPD have developed several specialty caseloads. To provide for more frequent contact and convenience, several schools will

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



continue to have an on-site probation officer. The Violet Heintz Educational Academy (VHEA) will continue to provide an option for youth who are less successful in the traditional school environment. There are specialized caseloads for the Family Behavioral Health Court (FBHC), Juveniles who commit Sex-Related Offenses, and for youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Reentry

Out of home placement results in disengagement from family, school, and their community. This disruption may result in a loss of connection and stability upon discharge. For youth that are in placement or spend time in the JJC, FCPD makes every effort to prepare and support that person's reentry into the community. The goal is to reduce recidivism upon their return to the community. The process starts as early as possible as the youth transitions from the institution or placement and return to the home. Services are coordinated to ensure clear communication between the family and all involved agencies. This effort is led by a contracted social worker from Focus Forward, and involves the designated DPO, family, youth, school representative, and relevant service providers.

In addition to ensuring stability in housing, school, and other basic needs, the assigned DPO continues to address treatment needs through the use of evidence-based practices, and referrals to address unmet needs or aftercare. Providing follow-up reentry care in probation has been shown to have a slight to modest improvement in outcomes when compared to youth that do not receive aftercare or supportive reentry services (Bouchard, J. et.al. (2018), James, C. et.al., 2013). This approach is more efficacious with youth that are higher risk to recidivate, those with violent offenses, and when services are directed at the individual needs of the youth. FCPD seeks to provide more intensive services to youth that are higher risk for recidivism and pose the greater risk to the community. The youth are matched to services based on their criminogenic and responsivity needs.

Section B: Regional Agreements

N/A

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



Section C: Funded Programs, Placements, Services, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

OVERVIEW OF JJCPA AND YOBG FUNDING PROGRAMS						
PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE		TYPE OF SERVICES			
	JJCPA	YOBG	PREVENTION	INTERVENTION	IN CUSTODY	AFTERCARE/ RE-ENTRY
School Based DPOs	X		X	X		
VHEA	X		X	X		X
Family Behavioral Health Court	X		X	X		
Juvenile Justice Campus Substance abuse Unit	X	X	X	X	X	X
DPO Assigned to Youth who commit Sex Related Offenses	X		X	X		
DPOs Assigned to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of children	X		X	X		
Informal Probation (Court ordered)	X		X	X		
Focus Forward Social Workers	X		X	X		X
University of Cincinnati		X	X	X	X	X
Juvenile Justice Campus New Horizons Program		X			X	X
Intensive Probation Supervision		X	X	X		X
Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT)		X	X	X		
Truancy Intervention Program		X	X	X		
Juvenile Justice Campus Boys and Girls Club		X	X	X	X	X
Community Justice Conference (CJC)		X	X	X		
Juvenile Mentoring Program	X		X	X	X	X
Assessment Team	X		X	X		
Diversion	X		X	X		

Fresno County Probation Department

JJCPA-YOBG Annual Plan May 2024



Nature of Coordination with JJCPA: FCPD uses the JJCPA funds for a program that focuses on school-based interventions, as well as other specialized supervision caseloads for youth who are on probation. The services provided with JJCPA funds coordinate with the Youthful Offender Block Program by enabling FCPD to provide a wide range of needed serves ranging from intervention to intensive supervision services.

Description: Please refer to Part I for program description(s).

DRAFT



Part 3 References

Andrews DA, Dowden C. (2006) Risk Principle of Case Classification in Correctional Treatment: A Meta-Analytic Investigation. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. 50(1):88-100.

Andrews, D. A., Zinger, I., Hoge, R. D., Bonta, J., Gendreau, P., & Cullen, F. T. (1990). Does correctional treatment work? A clinically-relevant and psychologically-informed meta-analysis. *Criminology*, 28(3), 369-404.

Bouchard, J. and Wong, J. (2018) Examining the Effects of Intensive Supervision and Aftercare Programs for At-Risk Youth: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* 62(2):1509-34.

Gendreau, P. (1996). "The principles of effective intervention with offenders." In A.T. Harland (ed.), *Choosing Correctional Options That Work: Defining the Demand and Evaluating the Supply*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Gendreau, P., French, S. A., & Goinet, A. (2002). What works (what doesn't work): The principles of effective correctional treatment. *Journal of Community Corrections*, 13, 4-30.

James, C., Geert J., Stams, J., Asscher, J., Katrien De Roo, A. and van der Laan, P.H. (2013) Aftercare Programs for Reducing Recidivism Among Juvenile and Young Adult Offenders: A Meta-Analytic Review. *Clinical Psychology Review* 33: 263-74.

Luong, D. and Wormith, J.S. (2011) Applying Risk/Need Assessment to Probation Practice and Its Impact on the Recidivism of Youth Offenders. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 38(12):1177-1199