



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION Minutes

Thursday, June 8, 2023 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Probation Offices 303 Water St, 2nd Floor Santa Cruz, CA 95060

For questions regarding the meeting process, please contact Gerardo Leon, staff for the JJDPC, at 831-454-3105 or <u>PRB1150@santacruzcounty.us</u>

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Cynthia Druley, Beverly Brook, David Brody, Ray Diaz, Elias Gonzales, Kieran Kelly, Athena Reis, and Kayla Kumar (5:48 p.m.)

Excused Absence: Ben Rice, Deutron Kebebew

Unexcused Absence: Elaine Johnson

Ex Officio: Judge Jerry Vinluan

Probation Staff: Gerardo Leon Garcia

Probation Representatives: Valerie Thompson, Jose Flores

II. CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of Agenda Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2023

Moved: Reis: Second: Brook

Motion Passed Aye: All No: None Abstention: Diaz

Commissioner Brody noted that he left his name off the list of present members.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Minutes June 8, 2023 Page 2

- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: (5:40pm) Any member of the public will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes each to address the Commission on any item listed on today's Agenda and/or any other topic within the scope of the responsibility of the Commission. If the issue or matter is not listed on today's agenda, Commissioners will not take actions or respond immediately to any public comment, but may follow up later, either individually or at a subsequent meeting.
- III. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Including items via email on file)

Maria Rodriguez (Guest) with Community Bridges introduced herself and told the Commission that she has been invited to participate on the Commission as an appointee of Supervisor Hernandez. She went on to describe Luna y Sol and related programs at Community Bridges that she is involved in.

Reyna Ruiz (Guest) introduced herself to the Commission. She is the new juvenile justice program manager at CASA of Santa Cruz County. Reyna went on to describe her background experience in the community including her work with the Beach Flats Community Center. She indicated that she joined the meeting to learn more about the Commission's work.

Commissioner Druley talked about her work to get administrative support from the County for the Commission. There is a meeting tomorrow with Nicole Coburn, Fernando and Sasha from Superior Court on this subject.

Commissioner Gonzales requested that the Commission receive the meeting packets earlier than they are currently received. Staff indicated that the reports included in the packet are what is making it take longer for the packet to be distributed. Discussion ensued about timing of the packets and whether the data blast reports could be separated from the rest of the packet. The group agreed that the Chair would work with Gerardo and look for packet items that are substantial that could be sent out earlier than the rest of the packet.

- V. MONTHLY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM PROBATION/JUVENILE HALL (ATTACHMENTS Accept and File):
 - 1. Grievances & Incidents reports
 - 2. Explanation of the Probation Data Blast: Juvenile Division Director Jose Flores

Chair Druley indicated that questions about the Juvenile Hall Data Blast could be forwarded to her for follow-up with Sara. Assistant Chief Thompson provided an overview of the Juvenile Hall report.

Assistant Chief Thompson also reported that one visit for a youth at Sonoma County has been arranged using the recently acquired van. She reported that Probation Officers are working with families on coordinating additional visits. Commissioner Brook indicated that the visits would be extended to at least 2 hours and the Assistant Chief agreed.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

Commissioner Brook asked for an update on number of youth at Sonoma. Juvenile Division Director Flores reported that 4 youth are currently at Sonoma and 1 left at DJJ.

Commissioner Kumar reported on her review of grievance and incident reports from the Hall. 3 grievances. 2 by the same youth. First involved youth expressing confusion about not getting PE credits. JH staff and teachers worked with the youth to resolve the issue. Commissioner Kumar was confused about whether the plan put in place was enough for them to graduate from high school.

2 additional grievances from one youth focused on a particular teacher indicating that they felt they were being picked on and not treated equally. Staff reported that they talked to the teacher who was receptive to the feedback. The second complaint was that the teacher wasn't providing a teaching plan and would play an audio book. Staff followed up with the teacher and her supervisor and stressed that teachers should be present and available to youth. Staff also met with the student and praised them for advocating for themselves.

Commissioner Diaz asked if there are evaluations of the teachers providing services. Assistant Chief Thompson responded that the County Office of Education runs the school and evaluates their own staff. Chair Druley also noted that review of programming is a component of the annual Juvenile Hall inspection. Commissioner Diaz indicated an interest in receiving more information about the teacher evaluations and follow-up with COE staff.

Commissioner Brook asked Division Director Flores about grievances that youth at Sonoma have and if Santa Cruz County staff are aware of those grievances. Division Director Flores reported that they are not. But he did report that the probation officers check in with the youth and should know about any issues the youth have.

Commissioner Kumar asked if the Commission has access to grievance reports from the Sonoma facility. The Commission discussed this and agreed it warranted further exploration. Staff emphasized that the individual POs may already be aware of issues. The Commission and staff further discussed potential challenges as new youth integrate into the Sonoma facility.

Division Director Flores proceeded to review the Monthly Data Blast with the Commission to increase understanding of the report, its acronyms and terms. Staff and Commissioners went on to discuss elements of the report, data points that staff are most attuned to and generally what staff are focused on in the interest of youth well-being.

VI. ACTION ITEMS: (6:20pm)

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Minutes June 8, 2023 Page 4

1. Endorse the Youth Advocacy Letter from the Juvenile Task Force (ATTACHED email and letter)

Moved: Brody Second: Kelly

Motion Passed Aye: Druley, Brody, Brook, Kelly, Reis No: None Abstain: Gonzalez, Kumar, Diaz

Chair Druley described the letter included in the Commission packet, the issue with lack of Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) beds statewide, the lack of STRTP beds in Santa Cruz, related issues, and the request for this Commission to signon to the letter.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked about where the healing aspect of this is. Asked if we could ask for the insertion of the word healing into the letter. Commissioner Reis indicated agreeing with the broad point but pointed out that STRTPs are often an alternative to detention. Discussion ensued about what changes are actually being sought and how our Commission can participate in the development of solutions.

Group agreed that when the Commission signs on we will communicate our hope that healing can be incorporated into the development of the solution in follow-up work with the authors of the letter.

2. Establish future meeting locations and times.

Tabled

3. Approve October 12th from 3 to 6 p.m. for October JJDPC Retreat

Moved: Brook Second: Kumar

Motion Passed Ave: All

No: None

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1. Commissioner Meetings with Supervisors Item tabled.
- 2. Report on the visit to Rancho Cielo: Cynthia and Beverly gave a very brief report of their visit to Rancho Cielo and promised more details in next month's meeting due to time constraints.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Minutes June 8, 2023 Page 5

- 3. Juvenile Hall Assessment: Piloting new Anne E. Casey Detention Assessment format. Commissioner Druley reported that there is a new version of the JDAI Detention Facility Assessment tool and that she will be looking further into it. It is comprehensive but is much more compact and uses a much easier web-based format. The hope is that it will provide a less cumbersome and more effective tool to use.
- 4. Subcommittees' goals and memberships (ATTACHED) tabled due to time constraints.

VIII. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- 1. <u>Steering/Outreach:</u> Kelly Chair, Brook, Druley, Brody, Rice (ATTACHMENT)
- 2. Juvenile Hall Inspection: Druley Chair, Kebebew, Kelly, Reis, Kumar
- 3. <u>SB190/SB823:</u> Brook Chair, Gonzales, Kumar, Reis (ATTACHMENT)
- 4. Delinquency Prevention: Kebebew Chair, Brody, Gonzales, Reis
- 5. <u>By-Laws:</u> Rice Chair, Druley, Kebebew
- IX. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Regular JJDCP Meetings are <u>in-person</u> on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7pm. at 303 Water Street.

• **August or September:** Guest speaker at the JJDPC meeting: Sarah Emmert from United Way - Youth Action Network and other UW youth initiatives.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION AGENDA

Thursday, June 8, 2023 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Probation Offices 303 Water St, 2nd Floor Santa Cruz, CA 95060

For questions regarding the meeting process, please contact Gerardo Leon, staff for the JJDPC, at 831-454-3105 or <u>PRB1150@santacruzcounty.us</u>

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:
- II. CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of Agenda Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2023
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Any member of the public will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes each to address the Commission on any item listed on today's Agenda and/or any other topic within the scope of the responsibility of the Commission. If the issue or matter is not listed on today's agenda, Commissioners will not take actions or respond immediately to any public comment, but may follow up later, either individually or at a subsequent meeting.
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Including items via email on file):
- V. MONTHLY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM PROBATION/JUVENILE HALL (ATTACHMENTS Accept and File):
 - 1. Grievances & Incidents reports
 - 2. Explanation of the Probation Data Blast: Juvenile Division Director Jose Flores
- VI. ACTION ITEMS:
 - 1. Endorse the Youth Advocacy Letter from the Juvenile Task Force (ATTACHED email and letter)
 - 2. Establish future meeting locations and times
 - 3. Approve date for October JJDPC Retreat

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

- VII. INFORMATION ITEMS:
 - 1. Commissioner Meetings with Supervisors
 - 2. Report on the visit to Rancho Cielo
 - 3. Juvenile Hall Assessment: Piloting new Anne E. Casey Detention Assessment format
 - 4. Subcommittees' goals and memberships (ATTACHED)

VIII. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- 1. <u>Steering/Outreach:</u> Kelly Chair, Brook, Druley, Brody, Rice (ATTACHMENT)
- 2. Juvenile Hall Inspection: Druley Chair, Kebebew, Kelly, Reis, Kumar
- 3. SB190/SB823: Brook Chair, Gonzales, Kumar, Reis
- 4. Delinquency Prevention: Kebebew Chair, Brody, Gonzales, Reis
- 5. <u>By-Laws:</u> Rice Chair, Druley, Kebebew
- IX. ADJOURNMENT:

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Regular JJDCP Meetings are <u>in-person</u> on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7pm. Inperson at 303 Water Street.

• August or September: Guest speaker at the JJDPC meeting: Sarah Emmert from United Way - Youth Action Network and other UW youth initiatives.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, May 11, 2023 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting Probation Offices 303 Water St, Ste 9 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present: Cynthia Druley, Beverly Brook, Deutron Kebebew, Kieran Kelly, Deutron Kebebew, Ben Rice, Elias Gonzales, Athena Reis (arrived 5:53 p.m.)

- Excused: Elaine Johnson, Kayla Kumar
- Ex Officio: Judge Jerry Vinluan, Sara Ryan

Probation Staff: Gerardo Leon Garcia

Probation Representatives: Valerie Thompson

II. CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of Agenda Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2023

Moved: Kebebew; Second: Brook

Motion Passed

Aye: Brook, Druley, Brody, Kelly, Kebebew, Rice, Gonzales No: None

Commissioner Brook noted the location of Rancho Cielo should be changed to Monterey County.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Any member of the public will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes each to address the Commission on any item listed on today's Agenda and/or any other topic within the scope of the responsibility of the Commission. If the issue or matter is not listed on today's agenda, Commissioners will not take actions or respond

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Minutes May 11, 2023 Page 2

immediately to any public comment, but may follow up later, either individually or at a subsequent meeting.

Alisa Wolf from Unchained Inc. was introduced by Commissioner Brook. Ms. Wolf reported that she came to learn more about the Commission.

Ray Diaz, an applicant for the commission for Supervisor Cummings' District. Mr. Diaz talked about his background and interest in the Commission.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Including items via email on file):

Commissioner Kelly announced an upcoming "Broadband for All" event at CSUMB.

Commissioners Brook and Kebebew talked about their work with the Developmental Assets in Santa Cruz County. Commissioner Brook reported on 2 trainings that are coming up, one on Development Assets and the other on Intentional Relationships. Commissioner Kebebew described the Developmental Assets framework and its applicability to juvenile justice and prevention and the purpose of the group and the events.

Commissioner Brook talked about Cabrillo Rising Scholars grant to support probation youth and those who are incarcerated.

Commissioner Brook distributed the Santa Cruz County Mental Health Pocket Guide developed by Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health.

Commissioner Kebebew told the group to use the email that will be sent to the Commission to register for the 2 events noted earlier.

Commissioner Druley reported on meeting with Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE) and Probation staff to talk about the Foster Education Program and the feasibility to extend the program to all youth in Probation. COE indicated interest in doing it, but also that it costs \$4,000 per year for foster youth.

Commissioner Druley also reported on a request that she received from the Joint Juvenile Justice Task Force looking at AB 403, the bill that closed group homes across the State. Due to implementation of the bill there are not enough short-term residential treatment programs operating in the State. The Task Force wants a signature from this Commission on a letter being sent to the Governor and Legislature on the issue. She reported that she was unable to sign the letter because it could not come to the Commission in time to be approved.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of the changes and their impact across the State. The Commission also discussed the challenge of responding timely to requests like this.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

V. MONTHLY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM PROBATION/JUVENILE HALL (ATTACHMENTS Accept and File):

Division Director Sarah Ryan reviewed the monthly statistical report as well as grievance and incident reports. She reported no grievances, 2 incident reports, and no serious injuries. Division Director Ryan went on to describe the nature of the incidents.

Division Director Ryan reported that there are currently 11 youth in custody (10 males and 1 female). She went on to discuss activities in the hall including graduation from the financial literacy class and an anime class that was held, and that on Friday May 26th a concert will be provided for youth at the hall.

Division Director Ryan also reported that a van has been acquired for family transport to Sonoma County, but Probation is still working on a waiver and other administrative requirements. She also reported that renovations to the old courtroom at the Hall have been completed and the space can now be used by youth, their families and legal representatives.

Commissioner Kebebew shared positive feedback he received about the financial literacy class.

Commissioner Kebebew went on to ask specific questions about the Data Blast report. Specifically, the criteria for high, moderate, and low risk.

Assistant Chief of Probation Valerie Thompson talked about the JAIS assessment instrument that is used for the risk assessment. She described how JAIS risk assessment influences but does not solely determine supervision level and how for example children in the low-risk category could be assessed for high supervision based on other factors determined by staff.

More discussion ensued about the most appropriate way to look at the risk and needs of youth populations. Staff reported that the most frequently found needs of youth are social/emotional, and that youth can be referred to any number of services in the community to address that (e.g. PVPSA, Luna Y Sol, etc.)

Staff said that they are going to provide a list of all contractors that Probation has contracts with, but that is not all encompassing of services that youth are referred to.

Commissioner Kebebew requested a list of top needs that youth have and staff agreed to provide.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Minutes May 11, 2023 Page 4

- VI. ACTION ITEMS:
 - 1. Review Bylaws Draft and Approve to send to Court and County Counsel (Memo & Bylaws ATTACHED)

Moved: Brook; Second: Kebebew

Motion Passed

Aye: Brook, Druley, Brody, Kelly, Kebebew, Reis, Rice, Gonzales No: None

Chair Druley introduced the topic and the process to develop the updated bylaws lead by Commissioner Rice. She went on to state that the goal this evening is to review approve the amended bylaws and that once approved by the Commission, the bylaws will be reviewed by the presiding judge and county counsel.

2. Determine meeting locations for future meetings.

Commissioners Kebebew, Reis and Gonzalez advocated for more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of commission meetings to be held in South County.

Commissioners agreed that the chair and staff will develop an annual meeting schedule with locations and times determined for approval at the next meeting.

VII. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- 1. <u>Steering/Outreach:</u> Kelly Chair, Brook, Druley, Brody, Rice (ATTACHMENT)
- 2. <u>Juvenile Hall Inspection:</u> Druley Chair, Kebebew, Kelly, Reis, Kumar (ATTACHMENT)
- 3. <u>SB190/SB823</u>: Brook Chair, Gonzales, Kumar, Reis (ATTACHMENT)
- 4. <u>Delinquency Prevention</u>: Kebebew Chair, Brody, Gonzales, Reis (ATTACHMENT)
- 5. <u>By-Laws:</u> Rice Chair, Druley, Kebebew (4-29-23 Draft of Bylaws Action Item ATTACHED)
- IX. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Minutes May 11, 2023 Page 5

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

Regular JJDCP Meetings are <u>in-person</u> on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7pm. Inperson at 303 Water Street.

• May 19, 2023: Tour of Rancho Cielo Camp Facility in Monterey County. Commissioner Brook is coordinating.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3105 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

Intake



- 15 Intake RAIs administered: 0 overrides
- Held by Probation/Released by the Judge @ ٠ Detention Hearing: 0
- ATD admissions: 7 •
- Diversions: 10
- EC Referrals: 6
- Recidivism Rate: 2% (3 youth)
- **EPIC Sessions: 4**
- Field Contacts: 8
- Video Contacts: 2
- Secure Track Youth: 4

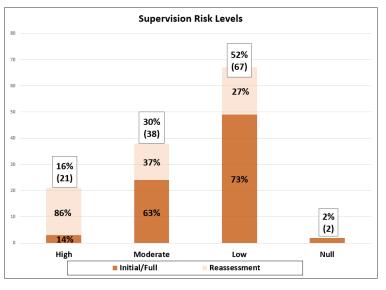
Title IV-E (Does not include Placement IV-E)

Last Month

- Reasonable Candidates: 9
- New: 1
- Reassessments: 1
- Overdue reassessments: 1
- Reassessments due last month: 0

This Month

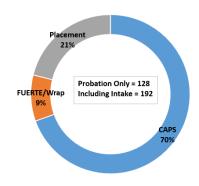
- Reasonable Candidates: 7 New: 1 •
- Reassessments: 0 •
- Overdue reassessments: 3 •
- Reassessments due this .
- month: 2



Investigations

- Court reports: 4
- Transfer reports ordered: 0

April Caseload Supervision Totals



- # Cases Closed: 11 7 Successful, 4 • Unsuccessful
- # New Supervision Cases w/Low Initial Risk Level: 10

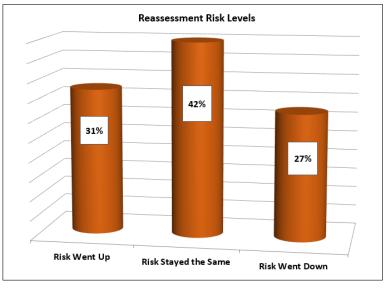
JAIS

Last 1onth

- 87% of youth eligible received a full assessment, 17 youth still needed one.
- Overdue reassessments: 25
- Reassessments due last month: 15

This Month

- 91% of youth eligible received a full assessment
- 11 youth still need one.
- Overdue reassessments: 28 ٠
 - Reassessments due this month: 10



•

Demographics		
Probation Caseload	Probation Violations	Warrants
 African American: 1% (1) Latinx: 70% (90) White: 24% (31) Other/Unknown: 5% (6) 	• Latinx: 100% (2)	• Zero



8

Population Info

- IEP's: 4
- 504's: 1
- Graduations: 0
- Youth on Psychotropic Meds: 5
- Youth with drug/alcohol issues: 7
- Youth open to MH services: 11
- Medical Referrals: 3
- Physical Altercations: 2
- Room confinements: 9
- Pending transfer hearing: 1

Booking Charges (most serious offense)

- Bench Warrant: 7% (1)
- Drugs/Alcohol: 7% (1)
- EM Violation: 7% (1)
- Probation Violation: 7% (1)
- Violent/Weapons: 67% (10)
- Other: 7% (1)

Booking Demographics (area of residence)

- North County: 47% (7)
- South County: 20% (3)
- Out of County: 33% (5)

JUVENILE	HALL	POPUL	ATION	
INFORMAT				

INFORMATION	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
6 am count (average) ¹	9.4	1.5	10.9
Population in-custody at start of time period	7	1	8
Admitted during time period	11	4	15
Released during time period	10	3	13
Population in-custody at end of time period ¹	8	1	9
Average daily attendance	9.3	1.5	10.8
Average length of stay	6.5	9.3	7.2
Average length of stay without STYF youth	6.5	9.3	7.2
Length of Stay MODE	1.0	n/a	1.0
Range of stay	1 - 732	1 - 25	1 - 732
Range of age	12 - 18	15 - 17	12 - 18
Number of "in-county" residents received	8	2	10
Number of "out-of-county" residents received		2	5
Percentage from out-of-county	27.3%	50.0%	33.3%
Total child care days	290	48	338
Total court commitments admitted	0	0	0
Total court commitments released	0	0	0
Total child care days for released court commit	0	0	0
Total intake to date (current year): April 2023	51	10	61
Total intake to date (prior year): April 2022	39	19	58

Overall Population Demographics			
 Latinx: 16 (73%) White: 6 (27%) 	 Boys: 18 (82%) Girls: 4 (18%) 	 ALOS Latinx: 8 days White: 4 days 	% Youth on Probation: 55%



There was one firearm related booking in May: a 17-year-old boy from Watsonville.

Youth on probation by area of residence:

count	ZipCode
1	76208 Total
1	93722 Total
1	93901 Total
2	93906 Total
1	93907 Total
1	94534 Total
1	94602 Total
6	95003 Total
4	95005 Total
5	95006 Total
1	95007 Total
3	95010 Total
2	95018 Total
3	95019 Total
1	95023 Total
1	95033 Total
1	95039 Total
13	95060 Total
9	95062 Total
2	95065 Total
1	95066 Total
2	95073 Total
1	95074 Total
66	95076 Total
1	95132 Total
1	95901 Total
1	95973 Total
1	98387 Total
133	Grand Total

Population Info

- IEP's: 5
- 504's: 1
- Graduations: 0
- Youth on Psychotropic Meds: 5
- Youth with drug/alcohol issues: 6
- Youth open to MH services: 15
- Medical Referrals: 2
- Physical Altercations: 0
- Room confinements: 1
- Pending transfer hearing: 1

Booking Charges (most serious offense)

- Drugs/Alcohol: 13% (2)
- EM Violation: 7% (1)
- Placement Failure: 7% (1)
- Property: 27% (4)
- Violent/Weapons: 47% (7)

Booking Demographics (area of residence)

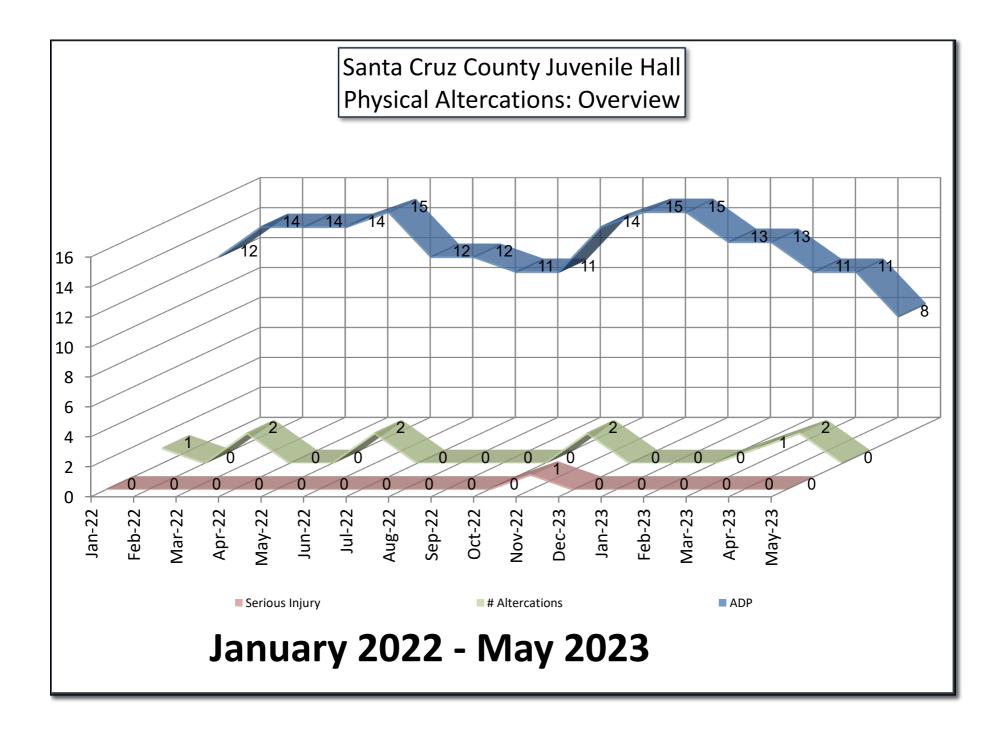
- North County: 7% (1)
- South County: 73% (11)
- Out of County: 20% (3)

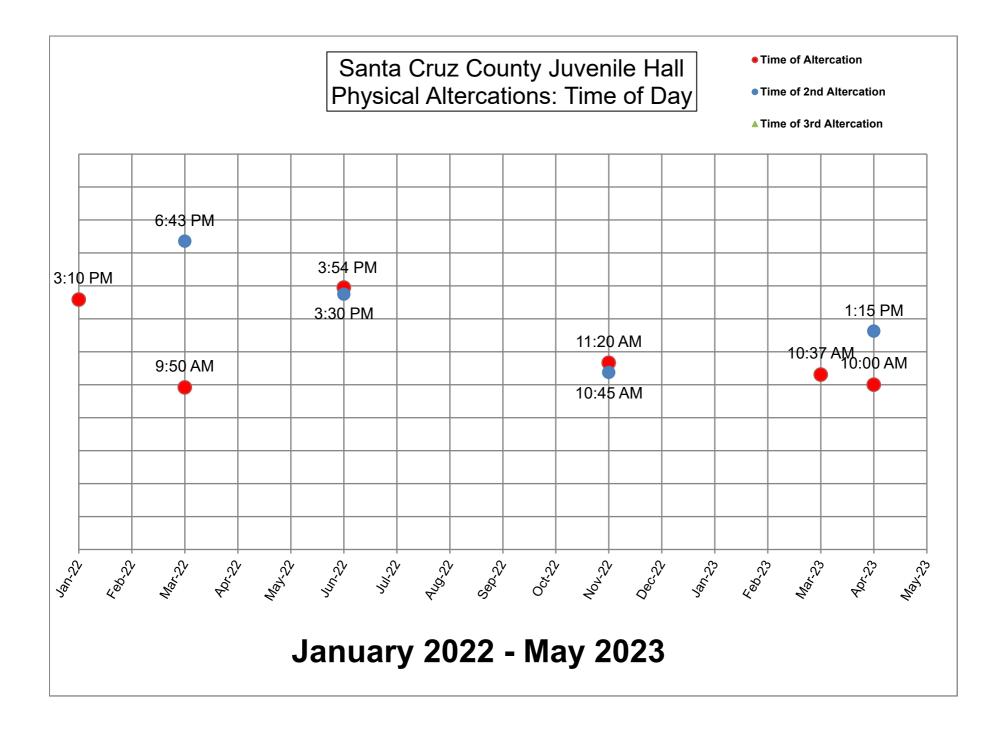
JUVENILE HALL	POPULATION
IN FORMATION	

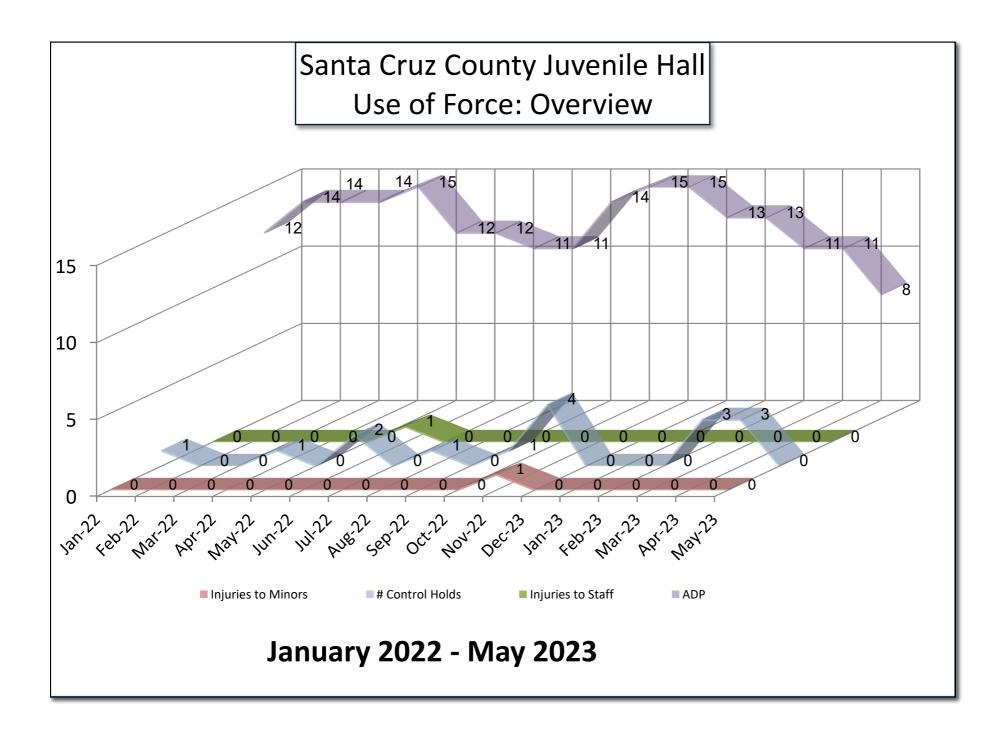
INFORMATION	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
6 am count (average) ¹	7.4	0.8	8.2
Population in-custody at start of time period	8	1	9
Admitted during time period	9	6	15
Released during time period	10	5	15
Population in-custody at end of time period ¹	7	2	9
Average daily attendance	7.5	0.8	8.3
Average length of stay	23.5	7.0	18.0
Average length of stay without STYF youth	23.5	7.0	18.0
Length of Stay MODE	2.0	n/a	2.0
Range of stay	1 – 763	1 - 23	1 - 763
Range of age	14 - 19	14 - 17	14 - 19
Number of "in-county" residents received	8	4	12
Number of "out-of-county" residents received	1	2	3
Percentage from out-of-county	12.5%	33.3%	20.0%
Total child care days	241	30	271
Total court commitments admitted	0	0	0
Total court commitments released	0	0	0
Total child care days for released court commit	0	0	0
Total intake to date (current year): May 2023	60	16	76
Total intake to date (prior year): May 2022	54	20	74

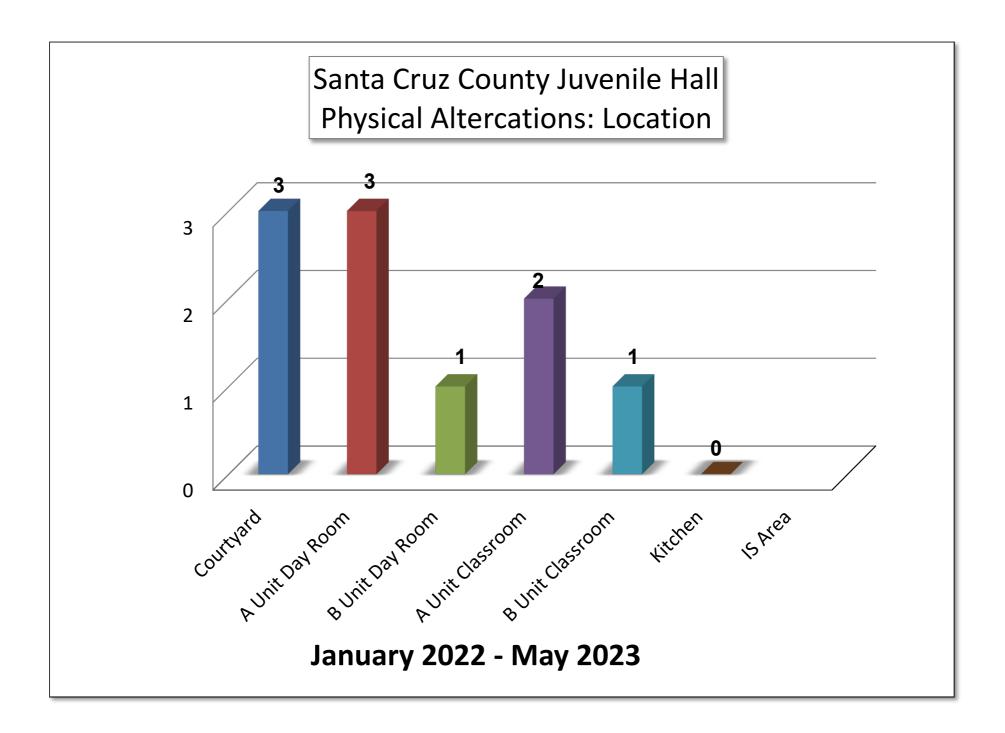
Overall Population Demographics• African American: 1 (4%)
• Latinx: 20 (83%)
• White: 3 (13%)• Boys: 17 (71%)
• Girls: 7 (29%)ALOS
• African American: 3 days
• African American: 3 days
• Latinx: 11.8 days
• White: 103 days days% Youth on
Probation:
54%

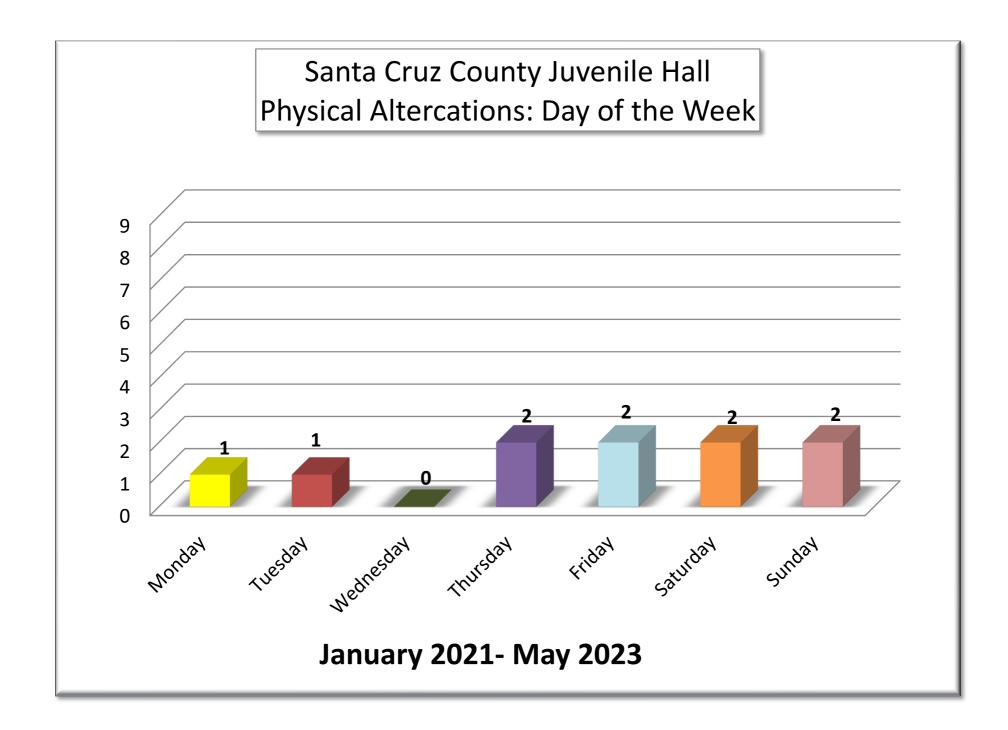


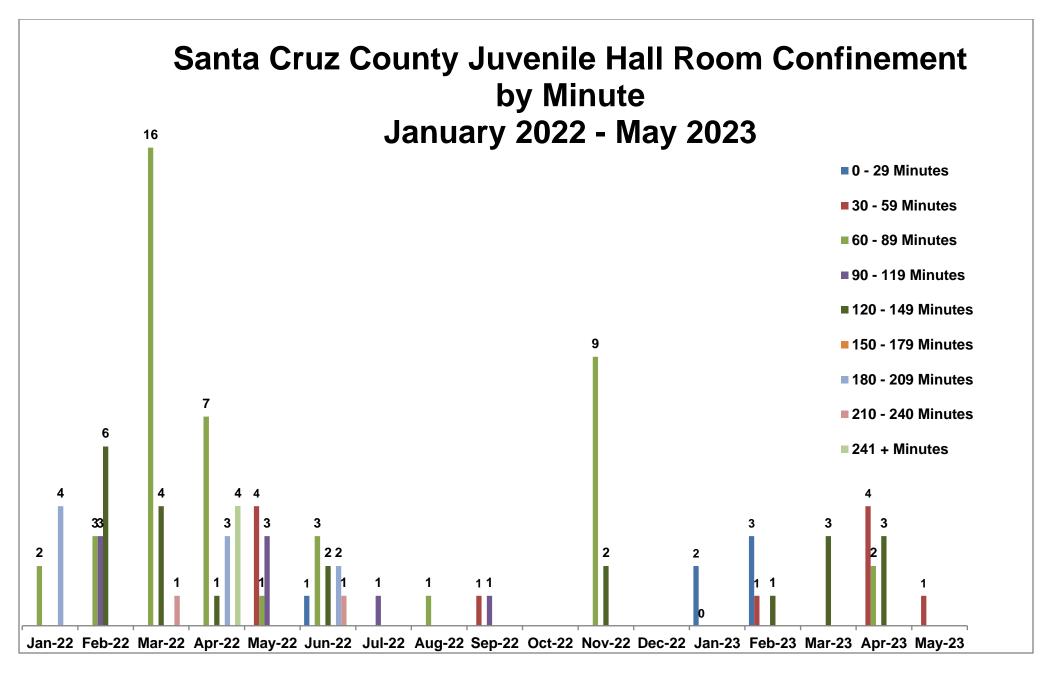


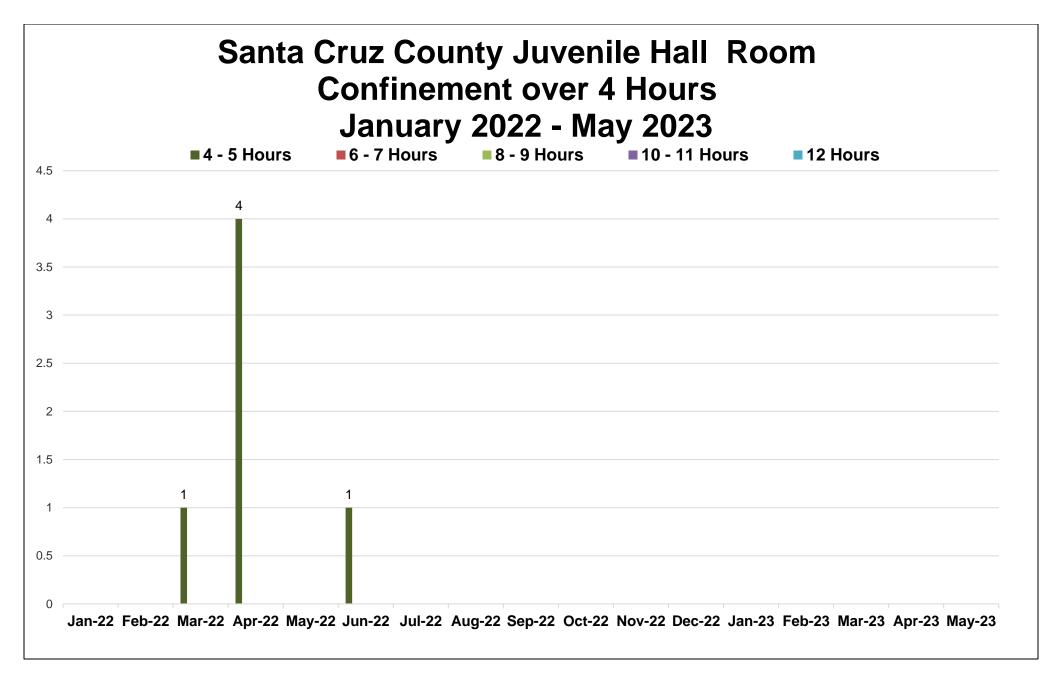


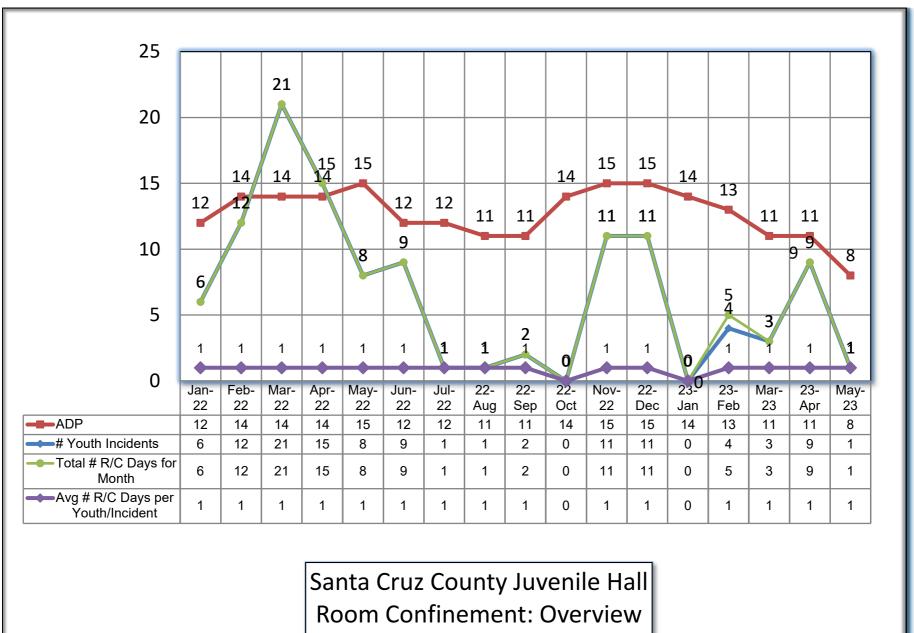




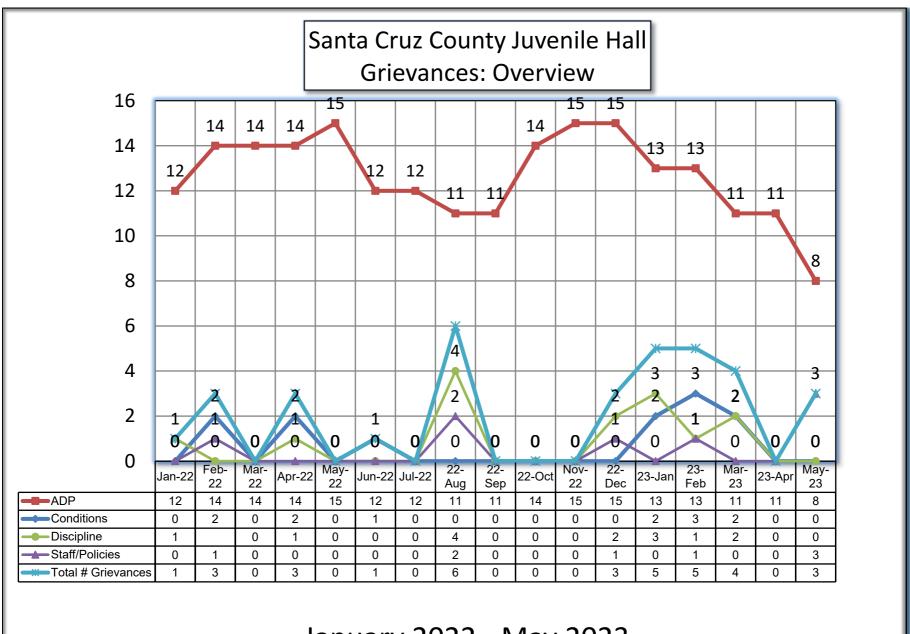








January 2022 - May 2023



January 2022 - May 2023

Santa Cruz County Probation Department

Juvenile Probation Division Annual Report

2022

Our **VISION** is a safe and thriving community with justice for all.

Our **MISSION** is to promote public safety, reduce recidivism, and support victims and all those impacted by crime. In partnership with our community, we provide balanced supervision, accountability, and opportunities for positive change through results driven practices. Prepared by Division Director Jose Flores

Table of Contents

Supervision Strategies	.2
Executive Summary	.3
Detention Alternatives Outcome Data	-7
Legislative Reform and Programs	-9
Line of Sight for the Future of the Work	10

Introduction: The Juvenile Division is responsible for a continuum of services focused on investigation, diversion, pre- and post-adjudication services, community supervision, preventative out-of-home placement services, and out-of-home placement supervision for youth referred to the Probation Department. The Juvenile Division is also responsible for the oversight of youth who are committed to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) because of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment under SB 823. Coordination with community partners ensures services are delivered in a trauma-informed, culturally and gender responsive manner to support wellbeing of young people, their families, and public safety.

Goals: The Juvenile Division is committed to ensuring public safety through the reduction of recidivism by increasing the life skills and competencies of the youth and families we serve. This is accomplished through a continuum of services which involve genuine engagement and partnership with the families and youth we service. Probation continues to strategically and successfully partner with community stakeholders to support the Juvenile Division's efforts to provide comprehensive and culturally responsive supervision and services that the court, juvenile justice court partners, and community rely on to enhance community safety.

The Juvenile Division utilizes the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM). The ICPM is a model and framework for the shared values, core components, and standards of practice expected for those serving California's children, youth, and families. It sets Child and Family Teaming (CFT) as a primary vehicle for team-based process to meet objectives of reducing recidivism, reducing victimization, increased life skills and family engagement.

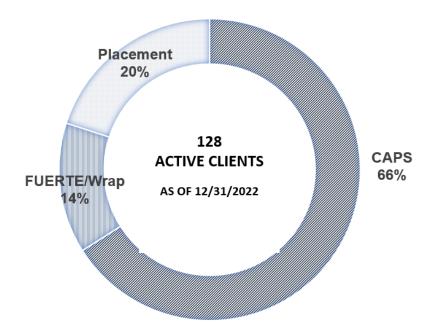
ICPM Values	ICPM Phases	ICPM Guiding Practice Principles
Family-driven and Youth Guided: Youth and family voice is solicited and respected.	Engagement, Assessment, and Team Preparation	Family voice and choice- Each family member's voice is important.
Community-Based: Services are provided in the	Initial Service Planning	Team-based- Team consists of individuals agreed upon by the family.
community.	Monitoring and Adapting	Natural supports- Friends, neighbors, coworkers, church members, and others identified by family.
Services are provided in the families primary language. While valuing traditions, values, and heritage as	Transition	Collaboration and integration- Team shares responsibility in all aspects of plan development.
sources of strength.		Community-based- Services and supports are accessible and available in the family's community.
		Culturally respectful - Plan supports achievement of goals for change that integrates the youth and family's culture.
		Individualized- Plan is built on strengths, needs, and interest of the family members.
		Strength-based- Team will use family's skills, knowledge and build upon the initial Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment.
		Persistence- The team never gives up on youth or families. When met with resistance, the team will revisit the plan to identify any revisions.
		Outcome-based- Team tracks goals and progress in plan and adjust as needed.

ICPM Guiding Practice Principles:

Executive Summary

In 2022, the focus of our staff was centered on strengthening their understanding of the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) and the 10 principles which strengthens engagement and fosters a genuine partnership with families and youth. The Juvenile Division, in unison with the evolving practices and reform in the Probation field modified caseloads and created the Connecting and Promoting Success (CAPS) caseload. Our youth centered, trauma-informed, and needs driven supervision reinforces our commitment for positive change and success for youth and families.

In keeping with research-based and effective supervision practices, the Juvenile Division continues to implement and sustain key caseload types with nine Deputy Probation Officers who are supervised by four Supervising Probation Officers (Deputy Probation Officer III's).

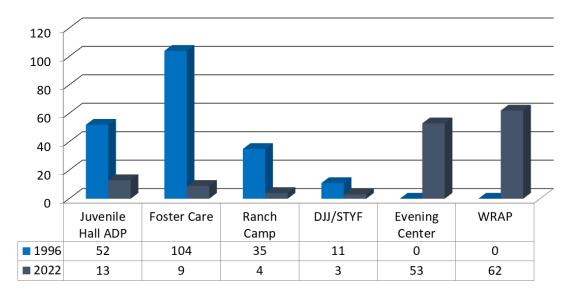


The following chart outlines caseload types and percentages in the Juvenile Division:

Our Connecting and Promoting Success (CAPS) caseload consists of 66% of total youth under supervision. It provides a youth centered and needs driven approach for those on formal probation. The goal of CAPS is to strengthen and increase the connection of services and interventions for youth and families with an emphasis on success. The FUERTE/Wrap caseloads are smaller specialized placement prevention caseloads that focus on family engagement strategies and behavioral health services for youth who have escalating needs and are at risk to be placed out of their homes. This supervision model includes a team-based approach consisting of a transitional specialist, a behavioral health clinician, and a probation officer. The Placement caseloads consist of youth who have been removed from their homes and placed in Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP), an extended family or natural support home, a Ranch Camp setting, or a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (STYF). These placements are recommended by Juvenile Probation and ultimately, ordered by the Juvenile Justice Court. The Placement Unit also oversees Non-Minor Dependent youth (age 18-21). The decision for removal is typically based on behavioral and therapeutic needs which are not able to be met in a home-based family setting, even with the provision of supportive wraparound services.

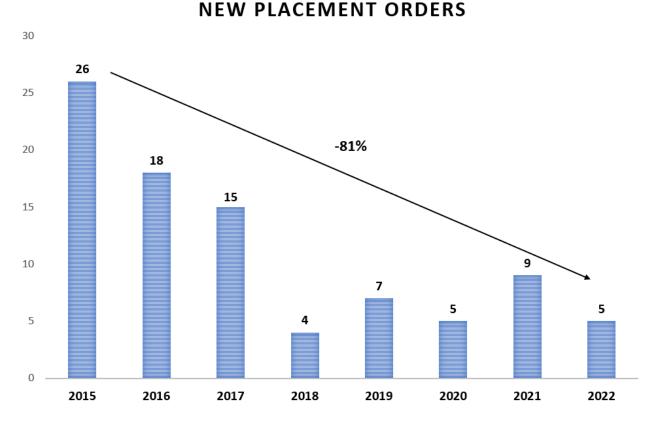
The next chart illustrates how the local use of alternatives and community based intensive programs such as FUERTE/Wrap and the Luna Evening Center have helped keep youth on supervision placed in their homes rather than in out-of-home placements and commitment facilities. The use of intensive local programs that utilize evidenced based practices (EBPs) have proven to be effective in rehabilitating youth and families, and results in considerable savings to the community.

Reductions at all levels of Institutional care, while increasing capacity of community-based interventions....



In 2022, efforts by the Juvenile Division staff and the court partners to keep youth in the community continued to be met with successful results. The number of new court ordered out of home placements has continued to remain relatively low. While the out of home placements continued to be low with only nine placement orders (five of which were new placement orders) in 2022. The division is focused on early identification of natural supports, which commences in the Intake Unit and continues throughout our continuum of services.

In 2022, Probation staff completed 30 CFT meetings. The CFT meetings allow the youth and families in conjunction with their identified natural supports to have a stronger voice in the outcomes of their cases and more influence on supervision strategies administered by probation. It provides a team of professionals from various county agencies and community-based organizations to come together to meet with the family and strategize how to best meet the needs of the youth and family, while developing an appropriate recommendation to the Juvenile Court regarding disposition. The following graph illustrates the benefits of this approach and a decrease in overall placements by 81%:



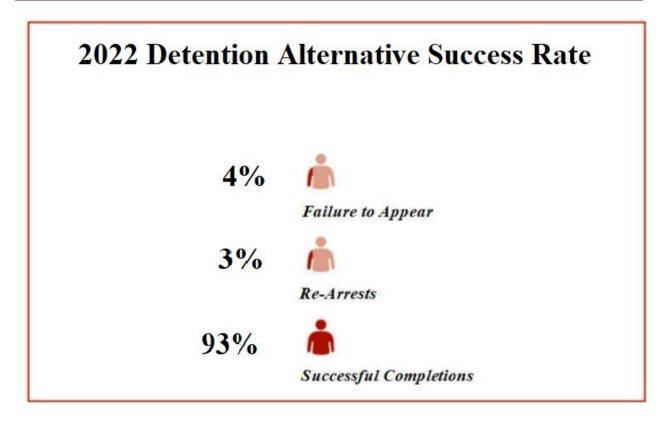
In 2022, the Juvenile Division continued to administer the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) by initiating use of the JAIS Case Plan. In addition to identifying a youth's level of risk to reoffend, the JAIS has three goals:

- To help probation officers quickly establish appropriate supervision strategies based on youth strengths and needs, anticipated behaviors and attitudes, and the reasons for behaviors and attitudes.
- To provide probation officers with effective strategies for addressing unmet needs before they escalate into law violations.
- To reduce recidivism, which is defined as any youth receiving a subsequent adjudication while on active supervision (which was 9% in 2022)

Juvenile Probation Supervisors and Juvenile Division Managers are monitoring administration of the instrument for inter-rater reliability, a result of which 91% of all cases completed an initial assessment of moderate and high needs having received a full JAIS assessment. Additionally, the JAIS assessment is being reflected in court reports and in case staffing.

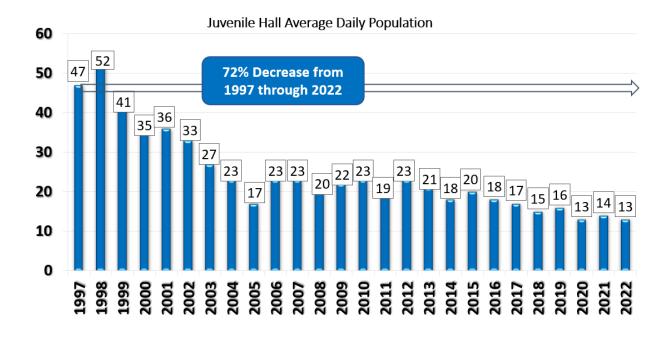
Detention Alternatives Outcome Data

The Juvenile Division continues to be a leader in juvenile justice system reform by utilizing alternatives to detention when appropriate. In 2022, 93% of all youth that were placed in an alternative to detention program made their next court appearance and did not recidivate. The following chart illustrates the use of alternatives to detention upon contact with the juvenile system:



Our focus on reducing the use of juvenile detention has been a commitment of the Juvenile Division since 1999, when the Juvenile Division became a model site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's (AECF) Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The initiative seeks to eliminate unnecessary use of secure detention; utilize data-driven decision making; improve court processing; develop risk-based detention criteria; increase the use of community-based detention alternatives; improve conditions of confinement; address reduction in disproportionate minority contact of those who are confined, and address inequities and needs of special populations. For numerous years, our division has hosted various delegations, nationally and internationally, inviting them to learn about our dedicated work and practices which have produced successful outcomes for youth and families. In 2019, our Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Valerie Thompson, was also awarded the National JDAI Distinguished System Leadership Award for Juvenile Justice Reform efforts. The Probation Department will continue to sustain JDAI's eight core strategies reflected in our reform efforts to date.

Our intentional work to safely reduce the use of unnecessary detention and increase community capacity continues to have a positive impact on the average daily population (ADP) of the Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall. As is illustrated in the following chart, the ADP in 1997 was 47 youth in detention, exceeding our rated capacity of 42. In 2022, the ADP was 13, or down 72% from 1997:



Legislative Reform, and Programs

Outlined below is a summary of the current legislations and programs the Juvenile Division is involved with and community partners working together to enhance services to youth:

Senate Bill 823 – Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment

For nearly two decades, California has enacted a series of legislative and voter-approved measures designed to reduce commitments of youth to the state juvenile and adult systems by reducing reliance on incarceration and expanding community-based options for youth. To further reach this goal, the state has aligned the responsibility for managing all youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 602 to local jurisdictions. Effective June 30, 2023, all DJJ facilities will be closed. The closure to DJJ has required us to identify a host county to house are returning from DJJ and youth adjudicated to SYTF, as our facility is not structurally capable of housing them. Our department made vast efforts to keep our youth close to their home county. However, our neighboring counties were unable to host our youth. In 2021, we went into contract with Sonoma County Probation as our host county. Our partnership has been one of success, as Sonoma is currently housing three of our youth and will be able to house our youth returning from DJJ. Our department is continuing to identify other host counties and will continue to always attempt to keep our youth closer to home.

To support the successful implementation of this transition and on-going programing and interventions, the State established effective July 1, 2021, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS). OYCR will be responsible for (1) developing a report on youth outcomes; (2) identifying policy recommendations for improved outcomes and integrated programs and services to best support delinquent youth; (3) identifying and disseminating best practices to help inform rehabilitative and restorative youth practices, including education, diversion, re-entry, religious and victims' services; and (4) providing technical assistance as requested to develop and expand local youth

diversion opportunities to meet the varied needs of the delinquent youth population, including but not limited to, sex offender, substance abuse, and mental health treatment. OYCR will also fulfill statutory obligations of an Ombudsperson.

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

California Assembly Bill 153 (AB 153) authorized both federal Title IV-E and State Block Grant (SBG) expenditures for prevention services. In 2022, the County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department (HSD) Family and Children's Services (FCS), and Probation Department Leadership opted in a partnership, which is locally known as the Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP).

The CPP presents an unprecedented opportunity to move collectively "upstream," focusing resources and efforts on children, youth, and families before they are involved with Child Welfare, Juvenile Probation, or other systems, and to greatly reduce negative outcomes for children, youth, and families through effective primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. The purpose of the project is to create a Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP) that will be used as a countywide blueprint for building and enhancing a system of prevention programs, practices, and policies over the next five years.

Luna Evening Center (LEC)

The Luna Evening Center (LEC) is a partnership between Probation, community-based organizations, and county agencies. The program provides additional support to probation-involved young people who might be struggling with court orders, use of drugs and/or alcohol, and other needs or behaviors. The LEC provides a structured afterschool environment where young people can examine the thoughts and feelings that affect their decision making and are coached and guided on how to make better choices. LEC is a short-term immediate intervention designed to serve young people while at the same time allowing them to remain in the community. Referrals to the LEC are an alternative to a probation violation which prevents the need for a youth to be detained in Juvenile Hall.

The LEC operates Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Snacks and dinner are provided each evening as part of the program. LEC staff provide transportation to young individuals by picking up each young person at their home and returning them safely. The program is capped at 8 individuals at any given time. Each evening the program is led by probation staff along with staff from County Behavioral Health. There is a weekly schedule of activities and services. Services at the LEC are aimed at addressing areas of need that are identified through assessments as well as other promising and evidenced-based practices.

Luna Y Sol Center

In early 2022, Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County (also known as "Alcance") opened a one-stop service center known as the Luna y Sol "Hub" which supports a service delivery model and partnerships between community-based organizations (CBOs) and Probation to offer an array of services at one location that are comprehensive, trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and responsive to the needs of young people, families, and caregivers. These services will meet the needs of Latino young individuals at risk of or justice involved, including prevention and supportive services to younger siblings and parents/caregivers. The LEC will expand partnerships with community-based organizations and will be anchored one to two days a week at the Luna y Sol Hub.

Aztecas Youth Soccer Academy (Aztecas)

Developed in 2008, this program has grown and remains enormously popular with probation and diversion involved youth. Aztecas is a pro-social mentorship program that reclaims the lives of atpromise/at-risk young people who often struggle with gangs, violence, poverty, and drugs. Aztecas serves both probation and non-probation involved young people. The program is rooted in soccer and community to support and provide opportunities for youth to succeed in our community.

The program recently opened a 'Clubhouse' in Watsonville. The Clubhouse is a safe drop-in place for young people to coordinate and participate in pro-social activities and academic support; including tutoring sessions, health and lifestyle education, advisory panel; and to have their own space to meet as a team. Snacks and meals for participants are provided by the program. Aztecas' participants engage in soccer activities, but also focus on leadership opportunities and academic success. Aztecas members plan and participate in community service projects to connect with and give back to their community. The program serves as a prevention, intervention, and diversion program.

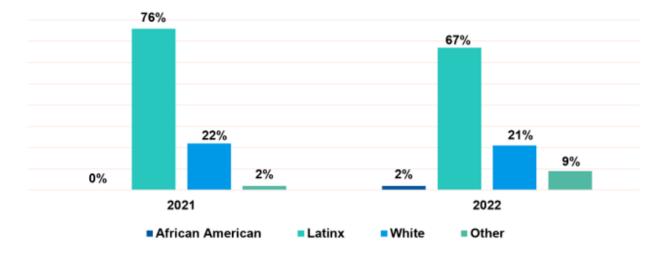
Aztecas annually hosts a two-week soccer camp for youth 6-14 years old. In 2022, Aztecas served 221 youth campers at the annual summer soccer camp. The event continues to be an annual success and received countless hours of support from many community and law enforcement partners. In addition to the support provided by the Probation Department, Aztecas has continued to receive grants and donation to increase youth engagement.

Line of Sight for the Future of the Work

Our Juvenile Division continues to be committed to centering equity and decreasing disparities in our system. Our efforts are supported by our continuing partnership with the AECF. In 2022, our Juvenile Division Director enrolled in the first, Santa Cruz County Results Count Leadership Program in concert with other county leaders. The program is designed to strengthen leadership capacity and align contributions to center equity and accelerate equitable results for all people in the County with a focus on our most burden populations. This continued partnership had allowed our Juvenile Division Director to further expand use of the Results Count Framework by deepening foundational knowledge through participation in the AECF 2022-2023 Results Count Practitioners Program (RCP2), which helps leaders increase their application of the Results Count framework, tools and practices to achieve equitable results for young people, families and communities.

The current focus on the work is centered on equity to help advance and scale our prevention and diversion work with youth of color to divert and prevent entry into the Juvenile Justice System. The following chart illustrates our trend line and affirms our line of sight for the future of our work.

Juvenile Diversions by Race/Ethnicity



In 2022, there was a 9% decrease in diversions of Latinx youth as compared to year 2021. The current focus is continuing to identify factors which contribute to this decrease and develop strategies to scale our prevention work. A future goal is to increase Latinx youth diversions by 35% in concert with our community partners.

JJC: Youth Advocacy Letter + Meeting Announcement

Sarah Reid <sonomacountyjjc@gmail.com>

Mon 5/22/2023 3:43 PM

1 attachments (383 KB)

REV Joint JJC Statement Letter 5-22-2023.pdf;

******CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

May 19, 2023

Dear California Juvenile Justice Commissioners,

<u>SAVE THE DATE</u>: Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 3:30 – 4:30 PM PDT via Zoom Please designate a representative from your JJC to attend.

In June, August and October last year, Juvenile Justice Commissioners from California counties met via Zoom to discuss the Continuum of Care Reform. From those meetings a committee was formed to create a focused effort. The goal for this committee became: "To create a position paper expressing our urgent concerns regarding the serious issues with STRTP's across the state and the subsequent failure to meet the needs of high acuity dependent youth. Our intention in creating this position paper is to find consensus with JJC/JJDPC's across the state by having them sign on to the letter, and to then reach out to our California Congressional representatives with this information."

The results of this committee are in the form of the letter that has been distributed to JJC's. The committee feels that in order for this letter to receive appropriate attention from elected state representatives, a number of county commissions should be represented. The letter becomes more powerful with more commissions that have added their county name. Adding your commission to this list reflects the level of concern we have for high acuity youth.

The committee recognizes the need for a group Zoom meeting as a Q&A about this completed task, and perhaps discuss where we go from here. There will be time in this meeting dedicated to discuss other issues or action ideas in regards to advocating for youth as a JJC. Because we will meet, the deadline for response to the letter will be further extended.

The committee hopes to answer your questions and receive your JJC support. Please designate a representative from your JJC to attend this meeting. Reminders will be sent including the Zoom link fresh in your inbox.

Sincerely,

Joint JJC Task Force

Mary Cone, Sonoma County JJC Donna Warnken-Brill, Contra Costa County JJC Jean Pennypacker, Santa Clara County JJC Amy Lansing, San Diego County JJC Sarah Reid, Sonoma County AA June 1, 2023

The Honorable ______ 1021 O Street Sacramento, CA

Dear _____,

We are court appointed members of Juvenile Justice Commissions mandated by the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC 225-230). We are writing to express urgent concerns regarding the lack of safe placements with appropriate training, resources and support for high acuity dependent youth. Our concerns are specifically related to changes in the foster care system due to California's AB 403, also known as the "Continuum of Care Reform" Act (CCR). While this reform was well intentioned, it has resulted in serious gaps in options to address the extremely high needs of dependent youth who have severe mental health issues. This has created unsafe conditions for youth, staff and caregivers across California.

We are reaching out to you specifically because of your advocacy for youth and social justice in our state.

The Commissions' purpose as defined by state law is to be a public conscience in the best interest of youth in the county we represent. The gravity of this situation is so serious that we have established a joint California-wide taskforce to more effectively give voice to the critical needs of these vulnerable youth, and ensure our state legislative representatives are aware of the severity of this emerging crisis.

California and the federal government have passed legislation to greatly restrict and reduce all forms of congregate care. California's AB 403 required all Group Homes to transition to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). Statewide, 486 Group Home providers with a capacity of 4,328 beds did not transition to the STRTP model. Recent federal legislative requirements in response to the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) have resulted in even more facilities closing permanently.

Short Term Residential Treatment Program challenges include:

- Extreme mental health needs of youth referrals
- Severe staffing challenges including:
 - o lack of candidates with required education and mental health experience
 - Inadequate pay
 - High stress, dangerous job
 - Requires on-site 24-hour shift work
- Youth Rights Protections allow residents to leave at any time and limit consequences for youth behavior

- Limits the time a youth may stay even though stabilization may take longer
- STRTP capacity is limited due to high needs of residents, typically a 6-bed facility can only safely house 2-4 residents.
- Financial reimbursement for STRTP youth is inadequate for staff/resources needed

The level of support required to serve youth with high mental health needs in STRTP's has made it nearly impossible for these community-based organizations to operate financially and maintain required staffing levels. As a result, these organizations are failing across the state. At the same time, out of state facilities and locked mental health facilities are no longer a placement option.

For example, Contra Costa County currently has approximately 10 youth who are regularly denied placement in a STRTP due to their behaviors and/or lack of adequate staffing. Sometimes these youth are placed in Psychiatric Emergency Facilities for long stays since no inpatient beds are available, and then discharged and go back into placements that cannot meet their needs.

In Sonoma County, only two STRTP's remain open. Two additional facilities recently converted to serve other youth such as private, post-adoption, and unaccompanied minors which is more sustainable for them. In Sonoma County, a Children's Shelter is used for high needs youth awaiting placement due to lack of other options.

Santa Clara County currently has one STRTP opened provisionally in 2022 with 4 beds. Children and Family Services (CFS) reports that they need as many as 50 placements for youth with significant mental health and behavioral needs at any one time.

Youth demonstrating the most severe effects of trauma are older and have complex mental health needs, including self-injury, suicidality, substance use and violent and destructive tendencies, alongside other challenging behaviors (fire-starting, property destruction etc.) that require specific training, expertise and management - often over a long period of time. Due to the intensive needs of these *high acuity youth* they usually cannot be safely placed in foster family homes.

The lack of safe and effective county placements results in:

- Youth held in county offices, receiving centers, shelters, or hotel rooms
- Repeated failed foster home placements
- AWOL for prolonged periods
- Placement in STRTP's in remote counties due to lack of available beds
- Risk for trafficking, homelessness, and other victimization
- "Revolving door" cycles in and out of the hospital
- Further trauma to these youth, making placement even more difficult
- Placement in Juvenile Hall as a result of escalating behavior

Case example: "James"

James first entered foster care at the age of 2, based on allegations of abuse from his mother. He was placed with a relative until the age of 8 when he re-entered foster care. He has been in and out of placements for the past 10 years, including several years at a STRTP. James has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and has suffered from auditory hallucinations. He has been prescribed psychotropic medication, which he has taken on and off. He has a history of substance use, AWOL, and verbally aggressive behavior. He is significantly behind in school credits and has an IEP for Emotional Disturbance and Specific Learning Disability.

James has had several temporary stays at a Receiving Center with a 24 hour CFS person assigned to him for one-on-one supervision. The Receiving Center later refused to take him and CFS was forced to utilize a hotel setting with one-to-one or two-to-one staffing ratios. During this time CFS has sought placement, unsuccessfully, with approximately 60 STRTPs.

These *high acuity* youth deserve safe housing and intensive rehabilitative care for their traumainduced needs. They are some of the most vulnerable citizens of our state and they need our help now. The system is failing them. This failure is occurring despite heroic efforts from social welfare agencies, STRTP administrators, and state representatives who assist on a case by case basis. But this case-by-case decision making is neither effective nor sustainable, requiring more effort, time and money with inconsistent outcomes, than a proactive, system-wide response at the state-level would provide.

Our goal as Joint Juvenile Justice Commissioners from throughout California, is to raise awareness of this crisis situation and to advocate for a broader range of options for these youth, **including high intensity mental health treatment centers, significant additional funding and support for existing STRTP's and support for specialized foster homes**. The current STRTP format is not working and is not sustainable.

Our intent is to raise your awareness and interest in these youth and to meet with you to share our knowledge, concerns and propose actions, which we believe would help these vulnerable youth in our counties.

Best Regards,

Sonoma County JJC

JJDPC Subcommittees & Membership Updated June 1, 2023

- 1. <u>Steering/Outreach:</u> Kelly Chair, Brook, Druley, Brody, Rice
- 2. Juvenile Hall Inspection: Druley Chair, Kebebew, Kelly, Reis, Kumar
- 3. <u>B190/SB823:</u> Brook Chair, Gonzales, Kumar, Reis
- 4. <u>Delinquency Prevention:</u> Kebebew Chair, Brody, Gonzales, Reis
- 5. <u>By-Laws:</u> Rice Chair, Druley, Kebebew

JJDPC subcommittees were established by the Commission in the March 2022 Commission Meeting:

1. SB823/190 Subcommittee

Keep the Commission educated and informed for possible actions through monitoring and local implementation of proposals and actions through research, communication with local and statewide stakeholders.

2. Delinquency Prevention Subcommittee

Establish communication and/or relationships with local leaders, organizations, and program providers to learn about and support programs providing services that prevent delinquency in the community. Ensure that the focus includes low, medium and high level offenses and addresses high risk populations, cultural and trauma informed programming, awareness of how youth have experienced sexual abuse and inter-generational trauma, and grief and pain. Encourage the reduction of confusing messaging from schools, parents, programs and police.

3. Juvenile Hall Inspection Subcommittee

(All Commissioners can participate in the actual inspection whether or not a member of the committee.)

Conduct the legally-required annual inspection of the Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall following JDAI guidelines. Write a report and submit it to the Commission for its acceptance and subsequent submission to the Board of Supervisors and BSCC to ensure acceptance by December. The commission determines the scope of the inspection each year.

4. Bylaws Subcommittee

Review current Bylaws, research other Counties' Bylaws, and work with County Counsel and the Judge to suggest revisions for the Commission to consider and adopt.

5. Steering Committee

Review administrative functions of the Commission and progress of issues under consideration by the commission as a whole or within subcommittees. Prepare and submit possible agenda or information items for the Commission Meetings. The Chair to determine publications of Commission Findings/Community Updates as she/he/they determines is appropriate.

Steering Committee Report

May 23, 2023

In attendance: Cynthia, Ben, David, Beverly, Kieran

For June Agenda:

- 1. Statewide JJC letter sign-on
- 2. Discuss changing Commission meeting times/location
- 3. SB 823 JJC Meeting Update
- 4. Bylaws discussion with retired Judge Salazar
- 5. Requesting a Data Blast and Risk Assessment walkthrough with Probation
- 6. Current commission vacancies