

**SOLANO COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE MULTIAGENCY
JUVENILE JUSTICE ACTION PLAN**

UPDATED JULY 2014

**PREPARED FOR THE
SOLANO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

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SOLANO COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE MULTIAGENCY JUVENILE JUSTICE ACTION PLAN
2014

I. INTRODUCTION

Solano County developed its Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) in 2000-2001 in accordance with AB 1913, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) of that year and updated it as services and programs changed. The following plan reflects changes that have been implemented in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014 as well as changes that will occur in FY2014-2015. Moving forward, the CMJJP will be updated and reviewed every three years. The next review/update will occur in 2017. The County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) agreed to have the Probation Department update the plan to reflect the progress made toward completing goals identified in the CMJJP, and present a current picture of the juvenile justice service delivery system. Since 2008, the Probation Department has been responsible for updating the plan.

Since July 2012, the Multi-Agency Intervention and Treatment Program (MIT) within the Probation Department, and Changing Paths Program at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) were discontinued. The Department opened the Challenge Academy Program in 2014, which is a long-term commitment program at the JDF for males. The program emphasizes cognitive based interventions, counseling, community service, and restorative justice efforts.

II. BACKGROUND AND DEMOGRAPHICS

With a population that constitutes 1.1% of the total state population, Solano County is ranked 21st among California counties in size.¹ As the Board of Supervisors' Proposed Budget for FY 2014 - 2015 noted, Solano is "strategically located between San Francisco and Sacramento, on Interstate 80. As one of California's original 27 counties, it is rich in history and offers many resources to the general public and the business community. In addition to the unincorporated area, the County serves seven cities: Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo." ² The two largest cities in the County are Vallejo and Fairfield with populations of 118,420 and 110,018 respectively.

The California Department of Finance's January 2014 estimate of the population of Solano County puts that number at 424,233, an increase of approximately 0.9% over 2013. Since 2000, the rate of growth has tapered off to small annual increments. Between 2000 and 2010, the County grew by 4.8%, which is significantly less than the 15.9% gains of the previous decade. The County population has increased an average of approximately 2.6%, between 2010 and 2014. ³

¹ California Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit

² County of Solano, FY 2010-11 Proposed Budget, page C – 2 23

³ County of Solano, FY 2014-15 Proposed Budget, C - 2

Between 2000 and 2020, the 60-plus age group is expected to be the fastest growing segment of the County's population, with an increase of 114.6%. In this same time period, the second fastest growing age group is children 0 to 4, growing 25%. The population of children, youth and young adults age 5-24 is expected to increase by only 10,323 or 8.5%.⁴ The California Department of Finance projects that, by 2020, Solano County's youth and young adult population ages 10 - 19, the "crime prone age" segment, will total 64,112, a very slight increase of 2.17% over 2010.⁵

The U.S Census Bureau estimates that, as of 2010, the County's population was 51% White; 19.7% Hispanic or Latino; 14.7% African American; 14.6% Asian; and 9% Other. Approximately 81% of the population is reported to be native born, with 8% of the foreign born being naturalized citizens and 10% not citizens.⁶

With regard to the percentage of people living in poverty, Solano County has a substantially lower level than the 15.3% State rate. According to the 2012 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, 11.9% of Solano County's general population lived at or below the poverty level. Between 2008 and 2012, 65.1 % were in the labor force, 26.1% receiving Social Security and 22.6% receiving retirement income and 10.9 % receiving public assistance.⁷

Juvenile Justice System –Arrests

The trend lines for both misdemeanor and felony arrests of Solano County youth show year over year declines since 2006. Currently, the California Department of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics Center (CJSC) reports for 2013, Solano County juveniles were arrested for 942 misdemeanor offenses and 452 felony offenses. The most common misdemeanor offenses for which Solano County juveniles were arrested include assault and battery (279), petty theft (159), and marijuana (112), and the most frequent felony offenses include burglary (132), assault (69), and robbery (59).

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Misdemeanors	2,718	2,410	2,734	3,628	3,488	2,817	2,152	1,979	1,640	1,087	942
Male	1,914	1,662	1,892	2,517	2,432	1,983	1,523	1,320	1,008	717	644
Female	804	748	842	1,111	1,056	834	629	659	632	370	298
Total Felonies	1,084	854	1,083	1,557	1,474	1,132	830	793	647	571	452
Male	878	666	890	1,253	1,202	929	677	642	543	463	389
Female	206	188	193	304	272	203	153	151	104	108	63

⁴ County of Solano, FY 2014-15 Proposed Budget, page C -9

⁵ NEW State of California, Department of Finance, Population Projections for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, by Age, Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Sacramento, California, 2010

⁶ U.S Census Bureau Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin Census Summary File 1, 2010

⁷ U. S Census Bureau - American Community Survey 5 – Year Estimates

Juvenile Justice System -Diversion

Diversion and early interventions are important aspects of Solano County's juvenile justice continuum. A large number of young offenders are diverted from the juvenile justice system at the police level. Those who choose not to take the second chance offered by police, and the more serious offenders are sent to the Probation Intake unit for review. If a youth fails Probation diversion, or has been accused of a serious crime, the case is referred to the District Attorney (DA) for consideration of filing a Juvenile Court petition.

In partnership with the DA's Office, the Probation Department has operated a Felony Diversion Program since 2006. The goal of the program is to provide intensive, front-loaded intervention services to minors with felony arrests in an effort to divert them from the Juvenile Court System and from future delinquency. The program supervisor and assigned staff prescreen youth with felony arrests, make recommendations and forward cases to the DA's office for expedited review. An individualized treatment plan is developed with the youth and his/her family, and services are offered for a period of up to six months. During FY2013-2014, 71 youth were served in the Felony Diversion Program. The majority of the youth on the program were referred for property and drug related offenses. Over 80% of the cases with diversion contracts completed the program successfully.

In 2012, the Probation Department implemented a Misdemeanor Diversion Program. Similar to the Felony Diversion Program, the goal of the Misdemeanor Diversion Program is to provide targeted intervention services, to include supervision, to youth charged with serious misdemeanor offenses in an effort to prevent them from entering the juvenile justice system and reduce future delinquency. The assigned probation officer develops an individualized treatment plan with the youth and his/her family and services are offered for up to a period up to six months. During FY2013-2014, 57 youth were served in the Misdemeanor Diversion Program. The majority of the youth on the program were referred for battery and property related offenses. Over 57% of the cases with diversion contracts completed the program successfully.

Juvenile Justice System- Probation Supervision

The Solano County Probation Department has 214.5 employees and an operating budget of \$36.8 million. The Department has four (4) divisions; Adult Services, Juvenile Services, Support Services, and Juvenile Institutions. The Juvenile Services Division is responsible for completing dispositional reports for the Juvenile Court, to include completing assessments, developing treatment plans, and providing supervision services to youthful offenders. Deputy Probation Officers (DPO's) working in the Juvenile Services Division monitor and support youth and their families through the use of an evidence based risk assessment tool, strength based case plans, cognitive behavioral groups and treatment interventions as well as drug testing, and monitoring school performance/attendance. In FY 2013-2014, the Department embarked upon the use of Interactive Journaling, which is a cognitive-behavioral intervention utilizing evidence-based strategies to assist youth involved in the juvenile justice system in making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings and behaviors, and Soaring which is a program that teaches new

supervision techniques which focus on the youth building internal motivation to change. The Department will expand the use of both tools in FY2014-2015.

DPO's are also trained in and use Motivational Interviewing (MI) skills in working with the youth and their family. Finally, the division will be incorporating an Incentive and Sanctions grid which is designed to provide a more consistent approach in addressing positive and negative behavior. Based on the treatment needs identified through an assessment coupled with the youth's delinquent history, a referral may be made to a specialized program. The specialized programs include the Day Reporting Center, Family Preservation, and the Juvenile Sex Offender program. In FY2013-2014, the Department provided services to approximately 1,100 juvenile offenders, to include processing citations/petitions, suspended action, diversion, electronic monitoring, and supervision.

Juvenile Justice System- Detention and Commitment

The Juvenile Institutions Division is responsible for the operation of the County's Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF), Challenge Academy, and New Foundations. The JDF was awarded a 2007 Selected Award for Justice from the American Institute of Architects for its "straightforward design with a clear line of sight mixed with color and textures conducive to rehabilitation and treatment."⁸

The 118-bed JDF provides safe and secure housing for wards and at risk youth under the care of the County, and offers a wide array of programs and services. In addition to its full school program, the JDF employs evidenced based interventions to include cognitive behavioral groups, case planning, and skill building. In addition, educational services, recreational activities, religious services, medical and mental health care, is also provided. Aggression Replacement Training (ART) which is a cognitive behavior program that focuses on skill streaming, moral reasoning, and anger control was added to the programming in 2010. In FY 2013-2014, there were 874 admissions to the JDF and its Average Daily Population (ADP) was 60, which includes the population at Challenge Academy and New Foundations.

The New Foundations program has been in operation since 1996 and continues to provide substance abuse treatment services to youth. In FY2013-2014, the population was reduced from 30 to 15 beds in order to allow for a more focused approach in addressing those youth who abuse drugs and/or alcohol. In FY2013-2014, the Department contracted with Heathright 360 to provide substance abuse and mental health services. The program length is an average of four (4) months, which include family reunification efforts during the last phase.

The Challenge Academy Program opened in 2014 and serves as a secure commitment program for males age 15-17. The Challenge Academy can serve up to 20 youth and is nine (9) months in length. While in the program, youth receive mental health counseling from Heathright 360, vocational workshops through the Solano County Office of Education, (SCOE), and participate in restorative justice efforts. In addition, youth also work with community based organizations and businesses for vocational training and community service opportunities.

⁸ Solano County, 2007 Annual Report, page 20

III. EXISTING CONTINUUM OF PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND INTERVENTIONS

Prevention

Solano County takes a proactive approach to preventing juvenile crime by seeking to intervene effectively with at-risk youth and families. It also emphasizes public/private partnerships and active collaboration among the many agencies interacting, serving and working with children and their families. Parents, educators, youth leaders, community agencies and government agencies continue to look for ways to effectively deal with children who are at risk for involvement in anti-social behavior, crime, or delinquency.

Responding to the needs of youth and their families, the services, programs and interventions in Solano's PREVENTION array, in alphabetical order, include:

- ADAPT program through Youth & Family Services: Substance abuse counseling and education for middle and high school youth (Benicia, Vallejo, Suisun, and Fairfield)
- Anger management and conflict resolution in schools (Fairfield, Vallejo, and Vacaville)
- Aldea Counseling Center: Provides therapeutic visitation for children removed by Child Welfare Services (CWS) and in out of home care
- Aldea Counseling Center: Provides intensive in-home mental health services for Probation youth to include the DRC's, Family Preservation, and the JDF [also Supervision, Intermediate and Graduated Intermediate Interventions, Residential and Aftercare/Reentry]
- Boys and Girls Club (Vacaville)
- Child Haven: Private organization serving children ages 0-5 years old providing parenting classes and wraparound services for families in trouble (Countywide)
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA): Support for youth in the dependency (300 WIC) system
- Family Resource Centers (FRC): Provide services to youth and families (in many of the County's major [Countywide])
- Fighting Back Partnership: Family Resource Center, Weed & Seed Program, Mentoring & Youth Leadership Programs (Vallejo)
- First Five Solano: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission creates and fosters programs and partnerships with community entities to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities
- Head Start / Healthy Start: Pre-kindergarten interventions (Countywide)
- Strengthening Partnership: CWS and a Public Health Nurse serve families who are identified at risk of child abuse & neglect with at least one child 0- 5 years old (Countywide)
- Just for Kids: 16-week intervention for elementary school age children (Vallejo)
- Office of Family Violence Prevention (OFVP): Seeks to reduce family violence through collaborative activities among County departments, community based organizations and nonprofit victims service agencies; the child abuse and/or elder abuse; it also has developed and supports the Safe from the Start project (SFTS) which seeks to reduce children's exposure to violence through public awareness, education and early intervention
- Omega Boys and Girls Club: Mentoring activities (Vallejo)

- Other Faith-Based and Community Based organizations, scouts, 4H, etc.
- Parent Project: Parenting Skills (Benicia, Fairfield, Vacaville)
- Positive Youth Development Program: Offers a spectrum of positive youth development programs to strengthen and support Vallejo youth with identified needs [also Early Intervention]
- Project SUPPORT: School-based small group social skills development, anger management, problem solving, and conflict resolution for students in grades 4-8 (targeted schools in Fairfield, Vallejo, Dixon, and Travis Unified)
- Safe and Drug Free Schools
- School Resource/Diversion Officers (SRO in each high school and one SRO for all 4 middle schools in Fairfield - funded by the school district; Benicia, Vacaville) [also Early Intervention]
- Seneca Center: Non-profit, community based agency providing health, mental health and other services to youth and families, uses the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) funding source

Early Intervention

In addition to its Prevention efforts, Solano County also focuses on the needs of at-risk youth already displaying pre-delinquent behavior, first-time offenders and youth who have committed minor crimes. The County's EARLY INTERVENTION efforts include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following; (Please note these are shown in alphabetical order, not in terms of their location on a graduated continuum of intervention services.)

- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) Grant: Originally funded through the County's Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) and subsequently funded by Solano County Youth HSS and Substance Abuse does assessment and provides substance abuse counseling as well as other clinical and counseling services to youth on diversion and their families (Countywide)
- Anger Management: Free classes are provided by local treatment provider JoAnn Banks
- Community Service Broker: Assist referred individuals and families by linking them with community based services that will best serve the person's or family's needs. Services are provided in a maximum of two visits/contacts, and are available in Spanish "Non Probation Youth Only"
- Diversion (Police Dept.): Counseling and diversion services in Fairfield, Vacaville, Benicia, Rio Vista and Dixon
- Diversion (Probation Dept.): Diversion and referral to services for appropriate youth with out-of-custody citations referred to Probation
- Drug and Alcohol program for Young Women/Girls: (Vallejo) [also Prevention]
- Faith Community and CBO Programs such as church groups, scouts, etc.
- Felony Diversion Program: Provides early assessment and intervention services to youth and their family in an effort to divert the case from the juvenile justice system and to reduce future delinquency
- Healthcare for the Homeless Grant: Health and Social Services (HSS) operates primary care clinics and brokers and/or coordinates services for homeless youth, adults and families
- Job Corps: Provides employments and educational opportunities for youth age 16-21; Job Corps will interview youth on probation and start the application process but will

not accept probation youth until Juvenile Court jurisdiction is terminated [also Aftercare/Reentry]

- Kinship Navigator: The Kinship Navigator program aims to address the unique needs of kin caregivers by offering a comprehensive support system to support the well-being, permanency and positive development of kin families
- Matt Garcia Youth Center: Fairfield PAL at the Matt Garcia Youth Center is an after school activities center for teens who reside in Fairfield, Suisun and Travis; middle and high school students may participate in a variety of programs by becoming a member; activities include basketball, boxing, martial arts, music, multimedia, soccer, dance, running and homework tutoring
- School Attendance Review Boards (SARB) Countywide
- Solano County Office of Education Foster and Homeless Youth Program: Provides advocacy and support for foster and homeless youth to improve educational outcomes; reduce truancy and dropout rates, and reduce discipline problems
- Solano County Substance Abuse Services: Fund Youth and Family Service (YFS) to provide adolescent substance abuse treatment services, including outreach, early intervention and prevention services as well as a residential treatment program for adolescents (Countywide)
- Workforce Investment Act (Youth): Workforce Investment Board (WIB) provides services to include tutoring, counseling, vocational training, work skills, education, GED, work readiness and follow up services for 14 - 21 year olds who are or whose parents are receiving grants in aid (welfare) [also Intermediate Intervention and Aftercare/Reentry]
- Youth Employment Program (YEP): Work experience and work readiness services provided for TANF dependent and foster youth [also Intermediate Intervention and Aftercare/Reentry]
- Youth and Family Services (YFS): Provides anger management, substance abuse treatment, educational/vocational programs, individual and family therapy, case management, Independent Learning Programs and services in the community and at schools (Fairfield and Vallejo) [also Supervision and Other Immediate Interventions]
- Youth and Family Services Homeless Program: Advocacy and support for homeless youth, adults and families

Supervision and Intermediate Interventions

While it invests heavily in Prevention and Early Intervention, Solano County also recognizes the necessity to provide a comprehensive array of SUPERVISION AND INTERMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS to work effectively with those youth and families who have entered the juvenile justice system. Supervision programs and Intermediate Interventions in place include the following:

- Case Management Services: Supervision services provided by the Probation Department to include school monitoring, drug testing, and referrals for treatment services
- Community Service: Various providers throughout Solano County
- Electronic Monitoring: Private vendor, Behavioral Interventions, Inc., provides intensive supervision for youth pending court proceedings or as an alternative to detention at the JDF
- Family Preservation: An assigned probation officer and a family therapist from Aldea Counseling Center closely supervise and provide intensive, in-home counseling

services for youth in an effort to prevent removal from the home and placement foster care or a group home [also Graduated Immediate Interventions]

- George Mason University (GMU): Performed a review of the treatment programs used in the community and within the probation department. Identified gaps in service delivery and provided recommendations; GMU also provided SOARING Training to probation staff in an effort to enhance supervision strategies [also Graduated Immediate Interventions]
- House Arrest: Limited supervision provided for youth awaiting court and also used as an alternative to detention at the JDF
- Interagency Committee: Probation partners with Children's Mental Health (CMH), CWS, Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) and Solano County's Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA's) to provide multidisciplinary case management or case conferencing for youth who are in multiple systems of care; the partners also work together on placement for youth with complex and/or special needs, determining, among other things, which system (CMH, CWS or Probation) is most appropriate to take the lead with each individual youth and/or family; Interagency also seeks to avoid out of home placement and/or to determine most appropriate placements for youth who must be removed from their homes [also Graduated Intermediate Interventions and Residential Interventions]
- Incentive and Sanctions Grid: Probation will be implementing an Incentives and Sanctions grid in order to provide more consistency in how incentives and sanctions are used. The use of an Incentive and Sanctions Grid is an Evidenced Based Practice proven to motivate positive behavior change by placing an emphasis on positive behavior while applying appropriate sanctions for non-compliant behavior [also Graduated Intermediate Interventions]
- Interactive Journaling: An evidenced based structured and experiential writing process that motivates and guides youth toward positive life change developed by the Change Company [also Graduated Intermediate Interventions and Residential Interventions]
- Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS): A web based risk assessment tool which has been used by the Probation Department since 2007; the probation officer receives an output report which is used in determining treatment needs/goals and case planning [also Graduated Intermediate Interventions]
- Positive Youth Justice Initiative: The Vallejo Unified School District in collaboration with the Sierra Health Foundation and the Probation Department provide services to crossover youth (youth who have had prior involvement in the child welfare system and are currently engaged in the juvenile justice system)
- School Focused Services: Case assignments for most youth under probation supervision are primarily based on the school attended by the youth in an effort to provide more collaboration between the Probation Department and local school districts.
- Weekend Academy: A graduated sanction used for youth who have committed probation violations or to satisfy community services hours.

Graduated Intermediate Interventions

GRADUATED INTERMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS are used to supervise and intervene with youth who are not appropriate for or amenable to less intensive options. While seeking to maintain youth in their homes and work with their families as well as with the youth, the following more stringent at-home interventions have been implemented to free detention beds while providing for the protection of the community. These alternatives are used for minors who

need a high level of supervision while awaiting court hearings, while on probation and/or for probation violators.

- Day Reporting Center (DRC): The DRC is a structured after school program for juveniles with sustained petitions for serious offenses or who have chronic violations of probation; services include mentoring, individual and group counseling, Aggression Replacement Training (ART), cognitive behavioral interventions, tutoring, job skills, life skills, health education, recreation, community service, reentry coordination; transportation also provided to and from the center. (Fairfield and Vallejo)
- Intensive Supervision for Juvenile Sex Offenders: Intensive supervision for juveniles who sustain a sex offense and are assessed as appropriate for community based treatment
- Youth who are experiencing significant legal and life problems related to a diagnosis of a mental illness or who are deemed incompetent pursuant to 709 WIC are assigned to a probation officer who collaborate and coordinate mental health services through Aldea or CMH, school staff, community service providers, and other agencies in the community, such as NorthBay Regional Center (if deemed eligible for services); the case is staffed by the Solano County Interagency Committee and regular updates to include the plan for treatment and the agency responsible for providing services is provided to the Juvenile Court; the goal of the program is to provide the youth and their family with the services and support needed while competency restoration for the youth is being addressed
- WRAP: provides intensive case management and support for minors who would otherwise be sent to a group home placement; the County contracts with a community based organization to provide intensive therapeutic service; the contract is monitored by CWS. (Countywide)

Residential Interventions

Despite the large number of community and home-based intermediate sanctions available in Solano County, the need for RESIDENTIAL INTERVENTIONS remains. Options for minors ordered into out of home placement by the Court include the following:

- Challenge Academy: A secure program operated by the Probation Department which serves as a long term behavior modification program. The program can serve up to 20 youth and is approximately nine (9) months in length
- Foster Care/Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC)
- Group Home
- New Foundations: A substance abuse treatment program operated by the Probation Department. The program can serve up to 15 youth and is approximately four (4) months in length

Detention, Incarceration and Long Term Custody*

(Unlike the elements in the other sections of the continuum, which are displayed in alphabetical order, the following are ordered from less to most restrictive option.)*

The Probation Department and Juvenile Court use detention, County-operated facilities, and long-term custody when lower-level treatment options are inappropriate or have proven ineffective:

- Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF): a 118 bed secure facility for youth awaiting and pending Juvenile Court proceedings, and adjudicated youth awaiting transfer to a placement, camp/ranch or California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation(CDCR), Division of Juvenile Facilities (DJF). There were 874 admissions to the JDF during FY2013-2014.
- CDCR, Division of Juvenile Facilities (DJF); while DJF is no longer available as an option for juvenile offenders adjudicated for WIC Section 707(a) offenses except for specified sex offenses; it remains the incarceration site of last resort for the most serious juvenile offenders. As of September 1, 2014, there were 8 (eight) youth serving commitments at DJF.

Reentry and Aftercare

The Probation Department and its public sector and community based partners are increasingly focused on Reentry/ Aftercare services including the following:

- Day Reporting Center Aftercare: Program youth receive up to three (3) months of transitional services upon completion of the program
- Family Reunification: Family focused services during and after placement
- Independent Living Services Program (ILSP): Operated by the County Department of Health and Social Services which contracts for services with First Place for Youth, to include educational, vocational and reentry services for youth transitioning from foster care
- New Foundations Aftercare: An assigned probation officer works with the New Foundations program staff and provide up to 3 months of follow up and transitional support to the youth upon completion the program
- Placement Aftercare: Youth who return home after group home or foster care placement are provided with supportive services during their return to the community. In 2012, the passage of AB12/AB212 extended benefits to include housing, educational support and vocational training for youth up to age 21. The Probation Department provided services to nine (9) youth during FY2013-2014
- Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Collaborative: Work group comprised of Probation, Seneca, CMH, CWS, and schools work to ensure eligible youth have greater access to services to meet their needs as they transition from foster care back to the community
- TAY Program: Operated by County Mental Health as part of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and addresses youth with mental health issues; Seneca is contracted to provide the counseling services and First Place for Youth is contracted to provide the housing and employment components
- THP and THP - Plus: Supported housing for former foster care youth (THP-Plus is for youth ages 18-24) in scattered-site apartments pursuant to a contract with First Place for Youth, an agency that currently offers housing for former foster youth in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco Counties
- Transitional Living Programs: Three programs - Children in Need of Hugs and The House of Joy are run through community based organizations and funded through a variety of sources

- Youth Action Committee: Focuses on overseeing Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) services, this committee was developed and launched with a grant from the Stuart Foundation and operated through CWS.

IV. PROGRESS TOWARD ADDRESSING IDENTIFIED GAPS, NEEDS AND PROGRAMS

Since 2008, the County has made great strides in addressing the gaps and needs outlined by the JJCC. The committee continues to meet bi-annually to review programs, services and gaps in service delivery. The Solano County Probation Department and its public agency and private partners have conscientiously and thoughtfully built juvenile justice service capacity incorporating evidence based and best practices, and have sought to manage resources in ways that effectively address the needs of youth and families throughout the County. The gaps and needs identified suggested ways to improve the system, to augment what existed, and to continue enhancing its capacity to provide prevention, accountability, and public safety services in Solano County. The following information outlines the progress made related to the areas that the JJCC deemed necessary to address.

Prevention

Among the identified needs related to Prevention, multi-agency collaboration in addressing either or both of the following school related gaps would prove beneficial:

- **Support and Follow Up for School Attendance Review Boards (SARBs):** Enhance coordination among schools, probation, law enforcement, court and families to support SARBs and their recommendations.

UPDATE: The Solano County Office of Education has implemented school-based Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) that meets once per month. The Vacaville MDT meets once per month; the Fairfield Police Department, Probation, and school group meets once per month; Vallejo meetings were occurring regularly but were placed on hold when there was a change in administration. In 2013, Probation partnered with the Vallejo School district to support the Positive Youth Justice Initiative (PYJI) and meet monthly.

- **Truancy Court:** Consider developing a truancy court, on the Drug Court model, with services for youth and families and real consequences for failure to comply with agreements. [Note the Sacramento Juvenile Court is proposing to develop a Truancy/ Status Offender Court and may be willing to confer with Solano County personnel about this effort.]

UPDATE: In 2012, the District Attorney's Office launched a Truancy Initiative in conjunction with other stakeholders, including the Juvenile Court. The initiative focuses on reducing elementary school truancy. The Juvenile Court holds truancy hearings two

times per month for non-ward truants cited due to continued truancy despite SARB intervention.

Early Intervention

To expand Solano County's commitment to Early Intervention with at-risk youth, those displaying pre-delinquent behavior, first-time offenders, and youth who have committed minor crimes, the following efforts are being addressed:

- **Diversion:** Consider developing a misdemeanor diversion program that provides services, comparable to the Felony Diversion Program.

UPDATE: A misdemeanor diversion program was implemented 2012. The program is modeled after the Felony Diversion Program and provides services to youth in an effort to reduce future delinquency. In addition, the Department is partnering with the Fairfield Police Department and the Fairfield/Suisun Unified School District to provide services to youth prior to a referral to the Probation Department for services.

- **Motivational Speaker Sessions:** Consider the feasibility of the Probation Department developing a series of Motivational Speaker Sessions similar to the sessions DJF Parole previously conducted in Vallejo that focused on helping youth make better choices; perhaps Probation could initiate or sponsor something similar using probation graduates who would be willing to talk to other kids. [Could use former correctional counselor and current motivational speaker and trainer of speakers, Kevin Bracy, Life Changers International, to help coordinate and / or provide low cost speakers for this effort. Suzie could provide contact information.]

UPDATE: Motivational speakers continue to visit the youth at the JDF to provide encouragement and support. A mentoring program was implemented in 2012 for males under the jurisdiction of the Probation Department. The program is facilitated by a probation officer and two group counselors. The mentoring program includes guest speakers who provide motivational messages and other pro-social activities for participants.

Supervision and Other Intermediate Interventions

To enrich the County's already comprehensive array of Supervision and Intermediate Interventions available to work with youth and families who have entered the juvenile justice system, the following efforts are being addressed:

- **VOICES Curriculum:** Explore incorporating the evidence based, gender responsive VOICES curriculum for use with girls on probation and/or in CWS services. The Court has purchased some of the curriculum and has money to buy the rest; what would be needed is people to deliver/ facilitate the 18 week curriculum and an agency and/or staff person to coordinate and publicize the availability of regular VOICES groups.

UPDATE: A curriculum through Girls' Circle (10 week sessions) was initially chosen and facilitated by the Probation Department. Probation provided Girl's Circle sessions to the female population through 2012. In FY2013-2014, Probation trained two staff to be department trainers in Interactive Journaling, an evidence based curriculum through the Change Company. A girl's curriculum VOICES, a program of self-discovery for girls, was purchased and probation officers will pair up and conduct groups that focus on the needs for girls. The curriculum will be implemented in FY2014-2015.

Graduated Intermediate Interventions

Priorities among the Graduated Intermediate Interventions suggest as options for youth who are not appropriate for less intensive options yet do not require secure detention for their own or the community's protection, are the following:

- **Girls Reentry Emphasizing Assessment and Treatment (GREAT) Program:** Probation and its partners must make sure the GREAT Program will be continued, even if the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) grant is not extended.

UPDATE: The GREAT Program was modified to the Multi- Agency Intervention and Treatment (MIT) Program, following the end of the grant. In 2008, Probation modified the scope of the MIT program to include youth that were experiencing mental health issues or who were deemed incompetent pursuant to 705 WIC. A protocol for handling cases that fell under 705 WIC was developed and proved to be successful in ensuring that the youth received the services that were needed. In 2012, the Solano County Juvenile Court began to use the provisions outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code 709 to deal with this population. Probation continues to provide regular updates to the Juvenile Court and coordinate with CMH and other providers to develop a treatment plan.

Residential Interventions

- **Out of Home Placements:** Despite the large number of community and home-based intermediate sanctions available in Solano County, there is still a need for additional out-of-home placements for youth with exceptional needs, including mental health needs.

UPDATE: Overall, the number of youth in out of home placement has decreased and placement with relatives is being used more frequently. Although, there are fewer minors requiring Level 14 placements, there is still an effort on behalf of Probation and CWS to place youth in programs that will address all of their needs including medical and mental health. With the implementation of AB12/AB212, youth have the option to remain in foster care/group home care longer to receive additional support and services. As a result, more referrals are being made to programs including THP-Plus and Extended Foster Care.

Detention, Incarceration and Long Term Custody

Needs were identified with respect both to existing facilities and potential additional facilities for the Detention, Incarceration and Long Term Custody of juvenile offenders; primary among them

were: Additional Mental Health Services at the JDF. Additional services still being addressed include the following:

- **MediCal and Mental Health Services:** Additional services include; determination of MediCal eligibility at intake; development of a MediCal data base for use throughout the system; strategies for developing a treatment plan, as well as a release plan, for each youth in custody, even when youth cycle in and out in short periods of time; establishing mental health groups; and access to a mental health clinician during evenings, nights and holidays.

UPDATE: In 2010, the Probation Department established a contract with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG), the contracted medical services provider, to provide basic mental health services in addition to medical services at JDF. In addition to working with minors on an individual basis, the assigned mental health clinician screen all youth booked in JDF and provide additional support if needed. In 2012, the Probation Department contracted with Seneca Center to provide individual counseling and life skills groups for selected minors in JDF. Aldea Counseling Center has provided this service since July 2014.

- **Additional Mental Health Services at New Foundations:** Consider the feasibility of adding a component for residential mental health treatment and/or one for treatment of youth with dual diagnoses.

UPDATE: The Probation Department contracted with Seneca Center to provide counseling services to youth committed to New Foundations and their family. In July 2014, Healthright 360 began providing substance abuse and mental health counseling services to minors in the program. Counseling services include individual and group therapy.

- **Chaplaincy Program at JDF:** Pursue the development of a chaplaincy program at the JDF that enables a full time chaplain(s) to respond immediately to youth who need help, to help de-escalate situations and to make sure detained youths' religious needs are met. (This is a priority for the JJDC, which also suggested there should be secular options to the religious chaplain.) Consider using chaplains to help debrief staff immediately after critical incidents at the JDF; also consider establishing a Crisis Debriefing Team, including the chaplain and a psychologist or other mental health professional.

UPDATE: JDF has an assigned staff member that coordinates religious services for the facility.

Reentry and Aftercare

Best practices indicate that reentry and aftercare services are critical parts of the correctional continuum, planning for which should begin as soon as a minor enters detention or placement. To strengthen its Reentry/ Aftercare capacity, Solano County continues to address the following:

Comprehensive Release and/or Discharge Plans: Every youth who leaves a commitment program or placement, whether in the JDF, New Foundations, DJF or a group home, should have a coordinated, comprehensive, multiagency release and reentry plan to support a successful, crime and drug free return to the community. To the greatest extent possible, release plans should incorporate the input of all agencies and services that will interact with the youth and family. To this end agencies should consider conducting regular case planning/case management meetings for youth who are to be discharged from facilities and placements. Release plans should:

- Be tailored to each individual's assessed risks, needs and strengths.
- Address the criminalgenic, personal and family issues surrounding that young offender.
- Seek to provide seamless continuity, in the community and hopefully in youths' homes, of the supports and treatments begun in custody.
- Be supportive, strength based, goal oriented and proactive.
- Be drafted and reviewed with the youth and his/her family and revisited as goals are accomplished.

UPDATE: All minors committed to New Foundations and the Challenge Academy has case plans which include discharge and reentry plans. Case plans are also developed for youth who are ordered to serve a commitment in JDF.

- **Mobile Crisis Team:** Consider ways to incorporate Mental Health's Mobile Crisis Team to help provide reentry services for youth with serious mental health issues. (Note that County Mental Health can serve only youth who are MediCal eligible. Services for other, non-MediCal eligible youth must be considered as well.)

UPDATE: Due to budget constraints, County Mental Health has not been able to add services but rather has substantially reduced services provided to Probation youth.

- **Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) for Non-Foster Care Youth as well as those leaving foster care:** Current law does not permit the use of existing ILSP services for youth who have been wards and are returned home; referrals are allowed only for youth who have been in out of home placements. Many youth exiting juvenile justice facilities (JDF, New Foundations, or DJF) need these services and are not currently able to receive them. It could prove valuable for system partners to develop collaborative strategies to enable or provide these services for justice system youth.

UPDATE: The Probation Department continues to partner with community based organizations to provide services and support to youth who are not eligible for ILSP. Probation continues to partner with the county's ILSP provider (First Place for Youth) to share information and resources.

Continuum-Wide/ General Gaps

As noted previously, communication and collaboration among all agencies are vital to the effective functioning of the juvenile justice system and to achieving the best possible outcomes

with youth and families. The following issues related to communication and collaboration, as well as those dealing with more specific program and facility needs, are being addressed:

Interagency Collaboration: There is widespread consensus that services and clients would benefit from improved communication among all youth and family serving agencies to enable each and all of these agencies to:

- Know what each does and what services each provides.
- Understand and work with each other's' capacities, restrictions and limitations.
- Learn how agencies can best support each other in their work with clients they have in common.
- Coordinate treatments and services and/or link clients to appropriate providers.
- Reduce duplication of effort.
- Identify the people to contact in each agency when others have questions or issues; it would be very helpful if Probation, CWS, and CMH had access lists so line and supervisory personnel would know whom to call.

UPDATE: Significant improvement has been made in this area. The Solano County Interagency Committee meets regularly to staff cases and develop appropriate treatment plans. Participants include representatives from Probation, CWS, CMH, SCOE, and SELPA and the goal is to develop a coordinated effort among the agencies involved with the youth/family to provide services and support. The Children's Alliance has also been a good forum for sharing information with other agencies that serve the youth of Solano County.

- **Assessment Issues:** Consider the feasibility of all agencies (CMH, CPS, CWS and Probation) using a common assessment tool or, as an alternative, develop ways to synchronize various agencies' assessments to reduce duplication of time and effort and to facilitate coordinated treatment and/or case plans.

Probation will be using JAIS, Mental Health uses CA LOCUS for assessment, and CWS uses Structured Decision Making (SDM) for risks and needs and for those going to high levels of care there is a Level of Care assessment. This means that a youth and his/her family could go through at least three different assessments and end up with three or more different treatment plans; this is counterproductive and inefficient. A more streamlined assessment process and more unified case planning would be beneficial.

It would also be beneficial to assess youth for their educational needs and levels as well as for learning disabilities.

UPDATE: Not implemented. The different assessment tools being used are necessary as each is designed and validated for a specific population and purpose. The Solano County Interagency Committee is used as a forum to coordinate treatment and/or case plans.

V. SOLANO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE STRATEGY

Solano County continues to be proactive in implementing evidence based strategies, establishing strong collaborative relationships and developing needed programs and interventions both within and outside despite limited funding resources. This approach has allowed many of the gaps identified in the 2008 plan to be addressed. The members of the JJCC and its partners are committed to continue to work together to maximize the impact of the remaining resources. Solano County will augment its service capacity as new opportunities become available.

The Solano County juvenile justice strategy is to continue to be evidence and strength based, family focused and balanced in terms of offender accountability, competency development and attention to victims. This strategy addresses all elements of the juvenile justice continuum, from prevention through aftercare and reentry, and seeks to use available resources to maintain the best service delivery possible across the continuum and throughout the County.