

# Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan

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## Background and Instructions:

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure.

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties shall create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth.

County plans are to be submitted and revised in accordance with WIC 1995, and may be posted, as submitted, to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website.

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**Part 1: Subcommittee Composition (WIC 1995 (b) )**

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**Part 2: Target Population (WIC 1995 (C) (1))**

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

The target population to be served, based on analysis of youth previously committed from the county, will generally be male Hispanic youth between the ages of 15-24, inclusive, who have committed serious or violent offenses involving harm (physical, psychological and/or monetary) to a victim.

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

Based upon our analysis of youth commitments from Santa Barbara County to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) from July 1, 2017 through December 2020, the demographics are as follows:

Gender: 88% male, 12% female

Age at commitment: 47% ages 16-17, 53% age 18+

Race/Ethnicity: 71% Hispanic, 24% Black, 5% Asian

Committing Offense: ADW/Assault, 7; Robbery, 5; Murder/Attempted Murder, 2; Sex Offenses, 2; Shooting at an Inhabited Dwelling, 1

In addition:

- 36% had a mental health diagnosis at the time of commitment
- 82% had a history of trauma
- 18% were in foster care at some point before they were juvenile-justice involved
- 100% had prior juvenile justice involvement and attempted interventions
- 82% had gang association
- 90% committed an offense resulting in harm (physical, psychological and/or monetary) to their victim
- 55% were high school graduates or near graduation at the time of the committing offense
- Majority received vocational training, mental health support, and educational services at DJJ while serving their commitment

Based upon this data, we anticipate that between 2-5 youth per year will become eligible for this program, going forward. The majority will be male Hispanic youth age 16 and over who have committed serious or violent offenses involving harm (physical, psychological, and/or monetary) to a victim.

Describe any additional relevant information pertaining to identified target population, including programs, placements and/or facilities to which they have been referred.

Our local analysis shows that all the commitments from our county had prior juvenile justice interventions, including:

- Informal probation – 2
- House arrest – 2
- Mental Health services (beyond assessment and crisis intervention) - 4
- GPS or EM – 10
- Sober Track - 2
- Teen Court – 4
- Strengthening Families – 1
- Wraparound – 1
- Reasoning and Rehabilitation 2 (R&R 2) – 1
- El Joven Noble – 1
- Other services (including substance abuse treatment and treatment groups) - 11
- Out of home placement – 1
- Los Prietos Boys Camp – 6

### **Part 3: Programs and Services (WIC 1995 (c)(2))**

Provide a description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population:

The Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center, commonly referred to as the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH), is located at 4263 California Boulevard, Santa Maria, California and is in the northern region of Santa Barbara County. SMJH is a secured detention facility with a rated capacity of 140. Individuals requiring secure detention will be housed and receive programming and services at SMJH.

The Los Prietos Boy Camp (LPBC) is located at 3900 Paradise Road, Santa Barbara, California and is approximately 20 miles north of Santa Barbara in the heart of the Los Padres National Forest. LPBC is a lower security facility with a rated capacity of 96. Select youth determined eligible for lower security housing and participation in a step-down option may be housed and receive programming and services at LPBC. A detailed description of SMJH and LPBC will be covered in Part 5 of this plan.

Services already in place at SMJH and LPBC include:

- Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)
- Seeking Safety
- El Joven Noble
- Forward Thinking (Change Company Interactive Journaling)
- Alcohol Anonymous (AA) / Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
- Girls Group and Girls Circle (SMJH only)
- Mentoring

Services at LPBC also include:

- Public speaking, communication and leadership skills
- Community Service/Work Crews
- Pro social Activities (First Tee, Greenhouse, music, fitness, art, community excursions, hiking, and swimming)

The County anticipates continuing all of the above-named services at both facilities. In addition, because the population to be served is anticipated to be small in number, the County will create a menu of services which can be provided as needed on an individual basis, ensuring that each youth's needs are identified and targeted treatment, training and education, interventions and activities are provided. These services and programs will be built out through partnerships and contracts with community-based organizations in the coming fiscal year:

- Educational services: Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) will continue offering educational services to youth in custody that have not obtained their diploma, regardless of age, including high school classwork, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and collaborate with Probation in transitioning into post-secondary education. The Probation Department has engaged in



discussions with Alan Hancock College (AHC) and Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) to partner on post-secondary education programs for those under secure commitment at SMJH and open commitment at LPBC. Among the programs being considered for partnership: SBCC's Running Start program which bridges from high school to college; SBCC's Transitions program, which offers mentorship to justice-involved students; enrollment support from SBCC; AHC's Beyond Barriers program, which is meant for population is previously incarcerated students and provides mentoring, tutoring, financial assistance, mental health services and learning disabilities assistance; AHC's Get Focused, Stay Focused curriculum for incarcerated individuals, which is based on life lessons, career exploration, skills building, and building a long-term plan; and support groups for formerly justice-involved youth. The Probation Department has a robust college scholarship program funded by community civic groups for youth in custody who have graduated from the high school to be used towards secondary and vocational education.

- Vocational services and training: in collaboration with SBCEO, SMJH is in the process of redesigning a space to implement a CTE lab for those housed within the facility. Individuals will be able to choose CTE modules in 12 different subjects determined to be available and relevant in the local work workforce. Youth that complete a module will receive a certificate of completion specific to that module to be used in a resume and job hiring. High school level and graduates alike are eligible to use the CTE lab.
- Pro-social and youth development activities: Probation has devoted the time of one Senior Deputy Probation Officer (SrDPO) to the development of programming for youth in custody, with a priority on programs which embrace positive youth development (PYD) principles, build on youth strengths and assets, and assist with building empathy, positive relationships and supports, and are developmentally appropriate. Among the programs being considered or pursued for implementation are: animal training and grooming in partnership with a local animal shelter; Youth Leadership Council at SMJH, which mirrors a program in place at LPBC and enables youth to actively engage in discussions about SMJH programs and policies; Girl Circle, which is a gender specific programming addressing self-esteem, image, rising up from being a victim, trafficking, using your voice and finding your strength within you; life skills programs to teach communication skills, resume and job application assistance, job interview practice and more; music therapy; and athletic programs/recreational activities, including art, community excursions, hiking, and swimming.
- Aftercare/post-release supervision: Probation is enhancing transitional planning for youth at both SMJH and LPBC, to include no less than 90 days of pre-release transitional planning with development of a re-entry/transitional plan which includes continuation of high school and post-secondary educational goals, further vocational training, certification and linkage to employment opportunities, continued mentorship, independent living skills instruction and connection to Transitional Age Youth (TAY) programs, and mapping of service pathways to ensure warm hand-offs between custody and community programs.

- Mentoring: Mentoring services are already provided under contract to youth on probation in the County; we anticipate extending these services to youth under secure commitment at both facilities in order to provide positive role models and additional supports to youth..
- Mental Health Services: In collaboration with Santa Barbara County's Department of Behavioral Wellness, Behavioral Wellness' Juvenile Justice Mental Health Services (JMHHS) program will continue to provide a combination of appropriate and dedicated staff to include a team supervisor, psychiatrist, psychiatric technician and certified mental health clinicians for the expressed purpose of providing direct and collaborative services to youth housed at both the SMJH and LPBC. Specific services will be covered in greater detail in Part 4 of this plan.
- Gang/Violence Prevention and Interventions: The County is researching promising and evidence-based gang intervention and violence prevention programs, and intends to select a program model to pilot with youth both at SMJH/LPBC and in the community, in order to determine if such a program can be proven effective with local youth.
- Substance abuse counseling/treatment: the County currently has Interactive Journaling components for substance abuse counseling. The Department intends to contract with a local community-based organization for substance abuse treatment to be provided to youth in custody.

**Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds (WIC 1995 (3)(a))**

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population:

The County will take a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach to case management and case planning for youth committed locally. Using this approach, Probation will work with the youth, family, Behavioral Wellness, and providers to identify and address treatment goals. This will include assessment, crisis intervention, and provision of grant-funded contracted services as applicable to ensure appropriate treatment is provided. Probation is in the process of seeking and identifying sex offender treatment providers, specifically, in order to have grant-funded contracted services available if required.

In addition, all institutional staff are receiving training on trauma-informed approaches to working with youth, in order to ensure consistency in the work we do with youth under long-term commitment as well as youth receiving temporary detention. Grant funds may be applied to broaden and deepen this training and to add additional training models regarding adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and positive youth development (PYD).

The County is researching promising and evidence-based, certified de-escalation training for staff, and intends to select a training curriculum and send staff for train the trainer, so on-going de-escalation training and practices can be implemented at both at SMJH/LPBC.

Sex offender treatment can be difficult to obtain locally, so the Probation Department is looking for qualified therapists and programs with which to contract for as-needed services, in any case where such services will be required during a secure commitment.

Behavioral Wellness will provide a variety of services, to include: initial and comprehensive clinical assessments, outreach and engagement, individual psychotherapy, group therapy, family therapy, psychiatric/medication evaluations, medication monitoring, crisis intervention and response, 5150 & 5585 WIC evaluations and placement coordination, targeted case management and linkage to services in preparation for youth's release. Group therapy curriculums used include Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Seeking Safety and gender specific programming incorporating a "Trauma Informed" approach, and will facilitate specified Forward Thinking modules. Family therapy sessions focus on improving communication, destigmatizing mental health treatment, learning new skills to promote conflict resolution and supporting youth and caregivers/family members with the youth's community reintegration. Clinical staff collaborate with Probation from booking to release, creating an aftercare discharge plan to ensure support is provided to youth and caregivers in their transition to outpatient mental health care through Behavioral Wellness' community clinics.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (B))

The Probation Department is already taking a positive youth development (PYD) approach to case management, including a focus on strength-based work with youth which includes strengthening natural supports, engaging the family, incorporating youth voice in meaningful ways for case and treatment planning, and building upon developmental assets. In addition, the Department intends to continue to provide opportunities to strengthen the essential aspects of healthy adolescent development, which includes opportunities for youth leadership while in custody, as well as community work and engagement (as briefly described in Part 3 of this plan). Family engagement in the broadest sense, which includes the involvement and engagement of a youth's natural supports and connections, will be facilitated and encouraged. Services provided to youth are already evaluated through the use of performance measures, which indicate whether outcomes for individual youth are successful, and this will continue for each new program or service put in place.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (C))

Youth and their families, as well as individuals who are involved with the youth and can provide positive support to them, will be engaged throughout the youth's time in secure commitment. SMJH and LPBC Treatment Teams are multi-disciplinary teams which will include Probation personnel, the youth and family and/or supportive adults, and representatives from all providers assisting with the youth's case management, including but not limited to: schools, behavioral wellness, community-based providers, and more. Case planning will be interactive and dynamic. Families will be offered the opportunity for treatment where needed, and will be involved in transition planning for re-entry as well. Probation will work to make connections for the youth and family members where they do not exist, will engage those supports with the youth, and will work to ensure the connections are initiated, sustained and strengthened.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing and continuing education for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (D))

Probation is currently exploring partnerships with local community-based organizations to provide employment support, training and other job-related vocational skills. In addition, in collaboration with SBCEO and their contract with Paxton Patterson for vocational skills exploration and training, this program can be expanded at SMJH using grant funds.

Probation has begun a process of transition planning for youth exiting custody (both SMJH and LPBC), which involves detailed transition plans developed at least 90 days in advance of re-entry, and identifies specific roles for Probation staff in supporting a successful transition. Required elements of the transition plan include youth and family engagement and input into all aspects of the plan, including but not limited to: employment plans, suitable housing and alternate plans, continuation of educational programs already underway and successful enrollment in educational programs if not already completed; and life skills planning. Partnerships with local TAY (Transitional Age Youth) programs are also being explored for development, to ensure there are defined pathways for youth at the conclusion of their commitment.

Probation's Juvenile Division will capitalize on existing Adult Division resources in place for older and transitional age youth, including housing and employment resources. The youth's assigned probation officer will work closely with SMJH and LPBC and Adult Division officers to ensure connections to programs and services are made well in advance of release. The Juvenile Division will also participate in the existing Re-Entry Steering Committee (RSC) to enhance partnerships and ease of access to services.

Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive services for the target population: (WIC 1995 (3) (E))

The Probation Department has specific and defined performance measures attached to each contract, in order to help determine whether or not a contracted service is evidence-based and is working for the defined population. The Department actively monitors providers to ensure programs are being delivered with fidelity to the research-based model. Using these measures, and ensuring programs the county contracts for are evidence-based, we continue to seek out and implement programs specific to the youth in our county. The Department participated in the Results First Initiative, which is now included in the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Support Hub, assisted the Department in developing program inventories, listing and describing available programs and services in the county, and assessing whether those programs were evidence-based. We continue to use various research clearinghouses to ensure the programs we select are either evidence-based, evidence-informed, or based upon promising practices. In addition, we look for programs that are gender and culturally responsive, and assist local agencies with capacity-building to provide those programs to youth.

The Department has also begun incorporating youth voice into their realignment design, through conversations with youth who are currently serving commitments with the DJJ. The feedback received regarding the youth experience at DJJ is helping to shape our local response.

Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by nongovernmental (NGO) or community-based (CBO) providers: (WIC 1995 (3) (F))

The County plans to apply grant funds to programs and services provided by NGOs and CBOs. Services, programming and assistance are currently provided at SMJH and LPBC by a number of CBOs with County contracts, including Good Samaritan, Community Solutions Incorporated, and CommUnify. We anticipate that most of programs and services we add in the coming year will also be provided under contract by CBOs.

## Part 5: Facility Plan

Describe in detail each of the facilities that the County plans to use to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics. (WIC 1995 (4) )

SMJH is comprised of six living units, intake and receiving, onsite medical unit, a kitchen, a large attached and secured outdoor exercise space, and a master control room. Of the six units, three are primarily used and best described as newer generation living modules that are self-contained modules with multiple activity rooms directly accessible from the common area of that unit, including: 1 and 2 person secured sleeping rooms, a school room, a multipurpose room, a secured visiting area, a medical room, a kitchenette, a large common multi-use space for eating, programming and recreation, and an attached, secured outdoor exercise space. Although the facility has access to three other functioning living units, they primarily consist of secured living rooms with a small common space, and have limited alternative spaces to effectively address the needs of youth housed long-term. Youth requiring high security housing will receive programming and services at SMJH.

LPBC is comprised of a multi-building campus, including two dormitory style living areas, a kitchen with dining hall, a gymnasium with attached garage workshop, a multi-classroom school facility, an outdoor basketball court, covered exercise area and a large open space recreational area. Currently, one dormitory is used as a living unit and the other has been converted into an indoor recreation and programming environment. Select youth eligible for lower security housing and participation in a step-down option may receive programming and services at LPBC.

When considering possible improvements to accommodate long-term commitments, generally speaking the physical plant for both facilities is adequate to operationally support and house a limited number of long term commitments. The SMJH was designed as a short-term detention facility and was built in stages between 1960 and 2005. As such, it lacks good multi-purpose spaces and its infrastructure does not support internet or Wi-Fi wiring to address post-secondary education or vocational education programming. It also lacks open spaces for recreation. For improvements, the department will be exploring:

- Internet related infrastructure upgrades to enable hardwires and wireless computer and divide access to address the increased demands for online post-secondary and vocational education programming.
- Repurpose existing, unused or limited-use internal spaces to improve efficiencies and effectiveness to better support ancillary functions, such as programming, recreation and exercise activities. Examples include converting and modifying living units into indoor recreation areas or a CTE laboratory space.
- Convert existing outdoor recreation spaces that are hardscaped (concrete and asphalt) into more functional, multi-use spaces that contain a combination of improved hard surfaces and green spaces.

As is current practice, all youth, including those ordered committed to custody pursuant to SB823, will undergo a series of assessments to address the youth's safety, security, education and programming needs. At this time, due to the small projected population size of realigned youth and limited housing and staffing resources, Probation will not be separating the SB 823 population from the local detention population, but will appropriately intermingle the population with the existing detention population. SB 823 youth will be specifically classified based on a range of factors, but primarily based on age, gender, severity of crime, criminal sophistication level and programmatic needs.

For SMJH, the youth will be classified and housed as follows:

- All females; all males youth age 15 (inclusive) and under
- All males age 16 (inclusive) and older
- Trust Unit - a behavioral incentive and programming for any males age 12-19. All males who meet the program criteria are eligible to be housed and receive programming and services in the unit. The Department plans to adopt similar Trust Unit elements, philosophy, and enhanced privileges for females.
- Youth age 20 (inclusive) and older will sleep in a designated unit with the older youth during the evening, but may be separated during the day in a separate unit for education/vocational training, programming, recreation, and exercise as needed.
- Youth identified with unique or challenging classification considerations will be classified and housed in the unit that best addresses and/or accommodates the needs and safety of the youth and others. Classification consideration may require modifications based on emerging issues.

For LPBC, the youth will be classified and housed as follows:

- Classify and determine if the SB 823 youth is appropriate to be housed in a lower security facility with specific consideration to risk factors involving escape and risk to others.
- Classify and determine if the SB 823 youth is appropriate to be housed in an open, dormitory style living unit with the existing population.
- Given the open, dormitory style living environment, the LPBC facility is limited to males.



## **Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System**

Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system: (WIC 1995 (5) )

Probation is no longer recommending transfer of youth cases to the adult court system, with the exception of extremely serious and violent offenses. All youth are already considered for commitment to SMJH or LPBC in lieu of a more serious long-term commitment to a state facility. Individuals committed from adult court have historically been a small number; we anticipate that with the involvement of the District Attorney, Courts and Public Defender on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee which develops/reviews this plan, we will be able to inform the courts and our justice partners of the local alternative to DJJ and work with them to provide a program which is a satisfactory alternative to state-level commitment through adult court.

## **Part 7: Regional Effort**

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County's block grant allocation: (WIC 1995 (6) )

The County is in discussion with two neighboring counties (Ventura and San Luis Obispo) to create a tri-counties approach to managing this population. This may include the use of LPBC as a step-down facility for those serving commitments in neighboring counties; youth referred for this option would be subject to meeting specified criteria set forth for this purpose, in order to engage in treatment and transitional programming in an open setting. In addition, the tri-counties approach would allow for youth who need a secure residential treatment environment but present with less imminent community safety risk, to be screened for the Coastal Valley Academy program in San Luis Obispo, and for older youth to serve their commitment in Ventura. Ventura is also exploring the option of creating a program for young women. These options are still under discussion.

## Part 8: Data

Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant: (WIC 1995 (7) )

Program selection options within the Santa Barbara County Probation Department's case management system (IMPACT) will include identifiers for all who are realigned from DJJ or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to DJJ prior to its closure. Upon enrollment into the local program, Probation Department staff will update the record in IMPACT by selecting the specific supervision type as well as the individualized programs tailored to address each individual's assessed criminogenic needs. In addition, programs and services will be tracked in IMPACT including enrollment and end date.

On a monthly basis, staff will review enrollment and discharge information to verify that each file includes required assessments for outcome measurement. In addition, staff will review for any data inconsistencies and communicate to staff for correction as well as confirm that youth are showing as enrolled in the correct programs and that programs are closed once the service has ended.

Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to determine the results of the programs and interventions supported by block grant funds: (WIC 1995 (7) )

The Santa Barbara County Probation Department will administer screening tools developed by the Institute of Behavioral Research (IBR) at Texas Christian University (TCU) to assess the programs and interventions provided to youth realigned from DJJ or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to DJJ prior to its closure. The IBR is a national research center for evaluating and improving treatment strategies. These tools provide measurement for monitoring adolescent needs and functioning that are essential for evidence-based care planning. Included in the suite of available tools are those that address psychological and social functioning as well as engagement in treatment. All self-report assessments are available in both English and Spanish. These tools include:

- **Psychological Functioning:** An assessment domain comprised of 5 scales that address self-esteem, depression, anxiety, decision making, and drug use expectancy.
- **Social Functioning:** An assessment domain comprised of 4 scales that address hostility, risk taking, social support, and social desirability.
- **Treatment Engagement:** An assessment domain comprising 4 scales that address treatment participation, satisfaction, and relationships established in treatment.
- **Trauma:** Mental Trauma and PTSD Screen containing 17 symptom-severity items representing post-traumatic stress disorder.

Planned outcome measures for this population include the following:

- 90% of exiting youth will show improvement in 3 of the 5 domains of the TCU psychological functioning assessment between pre and post-test.
- 90% of exiting youth will show improvement on 3 of the 4 domains of the TCU social functioning assessment between pre and post-test.

- 85% of youth will complete an initial TCU treatment engagement assessment within 2 weeks of treatment start date.
- 75% of youth will complete a subsequent TCU treatment engagement assessment within 60 days of treatment start date and show an increase in 2 of 4 domains.
- 45% of exiting youth will show a reduction in total score on the trauma screen at post-test.
- Recidivism will be tracked for 100% of exiting youth. Recidivism is defined as the % of youth with a new sustained petition or adult criminal conviction within three years of the youth's supervision or wardship start date.

Probation anticipates monitoring outcomes for youth in individual programs by using the pre- and post-tests and other defined outcome measures attached to each provider's contract. In addition, we anticipate developing measures to help staff evaluate how well programs are working for individual youth throughout the course of their commitment.