

**STANISLAUS COUNTY**  
**JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday – February 1, 2024**

**Stanislaus County Probation Department**

**Members/Staff Present**

Mark Ferriera, Chief Probation Officer, Chair, Probation Department  
Saundra Day, Stanislaus County Office of Education  
Honorable Ruben Villalobos, Stanislaus County Superior Court  
Marian Martino, Youth Mentor-Volunteer  
Jeff Davis for Christine Huber, Community Services Agency  
Tracie Martin, Juvenile Facilities Superintendent, Probation Department  
Leticia Ruano, Assistant Chief of Probation, Stanislaus County Probation Department  
Kevin Panyanouvong for Tony Vartan, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

**Members/Staff Absent**

Jennifer Jennison, Public Defender's Office  
Emily Webster, Director, Youth Assessment Center  
Jeffery Laugero, District Attorney, District Attorney's Office

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:12 p.m. by Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera. Members of the group introduced themselves.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public were present.

**3. APPROVE APRIL 13, 2023, MEETING MINUTES: JJCC SUBCOMMITTEE**

MOTION: Marian Martino. SECOND: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera. The minutes of the April 13, 2023, meeting were approved unanimously.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF THE SB823 JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN**

Tracie Martin, Juvenile Facilities Superintendent, reported that in March 2023, the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) population was 5; today, it is 11. She briefly discussed the FY 2023 SB823 Plan adopted by this subcommittee's membership. She advised that the state now requires the JJCC Subcommittee to meet at least twice a year to review and discuss the SB823 Plan for any needed updates. Upon review and adoption of the FY2024 SB823 Plan, it will be submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) by May 1, 2024. She advised that the changes to the plan would mainly focus on programming updates. Additionally, Ms. Martin reported that the focus on the FY 2024 SB823 Plan will include the following:

- Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) provides high school education and CTE programming.
- The Modesto Junior College (MJC) Rising Scholars Program provides the college curriculum, and My Next Step offers vocational studies in and out of custody for assistance/guidance.
- The Prison Education Project (PEP) provides entry-level college courses.
- Vocational Training included Computer Coding, Culinary (will receive a Serv Safe certificate upon completion), Principals of Agriculture, and Truck Driving (to include a driving simulator). Ms. Martin noted that the FY 2024 SB823 Plan will also consist of progress made with the Truck Driving Program and the implementation of new programs such as the Volt Institute and the Northern California Construction Training (NCCT) program.

- Programming:
  - The FY 2023 SB823 Plan highlighted LCA, which provides programming to SYTF youth. Its curriculum utilizes evidence-based practices and offers individual case management, Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI) programs, interactive journaling, document assistance, and barrier removal. It also provides individual CBI programming specific to sex offenses.
- Wellpath services to treat all the in-custody youth's mental health and medical needs.
- Behavior Modification Program for the SYTF youth: PHASES: D-A, achievable by participation and behavior.
- Pre-release meetings (Reintegration meetings) is forthcoming.

Ms. Martin announced that a \$1 million grant was received over the next two years through the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) to implement less restrictive programs (step-down) for the SYTF youths. A plan to implement a less stringent program will be in the upcoming SB823 Plan. She stated that progress updates of implemented and forthcoming programs will be provided.

Lastly, Tracie Martin asked the JJCC Subcommittee if they had any suggestions or input for the upcoming SB823 Plan. Chief Ferriera noted that a drafted plan will be put together for the JJCC Subcommittee to review and provide input or suggestions. Additionally, he discussed the components that the SB823 Plan will consist of and are required by law.

#### **5. CONSIDERATION OF A CO-CHAIR PURSUANT TO SECTION 1995(b) WIC**

Chief Ferriera advised that due to the recent legislative changes regarding the composition of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee, the Chief Probation Officer is no longer required to solely Chair it; additionally, if the membership wishes to have a Co-Chair, they can, and the process put in place must be added to the SB823 Plan. He stated that anyone from the membership can be appointed Chair or Co-Chair. The membership discussed the proposed changes and expressed no need for a Co-Chair and that the Chief Probation Officer continue as the JJCC Subcommittee Chair. Additionally, Chief Ferriera suggested that the JJCC Subcommittee have bylaws, as the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council does, would be beneficial; the group discussed the need for bylaws and declined, noting there was a need to operate freely when dealing with small quorums. Chief Ferriera stressed the importance of implementing a procedure to appoint a Co-Chair if the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee chooses to do so in the future. He suggested that the process include discussion, feedback, and subsequent voting by the council's members. The membership had no objections to the Chief's suggestion.

MOTION: Marian Martino. SECOND: Saundra Day. The decision to not have a Co-Chair as part of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee was approved unanimously.

#### **6. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera talked about Dr. Trask's retirement announcement during the last JJCC Subcommittee meeting and that as of July 1, 2023, she would no longer be serving as a member of the JJCC Subcommittee and recommended Glen Stovall, Director at MJC, to take her position. The membership had the opportunity to review Mr. Stovall's application to step into Dr. Trask's role as one of the three community members required by law to serve as part of the JJCC Subcommittee. Chief Ferriera noted that in a discussion he had with Mr. Stovall, Mr. Stoval had a scheduling conflict and was not present at today's meeting; he did, however, note his intention to attend the next meeting if appointed as a member of the JJCC Subcommittee.

MOTION: Saundra Day. SECOND: Jeff Davis. The decision to appoint Glen Stovall as a member of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee was approved unanimously.

#### **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

#### **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee meeting will be held on March 28, 2024, at Noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.



## JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL PLAN

### MAIN CONTACT FOR PLAN

**Date:** March 28, 2024

**County Name:** Stanislaus County

**Contact Name:** Tracie Martin, Superintendent

**Telephone Number:** 209-525-4573

**E-mail Address:** Carlt@stanpro.org

### BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONS:

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

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, counties shall create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(a).)

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

There are nine sections to the plan:

Part 1: Subcommittee Composition

Part 2: Target Population

Part 3: Programs and Services

Part 4: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds

Part 5: Facility Plan

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

Part 7: Regional Efforts  
Part 8: Data  
Part 9: Other Updates

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

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Mark Ferriera, Chief Probation Officer	FerrMar@stanpro.org	209-525-4503
Co-Chair (If Applicable)	N/A	N/A	N/A
District Attorney's Office Representative	Jeffrey Laugero, District Attorney	Jeffrey.Laugero@standa.org	209-525-5538
Public Defender's Office Representative	Jennifer Jennison, Public Defender	JENNSNJ@StanCounty.com	209-525-4200
Department of Social Services Representative	Christine Huber, Community Services Agency, Director	HuberC@StanCounty.com	209-558-2500
Department of Mental Health	Sarkis Vartan, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Director	tvartan@stanbhrs.org	209-525-6205
Office of Education Representative	Scott Kuykendall, Stanislaus County Office of Education, Superintendent	SKuykendall@stancoe.org	209-525-4900
Court Representative	Ruben Villalobos, Juvenile Court Judge	Ruben.Villalobos@stanct.org	209-530-3111
Three Community Members (defined as "individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the	Marian Martino, Youth Mentor, Chair of the Juvenile Justice Commission	marian@martinonet.com	209-484-2775
	Emily Webster, Center for Human Services, Youth	ewebster@centerforhumanservices.org	209-526-1476

<i>juvenile justice system, or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system” (Welf. &amp; Inst. Code § 1995(b).))</i>	Navigation Center, Director		
	Glen Stovall, Interim Director of Rise Up Center, Modesto Junior College	stovallg@yosemite.edu	209-575-7756

<b>Additional Subcommittee Participants</b>			
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**Describe the process used to determine whether to select a co-chair for your subcommittee (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b)):** On February 1, 2024, the subcommittee met and reviewed the new requirements set forth by AB 505. The subcommittee discussed having a co-chair added to the subcommittee. All members provided input and a vote was conducted. The group unanimously voted to not have a co-chair added at this time.

Provide the dates of the last two meetings that the subcommittee convened to discuss your county’s JJRBG plan?

Meeting Date 1:  Meeting Date 2:

**Additional meeting dates of the subcommittee, if applicable:** February 1, 2024

**Date that the subcommittee approved the plan by a majority vote:** April 18, 2024

**Describe how the plan was developed, including the review and participation of the subcommittee community members as defined in Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b):** On February 1, 2024, an overview of the

2023 SB 823 plan was reviewed with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council subcommittee. During this review, progress updates were provided to the subcommittee and information as to topics that will be addressed in the 2024 plan were discussed. Input was solicited from the group as to what they would like to see in this year's plan. The subcommittee met again on March 28, 2024, and reviewed the plan in its entirety and provided input. On April 18, 2024, the subcommittee met again and reviewed the final SB 823 plan for 2024. The subcommittee unanimously voted to approve the plan.

## PART 2: TARGET POPULATION (WELF. & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(1))

**Briefly describe the County's realignment target population supported by the block grant.**

***The "target population" is defined as "youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure and shall further be defined as persons who are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 or an offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code." (Welf. & Inst. Code § 1990(b))***

Stanislaus County Probation will serve youth ages 14 to 23, and up to age 25 depending on the length of the disposition ordered by the Juvenile Court. As of March 28, 2024, thirteen (13) youth, all male, have been committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Program. There is capacity for 20 youth locally. Should a female youth be committed to SYTF, it is anticipated Stanislaus County would seek a regional contract to have another County provide services for females based on the expected low numbers and to maximize their opportunities for group-based services. Absent a contract with another County, Stanislaus County has the necessary amount of living space and services available to accommodate a low number of female commitments based on historical commitment data. Stanislaus County contracts locally with Liseth Sales (dba Parents United), and Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) for specialized services for sex offenders.

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

Demographics for youth booked into the Stanislaus County Juvenile Detention facility for a 707(b) WIC offense in 2023 are as follows:

Total number of youth booked for a 707(b) WIC offense: 79

Total number of youth booked for a non-707(b) WIC offense: 286

Total number of youth booked: 365

Gender for 707(b)WIC offenses:

- Male - 68 (86%)
- Female - 11 (14%)

Ethnicity for 707(b)WIC offenses:

- African American - 11 (14%)

- Hispanic - 52 (66%)
- Caucasian - 15 (19%)
- Asian - 1 (1%)

Age at the time of booking for 707(b)WIC offenses :

- 12-14 years - 5 (6%)
- 15-17 years - 59 (75%)
- 18-23 years - 15 (19%)

Offense for 707(b)WIC offenses :

- Felony Assault: 30 (39%)
- Robbery/Carjacking: 31 (39%)
- Attempted Homicide: 8 (10%)
- Homicide: 2 (2%)
- Rape: 0
- Kidnapping: 1 (1%)
- Other: 7 (9%)

Disposition:

- Sustained 707(b) WIC – 18 (23%)
- 707(b) WIC offense reduced to a non-707(b) WIC offense and sustained – 23 (25%)
- Dismissed – 32 (40%)
  - Dismissed by the Court: 17
  - Dismissed by the District Attorney: 12
  - Dismissed by Probation: 3
- Pending Court – 6 (8%)

Placement:

41 youth were either adjudicated of a 707(b) WIC offense, or had their 707(b) WIC offense reduced:

- 23 youth were declared a ward of the Court. Of these 23 youth, 0 were committed to SYTF, 0 were sent to placement, 16 served some of their custody time on GPS or house arrest.
- 7 youth were continued a ward of the Court, with 1 youth being committed to SYTF.
- 4 youth were transferred out of county for disposition.
- 2 youth were granted informal probation, 4 youth were granted Deferred Entry of Judgement (DEJ).
- 1 youth is pending disposition.

Demographics for youth receiving a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) commitment as of March 2024 is as follows:

Thirteen (13) total commitments:

- 46% (6) for assault; 14% (2) attempted murder, 7% (1) murder, 21% (3) robbery related offenses; 7% (1) sex offense
- 77% (10) were under the age of 18 at the time of commitment; 23% (3) were 18 years of age or older
- 69.2% (9) are Hispanic; 15% (2) are African American; 15.4% (2) are Caucasian
- The average length of commitment is 40 months.
- One youth received a baseline term reduction pursuant to WIC 875(e)(1).
- Zero youth received an increase in the baseline term pursuant to WIC 875(b).

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

Several lower-level interventions provided by the Probation Department are available to youth prior to a long-term commitment becoming necessary. However, at times the serious nature of the adjudicated offense(s) and consideration for public safety will outweigh the opportunity for youth to be tried in lower-level options. A brief description of the Probation Department's continuum of care is described below:

Out of Custody Referrals for Youth not on Probation Status

Stanislaus County Probation receives law enforcement reports issued out in the community. Each report is reviewed by a Probation Officer or Supervisor to determine what, if any, action will be taken. Referrals to other services or warning letters are sent to parents of youth with no prior record for any report received alleging charges that carry no confinement time and some low-level misdemeanors.

Additionally, lower-level offenses are referred to the Youth Assessment Center (YAC) directly from law enforcement. This removes the citation review process from the Probation Department, entirely, for offenses meeting the YAC criteria. The criteria include: youth must be under 18 years old and pending a misdemeanor or felony offense, youth are experiencing family conflict, have frequent law enforcement contacts, or are under 12 years old and fit the criteria outlined in SB 439. A youth may not be referred to the YAC if they have any prior sustained felony petitions or if the instant offense is for felony domestic violence, a sex offense, or is an offense listed in 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code. If a case meets the criteria above, the Probation Officer may also directly refer the youth to the YAC.

Evidence-Based Screening for Felony and Misdemeanor Bookings and Referrals

The Juvenile Intake Unit reviews each referral which carries some type of confinement, for consideration of appropriate juvenile justice interventions. Options include: closing the referral at intake, referring a youth to counseling/diversion services, informal probation and finally, referring a youth to the District Attorney's Office for filing of a formal petition.

For those youth booked into Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall, the Probation Department uses the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) to screen all youth. The DRAI is an evidence-based, risk assessment tool which assists Juvenile Intake Officers in making determinations as to what level of detention is most appropriate for any youth being booked. The DRAI assists officers in accomplishing the following basic objectives:

- Determine the level of risk for re-offending (low, moderate, or high) to focus resources primarily on moderate and high-risk youth
- Identify the risk and protective factors linked to criminal behavior so rehabilitative efforts can be tailored to address youths' unique assessment profiles



The DRAI assists in guiding initial decision-making regarding juvenile bookings. Dispositions of cases that have been screened by an officer include closing the matter at intake, referrals to services in the community, placement on informal probation, and referring the matter to the District Attorney for filing of a formal petition. Once a youth is placed on probation, the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) is utilized to properly assess a youth's risk and make the appropriate referrals to services.

#### Lower-level Interventions for Youth on Probation Status:

One lower-level intervention the Juvenile Court utilizes is the Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) Program. DEJ is only available to first-time "nonviolent" felony offenders. The idea behind granting DEJ is to impose probation terms and conditions that will rehabilitate a youth and prevent future delinquent activity while allowing a youth to have his/her charge dismissed and record sealed upon successful completion of the program.

Once youth have been adjudged wards of the Juvenile Court, lower-level interventions are utilized for redirection prior to a consideration for a commitment to a local custodial program. These options include community based behavioral services and/or school-based services. The supervision of such youth occurs while they live at home in the community. Out-of-home placement is an option of last resort for youth whose parent/guardian is unable to properly provide care or where the home is unsafe or unsuitable for the youth.

#### Juvenile Programming and Placement Unit:

Officers can also refer youth for services available at the Probation Department's Juvenile Programming Unit (JPU). The JPU utilizes support, counseling, and training through evidence-based practices to reduce criminal behavior for a safer community. The JPU is designed to offer youth a respectful and safe environment for individualized treatment of criminogenic needs by using evidence-based and cognitive behavioral treatment models with fidelity. The treatment provided promotes accountability, development of attainable goals, and a framework for making positive changes in personal values for increased success and reduced recidivism.

#### In-Custody Dispositions:

Youth determined to need in-custody treatment can be committed by the Juvenile Court to local custodial commitment programs. These include commitments to the Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall or Stanislaus County Juvenile Commitment Facility (JCF). Youth may serve a portion of their commitment time in custody and the remainder of their time in an alternative to custody program, such as House Arrest or the Global Positioning System (GPS) Program.

These youth are composed primarily of those who, because of their level of delinquent behavior and risk of reoffending, require an in-custody commitment to affect rehabilitation. Upon release, most youth return to the community under Probation Department supervision.

#### The Probation Department operates two custodial programs on one campus:

- Juvenile Hall: Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall is a secure detention facility, containing 158 beds, for youth who fall under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Twenty (20) beds within Juvenile Hall are dedicated to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility. Youth detained at Juvenile Hall are alleged to have committed a law violation and are detained for the protection of themselves and/or the community or are serving a short-term Juvenile Court-ordered commitment. The Juvenile Hall program is structured to provide individual and group activities (recreation, library program, game room program), behavioral health treatment, medical care, cognitive-based programming, vocational training, and a well-balanced school program, including the option to enroll in and attend virtual courses through a partnership with Modesto

Junior College (MJC) upon high school graduation. All youth booked into Juvenile Hall are screened for risk factors associated with Human Trafficking (HT)/Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). Youth identified as being at risk for HT/CSEC are referred to our Probation Site Navigator for Without Permission. Youth are also screened by our on-site mental health clinicians for suicidal/self-harming ideations. Youth who have experienced sexual abuse are screened through the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) questionnaire, and a general health assessment is made.

SCOE provides youth detained in Juvenile Hall with the ability to earn Career Technical Education (CTE) credits through the culinary program, Paxton Patterson workshops and through the Digital Arts curriculum. As a youth prepares for release from his/her commitment, Reintegration Meetings are held to review youth accomplishments, identify available community resources, and present release expectations to render youth ready for successful re-entry into the community.

- Juvenile Commitment Facility (JCF): The JCF is a 60-bed juvenile camp which opened in 2013 and offers youth housing and programming in a family-like environment. The JCF program focuses on reform through education, vocational programs, and mental health counseling. The 47,000 square foot facility includes, but is not limited to, classrooms, occupational training rooms, program space, a culinary training kitchen, garden, gymnasium, and outdoor recreation areas. All programming is geared to provide youth with the necessary tools to remain crime free upon their return to the community. Every day of the week, youth participate in evidence-based treatment. Monday through Friday, youth attend school, which also includes participation in the culinary program. The culinary program offers youth an opportunity to earn their Serv-Safe Food Handler's Certificate so that, upon release, youth are prepared and certified to work in the food-service industry.

Additionally, Career Technical Education (CTE) credits are earned through the culinary program, Paxton Patterson workshops and through the Digital Arts curriculum. As a youth prepares for release from his/her commitment, Reintegration Meetings are held to review youth accomplishments, identify available community resources, and present release expectations to render youth ready for successful re-entry into the community.

## PART 3: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(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. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(D)(2) and (d)(8)):**

The central focus for youth committed to the Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall's SB 823 Program will consist of providing appropriate vocational, educational, behavioral and rehabilitative services. Such services consist of, but are not limited to the following: education (i.e., trade, academic, literacy), employment, rebuilding family connections, mental health services, addressing cognitive behavioral challenges, financial literacy, housing, and mentoring/community support.

### Facility:

Stanislaus County is utilizing the existing Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall to house SB 823 youth. Juvenile Hall is a secure residential facility with an operational capacity of 158 beds. The Juvenile Hall is divided into eight separate housing units, one of those units, Unit 7, houses our realigned population. Unit 7 can house up to 20 youth and consists of ten rooms which can house two youth each. This 20-bed housing unit has a dayroom for structured activities and a separate classroom space for education. It also includes an additional room which can be utilized for mental health counseling and one-on-one case management services. There is an outdoor recreation yard adjacent to Unit 7, which is used for the realigned population. Old office space contained in Unit 7 was converted into a calming room where youth can de-escalate from elevated emotional states. This room; however, will not be utilized until the completion of our security upgrade project when a camera has been placed in the room to ensure youth and staff safety during use. The Juvenile Commitment Facility includes a full kitchen where meals are prepared on-site and delivered timely to the youth housed on our campus.

### Youth Supervision:

To provide rehabilitative services to the realigned youth, safety and security must be a core tenant. Youth will only be able to thrive when they feel safe and secure. Juvenile Probation Corrections Officers (PCO) provide supervision and guidance to this population in day-to-day activities. They are trained in both de-escalation techniques and trauma-informed care as well as crisis intervention and defensive tactics. As is the case with all youth housed in the existing facilities, youth are held accountable for misbehavior but also provided with an opportunity to redirect their negative behavior. PCO staff work in coordination with the education, medical, mental health, substance use disorder counselor, and programming staff to develop individualized case plans for all youth housed in the SB 823 Unit. This ensures continuity in the services provided across the various disciplines.

PCO staff are on-site and provide direct supervision during education and programming hours to provide emotional support to youth, initiate daily structured programming to benefit youths' active program participation and adolescent development. Additionally, PCO staff are involved in the Pre-Release Meetings to ensure a successful progression of the case plan while in custody and thorough connection to resources for transition upon release into the community. Full details regarding the SB 823 Unit are provided in Part 4 of this report.

### Educational Program:

Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) operates the on-site educational program. Youth within the program have access to West Campus for continued education, where students are educated in a self-contained classroom with a dedicated teacher. The curriculum is online and accredited through the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC). Courses offered include English

Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, along with all other requirements and electives for graduation ("A-G" coursework). A-G coursework is a series of high school classes that students are required to successfully complete to be eligible for admission to the California State University and University of California systems.

Students who complete their high school education have the opportunity to enroll in Modesto Junior College (MJC) either through the vocation program discussed later in this report or to begin general education courses. Students receive support from a dedicated Modesto Junior College Program Specialist in applying for financial aid, entry into MJC and registering for classes. Once enrolled, the student attends classes online. The dedicated Program Specialist will work with MJC counselors and the student to ensure proper paperwork and processes are completed and to ensure the youth are successful in completing course assignments.

Rising Scholars Network: Students who are ready to be released to a less restrictive program will be set up with the Rising Scholars Network (RSN) on the Modesto Junior College campus for assistance and enrollment into college courses. All educational services are free of charge to the youth. The Rising Scholars Network was established in 2014 to expand the number of justice-involved students participating and succeeding in the community colleges. The RSN programs includes many initiatives (Adult Programs, Juvenile Justice and Textbooks/Digital Course Content) now serving almost 20,000 justice-involved students both on campus and federal or state prison, county jail, juvenile facility, or other correctional institutions. California legislature and the California community college system are committed to using higher education as a tool to combat the impacts of mass incarceration. Research indicates higher education reduces recidivism, changes lives, and builds stronger communities.

Currently, all SYTF youth are enrolled in entry-level college courses through the Prison Education Project (PEP). Provided these courses continue to be available, all youth committed to SYTF will participate in these courses, year-round. The Prison Education Project has expanded educational opportunities for the in-custody population in 25 California correctional facilities and four international correctional facilities. With the assistance of 3,000 university student and faculty volunteers, PEP has serviced approximately 8,000 in-custody students in these facilities since 2011. By providing academic, life skills, and career development programming, PEP aims to educate, empower, and transform the lives of incarcerated individuals. The goal of PEP is to create a "Prison-to-School Pipeline" and provide in-custody students with the cognitive tools necessary to function as productive citizens. PEP's multi-layered approach enhances human development, reduces recidivism, saves resources, and allows participants to ultimately contribute to the economic and civic life of California.

Thus far, youth have participated in the following PEP classes:

- Introduction to College
- Introduction to Film Studies
- Career Development
- Creative Expressions
- Self-Empowerment
- Business 101
- Introduction to Writing
- Introduction to Soft Skills
- Introduction to Psychology

For youth being released to a less restrictive program (LRP), PEP helps in developing individual employment and education plans, and they assist youth in enrolling into college through Project Rebound and/or Rising Scholars. They are a liaison between the youth and the California Department of Rehabilitation which assists

the youth in obtaining their birth certificate, ID, driver's license, enrollment into Medi-Cal, book vouchers for school and housing assistance. PEP provides one-on-one check-ins as frequently as needed.

#### Medical Services:

Medical services are provided through an agreement with Wellpath, who currently provide on-site staff 24 hours each day, seven days per week to meet medical, basic dental, and vision-related needs of the youth. Emergency and specialty care services will be outsourced, and transportation will be provided by Probation Department staff. For families with private insurance, arrangements can be made to transport youth to those providers' offices.

Wellpath is the primary provider of behavioral health services on-site. Wellpath provides an array of evidence-based and best-practice programs as well as individual therapeutic interventions, which include: suicide prevention, crisis intervention, mental health screening, assessment, individual and family interventions and participation in Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings. Additionally, they have a Psychiatrist and a Psychiatric Nurse available for a minimum of eight hours per week. The dedicated psychiatrist provides assessment, diagnosis and prescription recommendations as appropriate.

Wellpath's mental health staff provides small group sessions to the realigned population focusing on substance abuse, anger management and life skills. The curricula are from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) which utilizes the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy treatment model.

#### Vocational Training:

In addition to the programs referenced in the Educational Program section, youth have access to work-based programs to enhance life skills and transitional opportunities upon release into the community. Examples of which include:

##### SERV Safe:

- Youth earn a certificate by completing tasks designed to mimic the restaurant industry. An online test must be passed to receive the certificate which is good for two years. The certificate translates to real world restaurant experience and the ability to step into a job in the restaurant industry immediately upon release.

##### Student Repair Academy:

- The Student Repair Academy (SRA) meets the requirements for developing skills for the 21st Century work force by experiencing real world problems while developing real world solutions. Students who participate in a student tech team program gain valuable experience and marketable skills for the workforce while serving the school community. SRA students learn the basics of repairing a Chromebook, providing high-quality tech support, exceptional customer service, and more, all while repairing their school's Chromebook fleet. For students who successfully complete this program, they will receive certificates in the areas of Ticket Management Systems, Physical Repair, and a Manufacture Certificate. The Student Repair Academy is scheduled to begin in August 2024.

##### Career Technical Education (CTE):

- SCOE has secured a partnership with Patterson Professional Truck Driving School, in which, youth will learn to operate a semi-truck via an advanced simulator machine. Students are required to attend a one-hour class, five days a week, for an entire school year. In addition to this, students need to log 30 hours on the simulator, which will be located in Juvenile Hall and available to the youth while in custody. Upon

their release, the youth can transition to one of SCOE's sites to resume the program. Probation and SCOE have partnered to ensure continuity of services. This includes both agencies having the same driving simulator for students to be tested on, and the same instructor, both in and out of custody. Upon successful completion of the year-long course and 30 hours on the simulator, youth will earn their learner's permit. This program is set to begin in April 2024.

- Culinary: Through the SCOE Culinary Program, youth are introduced to basic cooking concepts in both the classroom and kitchen environment. Students are introduced to cooking techniques, stocks, soups, poultry fabrication and cooking, meat cookery, and seafood identification and cookery. Through this program, students can earn their Serv Safe certificate.
- Digital Arts: The Design, Visual, and Media Arts pathway includes those occupations that use visual art, digital media, and web-based tools and materials as the primary means of communication and expression. In addition to an understanding of current workplace practice, this career pathway requires the development of knowledge and skills in both visual art concepts as well as new and emerging digital processes by which individuals are able to create and communicate complex concepts in a broad range of occupations and professions.
- Paxton Patterson Labs: Paxton/Patterson labs provide a way for students to discover interests and aptitudes so they can take powerful, purposeful next steps. Curriculum includes exploration into alternative energy, computer science, design/pre-construction, electricity, engineering, environment & ecology, flight principles, forensic science, health science, manufacturing, nutrition and wellness and robotics. This program began in January 2024.
- Volt Institute: Volt On-The-Go takes the key mechanical and electrical training programs and makes them mobile, allowing VOLT to service youth currently incarcerated. The curriculum guides students through the proper installation, repair and maintenance of fasteners, machine tools, pumps, mechanical drives, pneumatic systems and hydraulic systems, as well as safe welding, torching techniques, electrical theory, mechanical circuitry and programmable logic controllers. The Probation Department has purchased the equipment students will need to participate in this program. The equipment is the same equipment utilized by Volt Institute at their Modesto campus. Students who participate in this program can continue their course work on-site at Volt Institute upon release, again, ensuring no lapse in their program. This program is anticipated to begin in July 2024.
- Northern California Construction Training (NCCT): A pre-apprenticeship program focused on the building trades with the primary goal of preparing students in the field of construction and placement in related fields. NCCT touches on over 22 trades of construction, offers employment barrier assistance and offers many certification courses including OSHA 10, HAZWOPER, Welding and Traffic Flagging, CPR-First Aid, and Traffic Control. NCCT also partners with SCOE to provide this program to students out of custody, creating a seamless transition from in custody to out of custody ensuring no gaps in their training.

#### Modesto Junior College (MJC) "My Next Step":

- The department currently has a contract with MJC to provide services to in-custody youth in the SB 823 Unit. The "My Next Step" Program allows this innovative MJC program to provide assessment, career counseling, and vocational program coursework to in-custody youth. Additional support is built into this contract to provide for 30, 60 and 90-day follow-up with youth upon their release from custody. This program is described further in Part 4 of this report.

#### Rising Scholars Network:

- Students who are ready to be released to a less restrictive program will be set up with the Rising Scholars Network (RSN) on the Modesto Junior College campus for assistance and enrollment into college

courses. All educational services are free of charge to the youth. The Rising Scholars Network was established in 2014 to expand the number of justice-involved students participating and succeeding in the community colleges. The RSN programs includes many initiatives (Adult Programs, Juvenile Justice and Textbooks/Digital Course Content) now serving almost 20,000 justice-involved students both on campus and federal or state prison, county jail, juvenile facility, or other correctional institutions. California legislature and the California community college system are committed to using higher education as a tool to combat the impacts of mass incarceration. Research indicates higher education reduces recidivism, changes lives, and builds stronger communities.

#### Volunteer Services:

Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall has a dedicated department-level Programming and Volunteer Services Supervising Probation Corrections Officer (SPCO) responsible for continuing and developing relationships with Community Based Organizations to access services for youth within our facilities. This SPCO monitors volunteer activities at the facility, explores volunteer programs, bolsters existing programming to meet unmet needs, explores new/additional ways for youth to serve the community, serves as the direct liaison between the facility and volunteers, and works closely with department administration. Additionally, this SPCO will answer all questions from volunteers to help them provide the best quality of service for youth. Current volunteer programs such as Youth for Christ's Juvenile Justice Ministry, Creative Writing, Library, and Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus County are utilized to meet the identified needs of youth in the SB 823 Unit.

Cooperation with faith-based organizations has traditionally been strong. Entities such as Youth for Christ and our Chaplaincy Services will provide opportunities for youth seeking religious fulfillment from their program. Youth are free to exercise their individual religious liberties as they choose, with safety and security in mind.

#### **PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS (WELF. & INST. CODE §1995(D)(3))**

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(A) and (d)(8))**

Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) is the primary provider of juvenile programming and rehabilitative services on-site. LCA provides an array of evidence-based and best-practice group programs as well as individual therapeutic interventions. Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) oversees the education component of instructing youth with specific mental health needs and/or learning disabilities. A dedicated SCOE Mental Health Clinician has a caseload and meets with youth, identified with serious mental health concerns, throughout the school day. SCOE also oversees the provision of Education Related Mental Health Services (ERM HS).

In addition to a dedicated staff member who oversees youth with specific mental health needs, SCOE has dedicated staff who maintain caseloads of youth who have an active Individual Education Plan (IEP). Youth are visited in-custody as needed per their IEP.

Psychological medication management will be done in coordination with Wellpath-contracted psychiatrists. Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) will assist in the transition from custody plans related to mental health services post-release, as most of these youth will be eligible for services under the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) program and the adult system of care once out of custody.

### Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA):

LCA provides the cognitive-based behavior change programming offered to SB 823 youth. LCA successfully incorporates evidence-based practices and curricula to create high quality programs providing the necessary tools and support for justice-involved youth to change behavior and permanently break the cycle of addiction, crime, and incarceration. LCA has significant experience working with the realignment and juvenile population and has created programs that both adhere to best practices and adapt to the individualized needs of the participants.

All LCA staff are trained in the theoretical foundations, specific Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) curricula, and are trained in using Motivational Interviewing (MI) skills. Group assignment is based on the risk/needs assessment (YLS-CMI 2.0) and case plan and matched to address criminogenic needs and community functioning factors. All evidence-based groups have staff to participant ratios of no more than 1:12. All group participation is documented and reported consistent with contractual requirements and in the LCA database system. CBT is unlike other approaches to psychotherapy. CBT places responsibility in the hands of participants while supplying them with the tools to solve their problems. Youth taking part in CBT learn specific skills that can be used to solve the problems they confront as well as skills they can use to achieve legitimate goals and objectives. The programs, often offered in small group settings, incorporate lessons and exercises involving role play, modeling, or demonstrations. Individual counseling sessions are part of CBT.

LCA staff are also trained in Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Sexually Maladaptive Behavior in Adolescents. This curriculum provides both group sessions and individual sessions to youth who have been committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility for a sexual offense. This curriculum is designed to: 1) promote healthy sexual attitudes and behavior; 2) encourage youth to take responsibility for behaviors; 3) identify and replace risky thinking; 4) learn to manage emotions; 5) develop the ability to take perspective of others; 6) build social skills to strengthen relationships; 7) support the formation of a positive identity; 8) strengthen bonds with family members. The curriculum is based on a cognitive-behavioral treatment model, and incorporates motivational engagement, mindfulness techniques, and relapse prevention. In addition, many of the concepts are consistent with the good lives model, a strength-based approach that has been adopted by sex offender treatment programs internationally (Collie, Ward, Hufham & West, 2007; Willis, Prescott & Yates, 2015).

Each youth is provided with a case manager, who, within the first seven days of engagement, creates an initial case plan with the participant. Participant engagement begins with personalized case management, assessment, and the additional development of an Individual Service Plan (ISP). LCA includes the following evidence-based curricula to incorporate the Trans-Theoretical Model of Behavior Change, Motivational Interviewing, CBT, and principles of adolescent learning. Each curriculum component is the basis of group classes or individual training provided in our facilities. Specific details are listed below:

### Aggression Replacement Training (ART):

Aggression Replacement Training (ART) is an evidence-based cognitive behavioral intervention for the reduction of aggressive and violent behavior. It is a multimodal program that has three components: Social Skills, Anger Control Training, and Moral Reasoning.

Each of the three components use a process to ensure participants learn the skills in class and transfer such skills to new situations outside of the group. The model also focuses on the concept of peer learning. It has been shown that participants learn best from other participants. ART is a 10-week program, meeting three times a week for one hour for each of the components. The components can also be consolidated for a single facilitation per week, over a 10-week period of time. To have the best results it is facilitated by trained group facilitators.



Room set up, introduction of materials, the number of youth, and the youth's history are all components that work towards having a group that produces measurable outcomes.

Strength Based Individual Plan (ISP):

Upon completion of appropriate behavior-change programming, barriers to employment, life skills and vocational goals are addressed. As noted, LCA staff work with each individual to assess their skills and interests, identifying participant strengths and goals including specific daily, weekly, and long-term activities required to attain the goals. Measurable concrete goals are established, and a timeline determined. At a minimum, the following areas are addressed:

- Results of the Barriers to Employment Success Inventory (BESI) assessment
- Identified barriers-educational needs
- Employment goals
- Life skill needs
- Vocational goals

Barriers to employment are dealt with early to ensure each participant has everything they need to begin on the path to employment - from the proper clothes, tools, and paperwork (social security card, resume, driver's license, birth certificate, diplomas, GED, etc.) to building confidence, customizing training, and helping with interviewing skills. Once the assessments have been made, the barriers removed, and an Individual Service Plan (ISP) is in place, participants are monitored as they:

- Complete services according to their ISP.
- Complete the Employment Readiness Group curricula.
- Enroll in job readiness and job search activities.
- Engage in vocational training.
- Engage in and complete the program.
- Maintain a successful reentry, while enrolled and after exiting each program.

Through the extensive assessment process and by developing an alliance with each participant, staff seek to learn about each individual's existing and potential barriers and develop a strategy to overcome them. LCA indicates experience has shown ownership of one's ISP and assistance with barriers are the two most significant factors in participant engagement.

LCA uses evidence-based curriculum from The Change Companies™, including: Seeking Employment, Recreation and Leisure, and Taking Care of My Finances. The Change Companies founded the evidence-based practice of "Interactive Journaling", a structured and experiential writing process that motivates and guides participants toward positive life change.

LCA's staff maintains current training from The Change Companies on the deployment, assessment, and tracking of effectiveness of the curricula, to ensure use, evaluation and measurement meets the standards of continuing to build upon the evidence-based practices. The curriculum emphasizes skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skills development. Both LCA and PCO staff work with youth in completing interactive journaling that coincides with their daily programming.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling: The Center for Human Services provides one full-time SUD counselor that works with the incarcerated youth Monday through Friday. This counselor conducts one-on-one

counseling, assessments, out of custody referrals, attends multidisciplinary team meetings and reintegration meetings to assist the youth with a warm hand-off for counseling opportunities out of custody.

Contracted Specialized Services for Youth:

- Sex Offender Services: Currently, we have one sex offender committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). We have contracted locally for individual and group sex offender counseling for this offender. However, should regional programs be deemed appropriate, a regional contract could be pursued.
- Programs and Services for Females: Female youth have historically been committed to DJJ at a very low rate. To date, no female youth have been committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility. Because of this, female youth programming may be better suited where additional like-gender youth can program together. This may be accomplished through a regional contract with another County. If that option does not become available or is not appropriate, female youth committed for longer terms in custody will be housed in a separate wing. In either case, there will be an individualized case plan developed specific to the youth that is suitable to both meet the youth's needs and is appropriate for longer-term care. It is prudent to ensure all youth have optimal opportunities to be placed in a program that best suits their needs.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address support programs or services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(B) and (d)(8))**

Youth will have access to a variety of programs and services designed to promote healthy adolescent behavior. Some of the specific evidence-based, pro-social, and best-practice programs related to this area are more fully described in the "behavioral health" section of Part 4 of this plan. In addition to those, other services directed at healthy adolescent development will include volunteer-based, educational, recreational, redirection and vocational based programs and supports.

Volunteer Services:

Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall has a dedicated department-level Programming and Volunteer Services Supervising Probation Corrections Officer (SPCO) responsible for continuing and developing relationships with Community Based Organizations to access services for youth within our facilities. An example of a volunteer program that is designed to help healthy adolescent development is as follows:

- The Stanislaus County Library: Space within the Juvenile Hall is dedicated specifically for a library, allowing for all youth in each unit to visit monthly. The Stanislaus County Library provides library services to our youth twice a month. Services include obtaining library cards for each youth, allowing youth to check out books of every genre, and the ability to participate in a book club on a monthly basis. The book club allows youth and facilitators to read "the book of the month" and engage in conversation about various subjects gleaned from the book.

Educational and Vocational Services:

In addition to the provision of traditional core secondary and post-secondary education, this realigned population are able to receive additional training and skill building in specific fields. Healthy adolescent development includes the development of skills that support independence, responsibility, and work ethic. Some examples of these types of programs include:

- Culinary: Through the SCOE Culinary Program, youth are introduced to basic cooking concepts in both the classroom and kitchen environment. Students are introduced to cooking techniques, stocks, soups, poultry fabrication and cooking, meat cookery, and seafood identification and cookery. Through this program, students can earn their Serv Safe certificate.
- Digital Arts: The Design, Visual, and Media Arts pathway includes those occupations that use visual art, digital media, and Web-based tools and materials as the primary means of communication and expression. In addition to an understanding of current workplace practice, this career pathway requires the development of knowledge and skills in both visual art concepts as well as new and emerging digital processes by which individuals are able to create and communicate complex concepts in a broad range of occupations and professions.
- Student Repair Academy: The Student Repair Academy (SRA) meets the requirements for developing skills for the 21st Century work force by experiencing real world problems while developing real world solutions. Students who participate in a student tech team program gain valuable experience and marketable skills for the workforce while serving the school community. SRA students learn the basics of repairing a Chromebook, providing high-quality tech support, exceptional customer service, and more, all while repairing their school's Chromebook fleet. For students who successfully complete this program, they will receive certificates in the areas of Ticket Management Systems, Physical Repair, and a Manufacture Certificate. The Student Repair Academy is scheduled to begin in August 2024.
- Truck Driving Program: SCOE has secured a partnership with Patterson Professional Truck Driving School, in which, youth will learn to operate a semi-truck via an advanced simulator machine. Students are required to attend a one-hour class, five days a week, for an entire school year. In addition to this, students need to log 30 hours on the simulator, which will be located in Juvenile Hall and available to the youth while in custody. Upon their release, the youth can transition to one of SCOE's sites to resume the program. Probation and SCOE have partnered to ensure continuity of services. This includes both agencies having the same driving simulator for students to be tested on, and the same instructor, both in and out of custody. Upon successful completion of the year-long course and 30 hours on the simulator, youth will earn their learner's permit. This program is set to begin in April 2024.
- Paxton Patterson Labs: Paxton/Patterson labs provide a way for students to discover interests and aptitudes so they can take powerful, purposeful next steps. Curriculum includes exploration into alternative energy, computer science, design/pre-construction, electricity, engineering, environment & ecology, flight principles, forensic science, health science, manufacturing, nutrition and wellness and robotics. This program began in January 2024.
- Volt Institute: Volt On-The-Go takes the key mechanical and electrical training programs and makes them mobile, allowing VOLT to service youth currently incarcerated. The curriculum guides students through the proper installation, repair and maintenance of fasteners, machine tools, pumps, mechanical drives, pneumatic systems and hydraulic systems, as well as safe welding, torching techniques, electrical theory, mechanical circuitry and programmable logic controllers. The Probation Department has purchased the equipment students will need to participate in this program. The equipment is the same equipment utilized by Volt Institute at their Modesto campus. Students who participate in this program can continue their course work on-site at Volt Institute upon release, again, ensuring no lapse in their program.
- Northern California Construction Training (NCCT): A pre-apprenticeship program focused on the building trades with the primary goal of preparing students in the field of construction and placement in related fields. NCCT touches on over 22 trades of construction, offers employment barrier assistance and offers many certification courses including OSHA 10, HAZWOPER, Welding and Traffic Flagging, CPR-First Aid, and Traffic Control. NCCT also partners with SCOE to provide this program to students out of custody, creating a seamless transition from in custody to out of custody ensuring no gaps in their training.

- Modesto Junior College (MJC) "My Next Step": The department has expanded upon an existing partnership and entered into contract to provide services to in-custody youth in the SB 823 Unit. The "My Next Step" Program will allow this innovative MJC program to provide assessment, career counseling, and vocational program coursework to in-custody youth. Additional support is built into this contract to provide for 30, 60 and 90-day follow-up with youth upon their release from custody. Additionally, youth entering a less restrictive program will have the opportunity to attend Modesto Junior College, free of charge, through their Individual Training Contract (ITC) model. The ITC's model is to have enhanced employability skills that will help the youth with a potential career and provide transferrable units to a four-year university. ITC Case Management services will also be provided to increase student program success. Case management services include:
  - Conducting an individual meeting with the client/student to collect needed documentation to enable MJC class registration, at least 10 days prior to the first day of class.
  - Using this individual meeting to confirm program participation requirements, class schedule options and class locations.
  - Provide an MJC Parking Pass to students for each 16-week semester; 5 semesters total, if applicable.
  - Provide vouchers to obtain required class textbooks to each student.
  - Provide vouchers to obtain material, supplies and uniforms needed.
  - Provide individual meetings with program support staff for the purpose of addressing student participation needs.
  - Provide Case Management services to gauge student's program success needs and increase program effectiveness.
  - Referral of supportive services as required/requested
  - Require weekly check in with program support staff for the purpose of addressing student participation.
  - Referral of MJC supportive services as required for matriculation to include:
    - a) Orientation
    - b) Assessment
    - c) Counseling
    - d) Case Management
- Rising Scholars Network: Students who are ready to be released to a less restrictive program will be set up with the Rising Scholars Network (RSN) on the Modesto Junior College campus for assistance and enrollment into college courses. All educational services are free of charge to the youth. The Rising Scholars Network was established in 2014 to expand the number of justice-involved students participating and succeeding in the community colleges. The RSN programs includes many initiatives (Adult Programs, Juvenile Justice and Textbooks/Digital Course Content) now serving almost 20,000 justice-involved students both on campus and federal or state prison, county jail, juvenile facility, or other correctional institutions. The California legislature and the California community college system are committed to using higher education as a tool to combat the impacts of mass incarceration. Research indicates higher education reduces recidivism, changes lives, and builds stronger communities.
- Prison Education Project (PEP): Currently, all SYTF youth are housed in Unit 7 which is located within the Juvenile Hall. The SYTF youth named their unit the SHINE (Supporting Healthy Individuals Needing Encouragement) Unit. All SYTF youth are enrolled in entry-level college

courses through the Prison Education Project (PEP). Provided these courses continue to be available, all youth committed to SYTF will continue to participate in these courses, year-round. The Prison Education Project has expanded educational opportunities for the in-custody population in 25 California correctional facilities and four international correctional facilities. With the assistance of 3,000 university students and faculty volunteers, PEP has serviced approximately 8,000 in-custody students in these facilities since 2011. By providing academic, life skills, and career development programming, PEP aims to educate, empower, and transform the lives of incarcerated individuals. The goal of PEP is to create a "Prison-to-School Pipeline" and provide in-custody students with the cognitive tools necessary to function as productive citizens. PEP's multi-layered approach enhances human development, reduces recidivism, saves resources, and allows participants to ultimately contribute to the economic and civic life of California.

### SB 823 Programming Unit:

The SB 823 Unit, which is referred to as the SHINE Unit, is designed to encompass a phased system for privileges and behavior modification. All items earned by youth will be items purchased by the department, utilizing SB 823 funds. Programming Unit Phases are divided between Levels A-D with Level A being the highest level a youth can achieve and Level D being the level where each youth begins. Advancement between phases is based on a point system. Youth earn one point per day for participation in programming and one point per day for participation in their education or vocational program. Points will be totaled at the end of the month to determine the percentage of total points earned for the month (for example, two points earned daily in a month with 30 days, would mean 60 points were earned out of a total of 60 eligible points, equaling 100%). The phased system is described in detail below:

#### **Level D**

- A youth arrives and is placed on Entry level D, lowest level.
- A youth maintains Level D if he achieves 75% or more attendance in treatment and education for 25 days.
- A youth is eligible for specific privileges including spending \$10 ("Canteen Bucks") toward incentives.
- A youth promotes to level C if he maintains a minimum of 85% of total points and at least 75% attendance in treatment and education for an additional 5 days (totaling 30 days).
- If the percentage is not met by the 30 days, the youth will restart Level D.
- If youth receive an Incident Report (IR) for behavior-related means (fight, assault, contraband, destruction of property, or other behavior not specified) the youth will restart Level D.

#### Level D canteen privileges include:

- Can spend a total of \$10 Canteen Cash on hygiene.

#### **Level C**

- A youth maintains Level C if he achieves 75% attendance in treatment, education and/or vocational program for 45 consecutive days.
- A Level C youth becomes eligible to spend a total of \$25 ("Canteen Bucks") toward incentives and becomes eligible to be a unit worker.

- A youth promotes from Level C to Level B if he achieves 90% of total points and at least 85% attendance in treatment, education and/or vocational program for an additional 15 consecutive days (totaling 60 days) and participates in a promotion interview with the treatment team.
- A youth demotes to Level D when he drops below 75% attendance in treatment, education and/or vocational program for 15 out of 30 days.
- If youth receive an IR for behavior related means (fight, assault, contraband, destruction of property, or other behavior not specified) the youth will demote to Level D.

Level C canteen privileges include:

- Can spend a total of \$25 Canteen Cash on hygiene or writing supplies.
- Eligible to be a unit worker.

**Level B**

- A youth maintains Level B if he achieves at least 85% attendance in treatment, education and/or vocational program for 90 consecutive days
- A Level B youth becomes eligible for increased privileges, by being able to spend a total of \$50 (“Canteen Bucks”) toward incentives. The youth is eligible to be a unit worker and may be eligible for additional jobs located in the facilities, such as Kitchen Program. As our SB 823 program develops and considerations are given to work furlough-type programs, a youth in Level B may be eligible for weekday employment.
- A youth promotes from Level B to level A if he achieves 95% of total programming points and at least 95% attendance in treatment, education and/or vocational program for an additional 30 consecutive days (totaling 120 days) and participates in a promotion interview with the treatment team and "community" in a group of peers.
- A youth demotes to Level C when he drops below 85% attendance in treatment, education and/or vocational program for 7 out of 30 days.
- If youth receive an IR for behavior related means (fight, assault, contraband, destruction of property, or other behavior not specified) the youth will demote to Level D.

Level B canteen privileges include:

- Can spend a total of \$50 Canteen Cash on hygiene, writing supplies and “limited” bedding.
- Eligible to be a unit worker, and limited employment (Level B clearance work programs) as specified.
- Weekday employment only for Level B.

In 2023, Thirteen (13) youth promoted to Phase B.

**Level A**

- Level A is the highest level a youth can earn offering them the most privileges.
- A youth maintains Level A by meeting a minimum of 95% of total programming points and 95% attendance in treatment, education and/or vocational program for 120 consecutive days, presents a quarterly "community" presentation, participates as a youth mentor and serve as a youth assistant, if applicable.
- A Level A youth becomes eligible for increased privileges, by being able to spend a total of \$100 (“Canteen Bucks”) toward incentives. A Level A youth is also eligible to be a unit worker and may be eligible for additional jobs located in the facilities. As our SB 823 program develops and considerations are given to work furlough-type programs, a youth in Level A may be eligible for weekday and weekend

employment. A Level A youth also becomes eligible for special programs which may be offered to youth in the facilities as well as a mentor apprenticeship, tutor apprenticeship and participation as a "Youth Assistant" in primary interventions with other youth.

- A youth demotes to Level B when he drops below 85% attendance in treatment, education and/or vocational program for 4 out of 30 days or is unable to present a quarterly presentation to the treatment team and peers in a "community" setting or participate as a youth mentor or serve as a youth assistant as applicable.
- If youth receive an IR for behavior related means (fight, assault, contraband, destruction of property, or other behavior not specified) the youth will demote to Level D.

Level A canteen privileges include:

- Can spend a total of \$100 Canteen Cash on hygiene, writing supplies, bedding or special (highest) privilege items.
- Eligible to be a unit worker, and ALL employment (Level A clearance work programs) as specified.
- Weekday and Weekend employment.
- Eligible for Special Programs List.
- Mentor apprenticeship.
- Tutor apprenticeship.
- Youth Assistant in primary interventions.

In 2023, eight (8) youth promoted to Phase A.

Interactive Journaling:

In addition to the daily programming and education provided in the unit, SB 823 youth can work on interactive journaling during their evening program. Journals are purchased through "The Change Companies" interactive journaling program to supplement and reinforce what is learned through the group and individual programming offered to the youth. "The Change Companies" program was highlighted in the National Institute of Justice's Crime Solutions site as a "promising" program with validated successful outcomes.

Youth will work on their journaling in an open, dayroom space utilizing furniture designed to create a more "home-like" look and feel.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address family engagement in programs for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(C) and (d)(8))**

Through LCA, mental health, and Deputy Probation Officers, youth will have access to groups designed to enhance the transition back to the community and maintain a strong family unit. Bolstering a robust, sturdy family unit will be a core concept in the program. Family members are preferred to be involved in every step of youths' programs and transition back into the community. The more involved the family is in the treatment experience, the better the understanding, respect, and trust to solidify the successful return to the community will be.

Visiting:

Regular, in-person visiting is accessible to parents, legal guardians, or adults maintaining a positive relationship with the youth to continue and further develop family ties. Consideration is given to expand visiting options to include additional family members, such as siblings, grandparents, spiritual advisers, and mentors. As the youth

progress through the program, they may earn the privilege to expand their visiting list to include others who may serve as constructive influences. For youth who are parents, opportunities are available for regular baby visits. Youth have the opportunity to have onsite visits with their children.

Youth who have been incarcerated for one year or longer, can also receive extra video visits with family. The requirements to be eligible for this visiting incentive is as follows:

- In custody for one year or longer
- Has received Judge's Honor Roll at least 70% of the time while in custody
- Hasn't had any negative incident reports for that month

#### Special Events and Engagements:

Youth who are progressing strongly through their program and meet the criteria may be eligible for passes to attend life events such as childbirth and funeral services. On-site familial engagements will also be considered for youth progressing well in their treatment program.

High School and Programming Graduations: Youth you obtain their high school diploma while in custody are rewarded with a graduation ceremony. At the ceremony, youth wear a cap, tassel and gown and are presented with their diploma from the West Campus Principal. Additionally, teachers, staff and parents/guardians are allowed to attend and speak on the youth's accomplishments. Photos are permitted for the youth and their family, as well as refreshments being served to all in attendance. Youth who complete an evidence-based, trauma informed program, also receive a graduation ceremony where they wear caps/gowns, and are presented with their completion certificate.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(D) and (d)(8))**

#### Reentry Supports:

The current average length of stay for Stanislaus County youth committed to the SYTF is 40 months. Many of the youth will not have been out of custody and in the community as an adult prior to release. Based on their ages, there will also no longer be a legal obligation for parental care and custody. It is anticipated there will be a variety of tangible needs to help the release transition be more successful. Some examples of potential tangible needs may include income, food, clothing, transportation, vocation, and education supports. In addition, upon release there will be occasional needs for housing support; be it in sober living homes or other temporary housing options.

#### Housing:

The Center for Human Services operates a Youth Navigation Center (YNC), located at 2008 W. Briggsmore Avenue in Modesto. The YNC provides shelter, housing, and comprehensive drop-in services to any youth or young adult in Stanislaus County between the ages of 13-24 experiencing crisis, housing instability, and/or homelessness. Services located at the YNC include:

- Hutton House - emergency shelter and drop-in services for 13-17-year-old youth
- Pathways - Transitional housing for 18-24-year-old youth
- Low Barrier Emergency Shelter for 18-24-year-old youth



- Housing Services
- Comprehensive Drop-In Services
- Behavioral Health Support/Linkage
- Street Outreach and Engagement Services
- Diversion Services and System Navigation

The Center for Human Services is committed to working in partnership with Stanislaus County Probation in housing and referring all youth who run the risk of homelessness, to this innovative center. The Center for Human Services will also house each youth entering the Less Restrictive Program (LRP) for up to 90 days, at the YNC's shelter, where they will be assigned a Peer Navigator and will receive wrap-around services. Peer Navigators will be assigned to each youth to assist them in obtaining transitional housing. The youth's assigned Peer Navigator will also be in close, frequent contact with the youth's case manager from Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) to ensure continuity of services and to ensure all available resources have been identified, contacted, and provided to the youth and all barriers that have been identified, have been removed.

#### Case Management Services for youth in a LRP :

The overall purpose of Leaders in Community Alternatives is to incorporate evidence-based practices into the service delivery of Case Management services to in custody youth that have reached their final behavior modification level (Phase A), and will be entering a Less Restrictive Program (LRP). LCA will create a quality program that provides the necessary tools and support for youthful offenders to successfully reenter the community with the support and linkages to appropriate services. LCA will conduct risk assessments and develop individual service plans for youth out of custody while on LRP. They will facilitate and link individuals to community-based providers based on targeted goals and provide for a warm hand-off for youth transitioning from in-custody back into the community. Case managers will participate in, and provide participant progress updates during Multidisciplinary Team meetings (MDT). All transportation needs will be provided to youth that are participating in community-based programs, education and other services. Barrier removal services will be provided to youth in order to increase successful reentry. Barrier removal services will include providing a monthly stipend for youth to spend on needed items, as well as setting up bank accounts for the youth. For youth at risk for homelessness, LCA case managers will collaborate with the youth's Peer Navigator from CHS for housing linkage. Case managers will work collaboratively with Probation and other community resources to provide complete wrap-around services for the youth and their family.

#### Employment:

LCA will combine hands-on, individualized employment services with evidence-based curricula, to help participants obtain sustained, verifiable employment, create resumes, complete life skills and vocational training, and receive personalized support that includes barrier removal, job searching skills, and mentoring. LCA's program model provides a roadmap for participants to achieve the long-term goals of remaining attached to the legitimate workforce and maintaining their freedom.

LCA's existing employment programs in Stanislaus County are built on this program model. LCA will work with participants in custody to prepare them to find and secure employment, receive vocational and skills training, and learn to develop a resume and search for a job. Once in the community, the additional services provided include connecting participants to employers with actual job openings, coaching participants on individual opportunities, and working to remove all barriers to employment. These services are designed to increase job placement and retention with the primary goal of participants securing employment leading to career paths and increased self-sufficiency. LCA will further assist in facilitating connections with outside entities (Social Security Office, Post Office for draft registration, DMV for ID or CDL, birth certificates, Medi-Cal, etc.), and maintain a

presence with the youth with whom they have built a rapport to determine any special interests or skills to be further encouraged through community referrals.

### Education:

Students who have completed high school will have the opportunity to enroll in local colleges or vocational schools. Depending on the level of security, youth will be able to attend classes online or possibly attend courses outside the facility if hands-on participation is required, and the youth is deemed suitable for this level of responsibility. Youth who have demonstrated a high level of competence in an individual area and are eligible for a less restrictive environment and a lower level of supervision may be eligible for placement within the community for educational, vocational, apprenticeships, internships, or skills-development training.

For those youth still enrolled in SCOE's West Campus High School Education Program, all high school credits and coursework completed in Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall or the JCF will transfer seamlessly to SCOE's traditional high school education program. Youth will be transferred to an appropriate school site based on several factors. Both SCOE staff and the assigned DPO will assist youth in transitioning back into an appropriate high school education or GED Program.

Transition services for youth engaged in MJC's "My Next Step" Program will be assisted by the My Next Step Program Coordinator prior to and upon release. The Program Coordinator will arrange a campus or trade school tour, connect the student with his MJC guidance counselor or trade school contact, will assist with education or career planning and will connect with the Field Services Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) when the student is discharged from the Juvenile Facilities and again at 60 days post-release.

Students who are ready to be released to a less restrictive program will be set up with the Rising Scholars Network (RSN) on the Modesto Junior College campus for assistance and enrollment into college courses. All educational services are free of charge to the youth. The Rising Scholars Network was established in 2014 to expand the number of justice-involved students participating and succeeding in the community colleges. The RSN programs includes many initiatives (Adult Programs, Juvenile Justice and Textbooks/Digital Course Content) now serving almost 20,000 justice-involved students both on campus and federal or state prison, county jail, juvenile facility, or other correctional institutions. The California legislature and the California community college system are committed to using higher education as a tool to combat the impacts of mass incarceration. Research indicates higher education reduces recidivism, changes lives, and builds stronger communities.

### Vocational Services:

In addition to the provision of traditional core secondary and post-secondary education, this realigned population will be able to receive additional training and skill building in specific fields which will continue when youth are released from custody. As noted, healthy adolescent development includes the development of skills that support independence, responsibility, and work ethic. Some examples of these types of programs include:

- SERV Safe: Youth earn a certificate by completing tasks designed to mimic the restaurant industry. An online test must be passed to receive the certificate which is good for two years. The certificate translates to real world restaurant experience and the ability to step into a job in the restaurant industry immediately upon release.
- Student Repair Academy: The Student Repair Academy (SRA) meets the requirements for developing skills for the 21st Century work force by experiencing real world problems while developing real world solutions. Students who participate in a student tech team program gain valuable experience and marketable skills for the workforce while serving the school community. SRA students learn the basics

of repairing a Chromebook, providing high-quality tech support, exceptional customer service, and more, all while repairing their school's Chromebook fleet. For students who successfully complete this program, they will receive certificates in the areas of Ticket Management Systems, Physical Repair, and a Manufacture Certificate. The Student Repair Academy is scheduled to begin in August 2024.

- Career Technical Education (CTE): SCOE has secured a partnership with Patterson Professional Truck Driving School, in which, youth will learn to operate a semi-truck via an advanced simulator machine. Students are required to attend a one-hour class, five days a week, for an entire school year. In addition to this, students need to complete 30 hours on the simulator, which will be located inside the Juvenile Facilities. Upon successful completion of the year-long course and 30 hours on the simulator, youth will earn their learner's permit. The truck-driving industry is currently short 50,000 drivers and that is believed to increase to 75,000 in the next two years.
- Digital Arts: The Design, Visual, and Media Arts pathway includes those occupations that use visual art, digital media, and Web-based tools and materials as the primary means of communication and expression. In addition to an understanding of current workplace practice, this career pathway requires the development of knowledge and skills in both visual art concepts as well as new and emerging digital processes by which individuals are able to create and communicate complex concepts in a broad range of occupations and professions.
- Volt Institute: Volt On-The-Go takes the key mechanical and electrical training programs and makes them mobile, allowing VOLT to service youth currently incarcerated. The curriculum guides students through the proper installation, repair and maintenance of fasteners, machine tools, pumps, mechanical drives, pneumatic systems and hydraulic systems, as well as safe welding, torching techniques, electrical theory, mechanical circuitry and programmable logic controllers. The Probation Department has purchased the equipment students will need to participate in this program. The equipment is the same equipment utilized by Volt Institute at their Modesto campus. Students who participate in this program can continue their course work on-site at Volt Institute upon release, again, ensuring no lapse in their program.
- Northern California Construction Training (NCCT): A pre-apprenticeship program focused on the building trades with the primary goal of preparing students in the field of construction and placement in related fields. NCCT touches on over 22 trades of construction, offers employment barrier assistance and offers many certification courses including OSHA 10, HAZWOPER, Welding and Traffic Flagging, CPR-First Aid, and Traffic Control. NCCT also partners with SCOE to provide this program to students out of custody, creating a seamless transition from in custody to out of custody ensuring no gaps in their training.
- Modesto Junior College (MJC) "My Next Step": The department expanded upon an existing partnership and enter into contract to provide services to in-custody youth in the SB 823 Unit. The "My Next Step" Program will allow this innovative MJC program to provide assessment, career counseling, and vocational program coursework to in-custody youth. Additional support is built into this contract to provide for 30, 60 and 90-day follow-up with youth upon their release from custody. This program is described further in Part 4 of this report.
- Rising Scholars Network: Students who are ready to be released to a less restrictive program will be set up with the Rising Scholars Network (RSN) on the Modesto Junior College campus for assistance and enrollment into college courses. All educational services are free of charge to the youth. The Rising Scholars Network was established in 2014 to expand the number of justice-involved students participating and succeeding in the community colleges. The RSN programs includes many initiatives (Adult Programs, Juvenile Justice and Textbooks/Digital Course Content) now serving almost 20,000 justice-involved students both on campus and federal or state prison, county jail, juvenile facility, or other correctional institutions. The California legislature and the California community college system are committed to using higher education as a tool to combat the impacts of mass incarceration. Research indicates higher education reduces recidivism, changes lives, and builds stronger communities.

### Behavioral Health Transitions:

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) will work with Probation to transition youth from in-custody treatment to behavioral health services post-release, as most of these youth will be eligible for services under the Adult System of Care or through the Transition Age Youth (TAY) program once out of custody. The Adult System of Care provides services to youth (age 18 and over) who are experiencing challenges in life functioning as a result of symptoms related to mental illness and/or substance use. Treatment is client-driven and based on the strengths and goals of the youth served. Key treatment components include a mental health assessment/reassessment, psychological evaluation, medication management services, group therapy, individual therapy, family therapy, case management services, psychoeducation, substance use treatment, rehabilitation and coping skills education, and linkage to community resources.

Stanislaus County Center for Human Services (CHS) will work with Probation to transition youth from in-custody substance use disorder (SUD) treatment to SUD services post-release. Treatment groups are open to all youth in custody. Following a comprehensive assessment, the youth will participate in developing an individualized treatment plan with his/her counselor. Typically, this will include 12 weekly outpatient group meetings, relapse prevention, cognitive-behavioral interventions training, contingency management, communications, family relations, socialization, and introduction to finding community support. The curricula used is trauma-informed and evidence-based, delivered by caring and compassionate Substance Use Disorders counselors.

Pre-Release Meetings will address the accomplishments and continuing needs of youth being released. Key stakeholders, including the youth, his LCA case manager, Center for Human Services, Modesto Junior College, and his DPO will participate in the meeting. Goals for after release will be reviewed and discussed with partnering agencies from education, religious services, behavioral/medical health, family members, LCA and Probation staff to help develop a successful re-entry plan. LCA and Probation will maintain a current resource list of community-based service providers to be able to refer youth being released in order for the youth and family to know what is available to them within the community. The resource list will include agencies who provide support, services, and opportunities in the following areas:

- Employment/Job Readiness
- Housing, Shelter, and Utility Services
- Medical / Mental Health Services
- Transportation Services
- Support/Counseling Groups
- Education

### Post-Release Supervision:

Based on the high-risk level and numerous needs of the realigned population, dedicated caseloads with manageable youth to officer ratios will be key to successful re-entry back into the community. Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) will begin working and building rapport with the youth while they are in custody.

They will provide case management services and individualized case plans to maximize the chance for successful integration. They will also provide a level of accountability to help redirect behavior which is contrary to their success. The DPO will assist in the coordination of many of the details of youth being released from commitments to address both custody and community needs upon release, coordinate services with partnering agencies, oversee Pre-Release Meetings, and act as a liaison between CHS, LCA and/or MJC and the youth being released. The DPO will further assist in facilitating connections with outside entities in coordination with LCA (Social Security Office, Post Office for draft registration, DMV for ID or CDL, birth certificates, Medi- Cal,

etc.). An additional resource available is the Stanislaus County Day Reporting Center (DRC), where offenders have the opportunity to receive programming and counseling assistance specific to their current needs.

#### LCA Case Management:

Comprehensive case management is the heart of a successful reentry program. Case Managers are responsible for participant orientation, engagement, facilitating groups, overseeing the implementation of participant case plans and coordination of services with off-site providers.

Case Managers have one-on-one counseling sessions with participants to review progress and group work, explore ambivalence, promote self-efficacy, identify criminal thinking, and make any needed adjustments to the participant's case plan. Throughout the program, Case Managers will continually work with each participant to assess how to best address specific issues. LCA will routinely give session and outcome rating scales to assess if participants are finding value in the services offered and are reducing their identified risk/needs as a result of programming offered.

#### Volunteers:

The Stanislaus County Probation Department is fortunate to have long-standing relationships with community volunteers who are well-connected in the community and have a desire to assist justice-involved youth. These volunteers routinely communicate with the facilities' supervision and administration team to assist with unmet needs for youth. Volunteer connections include relationships with several Community-Based Organizations.

**Describe how the County plans to apply grant funds to address evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed and culturally responsive programs or services for the target population. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(E) and (d)(8))**

#### Evidence Based Practices:

Stanislaus County Probation Department and LCA are committed to Evidence-Based Practices (EBP). EBP includes a wide variety of practices and treatments that have been validated through meta-analysis to reduce recidivism by addressing criminogenic needs and building on supportive factors.

The core of EBP is an evidence-based assessment. Stanislaus County utilizes the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0 (YLS/CMI 2.0) risk assessment which is one of the most widely used structured risk and need assessment measures across many jurisdictions; for example, Canada, the United States of America, Australia, Japan, Singapore, and the United Kingdom (Chu, Lee, et. al., 2013; McGrath & Thompson, 2012; Onifade et al., 2008; Rennie & Dolan, 2010; Schmidt, Campbell, & Houlding, 2011; Takahashi, Mori, & Kroner, 2013). This assessment both identifies a youth's risk level to reoffend as well as their criminogenic needs. The YLS/CMI 2.0 is utilized for all youth in custody. For those youth out of custody and over the age of 21, the CAIS will be utilized. This tool is used by the Probation Department for their adult offenders and is validated for this older age group. The CAIS assessment tool is supported by the National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD). LCA also utilizes the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0 (YLS/CMI 2.0) risk assessment tool during their initial meeting with the Secure Youth Treatment Facility youth to determine the youth's criminogenic needs. The "target" population who are in-custody 30 days or longer are also assessed using the YLS/CMI 2.0. Individual goals are established for the youth based upon their level of need.

In addition to an assessment, EBPs include evidence-based treatments. These are Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) programs and other best practices that have been proven to address criminogenic needs and

reduce recidivism. Examples include Aggression Replacement Training, (ART) and Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI). Both sworn and non-sworn staff, as well as contracted service providers, will facilitate these treatment modalities to youth. Additional examples of such programs being implemented for this realigned population are found in Part 4 of this plan.

#### Gender and Culturally Responsive Services:

LCA staff located in the Juvenile Facilities will reflect experience and diversity at all levels. LCA management and direct service staff will operate with the required qualifications and certifications to empower them to perform their jobs effectively. Additionally, Juvenile Probation Corrections Officers (PCOs) within the facilities receive ongoing annual training on topics that include youth development and culturally responsive approaches to youth interaction. Here is one example of a gender/culturally responsive training offered:

- **LGBTQI Populations: Guiding Principles for Probation & Corrections:** This course focuses on preparing Probation and Correctional Officers to meet the needs and challenges of supervised LGBTQI populations both in and out of custody. The program of instruction will introduce students to key definitions, laws, guiding principles, roles, and responsibilities of staff aimed at achieving effective and appropriate communication, a culture of tolerance, an environment of trust, and desirable operations that inform proper staff/probationer interactions. In addition, students will examine best practices related to intake screening and classification that promote confidentiality while minimizing potential dangers and maximizing opportunities for successful rehabilitation and reintegration. Further, students will identify requirements for mandatory reporting and design functional responses to harassment and discrimination. Finally, students will bridge course concepts to practical applications that reflect real-world solutions to the barriers of properly serving our supervised LGBTQI population.

Youth are free to exercise religious expression and have opportunities to request visitation from personal spiritual advisors. As noted, cooperation with faith-based organizations has traditionally been strong. Entities such as Youth for Christ and our Chaplaincy Services will provide opportunities for youth seeking religious fulfillment from their program.

#### Trauma Informed Care Based Approach:

Probation is dedicated to a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) based approach. The first part of TIC in the juvenile justice system is to recognize that most of the affected youth have experienced trauma in their lives. The next step is to put policies in place which attempt to minimize the potential for re-traumatization. Providing services and outlets to address trauma through both treatment and positive staff interactions is also key. Some examples of current trainings provided to staff that support a trauma-informed approach include:

- **Crisis Intervention and Behavioral Health Training:** Officers becoming mental health first responders are often inadequately trained for this task. Tragedies between law enforcement and the mentally ill are occurring more and more frequent. One "bad incident" can cause deviation to families, the mental health community, officers and agencies. One tragic incident can also damage the department's image and can negatively impact police-community relations. This course is designed to provide officers with valuable tools to interact effectively with the mentally ill.
- **Interacting Effectively with the Mentally Ill:** Law Enforcement and jail personnel are dealing more and more with a growing mentally ill population. This course is designed to provide students with the tools necessary to identify individuals who may be suffering from mental illness. The course will also provide students with active listening skills in order to have a safe disposition.

- **Think Trauma: Training for Staff in Juvenile Residential Settings:** This particular training was created by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). This project was funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This training provides an overview for juvenile justice staff on how to work towards creating a trauma-informed juvenile justice residential setting. Creating a trauma-informed setting is a process that requires not only knowledge acquisition and behavioral modification, but also cultural and organizational paradigm shifts, and ultimately policy and procedural change at every level of the facility.
- **Title 15 Trauma Informed Care:** During this highly interactive course, the student will learn approaches and techniques to reduce the stress faced while interacting with traumatized youth in the juvenile justice system. By understanding trauma, the student can become more effective and find greater reward and success working with the youth in their care. In 2018, Island Consulting and Training (the treatment provider) conducted a study of childhood trauma in probation staff and the children in custody. Numerous Probation Departments participated in that study. The findings were shocking. This highly focused course is specifically designed for probation staff utilizing evidence-based data collected in California Probation Departments and Juvenile Facilities.

Ongoing Training Support:

Ongoing training will be a priority to ensure the permanency of these practices. To support ongoing training efforts, one Institutions Manager assists the Professional Standards Unit in researching and coordinating formal and informal training for the Department and collaborative partners, with a primary focus on emerging TIC and behavioral health minded approaches to staff/youth interactions to supplement and enhance training efforts already in place.

**Describe whether and how the County plans to apply grant funds to include services or programs for the target population that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code §1995(d)(3)(F) and (d)(8))**

It is recognized that to accomplish the mission of successfully servicing the SB 823 population it must be a collaborative effort. While the Probation Department has the primary responsibilities for security, services and treatment, numerous other partners are significantly involved. SCOE and MJC play a vital part in education services. Wellpath provides mental health and medical care services. Other important partners are LCA, Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Center for Human Services, various volunteer groups, and more.

It is anticipated there will be a variety of tangible needs to help the release to a less restrictive program be more successful. Some examples of tangible needs include income, food, clothing, transportation, vocation, and education supports. In addition, upon release there will be needs for housing support as youth navigate a successful transition back into the community. Funding will be utilized to contract with the Center for Human Services to provide temporary and transitional housing for these youth.

Probation, Wellpath and LCA will maintain a current resource list of community-based service providers to be able to refer youth being released to in order for the youth and family to know what is available to them within the community. The resource list will include agencies who provide support, services, and opportunities in the following areas:

- Employment/Job Readiness
- Housing, Shelter, and Utility Services

- Medical Services
- Transportation Services
- Legal Assistance
- Childcare Services
- Support/Counseling Groups



## PART 5: FACILITY PLAN (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(4))

**Provide a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine the target population at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. Facility information shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))**

Facilities:

Stanislaus County utilizes the existing Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall to house SB 823 youth. This is a secure residential facility with an operational capacity of 158 beds. The Juvenile Hall facility is divided into eight separate housing units; one of those units, Unit 7, houses the realigned population. Unit 7 can house up to 20 youth and consists of ten rooms which can house two youth each. This 20-bed housing unit has a dayroom for structured activities and a separate classroom space for education. It also includes an additional room which can be utilized for mental health counseling or separation of target groups, as necessary. There is an outdoor recreation yard adjacent to Unit 7 which is utilized for the realigned population. Current office space contained in Unit 7 will be utilized as calming room where youth can de-escalate from elevated emotional states. This room will provide youth an opportunity to de-escalate. The room will provide a positive experience, and will be utilized as a resource, not as a punitive sanction. The Juvenile Commitment Facility includes a full kitchen where meals are prepared on-site and delivered timely to the youth housed on our campus.

Female youth have historically been committed to current DJJ programs at a very low rate. To date, there are no female youth committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility. Therefore, female youth programming may be better suited where additional like-gender youth can program together. This may be accomplished through a regional contract with another county. If that option is not available or appropriate, female youth committed for longer terms in custody may be housed in a separate wing with other females.

Additional Safety Measures and Protections:

- Prison Rape Elimination Act: The Probation Department has a policy in place to investigate all sexually based accusations or complaints as serious, truthful, and time sensitive. PREA investigators include supervisory staff at the Supervising Probation Corrections Officer (SPCO) and Management level. At any time during an investigation, outside law enforcement agencies may be called to conduct a criminal investigation. Victim Advocates will be available should they need to be utilized in any case. All information is considered confidential.
- Transgender Youth: Policies are in place to protect transgender and intersex youth. Upon initial entry to any Stanislaus County Institution, all youth participate with staff in completing a Sexual Vulnerability Assessment and an additional LGBTQI questionnaire which plays a part in helping to determine housing, clothing, and classification based on their gender identification.
- Special Education: In cooperation with the Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools (SCOE), youth will have access to continued education and services. Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Education Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) are available for those youth who qualify. Schools also work in cooperation with behavioral health providers, medical staff, and Probation to individualize each youth's program to meet their specific needs.

- Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting (MDT): The MDT attendees include representatives from school, behavioral health, medical, substance use disorder counselors and Probation staff. The primary goal of the MDT is to discuss challenges youth may have while programming and will detail any Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations deemed necessary. The SPCO in attendance records minutes and disseminates information to unit staff to assist with youth supervision.
- Suicide Prevention: Probation is committed to deterring and preventing self-harm and suicide within its facilities. Policies are in place for supervision of youth identified as high-risk for this behavior. Wellpath uses a risk assessment to determine the youth's history, current state of mind, and potential for self-harm or suicidal ideation. Youth deemed to be an immediate risk are immediately assessed by Wellpath to determine program needs and supervisory objectives. Youth may be placed on Suicide Watch or Special Watch depending on their needs. Mental health staff work with probation staff to develop a safety plan designed to safely reintegrate the youth back into their living environment while still playing close attention to their mental health needs. Programs can be changed at any time during their stay with behavioral health input and approval.
- Youth Grievances: Youth will be able to file a grievance at any time; the grievance process is covered during each booking orientation and youth are reminded of the grievance process by unit staff. Each youth will have access to grievances during their program and may keep them inside their room for completion. A confidential grievance box is made available within each housing unit, or youth may give them directly to supervisory staff. Grievances are taken seriously, handled in a timely manner, and at times can develop into policy changes when required. All grievances are reviewed by facility administration.
- Ombudsperson: All youth have access to the Ombudsperson's telephone number and have access to utilize the facility phones, any time, free of charge to make the phone call. Youth are afforded time away from all other youth to make these calls.

#### Facility Upgrade Considerations:

Currently, security upgrades are being planned and prioritized to upgrade the facilities' control panels, intercoms, staff stations, and camera systems. These upgrades are being added to protect youth and enforce the safety and security of the facility. On March 26, 2024, this item went to the Board of Supervisors for approval to execute a contract with Accurate Controls. Once approval has been obtained, a construction schedule will be developed.

Staff assigned to this unit extensively reviewed options for safe, "home-like" furniture and security upgrades for the SB 823 Unit, recreation yard, and de-escalation room. Furniture purchased for the living unit includes round "family-style" tables which are utilized for meals and group programming, reading nooks, and comfortable seating for weekend and evening programming. As noted previously in this report, funds were utilized to develop the multi-sensory, de-escalation room. Items for this room include a therapy chair, sensory water beads, wood backed wall pads, a body rocker, light cover sets, projector wheel, "relaxer chair", sensory ball set, sensory tactile "squishy set", air scent diffusers, and speaker systems for calming music/sounds to be played. The addition of a camera in this room is also planned as part of the security upgrades. Staffing for the SHINE Unit has expanded to one Supervising Probation Corrections Officer, three Probation Corrections Officer IIIs, and four Probation Correction Officer I/IIIs.

A secondary outdoor perimeter fence was installed in the recreation yard, complete with razor wire, a man gate, and a secondary gate allowing for emergency vehicle entrance. This updated fencing provides more security of the outdoor space, allowing youth to engage in physical activity outside while maintaining safety and security of the youth and facility. Additional upgrades to this outdoor space include two sets of custodial-grade exercise

equipment and basketball hoops. Future upgrades include artificial turf for field type activities, a pickleball court and a handball court.

## **PART 6: RETAINING THE TARGET POPULATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(5))**

**Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))**

The Stanislaus County Probation Department continues to work within the parameters of the legal system to ensure youth entering the Juvenile Justice System are given opportunities to succeed at the lowest level of intervention possible. Partners within the Juvenile Justice System include the Stanislaus County Juvenile Court, the Stanislaus County District Attorney, the Stanislaus County Public Defender, Alternate Indigent Defense (AID), Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and additional community support advocates. These partners work closely to ensure fair, consistent, equal, and individual treatment for each youth.

Each individual case is assessed and evaluated before Court recommendations are made to ensure the best practices and services are directed to each individual youth. Working within the existing laws, only offenses eligible for transfer to the adult system would be considered. When considering Court recommendations on those cases, the underlying principle applied to the Court process will be that whenever possible and appropriate, youths' cases should remain in the Juvenile Justice System.

Probation will continue to operate rehabilitative programs and refer youth to community-based services when appropriate to reduce youth recidivism and mitigate the need for the transfer of cases to the Adult Criminal Justice System. Only when findings are made by the Juvenile Court that services within the Juvenile Justice System are not appropriate to rehabilitate a youth will a case be transferred to the Adult Criminal Justice System. It is the goal that this program will be adequate with regard to both security and service provision to be a robust alternative and thereby limit the need for cases to be transferred to the Adult Criminal Justice System in all but the most serious of cases.

## **PART 7: REGIONAL EFFORT (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(6))**

**Describe any regional agreements or arrangements supported by the County's block grant allocation. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response: (Welf. & Inst. Code (d)(8))**

Stanislaus County will serve youth locally unless substantial case factors indicate the youth would be better served another way. Youth committed to this program are not only at risk of further exposure to the Criminal Justice System, but they are at much higher risk to become disenfranchised with the community to which they will ultimately return. Family structure, family visits, positive peer and mentor involvement, and community service are keys to successful reintegration into the local community. Local programming, vocational training, higher education, and community ties are valuable to promote a youth's chances for success when released from the program. Stanislaus County is committed to prioritizing both the family bond and commitment to their community for these youth and local programming provides the best opportunity.

### Possible Regionally Contracted Specialized Services for Youth:

- Sex Offender Services: To date, we have one sex offender committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). We have contracted locally for individual and group sex offender counseling for this offender. However, should regional programs be developed, implemented, and deemed appropriate, a regional contract could be pursued.
- Programs and Services for Females: Female youth have historically been committed to DJJ programs at a very low rate, in fact, in Stanislaus County, just one youth was committed to DJJ in the four years before its closure. To date, there are no female youth committed to SYTF. Therefore, female youth programming may be better suited where additional like-gender youth can program together to avoid isolation or stigmatization. This may be accomplished through a regional contract with another County. If that option is not available or appropriate, female youth committed for longer terms in custody will be housed in a separate wing with other females. In either case, there will be an individualized case plan developed specific to the youth that is suitable to both meet the youth's needs and is appropriate for longer-term care. It is prudent to ensure all youth have optimal opportunities to be placed in a program that best suits their needs.

### **PART 8: DATA (WELF & INST. CODE § 1995(D)(7))**

#### **Describe how data will be collected on youth served by the block grant. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response:**

Data collection and analysis is an important aspect of any new program. Probation is committed to having accurate and relevant data upon which informed decisions can be made regarding what is working, what is not and where resources should best be applied. Data will be reviewed and analyzed by the Juvenile Data Analyst. This information will guide the department in finding evidence-based solutions and programs for the clientele served by Probation. The department has an existing internal case management system allowing officers to manage the Juvenile Probation population. This will allow the Department to ensure reporting accuracy and provide the ability to identify trends that impact services. Further, with the implementation of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system within the Juvenile Facilities in 2021, tracking of program participation has become more robust. The ability to track and quantify programming information has been more effective and efficient with this system. Additionally, the Probation Department routinely reports information in the JCPSS system, annually through the CPOC annual report, and collects monthly statistical reports from Probation Officers. This information is used to direct resources and help guide decision-making for the Department's Management Team.

Statistical data will also be gathered on youth housed within the facility to gather demographic information and to monitor and gauge significant incidents which may occur. Categories in which statistics will be compiled include but are not limited to mutual fights, assaults, gang related graffiti/signs/comments/ writing, suicide attempts, self-inflicted injuries, PREA incidents, suicides, escapes, and escape attempts. This data is regularly reviewed by Probation management. Additionally, Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall and JCF continues to contract with Performance-based Standards (PbS) Learning Institute. PbS works to produce better outcomes for justice-involved youth, their families, and the community. PbS, in working with Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall and Juvenile Commitment Facility, conducts rigorous data collection and accurate analysis that identifies nationwide trends, provides evidence of what's working and not working, and supports continuous improvement for our facilities. Through PbS, the incarcerated youth, custody staff, and the parents/guardians of the youth receive surveys that can be completed anonymously. These surveys help guide the decision-making process when determining what programs are working and which ones are not. These surveys also provide an insight into how youth view their safety and the cleanliness of the facility's environment.

Another important piece of data is getting feedback from the youth themselves. It is vital to understand how the affected youth perceive the services and support being provided. Equally important is to gauge what service gaps exist from their perspective. While this feedback will be received during the normal course of interacting with the youth, it is felt a formalized process to collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data is needed. Therefore, formalized surveys will be conducted on a periodic basis, no less than two times per year. This data will be collated by the Juvenile Data Analyst and shared with Probation management and the SB 823 subcommittee to help inform decisions moving forward.

Staff working directly with the youth will be continuously engaged in providing feedback to supervisors and management through scheduled unit meetings and ongoing conversations in order to formalize a process to collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data.

**Describe outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds. Describe any progress on this element since May 1, 2023, at the end of your response:**

LCA Monthly Reports:

Reports will detail participation data which will include the number of participants in each program, each month, as well as monthly outcome reports. These reports will include details regarding participants' names, dates of referral, enrollment, engagement and activities, as well as exiting information including:

- Quantity of barriers which have prevented program participants from completing all programs and the percentages of program participants experiencing these barriers.
- Quantity of program participants referred to all programs, including those who exited all programs (with explanation of the reason for the exit), obtained employment after release, maintained employment for a minimum of 120, 150 and 180 days.
- Monthly Outcome Reports will include: Job Readiness Training Report, Case Management Services Report, and Vocational Training Report.

MJC "My Next Step" Program:

The My Next Step Program Coordinator will gather data during and after one's commitment to the SB 823 Unit. Progress will be tracked through specific benchmarks, including but not limited to:

- Completed Interest Inventory
- Completed Education Plan
- Completed MJC Application
- Completed Financial Aid Application
- Completed MJC Orientation
- Youth enrolled in MJC courses
- Number of completed courses
- Youth obtaining an AA degree
- Youth who refused to enroll or who dropped courses

The MJC Program Coordinator will be responsible for tracking student data and will conduct a 30-60 and 90-day follow-up upon one's completion of his respective vocational program. All data and findings will be shared with Stanislaus County Probation.

Center for Human Services SUD Program:

Reports will detail participation data which will include the number of active participants engaging in SUD services, each month, as well as the number of youth who have been referred to out of custody treatment. These reports will include details regarding participants' names, dates of referral, enrollment, engagement and activities, as well as exiting information including:

- Referral Date/Referral Type
- Release Date/Pending Court Date
- Assessment Date
- Review/Reinstatement Date
- Screening Date
- Youth pending assessment
- Youth who refused in-custody services
- Number of youth who graduated the program
- Youth who are low risk or no risk for SUD

**PART 9: OTHER UPDATES: DESCRIBE ANY PROGRESS ON ELEMENTS SINCE MAY 1, 2023:  
(WELF. & INST. CODE (D)(8))**

Provide a description of progress made regarding any plan elements and any objectives and outcomes in the prior year's plan, to the extent that they have not already been described above.

To date, all progress that has been made, has been indicated in all sections listed above.