

PLEASE CLICK ON THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SEAL
TO RETURN TO THIS PAGE

[CLICK HERE FOR THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORT DATED MARCH 1, 2021](#)

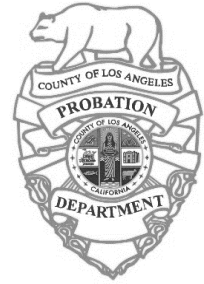
[CLICK HERE FOR THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORT DATED JUNE 9, 2021](#)



ADOLFO GONZALES
Chief Probation Officer


COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501



March 1, 2021

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer 
Chair, JJCC Division of Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

SUBJECT: **PREPARING FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE (ITEM NO. 57-D, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021)**

On February 9, 2021, on motion of Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl, the Board of Supervisors (Board):

1. Instructed the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee, whose membership is established by state legislation, to consult with local justice, health, community and other relevant stakeholders, to report back in writing in 120 days with:
 - a. Recommendations that consider and incorporate, where appropriate, the Youth Justice Work Group's recommendations, including those from the report entitled, "Youth Justice Reimagined: Recommendations of the Youth Justice Work Group DJJ Transition Team"; and
 - b. Submit its final DJJ plan (Plan) for approval by the Board of Supervisors (Board) prior to submitting the Plan to the State and institute a standing report back to the Board on an annual basis to update the Plan as needed; and
2. Instructed the Subcommittee to report back in writing in 20 days with a description of the support needed to complete this task, with consideration for, among other things, participation of designees with relevant expertise from the Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, and other County departments, as well as any logistical or administrative support needed to fulfill the above directives.

In accordance with the motion, this report is primarily in response to Directive No. 2.

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities

I. SB 823 OVERVIEW

On September 30, 2020, the Governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 823 directing the closure of DJJ and the transition of those responsibilities to the counties. Commencing July 1, 2021:

- DJJ will stop accepting new commitments while any youth currently housed at that time will continue to remain with DJJ for the duration of their disposition.
- Counties will be responsible for the custody, treatment, and supervision of youth who would have otherwise been subject to a DJJ disposition.

SB 823 (Section 1995) directs each county's JJCC to submit a DJJ Annual Plan to the newly established State Office of Youth and Community Restoration describing the facilities and placements, programs and services, and re-entry and supervision strategies effective for Fiscal Year 2022-23 and forward.

In addition, the State established a Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Program to provide counties with funding, appropriated through the General Fund, to support the aforementioned services. The Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant allocation is based on a formula that factors a county's DJJ commitments, adjudications for certain violent offenses, and the general youth population. The estimated funding for Los Angeles County for FYs 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 are \$8,298,608, \$24,582,658, and \$40,725,895, respectively.

II. PLAN SUBMISSION TIMELINE

FY 2021-22 Plan

The State does not require the submission of a Plan for FY 2021-22, as they have indicated that the Board of Supervisors shall consider this Plan as required in SB 823 (Section 1995). Consequently, upon the Subcommittee's completion of the FY 2021-22 Plan, it will be presented to the JJCC at their meeting in April 2021 for their review and approval. We will then present the Plan at a Cluster Agenda Review Meeting in May 2021, prior to submitting it and the 120-day report to your Board for consideration by June 9, 2021.

FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 Plans

Upon the Subcommittee's completion of the State-required Plan for FY 2022-23, it will be presented to the JJCC in August 2021 and the Board in October 2021 for review and approval, and will then be submitted to the State Office of Youth and Community Restoration by January 1, 2022. This Plan, and we anticipate future plans, will also describe the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies

that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for DJJ population in Los Angeles County.

III. JJCC-DJJ SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Pursuant to SB 823, the Subcommittee held its initial meeting on January 26, 2021 and reviewed and discussed the CEO Board Memo, "Preparation For the Closure of the California Division of Juvenile Justice: Final Burns Institute Report" dated December 30, 2020 and the Plan completion timeline.

In light of the February 9, 2021 motion and pursuant to SB 823 guidelines, to provide as much transparency as possible, at its meeting on February 18, 2021, the Subcommittee recommended various representatives from other County departments and partner agencies to participate in upcoming meetings to obtain their input into the development of the FY 2021-22 Plan. In addition, we invited representatives from the W. Haywood Burns Institute to provide an overview of their December 2020 report as some of the Subcommittee members were not part of the Youth Justice Work Group DJJ Transition Team.

During the February 18, 2021 Subcommittee meeting, members had various inquiries about whether a determination had been made regarding the use of facilities as the first secure alternative to a DJJ facility and also consideration of a step-down process that could facilitate a young adult re-entry to the community. We are continuing the process of reviewing the recommendations by the Youth Justice Work Group DJJ Transition Team, to include recommendations to using Campus Kilpatrick as the first secure alternative site to a DJJ facility and repurposing Camp Gonzales as part of step-down programming, along with our need to review the possible use of Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and other facility sites for consideration and feasibility.

Additionally, at its meeting on February 24, 2021, the Subcommittee updated the established timeline with associated tasks including inviting formerly incarcerated youth and representatives from Labor, other County departments and partner agencies in order to complete the Annual Plan.

IV. SUPPORT NEEDED FOR 120-DAY REPORT AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The following provides an overview of the support that is being obtained or is needed in various areas to complete the 120-day report back and to develop the FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 Plans.

One-Time FY 2020-21 State Regional Youth Programs and Facilities Grant Program

SB 823 allocated \$9.6 million for the BSCC to award one-time grants, statewide, to counties for the purpose of providing resources for infrastructure-related needs and

improvements to assist with the development of a continuum of care. These funds are limited to counties as eligible applicants.

BSCC issued a Request for Information on December 18, 2020, whereby a majority of the responding counties indicated they lack capacity to serve youth in one or more high-needs category (Females, Sex Offenders, and Seriously Mentally Ill), and that they intend to refer these youth to other counties for appropriate treatment and placement. The current proposal earmarks \$4 million for four projects (\$1 million each) to develop regional programs to serve youth referred by other counties in the three high-needs areas, leaving \$5.12 million available to all counties to support infrastructure improvements. Given this, we anticipate that we will need support to fund any ISD or Public Works-related costs associated with renovation or infrastructure needs including more “home-like” environment improvements, to better prepare our first secure alternative facility to a DJJ facility. The grant application is due to the BSCC in May 2021.

Higher-Level Classification

We also anticipate needed support by the CEO and our labor partners to proceed in utilizing a higher-level classification to best address the needs of the youth that otherwise would have gone to the DJJ.

Legal Guidance

As with other similar endeavors, we will seek the assistance of the Office of the County Counsel for any needed legal guidance and dedicated support.

Fundamental Services

The Subcommittee has preliminarily identified assistance needed by the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health, DCFS and Public Library to provide input into the development of the Plan as the new population will need health, mental health, rehabilitative programming, substance use disorder, and educational support services that are fundamental for the youths’ better outcomes. In addition, the Subcommittee will be seeking assistance from other key stakeholders, such as My Brothers Keeper, community college administrators, and community-based organizations, including those that can provide individuals with lived experience to share their insights, as we move forward to develop the best approach to meet the needs of the youth.

Facility Security and Other Assessments

We have approached the Sheriff’s Department as we will need their assistance in conducting facility security assessments, and they are supportive and are ready to begin immediately. In addition to the facility security assessments, we are likely to need assessments by others, with solutions for facility conversions to non-custodial, therapeutic, home-like settings, contingent on funding availability.

Specialized Training

As the Subcommittee and the Department complete the planning process, we anticipate the identification of training needs above the normal course offerings to appropriately build a milieu able to effectively engage and facilitate behavior change and instill hope, healing and improve the youths' and young adults' overall well-being.

V. CONCLUSION

We will keep the Board apprised of any additional support needed to complete the directives in the motion or of any barriers that may rise. As previously indicated, we anticipate submitting our 120-day report and the FY 2021-22 Plan to the Board by the due date of June 9, 2021.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information, or your staff may contact Tom Faust, Acting Chief Deputy, Juvenile Services, at (562) 940-2851 Felicia Cotton, Deputy Director, Juvenile Services, at (562) 940-2526.

AG:TF:FC:cm

c: Honorable Victor Greenberg, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
 Alex Villanueva, Sheriff Department
 Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
 Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel
 Bobby Cagle, Director, Department of Children and Family Services
 Christina R. Ghaly, Director, Department of Health Services
 Jonathan E. Sherin, Director, Department of Mental Health
 Barbara Ferrer, Director, Department of Public Health
 Mark Pastrella, Director, Department of Public Works
 Selwyn Hollins, Director, Internal Services Department
 Skye Patrick, Librarian, Public Library
 JJCC-DJJ Subcommittee Members

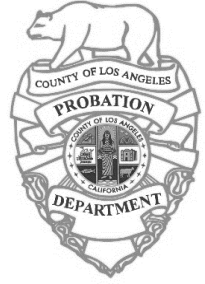


ADOLFO GONZALES

Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501



June 9, 2021

TO: Supervisor Hilda Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer
Chair, JJCC - JJRBG Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

SUBJECT: **PREPARING FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE PLAN – TRANSFER OF STATE’S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CUSTODY, CARE, TREATMENT AND SUPERVISION OF DJJ YOUTH TO THE COUNTY (ITEM 57-D, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021)**

On February 9, 2021, on motion of Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl, the Board of Supervisors (Board):

1. Instructed the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), whose membership is established by state legislation, to consult with local justice, health, community, and other relevant stakeholders, to report back in writing in 120 days with:
 - a. Recommendations that consider and incorporate, where appropriate, the Youth Justice Work Group’s recommendations, including those from the report entitled, “Youth Justice Reimagined: Recommendations of the Youth Justice Work Group DJJ Transition Team”; and
 - b. Submit its final DJJ plan (Plan) for approval by the Board of Supervisors (Board) prior to submitting the Plan to the State and institute a standing report back to the Board on an annual basis to update the Plan as needed.

The following provides: 1) a summary of the key highlights relative to the Subcommittee’s development of the FY 2021-22 Plan; 2) a general overview of Senate Bill (SB) 823, its requirements and eight Plan elements (Subcommittee Composition; Target Population; Programs and Services; Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Funds; Facility Plan;

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities

Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System; Regional Efforts; and Data); 3) the Subcommittee's recommendations; 4) a general overview of the Plan's elements; and 5) Next steps.

I. SUMMARY OF KEY HIGHLIGHTS

As a result of SB 823, effective July 1, 2021, counties will be responsible for the custody, treatment, and supervision of youth who would have otherwise been subject to a DJJ disposition. Attached for your Board's consideration is the Subcommittee's final DJJ Plan.

Although we have had informal meetings with labor representatives, we are required to officially meet and confer due to the impact to working conditions. Currently, youth with a DJJ disposition are housed at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall pending transfer to the State. Beginning July 1, 2021 and after we have concluded discussions with our labor partners, male DJJ youth will be placed at Campus Kilpatrick in Malibu, until renovations for a small group model environment have been completed at Camps Scott and Scudder, located in Santa Clarita and female DJJ youth will be placed at Dorothy Kirby Center, located in Commerce.

The estimated funding allocations for Los Angeles County for FYs 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 are \$8,298,608, \$24,582,658, and \$40,725,895, respectively. The first allocation for eligible counties is to be made by September 1, 2021, and each September 1, thereafter.

In developing the FY 2021-22 Plan, the Subcommittee considered and incorporated, where appropriate, the Youth Justice Work Group's recommendations, including those from the report entitled, "Youth Justice Reimagined: Recommendations of the Youth Justice Work Group DJJ Transition Team."

Upon your Board's approval, we will provide the Plan to the State, as they do not require a formal submission for the FY 2021-22 Plan. In addition, we will work with your Board's Executive Office to calendar a standing report back to your Board on an annual basis to update the Plan, as needed, and obtain your Board's approval of each annual plan, beginning with FY 2022-23 Plan forward.

II. SENATE BILL 823

SB 823 Overview

On September 30, 2020, the Governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 823 directing the closure of DJJ and the transition of those responsibilities to the counties. Commencing July 1, 2021:

- DJJ will stop accepting new commitments while any youth currently housed at that time will continue to remain with DJJ for the duration of their disposition.

- Counties will be responsible for the custody, treatment, and supervision of youth who would have otherwise been subject to a DJJ disposition.

SB 823 (Section 1995) directs each county's JJCC to submit a DJJ Annual Plan to the newly established State's Office of Youth and Community Restoration, describing the facilities and placements, programs and services, and reentry and supervision strategies effective for FY 2022-23 forward.

In addition, the State established a Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) Program to provide counties with funding, appropriated through the General Fund, to support the aforementioned services. The JJRBG allocation is based on a formula that factors a county's DJJ commitments, adjudications for certain violent offenses, and the general youth population. The estimated funding allocations for Los Angeles County for FYs 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 are \$8,298,608, \$24,582,658, and \$40,725,895, respectively. The first allocation for eligible counties is to be made by September 1, 2021, and each September 1, thereafter.

SB 823 Requirements

To be eligible for JJRBG funding, counties are required to:

- Create a subcommittee of the multi-agency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative and supervision services for the target population;
- Form the subcommittee with required members (chief probation officer, as chair, one representative from the district attorney, the public defender's office, the department of social services, the department of mental health, the county office of education or school district, and a representative from the court, with no fewer than three community members with experience providing community-based youth services, advocates, or people and direct experience in the juvenile justice system); and
- Submit a plan to the State's Office of Youth and Community Restoration describing facilities, placements, programs and services and reentry and supervision services for youth treated locally, for FY 2022-23 forward.

JJRBG Plan Elements

To assist counties in the development of their plans, the Chief Probation Officers of California created a template that was adopted statewide. As reflected in the attached plan, the JJRBG Plan Elements are:

- 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

These elements are further discussed in Section IV of this report.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

In developing the attached FY 2021-22 Plan, the Subcommittee considered Countywide Justice reform efforts and the work of the Youth Justice Work Group including recommendations from the report entitled, "Youth Justice Reimagined: Recommendations of the Youth Justice Work Group DJJ Transition Team."

Notably, the Subcommittee largely concurred with the Youth Justice Work Group's recommendations and is submitting a plan for your Board's approval that includes:

- Reliance on multi-disciplinary case planning
- Delivering programs focused on healing and youth development
- Providing a more therapeutic, home-like environment/small group model
- Placing male youth temporarily at Campus Kilpatrick - later at Camps Scott/Scudder, once renovations are completed (pending meetings with labor partners)
- Placing female youth at the Dorothy Kirby Center
- Ensuring ongoing contact, connection and relationship-building between youth and their families
- Utilizing Credible Messengers in the facilities
- Selecting vast, outdoor green spaces for healing and focused programming
- Providing restorative justice/victim awareness programming

The Subcommittee also largely concurred with additional ideas arising from the Youth Justice Work Group's work and will continue to consider recommendations, including the following:

- Implementation of YES Teams
- Identify secure alternatives to DJJ in the community (Step-Down) and/or non-secure facilities
- Exploring care-first staffing models for this unique population

IV. FY 2021-22 PLAN OVERVIEW

The following provides an overview of the FY 2021-22 Plan based on its eight elements.

Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Composition

The JJCC adopted a Resolution to create the JJRBG Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on January 14, 2021. The JJRBG Ad-Hoc Subcommittee participated in 13 meetings; conducted eight site visits to operational and closed Probation Department sites over three days; and received 23 presentations from various individuals, which included youth-serving departments and community-based partners, parents, formerly incarcerated youth, and other pertinent stakeholders. The presentations were held as an opportunity to increase the Subcommittee members' awareness in various areas, that were key to the development of the FY 2021-22 Plan.

Target Population

The County's realignment target population includes youth who are adjudicated to be a ward of juvenile court for serious violent felonies as described in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 707 (b) or sex offenses as described in Penal Code (PC) Section 290.008 (c). For FY 2021-22, we anticipate there will be approximately 60 such youth. The service needs for this population have been identified as a comprehensive education/vocational program, family support & engagement, substance use, mental health/health, transformative mentoring, job readiness, healing/restorative justice, cognitive rehabilitative therapy, and youth leadership/advocacy.

Programs and Services

The County's JJRBG programs and services are based on the Positive Youth Development framework which is a holistic approach that focuses on youth strengths and assets instead of deficits and problems, emphasizing building positive relationships, supporting the development of skills and competencies, and connecting youth to educational, employment, civic, and cultural opportunities. Youth development programs prepare youth to meet challenges of adolescence by focusing on cultivating their strengths to help them reach their full potential.

Consistent with the Youth Justice Workgroup's "DJJ Transition Team Final Report," programming will focus on healing and youth development and will include robust educational opportunities with the capacity for vocational training, culturally rooted trauma informed healing groups, individual cognitive behavioral therapy, transformative mentoring/credible messengers, family engagement and support services, and restorative justice/victims' empathy awareness, to name a few.

Facility Plan

Beginning July 1, 2021, and after conferring with our labor partners, male youth who would have otherwise been committed to DJJ will be placed at Campus Kilpatrick in Malibu, until renovations for a small group model environment have been completed at Camps Scott and Scudder, located in Santa Clarita. Female youth will be permanently placed at Dorothy Kirby Center. In collaboration with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Internal Services Department, the Probation Department will work with the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to ensure compliance with Title 24 mandates before relocating youth and staff. In addition, the Department will work closely with the Chief Executive Office (CEO), and other County departments to assess space and funding requirements that will be submitted as a Capital Project(s).

The JJRBG Ad-Hoc Subcommittee benefited from the work of the Youth Justice Work Group, labor, youth and community advocates, parents, youth-serving departments, and Probation staff regarding the appropriate staffing levels and the skills and attributes of the ideal staff. The themes from those discussions included: focusing special recruitment efforts on staff with backgrounds in social work, healing, coaching, mentoring, restorative and transformative justice, mediation, education, seasoned skilled staff with experience with this population able to work proactively to maintain a safe therapeutic campus. Selected staff will receive additional training to effectively engage, motivate, and facilitate groups of youth towards a positive peer culture in which youth feel safe sharing past experiences, traumas, and fears, to learn new social emotional skills, and reinforce new positive behaviors.

While there were discussions regarding ratios and staffing patterns, the Department recognizes the statutory meet and confer responsibility and is currently working with the CEO to formally schedule negotiations over the impacts of employee working conditions as a result of SB 823 implementation.

Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System

To facilitate the retention of SB 823 youth in the juvenile justice system, the County will serve youth through a continuum of effective secure and non-secure alternatives to the criminal court system and DJJ, in collaboration with the District Attorney, Public Defender, Courts, Probation, Alternatives to Incarceration, the Office of Diversion and Reentry, restorative justice service providers and other relevant stakeholders, to create and invest in a restorative justice approach to youth crime, including serious, violent crimes, to facilitate the goals of repair and

accountability at any point viable, before, during or after adjudication and confinement and engage the leadership of youth formerly incarcerated in DJJ and the adult system and survivors of serious crimes, in developing the continuum of effective secure and non-secure alternatives.

Regional Efforts

SB 823 allocated \$9.6 million for the BSCC to award one-time grants, to counties for the purpose of providing resources for infrastructure-related needs and improvements to assist counties in the development of a local continuum of care.

In December 2020, BSCC issued a Request for Information relative to each county's intent to house and provide programming for the high needs population specifically noted as: females, sex offenders and seriously mentally ill youth. The County of Los Angeles' response did not indicate potential issues with housing or programming for this population. However, most of the responding counties did indicate the lack of capacity to serve youth in one or more of the high needs categories and that they intend to refer these youth to other counties for appropriate treatment and placement.

The current proposal under review by BSCC would make \$4 million available to develop regional programs to serve youth referred by other counties in the three high-need categories. Under this proposed distribution, the remaining \$5 million would be distributed equitably to all counties to support infrastructure and improvements need to serve in the in-county populations of realigned youth.

Data

Collection of data is planned through multiple systems across various programs and services for youth. This data will include youth demographics, case management supportive efforts, youth general health and mental health services, youth educational and vocational services and training. Additionally, program specific data will also be targeted for collection to analyze outcome measures to build continuous improvement processes. The Department intends to explore opportunities to partner with a researcher and/or a university to conduct an evaluation study regarding program effectiveness.

V. NEXT STEPS

We will continue meeting with our labor partners regarding the proposed implementation of the JJRGB Annual Plan, specifically the impact to staff. We will also continue working with the CEO to determine the budgetary needs for FY 2021-22 for our Department and other impacted county departments and community-based partners to be included in Final Changes. The Subcommittee will continue to meet, as necessary, to update and further develop the plan for FY 2022-23 forward.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Probation Department remains dedicated to providing all youth in our care with quality services and supervision to best help them heal, develop, and thrive as successful adults. As Chief Probation Officer designees, senior executive staff chaired the JJRBG Subcommittee and worked cooperatively with Subcommittee members, whose dedication is reflected in their recommendations and the development of the Plan that we believe meet the needs of the target youth population.

While the Subcommittee was faced with challenging timelines, we are proud to now recommend for your Board's approval, the attached plan and a program that aligns with the County's vision of reforming youth justice. We recognize that this is but another significant step in a longer process of transforming the way the County serves youth and we will continue to track implementation and outcomes of this particular effort, periodically update your Board, and evolve and adapt the program as necessary to meet the needs of the youth involved.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information, or your staff may contact Brandon Nichols, Chief Deputy, at (562) 940-2511.

AG:BN:FC

Attachment

c: Honorable Victor Greenberg, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel
Christina R. Ghaly, Director, Department of Health Services
Jonathan E. Sherin, Director, Department of Mental Health
Max Huntsman, Office of Inspector General
Barbara Ferrer, Director, Department of Public Health
Antonia Jimenez, Director, Department of Public Social Services
Debra Duardo, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Sheila Williams, Senior Manager, Chief Executive Officer
JJCC-JJRBG Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
Justice Deputies

Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan

Date:

County Name: Los Angeles

Contact Name:

Telephone Number:

E-mail Address:

Background and Instructions:

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

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

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

Contents:

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 1: Subcommittee Composition (WIC 1995 (b))

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

Agency	Name and Title	Email	Phone Number
Chief Probation Officer (Chair)	Brandon T. Nichols	Brandon.nichols@probation.lacounty.gov	(562) 940-2852
District Attorney's Office Representative	Alisa Blair	Ablair@da.lacounty.gov	(213) 257-2937
Public Defender's Office Representative	Luis J. Rodrigez	LRodriguez@pubdef.laounty.gov	(213) 974-2992
Department of Social Services Representative	Luther Evans Jr.	LutherEvansJr@dpss.lacounty.gov	(562) 908-6348
Department of Mental Health	Karen Streich	Kstreich@dmh.lacounty.gov	(213) 738-2895
Office of Education Representative	Jewel Forbes	Forbes_jewel@lacoed.edu	(310) 850-2021
Court Representative	Tricial Penrose	Tpenrose@lacourt.org	(213) 633-0684
Community Member	Bikila Ochoa	Bochoa@antirecidivism.org;bochoa@arc-ca.org	(213) 955-5885
Community Member	Patricia Soung	Psoungconsulting@gmail.com	(213) 355-8791
Community Member	Josh Green	jgreen@urbanpeaceinstitute.org	(213) 404-0127
Community Member	Johnie Drawn Jr.	Jdrawn4u@yahoo.com	(213) 426-0108
Community Member	R. Michael Dutton	Mckydsr@gmail.com	(661) 657-0987
Additional Subcommittee Participants			

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

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

The County of Los Angeles's realignment target population supported by the block grant includes youth who were eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure on June 30, 2021, which includes those adjudicated to be a ward of juvenile court based on an offense described in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 707 (b) or an offense described in Penal Code Section 290.008 (c) (SB 823, Chapter 1.7, Section 1990 (b)) and their reentry process to the community, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing and continuing education (SB 823, Section 1995, (3) (D)).

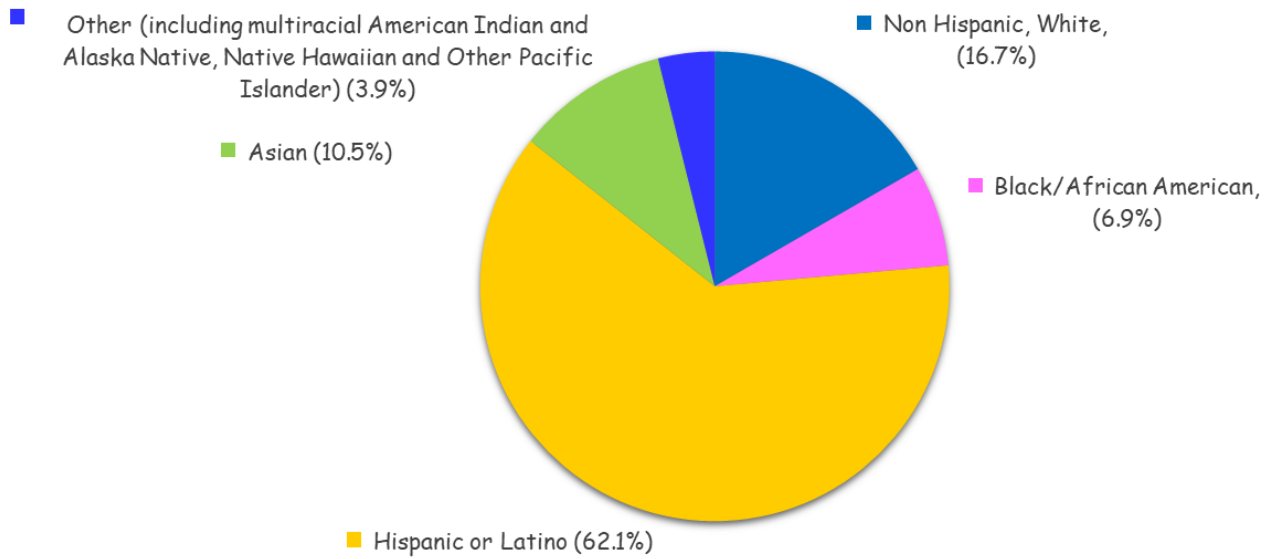
Demographics of identified target population, including anticipated numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including age, gender, race or ethnicity, and offense/offense history:

The County of Los Angeles was established on February 18, 1850 and is one of the nation's largest counties, with 4,084 square miles and 10,039,107 residents (as of July 1, 2019), accounting for approximately 27 percent of the State's population. The County includes 88 incorporated cities and many unincorporated areas.

As reported by the United States Census Bureau, of this population (2019), 863,303 youth, ages 11-17 years, reside in the County and the percentage of these youth race/ethnic groups were as follows:

United States Census Bureau Ethnic Group Breakdown (as of 2019)	%
Non Hispanic, White	16.7%
Black/African American	6.9%
Hispanic or Latino	62.1%
Asian	10.5%
Other (including multiracial American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander)	3.9%

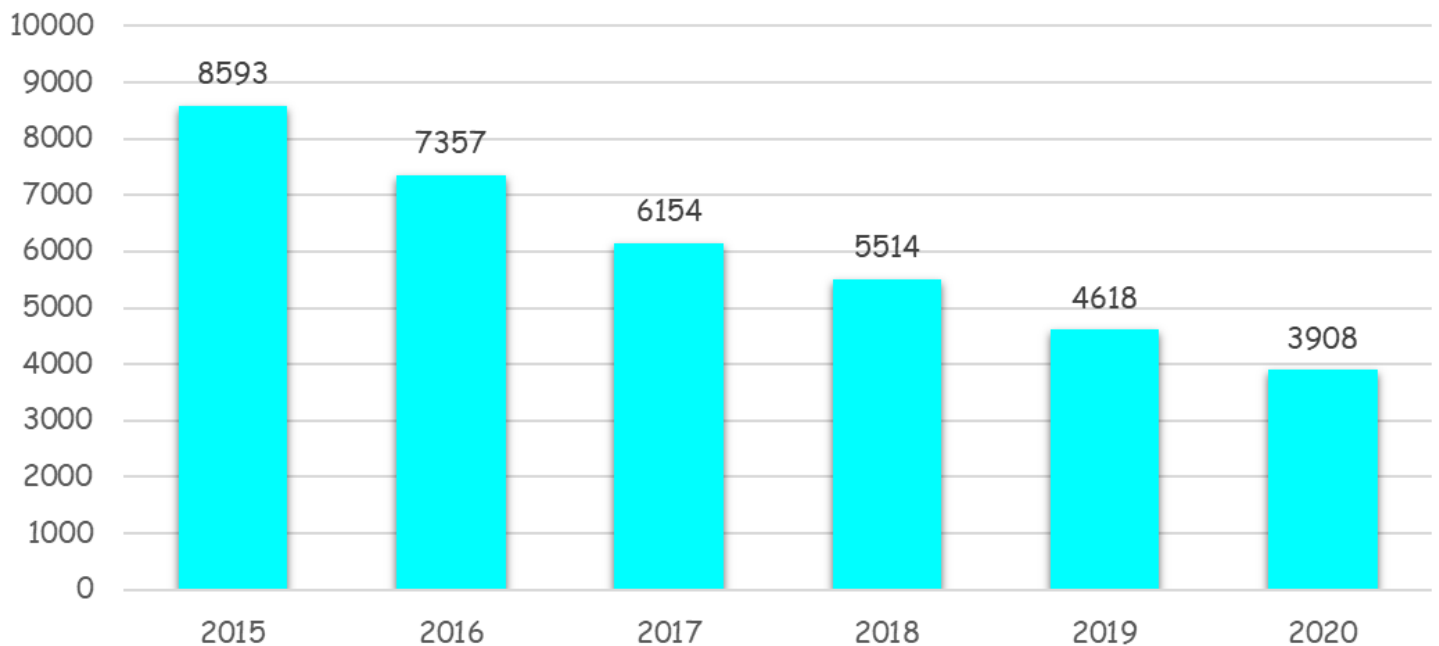
United States Census Bureau Ethnic Group Breakdown (as of 2019)



Snapshot data for youth on Probation for Calendar Years (2015-2020) include the following, with a more than 50% decrease in youth on Probation between 2015 and 2020.

Number of Youth on Probation Supervision

Snapshot Data Reflects 2015-2020



For the specific County identified target Plan population, information is provided by the following categories:

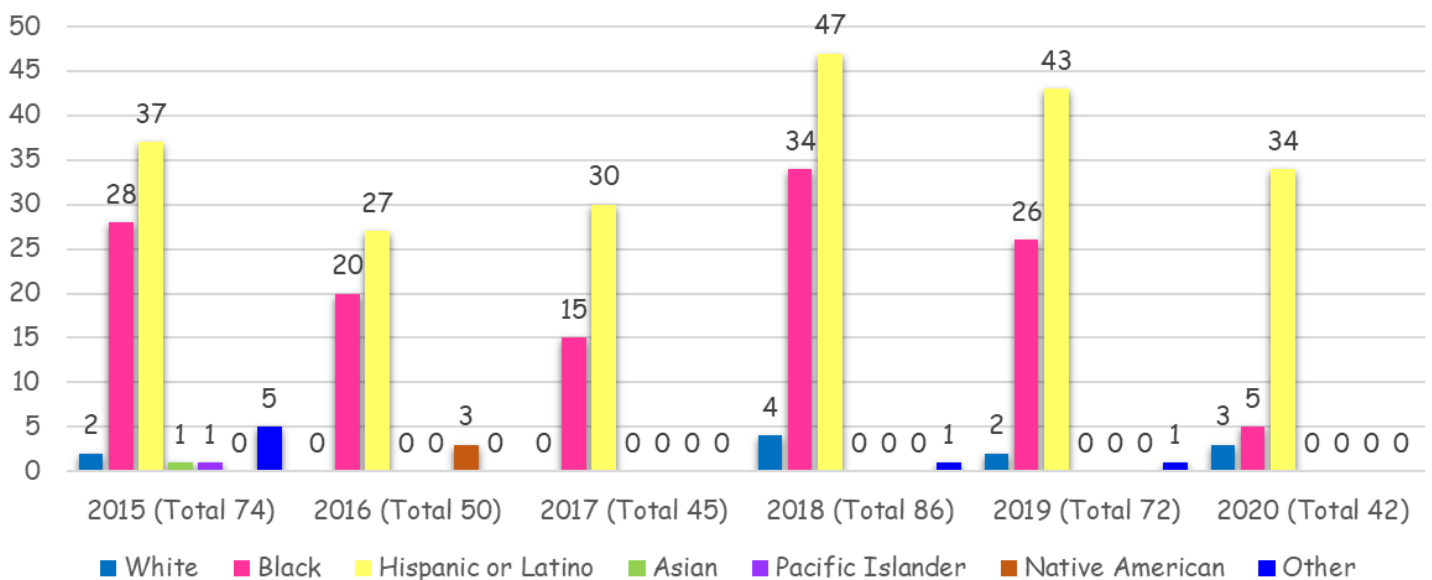
1. Historical demographic information for our County's 369 Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) youth commitments: (a) by ethnicity, (b) age and (c) gender at the time of Juvenile Court disposition, for Calendar Years 2015-2020
2. Historical most serious sustained offense information for 114 youth who received a DJJ disposition for Calendar Years 2019-2020
3. Additional historical delinquency information for 114 youth who received a DJJ disposition for Calendar Years 2019-2020
4. Demographic and most serious sustained offense information for 163 youth with current DJJ dispositions (as of March 2021)

1. (a) Historical ethnicity information for the County's 369 DJJ youth commitments (at time of Juvenile Court Disposition) for Calendar Years 2015-2020 include:

Ethnicity	White		Black		Hispanic or Latino		Asian		Pacific Islander		Native American		Other		Total	
2015	2	3%	28	38%	37	50%	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%	5	7%	74	100%
2016	0	0%	20	40%	27	54%	0	0%	0	0%	3	6%	0	0%	50	100%
2017	0	0%	15	33%	30	67%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	45	100%
2018	4	5%	34	40%	47	55%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	<1%	86	100%
2019	2	3%	26	36%	43	60%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	72	100%
2020	3	7%	5	12%	34	81%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	42	100%
Total	11	3%	128	35%	218	59%	1	0%	1	0%	3	1%	7	2%	369	100%

Division of Juvenile Justice Commitments (By Ethnicity)

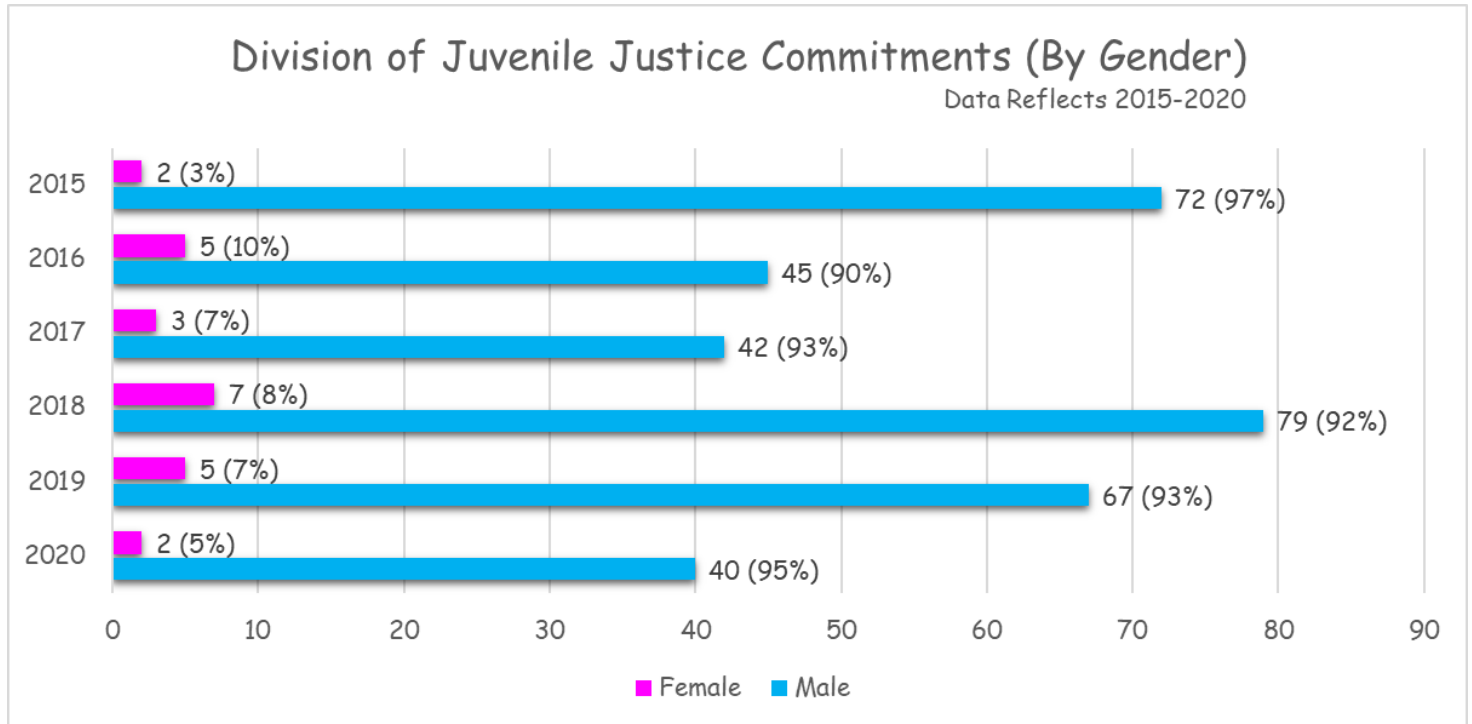
Data Reflects 2015-2020



Between the Calendar Years of 2015-2019, Black youth DJJ commitments ranged from 33%-40% of the total County commitments; in the 2020 Calendar Year, Black youth made up 12% of the DJJ youth County commitments, an approximate 68% decrease from the previous years' averages.

1. (b) Historical gender information for the County's 369 DJJ youth commitments (at time of Juvenile Court Disposition) for Calendar Years 2015-2020:

Gender	Male		Female		Total	
2015	72	97%	2	3%	74	100%
2016	45	90%	5	10%	50	100%
2017	42	93%	3	7%	45	100%
2018	79	92%	7	8%	86	100%
2019	67	93%	5	7%	72	100%
2020	40	95%	2	5%	42	100%
Total	345	93%	24	7%	369	100%

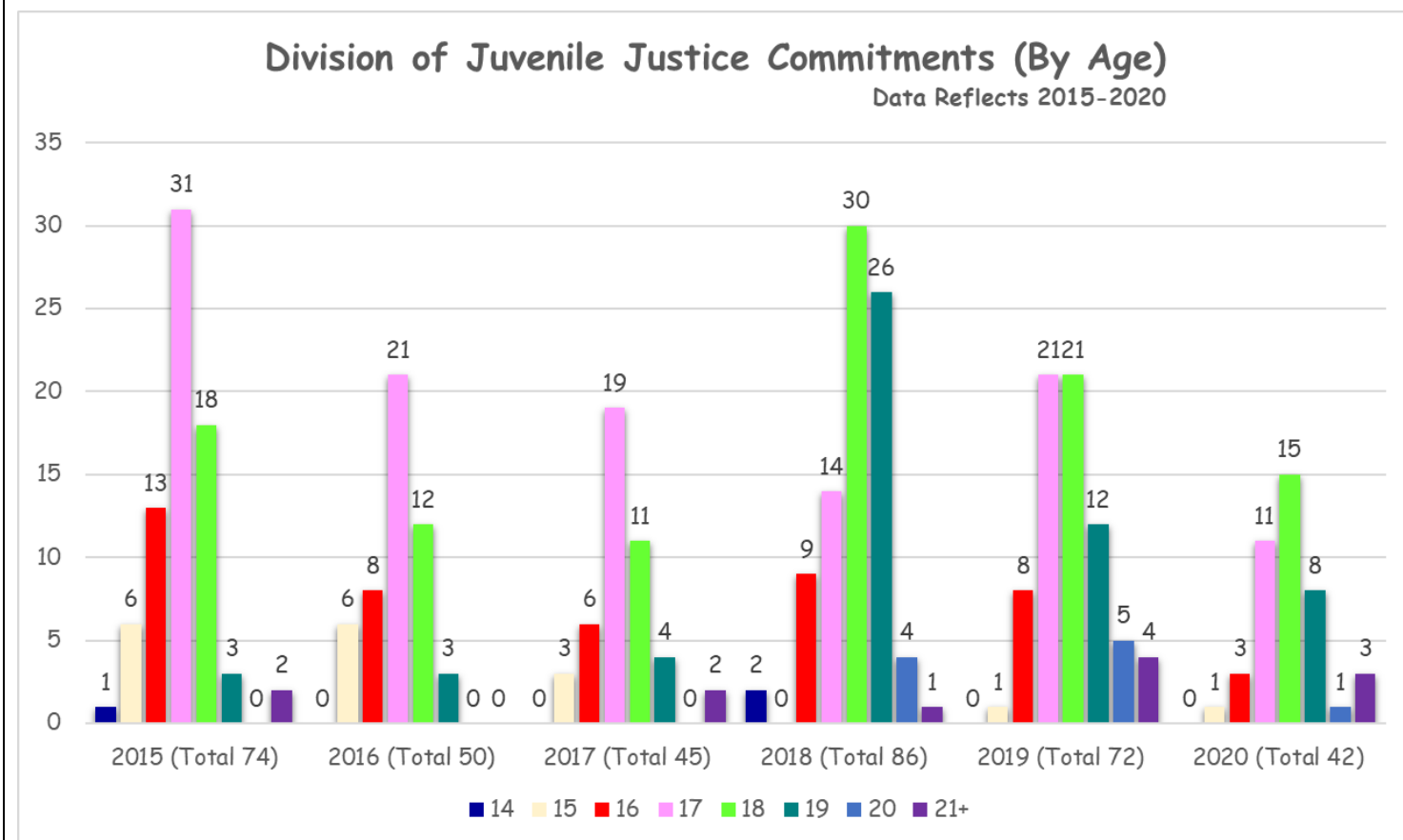


There have not been significant percentage changes for male and female County youth ordered to DJJ for the six (6) Calendar Years (2015-2020) as indicated in Chart/Graph 1b.

1. (c) Historical age information for the County's 369 DJJ youth commitments (at time of Juvenile Court Disposition) for Calendar Years 2015-2020 include:

Age Commitment at	14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21+		Total	
2015	1	1%	6	8%	13	18%	31	42%	18	24%	3	4%	0	0%	2	3%	74	100%
2016	0	0%	6	12%	8	16%	21	42%	12	24%	3	6%	0	0%	0	0%	50	100%

2017	0	0%	3	7%	6	13%	19	42%	11	24%	4	9%	0	0%	2	5%	45	100%
2018	2	2%	0	0%	9	10%	14	16%	30	35%	26	30%	4	5%	1	2%	86	100%
2019	0	0%	1	1%	8	11%	21	29%	21	29%	12	17%	5	7%	4	6%	72	100%
2020	0	0%	1	2%	3	7%	11	26%	15	36%	8	19%	1	2%	3	7%	42	100%
Total	3	1%	16	5%	44	13%	106	32%	92	28%	48	15%	9	3%	12	3%	369	100%



As indicated in the previous chart/graph (1c) regarding age at DJJ commitments, the age at commitment began increasing in 2018, where youth ages 15-17 have decreased and ages 18-19 years increased. The passage of Senate Bill (SB) 382 on January 1, 2016 and Proposition (Prop.) 57 (The Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016) on November 8, 2016 likely increased the number and age of commitments based on the following:

- SB 382 made changes to Fitness Hearings for juvenile offenders by changing factors that the court may give weight to when determining whether a youth should be tried in Juvenile or Adult Court; this comprehensive information including facts about the crime and the youth's ability to rehabilitate as well as the Juvenile Court may give weight to any relevant factor including, but not limited to those listed under each of the five criteria. This Bill ensures judges consider the actual behavior of the individual and his/her ability to grow, mature and be rehabilitated.
- Proposition 57 ended direct filing by the District Attorney, eliminated the presumption of unfitness and allowed for the filing of the "Motion to Transfer to Adult Court" for the following two groups of youth: a) for those ages 16-17, for any felony offense and; b) for ages 14-15, Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 707 (b) offenses where prior to this, the DA could make a fitness motion for youth ages 16-17, under WIC Section 707 (a)(1) for any offense, and under WIC Section 707 (c) for youth ages 14-15 for WIC 707 (b) offenses. Additionally, Prop. 57 also allowed for the

return of cases from the Adult Court, which had not had the benefit of the Motion to Transfer to Adult Court process.

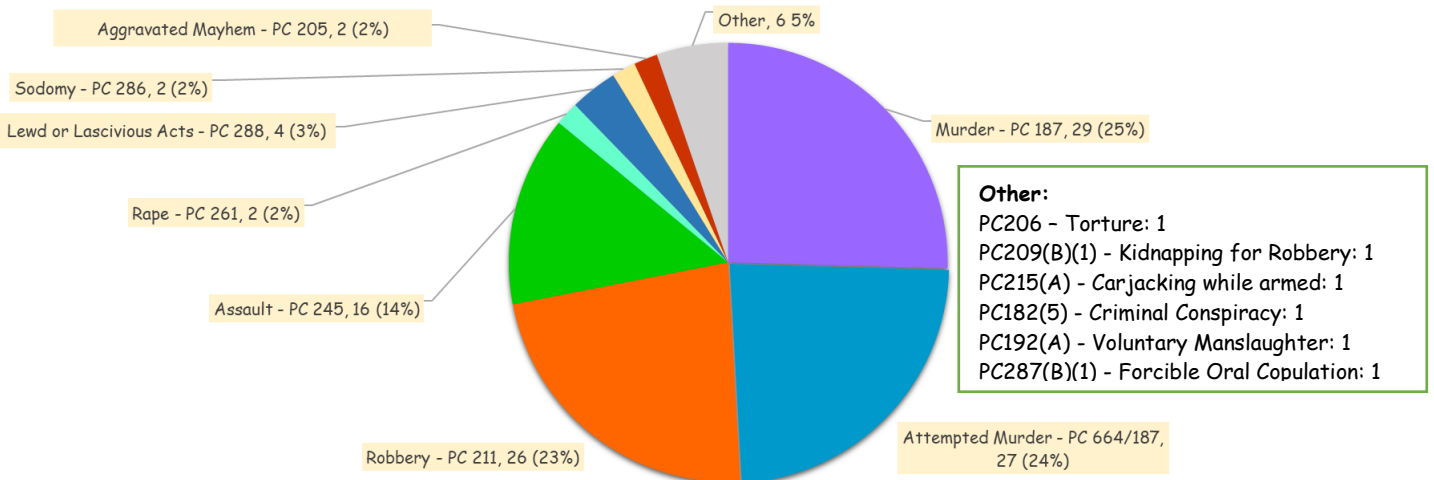
- For the 114 County youth committed to DJJ during Calendar Years 2019-2020, the following includes their most serious commitment offense:

Youth with DJJ Dispositions (2019-2020) - Most Serious Commitment Offense

Commitment Offense (Most Serious)	Commitment Offense Code	# of Youth	%
Murder	PC 187	29	25%
Attempted Murder	PC 664/187	27	24%
Robbery	PC 211	26	23%
Assault	PC 245	16	14%
Rape	PC 261	2	2%
Lewd or Lascivious Acts	PC 288	4	4%
Sodomy	PC 286	2	2%
Aggravated Mayhem	PC 205	2	2%
Other: Torture Kidnapping for Robbery Carjacking While Armed Criminal Conspiracy Voluntary Manslaughter Forcible Oral Copulation	PC 206 PC 209(B)(1) PC 215(A) PC 182(5) PC 192(A) PC 287(B)(1)	6	5%
Total		114	100%

Youth with DJJ Dispositions (2019-2020) - Most Serious Commitment Offense

Data Reflects DJJ Orders 2019-2020
Total DJJ Population - 114



As this pie chart indicates, approximately 72% of County youth were ordered to DJJ for Murder/ Attempted Murder (49% total – Murder-25% and Attempted Murder-24%) and Robbery (23%).

3. For the 114 County youth committed to DJJ during Calendar Years 2019-2020, the following includes additional information related to their delinquency histories:

	Total # of Youth with DJJ Commitments	Average Age at DJJ Commitment	# of Youth Where DJJ Commitment Offense Was First Contact with Law Enforcement	# of Youth with Prior Arrest/ Probation History	# of Youth with Motion to Transfer prior to DJJ Order
2019	72	18.5	19	53	31
			26%	74%	43%
2020	42	18.4	12	30	18
			29%	71%	43%

	# of Youth with Prior Informal Probation	# of Youth with Prior Probation Wardship (Not Including DJJ Offense)	Average # of Law Enforcement Contacts Prior to DJJ Commitment Offense(s)	Average Age When Wardship was Declared
2019	5	52	4	15.6
	7%	72%		
2020	7	25	4	15.7
	17%	60%		

As mentioned, the average age of DJJ commitment increased to approximately 18-19 years. Additionally, for youth committed to DJJ for Calendar Years 2019-2020:

- 72% (average) had prior arrests/Probation history
 - 15.6 years was the average age when Juvenile Court wardship was declared
 - 66% (average) had prior Juvenile Court ordered delinquency wardship prior to their DJJ disposition
4. As of March 2021, the following includes demographic information as well as the most serious commitment offense for County youth with current DJJ dispositions:

Youth with DJJ Dispositions (as of March 2021) - Demographic Information

Age	# of Youth	%
16	3	2%
17	9	6%
18	22	13%
19	43	26%
20	31	19%
21	33	20%
22	14	9%
23+	8	5%
Total	163	100%

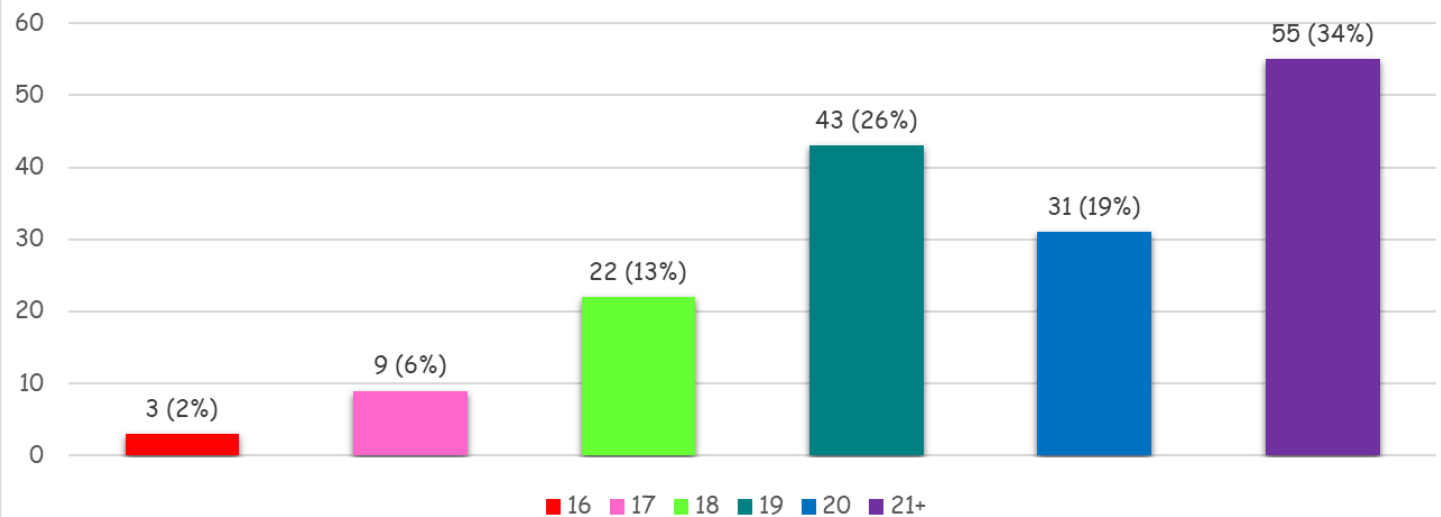
Ethnicity	# of Youth	%
White	6	4%
Black	44	27%
Hispanic or Latino	111	68%
Asian	0	0%
Pacific Islander	0	0%
Native American	0	0%
Other	2	1%
Total	163	100%

Gender	# of Youth	%
Male	154	94%
Female	9	6%
Total	163	100%

Division of Juvenile Justice Commitments (By Age)

Data Reflects Youth with DJJ Disposition (as of March 2021)

Total 163

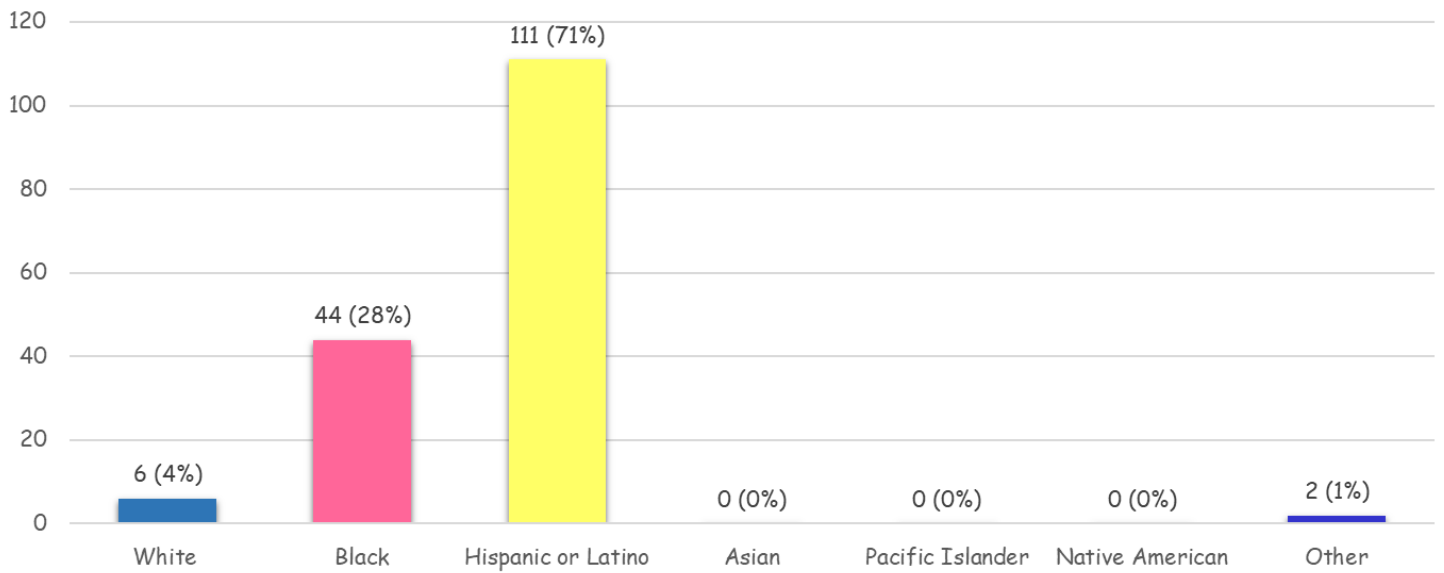


The average ages of County youth currently housed at DJJ are on par with the average ages at disposition considering average length of commitment (approximately 28 months), although this may be based on the current average age at disposition.

Division of Juvenile Justice Commitments (By Ethnicity)

Data Reflects Youth with DJJ Disposition (as of March 2021)

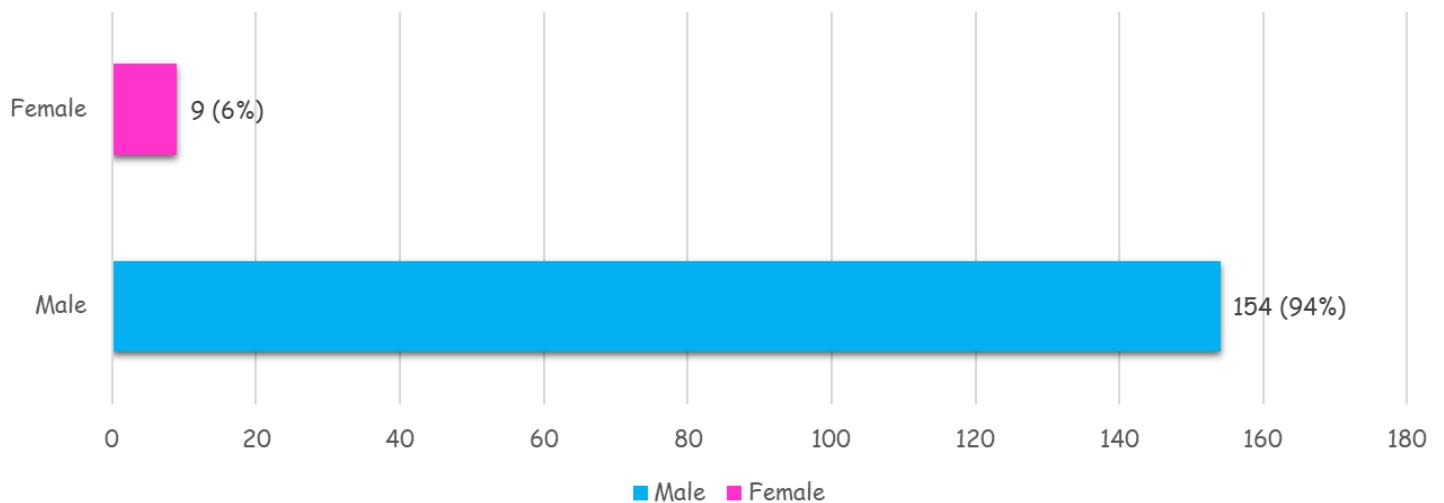
Total 163



Division of Juvenile Justice Commitments (By Gender)

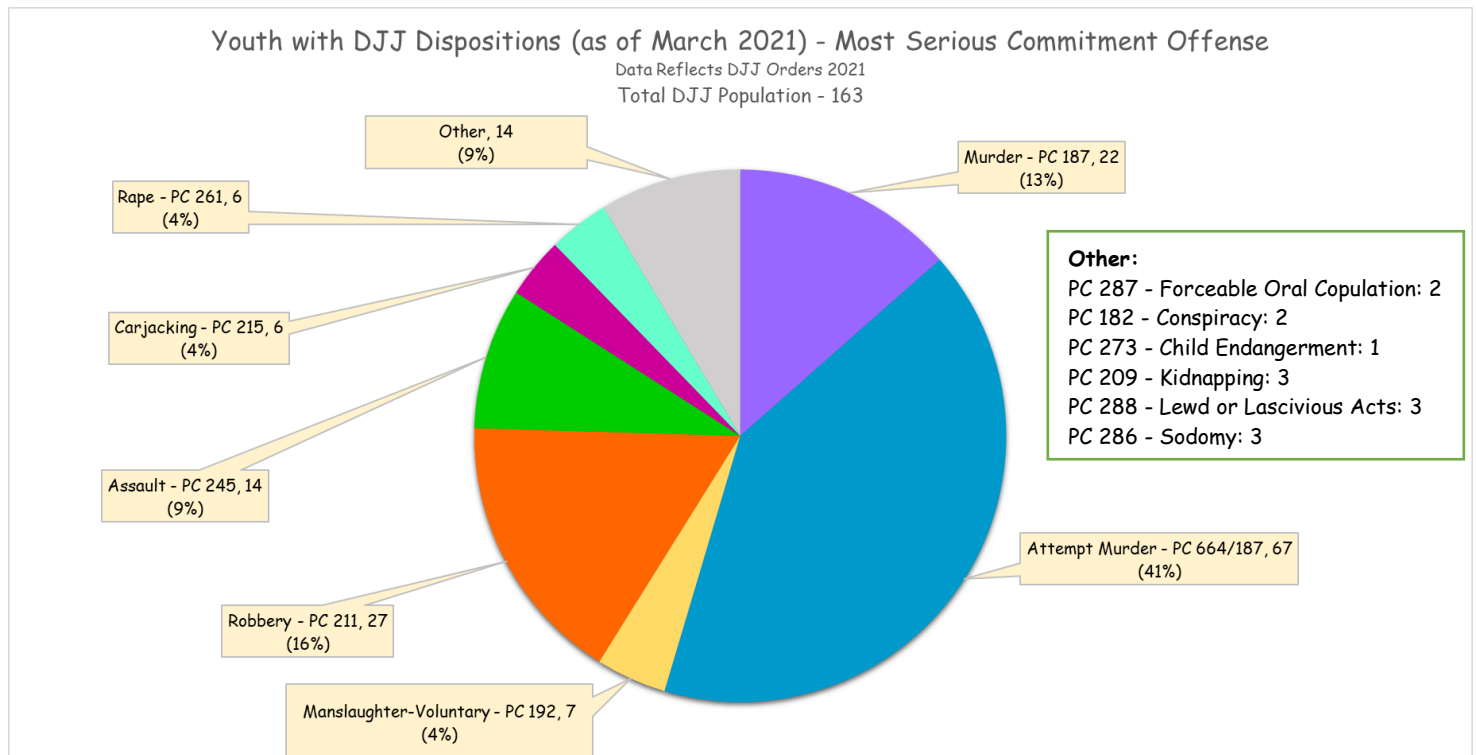
Data Reflects Youth with DJJ Disposition (as of March 2021)

Total 163



Youth with DJJ Dispositions (as of March 2021) - Most Serious Commitment Offense

Commitment Offense (Most Serious)	Commitment Offense Code	# of Youth	%
Murder	PC 187	22	13%
Attempt Murder	PC 664/187	67	41%
Manslaughter-Voluntary	PC 192	7	4%
Robbery	PC 211	27	16%
Assault	PC 245	14	9%
Carjacking	PC 215	6	4%
Rape	PC 261	6	4%
Other: Forceable Oral Copulation Conspiracy Child Endangerment Kidnapping Lewd or Lascivious Acts Sodomy	PC 287 PC 182 PC 273 PC 209 PC 288 PC 286	14	9%
Total		163	100%

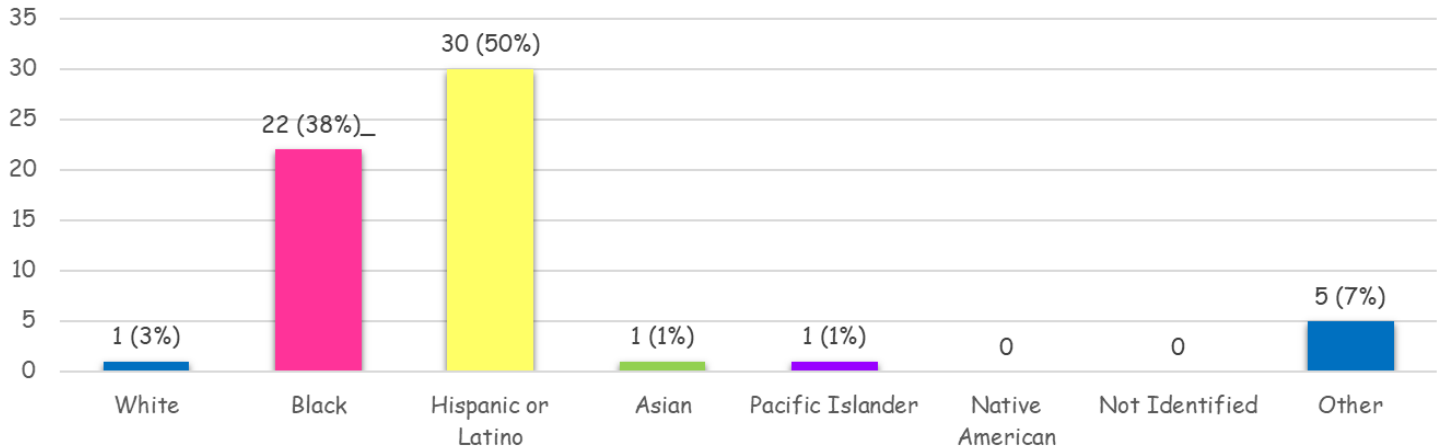


Based on historical information, the County approximates that Juvenile Court may order an estimated 60 youth annually to the County's Secure Alternative to DJJ as follows:

Ethnicity	White		Black		Hispanic or Latino		Asian		Pacific Islander		Native American		Not Identified		Other		Total	
Averages	1	3%	22	38%	30	50%	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	5	7%	60	100%

Division of Juvenile Justice Commitments (By Ethnicity)

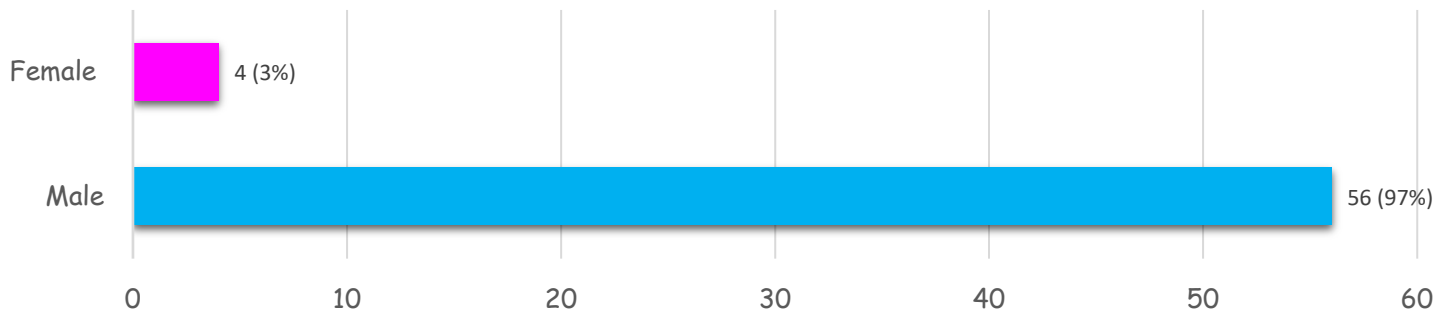
Data Reflects Approximate Youth with DJJ Disposition
Total 60



Gender	Male		Female		Total	
Averages	56	97%	4	3%	60	100%

Division of Juvenile Justice Commitments (By Gender)

Data Reflects Approximate Youth with DJJ Disposition
Total 60

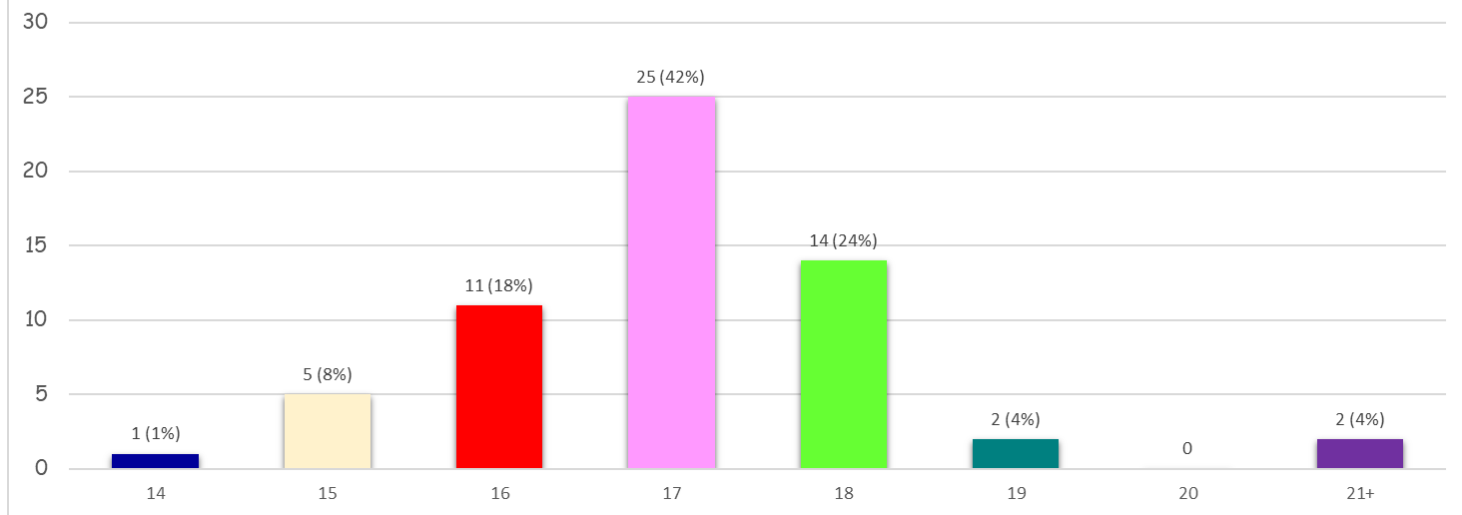


Age at Commitment	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21+	Total	
Averages	1	5	11	25	14	2	0	2	60	100%

Division of Juvenile Justice Commitments (By Age)

Data Reflects Approximate Youth with DJJ Disposition

Total 60



Additionally, it is anticipated that the averages of prior arrests/Probation history (approximately 72%), average age (15.6 years) when Juvenile Court wardship was declared and average number of youth (66%) who had prior Juvenile Court ordered delinquency wardship prior to their DJJ disposition will not change significantly.

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

Additional relevant information pertaining to the County's identified target Plan population, including programs, placements and/or facilities to which they have been referred is provided as follows:

5. Additional historical delinquency and dependency information for 114 youth who received a DJJ disposition for Calendar Years 2019-2020
6. Mental health profile for 94 youth with DJJ dispositions from March 2019 – February 2021

5. Historical Delinquency/Dependency information for the 114 youth who received a DJJ disposition for Calendar Years 2019-2020:

	Total # of Youth with Prior Suitable Placement (SP) Orders	Total # of Youth with Prior Camp Community Placement (CCP) Orders	Average # of SP Orders Prior to DJJ Commitment	Average # of CCP Orders Prior to DJJ Commitment	# of Youth with Bench Warrants Issued	Average # of Bench Warrants
2019	29	39	1.5	1.3	37	2
	40%	54%			51%	
2020	16	22	1	1	21	3.5
	38%	52%			50%	

	# of Youth with Any DCFS Referral (Inconclusive, Unsubstantiated or Substantiated)	# of Youth with at Least One Substantiated DCFS Referral	# of Youth with Prior Dependent Status (Declared WIC 300 Ward)	# of Youth with WIC 241.1 Assessment	# of Youth with Prior Dual Supervision (WIC 300/WIC 654.2, 725a, 790)	# of Youth on Dual Status at Time of DJJ Commitment Offense
2019	61	31	21	9	3	8
	85%	43%	29%	13%	4%	11%
2020	36	16	9	5	1	3
	86%	38%	21%	12%	2%	7%

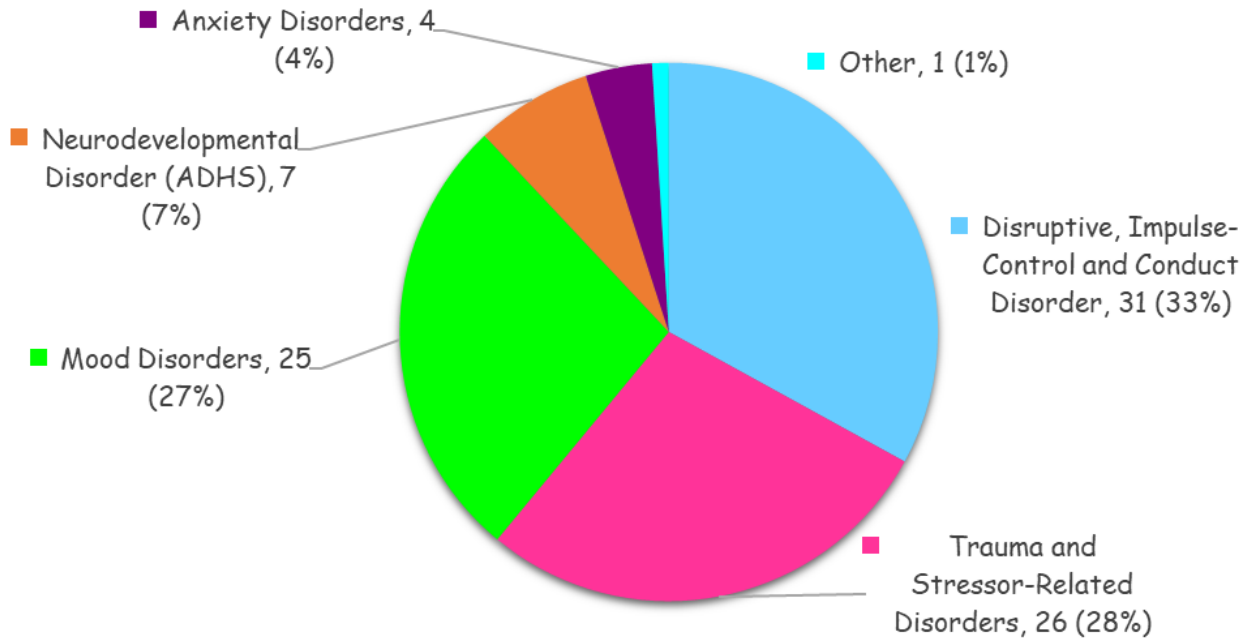
Additionally, for youth committed to DJJ for Calendar Years 2019-2020:

- 39% (average) of the youth had a prior Suitable Placement disposition order
- 53% (average) had a prior Camp Community Placement disposition order
- 50% had prior Bench Warrant issued by Juvenile Court
- 86% (average) had prior DCFS referral (inconclusive, unsubstantiated or substantiated)
- 41% (average) had at least one (1) substantiated DCFS referral
- 25% (average) had prior Dependency Status (WIC 300 wardship)

6. The Mental Health profile of 94 County youth sent to DJJ (between 3/2019-2/2021) includes:

- Youth primary diagnosis included:

DSM-5 Diagnosis



Additionally:

- Many youth have secondary diagnoses
- 32% of youth had a co-occurring substance abuse/use diagnosis (at least one)
- Youth had a history of prior psychiatric hospitalization
 - 10% of youth in the sample had at least one psychiatric hospitalization
- Youth had prior placement on Enhanced Supervision
 - 37% of youth in the sample had been on Enhanced Supervision
- Youth had a history of psychotropic medication in the Juvenile Hall
 - 75% of youth had been on psychotropic medication
 - Many of the sample were currently on medication
 - A significant number of the youth were treated for insomnia which inflates the overall percentage

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

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

Los Angeles County has taken bold steps over the last several years to transform its youth justice system, through the creation of the Youth Justice Workgroup composed of a diverse group of youth leaders, community advocates, service providers, County representatives (including staff from the Probation Department), and justice partners (DA, defense offices, and the Courts) and the subsequent adoption of that body's vision for Youth Justice Reimagined (YJR) that embraces a "care first youth development approach to youth justice" and "commit[s] to transitioning the County's youth justice system to the care-first model outlined in the YJWG Report by 2025." This YJR vision includes a series of structural changes that will transition [the] Juvenile Probation to a Department of Youth Development (DYD) in a three-phase approach spanning a period of at least five years. It is within this transformational moment that LA turns to the opportunity to serve youth who would have previously been committed to DJJ prior to its closure of intake on June 30, 2021.

To facilitate youth well-being as well as public safety, positive youth development is a holistic approach that focuses on youth strengths and assets instead of deficits and problems; emphasizes building positive relationships; supports the development of skills and competencies; and connects youth to educational, employment, civic, and cultural opportunities. Developing and implementing local alternatives to the Division of Juvenile Justice includes strengthening and better utilizing a continuum of care, from community-based supports to out-of-home settings (both non-secure and secure), and reserving secure confinement for youth as a last resort for the shortest duration possible.

The Los Angeles County Probation Department has collaborated with many visionaries both locally and nationally to re-imagine the landscape of care and rehabilitation. The facilities are designed to align with the principles centered in the creation of youth-centered therapeutic environment for youthful offenders up to the age of 25.

The youth-centered therapeutic environments approach ensures that all collaborative partners leverage available resources and coordinate approaches in a setting described as a "therapeutic milieu." The therapeutic milieu refers to and includes all aspects of the environment within which youth live and staff work. The milieu is characterized by a "culture of care" and respect among all persons in the setting (e.g., probation staff, youth, kitchen staff, medical providers, mental health clinicians, administrators, educators, volunteers, and any other person who provides services) as well as the formal programming and education elements that are critical to each young person's development. The milieu is designed to cultivate opportunities for growth and healing while promoting personal autonomy and responsibility.

Probation has developed a strategic long-term implementation plan that utilizes the practice areas identified in the Youth in Custody Practice Model (YICPM)¹, and approaches outlined in the LA Model.

Launched by the Los Angeles County Probation Department at Campus Kilpatrick in 2017, the "LA Model" was a new approach to juvenile justice in Los Angeles that is focused on the positive development of youth in small, home-like settings using intensive group processing facilitated by consistent staff-youth teams. In this environment, youth hold each other accountable for maintaining a safe, respectful environment, engaging in treatment, and working towards change.

Facility and Supervision

¹ The Youth in Custody Practice Model (YICPM) is informed by research on "what works," and professional standards needed to implement best practices for serving youth in custody, and was developed by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy (CJJR), and a team of consultants to assist state and county juvenile correctional agencies to implement a comprehensive and effective service delivery approach

“LA will pursue a staffing model from across County departments that surrounds youth with a multi-disciplinary team that is well-equipped with the skills to effectively engage, motivate, and facilitate groups of youth towards a positive peer culture in which youth feel safe sharing past experiences, traumas, and fears, to learn new social emotional (soft) skills, and reinforce new positive behaviors”

Staffing will consist of multiple departments in multiple disciplines including Probation who will provide sufficient staff to ensure adequate implementation of the plan and meet all other licensing standards.

After July 1, 2021, once we have completed required discussions with our labor unions and until threshold is reached, Campus Kilpatrick will house male youth while we develop Camp Scott as a longer-term facility and Dorothy Kirby Center will serve as permanent housing for female youth, with eventual plan for a possible site to be developed for step down or in the community.

Sworn staff selected to work in the facility will have completed the state mandated Juvenile Correctional Officer Core academy and be trained and assessed for competence in the following areas:

- a. Adolescent Stages of Development
- b. Social Learning Model
- c. Trauma-Informed Care
- d. Motivation, Engagement and De-escalation
- e. Use of Force Continuum and Defense Tactics
- f. Case Management
- g. Core Correctional Practices

Program Design

Practice Area 1: Developing the Individualized Rehabilitation Plan

Upon arrival, the youth will undergo the intake and engagement process and will be introduced to the various evidenced-based interventions available at the SB 823 facility. A Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), including the youth, Deputy Probation Officer, Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) staff, and the youth’s parents, caregiver or supportive adult will provide information to develop an Individualized Rehabilitation Plan and an Initial Case Plan.

During intake, youth will receive the following assessments:

Screening / Assessment Instrument	Purpose of the Screening / Assessment
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Los Angeles Risk & Resiliency Checkup-II (LARRC-II): *	Assessment used to determine level of recidivism risk and inform case planning.
Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2)	Screening tool used to identify youth at admission/intake that might have special mental health needs
Behavioral Health Assessment	Assessment which includes trauma, risk of suicide, co-occurring disorders
Psychoeducational Assessment	All youth with identified or suspected learning disabilities / special needs to receive appropriate tests to establish Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
Academic and career/technical education	Assessment used to determine abilities, interests and aspirations.
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Screener	Assessment used to determine risk of being sexually abused or sexually abusive toward others.
Youth Outcome Questionnaire (Y-OQ®)	Assessment used to measure how the youth feels inside, how they are getting along with significant others, how they are coping with stress physically and behaviorally, and how they are performing in important life tasks, such as work and school. The six areas of assessment include: Intrapersonal Distress (emotional distress) Somatic Distress (distress presenting physically) Interpersonal Relations (relationship with parents, other adults, and peers) Critical Items (flags need for those requiring immediate intervention beyond standard outpatient treatment) Social Problems (socially-related problematic behaviors) Behavioral Dysfunction (unhealthy behaviors)
Positive Youth Development	Pre-test assessment used to determine competencies, skills and abilities of youth so that case plans are designed to build on those skills, assets and competencies that empower youth to reach their full potential.

Note: As tools are updated, information will be included in future Annual Plans.

All youth will receive a completed Assessment that will be utilized to develop an Individualized Rehabilitation Plan and a comprehensive individualized case plan.

Practice Area II: Providing the Youth with Services and Supports during Facility Placement

Youth will be provided with intentional and targeted interventions using a positive youth development approach and evidence-based practices which will result in the following objectives:

1. Improve the psycho-social functioning of youth by using evidence-based mental health;
2. Increase the developmental assets of youth by providing healing and trauma informed services;
3. Improve educational outcomes of youth by providing individualized educational and counseling services;
4. Improve family functioning through Family Assessment and Support Team co-case management services;
5. Improve self-sufficiency through jobs and post-secondary education linkages and supports.

Programs and services offered will be predicated on the Principles of Effective Correctional Interventions which indicates that programs should target criminogenic needs (Antisocial Attitudes, Values, Beliefs, Antisocial Peers, Antisocial Personality, Family, Education/Employment, Substance Abuse and Leisure Activities), by utilizing strategies that align with the learning styles and characteristics (responsivity factors) of the youth to increase their motivation to change.

In alignment with this “what works” research, the following is a sample of anticipated program/services to be provided to youth while in custody to prioritize the highest needs.

Healing and Restoration

Restoration should articulate restorative justice practices and a comprehensive model to be implemented/adapted.

Adapted Dialectic Behavioral Therapy

Serves individuals who have or may be at risk for symptoms related to emotional dysregulation, which can result in the subsequent adoption of impulsive and problematic behaviors, including suicidal ideation. DBT incorporates a wide variety of treatment strategies including chain analysis, validation, dialectical strategies, mindfulness, contingency management, skills training and acquisition (core mindfulness, emotion regulation, interpersonal effectiveness, distress tolerance and self-management), crisis management, and team consultation.

Individual Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Intervention for individuals who either have or may be at risk for symptoms related to the early onset of anxiety, depression, and the effects of trauma that impact various domains of daily living. CBT incorporates a wide variety of treatment strategies including psycho-education, skills acquisition, contingency management, Socratic questioning, behavioral activation, exposure, cognitive modification, acceptance and mindfulness strategies and behavioral rehearsal.

Seeking Safety

Present-focused therapy that helps people attain safety from trauma or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and substance abuse. It consists of 25 topics that focus on the development of safe coping skills while utilizing a self-empowerment approach. The treatment is designed for flexible use and is conducted in group or individual format, in a variety of settings, and for culturally diverse populations.

Aggression Replacement Training

Multimodal psycho-educational intervention designed to alter the behavior of chronically aggressive adolescents and young children. Its goal is to improve social skills, anger control, and moral reasoning. The program incorporates three specific interventions: skill-streaming, anger control training, and training in moral reasoning. Skill-streaming teaches pro-social skills. In anger control training, youths are taught how to respond to their hassles. Training in moral reasoning is designed to enhance youths’ sense of fairness and justice regarding the needs and rights of others.

Education

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) provides educational assessments, instruction, career technical education, and counseling. Services range from academic, acceleration, enrichment, social emotional counseling, academic counseling, parent education, workforce development, and career technical education.

Los Angeles County Library provides educational enrichment to build upon a youth's competencies and build motivation by building assets and competencies through Library services and resources. Services and resources include, but are not limited to online databases with reading, research, and entertainment (music and movies) materials; online and in-person programs that focus on life skills, science technology engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), cooking, building and music which promotes healthy adolescent development. The Library also provides tutoring and book clubs while utilizing clinical social worker librarians and peer advocates to implement many online programs, which demonstrates the library's commitment to provide opportunities for growth and employment to young men of color that will project an image of positive outcomes to youth that share similar backgrounds and have experienced the same challenges.

Substance Abuse

Department of Public Health (DPH) Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) manages the delivery of a full spectrum of specialty Substance Use Disorder (SUD) wrap-around services through the Client Engagement and Navigation Services (CENS) program. CENS counselors will provide remote SUD services (such as screenings, patient education, and case management services) and connect youth to a continuum of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services including outpatient, intensive outpatient and residential treatment programs, and recovery supportive services. CENS will serve as a resource hub for participating youth throughout their treatment while in-custody and as they return and reintegrate into the community.

Health

Department of Health Services (DHS) – Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) provides evidence-based, standard medical care for the adolescent and young adult population. All youth receive a health assessment to identify any medical condition(s) requiring further care or treatment and to identify opportunities for providing preventative care. These services include routine dental and eye care and immunizations. Routine laboratory and radiologic services are provided on site. Emergent, inpatient, and specialty care are provided by other DHS facilities as needed. Additionally, nursing and physician staff provide health education to promote good health and build health literacy.

Mental Health

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) provides all mental health assessments and services for youth in custody. Services provided by DMH includes:

- On site clinical staff 7 days per week, minimally 12 hours per day.
- Individual and group psychotherapy services, including evidence-based practices
- Psychiatric evaluation and medication management
- Evaluation for Psychiatric Hospitalization
- Crisis Intervention
- Family Therapy, where clinically indicated
- Aftercare Planning

Treatment for Youth Who Have Sexually Offended

Treatment for youth who have sexually offended is a highly specialized area of treatment and requires a combination of behavioral and cognitive therapies to modify distorted thinking patterns, reduce deviant sexual fantasies and improve social and communication skills. The Integrated Sex Offender Treatment Program (ISOTP) is a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy program based on the principles of Social Learning Theory, Trauma Informed Care (TIC), Motivational Interviewing,

Relapse Prevention and Critical Thinking Errors, have published findings that demonstrate positive reductions of deviant sexual fantasies, cognitive distortions and negative mental health symptoms. The Department will explore contracting with the creators of ISOTP to procure the evidence-based curriculum and case management model.

Research supports that youth who sexually offend differ from the adult population charged with sexual offenses. Given the different developmental status, brain development, and history of chronic sexual behaviors, and the importance of family involvement, a different approach is required for youth who sexually offend.

The nature of behaviors underlying sex offense adjudications range dramatically – from developmentally normal, to inappropriate to abusive, aggressive and violent behaviors. Research has established that the motivations underlying adolescent sex offenses are often sexual exploration, rather than sexual exploitation, and that any sexual misbehavior underlying a youth's adjudication is a symptom or extension of other problems for most youth. For only a small percentage of adolescent sex offenses does the underlying motivation involve a true disorder or deviancy. One-size-fits-all approaches focused on containing and treating youth adjudicated of sex offenses have resulted in many negative consequences, including isolation, depression, increased suicidal ideation and suicide attempts, denied access to education, and fear for their own safety.

A comprehensive assessment of the youth should be conducted post-adjudication which includes an assessment of factors which contribute to sexual and nonsexual recidivism. Well researched risk assessment techniques should be used for assessing both these areas. The assessment additionally should also include appraisal of comorbid psychiatric, neuropsychological, trauma related, and substance abuse factors. Treatment planning should be individually tailored accordingly.

Many treatment components outlined in programs for youth who sexually offend are in alignment with overall programs to improve outcomes for all youth involved in the juvenile justice system. There is no convincing evidence that specialized treatment programs produce better outcomes than best practice treatment for justice-involved youth. The County should by default serve this population through holistic community-based and family-centered supports to the extent possible.

Practice Area III: Transitioning the Youth from the Facility to the Community

Transition case planning begins upon disposition, re-assessed at the mid-point or every six (60 months and finalized minimally 60-days prior release into the community. The transition plan is completed through the MDT process which prioritizes education; employment; housing; health care (including medical, mental health, and substance use treatment); family and pro-social relationships; and life skills. Family engagement and community support are embedded in the transition planning process.

Both the Primary Deputy Probation Officer (DPO – in custody) and the Secondary DPO (in community) are members of the MDT and begin working with the youth and family/supportive adults upon disposition. A Credible Messenger will be assigned to work in collaboration with the DPO, upon the youth's arrival at the facility. The Credible Messenger and the Secondary DPO, as community experts will be responsible for ensuring that community connections and supports are coordinated, comprehensive and immediately available upon the youth's release. They will work with the family to ensure stability and that necessary supports are in place.

Practice Area IV: Support Youth in the Community

Economic and housing stability are the highest priority areas, and the following resources and programs are provided to ensure these basic needs are met.

Basic Needs

Food and other forms of relief - Youth exiting care are assessed for eligibility and referred to the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to access a variety of state and federal benefits such as:

- Medi-Cal: Provides comprehensive medical coverage to eligible individuals including Former Foster Youth (FFY) 18 years old or older and Young Adults 19-25.
- CalFresh: Is a food benefit program for individuals or families who have limited income and resources to buy the food they need to stay healthy. Youth, 16-24 years old, are potentially eligible to CalFresh.
- General Relief (GR): Is a County funded program, which provides cash and supportive services to single adults 18 years old and older.
- General Relief Opportunities for WORK (GROW): Is a program designed to remove employment barriers and transition GR participants from cash aid to self-sufficiency.
- CalWORKs: Is a time-limited cash assistance program for eligible needy families with children, or pregnant women and pregnant teens.
- Cal-Learn: is a statewide mandatory program for pregnant and parenting teens receiving CalWORKs, under 19 years of age, and who have not completed their high school education. The program requires participants enroll in a High School or equivalent program with the goal of completing their high school education.
- Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN): Is a mandatory program that provides employment-related services to CalWORKs participants.

Identification Documents – youth will be assisted to obtain a governmental identification and other documentation

Transition Care Package - youth will be provided with toiletries and clothing items upon release

Transitional Housing and Independent Living

The Department intends to explore the expansion of current contracts with community-based providers for transitional housing. Additionally, some youth will be eligible for housing through the Independent Living Program and AB12 state revenues.

Family Engagement and Community Support

The County intends to implement a robust Family Engagement Model that includes the engagement and partnership with family members as partners throughout the young person's stay, specifically at critical decision points. The research is clear about the benefits of keeping youth connected to their family while detained. Engaging families and employing them as full partners throughout the continuum of care is a central tenet of programming for this population and a part of a broader goal that will facilitate and enhance well-being outcomes that extend through to reentry. Further, family will be broadly defined to include biological family members, extended chosen family (godparents, foster siblings, etc.) and other important people such as mentors, teachers, and coaches. (Ryan Shanahan, Margaret diZerega (2016). Identifying, Engaging, and Empowering Families: A Charge for Juvenile Justice Agencies).

Additionally, there will be a deliberate focus to expand and dedicate Family Finding services to increase the opportunity to locate family members for youth in need permanent supportive adult

relationships with the possibility of family members serving a dual purpose, as possible post release option and/or as positive meaningful adult connection during the young person's stay and upon release.

Further, visiting times will be flexible. Also, families will be included in special meals, special on-site events, family team & decision-making meetings to build a strong network of support around the young person and to foster connections with staff. Transportation will be made available for families to and from the facility for events and visiting.

Understanding families and best practices engaging families is an urgent public health issue requiring professional attention, best practice training activities, new research and use of comprehensive intervention approaches as affirmed by best practices, national and local experts. To that end, the County will explore options to contract expert consultant services with expertise implementing family engagement models designed to meet the cultural needs of youth through the context of family. These professional services will also guide training efforts, development of facility standards, policies and procedures. It is anticipated that training facility staff and providers in learning effective skills in working with youth and families will further develop their engagement, alliance and validation skills, and motivational enhancements.

In conclusion, service provision will include but will not be limited to:

- Transportation for parents
- Dedicated Family Finding Resources
- Technology upgrades to ensure virtual visitation and increased opportunities for families to be included in behavioral health interventions and de-escalation efforts
- Consultant Services

Staff/Provider Training

Family Finding protocols will be used to find family resources and adult connections for youth identified without stable housing.

Healing and Restoration

- Transformative Mentoring/Credible Messengers
The Credible Messenger program provides integrated and coordinated responses to transition by facilitating family engagement and collaboration with the MDT to successfully mobilize community resources by using persons with lived experience who come from the same communities.
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
Intervention for individuals who either have or may be at risk for symptoms related to the early onset of anxiety, depression, and the effects of trauma that impact various domains of daily living. CBT incorporates a wide variety of treatment strategies including psycho-education, skills acquisition, contingency management, Socratic questioning, behavioral activation, exposure, cognitive modification, acceptance and mindfulness strategies and behavioral rehearsal.
- Healing Circles
- Restorative Justice Leadership Training

Education

The Department is continuing to expand relationships with the community college districts to leverage federal and state education funds to provide dual enrollment of youth in college courses and successful enrollment and linkages to post-secondary education.

Employment

The Workforce Development and Aging Community Services (WDACS) leverages federal and state funds to provide job readiness and experience training for youth in custody and linkages to America's Job Centers for employment upon release. Through the Youth at Work and other workforce investment funding, the County provides subsidized employment, educational stipends and vocational training funding, which prioritizes the reentry population. The Department will also contract with Community-Based providers for employment services.

Substance Abuse Treatment and Client Engagement and Navigation

Mental Health Services – individual and family services

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

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

The County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment or related behavioral or trauma-based needs of the target population primarily funded through Medi-Cal and Mental Health Services Act funding that are not available for youth in custody:

As mentioned, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) provides all mental health assessments and services for youth in custody. For additional information, refer to Part 3: Programs and Services section on Mental Health. Additionally, the Department will explore contracting for treatment for youth who have sexually offended using the evidence-based Integrated Sex Offender Treatment Program (ISOTP). For additional information, refer to Part 3: Programs and Services section on Treatment for Youth Who Have Sexually Offended.

In addition, other trauma related behaviors such as domestic violence, co-parenting, parenting, family therapy programs may be needed for youth to regain visitation or custody of a child post release.

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

The dynamics characterizing adolescent development during young adulthood are unique and complex and have direct implications for those who work this population. Healthy adolescent development in the broadest sense refers to stages that all youth go through to acquire the attitudes, competencies, values and social skills they need to become successful adults.

The Positive Youth Development framework presupposes that youth are continuing to change and develop; and as a practice, Youth Development programs prepare youth to meet challenges of adolescence by focusing on cultivating their strengths to help them achieve their full potential. Additionally, further implications drawn from this approach suggest that the youth/young adults' ability to develop successfully greatly depends on the support and assistance they receive from the institutions and people surrounding them. Supportive programs will be designed to recognize, utilize, and enhance the young person's strengths while providing opportunities to foster positive relationships with adult and peers. As a part of the treatment team, Credible Messengers will be one of the central features of programming, providing both in-facility and aftercare services for this population. Credible Messengers are people who are recognized and validated by the community they serve by providing transformative mentoring programming that includes healing circles, individual mentoring, family engagement, case management, community leadership opportunities, etc. They easily connect with this population because they come from the same/or a similar community, were formerly incarcerated and/or involved in the justice system and are skilled and trained in mentoring young people.

Adolescent Development and Stages of Change training will be provided for staff, agencies, and community-based providers.

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

As mentioned, the County intends to implement a robust Family Engagement Model that includes the engagement and partnership with family members as partners throughout the young person's stay, specifically at critical decision points. For additional information, refer to Part 3: Programs and Services section on Family Engagement and Community Support.

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

The County will begin aftercare planning on receipt of the order for Secure Alternative Placement. Aftercare planning will include the assignment of an Aftercare/Transition community-based Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) and Credible Messenger that will serve also in a secondary/support role with the on-site treatment team and a primary role in the community with family, caregiver, educational providers and other behavioral health practitioners to ensure that a viable youth led plan that connects youth to the resources and opportunities in the community are being pursued and ready for activation, upon release.

The Positive Youth Development approach will be the cornerstone of the transition strategy and the Causal Model of Delinquency is the theoretical framework that will guide and inform programmatic thrusts. Positive Youth Development is founded on the belief that young people are continuing to grow and change and are best able to navigate through their developmental stages when supported by prosocial adults and institutions within their ecology. The tenets of the Causal Model of Delinquency are grounded in social ecological research (Bronfenbrenner, 1979) that presupposes that behavior is multidetermined through the reciprocal interplay of the youth and his or her social ecology and that programs, service, people and the social systems where youth are embedded have the capacity to comprehensively enhance protective factors across all domains. The ultimate goal of both strategies is to help youth become healthy adults, not just arrest free, but fully prepared responsible and productive adults.

An additional challenge includes the coordination of multiagency participation that is an extension of services provided in the facility to wrap around youth and further emphasize and build on the strengths of family, community and most of all the gains made while incarcerated. The Community-Based Deputy Probation Officer and the Credible Messenger/Mentor will be principal parties responsible for ensuring that the pertinent key protective networks are well coordinated. Additionally, they will also be responsible for coordinating community-based resources for the family to prepare them for the youth's return home.

There is a heightened opportunity for relapse if Transition plans are not well coordinated as this population will not only be faced with navigating the transition from a well-structured setting to one of more independence, but also physically and mentally navigating the movement from adolescence to adulthood as the average age of DJJ disposition is 18 years and the average upon DJJ release is 21 years. Therefore, it is imperative that all living, housing arrangements are immediately accessible upon release.

The Community-Based phase of the model will deliberately focus efforts to ensure a continuum of care and support that increases protective factors/assets as opposed to employing practices that emphasize a deficit/risk-based approach. The family and the natural supports in the youth's ecology will also be emphasized and placed at the forefront of the community integration phase.

The aftercare case plan goals, as developed, reassessed from the beginning of the youth's stay in the Secure Alternative to DJJ will be accomplished through leveraging resources from governmental agencies, community-based organizations, faith-based partners and volunteers working in concert to support transition plans.

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

The Department will utilize the Principles of Effective Correctional Interventions as the evidence-based framework to fund programs that address the highest criminogenic need areas of Antisocial Attitudes, Values, Beliefs, Antisocial Peers, Antisocial Personality, Family, Education/Employment, Substance Abuse and Leisure Activities, while using cognitive behavioral interventions.² For specific interventions, the Department will rely on the Model Programs Guide (MPG) established by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to replicate programs that have been shown to work and fit the community's needs.

As personal characteristics (responsivity), such as motivation, developmental age, learning disabilities, intelligence, learning style culture, gender, mental health (depression, history of sexual abuse), and personality, may interfere or hinder engagement, motivation and efficacy, programs and services will be guided by research and trauma informed.³

Staff and providers alike will be trained in approaches that focus on the positive development of youth in small, home-like settings using intensive group processing facilitated by consistent staff-youth teams. Small, high-functioning, consistent, collaborative staffing teams will support youth in building a positive peer culture in which youth feel safe sharing past experiences, traumas, and fears, to learn new social emotional (soft) skills, and reinforce new positive behaviors, proven to positively impact an array of sectors, including areas of sexual and reproductive health, mental health, education, crime and violence (Catalano, 2002; Gavin et al., 2010; Roth 2003).

Therefore, training and competencies of staff will continuously be evaluated and updated to reflect the following set of principles that will shape the attitudes, behaviors, and organizational culture required to effectively implement evidence-based, trauma-informed and culturally responsive services:

- Evidence and Research Based: All youth services will be informed by research on effective and promising practices, for the juvenile justice population.
- Developmentally Appropriate: Services and programs must be tailored to the specific responsivity factors of each youth (age, gender, learning style, language, culture).
- Family Centered Engagement and Empowerment: Family (includes non-biological supportive adults, loved by the youth) are recognized as valued partners and part of the decision-making team that are incorporated into the youth's individualized treatment plan.
- Strengths-Based: Staff and system partners must view youth as individuals who have positive attributes that can be enhanced through programming that utilizes intentional youth development practices to effectuate changes to the youth's social emotional skills (Emotional Management, Empathy, Teamwork, Initiative, Responsibility, and Problem Solving.)
- Trauma Informed: Staff and system partners understands the impacts of trauma and builds pathways for recovery by recognizing and responding to the signs and symptoms of trauma.
- Culturally Responsive: Staff and systems partners value diversity and demonstrate social competence and sensitivity to cultural differences of groups of people with various backgrounds.
- Coordinated and Cohesive Case Management: Staff and system partners develop coordinated services through multi-disciplinary team meetings, and case plans so each youth's team (supportive adult, youth, teacher, clinician, social worker, treatment provider) are working together to achieve treatment goals and objectives.

² Gendreau, P., French, S., & Goinet, A. (2004). What Works (What Doesn't Work): The Principles of Effective correctional Treatment. *Journal of Community Corrections*, 13, 4-30.

³ Hubbard, Dana Jones and Pealer, Jennifer, "The Importance of Responsivity Factors in Predicting Reductions in Antisocial Attitudes and Cognitive Distortions Among Adult Male Offenders" (2009). *Sociology & Criminology Faculty Publications*. 57. https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clsoc_crim_facpub/57

Therefore, part of the grant funding will be utilized to cross-train staff and contractors and provide interventions. The evidence-based interventions utilized will be assessed for utilizing pre-post test data to ensure program fidelity and efficacy. Existing evidence-based practices such as Dialectic Behavioral Therapy, Seeking Safety, Mindfulness Based Substance Abuse treatment, and other cognitive behavioral interventions will be incorporated in the treatment plan for the SB 823 population.

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: (WIC 1995 (3) (F))

Many of the programs/services, with the exception of supervision and reentry case management may be provided by non-governmental community-based providers. As prescribed, funding will pass through to the Department mandated by municipal code (e.g., Department of Mental Health) for managed care plans to community-based providers, where appropriate.

The following illustrates a sample of anticipated program/services to be provided known to enhance protective factors, while targeting criminogenic needs and responsivity factors in-custody and in the community:

Family

- Transportation for Parents (in custody)
- Dedicated Family Finding Services (in custody and in community)
- Individual/Group Counseling (in custody and in community)

Education/Vocational

- Tutoring (in custody and in community)
- Education Pathways and Vocational Opportunity Services (in community)
- Vocational Training (in custody and in community)
- Employment Readiness (in custody)
- Employment (in community)

Substance Abuse

- Substance Abuse Treatment (in custody and in community)
- Client Engagement and Navigation (in community)

Healing and Restoration

- Transformative Mentoring/Credible Messengers (in custody and in community)
- Healing Circles (in custody and in community)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (e.g. Emotional Regulation/Mindfulness) (in custody and in community)
- Restorative Justice Leadership Training (in custody and in community)
- Victim Impact Classes (in custody)

Mental Health – CBO services will be contracted as deemed appropriate by DMH for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, crisis de-escalation, psychiatric treatment, etc.

Positive Youth Development

- Arts (e.g. music, literature, drama, dancing, etc.) (in custody)
- Leadership/Conflict Resolution (Youth Councils) (in custody)

Leisure –the Department is currently engaged in dialogue with faith-based entities, fraternities and sororities to assist with volunteerism in various areas such as: religious services, book clubs, intramural sports activities, banking, investing, career exploration, etc., which also accomplishes the goal of youth being connected to prosocial adults,

Housing – the Department intends to explore the expansion of current contracts with community-based providers for transitional housing

Program Evaluation and Training

- Program Evaluation – Probation’s Research Section will develop the framework for the evaluation and pursue the viability of partnership with a University
- Training – CBO/University contracted services

Consultant Services – the Department seeking consultant services to assist with the implementation of various program components

Part 5: Facility Plan

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

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors directed the Youth Justice Work Group (YJWG), facilitated by the Haywood Burns Institute to help lead the first phase of planning “consistent with and informed by the ongoing work to reimagine the juvenile justice system in the County and improve treatment for youth in the County’s care.” The planning group consisted of governmental stakeholders and community-based professionals, guided by an established advisory committee of youth directly impacted by DJJ to inform the work.

Vision and Values Guiding SB 823 Implementation

The vision for local alternatives to the Division of Juvenile Justice – as is the overriding vision for youth justice generally – is to improve youth and family wellness and community safety by increasing access to opportunities to strengthen resiliency and reduce delinquency. To advance that vision, planning and implementation of those alternatives should be guided by the following values:

- **Holistic, trauma-informed youth development approach**
 - Justice responses to youth should focus on a continuum of holistic youth development responses to achieve rehabilitation, healing, public safety and restorative justice.
 - A Youth Development approach is rooted in a positive, strengths-based and

social justice orientation to working with youth, families and communities, characterized by opportunities that promote a sense of belonging, usefulness and power by helping youth develop competencies enabling them to grow and lead healthy, responsible and caring lives.

- Consistent with evidence-based approaches and supportive of holistic, trauma-informed youth development, a goal is to dramatically reduce the prosecution of youth in adult court. Therefore, “youth should be served through a continuum of effective secure and non-secure alternatives to the criminal court system and Division of Juvenile Justice.
- The justice system should make intentional investment in effective community-based organizations rooted in directly impacted neighborhoods to provide support services for youth in and out of custody. Re-entry support with connection to the community is critical and should begin right away.
- Robust educational and vocational opportunities should be provided.

- **Therapeutic, home-like environments**

- Out-of-home placements—both non-secure or secure—should promote healing in a safe, therapeutic, home-like environment; engage/deliver services within a therapeutic milieu; and provide reentry services to ensure a seamless and positive return to the community.
- Facility staffing should prioritize hiring from backgrounds in evidence-based, youth development approaches to working with youth. All staff must be trained in and committed to adopting a trauma-informed, positive, youth-centered approach.

- **Further reducing reliance on detention**

Implementing alternatives to DJJ should be consistent with the County’s overall commitment to further reduce its reliance on detention, consolidate and close remaining facilities where feasible and redirect cost-savings towards more therapeutic alternatives.

- **Countywide Systems Coordination**

Planning, decision-making and implementation of alternatives to DJJ should leverage, and be coordinated and integrated with related county initiatives, including the expanding work of the Office of Diversion and Reentry’s Youth Diversion and Development division and Youth Justice Reimagined.

- **Family and community engagement**

Youth’s family and community should be active participants in their healing.

- **Period reviews and collaborative decision-making**

Periodic court reviews should happen during a youth’s confinement term to discuss the progress a youth has made – highlighting the skills they have developed to be able to step down to a less restrictive setting as soon as possible, and engaging multi-disciplinary perspectives in reporting and decision-making.

- **Transparency and Accountability, Centering Impacted Voices**

Planning and implementation should ensure transparency and accountability across system and community-based providers, and center the voices and perspectives of those most impacted – including youth who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated, and victims of serious crimes.

- **Evaluation and System Improvement**

Policies and practices should be guided by qualitative and quantitative evidence. To improve outcomes for youth and the community and facilitate transparency and accountability, the County should collect and report on consistent and meaningful outcomes on the impact and effectiveness of all facilities, programs, services and other components of local alternatives on an annual basis (at minimum), and make system, program and practice improvements accordingly.

- **Racial Equity**

All programs, services and other responses to youth should recognize and reduce the racial and ethnic and geographic disparities in access to services and more severe outcomes in juvenile justice processing.

These values support and reaffirm the facility's programmatic approach and Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework.

Facility Attributes

- Therapeutic, home-like setting
- Capacity for vocational/educational training
- Vast outdoor spaces
- Healing space to accommodate family visits

Youth Classification Strategies

As mentioned, After July 1, once we have completed required discussions with our labor unions and, until threshold is reached, Campus Kilpatrick will house male youth while we develop Camp Scott as a longer-term facility and Dorothy Kirby Center will serve as permanent housing for female youth, with eventual plan for possible site to be developed for step down or in the community.

To fully embrace a systematic approach to reform and to embrace the reimagined youth-centered therapeutic environments articulated by the LA Model, will require collaborative partners to pool resources and coordinate approaches in a setting described as a "therapeutic milieu." The therapeutic milieu refers to and includes all aspects of the environment within which youth live and staff work. The milieu is characterized by a "culture of care" and respect among all persons in the setting (e.g., probation personnel, youth, medical providers, mental health clinicians, administrators, educators, volunteers, and any other person who provides services) as well as the formal programming and education elements that are critical to each young person's development. The milieu is designed to cultivate opportunities for growth and healing while promoting personal autonomy and responsibility.

The therapeutic environment must permeate all aspects of the custodial experience, and shall be integrated into all daily and nighttime activities, and both adults and youth consistently practice and reinforce the supporting behavior, vocabulary, and strategies. In addition, the program takes advantage of every opportunity to provide all participants choice and autonomy to encourage independent practice of the learned skills.

Services provided to the youth will be intended to be achieved in diverse ways (e.g., in individual and group settings) and by a variety of service providers including, at a minimum, officers, educational providers, community-based organizations, religious providers, and mental health clinicians. However, each individual program or service shall be required to be integrated within the therapeutic milieu. As indicated in the LA Model, no program operates as a stand-alone service. This community approach emphasizes collaboration, fostering a refined learning environment that is an innovative youth-centered approach, rooted in evidence-based practices and trauma-informed care.

Probation will utilize the LA Model core components to enhance and modify current practices to increase positive outcomes for youth and families as well as provide greater support for staff. The core principles and elements of the LA Model will provide a framework to assist Probation in improving practices to support enhanced communication, coordination and services for youth and families in the facility.

The model will guide the paradigm shift in the facility from a custodial focus to a more supportive, safe, and therapeutic environment for all. This will be achieved by meeting the following objectives:

1. Operational practices will be realigned into small group, supportive living environments. Staffing, which will include stable post assignments led by a supervisor or DPO III, will allow for greater staff engagement with youth which develops more positive relationships consistent with the LA Model principles.
2. All youth will receive purposeful programming, determined to some extent by their length of stay, legal status, and for committed youth, needs as identified by formal assessments and case plans developed as part of a continuum of preparation for successful community re-entry. Programming will include mental health, health, substance use-related, vocational programming and structured activities in alignment with the principles and practices of the LA Model.
3. Youth will be engaged by staff to support skill development and healthy behaviors (Positive Youth Development).
4. Staff will be trained to utilize appropriate rewards and sanctions using a behavior management program.
5. Staff will be trained and assessed for competence in the following areas:
 - Adolescent Stages of Development.
 - Social Learning Model;
 - Trauma-Informed Care
 - Vicarious Trauma
 - Engagement and De-escalation;
 - Physical interventions Continuum and Tactics;
 - Emergency Response;
 - Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) approaches for behavior management;
 - Behavior Management Program;
 - Core Correctional Practices;
6. Policies will be modified based on the LA Model.
7. Incorporation of resources and stakeholder involvement.

To accomplish the objective of providing enhanced programming to mitigate disruptive behaviors, the Department will seek to:

- Staff the facility with direct supervision staffing

- Increase first-line supervisors.
- Add DPO IIs, Treatment and Counseling, to collaborate with DMH in the development of resource teams to respond to crisis situations.
- Add DPO IIIs as trainers, mentors and program specialists.

The conceptualized enhanced staffing model, supported by the principles of the LA Model which is designed to support a small-group, therapeutic living unit structure to create more positive and interactive relationships between staff and youth will provide sufficient staff to supervise the youth in a variety of activities. This model of care is intended to realign the tasks and activities of the facility staff into job descriptions and roles that are focused on the care and support of youth residing in our facilities.

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

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

The purpose clause of SB 823 advises that counties should “reduce the transfer of youth into the adult criminal justice system. Extensive research has shown that sending youth to the adult court and prison system is ineffective and more harmful to both youth and public safety than keeping youth in the juvenile justice system. Moreover, youth of color bear the brunt of adult court prosecution, even when controlling for the nature of the offense and criminal history.

To facilitate retention of youth in the juvenile justice system, the County will:

1) Serve youth through a continuum of effective secure and non-secure alternatives to the criminal court system and Division of Juvenile Justice; 2) in collaboration with the District Attorney, Public Defender, Courts, Probation, the Office of Diversion and Reentry, restorative justice service providers and other relevant stakeholders, create and invest in a restorative justice approach to youth crime, including serious, violent crimes, to facilitate the goals of repair and accountability at any point viable before, during or after adjudication and confinement; 3) engage leadership of youth formerly incarcerated in DJJ and the adult system and survivors of serious crimes, in developing the continuum of effective secure and non-secure alternatives.

Part 7: Regional Effort

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

The County may enter into a regional agreement or arrangement pending the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) one-time grant as a part of the Regional Youth Programs and Facilities Grant (RYPFGP) under SB 823 (Chapter 337, Statutes of 2020) and how grant funds may serve overarching DJJ realignment needs related to providing custody, supervision and services for out-of-county youth on a regional basis and providing specialized programming for the County’s DJJ realigned youth, including longer-term secure confinement programs and sex-offender, mental health or gender specific programs.

Part 8: Data

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

Collection of data points will occur through multiple systems across various programs and services for youth served by the block grant as follows:

- Youth related demographics (e.g. gender, age, ethnicity, etc.) and case management supportive efforts
- Youth general health services
- Youth mental health services
- Youth educational services – through various agencies providing supportive services (e.g. Los Angeles County Office of Education, Community College, etc.,)
- Youth vocational services and training

Additionally, program specific data points (e.g. number of participants, dosage amount and type, etc.) and possible survey-based responses (e.g. attitude and behavior, cognitive abilities, etc.) will also be targeted for collection in order to analyze outcome measures.

Part 9: Data

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

Probation will collaborate with subject matter experts to appropriate the necessary information from established sources, in particular partner stakeholders (governmental agencies, community-based service providers for the outcome measures. Probation (Research) will work with any form of data received that consists of (1) program-specific data from probation as well as from partner agencies and (2) psychometric outcome measures collected at the facilities. Identification of outcome measures will be made by closely supporting program coordinators and collaborating with program subject matter experts.

The areas of outcome measures include education, family, substance use, health, life coach, vocational, positive incentive system, mental health, young-adult counselling, and rehabilitative programming, which the Department identifies as “current DJJ youth needs.” Some of the programs’ psychometric outcome measures could be used to evaluate change over time in behavior, while other outcome measures will be used to capture attitudes and cognitive abilities.

Outcomes can be disaggregated by the DJJ youth’s demographic characteristics such as gender, age, race/ethnicity, which will allow for the identification of disproportionalities of the results of the programs, if any, among the population served. Dosage amount and type of direct service provided will also be assessed to identify how the components of the programs may impact the outcomes of interest. The intermediary assessment results can be used for course correction during the program implementation to ensure it success. For example, counts, ratios, and standard deviations will be used to create performance metrics. Probation (Research) will work with operations to provide technical assistance with developing the tools for any matrix requiring ongoing monitoring and frequent reporting for progress toward program goals. (i.e. weekly, monthly reports).

Depending on the amount and type of data provided, the analyses can examine pre/post program outcomes, performance metrics, and factors that impact outcomes. This can be for short-term and long-term outcomes. This can be done by using descriptive statistics, paired sample t-tests, regression modeling, structural equation modeling, propensity score matching, and moderation & mediation analyses, etc.