

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

**CONTINUUM OF
JUVENILE SERVICES**

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**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT
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MISSION STATEMENT

The following mission and vision statement guides all of Santa Cruz County Probation services and programs.

The Santa Cruz County Probation Department is committed to preventing crime and helping repair harm caused by crime. We promote:

*Community Safety and Health
Offender Accountability and Opportunity for a Positive Change
Justice for Victims
Respect and Fairness for All*

Our vision is to be a leader and an active partner with the community in promoting safety and in building productive futures. We hold these values:

*Integrity
Excellence
Compassion
Creativity
Respect
Fairness*

SYSTEM OF CARE PHILOSOPHY

Since 1989, the Santa Cruz County Probation Department has been a key partner, with Santa Cruz Children's Mental Health, in the California System of Care. The System of Care (SOC), was established by the Children's Mental Health Services Act to create a service delivery system that is community-based, comprehensive and distinguished by full integration of interagency partners. Services are provided to children and their families who are at risk of separation due to Court ordered out-of-home placement.

Essential values of System of Care are as follows:

- Family preservation – children shall be maintained in their homes with their families whenever possible;
- Least restrictive setting – when out-of-home placement is necessary, children must be placed in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs;
- Natural setting – children benefit most from mental health services provided in their natural environments, where they live and learn. These include home, school, foster home or a juvenile detention center;

- Interagency collaboration and coordinated service delivery system – the primary child serving agencies shall collaborate at the policy management and service levels to provide a coordinate, goal directed system of care for seriously emotionally disturbed children and their families;
- Family involvement – family participation is an integral part of assessment, evaluation, intervention and treatment;
- Cultural competence – service effectiveness is dependent upon both culturally relevant and competent service deliveries.

BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

All of the programs and services that follow were developed and implemented with these system of care values as fundamental guideposts. In addition, Probation seeks to provide programs that help youth repair the harm created by their crimes through providing services to victims and community members who have been impacted by crime. The department implements **Balanced and Restorative Justice Programs** that provide opportunities for youth to develop competencies that will help them to become self-reliant, productive citizens.

Balanced and Restorative Justice encompasses an alternative framework for the juvenile justice system that acknowledges three primary stakeholders: the *victim*, the *community* and the *offender*. This contrasts with existing justice principles of retribution and rehabilitation, in that it seeks to balance the distribution of resources among the three stakeholders. The goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice are *accountability*, *competency building* and *public safety*.

DETENTION REFORM

In 1999, the Probation Department became a model site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The Initiative seeks to eliminate unnecessary use of secure detention; utilize data-driven decision making; improve court processing; develop risk-based detention criteria; increase the use of community-based detention alternatives; improve conditions of confinement; reduce disproportionate minority confinement, and address inequities and needs of special populations. Many of the programs in the Juvenile Continuum of Services are designed to help meet the goals and objectives of the JDAI.

Disproportionate Minority Contact

Beginning January 1, 2007, the Probation Department was awarded a federal grant administered through the Corrections Standard Authority (CSA). The purpose of this grant is to deepen the local effort to reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC). Probation contracts with the W. Haywood Burns Institute, who along with other expert consultants provide staff and stakeholder training on DMC and participate in a core working group that meets every two months. The Burns Institute also assists the department in performing a high-level data analysis of how probation youth pass through key points in the juvenile justice system and help determine if decisions are equitably made for all youth. Expert consultants also provide assistance integrating

data elements, develop a data interface, conduct analysis, and provide reports of findings and outcomes associated with DMC reduction. A key part of the DMC work is to engage local stakeholders in the DMC work and provide them training and technical.

In December 2009, Santa Cruz County Probation was awarded a fourth year of funding from CSA to support the DMC work. This new program is called the DMC Support Project and its purpose is to sustain activities started in the DMC-TAP grant, deepen stakeholder involvement, identify and engage community members in DMC work and to utilize our status as a national model site to assist other jurisdiction in addressing DMC throughout the nation. A portion of the funding will also support the Probation Azteca Soccer team.

RECLAIMING FUTURES

Initiated in 2002, Reclaiming Futures is a five-year initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to improve the System of Care for substance abusing youthful offenders. Santa Cruz County was one of 10 original sites, now grown to 26 sites throughout the nation working on new approaches to helping teenagers who are caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime. The Santa Cruz effort still promotes new opportunities and standards of care for court wards that are deeply entrenched in the juvenile justice system and need intensive support. Santa Cruz continues to work to expand the Reclaiming Futures community to other sites.

PROGRAM AND SERVICE SUMMARIES

Some of the following programs and services were established in 1997/1998 with funding from the Federal Welfare Reform Act, as implemented in the State of California, and are services which support System of Care, Balanced Restorative Justice and Juvenile Detention Reform goals. Federal Welfare Reform Act Funding is now known as Juvenile Probation Camp Funding (JPCF). Additional community-based supervision programs were added in 2001 with funding from the Juvenile Justice and Crime Prevention Act and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program. In 2008, The California Department of Juvenile Justice Realignment funds (SB81) have helped the department to expand services for high-risk youth in the community and in the institution and supports transition services. In September of 2009, Probation was awarded American Recovery Act Funding to support neighborhood-based probation supervision services and community contracts. These funds are being used to continue to assist the department with community based programs designed to help heal victims, neighborhoods and the offender.

Also included are descriptions of basic probation services provided by the department.

Victim's Services

Services include a Victim Impact Class, offered to youth in an effort to raise their level of awareness regarding the impact their delinquent acts have had upon their victims. The Victim/Offender Dialog program provides trained facilitators to expedite a direct dialog between victim and offender, if the victim chooses such a contact. Studies have shown that such contact provides a healing experience for the victim as well as an opportunity for victim and offender to develop a mutually agreed upon plan to address the harm caused by the crime. Victim Impact

Panels offer group representation by victims to criminal justice professionals, community members and groups of offenders designed to raise awareness in the areas of victims' rights and concerns.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards

First implemented in July 1999, community-based, citizen panels have been established in the five supervisorial districts, providing opportunities for community members to take an active role in confronting and resolving the problem of juvenile crime within their own neighborhoods. The program provides an effective alternative to prosecution of first time offenders by holding the youth accountable through a variety of sanctions including restitution, community service, education and counseling. Panels are conducted in Spanish as well as English.

Probation Internships

Established in 1997, in partnership with University of California at Santa Cruz, juniors and seniors in psychology, sociology, and community studies provided program enrichment, support, mentoring and tutoring services to youthful offenders. This program has now expanded to include students from San Jose State University, Monterey State University, Cabrillo College and adults from the community wanting to learn more about juvenile justice and/or who considering careers in this field. Interns are placed in the juvenile hall where they can assist in the classroom and provide tutoring; placed at the evening center, and in several of the specialized units.

Home Supervision

Home Supervision is used by the court in lieu of detention in the Juvenile Hall. In this program, the Probation Aide supervises youth, seven days a week, in their own homes. Home Visits, school visits and phone calls are made at various times during the day or evening. Each Probation Aide may supervise a maximum of 10 youth at one time. Youth may not leave home except to go to school, work, authorized treatment programs or other approved appointments if accompanied by their parents. This program normally lasts until final disposition.

Electronic Monitoring Program

The Electronic Monitoring Program is a more intensive form of Home Supervision, in that the youth are pending court are supervised electronically as well as through personal contact. Youth are fitted with a transmitter attached to their ankle by a strap, and a receiver is attached to the youth's phone. If the youth travels outside the home, the receiver reports this to a supervision center, which notifies Probation. The youth placed on this program would generally be in the Juvenile Hall pending court hearings, but are deemed to be safely placed at home with the reporting device and intensive supervision by the Probation Aides.

OASIS Detention Alternative Program

Youth Services provides community-based wrap around services appropriate to the individual needs of youth on home supervision and electronic monitoring. The program assists families and youth during the time period of release from Juvenile Hall detention until the court disposition. Services are targeted to give families an increased understanding of the juvenile court process and the probation system. The primary goals of the program are to assure that the youth attend all court hearings and does not re-offend or violate the home supervision or electronic monitoring contract. The Youth Services counseling staff and probation staff have weekly case management meetings. Youth Services counselors attend court hearings, make home visits with youth and parents, and provide educational and recreational groups on Friday and Saturday.

Luna Evening Center

Beginning in February 2005, the probation department opened an evening center to provide a community based response to violations of probation or new criminal offenses that provides assessment services, skill building activities, community service, educational, vocational and treatment services. Youth are ordered into the program by the court for a period of six to thirty days. A particular focus at the evening center is to respond to continued substance use and abuse. Drug and Alcohol Agency staff, Mental Health Clinicians, Probation Staff, and the Community Restoration Program (CRP) work jointly to provide programs from 4-8 PM, Tuesday through Friday and a 6-hour work day each Saturday.

Community Restoration Program (CRP) and Job Training Mentorship Project

The Probation Department, in collaboration with the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, the Public Works Department and the Community Action Board (CAB), established the Community Restoration Program (CRP) as an alternative to commitment days in the Juvenile Hall.

Seven to ten youth work under supervision each weekend day (and some weekdays in the summer) on community restorative projects such as stream clearance, erosion control, planting and other activities that benefit the community. A youth works one day on CRP in lieu of one day in the Juvenile Hall. This program has been very successful and received an award from the Criminal Justice Council of Santa Cruz County for creating effective partnerships to solve juvenile crime problems and strengthen the community.

CAB, in partnership with local business, also operates the Job Training and Mentorship Project. This project provides training, subsidized employment and mentors for 25 youth who have previously successfully participated in the CRP program. Youth are matched with appropriate local businesses based on their interests and talents. Following successful completion of the training program, the businesses will hire participating staff.

Juvenile Supervision Programs

Regular Supervision Caseloads North and South County of Santa Cruz

These are traditional probation caseloads of approximately 65 juveniles. Youth on these caseloads are considered to be at low to medium risk for recidivism. The Probation Officers maintain regular contact with youth placed on probation by the court, and helps the youth to fulfill the orders of the court. Contacts may be made with youth at their school, the probation office, home, community and in Court. There are two of these caseloads; one serves youth in North County and the other serves youth in the Watsonville area.

City of Santa Cruz Diversion Caseload - SCPD

Funded by the City of Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz County Probation Diversion Officer is stationed at the Santa Cruz City Police Department. The diversion officer works closely with the City Police to create an array of graduated responses designed to prevent recidivism for first time offenders within the project area. Additionally, the diversion officer acts as a liaison between police and probation in order to facilitate communication, share intelligence, assist in staffing special events in the downtown area and participates in community efforts to reduce juvenile delinquency and truancy. Additionally the diversion officer is an active member of Neighborhood Accountability Boards (NABS) and the Student Attendance Review Board(SARB).

Probation Prevention Services Caseload

This caseload provides prevention and intervention services to low risk youth who qualify for diversion and informal probation services. By working closely with the Neighborhood Accountability Boards and other services designed to work with first time offenders, this program helps divert youth from entering the formal juvenile justice system by offering services that build competency, assist them in repairing harm to community and victims, and links them to educational opportunities. Recently the probation officer has become a certified trainer in CPR and First Aid and some youth will be trained in CPR and First Aid and will receive community services hours upon completion of the class. This officer is also an active participant in the SARB.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) Intervention and Supervisions Services- Watsonville

Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA), received a grant which included a Probation Officer to assist in enhancing student safety in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, PVUSD. This probation officer provides field based probation supervision of youth enrolled in PVUSD, facilitates victim awareness groups and collaborates with PVPSA in arranging counseling services, community service options and other pro-active prevention

alternatives to aid in reducing school suspensions and crime in schools. Grant funding for this program has since ended, however due to its success, PVUSD has agreed to fund the program through June 30, 2010.

Geographically-based Community Accountability Supervision Programs (CAPS)

Funded in 2001, the state funded Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) supports the Community Accountability Program which provides geographically based probation supervision services for three communities: City of Watsonville (2), the unincorporated areas of Live Oak and the San Lorenzo Valley. Each Probation Officer works closely with a wide array of community-based agencies, law enforcement and Family Resource Centers to develop individualized service plans and meet identified needs. Youth receive skill building curriculum and gain opportunities to fulfill restitution obligations.

State funding JJCPA has been reduced by 30% in the past year. This has reduced the capacity of the program and led to a reduction of services throughout the target area.

GirlZpace

Funded by a Title II prevention and intervention grant, Santa Cruz County received funds in April 2007 to establish gender specific treatment and programming for girls in the Juvenile Justice system. This includes several venues of GirlZpace, where the young women can participate in gender responsive services such as girls circle, parent/daughter mediation, sexual abuse survivor groups and a probation officer providing field-based supervision. The well established Girl's Task Force serves as an advisory board. The grant program will end on March 31, 2010.

SB 81 Program

The Department of Juvenile Justice as part of their re-alignment and restructuring, changed the criteria for youth eligible for commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. As a result of this change and the passing of Senate Bill 81, funding became available to counties to provide services and programs for youth who would no longer be eligible. Therefore, this funding for Santa Cruz County provides funds for staff to supervise and create programming for youth with longer stays in Juvenile Hall and youth ages 14 through 18 years old, being directly filed in the Adult Court, but held in the Juvenile Hall pending trial and sentencing. Services in addition to rich programming in Juvenile Hall may include to family and/or individual counseling, family strengthening curriculum to interested parents, employment readiness skills for youth and various vocational workshops such as woodworking and gardening/landscaping. Youth may be eligible for monetary stipends, often used to pay restitution to previous victims. Some additional services are available through partnerships with the Workforce Investment Act and the County Office of Education.

Placement Prevention Programs

These programs were initially established in 1997 with general county funding. In 2004, services were expanded through the acquisition of SB163 Wraparound funding through the State of California. There are three Probation Officers in this unit with each officer having a caseload of up to 15 youth utilizing the Wraparound model for all youth and families. The youth on these caseloads have been through one or more of the intensive caseloads and are in danger of being removed from their homes and ordered into an out-of-home placement due to their behavior in the community and/or continued criminal activity. Following a presentation to, and approval by, the Placement Screening Committee, Probation Officers recommend to the Court that certain youth be ordered to participate in Placement Prevention Programs.

Wraparound Program

This is a multi-system, family driven, strength-based approach, aimed at keeping youth successful on probation and in their homes. Each probation officer is a team member in a Child and Family Team consisting of the youth, their family, a Children's Mental Health team facilitator, a family specialist (Substance Abuse Services clinician) a parent partner, and any other support person(s) identified by the family. Wraparound supports values of teamwork, cultural awareness, communication and personal responsibility. Youth are active team members in the development of individualized, family-driven case plans and are encouraged to participate in programs such as anger management, drug and alcohol counseling and victim awareness on an outpatient basis. Youth and parents are provided with other outpatient services such as individual skill building activities, educational advocacy, substance abuse services, parent support and coaching sessions as well as linkages to community resources and pro-social activities for youth and families.

Azteca Soccer Program

The Azteca Soccer program was formed by an interested Probation Officer who wanted to provide Probation youth the opportunity to participate in a team sport. The program recently began to receive Probation support in the form of time, funds and fans. The business community has stepped up to provide team uniforms and supplies. Probation youth and non-probation youth comprise team membership while family members support the team by fundraising and attending games and practices. Due to high demand, a second team known as the Toltecas was formed and will also be coached by a Probation Officer.

Family Children's Services / Probation Coordination of Services

In January 2010, Family and Children's Services, the Probation Department, and the Judges of the Delinquency and Dependency Courts will enter into a Memo of Understanding to allow for the establishment of a protocol to allow for Dual Jurisdiction in Santa Cruz County. This protocol will require stronger coordination of services and provisions for a youth to be both a 300 WIC dependent and 602 WIC ward of the Juvenile Court. This is only for youth displaying

criminality warranting wardship that are 300 WIC dependents of the Juvenile Court. Additionally, the protocol outlines policy and procedures to coordinate services for youth with involvement in both systems, including youth who are wards of the dependency court and are on a lower level of probation supervision. This will allow youth and families to benefit and access the strengths and services unique to each system.

PROBATION / MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUUM

As a System of Care County (SOC), Santa Cruz County Juvenile Justice Services are fully integrated with Children's Mental Health Services to create a full continuum of services for children and families who are at risk of out-of-home placement. The SOC is characterized by interagency planning councils at the policy and management levels, as well as multi-disciplinary teams at the case services delivery level. The following is a description of the programs in the integrated services system.

1. Juvenile Hall Mental Health Services / Court Services:
 - ◆ Total of (2) full-time Clinicians in Juvenile Hall provide assessment, treatment and crisis intervention.
 - ◆ Funding from a combination of Mental Health, Probation and Juvenile Probation funding.
 - ◆ Psychological testing and assessment is provided for the court pursuant to 741 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
2. Juvenile Outpatient Services:
 - ◆ Clinicians partner with various Probation Officers work to provide early intervention and prevent out-of-home placement.
 - ◆ Clinicians and Probation Officers identify and serve probation wards with mental health issues at intake.
3. Pre-Placement Screening Committee and Placement Prevention Assessment Conference Team:
 - ◆ A Probation Screening Committee comprised of Mental Health and Probation staff screen all potential placements, and diverts appropriate youth to family preservation programs.
 - ◆ Placement Prevention Assessment Conference Team arranges a family meeting which assesses strengths, concerns and needs to form service goals.
4. Family Conferencing:
 - ◆ Provides strength-based family conferences with selected parents and youth at intake, and when Placement Prevention Services are warranted.
5. Evening Center
 - ◆ Partnership between Probation, Mental Health, and CRP
 - ◆ Provides probation violation response and relapse prevention services.
 - ◆ Assessment services, evidence-based curriculum, recreation, skill building and community service.
6. Placement Prevention Programs (SB163 and general funded Family Preservation and Wraparound Services):

- ◆ Partnership between Families, Family Partners, Probation Officers, and Mental Health Clinicians.
- ◆ Community-based Clinicians supervised by Mental Health.
- ◆ Intensive Wraparound model to prevent/reduce group home stays.
- ◆ Funded by EPSDT, Title IV-E, JPF and county general funds.
- ◆ Majority of services are field based with some services provided in the home.

7. After-Care Services:

- ◆ Mental Health Clinicians and Probation Officers serve family preservation graduates beyond 18 years of age after discharge to help adjustment and to prevent recidivism.
- ◆ AB 377 Grant/Probation/federal funds.

8. Therapeutic Behavioral Options:

- ◆ A range of short-term therapeutic services are provided to eligible court wards in residential care focused on resolution of target behaviors or symptoms which jeopardize the existing placement or which are a barrier to transitioning to a lower level of care.

9. Community-based Juvenile Justice Contractors:

- ◆ A variety of supportive programs NOT run through Mental Health (contracted to local non-profits, or run by Probation) provide additional support and resources to Mental Health/Probation.
- ◆ Examples: Juvenile Hall detention alternatives including community work programs and intensive Home Supervision with community-based partners, utilizing Juvenile Probation/Camp Funding, provide clinical services.