County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, March 13, 2025 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting Probation Training Room 303 Water St., 2nd Floor Santa Cruz, CA

The purpose of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is to advocate for and protect the safety and well-being of dependency and juvenile justice-involved youth and to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. As a Commission, we will educate and inform our community and system leaders on the importance of positive youth development and advocate for coordinated and well-resourced systems that promote family and youth success and prevent system involvement.

In furtherance of that purpose the Commission has adopted three goal areas to guide its work over the next 2 years (2024 – 2026):

1) Juvenile Hall Inspection; 2) Positive Youth Development through the 41 Developmental Assets; and 3) Convening Stakeholders.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Bernard Gomez, Cynthia Druley, David Brody, Deutron Kebebew, Elias
Gonzales, Julia Feldman, Reyna Ruiz, Sierra ThompsonExcused: Beverly Brook, Forrest Revere, Mara Rodriguez
Ex Officio: Judge Jerry Vinluan, Jennifer MartinezStaff: Christine Bennett

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Kebebew moved to approve the Consent Agenda [Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2025, Approval of Monthly Statistical Information from Probation & Juvenile Hall (Attachments Accept & File)]; Commissioner Brody seconded.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brody, Druley, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Kebebew, Ruiz (abstained for Minutes portion), Thompson No: None

Abstain: None

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3853 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Including items via email on file): OYCR Webinar on March 18 (see attached). Prom Dress and Suit Drive in April (see attached).
- V. ACTION ITEMS:
 - Add Aptos Village Public Safety Center to meeting rotation. Commissioner Feldman moved to approve and Commissioner Thompson seconded. Commissioners agreed to add Aptos and to revisit the topic in April to fine-tune the rotation details, discuss time change(s), etc.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brody, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Ruiz, Thompson No: Druley Abstain: Kebebew

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1. Prevention: Next steps with developmental assets. Commissioner Kebebew shared the work in partnership of City of Watsonville and ABC Group recently surveyed approximately 300 youth to compile the responses which includes areas of gaps or need(s) that were shared. Hoping that the JJDPC will want to partner or co-sponsor future work and the roll-out of data.
- 2. Election of Officers in April. Vice Chair Gonzales reminded the Commissioners that they will be selecting new Officers at the April 10, 2025 meeting.
- 3. Passage of Ranch Camp proposal. Commissioner Gomez updated the group that the Board of Supervisors approved the implementation of a Ranch Camp at the same location as Juvenile Hall. Several Commissioners commented that there is a lot of opportunity for work to be done together by Probation, the Commissioner and other partner/community agencies and members of our County.
- 4. JJDPC Inspections (RC, JH, SYTF) involvement of all commissioners. Vice Chair Gonzales encouraged all Commissioners to participate. Commissioner Druley suggested options of actually performing the in-person inspections or perhaps in doing research to find an alternate inspection tool.

VII. SUB-COMMITTEES:

- SB823 (ad hoc: January 2025 June 2025): Brook, Gonzales, Ruiz. Commissioner Gonzales shared alternatives across the state with OYCR Representative and will forward that email to staff following the meeting.
- Data (ad hoc): Kebebew, Revere, Gomez. Commissioner Brody requested that Commissioners send feedback on the data provided in the Monthly Statistics provided by Probation which indicates what they find helpful, what they feel is not necessary to be included, as well as any other topics they wish to receive data/information on at future meetings. Commissioners are to send this information to staff by March 27, 2025.

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Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Minutes March 13, 2025 Page 3

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION AGENDA

March 13, 2025 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting Probation Training Room 303 Water St., 2nd Floor Santa Cruz, CA

For questions regarding the meeting process, please contact Christine Bennett, staff for the JJDPC, at 831-454-3853 or PRB021@santacruzcounty.us

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
- II. CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of Agenda Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2025 Monthly Statistical Information from Probation and Juvenile Hall (Accept & File)
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Any member of the public will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes each to address the Commission on any item listed on today's Agenda and/or any other topic within the scope of the responsibility of the Commission. If the issue or matter is not listed on today's agenda, Commissioners will not take actions or respond immediately to any public comment, but may follow up later, either individually or at a subsequent meeting.
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Including items via email on file)
- V. ACTION ITEMS:
 - 1. Add Aptos Village Public Safety Center to meeting rotation
- VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:
 - 1. Prevention: Next steps with developmental assets
 - 2. Election of officers in April
 - 3. Passage of ranch camp proposal
 - 4. JJDPC inspections (RC, JH, SYTF) involvement of all commissioners
- VII SUB-COMMITTEES:
 - 1. SB823
 - 2. Data

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Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Agenda March 13, 2025 Page 2

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting MILPA 315 Main St., Suite 206 Watsonville, CA

The purpose of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is to advocate for and protect the safety and well-being of dependency and juvenile justice-involved youth and to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. As a Commission, we will educate and inform our community and system leaders on the importance of positive youth development and advocate for coordinated and well-resourced systems that promote family and youth success and prevent system involvement.

In furtherance of that purpose **the Commission has adopted three goal areas** to guide its work over the next 2 years (2024 – 2026):

1) Juvenile Hall Inspection; 2) Positive Youth Development through the 41 Developmental Assets; and 3) Convening Stakeholders.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.

 Present: Bernard Gomez, Beverly Brook, Cynthia Druley, David Brody, Deutron Kebebew, Elias Gonzales, Maria Rodriguez, Julia Feldman, Sierra Thompson
 Excused: Forrest Revere, Reyna Ruiz
 Ex Officio: Judge Jerry Vinluan, Jennifer Martinez
 Staff: Christine Bennett

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.
- III. CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Feldman moved to approve the Consent Agenda [Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2024, Approval of Monthly Statistical Information from Probation & Juvenile Hall (Attachments Accept & File)]; Commissioner Brody seconded.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Brody, Druley (abstained for Minutes portion), Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Rodriguez, Thompson No: None Abstain: Kebebew (arrived after vote)

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- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Including items via email on file): Monthly JJCC meetings available as shared by Commissioner Druley via email. Please see attached.
- V. MONTHLY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM PROBATION and JUVENILE HALL (ATTACHMENTS Accept and File).
- VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:
 - 1. Juvenile Hall Inspection Report: Cynthia Druley. Please see attached
 - 2. Juvenile Hall Public Art Projects: Beverly Brook Please see attached
 - 3. February 25, 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting re: Ranch Camp: Beverly Brook. No information available on Board's website at this time.
 - 4. JJDPC Vacant Commissioner Positions: Beverly Brook. There are two adult and two youth positions vacant at this time.
- VII. ACTION ITEMS:
 - 1. Approval Final Version of By-Laws: Motion by Commissioner Druley with Second by Commissioner Gonzales with minor change to update BSCC as OYCR, reflect commission meeting frequency consistent with Section VII.3 herinbelow, and fix minor punctuation.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Brody, Druley, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Kebebew, Rodriguez, Thompson

No: None

Abstain: None

2. Discontinue Steering Committee / Outreach Subcommittee: Motion by Commissioner Kebebew with Second by Commissioner Brody.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Brody, Druley, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Kebebew, Rodriguez, Thompson

No: None Abstain: None

 Approval of JJDPC Monthly Meetings / Change of By-Laws: Motion by Commissioner Druley with Second by Commissioner Gonzales to be effective at March 2025 meeting. Staff will inquire if adding the Aptos Safety Center location is an option for the rotating locations.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Brody, Druley, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Kebebew, Rodriguez, Thompson No: None

Abstain: None

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- VIII. SUB-COMMITTEES:
 - 1. Steering Committee / Outreach: Brook, Druley, Brody As discussed above.
 - 2. SB823 (ad hoc: January 2025 June 2025): Brook, Gonzales, Ruiz As discussed above.
 - 3. By-Laws (ad hoc): Brody, Druley As discussed above.
 - 4. Data (ad hoc): Kebebew, Revere, Gomez No update.
- IX. GUEST SPEAKER: Jose Flores, Juvenile Probation Division Director, for an update on SYTF. Please see attached.
- X. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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**** **CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

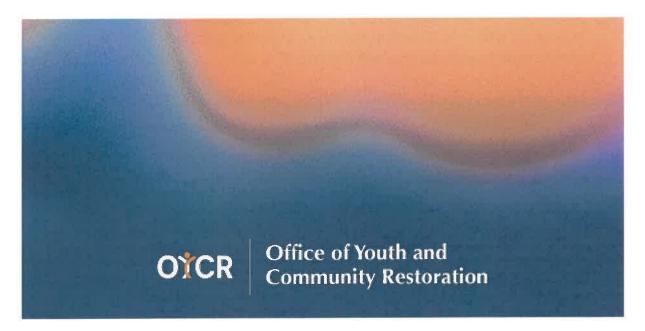
Hi Christine,

OYCR has finalized its "Stepping Home Model" which addresses and defines its role in guiding best practices for supporting justice-involved youth transitioning from Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) to Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs). This email includes an invitation to learn about it. I've cc'd some of the Probation leadership here.

Could you please share this with all the members of the JJDPC?

Thanks, Cynthia Druley JJDPC Commissioner 831.600.5363

View in browser



Understanding the Stepping Home Model: A Framework of Best Practices for Supporting the Well-Being of Justice-Involved Youth

March 18, 2025

Join us for a dynamic webinar exploring the Stepping Home Model, a framework designed to support the well-being of justice-involved youth transitioning from Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) to Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs). Featuring expert insights from Dr. Laura Abrams, Professor of Social Welfare at UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, and Dr. Juan Carlos Argüello, OYCR's Health Policy Division Chief, joined by special guest presenters Reid McGuire and Marco Osorio, from OYCR's Youth Advisory Board, this session will provide an overview of the core elements of the Stepping Home Model, including best practices and research-backed strategies for successful reentry. Participants will gain access to key resources to enhance their work with system-involved youth.

Upon completion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Identify the key elements of the Stepping Home Model, including the specific challenges it addresses and its role in guiding best practices for supporting justice-involved youth transitioning from Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) to Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs).
- Describe how the Stepping Home Model promotes well-being and successful reentry for youth, highlighting core strategies and interventions.
- Locate key resources and information to enhance the implementation of best practices for supporting youth in SYTFs and LRPs.

Speakers:

- Dr. Laura Abrams, Professor of Social Welfare, UCLA
- Dr. Juan Carlos Argüello, Chief Health Policy Officer, OYCR
- Reid McGuire, OYCR Youth Advisory Board Member
- Marco Osorio, OYCR Youth Advisory Board Member

Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 Time: 12:00-1:00pm PDT

Register Now: Registration Link

This webinar will be recorded and available for viewing on OYCR's website, under <u>Resources</u>. This webinar is pending certification for 1 hour by the Standards and Training for Corrections Division. Participants must attend this webinar training for the full duration to receive one hour of STC credit.

Stay Connected with OYCR

To be added to OYCR's email list, please visit our "Contact Us" page or scan the QR code below:



Thanks for all that you do to serve our youth.



Office of Youth and Community Restoration,

1215 O Street, MS-08

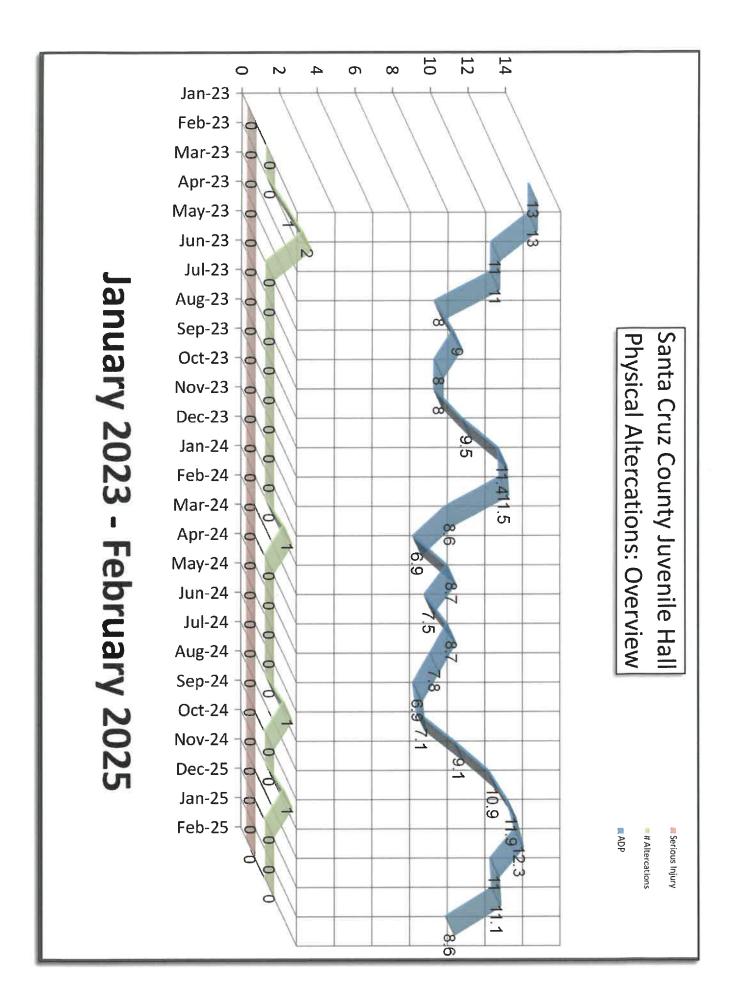
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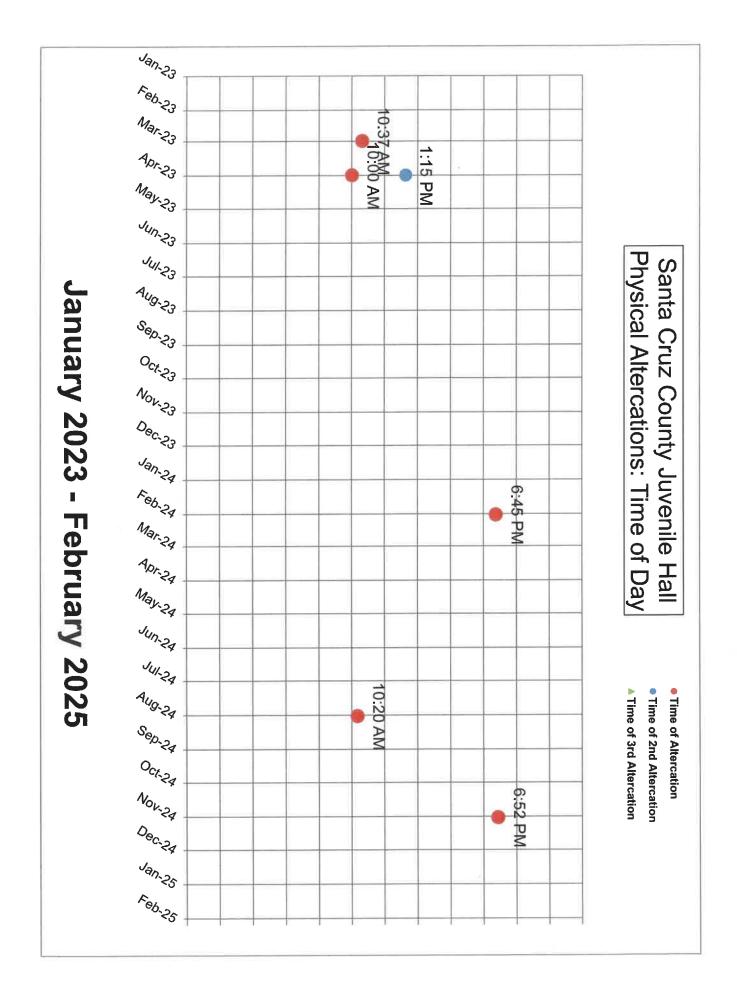
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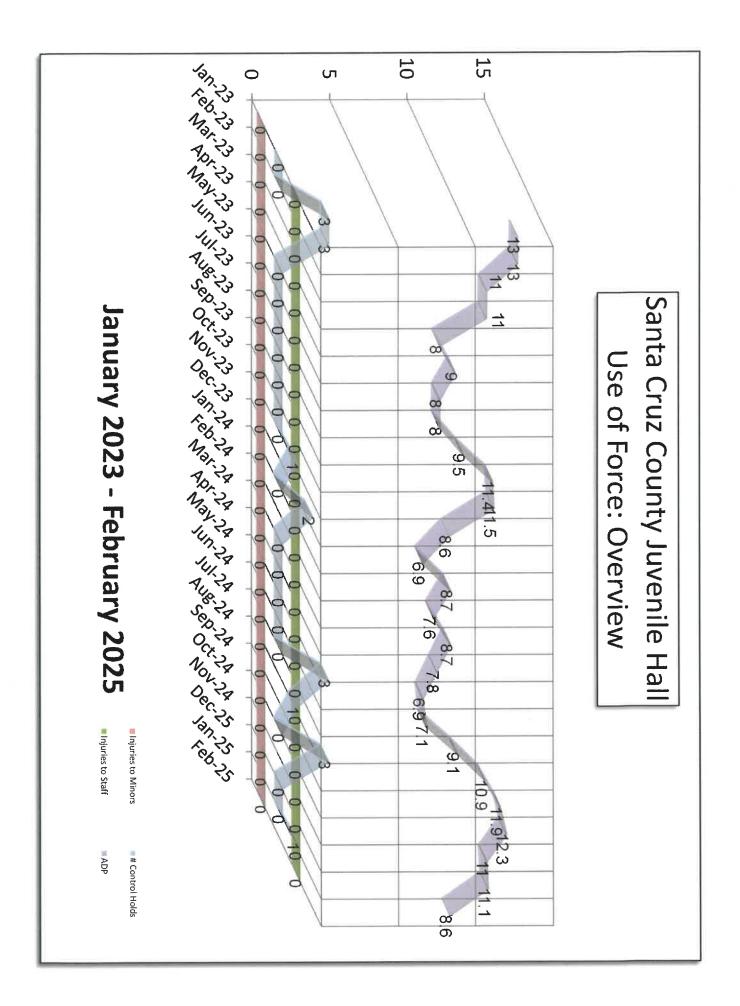
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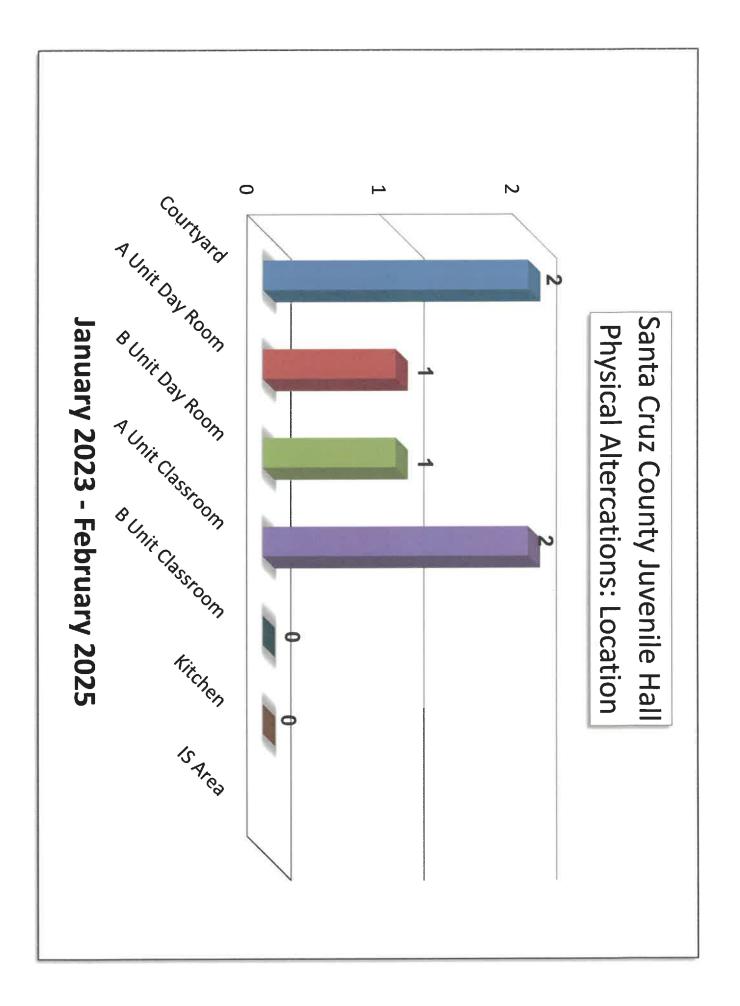
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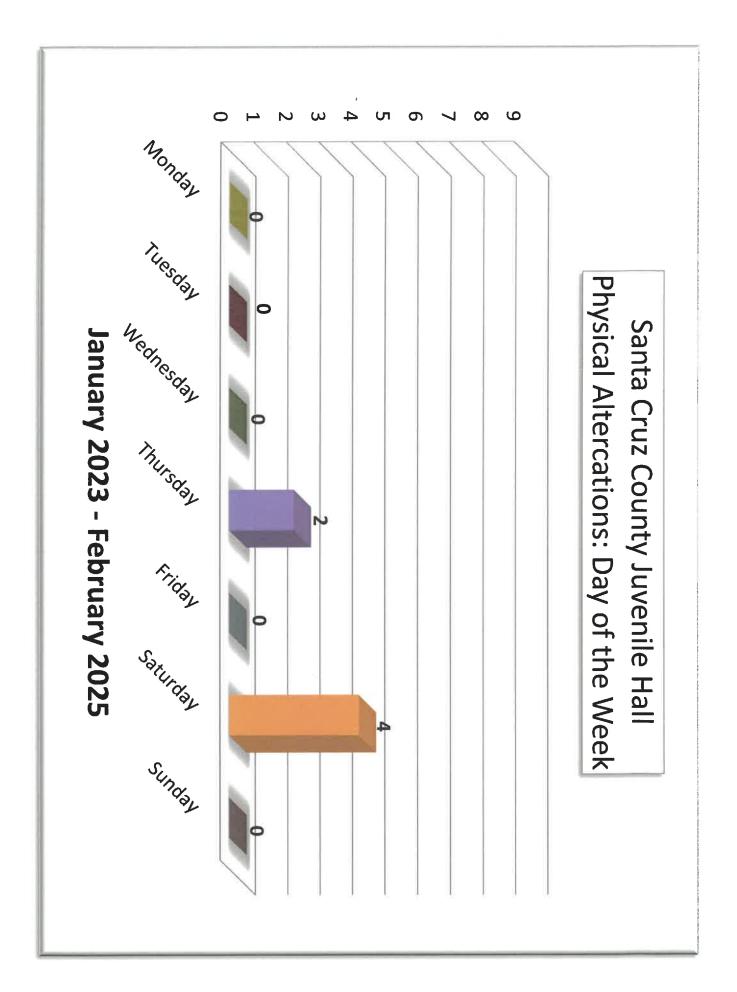
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9 Staff led programs A-unit Visiting Peace United Church	10 School Staff led programs Art Chess Master
16 Staff led programs A-unit Visiting FLOW Church	17 School Staff led programs Art Chess Master Future Visions
23 Staff led programs A-unit Visiting <mark>Gateway Church</mark>	24 School Staff led programs Art Chess Master



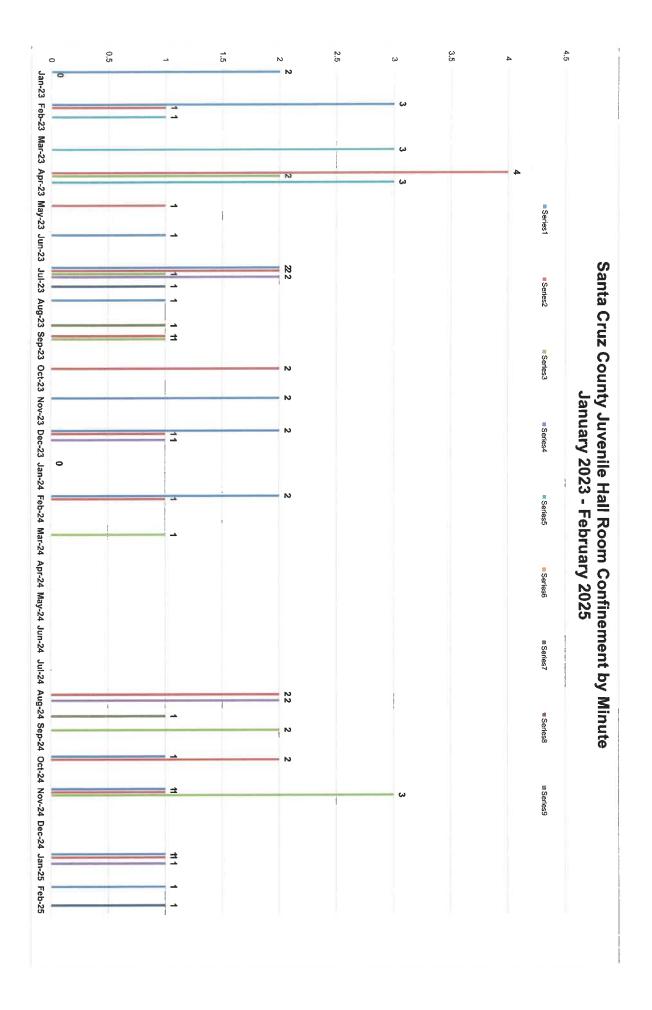




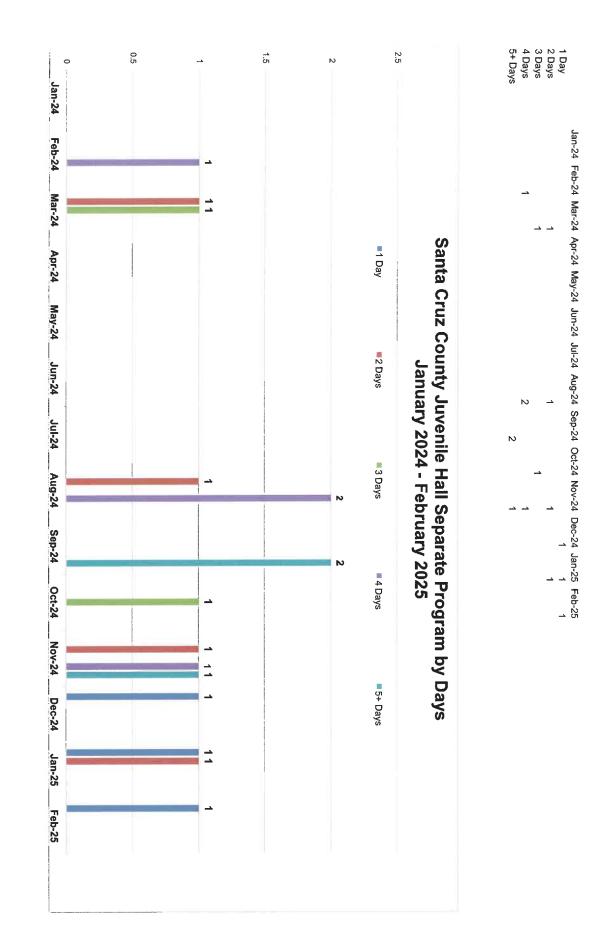


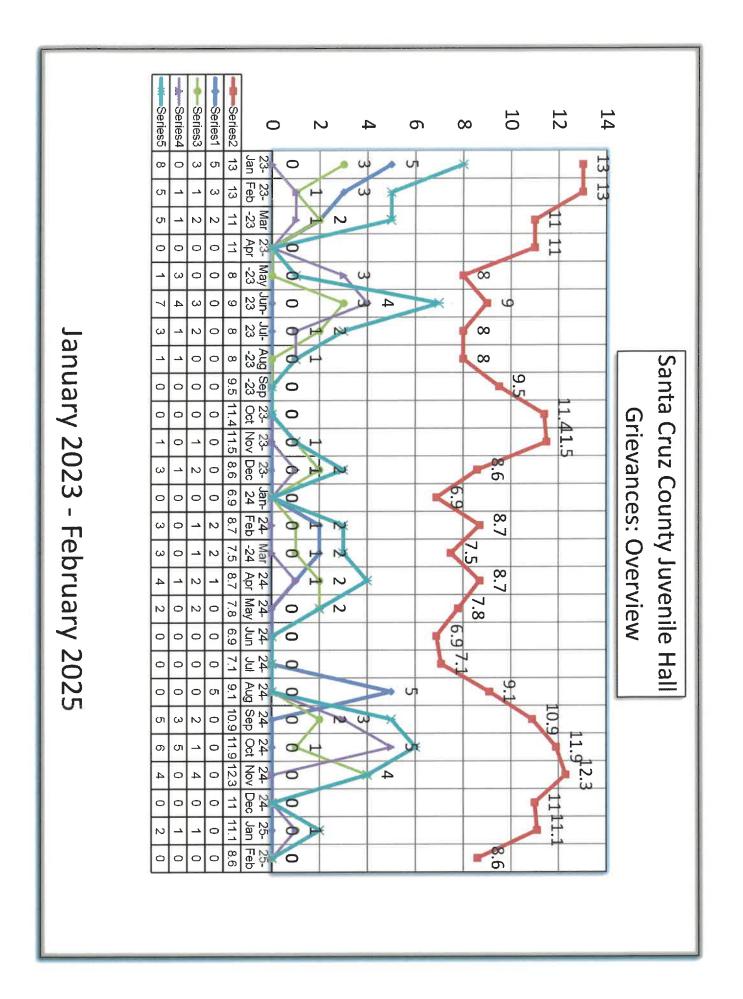


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Christine Bennett

From: Sent: To: Subject: Diane Culcasi Monday, March 3, 2025 2:32 PM Christine Bennett Data for JJDPC

Hi Christine,

There were no firearm related bookings in February.

Youth on Probation by area of residence:

count Area

- 4 Aptos Total
- 6 Ben Lomond Total
- 2 Boulder Creek Total
- 2 Capitola Total
- 1 Castroville Total
- 1 England Total
- 1 Felton Total
- 1 Fresno Total
- 1 Kingston, WA Total
- 1 Loomis Total
- 1 Los Gatos Total
- 1 Mariposa Total
- 1 Oakland Total
- 19 Santa Cruz Total
- 5 Scotts Valley Total
- 1 Spanawau, WA Total
- 1 Springfield, UT Total
- 41 Watsonville Total
- 90 Grand Total

Diane Culcasi

IT App Dev/Support Analyst III Information Services Department/Probation Liaison diane.culcasi@santacruzcountyca.gov 831-454-3839

Juvenile Division Monthly Data Blast

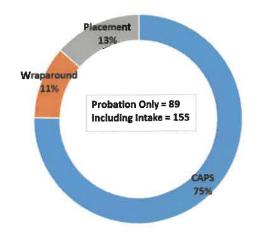
Intake

- 18 Intake RAIs administered: 1 override •
- Held by Probation/Released by the Judge @ . Detention Hearing: 0
- ATD admissions: 16
- EC Referrals: 4
- Recidivism Rate: 1% (1 youth)
- EPIC Sessions: 36 .
- Field Contacts: 78 (40 home, 11 placement, . 23 school, 2 transports, 1 SARB meeting, 1 treatment facility)
- Video Contacts: 4
- Secure Track Youth: 4

Investigations

- Court reports: 2
- Transfer reports ordered: 1
- Supervisor Rpt. Approvals: 69 •

January Caseload Supervision Totals



New Supervision Cases w/Low Initial Risk Level: 1

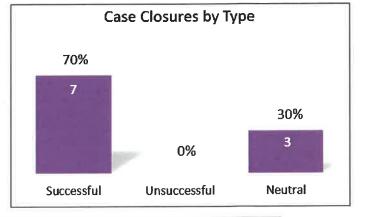
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Last Month

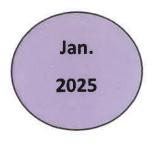
- 86% of youth eligible . received a full assessment, 17 youth still needed one.
- Overdue reassessments: 23 •
- Reassessments due last . month: 6



- 88% of youth eligible received a full assessment 14 youth still need one.
- Overdue reassessments: 18
- Reassessments due this month: 2



Demographics							
Probation Caseload	Probation Violations	Warrants					
 African American: 2% (2) Latinx: 66% (59) White: 22% (20) Other/Unknown: 9% (8) 	• Zero	• White: 100% (1)					



Title IV-E (Does not include Placement IV-E)

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Last Month

Reasonable Candidates: 7 •

Overdue reassessments: 0

Reassessments due last

New: 0 Reassessments: 0

month: 2

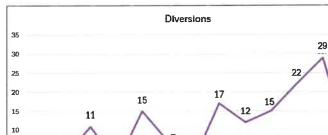
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- **This Month** Reasonable Candidates: 7
- New: 1
 - Reassessments: 1 .
 - Overdue reassessments: 0 .
 - Reassessments due this month: 2

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Juvenile Hall Monthly Data Blast

Population Info

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- IEP's: 7
- 504's: 1
- Graduations: 1
- Youth on Psychotropic Meds: 5
- Youth with drug/alcohol issues: 7
- Youth open to MH services: 12
- Medical Referrals: 3
 - **MAT**: 1
- Physical Altercations: 0
- Restraints used: 0
- Room confinements: 3
- Pending transfer hearing: 4

Booking Charges (most serious offense)

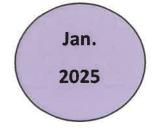
- Drugs/Alcohol: 17% (3)
- Placement Failure 6% (1)
- Property: 11% (2)
- Violent/Weapons: 61% (11)
- Other: 6% (1)

Booking Demographics (area of residence)

- North County: 28% (5)
- South County: 67% (12)
- Out-of-County: 6% (1)

JUVENILE HALL POPULATION INFORMATION	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
6 am count (average) ¹	10.8	0.3	11.1
Population in-custody at start of time period	13	2	15
Admitted during time period	11	7	18
Released during time period	12	7	19
Population in-custody at end of time period ¹	10	0	10
Average daily attendance	10.7	0.3	11.0
Average length of stay	29.8	2.0	19.6
Average length of stay without STYF youth	29.8	2.0	19.6
Length of Stay MODE	2.0	1.0	2.0
Range of stay	1 - 1374	1 - 3	1 - 1374
Range of age	14 - 20	14 - 17	14 - 20
Number of "in-county" residents received	10	7	17
Number of "out-of-county" residents received	1	0	1
Percentage from out-of-county	9.1%	0.0%	5.6%
Total child care days	344	14	358
Total court commitments admitted	0	0	0
Total court commitments released	0	0	0
Total child care days for released court commit	0	0	0
Total intake to date (current year): January 2025	11	7	18
Total intake to date (prior year): January 2024	16	7	23

Overall Population Demographics					
 African American: 1 (3%) Latinx: 22 (76%) White: 4 (14%) Other: 2 (7%) 	 Boys: 22 (76%) Girls: 7 (24%) 	ALOS African American: 261 days Latinx: 22.7 days White: 1.5 days Other: 4.5 days 	% Youth on Probation: 45%		



Juvenile Division Monthly Data Blast

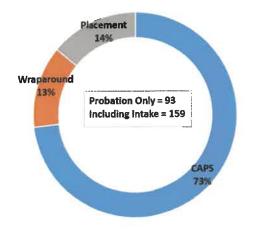
Intake

- 15 Intake RAIs administered: 2 overrides •
- Held by Probation/Released by the Judge @ . **Detention Hearing: 2**
- ATD admissions: 11
- EC Referrals: 3
- Recidivism Rate: 3% (3 youth)
- **EPIC Sessions: 28**
- Field Contacts: 56 (33 home, 16 placement, 7 . school)
- Video Contacts: 5
- Secure Youth Treatment Facility: 5

Investigations

- Court reports: 0 ٠
- Transfer reports ordered: 0
- Supervisor Rpt. Approvals: 60 •

February Caseload Supervision Totals



New Supervision Cases w/Low Initial Risk Level: 0

Title IV-E (Does not include Placement IV-E)

Diversions

17

Last Month

Reasonable Candidates: 7 .

Overdue reassessments: 0

15

1417-24

WHY2A

Reassessments due last

New: 1 Reassessments: 1

month: 2

11

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35

30

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This Month

- **Reasonable Candidates: 8** •
- New: 0
- Reassessments: 1 .
 - Overdue reassessments: 0 Reassessments due this month:

29

6

480.25

2

22

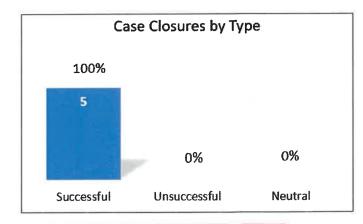
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This Month

- 88% of youth eligible received a full assessment 14 youth still need one.
- Overdue reassessments: 15
- Reassessments due this month: 6



Demographics							
Probation Caseload	Probation Violations	Warrants					
 African American: 2% (2) Latinx: 68% (63) White: 22% (20) Other/Unknown: 9% (8) 	• Latinx: 100% (2)	• Zero					

Last Month

18

month: 2

.

88% of youth eligible

received a full assessment,

14 youth still needed one.

Overdue reassessments:

Reassessments due last



Juvenile Hall Monthly Data Blast

Population Info

- IEP's: 3
- 504's: 0
- Graduations: 0
- Youth on Psychotropic Meds: 5
- Youth with drug/alcohol issues: 8
- Youth open to MH services: 13
- Medical Referrals: 7
- MAT: 2
- Physical Altercations: 0
- Restraints used: 1
- Room confinements: 2
- Pending transfer hearing: 3

Booking Charges (most serious offense)

- EM Violation: 7% (1)
- Property: 13% (2)
- Violent/Weapons: 53% (8)
- Other: 27% (4) (obstruction, evade officer)

Booking Demographics (area of residence)

- North County: 13% (2)
- South County: 87% (13)

JUVENILE HALL POPULATION INFORMATION	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
6 am count (average) ¹	8.5	0.1	8.6
Population in-custody at start of time period	8	0	8
Admitted during time period	13	2	15
Released during time period	11	1	12
Population in-custody at end of time period ¹	10	1	11
Average daily attendance	8.5	0.1	8.6
Average length of stay	16.6	1.0	15.3
Average length of stay without STYF youth	16.6	1.0	15.3
Length of Stay MODE	2.0	1.0	1.0
Range of stay	1 - 1402	1 - 2	1 - 1402
Range of age	12 - 20	16 - 17	12 - 20
Number of "in-county" residents received	13	2	15
Number of "out-of-county" residents received	0	0	0
Percentage from out-of-county	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total child care days	250	3	253
Total court commitments admitted	0	0	0
Total court commitments released	0	0	0
Total child care days for released court commit	0	0	0
Total intake to date (current year): February 2025	24	9	33
Total intake to date (prior year): February 2024	27	11	38

Overall Population Demographics					
 Latinx: 19 (83%) White: 4 (17%) 	 Boys: 21 (91%) Girls: 2 (9%) 	 ALOS Latinx: 12 days White: 18 days 	% Youth or Probation: 39%		



Santa Cruz County Probation Department

2024

Juvenile Hall Annual Report

Our **MISSION** is to contribute to community well-being through positive engagement, connection to services, and support for those impacted by crime.

Authored by Division Director Sara A. Berman

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Introduction:

Juvenile Hall was established pursuant to Article 14, Section 850 of the State Welfare, and Institutions Code, which requires the Board of Supervisors to provide and maintain a temporary secure place for youths between the ages of 12 and 25 under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court and deemed a public safety concern.

Detention Utilization

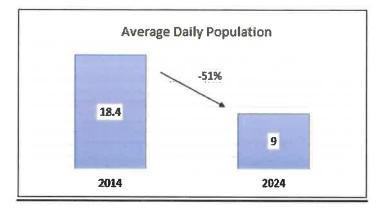
Our facility prioritizes providing detained youth with optimal conditions, ensuring a safe, secure, and trauma-informed environment where both physical and behavioral health needs are diligently addressed. We deliver supportive interventions, educational programs, and rehabilitative services with a commitment to equity and cultural sensitivity. We facilitate connections with families and support networks through both in-person and virtual visits. Our Alternative to Detention program offers a constructive alternative for youth, ensuring they fulfill their court obligations and avoid reoffending while awaiting their court hearings.

Santa Cruz County Probation boasts a distinguished legacy as one of the inaugural national model sites for the Annie E. Casey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) in 1999. Since then, we have seamlessly integrated the core values, principles, and practices of JDAI into our operations and policies. Over nearly a quarter-century, our commitment to advancing our work with youth, their families, and the community has remained steadfast. We strive to establish a sustainable model of juvenile justice that not only safely diverts youth from the justice system but also fosters community capacity, recognizing the boundless potential of our youth. Our goal is to provide safe and nurturing pathways for youth into adulthood, ensuring they have every opportunity to thrive.

Core Principles:

- Detain only youth pending court who pose public safety or flight risk.
- All youth brought to Juvenile Hall are evaluated with an objective Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) detention screening tool.
- RAI links with a continuum of alternatives to detention (ATD), without impacting public safety. ATD program supports, successfully and safely keep youth in their community.
- Address racial and ethnic disparities of those who are confined, and address inequities and needs of special populations
- Family-focused interventions create equitable opportunities for positive youth development.

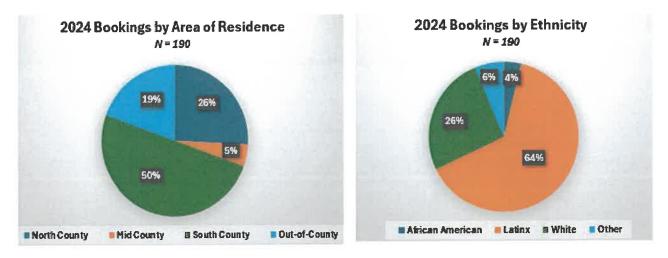
The capacity of the Juvenile Hall is 40. In 2024, there were 190 intakes, and the average daily population (ADP) was 9; as compared to an ADP of 18.4 in 2014.



2

Bookings

The charts below illustrate the bookings to Juvenile Hall by race and ethnic demographics, and area of residence. Latinx youth made up 64% of intakes to Juvenile Hall and comprised 55% of the youth population. 50% of the youth booked into the facility reside in South County.



Probation continues to hold a strong prevention lens, engaging with community partners to provide programming and services to address racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system to include a focus on the geographical areas of need.

- Alternative to Detention Program (ATD)
- Luna Y Sol Familia Center
- Teen / Parent Mediation Conflict Resolution Program (CRC)
- Victim Offender Dialogue Program (CRC)
- Title II Stable Transition After Reentry (STAR) Grant (Encompass, CRC & Positive Discipline)
- Parent Project Community Bridges
- Azteca's Soccer South County
- Victim Awareness Education (CRC)
- Employment Skill Building (CAB)

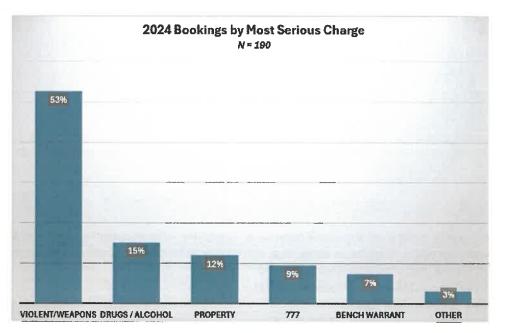
Since 2014, admissions to Juvenile Hall have decreased by 54% and the average length of stay has decreased by 47%.



Although detention admissions have decreased, the youths currently held tend to face serious felony violence charges, leading to longer stays. This discrepancy means that the reduction in admissions



does not align with the decrease in length of stay. Additional factors contributing to longer stays include legislative changes, transfer cases, companion cases involving adult co-participants (which often prolong the process), the impact of SB 823 Realignment requiring youth formally committed at state level to be committed locally at a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), as well as the lengthy process of securing a placement in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) for detained youths. See the chart below:



Detention Alternatives Outcome Data

In-lieu of detention, the Alternative to Detention program emphasis is to ensure youth make their court appearance and do not reoffend while remaining in the community pending their court hearing. The following chart illustrates the use of alternatives to detention upon contact with the juvenile system. In 2024, 96% of all youth that were placed in an alternative to detention program made their next court appearance and did not recidivate pending court.



The Department remains committed to employing the least restrictive interventions whenever feasible, opting for alternatives to detention as appropriate. Significant changes over the past year include an

4

Referrals	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change
Diversion and Informal Contracts	151	131	88	68	61	72	130	81%
Home Supervision	58	76	59	73	76	85	90	6%
Electronic Monitoring	115	114	73	117	101	116	104	-10%

81% rise in diversion and informal contracts and a 6% increase in the number of youths enrolled in the Home Supervision program compared to the previous year.

The Stable Transition After Reentry (STAR) Program, a Title II state funded grant, provides individualized services to youth and families to support youth transitioning back to the community from Juvenile Hall, Short-Term Therapeutic Residential Treatment Program (STRTP), Ranch or SYTF. The goal is to decrease the chance of a young person returning to Juvenile Hall or further involvement with the Juvenile Justice System. Probation partnered with Encompass, Positive Discipline Community Resources, and Conflict Resolution Center on this diversion program. We remain steadfast in our efforts with our collaborative partners and probation staff to collectively engage youth and increase support for a successful transition from custody back to their community.

Dual Status

Santa Cruz County Human Services Department's Division of Family and Children's Services ("FCS"), the Probation Department, and the Juvenile Division of the Superior Court uses a team approach to maintain a young person/family centered focus and cement practices that offer equitable responses to dually-involve youth and families being served across two systems. The Dual Status MOU aligns with the principles of Continuum of Care Reform; and maintains the values and philosophy of each agency while improving the coordination of services for the overall benefit of youth and families. The following are highlights for our Dual Status protocol:

- Fewer crossover youth entering our Juvenile Hall and juvenile justice system.
- Paradigm shifts have reduced overreliance on use of detention and formal sanctions.
- Partners examined how data elements, such as case coordination, programming, placement types, recidivism, and successful transitions have impacted intermediate and long-term outcomes for dually involved youth and families in our county.
- Both agencies continue to examine opportunities to increase family engagement efforts, gaps in services and opportunities for quality improvement standards.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Youth are screened for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Multidisciplinary teams from our partner systems assess and provide supportive services to CSEC youth in our community. Probation remains a critical member of our tri-county model and local response team. Probation, FCS, and several key county and community organizations utilize a victim-centered and harm-reduction approach for all youth who are identified with any level of risk for commercial sexual exploitation. CSEC coordinators lead training, convenings, and coaching for county and community staff, which has resulted in a culture shift to respond to youth based on their social emotional responses rather than punitive court reactions.

Hybrid Access

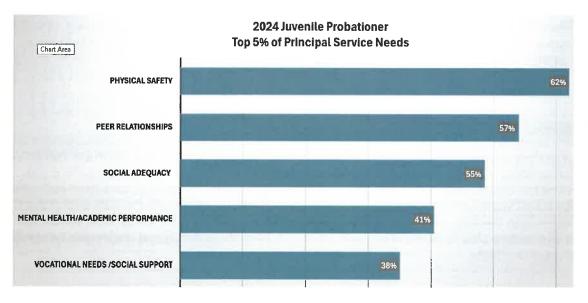
Virtual platforms are a staple in the facility, for youth to foster connectedness and support successful reentry to the community. Equitable access for detained youth to meet through virtual platforms with family, attorneys, counselors, support persons, and for participation in programs. Remote access is available to all youth and visitors, when health or safety necessitates or is preferred by the visitor; and increases access for youth to programs and support.

Staffing, Security and Safety

The Juvenile Hall operates two independent units. Housing of youth is based on classification, risk level, individual needs, and safety of the youth and other youth within the facility. The classification system is an ongoing process throughout a commitment, and youth may be housed in either unit of the facility. A direct supervision model supports the classification system, and services targeted to address individual needs of the youth, allowing for constant review of an individual's safety, progress, and housing needs. Operational practices reinforce our commitment to respect the dignity of all youths, including transgender and gender non-conforming young persons, to create a safe environment for all and ensure everyone has equal access to all available services, care, and treatment.

Our facility is dedicated to fostering robust relationships, demonstrating compassion, and fostering collaboration among our team members, resulting in optimal conditions of confinement. We are one of only a few counties in California that do not use chemical restraints/OC Spray; and have a considerably low use of force and restraints when compared to others. The facility has significantly few physical altercations and almost no injuries to staff or youth. During 2024 there were only 3 physical altercations, with no serious injury to youth in our care or staff. This significantly low level of incidents and injuries is a stark contrast to what other juvenile detention facilities experience.

Hiring and staffing for the Juvenile Hall is challenging. The Board of State and Community Correction Standards (BSCC) Title 15 mandates imposes minimum staffing numbers, gender of, and training of staff on duty which resulted in an increase reliance on Extra Help staff to ensure 24/7 coverage. Staffing level requires not only meeting the mandated staff/youth ratio for safety and security; but also allows program, unit duties, and the ability to meet the individual service needs of youth who are detained.



Family and Natural Supports Engagement

Research has shown that youth who remain within their communities have lower recidivism rates and are more prepared for successful re-entry. Age-appropriate treatment while engaging families in the treatment process significantly enhances rehabilitation by promoting familial and pro-social community ties, which are crucial in reducing re-offending and supporting long-term success. Santa Cruz County aligns with this philosophy by providing family and natural supports engagement opportunities and collaborative treatment planning for each youth. CASA advocates continue with and are provided to support system impacted youth and meet one-on-one with youth while detained. CASA advocates remain actively engaged in supporting system-impacted youth, providing consistent one-on-one mentorship and advocacy, both in the community and during their time in detention.

Positive Youth Development Through Evidence Based and Culturally Responsive Programming

The array of program opportunities combined with an individualized engagement approach supports positive development for youth and humane conditions of confinement. Our professional youth supervision staff are trained in trauma-informed care and bring dedication and compassion to meet the needs of the youth in their care. Partnering with local providers to meet both immediate and transitional needs, the facility offers a comprehensive array of services for youth. These services are designed to support rehabilitation, personal growth, and successful reintegration into the community. To ensure the delivery of these services is effective, staff within the facility are trained in several evidence-based practices. These methods focus on helping youth change harmful behaviors, develop positive coping skills, and engage in pro-social behaviors.

The use of appropriate sanctions and incentives is integral to holding youth accountable while promoting positive behavior changes and critical thinking skills. By using a combination of rewards and consequences, staff can motivate youths to make improvements and stay on track with their rehabilitation goals. The range of services and structured programming ensures youth receive the support they need to address the underlying causes of their behavior while also preparing them for a successful transition back into society.

During 2024, contracted services continued to provide weekly writing workshops through The Beat Within and Barrios Unidos provided culturally responsive group counseling. Yoga was taught weekly to all youth during PE class and a variety of music classes (including guitar lessons) were provided during the school day. Hope Church's FLOW program offered youth a place to belong, mentorship, and the positive power of play. We were also fortunate to continue to bring local live chamber music concerts and education to the facility, thanks to Rebecca Jackson and other world-renowned musicians from Music in May. The Canine Teaching Compassion Program brought in shelter dogs to provide animal training and humane education curriculum. Santa Cruz Community Credit Union began an 8-week Financial Literacy program. Walnut Avenue Family Center provides a dating abuse prevention program to raise awareness, education, and provide skills and resources to our youth. Health Service partners provide a "Living in Balance" curriculum which brings education and awareness regarding drug use to the youth.

Physical and Behavioral Health Services

Medical and behavioral health services are provided to all youth through the Health Services Agency. On-site staffing consists of daily Registered Nursing services from 8a-8:30p and 6 hours per week of Physician services. The facility partners with Dientes, who provide high-quality dental care to those detained. Youth are seen by a dentist for an assessment, cleaning, and the completion of necessary dental work. Most of the youth's medical needs are addressed within the facility. There were 28 instances where it was necessary to transport youth out of the facility to access specialized medical services, such as optometry, x-rays, consultations with specialists, or the emergency room.

The Children's Behavioral Health Division provides daily mental health coverage and 2.5 hours each week of psychiatric services. Behavioral Health services include crisis intervention and assessment, behavioral health assessment, individual therapy, rehab counseling services, case management, advocacy, referrals, and linkage services for consenting youth in Juvenile Hall. Children's Behavioral Health staff provides referrals and linkage for substance use disorders treatment when necessary. Children's Behavioral Health staff provide safety planning in preparation for transitions out of the facility and court support for youth when needed, as resources allow.

- Of the youth booked during 2024 there was a monthly average of:
 - 12 youth with an open behavioral health case.
 - 5 youth receiving psychotropic medication and being seen by the psychiatrist.
 - 5 youth who reported drug and alcohol issues.

Probation and Health Services continue to collaborate to enhance the medical and behavioral health services in the facility. The proactive approach enhanced staffing, workflow, updating medical equipment, need for electronic medical records, best practices in the field, and evidence-based practices with the goal to improve the healthcare system that serves our justice involved youth. The enhanced partnership supported the ability for Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) to be provided for those detained youth in need.

Educational Opportunities

The educational program of the Robert A. Hartman School in Juvenile Hall, operated by the County Office of Education, is reviewed annually by an outside representative, and meets the California Educational Code Requirements. We have a collaborative goal to enhance educational and vocational services for detained youth. Culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches are applied when providing education. Secure tablet technology supports educational achievements in and outside of the classroom, towards high school diploma, college credit earning courses, and behavior modification courses. Curriculum is available in a variety of subjects, languages, and levels.

One of the two teachers is a certified special education instructor, who completes IEP assessments, along with serving students on 504's and IEP's. In 2024 there was a monthly average of:

• 5 students with an IEP • .5 student with a 504 plan

Students are provided with a rigorous, quality educational program that responds to the different learning styles and abilities of students and prepares them for high school graduation, career entry, and/or post-secondary education. Dual enrollment in junior college is a focus for students, when appropriate. Hartman School operates year-round and holds graduations for youth, their families, and support persons when students complete their high school credits. COE staff facilitate re-enrollment in school and transition youth to student services upon release back to community or placement.

Probation collaborated with the County Office of Education and Cabrillo College to apply for and were awarded The Rising Scholars grant. In 2024 we hired a program coordinator to support justice impacted youth and their attendance at Cabrillo College. The program coordinator meets weekly in person with detained youth to support their participation with college enrollment.

Probation also collaborated this past year with the County Office of Education and Santa Cruz Public Library to renovate a third classroom at the facility to create an on-site library and soft learning space. Santa Cruz Public Library provides a librarian and library service to youth at the facility twice a month.

Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)

The California Senate Bill (SB) 823 was signed into law on September 30, 2020, effectively eliminating the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) custodial facilities and transferring the responsibility of care, custody, and supervision from the State to local jurisdictions. The department opened a local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) in December 2024 and there is currently one youth committed to the program. The Santa Cruz County SYTF is specifically designed to serve youth who have received a disposition order by the Juvenile Court, indicating the need for such a structured setting. Eligible youth are between the ages of 14 and 25 and have been adjudicated as wards of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC).

SYTF provides a safe and secure environment that aligns with the requirements of Senate Bills (SB) 823 and 92, offering youth an opportunity for rehabilitation with the goal of supporting their successful transition back to the community. The facility's rehabilitative treatment and programming focus on principles of trauma-informed, culturally responsive care, aiming to address the individual needs of each youth in areas such as personal development, therapeutic treatment, education, career readiness, and life skills enhancement.

SB 823 Grant Funds

Realignment and serving youth locally are resulting in a Juvenile Hall population that is older and has a longer length of stay. Managing an increase in the length of stay is complicated by our antiquated facility and program capacity. To increase the safe program space in the facility, we sought and were awarded SB 823 grant funds. With grant funds, this past year we renovated two youth cells into soft rooms, where staff and counselors can meet one-on-one with youth.

Grant Funding: Title II

Santa Cruz Probation along with partners Encompass, Positive Discipline Community Resource, and Conflict Resolution Center have successfully been implementing reentry and whole family services in the community through the Stable Transitions After Reentry (STAR) Program, a 3-year BSCC Title II grant funded program since 2019. At the end of 2022 the Department was awarded Title II grant funding for a second round of the STAR Program. This second grant proposal reflects changes to the original strategy based on successes and lessons learned. Namely, increasing support earlier on to youth with higher risk factors; engaging families directly, prioritizing the needs of families with youth assessed with high-risk factors; and providing flexible hours and methods of engagement.

STAR provides individualized services to youth and families to support youth transitioning back to the community from Juvenile Hall, Short-Term Therapeutic Residential Treatment Program (STRTP), Ranch or returning from DJJ. The STAR program supports reentry and early intervention services for youth in dosage increments to match level of need. Encompass Reentry Specialist provides in-custody case planning along with linkages to community-based services for family and parenting services. The Reentry Specialists are bilingual, bicultural, local, and have extensive knowledge of our community needs, culture, and resources thus providing equitable access to those we serve.

During 2024, STAR provided reentry and early intervention services to:

- 55 youth and their families.
- support expedited releases from Juvenile Hall to sustain keeping the population low.
- help minimize exposure to detention.

Grant Funding: SB81 Round 1 Multipurpose Recreation Facility and Round 2 Seed to Table **Program and Facility Renovations**

The over fifty-year-old facility has had minimal improvements over the years. Through our ability to secure state grants, grant funding county match dollars has been secured to improve the facility.

The enclosed gymnasium will enhance access to physical activity for those detained in Juvenile Hall. The Round 2 funding will provide significant renovation to the facility and expansion of programming space to accommodate a horticulture and culinary program. Facility renovations include upgrades to seismic; fire and life safety; electrical; mechanical; security- cameras, lighting, doors, locks, fencing, the Institutional Supervisor control area, and sally port entrance. The project plan also includes major renovations and upgrades to the outdated kitchen, food storage, and dining areas, along with a new outdoor garden with greenhouse and teaching space. The most significant program addition will be the creation of a garden, horticulture, and culinary vocational programs and rehabilitation support with a new Seed to Table program.

The grants were transitioned to a Capital Project and are being led by Community Development and Infrastructure. The Board awarded the construction contract to Buhler Commercial, which is pending State approval as well as funding resolution required by the State. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2025 and take over a year to complete.

CalAIM Initiative

CalAIM will provide awareness to detained youth and their families of Medi-Cal and their eligibility. Detained youth can be enrolled in Medi-Cal and begin to utilize their health benefits while detained and have facilitated ongoing and direct connections to enhanced care management in the community upon their release from detention.

The county is taking a collaborative approach with Probation, Health Services Agency, Human Services Department, Sheriff's, and local Community Based Organization to plan, implement, and operationalize CalAIM. It will provide an opportunity for screening, pre-release planning, linkages to enhanced care management and reimbursement for some of the medical and behavioral health services. CalAIM funding was awarded \$250,000 in Round 2 for screening and implementation and \$1.5 million in Round 3 for prerelease planning and implementation. The new CalAIM framework presents an opportunity for revenue depending on reimbursement.

Line of Sight for the Future of the Work

The Department values a strong collaboration between juvenile justice and community-based organizations and program providers to locally serve and support youth who are reentering their community after confinement. Probation is dedicated to creating a safer, more rehabilitative, and humane environment to facilitate individualized positive outcomes/measurable results.

The department has a deep commitment to reform efforts that have been designed to center equity. reduce unnecessary detention, and address the overrepresentation of youth of color, primarily Latinx, to create equitable opportunities for success.

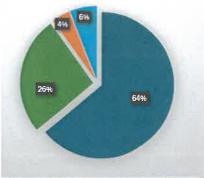
The Juvenile Hall will focus on increasing successful transitions from detention to the community through Alternative to Detention, the STAR program, CalAIM and Rising Scholars. We will coordinate with service providers to ensure youth, and their families are connected to support and prosocial programs/opportunities. This approach will support collective impact work geared to increasing the success of community transitions from detention and upon completion of a commitment, specifically for Latinx youth and all youth we serve.

Juvenile Hall Division at-a-Glance 2024

Juvenile Hall provides temporary, secure custody of young people detained by Law Enforcement, Probation, and the Juvenile Court.

- Detention **Practices**
- Continued evolution of Annie E. Casey Juvenile Detention • Alternative Initiative best practices: https://www.aecf.org
- Detention Risk Assessment Tool to determine if youth can . be safely released pending adjudication.
- Detain only youth who pose a public safety or flight risk
- Youth screened for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children https://ojidp.ojp.gov/programs/sexual-exploitation-<u>children</u>
- Dual Status MOU: Santa Cruz County Family and Children's Services ("FCS"), Probation Department, and Juvenile Division of the Superior Court team approach to maintain youth/family centered focus, offering equitable responses to youth/families being served by two systems

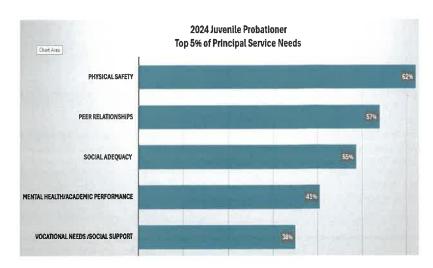
2024 Bookings by Ethnicity



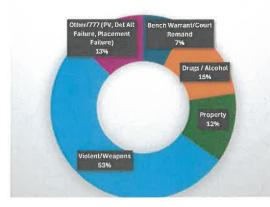
🔳 Latinx 🔳 White 📕 African American 🔳 Other

Youth Served

- Juvenile Hall Capacity: 40 youth
 - Youth pending adjudication ages 12-25 years
 - 52% of Youth Booked Were on Probation
 - Youth Served in 2024:
 - 0 190 youth admitted.
 - Average Daily Population was 9. 0
 - A 58% decrease in admissions from 2013, attributed to:
 - Fidelity to Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI)
 - Low percentage of detention overrides Alternative to Detention Programs
 - 0 96% Successful Completion .
 - A 60% decrease in length of stay from 2013 attributed to:
 - SB823 & SB 92- youth to be served locally. 0
 - Stable Transition After Reentry Grant Program
 - Partner with Encompass, Positive Discipline, Conflict Resolution Center



2024 Juvenile Hall Bookings by Most Serious Offense



Positive Youth Development through Evidence **Based and Culturally Responsive Programming**

- Physical and Behavioral Health services provided through HSA. Includes assessments, individual therapy, crisis intervention, case management, referrals & linkages, psychiatry services, substance abuse assessment.
- Multi-Disciplinary Team approach .
- Child-Family Team meetings
- Parent Teen Mediation .
 - Education: Hartman High School, operated by COE
 - Special education instructor, IEP & 504 plans 0 0
 - Rising Scholars Grant with Cabrillo College-**Dual and After Graduation College Enrollment**
- Community partnerships:
 - o Faith Based Groups
 - Santa Cruz Public Library Services 0
 - Music in May-music appreciation 0
 - The Beat Within Writing Workshops 0 **Barrios Unidos**
 - 0
 - Unchained (dog training) Program 0 0 **Dientes-Dental Care/Services**
 - Financial Literacy: SC Community Credit Union 0
- **Juvenile Justice Realignment**
 - SB 823: transfers responsibility for custody, supervision, & services from the state to local jurisdictions.
 - Opening of a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) in Santa Cruz to serve local youth. Probation continues to provide transport twice a month for families to visit their youth serving SYTF commitment in Sonoma Juvenile Hall. Tablets and MiFi available for virtual visiting.
 - SB 92: young person's case originates in juvenile court may be held in detention until age 25.

Santa Cruz County Probation Department

Juvenile Probation Division Annual Report

2024

Our **VISION** is a safe, equitable, and thriving community.

Our **MISSION** is to contribute to community well-being through positive engagement, connection to services, and support for those impacted by crime. Prepared by Division Director Jose Flores

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Introduction: The Juvenile Division administers a comprehensive array of services, including investigation, diversion, pre- and post-adjudication interventions, community supervision, and outof-home supervision for referred youth. Additionally, the division oversees youth committed to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) under SB 823, following the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment. Through strategic collaboration with community partners, the division ensures the delivery of trauma-informed, culturally responsive support that prioritizes the wellbeing of youth and families while upholding public safety.

Goals: The Juvenile Division is committed to enhancing public safety by reducing recidivism through the development of life skills and competencies in youth and families. This mission is achieved through meaningful engagement and collaboration with families, youth, and community stakeholders. By delivering culturally responsive supervision and services, the division supports community safety and fulfills its vital role as entrusted by the court and juvenile justice partners.

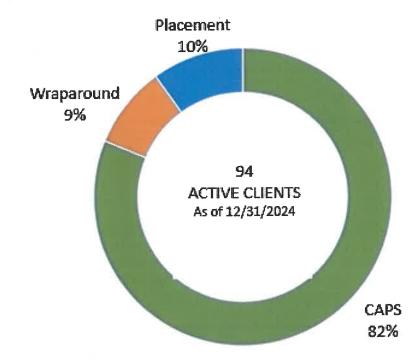
The Juvenile Division utilizes the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) to effectively engage youth and families. The ICPM serves as a comprehensive framework that outlines shared values, core components, and practice standards for professionals supporting California's children, youth, and families. Central to this model is Child and Family Teaming (CFT), a collaborative, team-based approach designed to achieve key objectives, including enhancing life skills, fostering family engagement, reducing recidivism, and mitigating victimization.

ICPM Values	ICPM Phases	ICPM Guiding Practice Principles
Family-driven and Youth Guided: Youth and family voices are solicited and respected. Community-Based: Services are provided in the community. Culturally & linguistically competent: Services are provided in the family's primary language. While valuing traditions, values, and heritage as sources of strength.	Engagement, Assessment, and Team Preparation	Family voice and choice- Each family member's voice is important.
	Initial Service Planning	Team-based- Team consists of individuals agreed upon by the family.
	Monitoring and Adapting	Natural supports- Friends, neighbors, coworkers, church members, and others identified by family.
	Transition	Collaboration and integration-Team shares responsibility in all aspects of plan development.
		Community-based- Services and supports are accessible and available in the family's community.
		Culturally respectful_ Plan supports achievement of goals for change that integrates the youth and family's culture.
		Individualized- Plan is built on strengths, needs, and interest of the family members.
		Strength-based- Team will use family's skills, knowledge and build upon the initial Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment.
		Persistence- The team never gives up on youth or families. When met with resistance, the team will revisit the plan to identify any revisions.
		Outcome-based- Team tracks goals and progress in plan and adjust as needed.

ICPM Guiding Practice Principles:

Executive Summary

In 2024, the department provided training on the Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) to community partners, emphasizing its ten principles for effective family and youth engagement. These efforts promote alignment, shared values, and meeting families where they are at, which further supports the rehabilitative process. The Juvenile Division continues to collaborate with system partners to identify and strengthen natural support systems early in the process. We recognize the importance family, mentors, and community connections are in supporting a youth and family's success as they navigate the juvenile justice system. Our youth-centered, trauma-informed approach continues to focus on fostering positive change and success for the families we serve. The Juvenile Division ensures effective supervision through a team of nine Deputy Probation Officers, guided by four Supervising Probation Officers.

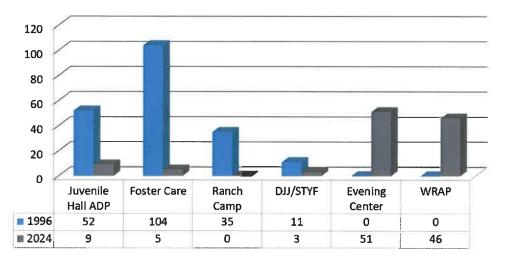


The following chart outlines caseload types and percentages in the Juvenile Division:

The Connecting and Promoting Success (CAPS) caseload, serving 82% of supervised youth, uses a youth-centered, needs-driven approach to support those on informal and formal probation, fostering connections and promoting success for youth and their families. The Wraparound caseloads specialize in family engagement and behavioral health services for youth at risk of out-of-home placement. These caseloads follow a team-based model involving a transitional specialist, a behavioral health clinician, and a probation officer. Placement caseloads support youth in settings such as Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs, Ranch Camps, or Secure Youth Treatment Facilities, with placement decisions made by Juvenile Probation and ordered by the Juvenile Justice Court. This unit also supports extended foster care youth (ages 18–21) who, despite receiving wraparound services, were removed from their homes due to significant behavioral and therapeutic needs.

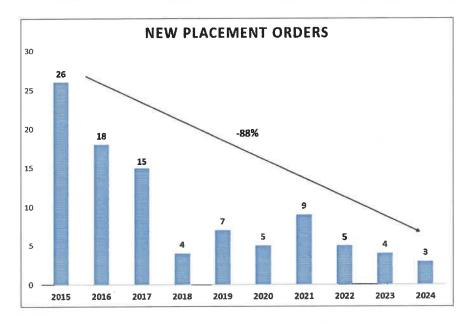
The chart below illustrates how the department's continuum of services, in partnership with community collaborators, has successfully reduced out-of-home placements for youth under supervision, allowing them to remain in their homes. By leveraging intensive local programs and evidence-based practices, these initiatives effectively rehabilitate youth and families while yielding substantial community cost savings.

Reductions at all levels of Institutional care, while increasing capacity of community-based interventions....



In 2024, the Juvenile Division, in collaboration with court partners, successfully minimized new out-of-home placements, with only five placement orders issued, three of which were for new cases. New cases are defined as youth who are ordered into Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (formerly known as group homes). Supportive programming, such as the Luna Evening Center, established after 1996, and the development of the Luna Y Sol Familia Center, continue to provide critical support to youth and families in addressing their needs. The focus remains on the early identification of natural supports, beginning at the Intake Unit and continuing our continuum of services. Additionally, a strong emphasis on Probation diversion, coupled with active staff engagement with youth and families and strategic collaboration with community partners, remains essential in reducing out-of-home placements.

Probation staff facilitated 33 Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings in 2024, empowering youth and families along with their natural supports to play a more active role in case planning and probation strategies. These meetings bring together professionals from county agencies and community organizations to collaboratively address the needs of youth and families. As a result, overall placements have decreased by 88%, as illustrated in the graph below.



In 2024, the Juvenile Division continued to administer the Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS) by initiating use of the JAIS Case Plan. In addition to identifying a youth's level of risk to reoffend, the JAIS has three goals:

- To help probation officers quickly establish appropriate supervision strategies based on youth strengths and needs, anticipated behaviors and attitudes, and the reasons for behaviors and attitudes.
- To provide probation officers with effective strategies for addressing unmet needs before they escalate into law violations.
- To reduce recidivism, which is defined as any youth receiving a subsequent adjudication while on active supervision (which was 6% in 2024)

Juvenile Probation Supervisors and Juvenile Division Managers actively monitor the administration of the instrument to ensure inter-rater reliability. As a result, 86% of all cases requiring an initial assessment for moderate to high needs received a full JAIS evaluation. Furthermore, JAIS assessments are now integrated into court reports and case staffings to enhance case planning and decision-making.

Juvenile Justice Reform

Since 1999, the Juvenile Division has been at the forefront of reducing juvenile detention, serving as a model site for the Annie E. Casey Foundation's (AECF) Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). This initiative focuses on eliminating unnecessary detention, enhancing datadriven decision-making, streamlining court processes, establishing risk-based detention criteria, expanding community-based alternatives, improving confinement conditions, addressing youth disparities, and meeting the needs of specialized populations.

Our division has welcomed delegations from across the country and around the world to share our innovative and effective practices. In recognition of our leadership, we were honored with the National JDAI Distinguished System Leadership Award in 2019. In 2024, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) further recognized our leadership with the inaugural Visionary Award, honoring the transformative work in the juvenile justice system which inspires a system that prioritizes healing of young people. Moving forward, the Probation Department remains committed to implementing JDAI's core strategies and driving continued reform efforts in juvenile justice.

Probation continues to place a strong focus on diverting youth from the Juvenile Justice system through collaboration with law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations. Together, we are developing a community of practice dedicated to identifying and implementing early diversion initiatives that help reduce the need for detention.

In Fall 2024, staff, partners, youth and families with lived experience played a vital role in planning and designing the Juvenile Division's youth justice convening, <u>Transformations in Juvenile</u> <u>Justice: Reflecting on the Past and Shaping the Future</u>. The event featured distinguished leaders from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, former probation leadership, and local system and community representatives. It provided a platform to reflect on 30 years of juvenile justice reform in Santa Cruz County while establishing a vision for the future.

Learning and discussion sessions were facilitated by staff, county and community partners. Youth and parents also actively participated in panel discussions and breakout sessions, sharing their experiences with the juvenile justice system. Their valuable insights offered justice professionals a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by system-impacted families and ways to enhance support for them.





Outlined below is an overview of recent legislative changes, programs and collaborative efforts the Juvenile Division and community partners are working on together to enhance services for youth and families:

Senate Bill 823 - Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment

For nearly two decades, California has passed measures to reduce youth commitments to state juvenile and adult systems, focusing on alternatives to incarceration and expanding community-based options. As of June 30, 2023, all Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities were closed as a result of SB 823 which passed on September 30, 2020, shifting responsibility for managing youth under the jurisdiction of juvenile courts to local jurisdictions to develop Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF). To accommodate returning youth, our department contracted with

Sonoma County Probation in 2021, with Merced County as a secondary option.

To support this transition, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) was established in July 2021 within the California Health and Human Services Agency. OYCR develops reports on youth outcomes, identifies policy recommendations, disseminates best practices for rehabilitative services, and provides technical assistance for local youth diversion programs. Additionally, OYCR serves as an Ombudsperson, overseeing youth complaints in institutional settings.

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

California Assembly Bill 153 (AB 153) authorized both federal Title IV-E and State Block Grant (SBG) expenditures for prevention services. In 2022, the County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department (HSD) Family and Children's Services (FCS), and Probation Department Leadership opted in a partnership, which is locally known as the Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP).

The CPP presents an unprecedented opportunity to move collectively "upstream," focusing resources and efforts on children, youth, and families before they are involved with Child Welfare, Juvenile Probation, or other systems, and to greatly reduce negative outcomes for children, youth, and families through effective primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. The purpose of the project is to create a Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP) that will be used as a countywide blueprint for building and enhancing a system of prevention programs, practices, and policies over the next five years.

Following state approval in June 2023, the CPP Cabinet continues to collaborate with community providers to develop community pathways that prevent system involvement. Evidence-based training, such as Motivational Interviewing, has been offered to community partners who support youth and their families. As the Cabinet moves forward, the focus in this stage of planning is on expanding prevention and diversion efforts, creating additional pathways to help youth and families avoid system involvement.

Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Program

In alignment with SB 823 and SB 92, which emphasize the importance of keeping justice-involved youth connected to their families and communities to support rehabilitation, the department received approval from the Board of Supervisors in October 2024 to establish a local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). This decision follows collaborative partnerships with Sonoma County, which has provided housing support for our youth. The shift to a local SYTF will be pivotal in strengthening familial and community connections, ultimately enhancing rehabilitation and reentry success.

Both the Juvenile and Adult Divisions have played a key role in the initial supervision of these young people to ensure a smooth transition back into the community. As the Juvenile Division has deepened its understanding of the needs of these young people and their families, the value

for continuity has become increasingly clear. Moving forward, the Juvenile Division will continue to build upon this foundation, further enhancing individualized success planning to foster their success.

Luna Evening Center (LEC)

The Luna Evening Center (LEC) is a collaborative initiative involving Probation, community organizations, and county agencies, designed to support probation-involved youth while also serving as a key prevention and diversion effort. LEC assists youth facing challenges such as court compliance, substance use, and behavioral concerns by providing a structured, after-school environment where they engage in targeted interventions, develop decision-making skills, and receive individualized coaching to support positive life choices. As a short-term, community-based alternative to detention, LEC reduces reliance on Juvenile Hall and helps prevent deeper system involvement.

Operating Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., LEC provides participants with meals and transportation, ensuring safe pickup and return home. The program accommodates up to eight youth at a time and is facilitated by Probation and County Behavioral Health staff. In collaboration with the Luna Familia Center, LEC also provides youth and their families with essential tools and resources to strengthen family dynamics and promote long-term success. Services follow a structured weekly schedule, utilizing assessments and evidence-based practices to address each participant's specific needs.

Student Success Project – (SSP)

In 2018, the Santa Cruz County Probation Department and the County Office of Education (COE) launched the Student Success Project (SSP) to enhance educational success and prevent justice system involvement among South County students. This innovative initiative prioritized social-emotional interventions, individualized student assessments, and targeted support services to foster engagement and achievement focused on increasing credit accruals, attendance and students being on track to graduate as well as decreasing suspensions and expulsions.

By 2019, the pilot program had demonstrated significant improvements in school retention and credit accumulation, expanding from its initial sites at Sequoia and Freedom to include the Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD). With this expansion, three additional schools— Renaissance, New School, and Pajaro Valley High School—joined the initiative, supported by six dedicated probation officers trained in Motivational Interviewing and Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) to drive meaningful student progress.

From 2019 to 2022, the Justice Assistance Grant, supported collaboration with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Community Action Board (CAB), and COE, provided critical funding, ensuring continuity even during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project adapted swiftly, delivering virtual and in-person services to meet the evolving needs of students and families.

Building on this success, a second round of Justice Assistance Grant funding in 2023 enabled the SSP to expand further, bringing its proven prevention and intervention strategies to Rolling Hills and E.A. Hall Middle Schools. Through ongoing partnerships with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and CAB, SSP continues to empower students, strengthen communities, and reduce justice system involvement through proactive engagement and support. The scaling of the SSP included the addition of two student support specialists dedicated to the middle school sites in partnership with CAB.

Luna Y Sol Familia Center and Youth and Family Advisory Council

Since 2022, the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County has operated the Luna y Sol Familia Center, a comprehensive, one-stop service hub dedicated to supporting at-risk Latino youth and their families. This center fosters strong partnerships between community-based organizations (CBOs) and Probation, ensuring the delivery of trauma-informed, culturally responsive services. Strategically located in the heart of the community, the center provides a wide array of resources, including educational support, behavioral health connections, youth employment opportunities, and legal aid services.

The Luna y Sol Familia Center further enhances its support through culturally relevant programming, including *Cara y Corazón, Joven Noble*, and *Girasol*—initiatives developed by the National Compadres Network to promote cultural healing and address the diverse challenges faced by families. Over the past year, the Juvenile Division has deepened its collaboration with CAB to develop the Youth and Family Advisory Councils. These councils serve as a platform for individuals with lived experience in the juvenile justice system to share their insights and help shape policies and practices. Most importantly, the councils provide a safe space for youth and families to build leadership skills, engage in advocacy, and participate in community events.

Aztecas Youth Soccer Academy (Aztecas)

Established in 2008, the Aztecas Soccer Program has grown into a cornerstone of prevention and diversion efforts, providing transformative opportunities for system-involved and at-promise youth. This highly regarded pro-social mentorship program is dedicated to reclaiming the lives of young people impacted by gangs, violence, poverty, and substance use. Aztecas serves both probation and non-probation youth, leveraging the power of soccer and community engagement to foster resilience, personal growth, and success.

A key component of the program is the Aztecas Clubhouse in Watsonville, a safe and supportive space where youth participate in structured, pro-social activities. The Clubhouse offers academic support, leadership development, health education, and advisory panels, while also engaging participants in community service initiatives. Recognizing the importance of holistic support, the program provides meals and snacks to ensure youth have the nutrition they need to thrive.

Aztecas extends its reach through an annual two-week soccer camp for youth aged 6-14. In 2024, the camp served 250 participants, with strong backing from community stakeholders and law enforcement partners. The program continues to expand through strategic grant funding and donations, reinforcing its commitment to youth engagement and community well-being. By integrating prevention, intervention, and diversion strategies, the Aztecas Soccer Program remains a vital force in guiding young people toward academic achievement, leadership, and positive community involvement.



Family Night: Strengthening Families Through Pro-Social Engagement

In response to the request from SSP families for prosocial activities in safe spaces, the department developed *Family Night* in 2021 which serves as a prevention and diversion program. The department has partnered with Santa Cruz County Community Action Board (CAB) to facilitate *Family Night* programming.

Family Night consists of two dynamic sessions: Paint/Activity Night, where families engage in creative expression and bonding through art, and Resource Night, where families select topics of interest to receive tailored information and support. Each session begins with a warm meal, ensuring a welcoming and nourishing environment for all participants.

In December, families gathered for a special holiday celebration featuring a live performance by Mariachi Ilusión, a talented youth mariachi band from Watsonville. This festive event underscored the program's commitment to cultural enrichment and community engagement.

Held bi-monthly, Family Night has served over 80 families in the past year, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone of prevention and diversion efforts. By creating a safe and supportive space for families to connect, learn, and grow, the program continues to make a lasting impact in the community.





EQUITY



In 2023, Santa Cruz County Probation applied for and was one of four national delegations selected to participate in AECF's Applied Leadership Network (ALN). The ALN aims to enhance the skills of community and juvenile justice practitioners, fostering partnerships to drive justice reforms and system transformation.

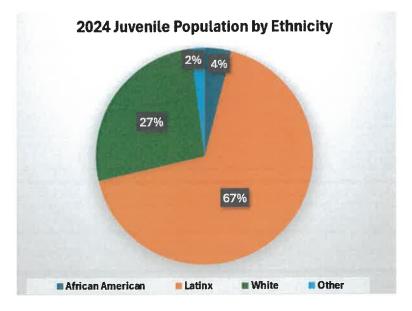
The Santa Cruz County delegation includes representatives from various disciplines, including

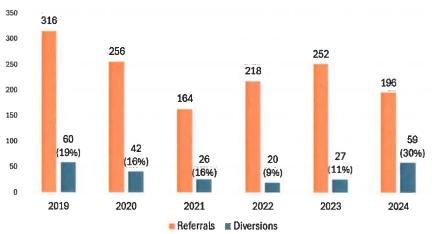
the Watsonville Police Department, Family and Children's Services, United Way, Community Action Board, the Public Defender's Office, and Probation. Together, the ALN team—alongside a dedicated local team—is focused on centering equity and collaborating with justice partners to expand diversion opportunities for Latinx youth, who are disproportionately overrepresented in the juvenile justice system. The Santa Cruz ALN team will complete the leadership program in March 2025

In 2024, the ALN team's focus on diversion played a pivotal role in mobilizing the community to recognize its value and explore opportunities for expanding diversion pathways. This collective effort underscores the importance of shared contributions to its success. Insights gained from this work have already yielded significant results, as our department has enhanced its internal diversion efforts from 2023 to 2024. Additionally, the expansion of our Intake Unit, including the addition of a second Probation Officer in 2024, has led to a measurable increase in overall diversion referrals, further strengthening our commitment to sustainable diversion practices.

Line of Sight for the Future of the Work

Our Juvenile Division continues to be committed to centering equity and decreasing disparities in our system. Our efforts are supported by our continuing partnership with the AECF. In 2022, our Juvenile Division Director enrolled in the first, Santa Cruz County Results Count Leadership Program in concert with other county leaders. The program is designed to strengthen leadership capacity and align contributions to center equity and accelerate equitable results for all people in the County with a focus on our most burden populations. This continued partnership had allowed our Juvenile Division Director to further expand use of the Results Count Framework by deepening foundational knowledge through participation in the AECF 2022-2023 Results Count framework, tools, and practices to achieve equitable results for young people, families, and communities. The framework has been implemented through data-driven strategies and coordinated collaboration with county partners, enhancing prevention and diversion efforts to support youth and families while reducing formal involvement in the juvenile justice system.





The following chart illustrates our trend line and affirms our line of sight for the future of our work.

From 2019 to 2022, Latinx youth diversions continued to steadily decrease. However, in the last three years, efforts to promote equity and expand diversion opportunities have been a strategic goal and emphasis in the Juvenile Division. This includes adding a second probation officer to the Intake Unit and prioritizing diversion referrals. As a result of these initiatives, the number of Latinx youth diverted from the Juvenile Justice system increased by 119% from 2023 to 2024.



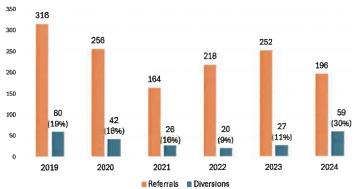
2024 Juvenile Probation Division at-a-Glance

The Juvenile Division collaborates with community partners to provide youth and families with supportive services, balanced supervision, and opportunities for positive transformation through equitable and effective engagement and services.

Intake

- Provides diversion services and processes law enforcement referrals
- Administers Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI)
- Alternatives to Detention (Home Supervision,
- Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP)
- Initial Supervision level risk assessment JAIS
- Intake reports for court
- Juvenile Hall Behavioral Health Services
- Restorative justice programs

Latinx Referrals and Diversions



Programs: Alternative to detention services and programs that address assessed risk needs

- LUNA Evening Center
- Wraparound Services (Encompass)
- Teen / Parent Mediation Conflict Resolution Program (CRC)
- Victim Offender Dialogue Program (CRC)
- Luna Y Sol Center- (CAB)
- Aztecas Youth Soccer Academy & Clubhouse
 (South County)
- Victim Awareness Education (CRC)
- Functional Family Case Management (PVPSA)
- AJOY Employment Skill Building (CAB)
- SSP- Student Success Program
- Family Night (CAB)

Deepening Engagement of Youth and Family Voice:

- Early Identification of Family Natural Supports
- Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) Framework
- Utilization of Child and Family Teaming (CFT)
- Implementation of the Community, Engagement and Connections Unit.
- Luna y Sol Center for Youth and Families
- Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP)
- Youth and Family Advisory Committee
- Developing Strategies that Create Equitable
 Opportunities for Success

Community Supervision

 Supervision and supportive services provided in partnership with community partners

Investigations

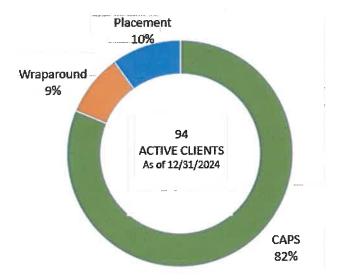
 Dispositional Reports for Delinquency Court includes full JAIS assessments, assign initial supervision level

Informal Supervision

- 654.2 W & I Court Ordered Informal
- 725 W & I 6 Months Without Wardship

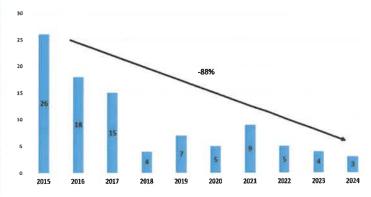
Supervision / Case Management

- · Planning and supervision
- Use of strengths and needs assessments to inform case planning/supervision
- All youth assessed with Moderate/High risk to recidivate receive a full JAIS. Reassessments at every six months and referrals to supportive services to address identified needs.



Clients under supervision: 12-21 (average age 17). 81% male, 19% female. 67% Latino, 23% White, 1% African American and 9% Other

New Placement Orders by Year





CALIFORNIA CRIME TRENDS FOR ADULTS & YOUTH

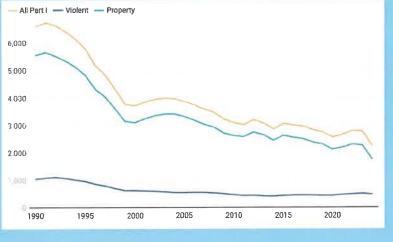
CRIME IS DOWN

Comparing 1990 to 2024 shows:

- Property crime rates have fallen by 65%
- Theft rates have fallen by 62%
- Violent crime rates fell by more than half, including a 68% decline in homicides

* Part 1 offenses include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, and motor vehicle theft. Note: 2024 crime rates are estimates based on the FBI's quarterly uniform crime reports from California cities.

VIOLENT, PROPERTY, AND TOTAL PART I* OFFENSES PER 100,000 POPULATION, 1990-2024

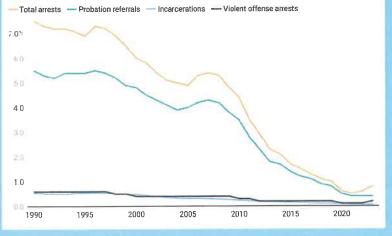


YOUTH ARRESTS ARE DOWN

Comparing 1990 to 2023 shows:

- Youth arrests are down 90%
- Youth referrals to probation are down 88%
- Youth incarceration is down 90%

YOUTH JUSTICE TRENDS, AS PERCENT OF POPULATION AGES 10-17, 1990-2023





Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

CALIFORNIA POLICE BUDGET & CLEARANCE RATE

CALIFORNIA SPENDS <u>NEARLY \$700 PER PERSON</u>ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Despite law enforcement solving fewer crimes, in 2023, California spent a whopping **\$26 billion** on their budgets. This high cost coincides with record low crime.

WHAT'S A CLEARANACE RATE?

of crimes solved
of crimes reported

This is a measure of how many crimes are solved by law enforcement, which is calculated by dividing the number of crimes cleared (solved) by the total number of crimes reported.

IN 2023, CA LAW ENFORCEMENT SOLVED...

- 7.9% of all property crime
- 13.8% of all crime
- 40% of violent crime



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS HAVE ENDED HARMFUL CYCLES OF INCARCERATION WHILE KEEPING CRIME RATES LOW. TO DATE, <u>PROP 47 HAS DELIVERED ALMOST \$1 BILLION TO</u> <u>CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES</u>. ROLLING BACK REFORM RISKS A DEADLY AND EXPENSIVE RETURN TO MASS INCARCERATION.

