

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING**

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**RUSTIN CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**2085 RUSTIN AVENUE, RIVERSIDE, CA, CONFERENCE ROOM 1051**

January 22, 2024, 2:00 P.M.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL (VOTING MEMBERS)**

**Chief Probation Officer**  
**Christopher H. Wright**  
Or Designee

**Public Defender**  
**Steven Harmon**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Dr. Mona Davies**  
*(1st District – appointed 11/16/20)*  
Community Outreach Ministry

**Director, Department of Public**  
**Social Services**  
**Charity Douglas**  
Or Designee

**District Attorney**  
**Michael A. Hestrin**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Dr. Rodney Kyles**  
*(2nd District appointed – 11/16/20)*  
Nathanael Foundation

**Sheriff of Riverside County**  
**Chad Bianco**  
Or Designee

**Presiding Juvenile Court Judge**  
**Mark Petersen**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Mary Jo Ramirez**  
*(3rd District appointed – 11/13/23)*  
California Family Life Center

**Director, Riverside University**  
**Health Systems-Behavioral Health**  
**Dr. Matthew Chang**  
Or Designee

**Chair of the Board of Supervisors**  
**Chuck Washington**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative, Kevin Kalman**  
*(4th District – appointed 11/16/20)*  
Desert Recreation District

**Chairperson, Juvenile Justice**  
**Delinquency Prevention**  
**Christopher Collopy**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
*(Vacant)*

**Community Based Organization**  
**Representative Pete Serbantes**  
*(5th District appointed – 11/13/23)*  
Camino Real Family Services

**Superintendent, Riverside County**  
**Office of Education**  
**Dr. Edwin Gomez**  
or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
*(Vacant)*

**Community Based Organization**  
**Drug & Alcohol Program**  
**Representative Jessica Clark**  
*(Appointed – 11/13/23)*  
Solid Ground Wellness

**Chief, Riverside City Police**  
**Department**  
**Larry V. Gonzalez**  
Or Designee

**Community Based Organization**  
*(Vacant)*

*In accordance with State Law (the Brown Act):*

- *The meetings of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council are open to the public. The public may address the council within the subject matter jurisdiction of this council.*
- *Disabled persons may request disability-related accommodations to address the JJCC. Reasonable accommodations can be made to assist disabled persons if requested 24-hours prior to the meeting by contacting Riverside County Probation Department at (951) 955-2804.*
- *The public may review open session materials at <https://rivcoprobation.org/juvenile-justice-coordinating-council-meeting-materials> or at Probation Administration, 3960 Orange St., Suite 600, Riverside, CA.92501*
- *Items may be called out of order.*
- *Agenda will be posted 72-hours prior to meeting.*
- *Cancellations will be posted 72-hours prior to meeting.*

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING**

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**RUSTIN CONFERENCE CENTER**  
**2085 RUSTIN AVENUE, RIVERSIDE, CA, CONFERENCE ROOM 1051**

January 22, 2024, 2:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Roll Call (Voting Members)
2. Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2023 – Action Item
3. Voting In new JJCC Board members (CBOs) – Action Item
  - a) Riverside Art Museum – Caryn Marsella
  - b) Communities for Children – Johnie Drawn
  - c) Living Advantage – Pamela Clay
4. Brown Act Overview – Discussion Item
5. RFP Evaluation of Services Update – Discussion Item
6. JJCC Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Advisory Committee – Action Item
7. Fiscal Year 24/25 Program Proposals – Discussion Item
  - a) District Attorney’s Office
  - b) Public Defender’s Office
  - c) Probation
8. Diversion Remodel RFP – Action Item
9. Council Comments
10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

Next JJCC Meeting:

Date/Time: March 18, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Location: 2085 Rustin Ave, Room 1051, Riverside CA

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 13, 2023, AT 2:00 P.M.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Host Location:** Rustin Conference Center, 2085 Rustin Avenue, Conference Room 1051, Riverside

**1. Call to Order – Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chief Probation Officer Christopher H. Wright at 2:03 p.m.

Roll call of the members was taken. The following representatives were present:

Chris Wright, Chief Probation Officer, Chairman  
Janine Moore, Riverside University Health Systems, Behavioral Health  
Dr. Deanna McCarty, Riverside County Office of Education  
Laurel Cook, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Committee  
Joelle Moore, Deputy Public Defender IV, Public Defender's Office  
Michael Cabral, District Attorney's Office  
Judge Michelle Mathis, Riverside Superior Court  
Jeffrey Greene, Chief of Staff, Board of Supervisors First District  
Norma Biegel, Operation Safe House  
Cesar Gomez, StudentNest Foundation  
Cynthia Prewitt, Carolyn E. Wylie Center  
Dr. Mona Davies, Community Outreach Ministry  
Marc Sakoda, Nathanael Foundation  
Kevin Kalman, Desert Recreation District

In attendance but not present during roll call:

Bridgette Hernandez, Department of Public Social Services  
James Krachmer, Correctional Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Department

New members voted in:

Mary Jo Ramirez, California Family Life Center, BOS 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Pete Serbantes, Camino Real Family Services, BOS 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Jessica Clark, Solid Ground Wellness, Drug and Alcohol Program

**2. Approval of Minutes from the August 2, 2023, Special Meeting**

Chris Wright presented the minutes from the August 2, 2023, JJCC special meeting (handout).  
Chris Wright moved a motion for the JJCC to approve the meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Dr. Mona Davies. Minutes were approved.

Oppositions: None

### **3. Appointment of new Voting Members**

Division Director LaToya Thomas first congratulated those members who have been serving on the committee for several years. In accordance with the Bylaws, some of the CBO representatives have a maximum of two consecutive terms of two years each so for three of our members this will be their last session sitting on the board. We would like to acknowledge and commend them for their huge contributions over the years and offer certificates of appreciation to Operation Safe House, Norma Biegel; Wylie Center, Cynthia Prewitt; and StudentNest Foundation, Cesar Gomez. Thank you all for your service and commitment!

A friendly reminder to everyone for the next meeting in January this membership is specific to currently funded CBOs, and we will be looking to fill these three seats. If anyone in the audience is eligible and you are interested in serving on the committee, please attend the next meeting in January.

Chris Wright moved a motion to appoint the following CBOs to the board: representative Jessica Clark, Solid Ground Wellness for the Drug and Alcohol program; representative Mary Jo Ramirez, California Family Life Center for BOS 3<sup>rd</sup> District; and representative Pete Serbantes, Camino Real Family Services for BOS 5<sup>th</sup> District. Motion was seconded by Cynthia Prewitt. Motion passed.  
Oppositions: None

### **4. Brown Act Overview**

County Counsel Eric Stopher will not be able to present the Brown Act Overview today. This item will be added to next meeting's agenda in January 2024.

### **5. Settlement Agreement Audit Report**

Co-monitor Scott MacDonald gave a brief overview and comments of the settlement agreement audit 3<sup>rd</sup> year report. In summary, the Probation Department is in substantial compliance with the settlement agreement. The agreement managers assigned have done a very good and comprehensive job ensuring the multiple requirements were fully addressed with YAT and other supervised diversion programs. We recommend the Probation Department continue to work with this body to prioritize getting feedback from the community particularly for those that are affected by the programs to really understand what's working for them. The number of youths receiving diversion (YAT and DUI program) has dropped considerably down to less than 2%. The bulk of non-mandatory cases are being diverted and see very few mandatory cases being referred from the District Attorney's office to Probation. Another positive sign is that overrides (non-mandatory cases that are eligible for diversion but referred to the DA for review of filing) have gone down significantly since the start of the settlement agreement. We found youth of color are more apt to be referred to the justice system and are less likely to be granted diversion than others. We recommend a laser focus on race equity as your maximizing diversion. The connection between Probation Intake and community resources is not as strong as it could be. We are encouraged by the fact that Probation is actively looking at improving that piece of diversion to be a more community-led diversion model.

**Comments:**

Rebecca Acevedo asked if there is a mechanism in place to show the success of the diversion programs and if they are able to track that and of those referred to diversion how many have completed successfully.

Scott MacDonald mentioned that was not a requirement of the report but absolutely recommends that to be one of the measures that is kept and maintained. As you maximize diversion you will see better rates of success than similarly matched youths that are formerly processed.

## **6. Diversion Model Re-Design**

Division Director LaToya Thomas mentioned the Probation Department is taking a more comprehensive look at diversion. Some active steps taken so far have been attending a community lead diversion conference in San Diego in June, networked with attendees from throughout the State getting feedback of what has worked and what has not and possibly replicate some of the same positive outcomes within our county. We brought back these ideas and met with our partners from the DA's office and Public Defender's office. We compiled feedback from Probation staff including line-level all the way up to the executive level. We also met with Probation staff from Contra Costa County and Santa Clara County to see how their diversion models work. We have one more presentation with Los Angeles County tomorrow. All the information will be gathered to get a better sense of how we can reconstruct our eligibility criteria, the structure, the routing procedures, how the entire program could run. The goal is to have a layered system with an umbrella agency routing all referrals that are received within our county. We anticipate bringing a full proposal back to the board in January for review and next steps.

### **Comments:**

Chris Wright stressed the old idea of just complying with the settlement agreement and not expanding our diversion model has changed. We are looking at the best options to create the best plans for our kids and communities.

Scott MacDonald mentioned he appreciates the update from Probation as this was one of the aspirations from the settlement agreement that is coming to fruition. Scott is hopeful that Riverside will come out of this and become a model for the State.

Michelle Mathis asked are you seeing a significant distinction between the willingness to engage in the participation for the 654.1 DUI diversion as opposed to the other forms of probation diversion.

LaToya Thomas mentioned yes, but it is different for youth as the driving program is determined per code. When the juvenile referral has certain violations that fall under vehicle codes, they are offered the driving program and we do see a significantly higher acceptance.

Michelle Mathis asked regarding the YAT model what are you seeing as the primary impediment to the youth engagement and family's willingness is to participate.

LaToya mentioned the parents are not giving us a lot of reasons as to why they are rejecting participating. We have seen higher rejections than previously.

Jessica Aparicio thanked LaToya for the information and mentioned a concern, that it is difficult to determine whether referrals that previously routed through YAT are being diverted or formally held in court, with the latter suggesting net-widening and highlights how the data is important to avoid this issue. Can you clarify how this issue will be resolved in the community lead diversion.

Scott MacDonald mentioned previously the need for good solid data and the ratio of referrals will determine if there is net-widening or not.

LaToya Thomas mentioned we learned going back to the historical data internally we did not have a mechanism in place tabulating the difference between mandatory and non-mandatory referrals. This was a concern from the monitors. Moving forward we are making sure our new client management system will have an element in place to clearly identify all referrals and categorize them with a goal to route eligible, appropriate referrals through the new community lead diversion model and minimize the net-widening issue.

Laurel Cook asked if the diversion model will be available to the local PDs (police departments).

LaToya mentioned we are having conversations with law enforcement agencies from other counties to see how those run and will eventually explore those options as well. Our initial priority, however, is implementing a comprehensive, effective model for Probation and the DAs office.

Laurel Cook asked will you know if a case was referred at the PD level or at the school level. Have you identified what services are already out there?

LaToya mentioned the schools would have different programs in place and their referrals may not rise to the criminal level. If an actual arrest has not been made in a matter, Probation by procedure will not get involved and will return all such referrals to the sending school. Again, we are primarily focused on getting the best diversion model up and running for Probation matters and will look at police agency diversion as a secondary layer. We will be gathering all the information regarding programming/services and working with an umbrella agency to help us determine how to best ensure the wide availability of services, county-wide, in the proposal.

## **7. RFP for Evaluation of Services**

Division Director LaToya Thomas gave a brief recap and update. The board voted several meetings ago to go out to bid for an RFP to bring in a vendor to help us create the most efficient and appropriate strategic plan for youth and families in need of services in our county. The RFP closed on October 12, 2023. Currently, the evaluation committee is reviewing all the applications that were received.

## **8. Integrated Services Model**

Chief Deputy Elisa Judy provided a brief history of the JJCC which started in 2000 from AB1913 and WIC Code 749.22. Thank you to those that worked on the Integrated Services Model that was submitted last year: While the board voted to stand up a committee, after several attempts there was not sufficient participation. With the support of the council, it is respectfully recommended to disband the previous subcommittee and form a new committee in January that will keep

elements of the integrated services as well as work alongside the selected vendor from the RFP to develop a comprehensive plan for the JJCC.

Chris Wright made a motion to vacate the Integrated Services subcommittee. Motion was seconded by Dr. Mona Davies. Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

**Comments:**

Chris Wright mentioned if anyone is interested in joining the new committee, please contact Elisa or LaToya. In January, we will look at how we will form this committee and select the members.

Bridgette Hernandez asked how many members will make up the committee.

Elisa Judy mentioned three from county agencies, three CBOs, and one member from the JJDCP for a total of seven members.

Valentin Pedroza mentioned the concern that some CBOs may not have the time or resources allowed from their busy schedules to participate on a subcommittee. What are some of the strategies you will think about to reward their participation and volunteering.

Chris Wright mentioned we want to look at the best plan and relook at the funding aspect to make sure we are getting the right resources and services to the community making sure the CBOs investing their time are being funded in the right way.

Elisa Judy mentioned that within the CBO community if there someone that can speak on their behalf in those types of meetings and has more flexibility, that might be an option.

Deanna McCarty asked if there is a way to allocate funds to the CBOs in the planning phase to make sure you have a commitment.

Jessica Holstein responded that the funding comes after the plan. You must develop the plan first.

Rebecca Acevedo asked if we are incorporating the community-based approach document that this council already voted on to use for this new subcommittee.

Elisa Judy responded, yes and we are communicating that membership can come from CBOs that are not on the committee. If anyone is interested in participating, please see Elisa and LaToya after the meeting to help answer any questions.

Jessica Aparicio mentioned funding is a major issue and recommends the board support the recommendations that are outlined in the initial proposal.

Chris Wright mentioned we approved the proposal we just did not get any participation. As such, we will be bringing those ideas to the new subcommittee to work on.

## 9. CBO Review Ad-Hoc Committee

Division Director LaToya Thomas gave a brief update and mentioned the CBO Review Ad-Hoc Committee has not been able to meet after several attempts. Therefore, it is respectfully recommended to terminate the Ad-Hoc Committee as all the work mentioned today will encompass and be assigned to the new subcommittee in January.

### Comments:

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned tapping into those CBOs that have a passion and have perhaps advocacy budgeted in their organization to really push on these items so that you can calendar a meeting and we can have meaningful conversations.

Chris Wright mentioned with this board's approval and the development of the new subcommittee that will encompass all the plans moving forward moved. He made a motion to nullify the CBO Review Ad-Hoc Committee. Motion was seconded by Pete Serbantes. Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

## 10. Senate Bill 823 Sub Committee

### a. Vote to Fill 3 Vacancies

Division Director Monica Rose thanked the subcommittee members for all their work and participation. We have four teams with only one CBO and need three more CBOs. We received five applicants (handout). After further review of the applications, we would like to recommend the board to approve the following candidates to fill the three vacancies: Alejandra Gutierrez, Liz Reid, and Laurel Cook.

Chris Wright made a motion to approve Alejandra Gutierrez, Liz Reid, and Laurel Cook to the Senate Bill 823 Sub Committee. Motion was seconded by Dr. Deana McCarty. Motion passed.

Abstain: Laurel Cook

Oppositions: None

### b. Overview

Supervising Probation Officer Kathy Arias gave a brief overview of the SB 823 Sub Committee, Legislative Framework and Expectations (handout). The new members just voted in will all receive a welcome packet that will include points of contact, the secured track local plan, and a power point overview that includes the Legislative Framework and Expectations.

Subcommittee Teams and Projects:

**Team 1: Transitional Services** (*Housing, Behavioral Health-Individual therapy, Mentors, Substance Abuse, Parenting classes, etc.*)

CBO – Dr. Mona Davies; Behavioral Health – Dr. Michael Gunther; Public Defender – Joelle Moore; DPSS – Mike Scebbi

**Team 2: Vocational Training/Life Skills Programs** (*Career Developmental Programs, Adult Life Skills*)

CBO – Vacant; Riverside County Office of Education – Dr. Deanna McCarty; District Attorney – Amy Glaudini



### **Team 3: Parent Services and Resources**

CBO – Vacant; CBO – Vacant; Behavioral Health – Dwayne George; DPSS – Mike Scebbi

### **Team 4: Outcome Measures** (*Measure the fidelity of and success of current and new processes*)

CBO – Dr. Mona Davies; Superior Court – Marcus Walls; Public Defender – Joelle Moore; Behavioral Health – Dr. Michael Gunther

## **11. Approval of Fiscal Year 23/24 Budget Adjustment**

Administrative Services Manager Jessica Holstein presented the adjusted budget for Fiscal Year 23/24 that was approved by the JJCC on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, which funded each agency at 100% of their requested budgets and placed the remaining funds into the contingency balance.

The FY23/24 budget was approved at \$10.3M which included a base allocation of \$6.7M, as well as the use of one-time funds of \$3.7M. The final allocation schedule was distributed by the Department of Finance (DOF), the state growth allocation for FY22/23 received in October was \$5.7M originally estimated at \$5.5M.

The year-end closure resulted in an additional one-time funding increase of \$3.8M. Overall, the total available FY 2023/24 JJCPA funds have increased from \$23.4M to \$27.4M, or a \$4.0M increase. This increase had resulted in an adjustment to the contingency fund balance from \$13.11M to \$17.13M with no impacts to the agencies approved budgets by the JJCC.

### **Comments:**

Rebecca Acevedo asked what the plan for the contingency funds is. Back in 2016, the contingency funds were at \$2M and now they are at \$17M. The funding should go to the intended places we need to eliminate the trickle-down effect and get it to the organizations that are doing the work.

Elisa Judy responded, “Yes Rebecca, you nailed it that is why we need this committee.” We need to have a comprehensive plan and the right people together so we can invest this money in the community to the CBOs providing the work.

Chris Wright made a motion for the JJCC to approve the budget adjustment for FY 23/24. Motion seconded by Laurel Cook. Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

## **12. Proposed 2024 JJCC Regular Meeting Dates**

Chris Wright presented the proposed 2024 JJCC regular meeting dates (handout): January 22, 2024; March 18, 2024; July 15, 2024; and November 18, 2024. All meeting times at 2:00 p.m. and in-person.

### **Committee Comments:**

Pete Serbantes mentioned he would not be able to attend the July meeting.

Chris Wright reminded Pete that Camino Real Family Services can send a designee on their behalf.

Chris Wright made a motion to approve the 2024 JJCC regular meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Kevin Kalman. Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

### 13. Public Comments

#### Miracle Jacquez and Gregory Flores, Hope Culture Inc.

We are a community-based program, HOPE Culture located in San Bernardino but services both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Within Riverside, primarily service the Coachella valley and Indio areas. We are open to service any city that has a need to service youth and families. Some of our key partners are Loma Linda University Hospital and SBPD. Together we can collaborate to identify the most dangerous areas in the city where group and gun violence occur. By monitoring the entire city and surrounding areas we can understand street dynamics that spill into middle and high schools.

Here are some statistics:

- From 2019-2022, provided supportive services to 528 individuals
- Over 60 % of program participants remain arrest free
- Home visits to 700 dwellings
- Implemented 40 proactive community engagement events throughout the city.

We would like to duplicate these stats in the Coachella valley and Indio areas.

Also, would like to partner with any committees to help the success of youth and their families.

#### Ramon Ramos, President of The Exception.

It has been refreshing to hear the conversation and sharing the passion. It seems like there is a changing of the guard where there are people that really want to see the change in the community. This is exciting for us and the other CBOs. I want to thank Rebecca Acevedo for inviting us here. She has been a great support in what we do. We provide culturally relevant programs to at-risk youth and impacted youth. We have credible messengers and mentors who have been previously justice involved which includes me and most of our staff. We also partner with Hope Culture Inc. Gregory Flores is the product of one of our programs. Excited to see the changes happening and we want to be a part of it. We have been working with the Boys and Girls Club of Coachella Valley for the past few years. We are looking to find more partners and happy to be here and looking forward to the opportunity.

#### Tremale Ratcliffe, Field Representative of Just Us 4 Youth and oversee our Youth & Young Adult Employment Services program.

Our main office is in Pomona. We serve at-risk youth in the communities to develop them into people, scholars, and leaders. We provide services across multiple counties including Los Angeles. We work with county departments including partnering with Pomona's youth diversion program. Thank you for letting me be here today and look forward to bringing our services to Riverside County.

#### **Comments:**

Judge Michelle Mathis asked for clarification when referring to at-risk youth and wanted to know if that is a group that would generally be referred to as at-risk, or if these youth are particularly promising but maybe their community or family situation is not sufficient to meet their success.

Tremale Ratcliffe clarified we no longer utilize the phrase at-risk as it has a negative connotation on our high promise youth and young adults. This has been passed into law. We must speak promise into them as we want to remove that negative stigma from them that they are at-risk of gang violence, homelessness, suicidal ideation, depression, etc.

Sonny Von Cleveland, President, and founder of the Von Cleveland Foundation.

We are located in Palm Springs. Frequent volunteer and mentor at Indio Juvenile Hall and in Los Angeles for the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. I am putting forth a mentorship program called The Choice Effect. It is a 12-week eight module curriculum to empower youth and teach them they are worthy of a good life and past mistakes do not have to define who they are and what their future must be. If kids do not feel worthy, it does not matter how much we teach them. You must let them know they are worthy. Self-forgiveness is one of the most important things and this comes from a past felon starting at the age of 7. I went into prison at 17 and served 18 years in the Department of Corrections and fell under the mentorship of a Muslim. I understand the importance of mentorship and providing it to someone that has been through the fire. I own multiple businesses in the Coachella Valley area and want to help show these kids there is a viable path to getting past their own self-doubt and that they are worthy of a future.

Abidan Padilla, President, and founder of AP Concrete Inc. and AP Construction Training.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. We are located in Moreno Valley. The reason I created this company is that I saw the need for young adults to find a job. We offer skills and on the job training especially for those that cannot afford college, we are a good place to start. We have mentors and offer a support system. Our services include carpentry, construction training, job safety skills, and handling work-related hand tools. We have an aftercare program that includes quarterly follow-ups making sure our members are on the right track and help with personal budgets. We want to make sure young adults understand financial responsibility.

Chris Wright thanked everyone for being in attendance today. Per the JJCC Bylaws, starting in January and moving forward in the event any voting member cannot attend a meeting you will need to submit in writing a letter in advance indicating who your designee is. Send the information to the JJCC recording Secretary Bryon Hansen.

**14. Council Comments**

Norma Biegel acknowledged and introduced Operation Safe House New Executive Director, Dr. Erin Franco, who is in attendance today.

Jessica Clark, Solid Ground Wellness introduced herself as a new member to the committee.

Jeffrey Greene announced that Supervisor Jefferies will no longer be the Chair of the BOS and Supervisor Washington will likely be the new BOS Chair for 2024.

**15. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

An attendance sheet was signed by all present and will be kept on file.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Probation Executive Secretary Bryon Hansen



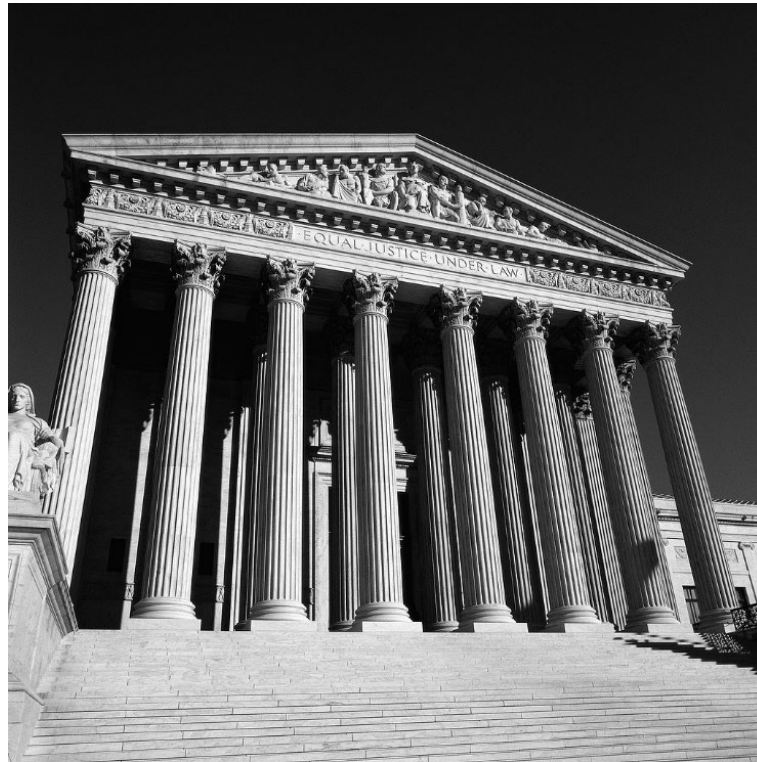
# THE BROWN ACT

Based on a presentation by  
Deputy County Counsel Sarah Moore

# Running a Meeting

- Governing procedures for meetings:
  1. Robert's Rules of Order and
  2. Ralph M. Brown Act
- JJCC members should use parliamentary procedures as guidelines when conducting a public meeting.
- This is only a quick overview of the Brown Act.

# Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure



# Overview of the Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure

- It is a set of rules for conduct at meeting
- It allows everyone to be heard
- It allows decisions to be made without confusion

# Order of Business

- Meetings are generally run in the following order:
  1. Call to order
  2. Roll call of the members present
  3. Reading/approval of the minutes of the last meeting
  4. Public Comments
  5. Officer or Committee Reports & Comments
  6. Unfinished or new business
  7. Adjournment





# Quorum & Voting

- Membership: 19 members (10 from specific agencies and 9 representatives from Community-Based Organizations (CBO's))
- Quorum: A simple majority (10 members) of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of members.
- Voting: Decisions shall be reached through majority voting which is defined as a majority of the quorum members present.
  - Ex. 10 members present would require a vote of 6 for a motion to carry

# Quorum & Voting

- Only actions you can take in the absence of a quorum:
  - (1) Take measures necessary to obtain a quorum;
  - (2) Fix the date and time to which to adjourn;
  - (3) Adjourn or take a recess; and/or,
  - (4) Continue the entire agenda to the next meeting.

# The Brown Act

Open and Public

The People's Business

# **Purpose of the Brown Act:** **Open and Public**

To ensure that almost all aspects of the decision-making process of legislative bodies of local agencies are conducted in public and open to public scrutiny.

# Our Discussion of the Brown Act

1. Legislative bodies
2. Meetings
3. Agendas
4. Public participation

# Brown Act - Legislative Bodies

The Brown Act applies only to legislative bodies:

1. Governing body of the agency (Board of Supervisors)
2. Subordinate boards or commissions created by formal action of the governing body (JJCC)
3. Standing committees with regular meeting schedule and continuing subject matter jurisdiction (JJCC standing committees)

# Brown Act - Legislative Bodies

Standing committees (a Brown Act body) meet all of the following:

1. Less than a quorum of the members of the body that created the committee
2. Continuing subject matter jurisdiction
3. Created by the legislative body
4. Fixed meetings schedule by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal action of the legislative body that created the committee

Ad hoc committees (not a Brown Act body) meet all of the following:

1. Less than a quorum
2. Cannot be a “standing committee”
3. Serves a limited or single purpose that is not perpetual
4. Cannot have fixed meeting schedule

# Brown Act Meeting



What is a meeting?

- Any congregation of a majority of the members at the same time and location to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action upon any matter under their jurisdiction.
- No action needs to be taken for a meeting to occur; conversations or deliberations about issues confronting their agency is sufficient.
- Includes “workshops,” “study sessions,” and retreats.



# Brown Act – Meeting Prohibited Serial Meetings

Serial meetings are expressly prohibited and illegal

## **Serial meetings are:**

- A series of communications, direct or indirect, each of which involves less than a quorum of the legislative body, but when taken as a whole, involves a majority of the members and develops concurrence on a topic.
- Can be through email, phone calls, letters, intermediaries

# Brown Act - Meetings

## Location

- General rule: Must be held within the jurisdiction of the body

# Brown Act - Meeting Location - Teleconference

## Normal Teleconferencing requirements:

- At least a quorum of the JJCC to participate within the area of jurisdiction.
- Votes by roll call (i.e., each member state name and vote, one by one)
- Each teleconference location specifically identified in the notice and agenda, including a full address and room number, as may be applicable.
- Post the agenda at each teleconference location per Brown Act rules - 72 hours prior to the meeting in a spot that is available for viewing (i.e. window or glass case outside) 24 hours a day, free of charge.
- Each teleconference location must be accessible to the public and have technology, such as a speakerphone, to enable the public to participate.
- Opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly at each teleconference location.

# Brown Act – Meeting

## Agenda for Regular Meetings

### Agenda Rules for Regular Meetings:

- Posted 72 hours prior to the meeting
  - Physically post in a location “freely accessible to the public” 24 hours per day and on website, if agency has website.
  - Include the time and location of the meeting
- Brief general description of each item to be discussed or addressed – including closed session.
- Publicly accessible and distributed in advance to those that request copies. A fee may be charged to recover the cost.

# Brown Act – Meeting Member Participation

- Meetings shall not begin before the publicly noticed meeting time
- Follow the agenda – only speak on those items.

# Brown Act – Meeting Public Participation

The Public's Right to Comment at Regular Meetings:

- At every meeting, members of the public have the right to directly address the body on **any item of public interest if that item is under the jurisdiction of the body.**
- For agenda items, the public must be given an opportunity to comment **before or during** the body's consideration of the item.

# Brown Act – Violation and Consequences

## Civil violation and consequences:

- A civil suit to have the action declared “null and void”
- Repeated violations: injunction prohibiting future violations
- Court fees and attorneys costs are recoverable.

## Criminal violation and consequences:

- A member takes action, intending to deprive the public of information to which the public is entitled.
- Guilty of a misdemeanor
- Criminal sanctions (up to 6 months in jail; \$1,000 fine)

# Brown Act

## Summary of Key Points

- A majority may not consult outside of a noticed meeting.
- Meetings include any communication among a majority to hear, discuss, or deliberate on public business (e-mail, telephone calls, serial meetings etc.).
- Legislative Body includes committees, commissions and advisory boards.
- Attendance of quorum at other events not a violation as long as no business of the JJCC is discussed (conferences & seminars, community meetings, another body of agency, social or ceremonial events).
- Assume all information is public or will become public.





**MICHAEL A. HESTRIN**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

OFFICE OF  
**THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

January 12, 2024

**FY24-25 JJCPA PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

**INTRODUCTION**

Established in 2015, the District Attorney's Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) strives to enhance public safety by working with at risk elementary, middle, and high school students and their families to reduce the likelihood of those minors becoming part of the criminal justice system. Programs offered by the unit focus on explaining the links between behavior such as truancy, chronic school absenteeism, substance abuse, gang affiliation and entry into the criminal justice system. CPU programming also helps youths develop a sense of community and understand how their behavior positively or negatively affects those around them.

CPU provides services to every community in Riverside County using a multidisciplinary approach. The team is comprised of Deputy District Attorneys, Victim Services Specialists<sup>1</sup>, and personnel from the SAFE Family Justice Centers (a co-located nonprofit)<sup>2</sup>. These three distinct disciplines work together to provide direct services to clients and render topic specific and culturally responsive services to meet the needs of each unique individual. This model ensures that all participants in CPU receive high quality services and maintain full control over their privacy while deciding to engage or obtain services outside of the criminal justice system.

During calendar year 2023, 624 youth, parents and caregivers enrolled in CPU programs received direct services and case management. 44.70% of the client population served reported experiencing an act of violence. Additionally, 4,569 unduplicated services and 691 referrals were provided to CPU youth and their families during the calendar year. These referrals and services directly address critical needs such as housing, transportation, mental health needs, as well as services to address challenges to school attendance and delinquent behavior. In order to better address the evolving needs of CPU clients and the nature of services rendered in calendar

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<sup>1</sup> Victim Services Specialists work in the Division of Victim Services, a state recognized Victim/Witness Assistance Center (Penal Code 13835.5).

<sup>2</sup> SAFE Family Justice Centers are a nonprofit specializing in providing collocated services to youth and victims of abuse. Family Justice Centers are a nationally recognized service model and best practice framework for delivering services to vulnerable populations (Penal Code 13750).

year 2023, this CPU project proposal has been modified to more completely respond to the needs of youth in our community.

The FY 24/25 proposal reduces the number of project funded Deputy District Attorneys while maintaining its commitment to providing support to the student attendance review board infrastructure at schools in the county. The proposal also increases direct prevention and intervention services to youth that are delivered by specially trained crisis interventionists from the Division of Victim Services (DVS) and SAFE Family Justice Centers (SFJC). The overall restructure of the FY 24/25 program will result in \$325,682.00 reduction in funding request.

## **TEAM MEMBERS**

### **District Attorney's Office**

The District Attorney is statutorily authorized to prosecute all violations of California criminal law, including chronic truancy and juvenile offenses. As such, the District Attorney's Office plays an important role in the fight to encourage school attendance. Deputy District Attorneys provide valuable insight to students and their families about how behaviors such as substance abuse, gang affiliation, and truancy can lead to negative interactions with the criminal justice system and limit their options for future success in life.

### **Bureau of Investigation**

The Bureau of Investigation supports the prosecutorial and law enforcement endeavors of the District Attorney and is uniquely educated about emerging trends and crime issues that result in the targeting of youth to engage in delinquency and/or lead to victimization. A District Attorney Investigator will serve as a new addition to the Crime Prevention Unit outreach and education efforts under the YES and GAME program.

### **Division of Victim Services (DVS)**

The DVS provides services to victims of crime and supports special teams throughout the DA's Office (like CPU). The Division of Victim Services operates a Facility K-9 Dog Program and a Crisis Response Team to support adult victims of crime and children who have experienced trauma and other adverse childhood experiences (that predispose children to delinquent behavior). Additionally, DVS partners with schools, community-based organizations, and more to provide education and outreach on crime prevention topics for youth, parents, community members, and professionals.

### **SAFE Family Justice Centers (SFJC)**

The SFJC is a highly respected local non-profit community-based organization with a proven record of success. Established in 1998, four regional Family Justice Centers located in the city of Temecula/Murrieta, Riverside, and Indio provide specialized services for survivors of abuse and at-risk youth prevention and intervention services to the community. Over the last 19 years, two of the three Family Justice Center locations are sponsored by the Riverside County

District Attorney's Office and are in adjacent buildings at the Riverside and Indio District Attorney's Office. This allows for co-located multidisciplinary work to be performed in one centralized location in each region of the county. SFJC has two major arms of program services known as the "Family Justice Center framework"<sup>3</sup> and the "Outreach and Prevention Team".

The centers provide services to victims of abuse using a multidisciplinary response framework that provides "one-stop shop" services to youth and adults from both government and community-based partner agencies who work under one roof to support the complex needs of at-risk youth and victims of abuse. Services provided in the centers are trauma informed, client led, confidential, and limit the number of times that individuals must re-tell their story, ultimately creating a safe space for youth and family members to address the underlying causes of truancy and delinquent behavior.

These wraparound services will result in the overall stability of the youth and reduce the barriers to regular school attendance. SFJC services are designed to help identify and address barriers associated with school attendance and adverse childhood experiences by addressing the acute needs of youth who interface with the CPU. Additionally, SFJC serves as a long-term program support option for youth via its social emotional learning groups like Girls Circle, Boys Council,<sup>4</sup> and a new teen leadership program called iLead. Developed by the renowned leadership expert John Maxwell, iLead is a values-based program tailored specifically for students. This unique offering integrates John Maxwell's proven leadership content with a peer-to-peer learning process, providing students with an immersive experience that allows them to practice leadership skills as they learn them. iLead emphasizes values, character, and practical application, fostering a holistic approach to leadership development. By combining the wisdom of John Maxwell with a dynamic peer learning environment, Riverside County PAL aims to empower young individuals with the skills and mindset needed to become effective leaders in their communities and beyond.

Youth enrolled in these programs will also have access to project-sponsored field trips and exposure activities that support the personal and positive development of youth in our programs.

## **2024/2025 PLAN**

This proposal requests funding for the continuation of youth crime prevention services and programs currently funded by the JJCPA and provided by CPU. SFJC specialists will conduct comprehensive needs assessments for youth and families receiving services from CPU and connect those families with appropriate, culturally sensitive and trauma-informed resources. In cases with more significant challenges, specialists will fill gaps in case management and direct services delivery until other assistance can be obtained. These wraparound services will result in the overall stability of the youth and reduce the barriers to regular school attendance. Programs offered by CPU will focus on the following areas:

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[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=PEN&division=&title=5.3.&part=4.&chapter=&article=](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=PEN&division=&title=5.3.&part=4.&chapter=&article=)

<sup>4</sup> <https://onecirclefoundation.org/models>

## 1. Truancy Prevention

There were approximately 125,000 chronically absent and truant youth in Riverside County during the 2022-2023 school year and the chronic absentee rate in Riverside County was 28.2%, and this is 3.3% higher than the statewide average.<sup>5</sup> This is significant because 82% of adults incarcerated in US penal institutions are high school dropouts and over 70% have difficulty reading above a fourth-grade level. This connection is so significant that truancy is considered the number one predictor of juvenile delinquency in California. Truant students are also more likely to become a crime victim. This strong connection between truancy and crime underscores the importance of the SARB process and the District Attorney's unique, statutory role in fighting truancy.

Accordingly, CPU will continue to engage in extensive truancy prevention efforts with schools, students, and parents or guardians. This will be a countywide effort in association with the County's 23 local school districts and the County Office of Education. These efforts will continue to include:

### ***SART meetings***

School site meetings organized by individual school districts and attended by Deputy District Attorneys assigned to the CPU to inspire students and emphasize the importance of education and help parents understand their crucial role in supporting and protecting their children's education.

### ***SARB meetings***

Pursuant to the California Education Code, the District Attorney plays an important role in the SARB process. SARB meetings bring together district and community resources to help families who continue to struggle with truancy identify barriers to regular school attendance and find sustainable solutions to avoid truancy. By working with families and school districts throughout the County, Deputy District Attorneys (DDA) assigned to the CPU are in a unique position to identify best practices to ensure regular school attendance.

### ***District Attorney Truancy Mediation***

These meetings represent the last phase in the SARB process and are authorized per the Education and Welfare and Institutions Codes. At these meetings, truant students and their parents or guardians who have been unable to satisfactorily resolve truancy concerns through SARB meetings work individually (one family at a time) with a CPU DDA and SFJC Youth Specialist. These meetings are a final opportunity to find a solution for the student's attendance related issues before the matter is referred by the school district to law enforcement for criminal investigation and possible prosecution.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DQCensus/AttChrAbsRate.aspx?cds=33&aggllevel=county&year=2022-23&initrow=Eth&ro=y>

Because of their ability to quickly identify and provide referrals to helpful community resources, SFJC Youth Specialists play a valuable part of truancy mediation meetings. Many families who participated in the SARB process in 2023 experienced barriers regarding loss of job, housing, exposure to violence, death of a core family member, placements with extended family members, foster care entry and more. Youth Specialist participation helps to increase the likelihood of success, due to their ability to identify long term solutions that might help parents or guardians overcome obstacles to improved school attendance.

***SAFE Family Justice Center Outreach & Prevention Team & Riverside County Police Activities League (PAL)***

SAFE Family Justice Center also operates the Riverside County Police Activities League (PAL) which began providing services to Temecula based youth in 2004 and program elements are now accessible to all youth enrolled in CPU programs Countywide. PAL provides programs and activities which offer all kids an opportunity to participate with positive role models in a safe environment with caring adults. Studies show that students who engage in regular mentorship and prevention programs are more successful in averting attempts to recruit youth into gangs and delinquent behavior. When students have access to positive role models and mentors, they are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school, 46% less likely than their peers to start using drugs, and 27% less likely to start using alcohol (Mentoring.org, 2023). The collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and professionals in the field of criminal justice is founded on the belief that early prevention and intervention for youth will reduce juvenile crime and violence. PAL programs seek to help youth understand the personal and societal consequences that accompany criminal activity, develop healthy relationship skills, conflict resolution, as well as programs and activities specifically focused on youth between 5 and 18 years of age.

**2. Responding to School Violence and Other Traumatic Incidents**

School staff and students routinely struggle in the aftermath of school-related traumatic incidents such as hate speech, racially motivated altercations, on campus arrests, or serious injuries to students or staff. Effectively mitigating the negative impacts of these events on the campus community requires programming that is socially, emotionally, and trauma informed.

To that end, CPU created the DART program in 2021 in partnership with Moreno Valley Unified School District. DART focuses on quickly connecting members of the school community who experience trauma with resources that might help them with their recovery. During school year 2022- 2023, DART responded to 41 referrals for assistance via its program site, Moreno Valley School District. Intervention services are provided on site at the Moreno Valley Wellness Center by a SAFE Family Justice Center Specialist. The majority of intervention services were sought by school employees for youth experiencing victimization or engaging in active drug use, fighting, running away from home and every referral resulted in the need to engage more than one community or government organization to address the needs of each child. This vast need for a multidisciplinary response has also led to the development of the Violence Prevention Council. The Violence Prevention Council is a multidisciplinary

collaborative meeting that is facilitated by CPU and Moreno Valley School District to engage our community providers about resources, services, and provide education regarding topics that impact at risk youth using the expertise of Riverside County providers.

The DART team includes all CPU's members and may, as appropriate, include the involvement of law enforcement, the Probation Department, the Department of Behavioral Health, substance abuse recovery organizations, and other appropriate community resources.

### **3. Youth Safety**

The District Attorney's Office developed the YES program to help educate campus communities and the general public, about specific dangers confronting our youth from a wide variety of areas including substance abuse, gang association, abusive and/or otherwise unhealthy relationships, bullying, and peer pressure. These dangers threaten to derail students' lives before they truly begin.

#### ***YES Program***

The YES program is focused on providing resources to help youth avoid those risks without negatively affecting their future. Recent topics for YES presentations include the following:

- Bullying
- Internet Safety & Cyber-Bullying
- Human Trafficking
- Intimate Partner Violence and Healthy Relationships
- Fentanyl Awareness
- Hate Crimes
- Juveniles and the Law
- The Power of Education

#### ***GAME Program***

No school district in Riverside County can escape the presence of gang or drug activity. Youth who feel disconnected from the community at large, struggle academically, and feel little support from the adults in their lives often fall victim to the allure of gang membership or seek escape through drug use. Parents are sometimes unaware of the prevalence of gangs and drugs and often struggle to communicate with their children on these topics. Aiming to help parents begin those important conversations, the GAME presentations include:

- Parent Project- a 10–16-week curriculum for parents of children at an increased risk of involvement with the criminal justice system (either as a perpetrator or as a victim) designed to help families identify healthy strategies for conflict reduction, improve school attendance and performance, address substance abuse issues, and avoid gang involvement.

- Gang Awareness and Prevention- education on common factors leading to gang affiliation and membership, tools to help identify potential gang involvement, strategies to combat gang and drug involvement. Presentations are specifically geared towards students, parents or educators.
- Drug Awareness Presentation- teaches students and parents about the dangers of both illegal street drug and prescription drug abuse.

#### 4. CANINE PROGRAMS

##### *K-9 Facility Dog Program I*

Testifying in court is an intimidating prospect for most people. The unwelcoming atmosphere found in most courtrooms coupled with the unfamiliar rules that limit what a witness is allowed to say and the way they are allowed to say it are especially intimidating for those testifying about traumatic or otherwise difficult events. The Division of Victim Services K-9 Facility Dog Program features K-9 Rachel, a specially trained facility dog, who provides support services to vulnerable children and adults while they testify in court. Acknowledging the scientific evidence that shows how effectively facility dogs can support victims and witnesses. California Penal Code 868.4 authorizes the use of specially trained facility dogs in criminal court proceedings.

The K-9 Facility Dog Program also augments CPU services by providing support to clients on an as needed basis. In one case, this support proved invaluable when CPU, along with the K-9 Facility Dog Program, responded to a desert school to support students and faculty in the aftermath of a tragic hit and run collision that resulted in the death of one child and serious injuries to the others. The DART team initiated an emergency services referral and coordinated with other CPU members and the school to secure services for the minors. The K-9 Facility Dog Program will continue to support DART and to help the support needs of children who are likely in interface with court systems.

##### *K-9 Support Dog Program ( K-9 Dinah)*

During the 2023/24 school year, the CPU was pleased to offer a second canine program to support CPU programs. Like K-9 Rachel, K-9 Augie and K-9 Dinah, along with their handlers provide support for CPU DART team responses. These K-9's also serve in a critical role in rapport building with youths receiving CPU services and/or attending CPU programs. The addition K-9 Dinah will allow CPU to additionally offer canine support in needs assessment interviews, groups/presentations, DART activities and counseling/case management sessions, however K-9 Augie will be retiring in January of 2024, which will mean only one K-9 Support Dog will be available for the unit.

## **CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM**

The Crisis Response Team deploys specially trained Victim Service Specialists to partner with local first responders to assist the community by providing on scene crisis response in the aftermath of a traumatic criminal mass casualty event. The goal of this team is to deploy rapid response intervention and services to community partners, survivors, and next of kin following the aftermath of a tragedy.

Through this project, Victim Services Supervisor will serve in the role as a Training and Education K-9 Therapy Support Dog handler in support of the prevention and intervention services provided by the CPU. Training and education currently serve as one of the CPU's largest prongs of service delivery to the community. This position will continue to increase the unit's reach to the community.

## **5. SFJC ADVOCACY SERVICES**

SFJC Youth Specialists (formerly referred to as Victim Advocates) are assigned to support the CPU with confidential community-based advocacy services. Youth Specialists are assigned to service areas covering the entire County and are able to provide an in-person response to emergency requests for services from local schools. In cases where the youth or family's challenges require longer term services, Youth Specialists will fill gaps in case management and direct service delivery. SFJC will also provide intervention and preventative case management services designed to support youth, siblings, and caregivers interfacing with CPU programs.

## **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

Based on information from previous years, the CPU anticipates that the number of community members reached by CPU programming, the frequency of success outcomes from truancy prevention efforts, and the overall availability of an increasing variety of quality programming and resources to meet if not exceed the levels seen in recent years.

### **Truancy Prevention**

1. During the first half of the 2023-24 school year, the CPU SARB team participated in over 300 attendance related meetings with students, parents/guardians, and district personnel (including SART, SARB, and DA Mediation Hearings). Of those students, 32.9% of improved their attendance within 30 days of the meeting. Anticipated outcomes include helping youth experience a change in circumstances by providing case management and barrier reduction services for children and parents.



## Responding to School Violence and Other Traumatic Incidents

2. During the 2022-2023 school year, CPU responded to 41 DART referrals for Moreno Valley School District. Additionally, CPU members made DART presentations to a total of 2,832 students, families, and 391 adults consisting of parents and school professional staff. DART presentations are comprised of YES, GAME, and targeted training topics that result from themes that present in DART referrals as a method to provide direct services to youth and wrap around training to parents, caregivers, and school staff.

## Youth Safety

3. During the 2023 calendar year, members of CPU made YES presentations to 16,578 students, families, and other members of the community. During that same time period, members of the GAME team made a total of 141 presentations to over 17,550 attendees. Community education and outreach for youth, parents, and professionals will enhance awareness and skills to address concerning behaviors presenting in youth.

## Additional Programming

4. During calendar year 2023, SFJC enrolled 363 youth and 279 adults (caregivers/young adult siblings) into voluntary case management services. 135 of these youth elected to enroll in social emotional learning programs and PAL. Anticipated outcomes include increased knowledge and new development of interpersonal skills.

## **FUNDING REQUEST**

### **CONCLUSION**

A prosecutor's office is a traditionally 'reactive' organization. Crimes are committed, police investigate, and the District Attorney charges the offender to impose accountability and consequences through the criminal justice system. In Riverside County, however, we recognize that this traditional prosecution model is not always the best way to keep our communities safe and help our youth thrive. We must also work 'proactively' to prevent crime before it ever happens. That was District Attorney's purpose in creating the Crime Prevention Unit. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office crime prevention initiative uses the strategies described above in a concerted effort to significantly enhance public safety by motivating and empowering the youth to overcome challenges, develop positive and healthy mindsets, and achieve personal, educational, and professional or vocational success.

It should be noted that comprehensive juvenile crime prevention and intervention efforts from a prosecutorial agency generally do not exist in the United States. Riverside County is a striking exception that provides a stellar model of the positive outcomes that can be achieved when prosecutors join community partners to assist at-risk youth in being successful and staying out of the criminal justice system.

Our visionary and cutting-edge crime prevention model has generated national interest, earned prestigious awards (such as the California School Board Association's Golden Bell Award which has never before been awarded to a prosecutorial agency), and provides a special pathway for criminal justice reform for other prosecuting agencies to follow. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office is very grateful to the Riverside County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council for its past, present, and future support in developing this unique model that positively invests in youth and prevents their entry into the Juvenile Justice System. We are privileged to collaborate with the JJCC and our community partners.

**FY24/25 District Attorney's Office JJCPA**

**DA Crime Prevention Unit (CPU)**

<b>Personnel Costs – Salaries/Employee Benefits (CPU)</b>			<b>FY24/25 Budget Request</b>	<b>FY24/25 Budget Request</b>
<b>Position</b>	<b>Annual Salary</b>	<b>FTE</b>		
Chief Deputy District Attorney	\$241,052.86	0.10	\$24,105	\$24,105
Managing Deputy District Attorney	\$222,403.02	0.30	\$66,721	\$66,721
Deputy District Attorney IV	\$193,277.90	2.00	\$386,556	\$386,556
Deputy District Attorney III	\$152,236.99	2.00	\$304,474	\$304,474
DA Investigator	\$94,932.50	0.25	\$23,733	\$23,733
Victim Services Regional Manager	\$92,151.23	0.33	\$30,410	\$30,410
Victim Services Supervisor & K9 Handler	\$70,609.14	1.00	\$70,609	\$70,609
Sr Victim Services Specialist	\$70,989.92	1.00	\$70,990	\$70,990
Victim Services Specialist	\$63,994.55	2.00	\$127,989	\$127,989
Legal Support Assistant I	\$47,636.46	1.00	\$47,636	\$47,636
<b>TOTAL SALARIES</b>			<b>\$1,153,223</b>	<b>\$1,153,223</b>
<b>Benefits:</b>				
<b>Chief Deputy District Attorney</b>				
Benefits 45.85% = Retirement 32.736% , Social Security 4.12%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Ins. 4.854%, Life 0.033%, LGTD 0.948%, Optical 0.079%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Def Comp (401a) 0.539% , Workers' Comp Ins. 0.961%	Benefit Rate	45.85%	\$11,052	\$11,052
	Salary Amount	\$24,105		
		\$11,052.14		
<b>Managing Deputy District Attorney</b>				
Benefits 47.59% = Retirement 32.736% , Social Security 4.466%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Ins. 6.108%, Life 0.036%, LGTD 0.948%, Optical 0.086%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Def Comp (401a) 0.585% , Workers' Comp Ins. 1.041%	Benefit Rate	47.59%	\$31,753	\$31,753
	Salary Amount	\$66,721		
		\$31,752.52		
<b>Deputy District Attorney IV</b>				
Benefits 48.63% = Retirement 32.736% , Social Security 5.139%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Ins. 6.59%, Life 0.041%, LGTD 0.490%, Optical 0.099%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Def Comp (401a) 0.282% , Def Comp (401a) 0.478%, Workers' Comp Ins. 1.198%	Benefit Rate	48.63%	\$187,982	\$187,982
	Salary Amount	\$386,556		
		\$187,982.18		
<b>Deputy District Attorney III</b>				
Benefits 53.21% = Retirement 32.736% , Social Security 6.059%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Ins. 9.726%, Life 0.052%, LGTD 0.490%, Optical 0.126%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Def Comp (401a) 0.623% , Def Comp (401a) 0.294%, Workers' Comp Ins. 1.522%	Benefit Rate	53.21%	\$162,011	\$162,011
	Salary Amount	\$304,474		
		\$162,010.62		
<b>DA Investigator</b>				
Benefits 75.54% = Retirement 51.383% , Social Security 0.00%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Ins. 18.521%, Life 0.00%, LGTD 0.354%, Optical 0.00%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Def Comp (401a) 0.253% , VEBA Hlth Svg 1.011%, Workers' Comp Ins. 1.233%	Benefit Rate	75.54%	\$17,928	\$17,928
	Salary Amount	\$23,733		
		\$17,927.91		
<b>Victim Services Regional Manager</b>				
Benefits 62.37% = Retirement 32.736% , Social Security 6.2%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Ins. 16.69%, Life 0.086%, LGTD 0.948%, Optical 0.208%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Def Comp (401a) 1.411% , Workers' Comp Ins. 2.514%	Benefit Rate	62.37%	\$18,967	\$18,967
	Salary Amount	\$30,410		
		\$18,966.72		
<b>Victim Services Supervisor &amp; K9 Handler</b>				
Benefits 58.41% = Retirement 32.736% , Social Security 6.2%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Insurance 14.171%, Life 0.091%, LGTD 0.325%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Training Pension 0.029%, Workers' Comp Ins. 3.28%	Benefit Rate	58.41%	\$41,243	\$41,243
	Salary Amount	\$70,609		
		\$41,242.72		
<b>Sr Victim Services Specialist</b>				
Benefits 62.79% = Retirement 32.736% , Social Security 6.2%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Insurance 18.564%, Life 0.092%, LGTD 0.325%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Training Pension 0.029%, Workers' Comp Ins. 3.263%	Benefit Rate	62.79%	\$44,575	\$44,575
	Salary Amount	\$70,990		
		\$44,574.62		
<b>Victim Services Specialist</b>				
Benefits 60.89% = Retirement 32.736% , Social Security 6.2%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Insurance 16.298%, Life 0.102%, LGTD 0.325%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Training Pension 0.033%, Workers' Comp Ins. 3.62%	Benefit Rate	60.89%	\$77,933	\$77,933
	Salary Amount	\$127,989		
		\$77,932.50		
<b>Legal Support Assistant I</b>				
Benefits 58.32% = Retirement 32.736% , Social Security 6.2%, Medicare 1.45%, Health Insurance 12.757%, Life 0.138%, Unemployment Ins. 0.13%, Training Pension 0.044%, Workers' Comp Ins. 4.862%	Benefit Rate	58.32%	\$27,781	\$27,781
	Salary Amount	\$47,636		
		\$27,781.32		
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS</b>			<b>\$621,223</b>	<b>\$621,223</b>
<b>PERSONNEL COSTS CATEGORY TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,774,446</b>	<b>\$1,774,446</b>

OPERATING COSTS				
Crime Prevention Unit (CPU)			FY24/25 Budget Request	FY24/25 Budget Request
K9 Handler Training (DVS): (K9 Dinah)			\$4,500	\$4,500
DVS K9 Expenses: Veterinarian costs, harnesses, bedding, food, grooming			\$10,500	\$10,500
Communications			\$5,800	\$5,800
Mobile wifi for DDAs & addition of 2 phones for the 2 DVS Specialists		\$4,000		
Zoom Business account	\$200 annually x 4 DDA's	\$800		
Conference Zoom Connector (CRC) \$499	\$500 Annually x 2 Connectors	\$1,000		
		\$5,800		
Travel/Training			\$50,000	\$50,000
School Presentations and Outreach: Outreach supplies (Tables, Chairs, uniforms, etc)			\$10,000	\$10,000
Equipment and Technical Supplies			\$15,665	\$15,665
Vehicle Expenses: County vehicle costs, fuel, maintenance			\$11,000	\$11,000
<b>SUB Total: CPU Operating Costs</b>			<b>\$107,465</b>	<b>\$107,465</b>
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS (PSA)				
SAFE Family Justice Center			FY24/25 Budget Request	FY24/25 Budget Request
SAFE Family Justice Center			\$306,590	\$306,590
4.5 Victim Services Advocate (Salary & Benefits)	SAFE Advocates New Rate: (2.5x \$65,487)	\$163,718		
to provide wrap-around program services to at-risk youth	SAFE Adv. 2+ years of service: New Rate :2 x \$71,431	\$142,872		
		\$306,590		
1 Supervising Specialist	SAFE FJC Supv. : New Rate: 1 x \$89,476		\$89,476	\$89,476
1 Victim Services Project Analyst - Salary and Benefits	SAFE FJC Project Analyst: 1 x \$66,677		\$66,677	\$66,677
Auto Mileage			\$20,000	\$20,000
Mileage for 5 SAFE FJC Victim Advocates for daily travel to schools throughout Riverside County to provide advocacy support during the SARB process, facilitating programs for youth on site, and emergency in person service requests for children experiencing significant need				
Family Stability Fund for Emergency Needs			\$10,000	\$10,000
Provide direct financial support to CPU youth and their families to support their long term stability. Funds may be used for rent assistance, utilities, support with transportation, educational assistance, and supplies. This fund supports families in maintaining their stability and promotes student success in school.				
Gift Cards/Vouchers for Short-Term Needs			\$10,000	\$10,000
Gift cards for hotel, gas, rideshare, grocery, and basic needs items to support youth with resources to fill their immediate needs and items to promote their long term sustainability				
	Hotel: 50 cards @ \$100 each	\$5,000		
	Walmart: 100 cards @ \$25 each	\$2,500		
	Fuel: 100 cards @ \$25 each	\$2,500		
		\$10,000		
Program Supplies			\$10,000	\$10,000
Participant shirts for groups, art supplies and curriculum materials for social emotional learning programs				
Field Trips/Experiences/Camp			\$30,000	\$30,000
Funds to support admission to pro-social activities such as museums, sporting events, community service projects, art and theatrical performances				
<b>SUB Total: SAFE FJC PSA</b>			<b>\$542,743</b>	<b>\$542,743</b>
<b>TOTAL JJCPA COSTS</b>			<b>\$2,424,654</b>	<b>\$2,424,654</b>

LAW OFFICES OF THE  
**Public Defender**  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

**STEVEN L. HARMON**  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

**JUDITH GWEON**  
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER



**RIVERSIDE MAIN OFFICE**  
4075 Main Street, Suite 100  
Riverside, CA 92501  
(951) 955-6025

January 22, 2024

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER JJCC/JJCPA 2025-2024 SPARK NARRATIVE**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Riverside County Law Offices of the Public Defender seeks continued funding for SPARK: Support, Partnerships, Advocacy and Resources for Kids, an intervention and prevention program designed to benefit middle and high-school aged youth who are represented by the Public Defender's Office and at-promise Transition Age Youth (TAY) throughout Riverside County. SPARK's primary objective is to identify unaddressed academic and mental health needs, as well as other barriers to successful transition into adulthood, and link youth to appropriate resources through coordinated and collaborative community partnerships. Legal consultations, advocacy and referrals are also provided, as well as trainings for partnering agencies, school districts, and community-based organizations.

Given the diverse needs of the population we serve, SPARK has multiple components: 1) prevent full entry into the justice system by establishing and utilizing a coordination of community resources early in the court process; 2) reduce recidivism and promote favorable outcomes, such as increased academic success, shortened probation terms, limited detention and removal, and increased protective factors for those who do enter the system; and (3) remove barriers and promote positive transitions to adulthood for Transition Age Youth using an integrated, community-based approach.

To address these components, SPARK provides coordinated, accessible services countywide, with a team in each of the three Riverside County regions: Coachella Valley, Mid-County, and Riverside. Each SPARK team consists of a Deputy Public Defender who specializes in juvenile justice and education advocacy and a social services practitioner dedicated to identifying and locating supports for unaddressed or under-addressed education and mental health needs, as well as additional barriers such as those impacting access to benefits, employment and housing. SPARK is led by a Supervising Deputy Public Defender and a senior educational rights paralegal who assist in the overall training and

coordination of the teams and also provide direct client support. SPARK teams' advocacy is done in partnership with parents/legal guardians or educational rights holders, psychoeducation experts, community stakeholders, including Riverside County Office of Education, all twenty-three school districts in the county, as well as other districts when youth are placed out of county, charter and private schools, Inland Regional Center, community-based organizations, and mental health professionals.

In addition to growing partnerships with various school districts and community-based organizations throughout Riverside County, SPARK has an invaluable collaboration with Riverside University Health Systems – Behavioral Health's Transition Age Youth Drop-in Centers. Each SPARK team has a dedicated space at the centers for the attorney and social services practitioner to meet with SPARK clients and families outside of the court and school setting, with drop-in hours, and built-in access to supportive services for youth and staff. As a result of the partnership, SPARK is able to directly connect clients to behavioral health services, provide legal consultations that clients may not have otherwise had access to, assist with connections to other necessary resources, and promote the benefits of the Transition Age Youth Drop-In Centers and coordinated services.

To further enhance the reach of our services, SPARK also provides outreach at resource fairs and other community events, as well as trainings to agencies and community-based organizations on how to access our services, new legislation, and emergent legal issues impacting youth in Riverside County. These trainings and events cultivate growing partnerships and links for a more integrative approach to serving youth.

## SCOPE

The scope of the Public Defender's activities under this program is based on the following evidence-based research and empirical information:

**(1) Unaddressed Educational and Mental Health Needs** – Juvenile justice system-involved youth have a high incidence of disabilities and special education needs, estimated at between **65 to 85 percent, with many requiring services to be successful in school.**<sup>1</sup> Nationally, 60 to 70 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental health condition and approximately 30 percent have a serious disorder warranting immediate treatment.<sup>2</sup> Under the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, these youth are afforded protections and entitled to additional support at school, but many have never been identified as needing such support and/or they don't receive the appropriate support. Outcomes for these youth are further impacted and lag behind even those of other disadvantaged student populations due to frequent school transfers, gaps in enrollment and attendance, lack of consistent

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<sup>1</sup> Disability Rights Organization, 2022, "Education Advocacy as a Best Practice for Justice-Involved Youth," Available at [disabilityrightstx.org](http://disabilityrightstx.org); citing National Disability Rights Network, *Juvenile Justice* (Website), Available at: <http://www.ndrn.org/en/issues/juvenile-justice.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

adult support for education, and the impact of trauma on learning and behavior. All of these factors contribute to disproportionate truancy, discipline and expulsion rates, as well as referrals to juvenile court.

Consequently, there is an increasing push for juvenile justice partners to focus on education and education advocacy as a “best practice,” with Rule 5.651(b) of the California Rules of Court requiring that education be addressed at every judicial hearing, and AB 740, which went into effect January 1, 2023, requiring school districts to notice counsel of pending discipline for any student subject to a WIC 602 petition. Identifying disabilities, special education and corresponding mental health needs, as well as trauma factors and collaborating with community education partners to understand the youth’s needs, assists in closing the gaps, builds appropriate support and transition plans, prevents truancy, suspension, and expulsion, and mitigates full entry into the juvenile justice system.

SPARK’s advocacy teams utilize their unique position of trust and confidence with the youth and their families to engage in extensive screening for unidentified and/or unassessed disabilities, special education and related mental health needs, as well as trauma factors. Forensic psychology experts provide consultations, evaluations, and recommendations when necessary. The team then works with community education partners and mental health agencies to develop appropriate assessment plans for Individualized Education Plans, 504 Plans, potential alternative placements, and community-based resources, including referrals to Inland Regional Center when appropriate, all designed to remove barriers to the youth’s success.

For juvenile justice clients specifically, SPARK attorneys participate in Individualized Education Program meetings, advocating for school-based services and supports appropriate to the client’s unique needs. Follow-up, amendment, and annual IEP meetings of the IEP Team regularly follow, and the SPARK attorney continues to go to these meetings and advocate for the client according to the circumstances at that time. SPARK team members also participate in disciplinary conferences and expulsion hearings. The SPARK attorney represents the child in the proceedings, works with district personnel to develop alternatives to expulsion, ensures procedural and substantive safeguards are honored, and advocates for the best possible results for the client. At the conclusion of the proceedings, SPARK continues to work with the minor, family and district to ensure a smooth transition, assist with connections to resources to fulfill any resulting contracts and/or bolster supports either at their existing placement or in the new setting.

- (2) Transition Planning** - There are significant disruptions in education and mental health services as youth move from one setting to another during various points in juvenile proceedings. “Transition does not occur only once for these youth; rather, it is an ongoing process that usually involves

multiple transitions,” and the transitions do not take a consistent route.<sup>3</sup> With the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice and realignment under SB 823/SB 92, there is more demand than ever for localized, coordinated assistance with transition planning as the youth move between Secure Youth Treatment Facility commitments to less restrictive step-down options, and ultimately reintegrate as Transition Age Youth into the community. Research shows that transition planning that connects youth with case management, mentors, and education and/or employment opportunities reduces recidivism.<sup>4</sup>

The SPARK team provides focused advocacy directed specifically at increasing the continuity of services as youth transition within the system with a “think exit at entry” mentality. SPARK’s social services practitioners meet with clients in treatment centers, placement, YTEC and Pathways to Success to identify and discuss transition needs, as well as plan for re-entry. SPARK team members assist in locating housing, treatment options, sources for benefits, and employment opportunities, and in some cases, are in the field with the client as they transition into the community.

They also meet with clients to provide support for pre-disposition efforts, assisting with connecting clients to rehabilitative services and alternatives to placement, such as counseling or residential substance abuse treatment programs, early in the court process. The team works to ensure that the youth have actively involved education rights holders, access to school records, immediate enrollment rights, knowledge of different graduation requirements, and even college financial aid benefits and support programs.

- (3) Coordination of Services** – Partnerships are a key component of best practices in youth justice. “Well-established best practices in juvenile justice include collaborating with youth and families, building strong partnerships with community service providers, and coordinating and collaborating across multiple agencies that engage the same youth, as experienced by those involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.”<sup>5</sup>

The three regional SPARK teams provide the bridge between services, both in the form of walking the client from one provider to another, facilitating screenings for services, and communicating with treatment and service providers to ensure smooth transitions and continuity of care. SPARK

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<sup>3</sup> NDTAC [The National Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Neglected or Delinquent Children and Youth]. 2016. Transition Toolkit 3.0: Meeting the Educational Needs of Youth Exposed Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [www.ojjdp.gov](http://www.ojjdp.gov) 17 to the Juvenile Justice System. Washington, DC: NDTAC. Retrieved January 15, 2019, from the web:<https://www2.ed.gov/students/prep/juvenile-justice-transition/transition-toolkit-3.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Nellis & Wayman, 2009, Available at <https://youth.gov/reentry>.

<sup>5</sup> Honeycutt, T., Sakala, L., Zweig, J., Hague Angus, M., & Esthappan, S. (2022). Using Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Advance Juvenile Justice Reform: Experiences in 10 Communities. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 33(4), 429-452. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08874034211047895>



team members also provide presentations and trainings designed to promote identification of youth in need of targeted support and collaboration with community stakeholders. The interactions improve awareness of educational and transition programming/services available and the pathways for connecting youth to those services. Through this approach, the teams foster community connections, and build trust with other county agencies and community providers, allowing them to feel comfortable reaching out to us, as well as each other, to promote positive outcomes for system-involved and at-risk transition age youth.

SPARK team members are regular participants in Continuum of Care meetings, Youth Homeless Demonstration Project meetings, the Mayor's Initiative to End Youth Homelessness, School Attendance Review Board and Child Welfare and Attendance meetings, Children's Services Committee meetings, as well as treatment team meetings, among others. Team members are also frequently invited to open houses for various housing and vocational programs.

SPARK team members also actively participate in community events to provide broader access to services, as well as foster invaluable connections to clients and resources. Some examples include the Riverside County Office of Education's "Back to School Fair," as well as RCOE's College and Career Day, designed to encourage continuing education and career readiness for students from alternative or continuation education settings, Riverside County's "Come and Be Connected" resource fair targeting the county's unhoused population for services, and the College of the Desert's "Foster Youth Services Collegebound Resource Fair," intended to encourage foster youth to attend college and assist them with preparation and planning for college. These events both enhance SPARK's database of available community resources for referrals and draw in prospective recipients of SPARK services.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Public Defender shall:

- Develop and implement screening tools for all youth represented by the Public Defender and eligible Transition Age Youth, to identify disabilities, education and mental health needs, as well as trauma factors and other barriers.
- Meet with the parents and/or Education Rights Holders to determine if they are willing and able to assist in connecting to service providers and making education decisions for the youth and/or whether requesting an Education Rights Surrogate is necessary.
- Coordinate with schools and community partners to develop appropriate assessment plans, and advocate for assessments and services the youth is entitled to under the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Welfare and Institutions Code and Education Code.
- Utilize forensic psychology experts for consultations, evaluations, and recommendations when deemed appropriate.

- Attend Individualized Education Plan meetings for Public Defender-represented youth to determine if the youth qualify for special education services.
- Attend school disciplinary meetings, including Manifestation Determination meetings, pre-expulsion meetings and expulsion hearings for Public Defender-represented youth. Advocate for alternative means of correction and the use of multi-tiered systems of support in lieu of expulsion.
- Provide necessary referrals to other agencies and community-based organizations and confirm the connection to services.
- Collaborate with agency and community partners to develop transition plans for youth moving from detention, placement, or other situations involving changing schools (expulsion/credit deficiency, etc.) and provide continual support during the transition.
- Provide comprehensive training to all attorneys, support staff, and community partners to better identify those in need of targeted support and how to integrate services.
- Provide trainings and/or resources to parents and youth regarding their education rights, access to benefits, available resources, and how to get support.
- Attend community stakeholder meetings to stay up to date on available resources and cultivate collaborations that help further the objectives of the program.
- Follow evidence-based practices in tracking and collecting data on the process and outcomes.

## **CONCLUSION**

SPARK's overarching focus is broad, but after nearly two years with the SPARK teams in the community building partnerships and working with and advocating for the diverse needs of the population we serve, it is abundantly clear that a broad and flexible range of accessible services continues to be necessary. In addition to offering services and representation directly, SPARK's expanded network of agency and community-based organization partnerships allows us to offer services from a collaborative, multi-disciplinary perspective. Our teams act as a liaison between multiple service providers, working to ensure the appropriateness and continuity of services, and contributing to favorable outcomes.

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER & CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY RESTORATIVE  
JUSTICE PROGRAM JJCC/JJCPA 2024-2025 NARRATIVE**

**INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

The Chapman University Restorative Justice Program is a holistic approach to justice designed for youth who have committed WIC 602 offenses involving a true victim. The program focuses on the needs of the youth, victims, and the community. It provides heightened accountability, opportunities to discuss the offense and harm done in a safe setting, and the parties establish an agreement to repair the harm. Upon the voluntary consent of both parties to participate in the program, Chapman University staff and students provide mentorship and guidance to help the youth "make amends" with the victim, understand how their actions directly impacted the victim, and give the victim "a voice." Additionally, the youth are provided with conflict resolution and mediation services by neutral parties in a safe environment, as well as resource referrals to support successful completion of the reparative agreements.

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council approved transferring oversight of the Restorative Justice Program referral process and program management from Probation to the Law Offices of the Public Defender on November 14, 2022, as a means to overcome legal barriers impacting the probation intake process and increase access to the program for system-involved and/or at-promise youth. The County Board of Supervisors approved the amended contract on July 19, 2023, allowing for the agencies to finalize new protocols and begin accepting referrals from the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office, Probation, Department of Social Services, and Riverside County School Districts, thereby increasing participation in the program and promoting more favorable outcomes using community-based resources.

LAW OFFICES OF THE  
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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



SPARK

# OBJECTIVES

## Prevent

- Prevent full entry into the juvenile justice system by establishing and utilizing a coordination of community-based resources early in juvenile court process.

## Promote

- Promote favorable outcomes such as increased academic success, shortened probation terms, limited detention and removal;
- Increase protective factors for those who do enter the juvenile justice system and remove barriers to successful transition to adulthood for TAY.

## Reduce

- Reduce recidivism with coordinated transition planning and an “exit upon entry” mentality.

## Facilitate

- Facilitate connections to education, behavioral health and housing services within the community through outreach and training to youth, families, and community partners.

# THE NEED

## *System-Involved and At-Promise Youth Have:*

**High rates of unaddressed trauma, mental health, special education needs, disproportionately high rates of truancy, chronic absenteeism, grade retention, suspensions, expulsions, and lower high school graduation rates.**

- An estimated 65 to 85 percent of Juvenile Justice system-involved youth have disabilities and special education needs.
- Nationally, 60 to 70 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have a mental health condition and approximately 30 percent have a serious disorder warranting immediate treatment.
- There are significant disruptions in education and mental health services as youth move from one setting to another during various points in juvenile proceedings.
- Collaborative Partnerships are a key component of best practices in youth justice.

# COORDINATED COUNTYWIDE SERVICES

- ATTORNEY AND SOCIAL WORKER IN EACH OF THE THREE REGIONS:
  - **Riverside**
  - **Southwest**
  - **Coachella Valley**
- COUNTYWIDE SUPERVISOR, EDUCATION PARALEGAL AND LEGAL ASSISTANT
- UNIQUELY POSITIONED AND TRAINED TO SCREEN, IDENTIFY NEEDS, COLLABORATE, ADVOCATE AND REFER WHEN NECESSARY.
- PART OF A NETWORK OF GROWING PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.
- POSITIONED AT ALL 3 TAY DROP-IN CENTERS.

# Who Does SPARK Serve?

- LOPD CLIENTS: YOUTH CHARGED WITH A WIC 602 OFFENSE WHO NEED ASSISTANCE WITH EDUCATION, MENTAL HEALTH OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS AND/OR CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES.
- TRANSITION AGE YOUTH: PROVIDE CONSULTATIONS AND CONNECTIONS TO LEGAL RESOURCES AND/OR COMMUNITY SERVICES.
- COMMUNITIES, FAMILIES, COUNTY AGENCIES, AND SCHOOLS.





# SPARK'S SERVICES AT A GLANCE

- ▶ SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY
- ▶ SCHOOL DISCIPLINE SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY
- ▶ SCHOOL PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE/PATHS TO GRADUATION
- ▶ CONNECTIONS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES
- ▶ INLAND REGIONAL CENTER SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY
- ▶ FOSTER CARE RE-ENTRY
- ▶ CALENDAR ADD ON/WARRANT RECALL
- ▶ SEALINGS AND EXPUNGEMENTS
- ▶ HOUSING RESOURCES
- ▶ TRANSITION PLANNING
- ▶ ASSISTANCE WITH OBTAINING BENEFITS AND VITAL DOCUMENTS
- ▶ EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING RESOURCES
- ▶ LEGAL CONSULTATIONS, INCLUDING IMMIGRATION & CONSERVATORSHIPS
- ▶ REFERRALS FOR COURT-ORDERED REQUIREMENTS
- ▶ CONNECTIONS TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
- ▶ REFERRALS TO LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS
- ▶ COLLABORATIONS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AGENCY PARTNERS AND CBO'S COUNTYWIDE
- ▶ TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AGENCY PARTNERS AND CBO'S

# IMPACT

**378 NEW CLIENTS OVER THE LAST YEAR**

## WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS SAYING ABOUT SPARK

- ❖ “I appreciate the dedication, professionalism, and impactful work that SPARK consistently demonstrates. The collaboration between SPARK and our agency has undoubtedly made a positive difference in the lives of the youth we support.”
- ❖ “The SPARK program has been a tremendous support for numerous youth who were unaware of the level of assistance available to them. In our recent Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) meeting, we had a poignant discussion that highlighted the intersection of probation, juvenile systems, homelessness, and the crucial need for support. It was heartening to see that SPARK effectively addresses this need. I want to extend my sincere thanks to all involved in the SPARK program. The acknowledgment from our youth, expressing how needed and valued they feel, speaks volumes about the positive impact of the SPARK program.”
- ❖ “To have the ability to always have SPARK at hand and utilize them for these [TAY] families has been incredible.”
- ❖ “SPARK is an extremely valuable resource for clients and their families by connecting them with services ranging from dual diagnosis residential treatment, individual counseling, therapy, and other community-based services. As one guardian described, SPARK was very helpful in assisting her with communicating with various agencies to get her grandson enrolled in substance abuse counseling and anger management.”
- ❖ “I’d like to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible support provided by the SPARK unit. Your team has been a blessing to my son and I. Your unwavering assistance and kindness made a significant impact, and I can’t thank you enough...You all made navigating this process much easier, alleviating a considerable amount of stress and worry. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!”

The image features a central pair of scales of justice, rendered in a light blue, semi-transparent style. The scales are balanced, with two pans hanging from a central vertical pillar. Below the scales, a pair of hands is shown in a similar light blue, semi-transparent style, with the fingers gently holding the base of the scales. The background is a solid, dark blue color. In the top right corner, there is a small, solid blue rectangular shape. The text "CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM" is centered in the lower half of the image, written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM**

# Overview

- ▶ An alternative, holistic approach to juvenile justice.
- ▶ Focuses on needs of the youth and victims by providing a safe, meaningful platform for communication.
- ▶ Provides heightened accountability and the opportunity for the youth to make amends with the victim.
- ▶ Parties establish a reparative agreement.
- ▶ Provide referrals to community-based organizations to support successful completion of the reparative agreements.

# RJP Referral Process

- ▶ Shift in oversight to Public Defender's Office to increase access to program and referrals.
- ▶ RJP can accept referrals from the Public Defender's Office, District Attorneys Office, Probation, Department of Social Services, Behavioral Health and School Districts.



# QUESTIONS



# RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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## RCP JJCPA Program Proposal FY24/25

### YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (YAT)

YAT will require four (4) full time positions which include line-level, supervisory, and administrative personnel. Youth utilizing the program will be provided mentorship, programming designed based on the needs of the individual/family circumstances, and participation in pro-social events in the community. A proper assessment of each youth will be completed utilizing an evidence-based assessment tool, and a collaborative case plan will be developed with input from staff, the youth, their parents, and their attorney. All efforts will be geared toward increasing the likelihood of success at school, in the home, as well as their local communities. Major events that will be provided to the youth include but are not limited to organized field trips to local colleges and universities, occupational programs, sporting events, art exhibits, and museums. Lunch and/or snacks will be provided to youth during these field trips. An emphasis is placed upon broadening each youth's experiences in the local community and expanding their knowledge base and interest levels in healthy, pro-social activities which are readily available to youth. These events will be arranged not to conflict or interfere with youth's school schedules. A parent component will also be available to those parents desiring additional tools to assist with managing difficult behavior in the form of a parenting class. Upon each youth's completion of the program, they will be asked to complete a survey, sharing their feedback regarding their experience. Gift cards will be utilized to incentivize their participation.

### 654.1 WIC DUI PROGRAM

The 654.1 WIC DUI Program will require four (4) full time positions which include line-level, supervisory, and administrative personnel. Youth utilizing the program will be provided mentorship and programming designed to meet his/her specific needs. A collaborative case plan will be jointly created by the staff, the youth, their parents, and their attorney. The primary focus of this program and the case plan is to motivate youth to successfully complete a drunk driving program as outlined by law. These youth will also be afforded access to pro-social events in the community. These events may include organized field trips to local colleges and universities, occupational programs, sporting events, art exhibits, and museums. Lunch and/or snacks will be provided to youth during these field trips. Each event is designed to expand youth's experiences with positive, healthy leisure activities within their communities. Again, field trips are scheduled not to conflict with school or treatment obligations. Upon each youth's completion of the DUI program, he/she will be asked to complete a survey regarding their experience. Gift cards will be utilized to encourage participation.

### JUVENILE DEFENSE PANEL

Services will be provided to all youth identified as potential program participants (for both YAT and 654.1 DUI program). JDP will meet with each youth to explain all allegations named in the 602 petition to advise them of legal rights, provide an overview of the program, and if consent is gained, assist in the construction of case plans. Counsel will remain available to all youth and their families for the duration of their program.

### COMPLIANCE CONTRACTS

Services will include necessary training for all probation staff, as well as counsel, geared toward promoting positive youth development and cutting-edge research on adolescent development. Value-based approaches will be provided which increase youth motivation and engagement, better incorporate families within the community, and promote equity.

### **CBO YOUTH OUTREACH COUNSELING**

Services will be provided to every youth participant in the YAT program. These counselors will work directly with the youth to address specific issues identified per assessment, youth, and/or parent.

### **SUCCESSFUL SHORT-TERM SUPERVISION (SSTS)**

The SSTS program is geared toward low-level youth who have entered the juvenile justice system via the formal court process. The overall goal of the program is to assist youth and their parents with successful completion of the program by the first court review hearing. Appropriate supervision will be provided to assist the youth with improvement in school attendance and performance, abstinence from substance use, participation in specific counseling outlined by their identified needs, and positive community involvement through community service and/or participation in pro-social activities. Field trips provided by this program will include athletic programs/events, religious-based activities (feeding the homeless, organizing/assisting with food drives), art-based activities, community-based activities, and family-driven activities.

### **PROGRAM EVALUATION SERVICES**

Services are provided by a third-party vendor to assist in the compilation and analysis of data regarding services provided by JJCPA funded programs. This provider will meet with representatives of each program, develop trackers, and communicate feedback. Outcomes will be provided in ongoing quarterly reports, as well as annually to the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC).





# RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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## Riverside County Community-Led Diversion Program

### **BACKGROUND**

The intention of the Juvenile Justice System is to offer interventions to youth to address the underlying causes of delinquent behavior. The Riverside County Probation Department (RCP) has a long history of collaborating with the community, public safety partners and the courts to develop innovative solutions, policies and programs that promote balancing intervention, treatment, and accountability. Ultimately, the goal is to both increase positive changes in youth and reduce recidivism.

At one time or another, adolescents may engage in risky behaviors, act without thinking, or make undesirable decisions more often than they will as adults. Research demonstrates that a majority of youth that are arrested and charged with delinquent behavior will never be arrested for a second delinquent act nor will become repeat offenders in adulthood. Given these facts, diversion programs designed to reduce the risk of criminal socialization by providing positive social interactions, instilling structure, and addressing the underlying causes of such behavior may avoid youths' unnecessary exposure to the formal justice process which may actually increase youth's involvement in the system and delinquency.

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Riverside County aims to create a community-led Juvenile Diversion Program (RCJDP) as a county-wide pre-file diversion option for youth who engage in low-level offenses and are determined eligible pursuant to the Welfare and Institutions Code and the Rules of Court, as an alternative to prosecution. Within these parameters, applicable cases submitted to RCP by law enforcement will be screened for diversion eligibility. Additionally, any cases that fall within the legal discretion of the District Attorney will also be eligible for RCJDP should the DA find it appropriate and/or in the interest of justice.

Through its Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, Riverside County will seek proposals to have a community-based organization(s) meet the individual needs of low-level clients and provide supportive services within the community. Responsive proposals will describe a collaborative approach working with the youth, family and community to provide a pathway to intervention and supportive services. These services by design will effectively address delinquent behaviors and other risk factors while increasing positive change and reducing re-offense, ensuring diversion success without formal system involvement.