



**Mendocino County
FY 2025/2026
Juvenile Justice
Consolidated Plan**

**Approved by Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
March 21, 2025**



Acronym Legend

ACE – Adverse Childhood Experiences
BHRS – Behavioral Health Recovery Services
BSCC – Board of State and Community Corrections
CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates
CBO – Community-Based Organization
CFT – Child and Family Team
CVA – Coastal Valley Academy
DRAI – Detention Risk Assessment Instrument
E-SUP – Enterprise Supervision
GREAT – Gang Resistance Education and Training
ILT – Interagency Leadership Team
JJCC – Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
JJCPA – Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act
JJDPC – Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission
MAGSU – Multi-Agency Gang Suppression Unit
MRT – Moral Recognition Therapy
MYCP – Mendocino County Youth Project
PACT – Positive Achievement Change Tool
PBIS – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
RJYC – Restorative Justice Youth Court
SARB – School Attendance Review Board
SRO – School Resource Officer
SUDT – Substance Use Disorder Treatment
UUSD – Ukiah Unified School District
YOBG – Youthful Offender Block Grant

Part I. Service, Needs, Priorities & Strategy

(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))

A. Assessment of Existing Services

Include here an assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.

In 2020, the Mendocino County Juvenile Justice Consolidated Plan was updated, and the report process involved a review of data associated with Mendocino County juvenile justice and demographics, along with stakeholder interviews. Interview invitations were extended to people associated with all of the agencies mandated under 749.22 WIC to comprise the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) and the below agencies participated in the interviews. Those same agencies provided an updated assessment of services and needs in the FY 2023/2024 Juvenile Justice Consolidated Plan.

Mendocino County Probation Department

The Mendocino County Probation Department has three full-time Deputy Probation Officers and a Supervisor assigned to the Juvenile Unit. The Community Supervision Services Division Manager also provides oversight to the Juvenile Unit. Chief Probation Officer Izen Locatelli has been in his position for the past seven years which has created much needed stability in the organization as prior to his appointment, there had been eight different Chief Probation Officers in a span of thirteen years. The Mendocino County Juvenile Hall has a rated capacity of 42 beds but has been operating with a cap of 20 due to budget limitations and capacity trends.

The Probation Department provides both individual and family counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy and substance abuse services for youth detained at Juvenile Hall and for continuum of services upon release for youth supervised by the department. Probation utilizes the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) to determine the

most appropriate placement for youth after booking at Juvenile Hall. The DRAI determines whether a youth should be detained in a secure detention facility prior to their detention hearing, placed on supervised release (electronic monitoring), or released without any additional supervision. The department also uses the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) to conduct actuarial risk/needs assessments of youth and to develop case plans designed to reduce recidivism, which includes identifying the youth's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) score as well.

The department recognizes the county's limited resources as a concern for providing appropriate and consistent treatment services to youth and families. With so few programs and options to select from, historically the Mendocino County juvenile justice system is only able to respond to delinquency after it occurs, rather than being able to be in a position to prevent it before it happens. As result, Probation continues to work on developing new programs and partnerships with community stakeholders to strengthen prevention and intervention efforts.

Mendocino County Superior Court

In recent years, the Court identified some of the significant challenges Mendocino County faces in addressing the needs of juveniles in the dependency system who are at risk of or who have committed acts that bring them into the juvenile justice system as well.

To create a more coherent and coordinated approach to adjudicating these cases with the goal of identifying and meeting the needs of these youth to assist their successful transition to adulthood, Mendocino County created a Dual Jurisdiction protocol in July of 2023. This comprehensive plan is intended to improve communication between the Court, Probation, Family and Children's Services, and community service providers. It is also intended to provide guidance on which county department will assume the role of lead agency, with primary responsibility for monitoring and tracking the progress of individual minors. This multi-disciplinary approach to case management is expected to ensure that timely, evidence-based services and clinically effective strategies are provided with a more seamless system of service delivery among providers. This plan

was adopted and executed by the Court, Family and Children’s Services and the Probation Department and is still considered in early implementation.

Mendocino is a large, rural county. Public transportation is inadequate. At certain times of the year, it is a challenge to traverse the northern regions of the county, even by private vehicle. Many small communities not located directly along the Highway 101 corridor have scant access to public transportation. As a result, complying with requirements such as treatment or court obligations can be hard for families. Poverty, a paucity of living wage jobs and a residential housing shortage are also barriers for many families. The prevalence of an underground economy based on marijuana cultivation attracts crime (often violent crime) and poses a risk to youth of becoming involved and/or exploited. In addition, extensive use of marijuana and other substances reduces the motivation by parents and/or youth to make necessary life changes. In addition to generational influences that often lead to inertia, post-secondary education is limited, even for distance-learning, due to inadequate broadband in outlying communities. These factors often exacerbate the challenges facing families. The effects of the Covid 19 pandemic on the public workforce cannot be overstated. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Mendocino’s local workforce has been in flux. Many public employees decided to separate from employment earlier than originally intended as a direct result of the pandemic. Relatively low wages in the County have made recruiting to fill many positions, most critically in public safety and social services, extremely challenging. The adjacent county to the south, Sonoma County, pays its workforce significantly more than Mendocino for the exact same positions. As a result, employee retention is also an issue. Without enough trained deputies in law enforcement and probation and clinically trained staff in social services, mental health services and public health, early assessment of and intervention with families and juveniles rarely occurs. Law enforcement, probation and social services all too often respond to crisis-driven emergencies which may be too late to provide services to avoid trauma, and/or support and maintain the existing family structure. This frequently results in the initiation of dependency proceedings, removing children from the home and failing to address the trauma that can so often lead to minors failing to attend school and subsequently committing law violations.

Mendocino County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Kendall is a Mendocino County native whose family has lived in the area since the 19th century, so he has strong ties to the community he serves. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has approximately 90 deputies on the force (47 serving in custody assignments and 43 on patrol). While they do not have deputies assigned to schools, the Sheriff's Office makes it a regular practice to make visits to local schools, and they create positive relationships with both youth and staff. Sheriff Kendall also has a good relationship with the Probation Department Chief and his Department. In terms of things that are working well in Mendocino County, the Sheriff's Office noted the schools have a wide variety of clubs, teams, and activities that can act as a diversion from gangs, drugs, and delinquency. The Alex Rorabaugh Recreation Center was also identified as an example of the positive programs available for youth in the area.

The Sheriff's Office would like to see more prevention type programs, both for youth and their parents so they have the information they need to stay out of the juvenile justice system. Law enforcement has concerns about how many young people are unsupervised and without much parental guidance leaving these youth vulnerable to gangs who can act as surrogate families. The Sheriff's Office would like to see programming that reaches students in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades to talk about drugs as drug use is a contributor to the increased incidence of mental illness among youth. Further, drug programming efforts are needed to address the attitude that marijuana is harmless and to education on the fact drugs are stronger than they have been in the past, both more lethal and more addictive. Finally, the Sheriff's Office would like to see that any investments in juvenile justice programming be assessed to be sure they are effective in actually reducing juvenile crime.

Ukiah Police Department

The Ukiah Police Department has a police force of approximately 30 sworn officers, one of which is assigned as a School Resource Officer (SRO). The SRO assists with juvenile issues at over eight (8) local schools in the immediate area. There is gang activity within our jurisdiction as well as in other parts of the County. The SRO assists Mendocino County Probation with the teaching of the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training). Our department also supports MAGSU (Multi-Agency Gang

Suppression Unit). The Ukiah Police Department has seen an increase in illegal firearms being recovered, some being “ghost guns” in possession of juveniles. The major issues for our jurisdiction related to delinquency are truancy, vandalism, use of drugs and alcohol, and marijuana related crimes. Our department would like to see more options available to curtail truancy, which often leads to a path of negative behavior. The Ukiah Police Department sees value in having access to both a local and secure facility to ensure public safety in incidents such as these.

The Ukiah Police Department would like to see more efforts to combat juvenile on-line bullying as well as continued efforts to help those who are experiencing mental health concerns. We desire preventative methods to assist juveniles and their families with mental health treatment and substance abuse prevention. It should be noted that there continues to be an increased use of fentanyl and other narcotics within the County. The combination of gang activity, mental health diagnoses and a higher than usual consumption of drugs and alcohol is of great concern to all system stakeholders interested in reducing the impact of juvenile delinquency.

Mendocino County Public Defender

The Public Defender’s Office has one Deputy Public Defender assigned to Juvenile. The county’s strong sense of collaboration is a recognized strength for the Mendocino County juvenile justice system. The Public Defender’s office feels the team of Deputy Probation Officers are very dedicated and that Chief Locatelli is an excellent collaborator and problem solver who is open to discussing anything. The Public Defender’s Office feels that the Probation Department, Public Defender and District Attorney staff all work well together.

In term of supports necessary to help youth in their system, the Public Defender’s Office would like to see a continuum of services that helps to connect young people from their time in custody back into the community. There is a need for a position that would act as a social worker for youth in the community, eliminating barriers to receiving services such as transportation and lack of follow-through. There has been an increase in violence connected to gangs, which is believed to be in part due to youth not having pro-social activities as alternatives. Programs like athletics, martial arts, or

ones that connect youth to working with animals, or classes at a community college; anything that might give youth a different perspective would be beneficial. However, staff from those programs need to have local connections and they must be people who youth can connect with in order to be effective. Additionally, there is a need for counseling services to be trauma-informed. The Public Defender's Office would like to see more local intermediate services, i.e., when the juveniles are released from custody and are either pending cases or have been sentenced, for mental health, drug and alcohol programs, and the like. As it currently stands, the county has no options but to send the juveniles out of county when they cannot be safely returned home and they need such services. Other counties have ranches and camps and ours has nothing similar.

Mendocino County District Attorney

The District Attorney's Office has one Deputy District Attorney assigned to Juvenile Court. The District Attorney's Office believes their Juvenile Court has the right focus towards the rehabilitation of the youth who come before it and that all of the parties involved work well together. There is plenty of communication between Probation, Public Defender, the Court, and their office and this helps to facilitate positive outcomes. The Court is consistent in that they do not often see vastly different dispositions for youth with similar circumstances. Finally, the District Attorney's Office commended the Court for being diligent in following the necessary rules and procedures under juvenile law.

The District Attorney's Office sees the lack of available and accessible services as being a challenge for their juvenile justice system. Even when a necessary treatment service is available, it can be difficult to access for a family that lives far away from where it is offered. For example, Fort Bragg is a remote location that does not have access to all of the services that a child living in the inland section of Mendocino County would have. There is also a need for more services being available for youth who are testing positive for serious drugs such as methamphetamine.

Mendocino County Behavioral Health

Dr. Jenine Miller oversees the mental health and substance use services in Mendocino County. BHRS provides Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT) counseling services and mental health services to youth in Juvenile Hall.

BHRS provides support and services for the people of Mendocino County whose lives are affected by serious mental illness and substance use. BHRS strives to:

- Deliver services in a respectful, responsive, and efficient manner with sensitivity to cultural diversity;
- Educate ourselves, individuals, families and the community about mental health, substance use, and the hopeful possibilities of treatment and recovery;
- Offer a culturally competent, gender responsive, trauma informed system of care for adults and adolescents while striving to meet linguistic challenges; and
- Utilize holistic, person-centered recovery; promote healthy behaviors through prevention and treatment strategies.

BHRS SUDT programs assist participants who have substance use disorders to create and maintain a healthy, balanced lifestyle, free of alcohol and other drug abuse. SUDT also focuses on co-occurring diagnoses. Services are also available to all youth needing or wanting services within Mendocino County. In order to assist participants to make positive changes in their lives, staff utilize evidence-based curricula.

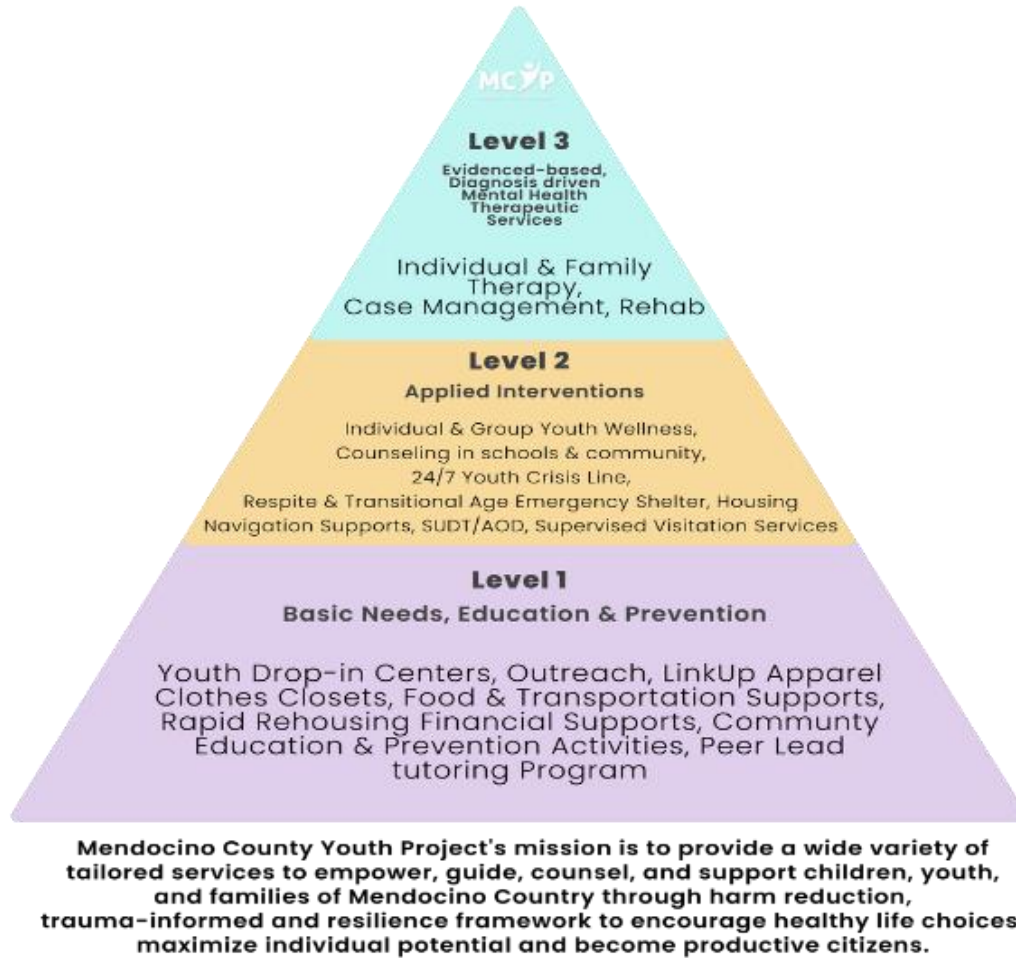
BHRS is also focused on community outreach and education on suicidal ideation, fentanyl, methamphetamine, bullying, overdose prevention, Narcan distribution, substance use awareness, mental health awareness, and reduction of stigma and discrimination.

Mendocino County Youth Project (MCYP)

MCYP has been serving the community since 1974, originally as a program to address the needs of youth in the juvenile probation system. Today, it operates as a Joint Powers Agency comprised of Mendocino County School Districts, city government and Mendocino County Probation and Juvenile Hall. MCYP is a Certified Trauma Informed Agency, providing a range of services using a Public Health Model of titrated care, based on individuals' unique needs and goals with the mission to empower, guide, and counsel children, youth, and families. The agency is funded through local contracts,

Medi-Cal, and grant funding at the local, state, and federal levels. Among the services they provide are the following:

MENDOCINO COUNTY YOUTH PROJECT'S PUBLIC HEALTH MODEL – SYSTEM OF CARE



In addition to the already high level of trauma and risk factors as evidenced by the higher-than-normal ACE scores experienced by residents of Mendocino County, the ramifications of COVID-19 include the loss of people close to youth due to complications of COVID-19 and increased incidences of suicide and substance use/overdose; particularly due to the crisis level use of opioids, fentanyl and benzodiazepines. The inability to access supportive services (Social Services, Community Based organizations, etc.) and the closure of schools increased social isolation and has prevented the ability to identify children and families experiencing or at risk of child abuse, neglect and other victimization types. The remote areas of the county experience some of the highest rates of isolation. Loss of income in combination

with an already housing crisis has led to higher rates of homelessness, couch surfing, and doubling up. As we moved to re-opening, we saw increased rates of academic challenges, substance use, violence, and high acuity mental health challenges as well as extreme dysfunction and emotional overwhelm within family systems including those who previously functioned at higher levels with more protective factors. In addition to higher level needs than ever, the county is experiencing extreme shortages of Mental health providers, and human service professionals, impacting the education system, juvenile justice, and the community.

MCYP would like to see an increased county-wide effort of creative solutions to attract mental health providers to the community as well as efficient use of available human services through the public health model; to ensure that the level of support is adequate and in alignment with the level of support needed for the individual to improve their well-being and to ensure that our counties capacity to provide high-level services is utilized as efficiently as possible, despite the crisis level shortage of Mental Health Professionals. MCYP supports an increase in focus on prevention and early intervention services to decrease instances of juvenile offenses and a robust continuum of care, especially in this time of Therapeutic Service provider scarcity, in which both Mental health and para-professional support within the Juvenile Justice System of Care, is available to youth in Juvenile Hall while detained, and that as youth exit the system of care, para-professional services such as case management and success coaching is provided to support their reintegration into the community including navigation of the probation requirements, and support to address family system challenges. Through this tiered system of support, access to supportive services is based on individuals' needs to ensure services needed are available with the goal to decrease instances of repeat offenses and increase functioning and well-being.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

CASA is a nation-wide, volunteer-led effort to provide support to youth in both the dependency and delinquency system. Volunteers undergo extensive training, take oath in the Juvenile Courts, assigned to a youth through the Courts and work with their assigned youth as an advocate and often also appointed as the Educational Rights Holder/Developmental Holder for that youth. Mendocino County's CASA agency has a

long history of collaborating with the Probation Department. CASA advocates recall when the Juvenile Hall facility was able to provide a full continuum of services for youth who were detained there. They would like to see a return to that level of support for youth. CASA also feels the lack of willingness to seriously respond to the delinquent behavior of youth from the dependency system as a major issue for their community. They believe that the lack of accountability sends a poor message to especially the offending youth. CASA is also concerned about the lack of experience of some Probation Department staff who work with youth. When asked about the strengths of the system, they both referenced how the community responded to calls to close Mendocino County's Juvenile Hall facility. The County had seriously considered this option until community members appeared at meetings to object. This is just one example of the level of community concern and support for our Juvenile Justice system.

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDP)

The JJDP is state-mandated by legislation in California's Welfare and Institutions Code, and a JJDP exists in every county of California. The role of the JJDP includes the following:

- Oversee juvenile justice facilities in the county to ensure that juveniles residing at any county institution or publicly operated juvenile institution are treated fairly and are living in conditions that are safe and clean, and provide healthy food, support, and encouragement (this function of the Commission requires yearly inspections of such facilities)
- Support and encourage individuals, organizations, and institutions that further the work of providing effective, evidence-based practices to help youth stay out of the juvenile justice system
- Encourage coordination and integration of services where possible
- Enhance opportunities for youth success at school and in the community

In March of 2024, the Mendocino County Superior Court and Mendocino County Board of Supervisors concluded their collaborative efforts to transition the JJDP to the Superior Court for administration and recruitment of the commissioners/committee.

The JJDP continues to be interested in finding means and ways to encourage our community to understand the outcomes and effects of trauma on children and youth, and to implement programming that is pro-social and brings together the human service community families, schools and youth. Such efforts may be developing then

mounting a public campaign to raise awareness about the needs of youth in our community prior to involvement as well as those in the juvenile justice system in the hopes of having more community members pitch in to provide support.

The JJDPC worked with CASA and other organizations to bring about an online resource tool, 24/7Help, which will put the youth and family resources in this County on-line for quick self-help and referrals. Commissioners have met with law enforcement representatives to share this concept and gain what first responders could use when they are out in the field.

Mendocino County Social Services

Director of Social Services DeNeese Parker oversees the County's Social Services Department which includes child welfare, employment and family assistance, and adult and aging services. Social Services appreciates Chief Locatelli's willingness to partner with their department and believes the cohesive way their departments work together will benefit youth and families. Social Services acknowledged the Probation Department for its efforts to provide rehabilitative services and support to youth and families. The Department's efforts in education were also commended, citing their efforts in the school which allows students to earn credits quickly and with the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). The Juvenile Hall facility is an excellent resource for a rural county; families living in other jurisdictions that do not have their own juvenile hall face barriers to visiting their children once they are detained and Social Services appreciates Chief Locatelli's efforts to maintain family connections with youth.

In terms of gaps, Social Services would like to see more resources allocated to both prevention and treatment services. Early interventions are key to shifting the way we structure resources to meet the needs of families and youth in our community. Additionally, more collaboration between all partners is needed to address the complex needs of youth and an expansion of response options including our tribal partners.

Ukiah Unified School District

Mr. Iversen expressed his appreciation for the efforts of both the Ukiah Police and Mendocino County Probation Departments to hire compassionate staff, some of whom have local ties. He said their ability to create relationships with young people has been

critical in reducing delinquency. He reflected on one serious incident of violent crime that local law enforcement solved due to a young person's trusting relationship with an officer. Mr. Iversen also feels optimistic about the new cadre of agency leaders who are bright and committed.

Regarding the needs of Mendocino County's juvenile justice system, Ukiah Unified School District (UUSD) would like to see efforts made to deal with gangs, truancy, and drug use. Although gang activity is not as intense as it had been some 20 years ago, it is still concerning and UUSD believes intervening to stop young people from being involved is important. They credit the many youth enrichment and activity programs in the community and at UUSD and the "Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.)" program for the progress. UUSD is extremely thankful for the support that Ukiah Police Department and Juvenile Probation provide with the GREAT Program. Juvenile Probation has become the major sponsor of the program and Ukiah Unified is truly grateful for their help.

UUSD also feels that truancy significantly contributes to young people's delinquency, and they would like to see more efforts made to combat truancy. Once a child stops going to school, getting them back on track is very difficult.

UUSD believes addressing drug use in Mendocino County is also important. This problem is particularly challenging in a rural county where the harvesting of marijuana is so common. The belief espoused by some that marijuana use is not a significant problem for young people is also concerning. One by-product of the marijuana culture that exists in their community is that the use of methamphetamine increases during the trimming season to boost a worker's capacity to harvest the plants. This is just one example of how pernicious the marijuana issue can be for Mendocino County youth.

Finally, the prevalence of fentanyl in our community and the accessibility of drugs and alcohol through the internet and social media platforms are also pressing concerns that warrant further discussion. Mendocino County students are already struggling to meet their basic needs, including access to food, housing, and stable social support.

However, by addressing issues such as gang activity, truancy, and drug use, UUSD believes we can provide our children with the necessary resources to thrive.

Describe what approach will be used to facilitate collaboration among the organizations listed above and support the integration of services.

Mendocino County has a history of collaborating with stakeholders across youth and family services, education, therapeutic, and rehabilitative platforms in conjunction with youth advocates, attorneys, law enforcement agencies and the dependency and juvenile justice courts. Examples include stakeholder participation in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, Transition Plan Committee meetings, and Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) hearings.

Further, in April of 2021, Mendocino County finalized a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Interagency Leadership Team (ILT) pursuant to the requirements of AB 2083. The mission includes an awareness of and a commitment to incorporate the foster youth experience and voice into county level collaborations and partnerships that manage or oversee the delivery of services.

Additionally, in May of 2023, Mendocino County became a dual jurisdiction county, allowing youth who have petitions in both the dependency and juvenile justice courts to be declared a dual status youth, the benefits of receiving simultaneous services and case management efforts from both the Probation Department and Family and Children Services.

B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas

Identify and prioritize the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas of the county that face the most significant public safety risk from juvenile crime.

Mendocino County's juvenile justice system faces a significant challenge in addressing the needs of those youth and families who are referred in a time of minimal resources. Significant issues such as gang involvement, drug and alcohol abuse, and mental illness afflict certain areas of Mendocino County. Although the primary communities where juvenile delinquency is most concentrated are in Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Willits, there are issues throughout the region. While the total number of juvenile offenders has been reduced considerably since this grant funding became available, the complexity, severity, and need for services of many of them have all increased.

C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy

Describe your county's juvenile justice action strategy. Include an explanation of your county's continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency as well a description of the approach used to ensure a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

The primary issues facing the Mendocino County juvenile justice system are increases in violent crime, disproportionately committed by gang-involved Latino youth, mental health diagnoses and use of drugs and alcohol. In order to address them, the Probation Department has adopted a strategy that emphasizes the following:

- Increase capacity of the juvenile justice system to be able to respond to violation with a range of sanctions
- Provide a range of services available to address gang activity
- Provide a continuum of treatment services, including trauma-informed approaches, to addressing issues such as mental illness and drug and alcohol use, in the community and restrict the referral of children outside of the County for treatment services to the bare minimum possible

The use of graduated sanctions is a best practice in juvenile corrections, and it assumes a continuum of options is available to respond to incidents of delinquency. It holds that, for example, secure detention is not always the best recourse, particularly for first-time offenders at low risk of re-offending and whose behavior does not represent a threat to public safety. Indeed, detaining such youth in a secure facility with more sophisticated, higher-risk peers, can actually increase the likelihood of recidivism. In addition, not all sanctions must be a form of punishment; it may make sense to use a referral for treatment services as a response to a violation of some kind in lieu of detention. Consequences are necessary for a given violation, but that consequence does not necessarily have to be a punishment. Mendocino County shall ensure that alternatives are available when responding to a child's delinquency and that the response is proportional and appropriate for a given behavior.

Gang activity in Mendocino County is sufficiently concerning that it requires the coordination of a variety of agencies and disciplines to address. The underlying causes for a child to consider participating in a gang are complex and variable; a system's response has to be multi-disciplinary in order to be successful. Activities must be performed at both the prevention and suppression ends of the spectrum. Mendocino County has a "Multi-Agency Gang Suppression Unit (MAGSU)" which is a collaborative effort of law enforcement agencies that respond to criminal behavior deemed to be gang related. The County shall also provide prevention services to reduce the number of youth who are interested in becoming gang involved.

Mendocino County provides a continuum of services through the Probation Department, County Behavioral and Recovery Services Department, and community-based providers, including but not limited to:

- Traffic and Diversion Hearings
- Restorative Justice Youth Court
- Youth Success Coaching
- Life Skills Training
- Positive Parenting Program
- Wellness Recovery Action Plan
- Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Anger Management

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- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
 - IMPACT
 - San Luis Obispo Coastal Valley Academy

D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions

Describe how your Plan has been updated for this year.

Mendocino County updated the plan this year to include a full fiscal year of funding the Restorative Justice Youth Court. This program originally started as a pilot program through the awarded BSCC Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Cohort 2. The grant expired in October of 2024 and the remaining FY 2024/2025 programming was funded through the Juvenile Justice Consolidated Plan, maintaining the diversion option for our youth.

Additionally, Mendocino County Probation Department has partnered with the Mendocino County Office of Education on their Snack Pack Program. A program providing homeless students food packs containing non-perishable goods for the weekend.

If your Plan has not been updated this year, explain why no changes to your plan are necessary.

Not applicable.

Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))

A. Information Sharing and Data

Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate the sharing of data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how those data are used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.

Mendocino County Probation currently utilizes Justware a Journal Technologies case management system; however, the department is in the midst of transitioning over to Enterprise Supervision (E-SUP) a Tyler Technologies case management system. The new case management system is scheduled to go-live on March 31, 2025. Transitioning case management systems will provide improved features for data collection currently not an option with Justware. The new E-SUP platform will have the capability of interfacing with Mendocino County Superior Court Odyssey case management system and the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office Karpel case management system.

Additionally, E-SUP will interface with Noble Software Group which Mendocino County Probation uses for a suite of assessment tools in juvenile including, the Detention Risk Assessment (DRAI) and the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). There will also be a portal between E-SUP and service providers for referrals, progress reports and programming communication and outcomes.

B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils

Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code 749.22?

Yes.

If no, please list the current vacancies that exist on your JJCC, when those vacancies occurred, and your plan for filling them.

Not applicable.

C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

Describe each program, strategy and/or system enhancement that will be supported with the funding from JJCPA, identifying anything that is co-funded with Youthful Offender Block (YOBG) funding.

Program Name: Youth IMPACT

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

This program incorporates Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) a manualized, cognitive-behavioral intervention for reducing risk for criminal recidivism by targeting criminogenic needs; in particular, reducing criminal thinking and criminal associations.

Description:

Youth Impact is a diversion program managed by the Probation Department that seeks to provide youth with an opportunity to consider their behavior and choices, to learn to set and achieve goals and to promote positive development. In addition to those components, there is a physical conditioning element of the program. In addition, Youth Impact participants will also take part in the MRT curriculum as part of their completing the program.

Program Name: Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT)

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) is an evidence-based and effective gang and violence prevention program built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curricula.

Description:

The Program is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership for children in the years immediately before the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behavior. Deputy Probation Officers, whom are certified GREAT instructors, teach the program curriculum at elementary and middle schools throughout the county in partnership with the Ukiah Police Department. Upon completion of the program, students participate in a graduation ceremony and receive a certificate of program completion.

Program Name: Restorative Justice Youth Court

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

The Restorative Justice Youth Court (RJYC) is a strength-based, youth driven diversion program.

Description:

Restorative Justice Youth Court gives youth cited for delinquent or criminal behavior, an opportunity to be tried by a jury of their peers and take accountability for their actions, repair relationships, engage with their communities in meaningful ways and provides an alternative to juvenile justice court.

Program Name: Snack Pack Program

Evidence Upon Which It is Based:

Evidence suggests that student food programs positively impact student health, academic performance, and overall well-being, especially for vulnerable populations.

Description:

This funding aids in providing homeless students food packs containing non-perishable goods for the weekend. Many Mendocino County students qualify for free and reduced lunches over the course of the school year, yet many of those same students may not be getting regular meals on the weekends or over vacations. This program allows students to take home a “Snack Pack” to ensure they are fed over the weekend, and are returning to school Monday morning, ready to learn.

Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)

(Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))

A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders

Describe your county’s overall strategy for dealing with non-707(b) youthful offenders who are not eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice. Explain how this Plan relates to or supports that strategy.

Mendocino County’s strategy for non 707(b) offenders is to continue to assess, identify gaps and provide a range of treatment services and sanctions to address youth individual needs.

B. Regional Agreements

Describe any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported with YOBG funds.

Mendocino County currently has an agreement with San Luis Obispo County Coastal Valley Academy (CVA).

C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements

Describe the programs, placements, services, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded through the YOBG program. Explain how they complement or coordinate

with the programs, strategies, and system enhancements to be funded through the JJCPA program.

Program Name: Juvenile Hall Mental Health Clinician

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County's action strategies.

Description:

This funding supports a .20 FTE Mental Health Counselor for residents of Juvenile Hall. The counselor provides crisis intervention assessments, counseling and case management to help change negative behaviors, and in turn, to not re-offend. These services are provided via a contract with a community-based organization (CBO), Mendocino County Youth Project (MCYP). This funding also supports a .50 FTE Mental Health Clinician for residents of Juvenile Hall. The mental health treatment services are provided by Mendocino County Behavioral Health Recovery Services. The Mental Health Clinician and MCYP staff collaborate on the development of youth treatment plans.

Program Name: Peaceful Warrior Project

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County's action strategies.

Description:

The Peaceful Warrior Aikido program will work with youth referred from the juvenile justice system who are in need of a pro-social activity. This program has experience working with youth who have experienced trauma and will provide them with coping skills to navigate challenges.

Program Name: Electronic Monitoring

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County's action strategies.

Description:

The Probation Department will use Electronic Monitoring as an evidence-based graduated sanction and/or detention alternative for a carefully selected group of youth identified by our evidence-based assessment tool as either: (1) high-risk-to-re-offend; (b) moderate-risk-to-re-offend; and (c) placement risk. The program will allow for the youth's placement in their home, if appropriate, or placement with a family member or foster home within their community. Thus, placement disruption will be minimal, and continuity of care can be maintained. It will also be used as a court-ordered release condition.

Program Name: Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT)

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County's action strategies.

Description:

The Probation Department implemented the PACT assessment in 2009-10. An assessment is completed at disposition for all probationers. During the first year of using the PACT, it became apparent that data collection and data entry related to the assessment is very time consuming and the Probation Officers were spending many hours on these tasks that would otherwise have been spent delivering direct services to juvenile probationers. This funding will be used to fund one .25 FTE Legal Secretary to assist with data collection, data entry, case plans, and other clerical assistance related to the assessment process, cost of Deputy Probation Officers to perform risk assessments, our annual license fee, support and training costs for the PACT assessment tool.

Program Name: The Council for Boys and Young Men

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County’s action strategies.

Description:

Staff are trained to deliver The Council, a group model focused on promoting boys’ safe and healthy development through pre-teen and adolescent years. The model is a strengths-based approach that is informed by adolescent brain development, trauma responsive and restorative practices, masculinity research, rites of passages, and Relational-Cultural theory. The curriculum utilized validated, evidence-based approaches including motivational interviewing, gender norms transformative strategies, resiliency and assets development, and culturally responsive approaches.

Program Name: Interactive Journaling

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County’s action strategies.

Description:

This is an evidence-based practice that assists young people in the process of making lasting and positive changes in their lives. The Change Companies’ program utilizes motivational interviewing, structured expressive writing and cognitive behavioral therapy in its approach.

Program Name: GEO Reentry Services

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County’s action strategies.

Description:

GEO Reentry Services facilitates groups in Juvenile Hall utilizing the Change Companies Forward Thinking interactive workbooks, such as *What Got Me Here?* and *Handling Difficult Feelings*.

Program Name: Juvenile Hall Garden Project**Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County's action strategies.

Description:

The project aims to introduce youth to sustainable and organic gardening practices that can be used to grow food in backyards. Some produce is used to provide nutritional workshops to youth increasing their understanding of nutrition, how it affects the body and making health food choices. The garden will be a welcoming space that encourages youth to not just sow the seeds of herbs and vegetables, but to sow the seeds of community and giving. The project helps youth to develop pro-social skills, self-esteem, and give them a feeling of community spirit.

Program Name: LexisNexis Risk Solutions**Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County's action strategies.

Description:

Probation utilizes Accurint® for Law Enforcement through LexisNexis a comprehensive database of public records that expedites the identification of family members. The instant access reduces the time to locate relatives and allows for quicker placement of youth.

Program Name: San Luis Obispo Coastal Valley Academy (CVA)

Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:

This program works in conjunction with our JJCPA programming as a consolidated approach in addressing Mendocino County’s action strategies.

Description:

Coastal Valley Academy (CVA) is a custody commitment camp program located at San Luis Obispo Juvenile Hall for 14–17-year-old male and female youth who are moderate to high risk and in need of residential treatment. The camp program is completely separated in programming from the juvenile hall detained youth. Youth receive intensive case management, treatment, and educational services through collaboration with a local treatment provider, Family Care Network, and the County Office of Education. CVA staff are trained in Comprehensive and Substance Abuse curriculums designed by the University of Cincinnati and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Groups are facilitated by both treatment staff and CVA Probation Officers. Youth participate in pro social activities, including off-site activities, community service projects, and home passes.