



COUNTY OF SOLANO

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Christopher Hansen
Chief Probation Deputy Officer

Dean Farrah
Superintendent

To: Office of Youth and Community Restoration
From: Dean J. Farrah, Superintendent
Solano County Probation
cc: Christopher Hansen, Chief Probation Officer
Solano County Probation
Date: April 19, 2022
Re: Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan

On March 15, 2022, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) requested the Solano County Probation Department provide the following:

- Please provide disaggregated demographic and offense data for all of your youth with 707(b) and/or 290.008 offenses for 2019, 2020, and 2021 (if already available)
- Please provide the disaggregated placements for all of your youth with 707(b) offenses and/or 290.008 offenses [e.g., placed in juvenile hall, ranch, home etc.] for 2019, 2020, and 2021 (if already available)
- We invite you to provide further details, if you desire, on the facility improvements that you are making to accommodate youth in the secure track who will be subject to longer commitments, including the longer-term plans outlined in your capital improvement plan.
- For your 2023 plan, please work with your subcommittee to expand on your strategies for reducing transfer out of the juvenile court and your data collection and outcome measures. We would be happy to offer assistance in these areas and to join any subcommittee discussions.

In response, Solano County has provided (attached) disaggregated demographic and offense data with an overview for each year requested, with redacted data sorted by date of referral and followed by the requested placement information. The requested placement information is cumulative of 2019, 2020, and 2021, due to the length of time, overlapping years and with consideration of the low numbers. Disposition data was counted per youth, not per count, and the highest level of involvement in the system was selected to reflect the outcome for the youth. Should further refinement of any data be requested, Solano County Probation will work with OYCR to meet the request.

Facility improvements are ongoing. Solano County secured grant funding to support the installation of Wi-Fi capability throughout the facility. This addition will support the use of Edovo tablets and increase programming and educational opportunities. The recent completion of the Construction Trades Classroom provides youth with the opportunity to develop skills within the facility. The new classroom features eight workstations that include occupational safety, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, masonry, concrete, drywall, roof framing and woodworking. Students already receive academic learning, but this is

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an opportunity to receive credit towards high school graduation as well as an opportunity to receive the National Center of Construction Education and Research Safety Certification.

The Probation Department has purchased new furnishings for individual rooms and common areas. Furnishings are less institutional and are intended to soften the environment for the longer periods of detention. Individual desk and shelving units, as well as upgraded mirrors are scheduled for installation. A significant amount of exercise equipment (treadmills, exercise bikes, and others) has been purchased and will be set up in the secondary classroom that has furnishings for a wellness area that can also be utilized for small groups and programming.

Solano County and the Probation Department continue to refine future modifications for the facility and the site through the Juvenile Detention Facility Campus Utilization Assessment project. Elements of the project are already underway. The contract for painting of the individual youth rooms is currently in the bid process. The Probation Department worked with consultants to select paint colors evidenced to be calming and less institutional. This work is scheduled to be completed Summer 2022. Additionally, orders were submitted for the facility security control upgrade project to add additional cameras to the educational and recreation areas for the designated secure track youth housing pod.

As part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the County is currently designing an option for transitional housing on the facility site. The addition of a modular building on site, provides non-secure transitional living and program space to assure access to services and support for a successful return to the community. Youth will have their own living space, shared kitchen, common living area, and programming areas. The Probation Department continues to refine the transitional housing plan and will seek anticipated grant funding opportunities to support this project in the 2022-23 fiscal year. Formal updates related to facility improvements in the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan are still subject to subcommittee approval and presentation to the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

Regarding reducing transfers out of the juvenile court, Solano County has been conservative in the use of direct file motions and transfer hearings. While each case is reviewed on a case by case basis, the attached data will reflect that the District Attorney's office has acted judiciously when evaluating which cases to put forth for transfer hearings, and the Probation Department recommendations reflect a commitment to addressing behaviors locally when possible. The vast majority of 707(b) offenses were being addressed with local options prior to the introduction of SB 823. There is no intent, nor plan to alter from this already established practice. This item will be on the agenda for the next subcommittee meeting and Solano County appreciates the offer of OYCR participation in discussions, and requests that OYCR share information on promising practices utilized in other counties for potential implementation.

Data continues to be a focus for growth for the department. An internal workgroup has proposed a Juvenile Data Project Plan that includes the establishment of a committee to review existing reports and develop new reports per the need of the Juvenile Division supervisors. Another goal is to establish a consistent methodology to record and measure programs and services including service and program referrals, dosage, individual outcomes by program or service, and measuring outcomes by program facilitator (Quality Assurance). Additionally, the group will establish a methodology for evaluating assessment tools, demographics and identify a process for evaluating risks and needs of clients. Lastly, the department is seeking to expand the existing relationship with a local evaluator to assist in the establishment of outcome measures. Again, some of these elements will require subcommittee approval and presentation to the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council prior to any formal updates to the Juvenile Justice Realignment plan.

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