

Youth Diversion Program

Cultures of Collaboration (CoC) Model

**Diversion happens BEFORE a youth “touches the system” —
School referrals + Riverside County Probation referrals → warm handoff to Kindful.**



5-minute overview

Riverside County

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Where Diversion Happens

Referral BEFORE court petition / deeper system involvement

1) School Referral

Counselor / admin / SARB / campus team
Flags risk early + refers youth & family

2) Probation Referral

Pre-petition / ATD / informal supervision
"Redirect" to services instead of deeper processing

3) Kindful Intake

Rapid outreach • consent • assessment
Start Pillar 1 groups + family supports

Key idea: diversion is a DECISION POINT.

If the referral happens early, the outcome changes: fewer arrests, fewer petitions, more stability and opportunity.

What happens at intake (fast + practical):

- Warm handoff with school/probation point-of-contact
- Parent/guardian engagement (or supportive adult)
- Strengths + needs screening (safety, school, home, peer risks)
- Immediate placement into Pillar 1 groups + wraparound supports



Pillar 1: Youth Engagement

Build stability, accountability, and life skills first

Two age bands

Ages 12–15: 56-week cohort
Ages 16–26: condensed 6-week cohort

Core modules (straight to the needs we see in Riverside):

Mindful Kindness: emotional regulation, stress tools, empathy
INSIGHT: introspection into negative choices + accountability plan
Domestic Violence: healthy relationships + prevention
Gang Dissociation / Diversion: identity rebuilding + exit planning
Cultures of Collaboration: leadership, facilitation, peer support intro

SERVICE

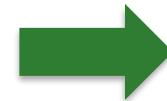
Pillar 1 Outcome: youth leave with a personal change plan + a pro-social support team (family + mentors + partners).

The Pathway: Engagement → Paid Experience → Certification

A diversion model that ends in jobs

Pillar 1

Youth Engagement
(12–26)



Pillar 2

Paid Practicum
(16–26)



Pillar 3

Paid Internship
(18–26)

End Goal: credentials + workforce placement (WIOA-aligned)

Community Health Worker (CHW) pathway (meets CA DHCS criteria)

Medical Peer Support Specialist (MPSS) pathway (CalMHSA-approved training)

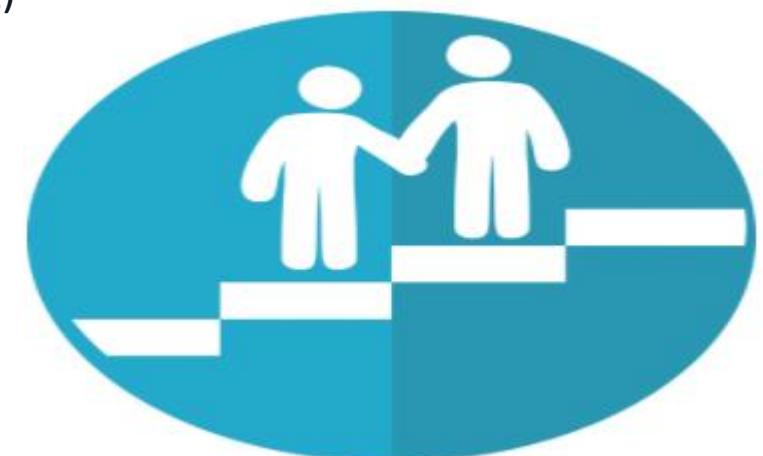
Case-by-case supports for readiness, barriers, and retention

Why this works as diversion:

It replaces “punishment-only” with skills + relationships + paid purpose

It creates a positive identity: youth become helpers, mentors, and leaders

It connects youth to health + housing + workforce supports early



Paid Practicum + Paid Internship

Pillar 2: Youth Peer Mentor Leadership Practicum (16–26)

Paid (example: 25 hrs/week at minimum wage through WIOA or partner grants)

Youth practice group facilitation, peer mentoring, and conflict de-escalation

Hands-on projects tied to Pillar 1 curriculum and community service roles

Certification
Tracks
CHW
MPSS

Pillar 3: Transitional Youth Leadership Internship (18–26)

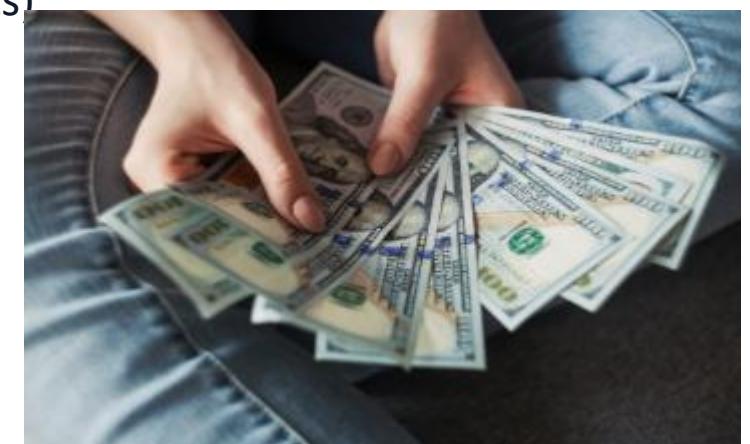
Work-based learning that keeps youth engaged

Paid (example: 25 hrs/week at minimum wage through WIOA or partner grants)

CHW / Peer Support onboarding (ethics, boundaries, documentation)

Shadow navigation + assist with intakes, referrals, outreach, and groups

Career prep: resume, mock interviews, certification paperwork



Wraparound Supports (What Youth & Families Get)

Stability services that reduce risk and increase retention

Core supports available through Kindful Restoration:

Case management + individualized goal plans
Mental health counseling + trauma-informed support
SUD counseling / recovery supports
Anger management + criminal thinking / insight
Domestic violence programming (intervention + advocacy)

Housing navigation + stabilization supports
Employment readiness + job placement supports
Life skills, financial literacy, digital literacy
Transportation coordination + basic needs support
Family support + mentorship + support groups

Weekly coaching + supervision

Meals/snacks during on-site sessions

Barrier busting: transportation, attendance, documentation, referrals

The “retention” strategy:



How Riverside County Schools & Probation Plug In

Simple referral + shared outcomes

1) Set up the referral lane (takes 1–2 meetings):

Name a point-of-contact (school site + probation unit)

Use a short referral form + consent/release process

Weekly or biweekly case staffing (school/probation + Kindful)

2) Measure what matters (5-minute dashboard):

Engagement: enrollment + attendance + completion

School stability: behavior incidents, suspensions, credits, graduation plan

Public safety: reduced contacts/arrests/petitions

Workforce: practicum/internship completion, certifications, job placement



Call to Action: Launch a pilot referral pathway (schools + probation) and begin diverting youth immediately.

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