



Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan

2024





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INTRODUCTION

In 2020, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill 823 (SB 823) with the intent to close Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) state-level facilities and shift the responsibility for all youth committed for long term correctional care. to the counties. Under SB 823, youth who would have previously been eligible for a commitment at DJJ must now instead remain under the care and custody of local Probation Departments and their Juvenile Halls.

SB 823 presented an opportunity to local Probation Departments to create a local, secure rehabilitative program that meets the individual needs of youth who would have otherwise been housed at facilities operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. SB 823 extended the age of local juvenile court jurisdiction to 23 or 25, as specified, and repealed certain provisions that allowed youth to be detained in adult facilities. Under SB 823, any person whose case originated in juvenile court may now remain in a county juvenile facility until they turn 25, in certain circumstances.

In Imperial County, SB 823 individuals will now be able to remain in close proximity to their families, while participating in a secure rehabilitation program operated by the Probation Department, which is currently working in collaboration with local service and treatment providers. Pursuant to SB 823, Imperial County is currently providing safe and secure county-based custody, care and supervision, to eight individuals who would have previously been committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice.

Through Project Phoenix, Imperial County Probation is committed to providing our Secure Track youth with every opportunity to succeed. All our college aged youth are attending classes at Imperial Valley College, including one who will be applying to U.C.L.A.'s School of Engineering this Fall. Other program youth are leaving the facility during the day to attend vocational training in graphic arts, and furloughs for home visits have been instituted as well.

JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT

Welfare & Institutions Code Section(s) 1990-1995 established the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice prior to its closure.

PART 1: SB 823 SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSITION

To be eligible for funding allocations associated with the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program, counties are required to create a subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth. The Imperial County SB 823 Subcommittee is composed of the following members:

Chief Probation Officer (Chair) - **Dan Prince**, Chief Probation Officer



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Phone Number: 442-265-2401

District Attorney's Office Representative - **George Marquez**, District Attorney



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Department of Social Services Representative - **Paula Llanas**, Director



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Office of Education Representative - **Monalisa Vitela**, Senior Director



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Community Member Representative - **Marysol Medina**, Rite Track Program Director



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Community Member Representative - **Patricia Urena**, JJC Chair



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Community Member Representative - **Brian Melvin**, New Creations Program Facilitator



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SB 823 Subcommittee Co-Chair

The SB 823 Subcommittee is currently in the process of selecting a co-chair for its SB 823 Subcommittee. A memo has been sent out to suitable candidates for the position and will be interviewed by the Subcommittee Chair prior to final approval of the position by the subcommittee.

Meetings

The SB 823 Subcommittee met on April 17, 2023, and on April 22, 2024, to discuss the Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan.

Plan Approval

The Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan for 2024 was approved by the SB 823 Subcommittee on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Plan Development

The initial Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan was developed through meetings which involved contacted community members and agency representatives coming together through an online zoom session to discuss the eight parts of the JJRBG plan. Community members and agency representatives were then separated into breakout groups, based on their experience in the related parts, to discuss the eight sections in further detail. During these breakout sessions, participants discussed current county programming and services that could be used to target SB 823 youth and suggested ideas for new programs and services that could be developed for incoming SB 823 youth. Once the breakout sections were completed, groups submitted their reports to the Probation Department who then combined each section into a completed plan.

For the 2024 updates to the Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan, the Probation Department reached out to partnering agencies, which included SB 823 subcommittee members, to provide progress updates on current ongoing services and to provide details on any new programming or services provided to SB 823 youth. Similarly to its initial implementation of the plan, the Probation Department gathered all submitted writings and organized them into a single cohesive plan outlined in this document. The final plan was then reviewed and approved by the SB 823 Subcommittee before submission to OYCR.

PART 2: TARGET POPULATION

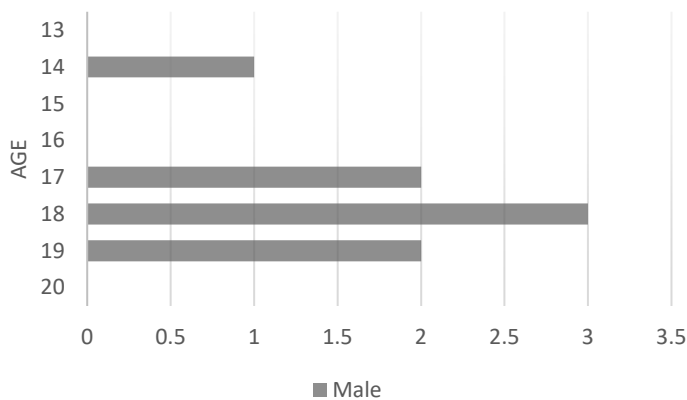
Imperial County will focus on supporting male and female youth, ages 14 up to 25, who have been adjudged a ward of the court. For these youth, their adjudication offense is described in section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and the Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.

The target population will be some of Imperial County’s highest needs youth and will be committed to Imperial County Juvenile Hall (ICJH) as a long-term commitment facility. Within Imperial County Juvenile Hall, there is capacity for up to 10 youth for this purpose.

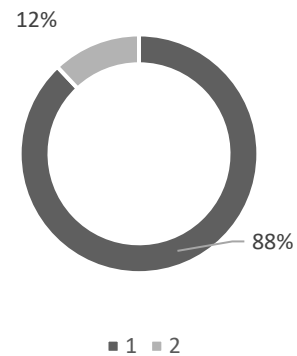
DEMOGRAPHICS

Imperial County anticipates continuing to serve individuals between the ages of 14 to 25 for youth adjudicated offenses that would result in an aggregate sentence of seven or more years in adult court. Currently Imperial County has eight SB 823 youth committed to the secure track youth program, consisting of 8 males.

SB 823 Population Age Breakdown



SB 823 Population Ethnicity Breakdown



The female population is expected to remain low, given the historical commitment data. Absent the opportunity to contract with another county, Imperial County has the necessary amount of living space and services available to accommodate what is expected to be a low number of female commitments.

PART 3: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Imperial County's response to SB 823 is congruent with the mission of its Probation Department, which emphasizes a commitment to enhancing public safety by reducing recidivism, motivating behavioral change, enforcing court orders and advocating for victims. Imperial County Probation is ready to utilize its program and service capabilities to prepare these youth for a safe transition into adulthood using a multi-disciplinary and results driven approach to ensure the decision-making and services rendered to these youth are proactive and aligned with their individual needs.

Imperial County Probation has partnered with local agencies that are invested in providing mentoring, advocacy, and restorative justice opportunities for youth to assist them with their transition into the community and to lead a prosocial lifestyle upon release. The intent is to deliver structured interventions and services within the Juvenile Hall facility, which can continue upon discharge. Furthermore, transitional services may include an option for independent living to vocational opportunities and post-secondary education.

JUVENILE HALL FACILITY

Imperial County Probation currently is using our Honor Dorm to house Project Phoenix youth, while another wing is being re-purposed for the Secure Track population.

Dormitory 5 is the wing being repurposed and equipped to eventually house Project Phoenix youth. This area contains a day room for structured and recreational activities, leading to the outdoor yard of the facility, where large muscle activity can occur in the facility's basketball court, or the new multi-purpose building for additional indoor sports and wellness activities during summer weather. The dormitory includes an additional room, which could be utilized for mental health and/or substance abuse counseling. The nearby facility educational site, Esther Huff School, has two classrooms, of which the general population is taught in one. Realigned youth partake in education services in the remaining classroom. The physical plant has a dining hall, which can comfortably accommodate Project Phoenix youth. The Juvenile Hall Kitchen is staffed by one food supervisor and three cooks that plan and prepare meals based on specific nutritional requirements by the State of California. Overall, improvements are underway to accommodate long-term commitments with emphasis on the safety and protection of the youth given their different ages, genders, and special needs.

CUSTODIAL YOUTH SUPERVISION

To provide rehabilitative services to this realigned population, safety and security is a core tenant. The current staff to youth ratio is 10:1; however, additional Juvenile Hall Officers (JHO) are added to every shift, when possible, for additional support and to enhance the overall facility operations and delivery of services. Juvenile Hall Officers will provide this population supervision and guidance in day-to-day activities and programming.

Officers are trained in both de-escalation techniques as well as crisis prevention and defensive tactics. Shift Supervisors will additionally assist JHO's by providing additional instruction, supervision, and support, to ensure all youths' needs are being met in accordance with departmental policies and procedures.

Juvenile Hall Officers are responsible for providing direct visual observation of youth at a minimum every fifteen minutes, at random or varied intervals during hours when youth are asleep or when youth are in their rooms, confined in holding cells or confined to their bed in a dormitory. Supervision is not replaced, but may be supplemented by, an audio/visual electronic surveillance system designed to detect overt, aggressive or assaultive behavior and to summon aid in emergencies. All safety checks shall be documented with the actual time the check is completed. Additionally, Juvenile Hall Officers will ensure the availability of appropriate counseling and casework services for all youth to assist the youth with needs or concerns that may arise, in making efforts to connect contact with parents, other supportive adults, attorney, clergy, probation officer, or other public official; and to provide the youth with access to available resources to meet the youth's needs.

Accountability and opportunity will be employed in daily supervision efforts, where youth will be held accountable for misbehavior, but also be provided with an opportunity to redirect their negative behavior. Through a point system, youth will be incentivized to conform to juvenile hall rules and regulations and participate in the facility's programming.

An assessment of needs is completed during the youths' admission process with periodic review, which includes the youths' risk factors, needs and strengths including but not limited to, identification of substance abuse history, educational, vocational, counseling, behavioral health, consideration of known history of trauma, and family strengths and needs. Juvenile Hall Officers will be tasked with completing an Institutional Case Plan, which will be developed for each youth held for at least 30 days or more and created within 40 days of admission. The institutional plan shall include the following:

- ❖ Written objectives and time frame for the resolution of problems identified in the assessment.
- ❖ A plan for meeting the objectives includes a description of program resources needed and individuals responsible for assuring that the plan is implemented.
- ❖ Periodic evaluation of progress towards meeting the objectives, including periodic review and discussion of the plan with the youth.
- ❖ A transition plan, of which the contents shall be subject to existing resources.
- ❖ In as much as possible and if appropriate, the plan, including the transition plan, shall be developed with input from the family, supportive adults, youth, County Office of Education Regional Center for the Developmentally Disabled if the youth has needs in this regard.

MEDICAL SERVICES



Medical services at Imperial County Juvenile Hall are currently rendered through an agreement with a third-party provider, NaphCare, who provides on-site staff four hours each day to meet the healthcare needs of detained youth.

NaphCare is responsible for ensuring the provision of emergency and basic healthcare services to all detained juveniles. NaphCare provides all healthcare services, including other ancillary health related services (but specifically excluding dental services and mental health services). Emergency and after-hours services are additionally provided through local community hospitals, El Centro Regional Medical Center and Pioneers Memorial Hospital. For families with private insurance, arrangements can be made to transport youth to those providers' offices.

SB 823 RITE TRACK YOUTH SERVICES



Rite Track Youth Services is a community-based organization that provides a wide array of effective services for youth that are supported by research and evidence-based practices. Since 2009, Rite Track has served over 1,500 court-referred youth and their families. Rite Track provides countless hours of cognitive behavioral therapy, crisis interventions,

family based in home services, linkage to individual therapy, family therapy, substance abuse interventions, mentoring and individual case planning. Services are tailored to the individual needs of the youth and young adults served. Rite Track implements evidence-based concepts in its programming including cognitive behavioral therapy, trauma informed practices and social learning theory. Additionally, Rite Track programs are modeled after best practices that emphasize assessment, staff development, quality assurance, evaluation, and program fidelity.

Rite Track SB 823

In support of the Imperial County Juvenile Justice Realignment plan and implementation of Senate Bill 823 DJJ Realignment Implementation, Rite Track has established a Secure Track (ST) program aimed to serve males and females between 14 and 25 years old, who have been committed to Imperial County Juvenile Hall (ICJH) for longer-term correctional care and services. Secure Track's services align with youths individualized case plans that include intervention programming, family-centered diversion services, cognitive behavioral therapy, mentoring services, workforce training, linkage to employment and transitioning services.

The Secure Track's program services operate utilizing best practices and evidence-based trauma informed practices. Through support, structure and supervision of youth, Rite Track works with the Probation Department and partnering agencies to help reduce high- risk behaviors, prepare the youth for reunification with family members, and assists in the transition back to higher education and job opportunities. transitioning back to their community and preparing for the workforce.

Case Management and Mentoring Services

Utilizing the Rite Track case management model, youth enrolled in Secure Track have access to unique mentoring services and community resources/knowledge. Secure Track youth are linked with a RT mentor who provides them with individual case management services and provides court support, participates in Multi-Disciplinary Student Team (MDST), Child and Family Team (CFTs) meetings and prepares the youth for their release from ICJH.

This year, Secure Track welcomed seven youth who received services while in custody at ICJH. Two youth were released during this program year and went on to receive post release supportive services.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy



Through CBT treatment groups, offered at ICJH twice a week, Secure Track youth gain valuable skills to help improve their quality of life and have access to over 90 sessions of CBT through the following curriculums:

- ❖ Anger Replacement Training (ART)
- ❖ Thinking for a Change (T4C)
- ❖ Seeking Safety
- ❖ Safe Dates

In 2023, 170 hours of CBT were rendered to ST youth while detained at the Imperial County Juvenile Hall where four youth received their certificate of completion for successfully completing ART and T4C.

Workforce Services

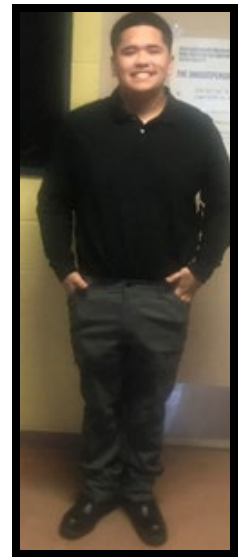
To assist Secure Track youth in establishing financial stability through employment, they will have access to the RISEUP program, a customer service and sales curriculum, as they prepare for their release from ICJH. RISEUP is designed to help youth take their first steps toward promising careers and advancement in the retail industry regardless of their educational backgrounds or economic means. RISEUP provides youth with a three-year

accreditation that covers retail basic knowledge to advanced selling skills and helps job seekers get the skills they need to secure jobs in retail sales.

In 2023, two ST youth earned the opportunity to leave ICJH and job search within their community and one youth received their RISEUP 4-year certification in Customers Service and Sales. Through this hands-on approach youth were provided with the proper work force attire and taken to multiple job sites to apply for employment.

Group Based Workshops

Through group-based learning experiences, Secure Track youth build self-confidence and strong relationships among their fellow peers and mentor. Some of the group-based activities offered to ST youth this year included holiday art projects, art collage projects, and tie dye activities. In addition to the activities, ST youth and RT staff made sure to celebrate important milestones such as ST youth birthdays and traditional holiday meals.



Transitioning/Post-Release Services

Youth who are released from ICJH receive up to six-months of post release follow up. During these follow ups, ST youth received bi-weekly home visits and weekly phone calls from their mentor.

In 2023, two youth successfully enrolled into community college. Both youths received assistance with their FAFSA applications and support from their mentor when meeting with their academic counselors.

Supportive Services



To help promote positive youth outcomes and encourage ST youth to participate in program activities, the ST program provides behavior modification incentives and supportive services. Through supportive services, ST youth have access to immediate support such as but not limited to; transportation services, assistance with school supplies, clothing, vocational clothing, post-secondary education support, copies of birth certificates and assistance in obtaining their driver's license. In 2023, a total of 99 supportive services were rendered to ST youth within the ICJH setting. The top three supportive services provided included 40% behavior modification incentives, 25% meals and 21% additional job-related support.

IMPERIAL COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES



IMPERIAL COUNTY
Behavioral Health Services
 MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY
Hope, Wellness and Recovery

Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS) provides specialty mental health services to high-risk youth who are detained at the Juvenile Hall facility and that meet medical necessity. All incarcerated youth are screened for potential mental health issues by Juvenile Hall staff at the point of admission using the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2). If a need for mental health services is identified, Juvenile Hall staff completes a referral to Imperial County Behavioral Health Services.

All youth referred to Imperial County Behavioral Health Services receive a comprehensive initial assessment by a clinician who makes treatment recommendations. Referrals to ICBHS can also be initiated by Juvenile Hall staff, Probation Officers, or nursing staff at any time during a youth's stay at Juvenile Hall if mental health needs are identified after the youth's admission or if a youth requests services.

During 2023, ICBHS Juvenile Hall Services received 120 referrals and provided the following services:

- ❖ Mental Health Services
- ❖ Targeted Case Management
- ❖ Individual Therapy
- ❖ Medication Support

Part-time psychiatrists provide psychiatric services, medication, and support services to youth at Juvenile Hall. Services include psychiatric evaluations and medication management. ICBHS therapists are also on-call after hours, on weekends and holidays to conduct crisis interventions for those youth who present risk of harm to self or others.

The role of the on-call therapist is to conduct a risk assessment and provide interventions geared towards reducing the potential to harm. The therapist works closely with Juvenile Hall staff to determine the appropriate supervision level for the youth and coordinate further mental health treatment when necessary.

Holistic Outreach Prevention and Engagement (HOPE) Project

The Holistic Outreach Prevention & Engagement (HOPE) Program provides a holistic approach to outreach activities and treatment services. Two key elements of the HOPE Program are the integration of peer support specialists and the inclusion of wellness activities. Individuals ages 13-25 are referred to the HOPE Program after experiencing a psychiatric emergency.

The HOPE staff provide outreach and engagement, mental health services, and linkage to wellness activities. The wellness activities are tailored to the participants' needs and interests, resulting in better quality of care and thereby motivating participants to access services and remain in treatment.

SUD Services - Juvenile Hall

The Adolescent SUD Treatment program provides services that include individual and group counseling to youth detained at the juvenile hall facility. Services are provided by a SUD counselor or therapist who conducts a thorough screening and assessment to determine the youth's treatment needs. Services at juvenile hall include counseling, care coordination, and prevention services. Furthermore, MAT and medication services are provided by psychiatrists specializing in addiction medicine for youth with opioid use disorder and other SUDs. Upon the youths' release from juvenile hall, they are linked to the outpatient SUD Treatment programs, in which they will be assessed to determine the appropriate level of care for ongoing treatment.

Positive Engagement Team (PET)

The Imperial County Behavioral Health Services Positive Engagement Team (PET) Program was incorporated at the Juvenile Hall as a stigma reduction program, utilizing trained dogs to reduce negative feelings, attitudes, beliefs, stereotypes, perception and/or discrimination related to being diagnosed with a mental illness, having a mental illness or seeking mental health services. The goal of the program is to provide mental health services to unserved and underserved individuals in our community by increasing acceptance dignity and equity for individuals with mental illness, and members of their families. PET is intended for children, adolescents, adults and other adults, from culturally diverse groups to create a positive association with mental health services.



IMPERIAL COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



The Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE), Alternative Education program is comprised of Juvenile Court and Community Schools. The Court School is Esther Huff School, located within Imperial County Juvenile Hall.

The Esther Huff School located at Juvenile Hall provides educational services to detained offenders and tailors courses specific to the needs of each student. The school provides pre-assessments and post-assessments that are completed upon enrollment and exit to measure academic progress for all students, as well as maintain and develop individual education plans as necessary.

IMPERIAL VALLEY DESERT MUSEUM

The Probation Department has continued their partnership with the Imperial Valley Desert Museum. The partnership continues to allow youth within juvenile hall to receive educational instruction by the Imperial Valley Desert Museum where they learn about traditional culture and participate in art projects throughout the year. The Desert Museum offers weekly fine arts and culture projects to youth in Juvenile Hall through their “History on the Go” program. The weekly classes included lessons on traditional Kumeyaay culture, science and technology, and earth science activities. Discussions are underway with Museum staff to pilot a Curation Program involving Project Phoenix youth.

Efforts by the Imperial Valley Desert Museum to propagate desert plants to the Salton Sea to prevent evaporation are incorporated into daily lectures. Youth have been able to create sculptures, exterior artworks, and make traditional objects and tools with clay. Youth have additionally engaged in the use of watercolor painting following lectures of desert creatures and plants, displaying their creative expression.

JUVENILE HALL – GARDEN OF DREAMS



The Garden of Dreams was initially presented in 2015 with the goal of offering detained youth the opportunity to learn about the delicate balance between living and surviving through a hands-on application. Currently, the Garden of Dreams continues to strive through the collaboration between the Imperial County Probation Department, the Master Gardener, and the Esther Huff School teachers, where participating youth can learn the importance of

working collaboratively with one another, develop leadership skills, and learn responsibility. The Garden of Dreams facilitates lessons that include creating positive relationships with the environment, creating an understanding of complex and diverse biological ecosystems, creating an understanding of where food comes from, developing experiences through hands-on work, and developing skills that are necessary to tend a garden from seed to harvest. Working in the garden helps youth create lifelong, positive relationships with the environment that foster environmental stewardship and provides a natural opportunity for youth to work across disciplines and across divisions. The circular process from planting to tending and harvesting teaches the participating youth in a practical and visible way and instills in them the values of responsibility, caretaking, patience, and hard work. Funding through YOBG has allowed for purchase of compost, seed, drip irrigation supplies, and safety apparel for youth to work in the garden.

WRAPAROUND SERVICES



Wraparound is a program collaboratively implemented by Behavioral Health Services, Department of Social Services, and Probation, to reduce the risk of out-of-home placement and recidivism by bringing individuals, agencies, and the community together as the decision-making team with the central focus being to meet the needs of the child and family. From the start, a Child and Family Team is formed and works directly with the family as they identify their own needs and strengths. The team develops a service plan that describes specific strategies for meeting the needs identified by the family. The service plan is individualized, with strategies that reflect the child and family's culture and preferences. California Wraparound is intended to allow children to live and grow up in a safe, stable, permanent family environment. Wraparound can be used as an alternative to residential care for justice-involved youth who have complex needs by redirecting funds to provide intervention services instead of sending a youth to a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP).

IMPERIAL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (ICDSS)



In the event youth may be in need of social service assistance upon their release, they are referred to the Imperial County Department of Social Services (ICDSS). ICDSS provides essential basic needs assistance to individuals by connecting them to benefits including General Relief, referrals to Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, among other social service programs. ICDSS services are geared to assist individuals in their reintegration back into society and encourage self-sufficiency thereby reducing recidivism.

PART 4: JUVENILE JUSTICE REALIGNMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Imperial County plans to apply grant funds to address the mental health, sex offender treatment, and related behavioral / trauma-based needs of the target population described in the sections below:

MENTAL HEALTH

Imperial County Behavioral Health Services

Imperial County Behavioral Health Services (ICBHS) will be the primary provider of mental health services on site. Grant funds will be allocated to renew existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Imperial County Probation Department and ICBHS as deemed necessary. In said partnership, ICBHS will provide specialty mental health services to the targeted realigned youth, while detained at the Imperial County Juvenile Hall. Please refer to Part 3 Programs and Services (WIC 1995) (c)(2)) for detailed description of services.

Positive Engagement Team (PET)

The Imperial County Behavioral Health Services Positive Engagement Team (PET) Program was incorporated at the Juvenile Hall as a stigma reduction program, utilizing trained dogs to reduce negative feelings, attitudes, beliefs, stereotypes, perception and/or discrimination related to being diagnosed with a mental illness, having a mental illness or seeking mental health services.

SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT AND SERVICES

Probation utilizes a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist to assess and treat realigned youth, who may be court-ordered to complete sex offender treatment in a manner that is in accordance with regulations and expectations of The California Sex Offender Management Board (CASOMB) and the State Authorized Risk Assessment Tool for Sex Offenders (SARATSO).

The Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool II (JSORRAT-II) provides valuable information to the treating clinician regarding treatment needs and risk factors to be of clinical focus. Other instruments may be employed to assess the success of treatment and to re-evaluate offenders throughout the program to ensure their risks and or needs are being met.

Some sex offenders will be in the low or moderate risk category and for the low-risk population treatment may be contraindicated; however, to maintain current state compliance of one-year minimum of treatment, these individuals may be seen monthly either in a group setting or individually to process psychosocial stressors related to their sex offender status or probation monitoring.

For the individuals for whom group therapy is indicated, they will be seen by the therapist on a weekly basis. The session will be a combination of cognitive behavioral therapy and motivational interviewing to engage the clients at their individual levels for risk and needs. Handouts and homework assignments will be utilized that are focused

on the client's determined risk factors and criminogenic needs identified. Probation is currently in the process of negotiating a contract to service realigned youth with sex-offender treatment needs.

TRAUMA-BASED NEEDS

The Imperial County Probation Department will work diligently to seek agency-wide, ongoing trainings for all staff; specifically Juvenile Hall Officers, in the Trauma Informed Care (TIC) based approach. To help minimize re-traumatization, it is imperative for staff to have an understanding that most of the youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System have experienced a traumatic event at a given point in their lives.

Ideally, a trauma-informed approach to physical environment should begin in strategizing and designing aspects of a facility to produce a supportive environment for youth, staff and families. When planning a new facility is not an option, modifications can be made to make existing facilities less trauma inducing. As probation continues to implement the trauma-informed care approach at juvenile hall, additional modifications to Dormitory Five, (the planned dorm for the realigned population), may be required. Probation is seeking to convert Dormitory Five into a more relaxed setting; thus creating a home-like environment by painting the walls in warm soothing colors and purchase comfortable furniture to encourage social interaction between youth and staff.

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

Imperial County plans to apply grant funds to address and support programs and services that promote healthy adolescent development for the target population described in the section below (WIC 1995 (3) (B)):

Custodial Programming and Services



It is the intent of probation to apply grant funding in support of pro-social, recreational activities that effectively promote healthy adolescent development. Programs and services should be driven by the goals of pro-social skill-building, improving behaviors and overall mental, emotional and physical well-being.

Probation will focus on creating a developmentally appropriate learning setting for the realigned youth in ways that are both constructive and proactive by engaging the youth in services such as, educational, religious, community-volunteer partnerships, recreational and vocational while committed to juvenile hall. Probation is committed to providing effective, adequately scaled, and sustained youth-serving programs for the realigned youth, while targeting rehabilitative needs.

Rite Track Youth Services

Probation has contracted with the Rite Track Youth Services to service the realigned youth during their commitment to juvenile hall. Reference Part 3 for services provided by Rite Track.

College Education

A critical component of helping youth set a path towards long-term success is higher education. Probation has established a partnership with Imperial Valley College (IVC) through their Restorative Justice Program to promote continuance of education to the Project Phoenix youth while committed to juvenile hall. A myriad of online vocational courses are offered at IVC that benefit the realigned youth and ensure a successful transition back to the community.

Mental Health Services

Mental health services offered at the Imperial County Juvenile Hall have been outlined in Part 3 Section (WIC 1995 (c)(2)). In addition, should the need to contract with a private practitioner transpire due to complex cases, probation will utilize grant funding to meet Project Phoenix youths' mental health and rehabilitative needs, on an as needed basis.

Substance Abuse Services

As a result of a recent partnership, the Imperial County Behavioral Health Services- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Clinic will service the realigned population during their commitment to Juvenile Hall. Services offered to the realigned youth will consist of conducting assessments for determination of level of care, individual counseling sessions, case management, Medication-Assisted Treatment (if necessary), linkage to drug and alcohol residential treatment programs, medical physical exams and linkage to mental health services.

Religious Services

Religious Services offered to the youth at the juvenile hall are provided by New Creations Ministries and other outreach with group services and individual bible studies offered at varying times throughout the week. on a voluntary basis.

Incentivized Programming

The Honor Dorm Program is an incentivized program that will be offered to the realigned youth with the intent to encourage satisfactory, orderly conduct in the facility. The program consists of a "point-system" in which realigned youth will have the potential to earn points during the week based on good behavior. As a reward, realigned youth intended to participate will be given the opportunity to spend quality leisure time in the Honor Dorm, which simulates a home-like environment with the option of a commissary unit where realigned youth may purchase food, snacks and/or hygiene products. Not only is this program intended to incentivize good conduct for the realigned youth, but also, encourages youth to strengthen social skills by interacting with other youth in a

positive, pro-social activity. Through grant funding Probation will replenish the commissary on an on-going basis and items to reward youth to encourage participation in programming and achievement of behavioral goals.

Fitness Program

Physical activity is an essential component in promoting healthy adolescent development. Exercise is known to convey many health benefits, but during adolescence, it is proven to have an added value. Sports not only strengthens social ties but may also enhance youth's physical and mental health; hence, positively influencing academic performance. For these reasons, grant funding has been allocated to purchase fitness and exercise equipment to promote healthy lifestyles and engage the realigned youth in additional physical activities as they are likely to experience stays of multiple years.

The Imperial County Probation Department has over the past year implemented improvements to the Juvenile Hall facility so that youth residing in the facility will have space for additional recreational activities. The expansion included the basketball court area to allow for more space and a wider variety of activities for the youth stationed at the Hall. These improvements have been essential in enhancing the physical and mental well-being of youth housed in the facility.

Independent Living Skills



Probation is seeking to incorporate an independent living skills program at Juvenile Hall to promote youth in achieving self-sufficiency. The assigned Re-entry Officer, further described in Part 5, will be tasked to strategize delivery of independent living services tailored to the youth's needs. Services will consist of instructing youth on basic daily tasks to prepare youth for a successful transition into the community. The assigned officer will educate youth on daily living skills such as, basic housekeeping tasks, prepare laundry, kitchen duties, preparing balanced-nutritional meals, career development, educational resources, identifying housing options, healthcare and linkage to community resources and programs. Through allocated grant funding, Probation will purchase the necessities to ensure the delivery of this service.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Family involvement is a critical element at all points of the juvenile justice system continuum; therefore, the preservation of family ties and understanding the positive impact families may have on youth development, especially throughout incarceration, is of utmost significance. A 2013 National Research Council (NRC) report

cited evidence that a relationship with a parent or other adult figure can have a positive impact on an adolescent, serving as a protective buffer against external influence and the negative effects that might result from such interactions.

The powerful influence of family has been found to produce positive outcomes for youth in confinement or community-based settings. As the NRC report notes, even in cases where parents may have played a role in adversely influencing a youth toward anti-social behavior, any youth development approach that aims to produce lasting change must include thorough engagement with families (National Research Council, 2013).

Visitation

As per mandates in Title 15 Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities, Section § 1374, Youth shall be allowed the opportunity for visitation a minimum of two hours per week. Regular visitation consists of parents or guardians. With the approval of the Facility Manager, additional supportive family members may also be allowed to visit the youth to encourage family engagement. In addition to in-person visits, remote visits via Zoom are accommodated for the families. Contact visits and other visiting practices provide opportunities for family interaction, help heal parent-child relationships, and mitigate the trauma of confinement. Currently, visitations are being conducted inside the Juvenile Hall's dining room, garden area, and basketball court.

Special Visitation

In addition to in-person visits and remote visits, Probation will integrate special visitation as an incentivized activity for the realigned youth to promote good conduct. Probation has expanded visitation options and allows additional visitation time on a monthly or quarterly basis with their family. Realigned youth with children have also been accommodated with additional special visitations hours.

Family Picnic

As a proposed activity to strengthen family engagement between parents and realigned youth, probation incorporates a family picnic program where families will be allowed to enjoy an on-site, outdoor picnic with the youth. By utilizing grant funding, Probation will supply the family with meals for these events. This program will serve as an incentive for the realigned youth who maintain orderly conduct in the facility.

Parenting Education

Community referrals for parenting classes are submitted upon the youth's commitment to Juvenile Hall. As an essential component of the reunification process, parenting classes may improve communication skills between parents and youth; therefore, strengthening their relationships during the youth's commitment to juvenile hall and after the youth's re-entry to the community.

RE-ENTRY SERVICES

Re-entry planning will begin during a youth's time in custody so that each youth has an individualized reentry plan that is tailored to their required needs and services. The Project Phoenix team will be responsible for managing the youth's case so that services are in place upon the youth's release.

Pre-release meetings will happen on a continuous basis to review the youth's reentry plan and discuss all community-based options available to the youth. This plan will include employment services, housing services, continuing education and other additional services. Please see below for services that will be available to the youth following their release from custody.

EMPLOYMENT

Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP):

IVROP offers multiple programs to assist realigned youth with employment opportunities.

- ❖ *IVROP Ace Plus* is aimed to help individuals from targeted populations such as homeless youth, justice involved youth, migrant youth and current or former foster youth residing in Imperial County between the ages of 18-24 into securing employment.
- ❖ *IVROP Project Rise* builds and works with community networks to use developmental assets findings as a foundation for measuring and monitoring skills and resources that initiate efforts to improve youth's readiness for life.
- ❖ *IVROP Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult Vocational Training Program* provides vocational training opportunities for adults. WIOA eligible participants receive classroom and hands-on instruction for industry specific skills along with supportive services that may be available to enhance training. Available courses include: Certified Nurse Assistant (C.N.A.), Security Guard, and Class "A" Commercial Truck Driving.

IVROP also offers a 20-hour job readiness workshop that builds on the essential tools needed to enter the workforce and is designed to assess the current skill level of participants and enhance or refresh their employment seeking tools. Participants learn effective job searching techniques, high quality interviewing practices, how to develop competitive resumes, and how to communicate with prospective employers.

America's Job Centers of California Centers (AJCCs)

Imperial Valley: AJCC is designed to be a 'One Stop' delivery system through which employment-related services and training are provided. AJCCs offer a comprehensive line up of employment and training services, including help with resume writing, interviewing skills, finding job openings, training programs, and much more. Additionally, through AJCC, age-appropriate realigned youth may be eligible for the Adult Work Experience Program (WEX) program.

The WEX offers job seekers help to obtain skills that are needed to succeed in the workplace and establish work history that is critical when applying for jobs. Through the WEX program, participants receive the opportunity

to be paid while learning on-the-job, displaying their abilities and giving them a better chance to be hired long term.

Employment Development Department (EDD) Imperial Valley

The EDD provides a comprehensive range of employment and training services in partnership with state and local agencies and organizations. These services benefit job seekers laid off workers, youth, individuals currently working, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Imperial Valley College (IVC) Career Services Center

Should a youth enroll in Imperial Valley College (IVC) they will have access to IVC's Career Services Center. IVC Career Services Center assists students with finding a major or career that interests them, creating and/or updating their resume and cover letter, applying for a job and interview preparation. Additionally, students will have access to the College Central Network job network and internship opportunities.

HOUSING

There are various housing options throughout Imperial County available to realigned youth. Prior to a youth's release, probation will work with the youth to determine the best placement.

Family Placement:

The Secure Track Administrative Team (STAT) will work early on in the reentry planning process to identify a suitable home for the youth to return upon release. The department will offer reunification services to the youth and their family during a youth's time in custody so that the youth's transition home can be smooth. Family reunification services provided in custody are family functional therapy and PRAXES. Please refer to Part 3 for further detail regarding these services. If a viable family member is not identified in the initial phases of reentry planning, the STAT staff can utilize the LexisNexis database, which is a family finding tool that assists in locating extended family.

Imperial Valley Housing Authority (IVHA):

IVHA offers public low rent housing throughout Imperial County. Based on eligibility criteria, youth may qualify for the following programs: Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, Non-Elderly Disabled Section 8 Program and Housing Opportunities for Farm Workers Program.

Lotus Living Rise Above, Resilient Community:

Youth who are pursuing higher education at Imperial Valley College, may qualify for Lotus Living Rise Above, Resilient Community housing. This housing community consists of tiny homes designed to provide housing to homeless youth. Youth released from custody that decide to enroll in, or continue with, higher education at IVC, will be referred to this program if they are in need of housing.

Campeños Unidos Inc. (CUI):

An additional resource for youth facing homelessness is CUI, which provides assistance to families/individuals that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. This collaboration allows us to help pay past due rent or utilities and provide emergency food. We also partner with the Imperial Valley Food Bank, to provide USDA Commodities distribution in two sites and provide families/individuals with access to healthy food. By helping alleviate these immediate needs, we also gain the opportunity to offer additional emergency and social service support to improve socio-economic status and overall wellness of low-income families/individuals in Imperial County.

In-Patient Treatment:

In the event the youth is facing homelessness and/or necessitates continued in-patient substance abuse treatment probation will work with Behavioral Health's Substance Use Disorder treatment program to identify a local facility. Should the youth prefer other local options, probation would be able to offer referrals to faith-based alternatives. In-county faith-based substance abuse treatment facilities include IV Ministries, New Creations (men and women's home), Turning Point, Victory Outreach, and Trinity Baptist.

Local Shelters:

In the unlikely event no other housing options are available to a youth upon their release, probation will place the youth in temporary emergency shelters until a stable living arrangement is identified. Local shelter options include Catholic Charities Men's and Women's Shelters, Neighborhood House for Women, Woman Haven, and Salvation Army.

Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP):

For those youth who are ready for a lower level of care but may still require in-patient rehabilitative services, youth will be referred to a STRTP. While at an STRTP, youth can take advantage of strength-based treatment, a structured living environment, recreation activities, community engagements and therapy. A STRTP will be able to give youth the support, treatment, and tools they need so they can once again thrive in a family home.

EDUCATION/VOCATIONAL:

There are various educational and vocational options for realigned youth within the community. The Probation Department understands educational/vocational programs may place a financial burden on the realigned youth. For this reason, allocated funds may be used to assist the youth with their educational/vocational needs. Below is a list of both education and vocational programs which realigned youth may take advantage of.

Imperial Valley College (IVC):

IVC is a community college in Imperial County that offers associate degrees and training certificates in various fields of study. IVC offers multiple support programs to youth enrolled in the school. Extended Opportunities Program and Services (EOPS) is a program through IVC designed for specific populations who meet eligibility criteria, one criterion being a justice-impacted youth. EOPS offers services such as priority registration, book grants, transportation assistance, individualized counseling, tutoring, and community referrals. EOPS staff are available to assist and support students in navigating personal, psychological, academic, and/or career-related issues through empathy, cultural-competence, and a commitment to equity and social justice.



IVC also offers the Resilient Scholars Program. The Resilient Scholars Program offers a holistic case management approach for students that have experiences with foster care or homelessness. This program offers students counseling, book assistance, emergency assistance (food, housing, laptops, and mobile phones), bi-weekly/monthly educational case management and follow-up services, weekly workshops and referrals to community resources.

San Diego State University, Imperial Valley Campus (SDSU-IV):

The SDSU Imperial Valley Campus is a satellite campus of San Diego State University in Calexico, California, which serves residents of Imperial County. SDSU-IV Campus offers instruction for all four collegiate years, or, the ability for students attending community college to transfer in and complete their bachelor's degree. SDSU-IV offers the IVUP program to students who meet certain qualification criteria. The Imperial Valley University Partnership (IVUP) is an innovative educational initiative undertaken by Imperial Valley College (IVC), the Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE) and SDSU-IV that offers Imperial Valley students an accessible, and affordable, high-quality education with a clear path to a bachelor's degree in four years. IVUP accepts eligible students every fall semester into its new cohort. IVUP offers priority registration, mentoring and advising, scholarship opportunities, and full access to all resources available at both SDSU-IV and IVC.

Prison Education Program (PEP)

The goal of PEP is to create a "Prison-to-School Pipeline" and provide in-custody students with the cognitive tools necessary to function as productive citizens. The program's multi-layered approach enhances human development, reduces recidivism, saves resources, and allows participants to contribute to the economic and civic life of California.

As part of the continuance of programming for Project Phoenix Youth, Probation established a collaboration with the Prison Education Project, initiated in the Spring Semester of 2023. The pilot program offers 7-week introductory courses in different subjects. Said courses are taught by university students and professors from 20

regional universities, such as San Diego State University. The volunteers ultimately become mentors for youth and guide them through the contours of re-entry once they are discharged. Our cohort of Project Phoenix Youth are attending in-person classes at Juvenile Hall; specifically, Building Healthy Relationships and Self-Empowerment.

The Center for Employment Training (CET):

CET is a job-training program, which teaches marketable skills to people of all educational levels and backgrounds. In addition to teaching trade skills in growing fields, CET provides supportive services and job placement assistance. Imperial County's CET program offers education in the following trade skills: Accounting Clerk, Green Building Construction Skills, Retail Operations Specialist, Truck Driver and Welding Fabrication.

TRAUMA- INFORMED & CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SERVICES

The Juvenile Division of Imperial County Probation Department stands positioned to support this population from a results-driven perspective by utilizing current Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) and other preventative services, with an ongoing evaluation of outcomes. The use of EBP's provides foundational data-driven systemic interventions that safely reduce reliance on detention. The Probation Department's ultimate goal is to reduce and/or mitigate youths' time in confinement by providing them with adequate supervision and targeted service linkage for a successful transition and permanency. In the context of probation, EBP can be split into five main areas, outlined below. EBP is multifaceted, and these descriptions are intended to provide basic context to the following discussion.

1. **Risk and Needs Assessment** - Accurate assessment of an individual's risk to reoffend allows Probation Departments to appropriately target resources and interventions where they will be most useful. This is best implemented through the use of an actuarial risk and needs assessment tool to determine supervision levels and drive supervision plans.
2. **Effective Supervision** - Research indicates that the probation officer/probationer relationship is very important in affecting behavioral change. Probation officers can encourage or discourage positive change through the use of motivational techniques. At the same time, probationers must be held accountable for their behavior. Accountability is reinforced by the use of swift and proportionate responses on the part of probation officers whenever probationers misbehave.
3. **Treatment/Targeted Intervention** - Treatment programs should address a probationer's assessed criminogenic needs and should follow treatment protocols that have been evaluated for successful recidivism reduction.
4. **Collaboration** - Though collaboration is not strictly demonstrated to reduce recidivism, it is very difficult for Probation Departments to implement EBP without the support and services from other justice partners and community-based organizations.
5. **Management and Administration** - Similarly to collaboration, management techniques do not themselves affect individual probationer behavior. However, it is difficult, if not impossible, to effectively implement EBP without organizational change. This includes the need for support and evaluation of probation officer work as well as departmental use of data for planning and management purposes.

Probation intends to allocate grant funds for staff training regarding Evidence-Based Practices and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC). Through continuous trainings and refresher courses on the abovementioned practices, Probation staff will be able to effectively conduct interviews with families and be cognizant of a youth and families' past and current traumatic experiences, in order to tailor the services provided to their individual needs. Further, with trainings, Probation staff will effectively conduct Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) Assessments and obtain uniform inter-rater reliability scores. Continually training staff addresses the issue of consistency of the implementation of a rating system, allowing youth to receive targeted interventions that accurately correspond to their criminogenic needs.

For the realigned youth, the Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings are intended to be a youth-driven, team-based approach designed to support youth and their families in the planning, delivery and management of services, with the purpose of developing and discussing outlined case plan goals and attained goals. The assigned Probation Staff is tasked with organizing and facilitating all CFT meetings and coordinating Multi-Disciplinary Services Team (MDST) meetings for the purpose of engaging the family in the realigned youth's progress and/or identifying additional needs and services throughout their commitment at juvenile hall, and community supervision. Furthermore, MDST meetings are held no longer than 30 days prior to the youth's release from Juvenile Hall to ensure effective continuance of supportive services and a successful transition to the community. Involving families at this crucial decision-making point enables positive identification of services and resources a family might need in the community.

NONGOVERNMENTAL & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICE PROVIDERS

As the number of realigned youths increases within Imperial County, the implementation of services is likely to be adjusted to better serve the population and meet their specific needs. Allocating a contingency fund to address additional or unexpected services will be necessary to ensure that youth's needs will be met. Having an allocated fund to address these circumstances will ensure Imperial County Probation's capability to adjust to any unforeseen circumstances and render the appropriate services and care.

Taking an approach similar to Wraparound Program, numerous factors will be examined to ensure the youth is equipped with the necessary tools and services for community re-integration. In these necessary areas, expenditures may arise to ensure tangible needs are met for both the youth and family. As re-aligned youth are transitioned into their communities, additional needs may arise including housing, wardrobe, transportation, educational, or vocational needs. In addition, the need for additional/increased treatment programs may arise in the future and funds will be allocated to fulfill any unexpected needs of the youth or family. Funds have been designated to certain community organizations to develop contracts and other community support.

PART 5 – FACILITY PLAN

The Juvenile Hall is divided into five dormitories, with three dormitories in the front, Dormitory 1, Dormitory 2, and Dormitory 3, and two dormitories towards the back, Dormitory 4 and 5. Dormitories 1 and 2 have eleven single occupancy rooms, while Dormitory 3 has ten single occupancy rooms. All dormitories have a dayroom with access to toilets, washbasins, drinking fountains and showers, in accordance with Title 24. In Dormitories 1 and 2, Room #11, is a designated observation room, with ongoing closed circuit television security system, to monitor youth with substance intoxication, suicidal ideation, among other criteria that may render the need for increased supervision. The camera footage from the observation rooms is directly monitored from Control Center #1. The Control Center is a continuously staffed secure area within the facility that contains staff, normally a Shift Supervisor, responsible for safety, security, emergency response, communication, electronics, and movement. In Dormitory 3, additional space is allotted for a bathroom containing a tub, for youth with more advanced limitations, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Dormitories 1, 2, and 3 are within close proximity of each other, while Dormitories 4 and 5 are located furthest away from the entrance, allowing for separation by age and/or special needs as warranted and identified during classification. Dormitories 4 and 5 have quick access to the outdoors from within the dormitory, which leads to an open area, where additional infrastructure is intended for services/programming functions. Within the ICJH facility, are two classrooms, one which can accommodate separate instruction from Imperial County Office of Education instructors for re-aligned youth. In addition, within close proximity to the separated dormitories is an additional room, which can be utilized for behavioral health counseling, or for individual meetings with youth.

Dormitory 4

This dormitory is currently being utilized to house Project Phoenix youth while modifications to Dorm 5 are completed. This section had previously been utilized as our “Honor Dorm” for use by all residents and will revert to that purpose once the Project Phoenix youth move into Dorm 5. Normally, the Honor Dorm offers leisure activities, such as television, radio, board games and video gaming in a soft lounging area for youth who merit the privileges through program participation and compliance with rules. Youth in the general population are presently enjoying Honor privileges in other dorms while final touches are added to Dorm 5.

Dormitory 5

This dormitory is in the final stages of repurposing and remodeling to serve as the housing unit for re-aligned youth. Dormitory 5 has a day room for structured and recreational activities, leading to the outdoor yard of the facility, where large muscle activity can occur in the facility’s basketball court. This dormitory has been adjusted to hold 10 youth within 10 single-occupancy rooms and is currently adjacent to Control Center II. The rooms span the length of the dormitory, with five rooms on each side. The program intends to start with one dormitory,

Dormitory 5, therefore, there are less possibilities for assigning youth to housing units and areas. Instead, youth will be housed on one side of the unit based on considerations including but not limited to age, vulnerability, physical stature, maturity level, demeanor, past behavior, and special needs. Determinations of risk levels will be made with evidence-based risk assessment tools such as, Positive Achievement Change Tool. Adjustments to housing will be made to ensure the environment remains safe for all youth at all times.

The Imperial County Juvenile Hall Facility

The Imperial County Juvenile Hall Facility includes a dining hall, which can comfortably accommodate up to 25 youth, staff and guests for meals. Food preparation is made at the Juvenile Hall Kitchen, located near the facility. It is staffed by one food supervisor and three cooks who plan and prepare meals based on specific nutritional requirements by the State of California. As mentioned, the ICJH facility includes two classrooms staffed with teachers from the Imperial County Office of Education. Additionally, large muscle body exercises are completed on a full-size blacktop basketball court, which doubles as a volleyball court.

Youth in Imperial County had historically been committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice at very low rates. Further, commitments of female youth to Division of Juvenile Justice were even rarer. For this reason, Imperial County Probation will focus on housing male youth in Dormitory 5. In the event the need arises, female youth committed for longer terms in custody may be housed with like-gender youth so that they can program together.

FACILITY UPGRADE CONSIDERATIONS

Currently, facility additions, security upgrades, and programming are continuing to ensure the most effective environment for re-aligned youth in a long-term commitment. A spacious multi-purpose Activity Center is close to completion, featuring computer equipped study areas, a meditation room, group counseling area, restrooms and Project Phoenix staff office space.

As part of the facility upgrade considerations, intended plans are to contract with local artists to develop murals in the areas where re-aligned youth will program, reside, and engage with others including but not limited to, dormitory, MSDR, outdoor visitation area, and the dining hall. These environments will share common themes in line with ‘normal’ community setting and will have colors that are visually interesting/appealing.

A new camera system is being considered to upgrade the current system in Control II and ensure all areas of the facility are covered to protect youth and investigate allegations when needed. This will ensure there are no blind spots for areas where youth program.

In implementing increased family engagement activities, service providers, and visitations to the ICJH facility, it will be essential to screen all visitors for contraband for the safety of all youth and staff. Imperial County probation will seek to implement a walk-through metal detector for those entering the facility and engaging with the youth.

Creating a safe environment for both youth and staff is imperative, and the use of a walk-through metal detector will be crucial to the fluid screening and admittance of those entering the premises.

In addition, Imperial County Probation seeks to improve the activities and provide more options to youth for large muscle exercises. Upgrades include exercise equipment, the multi-purpose room featuring cardiovascular machines, and other equipment conducive to physical exercise. Currently, youth are confined to certain times of the day to complete large muscle activities, as required by Title 15, due to the nature of the weather in our location. Youth normally complete large muscle activities early in the morning, to avoid extreme heat known to the region, such as temperatures as high as 120 degrees Fahrenheit in the summers. A designated indoor space with appropriate equipment will increase the available activities for youth while not being reliant on outdoor weather. Further, as part of providing youth additional options for activities, a Tennis Court/American Handball Court is being proposed. Preparations would include erecting a three-sided wall and preparing the surface with concrete. This type of court provides activities for youth to engage with as a group and requires minimal ongoing maintenance. This proposal ties into the goal of expanding activities for youth that will be housed long term and creating more varied options for Title 15 large muscle exercise requirements.

ICJH counts with secured outdoor areas near Dormitory 4 and 5, which are easily accessible and provide views to outside, natural lighting, and serve to reduce the sense of confinement. These areas will be retrofitted with new outdoor seating areas, shading, and mural art to create a more normative environment.

STAFFING



Juvenile Hall Officers (JHOs) are on site 24 hours a day for supervision of youth assigned to the facilities. The facility is appropriately staffed to ensure the functions of the facility, including program activities, provide for safety and security of youth and staff, meet established standards and regulations of Title 14, Title 24, and to ensure that no required services shall be denied because of insufficient numbers of staff on duty.

The shift coverage for the units will be arranged to meet or exceed the Title 15 Standards for juvenile detention facilities. JHO supervision encompasses all daily activities youth participate in including, unit programming, meals, physical education, school, hygiene, room and unit clean-up, medical transports, vocational training, off site visits, court appointments, visits, structured activity, child visits, and all other programs.



ICJH staffing is supportive of patterns and schedules which will accommodate program delivery and consistency. Staff will also facilitate independent living through ongoing activities and collaboration with partner agencies such as Rite Track Youth Services, referenced in Part 3: Programs and Services. Among services provided to youth will be vocational, mental health, cultural enrichment, independent living skills, and cognitive behavioral therapy, among others. Staffing patterns will be conducive to ensure partner agencies are available to meet and deliver services to youth within the facility, allowing for consistent work with small groups of youth. In addition, staff will ensure the youth's progress is regularly monitored through Child Family Team Meetings and Multi-Disciplinary Services Team Meetings to determine youth's status with programs and evaluate the level of care needed for the youth.

Project Phoenix youth will be offered intensive services aimed at targeting their risk factors, while promoting positive behavior conducive to their reintegration into society. Ensuring that policy and practices reflect both youth and staff's best interest is of high priority. In rendering services to re-aligned youth, staff may be subject to issues such as vicarious trauma, secondary traumatic stress, or direct stress. Aid to staff will be available through team meetings, time to debrief following incidents with youth, and services from the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). For those reasons, it is imperative that appropriate staffing is maintained at all times, as it presents an environment to address the needs of young people and staff simultaneously.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFFING

Imperial County Behavioral Health staff will be on site on an as-needed basis and on-call 24 hours a day in case an emergency response is needed, or a mental health crisis takes place. Youth can request behavioral health services at any time by either verbal or confidential written request. The function of Imperial County Behavioral Health Services is further detailed in Part 3 – Programs and Services.

MEDICAL STAFFING

NaphCare medical staff will be on-site Monday through Friday to provide timely and quality medical care. For medical emergencies when NaphCare medical staff are not present in the facility, youth will be transported to El Centro Regional Medical Center Hospital, or the Imperial County Sheriff's Department will be contacted to request an ambulance for assessment and/or transportation of youth to ECRMC. Youth can verbally inform staff of any medical needs and staff can initiate protocols or refer the youth to medical staff for evaluation. Youth can also complete a confidential medical request and deposit it into a designated box inside each dormitory. These boxes are reviewed every day to address any medical needs youth may have. Services provided to youth include medical, dental, and vision. Emergency and after-hours services are provided through ECRMC. For families with private insurance, arrangements can be made to transport youth to those providers' offices and measures taken to ensure confidentiality during appointments.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES AND PROTECTIONS:

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA):

Youth will have access to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) hotline. The Probation Department has a policy in place to investigate all sexually based accusations or complaints as serious, truthful, and time sensitive. PREA investigators include supervisory staff at ICJH facility, ICJH Facility Manager/ Designated PREA Coordinator. At any time during an investigation, outside law enforcement agencies may be called to conduct a criminal investigation. Victim's Advocates will be available should they need to be utilized in any case. All information is considered confidential.

Transgender Youth:

Policies are in place to protect transgender and intersex youth. Upon initial entry to Imperial County Juvenile Hall, youth who identify as transgender, participate with staff in completing an Intake Process which plays a part in helping to determine housing, clothing, and supervision based on their gender identification.

Special Education:

In cooperation with the Imperial County Office of Education, youth will have access to continued education and services through Esther Huff. Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Education Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) are available for those youth who qualify. In accordance with the Education Code, IEPs will be conducted within 30 days of a youth's admittance into ICJH. Schools also work in cooperation with behavioral health providers, medical staff, and Probation to individualize each youth's program to meet their specific needs.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The STAT staff will serve as the ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator runs Special Cases Meetings, monitors the Special Cases List to ensure accuracy, conducts quality control of the documentation in unit binders, follows

up with staff to ensure accommodations are understood and being followed, serves as an ADA liaison with partnering agencies and other Probation divisions, and evaluates ADA training needs for the facility. The ADA Coordinator will ensure youths' accommodations are communicated during intake, initial assessment, school, and Pre-Release Meetings. The ADA Coordinator will work closely with the School Coordinator to ensure information regarding educational accommodation is received and documented. State or local governments may not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. All services within ICJH are consistent with the requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Suicide Prevention:

Probation is committed to deterring and preventing self-harm and suicide within its facilities. Policies are in place for supervision of youth identified as high-risk for this behavior. Each youth completes the MAYSI-II questionnaire upon entry into any facility. This risk assessment tool is utilized in determining the youth's history, current state of mind, and potential for self-harm or suicidal ideation. Youth deemed to be an immediate risk are immediately assessed by behavioral health to determine program needs and supervisory objectives. Youth may be placed on Safety Watch (Level I, II, or III) depending on their needs. Programs can be changed at any time during their stay with behavioral health direction and approval.

Youth Grievances:

Youth will be able to file a grievance at any time. Each youth will have access to grievances during their program or may keep them inside their room for completion. A confidential grievance box is made available within each housing unit, or youth may give them directly to supervisory staff. Grievances are taken seriously, handled in a timely manner, and may develop into policy change when required.

All are reviewed by facility administration and an update is provided to the youth of the outcome of their grievance. With the passage of SB 823, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration now contains an Ombudsperson charged with investigating complaints relative to all youth held in juvenile detention facilities, over and above our internal Grievance procedures. This information, along with the rights of juvenile detainees, is posted in our Juvenile Hall. All youth, including Secure Track, are afforded the means to generate a confidential complaint concerning conditions of confinement.

As Project Phoenix youth make progress in meeting rehabilitative goals while detained, Multi-Disciplinary Services Team meetings will be held on an ongoing basis to determine the most suitable environment for the youth. With the goal of re-integrating youth into their communities as productive members of society, considerations of lower level of care will be considered. Examples of these options include home furloughs, Short Term Residential Treatment Programs, Electronic Monitoring, among others. These programs and services are further explained in detail in Part 3– Programs and Services.

PART 6: RETENTION OF TARGETED POPULATION



From research and data, we have learned that retaining youth in the juvenile justice system is in both the best interest of the youth and the community. Research shows that age-appropriate evidence-based programs are not necessarily available to serve youth who have been transferred to the adult justice system. Additionally, Probation recognizes that the realigned youth we serve will eventually be responsible for maintaining themselves within the community. We believe that we have a responsibility to provide these youth with the skills and tools they need, not only for themselves, but for the productivity and well-being of our community.

When considering adjudicated youth who are on probation, the Probation Department has taken proactive steps to implement appropriate supervision models and current evidence-based practices and programs. Probation officers are trained in and utilize Motivational Interviewing throughout the life of a case when interacting with youth. At the inception of every case, officers conduct a risk assessment through an evidenced-based assessment tool to determine the youth's criminogenic needs. Officers input the information into the tool and, once the youth's risk level is determined, the probation officer, in collaboration with the youth and guardians, develop a case plan to best map the client's goals and service needs.

For youth who have committed an offense described in WIC Section 707(b) and require in-custody rehabilitative services, the Imperial County Probation Department will have the ability to offer a wide-range of progressive programming and comprehensive services. When considering both the adult and juvenile systems, youth have less access to rehabilitation and family support in the adult justice system. Should youth remain in the juvenile justice system; youth can build, and maintain, community ties that will continue following their release from custody. Through Project Phoenix, our in-custody facility will be able to offer youth a wide range of evidence-based services. As previously described youth will have access to age-appropriate mental health services, substance use disorder services, educational services, vocational services, and various community-based services and resources. Additionally, emphasis will be placed on staff development to ensure they receive proper training and equipment to supervise the target population. Upon a youth's release, the Probation Department will be able to offer continued community-based services to the youth so there is no disruption in maintaining a positive direction. It is the goal of the department that youth receive the intensive rehabilitative services they need so that they can develop, mature, and become responsible law-abiding individuals.

PART 7: REGIONAL EFFORTS

It is the goal of the Imperial County Probation Department to serve the realigned youth at the local level to the greatest extent possible. The Imperial County Probation Department will service male realigned youth at the local level. Allowing youth to maintain close family ties, as well as utilizing community-based resources; the Probation Department feels that our youth will have a greater likelihood to smoothly transition back into the community following their release from custody. The Probation Department is committed to being a gender-responsive environment and committed to meaningfully addressing the needs of our female population; however, if probation's facility is not able to provide adequate services for the female youth, the department will consider contracting regionally with another county.

When considering sex offender treatment for youth in custody, the Probation Department plans to consider each case on an individual basis to make a determination of the most appropriate setting for the youth. Historically, providing sex offender treatment to youth in custody has been challenging due to the lack of available local sex offender services and approved programs. At present, the services of a licensed sex-offender counselor are available. In the event these services are interrupted, our county would look to leverage a regional provider in order to ensure there are no gaps in services for the youth.

PART 8: DATA COLLECTION

Data collection will be an essential part of establishing and maintaining our program. Data collection will allow the Probation Department to create an analytical basis for informed decision-making and help the Probation Department focus attention on improving desired outcomes.

Probation officers will track case specific data through an internal case management system. The Probation Department is also in the process of transitioning to a new case management system, which can collect and analyze comprehensive data. In addition to Probation's internal data system, probation officers have access to a countywide offender database, which can assist in collection of certain offender information. Moreover, service providers will continue to provide in-depth activity reports regarding their clients so officers can track the youth's progress. Lastly, other related or comparable data can be gathered from such entities as the Board of State and Community Corrections and Chief Probation Officers of California.

OUTCOME MEASURES



Through quantitative data collection, the Probation Department will set key performance indicators and monitor their effectiveness. Data will be collected to assess program performance, explore trends in various fields, review resource allocation, identify what is working well and identify areas in which consideration should be given for improvement outcomes, among other measurable outcomes.

The Probation Department also plans to obtain qualitative data in the form of observation, probation staff interviews and questionnaires, and realigned youth interviews and surveys. The Probation Department will utilize qualitative data in an effort to identify both internal and external factors impacting youth decision making within our provision of services.

Referrals to services, services rendered, successful completion of services, service/program effectiveness, grade level advancement, high school completion, enrollment in higher education, vocational program enrollment and completion, in-custody defiance, use of force incidents and fights, case plan goals completed, resource allocation constitute important data elements utilized by our department.