



County of Riverside
JUVENILE JUSTICE and DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

Christopher Collopy, Chair
Laurel Cook, Chair Emeritus
Paul Parker, Vice-Chair

**JJDPC AGENDA
BUSINESS MEETING**

November 14, 2024

1:30 PM

Location:

Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1)
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside CA 92507
Room # 1048

1. Call to Order Chair/Chair-Designate
2. Pledge of Allegiance Chair
3. Roll Call Executive Assistant
4. Public Comment
5. Motion to Approve Agenda Chair
6. Motion to Approve – June 13, 2024
Monthly Meeting Minutes Chair
7. County Counsel Report County Counsel
8. Probation Report Chief Deputy Probation Officer
 - a. Institutional Services
 - b. Field Services
9. Behavioral Health Behavioral Health Administrator
10. DPSS Report Deputy Director, DPSS
- ***BREAK***
11. Correspondence Received / Discussion
 - a. CDSS Memo (NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT)
 - b. Santa Clara DFCS 10 Day Temporary Placement - Scattered Sites
12. Old Business
 - a. Rotation of monthly meeting locations
13. New Business
 - a. Inspections (STRTPs / Lockups / Institutions)
 - i. Scheduling
 - b. Election of JJDPC Executive Officers
 - c. Interview JJDPC Applicants (To be conducted towards conclusion of the meeting)
14. Activities of the Commission
 - a. JJCC Activity:
 - b. Youth Court:
 - c. Committees: (Inspection, Diversion, Awards)
 - d. Other:

15. Commission Member Reports

16. Adjournment

Attachment(s):

- June 13, 2024 – JJDPC Monthly Meeting Minutes
- DPSS Data Report
- RCP Institution Stats
- RCP Foster Youth Data
- CCL Monthly Update
- CDSS Memo (NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT)
- Santa Clara DFCS 10 Day Temporary Placement - Scattered Sites

NEXT MEETING: December 12, 2024

In Accordance with State Law (The Brown Act):

- *The meetings of the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission are open to the public. The public may address the commission within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission.*
- *Disable persons may request disability related accommodations to address the JJDPC. Reasonable accommodations can be made to assist disabled persons if requested 24-hours prior to the meeting by contacting Riverside County Probation Department at (951) 358-7022 or at cymagill@rivco.org.*
- *The public may review open session materials at: <https://rivcoprobation.org/jjdpc>*
- *Items may be called out of order.*
- *Agenda will be posted 72-hours prior to meeting.*
- *Cancellations will be posted 72-hours prior to meeting.*



JJDC Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2024

Location: Rustin Conference Center
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

In Attendance: Chris Collopy, Laurel Cook, Mike Belknap, Patricia Watson, Cynthia Magill, Shannon Crosby, Dana Young, Bruce Fordon, Rebecca Cloyd, Sofia Alvarenga, Michael Griggs, Kathleen Rodriguez, Ernest Rodriguez, Genesi Ramirez, Julian Elliott, Trinidad Flores, Leslie Cordero

Unexcused / Excused Absence: Paul Parker (excused), Pam Torres (excused), Amanda Wade (excused)

Applicants: Georgia Hussein, Joshua Angell

1. Call to Order

- a. With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. The pledge of allegiance was led by commissioner Belknap.

3. Roll Call / Welcome / Introductions

- a. Welcome:
 - i. Chair Collopy welcomed everyone and noted the presence of several guests. Each attendee introduced themselves and their affiliations.

4. Public Comment

- a. Chair Collopy invited any public comments. There were no public comments made.

5. Motion to Approve Agenda

- a. Commissioner Watson moved to approve the agenda, which was seconded by commissioner Cook. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes (April 11, 2024)

- a. Commissioner Watson motioned to accept the minutes for the monthly meeting held on April 11, 2024. Commissioner Belknap seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

7. County Counsel Report

- a. Updates:
 - i. Bruce Fordon reported no new developments from the County Counsel's office.

8a. Riverside County Probation (Institutional Services) Rebecca Cloyd, Division Director for Southwest Juvenile Hall

- a. Updates / Current Population:
 - i. Division Director Cloyd reported Chief deputies have been divided between detention and treatment facilities. Chief Deputy Joe Doty: Appointed to oversee the AMC - YTEC and the Pathways to Success programs. Chief Deputy Daniel Castaneda: Appointed to oversee detention facilities.
- b. Indio Juvenile Hall (Stats):
 - i. Current Population: 55 males - 1 RM youth, 6 youth pending placement, 3 youth pending entry into the Pathways to Success program, 38 youth pending court resolution, 2 jurisdictional transfer cases, and 5 youth assigned to the Pathway to Success program.
 - ii. Incidents in May: 5 fights, 0 escapes or attempted escapes, 0 suicide attempts, 0 COVID cases.
- c. SW juvenile Hall (Stats):
 - i. Current population: 53 (51 males, 2 females) - 4 RM youth, 1 youth pending placement, 1 youth pending entry into the Pathways to Success program, 43 youth pending court resolution, 0 unfit, 3 transfers, 1 courtesy hold, 0 youth in the Pathways to Success program.
 - ii. Incidents in May: 13 fights, 0 escapes or attempted escapes, 0 suicide attempts, 0 COVID cases.
- d. AMC-YTEC / Pathways to Success (Stats):
 - i. Current Population: 44 (38 males, 6 females) - 32 youth in the Pathways to Success program (31 males, 1 female), and 0 detention youth currently at the center.
 - ii. Incidents in May: YTEC program: 0 fights, Pathways to Success program: 3 fights, 0 escapes or attempted escapes for all programs, 0 suicide attempts for all programs, 0 COVID cases for all programs.
- e. Discussion Points:
 - i. Uptick in Fights at Southwest Juvenile Hall:
 - o **Reason:** Increased population and some youth with mental health and coping issues. The conflicts are mostly due to personality clashes rather than gang-related issues.
 - o **Impact of Fights:** No staff injuries or critical incidents. One youth required stitched for minor injury (one stitch).
- f. Questions and Answers:
 - i. Pathways to Success Program:
 - o **Question:** How long is the wait for the program, and is there available space?
 - o **Answer:** Two units are designated for the program, but they are not fully operational due to staffing



shortages. Administration is actively working on hiring more personnel, and a PCO CORE academy is underway to ensure that all programs have the necessary staffing.

- ii. Segregation with Deputies Doty and Castaneda:
 - **Question:** When did the segregation between Deputy Doty and Deputy Castaneda occur?
 - **Answer:** The change took place a pay period ago.
- iii. No further question from commissioners were raised, and chair Collopy thanked Rebecca Cloyd for her detailed report.

8b. Riverside County Probation (Special Services Division) Division Director, Shannon Crosby

- a. Statistics and Updates:
 - i. Current Status as of June 1, 2024: 27 youth in STRTPs, 3 dual- status probation lead youth, 1 in a resource family home, 19 youth in extended foster care, 16 dual-status youth with DPSS as the lead agency, currently, there are no youth placed in Riverside County.
- b. Program Statements:
 - i. The program statement review process for STRTP providers, FFA, and THP within the county has been reopened by the department and is currently accepting applications from interested individuals.
 - ii. The department is working actively to review statements with the aim of getting homes operational, leading to an increase in available placement options.
- c. Question and Answers:
 - i. County Incentives:
 - **Question:** Are there financial incentives for providers to become STRTP qualified?
 - **Answer:** It was noted that there are no additional financial rewards at the county level, with the added information that the state rate is around \$16,000 per youth.
 - **Question:** The previous obstacle in the process of conversion is presumed to be attributed to the stringent qualifications required. Do you foresee a more favorable outcome in the upcoming attempt?
 - **Answer:** There are approximately 40-50 recipients on the email distribution list, and upon notifying them of the reopening, we have already commenced receiving the statements for review.
- d. Timeline for Program Statement Review Process:
 - Timely and efficient review process is crucial for a quick turnaround time. The ideal scenario involves getting everything perfect, quick reviews, and timely revisions. The process of providers receiving support letters can take approximately 6 to 8 weeks in the best-case scenario.
 - Additional time required for licensing by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Ideally, this process should span six to eight weeks; however, considering the current backlog faced by the CDSS, the timeline could be significantly extended.
 - Behavioral health certification is also required, adding to the overall time needed for final approval and implementing operations.
- e. Questions and Answers:
 - i. Efforts to Recruit More Foster Families:
 - **Question:** Are there ongoing efforts to recruit more foster families?
 - **Answer:** The probation department plans to speak at the next Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) meeting to educate members on how to apply to become a resource family.
 - **Aim:** Increase the number of resource families willing to take in probation foster youth
 - ii. Chair Collopy conveyed appreciation to Shannon Crosby for the thorough report.

9. Behavioral Health:

- a. There was no representative from Behavioral Health present.

10. Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Deputy Director of Public Social Services, Dana Young

- a. Updates / Highlights:
 - i. Dana Young expressed her gratitude on behalf of herself and Allison Donohoe-Beggs for the opportunity to participate in the annual awards ceremony hosted by the commission.
 - ii. May Referrals: 3,697, up from April's 3,472.
 - iii. Dependent Children: Currently over 6000 dependent children.
 - Over 8,000 youth are currently in out-of-home placement, with an exact total of 3,350 encompassing legal guardianship and IOP placements.
 - 99 youth in STRTPs, a decrease from previous counts of 105 youth in STRTPs.
 - Majority of youth in relative care: 1,176.
 - Resource homes: 1,432 youth.
 - In-county youth placements: 2,229 youth.
 - Out-of-county youth placements: 845 youth.



- b. Harmony Haven Campus:
 - i. Current Census: 18 on campus awaiting placement.
 - ii. On June 30th at 10 am, Allison and Dana Young will lead a tour of Harmony Haven for the JJDPC commissioners.
 - iii. Behavioral Health is providing drug prevention services and group therapy sessions on campus Monday to Thursday.
 - iv. DPSS is currently striving to enroll youth into summer school programs.
- c. Staffing: The recruitment process for Social Services Practitioner III personnel is ongoing, and to date, DPSS has successfully conducted five inductions for new staff members.
- d. Collaboration: Ongoing collaboration with probation services.
- e. Questions and Answers:
 - i. Total Number of Dependent Children:
 - **Question:** Clarification on the total number of dependent children and those in placements.
 - **Answer:** Over 6000 dependent children, with around 3000 in some form of an in-home placement.
 - ii. Staffing and Caseloads:
 - **Question:** Number of staff supervising the 6000 dependent children.
 - **Answer:** Exact number of staff not provided; regions have approximately 100 social workers per office.
 - **Question:** What is the ratio of clients to staff members?
 - **Answer:** Caseloads are approximately 35 youth per social worker.
 - iii. Utilization of Father's Heart Ranch:
 - **Question:** Why is Father's Heart Ranch in Desert Hot Springs not more utilized?
 - **Answer:** The facility primarily serves boys aged 6 to 12, though they can take boys up to 16. Preference is given to younger children. Current capacity: 16 beds, with 3 available.
 - iv. No further questions from commissioners.
 - v. Chair Collopy expressed gratitude to Dana Young for the detailed report on behalf of Deputy Director Allison Donohoe-Beggs.

11. New Business:

- a. Youth Court:
 - i. Youth Court serves as a diversion program within the juvenile justice system. Chair Collopy noted that Commissioner Wade suggested implementing Youth Court as an alternative for young individuals accused of minor infractions (such as tobacco or vaping use, minor altercations) that do not go through the traditional juvenile justice process.
 - ii. Current Status:
 - The commission has contacted Judge Petersen, awaiting his response to the proposal.
 - Suggested reaching out to local police departments to gather information on existing diversion programs, as many had such programs before COVID-19 (e.g., Moreno Valley, Riverside PD).
 - Discussion on reviving successful programs and possibly integrating them with Youth Court.
- b. Delinquency, Dependency, and Drug Court Hearing Visits:
 - i. The commission is planning visits to court hearings to gain insights into the judicial process.
 - ii. Current Status:
 - Received positive response from the court; to begin scheduling visits.
 - Visits will be limited to morning sessions and will involve small groups of commissioners (3-4 at a time).
 - Proposed Dates: June 28, July 7, July 17, July 22, and July 29.
 - Approval needed from judges and attorneys for each visit.
 - Additionally, drug court hearings are currently suspended.
- c. Quarterly and Monthly Meetings:
 - i. Adjustments to the meeting schedule to improve attendance and participation.
 - ii. Changes:
 - Quarterly meetings moved to the afternoon, starting at 1:30 PM, to increase participation from partner agencies (e.g., Courts, CBO's, Sheriff's Department, Public Defender's Office, DA's Office, County Council, Probation, DPSS).
 - The next JJDPC quarterly meeting will be on July 11, 2024.
 - The monthly meetings that coincide with the quarterly meeting will be postponed or have a shortened agenda for the JJDPC's regular Business Meeting. The shift will occur beginning at the next scheduled meeting on July 11th.
 - Emphasis on enhancing communication and collaboration among agencies involved in youth services.
 - Project Rebound will present at the next quarterly meeting in July.
- d. BSCC Training:
 - i. Discussion on training provided by Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for commissioners.



ii. Current Status:

- This year, the annual statewide CPPCA conference has been canceled, resulting in the cancellation of the BSCC training for commissioners that takes place during the conference.
- Plans for in-house training for commissioners, particularly for those new to the inspection process. Shay Molennor a BSCC rep, offered to provide training sometime in September or October.
- It was noted that the BSCC umbrella does not encompass the training for group homes: the training is exclusively intended for lockup detention facilities and police holding areas.
- Commissioner Cook intends to offer training to commissioners regarding group homes, especially for those who are new and unfamiliar with the inspection process, which is a crucial aspect of their responsibilities.
- Commissioner Cook will outline the subsequent actions necessary for carrying out inspections and evaluating forms.
- There is also consideration to invite neighboring commissions to participate in the training.

e. CPPCA Convention:

- i. Discussion on the challenges faced by the California Probation, Parole and Correction Association (CPPCA) convention and its future direction.

ii. Current Status:

- The origination has experienced a decline in members and effectiveness over the years, leading to uncertainty about its future as an organization.
- The CPPCA played a crucial role in maintaining cohesion among Commissions by offering statewide support.
- The absence of the CPPCA may have resulted in fragmented commissions, but Sonoma County continues to engage in addressing concerns, legislative matters, and seeking letters of support.
- Despite the changes, there still exists a network, albeit in a less formal and unofficial capacity.

f. 2024 JJDPC Awards Event Follow-Up and Feedback:

i. Feedback:

- Suggestion to change the order of presentations to accommodate foster children and their families better.
- Probation presentations to be mixed with community presentations rather than in blocks.

g. Election of JJDPC Executive Officers:

- i. Proposal by chair Collopy to reschedule the election to the August meeting to ensure full attendance.

ii. Motion to Reschedule:

- Motion: Commissioner Cook
- Second: Commissioner Belknapp
- Vote: Approved unanimously

h. Interview of Commissioner Applicant Georgia Hussein:

- i. Background: Georgia Hussein is a returning commissioner with 34 years of law enforcement experience.
- ii. Interview: Discussion on her past contributions and experiences.
- iii. Motion to Approve Ms. Hussein's Reinstatement:
 - Motion: Commissioner Cook
 - Second: Commissioner Belknapp
 - Vote: Approved unanimously
 - Swearing-in scheduled for July 16, 2024, at 1:30 PM.
- iv. No further questions or items for discussion.
- v. Gratitude expressed to all participants for their contributions.

12. Correspondence Discussion:

- a. There was no correspondence received or discussed.

13. Activities of the Commission:

a. School Violence:

- i. This item was deferred as Commissioner Amanda Wade was out of town and unable to provide her report.

b. Anti-Trafficking:

- i. The responsibility for anti-trafficking activities needs to be reassigned following Commissioner Malsed's departure.
- ii. This reassignment will be discussed at the next meeting.

c. JJCC Activity:

- i. There is ongoing activity through the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC).
- ii. An RFP has been issued for a study to evaluate the effectiveness of CBOs (Community-Based Organizations) across the county.
- iii. The study aims to determine whether the right CBOs are in the right places and if they are reaching the appropriate audience with the necessary services.
- iv. The status of the RFP and contract finalization will be updated at the next JJCC meeting.



- v. Commissioners are encouraged to engage with interested CBOs and facilitate their participation in the study and Commission activities.

- a. Youth Court:

- i. This item is on hold until feedback is received from Judge Petersen regarding Youth Court proposal.

14. Old Business

- a. Updates:

- i. There were no items under Old Business for discussion.

15. Commission Member Reports

- a. Updates:

- i. Chair Collopy officially welcomed commissioner Watson as the newest member of the Commission.
 - ii. Commissioner Cook and Commissioner Belnapp inspected Father's Heart Ranch. Commissioner Cook mentioned that there are concerns from Father's Heart Ranch about pending legislation decisions regarding rate reductions.
 - iii. Commissioner Cook discussed the commissioners' tour of juvenile probation holding facilities after Patricia's swearing in. They saw a nursery-like area for youth in 300/dependency cases awaiting court. She mentioned SB-823 subcommittees meeting to brainstorm ideas for future discussions. Additionally, she attended a CBO Alliance workshop organized by Ramon, which came from the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council's SB-823 subcommittee.
 - iv. Commissioner Belnapp shared his thoughts on the tour of Father's Heart Ranch, raising a question about the facility's underutilization, which was addressed by Ms. Dana Young.
 - v. Further Discussions centered around potential legislative changes impacting the rates for Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) and how this would affect youth services. The commissioners emphasized the importance of staying informed about these changes and their implications. There was also talk of potentially drafting a letter to the legislature to express concerns about the proposed rate changes. Shannon Crosby offered to provide the group with Stephanie Anderson, a Probation Foster Care Specialist at CPOC, for the commission to gather more information on the proposed rate changes.

16. Adjournment:

- a. No further remarks were made by the Commission members or attendees. Chair Collopy proposed to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Watson motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Chair Collopy expressed appreciation to everyone for their participation and concluded the meeting at 2:15pm.

Next Meeting:

Date: July 11, 2024
Time: 1:30 pm
Location: Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1) Room TBD
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

Reporting Month

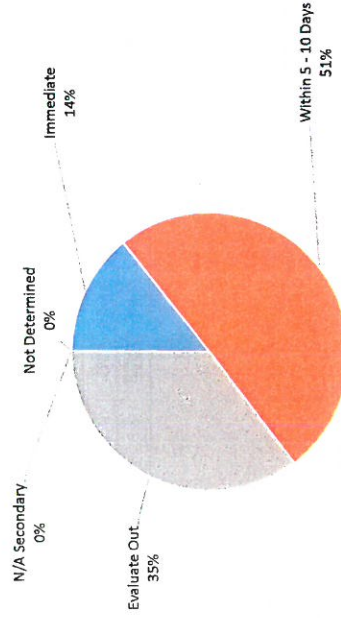
Oct-24

3 months referrals trend

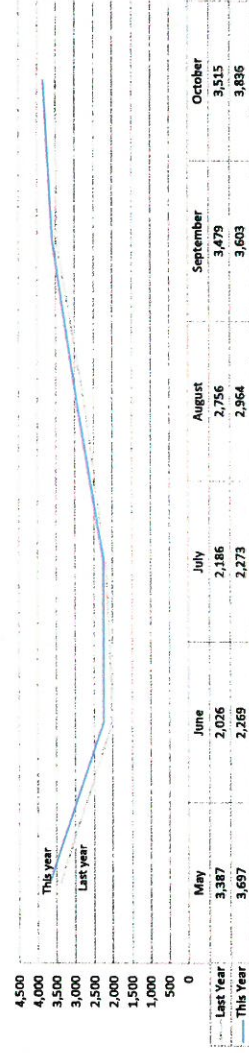
Response Priority Rates	August-24		September-24		October-24		Trends
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Immediate	417	14.1%	548	15.2%	545	14.2%	
Within 5 - 10 Days	1,585	53.5%	1,851	51.4%	1,933	50.4%	
Evaluate Out	961	32.4%	1,202	33.4%	1,357	35.4%	
N/A Secondary	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Not Determined	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	
Total	2,964	100%	3,603	100%	3,836	100%	

<https://app.safemeasures.org/ca/referrals/>

Referrals by Response Type for October 24



Note: Due to rounding, total may not add up to 100%



Reporting Month	Oct-24
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Allegation Type by Client and by Region

Region	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Neglect	Sexual Abuse	Other/At-risk	Clients in Month:
Central Intake Center	20	30	62	8	12	85
Command Post	322	232	752	72	240	1057
Court Services & Specialized Investig	10	13	167	8	2	171
Desert	56	66	228	25	45	305
Diamond Valley	71	100	344	27	70	467
Metro	51	54	172	6	13	206
Mid County	90	55	223	29	55	328
Multi-Disciplinary Child Advocacy Te	3	1	23	22	7	32
SOAR	33	16	139	10	26	182
Southwest	144	144	364	33	72	530
Training Region	7	30	109	1	2	132
Valley	142	123	436	44	89	588
West Corridor	119	110	338	23	62	462
Clients in Month:	1068	974	3357	308	695	4545

Note: This display shows the number of allegation

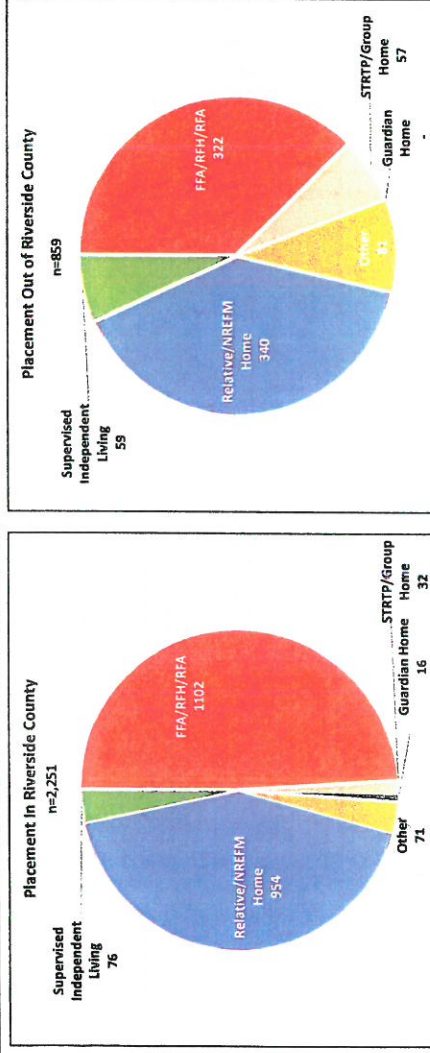
Reporting Month	Oct-24
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Reasons for Children Exiting Placement

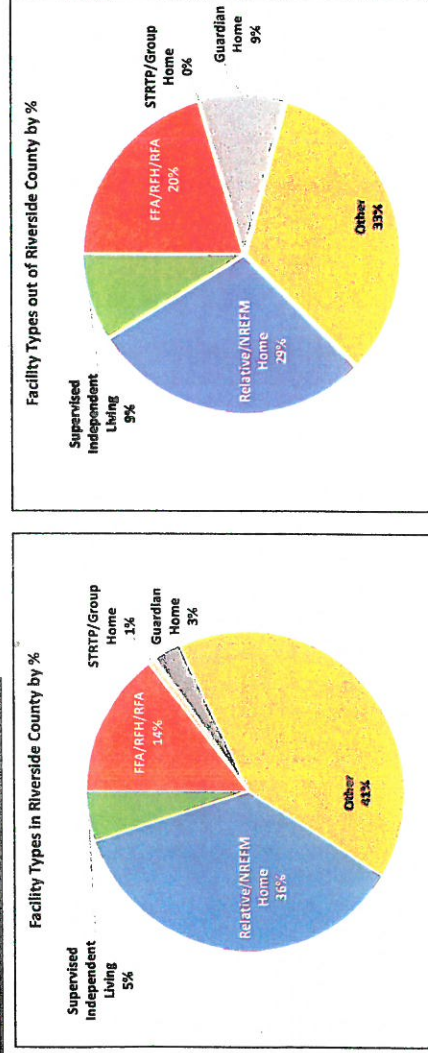
Exit Reason	Oct-24
Adoption	22
Reunification	66
Emancipation	17
Guardianship	11
Other	4
Not Recorded	0
Total	120

Reporting Month
Oct-24

Placements of Dependents Categorized by Facility Type :



Facility Types by Percentage:



https://app.safemeasures.org/ca/placements_facility_type/crosstab/

Note: Children placed in "Guardian Home - Voluntary" facilities were excluded from the counts.
Other include "Court-Specified Homes", "Small Family Homes", "Shelter/Receiving Homes", "Tribally Approved Homes", "Tribe Specified Homes" and "Medical Facilities".

CSEC Referrals and Cases



Note: CSEC Referrals also include Referrals with the Special Project Code "Human Trafficking-Labor"

Three Month Trend CSEC Codification

Month	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Open cases with at least 1 CSEC Codification	143	150	151
Open referrals with at least 1 CSEC Codification	7	11	11

Notes:

- *This table reflects the same data on the graph above. It is included additionally to have the three month data trend on a table for viewing preference.
- **CSEC Codifications Include: Victims of CSEC During Foster Care, At-risk of CSEC, and CSEC Victims before Foster Care.
- ***Data for CSEC comes from DAT Unit's monthly OG-1718 CSEC Monthly report and not SafeMeasures. Additionally that data is extracted from CWS/CMS and is current as of 11/01/2024
- ****Data is produced on the first week where CWS/CMS data tables have been refreshed, which means that this report may not always reflect the most current month.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Daily Census Report: November 03, 2024

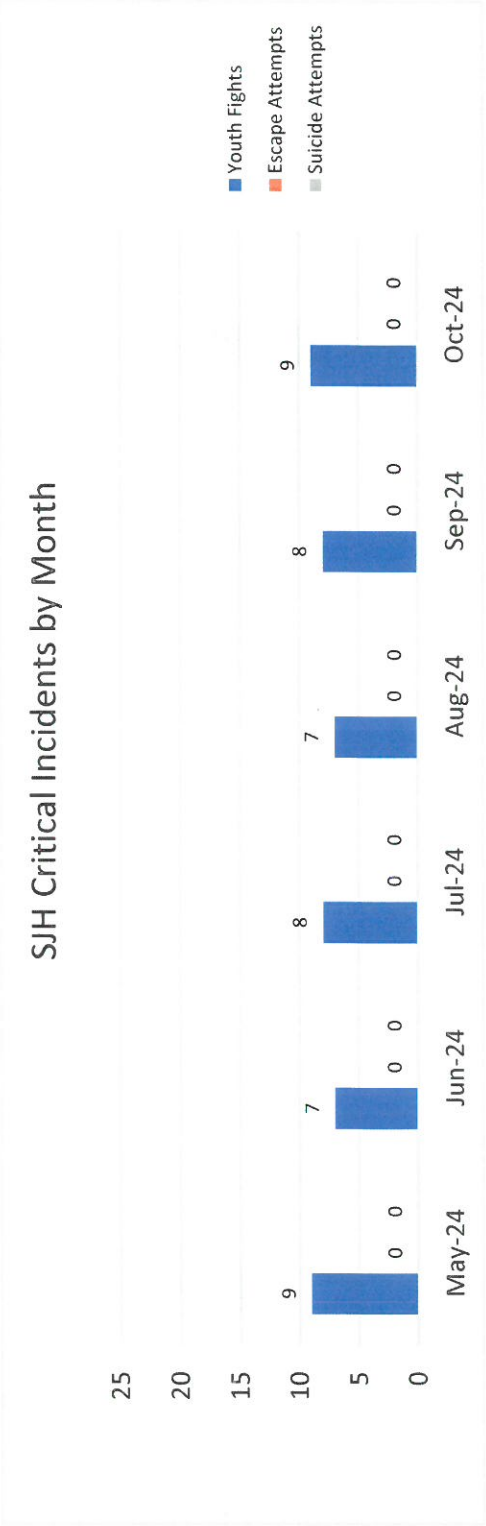
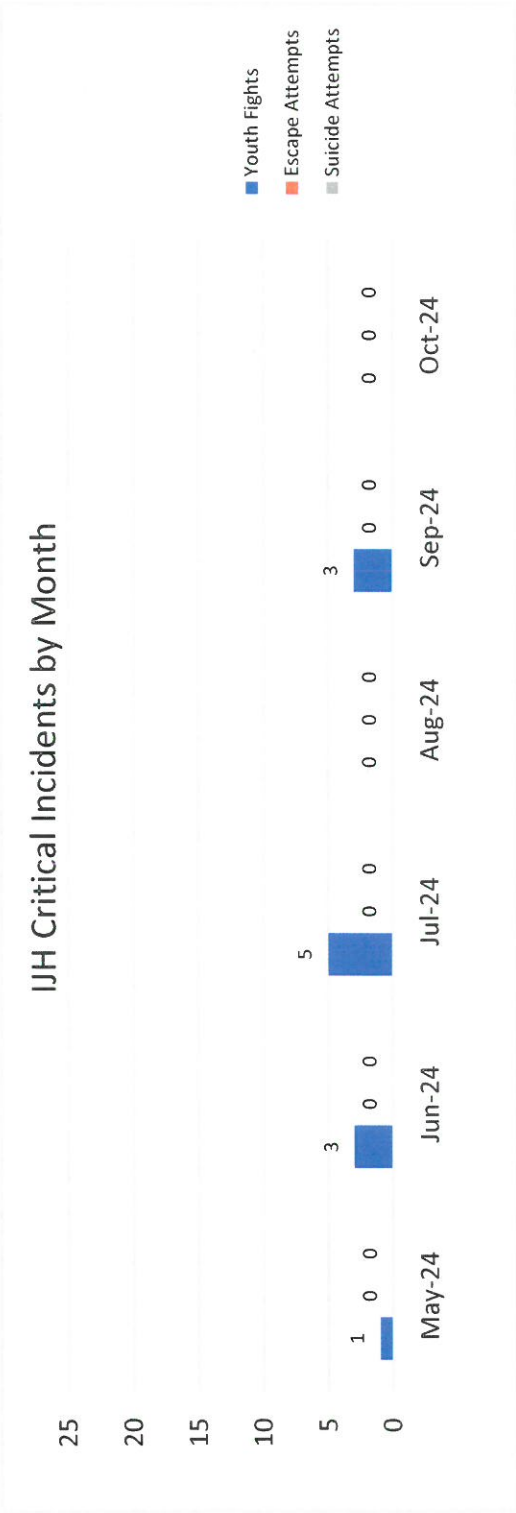
Detention Services	BSCC Rated Capacity	Current Capacity	Current Population	Boys	Girls	Pending Court	Courtesy Holds	Jurisdictional Transfers	Custody Commitment	Pending Private Placement	YTEC Waiting	PTS Waiting	Pending Adult Court	Transferred to Adult Court
AMC-D	26	26	18	18	0	16	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
IJH-D	70	30	30	30	0	27	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
SIH-D	84	54	46	38	8	42	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
TOTAL	180	110	94	86	8	85	0	2	0	2	1	2	2	0

YTEC Program	BSCC Rated Capacity	Current Capacity	Current Population	Boys	Girls
AMC-YTEC	50	40	31	31	0
SIH-YTEC	10	10	4	0	4
TOTAL	60	50	35	31	4

PTS Program	BSCC Rated Capacity	Current Capacity	Current Population	Boys	Girls
AMC-PTS	30	20	18	18	0
IJH-PTS	80	24	24	24	0
SIH-PTS	5	5	0	0	0
TOTAL	115	47	42	42	0

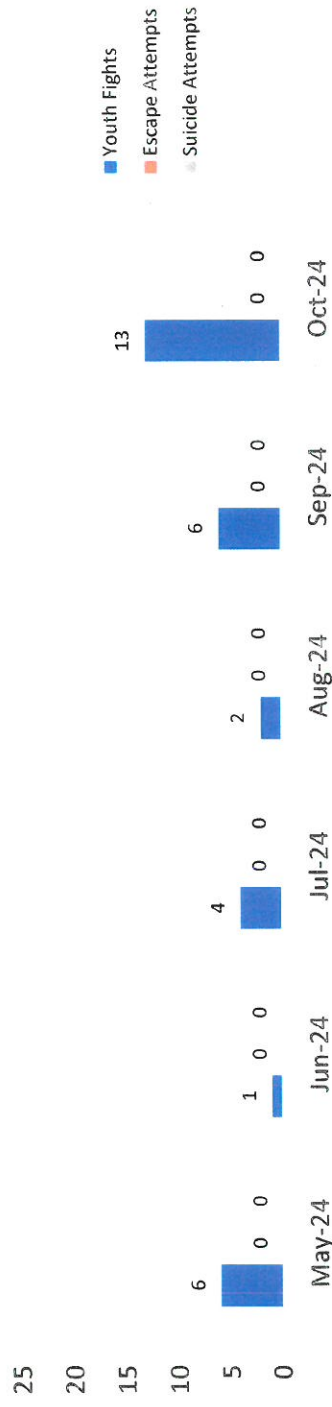
RCP Institutional Services	BSCC Rated Capacity	Current Capacity	Current Population	Boys	Girls
AMC	106	84	67	67	0
IJH	150	54	54	54	0
SIH	99	69	50	38	12
TOTAL	355	207	171	159	12

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT



RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

AMC-YTEC Critical Incidents by Month



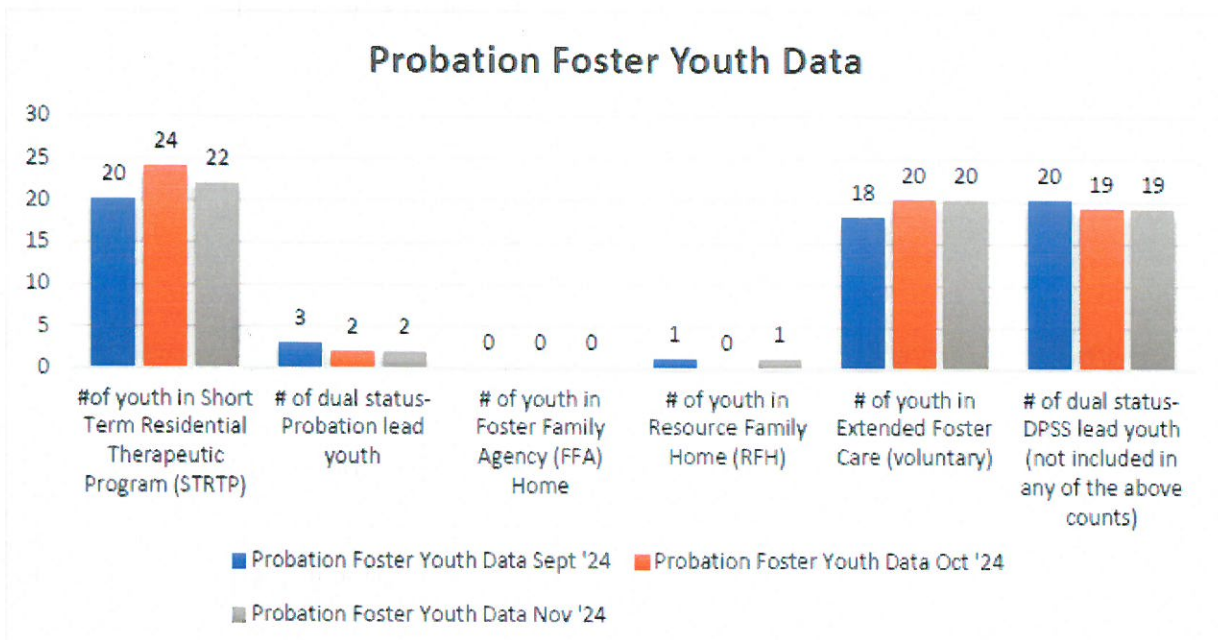


RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Serving Courts • Protecting Our Community • Changing Lives



Probation Foster Youth Data			
	Sept '24	Oct '24	Nov '24
#of youth in Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)	20	24	22
# of dual status- Probation lead youth	3	2	2
# of youth in Foster Family Agency (FFA) Home	0	0	0
# of youth in Resource Family Home (RFH)	1	0	1
# of youth in Extended Foster Care (voluntary)	18	20	20
# of dual status- DPSS lead youth (not included in any of the above counts)	20	19	19



Subject:

JJDPC November Updates CCL

From: Dunlap, Natasha@DSS**Sent:** Friday, November 1, 2024 4:08 PM**To:** Magill, Cynthia@Rivco.org**Subject:** JJDPC November Updates CCL

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the Riverside County email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see below updates since my last update provided at the JJDPC October meeting.

- 6 beds each - Three STRTP facilities had their provisional license issued.
- 4 bed - One GH component 3 orientation scheduled for this month.
- 6 bed - One STRTP program statement is in need of PS amendments, the analyst is awaiting revisions from the applicant.
- One group home application is pending LPA review

Thanks and have a great weekend

Natasha Dunlap, Regional Manager
Children's Residential Branch
Community Care Licensing Division
California Department of Social Services
Riverside South Regional Office



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KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

July 24, 2024

PIN 24-11-CRP

TO: ALL CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL LICENSEES AND PROVIDERS

FROM: *Original signed by Kevin Gaines*
KEVIN GAINES, Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION PROJECT**

Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary

PIN 24-11-CRP provides information to licensed children's residential facilities and providers about the availability of free naloxone through the Department of Health Care Services' Naloxone Distribution Project.

The Naloxone Distribution Project

In order to reduce opioid overdoses in California, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) created the Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) which provides free naloxone and fentanyl test strips to first responders and other eligible organizations.

Among those entities eligible for the NDP are children's facilities licensed by CDSS. The DHCS webpage "[Naloxone Distribution Project](#)" contains information about how to apply for the NDP. Interested providers must file an application through the [NDP Portal](#), which includes submitting either a copy of a valid business license, a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), or a tax-exempt letter. Applicants must order a minimum of one case of naloxone nasal spray, which contains twenty-four 4mg devices.

Other Sources for Naloxone

Facilities may also purchase naloxone nasal spray over the counter from a pharmacy, or through [CalRx](#), a state initiative which offers generic naloxone in bulk at a reduced cost of \$24 per two-pack.

Previous Guidance on Naloxone

Providers should refer to the guidance on the use of naloxone set forth in [PIN 23-11-CRP](#), which includes information on waivers that some facility types (group homes serving minors, temporary shelter care facilities, and short-term residential therapeutic programs) will need to obtain from their Regional Office. Waiver requests can be as simple as an email that states:

“FACILITY NAME requests a waiver of Title 22 §80075(b)(6)(A) in order to allow staff to quickly administer Narcan to youth in the event of a known or suspected opioid overdose.”

However, CDSS strongly encourages providers to obtain naloxone as soon as possible, and providers should not wait to receive a waiver before obtaining naloxone or administering naloxone in an emergency.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/RESOURCES

If you have any questions about the NDP, they may be contacted at Naloxone@dhcs.ca.gov. For questions about this PIN, please contact the applicable [Children's Residential Regional Office](#) or email the Children's Residential Program Office policy bureau at CRPOPolicy@dss.ca.gov.

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Call to Action

The Juvenile Justice Commission is issuing an urgent call to action regarding the DFCS administered Scattered Sites. Some have called for the closure of the Scattered Sites. While this seems like an obvious solution in the light of the serious problems plaguing them, it overlooks the need to house youth with significant mental health and behavioral issues and offers no alternative solution. This situation is not new to the Dependency system both within this County and throughout the State. Every California county is faced with the same problem, but none have found a successful response, especially in the largest counties. The conundrum of finding an answer to managing high acuity youth (HAY) has been part of this County's history for 30 years. This position paper provides a statement of the problem, some history, a description of the present circumstance of the Scattered Sites, and a proposed course of action to resolve this crisis.

Statement of the problem:

Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) has been monitoring facilities which house minors who are coming into care for the first time and those who are already dependents but are without a foster home or treatment facility. The focus of this paper is the housing for a small cohort of high acuity children and youth with complex or high needs who tend to stay longer in shelter care. While this is a relatively small population, they are the most vulnerable and most difficult to place. The JJC has the following concerns about the previously unlicensed facilities, referred to as "Scattered Sites," which are being used for their temporary placement.

- Throughout the State of California there is an absence of appropriate housing for these youth and this was exacerbated by the closure of group homes by the State in 2017 with no alternative plan in place. While the intent of this change was to encourage more family-based homes there continues to be a chronic shortage of appropriate homes for these youth.
- In order to address this issue, the County of Santa Clara has opened and operated a series of Scattered Sites, which it has spent well over a year trying to license.
- These sites have had the following problems which need to be addressed immediately.
 - Inadequate staffing and supervision at the sites.
 - Constant turnover of supervision and staff.
 - Lack of Behavioral Health Service for the youth at the sites
 - Complete lack of programming.
 - Neither the youth nor staff are safe.
- There are no in-county Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP) that would alleviate or lessen the need for placement for these High Acuity Youth (HAY).

History:

The Juvenile Justice Commission has long expressed concern about housing for high-acuity youth. To put into context the issue of these minors, a history of the County's approach follows:

For more than 20 years, many child advocates around the country, led by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, have promoted closing all congregate care facilities for youth, including shelter care facilities. Following this trend, the County moved to place all children who came into care within a 24-hour timeframe, obviating the need for shelter care. The County was successful for over a year in accomplishing this goal. As a result, the County decided to sell the Shelter facility on Union Avenue and moved the Receiving And Assessment Center (RAIC) functions to Santa Clara Street.

When the Union Avenue facility was closed in 2013, the blueprint articulated by the County stated that moving the RAIC functions to 725 Santa Clara was a temporary solution. To this end, a multi-stakeholder committee was formed to plan a new site for services. The County spent more than 18 months developing service models and operation plans, with a final consensus to use the East Valley Medical Center property in San Jose to house a multi-service center for youth and families either in, or in danger of becoming involved in, the Dependency system. The timeline for opening the new RAIC facility was January 1, 2018.¹ Nothing further was agendized for a year moving on this plan and it was abandoned without further discussion with stakeholders.

When it became clear to the stakeholders that the East Valley site would not move forward as a home for either the RAIC or a new Child Advocacy Center (CAC), a group of stakeholders held a new series of meetings. As requested by members of the Board of Supervisors, a consensus recommendation was presented to the County by stakeholders.² This recommendation outlined the programs and services that the stakeholders believed needed to be co-located, with integrated programming, and proposed a site for the medium term. This recommendation was only partially adopted by the County administration; the new CAC has now opened.

While waiting for the County to move forward on the East Valley site, the facility on Santa Clara was flooded, and the RAIC functions were moved temporarily to the Family Resource Center on King Road in San Jose. Hotel rooms were used when necessary to house children until the RAIC moved to a building on Enborg Lane on the Valley Medical Center (VMC) campus on an interim basis. While the building was built on County land, this facility was not owned by the County and so could not be reconfigured to meet the needs of the youth who were staying there, many for over 24 hours. The County responded by attempting to buy the building. Since youth were being held for longer than 24 hours at Enborg, the State required the County to seek a license as a shelter.

While at the Enborg site from 2016 to 2019, the management of both the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) and the RAIC was constantly in a state of upheaval. The RAIC was licensed under a manager who was certified to run a shelter facility, but then that person was promoted away from the RAIC. At this point, management of the facility was rotated every two

¹ SCC Board of Supervisors transmittal 78687: R. Menicocci (Nov. 17, 2015) *RAIC Final Strategic Operational Plan and Feasibility Study*, beginning at page 69. Online at <http://sccgov.igm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=6630&InLine+True>

² Letter from Ad Hoc Committee on Relocation of the RAIC and Related Services, Supervisor Cindy Chavez (Feb. 13, 2018).

months for at least six months. The lack of continuity in administration of the facility caused inconsistent enforcement of programming. This was exacerbated by the fact that the Enborg facility was not configured to address the needs of children of different ages and varying needs.

During the fall of 2019, several children entered the Shelter with severe emotional and development needs. These youth were served by both the DFCS and the San Andreas Regional Center. Each agency seemed to be expecting the other to come up with placement, resulting in 3 or 4 children spending more than a month in a facility which was not designed to meet their needs. As a result, the most recent on-site RAIC supervisor quit, after approximately six months on the job, while the Social Service Program Manager had responsibility for the Enborg facility was on medical leave. To try and get the chaos at Enborg under control, staff from the Probation Department were brought in to assist the DFCS staff with behavior management. Stakeholders addressed their concerns to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in December 2019 that there were no new plans by DFCS other than addressing each situation as it arose. Though many stakeholders, including the JJC, asked the Board to instruct DFCS not to close Enborg until a concrete plan was developed, the facility was closed at the end of 2019 without further discussion, nor a plan. DFCS, Behavioral Health, and Probation worked diligently to support the small group of children with higher care needs remaining at the RAIC awaiting suitable placement. As of December 31, 2019, RAIC operations on Enborg Lane were closed and DFCS returned to 725 East Santa Clara and called it the Keiki Center, for RAIC activities.

Commissioners inspected the Keiki Center in November 2019. At that point, the Keiki Center appeared adequate for receiving and stays of less than 24 hours. The Commission visited its replacement, The Welcoming Center, in June, 2021 and May 2022. Its report was published in July 2022. Youth staying over 24 hours, and the use of Scattered Sites were noted in the report. One of these sites the JJC's visited was located in a middle-class neighborhood of single-family homes. While the site was a well-maintained home, it was sparsely furnished, which has proved typical of our visits to other Scattered Sites. The other major characteristic was its staffing, consisting of three rotating shifts of DFCS staff a day. At this point the number of Scattered Sites fluctuated depending on the number of children placed in them at any time. The sites were staffed by DFCS employees, many of whom had years of experience working with high-acuity needs youth.

At the time of that report two to three sites were in use. However, the Commission noted that "even with only one or two youth placed at a site," as was the practice at the time, they were still a group home model in that the staff rotates in and out on an 8 to 10 hour a day work schedule. While DFCS tried to match the staff with the youth in care at the site, this was not always possible due to work schedules. Also, as there was no consistent staffing or youth population in these sites, there was little programing available for the youth. The hope was that the youth will stay in the site for only several days, but some youth have stayed for several months. While this is a very small percentage of the youth who are in care, a better and more permanent solution needs to be found for these high-acuity-needs youth.

To better understand the needs of these High Acuity Youth, (HAY) on two separate occasions, two Commissioners reviewed the court files of a select group of these youth. The level of trauma and multiple traumas inflicted on these youth was extreme. A majority had been in the Dependency system for most of their lives. One was adopted by a relative and then returned to the system. Others had gone from relative placement to another relative placement, to another. Some had serious behavioral issues even as very young children. Almost all have spent time "caring for themselves" either as a runaway or within a household where there was no oversight and direction.

Finding appropriate housing and services for these youth has been part of the issues forced upon DFCS. However, the responsibility for addressing the consequences of the plethora of traumas for these youth goes beyond DFCS. It also falls to the county's failure to act on funding or plans made and developed, thereby leaving DFCS to apply a temporary fix instead of an appropriate solution for children under the county's care. In part, this is also a state and federal government issue forced upon the county/DFCS by the closure of group homes without enough of the recommended home-based alternatives.

Since the last published report on The Welcoming Center (TWC) in 2022, the JJC has continued to follow its activities by reviewing the Community Care Licensing (CCL) reports on the state website and reviewing incident reports from the facility. The JJC reviews weekly statistics on the youth placed there and by visiting the facility.

The JJC's visits to TWC on June 28, 2023, and August 23, 2024 showed that TWC is licensed by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division and managed by Seneca, as a transitional shelter facility. Their responsibility is to house and access the behavioral health needs and to assist in placement of children brought into foster care. The license for this facility by the State of California is monitored by the local Community Care Licensing (CCL). Their license provides for only 23 hours and 59-minute care before placing a child into an appropriate relative or other foster care placement. It can facilitate up to 15 children from birth to 18 while an assessment is completed, and potential placement is arranged by the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS).

Summary of Visit to TWC

The Welcoming Center property is described as a therapeutic, warm setting that supports young people as they navigate the trauma of a placement change or home removal crisis.³ It is housed in a two-story building near a popular shopping mall. Once inside it has a home-like feeling recently redecorated with art and new furniture. The facility contains bedrooms and day rooms on the first and second floor. The second floor is decorated for the younger children who spend time there. Their safety is ensured, and their separate needs are recognized and supported by separation from older youth. There is an outside patio with recreational equipment and a sun filtered table. The facility and grounds were well maintained and appropriate for their stated use.

The facility appears to have appropriate leisure time activities for the age groups on each floor and adequate staff is readily apparent. During the onsite visit, there was only one youth in residence.

During the last 18 months, TWC has faced increased challenges due to the number of high acuity youth being taken into care while no additional placement options have been forthcoming. Because of this, the number of youth staying longer at TWC increased and there were, on occasion, older, incompatible youth in the facility. On at least one occasion this resulted in TWC being cited by CCL. To address this situation TWC restricted the youth they would admit to the facility which resulted in the increased use of the Scattered Sites.

Scattered Sites

According to a supervisor at DFCS the Scattered Sites were due to be phased out. However, this

³ "Information Regarding the Welcoming Center", Seneca Family of agencies. February 19, 2021.

was not achieved due to a lack of appropriate placements for high acuity youth. As a result, DFCS moved to license the remaining two to three homes. This effort was severely hampered by the State of California, which had mandated the closing of group homes years earlier but had provided no replacement licensing regulations for shelters or other temporary placements. This also hampered the JJC's efforts to inspect the homes, as there were no adopted standards with which to inspect them. Despite this, in 2022 and again in the summer of 2024, the JJC visited these facilities. The findings of these visits are outlined below.

Two JJC Commissioners visited two Scattered Sites in October 2022 in south San Jose and Morgan Hill. Though the San Jose site was relatively clean and orderly, the interiors were stark and unwelcoming. At the site in Morgan Hill, JJC attempted to speak with the resident, who declined. This child had turned 13 during the nine months they had been there and had been driven by taxi daily to and from the child's home school in the far northern end of the county.

Two JJC Commissioners visited another Scattered Site on July 30, 2024. This site is a house located in a residential area. The location was unlicensed at the time of the visit but has since been licensed as a Transitional Shelter Care Facility (TRSCF). The Scattered Site is considered only a short-term placement until a more permanent placement is found. However, the majority of youth remain at the site for long periods of time because of the unavailability of appropriate placements or the refusal of the youth to be placed.

Present at the time of the visit was a newly appointed Social Services Program Manager III (SSPM III) who was assigned to manage the Scattered Sites, one Social Worker 1 and a uniformed Public Service Officer (PSO). The facility capacity was three youth, but only two youth resided at the location. One was asleep and the other was not on-site.

At the time of the visit, two staff were assigned to each of the shifts, day, night and graveyard shifts. One staff member worked in the office and the other in the living area. The ratio of staff to minors depends on the number and needs of youth placed in the house. The lowest number of staff is two. There were two youth placed in the house. The JJC asked about the presence of the uniformed Public Safety Officer and were told that one of the youth has a history of volatility.

Staff have either a Bachelor's or Master's degree. One of the staff interviewed during the visit was a newly hired SW I. She reported receiving only trauma-informed training with an expected refresher in six months. They are also offered online training in other areas. None of the staff indicated that they knew how to evacuate the home in an emergency. Staff rotate to Scattered Sites, weekly which just changed from daily. The staff interviewed prefer rotating daily because these youth pose a real challenge to manage.

This house has four-bedrooms, one of which is used as an office. While the home was generally neat and clean, it still had an instructional feel. It was sparsely furnished, with a few pictures. The carpets were dirty, and the kitchen cabinets needed cleaning. The staff is not responsible for cleaning the home. Each of the bedrooms contained a bed, a dresser and a closet. No personal items were present other than clothes. One bedroom was neat but in the other bedroom, the bed was unmade, clothes and a towel on the floor, and empty food containers were next to the bed, all of which is a violation of house rules.

Food for each meal is provided by Valley Health and is delivered twice a day in individual portions, served in paper plates and with plastic utensils. The use of plastic utensils was justified for safety reasons. The youth have access to healthy snacks. Few pots and pans were available. Some of the youth had volunteered to cook, but they must be supervised.

Medications are stored in a locked container in the office. The Youth Bill of Rights is posted as well as the House Rules. When a youth first arrives at the house, the staff explains and gives the youth a copy of the House Rules and Expectations. The Policies and Procedures manual was not provided until after the inspection report was completed. The latest fire inspection report was not produced. Smoke detectors were located throughout the house but had cages around them to prevent tampering, which appeared to be a problem in the past.

The youth are not responsible for the upkeep of the house, unlike the group homes where everyone had chores.

Puzzles and games are available to the youth, but no exercise equipment is provided. A youth may take walks. Youth are generally allowed to leave the home during the day if their primary social worker approves. Some of the youth participate in outside interests. Curfews are set and if the youth does not return the staff will call the youth to find out where they are. If the youth stays out without permission beyond two hours, the police are contacted and the youth is considered a missing person. Unlike TWC, the Scattered Sites do not appear to have established a working relationship with their local police departments.

Each of the youth has an individual program plan which is the responsibility of the primary social worker. Wrap services may be provided, including behavioral health and drug treatment services, however few of these services are provided at the Scattered Sites and some of the youth refuse to participate in these services.

Youth may attend a local school or their own home school. Transportation is provided, if the youth attend their own school. They are able to participate in school-based extra-curricular activities. Some youth refuse to attend school. When this occurs, staff contact the primary social worker. The youth then is denied access to television and is unable to leave the house. Rarely does the staff interact with the school unless the school calls to inform staff that the youth has been sent home.

Staff is trained to use corrective action as a learning experience for the youth. Staff is unable to use corporal punishment, physical restraints, or any intervention that can be construed as disrespectful, demoralizing or degrading. Youth can be sent to their rooms or their privileges might be restricted.

Meeting with DFCS Staff

On two occasions (in September and October) this year, the JJC met with DFCS staff who are working or have worked at the Scattered Sites to discuss the identified issues that make working at the Scattered Site so challenging. These workers included not only line staff but also managers. In the first instance, a few DFCS staff reached out to the JJC to present their concerns. The JJC asked for a second meeting to ask staff to elaborate on the issues raised. More workers attended the second meeting.

The problems identified fall into five general categories - staffing, safety, training, communication with administration and the provision of medications. Their comments are summarized below:

- **Staffing**

Issues around staffing appear to be the majority of the concerns raised by the DFCS staff. Depending on the youth, the ratio of staff to youth may be one on one or even two on one. Social workers indicated these sites, however, do not have enough ongoing assigned staff to manage the youth. All too often, the agency must ask for volunteers from other areas to cover staffing, but at times the sites may still be understaffed. Since the volunteer staff do not know this population and are often untrained, the regular Scattered Site staff feel the new staff rely too heavily on the expertise of the existing staff which increases their burden of managing the youth.

Staff turnover was reported as high, resulting in insufficient consistency in building relationships between staff and youth and between staff. Turnover has also occurred with managers, resulting in different management styles and a disruption in continuity. This inconsistency is exacerbated by the short-term staff rotation system used by the agency. Staff do not like this assignment because of the chaos and safety issues that exist. SW's also noted that one Scattered Site facility is too large to effectively monitor youth.

Also common is the use of entry level or newly hired Social Worker I at the sites. These workers have little or no experience in managing the high acuity youth that live in these houses. Workers indicated that these inexperienced staff lack adequate supervision or oversight by senior staff. They stated that these sites should be staffed with social workers with more experience (SW II and SW III) or a psychiatric SW.

- **Safety**

Many social workers believe that they are working in unsafe conditions. The staff reported that several workers have been injured at the sites and at least one was hospitalized. Rocks have been thrown at them and cars vandalized. The workers must deal with drug/alcohol use, substance withdrawal, partner violence, gang culture and suicidal ideation; youth sneaking other youth or adults into their rooms; assaultive behavior on staff and other youth in the house; and serious mental health crises. The SWs feel that they are "blind-sided by the youth" and are unprepared to handle the high needs of the youth. They also believe that these events are not appropriately reported. Workers have sought restraining orders to avoid being assigned to a site when a certain youth is present.

Workers are not generally allowed to use restraints nor to place their hands on the youth. In some instances, approved restraint techniques can be used, but only a limited number of staff are trained in these techniques. Also, a sufficient number of staff are required to do this safely and there are rarely enough staff on site.

- **Training**

The lack of adequate training appears to be the next most concerning issue presented by these workers. They indicated that the entry level social workers assigned to the Scattered Sites are not given sufficient training prior to their assignment.

All want more training, in particular on crisis intervention techniques (TCI - Therapeutic Crisis Intervention) and the effects of psychotropic drugs. Not all required components of TCI are being used. The workers do not believe that they have the appropriate tools to

handle these youth, especially when the youth is assaultive. They believe they are acting outside their competence. This situation ultimately impacts the youth as they do not receive the care they need.

- **Communication with Administration**

The workers reported their fear of retaliation for voicing concerns and seeking support. The retaliation seems to be subtle with workers believing that they are being reassigned. They do not believe the administration is providing enough support for the line-staff.

They see a disconnect between Administration and line-staff as well as a lack of transparency and planning. Feedback is not solicited, and when given, it is ignored. One social worker indicated that they contacted the County's whistleblower hotline and were referred back to DFCS. Consequently, no independent investigations occur into their concerns.

Three huddles a day occur during the day shift. Managers are required to be on site 20 hours a week, but they report this does not happen. Also, managers are expected to be on call 24/7, but real-time access is limited to phone calls. One social worker reported that they had not received 1:1 supervision for over a year. Staff meetings used to occur weekly, but they rarely occur now.

Many are unaware whether a policies and procedures manual has been developed for the Scattered Sites. Consequently, they are requesting a written manual and contingency plans. Workers stated that they do not have access to documents and any written expectations. Staff were denied access to the licensing application and supervisors are told by senior staff what information they can share with their staff. The workers want to be kept informed about each youth's history, especially any safety concerns, including access to police reports. Workers also want to be informed and participate in any future changes in program direction.

- **Medications**

Workers are concerned about the management of medications at the Scattered Sites. The social workers believe that the dispensing of medication is not being tracked. As a result, medications run out, youth miss their medications, are given the wrong medications and the wrong dosage. Errors are not reported as Incident Reports (IRs) Their preference is for a nurse to dispense medications.

First the staff was told that the Scattered Sites were temporary and would be phased out. However, a decision was made to maintain them. Then staff were told that this was a new program, considered to be an innovative pilot project. Staff in these meetings did not call for the dismantling of the program since not enough placement options are available for high acuity youth who do not meet the criteria of STRTPs or hospitalization. They do not belong in the juvenile justice system and the agency has not been able to find placements. They acknowledged that this is a statewide problem that has been amplified since the closure of group homes. Lobbying is needed for alternative options for these youth statewide. In the interim, this County must be creative in its solutions.

Staff offered some changes they would implement to make the Scattered Sites more effective, including:

- Increase the staff to youth ratio, especially in the home with 6-8 youth.

- Add clinically trained staff
- Replace SW I with SW II and III
- Have a supervisor on site
- Introduce 7 Challenges, a comprehensive substance abuse counseling program, since many youth are abusing drugs/alcohol
- Allow the social workers to initiate 5150 (mental health) holds
- Use clinical insights and improve evaluation of youth, to avoid placing youth together with competing needs
- Provide more information to the on-site staff about the youth and their needs
- Improve training - especially on different mental health diagnoses and about psychotropic medications and their side effects
- Allow easier access to a psychiatrist/mental health professionals
- Improve relationship with law enforcement

Conclusion and Call to Action

The crises at the Scattered Sites must be addressed immediately. The Scattered Sites were created as a temporary housing resource while DFCS invested in creating specialized foster homes that would be able to meet the needs of the most challenging youth in their care. At some point the decision was made to keep the Scattered Sites and seek licensure to house youth for a maximum of ten days. However, necessary changes to programming, training and staffing were not made.

The original plan for the Scattered Sites had been for each to accommodate only one youth, or, in rare circumstances, two. Now, as many as eight youth have been housed in a single Scattered Site. In effect, they have been operating as unlicensed group homes for high-acuity youth. Since the State no longer publishes regulations governing group homes, they continued to operate without any guidelines or policies and procedures until June 2024, when two were granted provisional licenses as Transitional Shelter Care Facilities.⁴

Previous regulations for group homes included a tiered system of licensing with strict rules about staff qualifications, training and staff-to-youth ratio. The highest level of care group homes were intended to provide a therapeutic setting for seriously emotionally disturbed youth and required the presence of licensed clinicians. Present State draft regulations for Transitional Shelter Care Facilities allow only for short term, maximum of ten day stays, and are not designed to address youth with complex needs, who are staying longer due to the lack of appropriate long term placements.

Youth have been staying at the Scattered Sites for much longer than ten days. Licensure allows youth to stay up to ten days but without developing long-term housing solutions for these youth needs, they will continue to stay well beyond ten days, making it all the more imperative that the program at the Scattered Sites be staffed with well-trained staff able to meet the complex and varied needs of these youth. These circumstances indicate the urgent need to develop a long-term solution.

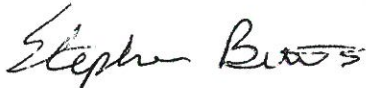
While not calling for the closure of the Scattered Sites, the JJC urges the adoption of a two-pronged approach to address the immediate crises.

⁴ As a part of the application for licensure Policies and Procedures were prepared but staff have stated they were not aware of there being any and had not received any training on them.

- Intensify efforts to develop resources to meet the long-term housing needs of these youth, such as creating an in-county Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) and specialized foster homes.
- The county should invest in stabilizing the Scattered Sites so that they are able to meet the intense needs of the population that they are serving. The concerns of the social workers for appropriate staffing and training and management oversight must be addressed.

DFCS, the Courts and the Board of Supervisors have responsibility for these dependent youth, but the larger community also has a stake in their care. Any attempt to address their needs should involve a convening of key stakeholders including DFCS staff, Judges, the Behavioral Health Services Department, foster care agencies, community-based organizations, and youth and their attorneys. The Juvenile Justice Commission strongly urges that this recommendation be treated with the highest level of importance.

Approved by the Juvenile Justice Commission, Santa Clara County, on November 5, 2024



Stephen Betts, Chair Juvenile Justice Commission



Penelope Blake, Chair Continuum of Care Committee