

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING

January 24, 2022, 2:00 P.M.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL (VOTING MEMBERS)

Chief Probation Officer
Ronald Miller II
Or Designee

Public Defender
Steven Harmon
Or Designee

Community Based Organization
Representative, Dan Harris
My City Youth

Director, Department of Public
Social Services
Sayori Baldwin
Or Designee

District Attorney
Michael A. Hestrin
Or Designee

Community Based Organization
Representative, Jitahadi Imara
StudentNest Foundation

Sheriff of Riverside County
Chad Bianco
Or Designee

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
Mark Petersen
Or Designee

Community Based Organization
Representative, Corey Jackson
Sigma Beta Xi

Director, Riverside University
Health Systems-Behavioral Health
Dr. Matthew Chang
Or Designee

Chair of the Board of Supervisors
Jeff Hewitt
Or Designee

Community Based Organization
Representative, Kevin Kalman
Desert Recreation District

Chairperson, Juvenile Justice
Delinquency Prevention
Christopher Collopy
Or Designee

Community Based Organization
Representative, Norma Biegel
Operation Safe House

Community Based Organization
Representative, Dr. Rodney Kyles
Nathanael Foundation

Superintendent, Riverside County
Office of Education
Dr. Edwin Gomez
or Designee

Community Based Organization
Representative, Dr. Mona Davies
Community Outreach Ministry

Community Based Organization
Representative, Mickey Rubinson
Carolyn E. Wylie Center

Chief, Riverside City Police
Department
Larry V. Gonzalez
Or Designee

Community Based Organization
Representative, Quinton Egson
Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley

In accordance with State Law (the Brown Act):

- *The meetings of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council are open to the public. The public may address the council within the subject matter jurisdiction of this council.*
- *Disabled persons may request disability-related accommodations in order to address the JJCC. 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) 955-2804.*
- *The public may review open session materials at <https://probation.co.riverside.ca.us> under Related Links tab or at Probation Administration, 3960 Orange St., Suite 600, Riverside, CA.92501*
- *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.*

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

This JJCC Meeting will be a virtual meeting only due to precautions related to the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19.

Any public requests to speak during public comments must first register by completing the form (link below) and submitting at least 24 hours in advance.

<https://forms.rivco.org/ConstituentSpeakingRequest.aspx#gsc.tab=0>

Once registered, further information will be provided.

January 24, 2022, 2:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call (Voting Members)
3. Adoption of Resolution No. 2022-001 – A Resolution of the JJCC Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for 30 days – Action Item
4. Link to November 15, 2021 Virtual JJCC Meeting – Discussion Item
<https://imd0mxanj2.execute-api.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ssr/watch/61affa57198e910009bd10a9>
5. Subcommittee Development to Address Community Review and Feedback of Community Programs – Action Item
6. JJCC By-Laws – Action Item
7. Fiscal Year 22/23 Budget Proposals – Discussion Item
8. Application for Community Member – Discussion Item
9. Council Comments
10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

Next JJCC Meeting

Date/Time: March 21, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Board of Supervisors

County of Riverside

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-001

**A RESOLUTION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS
OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 24, 2022 – FEBRUARY 23, 2022
PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT.**

WHEREAS, all meetings of Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and its legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and view the legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions and requirements; and

WHEREAS, a required condition of Government Code section 54953(e) is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558(b); and

WHEREAS, a further required condition of Government Code section 54953(e) is that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body holds a meeting to determine or has determined by a majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency declaring a state of emergency exists in California due to the threat of COVID-19, pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8625); and,

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-07-21, which

1 formally rescinded the Stay-at-Home Order (Executive Order N-33-20), as well as the framework for a
2 gradual, risk-based reopening of the economy (Executive Order N-60-20, issued on May 4, 2020) but did
3 not rescind the proclaimed state of emergency; and,

4 **WHEREAS**, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom also issued Executive Order N-08-21, which set
5 expiration dates for certain paragraphs of the State of Emergency Proclamation dated March 4, 2020 and
6 other Executive Orders but did not rescind the proclaimed state of emergency; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the state Legislature have
8 exercised their respective powers pursuant to Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency
9 either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution the state Legislature; and,

10 **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Industrial Relations has issued regulations related to
11 COVID-19 Prevention for employees and places of employment. Title 8 of the California Code of
12 Regulations, Section 3205(5)(D) specifically recommends physical (social) distancing as one of the
13 measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19 based on the fact that particles containing the virus can travel
14 more than six feet, especially indoors; and,

15 **WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2021, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council previously adopted
16 Resolution No. 2021-002, finding that the requisite conditions existed for the Juvenile Justice Coordinating
17 Council and its legislative bodies to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with
18 Government Code section 54953 (b)(3), as authorized by Section 54953(e); and,

19 **WHEREAS**, as a condition of extending the use of the teleconferencing provisions for another 30
20 days beyond the Resolution No. 2021-002 adopted on November 4, 2021, pursuant to Government Code
21 Section 54953(e), the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council must reconsider the circumstances of the state
22 of emergency that exists and find that either the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability
23 of the members to meet safely in person or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend
24 measures to promote social distancing; and,

25 **WHEREAS**, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council has reconsidered the circumstances of the
26 state of emergency and finds that state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to
27 promote social distancing, based on the California Department of Industrial Relations regulations related to
28 COVID-19 Prevention, specifically, Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3205(5)(D),

1 continuing to remain in effect; and,

2 **WHEREAS**, as a consequence, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council does hereby find that it
3 and its legislative bodies may continue to conduct their meetings by teleconferencing without compliance
4 with Government Code section 54953 (b)(3), pursuant to Section 54953(e), and that such legislative bodies
5 shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed by
6 Government Code section 54953(e)(2).

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND AND ORDERED** by the Board of
8 Supervisors, County of Riverside, State of California, in regular session assembled on January 24, 2022
9 does hereby resolve as follows:

10 Section 1. Recitals. All of the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated into this
11 Resolution by this reference.

12 Section 2. Reconsideration of the State of Emergency. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating
13 Council has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency that continues to exist and was
14 proclaimed by the Governor through a State of Emergency Proclamation on March 4, 2020.

15 Section 3. State or Local Officials Continue to Impose or Recommend Measures to Promote
16 Social Distancing. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council hereby proclaims that state officials continue
17 to impose or recommend measures to promote social (physical) distancing based on the continuance of
18 California Department of Industrial Relations regulations related to COVID-19 Prevention through Title 8
19 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3205(5)(D).

20 Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and
21 any of its legislative bodies are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the
22 intent and purpose of this Resolution including, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with
23 Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

24 Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and
25 shall be effective until the earlier of (i) February 23, 2022, or (ii) such time the Juvenile Justice Coordinating
26 Council adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend
27 the time during which its legislative bodies may continue to teleconference without compliance with Section
28 54953(b)(3).

1 ADOPTED this Twenty-fourth day of January, 2022 by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council,
2 by the following vote:

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4 YES:

5 NO:

6 ABSENT:

7 ABSTAIN:

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**BY-LAWS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

The name of this organization shall be THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

**ARTICLE II
AUTHORITY**

The organization is authorized by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 749.22 and Riverside County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 2015-082 dated April 14, 2015 .

**ARTICLE III
PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Riverside County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council shall be to:

1. Develop and implement a continuation of county-based responses to juvenile crime and to set priorities for the uses of grant funds.
2. Develop a comprehensive multi-agency plan that identifies resources and strategies for providing an effective continuum of responses for the prevention, intervention, supervision, treatment, and incarceration of juvenile offenders, including strategies to develop and implement local out-of-home placement options for the offender.

**ARTICLE IV
DUTIES**

The Council shall have the following duties:

1. Assist the Chief Probation Officer in developing a comprehensive, multi-agency juvenile justice plan to develop a continuum of responses for the prevention, intervention, supervision, treatment, and incarceration of juvenile offenders, in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 749.22 and Government Code 30061.
2. Assist the Chief Probation Officer in developing a juvenile justice plan in accordance with the requirements of the Youthful Offender Block Grant described in Senate Bill (SB) 81 of 2007 and Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1961.
3. Serve as the Local Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition in accordance with Title 28 Code of Federal Regulations – Chapter 1, Part 31, Section 31.502, for the purpose of securing Federal Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant funding for the County of Riverside.

**ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP**

1. Along with the Chief Probation Officer who shall serve as Chairperson, voting members shall include one representative from each of the following agencies:
 - District Attorney's Office
 - Public Defender's Office
 - Sheriff's Department
 - Board of Supervisors
 - Department of Public Social Services
 - Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health
 - City Police Department
 - County Office of Education or a School District
 - Juvenile Court
 - JJDC Chair, who shall serve as an At-Large Community Representative
2. The JJCC shall include nine (9) voting representatives from Community-Based Organizations as follows:
 - One (1) representative from a Community-Based Drug and Alcohol Program, recommended by the Chair of the JJCC;
 - A representative each from three (3) different CBOs, as recommended by the JJCC, who provide services to youth in Riverside County and are currently funded through the JJCC;
 - Five (5) CBO representatives appointed by the Board of Supervisors, one from each Supervisorial District.
3. Terms of Service:
 - a. The membership term for the Chairperson shall be concurrent with his/her term as Chief Probation Officer. Member representatives of the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Sheriff's Department, Board of Supervisors, Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health, City Police Department, County Office of Education or School District, Juvenile Court, and JJDC Chair (serving as an At-Large Community Representative) shall serve indefinite terms.
 - b. Community-Based Organization (CBO) representatives, as defined in Article V, Section 2, shall serve two years from the effective date of the member's appointment, and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms of service. If a CBO fails to attend three or more consecutive meetings without the absence being authorized by the Chairperson or without arranging for an alternate member to represent him or her, it shall result in a termination of their term as a JJCC member. In such a case, a replacement shall be selected as described in Article V, Section 2.
4. Alternate Members:
 - a. Each Council member shall designate, in writing provided to the Chairperson, an on-going alternate to represent the voting member at the Council meeting in the event the Council member is unable to attend the meeting.
 - b. The designation of each on-going alternate shall be submitted once a year, in writing, to the Chairperson prior to the date of the first meeting.

- c. The designee shall be from the same department, agency, or organization as the Council member, and have full voting privileges while representing the absent member.
- d. Acting Chairperson – In the event of the temporary absence of the Chairperson, the Chairperson shall designate a Probation Department representative to serve as the Acting Chairperson to preside at the Council meeting.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

1. Officers of the Council shall be the Chairperson and an Acting Chairperson, and any such other officers as the Council may choose to elect.
2. Responsibilities of Chairperson:
 - a. Chairperson – In accordance with Section 749.22 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the Chief Probation Officer shall serve as the Council Chairperson. The Chairperson shall supervise and direct the Council's activities, affairs, and officers, and preside at all Council meetings. The Chairperson shall have such other powers and duties as the Council or Bylaws may prescribe.
 - b. Acting Chairperson: In the event of the Chairperson being unable to attend the meeting, the Acting Chairperson shall preside at the Council meeting.
 - c. The Acting Chairperson, Assistant Chief of Probation, has been designated by the Chairperson and shall be voted on at the end of the year for the following year.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and its Committees shall be governed by the Brown Act and all meetings shall be open to the public.

1. Regular Meetings:

Regular meetings shall be held four times a year in January, March, July, and November, or as set by the Chairperson.
2. Special Meetings:

A Special Meeting may be called at any time by the Chairperson upon written request specifying the general nature of the business proposed. An agenda and 24-hour notice must be given to the public.
3. Quorum and Voting Procedures:
 - a. A simple majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of members.
 - b. Decisions shall be reached through majority voting which is defined as a majority of the quorum members present.

- c. The Council shall use parliamentary procedures to conduct business.
4. Setting the Agenda:
The Chairperson shall designate items on the agenda for Council meetings. Any member representative may place an item on the agenda by making a written request to the Chairperson no later than seven (7) business days prior to the scheduled meeting.
5. Public Comments:
Public comments at meetings are limited to three (3) minutes for each agenda item. The Chairperson has the discretion to extend the time based on the complexity of the issue.

ARTICLE VIII CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. Council members shall comply with all conflict of interest laws including, but not limited to, Government Code Section 1090, *et seq.*, and the California Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 87100, *et seq.*), which requires the member to:
 - a. Publicly state the nature of the conflict in sufficient detail to be understood by the public;
 - b. Recuse him/herself from discussing and voting on the item;
 - c. Leave the room until the item is concluded.
2. The JJCC adopts the following, potentially more restrictive rule: A JJCC member shall abstain from participating in Council discussions, and voting on any JJCC funding issues, which involve their agency, company, or department, or in which they have a personal financial interest.
3. Conflict of Interest – Members must comply with the conflict of interest and recusal process found in the Ralph M. Brown Act. All members must declare any conflict of interest they or their organizations have on any voting issue before the JJCC or the JJCC Subcommittee. Members declaring a conflict shall not be counted towards determining a quorum for that particular action item. Organizations (both private and public) and Community-at-Large members are required to recuse themselves from discussion or voting on any issue in which they, or their organization, may have a financial interest. If a question arises as to whether a conflict exists that may prevent a member from voting, the Chairperson or designee may consult with designated County Staff to assist them in making that determination. In the event a member has not declared a conflict of interest, and there appears to be a conflict of interest or a conflict of interest is declared by others, County Counsel will make the final determination on whether there is a conflict. If a member chooses not to recuse themselves, despite the opinion of Counsel, the board can make the final decision to vote on whether the member must recuse themselves.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES

1. There shall be committees and subcommittees established as the Council shall deem necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in Article III of these bylaws.

2. In accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Division 2.5, Chapter 1.7, Section 1995 (b), a realignment subcommittee of the Council shall be established and comprised of the Chief Probation Officer as the chair, one representative from the district attorney, public defender, social services, mental health, county office of education or school district, and a representative from the Court. The subcommittee shall also include no fewer than three community members (someone who has experience providing juvenile programs, youth advocates, or someone directly involved in the justice system). Together, the subcommittee will develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for the population described in subdivision (b) of Section 1990 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
 - a. In order to receive funding pursuant to Section 1991, a plan shall be filed with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration by May 1st of each year. In order to continue receiving funding, the subcommittee shall convene to consider the plan every third year, but at a minimum submit the most recent plan regardless of changes.
 - b. Becoming a subcommittee member as a community representative.
 - i. Becoming a member: any interested community member who meets the criteria of having experience providing youth programs, they are a youth advocate, or have direct involvement in the justice system may submit a completed application. Applications can be obtained at rcp.org. All applications will be presented to the JJCC for formal consideration and voting.
 - c. Members of the JJCC or JJCC subcommittee who are appointed pursuant to the settlement in the Sigma Beta Xi, Inc. v. County of Riverside are not required to complete an application and shall be appointed directly by the Chairperson on an agenda item.

ARTICLE X TERMS

1. The membership term for the Chairperson shall be concurrent with his/her term as Chief Probation Officer. County and State representatives shall serve an indefinite term until the member representative resigns or a new member representative is designated by his or her office, department, or agency.
2. Community Member terms: 2022 will start the application process. All community members will remain on the subcommittee for three years to convene as a group within their term.
3. Attendance of members shall be taken and recorded in the minutes at all commission meetings. Any community member who accumulates three unexcused absences from meetings during the fiscal year shall be considered as having resigned from the commission. Excused absences are within the discretionary authority of the commission executive committee.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Council and shall be effective upon approval of the Board of Supervisors.

ESTABLISHED:
April 14, 2015

AMENDED:
January 24, 2022

DRAFT



OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

MICHAEL A. HESTRIN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

January 21, 2022

DISTRICT ATTORNEY JJCPA 21-22 GRANT PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

The District Attorney's Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) engages in youth crime prevention services that consist of early intervention and prevention strategies that benefit elementary, middle, and high school at-risk youth. The aim of these services is to enhance public safety and to support youth and their families by promoting education, good decision-making, and to prevent truancy, chronic absenteeism, delinquency, substance abuse, gang affiliation, and entry into the juvenile justice system. In simplest terms, CPU's goal is to help young people stay in school, achieve academic success, and develop positive life skills.

CPU provides services to every community in Riverside County. To significantly improve and increase our services, and to achieve statistically proven positive outcomes, CPU partners with the SAFE Family Justice Center (SFJC) and the District Attorney's Division of Victim Services (DVS). Our team is comprised of experienced Deputy District Attorneys as well as Victim Advocates (trained social workers).

The SFJC is a highly respected local non-profit community-based organization with a proven record of success. SFJC was established in 1998 and specializes in providing domestic violence and at-risk youth prevention and intervention services to the community. SFJC provides services from four regional locations within the county of Riverside. Its centers are located in the cities of Riverside, Indio, Murrieta, and Temecula. SFJC uses a multidisciplinary response framework that provides "one-stop shop" services to youth and adults from both government and community-based partner agencies who work under one roof to support the complex needs of at-risk youth and victims of abuse. Services provided in the centers are trauma informed, client led, confidential, and limit the number of times that individuals must re-tell their story, ultimately creating a safe space for youth and family members to address the underlying causes of truancy and delinquent behavior.

The DVS provides services to victims of crime and supports special teams throughout the DA's Office (like CPU). The Division of Victim Services also operates a Facility K9 Program to support adult victims of crime and children who have experienced trauma and other adverse childhood experiences (that predispose children to delinquent behavior). Through this grant, a

DVS Specialist will serve in the role as a K9 facility dog handler in support of the prevention and intervention services provided by the CPU. For example, the facility dog will be used in the DART crisis response, in needs assessment interviews, during counseling and case management sessions, and as a rapport building tool for vulnerable children who do not feel secure in their school environments due to traumatic events.

The DVS selected a qualified Victim Services Specialist to serve as the CPU program funded K9 Handler. The K9 Handler has completed required training to begin implementing group programs in our local schools, as well as training to support her work in other CPU programs and as part of the DART team. While the K9 Handler is in the process of having her Facility Dog assigned to her, she has started utilizing the Division of Victim Services special victims unit K9 in order to provide this much needed resource to her CPU program clients and facilitate a smooth transition once she receives her JJCPA grant funded Facility Dog. Assistance Dogs of the West is the agency the K9 Handler is working with to obtain her specialized facility dog. The K9 Handler has traveled to Assistance Dogs of the West in order to receive required training and to provide Assistance Dogs of the West with detailed information about how the dog will be utilized in our CPU programs. The K9 Handler is working together with Assistance Dogs of the West in order to ensure that the dog she is matched with has the necessary training and disposition to work within the school setting and as part of the CPU team to support our unique programming needs. During the K9 Handler's first training session with Assistance Dogs of the West in September 2021, several dogs were identified as a potential match but are in need of additional training time with Assistance Dogs of the West trainers. A second visit and additional training is planned for February or March of 2022 in order to officially match our K9 Handler to her CPU facility dog.

PROPOSAL

This proposal requests funding for the continuation and expansion of the DA youth crime prevention services and programs currently funded by the JJCPA. These programs include the Student Attendance Review Board program (**SARB**), the Gang Awareness, Mentorship, and Education program (**GAME**), the Youth Empowerment and Safety (**YES**) program, the De-escalation and Assistance Resource Team (**DART**), and additional crime prevention projects and youth support services that prevent youth victimization and delinquency.

COVID – 19 continues to affect local communities and force our educational institutions to limit in-person instruction and student services. Yet, despite the pandemic, District Attorney JJCPA funded programs in 2021/2022 remained active and productive, and continued to achieve positive outcomes.

CPU's 2021/2022 proposal saw the addition of the SFJC. For each program listed in this proposal, the SFJC advocates are available to conduct comprehensive needs assessments for youth and families to provide culturally sensitive and trauma-informed resources to youth and their families.

Four SFJC Advocates are assigned to support the CPU with confidential community-based advocacy services. The SFJC advocates are assigned to service areas by region of Riverside

County (east, west, southwest, and Banning Pass regions). Advocates are able to respond to in-person emergency requests via the DART Program and in the form of follow-up assistance based on referral requests from local schools. In cases where the youth or family's challenges are more significant, the SFJC advocates will fill a gap in services related to case management and direct service delivery. SFJC will provide intervention and preventative case management services designed to support youth, siblings, and caregivers interfacing with CPU programs. Youth and their families will have access to the following services:

- Family engagement: needs assessment, resource connection, and direct intervention to help reduce barriers experienced by youth and family
- Emergency & basic needs assistance to help stabilize the needs of children and their family
- Counseling & education programs
- Social emotional enrichment
- Career education, facilitation of field trips to increase educational opportunities and exposure to life enriching experiences
- Trauma support and parenting classes for parents/caregivers

These wraparound services will result in the overall stability of the youth and reduce the barriers to regular school attendance. SFJC services are designed to help identify and address barriers associated with school attendance and adverse childhood experiences by addressing the acute needs of youth who interface with the CPU. Additionally, SFJC serves as a long-term program support option for youth via its social emotional learning groups like Girls Circle, Boys Council, and CPU Literacy Programs. Youth enrolled in these programs will also have access to project-sponsored field trips and exposure activities that support the personal and positive development of youth in our programs.

1. TRUANCY

A. PROBLEM

Each year there are approximately 150,000 chronically absent and truant youth in Riverside County, and that number is expected to drastically increase because of the pandemic. Additionally, Riverside County has a higher truancy rate than the state average. This is extremely problematic because, statistically speaking, chronically absent and truant students are at a significantly greater risk to struggle academically, drop out of school, and not graduate from high school. This significantly impacts our criminal justice system in that 82% of adults incarcerated in US penal institutions are high school dropouts and over 70% have difficulty reading above a fourth-grade level. Furthermore, truancy is the number one predictor of juvenile delinquency in California and truants are more likely to become victims of a crime. Special focus on attendance and student achievement is therefore imperative to meet the overarching intent and purpose of the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act. Finally, the Education and Welfare & Institutions Codes makes it clear that the District Attorney has an important, and sometimes exclusive, role in the SARB process.

B. RESPONSE

Therefore, pursuant to this proposal, the CPU will engage in extensive truancy prevention efforts with schools, students, and parents or guardians. This will be a countywide effort in association with the County's 23 local school districts and the County Office of Education, which currently enroll approximately 420,000 students. These efforts will include, but not be limited to, meaningful participation in the following ways:

i. Attendance / SART (Student Attendance Review Team) meetings. School districts, recognizing the powerful influence of Deputy District Attorneys (DDAs) and SFJC advocates, request that CPU team members attend these school site meetings to inspire students regarding the power and importance of education and to emphasize to parents their crucial role in supporting and protecting their children's education.

ii. SARB meetings. The SARB is designed to bring together district and community resources to help families continuing to struggle with truancy, to identify the causes for the truanies, and to offer solutions. The role of the District Attorney's Office is particularly important at SARB meetings with students and families because of our legal expertise regarding the SARB process and our knowledge of countywide best practices resulting from our attendance-related work with every school district in the county. Additionally, inclusion of the District Attorney's Office on local SARB boards is specifically listed in Education Code Section 48321(b)(1)(L).

iii. District Attorney Truancy Mediations. These meetings represent the last phase in the SARB process and are authorized per the Education and Welfare and Institutions Codes. At these meetings, truant and their parents who have not resolved the truanies after their district SARB meeting meet individually (one family at a time) with the SARB DDA and the SFJC advocate. At these meetings, the DDA emphasizes and explains the compulsory education laws, the potential penalties for non-compliance, and explores untapped resources and strategies to resolve the truanies. The DDA also provides the family an important last opportunity to avoid a potential referral to law enforcement for prosecution. The participation of the SFJC advocate to assist and empower families to overcome the challenges/barriers that contribute to their children's truanies is particularly critical at these meetings. The involvement of the SFJC advocates at Mediations will also be critical because the advocates are available to provide case management and assistance that can continue for several months. This will help provide the long-term stability and resources necessary to combat the most complex truancy cases.

C. OUTCOMES:

The COVID – 19 pandemic led to school closures and the advent of distance learning which resulted in the disruption and delay of the traditional SARB process. Although most Riverside County schools returned to in-person instruction in the fall of 2021, many families struggled with the transition away from virtual learning. Local school administrators raised concerns about student attendance. In 2021, SARB DDAs and SFJC advocates participated in 804 formal attendance related meetings with truant students and their families.

These collaborative school district-CPU interventions work. In the 2020/2021 academic year, school districts reported that 71% of the students involved in these formal attendance meetings showed improved attendance 30 days after meeting with the SARB DDA. The current 2021-2022 academic school year is the first full year with SFJC advocates participating in the SARB process. During calendar year 2021, SFJC enrolled 226 youth and 221 adults (caregivers/young adult siblings) into voluntary case management services. We continue to have great optimism that the partnership between the DA's Office and SFJC will yield even better results since the participation of the SFJC advocates in the SARB process provides even greater positive support and assistance for youth and their families.

D. PROPOSED SARB STAFFING:

- i. Western Region: 2 SARB DDA; 1 SFJC Advocate
- ii. Southwestern Region: 1 SARB DDA; 1 SFJC Advocate
- iii. Eastern Region: 1 SARB DDA; 1 SFJC Advocate
- iv. Pass Area Region: 1 SARB DDA; 1 SFJC Advocate
- v. Countywide: 1 DVS Specialist/Dog Handler

2. YOUTH GANG AND DRUG ACTIVITY

A. PROBLEM

For decades, the vicious scourge of gang violence and drug abuse has plagued our entire nation. Few crimes instill as much fear or create as much death, destruction, or havoc on a community as gang offenses. When young people get involved in gangs or drugs, too often this involvement results in their education becoming derailed, and they are subject to experiencing injury, death, incarceration, or any combination thereof. To be clear, gang involvement can lead to young people becoming both perpetrators and victims of violent crime. Unfortunately, nowhere in the nation has this tragic phenomenon been more problematic than in Southern California, and Riverside County has certainly not been exempted. There are approximately 13,000 documented gang members in Riverside County, and no public school district in Riverside County can escape the presence of gang or drug activity in its schools.

B. RESPONSE

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office created the GAME program. The GAME program operates under the vital premise that youth gang and drug participation is preventable and correctable. To that end, GAME provides several important gang, drug, and parent awareness presentations. These presentations include:

- i. The Parent Power presentation which teaches parents how to keep their children away from destructive behaviors and how to develop strong and positive relationships with their children while implementing effective and healthy discipline strategies that do not involve corporal punishment.
- ii. The Gang Awareness and Prevention Presentation for Parents which teaches parents why youth get involved with gangs, gang membership warning signs, and what parents need to know and do to keep their children away from gangs and illegal drugs.
- iii. The Gang Awareness and Prevention Presentation for Youth which teaches junior high and high school students about the realities of gang life and the severe legal penalties associated with gang-related criminal prosecutions. During this presentation, the youth hear from former hardcore gang members that candidly and persuasively relate why youth should avoid gang and prison life.
- iv. The Gang Awareness and Prevention Presentation for Educators which is delivered to school staff and administrators and touches on a variety of gang-related topics such as gang territories, signs, clothing, paraphernalia, recent trends, and safety tips.
- v. The Drug Awareness Presentation for Youth which teaches students about the harmful consequences of illegal narcotics and prescription drug abuse. During this presentation, former drug abusers share their harrowing personal stories of addiction to discourage youth from the ravaging effects of substance abuse. A similar presentation is also available for parents.

C. OUTCOMES

In 2021, GAME DDAs provided 187 presentations to 11,021 people in our schools and communities. In October 2020, CPU developed an anonymous online survey system for students attending GAME presentations. In 2021, 100% of students surveyed indicated that the GAME presentations helped them want to stay away from gangs. 98% indicated that GAME presentations helped them want to stay away from vaping and 100% were encouraged to avoid illegal drug use, including fentanyl.

CPU's GAME program is proven and effective. It has been emulated by governmental and community-based organizations across the nation. In 2013 and 2014, the GAME program was recognized by an international White House initiative (the Central American Community Impact Exchange) as an innovative and effective gang prevention program that positively impacts the community. In 2015, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government selected the GAME program as one of the most effective, innovative, and cost-effective government programs in the nation. In 2016, the GAME program won the very prestigious and highly coveted Challenge Merit Award by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). This award designated the GAME program as one of the most effective, innovative, and cost-effective programs in the state. Lastly, the GAME presentation was the highest rated presentation at the 2018 National Innovative Communities Conference, and it received excellent reviews at the 2019 and 2020 National Youth At-Risk Conferences.

D. PROPOSED GAME STAFFING

- i. Western and Southwestern Regions: 1 GAME DDA
- ii. Eastern and Banning Pass Area Regions: 1 GAME DDA
- iii. Countywide: the 4 SFJC Advocates and the DVS Specialist/dog handler listed in the SARB section will also participate in and support this program.

3. RISKS TO YOUTH SAFETY

A. PROBLEM

Under current social, technological and criminogenic climates and conditions, our schools, parents or guardians, and students are expressing grave concern regarding a wide variety of issues that negatively impact youth decision making and jeopardizes their safety such as peer pressure, unsupervised internet use, improper youth/adult relationships, unhealthy teen relationships, bullying, and the over sexualization and exploitation of vulnerable youth.

B. RESPONSE

The District Attorney's Office developed the YES program. The presentations offered through the YES program educate the general public, parents or guardians, educators and youth about the dangers associated with the activities described above, the social and penal consequences associated with voluntary involvement in risky and illegal activities, and where to go for help, resources, and potential solutions. These presentations are even more essential now that mental health issues, substance abuse, and unmonitored youth internet usage have all increased during the pandemic. The presentations address the following essential topics:

- i. Bullying and Cyber-Bullying
- ii. Internet Safety
- iii. Human Trafficking
- iv. Domestic Violence and Healthy Relationships
- v. Hate Crimes
- vi. Juveniles and the Law
- vii. The Power of Education

Additionally, the SFJC will coordinate the implementation of One Circle Foundation Curriculums. This includes structured support groups called Girls Circle and Boys Council for

girls, boys, and gender-expansive youth from 9-18 years of age which integrates relational theory, resiliency practices, and skills training. It is designed to increase positive connection, strengths, and competence in girls/boys. Girls Circle is an evidence-based program that has demonstrated effectiveness in reducing delinquency/reducing recidivism for girls. In fact, according to a rigorous evaluation sponsored by the OJJDP, Girls Circle is the first ever gender-specific program to have demonstrated success in reducing delinquency. Boys Council is a recognized promising practice with an evaluation underway at the University of Oregon and the Center for Disease Control in partnership with the State of New York Health Department.

C. OUTCOMES

In 2021, the YES program provided 193 presentations to 14,279 students and family members. Additionally, SFJC facilitated 91 two-hour Girls Circle sessions and 62 Boys Council sessions with CPU program enrolled youth.

D. PROPOSED YES STAFFING (Note: no additional personnel requested)

- i. Western and Southwestern Regions: 1 YES DDA (same DDA listed in GAME section)
- ii. Eastern and Banning Pass Area Regions: 1 YES DDA (same DDA listed in GAME section)
- iii. Countywide: the 4 SFJC Advocates and the DVS Specialist/dog handler listed in the SARB section will also participate in and support this program.

It should be also noted that our SARB and DART DDAs are trained to teach YES program presentations, therefore increasing the reach of CPU.

4. SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND TRAUMATIC INCIDENTS

A. PROBLEM

School staff and students routinely struggle with the fallout proceeding school-related traumatic incidents like racially motivated fights, hate speech, student or faculty deaths, on-campus overdoses, and serious crime arrests. Social and emotionally informed resources and trauma-informed restorative programming are essential to combat the negative impacts on school climate, campus safety and student emotional wellbeing after a traumatic incident has occurred.

B. RESPONSE

In response, the District Attorney will continue to develop and grow a comprehensive and efficient response team called DART. The purpose of this team will be to: a) help de-escalate tension, fears, stress and anxiety; b) prevent violence and retaliation; c) provide education regarding penal consequences that can occur if students respond in a manner that violates the law; d) suggest healthy, helpful, and appropriate responses to incidents of hate, anger, violence,

or injustice; and e) provide resources to help students deal with anger, depression, fear, or anxiety. DART may include partners such as Probation, local law enforcement, the Department of Behavioral Health, counseling organizations, drug and alcohol recovery organizations, youth shelter and safety organizations, and other public and private organizations that specialize in the issues described above.

C. OUTCOMES

This program is currently being piloted in the Moreno Valley Unified School District (MVUSD). DART began serving MVUSD in August 2021 and has received consistent intake referrals since its inception, several of which were in relation to high-profile incidents. For example, DART received a referral from a high school whose girls volleyball team was the victim of racist behavior from students at a rival school. DART responded to the school, met with the team, and helped develop a positive response plan to the terrible incident which included the creation of a kindness mural and an empowerment discussion with the team. As a testament to DART's potential and what it has already accomplished, Hemet Unified School District recently asked CPU to bring DART to its campuses.

DART is in the process of creating a successful operational template that will enable it to be replicated in other school districts throughout the county. With SFJC's partnership, potential success metrics include the number of referrals into pro-social and therapeutic services, the number of repeat traumatic incidents at a school site, and positive response rates to post-services surveys.

D. PROPOSED STAFFING:

- i. 1 DART DDA (we hope to grow this program over the next few academic years)
- ii. The 4 SFJC Advocates and the DVS Specialist/dog handler listed in the SARB section will also participate in and support this program.

5. TOTAL STAFFING SUMMARY

A. District Attorney's Office

- i. 1 Chief Deputy District Attorney (Team Supervisor)
- ii. 1 Managing Deputy District Attorney (Project Manager)
- iii. 1 Team Leader Deputy District Attorney (also assisting with SARB & other programs)
- iv. 5 Deputy District Attorneys (SARB)
- v. 2 Deputy District Attorneys (GAME / YES)
- vi. 1 Deputy District Attorney (DART)

- vii. .5 DVS Victim Service Supervisor
- viii. 1 DVS Advocate/Dog Handler
- ix. 1 Legal Support Assistant (Administrative / Clerical Support)

B. SAFE Family Justice Center

- i. 4 Advocates
- ii. 1 Project Analyst

6. FUNDING REQUEST

The District Attorney's Office is requesting \$2,750,336 to cover the costs of salary, benefits, and training for the positions listed above. Please see the itemized budget spreadsheet for details.

7. CONCLUSION

A prosecutor's office is a traditionally 'reactive' organization. Crimes are committed, police investigate, and the District Attorney charges the offender to impose accountability and consequences through the criminal justice system. In Riverside County, however, we recognize that this traditional prosecution model is not always the best way to keep our communities safe and help our youth thrive. We must also work 'proactively' to prevent crime before it ever happens. That was District Attorney's purpose in creating the Crime Prevention Unit.

The Riverside County District Attorney's Office crime prevention initiative uses the strategies described above in a concerted effort to significantly enhance public safety by motivating and empowering the youth to overcome challenges, develop positive and healthy mindsets, and achieve personal, educational, and professional or vocational success.

It should be noted that comprehensive juvenile crime prevention and intervention efforts from a prosecutorial agency generally do not exist in the United States. Riverside County is a striking exception that provides a stellar model of the positive outcomes that can be achieved when prosecutors join community partners to assist at-risk youth in being successful and staying out of the criminal justice system.

Our visionary and cutting-edge crime prevention model has generated national interest, earned prestigious awards (such as the California School Board Association's Golden Bell Award which has never before been awarded to a prosecutorial agency), and provides a special pathway for criminal justice reform for other prosecuting agencies to follow. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office is very grateful to the Riverside County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council for its past, present, and future support in developing this unique model that positively invests in youth and prevents their entry into the Juvenile Justice System. We are privileged to collaborate with the JJCC and our community partners.

BUDGET CATEGORY AND LINE ITEM DETAIL

FY22/23 District Attorney's Office JJCPA

A. Personnel Services – Salaries/Employee Benefits		COST
Salaries:		
	FTE	
Chief Deputy District Attorney	0.15	\$34,996
Managing Deputy District Attorney	1.00	\$204,500
Deputy District Attorney IV- P	0.22	\$38,697
Deputy District Attorney IV GAME	2.00	\$340,875
Deputy District Attorney III SARB	5.00	\$690,014
Deputy District Attorney III DART	1.00	\$138,265
Victim Services Supervisor	0.50	\$34,115
Victim Services Specialist	1.00	\$64,026
Office Assistant	1.00	\$54,425
OVERTIME - None		
Benefits:		
Chief Deputy District Attorney	Unemployment	0.121% \$ 42.35
	Retirement	22.850% \$ 7,996.68
	Social Security	3.822% \$ 1,337.56
	Medicare	1.450% \$ 507.45
	LGTD Ins	0.604% \$ 211.38
	Health Ins	4.438% \$ 1,553.14
	Def Comp	0.561% \$ 196.33
	Life	0.040% \$ 14.00
	Optical	0.088% \$ 30.80
	OPEB	7.704% \$ 2,696.12
	Worker's Comp	1.131% \$ 395.81
		42.81% \$ 14,981.61
Managing Deputy District Attorney	Unemployment	0.121% \$ 247.45
	Retirement	22.850% \$ 46,728.25
	Social Security	4.148% \$ 8,482.66
	Medicare	1.450% \$ 2,965.25
	LGTD Ins	0.604% \$ 1,235.18
	Health Ins	4.477% \$ 9,155.47
	Def Comp	0.609% \$ 1,245.41
	Life	0.043% \$ 87.94
	Optical	0.095% \$ 194.28
	OPEB	7.704% \$ 15,754.68
	Worker's Comp	1.227% \$ 2,509.22
		43.33% \$ 88,605.76

BUDGET CATEGORY AND LINE ITEM DETAIL

FY22/23 District Attorney's Office JJCPA

Deputy District Attorney IV-S	Unemployment	0.121%	\$	46.82	
	Retirement	22.850%	\$	8,842.20	
	Social Security	4.837%	\$	1,871.76	
	Medicare	1.450%	\$	561.10	
	LGTD Ins	0.604%	\$	233.73	
	Health Ins	4.612%	\$	1,784.69	
	Def Comp	0.710%	\$	274.75	
	Life	0.050%	\$	19.35	
	Optical	0.109%	\$	42.18	
	OPEB	7.704%	\$	2,981.20	
	Worker's Comp	1.431%	\$	553.75	
		44.48%	\$	17,211.53	\$17,212
Deputy District Attorney IV GAME	Unemployment	0.121%	\$	412.46	
	Retirement	22.850%	\$	77,889.83	
	Social Security	5.202%	\$	17,732.29	
	Medicare	1.450%	\$	4,942.68	
	LGTD Ins	0.604%	\$	2,058.88	
	Health Ins	5.537%	\$	18,874.22	
	Def Comp	0.800%	\$	2,727.00	
	Life	0.054%	\$	184.07	
	Optical	0.118%	\$	402.23	
	OPEB	7.704%	\$	26,260.97	
	Worker's Comp	1.539%	\$	5,246.06	
		45.98%	\$	156,730.70	\$156,731
Deputy District Attorney III SARB	Unemployment	0.121%	\$	834.92	
	Retirement	22.850%	\$	157,668.28	
	Social Security	6.119%	\$	42,221.98	
	Medicare	1.450%	\$	10,005.21	
	LGTD Ins	0.604%	\$	4,167.69	
	Health Ins	7.228%	\$	49,874.24	
	Def Comp	0.950%	\$	6,555.14	
	Life	0.070%	\$	483.01	
	Optical	0.153%	\$	1,055.72	
	OPEB	7.704%	\$	53,158.71	
	Worker's Comp	1.996%	\$	13,772.69	
		49.25%	\$	339,797.57	\$339,798

BUDGET CATEGORY AND LINE ITEM DETAIL

FY22/23 District Attorney's Office JJCPA

Deputy District Attorney III DART	Unemployment	0.121%	\$	167.30		
	Retirement	22.850%	\$	31,593.48		
	Social Security	6.119%	\$	8,460.42		
	Medicare	1.450%	\$	2,004.84		
	LGTD Ins	0.604%	\$	835.12		
	Health Ins	7.228%	\$	9,993.77		
	Def Comp	0.950%	\$	1,313.51		
	Life	0.070%	\$	96.79		
	Optical	0.153%	\$	211.54		
	OPEB	7.704%	\$	10,651.91		
	Worker's Comp	1.996%	\$	2,759.76		
			49.25%	\$	68,088.44	\$68,088
Victim Services Supervisor	Unemployment	0.121%	\$	41.28		
	Retirement	22.850%	\$	7,795.16		
	Social Security	6.200%	\$	2,115.10		
	Medicare	1.450%	\$	494.66		
	LGTD Ins	0.604%	\$	206.05		
	Health Ins	15.756%	\$	5,375.08		
	Trng/Pen	0.335%	\$	114.28		
	Life	0.080%	\$	27.29		
	SHTD Ins	0.968%	\$	330.23		
	OPEB	7.704%	\$	2,628.18		
	Workers' Comp	3.839%	\$	1,309.66		
			59.91%	\$	20,436.97	\$20,437
Victim Services Specialist	Unemployment	0.121%	\$	77.47		
	Retirement	22.850%	\$	14,629.94		
	Social Security	6.200%	\$	3,969.61		
	Medicare	1.450%	\$	928.38		
	Health Ins	14.614%	\$	9,356.76		
	Trng/Pen	0.374%	\$	239.46		
	Life	0.089%	\$	56.98		
	SHTD Ins	0.968%	\$	619.77		
	OPEB	7.704%	\$	4,932.56		
	Workers' Comp	4.283%	\$	2,742.23		
			58.65%	\$	37,553.16	\$37,553
	Office Assistant	Unemployment	0.121%	\$	65.85	
Retirement		22.850%	\$	12,436.17		
Social Security		6.200%	\$	3,374.37		
Medicare		1.450%	\$	789.17		
Health Ins		18.496%	\$	10,066.50		
Trng/Pen		0.508%	\$	276.48		
Life		0.103%	\$	56.06		
SHTD Ins		1.112%	\$	605.21		
OPEB		7.704%	\$	4,192.92		
Workers' Comp		4.924%	\$	2,679.90		
			63.47%	\$	34,542.62	\$34,543
PERSONNEL SECTION TOTAL					\$2,377,862	

BUDGET CATEGORY AND LINE ITEM DETAIL

FY22/23 District Attorney's Office JJCPA	
B. Operating Expenses	
	COST
Vehicle Expenses county vehicle costs, fuel, maintenance, canine build out	\$6,975
Canine Care and Upkeep Costs Associated with the DA Victim Advocate Service Dog veterinarian costs, harnesses, bedding, food, grooming, etc.	\$2,500
Travel/Training	\$30,000
SAFE Family Justice Center	\$223,180
4 Victim Services Advocate @ \$55,795 each (Salary & Benf) to provide wrap-around program services to at-risk youth	
1 Victim Services Project Analyst - Salary and Benefits	\$55,795
Auto Mileage	\$12,024
Mileage for 4 SAFE FJC Victim Advocates for daily travel to schools throughout Riverside County to provide advocacy support during the SARB process, facilitating programs for youth on site, and emergency in person service requests for children experiencing significant need	
Gift Cards/Vouchers	\$10,000
Gift cards for hotel, gas, rideshare, grocery, and basic needs items to support youth with resources to fill their immediate needs and items to promote their long term sustainability	
Hotel: 50 cards @ \$100 each	\$5,000
Walmart: 100 cards @ \$25 each	\$2,500
Fuel: 100 cards @ \$25 each	\$2,500
	\$10,000
Parent Project Books 100 @ \$30 each	\$10,000
Program Supplies	\$10,000
Participant shirts for groups, art supplies and curriculum materials for social emotional learning programs	
Field Trips/Experiences	\$10,000
Funds to support admission to pro-social activities such as museums, sporting events, community service projects, art and theatrical performances	
OPERATING TOTAL	\$370,474
C. Equipment	
	COST
Equipment and Technical Supplies	\$2,000
EQUIPMENT SECTION TOTAL	\$2,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 2,750,336

JJCC 2022-23

SPARK PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

INTRODUCTION

Riverside County's Law Office of the Public Defender program - Support, Partnerships, Advocacy and Resources for Kids (**SPARK**) - is an intervention and prevention program designed to benefit middle and high-school aged youth who are represented by the Public Defender. The overarching focus involves identifying unaddressed academic and mental health needs and linking youth to appropriate resources through collaborative community and education partnerships, as well as legal advocacy. The program has two vital components: 1) prevent youth from full entry into the juvenile justice system by establishing and utilizing a coordination of community resources early in the juvenile court process, and 2) reduce recidivism and promote favorable outcomes, such as increased academic success, shortened probation terms, limited detention and removal, and increased protective factors for those who do enter the system.

There continues to be a vital need for SPARK, especially as we navigate through the impacts of COVID-19 on youth-- academically, behaviorally, social-emotionally, and physically. Data released just this month from the California Department of Education shows a further decline in graduation rates and an increase in chronic absenteeism.¹ Moreover, the U.S. Surgeon General's *Advisory on Protecting Youth Mental Health* details an alarming increase in devastating mental health issues among young people as a result of challenges faced by their generation, including the pandemic.² It goes without question that there are even more education and mental health risk factors associated with system-involved and/or at-risk youth that contribute to recidivism and unfavorable outcomes. A disproportionate number of youth in the juvenile justice system have special education needs.³ These special education needs, which often overlap with mental health conditions, exacerbate delinquent behavior if left unaddressed. As such, the identified youth require additional support to help them navigate and transition within the justice

¹ California Department of Education, News Release #22-03 (January 7, 2022). Cottle, C. C., Lee, R.J., and Heilbrun, K. 2001. The prediction of criminal recidivism in juveniles: A metaanalysis. *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 28(3):367–394; Cuellar, A.E., and Markowitz, S. 2015. School suspension and the school-to-prison pipeline. *International Review of Law and Economics* 43:98-106

² Protecting Youth Mental Health: The Surgeon General's Advisory (2021).
<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-youth-mental-health-advisory.pdf>

³ Cottle, C. C., Lee, R.J., and Heilbrun, K. 2001. The prediction of criminal recidivism in juveniles: A metaanalysis. *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 28(3):367–394; Cuellar, A.E., and Markowitz, S. 2015. School suspension and the school-to-prison pipeline. *International Review of Law and Economics* 43:98-106; Foley, R.M. 2001. Academic characteristics of incarcerated youth and correctional education programs. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders* 9(4):248–259; Krezmien, M.P., Mulcahy, C.A., and Leone, P.E. 2008. Detained and committed youth: Examining differences in achievement, mental health needs, and special education status. *Education and Treatment of Children* 31(4):445–464.

system and community, and to prevent movement into long-term detention and/or placement settings.⁴ Parents/legal guardians and educational rights holders also need to become familiarized with available services, including how to access and maintain services.

The SPARK Program employs a team approach, with one team in each of three Riverside County regions, Desert, Mid-County, and Riverside. These teams are designed to provide coordinated outreach and services to youth represented by the Public Defender's Office throughout Riverside County, including all twenty-three school districts, the Riverside County Office of Education, charter, and private schools, and even outside of Riverside County when a youth is in out of county or out of state placement. Although still being formed, each SPARK team includes a Deputy Public Defender who specializes in education advocacy and a social worker dedicated exclusively to identifying and advocating for unaddressed or under-addressed education and concurrent mental health needs of the youth, thereby supporting the youth and helping them navigate towards more favorable academic and justice system outcomes. SPARK is led by Supervising Deputy Public Defender, a lead Deputy Public Defender and a senior educational rights paralegal who will assist in the overall training and coordination of the teams as well as provide representation at countywide agency meetings. SPARK teams' advocacy will be done in partnership with parents/legal guardians or educational rights holders, psychology experts, community stakeholders, including school districts, Inland Regional Center, community-based organizations, and mental health professionals.

One such partnership that is already established is with the Riverside University Health Systems – Behavioral Health's Transitional Age Youth Drop-in Centers throughout the county. Each SPARK team will have a dedicated space for the attorney and social worker to meet with SPARK clients and families outside of the court or school setting. Additionally, our SPARK teams will be able to outreach to TAY youth who might need assistance with resolving barriers related to old warrants, sealing or expungement petitions. The SPARK attorney will be a liaison for the TAY youth to other community legal services, including connecting potential Non-Minor Dependent youth to the appropriate agency for re-entry purposes. This collaboration with the TAY Drop-in Centers will create opportunities for SPARK outreach and education to a variety of community groups. Also, it will present an excellent introduction to the TAY Drop-In centers and available services to our SPARK clients and families.

SCOPE

The scope of the Public Defender's activities under this program is based on the following evidence-based research and empirical information:

1. **Unaddressed Educational and Mental Health Needs** - There is an ever-increasing push for juvenile courts to focus on education. Rule 5.651(b) of the California Rules of Court requires that education be addressed at every judicial hearing. The reasoning behind this

⁴ Bullis, M., Yovanoff, P., & Havel, E. (2004). The importance of getting started right: Further examination of the facility-to community transition of formerly incarcerated youth. *Journal of Special Education*, 38, 80–94; Zhang, D., Barrett, D. E., Katsiyannis, A., & Yoon, M. (2011). Juvenile offenders with and without disabilities: Risks and patterns of recidivism. *Learning and Individual Differences*, 21(1), 12–18.

requirement is clear. According to the California Judicial Branch Benchguide and Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court Initiative, it is undisputed that education outcomes for system involved youth lag behind even those of other disadvantaged student populations. As stated, “Causes of poor outcomes include frequent school transfers, gaps in enrollment and attendance, lack of consistent adult support for education, and impact of trauma on learning and behavior.” Studies demonstrate a distinct relationship between adverse childhood experiences and academic success, with unaddressed trauma leading to problems with attention skills, reasoning, reading ability, lower grade-point averages and excessive absences. System-involved youth are less likely to receive prompt assessments and adequate special education services, despite having a higher incidence of disabilities and special education needs.⁵ Moreover, the 2019 suspension, expulsion, and truancy rates in Riverside County were all higher than the state average.⁶ Any involvement with the juvenile justice system can make school performance and attendance issues worse, including disproportionate suspension/expulsion rates and increased drop-outs. Truancy, suspension, and expulsion are all top predictors of future involvement in the justice system. As such, identifying disabilities, special education and corresponding mental health needs, as well as trauma factors and collaborating with community education partners to understand the youth’s needs will assist in preventing truancy, suspension, and expulsion, as well as mitigate continued involvement in the system.

Based on this data and evidence-based research, the advocacy teams will utilize their unique position of trust and confidence with the youth and their families to engage in extensive screening for unidentified and/or unassessed disabilities, special education and related mental health needs, as well as trauma factors. Forensic psychology experts will provide consultations, evaluations, and recommendations when necessary. The team will then work with community education partners and mental health agencies to develop appropriate assessment plans for Individualized Education Plans, 504 Plans, and community-based resources, including referrals to Inland Regional Center when deemed appropriate, to remove barriers to the youth’s success.

2. **Transitional Issues** - There are significant disruptions in access to continuity of education and mental health services as youth transition during various points in juvenile proceedings, with a lack of coordination between agencies responsible for providing services.⁷ “Transition does not occur only once for these youth; rather, it is an ongoing process that usually involves multiple transitions. Youth move from the community into detention, incarceration, or both—then back to the community,” and the transitions do not take a

⁵ Judicial Branch of California, Understanding Trauma and Supporting Educational Opportunity, 2019.

⁶ Riverside County, 2018-2019 Chronic Absenteeism, Expulsion and Suspension Report, 2020.

⁷ National Research Council. 2013. Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press; U.S. Department of Education. 2016b. You Got This: Educational Pathways for Youth Transitioning from Juvenile Justice Facilities. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved January 15, 2019, from the web: <https://www2.ed.gov/students/prep/juvenile-justicetransition/pathways-transitioning-justice-facilities.pdf>

consistent route.⁸ Studies report a substantial decline in school enrollment after youth are released from confinement.⁹ Only about one-third of youth released from residential facilities re-enroll in school.¹⁰ The SPARK team will provide focused advocacy directed specifically at increasing continuity of education as youth transition within the system. The team will facilitate and promote successful, coordinated transitions, or movements, focusing on educational services and mental health treatment, as soon as the Public Defender's Office is appointed to a youth. The team will work to ensure that the youth have actively involved education rights holders, access to school records, immediate enrollment rights, knowledge of different graduation requirements, and even college financial aid benefits and support programs. The team will provide training to community partners to assist with improving transitions and protective factors for improved outcomes, making sure school districts have the appropriate liaisons for system-involved youth and knowledge of available resources.

3. **Coordination of Services** - There is a lack of coordination between the agencies and community stakeholders, leading to a disconnect in identifying and providing appropriate services to youth with disabilities, education and mental health needs. The three regional SPARK teams will develop and operate a strong training and professional development program both in-house for all deputy public defenders, as well as beyond, designed to promote identification of youth in need of targeted support, collaboration with community stakeholders and positive outcomes. The training program will promote awareness of educational and transition programming/services available; develop policies to create and support collaborative relationship and communication with community partners; develop a transition team and/or plan for youth when they enter the juvenile justice system, and track and monitor process and outcomes. In doing, the teams will foster community connections, and build trust with citizens and service providers.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Public Defender shall:

- Develop and implement screening tools for all youth represented by the Public Defender, to identify disabilities, education and mental health needs, as well as trauma factors.
- Meet with the parents and/or Education Rights Holders to determine if they are willing and able to assist in making education decisions for the youth and/or whether requesting an Education Rights Surrogate is necessary.

⁸ NDTAC [The National Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Neglected or Delinquent Children and Youth]. 2016. Transition Toolkit 3.0: Meeting the Educational Needs of Youth Exposed Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention www.ojjdp.gov 17 to the Juvenile Justice System. Washington, DC: NDTAC. Retrieved January 15, 2019, from the web:<https://www2.ed.gov/students/prep/juvenile-justice-transition/transition-toolkit-3.pdf>

⁹Sweeten, G. 2006. Who will graduate? Disruption of high school education by arrest and court involvement. *Justice Quarterly* 23(4):462–480. Sweeten, G., Bushway, S.D., and Paternoster, R. 2009. Does dropping out of school mean dropping into delinquency? *Criminology* 47(1):47–91.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Education (2016b); Sweeten et al., 2009.

- Utilize the results of the screening tool to communicate and coordinate with schools and community partners to develop appropriate assessment plans.
- Utilize forensic psychology experts for consultations, evaluations, and recommendations when deemed appropriate.
- Collaborate with schools and community partners by attending Individualized Education Plan meetings to determine if the youth qualifies for special education services or other community-based resources to remove barriers to success.
- Advocate when necessary for assessments and services the youth is entitled to under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Welfare and Institutions Code and Education Code.
- Attend Manifestation Determination meetings and expulsion hearings and advocate for options that will mitigate collateral consequences and consider the individual needs of the youth.
- Develop a referral list for community advocacy partners for the families and Courts.
- Collaborate with agency and community partners to develop education transition plans for youth moving from detention, placement, or other situations involving changing schools (expulsion/credit deficiency, etc.) and provide continual support during the transition.
- Provide comprehensive training to all attorneys and support staff to become trauma informed, which will assist in building trust and rapport with youth and their families to better identify those in need of targeted support at all stages of delinquency proceedings. Training will also focus on the program referral process and resources offered.
- Provide training to community partners on available resources, as well as strategies for mitigating and preventing justice system involvement.
- Provide trainings and/or resources to parents and youth regarding their education rights, available resources, and how to get support.
- Attend community stakeholder meetings to build collaborations that help further the objectives of the program.
- Follow evidence-based practices in tracking and collecting data on the process and outcomes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021-22

Although SPARK personnel are not officially in place, we were able to establish partnerships with RUSH-TAY Drop-In Centers in each region and meet with TAY personnel, tour the Drop-In Centers, and identify workspace for the SPARK teams. Attorneys have also participated in monthly Collaborative Agency Meetings with TAY partners, introducing our program, as well as networking with other agencies and community-based resources. Additionally, the attorneys attended several education law trainings specifically created in preparation for SPARK, which served to both educate and establish connections with community legal clinics and education advocates. We have also presented SPARK to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission and collaborated with local School Resource Officer's, presenting on recent changes to the law surrounding juvenile interrogations and offering guidance on County juvenile justice protocols. Moreover, we have generated contact lists for all local school districts to obtain student records and/or communicate regarding Special Education issues, as well as a list of available experts for both mental health and psychoeducation assessments.

CONCLUSION

The Riverside County Public Defender SPARK Program is:

- Advocacy: informed, targeted, accountability
- Education: equity, assessments, special services, successful transitions
- Identification: disabilities, special needs, trauma
- Referrals: community-based resources
- Partnerships: schools, community stakeholders and services
- Development: screening tools, data collection
- Collaboration: families, agencies, community stakeholders, experts
- Communication: transitions, planning, continuity
- Trauma Informed: trust, confidence, best practices
- Training: coordination, building awareness, networks.

**Riverside County Public Defender
Estimated Budget Category and Line-Item Detail
FY 22-23 JJCC – SPARK Program**

<u>A: Personnel Services – Salaries/Employee Benefits</u>		<u>COST</u>
Salaries:	FTE:	
Deputy Public Defender IV-S	1	\$183,398
Deputy Public Defender IV	2	\$347,760
Social Services Practitioner III	3	\$248,673
Senior Paralegal	1	\$ 86,183
Legal Support Assistant II	1	\$ 59,583
		Salary total: \$ 925,597
Benefits:		
Deputy Public Defender IV-S	1	\$ 77,541
Deputy Public Defender IV	2	\$154,120
Social Services Practitioner III	3	\$126,819
Senior Paralegal	1	\$ 30,164
Legal Support Assistant II	1	\$ 33,899
		<u>Benefits total: \$ 422,543</u>
<u>Personnel Section</u>		<u>TOTAL: \$1,348,140</u>
<u>B: Operating Expenses:</u>		
Office Supplies:		\$ 3,000
Professional (Expert) Services:		\$60,000
Training		\$20,000
Personal Mileage Reimbursement		\$30,000
		Operating Expenses Total: \$113,000

**Riverside County Public Defender
Estimated Budget Category and Line-Item Detail
FY 22-23 JJCC – SPARK Program**

C: Equipment:

Computers/Printers/Scanners/Cell Phones	\$ 15,000
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<u>Operating and Equipment Section Total</u>	<u>\$128,000</u>
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TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST for FY 22-23	\$1,476,140
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Application for Community Member

Application Date: _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Driver's License Number: _____

Employment: _____ Job Title: _____
(If retired, please note previous occupation & employer)

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Educational Background: _____

Professional & Fraternal Affiliations: _____

Community Activities: _____

References (Other than relatives):

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

(You may use and attach additional pages.)

Which subcommittee are you applying for? _____

Which category applies to you? (For any SB823 subcommittee, one of the boxes below is required)

- Experience in community-based youth services
- Youth Justice Advocates with expertise in the juvenile justice system.
- Directly involved in juvenile justice system.

Please describe your qualifications in one of the three areas listed above and discuss what contributions you feel you might make to the subcommunities activities.

Please describe why you want to serve on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee:

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Please check the box next to each requirement to acknowledge:

- Attend scheduled meetings
- If unable to attend scheduled meetings provide advance notice and send a designee
- Complete work assignments on time

Print Name
Signature
Date