



**2018 REPORT OF THE VENTURA COUNTY JUVENILE
JUSTICE/DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION
INSPECTION OF THE VENTURA COUNTY JUVENILE FACILITY**

Inspection Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2018

Last Ventura County JJDPC Inspection Date: January 4, 2018

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Chief Deputy: Tim Dowler
Division Managers: Melinda Cross
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Management Staff interviewed: Michelle Steinberg, Division Manager
Michael LEcuyer, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Operations
Jose Angel, Senior Deputy Probation Officer
Rich Johnson, CSO III

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Honorable Kevin J. McGee

JJDPC Inspection Team: Commissioners Erin Antrim, Richard Bellman, Gail Bianchino, Diana Casey, Kate English, Dixie Gertsman, Bernard Korenstein, Joseph Ortiz, Terrence Towner (Chair), Judy Warner

GENERAL INFORMATION

Facility Capacity: 420 **2018 Census: High:** 101 **Low:** 66

Population on the Date of Inspection: Detention: Males: 26 **Females:** 6
Commitment: Males: 26 **Females:** 12

Number of Suicides: 0 **Number of Attempted Suicides:** 2

Number of Deaths from Other Causes: 0

STAFFING

Total Staff: 2018: 140 **2017:** 136 **Number of sworn staff: 2018:** 110 **2017:** 106
(Total staff includes 11 BH, 12 Medical and 7 Extra Help)

Communication is always available in language youth can understand? Yes: X **No:** _____

COMMISSION COMMENTS AND FINDINGS

First, and foremost, the Commission extends its great appreciation to the staff members at the Facility for the preparation of the Facility's Report to the Commission. The responses to questions and/or concerns presented them was comprehensive and, coupled with the work done on the previous report, key to bringing all Commissioners up to date on all phases of the programs and operations. The dedication to providing quality service to the youth is evident and commendable. Our observations substantiate that the Juvenile Facility functions at a very high level. From the physical facilities in which youth are housed to the grounds upon which they walk coupled with the programs available to them while they are there, the youth receive excellent service provided by a very professional staff.

This visit of the Commission comes just ten months after completing the 2017 inspection; a delay from December 2017 resulting from the Thomas fire and its impact on staff availability at the facility. Since that visit, however, the Commission has added 5 new members. It was decided, therefore, that an emphasis should be placed on a tour of the physical plant and its grounds. This would answer not only the need for orientation of Commissioners but also would provide an opportunity to ascertain any plans for alternate usage of those facilities if the population stays at its current level or experiences a continued population decline.

As a result of the tour and discussion with staff, the Commission concurred that the housing facilities are in excellent shape and that there has been creative use of unused spaces throughout the Facility. The attention of food services to institute the Health Kids program, retaining personnel and accommodating the special dietary needs of youth is commendable.

A major lingering concern from the 2017 JF Inspection Report involved the services being provided youth from Behavioral Health while in the Facility and when they leave. Three Commissioners with a strong interest in the subject, spent time with the Clinical Administrator to follow-up on previous expressed concerns about youth and Medi-Cal when they are in the Facility and when they leave. The Commissioners reported that while Medi-Cal is suspended when entering the Facility, BH staff insures that it is reactivated upon the youth's release. Discharge prescriptions are electronically sent to the pharmacy of the youth's (family) choice. If a youth does not pick up the prescription the BH Department can track that and can send a BH Associate to make a home visit. If required, BH will also give certain released youth a 2-week supply. Having a separate and distinct health facility and regular dental services is particularly noteworthy.

We also find that the work being done by the Providence School staff to be excellent. The effort of the school, Probation, and Behavioral Health personnel to implement the *Release Plan*, focused on ensuring a successful re-entry of youth into the community, is highly commendable. The Induction/Transition specialist position is clearly a major step in the entire transition effort. We also appreciate the work being done to develop relevant data to assess the effectiveness of transition efforts for the youth as well as allow for adjustments in programs as may be indicated.

MAJOR COMMISSION FOCUS AREAS FOR THE 2018 VISIT as presented to the JF Administration and the Responses

- 1. General inspection of all facilities and discussion with staff of plans for facilities occasioned by a severely reduced youth population.**

Ventura County partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation on a national initiative – the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) beginning in 2002. At the core of the initiative was the commitment of local jurisdictions to create community-based detention alternatives for lower-risk juvenile offenders. Ventura County joined a few jurisdictions in California to launch JDAI-supported programs in

the community aimed at lowering facility admissions. This effort, coupled with a significant drop in the local juvenile crime rate, led to a lower JF population. The average annual facility population has steadily decreased over the past 10 years. Statewide, juvenile detention rates have dropped 60% since 2007. As a result, the Probation Agency launched a variety of on-site custodial programs and related services utilizing the extra space at the JF. These programs and services include, but are not limited to, the following: on-site radio station; a Boys and Girls “clubhouse” and fitness area; construction training space for youth; a kennel for an on-site canine program; classrooms for computer repair, landscape maintenance, and silk screening; community partner offices and instruction areas; and peace officer training space and fitness center.

Ventura County has explored a few ideas to utilize the vacant bed/building space at the JF. The JF was one of the locations identified as a potential site for the County’s Crisis Stabilization Center (CSU). The CSU was later placed in north Oxnard. Additionally, the JF was considered as a temporary site for a winter warming shelter for homeless individuals as well as emergency housing for Vista Del Mar Hospital residents displaced by the devastating Thomas Fire in December 2017. Although closely considered, the JF was not used for these purposes.

California Senate Bill 1106 was signed in to legislation earlier this year which would allow Ventura County to design and create a deferred entry of judgement pilot program for young adult offenders, ages 18-21, utilizing the extra housing/bed space at the JF. A cost analysis is currently being conducted to determine the feasibility of implementing this program using one of the facilities’ housing buildings.

2. Program coordination with agencies after release from the JF, i.e. ERC’s, County service agencies such as Behavioral Health and Public Health.

Prior to release, a release plan meeting is held with the youth, a parent, BH staff, school staff, facility DPO and assigned field DPO. During that meeting, the following occurs:

- Youth is given reporting instructions for next appointment with field DPO.
- Youth/parent are provided with the name of school and contact person for re-enrollment by Providence School Transition Specialist.
- Youth who are age appropriate/ willing to participate can obtain information regarding County services such as Tay Tunnel, Wraparound Program, Drug and Alcohol counseling, Behavioral Health counseling, Housing, Employment, Food Stamps and Medical benefits. County Services can be provided by Probation and/or Behavioral Health staff.

3. Review of procedures in place and available to youth for grievances and records of such for the 2018 year to date.

Grievance Procedure Post Order POC.O3.N.I Records of monthly grievances available for review. (For more details see Section IX)

GENERAL AREAS FOR INSPECTION

I. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The 2017 JJDPC inspection focused on staff development efforts by the staff at the JF. Please list and briefly describe any NEW programs instituted during the current year.

No new staff programs were instituted during the 2018 inspection year.

II. PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

The 2017 JJDCPC inspection focused on the various programs for youth at the JF. Please list and briefly describe any NEW programs instituted during the current year or any previous programs discontinued.

1. New canteen/recreation room for youth in Balcom.
2. Fitness program.
3. Car wash for graduates will start 11/23/18.
4. Library opening is pending.
5. Youth periodically work with artist from Ventura Arts Council painting designs for murals in facility.
6. Paxton Patterson Engine Program. No programs have been discontinued this year.

III. ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

At the 2017 inspection the JJDCPC found:

“... the BH Department to be committed to providing thoughtful and dedicated services to the youth at the JF and seeking inventive ways to hire and keep staff. Currently the staff of 4 clinicians (2 licensed LMFTs and 2 intern MFTs), a staff psychologist and 2 psychology doctoral students who work together and supervise students very closely. The administrator reads and evaluates every assessment and plan. While it is difficult to hire staff for the facility they are utilizing the student program to “raise their own” which is showing success as some students have stayed after graduation. The consistent and long-term staff in the medical department continues to provide excellent care and follow-up for the youth at the facility.”

SINCE THAT VISIT, FOR 2018 IN THE AREA OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

On the current staff, how many are psychiatrists, psychologists, LCSWs or students? How many staff are considered permanent? How many full-time counselors are available to youth? Are all counselors licensed? How many of the counselors have been at the JF for more than 1 year? 3 years? 4 or more years?

There are currently 8.83 Behavioral Health staff at the Juvenile Facility that work a variety of shifts 6 days a week to be accessible and available for youth behavioral health needs at the facility. Staff are available Monday -Thursday 9-6pm and Friday and Saturday 8-5pm.

The current staffing for Behavioral Health at the Juvenile Facility is as follows for 2018: 1 Staff Psychologist, .5 Psychiatrist, 4 Clinicians, 1 Mental Health Associate, .5 Office Assistant, 1 Clinic Administrator, .33 Behavioral Health Manager and a .5 School Based Clinician provided in collaboration with SELPA. These positions are considered permanent or paid positions for the JF. Three of the full time Behavioral Health Clinicians are licensed LMFT's and the 4th is expected to be licensed by the end of 2019. The Staff Psychologist is license waived and expected to be licensed by the end of 2019. The half time School Based Clinician is a licensed LMFT. The Behavioral Health Manager and Clinic Administrator are Licensed LCSW's.

The current 8.83 Behavioral Health staff have been here 2-4 years. In addition, we have 5 practicum interns from the local universities who are supervised by the Clinic Administrator and Psychologist: 2 Doctoral Psychology Interns from Cal Lutheran and Azusa Pacific University, 2 Master of Social Work interns from CSUN, and 1 Mental Health Associate intern from CSUCI. The interns are each here 16-24 hours per week.

What follow-up has been done on the effectiveness of the hand-off procedure to the VCBH when a youth leaves the facility? Is there follow up to determine if they connect to services in the community?

Transition and Linkage to Community Mental Health Services

- When a youth currently active in VCBH services enters the Juvenile Facility, the treating Psychiatrist and Clinicians are notified that the client has been admitted to the facility within 24 hours. Treating VCBH Clinicians can schedule appointments at the Juvenile Facility to continue services with the youth while they are in custody. Youth have the option to access both their assigned community Clinician and JF Clinician as needed.
- Youth may be referred from the Juvenile Facility BH team to the Insights Mental Health Juvenile Court program as a linkage for youth with moderate to severe mental health concerns and may have co-occurring diagnoses that are on formal Probation.
- JF Behavioral Health Clinician's transfer youth directly to VCBH youth and family clinics as requested with consent from caregiver to continue services in the community. In addition, the JF Clinicians are available to attend the first appointment at the community clinic with the caregiver, youth and new Clinician for a "warm hand off" to new community services.
- JF Clinician's attend Child and Family Team Meetings and Release Planning meetings scheduled by Probation to participate in planning for release and in creating both short and long-term plans.
- JF Clinician's collaborate with the Alcohol and Drug Program staff assigned to the JF to link youth to substance abuse assessment and treatment options while in custody and at release.
- For youth at risk and families unable to be linked but in need of mental health services, we may refer to RISE (Rapid Integrated Support and Engagement) and STAR (Screening, Triage, Assessment and Referral) when we have been unable to reach parent and a high risk or need is identified. We also refer parents to adult behavioral health services as requested or identified.
- The JF BH Clinic tracks how many new transfers to mental health services are initiated from the JF to clinics each year for the past 2 years. In addition, we notify the treating provider within 24 hours of release for follow up in scheduling an appointment at release

Is there a strategy in place that reflects a long-range plan for services to youth in the JF?

Strategies for Mental Health planning are based on the assessed needs of the facility, Probation and Mental Health youth and identified community needs. We also review current research and evidence-based strategies and outcomes with juvenile offenders with mental health needs to determine plans at the facility.

Current strategies involve:

- Providing cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy and a Seeking Safety Group to youth at the facility.
- Providing family therapy to youth and their families at the facility as recommended and requested. Both short term and long-term interventions provided.
- Assessment of behavioral health needs for youth detained at the facility.
- Crisis intervention for youth detained at the Juvenile Facility.
- Linkage and referral to community supports for both youth and family while youth is at the facility and when released.
- Collaborating with Probation to provide the *Word on the Street* early intervention and prevention curriculum to female youth detained at the facility quarterly. This initiative started in June 2018 to continue to address the growing problem of sex trafficking and the sexual exploitation of youth in the community.
- Providing a restorative justice therapeutic group within the Pawsitive Steps Canine program for youth participating in the program.

- Training Behavioral Health staff in Moral Recognition Therapy to provide this group practice to the facility as a behavioral health intervention in 2019.
- Collaborating with Reins of Hope to select youth to participate in Equine Therapy at the facility based on assessment, behavioral health needs and identified as benefitting from equine therapeutic interventions.
- Medication support and continuation of medication and psychiatric care and psychiatric assessment while at the facility. Follow up with prescriptions, appointments and referrals when released to the community for continuity of care.
- Psychological evaluation and testing to support meeting behavioral health needs and for treatment planning, differential diagnosis and to guide care.
- Collaborating with mental health providers to coordinate care, release planning and aftercare.
- Collaborate and refer to Insights Juvenile Court Program for eligible youth with Behavioral Health issues that are on formal probation and would benefit from this comprehensive, collaborative service.
- Collaborating with school behavioral health clinicians to ensure continuity of care from the Providence School and social emotional services provided at Providence School continues when released to school in the community. The School Based Clinician follows up with warm hand off meetings with the new school-based clinician and youth at the new school to ensure services continue in the new school setting.

IV. CONDITION OF GROUNDS

At the 2017 inspection, the major modifications or improvements to the grounds were listed as:

1. Rubber mulch is slated to be added to the PAR course area.
2. The rose garden by the staff entrance was remodeled.
3. A dog run/kennel area is currently being added.
4. The commitment recreation yard is currently having sod added to worn areas.

Have there been any additional changes since that visit.?

1. Rubber mulch will be added late 2018 or early 2019.
2. Additional no-climb fencing installed outside of Balcom where the "Reigns of Hope" program is located.
3. Side perimeter gates installed.
4. Commitment recreation yard some areas re-sodded and Detention rec yard elimination of numerous rodents and leveled out.
5. Tree trimming and removal of some tress for security reasons.

V. INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS

At the 2017 inspection, the changes to the facilities were listed as:

1. Remodeled the cabinets and countertops to Booking, Central Control and Santa Cruz housing unit.
2. Added sound proofing to the Intake/Community Confinement interview rooms.
3. On-going painting throughout the facility.
4. Currently upgrading cameras to IP and Cat 6 wiring.

Have there been any additional changes since that visit?

1. Santa Cruz Commitment Housing re-painted, new dayroom furniture purchased, and existing room furniture painted.
2. New carpet installed in the library and Intake/EM area.
3. Additional video storage space added.

4. Panic button, camera and intercom installed in the Booking report writing room.
5. Eight additional cameras added throughout the facility for additional security.

VI. MEALS AND NUTRITION

Describe current food services to youth and any changes necessitated by the reduced population of the Facility.

Meals are provided three times a day, breakfast, lunch, and dinner. At least two meals a day include hot entrees and side dishes. Two snacks are provided daily during mid-morning and again mid- afternoon, typically after school.

Civilian staff prepare and cook meals in accordance with Title 15 for Juveniles and the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program (Healthy Kids Act 2012) nutritional requirements. A five-week cycle menu is followed allowing consistency and easier inventory control.

The meals are pre-portioned onto insulated trays and promptly delivered and served to the youth. Medical prescribed diets are followed, and procedures are in place to make sure that youth get the correct modified meal. Many meals are made from scratch with most breads and pasta being whole grain. Increased fresh fruit and vegetable portions are given daily in addition to a wide variety of kid friendly entrées.

For several years we have had a reduced population which has afforded us time to meet the required nutritional adjustments to recipes for the Healthy Kids Act like reducing sodium, sugar and fats. This also helps us adhere to the increasing vegetarian and medical diets and reduced kitchen staff.

Food and supplies are bought from approved County vendors, received and rotated by trained staff. Trainings for food safety, customer service, workplace safety, and teamwork are held regularly, in addition to the required County trainings.

The kitchen is inspected for food safety two times a year by the Environmental Health Department, and one time a year by Public Health. We contract with a dietician who checks our menus monthly and consults with us for medical diet compliance.

VII. ORIENTATION FOR YOUTH

At the 2017 inspection, the JF report stated that as part of the orientation process *they (youth) are required to view a video upon booking which discusses appropriate boundaries with staff and how to report any inappropriate behavior.*

How effective has this been with youth new to the JF?

The video is shown to all youth being booked. The youth are informed that we are required to show this video for their information and to provide resources should they need any. The youth who are first time bookings have not provided much response to the video.

What about returnees?

Since the video is shown to all incoming youth into booking, the youth who have been here more than once see the same video every time. There have been many negative comments from the youth about having to watch the same video every time they are booked. Some youth have been observed sleeping through it.

VIII. DISCIPLINE OF YOUTH

Describe any major changes in the discipline process for youth in the JF.

Modification of point/level system that is applicable to both detention and commitment youth. Daily points are based on the youth's behavior and loss of points will impact bedtimes, and privileges such as canteen/rec room and some of the programs that are specifically for excellence youth only.

IX. RULES AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Describe the current procedures for youth with a grievance. How many grievances were submitted during the 2018 year?

Youth are notified of the grievance procedure in the orientation paperwork they sign for at the time of booking. The forms are available on the housing units and any time a youth disagrees with a staff, policy, procedure, discipline or other issue, staff inform the youth verbally of the available options, including grievances.

Completed grievances are currently filed in the cabinets outside the SDPO offices in Program Administration.

There have been 87 grievances to present (11/20/18).

Once a youth submits a grievance, the process starts with the facility CSO III on duty at the time, the Watch Commander, the Supervising Deputy Probation Officer. If it cannot be resolved, the grievance goes up the chain of command with each level reviewing the grievance with the youth attempting to address the issues. 87 Grievances have been filed from January 2018 through November 2018

X. TELEPHONE, CORRESPONDENCE, VISITATION PROCEDURE

Briefly describe the procedures.

Phone Call Post Order POC.OS.I.1

All youth receive a booking phone call to their parent/guardian, attorney and employer upon entering the facility. The youth can contact their attorney upon request. Behavioral level phone calls are granted upon earning specific levels weekly. Excellence level earns 3 level calls, Achievement earns 2 level calls. All other behavioral levels do not earn calls. Phone calls for levels calls are only to be made to those on the youth's approved list. Youth can use the pay phone in the units (which is funded by family members etc.). These phone calls can be made after school and during free time.

Mail Post Order POC.03.I.2

Youth receive paper and designated envelopes in the unit. They are allowed two stamps every week to send to approved people. Approved people include parents, grandparents, extended family, friends (who are not part of a non-associate list, or are on probation, or at a placement facility). If they receive additional stamps from a family member, they are permitted to use those in addition to the two they are provided from the JF. Each letter is screened by the unit staff for inappropriate (gang names or emblems, drawings or discussions about drugs, violence, sex or similar topics) information. If this information is found, the letter is returned to the youth to fix. If the letter is approved, it is signed on the back by the unit staff and forwarded to the graveyard WC. The graveyard WC reviews the sending and receiving parties on each piece of mail to make sure the mail is authorized, enters the info into the youths' journal and places the postage on the envelope. All the outgoing mail is given to clerical to send out. Clerical provides the graveyard WC with the incoming

mail. The WC screens it to make sure that the sending party is permitted, records it in the youths' journal and then routes the mail to the appropriate units.

Kites: Youth are provided with medical, behavioral health and probation kites that can be accessed at any time in the unit. The kites can be turned in to staff at the desk or placed in a confidential box on each unit. The CSO III's and WC's pick up the kites from the unit and route to the appropriate party. The kites are then handled in a timely manner by the appropriate party.

Visiting Post Order POC.03.H.1

- Regular Visiting: The youth can visit with their parents and/or grandparents / guardians on Wednesdays and Sundays per the facility visiting schedule.
- Special Visits: If the youth earns Excellence behavioral level, they can earn a Special Visit for Saturday for family (Siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles etc.). The youth put in a kite to the WC requesting who they want to have visit and their DOB's on Saturdays for the following Saturday special visit. All Special Visit visitors must be cleared by probation prior to being accepted. Once they are accepted, the WC enters the visit into the visiting tab and all visitors who are authorized. The kite is then sent back to the unit notifying the youth of the time of the visit (either 10:45 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.). The youth then contacts their parent to notify them of the special visit date and time. If the youth maintains excellence level, the visit will be permitted.
- Treatment Provider or outside CBO Visits: If an outside treatment provider or CBO would like to come and visit the youth, they are asked to send an email to the PRB-JF Watch Commanders Outlook group. The WC then reviews the visit and clears the visitor. A DOB may be required to complete the screening. Once the visit is approved, it is entered into the visiting tab and an email reply is sent to the treatment provider / CBO, the PRB JF Watch Commander group, the PRB JF Reception group and the PRB JF Special Functions group to facilitate the visit.

XI. PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF YOUTH

List any changes in required dress for youth.

A post order has been submitted for review, that outlines youth being issued their own underwear upon booking. They will receive multiple pairs upon arrival that belong to them. Upon release, they will either be thrown away, or the youth has the option to take with them.

Regarding commitment youth, they have been issued a completely different uniform than detention youth. They have been issued khaki pants and burgundy polo shirts, which clearly distinguishes them as commitment youth. It is more of an academy type uniform.

PROVIDENCE SCHOOL REPORT, 2018

What is being done currently by the Providence Court School to assist a youth in a successful return to the community? What and how are other county agencies involved in a youth's transition from the Juvenile Facilities (JF)?

The mission of Providence Court School is to provide learning opportunities in a personalized environment that fosters human dignity and promotes academic, social, emotional and personal success. The entire school team is comprised of teachers, para-educators, an academic counselor, an Induction/Transition Specialist, a school psychologist, an office manager and site administration, who all work together to assist in the successful transition of students back into the community.

Providence Court School provides students with a specific educational curriculum as well as specific protocols that ensure students can successfully transition back into their respective school districts and communities.

Since August 2017, all Providence Court School students engage in the "Get Focused, Stay Focused" class. This class, which is provided 5 days a week and helps to meet student's California graduation requirements, assists students in developing career goals and develops a clear plan for how students can achieve those goals. This dynamic curriculum enables students to develop a personal profile, examine the costs of their preferred future lifestyle, select and research an ideal career, identify detours and roadblocks, assess skills, and conduct a job search. "Get Focused, Stay Focused" is intentionally provided to all students at Providence Court School in order to set a positive, goal-oriented direction for students once they leave and re-enter into their local schools and community.

Providence Court School has developed clear systems and protocols to ensure that students re-enroll in school upon their release. A full-time Induction/Transition Specialist, paid jointly by the Ventura County Office of Education and Ventura County Probation Agency, takes the lead in the following specific responsibilities related to successful transition of released students:

- Upon enrollment at Providence, gives student re-enrollment information and places information in their personal property so that they can take it home upon release
- Regularly meets with students to provide re-enrollment information
- Emails home schools when students enroll at Providence and are released
- Once released, checks California's student information database for information on re-enrollment
- Reviews Juvenile Facilities population sheet to determine students who have upcoming merit-releases
- Calls home to parents/guardians to provide re-enrollment information and offer assistance
- Collaborates regularly with Ventura County Probation Agency and Ventura County Behavioral Health regarding re-enrollment
- Meets parents in the JF lobby during hours to check in and answer any questions regarding school including release and re-enrollment information
- Notifies probation and local school districts of students who have been released but not yet re-enrolled
- Gathers and tracks data on successful re-enrollment rates
- Electronically documents re-enrollment meetings and phone calls
- Updates school exit codes as students are released and re-enroll

In addition to the responsibilities of the full-time Induction/Transition Specialist, the Providence Court School works in conjunction with Ventura County Probation Agency and local school districts to employ the following student re-enrollment procedures:

For all students who enroll in Providence Court School:

Upon entrance to the Juvenile Facility, students are immediately enrolled at Providence Court School. On the student's first day of school, the school counselor or Induction/Transition Specialist interviews the student to obtain previous school information. At that time, each student is given re-enrollment information including the name and phone number of the person they need to contact at their previous district school. This information is then placed in the student's personal property, so that the student can access it upon release.

For Providence Court School students who are in the facility less than 60 days, the following occurs:

The Induction/Transition Specialist verifies school enrollment through the state data system, California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS). The Induction/Transition Specialist then meets with the student and discusses his/her school re-enrollment plan, reviews the academic transcript, and offers assistance.

Once the student is released, the student's district and school are notified via email by the Induction/Transition Specialist. Once released, the Induction/Transition Specialist verifies with the home school that the student has re-enrolled via email and/or phone. Prior to a student's release, the Induction/Transition Specialist has already reached out to families via phone to discuss re-enrollment information and to help or help in this process. Very often, the Induction/Transition Specialist will also meet face-to-face with families who are picking up released students at the Juvenile Facilities (JF) to provide information and assistance regarding re-enrollment.

For students who are in the facility for 60 days or longer:

A formal *Release Plan* meeting is held in collaboration with Ventura County Probation Agency and Ventura County Behavioral Health to ensure the student's successful transition back into the community.

Before the *Release Plan* meeting, the Induction/Transition Specialist meets with student individually to discuss his/her educational plan. The Induction/Transition Specialist reviews credits with the student and discusses his/her educational options, home school contact information, and emphasizes California Education Code 48645.5(b) that a student "shall not be denied enrollment or readmission to a public school solely on the basis that he or she has had contact the with the juvenile justice system..." Whenever applicable, the Induction/Transition Specialist or school counselor assists students in searching for a job, applying for a job, and/or enrolling in college.

The Induction/Transition Specialist, student's behavioral health clinician, Transition Probation Officer, field Probation Officer, parent/guardian, and the student all attend a *Release Plan* meeting. The Induction/Transition Specialist reviews transcripts, attendance, behavior, and presents school transition plan. The student's JF Behavior Health clinician recommends behavior health community services, and the Transition Probation Officer discusses student's successes and challenges while in the facility. All JF programming, including Girls Inc. (assists girls to overcome barriers and grow up strong, smart, and bold),

Pawsitive Steps (students learn to care for and train canines), Paxton-Patterson (carpentry class), in which the student participation is reviewed. The field Probation Officer reviews terms of probation (including community services he/she is required to attend, such as drug and alcohol counseling), and arranges a follow-up appointment. Most importantly, the parent and the student ask questions and express concerns throughout the meeting. This collaborative interagency effort serves as a significant effort to ensure positive transition of students into the community.

Upon release:

The Induction/Transition Specialist notifies student's school via email and calls home, or if possible, meets with parents in the Juvenile Facilities reception area in order to give parents or guardians home school contact information. If the Induction/Transition Specialist cannot contact the parents, school contact information is mailed home.

What group, if any, exists to coordinate transition efforts?

The Providence Court School Induction/Transition Specialist works closely with the school administration, academic counselor, and office manager. This group meets regularly both formally and informally to manage and lead the on-going efforts to successfully re-enroll students upon their release. Transition efforts are also a standing agenda item at the regularly scheduled monthly collaborative meeting with the school and probation.

Ventura County Probation Agency coordinates *Release Plan* meetings, described above, which provide formal collaboration and streamlining of services between Providence Court School, Ventura County Probation Agency, Ventura County Behavior Health, parents/guardians and the student.

What mechanism is in place for obtaining follow-up data on released youth?

Each day, the Induction/Transition Specialist uses the California student database, CALPADS, to check a released student's enrollment status. The Induction/Transition Specialist also calls and emails the student's district (school attendance clerks, counselors, school and/or registrars) and parents/guardians in order to check on the student's enrollment status of recently released students.

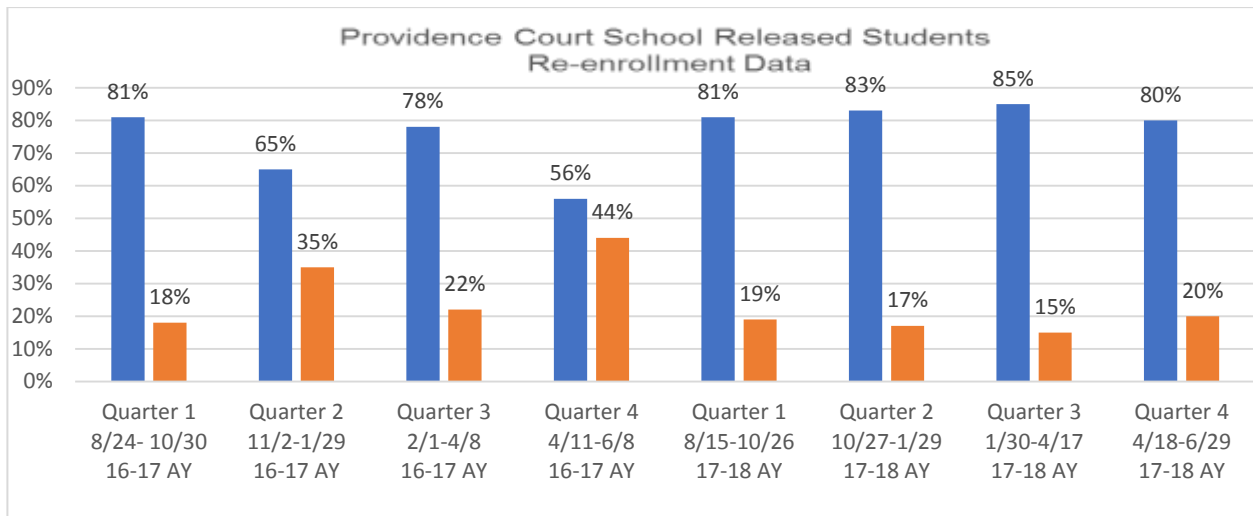
In addition, a list of students who have been released, but not yet enrolled in school is sent to the field Probation Officers who then contact students regarding school enrollment in effort to encourage students to attend school.

Quarterly reports stating the number of students who exited the facility and the number of students who have successfully re-enrolled in school is generated and shared with school and probation staff.

What evaluation process is used to assess the effectiveness of current transition efforts for youth to return to the public school?

The Administrative Dean and Induction/Transition Specialist meet weekly and discuss the number of students who have been released from Providence Court School and not re-enrolled in school. They determine and implement any follow-up that needs to take place. In addition, the quarterly reports indicating the rate of re-enrollment are provided to the principal.

Below is the data of students who have been released and re-enrolled in school:



This data collection and monitoring system began in the 2016-2017 school year. Quarter 1 of the school year appears to be a more successful time in which students are re-enrolling. There was a significant increase in the percent of students re-enrolling in school during the 17-18 academic year. In During Quarter 4 of the 16-17 academic year, 56% of students re-enrolled as compared to 80% during the 17-18 academic year.

Providence Court School provides all non-graduating students with a high school education; however, the data does not account for non-school age students who do not meet the requirements of compulsory education – those who may be 18 years and older, or who may have already attended 4 years of secondary school. By law, they are no longer required to attend school.

The school is responsive to the data collected. For instance, after reviewing the data of students who have not re-enrolled in school, Providence Court School staff began reaching out directly to the Probation Field office and school districts in order to prompt them to follow-up with those students who have been released but who still have failed to re-enroll.

The fact that we have a Transition/Induction Specialist has positively affected re-enrollment. There are clear protocols for the re-enrollment process and strong relationships between Providence Court School and schools in the community.

What is the process used by Providence Court School to assure a seamless return for youth to the public school?

See responses above.

How does Providence Court School support graduates?

Although graduates no longer attend school, whenever applicable, the Induction/Transition Specialist or school counselor assists students in searching for a job, applying for a job, registering for college, and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

An interview asking students about a concrete plan for their future also takes place. For example, students are asked:

- What is your dream job? How will you earn a living?
- How will you get there? What is your plan? Trade School? Community College (2 year) University (4 year), Military, or other?

Outline your school structure

Teachers: Providence Court School utilizes both certificated and non-certificated personnel. All nine full-time Providence Court School teachers are appropriately credentialed and have experience with the students at Providence School. There are four teachers in the Detention Units and three teachers in the Commitment Units. In addition, there are two Resource Specialist teachers.

Providence Court School employs four full-time classified para-educators. Three para-educators work with the detention and commitment students. One para-educator works with special education students.

Providence Court School employs one full-time credentialed counselor, one part-time credentialed school psychologist, one full-time Induction/Transition Specialist, and utilizes the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) for library, speech and language, and school nurse services.

Certificated teaching staff:

1. Number of regular education teachers: 7
2. Number of special education teachers (Resource Specialist): 2
3. Number of counselors: 1
4. Number of school psychologists: 1 (part-time)
5. Number of school administrators: 2 (shared between county court school and county community school)

Classified teaching staff:

1. Number of regular education para-educators: 3
2. Number of special education para-educators: 1

Number of students in each Classroom: The maximum class size is 15; except Balcom 1, where the maximum size is 20. The fluctuations of the JF population affect Providence Court School class size. The class size can at times be as low as 6 but cannot be higher than 15 or 20.

Independent Studies: Providence Court School does not have any students on independent studies.

Number of youths attending school: Youth who possess a high school diploma do not attend school, and youth who are 18 and possess a High School Equivalency Certificate do not attend Providence Court School either. School enrollment fluctuates daily along with the Juvenile Facilities (JF) population. Last year on November 14, 2017 there were 98 students in the JF. On November 7, 2018, there were 80 students in the JF and 10 are graduates; thus, there were 70 in class. The average class size was 9 in the Detention Units and about 9 in Commitment Units.

The Juvenile Facility is also a High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) testing site where testing is offered once a month. Tutoring and testing are offered to all students who qualify.

Does the school provide counseling services?

Academic Counseling

The Providence Academic Counselor meets with students and ensures that all students take classes necessary to graduate. Transcripts and educational history are analyzed to determine whether students qualify for High School Graduation Credit Requirement Reduction (AB 216/ AB 167/AB 1806/AB 2306/AB 1124/AB365). Students who have gone to court, are on probation, homeless, foster, or placement; and students who have been to more than 1 school after their 10th grade year; and are behind in credits may qualify to graduate with 130 credits versus the VCOE required 220 credits. The academic counselor and administration review the transcripts of each student to determine whether he/she qualifies.

Behavioral Counseling

School based behavioral counseling is provided to Special Education Students who are required to receive counseling services per their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students receive one-to-one counseling with the school psychologist or one-to-one counseling with the Educationally Related Social Emotional Services (ERSSES) clinician.

Are youth required to do homework?

Homework is not required but is available and encouraged in both the Detention and Commitment units with the Accelerated Reader Program. Students read, take an assessment, and are awarded credits.

Do you have adequate supplies, e.g. books, paper, computers, etc.?

All students have necessary school supplies. Every student in commitment and detention has the appropriate materials (textbooks, content area worksheets and support materials, school supplies, etc.). Textbooks are adopted by the VCOE Board of Trustees. Each classroom contains 8-10 student computers with access to the internet. Smart Boards are in used in all classrooms, and all classrooms have internet connectivity.

Major Changes in Providence Court School since the 2016 JJDPC Visit

Induction/Transition Specialist

The smooth and effective re-enrollment of students has always been a priority of Providence Court School and the Ventura County Office of Education. During the 2016 JJDPC visit, the individual who served as the Induction/Transition Specialist was away on an unplanned medical leave. The responsibilities of the Induction/Transition Specialist at that time were being shared among the office manager, administrative dean, and school counselor. However, in early 2017, the Induction/Transition Specialist position was opened and filled by Monica Roman. Since filling this position, she has continued to work tirelessly to increase the effectiveness of the school's efforts to re-enroll and transition students successfully.

Implementation of Get Focused, Stay Focused (GFSF)! College and Career Exploration

Providence Court School has implemented the GFSF course. This class prompts students to think about their future and identify career goals and the pathway to get there. The course is designed to help each student explore his or her own identity and ambitions, and to develop a positive and productive 10-year career and education plan for realizing his/her dreams. The Career Choices curriculum engages students

in a career and life planning process that will motivate them to not only to stay in school but work towards achievement. Students work on decision making, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Career Zone

As part of the Get Focused, Stay Focused class, Providence Court School has implemented the Career Zone website that allows students to complete on-line career exploration.

My Perspectives

Providence Court School is implementing the newly adopted curriculum entitled *My Perspectives*, a new English Language Arts and English Language Development Program. This program values viewpoint of the learner, collectively and individually. It provides next-generation learning opportunities that promote high achievement and develop the skills needed for career and college. Goal setting, choice and critical thinking are an integral part of the curriculum.

New Sexual Health Curriculum

Positive Prevention Plus, Sexual Health Education for America's Youth. Required in Ed Code 51930-51939. This curriculum will be incorporated into the science classes and all students will be enrolled.

Administration Change

Mr. Brett Taylor is the new Alternative Education Director.