

Increasing Health Care Professionals' Understanding of the Juvenile Justice Landscape

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PRESENTED BY:

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENTERS



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AGENDA

1

Evolution of juvenile justice in California



4

Legislative changes/ initiatives and their effect on treatment



2

Role of probation agencies in the justice involved youth treatment landscape



5

Healthcare professionals & probation agencies: opportunities for collaboration



3

Adolescent brain development research and its role in shaping policy



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:



Name two legislative changes in the last ten years impacting justice involved youth



Discuss the importance of adolescent brain research on juvenile justice approaches/practices



Describe new challenges for probation agencies due to recent legislative changes



Name three ways healthcare providers can increase collaboration with Probation Agencies

EVOLUTION OF CA JUVENILE JUSTICE

- » Past overreliance on youth detention at state and local levels
 - ❖ 1996 – Combined state/county CA youth detention population was approximately **20,440** statewide (*LA Times*)
 - ❖ Created 1942 - 11 DJJ (formerly CYA) facilities in CA
- » Monumental shift (beginning in 2000) to managing lower-risk youth in community settings
- » Resulted in a significant reduction in youth detention rates
 - ❖ End of 2022 – Combined state/youth detention population was approximately **2,582** statewide (*LA Times*)
- » Funding opportunities created to contract with CBOs and treatment providers



HISTORIC APPROACH TO JUVENILE JUSTICE



Siloed in the past – lacked integration/ alignment



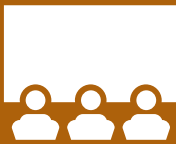
Higher commitments to “group home” settings



Longer duration periods of court-ordered confinement



Establishment of specialty courts – juvenile mental health & juvenile drug courts



Lengthy periods of community supervision & monitoring



Well intentioned approaches led to “net widening”

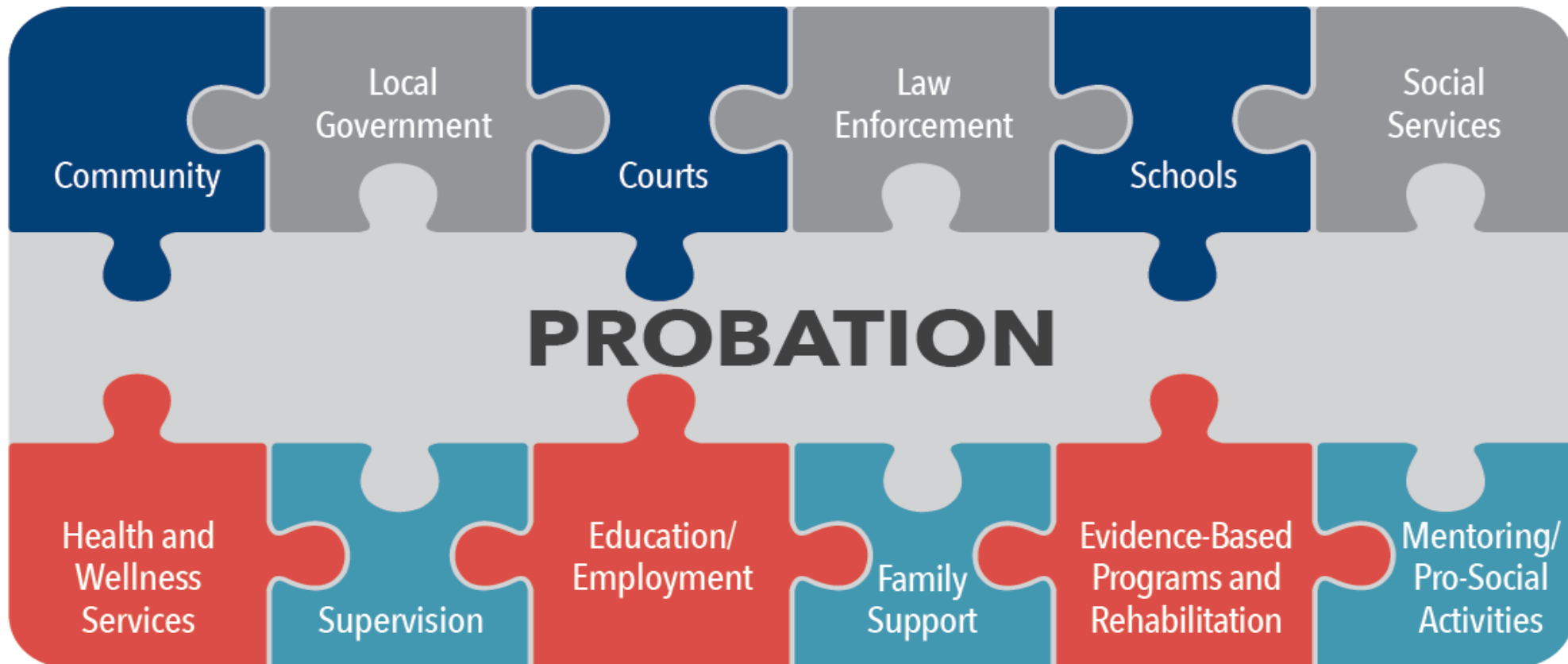
INCENTIVIZING A NEW MODEL OF JUSTICE

- » State resources/incentives for the establishment of detention alternatives & evidence-based programs to treat root causes of delinquency
 - ❖ Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (JJCPA)
 - ❖ Creation of Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils (JJCC)
 - ❖ 2007 Juvenile Justice Realignment 1.0 (SB 81) – Eligibility for DJJ. Creates YOBS funding stream.
- » Probation agencies primarily responsible for leading these new approaches
 - ❖ Why was Probation the lead?



PROBATION AGENCIES - “THE CONNECTOR”

Probation is trained to safely connect system-involved individuals to the supports they need





Have you worked with youth on probation in the community?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Have you worked in or toured a juvenile detention facility?

- Yes
- No

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES IMPACTING DETENTION

- » Implementation of detention alternative/diversion programs (pre & post arrest) to decrease % of youth entering the JJ system
 - ❖ Probation/Law enforcement & CBO partnerships
 - ❖ Nationally-recognized & expert consultants working with juvenile justice system partners. Alternate way(s) of looking at juvenile justice.
- » Community advisory groups & system-involved individuals informing law enforcement and influencing policy
- » Transition roll out - bumpy and long. Counties w/good collaborative relationships and openness to change fared better

IMPACT ON COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS

Historic drops in youth detention rates throughout the state – 60% since 2007

90% of justice-impacted youth are managed in the community

Remaining youth in detention are more challenging:

- More serious offenses
- Increased sophistication
- Higher levels of trauma
- Transition Aged youth (18-24)
- More likely to have SUD/mental health diagnosis

CHALLENGES FOR PROBATION AGENCIES



- » Complexity of issues impacting youth formally in the JJ system
 - ❖ Trauma-impacted, mental health issues, SUDs
- » Emerging young adult population – Transitional Aged Youth (18-24)
 - ❖ Higher percentage of older youth in detention facilities
 - ❖ Needs and approaches differ from younger residents
- » Additional challenges
 - ❖ Recruitment and retention of staff members
 - Impact of COVID
 - ❖ High-risk assessment & histories of violence for youth clients
 - ❖ Decrease in clinician interest in working with young adult population with serious behavioral issues

ADOLESCENT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

- » Emerging research on adolescent brain development
- » Juvenile justice professionals and partners trained in latest research
- » Bills supporting work with Transitional Age Youth (TAY) population – SB 1004 (2016)/SB 1106 (2017)
- » Dr. Laurence Steinberg, nationally known expert in Adolescent Brain Development:
 - ❖ *Neuroplasticity of the adolescent brain*
 - ❖ *Adolescence as an “age of opportunity and growth”*
 - ❖ *Importance of encouraging rehabilitation and positive development*
 - ❖ <https://youtu.be/zrC9fTdqbu4>



LEGISLATIVE CHANGES (1 OF 2)

Frequency of legislative changes, facility regulations/mandates updates, new initiatives = **“Reform Fatigue”**

Senate Bill 823 (2020) – JJ Realignment 2.0

- Complete DJJ closure – June 30, 2023
- Creation of Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)
 - Oversight of SYTF programming
 - Ombudsman responsibilities
 - Technical assistance to counties
- State revenue to counties for implementation/facility modifications/ongoing costs

Assembly Bill 503 - Shorter probation periods – need to “front load” services (vetoed - likely will return)

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES (2 OF 2)

SB 260 (2013) & SB 261 (2015) – Required process for assessing growth/maturity when considering earlier release from prison

CalAIM initiative – Enhanced Case Management for justice involved individuals

Higher visibility for probation agencies – state resources and key responsibilities

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE

- » Increased collaboration with system, treatment, and community partners
 - ❖ Increase in Integration and Alignment
 - ❖ Engaging non-traditional entities – businesses, foundations, higher-education
- » State revenue incentives and grant opportunities
- » Improve/enhance transition & reentry process
- » Data enhancement & outcomes measurement
 - ❖ Data-driven decisions
- » Redefining role of probation agencies to meet current needs of those served, the JJ system, and community



IMPORTANCE OF OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

- » All Probation agencies focus on reentry and aftercare for the youth in detention
- » Important questions for community treatment providers:
 - ❖ Do you service justice involved youth?
 - ❖ Do you have a contact person in Probation?
 - ❖ Do you know when there are re-entry planning meetings, and whether community treatment providers can attend when considering enrollment?
 - ❖ Do you know how to find information on the youth's treatment experience while in custody?



CONTACT US

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS
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POLLING QUESTIONS

1. Overall, today's webinar was:
 - A. Very useful
 - B. Somewhat useful
 - C. Not very useful
 - D. Not useful at all

2. The material presented today was:
 - A. At the right level
 - B. Too basic
 - C. Too detailed