



**Shasta County Probation
Department Juvenile Prevention
and Education Program**

Local Evaluation Plan Overview

**Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program**

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Evaluation Requirement

- Sub-grant recipients must plan and implement a comprehensive evaluation.
- Purpose is to monitor implementation and test the effectiveness of strategies in preventing delinquency and reducing risk for justice system involvement.
- Shasta County Probation contracted with EMT Associates, Inc. to conduct the grant evaluation.

Role of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)

- The JJCC acts as the steering committee for the Shasta County JAG grant. The JJCC is *“an active participant in the development, implementation, and oversight of the local JAG project”*.
- The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the approved JAG evaluation plan and to solicit input on the JAG evaluation design.

Shasta County JAG Grant Goals and Objectives

- To expand prevention and education programs available to disadvantaged youth in the community to increase school and community engagement, reduce risks for juvenile delinquency, and prevent juvenile justice system involvement.
- To expand rehabilitative services for youth in juvenile detention settings to improve behavioral functioning and prevent future reentry into the juvenile justice system.

Evaluation Structure **Process Evaluation**



The **process evaluation** will describe and assess the quality of program implementation and fidelity to the evidence-based program models that are implemented in community and detention settings.

Evaluation Questions **Process Evaluation**



- How many youth were reached countywide by program type and specific program component?
- What were the characteristics of youth who participated?
- How many prevention and intervention sessions were delivered by Probation staff and community providers by program type and specific program component?

Evaluation Questions **Process Evaluation**



- **Were evidence-based programs implemented with fidelity? Did youth complete program components with the recommended dosage?**
- **What were the most significant challenges or barriers to implementing the program?**
- **What were the most significant accomplishments?**

JAG Components **Services in Community Centers**

Provider(s)

- *City of Redding*
- *Youth Options*
Shasta
- *Pathways to*
Hope for
Children

EBPs/Services

- **Project Towards No Drug Abuse**
- **Girls Circle**
- **Council for Boys and Young Men**
- **Aggression Replacement Training**
- **Botvin Life Skills Training**

JAG Components **Services in Detention Settings**

Provider

- *Shasta County
Probation
Department*

Research-based Interventions

- Multi-Sensory De-escalation Room
- In-Custody Sports Program
- Fine Arts Therapy Program

Data Collection Activities **Process Evaluation**

- ***JAG program profiles.*** Online form completed by staff to describe program implementation.
- ***Youth intake.*** Scannable paper forms administered at intake/first visit to document demographic and contact information.
- ***Service utilization records/fidelity assessment.*** Participation records documented electronically by agency staff.
- ***Key informant interviews.*** Semi-structured telephone interviews with project stakeholders conducted at two timepoints.

Evaluation Structure **Outcome Evaluation**



The **outcome evaluation** provides measurement of critical outcomes that are linked to the program intervention and are often reflected in the stated goals of the program.

Evaluation Questions **Outcome Evaluation**



- Did youth participants value opportunities for positive youth engagement and perceive benefits from their participation?
- Were there any positive changes in knowledge, attitudes, or behaviors associated with risk for juvenile system involvement (e.g., alcohol and drug use, aggression, moral reasoning)?

Evaluation Questions **Outcome Evaluation**



- Did youth participants in juvenile detention settings value opportunities for intervention and perceive benefits from their participation?
- Did youth participants in JAG funded programs and services show decreases in rate of reentry into the juvenile justice system over the three-year grant period as compared to historical baseline rates?

Data Collection Activities **Outcome Evaluation**



- ***Youth pre-post surveys.*** Scannable paper forms administered at program start and end dates.
- ***Focus groups.*** Structured focus groups discussions held with youth in detention settings.
- ***Youth core outcome survey.*** Post-only electronic survey administered annually to all youth served in community and detention settings.

Data Collection Activities **Youth Identifiers**



- Participating youth will be assigned a unique participant ID number at the time of intake into the program.
- Participant ID numbers will be used to monitor ongoing participation in evidence-based programs and data collection activities (e.g., youth survey administrations).

Data Collection Activities **Data Transfer**



- Data sharing agreements will be established to facilitate data transfer.
- Secure file transfer protocols (SFTP) will be used to share youth information. Safeguards will be put in place to protect youth data.
- Participant data will be merged across multiple data sources using the participant ID to link process and outcome analyses.

Data Collection Activities **Reporting**



- ***Local evaluation plan.*** The plan was submitted in December 2019 to the Board of State and Community Corrections.
- ***Quarterly reporting.*** Quarterly reports will be submitted regularly documenting the types of prevention and education programs implemented and numbers of participants served.
- ***Final evaluation report.*** The final three-year evaluation report will be submitted by December 31, 2022.

Questions and Discussion

