

The Los Angeles County

Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study



HOME ON PROBATION



SUITABLE PLACEMENT



CAMP



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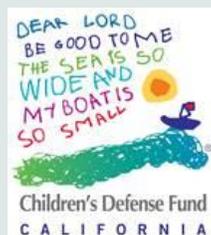
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Research Roundtable

The Research Roundtable was convened to advise the research team and Advancement Project on study design and implementation. Eminent Southern California researchers from a number of related disciplines reviewed study methods, initial findings, and overall conclusions of the study, while practitioners from partner departments shared information on current operations and data available in their department's information systems. The authors are grateful to each member of the Roundtable for their assistance in weaving together the best available information on Probation-involved youth.

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Introduction

In Los Angeles County, an alarming number of children and youth live in unsafe, impoverished communities with entrenched violence, have struggling and isolated parents, and attend poorly performing schools. As a result, many of these children and youth end up in the County's health, mental health, child welfare, human services, and juvenile justice systems. Children who enter the juvenile justice system, in particular, face myriad challenges. Research demonstrates that these vulnerable young people often have risk and need factors that include: low academic achievement, mental health and/or substance abuse issues, negative peer networks, and lack of appropriate parental supervision. Los Angeles Probation-involved youth, for example, often face the following risk and need factors:

- Education:* Standardized tests indicate that youth placed in probation camps are, on average, 16.7 years old and therefore are in the 11th grade but are achieving at a fifth grade level in math and reading (McCroskey, 2006, p. 2). California High School Exit Examination 2003-04 results for graduates from 492 Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) students in juvenile hall and Community Day School programs show that only 26% passed the English Language Arts exam, compared with 70% of all students in the County who took and passed the exam (Education Coordinating Council, 2006, p. 2). Additionally, LACOE data show that the percentage of students identified as requiring special education was higher than the national average of 13.7%.¹ Of the 2,047 students enrolled in juvenile hall schools as of November 2005, 79% (n=1,617) were classified as regular education students and 21% (n=430) were classified as special education students.
- Mental Health:* In 2008, a UCLA research study on Los Angeles' juvenile Probation camp population reported that 58% of youth had received counseling or mental health services prior to being placed in Probation Department camps, with 65% receiving such services during their stay at camp (Abrams & Fields, 2008, p. 12). The same study also found that the most common mental health problems reported by youth who self-identified with a mental health problem were depression and anger.
- Substance Abuse:* An external survey conducted with youth in Probation Camps found that 58% of Probation-involved youth reported they had received a prior diagnosis of substance abuse and dependency. Additionally, according to a UCLA study on Los Angeles Probation Camps, over one-third of Probation-involved youth have been in an alcohol or drug placement in the past, including 43% of girls and 36% of boys (Abrams & Fields, 2008, pp. 12-13).

¹ Education Next identified this as the national average in 2004. See Education Next (2007). <http://educationnext.org/debunking-a-special-education-myth/>

Because so many Probation-involved youth enter the juvenile justice system with these factors, the Probation Department may be viewed as the primary agency responsible for resolving these issues. Probation, however, cannot address all of these risk factors alone. Instead it relies on collaboration with other County departments, including Health Services, Mental Health and Public Health, whose staff have expertise in health, behavioral health and other child and family issues. For example, an early study (1995) using cross-departmental data linkages to identify families being served by multiple Los Angeles County departments underscores this point. Findings from this study showed that, during that year, 59.4% of Probation families also received services from DPSS, 25.5% also received services from DCFS, 30.3% also received services from DHS, and 18.2% also received services from DMH (Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council, Data Analysis and Technical Assistance Committee, 1995). Despite these findings, identifying and documenting shared connections across County agencies is nearly impossible because agency data systems are seldom integrated, and the interpretation of confidentiality protections limits the exchange of information across agencies. Without interagency coordination, though, youth and families may not receive the services they need, they may receive duplicative services, and/or they may receive inappropriate services.

A starting point to better serve Probation-involved youth and families is a better understanding of the characteristics and needs of Probation-involved youth and their outcomes over time. Unfortunately, defining and consistently reporting outcomes for youth under Probation supervision has been elusive for at least three reasons.

First, Probation lacks the data and sophisticated data systems necessary to produce meaningful outcome measures. In 2010, Harvard Kennedy School researchers conducting a review of juvenile reentry in Los Angeles County reported that the Probation Department was unable to provide the following information in a timely and comprehensive manner:

- educational outcomes in camps and after (high school/GED completion rates, drop-out rates, rates of re-enrollment in school after camp);
- percent of youth receiving mental health services;
- percent of youth receiving substance abuse services;
- percent of youth participating in reentry programs;
- what reentry programs youth are currently accessing;
- rates of recidivism that capture camp return and entrance in the adult criminal justice system (beyond six month subsequent sustained charge); and,
- number of youth violating their Probation terms (Newell & Salazar, 2010).

Second, the use of data produced by Probation's information system is often driven by compliance rather than case management, quality improvement, or assessing practice over time. In other words, the most readily available and used Probation data elements tend to reflect whether a required protocol was completed, rather than the impact of that practice on youth outcomes.

Third, Probation is limited in what it can collect, share and have access to – particularly in terms of mental health and education data – based on legal restraints and confidentiality concerns. Despite knowing that many youth “cross over” between the child protective services and juvenile justice systems, for example, shared access to the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) has been limited due to strict interpretation of statutes and regulations designed to protect confidentiality (see, for example, the Federal Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems [SACWIS] regulations).

Collectively, the challenges to interagency coordination and the urgent need for clear and consistent outcomes make a compelling argument for increased attention to the data systems that undergird Probation practices and program, so that County decisions are guided by standardized data collection based on desired outcomes for youth and shared information can drive better interagency coordination and collaboration.

To this end, The W.M. Keck Foundation funded the Advancement Project in 2012 to support a unique practice-policy-research partnership comprised of representatives from Advancement Project, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, researchers from California State University Los Angeles, School of Criminal Justice & Criminalistics and the University of Southern California, School of Social Work, and the Children’s Defense Fund-California to conduct a study examining the characteristics and experiences of youth exiting from suitable placement and camp placement in Los Angeles County.²

Specifically, this study focuses on youth placed in suitable placement and camps (i.e., youth who penetrate deeply into the juvenile justice system) because their experiences and stories arguably provide the unique opportunity to:

- (1) identify how agencies, communities, and families can better prevent youth entry into the juvenile justice system;
- (2) provide insight into how to prevent youth who enter the juvenile justice system from reaching the point of being placed in out-of-home care (suitable placement) and/or Probation camps;
- (3) provide direction on how to build an integrated and coordinated response system that would address the complex needs of youth and families, particularly those who penetrate deeply into the system; and,
- (4) identify key outcomes that can be measured consistently and regularly (e.g., annually) by Probation, LACOE and allied County departments.

² A juvenile court may consider “suitable placement” disposition alternatives for delinquent youth instead of returning a youth “home on probation” or sentencing the youth to probation camp or youth prison. Depending on the circumstances of the case or the child’s home life, suitable placement may include placement with relatives, placement with non-relatives, group homes, or psychiatric hospitals; however, at the time of this report, most youth given suitable placement disposition orders by the court were placed in group homes.

This report begins by providing an overview of the need for and purpose of juvenile justice data as well as the current structures of data collection in Los Angeles County (Chapter 1). Next, it examines the characteristics and situational contexts of youth exiting from suitable placements and juvenile camp placements during 2011 (Chapters 2 & 3). Eight in-depth youth case histories taken from Probation records are presented to illustrate the context within which these youths' stories unfold from the perspective of the Probation Officers who supervise and oversee youth in the system (Chapter 4). Based on the findings presented in this report, Chapter 5 presents recommendations to improve practice through targeted reform and improved use of data.

01 Juvenile Justice Data Collection – Its Importance and Structure in Los Angeles County

Numerous efforts to improve juvenile justice practice are underway in Los Angeles, and each of these efforts requires data to better understand the youth served, deficiencies in current practice, and the impact of new practices on youth outcomes. While some of the data needed can be extracted from the existing Probation information systems, most of the information required by reform initiative planners, department leaders and line staff – including (but not necessarily limited to) school attendance, school performance, and behavioral health needs – are either not available at all, limited in their availability, and/or require time-consuming and costly special studies to locate and analyze the information. Consequently, decisions about policy and practice, as well as evaluation of existing programs, are often based on outdated data from a previous time period, manual counts that depend on case reviews, staff surveys of a small sample of youth, and/or anecdotal information.

The absence of easily extractable data to guide decision making in the nation’s largest juvenile justice system may seem surprising, but the absence of meaningful timely data is not unusual in juvenile justice. In fact, many jurisdictions throughout the state and across the nation face similar struggles. The reason for such a shortage of data in Los Angeles and other jurisdictions is largely due to outdated data systems and/or systems programmed for compliance rather than for case management and data-driven practice decisions. But, there are exceptions to this rule. A few states, (e.g., Washington, Georgia, and Florida) as well as individual local jurisdictions (e.g., like those in Oregon and Pennsylvania) have successfully built data systems to support data-informed practice, transparency, and accountability. In each of these cases, data systems were built to support the overall mission of juvenile justice and to serve multiple, interrelated purposes.³

Strong juvenile justice data systems serve at least three critical purposes. They provide (1) descriptive data to document and monitor system operations; (2) individualized data to assess how individual youth are doing in real time, inform case planning and assess the impact of practice on outcomes; and (3) program data to evaluate specific approaches and/or programming. These three tiers of data are not separate and distinct; rather, they build on one another to comprehensively describe the contemporaneous reality of the system and how effectively and efficiently the juvenile justice system is operating. To better understand these three objectives, each one is described in more depth on the next page.

³ For a more in-depth discussion of juvenile justice data and states/jurisdictions implementing best practices in this area, please see Newell (forthcoming), M. (2014). [Juvenile justice data collection: An assessment of the literature and best practices](#). Los Angeles: Children’s Defense Fund—California.

Descriptive Data to Document and Monitor System Decisions and Operations

Descriptive system data represent the “backbone” of juvenile justice data because they document and provide feedback on system operations for juvenile justice personnel (both senior leadership and line staff), policymakers, and the general public. These data should capture all arrests/referrals that come into the juvenile justice system, characteristics of the population served (i.e., demographics and current charges at a minimum), and the processing decisions related to these referrals beginning at arrest and ending with case dismissal or termination. This information is critical – without it, no other meaningful questions related to the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system can be answered.

The benefits of these data to jurisdictions include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- the ability to document the current demands on various parts of their juvenile justice system, track population flows and predict future demand;
- the capability to monitor trends that drive funding requests and allocation (e.g., trends related to referrals, use of detention, number of youth on Probation, in camps, etc.);
- the capability to make targeted staffing decisions – for hiring as well as resource allocation – based on demand;
- the ability to see, at a basic level, whether initiatives (e.g., new programming, more staff, better screening, etc.) are having the desired impact on the juvenile justice population – for example, these data document when and to what extent detention intakes are increasing or decreasing in correlation to department new initiatives or changes;
- the capability to identify and correct for disproportionalities in the system, like overrepresentation of youth of color or those from certain communities in various parts of the system; and,
- the accessibility of data necessary to pursue and receive grant dollars from the government and/or private foundations.

Descriptive system data also serve to fulfill mandatory reporting requirements at the local, state, and federal levels. Without well-structured and automated data, production of mandated reports is time consuming, laborious and expensive for agencies. With well-structured and automated data, such reports are easier to produce. Most jurisdictions with automated systems arguably built them in order to comply with such mandates. Indeed, from a historical perspective, most jurisdictions have developed their information systems largely to track court records and processes, and even today it is estimated that the majority of data generated by juvenile justice systems is “primarily related to documenting case flow for funding requirements or legal liability” (Bazemore, 2006, p. 1). In California, for instance, counties must report data to the Department of Justice for the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical Systems (JCPSS) data warehouse and to the Board of State and Community Corrections to receive state funds (e.g., Youth Offender Block Grant and the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act)⁴ (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, State

⁴ The four core components driving data collection around compliance are: a) deinstitutionalization of status offenders, b) removal of juveniles from adult jails, c) sight and sound separation of juveniles and adults in secure institutions, and d) reduction of disproportionate minority contact (DMC). See Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

Commission on Juvenile Justice, 2009, p. 2). Currently, many jurisdictions across the nation, including Los Angeles, spend an inordinate amount of time and resources to produce reports because staff must translate and organize information from different sources in order to compensate for data systems that cannot easily derive essential information.

Individual Data to Monitor and Assess How Youth Are Doing

Collecting individual information on youth under Probation supervision is important for at least two reasons. First, in-depth information on the youth and his/her situation should be used to inform the development of targeted case plans, and secondly, progress in critical areas can be monitored and used to assess program and service effectiveness over time. With regard to developing case plans, the following kinds of data should be collected in addition to descriptive system information: risk level, educational status and performance, mental and physical health needs, and substance abuse needs.

Risk level is a composite measure of the youth's likelihood of committing another crime in the future. As long as a risk assessment tool is used (for example, Los Angeles County currently uses the Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Checkup or LARRC for this purpose), many factors empirically related to increasing the risk to reoffend are measured. Factors include current offense seriousness, past criminal history, evidence of substance abuse problems, individual propensity (e.g., indication of low self-control) as well as other critical information. Additionally, mental health information, including trauma history, educational performance issues, family issues, and youth strengths should be identified and incorporated into the youth's case plan because they play a critical role in developing comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation plans. Youth and family strengths, for instance, can be leveraged to incentivize participation in programming and to make their experiences more engaging and positive. Automating this information reduces the time involved in putting it together, makes it easily accessible to supervising Probation Officers and their teams, and allows other caseworkers and departments to access it as necessary (with attention to confidentiality concerns). Additionally, updating youth progress reports (i.e., services received, accomplishing key benchmarks, etc.) within an automated case plan is simplified and progress can be monitored over time in a consistent and accurate manner.

Since the primary goals of juvenile justice agencies are improving public safety and positively impacting system-involved youth, measuring how these youth progress in terms of achieving case plan objectives and desired outcomes is critical. Traditionally, recidivism has been the dominant measure used to assess both public safety and youth outcomes in juvenile justice.⁵ Recidivism alone, however, is insufficient to assess whether a youth's well-being has improved (Peters & Myrick, 2011, p. 1). Youth well-being is not only measured by the absence of future system involvement but also with demonstrated improvements in the following areas:

⁵ There has not, however, been agreement around a standard definition of recidivism in the field. Some recommend that recidivism should be measured as only adjudication/conviction of a new offense (i.e. a new sustained petition), while others assert that arrest data is also key, or that including technical violations and re-incarceration is important. See Newell (forthcoming), 2014 for a review of literature on this point. Regardless which definition is used, there is value in collecting enough data around youth behavior and contact with law enforcement so as to not be limiting or misleading.

- educational attendance, performance and achievement;
- family relationships and stability in living situation;
- social support and positive relationships;
- progress of treatment addressing mental health, substance abuse and trauma issues (when applicable); and,
- employment (Bazemore, 2006, p. 13).

Collecting these types of data on a regular and consistent basis while youth are under the supervision of Probation allows Probation Officers to evaluate individual youth progress over time and modify case plans as necessary to reach the best outcomes possible. Additionally, these data allow jurisdictions to examine youth success in the aggregate. The results, in turn, can be used to inform and improve practice and partnerships across aligned agencies by identifying (1) elements of case management that work, (2) challenges to accessing services and/or benefiting from services, and (3) areas for improvement in the long-term (Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, n.d.).

Program Data to Evaluate Specific Approaches and/or Programming

A much deeper level of data collection and assessment is possible once descriptive data systems and individual data collection systems are in place. At this level, youth are tracked relative to the services they receive and specific outcomes related to those services are measured. This aligns with an evidence-based programs approach (Coldren, Bynum & Thome, 1991). Program evaluation helps jurisdictions determine whether they are investing in the right programs, implementing these programs consistently and well, employing resources successfully, and using cost-effective and successful interventions.

Data collected for program evaluation requires enough detail at the individual level to parse out the impact of a specific intervention (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, State Commission on Juvenile Justice, 2009, p. 33) as well as program level-information around implementation and fidelity to the model. Although the threshold for the quantity and quality of data is high for the evaluation of programs, jurisdictions that build their data infrastructure to collect basic system data and meaningful individual data have the basics necessary to accomplish this level of data collection and analysis.

The Importance of Strong Data Systems

Ultimately, the quality of data systems depends on the way data are collected and how they are stored. Thus, juvenile justice information systems should be built on updated data platforms that are dynamic (i.e., have the ability to interface with other systems and to support additional programming as it becomes necessary). They should have a standardized system design (i.e., screens and methods for data entry are the same across users), and perhaps most importantly, systems should be user-friendly – designed with the primary users in mind – and “fit” the flow of juvenile justice system processing and decision-making.

Finally, key data contained within the system should be quantified. Collecting additional or supportive information in narrative form may be desirable for providing context and communicating special issues across staff responsible for supervising the same youth; however, when data are only captured in narrative form, it is impossible to produce reliable measures of the critical data elements needed to address the issues raised in this chapter.

Data systems that do not fit these criteria will be less likely to produce the types of information needed to build and maintain effective practice, and the information they do produce will be subject to errors that threaten the validity of the data. Both situations throw the usefulness and accuracy of the information into question.

How Are Juvenile Justice Related Data Collected in Los Angeles County?

Descriptive data related to the juvenile justice system in Los Angeles County are primarily captured in the Juvenile Automated Index (JAI) and the Probation Case Management System (PCMS). JAI was established in 1977 and is managed by the Los Angeles County Superior Court. It is a centralized system intended to maintain all arrest records, District Attorney decisions, and court decisions for youth processed in Los Angeles County. Multiple criminal justice agencies have access to JAI in order to enter or review juvenile justice decision-making information.

In addition to JAI, the Los Angeles County Probation Department utilizes the Probation Case Management System (PCMS). PCMS was implemented in 2009 by the Probation Department, creating a unified information system by merging nine database systems (including information from the Juvenile Halls, Camps, Field Services etc.). In addition to descriptive data, PCMS was intended to also capture individual data to inform the case management process. In contrast to JAI, only Probation personnel have access to the system.

JAI represents the “hub” of juvenile justice processing data in the County and PCMS interfaces with JAI to some extent. Separately, these systems do not contain all decision points and information related to a youth’s progression through the juvenile justice system, but data drawn from both of the systems can capture most of the descriptive data essential for measuring key processing decisions for youth in the juvenile justice system. To more fully understand the juvenile justice data collection process, each step in the process is described below – see also Figure 1.1 for a simplified flowchart of this process.

Arrest/Citation

When a law enforcement officer arrests or cites a juvenile, the arrest/citation must be entered into JAI. At the time of the arrest, the law enforcement officer can “counsel and release,” divert the youth to a local program, issue a citation and release the youth, or transport the youth to a juvenile hall for detention. It is important to note that if the arrest does not result in a referral to Probation for diversion consideration or is not adjudicated through the delinquency court, the youth and the associated arrest information will only be contained in JAI.

Detention at Juvenile Hall

Youth transported to juvenile hall are screened by Probation to determine if detention is warranted. If the youth is detained, Probation records this decision in PCMS; however, Probation can detain the youth for up to 48 court hours (dependent on the time of arrest) prior to a court hearing by a judge who determines whether the youth will remain in detention or be released to a parent/guardian. If the judge detains the youth at the detention/arraignment hearing, this decision is recorded in JAI by the Court and PCMS (by interface).

Diversion from Adjudication

Youth who are arrested for less serious crimes (under the State of California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 652) and not detained are reviewed by Probation to determine whether the youth can be diverted from the court process. If diverted, Probation inputs this decision into PCMS, which interfaces with JAI to populate this information. Youth not diverted are sent to the District Attorney's Office for further review and filing consideration, if deemed appropriate.

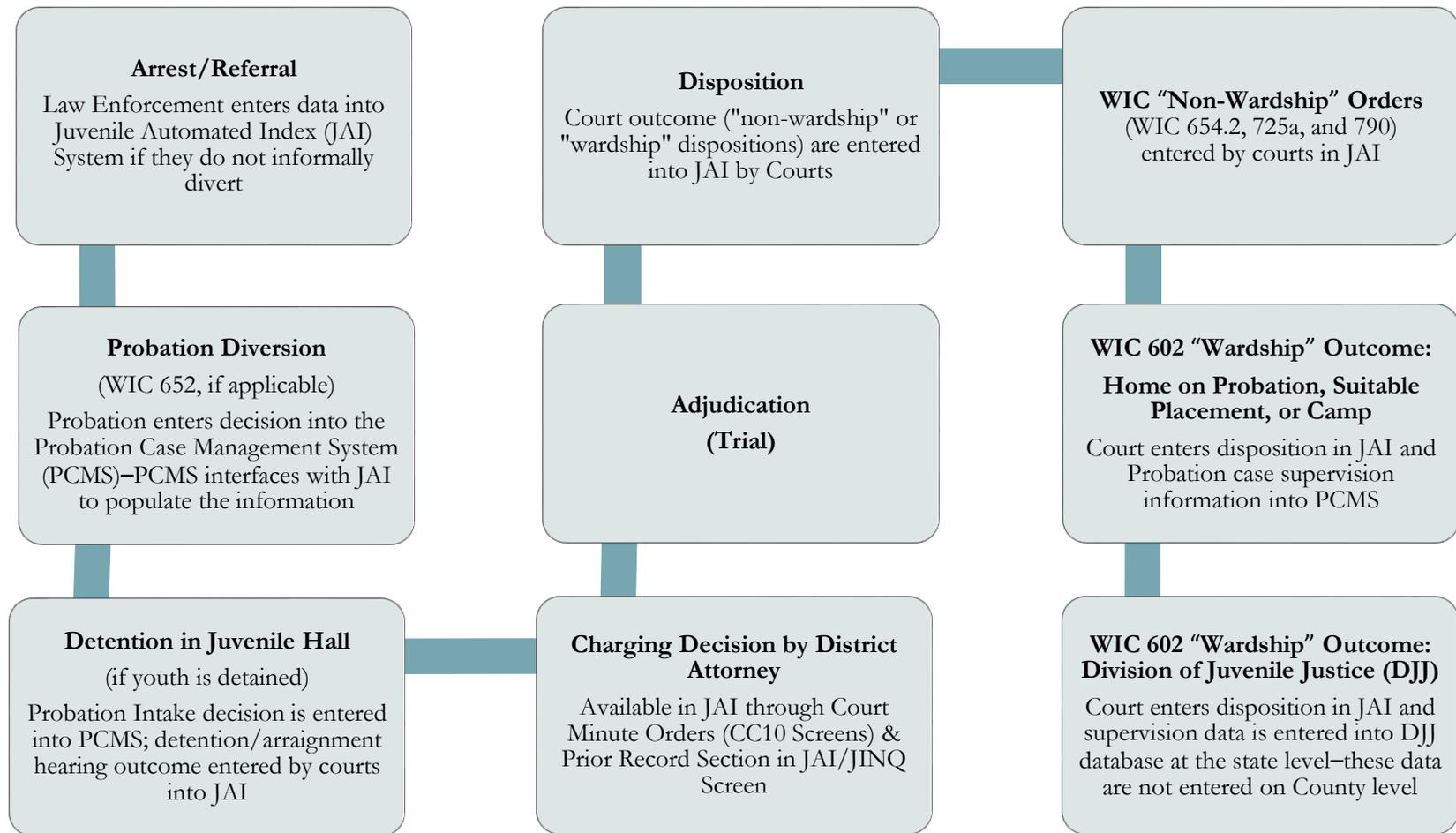
Adjudication

If the District Attorney's Office files a petition, the outcome of the adjudication hearing (i.e., trial) will be recorded in JAI by the court. Specifically, this information will be available on the court minute orders and in narrative form in the JAI system. Possible outcomes for the adjudication hearing include non-wardship or wardship orders as defined by the State of California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC).

Non-Wardship Dispositions

Non-wardship dispositions include: WIC 654.2, WIC 725(a), and WIC 790. These are non-custodial supervision outcomes often thought of as informal probation. Successful completion of these dispositions results in no further court processing of the case. In addition to being entered into JAI, these decisions are entered into PCMS through an interface.

Figure 1.1: An Overview of the Juvenile Justice Data Process in Los Angeles County



The *Juvenile Automated Index (JAI)* was established in 1977. This is a court-based system currently managed by the Los Angeles Superior Court. It represents the hub of juvenile justice data and is limited to activity within Los Angeles County. The *Probation Case Management Information System (PCMS)* is a Probation-based system that begins with the youth's first referral to Probation. Any citations or actions that did not result in a Probation referral would not be recorded in PCMS but should be recorded in JAI.

Wardship Dispositions

Wardship dispositions include: WIC 602 Home on Probation; WIC 602 Suitable Placement; WIC 602 Camp Community Placement; and WIC 602 DJJ with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Youth receiving “Home on Probation” remain in the community while they adhere to supervision requirements imposed by the court and Probation. Youth who receive a “Suitable Placement” order return to the community, but they are required to live with a relative or in a group home. Currently, the majority of youth (over 90%) with suitable placement orders are placed in group homes. Youth placed in camp at disposition are placed in one of 13 Probation Camps. Finally, youth who are placed with DJJ are transferred to state custody for placement in a state juvenile correctional facility.⁶

Supervision Progress

Once Probation supervision begins, updates on the youth’s progress and any new decisions related to the case (e.g., new arrests, violations, etc.) are recorded in PCMS (by Probation or through the JAI interface). It is important to note, though, that progress related to educational performance, family stability, peer relations, and behavioral health needs/treatment is usually submitted by the youth or requested by Probation in narrative form and placed in paper case files or in PCMS progress notes rather than being recorded in a way that yields quantified data in a regular and consistent way over time. The only exception is for the Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Checkup (LARRC) – a risk assessment tool administered at regular intervals while youth are on Probation supervision. The LARRC measures risk levels in several domains, including: Delinquent Behavior, Delinquent Affiliations, Delinquent Orientation, Substance Abuse, Family Interactions, Interpersonal Skills, Social Isolation, Academic Engagement, and Self-Regulation. This information is entered into PCMS and risk levels are calculated based on predetermined thresholds. Supervision data (i.e., contacts with youth, progress at school, stability at home, etc.) are only collected for youth if they received WIC 602 Home on Probation, Suitable Placement, or Camp Placement. For youth placed with DJJ, there is no additional data entry in Los Angeles County. Any further information on this youth will only be contained in the state DJJ system, which does not interface with JAI or PCMS.

Assessment of Los Angeles County’s Current Juvenile Justice Data

As described earlier, the most desirable and useful data includes information on youth demographics, key processing decision points and outcomes (descriptive data), and the status of youth history and progress in terms of education, family relationships, treatment services, and recidivism (i.e., new arrest and/or new sustained petition – individual data). All of these data elements should be quantified for easy extraction and analysis so they can be used to regularly report

⁶ The majority (80%) of adjudicated youth who receive a wardship disposition receive “Home on Probation.” According to Probation, recent counts show that approximately 10,700 youth are in the community on Home on Probation, while approximately 700 youth are in Camp, 700 in Juvenile Halls, and 775 in Suitable Placement.

on overall and population- or location-specific system activity and performance. That is, reports should be available for the system overall, for key populations such as those “Home on Probation” (HOP) or in “Suitable Placement” (SP), as well as for those in specific Camps or Halls. Quantifiable data that can be easily extracted on individual youth and their progress through the system is minimal in both JAI and PCMS.

Of the two systems, JAI, the older system, is arguably more cumbersome to use, relying largely on narrative entries to document decisions and youth court histories. PCMS captures a number of key factors related to a youth’s behavior and progress while under supervision, but this information is maintained in narrative form and is not captured consistently or systematically.

In addition to dates and outcomes of key decision-making points in the juvenile justice system, JAI and PCMS contain a lot of narrative data that can provide useful information. These narratives include important information about court hearings and decisions, the youths’ general profile and history, treatment needs, challenges, and progress while in supervision. These narratives, however, are not consistently collected or reported. The best way to get a sense of how a youth is doing at home and at school is to read the notes contained in PCMS. The content of these notes, however, is dependent upon the individual Probation Officer’s interpretation and decisions about whether to include certain types of information over others. While it is possible to determine how a youth is progressing from one court hearing to another and/or one placement to another, it is virtually impossible to understand their progress in an objective manner or at regular intervals, or to compare their progress to those of others with similar characteristics. Similarly, to know what types of services a youth has received, one must read through the narrative, and even then, information on services may not be available because the content of the narratives is based on what the Probation Officer knows and decides to put in the report. Some information may only be known to or recorded in the records of partner agencies. For example if the youth is receiving mental health services through the Department of Mental Health, this may not be reflected in the PCMS notes for the case.

As a result, much of the information needed for management of individual cases or assessment of system performance is collected in multiple places or in a narrative format that makes it difficult to use for real time decisions. The data are limited, providing little support for efficiently and effectively managing youth across supervision levels (e.g., from suitable placement back to the home) or to inform practice. Arguably, this approach unnecessarily burdens Probation Officers, requiring considerable amounts of paperwork and limiting the time they have to work directly with youth and their families. In burdening Probation Officers with labor-intensive data collection that produces little benefit, this limits their investment in the process and their understanding of the impact of their work.⁷

⁷ For a review of the literature related to the importance of line staff being invested in data collection, see Newell, M. (2014). *Juvenile justice data collection: An assessment of the literature and best practices*. Los Angeles: Children’s Defense Fund—California.

Taken together, the amount and type of Los Angeles County juvenile justice data captured in existing systems is very limited because of the way data are captured and because of the limitations of the data systems themselves. A brief list of strengths and limitations is provided in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1: Summary of Strengths and Challenges Related to the Juvenile Automated Index (JAI) and the Probation Case Management System (PCMS)

	Juvenile Automated Index (JAI)	Probation Case Management System (PCMS)
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connects law enforcement information to court information • Relevant agencies all have access to this information • Interfaces with PCMS to some extent • Serves as a “data hub” for basic juvenile justice system data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newer system • Captures law enforcement and court information through JAI interface • Has the capacity to collect data and utilize data for case management • Currently designed to collect a wide array of information on youth under Probation supervision • Program flexibility to achieve the data needs for Probation
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older system • A lot of relevant processing information is in narrative form • Does not allow sharing of information between Probation and DCFS without special access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current programming does not always align with practice/Probation operations, making data collection a more cumbersome practice for DPOs • Navigation within PCMS can be cumbersome for DPOs • Although screens exist for important information, most of the information is entered through case notes (i.e., narrative) instead of the screens • Programming “bugs” still exist and are in the process of being resolved • The merging of multiple databases into PCMS created millions of records that need to be reviewed and “cleaned” for merging accuracy

The most critical issues for JAI are its age and programming flexibility to be user-friendly and to collect information through close-ended or multiple choice coded items rather than narrative. However, the foundational basis of JAI could be a significant advantage for Los Angeles County if it could be updated and used to facilitate interagency communication and data sharing in the ways discussed in this chapter.

The most critical issues for PCMS are the extent to which it is programmed to align with practice rather than simply programmed to capture information that is required by the court or for compliance; back data cleaning issues; and programming “bugs” in the system. The core strength of

PCMS is its potential to provide a system that would address all three data collection objectives – documentation and monitoring of system operations, timely assessment of individual youth for case planning and practice outcomes, and evaluation of specific approaches and/or programming utilized by the department – discussed in this chapter. However, real and persistent obstacles to addressing these limitations and achieving more effective use are the lack of data staff and the need to integrate a sense of Probation operations/practice into the design of the system. For example, data cleaning and fixing programming “bugs” are common issues that must be addressed when implementing and maintaining an information system, particularly one as large as PCMS; however, these issues take a tremendous amount of staff time and expertise at the “front-end” of implementation.

Similarly, because system design was not guided by the perspective of practice, officers are less likely to understand how to use the system and less likely to be able to retrieve valuable information that supports their work. Thus, they are less likely to enter consistent and accurate data or to use the information system to guide their case management of youth. Appropriate attention to these issues, could enhance the usefulness of the system tremendously because the value of the information is only as good and as accurate as the data entered into the system.

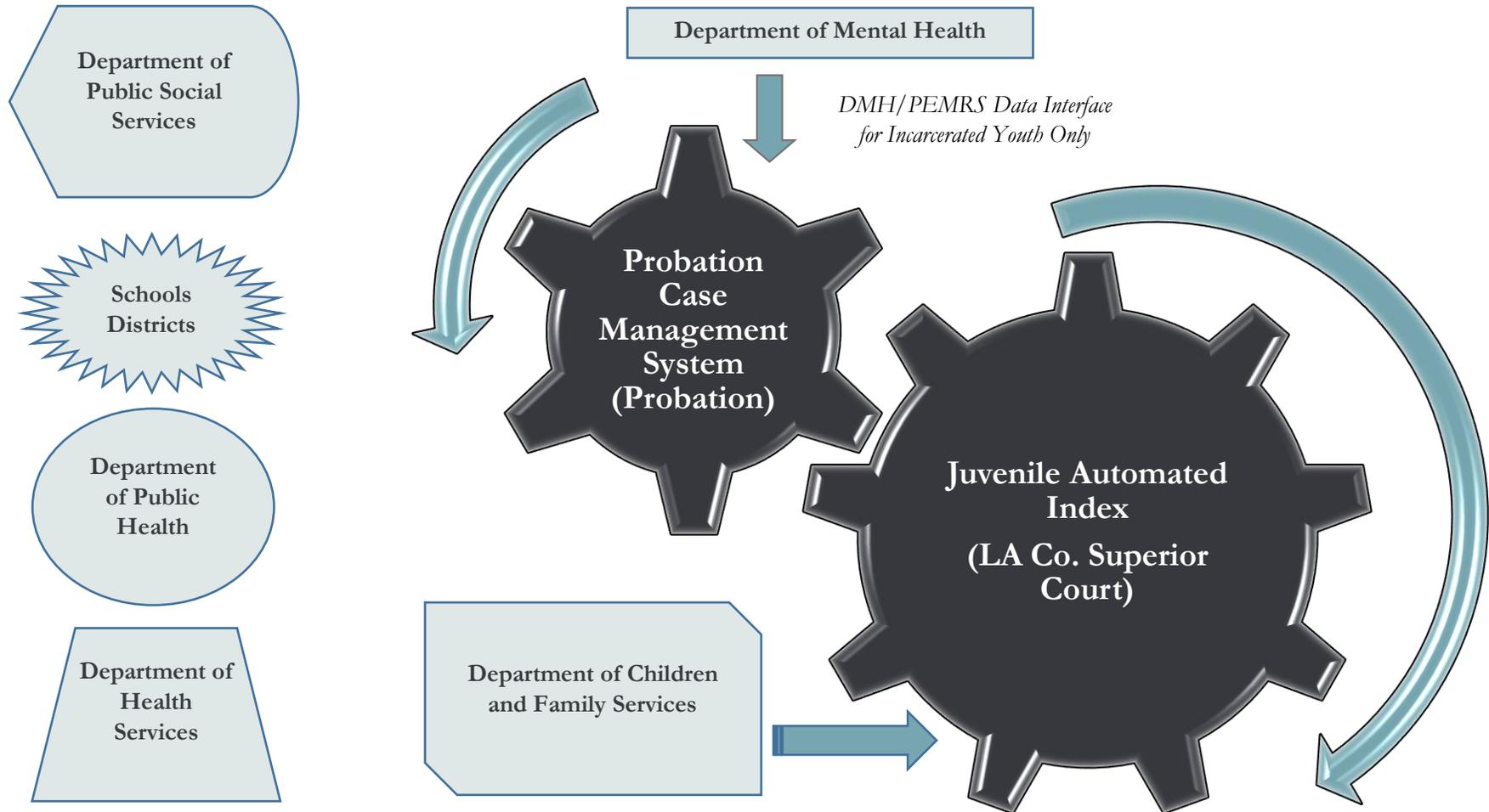
Connections between Juvenile Justice and Other Agency Data Systems

One of the main focal points of this study is to document the array of needs and backgrounds of youth involved in Probation and placed into suitable placement and camp placements. Many youth, for example, have learning disabilities or are failing or behind in school. The Juvenile Court can order the youth to go to school and Probation can monitor whether the youth is attending, but Probation is limited in its capacity to ensure the youth is receiving an effective educational program at school. It cannot, for example, require a school to assess a student for learning disabilities. Yet, unless a youth’s educational issues are adequately addressed, the likelihood of success, regardless of the court order, is minimal.

Given the multisystem needs and contacts of youth entering Probation, the need to coordinate data collection around needed services for youth involved in multiple systems seems obvious, but Los Angeles County, like many other jurisdictions across the nation, continues to struggle with barriers that prevent seamless coordination and collaboration across agencies to serve these youth. As Figure 1.2 depicts, JAI and PCMS are connected to some degree, but only two other County agency systems are connected to these data systems for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The two areas of connection are: (1) Referrals and court activity related to the Department of Children and Family Services is reflected in JAI; and (2) An interface with DMH for information related to the youth while in juvenile hall and/or camp placement can be made through the Probation Electronic Medical Records System (PEMRS).

With regard to the DCFS/JAI interface, the information entered into JAI for dependency is not shared with Probation. An application has been created to allow Probation staff to check whether youth with Probation referrals have a DCFS open case, but concerns about the accuracy and timeliness of the information have been expressed. More recently, DCFS gave a limited number of Probation Officers access to its information system (CWS/CMS).

Figure 1.2: The Relationship between Agency Data for Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth in Los Angeles



Data for youth involved in DCFS is also housed within JAI; however, there is limited access to this information by Probation—i.e., Probation and DCFS agencies do not have unlimited access to youths’ involvement in both systems through JAI. Additionally, DMH provides limited information into PEMRS for incarcerated youth. *No other agency data system is connected to the juvenile justice system even though the vast majority of youth are involved in one or more of these systems.* Thus, it is currently impossible to determine which youth cross into other agency populations as individuals or through family involvement.

The second interface across agencies is through PEMRS, which is an application that contains data related to mental health diagnosis, treatment goals, and progress notes for youth treated by Department of Mental Health staff working in the juvenile halls and camps. Only selected Probation Officers with some level of clinical training have access to PEMRS. Both of these examples demonstrate that shared information is possible, but the exchange of information is limited both in scope and in quality since the majority of information is provided in narrative form.

Summary

While Los Angeles County has the potential to build a strong data infrastructure, outdated systems (JAI) and limited programming for case management of youth (PCMS) constrain the usefulness of the County's current juvenile justice data systems. Data infrastructure and interfacing are critically important to building systems that provide effective support for case management and overall system performance and accountability. This is a widely accepted proposition, but implementation of data systems that effectively support data-driven practice is less common due to costs and barriers, regulatory or otherwise, to information-sharing.

Although building a better system requires commitment and dedication of time and resources, it is not impossible to do. The benefits of such a system would far outweigh their short-term costs, as jurisdictions across the country like Florida, Georgia, and Washington have demonstrated.

02 Understanding the Demographic Profiles and System Experiences of Youth Exiting from Suitable Placement and Camp

The intent of the current study is to explore the characteristics of youth before, during, and after their placement in a Probation suitable placement or camp, and their experiences in other systems such as the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). This chapter describes the methodology and samples used in this study.

Study Methodology

The target population for this study included all youth who exited suitable placements between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011, and all youth who exited from camp placements between July 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. Once a youth is found responsible for the charges filed against him/her in the delinquency court, he/she receives a court disposition. Dispositions range from “Home on Probation” to “Suitable Placement” to “Camp Placement” to “Placement with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).” When given suitable placement as a disposition, youth are most often placed in a group home or congregate care setting, although a few of these youth are placed with a relative. These group homes have contracts with Los Angeles County for use by the Department of Children and Family Services and the Probation Department. When placed at a group home, the youth supervising Probation Officer is responsible for overseeing the youth’s progress, but Probation Officers are not often on site nor does the Probation Department have responsibility for running these facilities. For camp placements, youth are placed in one of several juvenile correctional settings operated by Probation throughout the County. Although operated by Probation, the Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles County Office of Education co-locate staff in all camps to address mental health needs and to provide educational services.

Both suitable placement and camp placement represent the “deeper ends” of the juvenile justice system within Los Angeles County. Youth within these populations were the focus of this study because the pathways and case characteristics of these youth were expected to provide the most insight about the data systems used to track these youth as well as their “stories.” In other words, what factors impacted their involvement and what were their experiences in the juvenile justice system as well as other social service agencies? This information, in turn, can significantly inform efforts to improve delinquency prevention, outcomes for youth who do enter the juvenile justice system and data systems within Probation and across relevant County agencies.

The timeframes used to select youth exiting from suitable placement and camp differed across groups for two reasons. First, data collection for the study was expected to commence in June 2012 in order to provide one year of tracking. Suitable placement reforms had been made prior to January 2011, but reforms in the camps (due in part to compliance with conditions of the Department of

Justice MOU with the County and the educational lawsuit at Camp Challenger) were still in process during this time. As a result, Probation recommended choosing a later time period for camp placement exits to reflect these reforms. Secondly, the study did not begin until June 2013 due to delays in research approvals – despite the change in timeline, however, the original target populations were retained to ensure sufficient time for tracking both groups.

The total number of exits for suitable placements during the study timeframe was 561, and the total number for camp placements was 1,102. Cohorts of 250 youth were randomly drawn from the two respective populations for a total of 500 youth. With the exception of five youth who appeared in both the suitable placement and camp cohorts, youth were distinct across groups. Since in-depth case file reviews were not possible for all 500 cases due to time and resource constraints, samples of 50 youth were randomly selected from the cohorts. Figure 2.1 illustrates the process undertaken to identify study samples.

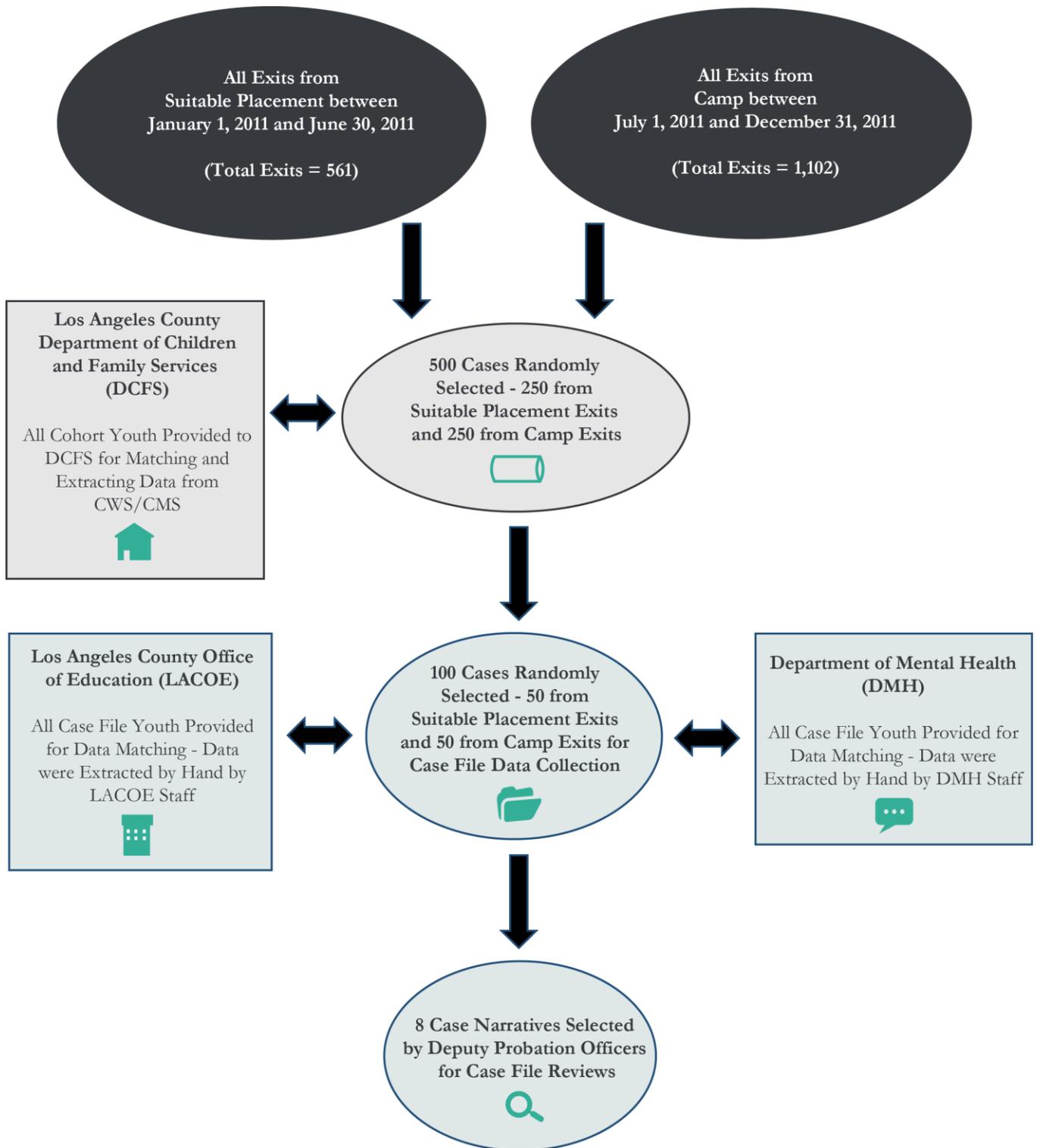
To maintain the distribution for gender and race/ethnicity in the suitable placement cohort, stratified random sampling was used. Stratified random sampling for gender and race/ethnicity was also used to select the camp cohort. In addition, females were oversampled in both groups— from 10% to 20% in the camp cohort and 20% to 40% in the suitable placement cohort. Similar procedures were used for the selection of case file samples as well – see Appendix A for a comparison of population and sample statistics.

When case file data collection began, it became apparent that some of the selected youth had to be removed from the sample because they fell into one of the following categories:

1. The case was terminated by the delinquency court at the time the youth was released; or,
2. The case was terminated less than six months after the youth's exit from suitable placement or camp.

In both of these situations, the termination of the case did not provide enough time for tracking data to accumulate, so cases that fell into these categories were removed from the case file samples (but remained in the larger cohort data) and were replaced with new cases from the larger cohort.

Figure 2.1: An Overview of Study Structure & Data Sources



Types of Data Used in the Study

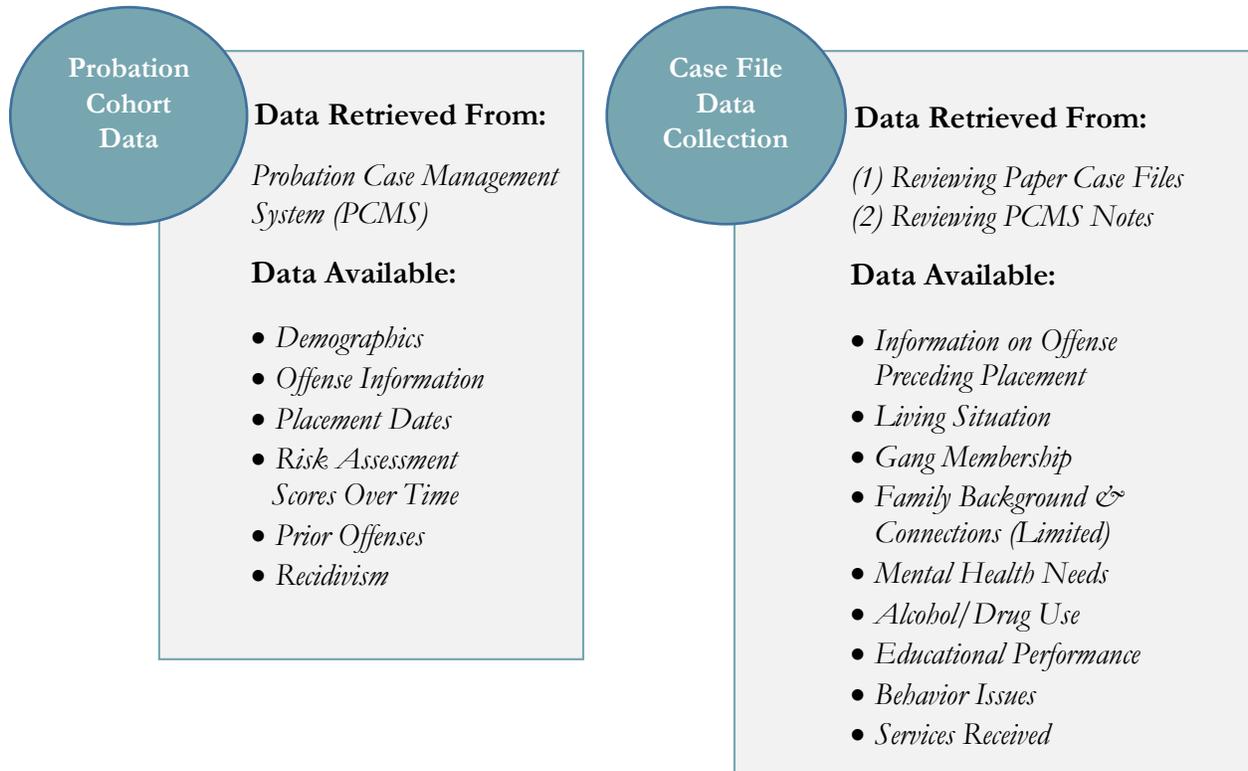
Data for this study were provided by the Los Angeles County Probation Department, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), and Office of Education (LACOE). Figure 2.2 display the data elements available from each source.

Probation Data: Probation extracted available data from the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) and worked with researchers to access and review over 100 case files. PCMS data included demographic information, offense information, placement dates, risk assessment scores over time, and data on prior criminal histories and recidivism. Data collection from paper case files and narrative reports found in PCMS case notes offered the opportunity to capture more in-depth information over time including the youth's living situation, association with gangs, family background and connections, mental health issues, alcohol/drug use, educational attendance and performance, behavioral issues, and services received. While a breadth of information was available in paper case files and in PCMS case notes, it should be noted that data collection was limited to what was provided. As discussed in Chapter 1, the reliance on case file and PCMS narratives limits the consistency of the data available, which, in turn, impacted the amount of information included in the current study.

Department of Children and Family Services Data: Probation provided DCFS with information on the 500 youth selected as part of the suitable placement and camp cohorts. DCFS then matched the data to their information system using direct matches on name and date of birth (note: several different combinations of these elements were used). Although the original cohort of 500 was sent to DCFS for matching, the actual number available for matching was reduced to 482 because 18 youth had sealed records. Once the matches were completed, data for all the referrals and cases associated with the youth (not the family) were extracted, de-identified, and returned to researchers.

Department of Mental Health Data: Whereas DCFS had the capability of matching youth in their information system and drawing down data for those who had a match in the system, DMH data for youth were more limited in nature and required individual staff to review electronic and paper files to retrieve the requested data. Consequently, data collection was limited to the 100 youth selected for case file data collection. Data provided by DMH included whether the youth had ever received DMH services in the community, whether they had (1) received services in the community or in juvenile hall one year prior to their "preceding arrest/petition," (2) been screened and received DMH services while in juvenile hall, (3) been placed in a psychiatric hospital at different times while under Probation supervision, and (4) received DMH services within one year after their exit from placement. Information for two youth was missing because the cases were sealed – both of these youth were in the camp placement group.

Figure 2.2: Data Available from Other Agencies for the Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study



DCFS Data	DMH Data	LACOE Data
<p>Data Retrieved From:</p> <p>CWS/CMS</p> <p>Data Available for Entire Cohort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and Type of Referrals to DCFS • Referral Outcomes • Length of Time in DCFS Care • Number and Type of Placements Received While in DCFS Care • Services (Limited) Received While in DCFS Care 	<p>Data Retrieved From:</p> <p>DMH Staff reviewing and extracting data by hand from the case files and the DMH information system</p> <p>Data Available for Cases Selected for Case File Data Collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received Services from DMH Providers in the Community, in Juvenile Hall or Camp Over Time • Screened and given DMH Services while in Juvenile Hall • Placed in a Psychiatric Hospital Over Time 	<p>Data Retrieved From:</p> <p>LACOE Staff reviewing and extracting data by hand from the LACOE information system</p> <p>Data Available for Cases Selected for Case File Data Collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Schools Attended • Credit Deficiency at Arrest • Special Education Assessment • Individual Education Plans (IEP) Status • Received GED upon Exit from Placement • School Disciplinary Incidents

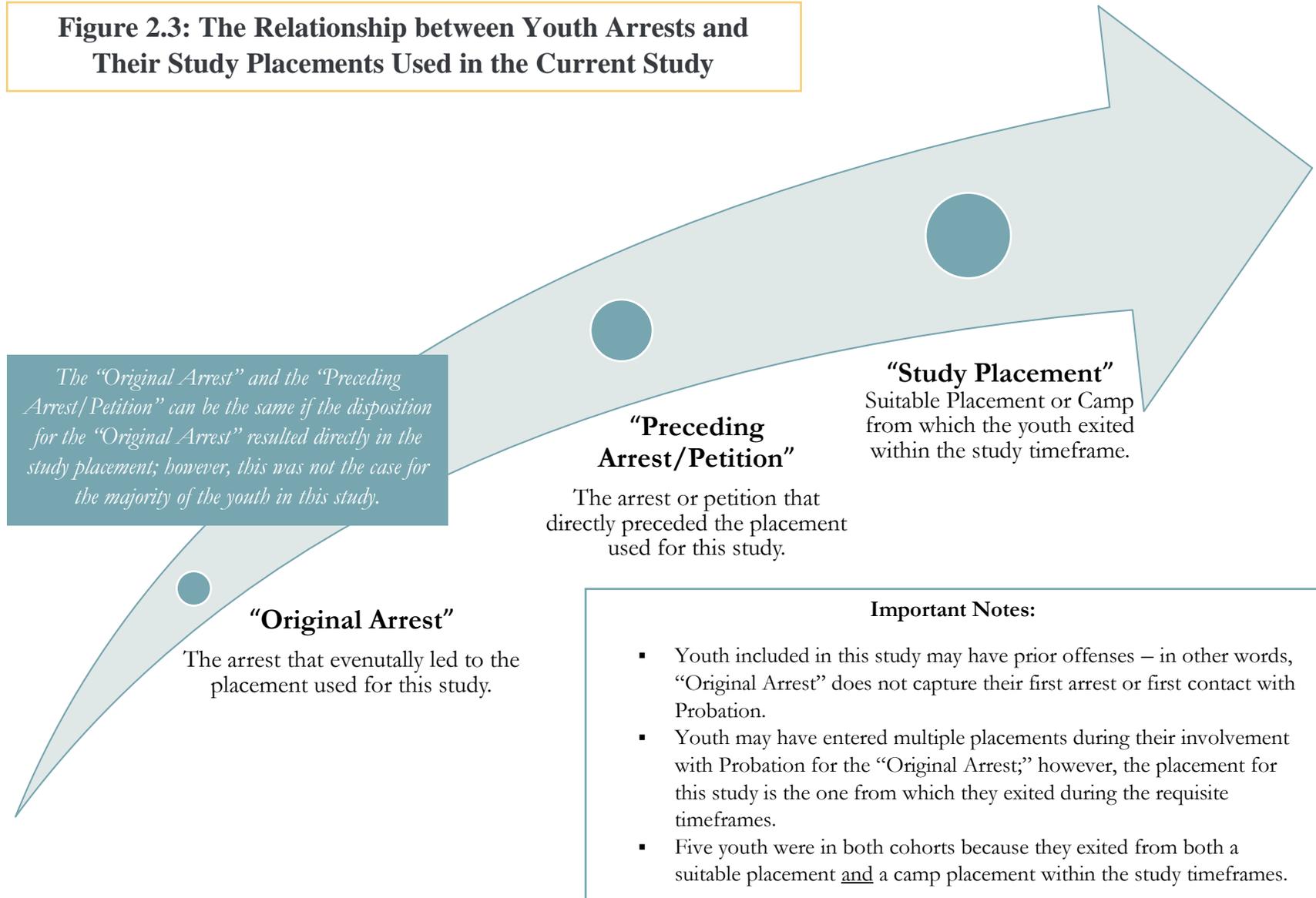
Los Angeles County Office of Education Data: Similarly, educational data were not easily extractable from the LACOE information system, so staff had to review electronic files to provide the data for the 100 youth selected for case file data collection. Data from LACOE included: (1) number of schools attended, (2) credit deficiency at arrest, (3) whether the youth had an Individual Education Plan (IEP), (4) whether a youth had graduated from high school or completed their GED during placement or after exit from placement, and (5) disciplinary incidents while in placement. It is important to note that LACOE data was limited to the timeframes in which a youth attended a LACOE school (many youth return from placement to non-LACOE schools), and for school history information, the data were limited to the information provided from the youth's school of origin. Data were missing for four youth – two of these youth were in the suitable placement group and two were in the camp placement group. Two of the cases were missing because the records were sealed and two of the youth were not found in the LACOE system for some reason.

Important Dates and Study Timeframes for Analysis

Data derived from PCMS provided the arrest date and charge for all youth selected for the study (i.e., exiting from placement within the target population timeframes). These data were used as a master list from which to select the cohorts and case file data collection samples.

Upon reviewing the case files for data collection, however, researchers discovered that this arrest date rarely resulted in the placement from which the youth was exiting in the study; rather, placements were often the result of another charge or violation that occurred while the youth were under Probation supervision. As a result, it became clear that there were two important and distinct events for youth in this study: the “Original Arrest” which brought youth under Probation supervision in some capacity and the “Preceding Arrest/Petition” which led youth to the placement exit used in the current study. Since the time between these two events can be significant, the two events are distinguished throughout the study using the terms “Original Arrest” and “Preceding Arrest/Petition.” It is possible for the two events to be one and the same (i.e., the “Original Arrest” is the “Preceding Arrest/Petition,” but this was the case for less than 10% of the youth). Figure 2.3 shows the relationship between these two events. It is important to note that the “Original Arrest” is not necessarily an indicator of first contact with Probation. For example, a youth in this study could have previous involvement with Probation, but at the time of the “Original Arrest,” the youth was no longer under Probation supervision for a previous offense (e.g. their prior supervision was terminated).

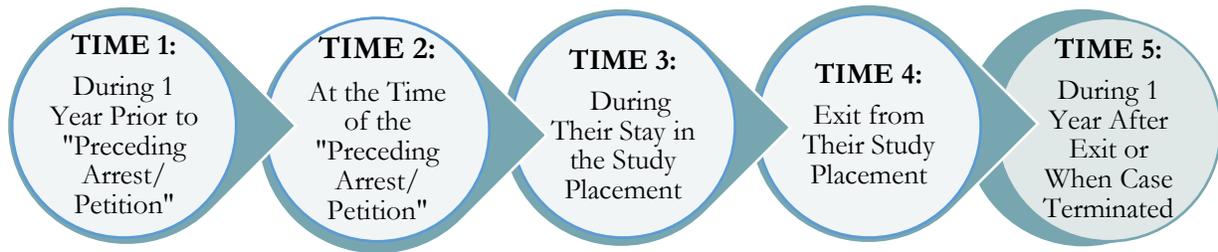
Figure 2.3: The Relationship between Youth Arrests and Their Study Placements Used in the Current Study



The majority of data available for this study was drawn from paper case files and narratives from PCMS case notes. Because the data were largely derived from narratives in Probation case files and staff notes contained within PCMS, it was possible to impose a prospective approach to the data. In other words, data were coded and analyzed based on specific, progressive time intervals. The overall “anchor” date for these time intervals is the “Preceding Arrest/Petition.” Using this date, information related to the youth’s status and experiences were captured for the following points or periods of time (see Figure 2.4 for illustration of how these time periods relate to one another):

- *Time Period 1:* During one year prior to their “Preceding Arrest/Petition”
- *Time Period 2:* At the time of the “Preceding Arrest/Petition”
- *Time Period 3:* During their stay in suitable placement or camp
- *Time Period 4:* At the time they exited from suitable placement or camp
- *Time Period 5:* During the course of one year after they exited from suitable placement or camp or when their case was terminated by the court – whichever came first ⁸

Figure 2.4: Study Timeframes for Case File Data



⁸ In some cases, the court terminated jurisdiction for youth prior to one year after their exit from suitable placement or camp. In these cases, the jurisdiction termination date represented the end of the tracking period because Probation does not have access to data on youth once they leave Probation supervision.

Description of Study Samples

The data drawn from PCMS, paper case files, and PCMS case notes produced critical insight into who was exiting from suitable placement and camp, as well as their previous involvement with the juvenile justice system. To better understand the characteristics of study youth from these perspectives, results from Tables 2.1 and 2.2 are presented and described below.

Who are the Youth Exiting from Suitable Placement and Camp?

Table 2.1 displays the demographics for youth in the suitable placement and camp cohorts as well as the case file samples. For the most part, the results across cohorts and case file samples are similar; consequently, findings are presented in general unless significant differences across sample groups were found.

- A majority of youth in the study were male, regardless of group. Note: Females were oversampled in the camp cohort (from 10% to 20%) and in the suitable placement cohort (from 20% to 40%).
- Slightly more than half of youth in the study were Latino, a third of these youth were African-American, and 10% or less were Caucasian or another race/ethnicity. Relative to the general population (9%), African-American youth were overrepresented in both the suitable placement and camp groups.
- On average, suitable placement youth were age 14 when arrested for their “Original Arrest” and camp placement youth were age 15. At the time of their placement (time period 3 used for this study), youth were one year older regardless of group – 15 and 16, respectively.
- The largest proportion of youth (regardless of group) lived in Service Planning Area 6 (South) – approximately 25% of youth in both cohorts. The only geographic difference between the samples for the two groups was found in the distribution of those living in SPAs 1 and 2. More youth in the camp placement sample was from SPA 1 (Antelope Valley) whereas more youth in the suitable placement sample was from SPA 2 (San Fernando Valley).

Table 2.1: Summary of Demographics and Service Planning Area for Youth in All Study Groups

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT		CAMP	
	Cohort Cases (N=250)	Case File Cases (N=50)	Cohort Cases (N=250)	Case File Cases (N=50)
Gender				
Female	50 (20%)	20 (40%)	50 (20%)	20 (40%)
Male	200 (80%)	30 (60%)	200 (80%)	30 (60%)
Race/Ethnicity				
African-American	73 (29%)	18 (36%)	78 (31%)	18 (36%)
Latino	152 (61%)	28 (56%)	158 (63%)	30 (60%)
Caucasian/Other	25 (10%)	4 (8%)	14 (6%)	2 (4%)
Age				
Average Age at Original Arrest	14.36	14.02	15.02	14.90
Average Age at Placement	15.35	15.14	16.10	15.96
Average Age at Exit	15.99	15.74	16.60	16.38
Distribution of Age at Placement Exit				
13 Years Old or Less	3 (1%)	2 (4%)	2 (<1%)	0 (0%)
14 Years Old	25 (10%)	5 (10%)	9 (4%)	1 (2%)
15 Years Old	52 (21%)	14 (28%)	32 (13%)	10 (20%)
16 Years Old	77 (31%)	16 (32%)	62 (25%)	15 (30%)
17 Years Old	77 (31%)	8 (16%)	85 (34%)	17 (34%)
18 Years Old	16 (6%)	5 (10%)	59 (24%)	7 (14%)
19+ Years Old	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)
Months in Placement				
Average Number of Months in Placement	7.74	7.50	5.57	4.40
Service Planning Area				
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	16 (6%)	3 (6%)	32 (13%)	10 (20%)
SPA 2: San Fernando	39 (16%)	7 (14%)	22 (9%)	4 (8%)
SPA 3: San Gabriel	31 (12%)	6 (12%)	35 (14%)	4 (8%)
SPA 4: Metro	27 (11%)	8 (16%)	24 (10%)	4 (8%)
SPA 5: West	4 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)
SPA 6: South	62 (25%)	14 (28%)	64 (26%)	11 (22%)
SPA 7: East	28 (11%)	5 (10%)	28 (11%)	6 (12%)
SPA 8: South Bay	38 (15%)	6 (12%)	35 (14%)	7 (14%)
Missing SPA Location	5 (2%)	1 (2%)	9 (4%)	4 (8%)

Note: Females were oversampled in the camp cohort (10% to 20%) and in the suitable placement cohort (20% to 40%).

To What Extent Were Youth Involved with Probation in the Past and in the Present?

The results for youths' involvement in Probation – past and present – are displayed in Table 2.2. Since some of the information found in this table only applies to case file data samples, the discussion of results is presented separately for cohorts and the case file data samples.

Results for Cohort Youth

- 52% of suitable placement youth and 69% of camp youth had prior criminal arrests at the time of their “Original Arrest.” In other words, these youth had at least one arrest prior to the one identified in this study. This percentage decreased to 30% and 41% when sustained petitions are considered. (*Note: It is common to find a drop between arrest and sustained petition – sustained petitions represent charges that are “found true” during a youth’s adjudication; thus, these are considered a more accurate measure of involvement in crime.*)
- Of the “Original Arrest” charges, about a third were for a violent crime, a third were for property crimes, and about a quarter (or slightly less) were for an “other” type of charge.⁹

Results for Case File Sample Youth

- 38% of suitable placement youth and 60% of camp youth had prior criminal arrests at the time of their “Original Arrest.” In other words, these youth had at least one arrest prior to the one identified in this study. This percentage decreased to 18% and 46% when sustained petitions are considered. (*NOTE: Prior involvement is lower for case file sample youth than cohort youth generally – this could be a result of removing selected youth from the sample because their case was terminated upon or within six months of exit.*)
- Half of the “Preceding Arrests/Petitions” were related in some way to the youth’s living situation (i.e., home, group home, etc.). Offenses with this designation occurred at the living situation (e.g., assaulting a staff member or family member) or were directly related to the living situation (e.g., AWOL from a placement which can result in a bench warrant for a youth’s arrest).
- One third or more of these charges were related to school (i.e., the offense occurred as part of or directly after the school day on school property or as part of a school event).

⁹ Violent crimes included homicide, assault/battery-related offenses, sex crime-related offenses, and robbery. Property crimes included theft at all levels, burglary, arson, and vandalism. Drug charges included possession of drugs and/or paraphernalia and use. Other charges included offenses such as terroristic threats, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, violations, and weapon charges.

Table 2.2: Status in the Juvenile Justice System at the Time of the “Original Arrest” and the “Preceding Arrest/Petition” for Youth in All Study Groups

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT		CAMP	
	Cohort Cases (N=250)	Case File Cases (N=50)	Cohort Cases (N=250)	Case File Cases (N=50)
Prior Criminal Charges at “Original Arrest”				
Had Prior Arrests	130 (52%)	19 (38%)	173 (69%)	30 (60%)
Had Prior Sustained Petitions	75 (30%)	9 (18%)	103 (41%)	23 (46%)
Most Serious “Original Arrest” Charge (by Offense Categories)				
Violent Charge	96 (38%)	21 (42%)	88 (35%)	15 (30%)
Property Charge	94 (38%)	18 (36%)	90 (36%)	19 (38%)
Drug Charge	12 (5%)	0 (0%)	8 (3%)	3 (6%)
Other Charge	48 (19%)	11 (22%)	64 (26%)	13 (26%)
Probation Status at the Time of the “Preceding Arrest/Petition”				
Not Under Probation Supervision	---	5 (10%)	---	4 (8%)
Under Probation Supervision	---	45 (90%)	---	46 (92%)
Study Placement Resulted from...				
New Arrest Charge	---	12 (24%)	---	19 (38%)
Violation of Probation Supervision Conditions	---	38 (76%)	---	31 (62%)
“Preceding Arrest/Petition” was Related to...				
Youth’s Living Situation	---	26 (52%)	---	25 (50%)
Youth’s School	---	21 (42%)	---	17 (34%)
Involvement with Probation During the Year Prior to “Preceding Arrest/Petition”				
Home on Probation	---	36 (72%)	---	38 (76%)
Juvenile Hall	---	28 (56%)	---	36 (72%)
Suitable Placement (Group Home)	---	8 (16%)	---	14 (28%)
Camp Placement	---	8 (16%)	---	12 (24%)

NOTE: “Other Charge” includes offenses such as (but not necessarily limited to) terroristic threats, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, violations, and weapons charges.

- Of the “Original Arrest” charges, a third or more were for a violent crime, slightly more than a third were for a property crime, and approximately one-quarter were for an “other” type of charge.
- 90% or more of youth in the study who were placed in the suitable placement or camp were under Probation supervision at the time of the “Preceding Arrest/Petition” that led to their placements. The “Preceding Arrest/Petition” was a new offense for one-quarter of these youth. For the remaining three quarters of these youth, the “Preceding Arrest/Petition” was for a Probation violation (i.e., youth had violated their terms of Probation).
- Almost all of the youth who were under Probation supervision at the time of their “Preceding Arrest/Petition” were under Probation supervision at home in the year leading up to this arrest/petition. Additionally, 56% of suitable placement youth and 72% of camp youth had been detained in juvenile hall at least once during the study period.
- 16% of suitable placement youth had lived in a suitable placement in the year prior to their “Preceding Arrest/Petition” and equally were placed in camp during this time (16%). Conversely, 28% of camp youth lived in suitable placement in the year prior to their “Preceding Arrest/Petition,” and 24% were placed in a camp during this time.
- The male youth selected in the camp case file sample represented exits from eight of the 14 different male Probation camps during this time (results not shown in the table). Of these camps, more youth had been placed in Camp Afflerbaugh (23%) and Camp Munz (17%). The majority of female youth were placed at Camp Scott (75%) and the remaining females were placed at Camp Scudder (Camps Scott and Scudder are the only two camps designated for females).

Youth Risk Levels

Probation currently uses the Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Checkup (LARRC) to assess the risk level for Probation-involved youth. The tool scores youth on a number of risk factors and the sum of those risk factors represents the level of risk a youth has to re-offend in the future (i.e., how much supervision a youth receives should depend on the level of risk a youth poses to public safety). Ideally, youth placed in suitable placement or camp would fall into the moderate to high categories, with camp placements scoring in the high-risk category more often. Neither group should have many youth in the low risk category although the nature of the offense may dictate a higher level of supervision. LARRC results at the time of placement and after exit were available for this study and are contained in Table 2.3 (see Appendix B for the mean scores on individual subscales and for total risk score).

Table 2.3: Risk Levels as Measured by the Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Checkup (LARRC) Across Time for All Cohort Youth and Case File Youth

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT		CAMP		
	At Time of Placement	After Exit	At Time of Placement	After Exit	
		Cohort Cases (N=250)		Cohort Cases (N=250)	
		N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
LARRC Risk Level – All Cohort Cases					
High	121 (48%)	127 (51%)	172 (69%)	154 (62%)	
Moderate	97 (39%)	75 (30%)	71 (28%)	75 (30%)	
Low	29 (12%)	46 (18%)	6 (2%)	21 (8%)	
Missing Information	3 (1%)	2 (1%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	
		Case File Cases (N=50)		Case File Cases (N=50)	
LARRC Risk Level – Case File Cases Only					
High	19 (38%)	22 (44%)	38 (76%)	34 (68%)	
Moderate	21 (42%)	17 (34%)	12 (24%)	12 (24%)	
Low	10 (20%)	11 (22%)	0 (0%)	4 (8%)	

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to a small amount of missing data and rounding error. LARRC data were missing for three suitable placement youth and one camp youth. Risk Level is based on the following risk score thresholds: Low Risk=0-14; Moderate Risk=15-26; and High Risk=27-46. These thresholds are for male youth – the thresholds vary by 1-2 points for female youth.

- For cohort cases, 48% of suitable placement youth were classified as “high risk” at the time of placement, 39% as “moderate risk,” and 12% as “low risk.” Two-thirds of youth placed in camp (69%), in contrast, were classified as “high risk” compared to 28% classified as “moderate risk” and 2% classified as “low risk.” At one year after exit, the findings were mixed. There was a very slight increase in the “high risk” category and the “low risk” category for suitable placement youth, and for camp placement youth the change was positive with more youth classified as “low risk.”
- The findings were generally similar for the subsample of youth for whom case file data were collected with two exceptions:
 - First, there were slightly more youth in the case file subsample classified as “moderate risk” at the time of suitable placement than in the overall suitable placement cohort. This difference may be due to the replacement procedure used when sampled youth for the case file sample were excluded because of the limited amount of tracking time after their exit from placement (see Chapter 2 for more discussion of this methodological point).
 - Secondly, the change over time was mixed for suitable placement youth, with risk levels for both “high risk” and “low risk” increasing slightly one year after exit. Camp youth, on the other hand, experienced a slight decrease in the number classified as “high risk” and a corresponding increase in the “low risk” category.

Summary

Data derived from Probation sources indicates that youth exiting from suitable placements during 2011 were mostly male and Latino. African-American youth were, however, overrepresented relative to the general population. Youth were, on average, 14 years old at the time of their “Original Arrest,” 15 years old at the time they were placed in the suitable placement from which they exited in this study; and 16 years old when they exited from their placements. Although suitable placement youth were from all areas across the County, more came from Service Planning Area 6 (South) and Service Planning Area 2 (San Fernando Valley) than any other areas. A third to one-half had an arrest prior to their “Original Arrest,” but fewer had sustained petitions – i.e., charges deemed “true” by the court. Most “Original Arrests” were for violent or property crimes.

When considering the study placement, almost all youth were under the supervision of Probation at the time of the new charge or Probation violation that led to the suitable placement that was the focus of this study, and these charges often occurred due to behavior within the youths’ living situations or at school. The majority of suitable placement youth were classified as “high or moderate risk” at the time of placement – half of these youth were classified as “high risk” and slightly more than a third were classified as “moderate risk.” After exit, the percentage of youth classified as being in the “high risk” and “low risk” categories increased slightly.

Although similar in many ways, youth exiting from camp placements differed from suitable placement youth in a few ways. Youth exiting from camp during 2011 were mostly male and Latino;

however, like suitable placement youth, African-American youth were overrepresented relative to the general population. Camp youth were older – 15 years old, on average, at the time of their “Original Arrest;” 16 years old at the time they were placed in the camp from which they exited in this study; and 17 years old when they exited from their placements. Although camp youth were also from all areas across the County, more came from Service Planning Area 6 (South) and Service Planning Area 1 (Antelope Valley) than any other areas. Two-thirds had an arrest prior to their “Original Arrest,” but fewer had sustained petitions – i.e., charges deemed “true” by the court. Like suitable placement youth, most “Original Arrests” were for violent or property crimes.

When considering the study placement, almost all youth were under the supervision of Probation at the time of the new charge or Probation violation that led to the camp placement that was the focus of this study, and these charges often occurred due to behavior within the youths’ living situations or at school. Almost all camp placement youth were classified as “high or moderate risk” at the time of placement – two-thirds of these youth were classified as “high risk” and slightly more than a quarter were classified as “moderate risk.” After exit, the percentage of youth decreased slightly in the “high risk” category and increased slightly in the “low risk” category.

03

Digging Deeper – An Examination of Risk, Behavioral Health Needs, and Education History using Data from Multiple Systems

Probation data indicate that youth exiting from suitable placements and camp placements rarely enter a placement immediately as a result of their “Original Arrests;” rather, it appears that many return home with conditions of Probation supervision. Due to a variety of factors their behavior does not improve and, in some cases, worsens. This results in the decision to move them into a suitable placement and/or camp placement.

This chapter digs deeper into youth characteristics and histories using data contained in Probation case files to document youth characteristics related to family history, family connections, risk levels, problem behaviors, mental health and substance abuse issues, educational history, and services received over the course of their involvement with Probation. Although Probation case files and PCMS case notes were the main resource for this information, limited data from the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education were used to describe the additional challenges faced by these youth and their families from the perspective of these key partner departments.

Family History and Contact

Table 3.1 uses data drawn from Probation case files and PCMS case notes to show study results on family history, a variety of social issues, youth living situations, stability of those situations over time, and continuing contact with family members. Because these data are taken from Probation case files, it is important to note that the information relies on the definitions used by Probation (e.g., gang involvement), interpretation of Probation staff, and the extent Probation Officers asked about/investigated an issue for their reports (e.g., public assistance, homelessness, and domestic violence). Key findings include the following:

- Over one-half of the families for suitable placement and camp placement youth had a history of public assistance, and slightly less than one-fifth of both groups had been/were homeless at some point (14% suitable placement youth and 16% camp placement youth). *Note: public assistance is defined widely and is based on questions asked by the Probation Officer. Public assistance would include, but is not limited to, general relief, food stamps, etc.*
- One-third (32%) of suitable placement youth had family members with criminal justice involvement (an arrest, Probation supervision, and/or incarceration) while 60% of the families of camp youth had some level of criminal justice involvement. Probation staff reported that slightly less than one-fifth of the families in both groups had a history of domestic violence (16% for suitable placement youth families and 10% of camp youth families).

Table 3.1: Family History, Living Situation and Contact with Family across Study Timeframes for Suitable Placement and Camp Case File Youth—Information from Probation Case Files and PCMS Case Notes

Time Period	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=50)				CAMP (N=50)			
	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5
	At Preceding Arrest/Petition	During Placement	Exit from Placement	After Exit	At Preceding Arrest/Petition	During Placement	Exit from Placement	After Exit
Family Member (Biological Parents and/or Siblings) has a History of...								
Public Assistance (of some type)	28 (56%)	---	---	---	30 (60%)	---	---	---
Homelessness	7 (14%)	---	---	---	8 (16%)	---	---	---
Prior Arrests and/or Incarceration	16 (32%)	---	---	---	30 (60%)	---	---	---
Domestic Violence	8 (16%)	---	---	---	5 (10%)	---	---	---
Substance Abuse	19 (38%)	---	---	---	15 (30%)	---	---	---
Mental health	9 (18%)	---	---	---	7 (14%)	---	---	---
Gang Involvement	11 (22%)	---	---	---	10 (20%)	---	---	---
*Study Youth is Gang-Involved	24 (48%)	---	---	---	21 (42%)	---	---	---
Living Situation								
Home/ Relative	43 (86%)	---	42 (84%)	31 (62%)	40 (80%)	---	42 (84%)	28 (56%)
Probation Suitable Placement	4 (8%)	50 (100%)	1 (2%)	6 (12%)	8 (16%)	---	3 (6%)	5 (10%)
Camp	1 (2%)	---	1 (2%)	5 (10%)	2 (4%)	50 (100%)	1 (2%)	9 (18%)
Other (includes Juvenile Hall)	2 (4%)	---	6 (12%)	8 (16%)	0 (0%)	---	4 (8%)	8 (16%)
Stability of Living Situation (Absent Without Leave – AWOL – Status)								
AWOL from Living Situation	10 (20%)	---	---	---	21 (42%)	---	---	---
AWOL from Home	4 (40%)	---	---	---	12 (57%)	---	---	---
AWOL from Relative Home	3 (30%)	---	---	---	1 (5%)	---	---	---
AWOL from Probation Group Home	2 (20%)	---	---	---	7 (33%)	---	---	---
AWOL from Other Situation	1 (10%)	---	---	---	1 (5%)	---	---	---
Has Contact With...								
Biological Mother	42 (84%)	45 (90%)	42 (84%)	41 (82%)	38 (76%)	42 (84%)	41 (82%)	36 (72%)
Biological Father	13 (26%)	16 (32%)	13 (26%)	13 (26%)	25 (50%)	24 (48%)	23 (46%)	23 (46%)
Siblings	16 (32%)	24 (48%)	23 (46%)	29 (58%)	27 (54%)	21 (42%)	21 (42%)	18 (36%)
Grandparents	16 (32%)	13 (26%)	9 (18%)	8 (16%)	7 (14%)	5 (10%)	4 (8%)	6 (12%)
Aunts/Uncles	9 (18%)	7 (14%)	4 (8%)	4 (8%)	7 (14%)	4 (8%)	1 (2%)	2 (4%)

- Probation staff reported that one-third of the families for suitable placement and camp placement youth had a substance abuse problem (38% suitable placement and 30% camp placement youth), and one-fifth had a mental health problem (18% suitable placement and 14% camp placement youth).
- One-fifth of suitable placement and camp placement youth had at least one family member who was involved in gangs (measured by Probation’s identification of gang involvement). Gang involvement of youth, though, exceeded this rate with 48% of suitable placement youth and 42% of camp placement youth identified by Probation as gang-involved.
- The majority of suitable placement youth (86%) and camp placement youth (80%) were living at home at the time of the “Preceding Arrest/Petition.” One-fifth of suitable placement youth and 42% of camp placement youth, however, were reported as being AWOL from their living situation at that point in time. The majority of AWOL youth in the suitable placement group were supposed to be living at home or with a relative whereas the majority of AWOL youth in the camp placement group were supposed to be living at home or in a Probation group home.
- The percentage of youth living at home in both groups decreased over time at about the same rate. One year after exit, for example, only 62% of suitable placement youth were living at home, compared to 56% of camp placement youth. The youth who were not living at home were living in a suitable placement, another camp placement, or some other type of placement. *Note: Age may be a contributing factor to the decrease in youth living at home – some of these youth were 18 by the time they exited camp and may not have returned home by choice.*
- Over the study period, suitable placement youth had a relatively constant level of contact with their parents, increased contact with their siblings, and decreased contact with their grandparents and aunts/uncles. The pattern was slightly different for camp placement youth. For these youth, contact decreased between their “Preceding Arrest/Petition” and one year after exit for all groups except for their biological mother. Contact with biological mothers temporarily increased while their children were in placement, but this percentage decreased somewhat, returning to pre-placement levels at one-year after exit.
- By the end of the study period, 20% of suitable placement youth and 35% of camp youth were identified with a history of sexual exploitation at some point in the past.

Involvement with Probation and Behavioral/Social Intervention Services

In this section, information derived from case files and PCMS case notes are used to help understand what types of Probation services youth received over time and what types of behavioral/social interventions they received (see Table 3.2). While these data are useful in revealing patterns of service access and delivery, they are also limited. As used here, “Probation involvement” is a measure of the different interventions that at least 10% of youth in one group received from Probation at some point in the study timeframe. The behavioral/social services listed are limited in

the same way – i.e., if less than 10% of youth in a group received a particular service across the timeframe, the service is not listed in the table. Another limitation is related to the nature of the interventions. For example, no information regarding the intensity or duration of a youth’s participation in Probation intervention or services was available. With these limitations in mind, the findings contained in Table 3.2 include:

- As reported in Chapter 2, the data revealed that youth had different levels of involvement with Probation during the year prior to their “Preceding Arrest/Petition.” Most spent time at home on Probation supervision, but 56% of suitable placement youth and 72% of camp placement youth were detained in juvenile hall at least once during this time. Only 16% of the suitable placement group were in a suitable placement or camp placement during the year prior to their “Preceding Arrest/Petition,” 28% of youth in the camp placement group had been in a suitable placement and 24% had been in a camp placement during this time.
- During the year after exit, almost all youth in both study groups received “Home on Probation,” but one-half to three-quarters of these youth were also detained in juvenile hall at least once. The percentage of youth in both groups who were placed in another suitable placement and/or a camp placement increased compared to “Preceding Arrest/Petition” during this time.
- About half of the youth in the suitable placement and camp placement groups were placed on Probation’s Community Detention Program (i.e., electronic monitoring) during the year prior to their placements, and drug testing was ordered for the majority of youth in both groups, suitable placements (54%) and camp placements (64%), during this time. For youth in both groups, use of the Community Detention Program decreased during the year after exit but drug testing increased. Additionally, more youth were supervised by the Intensive Gang Supervision Program (IGSP) in the year after exit, (0-8% for suitable placement and 2-16% for camp placement).
- The top three behavioral/social intervention services received by suitable placement youth were anger management (28% – not designated as Anger Replacement Therapy [ART]), life skills training (20%), and gang prevention/intervention (12%). The percentage of youth receiving these services increased dramatically while they were in their placement settings, as did their participation in arts/writing programs. The provision of most services decreased when youth left their placements; however, a few of the categories of service remained at the same level (cognitive behavioral therapy/dialectic behavioral therapy) or increased (church/religious programming and job preparedness training).
- The top three behavioral/social intervention services received by camp placement youth were similar to those for suitable placement youth: life skills training (28%), anger management (not ART – 26%), gang prevention/intervention (18%), and job preparedness training (18%). Access to all services increased dramatically during youth placements, with the most noticeable increases for anger management, cognitive behavioral therapy/dialectic behavioral therapy, and job preparedness. Likewise, access to most services decreased when youth left their camp placements; however, a few of the categories of service remained at the same level (life skills training) or increased slightly (arts/writing program and gang prevention/intervention).

Table 3.2: Involvement with Probation and Behavioral/Social Services across Study Timeframes for Suitable Placement and Camp Case File Youth – Information from Probation Case Files and PCMS Case Notes

<i>Time Period</i>	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=50)				CAMP (N=50)			
	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5
	At Preceding Arrest/ Petition	During Placement	Exit from Placement	After Exit	At Preceding Arrest/ Petition	During Placement	Exit from Placement	After Exit
Probation Involvement								
Home on Probation	36 (72%)	---	---	49 (98%)	38 (76%)	---	---	47 (94%)
Juvenile Hall	28 (56%)	---	---	29 (58%)	36 (72%)	---	---	35 (70%)
Suitable Placement-Group Home	8 (16%)	---	---	8 (16%)	14 (28%)	---	---	14 (28%)
Camp	8 (16%)	---	---	13 (26%)	12 (24%)	---	---	19 (38%)
Probation Interventions								
Community Detention Program	26 (52%)	---	---	19 (38%)	23 (46%)	---	---	14 (28%)
Drug Testing	27 (54%)	---	---	40 (80%)	32 (64%)	---	---	38 (76%)
Intensive Gang Supervision Program	0 (0%)	---	---	4 (8%)	1 (2%)	---	---	8 (16%)
Behavioral/Social Interventions Received (by 10% or More Youth)								
Anger Management (Not ART)	14 (28%)	32 (64%)	---	18 (36%)	13 (26%)	22 (44%)	---	23 (46%)
Arts/Writing Program	5 (10%)	13 (26%)	---	7 (14%)	6 (12%)	7 (14%)	---	10 (20%)
Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT/DBT)	2 (4%)	5 (10%)	---	7 (14%)	1 (2%)	22 (44%)	---	6 (12%)
Church/Religious Program	5 (10%)	4 (8%)	---	9 (18%)	6 (12%)	15 (30%)	---	10 (20%)
Gang Prevention/Intervention	6 (12%)	22 (44%)	---	13 (26%)	9 (18%)	11 (22%)	---	14 (28%)
Job Preparedness Training	3 (6%)	6 (12%)	---	11 (22%)	9 (18%)	34 (68%)	---	16 (32%)
Life Skills Training	10 (20%)	39 (78%)	---	11 (22%)	14 (28%)	16 (32%)	---	16 (32%)

Involvement with the Department of Children and Family Services

One of the critical questions underlying this study is to what extent study youth represent “crossover youth” or “dually-involved youth” – i.e., youth who have had or currently have both a case in the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system. To assess the amount of “crossover” for youth in this study, the 500 cohort youth were matched to data contained within the information system for the Los Angeles County of Children and Family Services (DCFS – Child Welfare Services/Case Management System or CWS/CMS). Matches were completed based on records for individual youth (family matches were not made to determine whether siblings had similar histories). Unfortunately matches were not possible for 18 youth whose cases were sealed; thus, the percentages for cross-system involvement between Probation and DCFS may be an underestimate. For youth who had matches in the DCFS system, data related to their experiences with DCFS was provided to researchers for analysis. The findings of this analysis are presented in this section.

Before reviewing the findings, clarification of analytic timeframes and a few key terms are necessary. First, the results in this section represent any type of contact with DCFS at any point in the youths’ lives – contact is not tied to specific timeframes unless otherwise noted in the tables. Secondly, Tables 3.3 and 3.4 refer to “referrals,” “substantiated allegations,” “open cases,” and “out-of-home placements.” Each of these terms represents a different level of involvement with DCFS, and all of these terms are used at different points in this section. “Referrals” are allegations of maltreatment made to the DCFS hotline by a variety of reporters, some of whom are mandated to report any new information on possible maltreatment that may be going on now or may have gone on in the past. When allegations are investigated, they may be “substantiated” as meeting the level of evidence required under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 300 or they may be determined to be “unfounded” or “inconclusive.” Allegations that are “substantiated” but where family conditions have changed so that children and youth are no longer living in unsafe conditions may not require further action (i.e., they may not result in the opening of a DCFS case). Child protective services cases are “opened” either when the child can remain safely at home but the family requires “Family Maintenance” services, or when the department substantiates the referral and the child is not deemed to be safe at home. In some cases, a child may require “out-of-home placement” with relatives, foster families, in group homes or in residential treatment facilities. Placement with foster families may be with state-licensed foster parents or through foster homes certified by Foster Family Agencies (FFA) that recruit and support a number of foster homes and provide additional supportive services.

Using these definitions and the data provided by DCFS for youth involved in both systems, the analysis produced the following results (see Table 3.3):

- 46 or 18% of the cohort of youth in suitable placement had some level of DCFS contact at some point in their past – i.e., a referral, substantiated allegations, and/or an open DCFS case.
- 35 or 14% of the cohort of youth in camp placement had some level of DCFS contact at some point in their past – i.e., a referral, substantiated allegations, and/or an open DCFS case.

Table 3.3: Extent of DCFS Involvement (Ever) for Suitable Placement and Camp Cohort Youth

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT	CAMP
DCFS Contact		
Had Some Level of DCFS Contact at Some Point in Their Lives – i.e., a Referral, Substantiated Allegation and/or an Open Case*	46 (18%)	35 (14%)
Gender of Youth with Some Level of DCFS Contact		
Female	8 (17%)	10 (29%)
Male	38 (83%)	25 (71%)
Referral Allegations Received by Youth with Some Level of DCFS Contact		
General Neglect	38 (83%)	27 (77%)
Physical Abuse	32 (70%)	19 (54%)
At Risk/Sibling Abuse	22 (48%)	20 (57%)
Sexual Abuse	22 (48%)	6 (17%)
Substantial Risk for Abuse	21 (46%)	8 (23%)
Caretaker Absence/Incapacity to Care for Child	14 (30%)	14 (40%)
Severe Neglect	13 (28%)	6 (17%)
Emotional Abuse	13 (28%)	7 (20%)
Relationship between Referrals and Open Cases across Time		
Youth with Referral Before Original Arrest	45	35
Case Opened Before Original Arrest	44 (98%)	32 (91%)
Youth with Referral Between Original Arrest and Placement Exit	19	16
Case Opened Between Original Arrest and Placement Exit	1 (5%)	6 (38%)
Youth with Referral After Exit from Placement	17	6
Case Opened After Exit from Placement	7 (41%)	1 (17%)
Out-of-Home Placements for Youth with DCFS Contact		
Was Placed Out-of-Home	32 (70%)	23 (66%)
Type of Placement (of Those Placed)		
Relative Placement	20 (63%)	14 (61%)
Foster Care Placement	12 (38%)	10 (43%)
FFA Placement	20 (63%)	12 (52%)
Group Home Placement	8 (25%)	9 (39%)

**Prevalence of DCFS contact is based on 250 cases but 18 cases were sealed and could not be matched for DCFS contact; thus, the percentage of youth with some level of DCFS contact is arguably an underestimate.*

- Since DCFS involvement begins with a referral, all of these youth had at least one referral associated with one or more allegations of maltreatment. The most frequent allegations cited in the referrals for suitable placement cohort youth were general neglect (83%), physical abuse (70%), at risk/sibling abuse (48%), and sexual abuse (48%). The most frequent allegations cited in the referrals for camp placement cohort youth were general neglect (77%), at risk/sibling abuse (57%), physical abuse (54%), and caretaker absence/incapacity (40%).
- Table 3.3 also shows the relationship between referrals and open cases for youth with some level of DCFS contact. Nearly all of the youth in both cohort groups received a referral at some point prior to their “Original Arrests,” and almost all of the youth who received a referral during this time had a case opened by DCFS. Although some youth also received referrals between their “Original Arrests” and their placements as well as after their exits from placements, the likelihood of the referral resulting in an open DCFS case was markedly reduced.
- Although youth with some level of contact with DCFS could have a number of referrals that did not result in an open case, all of the study youth eventually had a referral that did result in an open case regardless of cohort group. The majority of these youth had spent time in an out-of-home placement at least once (70% of suitable placement youth and 66% of camp placement youth). Youth in both groups were most likely to be placed with a relative, a foster family agency placement, with decreasing numbers placed in a foster care placement, and a group home placement.
- The placement rates across settings were similar for cohort groups except in two instances – suitable placement cohort youth were more likely than camp placement cohort youth to be placed in FFA placements (63% compared to 52%) and camp placement cohort youth were more likely to be placed in group homes (39% compared to 25%).

The average numbers of referrals, substantiated referrals, and open DCFS cases for youth with some level of DCFS contact are displayed in Table 3.4. The means presented in this table are rounded for ease of presentation below:

- The range in numbers of referrals to DCFS for youth in the suitable placement groups was between 1 and 36 referrals, with an overall average of 10 referrals. Three of these referrals (on average) resulted in substantiated allegations, and two of the substantiated referrals (on average) resulted in opening a DCFS case.
- The range in numbers of referrals to DCFS for youth in the camp placement group was between 1 and 36 referrals, with an overall average of 8 referrals. Two of these referrals (on average) resulted in substantiated allegations, and one of the substantiated referrals (on average) resulted in opening a DCFS case.
- The average length of time (consecutive or counted across episodes) youth had spent in DCFS care was 1,430 days or approximately four years. During this time, suitable placement youth had experienced an average of five out-of-home placements. On average, these youth had more group home placements (four on average) compared with foster care, FFA placements, and kinship or relative care placements (two on average for each type of placement).

Table 3.4: Average Number of Referrals, Substantiated Referrals, Open Cases, and Placements for Suitable Placement and Camp Youth with Some Level of DCFS Contact (*Based on Individual Youth*)

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=46)				CAMP (N=35)			
	No. Youth	Range	Mean	SD	No. Youth	Range	Mean	SD
DCFS Referrals and Open Cases								
Total Referrals to DCFS	46	1-36	<u>9.67</u>	7.05	35	1-36	<u>7.94</u>	6.92
Total Substantiated Referrals	46	1-9	<u>2.63</u>	1.97	35	1-6	<u>2.26</u>	1.50
Total Opened DCFS Cases	46	1-5	<u>1.67</u>	1.12	35	1-4	<u>1.43</u>	0.81
Total <u>Days</u> in Open DCFS Case	44	59-8,194	<u>1,429.66</u>	1,608.12	33	28-8,194	<u>1,174.76</u>	1,559.14
Out-of-Home Placements								
Number of Times Placed Out of Home	32	1-22	<u>4.78</u>	4.47	23	1-17	<u>3.78</u>	4.06
Relative Placements	20	1-4	<u>1.75</u>	1.16	14	1-3	<u>1.29</u>	0.73
Foster Care Placements	12	1-8	<u>2.25</u>	2.30	10	1-6	<u>1.70</u>	1.57
Foster Family Agency Placements	20	1-8	<u>2.10</u>	1.80	12	1-4	<u>1.83</u>	1.11
Group Home Placements	8	1-9	<u>3.63</u>	2.72	9	1-10	<u>3.00</u>	2.78

Note: Time in DCFS may be consecutive or summed across episodes.

- The average length of time (consecutive or counted across episodes) youth had spent in DCFS care was 1,175 days or approximately three years. During this time, camp placement youth had experienced an average of four placements. On average, these youth had more group home placements (three on average) followed by FFA placements and foster care (two on average), and kinship or relative care placements (one on average).

Behavioral Health Needs and Treatment

To document the extent to which suitable placement and camp placement youth had mental health and/or substance abuse problems, data were provided by the Department of Mental Health for the case file samples drawn from the suitable placement (n=50) and camp (n=48) cohorts. Probation data were also used to document the types of services, but similar to the services reported earlier, these data only indicate whether a service was provided to a youth – there is no information related to the service provider, the youth’s status in the service, or the length of time spent in the service.

Youth Involvement with DMH in the Community and in Probation Juvenile Halls and Camps

There were two ways in which study youth could become involved with DMH. First, they may have received services in the community through DMH prior to their involvement with Probation. In this case, their involvement in both systems was independent of one another. Conversely, these youth may become known to DMH as a result of their Probation involvement. DMH has co-located staff in juvenile halls since before 2001, but more clinical staff were added in 2002/03 and then again in 2005/06. The expansion of staff and services was similar for camps with an initial enhancement of clinical staff in 2007/08 and then again in 2010. These developments occurred (roughly) at the same time study youth were exiting from suitable placements and camps; thus, it should be noted that the full impact of DMH staff and services may not be reflected in the current study results.

The results in Table 3.5 show the different ways study youth came into contact with DMH:

- 66% of youth in the suitable placement cohort and 58% of youth in the camp placement cohort received community treatment from DMH prior to their involvement in Probation during this study. While this is not a perfect measure of whether the youth was known to DMH prior to their Probation involvement, it is a good starting point to assess independent contact with DMH for mental health treatment.
- After their involvement in Probation, 94% of the suitable placement youth had received mental health services in the year prior to their “Preceding Arrest/Petition.” The majority of these youth received services in the community and in juvenile halls and/or camps (91%) while only a small number had only received the services in juvenile halls and/or camps (9%). One year after exit, though, almost a third of these youth were no longer receiving mental health services from DMH, with the percentage continuing to receive DMH services dropping from 94% to 70%.

- Similarly, 96% of camp placement youth had received mental health services in the year prior to their “Preceding Arrest/Petition,” but this percentage also dropped to 71% in the year after exit. One point of difference for camp placement youth was “where” the services were received from DMH during the year prior to the “Preceding Arrest/Petition.” Whereas almost all of the suitable placement youth received services during their placements in hall and/or camp as well as in the community, 35% of camp placement youth only received mental health services (from DMH) while they were in juvenile halls and/or camps.
- 90% of suitable placement youth and 100% of camp placement youth were screened for mental health problems during their stay at juvenile halls. Of those screened, almost two-thirds (71%) of suitable placement youth and 92% of camp placement youth also received DMH services during their stays in juvenile halls.
- A smaller percentage of youth were flagged for observation while detained in juvenile halls and/or placed in camp: 16% of suitable placement youth and 10% of camp placement youth. Only a few (three or fewer) youth in either group were placed in a psychiatric hospital throughout this timeframe.

Table 3.5: Contact with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) for Treatment for Suitable Placement and Camp Case File Youth Using Data Provided by DMH

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=50)				CAMP (N=48)			
	Ever Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition	1 Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition	During Placement	After Exit	Ever Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition	1 Year Prior to the Preceding Arrest/Petition	During Placement	After Exit
Overall Involvement in DMH Services								
Received Mental Health (MH) Treatment in Community – <i>Not a Result of their Probation Involvement</i>	33 (66%)*	---	---	---	28 (58%)*	---	---	---
Received Mental Health Treatment – <i>as a Result of their Probation Involvement</i>	---	47 (94%)	---	35 (70%)	---	46 (96%)	---	34 (71%)
In Hall/Camp Only	---	4 (9%)	---	---	---	16 (35%)	---	---
In Hall/Camp & Community	---	43 (91%)	---	35 (100%)	---	30 (65%)	---	34 (100%)
DMH Actions within Halls and Camps								
Screened for MH at Juvenile Hall	---	45 (90%)	---	---	---	48 (100%)	---	---
Received MH Services at Juvenile Hall (<i>of Those Screened</i>)	---	32 (71%)	---	---	---	44 (92%)	---	---
Flagged for Observation at a Juvenile Hall or Camp	---	8 (16%)	---	---	---	5 (10%)	---	---
Placed in Psychiatric Hospital	---	1 (2%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	---	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)

**In addition to the study timeframes, information was also provided to document whether study youth had received community treatment through the Department of Mental Health at any point prior to their Probation involvement. This measure would be the most direct measure of independent contact with DMH for mental health services. This result is based on the individual youth's contact – not contact of family members with DMH.*

Prevalence of Mental Health Problems and Substance Abuse

DMH prepared Tables 3.6a and Table 3.6b, which provide a detailed summary of the primary mental health diagnoses on file for study youth along with information on substance abuse diagnoses. Table 3.6a reports youth with a substance abuse diagnosis as their primary diagnosis whereas Table 3.6b reports all substance abuse diagnoses whether they are primary, secondary, or tertiary. Additionally, the table combines the two study groups and does not adhere to a particular timeframe. Collectively, these data indicate the following:

- 92% of study youth had a DSM-IV-TR diagnosis.
- The most prevalent category of diagnosis was Disruptive Behavior Disorders (46%), followed by Mood Disorders (23%), Substance Abuse (as a primary diagnosis – 10%), Adjustment Disorders (6%), Other Disorders (5%), and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (2%).
- The most prevalent diagnoses for these youth were Disruptive Behavior Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (NOS-25%), Mood Disorder (NOS-10%), Oppositional Defiant Disorder (9%), Child/Adolescent Antisocial Behavior (7%), and Depressive Disorder (NOS-7%). Together, these five diagnoses account for 58% of all the primary DSM-IV-TR diagnoses for these youth.
- A total of 50% of youth had some level of substance abuse diagnosis (this includes Substance Abuse as a primary diagnosis). The most significant abuse problem involved cannabis followed by alcohol.

Table 3.6a: Summary of Primary Diagnoses for All Case File Youth Combined Using Data Provided by DMH (N=99)

Diagnosis – Name (DSM-IV-TR)	Nomenclature	No. of Youth	% of Youth	% Youth In Category
No Diagnosis				7%
No Diagnosis or Condition on Axis I	V71.09	7	7%	
Disruptive Behavior Disorders				46%
Disruptive Behavior Disorder NOS	312.9	25	25%	
Oppositional Defiant Disorder	313.81	9	9%	
Child or Adolescent Antisocial Behavior	V71.02	7	7%	
Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder NOS	314.9	2	2%	
Conduct Disorder Childhood-Onset Type	312.81	2	2%	
Conduct Disorder Adolescent-Onset Type	312.82	1	1%	
Mood Disorder				23%
Mood Disorder NOS	296.90	10	10%	
Depressive Disorder NOS	311	7	7%	
Dysthymic Disorder	300.4	4	4%	
Bipolar I Disorder, Most Recent Episode Manic Unspecified	296.40	1	1%	
Induced Mood Disorder	292.84	1	1%	
Substance Abuse				10%
Cannabis Abuse	305.20	4	4%	
Alcohol Abuse	305.00	3	3%	
Amphetamine Dependence	304.40	2	2%	
Alcohol Dependence	303.90	1	1%	
Adjustment Disorder				6%
Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood	309.28	3	3%	
Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood	309.0	1	1%	
Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Disturbance of Emotions and Conduct	309.4	1	1%	
Adjustment Disorder Unspecified	309.9	1	1%	
Other				5%
Parent-Child Relational Problem	V61.20	3	3%	
Academic Problem	V62.3	1	1%	
Unspecified Mental Disorder (non-psychotic)	300.9	1	1%	
Anxiety Disorder				2%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	309.81	2	2%	

NOTE: NOS=Not otherwise specified. This table was prepared by DMH and included two separate arrests for one youth, which is why the total number is 99 instead of 98.

**Table 3.6b: Substance Abuse Diagnoses for All Case File Youth Combined
Using Data Provided by DMH (N=99)**

Diagnosis – Name (DSM-IV-TR)	Nomenclature	No. of Youth	% of Youth	% Youth In Category
Substance Abuse/Dependency (Primary, Secondary, or Tertiary Diagnosis)				50%
Cannabis Abuse	305.20	33	33%	
Alcohol Abuse	305.00	8	8%	
Alcohol Dependence	303.90	2	2%	
Amphetamine Dependence	304.40	2	2%	
Cannabis Dependence	304.30	2	2%	
Amphetamine Abuse	305.70	1	1%	
Cocaine Abuse	305.60	1	1%	
Phencyclidine Dependence	304.60	1	1%	

This table was prepared by DMH and included two separate arrests for one youth, which is why the total number is 99 instead of 98.

Participation in Behavioral Health Services

Table 3.7 displays the findings related to services received by youth for mental health and substance abuse related issues across the study time period. These findings are for the subgroup of youth in each placement type who were the subject of case file reviews and thus are based on limited information available from Probation case files and PCMS case notes. The list of services provided in this table should not be considered exhaustive; rather, information is only provided for services in which 10% or more of study youth participated (at some point in time) are presented. Additionally, the information available did not provide details such as the level of youth participation, the length of time youth participated, the quality of or appropriateness of the program as an intervention, and the youths’ progress in programming.

Despite these limitations, the findings are and show the following:

- The top three services received by both groups in the year prior to “Preceding Arrest/Petition,” for youth in both groups were individual counseling (about two-thirds), family counseling of some sort (about one-third), and group counseling (one-quarter to one-third). The similarity across suitable placement and camp placement cohorts, however, ends once these youth entered their respective placements.
- During placement, almost all suitable placement youth received individual counseling (98%), and the majority of these youth received family counseling (88%) and group counseling (86%). In the year after exit, individual counseling decreased but remained high (86%) as did family counseling (72%); group counseling decreased more precipitously (40%).

Table 3.7: Behavioral Health Treatment Services Received across Study Timeframes for Suitable Placement and Camp Youth – Information from Probation Case Files and PCMS Notes

<i>Time Period</i>	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=50)				CAMP (N=50)			
	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5
	At Preceding Arrest/ Petition	During Placement	Exit from Placement	After Exit	At Preceding Arrest/ Petition	During Placement	Exit from Placement	After Exit
Mental Health Treatment Services Received								
Individual Counseling	30 (60%)	49 (98%)	---	43 (86%)	32 (64%)	46 (92%)	---	42 (84%)
Family Counseling (Generic)	19 (38%)	44 (88%)	---	36 (72%)	19 (38%)	15 (30%)	---	19 (38%)
Group Counseling	11 (22%)	43 (86%)	---	20 (40%)	18 (36%)	21 (42%)	---	20 (40%)
Wraparound Services	7 (14%)	0 (0%)	---	11 (22%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	---	4 (8%)
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	4 (8%)	0 (0%)	---	18 (36%)	5 (10%)	0 (0%)	---	2 (4%)
Substance Abuse Treatment Services Received								
Alcohol/Drug Education	13 (26%)	28 (56%)	---	18 (36%)	20 (40%)	34 (68%)	---	24 (48%)
Outpatient Treatment	15 (30%)	34 (68%)	---	28 (56%)	21 (42%)	33 (66%)	---	31 (62%)
Inpatient Treatment	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	---	2 (4%)	5 (10%)	0 (0%)	---	3 (6%)

- Camp placement youth also had access to individual counseling during placement (92%). After their exit from camp, access to individual counseling decreased but the level of services received was higher than it had been in the year prior to their “Preceding Arrests/Petitions” (84%). Access to family counseling increased slightly to this earlier level (38%), and group counseling remained the same (40%).
- Suitable placement youth were more likely to have access to Wraparound services and Functional Family Therapy, but overall these services were not used frequently.
- Less than half of all study youth received substance abuse services in the year prior to their “Preceding Arrest/Petition,” but more camp placement youth were involved in these services than suitable placement youth. The predominate types of services for substance abuse were alcohol and drug education and outpatient treatment—very few youth in either group participated in inpatient programs.

During placements, access to these services increased for both study groups, but access decreased after their exits from placement. Again, the utilization of substance abuse services was slightly higher for the camp placement group than for the suitable placement group.

Educational History and Performance

To assess the educational histories and performance of youth in both the suitable placement and camp placement subgroups, data from the Los Angeles Office of Education (LACOE) were requested for all case file youth. While LACOE is helpful to understand the educational profiles of study youth, it should be noted that LACOE is not the “home” school district for most of these youth. Prior to their Probation involvement, most of these youth were attending schools in a district other than LACOE, but once they entered Probation and were detained in juvenile hall and/or were placed in camps, these youth attended school provided by court schools overseen and managed by LACOE. Youth placed in suitable placements may have attended a public school in the community, a non-public school run by the group home or residential treatment agency or a school run by LACOE depending on their situation. When youth exited from suitable placements or camps, they may have returned to their “home” school district or they may have continued to attend a community-based school run by LACOE. Thus, while the educational data presented in this section are informative, they should not be viewed as providing a comprehensive and complete educational profile of study youth.

School Transitions

LACOE provided all the school history data they had received from the youth’s “home” school. These data document the schools youth attended, dates of attendance (including schools attended prior to Probation involvement and during Probation involvement), as well as some information about educational performance and achievement. Although the data are extensive, they are not complete, reflecting only the information shared with LACOE by sending and receiving schools. Thus, complete data are not available for each individual youth. Even with this limitation, though,

this school history information provides important information about educational disruptions and transitions experienced by youth in the study groups throughout the study timeframes collectively (i.e., these data were not analyzed across individual timeframes due to limitations in the data).

Both suitable placement and camp placement youth had experienced a number of school transitions before and during Probation involvement. A “school transition” is measured by changes in schools for at least 30 days, which excludes normal grade progression and movements back to the same school (e.g., waiting for court hearing at juvenile hall). With these important research notes in mind, Table 3.8 tells the following story:

- The range in number of school transitions for suitable placement youth was between four and 14 transitions. Youth had an average (rounded) of eight transitions. Similarly, the number of school transitions for camp placement youth ranged from three to 13, and the average number of transitions experienced by these youth was also eight.
- 71% of suitable placement youth experienced a school transition that involved juvenile hall, and 42% experienced a transition involving school at camp.
- 85% of camp placement youth had at least one school transition involving juvenile hall and 100% had a school transition involving camp (which is expected since all camp placements attended school at some point before camp and during camp).
- The majority of school transitions experienced by youth in both study groups occurred outside of their Probation involvement. For example, the average number of school transitions for suitable placement youth was 7.65, while the average number of transitions involving juvenile hall was 1.32 and 1.35 for those involving camp. On average, transitions to juvenile hall and camp schools accounted for 22% of all transitions for the suitable placement group. For camp placement youth, the percentage was even higher, 38%, or almost double the rate for transitions involving juvenile halls.

Table 3.8: School Transitions (i.e., Change in School after Attending for at Least 30 Days) for Suitable Placement and Camp Case File Youth Before and During Probation Involvement across All Time Frames Collectively Using Data from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=48)				CAMP (N=48)			
	No./% All Youth	Min Value	Max Value	Mean (SD)	No./% All Youth	Min Value	Max Value	Mean (SD)
Experienced Any School Transition (<i>at least 30 days</i>)	48 (100%)	4 Transitions	14 Transitions	7.65 (2.54)	48 (100%)	3 Transitions	13 Transitions	7.90 (2.49)
School Transitions Occurring in...								
Juvenile Hall	34 (71%)	1 Transitions	3 Transitions	1.32 (.59)	41 (85%)	1 Transitions	3 Transitions	1.57 (.67)
Camp	20 (42%)	1 Transitions	3 Transitions	1.35 (.59)	48 (100%)	1 Transitions	4 Transitions	1.48 (.85)

NOTES: No LACOE data were available for two youth in the suitable placement group and two youth in the camp group. Given the small number of missing data, these cases were excluded from analysis.

Developmental Disabilities and Special Education

Table 3.9 summarizes the information available on youth with developmental disabilities and those who had Individual Education Plans (IEP) for special education services. LACOE data did not directly report whether a youth had been diagnosed with developmental disabilities, but they did include the information on developmental disabilities reported while the youth were in juvenile hall. As a result of Probation's work with Public Counsel and California Disability Rights in 2011 and 2012, juvenile halls have implemented screening procedures to identify male youth with developmental disabilities, so that youth could receive special services and supports in a designated unit. Unit designation which has been provided to LACOE was used for this analysis. Females with developmental disabilities are not designated to particular unit and are not identified in these data. Thus, data for this status most likely underrepresents the percentage of all study youth who are developmentally disabled.

According to the results presented in Table 3.9:

- 17% of male youth in the suitable placement group and 27% of male youth in the camp placement group were identified with developmental disabilities.
- During their placement, LACOE determined that a third of suitable placement youth (35%) had an IEP. About half of the youth were reported as having a specific learning disability (53%), while 29% had an emotional disturbance, and 18% had other health impairment.
- Fewer camp placement youth had an IEP – 17%. IEPs for camp youth were also predominately based on a specific learning disability (63%), while about one quarter had other health impairment (25%), and the remaining had emotional disturbance (13%).

Table 3.9: Developmental Disabilities and Special Education Status across Study Timeframes for Suitable Placement and Camp Case File Youth Using Data from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)

<i>Time Period</i>	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=48)				CAMP (N=48)			
	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5
	At Preceding Arrest/ Petition	During Placement	Exit from Placement	After Exit	At Preceding Arrest/ Petition	During Placement	Exit from Placement	After Exit
Developmental Disability Status								
Identified as Developmentally Disabled	---	8 (17%)	---	---	---	13 (27%)	---	---
Individual Education Plans								
Youth had an Individual Education Plan— <i>Determined by LACOE during Probation Involvement</i>	---	17 (35%)	---	---	---	8 (17%)	---	---
Primary Reason for IEP (of those w/IEP)								
Emotional Disturbance	---	5 (29%)	---	---	---	1 (13%)	---	---
Specific Learning Disability	---	9 (53%)	---	---	---	5 (63%)	---	---
Other Health Impairment	---	3 (18%)	---	---	---	2 (25%)	---	---

NOTES: (1) No LACOE data were available for two youth in the suitable placement group and two youth in the camp group. Given the small number of missing data, these cases were excluded from analysis. (2) Developmentally disabled status was based on youth placement units at juvenile hall — males are placed in a designated unit but females are not distinguished by unit. Thus, data for this status were only available for males and most likely underrepresents the percentage of all youth who are developmentally disabled.

Academic Status and School Discipline

The number of school credits earned and whether a youth was determined to be credit deficient upon entry are important questions for both of these study groups. Although the percentage of credit deficient youth were provided by LACOE data at the time of “Original Arrest,” comparable data were not available at the time of placement exit. Consequently, Table 3.10 displays the average number of credits at the time of “Original Arrest,” the average number at time of exit, and the average difference between them.

Analyses of these data provided the following results (see Table 3.10):

- The average age of suitable placement youth at the time of their “Original Arrest” was 14 (rounded average). According to LACOE data, 92% of these youth were credit deficient at this time. The average number of credits earned by these youth was 39 (rounded average) at arrest, but the number increased to 96 by the time they left their placement – an increase, on average, of 56 units (rounded average).
- Camp placement youth were 15 years old (rounded average) at the time of their “Originating Arrest,” and 85% of these youth were determined to be credit deficient at this time. Their average number of credits at arrest was 49 (rounded average) and the credits they had earned had increased to 133 (rounded average) by the time they exited their camp placement. This represents a significant improvement, an average (rounded) increase of 84 credits.
- Given the increase in credits, it is not surprising that there were also dramatic improvements in terms of the grade levels equivalents attained by youth in both study groups. In particular, the number of 10th graders doubled between “Original Arrest” and exit from placement, and the number of 11th graders nearly tripled during this time. The findings were similar for camp placements, but, since they were somewhat older than those in the suitable placement group, the changes were more noticeable at higher grade levels – the 11th (10% to 23%) and 12th (4% to 25%) grades.
- Only one suitable placement youth graduated from high school with a diploma or GED by the time he/she exited, but 21% of these youth graduated at some point after their placement exit. More of the camp placement youth (13%) had graduated from high school with a diploma or GED by the time they exited camp, and an additional 17% graduated at some point after they exited camp.
- According to LACOE data, 10% of suitable placement youth and 60% of camp placement youth had received a school disciplinary action while attending school during their placement.

Table 3.10: Educational Status across Study Timeframes for Suitable Placement and Camp Case File Youth Using Data from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Continued

<i>Time Period</i>	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=48)				CAMP (N=48)			
	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5	Time 2	Time 3	Time 4	Time 5
	At Original Arrest	During Placement	Exit from Placement	After Exit	At Original Arrest	During Camp	Exit from Camp	After Exit
Status of Educational Credits								
Average Age	14.02 (1.37)	---	15.74 (1.31)	---	14.90 (1.49)	---	16.38 (1.03)	---
Credit Deficient	44 (92%)	---	---	---	41 (85%)	---	---	---
Average # of Credits (SD)	38.93 (54.21)	---	96.22 (67.73)	---	48.76 (54.19)	---	132.64 (59.15)	---
Average Change in # of Credits (SD)	---	---	56.47 (47.80)	---	---	---	83.87 (52.32)	---
Grade Level								
7 th Grade	1 (2%)	---	1 (2%)	---	0 (0%)	---	0 (0%)	---
9 th Grade	35 (73%)	---	12 (25%)	---	30 (63%)	---	5 (10%)	---
10 th Grade	6 (13%)	---	15 (31%)	---	11 (23%)	---	14 (29%)	---
11 th Grade	4 (8%)	---	11 (23%)	---	5 (10%)	---	11 (23%)	---
12 th Grade	2 (4%)	---	8 (17)	---	2 (4%)	---	12 (25%)	---
Received High School Diploma or GED	---	---	1 (2%)	10 (21%)	---	---	6 (13%)	8 (17%)
Behavior Problems								
Disciplinary Actions (LACOE Schools Only)	---	5 (10%)	---	---	---	29 (60%)	---	---

NOTE: Credit deficiency at exit was not provided by LACOE. It is difficult to assess credit deficiency by age and grade level because many youth are not at their expected grade level. As a reference point, the credit range for each grade is: 9th grade=0-55 credits; 10th grade=56-110 credits; 11th grade=111-165 credits; and 12th grade=166-220 credits.

Recidivism

Perhaps the most often used outcome for Probation-involved youth is recidivism. In general, recidivism occurs when a youth engages in another crime after their initial offense. For research purposes, recidivism has a number of definitions. For this report, we present recidivism in several ways:

- Occurrence of a new arrest
- Occurrence of a new arrest that was petitioned
- Occurrence of a new arrest that was petitioned and sustained

Juvenile justice agencies typically use the latter of these three to define recidivism because it represents arrests that are found true by the court. Use of this measure guards (at least in part) against the disproportionate contact that youth of color may experience from law enforcement in their communities and directs focus away from arrests that were frivolous and/or unfounded. The new arrest measure, however, is still important because it is an indicator of contact with law enforcement. Data measuring recidivism were drawn from PCMS for all youth in both cohorts. All new arrests were for criminal charges – probation violations and bench warrants were excluded from these measures and analyzed separately.¹⁰

In Table 3.11, we present measures for all three definitions for the time period between Original Arrest and 18 months after placement exit. The recidivism rate varied noticeably across categories in both cohort groups. For suitable placement youth, 69% of all youth had a new arrest for a criminal charge at some point during this time; however, only 58% were petitioned to court, and 51% were sustained as true. Similarly, 64% of camp placement youth had a new criminal charge, 55% were petitioned to court, and 44% were sustained as true.

New arrests were then broken down by timeframes representing the time between youths' Original Arrest and study placement, six months after study placement exit, one year after study placement exit, and 18 months (1.5 years) after study placement exit. From these findings, it is clear that new arrests were most likely to occur between the Original Arrest and placement (40% for both groups). New arrests dropped precipitously while youth were in placement, which is not surprising since their "opportunity" to reoffend was reduced. Once these youth exited placement, however, their new arrest recidivism rate was 22%, increasing over time to 34% for suitable placement youth and 32% for camp youth at one year. It was not until 18 months after their exit that the new arrest rate returned to the same level as that between their Original Arrest and placement – 44% and 39%. Similar to the findings for the overall recidivism rate, though, recidivism decreases when sustained petitions are used but the pattern of findings is the same. The six month recidivism rate drops to 13% and 14% for suitable placement and camp youth respectively; the one year recidivism rate drops to 20% and 21% for these groups; and the 18 month recidivism rate drops to 28% and 24%.

¹⁰ We would like to express our appreciation to Sandy Woods at Probation for taking the time to compile these data and ensure their accuracy.

Looking at all timeframes combined and all arrests received, the types of charges related to new arrests were most likely to be a violent offense, a property offense or “other” type of offense.

Table 3.11: New Arrests, Petitions, and Sustained Petitions over Time for Suitable Placement and Camp Placement Cohorts

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=250)	CAMP (N=250)
Overall Recidivism between Original Arrest and 18 Months after Placement Exit		
New Arrest	172 (69%)	160 (64%)
Petitions	146 (58%)	137 (55%)
Sustained Petitions	128 (51%)	110 (44%)
Recidivism (New Arrest) across Different Timeframes		
Between Original Arrest and Placement	101 (40%)	99 (40%)
During Placement	33 (13%)	22 (9%)
6 Months After Placement Exit	55 (22%)	55 (22%)
1 Year After Placement Exit	85 (34%)	79 (32%)
18 Months After Placement Exit	110 (44%)	98 (39%)
Recidivism (Sustained Petition) across Different Timeframes		
6 Months After Placement Exit	33 (13%)	35 (14%)
1 Year After Placement Exit	51 (20%)	53 (21%)
18 Months After Placement Exit	70 (28%)	61 (24%)
Type of New Arrests (During Any Time Period)		
Other Type of Offense	81 (32%)	82 (33%)
Violent Offense (including assaults)	79 (32%)	71 (28%)
Assault Offense Only	51 (20%)	41 (16%)
Property Offense	74 (30%)	64 (26%)
Drug Offense	37 (15%)	33 (13%)

Note: Youth could have more than one arrest; thus, the sum of percentages for these categories exceeds 100%. “Other” offenses includes offenses such as (but not necessarily limited to) terrorist threats, disorderly conduct, and weapons charges.

Table 3.12 presents findings for the violations and warrants received by youth in each group across each timeframe. Similar to new arrests, violations were more likely to occur between Original Arrest and placement and 18 months after placement exit than during placement or within one year after exit from placement. The same pattern held for warrants, although the rate began to rise at 1 year after placement exit rather than 18 months after placement exit.

Table 3.12: Probation Violations (WIC 777) and Bench Warrants Over Time for Suitable Placement and Camp Placement Cohorts

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=250)	CAMP (N=250)
Received a Probation Violation (WIC 777)...		
Between Original Arrest and Placement	28 (11%)	31 (12%)
During Placement	9 (4%)	21 (8%)
6 Months After Placement Exit	11 (4%)	17 (7%)
1 Year After Placement Exit	21 (8%)	25 (10%)
18 Months After Placement Exit	24 (10%)	35 (14%)
Received a Bench Warrant...		
Between Original Arrest and Placement	97 (39%)	98 (39%)
During Placement	25 (10%)	8 (3%)
6 Months After Placement Exit	30 (12%)	40 (16%)
1 Year After Placement Exit	65 (26%)	67 (27%)
18 Months After Placement Exit	73 (29%)	73 (29%)

The final measures used to assess recidivism were (1) average number of days first arrest after youth’s Original Arrest and (2) average number of arrests received by each youth rearrested within each time period examined. Table 3.13 contains the results of this analysis. Based on the findings in this table, the average length of time between the youth’s Original Arrest and the new arrest was one year (rounded average) for youth in both groups. The average number of arrests for youth in both groups was between 1 and 2 (both rounded averages) depending on the timeframe examined. These means were statistically equivalent across groups in every time period except six months after placement exit. In this case, camp youth had a slightly higher average number of arrests than suitable placement youth.

Table 3.13: Time to First New Arrest and Average Number of New Arrests Over Time for Youth from Suitable Placement and Camp Placement Cohorts who Recidivated at Some Point in Time

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT (N=250)				CAMP (N=250)			
	No. of Youth	Range	Mean	SD	No. of Youth	Range	Mean	SD
Average Number of...								
Days to a New Arrest (after Original Arrest)	172	2-1,662 days	357.90	310.98	160	1-1,497 days	316.43	304.00
New Arrests Between Original Arrest and Placement	101	2-10 arrests	1.91	1.44	99	1-7 arrests	1.89	1.35
New Arrests During Placement	33	1-3 arrests	1.39	0.61	22	1-3 arrests	1.32	0.65
New Arrests <u>6 Months</u> After Placement Exit*	55	1-3 arrests	1.11	0.37	55	1-3 arrests	1.35	0.58
New Arrests <u>1 Year</u> After Placement Exit	85	1-5 arrests	1.41	0.74	79	1-6 arrests	1.49	0.83
New Arrests <u>18 Months</u> After Placement Exit	110	1-6 arrests	1.47	0.96	98	1-6 arrests	1.69	1.02

**Difference between suitable placement average and camp average is statistically significant at $p < .05$.*

Summary

Data from Probation case files and from the Department of Children and Family Service (DCFS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) significantly broaden the context within which the experiences of study youth can be described and understood.¹¹ When these youth enter Probation, for example, many youth and their families have already been in contact with other agencies and have struggled with issues of poverty, violence, and criminal justice involvement.

Based on data from Probation case files and PCMS notes, there was indication that over half of the families for youth in both groups had a history of public assistance, and one-fifth had been homeless at some point. A third of suitable placement families and just under two-thirds of camp families had previous criminal justice involvement (i.e., an arrest, Probation supervision and/or incarceration), and one-fifth of these families had some level of gang involvement. Approximately one-half of study youth were gang affiliated themselves.

Of the youth involved in Probation prior to their placement, half or slightly more were placed on the Community Detention Program (CDP) prior to their study placement and were ordered to submit drug tests. The use of CDP decreased after exit from placements but drug testing increased for youth in both groups. The top three behavioral/social intervention services received by youth in both groups were anger management, life skills training, and gang prevention/intervention. Service provision increased while youth were in their placements but decreased overall to pre-placement levels after their exit.

DCFS data revealed that approximately one-fifth of all cohort youth had previously been referred to DCFS for maltreatment and had at least one DCFS case opened. The allegations most often cited for these referrals and cases were general neglect, physical abuse, and at-risk/sibling abuse. On average, suitable placement youth received ten referrals to DCFS in the past, and camp youth had received eight referrals. When in the care of DCFS, suitable placement youth remained in care for slightly less than four years on average, camp youth were in care for a little more than three years on average. Over two-thirds of DCFS-involved youth were placed out-of-home at least once. Both groups of youth were most likely to be placed with a relative, in a FFA placement, and/or a foster care placement, but camp youth were more likely to have at least one placement in a group home than suitable placement youth.

The role of mental health problems in the lives of these youth was explored using DMH data. These findings showed that nearly all case file youth had at least one DSM-IV-TR diagnosis, and half of these youth struggled with substance abuse. The most prevalent disorder categories for these youth were Disruptive Behavioral Disorders and Mood Disorders. Slightly less than two-thirds of study youth had contact with DMH for services prior to their Probation involvement. Involvement increased dramatically for youth once they entered Probation halls and/or camps. Upon exit,

¹¹ The results summarized in this section are based on case file youth unless otherwise designated.

connection to services decreased but was still high, with approximately three-quarters of youth receiving some type of mental health services.

Using Probation case file data, the top three behavioral health services received by suitable placement and camp youth prior to their study placements were individual counseling, family counseling, and group counseling. Services for both groups increased overall while they were in placement and then decreased upon release except with regard to family counseling. Family counseling decreased while youth were in camp and returned to the pre-placement level after arrest. Family counseling for suitable placement youth, however, increased dramatically (nearly doubling) upon exit for suitable placement youth.

Educationally, LACOE data indicated that study youth experienced a high number of school transitions (not due normal grade progression), and while some of these transitions were a result of their placement in juvenile halls and camps, the majority of school transitions occurred when these youth were in the community. One-fifth of suitable placement males and one-quarter of camp males were identified as developmentally disabled (note: data were not available for female youth). One-third of suitable placement youth and just under one-fifth of camp youth, on the other hand, had an Individual Education Plan. The majority of study youth were credit deficient at the time of their arrest, but credits increased for youth overall at the time of exit from their placements.

Recidivism for all cohort youth was measured using data from PCMS to capture new arrests and sustained petitions. Using these data, two-thirds of cohort youth in both groups had at least one new arrest, but half or slightly less had at least one sustained petition. When these measures are considered across time intervals, recidivism (measured by a new arrest) is highest between youths' original arrests and their placement. Recidivism drops during placement, as would be expected, and increases slightly to less than one-quarter of youth receiving a new arrest within six months after their placement exit. New arrests increase to one-third for both groups at one year after placement exit, and increases again within 18 months after placement exit.

Taken together, these data demonstrate that these youth face multiple, complex challenges which extend beyond Probation's control but have significant impact on whether youth will be successful while under Probation supervision. To further explore the "stories" that underlie these results and consider how best to supervise these youth, we turn next to in-depth narratives based on information contained in Probation case files for four suitable placement youth and four camp youth.

04 Putting the Numbers in Context – Lessons Learned from Narratives Taken from Probation Case Files

Chapters 2 and 3 depict complex trajectories for youth exiting from suitable placements and camp placements. These youth often returned home and were supervised in the community after their arrests, but eventually found themselves in placements because of new charges and/or violations. Triangulating the data from Probation, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education helped to highlight the many challenges faced by youth when they returned to the community. Many of these youth lived in poverty and had been neglected and sometimes abused. Their families struggled with poverty and their own involvement with the criminal justice system, substance abuse, and gangs. Additionally, both youth and their families experienced mental health problems, and study youth in both groups were struggling academically as shown by indicators such as multiple school changes, learning disabilities, and credit deficiencies.

While the systems data are tremendously informative, they do not provide the full “story” or context faced by these youth, nor do they provide detailed accounts of the actions Probation and their partner agencies took to try to address the multiple challenges faced by these youth. To augment the quantitative data presented in Chapters 2 and 3, eight case narratives were produced to capture a more in-depth description of the stories of these youth, their trajectories while under Probation supervision, and how Probation Officers and the court interpreted and responded to their situations and behaviors.

This chapter is purposely descriptive and not intended to make any assessments of what led to a youth’s behavior or situation. It provides readers outside the Probation system an opportunity to understand the types of information available to Probation Officers as they supervise and respond to cases. The only systematic analysis of this information was completed by Probation Officers specifically asked to review and comment on the case and what happened during the youth’s supervision under Probation. This information is intended to generally inform conversations regarding the challenges faced by youth and families and how practice can be improved within Probation and across the agencies these youth and families touch over the course of their lives.

Each case narrative presented in this chapter tells the story of an individual youth, starting with their situation at the time of their first involvement with Probation and continuing until jurisdiction was terminated (i.e., closed) by the delinquency court. This timeframe used for the case narratives goes beyond that used in previous chapters, giving a full history of the youth’s involvement in Probation from beginning to end rather than the bounded timeframe surrounding one arrest.

As compelling as these narrative stories are, it is important to note that the information was drawn only from Probation case files and PCMS case notes which detail each youth’s situation only from the Probation Officer’s point of view. Due primarily to resource constraints and the scope of this project, these narratives do not tell the story as it might have been told by the youth themselves,

their families or other professionals who know the youth personally (i.e., DMH clinicians, teachers and school administrators, and so on), but they do suggest how different kinds of experiences and trajectories could lead youth to becoming involved with juvenile Probation. They capture some of the challenges they faced, their different experiences while under Probation supervision, and the actions taken by Probation, the court, schools, and treatment providers. We hope that this information helps the Probation Department and its partner agencies, other aligned County agencies as well as community based agencies, researchers, and advocacy groups to have a shared understanding of the strengths and needs of youth and families. Ultimately this understanding and the ensuing discussion will help to identify more coordinated and collaborative responses that could lead to better outcomes.

Methodology

During case file data collection, case files were marked as having potential for qualitative review based on their stories and the extent to which they reflected common themes and represented patterns seen across a number of case files. The Research Team worked closely with four Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs)¹² to make the final selections. Cases were selected to ensure representation of the male and female experiences, as well as representation of cases with more positive outcomes (e.g., support systems, educational accomplishments, success in treatment, employment, and no new offenses) and cases with more challenging or negative outcomes (e.g., little support from family/friends, continued educational challenges, and new offenses). These characteristics were applied to both study groups (suitable placement and camp), resulting in four cases from each group. Two of these cases reflected youth who had more positive outcomes at the end of the tracking period and two described youth with less positive outcomes.

Once cases were selected, researchers worked closely with suitable placement and camp aftercare DPOs to review case files and all case file notes from the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) to document the “story” for each case as accurately and thoroughly as possible. For each youth, the DPOs identified the following from their perspective: youth strengths, risks, needs and challenges; positive actions taken by the supervision DPO, and recommendations for how responses may have been improved. As indicated above, it is important once again to stress that these narratives are based on document reviews – no interviews were conducted with the initial DPOs assigned to the case, the youth themselves, or their family members.

Each case narrative was purposely written with many details related to the youth’s life circumstances and the actions taken in response to the youth’s behavior. To assist in understanding each youth’s story and how Probation handled each case, a flowchart detailing instrumental points in the Probation supervision process are presented followed by the narrative of the youth’s “story.” A synthesis of the youth’s characteristics and the way in which the youth’s case was handled by Probation (as assessed by Probation Officers) is provided at the end of the narrative.

¹² Our appreciation extends to Deputy Probation Officers Tamala Crawford, Julia Esqueda, Melissa Gonzales-John, and Luverida Miller for taking the time to conduct extensive case narrative reviews and sharing their reflections.

Case Narratives

Table 4.1 summarizes key characteristics from each case narrative presented in this chapter using pseudonyms for each individual. The number of risk factors present in each case was summed (i.e., given equal weight) as were the number of positive outcomes in order to illustrate – in a simplistic and non-scientific way – the relationship between the two. As shown in this table, youth with more risk factors and less support at home were more likely to have outcomes with continued challenges, while those with fewer risk factors and with support systems, were more likely to have more positive outcomes at the end of their Probation involvement. Following this table, a flowchart of each youth’s involvement with Probation and the narrative for each case is presented along with the DPOs’ synthesis and reflections of the case.

Table 4.1: Summary of Case Narrative Characteristics and Outcomes

<i>Time Period</i>	SUITABLE PLACEMENT				CAMP			
	MORE POSITIVE OUTCOME		CHALLENGES		MORE POSITIVE OUTCOME		CHALLENGES	
	 JAMES	 SARA	 DYLAN	 BRENDA	 DAVID	 VALERIE	 STEVEN	 NICOLE
RISK FACTORS IDENTIFIED DURING PROBATION SUPERVISION OF SOME TYPE								
<i>FAMILY HISTORY</i>								
▪ Parental Criminality	X		X	X		X		X
▪ Parental Substance Abuse	X			X		X	X	X
▪ Absent/Uninvolved Father		X	X	X		X	X	X
▪ DCFS Referral			X	X				X
▪ Sibling Delinquency			X		X			
<i>EDUCATIONAL STATUS</i>								
▪ Poor School Performance	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
▪ Suspensions/Expulsions	X			X	X	X	X	X
▪ Individual Education Plan (IEP)			X	X				
<i>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</i>								
▪ Runaway/AWOL				X			X	X
▪ Sexual Exploitation/CSEC				X				X
▪ Teen Pregnancy				X				X
▪ Gang-affiliated			X	X	X		X	X
▪ Drug use (age <15)		X	X	X		X	X	X
▪ Mental Health Needs Indicated	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
TOTAL RISK FACTORS*	5	3	8	13	5	7	8	12
Average No. of Risk Factors	4 factors		10.5 factors		6 factors		10 factors	
LARRC Risk Level @ Placement	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High	High	High	High
TYPE OF PROBATION SUPERVISION OVER THE COURSE OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH PROBATION								
▪ Informal Probation	X	X		X		X		X
▪ Dual Supervision (DCFS & Probation)				X				X
▪ Home on Probation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
▪ Suitable Placement Order(s)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
▪ Camp Order(s)			X		X	X	X	X
Time on Probation (Rounded # Years)	3.5 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	4.5 yrs.	3 yrs.	2 yrs.	3.5 yrs.	5 yrs.

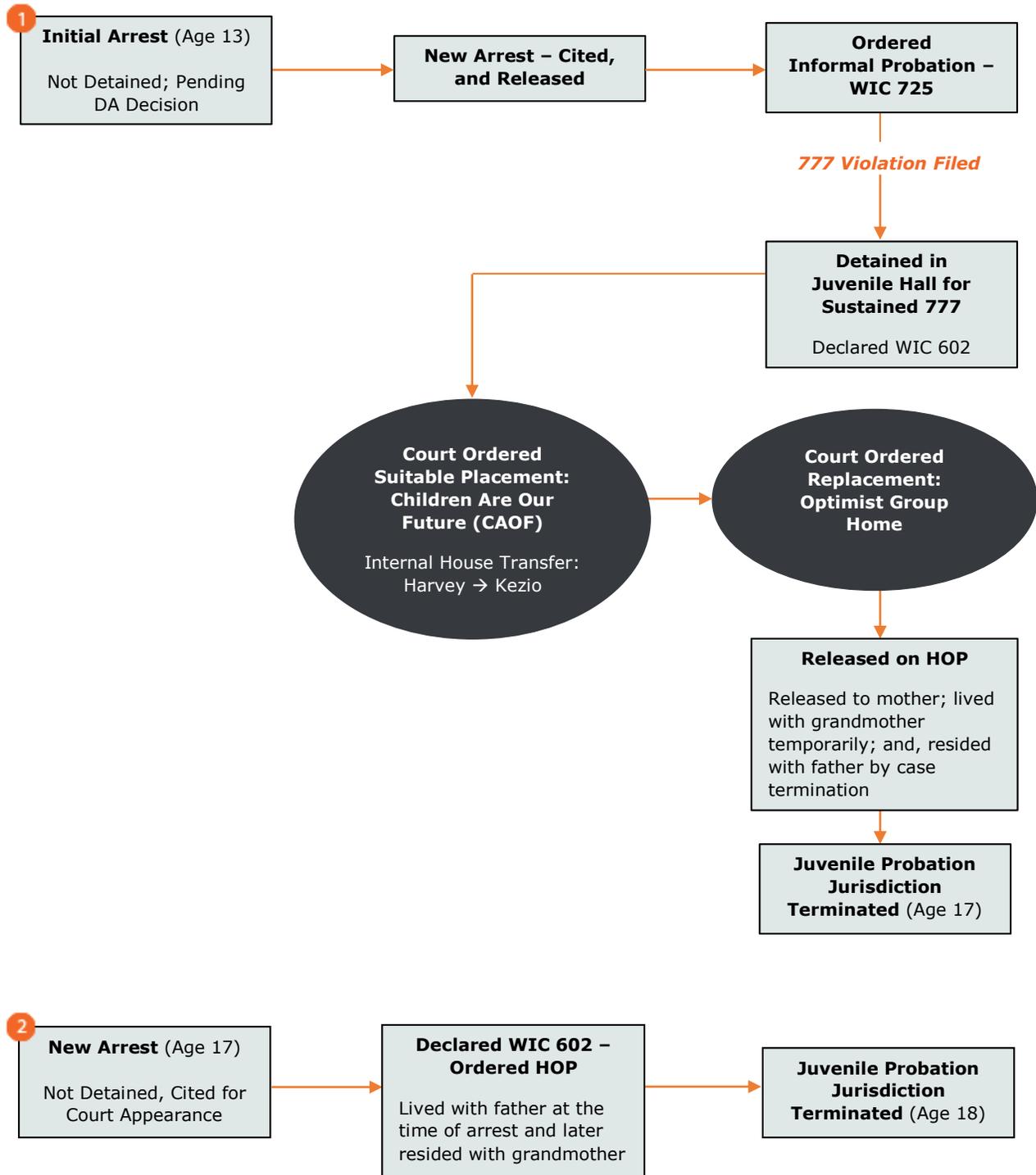
Table 4.1: Summary of Case Narrative Characteristics and Outcomes, Continued

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT				CAMP			
	MORE POSITIVE OUTCOME		CHALLENGES		MORE POSITIVE OUTCOME		CHALLENGES	
	 JAMES	 SARA	 DYLAN	 BRENDA	 DAVID	 VALERIE	 STEVEN	 NICOLE
STATUS AFTER STUDY PLACEMENT EXIT OR JUVENILE TERMINATION								
▪ Had Family/Other Social Support	X	X		X	X	X	X	
▪ Received GED/HS Diploma	X	X			X	X		
▪ Enrolled in College		X			X	X		
▪ Employed		X			X			
TOTAL POSITIVE OUTCOMES*	2	4	0	1	4	3	1	0
Average No. of Positive Outcomes	3		.5		3.5		.5	
RECIDIVISM								
▪ New Arrest Within 18 months after Study Placement Exit	X		X	X			X	X
▪ Arrested as an Adult (over age 18)			X	X	X		X	X
▪ Sentenced to Serve Days in Jail			X	X	<i>Pending</i>		<i>Pending</i>	X

**Total Risk Factors and Total Positive Outcomes are based on the information provided in case files and PCMS notes. It is possible that the youth had many more risk factors and positive outcomes; however, they were not recorded in these sources. The presentation of risk factors and positive outcomes is intended to be simplistic and for the purposes of summary – no analysis was completed to weight risk factors more or less relative to one another.*

James

Study Cohort: Suitable Placement (More Positive Outcome)





James
Male, Latino

Youth Profile Prior to Probation

James' contact with law enforcement began in 2008 and continued through early 2012. He was subsequently involved with the juvenile justice system mid-2012 through 2013. Prior to Probation supervision, James resided with his mother, stepfather, younger sister, and autistic brother. James' reported that his stepfather was a positive person throughout his life. The family was Catholic and often attended church together. James' biological father was also present in his life, but he was not consistent. Based on what was documented in the case file, his parents frequently argued about child support, and both of James' parents had some contact with law enforcement. His mother was placed on adult Probation for driving under the influence and violated her Probation conditions twice. His father was arrested multiple times for drug-related charges, driving without a license, and domestic violence.

James' educational performance was poor. In middle school, he was in danger of failing. His teachers reported that he had difficulties completing school assignments and showed disruptive classroom behaviors. However, outside of school, James was involved in a football program for two years that motivated him to improve his school grades.

Entry into Probation

In 2008, 13-year-old James was arrested for attempted arson at school. James and his friends had a can of Tag aerosol deodorant and a lighter, which James allegedly used to set fire to a small pile of leaves in an attempt to spread the fire toward a nearby truck. Residents of the community notified law enforcement and identified James as one of the perpetrators. During police questioning, James reported that his friends had dared him to light the leaves on fire. However, his friends denied the claim and stated they instructed James against it. The case was pending a District Attorney decision. The athletic director of his football program wrote a letter of support on James' behalf, stating that he was a kind and thoughtful young man who was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Two months later, James knowingly received a stolen cell phone at school and was cited in violation of PC 496, receiving stolen property. His middle school had a zero tolerance policy concerning theft from students and requested prosecution on behalf of the victim. As a result of these charges, James was ordered on informal Probation under WIC 725. James remained a student at his middle school and eventually graduated and moved onto high school. A month after informal Probation was ordered, James and his mother enrolled in a family-based program where they participated in group counseling to learn about communication, conflict resolution, and parent-teen relationships. By the end of 2009, James had completed 50 hours of community service with the city and paid his restitution. He continued to be cited for behavioral problems at school (i.e., he was suspended four times during one month for breaking into a school locker and refusing to follow instructions) and was failing academically. He tried out for the soccer team at school, but there was no indication in the case file that he was chosen for the team.

Substance Use

In 2010, James refused to go to school and punched a hole in a wall in his room. James appeared angry, and his mother suspected he was using drugs. As a result, James had a psychological evaluation that recommended participation in therapy. In addition, he was enrolled in an afterschool tutoring program, from

which he was eventually dropped for not attending and was subsequently placed on a school behavioral contract. A month after his mother suspected drug use, James was caught smoking marijuana at home. He stated to his Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) that he did not want to be home and requested a suitable placement. The DPO contacted James' biological father to explore a possible placement with him. His biological father worked full-time and rented only a single room, but he was willing to have James come live with him. He blamed James' mother for his current problems and made several negative comments about the mother. The DPO noted that these negative remarks about James' mother may have been made to James.

In spring, James' mother notified the DPO that James was claiming that he saw demons. That morning, she went to his room and noticed a bottle of Jose Cuervo, a lighter, and a detached window screen. Consequently, the DPO filed a 777 violation report for James' failure to follow his conditions of Probation which included satisfactory grades, attending school, and no drugs. James' mother also wrote a letter to the judge and expressed safety concerns for her family with regard to his behavior, which had included property destruction, stolen money, and death threats. She requested James' removal from her home for a period of time. In court, the 777 violation was sustained, and Probation was ordered to evaluate the father's home.

James stayed with his father temporarily but, in less than a month, the phone was disconnected because James had exceeded the call limit. On one occasion, his father was unable to find him after school because James did not meet his father at the bus stop. On another occasion, his father dropped James off at his grandmother's house and did not pick him up until two days later. The DPO's report stated that although the father's home appeared to be suitable, James' unwillingness to comply with school and curfew conditions suggested that a different case plan was needed. As a result, the court declared James a WIC 602 and ordered suitable placement. Based on his treatment recommendations, a referral to Children Are Our Future was initiated.

Suitable Placement: Children Are Our Future

James was placed with Children Are Our Future (CAOF) at age 15. James was enrolled in the 10th grade and maintained satisfactory grades. He received a range of services which included individual, family, substance abuse, and anger management counseling services. CAOF diagnosed James with a DSM mental health diagnosis (Disruptive Behavior NOS and Cannabis Dependence), and he was recommended for psychotropic medication. Due to "negative peer interactions and influences," however, James' placement at CAOF only lasted two months. In the group home, he was involved in several behavioral incidents which included verbal and physical assaultive behaviors to staff, smoking marijuana on grounds, leaving without permission (AWOL), and failing to follow instructions.

In late summer, James had a family session with his father and disclosed that since being placed at CAOF, he has been physically abused by other residents in the group home. It began with demands that he AWOL in order to buy them cigarettes. If he refused to comply, he was assaulted. He was then told to start a fight with another resident from another group home or risk being assaulted. James was afraid of retaliation and he requested the opportunity to be placed at another group home where he could successfully complete his placement program. Upon an investigation, the allegations were found to be true. A change of plan was requested, and James was replaced at Optimist Group Home in early fall.

Replacement: Optimist Group Home

A month after James arrived at Optimist Group Home, the case manager reported that James had exhibited positive behaviors and avoided negative situations. He participated in all activities which included individual, family, group, and substance abuse counseling; drug testing (all negative results); Narcotics Anonymous; anger management; psychotropic medication (Diphenhydramine and Benadryl); and home passes. James

reported that substance abuse counseling had helped him address his drug use. At his high school, teachers noted that James was a diligent worker, and he actively participated in class discussions. James' mother reported that her son appeared to be doing much better at Optimist, which she attributed to the structure of the program.

In the next three months, however, James had accrued over 25 behavior incidents in the group home related to fights, vandalism, defiance, profanity, disruptive behaviors, failure to follow instructions, disrespectful behavior and one school-related incident of inappropriate sexual gestures toward a teacher. James attributed these incidents to horse play with other residents which escalated to physical altercations. On one occasion, staff observed broken glass in James bedroom which they suspected was the result of James punching a mirror when he was upset. During this time, though, James' school performance had improved to mostly C's, and on his first tri-annual school report, his teachers indicated that James was capable of receiving better grades.

James maintained contact with his mother and/or father every evening, and continued family therapy sessions. His mother believed that James had reduced his substance use and negative peer interactions. She wanted her son to return home so he could be a member of the family again. Little is known about James' stepfather's participation, but he had attended family sessions.

By early spring, James' suitable placement order was terminated, and he was ordered Home on Probation (HOP) with his mother and stepfather. Part of his aftercare plan was to participate in Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and return to his high school of origin.

Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

James' mother, father, and stepfather all participated in FFT for a period of four months. In the first month, the FFT interventionist noted that the family showed an effort to work on the skills introduced in the FFT model. The FFT interventionist supported James' mother in multiple ways: suggesting homework/small tasks for her (e.g., journaling), praising her for her ability to use the skills, and encouraging her to use active listening. Initially, James showed resistance, but eventually he agreed to follow his mother's instructions and participated in family tasks. Approximately two months into the program, James' mother and his stepfather conducted their own session to discuss family concerns. They appeared to be very motivated and understood the importance of maintaining changes. However, in the summer, James' mother reported that her son has been very disrespectful. The FFT interventionist encouraged James' mother to maintain her control by practicing the conflict resolution tool she was taught. The FFT interventionist recommended James participate in anger management classes, and he agreed without hesitation. Due to these events, James resided with his father briefly.

Later, James was found to be in possession of a spray can and other vandalism tools during a Probation search; however, he was not cited for this violation. As the FFT program ended, the FFT interventionist recommended again that James participate in individual counseling and anger management classes. James' mother enrolled him in anger management classes when he punched a hole in the wall and broke some glass in his room. The family was encouraged to focus on protective factors within the family, be aware of triggers, and continue to work on their goals. Due to issues in the home, James lived temporarily with his grandmother, who reported to the FFT interventionist that she felt bad for her grandson.

When the FFT interventionist presented James' case to the FFT team, they agreed that the family would benefit from three booster sessions. The first session was conducted with the grandmother since James was currently residing with her. The additional booster sessions were not provided because James' mother did not return the phone calls. The FFT interventionist asked the family's childcare provider to inform James' mother that the case was closed and a three-month follow up would be conducted in the future.

In the two months before jurisdiction was terminated, James attended high school and received mostly C's. He then moved to live with his father and enrolled in a new high school. His father reported that James was doing well.

Re-Entry into Probation

Four months later, James and his friend stole a bike from a park. He was charged with PC 484, petty theft. As a result of this offense, James was again declared WIC 602 and ordered HOP with conditions not to associate with his friend, pay restitution fees, and participate in five days of the Juvenile Assigned Work Service (JAWS) program. At the time of this arrest, James continued to reside with his father, but transferred to a different high school. By the end of 2012, James received a citation for the possession of tobacco products on campus. He also completed his mandated JAWS program.

In the next year, James was cited for significant school behavior problems and was given several suspensions for refusal to follow instructions, defiance, and use of profanity. He also received numerous daytime curfew violations (e.g., getting to school late and leaving class early without permission). His grades reflected mostly D's, and his poor attendance caught the attention of the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB). Due to the SARB's involvement, he later received a certificate for improved attendance and academics. A month before his high school graduation, James received an award for illustrating the most inspirational design for a school drawing contest.

The DPO stressed that the completion of counseling and parenting classes were necessary prior to termination of his Probation order. Eventually, James completed 10 individual therapy sessions, paid his restitution, and graduated with his high school diploma. By the summer of 2013, James resided with his grandmother when jurisdiction of his case was terminated.

Adult Arrests

As of late 2014, James had no adult arrests in Los Angeles County.

Case Review by Probation Officers

Strengths	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artistic – James received an inspirational award for a school drawing contest • Athletic – participated in a football program and tried out for the school’s soccer team • Attended church regularly with his family (faith-based support group) • Completed his conditions of Probation early • Fast learner • Graduated with his high school diploma • Had good schools in his community • Enjoyed music • Had some level of family involvement, which included his biological parents, stepfather, and grandmother • Family was financially stable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor peer relationships • Family contact with law enforcement • School suspensions • Alcohol and substance use • Anger/poor impulse control • Conflict between biological parents • Lack of stability in the home
Youth Needs	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual counseling • Family counseling • Substance abuse treatment • Structured setting with added services • Accountability • Anger management • Healthy peer relationships • Mentoring/Role model • Leadership development • Stability in the home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer pressure • Family conflict – going back and forth between family members • Anger • Alcohol and substance use • Minimal early school interventions

System Actions Toward a Positive Outcome

- Informal Probation provided James an opportunity to receive services and improve his behavior before being suitably placed.
- Community-based services were initiated at the beginning of Probation supervision before placement intervention (e.g., a psychological assessment).
- When informal Probation was not sufficient, Probation responded quickly with a 777 violation and ordered suitable placement based on James’ treatment needs.
- James’ case plan was modified to ensure his safety and placement success.
- FFT provided immediate linkage to aftercare services. FFT was a positive family engagement program with collaboration from family members. A case file review/FFT consultation enabled additional booster sessions because the family was reassessed at the end of services.
- The DPO and James’ mother had a strong working relationship that enabled open communication between both parties. This support likely contributed to James’ ability to complete all court ordered requirements.

Looking Back – Recommendations to Improve Case Supervision

- Family turmoil surrounding his parent’s separation created inconsistencies in care and parenting. The DPO directed James’ father to sort his personal issues with his ex-wife before placing James with his father. However, placement decisions should be made collaboratively between both parents

and the DPO with James' best interest in mind. The DPO needed to facilitate the communication between parties.

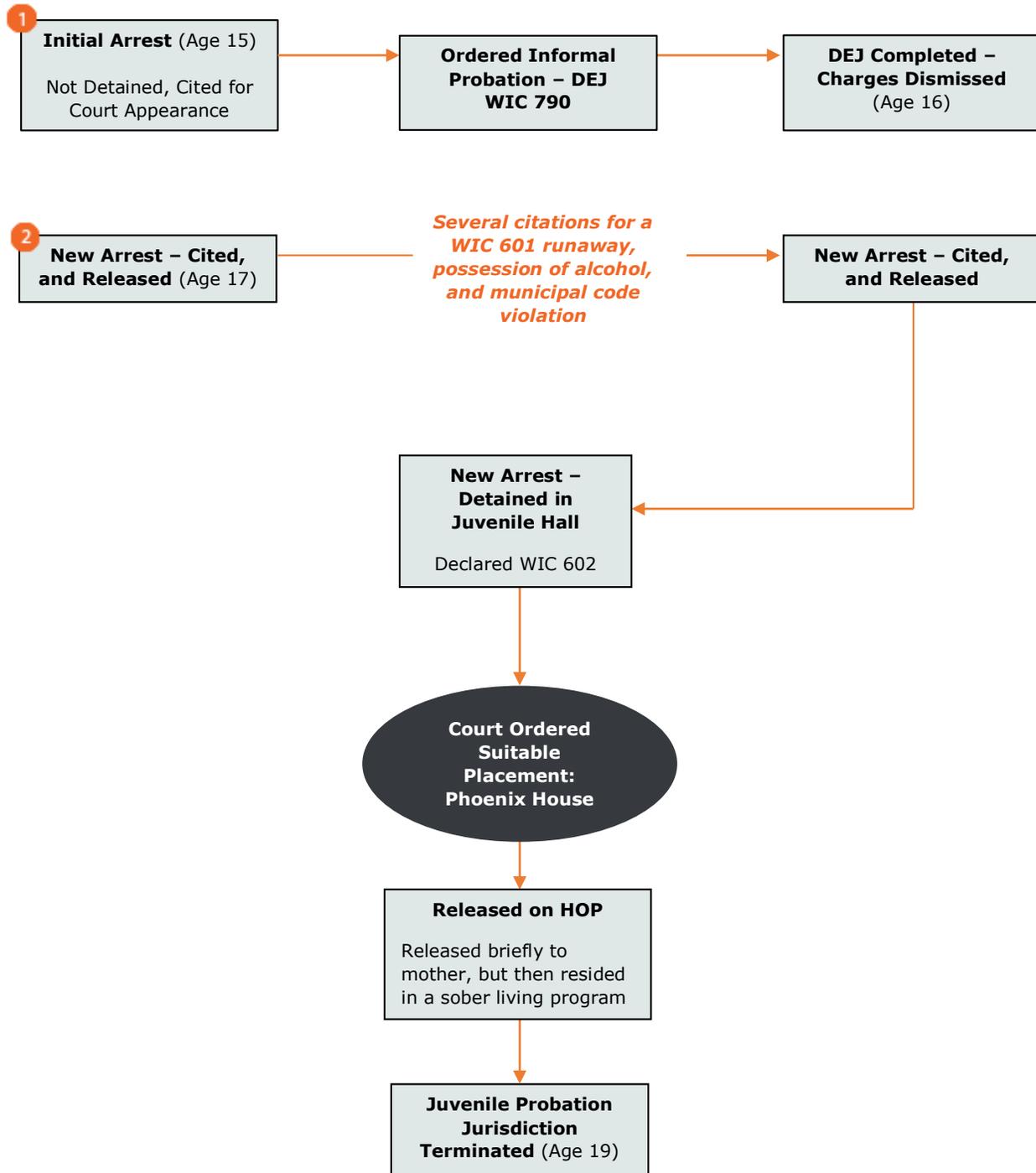
- Court ordered his father's home to be assessed for possible placement, but James' father only had one room available. This may not have been the best option as he had not provided adequate supervision in the past.
- Placement in an age-appropriate setting must be considered. James was placed with older residents so the placement did not provide the best fit for his development.
- James would have benefited from mentoring, art classes, and Aggression Replacement Therapy (ART). The use of sports interventions could have capitalized his interest in athletic extracurricular activities.
- Services for the whole family were needed – provide counseling referrals (e.g., parenting classes, individual therapy, and family therapy) to James' mother, stepfather, and father. James could not move toward a positive outcome until the home and family situation were stabilized.
- Greater parent-school communication (e.g., parent-teacher conferences) may have been beneficial since James was struggling academically.

Retroactive Application of New Probation Models/Services

- The LACOE Education Liaison could provide an education needs assessment.

Sara

Study Cohort: Suitable Placement (More Positive Outcome)





Sara

Female, Caucasian

Youth Profile Prior to Probation

Sara's contact with law enforcement occurred twice: between 2007 through early 2009 and between late 2009 to early 2012. Sara was an only child and resided in a five-bedroom home with her mother (a teacher) and her stepfather (a plumber's assistant). Her biological parents were never married, and her father's whereabouts were unknown. The case file referenced a previous history of domestic violence, but the identity of the perpetrator was not indicated.

Growing up, Sara performed very well in school, but she had been home schooled after incidents of being picked on by other students. In the fall of 2007, Sara was issued a traffic citation by the Municipal Court. At that time, she also began mental health counseling once a week through private insurance. At age 14, she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, ADHD, depressive disorder, and polysubstance abuse (alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine usage). She was prescribed Prozac and Depakote for medication.

Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ)

Sara was 15 years old on her first arrest. A student from her high school contacted the school's resource deputy officer about Sara being in possession of prescribed medication that was not hers. Sara was searched and the following were found: a prescription bottle with medication belonging to another student, a pipe, and marijuana. Sara was arrested, cited, and released home to her mother with charges of possession of a controlled substance and a controlled substance without prescription. The following month, Sara missed her court date in the Delinquency Court.

The Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) recommended informal Probation on a Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) WIC 790 with conditions of random drug tests, community service, and continued therapy. A review of Sara's educational record showed she had above average grades with no significant school problems. Nevertheless, the DPO expressed concern about Sara's drug experimentation. Sara's mother reported that she thought Sara's drug problem was resolved. The DPO felt that the family was spending more time together and their relationships had improved. Based on the DPO's recommendation, the court ordered DEJ for a period of 12 to 36 months. Within a year, Sara had successfully completed her conditions of Probation, and her charges in the petition were dismissed.

Formal Probation

Six months later, Sara broke a window in her former boyfriend's home and was charged with PC 594, vandalism with a loss value greater than \$400. Per the police report, there were discrepancies between Sara's and the victim's stories. The victim stated he heard a loud banging and saw that the glass window to the front door was broken. He witnessed Sara and her boyfriend running toward a vehicle. Sara, on the other hand, reported that the victim had sent her a text message to come to his house. At her arrival, she knocked on the glass window attempting to get his attention to come to the door. She stated that the door had broken prior to her arrival from a previous shooting incident. Then, the victim chased them off the property with a pair of scissors and threatened to use his shotgun. Sara and her boyfriend were booked, cited, and released home. Later, the victim was also arrested for criminal threats.

Over the next few months, Sara's behavior escalated. She was cited for multiple occurrences: runaway; tobacco paraphernalia; possession of alcohol on two separate occasions; and, three municipal code violations.

In the summer of 2010, law enforcement responded to an assault that occurred at a grocery store. The store's security guard observed Sara begging for money from customers on several occasions. The security guard and another employee asked Sara to go inside the store and speak to him to avoid a scene. He explained to Sara that she was not allowed to beg and loiter at the store. According to the arrest report, Sara "freaked out for no reason" and punched, kicked, and swung her purse at the employees. She attempted to hit the security guard in the head with her purse which contained several unopened cans of soup. The security guard was able to handcuff her until the Sheriff's officers arrived. Sara stated that she only fought to leave the store and reported that the security guard attacked her for no reason. Sara was detained for PC 245, assault likely to produce great bodily injury and was later cited and released.

Two months later, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department responded to a burglary call in which the subject burglarized a mobile home and fell asleep on the couch while coming down off drugs. The subject admitted that she was responsible for other burglaries in the area because she was homeless and needed valuables to survive. She stated the stolen items were stored at Sara's home address where Sara's boyfriend would sell the items for money and drugs.

On the same day, the Sheriff conducted a search at Sara's home and recovered large plastic bags containing methamphetamine, a four-inch glass pipe, and a .22 caliber long rifle. Sara was arrested and charged with: possession of firearm by a convicted felon; receiving stolen property; possession of controlled substances; and, possession of a smoking device. She was booked and detained in juvenile hall. When questioned, Sara reported that she was a meth addict. She smoked meth for the past two years; cigarettes every day for the past five years; marijuana once a month for the past two years; inhaled cocaine 10 times during the past five years; and, ingested Adderall every day for the past two years. She reported she had an anger problem and needed nicotine so she wouldn't act out. Sara hoped she would be released on the Community Detention Program (CDP) and believed she needed help with her substance abuse problem. Her mother was willing to take Sara home, but felt Sara would benefit from a rehabilitation program.

While detained in juvenile hall, the following took place:

- The Court ordered Sara to be housed in the drug treatment unit in juvenile hall. During the first day, Sara slept all day because she reportedly had not slept in two days.
- The Court approved a 730 evaluation, a psychological assessment.
- CDP was not recommended due to Sara's history of drug use and her criminal history.
- The DPO recommended a camp placement, and her case was screened and cleared for camp.
- The Court placed Sara on WIC 602 formal Probation.
- Sara was referred and accepted by Phoenix House under a suitable placement order.

Suitable Placement: Phoenix House

By fall, Sara was released from juvenile hall to Phoenix House where she attended their high school in the 12th grade. Initially, her academic performance was in the bottom tier because she had several problems with her teachers and following instructions in class. However, within a month, she performed in the top of her class. During Sara's five-month stay at Phoenix House, she participated in individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy/Strengthening Families sessions, health education, creative writing instructional groups, the independent living program, emotional cartography, and graduated from a seeking safety group. Sara completed several successful home passes, remained compliant with psychotropic medication (Lexapro), and completed 97 out of 120 community service hours by cleaning the facility.

During a face-to-face meeting with Sara's mother, it was determined that she did not want her daughter to return home. Sara's mother believed that her daughter would be more successful in a transitional housing

program away from drug influences in the family's community. Alternative living arrangements, including living with her aunt, were not possible at the time, so the DPO submitted a WIC 778 change of plan for Sara to be released from Phoenix House to a sober living housing program. Three other transitional housing programs were pending approval. At exit from suitable placement, Sara graduated with her high school diploma, and she was scheduled to take an assessment test to attend a city college. Ultimately, Sara desired to attend a university to achieve a master's degree in space engineering.

In early 2011, Sara's suitable placement order was terminated and she was ordered Home on Probation (HOP). She was released to her mother while arrangements were made for Sara to reside in a sober living home.

Jurisdiction Termination

A month later, Sara moved to a sober living home for substance abuse rehabilitation. Sara's case was transferred to an area office closer to her location. By summer, Sara had paid her full restitution, completed her community service, and her mother had completed parenting classes. Sara was doing well under supervision. She attended a city college, was on the Dean's honor roll, and she received a scholarship. The DPO noted that Sara appeared motivated to change her life. While under supervision, Sara also received a job promotion at a fast food restaurant, remained at the sober living program, and continued to achieve above average academic performance in college (GPA: 3.55). The DPO reported that Sara was very responsible and made an extra effort to ensure she complied with her conditions of Probation. At age 19, Sara was jurisdiction terminated in 2012.

Adult Arrests

As of late 2014, Sara had no adult arrests in Los Angeles County.

Case Review by Probation Officers

Strengths	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic achievement • Family was financially stable • Access to private health insurance • Career goal: Master’s degree in engineering • Good at gymnastics • Parent support while in suitable placement • Independent • Self-disciplined • Employed and received a job promotion at jurisdiction terminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullied at school • Lack of supervision • Alcohol and substance use • Mental health needs • Medication noncompliance • Absent father • Domestic violence in the past • Negative peer association
Youth Needs	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance abuse counseling • Psychotropic medication assessment and management • Male mentor • Home supervision and structure • Family support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication noncompliance • Mental health needs • Substance use • Lack of parental supervision

System Actions Toward a Positive Outcome

- Sara's family had private insurance that facilitated mental health services.
- Probation responded to Sara’s drug related offenses with informal Probation supervision first and moved on to formal supervision when her charges became assaultive and more serious in nature.
- Placement decisions were made appropriately and suited Sara's need for substance abuse intervention.
- Sara had very few school transitions. Sara stayed on track toward completion of a high school diploma and continued to be motivated in her aspirations for higher education.

Looking Back – Recommendations to Improve Case Supervision

- Increased support during informal Probation with service referrals that matched Sara’s needs – substance abuse intervention and family counseling.
- In an ideal world, Sara would be connected to substance abuse counseling between DEJ and formal Probation.
- Increased home visits were needed – something was occurring in the home that could be further explored. Sometimes DPOs need to spend more time in the youth’s home to better understand the family dynamic.



Dylan
Male, Latino

Youth Profile Prior to Probation

Dylan's contact with law enforcement occurred between 2007 and 2012. Prior to his Probation involvement, Dylan lived in a single apartment with both of his parents and younger brother. His parents were never married and only spoke Spanish. Dylan's father was employed as a food street vendor while his mother received government assistance. Dylan's mother was partially blind, suffered from kidney failure, and had diabetes, for which she received dialysis three times a week. In 2006, when he was 12, Dylan had been the subject of two unfounded DCFS referrals for general neglect. In fall, DCFS opened a Family Maintenance (FM) case due to substantial risk. Dylan remained at home, and the case was closed after FM services were provided.

Formal Probation

A year later, Dylan was arrested for PC 594, felony vandalism. Dylan and several of his friends were accused of vandalizing businesses in the area, and when confronted, law enforcement found fresh paint on their hands and clothes. They admitted to affiliating with a tagging crew, which according to them was a junior crew associated with a known gang. Dylan was 13 years old, had just graduated from middle school and was on vacation before entering high school. His last grade report reflected poor school performance, and he had an active Individual Education Plan (IEP) to assist with his educational needs. The Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) considered informal Probation, but due to the number of victims involved in the matter, he recommended formal Probation with the following conditions: school enrollment, counseling, family counseling, family preservation services, curfew and Juvenile Assigned Work Service (JAWS). As a result of the petition, the court ordered WIC 602 – Home on Probation (HOP) status for Dylan. Five days later, Dylan was arrested again for PC 459 and released home; he had entered an inhabited dwelling and committed larceny by taking three video games. At this time, Dylan was still pending an enrollment in a new school.

Meanwhile in another case, a youth revealed that Dylan was his companion in several burglaries. Law enforcement deployed to Dylan's home, and he was arrested for PC 459, burglary. Dylan was linked to over 20 crimes of burglary, and LAPD recovered 33 items including money, cameras, watches, jewelry, and game stations. Dylan admitted that he and his friends walked in the neighborhood and looked for apartments with open windows. While the search was conducted, Dylan's younger brother became very irate and began to scream and yell at the detectives. Dylan's brother kicked one detective and was then placed under arrest for battery on a police officer. Dylan's younger brother was later booked, released to his mother, and cited to appear at Juvenile Hall for adjudication. Dylan's father was also arrested on the scene and charged with illegal entry by a deported felon. Little is known regarding his father's arrest, but he was apparently detained for approximately two months before returning home to his family.

Within a month, Dylan and his brother were involved in two additional burglary incidents in another area. The DPO recommended a camp order in the pre-plea reports. Dylan failed to report to Probation as directed, did not complete his community service hours, and was not enrolled in a school or a counseling program. Per the DPO, it appeared that there was no adult supervision. Dylan reported that the family had recently relocated to a different home, and both of his parents were unemployed. The court ordered a three-month camp order for a sustained PC 496. Dylan admitted that his burglaries were primarily for financial gain so that

he could support his marijuana habit. Camp McNair (at Challenger Memorial Youth Complex) was Dylan's first camp program.

After three months, Dylan was released from Camp McNair. He was referred to counseling through High Risk High Needs (HIRHN) for substance abuse intervention and family counseling. Dylan's mother reported that she was committed to working with the DPO to reduce Dylan's association with negative peers. Within four months after his camp release, Dylan evaded school enrollment in four different schools by providing various excuses, but he finally enrolled. The DPO made a school visit at the continuation high school in which the school officials informed him that Dylan was enrolled, but had missed a lot of days in school.

At the end of the year, LAPD conducted a sweep on a location believed to be used by gang members and associates for gang graffiti, drug use, and vandalism. During the sweep, Dylan was observed with a black plastic baggie of marijuana. He was cited for marijuana possession and released to his mother. Around this time, Dylan missed several scheduled appointments with his DPO. After two months, the DPO issued a warrant of arrest for Dylan. In early 2010, Dylan was arrested for PC 496, receiving stolen property and detained on a no-bail warrant. During questioning, Dylan stated that he had to take care of his mother because the family lived on welfare. Additionally, he could not afford the bus fare to report to his DPO. The DPO saw that Dylan had financial difficulties and noticed Dylan's mother depended on Dylan for basic activities during her daily life. The DPO recommended that Dylan be released home from juvenile hall with the Community Detention Program (CDP) and requested a progress hearing in 60 days. For the following month, Dylan enrolled in a high school. The CDP officer made several school visits, and Dylan was in compliance. Therefore, CDP was terminated successfully in a month.

Suitable Placement: House of Bethesda

Three months later, Dylan was arrested for PC 496, receiving stolen property and a bench warrant. He was detained in juvenile hall where staff reported he refrained from gang activity. Several youth had challenged to fight him, but he resisted. He was only involved in one physical altercation at no fault. Later, though, Dylan was counseled for tagging his gang name into the paint on his bed area.

Probation assessed the home of Dylan's cousins as a possible placement alternative to his parent's home, but this alternative was denied because it did not meet the state requirement for space. Consequently, the court ordered suitable placement at the House of Bethesda in Lawndale for Dylan while his younger brother was placed at another suitable placement.

While in suitable placement, Dylan experienced some racial tension at the group home. Dylan reported that he felt uncomfortable because he was the only Latino male. He had issues with a resident who was affiliated with a rival gang. Group home staff indicated that the other youth was a lower functioning autistic youth who desired attention. The feud was eventually resolved. At school, Dylan was in the 10th grade. Dylan had a few issues with male students at school, but he managed to stay free of any physical altercations. Teachers reported that Dylan had referred to other students as "ese" which triggered them. Dylan continued to have an active IEP, but he did not test in a special education category. His teachers reported that Dylan was always well-groomed, and he came to school ready to learn. He received tutoring in a special reading class because he struggled with reading. The school principal reported that Dylan had been offered an opportunity to attend a public school. However, Dylan declined the offer because he did not want to become involved with gangs. He liked the personal one-on-one attention he received at school. During this time, Dylan received counseling at school and family therapy in placement.

While on weekend home passes, Dylan revealed that he was bored during his mother's dialysis so he remained home unsupervised. Consequently, his home passes were changed to Sundays to avoid lack of supervision. In fall, the DPO indicated that Dylan needed to be drug tested since he admitted to smoking

marijuana. Next month, Dylan was served with a gang injunction. On the same day, law enforcement responded to a disturbance call at an apartment where eight gang members attended a party with excessive alcohol. Law enforcement discovered that Dylan was on active Probation with a weekend pass from placement. He was under the influence of alcohol and was released to his uncle. As a result, the court revoked home passes for a period of time. Dylan's brother who also attended the same party was not released home as planned due to this incident.

In early 2011, Dylan had a positive drug test for marijuana. He asked for his home passes to be reinstated and agreed to work toward a clean drug test because his home passes were important to him.

Released Home on Probation

The court ordered HOP, with Family Preservation services focused on multicultural counseling. Upon exiting from suitable placement, Dylan received a completion certificate from an anger management and substance abuse program. He claimed he had no desire to engage in the gang life, but contrary to his statement, the DPO discovered tagging drawings in his backpack. The DPO stressed to Dylan the importance of disassociating himself from the gang. However, four days later, Dylan was arrested for PC 518, extortion. Law enforcement responded to a robbery call. The victim reported being punched in the face by two Latino males and having his bag of DVDs stolen. The victim reported that the suspects (Dylan and his friend) were members of a gang who were known to tax local vendors and businesses around the area. LAPD requested a gang enhancement charge for both minors. Dylan was issued a notice to appear in court and was released to his mother.

Dylan was scheduled to begin school in the spring. He was briefly unable to enroll in classes due to the administration of the CAHSEE test. School officials reported that Dylan had only attended school once since his enrollment two weeks prior.

Per agreement between Probation directors, Dylan's regular supervision was transferred to the Intensive Gang Supervision Program (IGSP). Following this, Dylan was cited twice for PC 166, violation of court ordered gang injunction. The DPO stated that more stringent measures were needed because Dylan had not attended school regularly, had poor grades, and had no adult supervision at home. Although he had provided two certificates of completion for counseling, he failed to obey his order to do community service. It also appeared that Dylan's mother relied on Dylan for all her care and needs.

On the pre-plea report to the court, the DPO recommended a camp order. Dylan resided with his mother who required dialysis weekly; his father was in El Salvador; and Dylan's 14-year-old brother was soon to be released home from placement. Dylan did not have adequate adult supervision and used his time participating in the gang. Dylan continued to make poor decisions and his criminal activity had escalated. He was now 17.5 years of age and was behind in his classes (LACOE intake records showed he was in the 11th grade by age, but he had 10th grade credits; he required special day classes; and his school grades were all F's). The court ordered Dylan to a six-month camp program at Camp Kilpatrick for robbery (PC 211 felony and 707(b) offense).

Camp Kilpatrick

Dylan received the following services at Camp Kilpatrick: individual counseling on a weekly basis to address his drug addiction, church, tutoring (school grades showed mostly D's), weekly anger management, weekly Narcotic Anonymous (NA), community service, and LEAPS. About a month into his program, Dylan was written up for causing a "unit disturbance" for not following instructions. Staff observed that Dylan became upset when redirected. Three days later, Dylan was sent to the Special Housing Unit (SHU – i.e., isolation) for attempting to incite a riot. A 777 violation was submitted to the court to extend his camp stay for an

additional 60 days. The court sustained the petition adding 30 days to his camp program and ordered transition to an Independent Living Program (ILP) be arranged prior to camp graduation. Dylan returned to Camp Kilpatrick and continued to be cited for disruptive behaviors and classroom disturbances. He often blamed staff for these occurrences, and staff believed that his mother's health was affecting his judgment and behavior.

Although the camp ordered ILP, Dylan was not eligible for ILP since he had never been placed in foster care. At camp release, no family members were willing to supervise him so a change of plan (WIC 778) was submitted recommending suitable placement. As the DPO explained this plan to Dylan and his mother, they cried. Dylan's mother wanted her son to reside with her because she was in need of assistance in the evenings. The DPO explained to Dylan's mother that she could be present in court to state her case.

At the court hearing, the judge denied the DPO's request for suitable placement. The court ordered Dylan to be released from Camp Kilpatrick on HOP with his mother. At release, Dylan had earned 84 school credits, raised his grades to all C's, and there was a potential school enrollment. The family was referred to the High Risk High Needs (HRHN) program for in-home counseling, and Dylan was placed on supervision within the Intensive Gang Supervision Program.

Jurisdiction Terminated

In the community, Dylan had not provided proof of school enrollment (he reported, though, that he had enrolled), community service (stated he had no time to work for free), counseling, or restitution payment (\$1,793). Dylan was referred to a community agency for counseling and community service. Dylan successively enrolled in counseling, but failed to sign up for community service. In late spring, the Crenshaw Mobile DPO conducted a home visit, and Dylan reported that things had been stressful due to his mother's failing health. Dylan reported that his "uncle" helped out, but he had not attended school due to his responsibility to care for his mother. The DPO encouraged Dylan to enroll in an independent studies or home school program and further explained the consequences of a 777 violation.

A month later, Dylan was arrested for PC 211, robbery, but he was not detained. At the court hearing, the court deemed the DPO's report in the summer as a 777 violation. The court ordered Dylan to remain in County Jail for 30 days. The court's inclination was to credit Dylan's time served and terminate jurisdiction on the next court date. A month later, jurisdiction terminated.

Adult Arrests

As of late 2014, James had been arrested as an adult two times. The first arrest was in fall 2013 for vehicle theft (VC 10851) and the second arrest in spring 2014 for contempt of court (PC 166). He was sentenced in both cases to summary Probation and 30 days in County Jail for the vehicle theft.

Case Review by Probation Officers

Strengths	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested in mechanics • Liked to play football • Participated in services offered in placements (individual counseling, church, drug counseling, and LEAPS) • Some level of support from his “uncle” (neighbor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absent father • Early DCFS intervention • Sibling delinquency • Lack of supervision • Low socioeconomic status • Minimal support system • Gang affiliation • Substance use • Poor academic performance • Irregular school transitions • Community violence
Youth Needs	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needed supervision and structure • Positive adult support/role models • Clear expectations • DMH counseling • Educational support • Family relocation • Financial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother’s failing health – Dylan assumed responsibility to care for his mother, which kept him out of school and at risk of violating his Probation terms. • Absent father – no strong male figure • Disjointed family structure • Low socioeconomic status • Services were only temporary • High gang involvement • Lack of suitable environment that fostered his strengths (and interest in mechanics)

System Actions Toward a Positive Outcome

- Dylan received an early educational assessment prior to his involvement with Probation (e.g., IEP).
- Court ordered “camp with counseling” which created an opportunity to utilize DMH services.
- In both placements, Dylan received mental health treatment and educational support.
- Appropriate service referrals (e.g., High Risk High Needs and Family Preservation) were based on the needs of Dylan and his mother.
- Dylan’s case was transferred to the Intensive Gang Supervision Program for supervision in both instances, which resulted in a consistent supervision linkage to and from placement.
- The CDP officer had followed up with Dylan daily by phone and school visits.

Looking Back – Recommendations to Improve Case Supervision

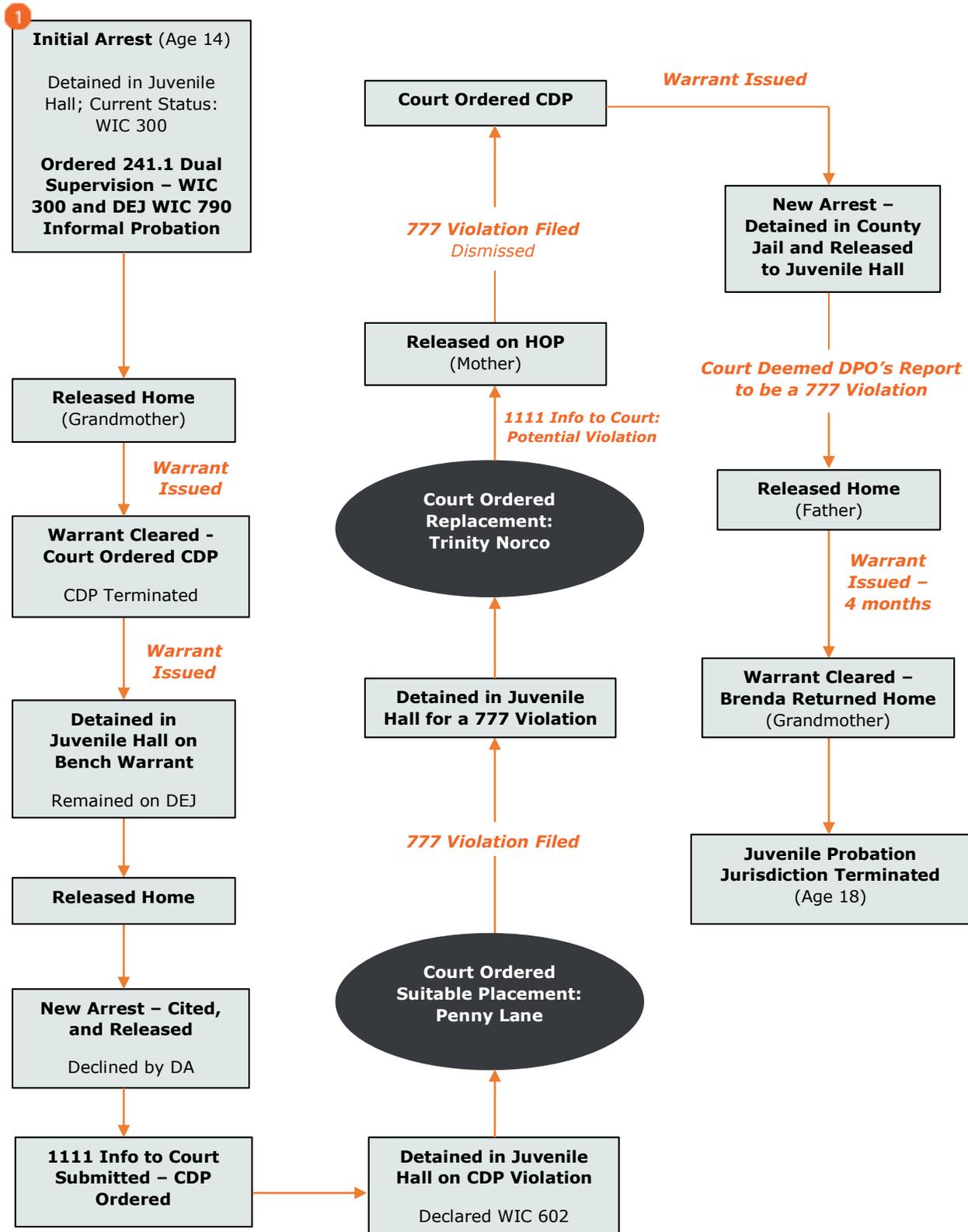
- Dylan was deemed ineligible for ILP services, although he *was* eligible due to his prior suitable placement order at the time of his 16th birthday.
- Dylan was released from camp on HOP: Dylan’s needs and his mother’s needs should have been better balanced keeping in mind the youth’s best interest.
- Regular In-Home Counseling: The review group recommended Family Preservation services because the program can assist with transportation and educational support.
- The review group noticed that Dylan’s DPO at the time of camp release felt frustrated that Dylan was returned home to care for his mother. There was a clear struggle in this case that highlighted the conflict between his mother’s needs and Dylan’s needs. Although HOP is often considered the best possible placement for youth, Dylan’s home did not provide what he needed. He needed

supervision and adult support in his development. An appropriate placement could foster Dylan's success in a structured environment.

- Greater collaboration between systems: In an ideal world, this case would benefit from cross-system collaboration between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation due to his mother's failing health. Also, Probation and the Los Angeles County of Education (LACOE) could collaborate in order to assist Dylan with school enrollment, which appeared to be a challenge for him.
- Dylan could benefit from being referred to Family Finding. There could possibly be other adults, cousins, or neighbors outside of the immediate family that could take on care giving responsibilities, while still maintaining Dylan's connection to his mother.
- Suitable placement could be a better option. Dylan could receive a GED and a suitable placement order would provide the time necessary to identify and develop supportive adults. This would also allow Dylan to spend time with his mother on home passes.
- ILP services could also provide placement stability and life skills training.

Brenda

Study Cohort: Suitable Placement (Challenges)





Brenda

Female, African-American

Youth Profile Prior to Probation

Brenda's contact with law enforcement occurred between 2008 and 2013. Prior to Probation supervision, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigated Brenda's mother for child neglect several times between 1998 and 2008. Brenda was 4 years old the first time DCFS was involved. Most of the referrals were unfounded or inconclusive. From a total of seven referrals, two referrals were eventually substantiated for caretaker absence and general neglect by Brenda's mother. One substantiated referral led Brenda's maternal grandmother to file for child custody. While Brenda lived with her grandmother, the second referral was substantiated, and Brenda became a dependent ward of the court (WIC 300) at the age of 14.

Brenda's immediate family included her mother, father, and four siblings. Her parents were never married. Brenda's mother lost child custody due to her substance abuse history and criminal justice involvement including assault with a deadly weapon, burglary, battery, transport/selling narcotics, and disorderly conduct (prostitution). Under her mother's care, the children slept in cars, motels, and in the homes of various strangers. Due to her cocaine drug addiction, she left her children unsupervised and unattended. Brenda and her siblings were often picked up by Brenda's maternal grandmother from drug-infested crack houses. In addition, Brenda's father was incarcerated and had very little communication with his children during Brenda's childhood. Little is known about Brenda's siblings; however, Brenda stated that she had a good relationship with her sisters. She reported that her younger siblings had fewer issues because they did not have to go through everything she and her older siblings experienced with their mother. Brenda and her siblings continued to live with their maternal grandmother while Brenda's mother had visitation rights.

Entry into Probation

Two months after the WIC 300 petition was sustained, Brenda was arrested for PC 245, assault with a deadly weapon on school personnel. Brenda was in the 9th grade and had poor attendance at her Community Day School. Involved in a verbal altercation with a school instructional aide, Brenda threw a cell phone at her, which struck the victim in the face and fractured her nose. According to the victim, Brenda's actions were unexpected because she was once a good student. The victim reported that she would like Brenda to receive help and not be put somewhere she would get worse. When arrested, Brenda stated she did not want to return home and preferred to go to juvenile hall. At the juvenile hall intake, Brenda identified as a member of a gang (she told other students she had joined a gang that morning). Brenda remained at juvenile hall because her grandmother reported that she did not want Brenda home at the time. Her grandmother reported that Brenda was out of control and had been suspended or expelled from several schools. Furthermore, Brenda would run away from home for weeks at a time.

In late 2008, the 241.1 report recommended dual supervision and a 730 evaluation (mental health assessment). DCFS indicated that Brenda had been exposed to substance abuse, homelessness, and sexual exploitation due to her mother's history. Brenda reported that she smoked marijuana at the age of 11 and drank alcohol at age 13. Brenda was described as having anger and abandonment issues due to the lack of parental presence. She had only met her father five times in her life and seemed to have a good relationship with her mother despite their history. At this time, Brenda had no history of counseling or psychotropic medications. The court ordered 241.1 joint supervision between DCFS and Probation. Brenda was placed on a Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) WIC 790, informal Probation for a period of 12 to 36 months and was released home to her grandmother.

School Problems

At the end of the year, the school called Brenda's grandmother to retrieve Brenda from school because she was loud and disruptive. School officials informed her grandmother that Brenda could not return to the school until she spoke to the school principal, who required Brenda to participate in a counseling program. Brenda refused to participate in counseling and did not want to return to that school. Her grandmother also informed the DPO that Brenda had not followed curfew hours and was coming home late, between 5:30 PM and 6 PM.

By early 2009, Brenda was enrolled in a charter school, but she refused to wear her uniform or go to school. Her grandmother called the police one morning to take Brenda to school, and Brenda reported that she was not coming back home. That afternoon, Brenda's grandmother was unable to locate Brenda after school. On the same day, the school notified DCFS that Brenda was expelled; Brenda took a baton to school and snatched a folder from a teacher. DCFS and Probation conferred about Brenda's school problems, and both systems issued a bench warrant from their respective courts.

Brenda returned back to her grandmother after three weeks, and the warrant of arrest was cleared. The DPO instructed Brenda's grandmother that she should take Brenda to a continuation school where the Dean had already approved her school enrollment. Brenda's grades were poor; she had a GPA of 0.00. Meanwhile, DCFS evaluated Brenda for mental health services and was initiating counseling services. By spring, Brenda had completed 74 hours of community service, participated in individual counseling, was drug tested, and was enrolled in school.

At the end of spring, Brenda enrolled in an independent studies program at another local school because she was suspended from the continuation school on a regular basis. Brenda's grandmother reported that Brenda had not complied with her curfew hours, displayed a disrespectful attitude, and was caught sneaking out of her bedroom window at night to see her boyfriend or to hang out with gang members. The court placed Brenda on the Community Detention Program (CDP) for a month. Brenda continued to participate in individual counseling once a week. She was also scheduled to start in-home counseling with Wraparound services and medication management for her depression and anger. Brenda's grandmother, however, did not want Wraparound services and was not compliant. She felt that her family did not need Wraparound services, and it made her feel as if she was inadequate in parenting her own grandchildren. Meanwhile, Brenda's mother completed her mandated parenting classes and a drug rehabilitation program. She regained child custody of her youngest son and received unmonitored overnight visits with her older children.

In the following months, Brenda had three additional school changes. Brenda reported that she left from one school to another due to affiliations with inappropriate peers. She later enrolled at a different school and was doing well. She had an Individual Education Plan (IEP) based on the emotional disturbance. Nevertheless, DCFS informed the DPO that Brenda ran away from home, and Probation issued a bench warrant. A month later, Brenda was picked up on the bench warrant, and she was detained in juvenile hall. Her grandmother requested that Brenda be removed from her care. Juvenile hall intake staff indicated that Brenda had a history of sexual exploitation and was beyond her grandmother's control.

Continued DEJ Supervision

Since Brenda violated her conditions of Probation and was unwilling to comply with DCFS, both agencies recommended a WIC 300/602 formal Probation supervision. Brenda needed a program that could provide a therapeutic setting in which she could address her aggressive behavior, educational problems, drug use, and sexual exploitation. Brenda's grandmother felt sorry for her granddaughter and accepted her back at the

urging of the social worker. Both agencies were ordered to coordinate services to ensure that Brenda received her required medication.

Brenda continued to have problems at school in early 2010. She was suspended for challenging students to fight, had marijuana at school, and was cited for petty theft (charge was later declined by the District Attorney). School officials reported that Brenda's behavior in the classroom disrupted the learning process – she was actively involved in a gang and displayed disrespectful behavior in class. The school placed Brenda on a final school contract.

According to Brenda's grandmother, Brenda was out of the residence for days at a time. She had not participated in therapy and refused to take her medication. She hung out behind a Court House where gangs congregated. The court placed Brenda on the CDP. In spring, Brenda was detained in juvenile hall by her CDP officer on a violation. Brenda threatened to kill herself because her grandmother would not allow her to go to a candlelight vigil for someone she knew who had been shot to death. Her grandmother and sister came into the room and attempted to take Brenda's phone, and a physical fight ensued between Brenda and her grandmother during which her grandmother's head hit the dresser. The court subsequently ordered suitable placement. Brenda's treatment goals were anger management, substance abuse, family therapy, individual and group therapy, and gang intervention. During her assessment, Brenda revealed she suffered from depression and had previously tried hurting herself by cutting. Based on these needs, she was referred for placement at Penny Lane.

Suitable Placement: Penny Lane

Brenda was released to Penny Lane at age 15. She reported that her personal goals were to graduate from high school, go to college, play basketball, and become a veterinarian. Her case plan was Family Reunification (FR). Brenda's mother participated in family therapy sessions where she admitted to past substance abuse issues, but said that she had been sober since her drug rehabilitation. She disclosed she was doing well because she loved her children, and she had learned to love herself. Brenda's mother regained custody of all her siblings (ages 1, 3, 9, and 17) with the help of a family focused program. She lived in a sober living home with her children.

In the DPO's report, Brenda was reported to be doing well:

- Her most recent grade report from high school (10th grade) reflected mostly As. Teachers reported that Brenda was a top student, and they had only positive things to say about her.
- Penny Lane was providing individual, group, and family counseling services.
- Brenda was medication compliant: she took Lamictal (mood stabilizer) and Benadryl.
- Home passes were approved at her mother's home, and the family scheduled activities together.

However, Brenda admitted to smoking marijuana. A month later, Brenda's progress had deteriorated, and she refused to cooperate with her treatment goals at Penny Lane. She had an injury to her right hand from hitting a wall and refused to speak further about superficial scratches on her arm. In addition, Brenda was found with a make-shift weapon in her belongings. The DPO advised DCFS to place a seven-day notice, but the social worker was unsure. Later, a drug test result revealed that Brenda was positive for opiates.

Probation felt the best outcome was a stricter setting. Brenda was given a chance by the court to complete a treatment program in a non-detention setting, but she had failed. The DPO filed a 777 violation and Brenda was detained at juvenile hall pending a Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) screening and/or a Level 14 residential placement. Brenda was found ineligible for DKC, and the DPO then recommended a camp order. Brenda's mother also agreed that a stricter setting was needed.

Suitable Placement: Trinity Norco

Brenda was now 16 years old, and she hoped that the court would give her another chance in placement. She reported that she had learned from her past negative behaviors and was now ready to start making positive changes in her life in order to return home to her mother. The court ordered placement at Trinity Norco Group Home.

Educationally, Brenda was in the 11th grade, but she had credit deficiencies. Although she loved playing basketball, Brenda decided to focus on recovering her high school credits with the help of IEP services. She needed 120, but only had 48 credits. Overall, Brenda did well in Trinity for two months – she was medication compliant (Trazodone), and she received weekly home passes to visit her mother. She had completed anger management and substance abuse classes. She was also selected in a contest to tour another city next year.

Brenda's behavior then deteriorated. Her home passes were suspended because she got a tattoo over the Christmas weekend without her mother's permission. The group home case manager reported that Brenda did not take responsibility for her actions and refused to talk about it. In early 2011, Brenda had several school suspensions for verbal threats, gang ideation, defiance, and disruption. Brenda was placed on a school behavioral contract. She was then found with medication that was not hers. Her high school granted an involuntary transfer for Brenda to attend a continuation school. While Brenda's grades improved (GPA 3.0), she had not participated in individual therapy and was not medication compliant. Brenda had not been consistent with her medication (Lamictal, Seroquel, and Zolof) because she reported it made her feel dizzy and lost her appetite. Following this report, Brenda was scheduled to see a psychiatrist.

In spring, Brenda received individual and family therapy and opened up more emotionally. Home passes also allowed a chance for the family to bond. Brenda and her mother watched movies together, cooked, visited a recording studio and attended a comedy show. Besides a positive drug test for marijuana, Brenda's behavior had improved. She attended school regularly, took her medications, and was doing well. Trinity Norco Group Home recommended that Brenda graduate from the program, and the DPO recommended that Brenda reunify with her mother. Thus, the court ordered Brenda to be released from suitable placement and be ordered HOP to her mother with Functional Family Probation (FFP). Brenda resided with her mother in a sober living complex.

Home on Probation

From six months in 2011, Brenda and her family actively participated in both FFP and Wraparound services. The family had been very open with their past, was working on their relationships with one another and had moved to a new residence. Brenda's mother had a Wraparound parent partner who helped her work on effective ways of communication. Likewise, Brenda participated in therapy weekly and had requested reinstatement of psychotropic medication. Brenda also volunteered with a program to assist senior citizens.

In late 2011, Brenda enrolled at a new high school. Per the DPO, there was a possible violation since Brenda had not enrolled in a school for seven months since being released from suitable placement. In early 2012, school officials reported that Brenda had several unexcused absences and incidents related to disrespectful behavior and failure to follow instructions. Brenda was not attending school regularly and admitted to marijuana use. Moreover, she was cited by the school police for trespassing at another school, allegedly in order to fight. It appeared that Brenda needed further intervention; therefore, the DPO filed for a 777 violation and requested the Community Detention Program (CDP). Court dismissed the 777, but ordered a month of CDP with instructions to detain on first violation.

Brenda disclosed that she was unable to wake up for school because she had no structure since leaving suitable placement. The Wraparound facilitator provided funds to purchase an alarm clock. Brenda lacked

motivation and structure to follow through with her goals and continued to have poor school attendance. She reported that she would enroll in a GED program, but she did not provide proof of school enrollment. At the same time, FFP services were terminated because the six months maximum service limit had been reached.

In spring, Brenda failed to report to the DPO. She informed the DPO that she missed a couple days of school because she was helping her grandmother enroll her mother in a drug rehabilitation program. Brenda reported that she would not be incarcerated again and would AWOL until she was 18 years of age if they filed a probation violation against her. Brenda resided with her grandmother at this time because of her mother's drug relapse, and DCFS placed her siblings in foster care. Brenda's grandmother reported that Brenda had not abided by curfew and disappeared for more than 24 hours without notice. She had also stopped attending counseling. On various occasions, Brenda disclosed to her grandmother that she was "pimping" three girls. Her grandmother suspected that Brenda was sexually exploited and was using alcohol and drugs.

In the next month, Brenda phoned her DPO and reported that she was not living with her grandmother or mother. She stated she was living with her friends and provided the DPO with a false contact number. The Wraparound team indicated that they had not seen Brenda for the past six weeks and that she had not attended school in several weeks. The DPO contacted the GED program, and the school reported that Brenda was not enrolled. The DPO was also unable to find Brenda's IEP in the system's records. As a result, Probation issued a bench warrant. Brenda's conduct under supervision had been poor and her whereabouts were unknown. Due to Brenda's runaway status, Wraparound was discontinued. They informed Probation that Brenda's mother was incarcerated.

In the summer, Brenda was arrested for PC 245.5, assault with a deadly weapon. The court deemed the DPO's report filed four months ago to be a 777 violation. The court ordered Brenda to be released from county jail and housed in juvenile hall. Court also ordered Brenda to be enrolled in a school. While detained in juvenile hall, Brenda received mostly B's in her coursework. Brenda asked to live with her father. The DPO contacted Brenda's father, and Brenda was released to him.

In fall, Brenda failed to report to the DPO and had not enrolled in a school program. She stated she was scheduled for an assessment test in the next month through a charter school. Brenda and her father reported in person at Probation. The DPO reminded Brenda the importance of school enrollment and counseling. Brenda appeared unwilling to complete her Probation conditions and even said that her case file was not big enough. At one point, the DPO spoke to Brenda's father to verify his zip code, but the father stated he did not know it.

In the following three months, Brenda attempted to enroll in several schools. The DPO contacted the charter school, and the coordinator said that Brenda did not pass the assessment test. Brenda was given an opportunity to retake the test, but she had not shown for testing. Per the coordinator, Brenda had an IEP, and her reading level was in the 4th grade. He suggested that Brenda enroll in a traditional school where she would be placed in a smaller classroom environment. Brenda was eventually able to enroll at a school, but was subsequently dropped due to her absences. Per the DPO, all services provided at the juvenile justice level had been exhausted. The DPO recommended that Brenda be removed from the community, placed at an age appropriate facility, and jurisdiction be terminated upon her release.

Brenda failed to report as scheduled to her Probation appointments for three months. Probation issued a warrant of arrest, but Brenda's whereabouts were unknown. Brenda's father stated that she was not residing in his home. He reported that Brenda might possibly be expecting a child. In spring of 2013, Brenda left a voicemail for her DPO, but she did not leave a contact number to return the call.

Jurisdiction Terminated

The next month, the DPO received a phone call from a Transitional Housing program. The coordinator stated that Brenda came into the office and requested transitional housing, but the program could not provide her housing until her Probation was successfully completed. The DPO received Brenda's phone number and informed her that she was not eligible. Brenda was 18 years old (approaching 19 soon) and was 11 weeks pregnant. The DPO urged Brenda to report to the Probation office so they could create a plan for her to complete her Probation conditions. She informed the DPO that she had already completed her community service hours and had submitted it to the judge, but the judge had no record. In addition, Brenda reported that she was residing with her grandmother, but she was looking for alternative housing since her grandmother had her siblings. Brenda also added that she was enrolled at a college.

In a progress report dated in mid-2013, Brenda had no new arrests, but she filed a police report against her aunt for physically assaulting her. Brenda had not provided proof of school enrollment, counseling, or community service hours and had not submitted to drug testing. The DPO indicated that Brenda had no intention of complying with Probation, but the court might consider terminating jurisdiction for Brenda so she could receive transitional housing for her and her unborn child. The DPO recommended all previous orders to remain in full force and effect. However, the court found that Brenda had completed all her community service hours back in 2009 and ordered termination of jurisdiction.

Adult Arrests

As of late 2014, Brenda had been arrested as an adult two times. The first arrest was for vandalism (PC 594) and battery (PC 243E(1)) in the summer of 2014, and the second arrest was in the fall of 2014 for vandalism again, for contempt of court (PC 166), and petty theft (PC 484(A)). She was sentenced in both cases to summary Probation and time in County Jail (2 days for the first and 90 days for the second case).

Case Review by Probation Officers

Strengths	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletic – enjoyed playing basketball • Had a career goal: Veterinarian • Revealed she wanted to go to college • Involved in the school’s band • Wrote and recorded music • Support of grandmother 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health needs (e.g., self-harm) • Abandonment • Anger • Alcohol and substance use • Gang affiliation • Poor educational history • DCFS involvement • Early exposure to sexual exploitation and homelessness • Family criminality • Parental substance abuse • Absent father
Youth Needs	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School structure and early school intervention • Fewer educational transitions • Needed adult figure who can show responsibility, demonstrate structure, and establish rules • Stability • Consistent adults • Mentor • Psychotropic medication management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of family support due to parental history of incarceration and substance abuse problems • Home instability • No established goals for the case plan • Frequent runaway/AWOL • Unstable education and excessive school transitions • Gang involvement • Sexual exploitation • Irregular psychotropic medication changes

System Actions Toward a Positive Outcome

- The visible collaboration between DCFS and Probation showed that systems worked together to provide joint agency supervision.
 - There were constant communication and case consultation between the two systems.
 - Both systems discussed the case plan and explored possible placements that could improve Brenda’s treatment and rehabilitation.
 - Tasks were divided – DCFS targeted mental health service while Probation facilitated school enrollment.
- Multiple service referrals (e.g., FFP, wraparound, IEP) were beneficial to her supervision and mental health during periods of time.

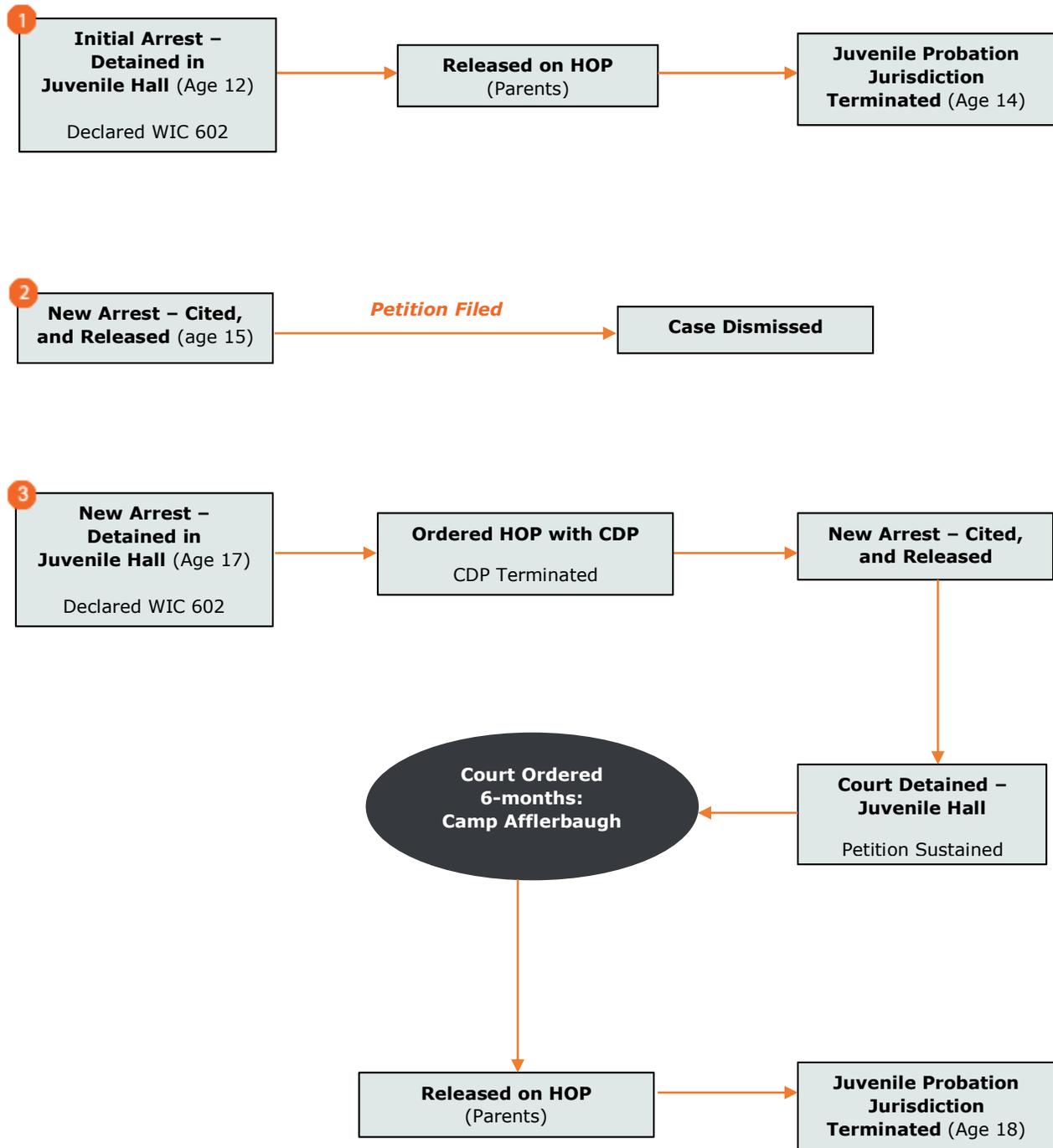
Looking Back – Recommendations to Improve Case Supervision

- Community service hours were recurrent issues due to the lack of appropriate documentation that prolonged Probation supervision. Is community service serving a purpose if it does not mirror the youth’s offense?
- Accurate family history documentation is especially necessary for youth involved in commercial sex trafficking because the identified individual may not be related to the youth as the youth reports.
- Brenda needed school interventions and an early IEP assessment for her behavioral problems in school. A history of school suspensions and school expulsions made it difficult for Brenda to receive school credits. Brenda did not struggle academically, but she needed a smaller group setting with one-on-one attention.

- Brenda left suitable placement during the summer without a clear educational plan. Although the Wraparound facilitator informed Probation that Brenda had not attended school, the DPO did not document communication with the school officials until two months later.
- Proactive school referrals are important. DPOs should consult with school officials to determine Brenda's needs in an educational environment (e.g., smaller group setting) by suggesting an educational assessment. It is beneficial to set up a behavioral plan early in the process to prevent strict and punitive disciplinary actions.
- If possible, conduct background checks and fingerprinting before the release of a youth's custody. It is possible that an extensive background check could have revealed that Brenda's father had current law enforcement problems at the time Brenda was placed with him. Additionally, it is always recommended that DPOs take the additional steps to confirm the identity of a youth's biological parents because documentation can be incorrect.
- Services must be provided on the front-end and match to the needs of the youth. Brenda may have benefited from Operation Read and Anger Replacement Therapy (ART). As the youth is exiting and transitioning from placements, a clear case plan must be in place to avoid gaps in services post-release from placement.

David

Study Cohort: Camp (More Positive Outcome)





David

Male, Latino

Youth Profile Prior to Probation

David had contact with law enforcement during the following years: 2006–2007, 2008–2009, and 2010–2012. He resided in a two-bedroom house with his parents and siblings, and David’s parents spoke only Spanish. His mother was not employed, and his father worked as a truck driver. David was the youngest of his siblings, which included two older brothers and two sisters. For some time before the attention of law enforcement, David was a member of the tagging crew.

Entry into Probation

In 2006, 12-year-old David challenged his middle school classmate to fight on his walk home from school. When the student accepted the challenge, David produced a semi-automatic pistol and pointed the weapon at the student’s head. David saw campus police, attempted to run, and he was subsequently arrested and detained in juvenile hall. The student alleged that David struck him in the head several times with the gun, but there were no evidence to support his claim. David denied striking him and reported that their tagging crews were not getting along. The victim’s tagging crew was responsible for David’s older brother being detained in juvenile hall. David was charged with PC 422, criminal threats, and PC 12101(A)(1), felony possession of a firearm by a minor. A month after the incident, juvenile court sustained the PC 12101(A)(1) charge, and David was declared WIC 602, Home on Probation (HOP).

A month later, David did not return to his middle school due to continued problems with his peers, including a school suspension. David’s mother was concerned for his safety and decided to change his school after she had attempted to work out the problems with the other students. David was then enrolled in the 8th grade at a new middle school. His mother would drop him off at school, and his older sister would pick him up. At school, David’s work habits and cooperation were described as unsatisfactory – he had poor attendance, and his grades ranged from high to low. As a result, David enrolled in an after-school tutoring and a counseling program. Upon academic assessment, David’s results showed that he struggled with English and he was off track in his school program. The English Language Arts (ELA) counselor notified David’s Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) that he was not attending the English track, but he was attending all Saturday classes for math.

David continued to have poor academic school performance. In spring 2007, David enrolled in a program offered at his school that addressed anger, depression, and making better choices. David also still enrolled in anger management counseling and continued after-school tutoring to improve his low grades. By the end of summer, David’s grades were significantly improved and he received an academic achievement award for the most improved student in the area of math. However, he did not consistently attend anger management counseling. The DPO believed that David could benefit from continued services and recommended that all previous orders of the court remain in full force and effect. Despite the DPO’s recommendation, the court ordered jurisdiction terminated later that year.

While David was not on Probation, he graduated from middle school and moved on to high school. His high school records showed multiple truancy episodes, poor attendance, and failing grades.

Dismissed Case

In fall 2008, David, his older brother, and other gang members jumped a male and female victim on the streets after asking them where they were from. The group announced that this was their neighborhood, and the group physically assaulted both victims. David threatened the female victim with sexual assault (gang rape) as David's brother pointed his semi-automatic gun at her. As law enforcement patrolled the area, they noticed two victims lying on the street. The victims' report directed law enforcement to David's residence. Officers went into the household and detained both David and his brother. They were booked for PC 207(A), kidnapping and PC 209(B)(1), kidnap to commit robbery. David's parents denied any knowledge of their son's gang involvement, describing him as a "normal kid" who went to school, played sports, did his homework, and spent time with his girlfriend. In the end, the case was dismissed.

At some point later (the exact time and day are unknown), David was shot in the left knee.

Re-Entry into Probation

At the end of 2010, David was involved in a robbery, along with two other suspects. The victim walked through a parking lot where David and his friends patted him down and stole his cell phone. Later that same day, the victim called the police detectives and reported that he saw one of the suspects loitering outside of a high school. The victim pointed to David as one of the suspects. David was charged with PC 211, second degree robbery, and detained in juvenile hall.

In early 2011, David had leg surgery. He used a cane to walk and was prescribed Vicodin to help deal with the pain. At this time, David's father was unemployed, and his mother worked as a waitress. His mother reported that David had a good relationship with his parents, was well-behaved at home, and had appropriate adult supervision after school. David and his family attended church together, had family gatherings, ate meals together, and spent time watching movies as a family. In his free time, David enjoyed playing video games and baseball.

In light of David's most recent arrest, his mother reported that her son was attracted to dangerous situations and enjoyed being in the middle of the chaos. She felt David had a strange sense of curiosity that led him to make bad decisions. She wanted her son at home and stated that, at the time of the alleged crime, he was with his girlfriend. David's self-assessment was that he did not have an anger problem and did not need services, but he would do what the court ordered. He reported that he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Further, he enjoyed school and hoped to attend college and become a Probation or parole officer in the future. Contrary to David's self-report about positive interactions with teachers, because David had credit deficiencies, the high school suggested he attend adult school. His attendance and grades in high school were poor, with 20-30 absences and mostly D's and F's on his grade reports. David admitted that he had smoked marijuana and cigarettes in the past, but maintained that he was no longer using drugs.

The DPO recommended formal Probation with the Community Detention Program (CDP) and conditions to comply with individual counseling, tutoring, mentoring, random drug testing, and community service. The court agreed with the DPO's recommendation, and David was declared WIC 602 on HOP with CDP until the next court date.

Camp Afflerbaugh

A month later, CDP was terminated. Subsequently, David was charged with PC 487, grand theft. The court ordered a six-month camp program at Camp Afflerbaugh for a sustained felony petition and ordered a plan for psychological testing. David's behavior at home was fair, but he was failing academically; the greatest concern was his negative peer associations. David denied gang affiliation at this time and stated he had some

anger issues when he was younger, but only fought now when provoked. Per the DPO, his mother reported that he was a good kid and she would like for her son to graduate from high school while under Probation custody.

David's initial weeks in camp led to frequent restructuring due to his behavior, as evidenced by several gang-related physical altercations at school and in the camp. He obtained a tattoo from another minor while in school and actively claimed gang involvement. These behavioral issues led to an enforcement of a camp behavior contract, which was an attempt to deter his negative behavior. After the behavior contract was put in place, David's conduct improved significantly. Toward the end of David's camp program, the DPO described David as demonstrating more sound judgment and maturity. David appeared to be able to isolate himself from other peers who had a negative influence on his behavior. He worked in the camp kitchen and held the position of the camp office orderly. Through his duties, David completed 140 community service hours. David's grades also improved (mostly B's and C's), and he received nine school awards for positive behavior and improved academic performance. The DPO noted that David appeared to respond well to weekly individual counseling. He attended Catholic Church services regularly and received confirmation while in camp. David's parents and siblings visited frequently and remained very involved.

At release, David was supervised by the Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP) aftercare unit and released to his family. The DPO referred David to a program designed to reduce criminogenic risk factors, negative peer associations, and substance abuse.

Community Reintegration

Two weeks later, David reported in person and provided verification that he had enrolled in school. David worked at a warehouse packaging soap company from four am to noon. David was doing well at home and in school, and there were no further indications of gang affiliation or gang activity. He continued to attend the school program and earned enough money to pay for his GED exam, which he passed in the spring of 2012. However, when drug tested, his results were positive for marijuana. David stated he would attend individual counseling through his high school, but had not provided proof he enrolled. In the last three months before jurisdiction terminated, David had a job interview working with animals and was later hired with a cleaning company. He had another positive drug test and still had not enrolled in counseling. According to David and his mother, he was unable to enroll in a counseling program due to his work schedule. However, as the DPO noted, David received support from his family and maintained in consistent communication. Eventually, David was accepted to attend a community college for the fall semester. Jurisdiction was terminated by the end of summer 2012 when David was 18 years old.

Adult Arrests

As of late 2014, David had been arrested as an adult four times. The first arrest was for possession of a narcotic substance (HS 11350(A)) at the end of 2012; the second was in spring 2014 for possession of marijuana for sale (HS 11359); and the third was again in spring 2014 for possession of a narcotic substance (HS 11350(A)); and the fourth arrest was on a warrant. He received deferred adjudication in the first case and is awaiting sentencing for the other cases.

Case Review by Probation Officers

Strengths	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showed signs of academic achievement • Employed at jurisdiction terminated - strong work ethic • Enjoyed playing video games and baseball • Showed initiative • Strong family support – attended church, family gatherings, ate meals and watched movies together • Two parent household and employed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Probation involvement • Gang affiliation • Community violence • Sibling delinquency • Inconsistent academic performance • Access to guns
Youth Needs	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gang intervention • Referral to Probation Intensive Gang Supervision Program • Substance abuse counseling • Mental health counseling • Anger management counseling • Possible IEP referral and school interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low academic performance • Low literacy levels • School attendance • Language barriers – monolingual Spanish speaking parents • Mother was reluctant to admit David’s involvement in antisocial behaviors • Gang affiliation

System Actions Toward a Positive Outcome

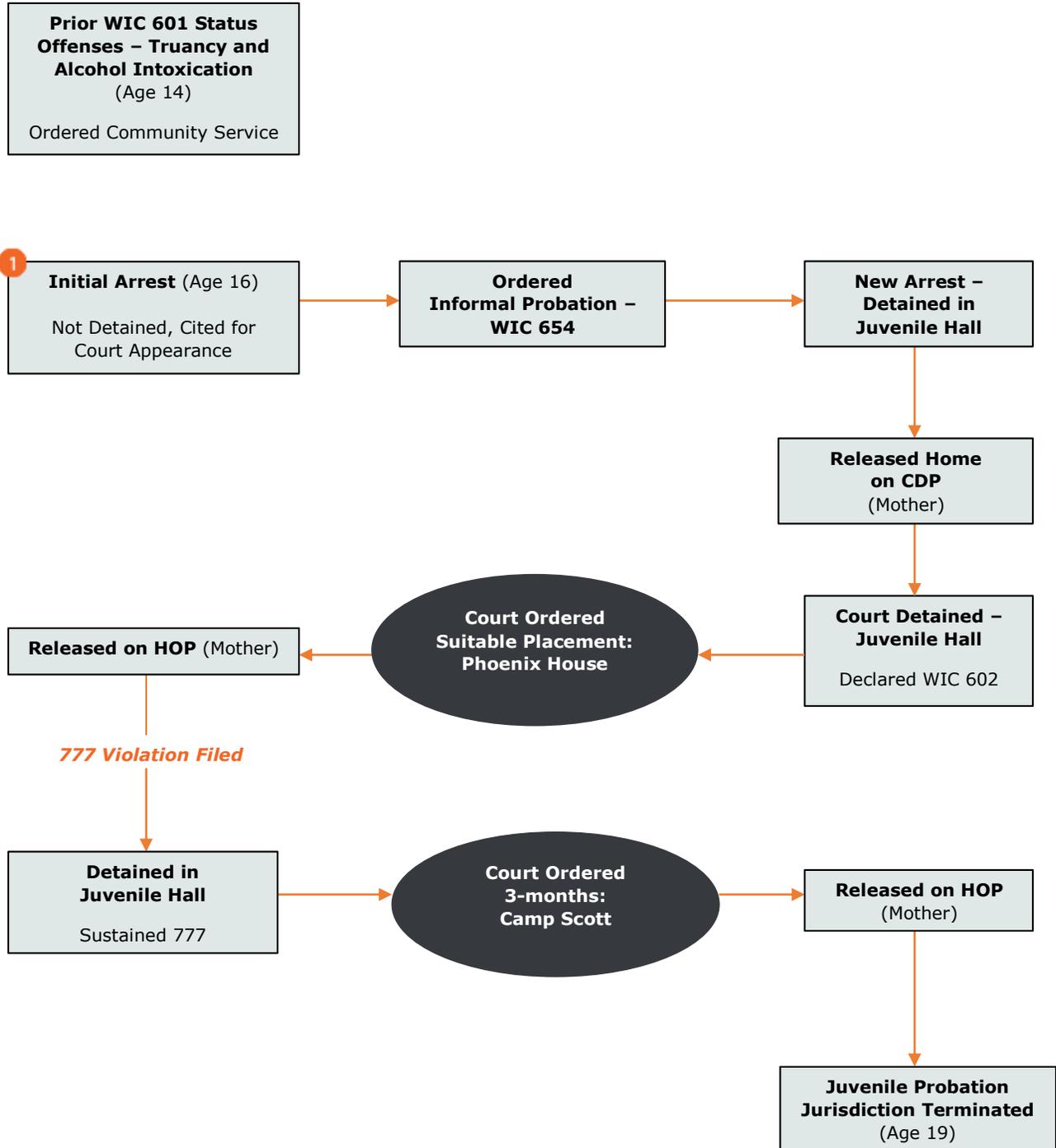
- David responded well under structured environments (e.g., CDP, camp order with a behavior contract).
- Community-based services and school interventions were utilized.
- David was seamlessly connected to the CCTP aftercare program at exit from camp.
- Probation and the education system were in communication about David’s attendance in his classes. David was adequately supervised in a school program and was served by both school interventions and community-based resources.
- The DPO continued to stress the importance of connecting David to counseling services.
- A strong working relationship existed between the DPO, David, and his family.

Looking Back – Recommendations to Improve Case Supervision

- Despite the DPO’s recommendation to keep David on HOP during his first offense, court ordered jurisdiction termination. David may have benefited from remaining on Probation with gang prevention/intervention services.
- Early school problems may have been an indication of a learning disability or special education needs that could have been important to explore with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and a mental health assessment.
- Services should stress family engagement and utilize Spanish-speaking interpretation services.

Valerie

Study Cohort: Camp (More Positive Outcome)





Valerie

Female, Latina

Youth Profile Prior to Probation

Valerie's contact with law enforcement began in 2008 and ended in 2013. Prior to Probation supervision, Valerie resided with her mother, her older sister and three older brothers. Her parents lived separately and were never married. Her mother was employed as a receptionist while her father was employed as a truck driver. Years ago, her father was arrested for transporting/selling narcotics, and he struggled with a history of alcoholism.

At age 14, Valerie attended middle school where she had a history of school suspensions, which included alcohol consumption on school grounds. She experimented with marijuana, meth, alcohol, and used ecstasy once. As she entered high school, she had her first contact with law enforcement that resulted in a WIC 601 citation for truancy and was ordered community service. She received another status offense for truancy and alcohol intoxication the following year.

Entry into Probation

In late 2009, Valerie ditched school with her friends and shoplifted at a department store. They exited the store without paying, and the loss prevention personnel questioned all of the minors involved. Valerie's mother refused to pick up her daughter from the store and wanted the store to prosecute. Valerie was then transferred to the Police Department where she was booked, charged with PC 484, petty theft, and released to her father on a citation. As a result of this offense, the court placed Valerie on informal Probation under WIC 654 and community service was ordered.

Sometime in 2010, Valerie took Seroquel for her panic attacks. During this time, Valerie's school grade report reflected all F's with a GPA of 1.17. Teacher's comments noted that she had poor attendance, disruptive behaviors in class, and did not pay attention. She would leave class without permission, text in class, and spit at others during lunch. At the end of spring, Valerie refused to sit in the office during lunch and began yelling, screaming, and using profanity. She was suspended for five days, pending an expulsion hearing and was cited for disturbing the peace. A school hearing determined that Valerie would be expelled for one trimester. As a result, Valerie was enrolled in an independent study program, but the program was on hold for two months.

A week following her expulsion, Valerie was detained in juvenile hall and charged with PC 211 and PC 459, felony. She shoplifted eye drops and Benadryl allergy pills from a grocery store. Valerie's mother was informed of Valerie's detention for robbery and burglary, and responded that her daughter, "will do what she wants to do." She agreed to take her daughter home if house arrest aided in her supervision. Valerie was released home briefly with the Community Detention Program (CDP) until her pre-plea hearing.

The Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) recommended formal Probation under WIC 602 status. It appeared that Valerie developed a pattern of substance abuse. Although she was previously attending an afterschool outpatient drug-counseling program, she stopped attending when she was expelled. The DPO considered recommendations of suitable placement and camp, but decided that the community-based services could adequately meet Valerie's needs without removing her from home. The DPO recommended a three-month outpatient drug counseling program with conditions for random drug testing, individual counseling (to address her anger problem), and 30-days with the Community Detention Program (CDP). However, the

court ordered suitable placement, and Valerie was referred to placement at Phoenix House, a drug treatment facility.

Suitable Placement: Phoenix House

In exploring Valerie's drug history, Phoenix House found that she was recovering from three years of marijuana use; two years of ecstasy and alcohol use; and one year of over-the-counter medication use. Additionally, she had experimented with heroin and acid. Phoenix House was Valerie's first attempt at a residential substance abuse treatment facility; she had unsuccessful attempts in two previous outpatient programs. Her treatment goals included: Anger Replacement Therapy (ART); family therapy; education; medication evaluation; creative writing groups; and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT).

Two months after her arrival, Valerie began brief episodes of running away from placement (AWOL). In response to staff's intervention, she was upset and punched a window, which resulted in a hand contusion. The next day, Valerie reported that she had been sexually assaulted four years ago at school, but the perpetrator was not found because she was unconscious. Phoenix House noted that Valerie expressed anger and depressed feelings in the form of physical harm to herself in an attempt to resolve her trauma and emotional stress. After frequent intervention, staff reported that Valerie was less prone to punching walls and was able to use her coping skills to scream into pillows instead. Psychotropic medication (Trazodone and Zoloft) also assisted this process as Valerie was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), major depression disorder, and polysubstance dependence.

In her high school, Valerie performed at the top of her class. Initially, Valerie reported that she was really behind in school credits and felt it was important to receive her high school diploma, and not a GED. Nevertheless, Valerie began taking GED preparation courses twice a week at school. She was in the 11th grade by credits and 12th grade by age. Valerie hoped to further her education at a community college in the future and eventually pursue a master's degree in child psychology at a university.

Regarding family therapy, Valerie preferred that her parents were involved in her treatment. Her mother reported a gradual change in her daughter and felt more encouraged about her daughter's future success. On the other hand, her father expressed guilt for his verbal abuse and lack of presence due to his history of alcoholism. The family dynamics improved due to psycho-education on depression, boundaries, and rules. Phoenix House referred the family to Functional Family Therapy (FFT) as the youth's release date was near. Records were unclear as to whether FFT was initiated after release.

While at Phoenix House, Valerie successfully completed ART, Strengthening Families (an evidence-based program for families) and an independent living program. In a letter from Valerie to Phoenix House, she said that the day she got locked up was the best day of her life. The program allowed her to recognize her bad habits, and the whole experience was a major "reality check." Through the ART program, she acknowledged how much anger she harbored, and she learned that drugs hid her emotions. Valerie thanked her case manager for pushing her to her limits and was grateful for the belief that this person thought she could handle it.

Home on Probation and Substance Use

Valerie was released from Phoenix House on HOP with her mother in early 2011 and was allowed weekend stays with her father. A month later, she had a positive drug test for marijuana. Valerie's mother called the DPO and stated that her daughter had stayed out for over 24 hours without permission. She suspected that her daughter was high over the weekend. The DPO instructed the mother to file a missing person's report as soon as possible because Valerie was turning age 18 in a week. When Valerie returned home, the DPO informed her that she would be in violation if she did not improve her behavior. In spring, the DPO referred

Valerie to substance abuse treatment. Per the DPO, if Valerie was not receptive to treatment, the DPO would submit a violation report in order for Valerie to receive services (substance abuse treatment and counseling) in a restrictive environment.

Meanwhile, the DPO connected Valerie to several community-based services.

- Valerie was enrolled in substance abuse counseling. The agency reported that Valerie struggled with abstinence from marijuana and did not appear to be motivated to modify her drug usage.
- She worked on obtaining her GED.
- She was referred for voluntary entry into a residential treatment program. However, Valerie changed her mind and refused.
- She was referred to a program designed to assist youth with resume writing, interviews, and employment training.
- Lastly, the DPO encouraged Valerie to gain experience in the workforce, but she refused employment through her family's business.

By the summer, the DPO filed a 777 for violation of her Probation conditions: Valerie had not reported in a month and was continuing to use drugs. The DPO recommended a stay in camp or county jail. As a result, the 777 violation was sustained, and the court ordered Valerie to three months at Camp Scott with an emphasis on completing her GED.

Camp Scott

At Camp Scott, Valerie passed both English and Math CAHSEE exams with LACOE. She was top of the merit ladder and continued to display positive behavior. At exit, she had received 14 educational awards, and had participated in GED preparation classes, individual therapy, and Dialectal Behavioral Therapy (DBT), group counseling with DMH, and substance abuse groups. At the end of the summer, Valerie passed her GED. She had a perfect score in the math section and was eligible for a possible scholarship. Valerie completed her camp program with no behavioral incidents and returned home to her mother.

Jurisdiction Terminated

In the community, Valerie reported she had enrolled in college and needed to complete an assessment exam. She planned to attend classes in the spring, and in the meantime, interviewed for a seasonal job at a department store.

Although Valerie was immediately referred for continued support with substance abuse; two weeks after her camp release, she tested positive for marijuana. The DPO learned that Valerie was hearing voices. Valerie disclosed that the voices argued with one another, and marijuana made the voices go away. The voices first started when she used methamphetamine. While in suitable placement, she was prescribed psychotropic medication for this symptom. Valerie's mother was aware of her daughter's voices in the past, but did not know it happened recently. Upon this revelation, Valerie was referred to an agency for mental health services. The agency informed the family that Valerie was too old to receive services, but a referral was provided to another agency for older youth. Despite this, Valerie continued to have substance abuse problems. In one month, she tested positive twice out of 10 urinalysis tests.

A month later in early 2012, Valerie began seeing a therapist for mental health services. She was doing better (e.g., her parents were getting married; she attended classes in college), but she continued to use drugs. By spring, Valerie was terminated from the substance abuse program for violating abstinence and attendance requirements. Valerie planned to re-enroll in 30 days after the waiting period had expired. A drug test was conducted by Probation, and the result was again positive for marijuana. In a progress report, the DPO

recommended that the HOP order remain in full force and effect; however, the court ordered jurisdiction terminated.

Adult Arrests

As of late 2014, Valerie had no adult arrests in Los Angeles County.

Case Review by Probation Officers

Strengths	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic achievement Family attended church together Goal driven: Hope to accomplish a master’s degree in child psychology Preferred her parents be involved in her treatment Self-identified: Positive self-esteem Swimmer Reported that people can count on her 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substance use Poor family communication Lack of supervision Sexual trauma School problems Unsafe school environment Auditory hallucinations Family history of alcoholism and drug charges Absent father
Youth Needs	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual counseling Family counseling/support Home-based services Psychotropic medication School intervention In-patient substance abuse treatment Environment that fostered her educational aspirations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undisclosed sexual assault Mental health needs Recurrent substance abuse Lack of family support/supervision Lack of trusting adults Limited collaboration between education and Probation

System Actions Toward a Positive Outcome

- Informal Probation was the least restrictive option. If supervised effectively, informal Probation can be a tool to prevent youth from penetrating deeper into the juvenile justice system.
- The DPO recognized that community-based services could adequately meet Valerie’s needs without removing her from home.
- Phoenix House was an appropriate fit for Valerie because the range of interventions fostered her strengths. It attended to Valerie’s needs through comprehensive services that targeted her risk factors. These services increased Valerie’s personal insight, improved her family relationship with her parents, and addressed her mental health, education, and substance abuse treatment needs.
- Valerie had a DPO who worked with her to ensure she completed her Probation conditions. Instead of terminating formal Probation when Valerie turned 18, the DPO continued to hold Valerie accountable for her actions. This person showed a genuine interest and concern for Valerie’s well-being and rehabilitation.

Looking Back – Recommendations to Improve Case Supervision

- Independent study was not a good educational plan because it would not start until the end of summer, which was two months away. In the meantime, Valerie did not have appropriate supervision.
- Informal Probation supervision sometimes offers little to no services. Sometimes, the system mandates the need for compliance and a lack of available resources creates pressure for cases to be

closed, but this hinders regular youth visits and possible service referrals. In Valerie's case, she only received community service referrals during this period.

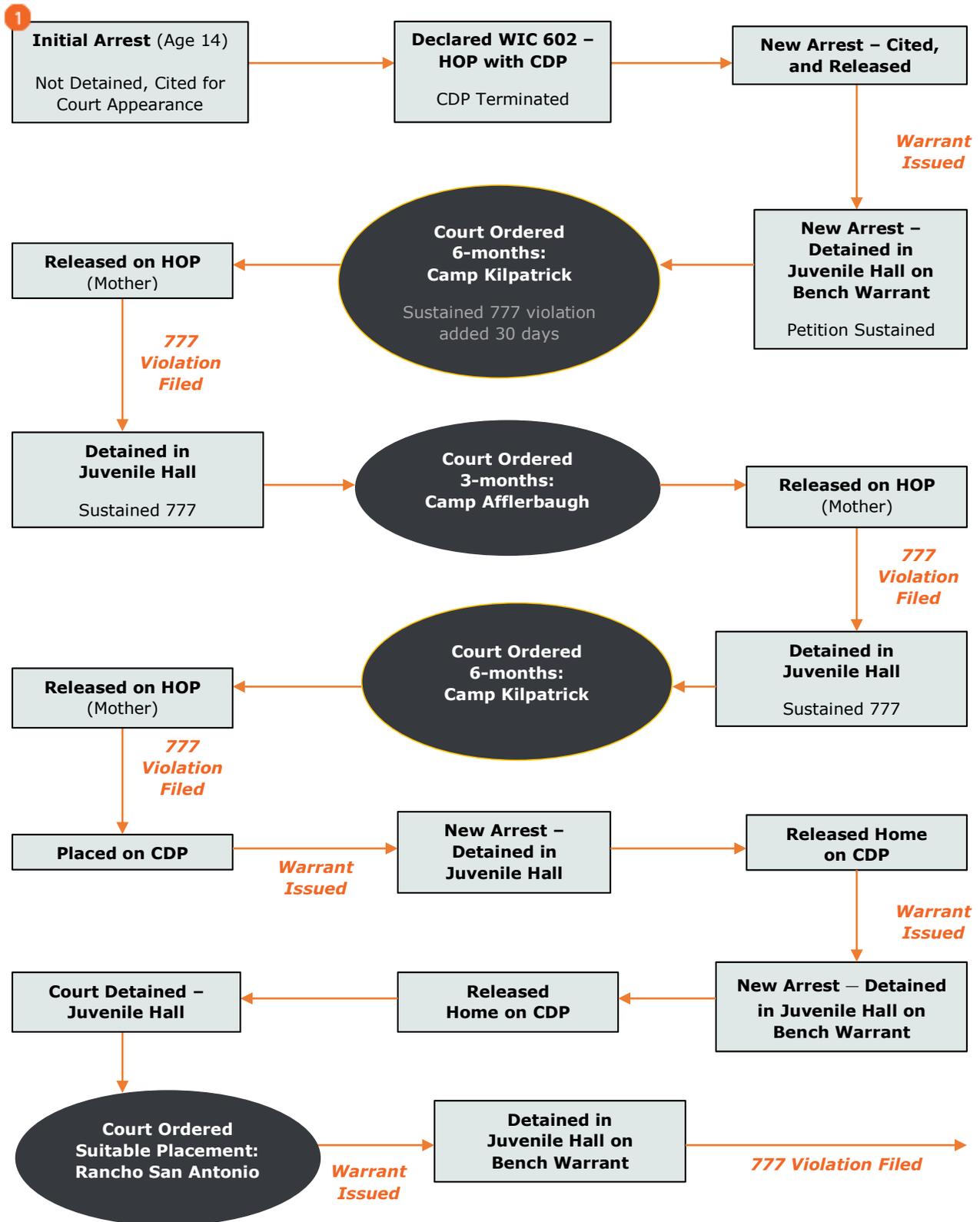
- Family-centered services were needed: It was evident from Valerie and her mother's communication that something was going on in the home.
- Although the Phoenix House conducted some drug testing, notes indicate that the DPO was unable to provide drug testing for three months due to lack of available female DPOs and testing kits.
- Services need to be in place prior to the youth's placement release. She was not referred to substance abuse counseling until two months after exit. Additionally, DPOs must follow up with service referrals. No follow-through will impact a youth's re-entry back into the community.
- Enhance effective service delivery through the coordination of in-home care and specialized co-occurring treatment for the youth's substance abuse and mental health needs.
- Valerie's school behavioral problems prior to formal Probation may be related to her undisclosed sexual trauma. School counseling may be helpful to explore for youth who have truancy problems.
- Collaboration between the education system and Probation could be very effective at the time the youth was expelled from school. What is the youth's plan after expulsion?
- Court should order the Community Detention Program (CDP) at placement release. Early intervention could deter future drug relapses.
- Officers could benefit from family engagement trainings, such as questioning skills (i.e., debriefing and exploring) during home visits because officers can learn about the dynamics of the family and meet their needs in the context of the family's environment.
- Human service professionals must evaluate the benefit and quality of the intervention/referrals (e.g., different interventions may operate from different schools of thought) and thus, it is important to examine which intervention is a better fit for the youth and their family.
 - The referral to Functional Family Therapy (FFT, in comparison to HRHN) is more appropriate because FFT provides a longer length of treatment. It is recommended that field officers consider these alternatives when working with system youth in order to increase community engagement.
 - Mandate parenting classes to be completed and consider if the classes meet parent needs. The most beneficial parenting courses appear to encompass family intergenerational problems and teach parents skills to reinforce structure in the home.
- Ensure adequate documentation training is provided. Many DPOs do not utilize the PCMS to document pertinent youth history like drug testing, family history, and gang involvement.

Retroactive Application of New Probation Models/Services

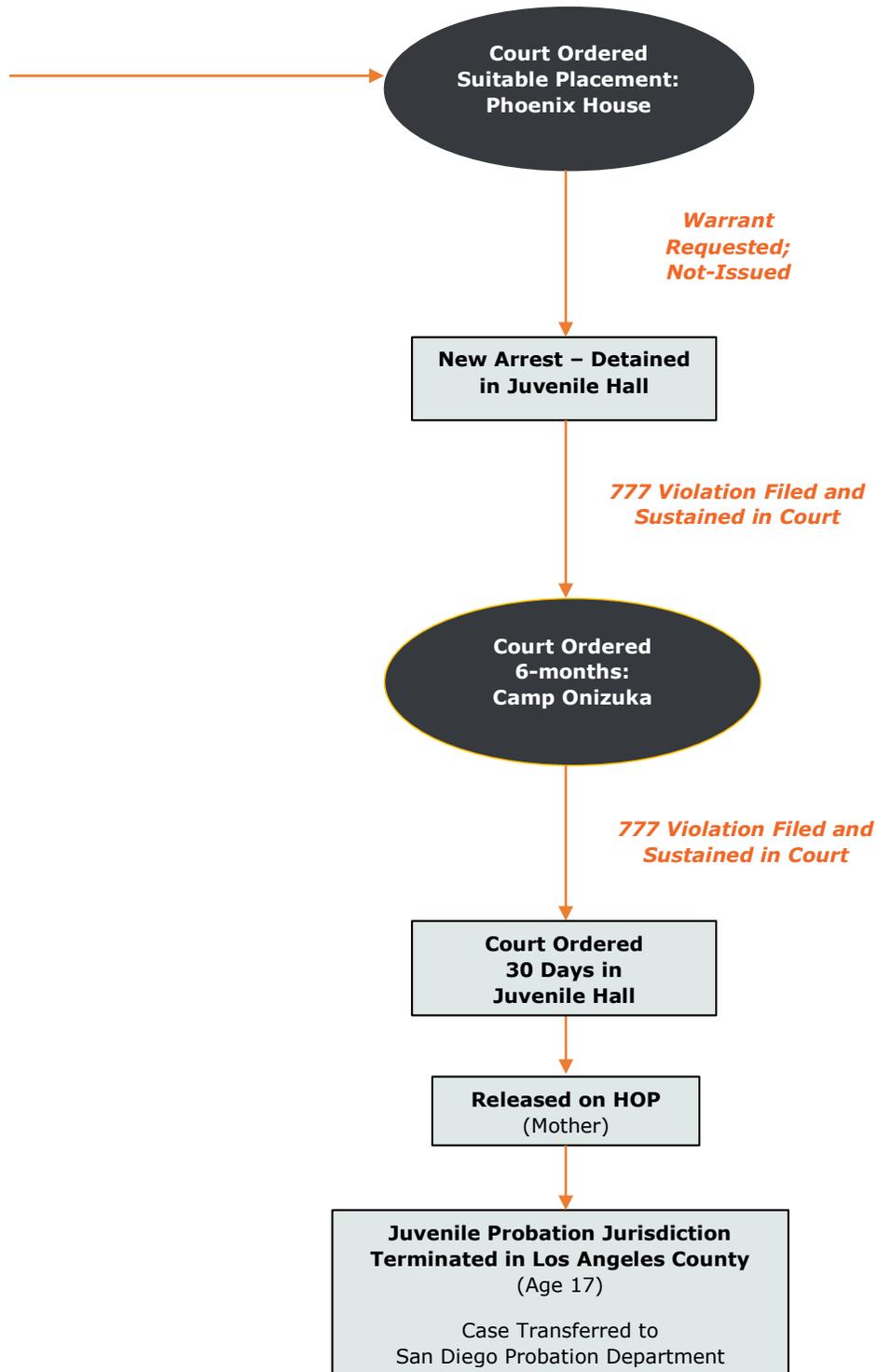
- High Risk High Needs (HRHN) has a reintegration process that allows for their process to begin 30 days prior to release.
- The Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP) provides aftercare services for youth transitioning back into their own communities. These services offer an intensive supervised transition plan that ensures youth's school enrollment and comprehensive service referrals are initiated through community-based organizations.

Steven

Study Cohort: Camp (Challenges)



Steven – Continued





Steven

Male, Latino

Youth Profile Prior to Probation

Steven's contact with law enforcement lasted from 2010 through 2013 in Los Angeles County, and he was later supervised by San Diego County's Probation. Prior to entering formal Probation, Steven lived in a single-parent household with his mother. His mother was born in Mexico, spoke only Spanish, and depended on public assistance as a primary source of income. Steven's mother and father were separated, but occasionally lived together to assist one another financially. Steven's father was not always a supportive caregiver as he struggled with alcoholism. His two adult siblings, one sister and one brother, lived outside the household and were active in Steven's life.

Steven began experimenting with marijuana at the age of 12 and consumed alcohol at the age of 13. He used and sold drugs and associated with gang members in his neighborhood, though he denied gang affiliation at the time.

Entry into Probation

In early 2010, 14-year-old Steven was arrested by the Sheriff's Department for selling marijuana to a student at his middle school. He was charged with the possession of marijuana for sale, possession of marijuana upon grounds of a K-12 school, and possession of tobacco/paraphernalia. Steven was cited and released to his mother. A month later, Steven had enrolled in the 8th grade at a local day school. Within a month, he had two school absences and three tardies.

A few months later, the Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) recommended a WIC 602 Home on Probation (HOP) with conditions of psychological/drug counseling, drug testing, and 80 hours of community service. The DPO noticed that Steven had a three dot tattoo on his hand, but Steven denied gang membership. Steven lived with his mother in a duplex, and there was no contact with Steven's father at the time. His mother reported that Steven had problems in school with grades and attendance. She had a hard time getting him to come home at a reasonable hour, and he persistently stayed out past curfew. Thus, the court ordered and declared Steven a WIC 602 and ordered HOP with 60 days on the Community Detention Program (CDP).

While on CDP, Steven's mother reported that Steven had stayed out past curfew hanging out on the street at nine pm. The CDP technician visited the home and was unable to verify absence from the home. By summer, Steven's mother wrote the DPO a letter and stated her concerns:

- Small baggies of marijuana were found in Steven's possession.
- The house smelled of marijuana after Steven's mother returned home from errands.
- When she prohibited his friends from coming to her house, Steven yelled at her using profanity and threw a TV remote at his mother.
- Both Steven's mother and his sister believed that Steven was selling drugs out of the house.
- Steven threatened that after the ankle bracelet was off, he would leave the house.
- She requested that he be detained because she felt afraid in her own home.

The DPO instructed Steven's mother to call the Sheriff's department. There was no indication that Steven was in violation due to the lack of evidence from the CDP monitor, and the absence of a drug testing order.

Therefore, CDP was terminated. By the end of summer, Steven had enrolled in a substance abuse program. He had tested positive for marijuana on several occasions.

Two months later, the DPO received a phone call from Steven's school reporting that he was suspended for the possession of marijuana. The Police Department was notified, but did not deploy because Steven's mother picked Steven up from school. On route to the Probation office, Steven got into a physical altercation with his mother and jumped out of the moving vehicle. Steven's whereabouts were unknown. A week later, Steven was charged with the possession of marijuana for sale and was arrested by the Sheriff's Department. Law enforcement recovered plastic bags of marijuana and Steven's cell phone which had messages indicating sales. Steven was released home, but failed to report to his DPO, who eventually issued a warrant of arrest.

Arrest that Led to Camp Placement

By fall of 2010, Steven was arrested in juvenile hall for evading an officer, unlawful driving or taking of a vehicle, possession of a controlled substance (Vicodin), and driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Law enforcement attempted to stop Steven for a headlight infraction, but Steven did not stop. A vehicle pursuit ensued for three minutes until Steven collided into another vehicle. At termination of the vehicle pursuit, Steven tested positive for alcohol intoxication at a level of .175%, and the vehicle he was driving was stolen. On the police officer's report, Steven reported that he was living with his father. During a courtesy call to his father, Steven's father hung up on Steven after a few seconds.

While in juvenile hall, Steven had multiple incidents of being hostile, failure to follow directions, and gang related issues. One incident had sent him to the Special Housing Unit (SHU – i.e., isolation). Steven identified as associating with a gang, which caused tension in the unit because members of Steven's rival gang were also located in the same unit.

Steven's mother reported that she couldn't deal with her son's behavior any longer and that she wanted her son to be placed in camp and to receive counseling. He was already suspended from school twice and had received two additional new arrests. The DPO recommended a camp program. In court, the petition was sustained, and the court ordered a six-month program at Camp Kilpatrick.

Camp Kilpatrick

Within three months after Steven's arrival at Camp Kilpatrick, the DPO submitted a 777 violation for three gang-related physical altercations and one attempted runaway from the camp's school. Steven had initiated conflict with a member of a rival gang, who was on crutches and could not defend himself. Additionally, Steven had several referrals at school for the possession of contraband, using inappropriate language, and displaying disruptive behavior. He was suspended and sent to the SHU on at least two occasions. Steven's tendency toward gang-related violence had increased. He was referred to the Academics with Athletics Reaching Excellence (AWARE) sports program, the LEAPS program, and mental health services. However, Steven refused to participate in these programs. For the 777 violation, the DPO recommended a camp extension for 60 days. In the end, the court sustained the 777 violation, but only added an additional 30 days to the camp length extension.

In the summer of 2011, Steven was released from Camp Kilpatrick on HOP to his mother. He was referred to High Risk High Needs (HRHN) Home Based Counseling. Steven also returned to his former school.

Camp Afflerbaugh

Approximately two weeks after Steven was released from camp, the DPO filed another 777 violation for behaviors which included violation of curfew, defiance at school, school truancy, drug usage, and gang

involvement. Steven was detained and ordered another three-month camp program for a sustained 777 petition. Steven entered Camp Munz, but due to a keep away order from another youth in the camp, Steven was returned to juvenile hall and replaced at Camp Afflerbaugh.

Steven entered Camp Afflerbaugh on a three month camp order. He continued to display negative behaviors and gang activity, which resulted in several school referrals, special incident reports (SIRs) and he was sent to the SHU. He failed to follow instructions, disrupted the school setting, and responded with profanity. On one occasion, Steven jumped out of line and grabbed the camp staff's pants pocket where a cell phone was usually kept.

While there were behavioral issues at school, Steven was not credit deficient. He had sufficient credits for 10th grade and maintained satisfactory grades. In addition, he completed 106 community service hours by working in the kitchen and dorm. However, it appeared that Steven's community service hours were lost when the dorm was searched and contraband was found. Steven received multiple services in camp, including weekly Anger Replacement Therapy (ART), substance abuse classes, and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

Steven's home was briefly considered unsuitable, but no details were provided in the case file as to the reasons. The DPO noted that it was not likely that Steven would take initiative to change his delinquent behavior once he was released from camp. Furthermore, the current plan of treatment was ineffective in meeting his needs. The DPO believed that Steven required a more structured environment with psychological counseling and support due to his poor impulse control. A HOP order did not appear to the DPO to be an appropriate recommendation; but on direction from the DPO's supervisor, a HOP order was recommended. Steven was released home to his mother.

Camp Kilpatrick

Steven was HOP a little less than three months before he was ordered to another camp program. Steven was transferred to a school-based DPO and had similar school problems at high school where he failed classes, had several unexcused absences, refused to follow directions, and engaged in gang-related fights. He also tested positive for amphetamines, cocaine, and marijuana. Steven's mother also reported issues at home. She wanted to relocate to another city for Steven's safety. Steven was being threatened by some gang members, who had been driving by their house waiting for him to come out. Steven's mother and the DPO agreed that a short-term independent study program could be beneficial. However, these accumulated issues resulted in a sustained 777 violation. Steven, age 16, was detained and ordered a six-month camp program at Camp Kilpatrick for the second time.

Steven arrived at Camp Kilpatrick. Later that month, Steven had a physical altercation with another youth and required medical attention for a concussion. He continued to have issues with following instructions and disruption at school. Nevertheless, Steven received multiple services while in camp including individual counseling, LEAPS, church services, Operation Read, AWARE varsity baseball, tutoring, and Narcotics Anonymous (NA). Prior to his camp release, Steven had accumulated 123 school credits, and his last grade report reflected 3 C's and 3 D's.

Home on Probation

At release, Steven had some issues with re-enrolling in high school. He was not allowed to enroll in summer school because he was seen on campus throwing up gang signs. Additionally, Steven was not present for the initial orientation visit with the High Risk High Needs (HRHN) program. Steven's mother hesitated to inform the DPO because she felt the officer might not understand her due to language barriers. The DPO informed her about available translator services.

Within three weeks, Steven's mother reported that Steven had been staying out late and was not coming home every night. She disclosed that she knew the home situation was not perfect as she worked and her husband was an alcoholic. On one night, her husband was drunk and kicked Steven out of the house. The DPO submitted a 777 violation and recommended CDP due to Steven's defiance, drug usage, curfew violations, and failure to attend school. Steven admitted to the 777 violation, and the court ordered him on CDP, detained on first violation. Steven was only permitted to attend drug counseling with the approval of the DPO. Steven tested positive for marijuana, amphetamine, and methamphetamine.

Steven was instructed to stay in the home because he was not enrolled in a summer school or counseling program. Initially, he asked to seek employment, but the DPO denied his request. However, the court approved a good cause for Steven to travel to an employment center. Steven was allowed to leave his home for three hours. On the same day, Steven was asked to be drug tested, but he refused. The DPO noticed that Steven appeared to be under the influence of a controlled substance – he had erratic body movements and wouldn't sit still. Instead, Steven reported that he was not able to urinate for several days. Four days later, Steven again refused a drug test. He brought a doctor's note without an appointment time. In addition, he appeared at the Probation office with four new gang-related tattoos. The DPO requested a blood sample, but Steven stated that Probation procedure was urine testing only.

Steven's mother reported on-going problems at home.

- Steven might be selling drugs at the house.
- He had not had problems with urinating; Steven wanted her to lie to the officer.
- He had asked her grandson to pee in a plastic bag for him.
- A 25-year old woman was at the house saying she was Steven's girlfriend. When his sister told the girlfriend that Steven was 16 years old and demanded she leave the home, Steven got very upset, threw furniture and stormed out of the house.

Steven and his father got into an argument the previous night. Steven's mother asked the DPO if there was anything that could be done to assist her husband; he is an alcoholic and verbally abused both Steven and her. She had previously called law enforcement, but nothing was done because he lived at the house. His father threatened Steven and told him to leave. Steven's whereabouts were unknown for two weeks, and a warrant of request was sent to the court. Steven's mother indicated that Steven might have returned several times to shower at different hours. He had taken his mother's car without permission, and it was impounded. According to his sister, Steven was stopped by the police and was detained at least twice. However, she believed he was not using his real name. The DPO later discovered that the court did not receive the bench warrant request, and the warrant was requested again.

A month later, Steven arrived home with a machete driving a white Ford explorer. The DPO notified the Police Department, and Steven was detained in juvenile hall. Within two days, Steven was released from juvenile hall on CDP. However, the CDP officer had not released Steven with equipment required for monitoring at home. The CDP officer appeared at the residence, but no one was home, and Steven missed his court hearing. The CDP officer submitted a bench warrant request.

A month later that, Steven was charged with the possession of a controlled substance, possession of a smoking device, and possession of marijuana 2.5 grams or less. Law enforcement was dispatched on a radio call regarding a subject who trespassed a hotel room. Officers found Steven inside the hotel room sleeping next to marijuana, a pipe, and baggies of crystal methamphetamine. While at the police station, Steven cursed and was extremely agitated. He attempted to walk out of the non-secure juvenile detention room and was quickly placed in a secure room where he kicked and banged his head against the walls. Steven was then transported to juvenile hall on a bench warrant. Next, Steven was released on CDP and was ordered to return

to court in a week for disposition. At the court hearing, Steven was ordered to suitable placement at Rancho San Antonio. He was detained in juvenile hall.

Suitable Placement – Rancho San Antonio & Phoenix House

Steven was at the Placement Assessment Center (PAC) for approximately 30-45 days. During this time, PAC conducted several assessments to see what programs Steven could benefit from. Two weeks later after Steven arrived at Rancho San Antonio, Steven AWOLed, and a bench warrant was requested. Steven's sister reported that he was home briefly but only to take showers. The DPO, Specialized Enforcement Operations (SEO) and the LAPD Gang Enforcement Detail Officers attempted to apprehend Steven at his residence, but he was not present. Five days later, the DPO discovered that the bench warrant had not been issued, and the court re-issued the bench warrant.

By late fall, Steven was detained in juvenile hall on a bench warrant during a traffic stop. The DPO submitted a 777 violation and recommended a camp program due to Steven's lack of cooperation under a suitable placement order. However, the court ordered Steven to be placed at Phoenix House or an equivalent in-patient drug program. He was released to Phoenix House the following month.

The next day after his arrival, Phoenix House staff attempted to drug test Steven, but he explained that he was unable to urinate. Due to time constraints, the DPO did not drug test Steven. Nonetheless, Steven admitted that he used marijuana at his recent detention in juvenile hall. A week later, Steven AWOLed from Phoenix House.

In 2013, Steven was charged and arrested for auto theft, driving without license, assault with a deadly weapon, and reckless driving. Steven was detained in juvenile hall and placed on the specialized supervision plan (SSP) and housed in the Boy's SHU. Court ordered a six-month camp program for a sustained 777 petition and drug treatment for Steven.

Camp Onizuka

Steven was released to Camp Onizuka. A mental health referral was made for his request for psychotropic medications, and he was placed on medication during his time in camp. Steven received intensive therapy and Dialectic Behavioral Therapy (DBT) classes while in camp. During the first week, Steven was doing very well. He appeared to enjoy the vocational class, listened to the teacher's instructions and completed his assigned work. In five years, he hoped to become a police officer or an air mechanic. Steven's mother continued to visit her son, but his sister was not allowed on Sunday visits since it was reserved for parents and guardians only. Eventually, the DPO allowed a special visit with his sister and noticed that she was a positive influence on him. She was interested in letting him come home to her, but Steven wanted to go home to his father (the same city where his gang resided).

In spring, Steven was placed on a behavioral contract and briefly sent to the SHU due to three incidents within the first month: two for fighting and one for dorm disturbance. Upon investigation, the DPO discovered that Steven was not regularly taking his medication. Steven felt he needed to take Seroquel, but he reported that the medication burned a cut into his lip. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) evaluation reported that Steven had audio and visual hallucinations, so Steven's request to be enrolled in a skills building class was denied. Steven continued to display difficulty following instructions and used gang slurs while in camp.

During this time, Steven was accepted into the Intensive Gang Supervision Program (IGSP). The Mobile Intensive Gang Supervision Program attempted to complete a compliance check on Steven at his home. The

mobile deputy left his business card and requested Steven to report in person on Friday, without the knowledge that he was still detained in camp.

Steven's behavioral problems, including tagging in school and failure to follow instructions, led to a 777 violation report. The court sustained the 777 violation and ordered 30 days in juvenile hall. Steven was returned HOP at the end of the summer.

Jurisdiction Terminated

At release, Steven's brother informed the DPO that Steven was staying with him. However, the DPO informed him that Steven must stay with his mother every day, or it would be a Probation violation. Steven's brother stated that Steven was more likely to get into trouble where his mother lived and wanted to know if Steven could reside with him. The DPO informed him that a court order was required, and this issue should have been discussed prior to Steven's release from camp. Steven's brother said that he did not know it was an option.

In fall, Steven reported that he was no longer interested in gang banging. In order to prove it, he enrolled in a tattoo removal program, a community-based agency that provides gang prevention and intervention services. Steven realized that he had a serious substance abuse problem and hoped that he would not return to drugs. Steven and his mother planned to relocate by the end of the month, and they eventually moved to San Diego. In late 2013, the Los Angeles County Probation Department secured courtesy supervision with the San Diego County Probation Department, and they agreed to provide quarterly progress reports to the DPO of record. There was no additional information beyond that final entry in the case notes.

Adult Arrests

As of late 2014, Steven had been arrested once in summer of 2014 for a number of charges including assault with a deadly weapon (PC 245(A)(1)); possession of a controlled substance (HS 11377(A)); two counts of grand theft auto (PC 487(D)); possession of a narcotic substance (HS 11350(A)); and participation in a street gang (PC 186.22(A)). At the time of this report, he was arraigned for these charges and was awaiting trial.

Case Review by Probation Officers

Strengths	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletic – participated in Camp Kilpatrick’s AWARE sports program • Enjoyed vocational classes (e.g., electrician skills) in camp • Career goal: Police officer or air mechanic • Scored “advanced” in LACOE’s annual assessment • Supportive family members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ His mother did the best she could. ○ His siblings were willing to take him to live with them ○ His grandparents visited him in placement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low socioeconomic status • Absent and alcoholic father • Unstable family home • Experimentation with marijuana at an early age, and gradually increased to harder drugs • Gang affiliation • Drug dealing • Community risk factors • Mother had difficulty controlling her son
Youth Needs	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring – strong male role model • Early gang intervention services • Mental health services • Substance abuse interventions • Educational support – IEP screening • Drug testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance use • Increased severity of delinquent charges • Gang affiliation – negative peer interactions • Community violence • Constant runaway/AWOL prevented engagement in services

System Actions Toward a Positive Outcome

- Steven was referred to Camp Kilpatrick’s AWARE program – a positive youth development and sports program.
- The DPO recommended a 60 days camp extension due to his 777 violations, rather than a camp transfer. This action prevented an unnecessary placement transition. In addition, Steven was not immediately and prematurely transitioned back home even though the DPO did recognize that a HOP order was not beneficial for Steven.
- Steven was accepted into the Intensive Gang Supervision Program (IGSP).
- Closed placements were the most appropriate settings for Steven given the available options.

Looking Back – Recommendations to Improve Case Supervision

- During early Probation supervision, the case was bounced around among multiple area offices. Therefore, Steven did not have a supervision deputy, and his parents did not receive timely notification.
- The CDP Officer appeared to dismiss Steven’s mother’s complaints. Greater family engagement and support was needed because the family was struggling and fearing for their son. Additionally, CDP should not have been terminated early because Steven did not complete his Probation conditions well. The CDP officer and DPO needed to improve their communication.
- In multiple time periods, there were continuous 777 violations without interventions or initiated services.
- The court ordered a three-hour free pass for Steven to travel to an employment center. However, based on his historic pattern of violating, this task should have required the DPO’s assistance and supervision.
- Documentation was incomplete about the types of services requested, so it was difficult to identify other options that were not been considered.

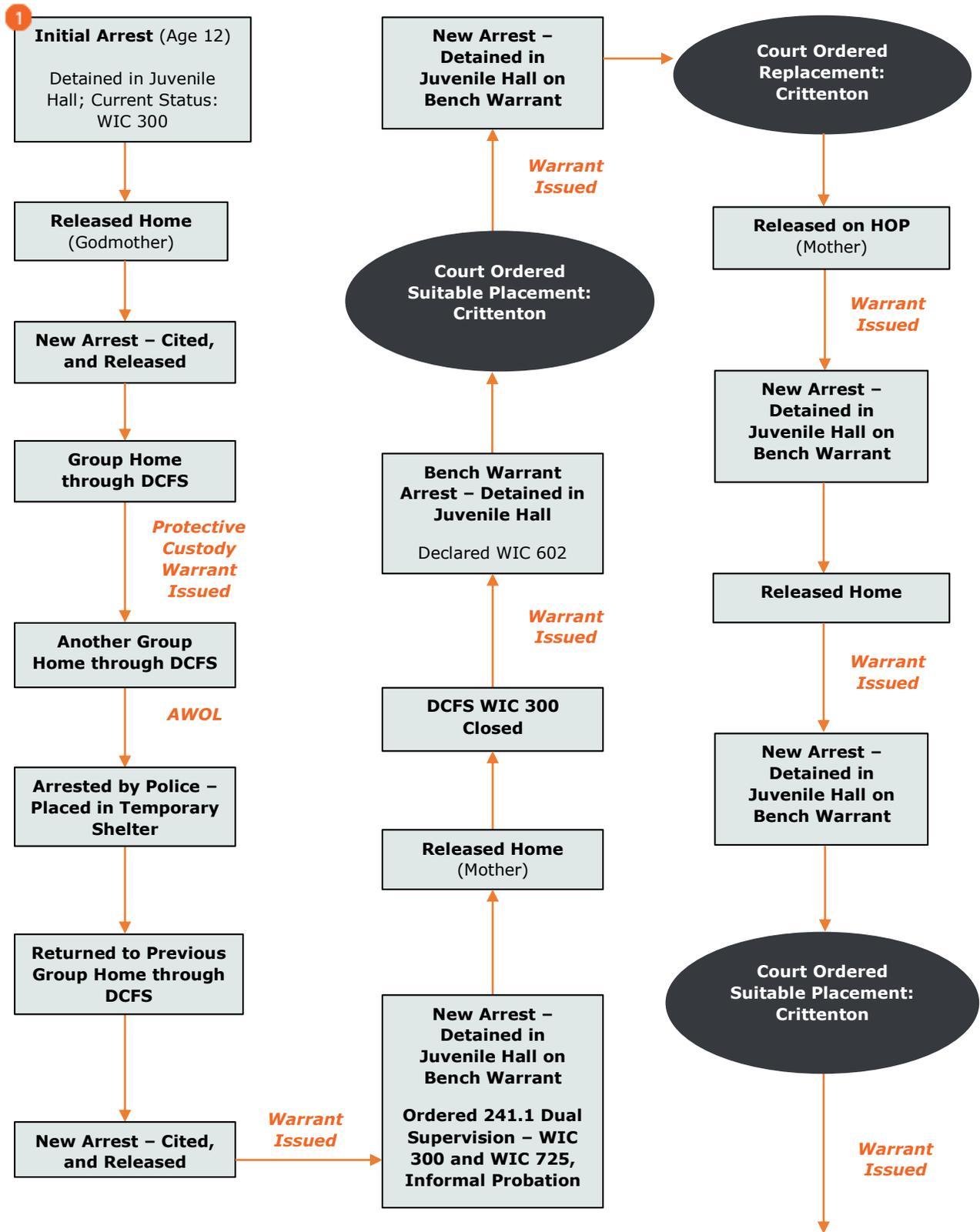
- Based on Steven’s history, open placement was not effective because of his constant runaway history and continuous warrants.
- Collaborating agencies were not in communication (e.g., bench warrants not issued and was not verified by the DPO; the Intensive Gang Supervision Program visited Steven’s home when he was detained in camp).
- More supportive services in the family’s native language were needed, including in-home services. The DPO should conduct home visits because this would illustrate the issues in the home that were not known from self-report.
- It would have been more productive to have a nine-month camp order rather than repeated short term camp orders. Ideally, Steven would be in a closed small group placement setting.
- Instead of regular Probation supervision, the case would have benefited from an early Intensive Gang Supervision Program referral due to the pervasive gang and drug issues in Steven’s home and in the community.
- Steven needed a reintegration plan with strong supervision, school enrollment, and limited gaps in services. DPOs should develop educational case plans when youth are released during the summer.
- An area for future exploration is implementation of gang intervention services in camp.

Retroactive Application of New Probation Models/Services

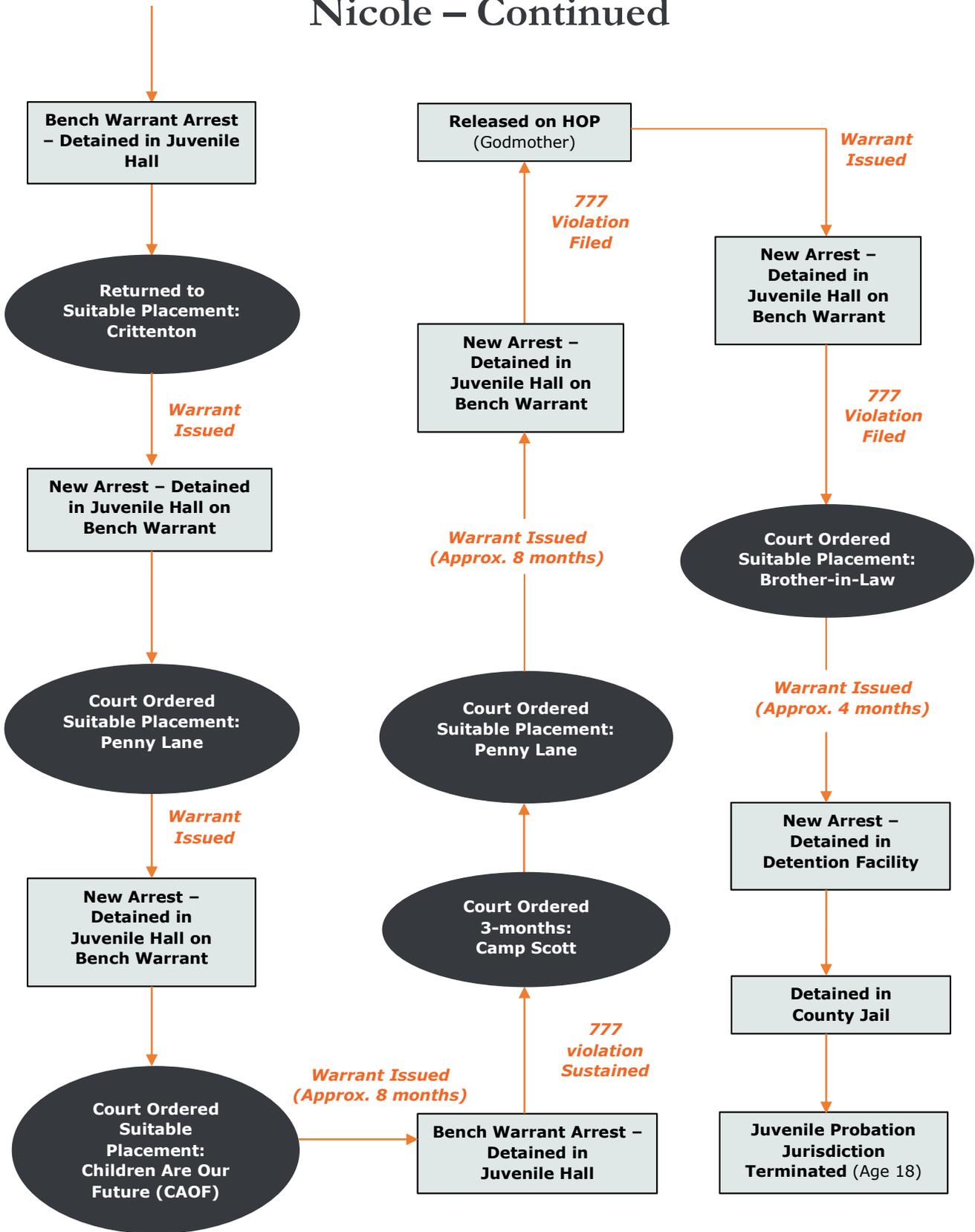
- The Probation’s Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP) focuses solely on aftercare transitional services for youth’s camp releases. DPOs can follow their clients from one placement to another rather than dealing with frequent client reassignments that disrupt supervision and relationships with youth.

Nicole

Study Cohort: Camp (Challenges)



Nicole – Continued





Nicole

Female, African-American

Youth Profile Prior to Probation

Nicole's contact with law enforcement occurred between 2007 and 2013. Nicole was placed with her godmother through the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) at birth due to her biological mother's history of general neglect and physical abuse. Nicole's mother had a criminal justice history of substance abuse and distribution, gang involvement, attempted murder, and prostitution. She was still involved in Nicole's life and resided with Nicole's stepfather. They had a history of domestic violence. Her biological father had been incarcerated in state prison for murder since the age of 16.

While Nicole lived with her godmother, she and her two siblings had a second DCFS referral due to allegations of serious physical harm, failure to protect, general neglect, and sexual abuse by her stepfather.

Informal Probation

At age 11, Nicole had already identified as a gang member where she took the role of selling drugs for the gang. She reported that stress and curiosity led her to begin using marijuana at this age. By age 12, she had a history of school suspensions due to class disruption, petty theft, and negative peer interactions. She had her first contact with law enforcement when she was 13 years old and in 7th grade. In early 2007, Nicole took her teacher's cell phone and wallet without permission. She was charged with PC 484, petty theft. Nicole was detained and booked by the Police Department and transported to juvenile hall because her mother did not want to pick her up. Nicole was suspended from school, and she was transitioned to a different classroom. When Nicole returned back to school, the teacher wrote a letter to the principal stating that she felt Nicole had been stalking her and watching her in a threatening way. She observed Nicole looking through the glass window of her classroom with intense stares. Other witnesses had also alleged that Nicole would stare into the teacher's classroom, give menacing looks, and attempt to turn the teacher's locked doorknob during the day. Nicole was eventually arrested for PC 71, threatening a school employee/teacher and booked on 136.1(A)(2), attempting to dissuade a witness, and she was expelled from school.

A 241.1 petition was requested based on these charges. DCFS placed Nicole in a group home, but she ran away (AWOL) within a week. DCFS requested a protective custody warrant. Nicole reported she had stayed with her mother, but she and her mother got into an argument. Nicole's mother reported that Nicole had cut a teddy bear's head off and threatened her with a blade. When Nicole left the house, her mother found her at the Metro Station and returned her to the police department. In the 241.1 hearing for the above two petitions, the court ordered Family Reunification (FR) services for Nicole's mother to participate in individual counseling, parent education, and 10 drug tests. If she missed any drug testing, she must complete a drug program. The plan was for Nicole to remain in foster care until her mother completed FR services. DCFS and Probation agreed that a WIC 602 status would not serve this child since she had no prior arrest history, and she was under the age of 14. In the 241.1 joint report to the court, Probation recommended WIC 654, informal Probation.

DCFS placed Nicole at another group home, but she continued to run away, and several bench warrants were issued by both DCFS and Probation. At the end of the summer, Nicole was arrested for PC 484, petty theft, at a department store. The Loss Prevention staff placed Nicole under arrest for stealing merchandise that included clothes and jewelry. Nicole was detained in juvenile hall for this offense, and the two active arrest warrants. In the pre-plea report, Probation recommended a Deferred Entry Judgment (DEJ) WIC 790 with

joint DCFS supervision. The court ordered a mental health evaluation which determined that Nicole needed more intense services. Nicole began to receive Family Preservation services and counseling. The court reviewed the pre-plea report along with the previous 241.1 joint report. The court sustained count 1 (PC 484) and granted Nicole informal Probation under WIC 725. Nicole was reunified with her mother, and she was to attend school. For a brief period of time, Nicole's mother was enrolled in an in-patient substance abuse program, and Nicole and her siblings were put in the care of their stepfather.

Home on Probation

Nicole moved to a new school. In spring of 2008, she allegedly attacked a student at the school. She was suspended or possibly expelled. The Probation progress report described several therapeutic services received by Nicole and her family:

- Ongoing individual/psychological counseling;
- ongoing school counseling once a week;
- family counseling twice a month; and,
- family counseling once a week through Family Preservation.

The Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) recommended that the WIC 725 be revoked and the matter be continued three months for disposition. At the same time, DCFS closed Nicole's case, and she was no longer deemed a WIC 300. Around the same time, Nicole's mother notified the DPO and reported that Nicole left without permission and had not returned. She believed Nicole was hanging out somewhere on the streets because she heard her daughter was on the "track" selling herself for money. Probation issued a bench warrant for Nicole's failure to report to Probation, drug use, and truancy. It appeared that Nicole was in need of a more restrictive environment emphasizing discipline and structure. Nicole's mother also stated that unless Nicole was in a secure placement, she thought she would continue to AWOL. Furthermore, her mother agreed to take Nicole back home if she was sent to a secure placement for a period of six to nine months.

A month later, Nicole was arrested on a bench warrant and detained in juvenile hall. The juvenile hall medical unit discovered that she was pregnant in the first trimester. Nicole was 13 years old and was pregnant by a 23-year-old gang member from her mother's gang. Nicole reported that she would AWOL if she was placed back home with her mother. She requested going to a placement until her baby was born but hoped to eventually reunify with her parents after she gave birth to her child. Probation believed that Nicole would benefit from a WIC 602 in a suitable placement program. The court declared Nicole a WIC 602 with a suitable placement order because she would be eligible for a parenting program. The court ordered Nicole to receive prenatal care and recommended that she be placed at Crittenton.

Suitable Placement – Crittenton

Nicole was released to Crittenton in the summer. In the cottage, she had several behavioral problems that included disrespectful behavior and excessive use of profanity. Staff believed she blamed her attitude on her pregnancy. Nicole also was AWOL twice from the facility and did not return. Crittenton requested a three day hold for the youth, and Probation issued a bench warrant of arrest. Two days later, Nicole was arrested for PC 459, burglary. She stated that she stole prenatal vitamins and nail polish from a pharmacy store. Nicole was detained pending court proceedings regarding the new burglary charge and her recent AWOL. The DPO recommended the suitable placement order be in full force and requested a placement interview with St. Anne's Home.

In court, the petition was sustained, and the court ordered a replacement to Crittenton. Nicole's mother hoped that her daughter had learned a lesson and would stop committing crimes. Nicole returned to Crittenton, and staff reported that she had shown improvement in her behavior. Services were provided through individual and group counseling, parenting classes, and family therapy in placement. The suitable placement order was terminated later that year, and Nicole returned home to her mother.

Released Home

In early 2009, Nicole received ongoing individual counseling once a week through Family Preservation. Nicole remained living at home with her mother, stepfather, and sister. Both Nicole and her sister had given birth to their babies. Nicole's boyfriend had not seen the newborn since he was detained in jail. As her stepfather reported, Nicole appeared overwhelmed with the baby and had not registered the responsibility of being a parent due to her age. He felt she was easily influenced by her friends and showed poor judgment of character.

Nicole was expelled from high school for being disruptive and disrespectful towards her instructors and students. Her grades were not satisfactory. Nicole feared that she would be violated and went AWOL from school. She abandoned her four-month-year old son with her parents for three weeks without calling. Probation filed a SCAR report for child abandonment, and a bench warrant was issued. Nicole was then arrested by the department store's Loss Prevention staff for PC 484, petty theft.

In early 2010, Nicole's baby was removed from the home at 1 AM by DCFS after they received a report of potential abuse and placed the baby in foster care while Nicole remained at home. She was enrolled in an independent study program. Reports indicated that she barely did her school work, she came home with different clothes, used drugs, and only attended 2 out of 10 days of school. Nicole's therapist noticed that Nicole had old scars on her right forearm and refused to show her legs. The therapist contacted the Sheriff's department to report that Nicole's living situation with her mother was unsafe and unhealthy. She made a DCFS referral and a SCAR report. Nicole was at the therapist's office for six hours because she refused to go home due to her mother's abuse.

Soon after, Nicole went AWOL. She was later detained as she boarded the train without paying for a ticket. The transportation police discovered that she had a bench warrant and transported her to juvenile hall. Nicole admitted to using marijuana. Juvenile hall staff reported that she had an attitude, was easily irritable, was involved in racial tensions in the unit and had difficulty following instructions. Nicole expressed to her DPO that she had personal issues with her mother, but her mother was the only person she could rely on in this world. Most of the people in Nicole's support system were either incarcerated or their whereabouts were unknown. The court ordered suitable placement at Crittenton for the third time.

Suitable Placement – Returned to Crittenton

While at Crittenton, Nicole had a child custody hearing, and she wanted to reunify with her son who remained in foster care. Nicole had weekly visits with her son at Crittenton on the weekends. She was allowed three hours of monitored visits. Nicole enjoyed the visits, but staff noticed that she would become very sad when the baby left. Nicole had a Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) coach and therapist to help her process her feelings. By the end of spring, Nicole regained custody of her child, and they both resided at Crittenton. Two weeks later, Nicole AWOLed by jumping out of a window from Crittenton with her 16-month-old toddler.

Running Away

A bench warrant was issued. Nicole's mother suspected that Nicole hung out with her friends in their neighborhood. Moreover, she petitioned for custody of Nicole's baby, but DCFS rejected her petition due to her substance abuse history and serious housing problems (she was basically homeless).

Within a week, Nicole was arrested for PC 459, second degree commercial burglary. She was in possession of an oversized purse and stolen clothes. Nicole was detained in juvenile hall, but her child's whereabouts were unknown. Nicole reported that the baby was safe, but she would not reveal his location. She reported that during her AWOL period, she lived with her boyfriend who was a drug dealer selling meth. While with him, she had used meth and marijuana daily because it was free. Nicole had behavioral problems in juvenile hall, including school suspensions, being written-up for her intention to drink an all-purpose cleaner, and disrespectful behavior.

A week later, the Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO) received a call from the Police Department regarding an infant being abandoned at a kid's entertainment center with the child's name and birth date on his shoe, but the social worker was unable to identify the child because he was fostered under a different name. The child remained in DCFS custody. The police department sought Nicole to press charges.

In juvenile hall, Nicole requested to return to Crittenton. In contrast, her mother requested that the court send her daughter to a secure setting with intensive counseling and substance abuse treatment such as a Probation camp. She said that the court kept sending her daughter back to the same placement, and she continued to AWOL and pick up additional charges. Nicole's mother felt that her daughter's behavior was worse every time she AWOL to hang out with her boyfriend. The court ordered a Dorothy Kirby Center screening, but she was not eligible. Nicole then stated she wanted to complete a camp program and participate in the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) services. In the end, the DPO recommended suitable placement, and the court ordered a referral for placement at Penny Lane. Nicole was released to Penny Lane and was AWOL the next day.

A week later, Nicole was arrested for PC 666, petty theft with prior history. She stole a belt and hat from the department store because "they looked cute." She was charged with PC 484, misdemeanor petty theft and PC 148.9(A), misdemeanor for unlawfully using the false identity of another person. She admitted to using marijuana, cocaine, and alcohol during this time. Nicole's mother requested again that Probation place Nicole in a secure facility that she could not leave. She strongly believed that Nicole would run away if ordered placement again. The DPO contacted the DCFS Elite Family Unit (EFU) to interview Nicole, but the coordinator stated that Nicole's DCFS case had been closed since 2008. Unless her case status changed, she did not meet the unit's criteria. As a result, Probation recommended a camp program. However, the court ordered suitable placement again. Nicole was rejected by both Crittenton and Penny Lane due to her previous negative behavior in their facilities. She was accepted to Children Are Our Future (CAOF) on the third placement referral. Nicole was released to CAOF, and she AWOLed after three days.

Approximately eight months later in 2011, Nicole was arrested by the Sheriff Department on a no bail warrant and detained in juvenile hall. She was immediately referred to mental health counseling and was seen by DMH. Probation filed a 777 violation and stated that Nicole would most likely flee from another placement. Her mother was unable to provide custody; her father was in prison for murder; her uncle could not provide care for the minor; and a family friend was currently hospitalized and unable to appear in court. She would turn 17 years old that year, but had lost four years of education since she began running away on and off since 2007. LACOE completed an educational assessment and determined that Nicole should have been in 12th grade by age, but only had credits for 9th grade – she was behind by 222 school credits. Probation recommended a camp order and the court ordered a three-month camp program.

Camp Scott

Nicole arrived at Camp Joseph Scott. A 30-day progress report reported that she had accumulated several incidents for negative behavior, school referrals, and fighting with another minor. Nicole reported that she would like to be unified with her son. She expressed an interest in medication for problem sleeping (Trazodone) and she complained of mood swings, anger, and depression. Nicole was referred to anger management services, individual counseling, and a gang prevention/intervention program. Throughout her camp stay, she received several letters from her baby's father/boyfriend, godmother, and siblings.

By the end of summer, a new DPO was assigned to supervise Nicole. The DPO contacted Nicole's mother who indicated that she had not heard from Nicole in months. She was willing to accept her daughter back in her home, but recommended house arrest. Furthermore, Nicole's mother suggested that the DPO not consider her family friend as a placement because her daughter would not be supervised well. Contrary to these statements, Nicole reported that her mother was only interested in county funding. She reported that her mother was only playing the role because in reality, her mother was an active gang member and smoked marijuana.

Court ordered her family friend's home be evaluated for possible placement for Nicole. Probation submitted a 778 court petition to inform the court that the home was located in a gang area and that Nicole had been observed exchanging "gang talk" with the daughter of that family. Nicole expressed to the judge that she did not want to reunify with her mother. No other family members were willing or suitable for placement, and Nicole did not fit the requirements for transitional housing. Nicole was 17 years old, and she was severely behind in educational credits. Probation requested suitable placement since they felt all other avenues had been exhausted. Referrals for placement were sent to Aviva and Phoenix House, but both were rejected. Finally, Nicole was accepted at Penny Lane. Two days after Nicole's arrival at Penny Lane, she AWOLed and her whereabouts were unknown. For five months, the DPO was unable to locate Nicole, and contact with her mother was unsuccessful.

Detained in Juvenile Hall

In spring of 2012, Nicole was arrested for PC 459, burglary. Nicole reported that her mother advised her to AWOL. She was living with her mother for a while, but she left because they got into a verbal disagreement. When asked about her son, she reported that she hadn't seen him for years and didn't know why. Nicole was upset about being detained in juvenile hall and experienced difficulty adjusting to the unit. Nicole reported that she had no stable adults in her life to help her with the bad times. Her DPO encouraged her to focus on positive changes that she could control. Probation felt Nicole's behavior was not conducive to an open placement environment, and therefore, the recommendation of camp appeared to be the best outcome. The case was screened and cleared for camp, and the next court date was scheduled for a 777 violation hearing.

Several system actions took place during this time:

- The DPO contacted DCFS to report possible neglect by Nicole's mother. The DCFS child abuse hotline informed the DPO that Nicole was a ward of the court while she was AWOL on a suitable placement order at the time of the alleged relocation.
- The court officer advised that the case did not meet the requirements for a reverse 241.1 referral.
- DMH diagnosed Nicole with a Mood Disorder NOS (primary), Dyssomnia NOS/Nightmare Disorder/Parasomnia NOS (secondary), and oppositional defiant disorder.
- The court ordered a Dorothy Kirby Center screening and pre-screening for Level 14 residential placement. However, Nicole did not meet criteria for either placements.
 - Dorothy Kirby Center recommended camp.

- The Level 14 interagency placement screening committee recommended treatment in a lower level of care such as a Level 12 placement, Camp, or Dorothy Kirby Center.

As a result, the court ordered possible placement with Nicole's godmother, and Nicole was eventually released from court to her godmother. Three days later, Nicole's whereabouts were unknown. Probation issued a bench warrant for her arrest. A week later, Nicole's godmother notified the DPO that Nicole had been arrested the previous week and was released. However, she was arrested again when she propositioned an undercover officer to exchange sexual services for money. When LAPD arrested Nicole, she gave the police a false date of birth and was later identified as a subject of a warrant. LAPD notified Nicole's godmother, but she declined to retrieve her. Nicole was detained at Juvenile Hall and was then charged on PC 653.22(A), loitering to commit prostitution and 148.9(A), giving false information to a police officer. The DPO filed a 777 and recommended camp.

In juvenile hall, the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) committee interviewed Nicole about her sexual exploitation. Nicole has been involved in sex trafficking for a few years and had the same pimp. She reported that she accepted a ride from an unknown African-American male who drove her to his residence and forced her into the industry. She reported drinking and smoking marijuana with her pimp. She has visible physical marks on her neck from the alleged abuse of her pimp. Nicole refused to press charges and declined services. Per CSEC staff, she did not seem to fully understand the consequences. The DPO believed that a locked facility and the right counseling/treatment would help Nicole recognize her victimization by her pimp.

Nicole had shown interest in the AB 12 program, but the DPO was less inclined to recommend these services for her since she did not meet general requirements for the program. Nicole also requested information about a community-based CSEC program, as she reported she was thinking about her future and the necessary changes she needed to make. Lastly, Nicole requested to be released to her older brother and his male partner. At this time, Nicole's mother was not contacted – she had recently been arrested for an outstanding warrant and for physically harming her female partner.

Outstanding Bench Warrant

A month later, the court ordered that Nicole be released home on a trial basis to her mother with permission for her to reside with her brother. The court also recommended that Nicole receive Wraparound Services. Four days after her release from juvenile hall, the DPO attempted to contact Nicole via telephone. Her brother-in-law reported that Nicole (now 18) had AWOLed from his residence three days ago with her pimp, and her whereabouts were unknown. In the fall, Nicole called her DPO with a blocked number and stated that she was staying at a shelter in Los Angeles. The DPO attempted to locate the shelter, but no results surfaced under this shelter's name. A week later, Nicole called again and stated she was working on her GED. Nicole reported that she was arrested by LAPD briefly for her outstanding warrant, but was subsequently released. The DPO encouraged her to report to court to clear her warrant.

Nicole was AWOL for four months until early 2013 when she was arrested for PC 653.22(A), loitering with intent to commit prostitution and her outstanding warrant. She was found guilty in the criminal justice court and she was ordered to serve 22 days in county jail.

A month later, Nicole's juvenile jurisdiction was terminated.

Adult Arrests

As of late 2014, Nicole had been arrested four times. In the summer of 2012 and spring of 2013, she was arrested for prostitution (PC 647(B)), and in fall of 2012 and 2013, she was arrested for loitering (PC

653.22(A)). She was convicted on all charges and received summary Probation in three of the cases and sentenced to a total of 70 days at County Jail (across different times).

Case Review by Probation Officers

Strengths	Risk Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole’s mother showed that she cared for her daughter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completed her substance abuse program in order to become a placement option ○ Proactive – advocated for the court to send Nicole to a closed placement. ○ Participated in treatment • Wanted to go to cosmetology school – loved to style hair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative peer interactions • Gang affiliation • Substance use • Sexual exploitation • Irregular school transitions • School suspensions • Poor academic performance • DCFS involvement • Physical and sexual trauma • Teen mother • Adult gang-related boyfriend • Family criminality • Absent father • Poor relationship with her mother
Youth Needs	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed placement with a smaller group setting with intensive counseling services and family intervention • Psychotropic medication • Strong support system – model pro-social behaviors • Family contacts and regular visits • Anger management • Substance use counseling • Early gang intervention • Feeling of belonging/loved • CSEC counseling • Parenting support • Educational support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic challenges in the mother-daughter relationship • Constant runaway • Recurrent court orders to open placements • Repeated institutionalizations • Lack of stability • Distrust of authority • Felt nobody cared about her – may believe people want things from her • Teen parent

System Actions Toward a Positive Outcome

- DCFS provided a range of intensive mental health services prior to Nicole’s Probation supervision.
- The court reunified Nicole back to her mother after she had completed her requirements.
- Juvenile Hall identified that Nicole was pregnant and sought to provide her with prenatal care.
- Crittenton was an appropriate placement initially because it provided a range of services and accepted teen mothers.
- DCFS coordinated weekly visits for Nicole to see her son.
- The court explored several placement options: suitable placements, a Level 14 placement, Dorothy Kirby Center, and finally a camp recommendation.
- The DPO identified that returning Nicole back to her gang environment was not a suitable option. The area in which youth are placed matters depending on the presenting problems and historic risk

factors in the community.

Looking Back – Recommendations to Improve Case Supervision

- Nicole’s case file was often focused on deficits rather than from a strength-based approach. Little was referenced about her interests – it’s possible that not many individuals knew Nicole’s interest in cosmetology and that she loved to do hair.
- An open environment/placement was not an appropriate fit for Nicole based on her runaway history; her mother’s plea for a secured placement; and the Probation’s recommendation for a camp order. Repeated suitable placement orders seemed to increase Nicole’s new arrest charges, drug use, and interaction with negative peers.
- At the time Nicole’s son was removed from home due to child abuse allegations, Nicole’s safety may also have been compromised. A home assessment was necessary to evaluate Nicole’s safety again.
- There should be more CSEC alternative placements in addition to Crittenton because not all youth can function in an open placement. An out-of-state recommendation may be beneficial for CSEC youth.
- Nicole may have benefited from an early camp order and stronger court sanctions to impose on her conditions of Probation. She needed a small setting with greater educational support and assessments.
- This case illustrated the benefits and lessons learned from reviewing case files in order to prevent similar negative outcomes.
- Nicole’s case should have been referred to the Foster Home Consultant. Home assessments must verify the history of the adults living in the home or investigate other relatives that may be possible placement options.
- In reality, this case demonstrated the difficulty of identifying placement options for youth who have exhausted all options on the juvenile level. In an ideal world, there would be continued DCFS involvement, intervention by the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and collaboration with the education system (e.g., evaluate Nicole for an IEP) to assist with Nicole’s supervision and treatment. A multidisciplinary team approach may be able to use the expertise of each system by maximizing interventions that are best practices for treatment care.

Retroactive Application of New Probation Models/Services

- In 2008 when her mother first suspected Nicole was on the streets, there was little known about how to serve this population. Today, there is greater attention on commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) that allows for early prevention and intervention. Although further research is warranted, systems and local agencies have developed ways to identify and respond to victims of sexual exploitation.

Summary

Although the Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) expressed how overwhelming case files were to review, they also felt the review process gave them the unique opportunity to take a comprehensive look into Probation-involved youth lives. The process led the group to see a number of “best practices” as well as several practices to avoid. A summary of these “lessons learned” is displayed in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: “Lessons Learned” from Case Reviews Conducted by Probation Officers

What Should Probation be Doing?	What Should Probation Avoid Doing?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Family Contact: Attempts were made to include the family members and potential caretakers as active participants in the youth case plans. For example, caretakers participated in the multidisciplinary team meetings. These efforts were made to foster a supportive environment for youth upon release. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Risks and Needs Not Assessed Thoroughly: Information about the youth and families’ dynamics, challenges, and multiple systems involvement were not assessed thoroughly. This was a result of irregular home visits, lack of family contact, and minimal family engagement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services Received Matched Youth Needs: Both suitable placement and camp cohorts received a range of services and treatments that targeted youth risks factors, such as Aggression Replacement Training, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, and substance abuse counseling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate Service Referrals: Services rendered did not match youth and families’ needs. Service referrals were based on what was available at the time rather than what services were needed by the families.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable Placement Transitions: In placement, youth were consistently connected to their families, sometimes even when they were not going back home. In addition, interventions like Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Functional Family Probation (FFP) brought families together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor Community Re-entry: As youth were released back into their communities, referrals were not completed for school enrollment and substance abuse counseling. As a result, youth were more prone to the same risk factors that were present at the time they were removed from home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP): CCTP had immediate contact with youth upon release from camp. The reentry process was improved because CCTP’s goals were focused on school enrollment and connecting youth and families to services in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Communication with Service Providers: Youth were referred to services with no additional follow up about their enrollment. Continuous collaboration with service providers were needed to ensure youth and families were in compliance with service participation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Enrollment: When DPOs were proactive in youth’s educational progress, youth were more likely to be enrolled in school and attended regularly. Youth accumulated school credits and some eventually received their high school diploma or GED. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurrent Ineffective System Actions: A lack of knowledge about youth’s trajectory during Probation supervision and understanding of prior system decisions led to recurrent ineffective placement orders (e.g., open placements for youth who consistently went AWOL). In addition, due to DPO case transfers, the same services were referred.

What Should Probation be Doing?

- **Accurate Documentation:** When case notes were frequently documented, the youth trajectories during Probation were clear. Accurate documentation showed why decisions were made, who the DPO consulted with, and when services were referred and received by the youth.
- **Interagency Collaboration:** When systems collaborated, relationships were developed and responsibilities were distributed in their respective expertise. Therefore, youth were more likely to receive specialized assessments and referred to services based on their needs.

What Should Probation Avoid Doing?

- **Missing Data:** Case notes were not frequently documented and/or data were not entered in their respective PCMS tabs (e.g., drug testing, family information, and gang affiliation). The gaps in case note entries made it difficult to understand the whole picture of the youth and how to continue with treatment.
- **Data Sharing Limitations:** Receiving information from other systems were significant challenges. Not all DPOs had the same level of access, which made it difficult to identify if other systems were serving the same youth.

Taken together, the lessons presented in Table 4.2 underscore the importance of engaging youth and families; connecting youth and families to appropriate services; working with other agencies to supervise cases comprehensively; and collecting consistent and accurate data to case manage and track youth progress.

- **Engaging Youth and Family**

During case file reviews, the review group identified family support as one of the most significant indicators of youths' success. Youth who had greater family support, supervision, and financial resources had more positive outcomes than youth who did not. However, even with these protective factors, families struggled in a multitude of other areas and their home environments were not stable. The review group recognized that more time should be spent on assessing youth and families' needs and providing the family with services. To improve youth and family engagement, frequent home visits and face-to-face family contacts are necessary to assess underlying family dynamics that may not be easily apparent. As a recommendation, cultural sensitivity and family engagement trainings would be beneficial for Probation Officers.

- **Connecting Youth and Families to Services**

Connecting youth and families to services in the community remains a top priority in Probation. When services were not referred early, case reviews showed that the gaps in services left youth at risk of recidivism, drug use, and poor educational outcomes. Sometimes case files were focused on deficits and the strengths of youth were underutilized. The review group identified that a strengths-based approach improves youth rapport and fosters youth strengths. Service referrals should target pro-social activities and youth development programming. Connecting youth and families to services also entails knowing if the services are effective for them and whether they are consistent participants in those services.

- **Working with Other Agencies**

The full array of needs and possible services is identified more often when Probation works with other agencies that have responsibility for and expertise on a particular issue – e.g., schools, mental health, etc. Without the assistance from other agencies who share responsibility for these youth, achieving effective outcomes is difficult. The result is often the use of placements, ranging from suitable placements/group homes to camp placements. The absence of collaboration across aligned County agencies arguably results in missed opportunities to improve the well-being of youth and their families and reduce their involvement with multiple systems.

- **Consistent and Accurate Tracking to Assist with Case Management**

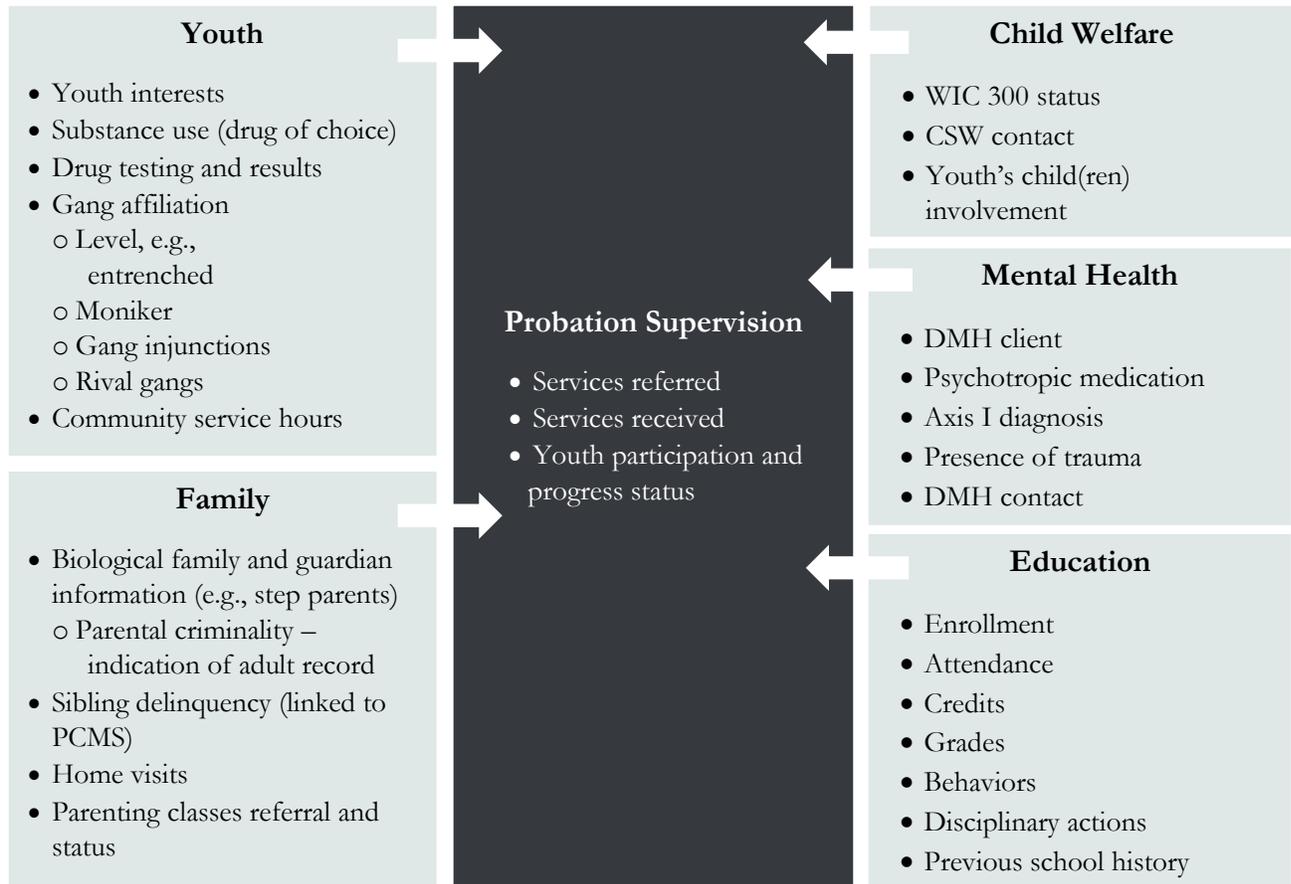
Case note entries are not standardized; thus, service progress or participation is limited or often unknown. The review group learned that good documentation provides a historical background of youths' histories and informs Probation Officers' decisions to explore alternative options that have not yet been considered. Without such information, managing a case effectively is extremely difficult.

Recommended Data Elements to be Tracked Regularly

A significant challenge noted by the review group was Probation's inability to identify youth's DCFS involvement or DMH client status easily and efficiently. This limitation, in combination with unstandardized case note entries, demonstrates the need for more system information-sharing and interagency collaboration as well as the inadequacies of current data collection and the underutilization of the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) to support practice.

In an effort to serve youth and families effectively, Figure 4.1 illustrates the list of data elements that the review group recommended should be collected in a regular, consistent, and systematic way.

Figure 4.1: Critical Data Elements Identified by Probation Officers



05 Summary and Recommendations

As the data and the detailed narratives clearly show, youth who end up in the Probation system face an array of risk factors before they enter the system. These risk factors include isolated and struggling families, unstable living conditions, entrenched violence and gangs in the community, unmet health and mental health needs, and poorly performing schools. The study has also shown that every child and youth has a unique set of needs and strengths that require tailored and coordinated interventions across County systems including health and public health, mental health, education, child welfare and Probation, to help them get back on track. Finally, we have learned from this study, that while many Probation Officers and other system practitioners are putting forth valiant efforts to support these youth, their efforts are hampered by inadequate systems, including outdated siloed data systems that are unable to provide real-time, accurate, and meaningful data to support the staff who work directly with youth, or to help decision makers understand and anticipate challenges, improve resource allocation or track overall system performance. This study has also illuminated the need not only for integrated and effective cross-departmental data collection systems and processes, but also for increased research capacity to produce the kind of relevant and accurate analysis of countywide practices that can lead to an improvement of youth outcomes.

As indicated in the Introduction, the original purpose of this study was to examine the experiences of Probation youth who penetrate deeply into the juvenile justice system to better understand the capacities of the data systems and identify which outcomes should be measured consistently over time. The results of this descriptive study also produced significant insight into the experiences of these youth and the challenges they face even before they enter the Probation system. Thus, we believe the results of this study have implications not only for data systems and outcomes, but also for the practice of Probation officers, allied staff in the Departments of Mental Health, Health Services, Public Health and Children and Family Services who work with the same youth and families, and school personnel from LACOE and other districts who teach these youth. The findings of this study emphasize the importance of creating more effective, data-driven and multisystem approaches to prevention, intervention, and follow up with youth and families who may enter the juvenile justice system, including community-based partnerships that help to prevent delinquency and support effective re-entry for youth leaving the juvenile justice system. The report purposely does not offer direct practice recommendations in part because the research design relied on Probation and other county system data and did not include other important data sources such as the voices of youth and their families, community-based service providers and other stakeholders. Furthermore, we also believe that such recommendations should involve a collective discussion between Probation County agencies and key stakeholder groups such as parents, youth, community-based organizations, and juvenile justice advocacy agencies.

Consequently, we offer the following core recommendation:

Create a comprehensive continuum of care including supports, services and coordinated responses from County departments and community partners. Key stakeholder groups,

including youth and families, should be invited to discuss the report findings and identify policy and practice changes needed to effectively address current challenges and support for positive youth development.

In addition to this core recommendation, we offer a number of ideas about how to improve data quality and the consistent production of useful information on outcomes for juvenile justice in Los Angeles County. There are important initiatives underway in Los Angeles County to improve Probation's data system¹³. While these efforts are to be commended, this report has shown that such data initiatives need support not just from the Probation Department, but from a broader array of County leaders, partner agencies and other stakeholders. Because so many of the Probation-involved youth also have needs that are served by other departments – before, during and after their exit from Probation supervision – these youth fare better when County departments coordinate and collaborate toward achieving the same goals. An integrated data platform is one of many components necessary to make this kind of coordinated practice successful. Other areas for consideration include communication protocols, cross-training for county and community agency staff as well as youth and families, and standardized multi-disciplinary case management protocols that can enhance shared understanding of protective and risk factors and collaborative decision-making, and shared planning and accountability across systems.

We offer the following recommendations as a road map for the County of Los Angeles, the Probation Department, and allied agencies to develop and sustain an integrated system of best practices. These practices will help prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system while simultaneously serving and supporting system-involved youth and their families in reducing recidivism and expanding opportunities for success.

County of Los Angeles

1. The Board of Supervisors should prioritize effective cross-departmental collaboration so that support services needed by Probation youth and their families are available both while youth are in custody and in communities after their release. As has been discussed since the Board approved the report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection, there are very likely a number of ways to improve cross-departmental collaboration. Since some of the key partnerships with health, mental health and substance abuse treatment services needed to improve outcomes for dependent children are similar to those needed by delinquent youth, the Board should ensure that both populations are considered in planning for service coordination.
2. The Board of Supervisors should authorize the CEO to establish a cross-departmental Juvenile Justice Data Systems Task Force that includes the Chief of Probation, Director of DCFS, Director of DMH, Director of DPSS, Director of DHS and Director of DPH, and Supervising Judges of the Juvenile Division of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, as

¹³ An extension of the current study was started in January 2015 to identify and track youth exiting from suitable placements and camps. This study is a part of Probation's current agreement with the Department of Justice and is intended to measure the progress made in providing services and improving youth outcomes. To that end, researchers from California State University Los Angeles are working with Probation to capture the necessary data elements needed for the study.

well as external stakeholders and subject matter experts to review current data systems and make short and long term recommendations to develop an integrated County youth data system.

The Task Force should specifically include researchers with subject matter expertise in best practices for juvenile justice data systems, as well as the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and other experts in data technology. Additionally, the Task Force should include staff from agencies like the Public Defender's office to address confidentiality concerns, as well as community stakeholders. Departmental leaders should designate additional staff representation as necessary to participate actively in the Task Force's sub-committees.

These staff representatives should have the requisite decision-making authority and purview over the relevant work areas to develop, plan, and implement recommendations in the following areas:

- Assess the capacity of PCMS, JAI, CWS/CMS, and other systems in terms of alignment, accessibility, accuracy and usability to improve practice and real-time decision-making.
- Survey all best practices already occurring within Los Angeles County around data collection, data integration and data sharing.
- Determine the appropriate framework for data-sharing across departments, including what information can/should be shared, who can/should have access to different levels of information in shared data systems, and for what uses the shared data may be applied, taking into consideration federal and state legal, regulatory, and policy guidelines around confidentiality¹⁴, as well as other relevant privacy and service concerns. Interpretation of legal constraints in other jurisdictions with best practices in information-sharing should be considered in developing Los Angeles County solutions.
- Develop a set of key outcomes that can be measured consistently and regularly across Probation, LACOE and allied County departments serving Probation-involved youth. At a minimum, these would include (*Note: each of the outcomes below should be measured over time, starting with their entry into the system and/or after disposition*):

¹⁴ For example, see Cuccaro-Alamin, S., & Putnam-Hornstein, E. (2014). The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA). Los Angeles, CA: Children's Data Network. www.datanetwork.org/news.

Table 5.1: Suggested Key Outcomes for Regular and Consistent Reporting

Outcome Type	Suggested Measures
Risk Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and Need Factors • Protective Factors • Risk level
Other System Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact level with DCFS • Contact level with DMH • Contact level with DPSS
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment • Attendance • Performance • Status (i.e., credits and graduation/completion status) • Behavior at schools • Irregular school transitions
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health problems • Treatment status • Progress over time
Substance Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance abuse problems • Treatment status • Progress over time
Stability in Living Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is youth living? (family home, relatives, other) • Is their living situation stable and safe? • Any history of protective services (referral, substantiation, open cases, foster care placement)
Family Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of relationships/levels of support with family members • Level of conflict • Participation in family counseling or other services
Positive Support Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is youth connected to positive adult role models? • Does youth have a support system to help him/her succeed? • Is youth involved in prosocial activities?
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What services were recommended? • What services did youth receive? • How long did the services last? • Youth participation in recommended service? (e.g., attending, not attending, completed service, terminated from service) • Amount of service youth received (i.e., dosage) • Is targeted behavior improving?
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment history • Vocational education or aspirations
Recidivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New criminal arrests • Sustained petitions for criminal arrests

- Access County and external resources (e.g. JDAI) to support the design and implementation of an integrated data platform, including benchmarks of best practices for Los Angeles County.¹⁵
- Based on assessment of current systems, develop both short-term and longer-term solutions to achieve as many of the following integrated data system specifications as possible:
 - Produce data to document, monitor, and evaluate system decisions and operations (e.g., all arrests/referrals, characteristics of populations served, processing decisions from arrest to termination).
 - Produce automated individual youth level data to support development of accurate individualized case plans and monitor youth progress under Probation supervision. Data elements would include many of those listed above but at least educational attendance, permanence and achievement; family relationships and stability in living situations, progress of interventions; and employment.
 - Track youth well-being and positive development as well as recidivism, and include positive measurements to avoid a solely deficit-based approach to tracking outcomes.
 - Produce program data to evaluate specific approaches and/or programming including individual level data to determine outcomes as well as program level information around implementation and fidelity to evidence-based and evidence-informed program models. Explore whether official partnerships with external research entities (i.e. universities or research centers) can help the county in meeting program evaluation goals and making data-informed decisions in juvenile justice, as has been a documented best practice in other jurisdictions.¹⁶
 - Establish a dynamic data platform that can interface with other systems and support additional programming as necessary.
 - Ensure user-friendly functionality for ease of data input, data analysis and reporting.
 - Ensure that all essential data elements are quantifiable, using case narratives to augment data rather than as the primary (or only) source of data.
- Develop a sustainability plan that includes analysis of available resources for implementation, potential opportunities to leverage investments among strategic partners, as well as recommendations around institutionalizing multisystem data collection and analysis through establishing partnerships and staff training protocols

¹⁵ A companion report provides a more in-depth discussion of juvenile justice data and states/jurisdictions implementing best practices in this area including how other jurisdictions have tackled forming a diverse task force to develop data solutions. Please see Newell, M. (2014). Juvenile justice data collection: An assessment of the literature and best practices. Los Angeles: Children’s Defense Fund—California.

¹⁶ For further discussion of the value of external research partnerships, including in Washington and San Diego, CA, see Newell, M. (2014). Juvenile justice data collection: An assessment of the literature and best practices. Los Angeles: Children’s Defense Fund—California.

including cross-departmental trainings, departmental policies, manuals, and resource guides.

3. The Task Force would submit a final report and a set of recommendations around implementing an integrated data system to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The Board should then authorize County departments and other key players to implement key aspects of the plan, with direction to phase in changes to specific systems as needed. The Task Force should continue its involvement by providing oversight and monitoring of implementation. As the Task Force transitions from an assessment and planning role to overseeing implementation, additional members may be needed to augment its ability to facilitate cross-departmental collaboration.
4. The Board of Supervisors should require the department heads to submit a clearly defined timeline for implementation with approval and direction from the Task Force, including plans for tracking and monitoring progress and regular reporting to the Board. Reports to the Board should include clear benchmarks for progress for each department as well as the overall integrated data system and the role of designated staff members in the implementation process in addition to other relevant information such as cost, challenges, and strategic partnership opportunities.

Probation Department

Throughout the research process for this report, Probation leadership and many Deputy Probation Officers have made important contributions including serving on the project leadership team, conducting in-depth case file reviews, and participating in post-analysis debrief sessions. Their reflections are captured in Chapter 4 under the “Lessons Learned” section as well as from notes gathered during those sessions. These recommendations have been crafted primarily from those reflections and notes as well as data presented in Chapters 2 and 3 and a review of best practices in data collection and analysis.

Implementation of these recommendations will require sustained focus and commitment from the Chief Probation Officer and Probation leadership, a commitment that department leaders seem ready and willing to make. In addition, continuing commitment will be required from the allied departments, including both the departments that have supported this effort – LACOE, DMH, DCFS – as well as other partners whose help may be needed in taking the needed steps to improve the juvenile justice data systems that serve Los Angeles County. Leadership, encouragement and support from the Board of Supervisors will be essential to assure that the many different partners needed for this effort work together effectively and in a cost efficient way.

1. The Chief of Probation should lead an internal task force that includes Probation leadership as well as external stakeholders, researchers, technology experts and other subject matter experts to advise on developing performance-data systems that interface with on-going data improvement initiatives currently underway in Probation. The Task Force should report regularly to the Probation Chief regarding its findings, recommendations and action plans.

This internal taskforce should be coordinated with the countywide Task Force and subcommittees discussed above; many of the internal taskforce will likely also staff the countywide subcommittees.

2. Create a research unit (internally, or through partnerships with outside researchers) to help connect practice objectives into the programming of PCMS in a way that makes the system user-friendly while also producing data to facilitate case management and to easily document key outcomes and program features regularly and consistently. This unit or partnership would support and build key projects internal to Probation but also provide a critical interface with the larger research community and other stakeholders interested in knowing more from Probation's data system.
3. Create an internal DPO training improvement committee to review and update existing training protocol to address the "Barriers and Areas for Improvement" identified by the participating DPOs in this project including appropriate service referrals, facilitating re-entry by ensuring school transition and access to appropriate services, proactive communication with other system practitioners as well as community based service providers, and accurate and appropriate documentation. Training protocols should offer opportunities for collective case file review and discussions like those employed during this research project, since this has proven to be an extremely effective peer learning process that captures the ground level experience and expertise of DPOs.
4. Review the use of LARRC as the risk assessment tool. In particular, review the intended use of the LARRC as a case management tool when it was re-validated and re-calibrated to match services to the specific needs of youth and to assess youth progress over time. Determine whether the revision of LARRC and the case management protocol developed at that time adequately assesses and incorporates youth and family strengths/protective factors and facilitates effective case management. If the tool/protocol is not sufficient, consider augmenting the LARRC or replacing it with a more appropriate tool. If it is sufficient, begin using the LARRC to identify and prioritize service needs to reduce risk and increase resiliency.
5. Ensure accountability and consistency across DPO supervision practices around youth and family needs assessment, appropriate service referral, documentation, collaboration with service providers and follow-up by integrating specific performance standards on these supervision elements as a part of DPO evaluations.
6. Conduct a comprehensive review, in collaboration with external partners, of the availability of culturally competent services and interventions for Probation-involved youth and their families, as well as the process for referring and placing youth in these programs and the accountability of programs. Particular focus should be placed on the availability, accessibility, and implementation of the following types of services:

- community-based “front end” prevention and intervention services for youth and families in early stages of Probation involvement to address youth needs and avoid any unnecessary out of home placements;
- transitional services and interventions for families while the youth are in suitable placement or camp, including the ubiquity of certain approaches like individual counseling and the appropriateness of these interventions for most youth; and,
- community-based services for youth who are transitioning back into the community, including current reentry practices like MDTs, school referral and reenrollment processes, family-focused programs, and supportive services for their families during the transition.

The results of the review should lead to robust outreach to strengthen existing and develop new, contracted and non-contracted partnerships with community-based service providers. Furthermore, these partnerships should share a uniform Probation referral process that will streamline referrals more effectively and efficiently with the goal to link youth and families to available, appropriate services and to enhance the coordination of service delivery between the DPO and service providers.

7. Establish a regularly updated and diverse database of services with key information about services offered, service areas served, population served (including LARRC risk levels and exclusionary criteria), contact numbers and other relevant information that is easily accessible to DPOs.
8. Review current practice on communication with internal and external stakeholders to assure that both data and key decisions are shared among key partners and the community. Disseminate available data consistently (i.e. quarterly, or at a minimum bi-annually), effectively, and in user-friendly forms (i.e., report cards) both to Probation staff and County partners, as well as to the public and external stakeholders who work with Probation and allied departments to improve policy and practice. Promote accountability and inform timely decision-making, and work towards more transparent and accessible ways in which data and progress on data initiatives and improvements to data systems can be shared.

Concluding Thought

We believe this study is unprecedented for several reasons.

First, it represents what can be accomplished when researchers, practitioners, and advocates work together to address key practice and policy issues collaboratively.

Secondly, the commitment and cooperation of several County Departments including Probation, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education produced a unique and comprehensive picture of youth exiting from suitable placements and camps – one that documents their trajectories and illustrates the challenges these youth and their families face before and during their involvement in Probation.

Finally, this study examines these complexities in a comprehensive way, calling for a united vision for juvenile justice in Los Angeles County that combines the need to (1) build strong data infrastructures within juvenile justice and across partner agencies, (2) use data to drive practice and policy decisions, and (3) facilitate multi-systems coordination and collaboration to ensure the risks and needs of system-involved youth and families are matched to effective services.

While we know this study only marks the beginning of a much deeper conversation needed by practitioners, policymakers, advocacy groups, community providers, parents, youth, and researchers, we firmly hope it springboards all key stakeholders in juvenile justice to develop a comprehensive and coordinated plan to positively impact the well-being of youth and family in Los Angeles County.

Appendix

Appendix A

Population and Sample Statistics for Suitable Placement and Camp Exits

Suitable Placement Exits between January 1 and June 30, 2011

Table 1a: Distribution of Demographics across the Population and Selected Samples of Suitable Placement Exits

	Total Population		Cases Selected for Cohort		Cases Selected for Case File Data Collection	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total Number	561	100.0	250	44.6	50	8.9
Gender						
Female	109	19.4	50	20.0	20	40.0
Male	452	80.6	200	80.0	30	60.0
Race/Ethnicity						
Hispanic	345	61.5	152	60.8	28	56.0
African-American	161	28.7	73	29.2	18	36.0
Caucasian	44	7.8	22	8.8	4	8.0
Other	9	1.6	3	1.2		
SPA						
Unknown	16	2.9	5	2.0	1	2.0
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	38	6.8	16	6.4	4	8.0
SPA 2: San Fernando	77	13.7	39	15.6	6	12.0
SPA 3: San Gabriel	68	12.1	31	12.4	7	14.0
SPA 4: Metro	58	10.3	27	10.8	10	20.0
SPA 5: West	10	1.8	4	1.6	1	2.0
SPA 6: South	136	24.2	62	24.8	10	20.0
SPA 7: East	74	13.2	28	11.2	2	4.0
SPA 8: South Bay	84	15.0	38	15.2	9	18.0
Risk Level						
Unknown	7	1.2	3	1.2		
Low	195	34.8	83	33.2	17	34.0
Moderate	82	14.6	36	14.4	6	12.0
High	277	49.4	128	51.2	27	54.0
Exit To –						
Home on Probation	388	69.2	179	71.6	35	70.0
Suitable Placement	67	11.9	26	10.4	8	16.0
Camp	106	18.9	45	18.0	7	14.0

Table 1b: Sample Statistics across the Population and Selected Samples of Suitable Placement Exits

	Age	Prior Arrests	Last Risk Score
<i>Total Population</i>			
N	561 (100.0%)	317 (56.5%)	554 (98.7%)
Minimum	13	1	0
Maximum	20	17	46
Mean	17.4	2.6	25.4
Standard Deviation	1.2	2.4	9.8
<i>Cohort</i>			
N	250 (100.0%)	131 (52.0%)	247 (98.8%)
Minimum	13	1	1
Maximum	19	17	44
Mean	17.3	2.6	25.6
Standard Deviation	1.2	25.6	9.8
<i>Case File Data Collection</i>			
N	50 (100.0%)	22 (44.0%)	50 (100%)
Minimum	13	1	5
Maximum	19	8	41
Mean	17.1	2.7	25.8
Standard Deviation	1.3	2.1	9.1

Camp Exits between July 1 and December 31, 2011

Table 1a: Distribution of Demographics across the Population and Selected Samples of Camp Exits

	<i>Total Population</i>		<i>Cases Selected for Cohort</i>		<i>Cases Selected for Case File Data Collection</i>	
	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
Total Number	1,102	100.0	250	24.5	50	4.9
Gender						
Female	118	10.7	50	20.0	20	40.0
Male	984	89.3	200	80.0	30	60.0
Race/Ethnicity						
Hispanic	724	65.9	158	63.2	31	62.0
African-American	319	28.9	78	31.2	18	36.0
Caucasian	33	3.0	6	2.4	1	2.0
Other	24	2.2	8	3.2		
SPA						
Unknown	28	2.5	9	3.6	3	6.0
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	136	12.3	32	12.8	4	8.0
SPA 2: San Fernando	117	10.6	22	8.8	5	10.0
SPA 3: San Gabriel	124	11.3	35	14.0	4	8.0
SPA 4: Metro	117	10.6	24	9.6	5	10.0
SPA 5: West	12	1.1	1	.4	0	0.0
SPA 6: South	275	25.0	64	25.6	12	24.0
SPA 7: East	140	12.7	28	11.2	9	18.0
SPA 8: South Bay	153	13.9	35	14.0	8	16.0
Risk Level						
Unknown	12	1.1	2	.8	1	2.0
Low	64	5.8	18	7.2	2	4.0
Moderate	291	26.4	69	27.6	11	22.0
High	735	66.7	161	64.4	36	72.0
Exit To –						
Home on Probation	881	79.9	205	82.0	40	80.0
Suitable Placement	72	6.5	19	7.6	3	6.0
Camp	149	13.5	26	10.4	7	14.0

Table 1b: Sample Statistics across the Population and Selected Samples of Camp Exits

	Age	Prior Arrests	Last Risk Score
<i>Total Population</i>			
N	1,102 (100.0%)	783 (56.5%)	1,090 (98.7%)
Minimum	14	1	0
Maximum	22	36	46
Mean	17.5	3.78	28.85
Standard Deviation	1.1	3.16	8.0
<i>Cohort</i>			
N	250 (100.0%)	175 (70.0%)	248 (99.2%)
Minimum	14	1	2
Maximum	20	12	48
Mean	17.4	3.3	28.21
Standard Deviation	1.2	2.7	8.3
<i>Case File Data Collection</i>			
N	50 (100.0%)	22 (44.0%)	50 (100%)
Minimum	13	1	5
Maximum	19	8	41
Mean	17.1	2.7	25.8
Standard Deviation	1.3	2.1	9.1

**Appendix B: Risk Levels as Measured by the Los Angeles Risk and Resiliency Checkup (LARRC)
across Time for All Cohort Youth and Case File Youth**

	SUITABLE PLACEMENT				CAMP			
	At Time of Placement		After Exit		At Time of Placement		After Exit	
	Cohort Cases (N=247)				Cohort Cases (N=250)			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
LARRC Risk Scores for Cohort Cases								
Total Risk Score	<u>25.95</u>	9.44	<u>24.97</u>	10.18	<u>29.45</u>	7.06	<u>27.96</u>	8.79
Delinquent Behavior Subscale (Range=0-14)	<u>8.39</u>	3.47	<u>8.19</u>	3.62	<u>9.33</u>	3.09	<u>8.96</u>	3.16
Delinquent Affiliations Subscale (Range=0-12)	<u>5.78</u>	2.49	<u>5.70</u>	2.71	<u>6.91</u>	2.00	<u>6.50</u>	2.28
Delinquent Orientation Subscale (Range=0-8)	<u>5.17</u>	2.31	<u>4.78</u>	2.27	<u>5.66</u>	1.68	<u>5.52</u>	2.08
Substance Abuse Subscale (Range=0-12)	<u>6.62</u>	3.46	<u>6.30</u>	3.47	<u>7.59</u>	3.07	<u>6.98</u>	3.45
Family Interactions Subscale (Range=0-22)	<u>11.21</u>	5.51	<u>6.30</u>	3.47	<u>12.33</u>	4.15	<u>6.98</u>	3.45
Interpersonal Skills Subscale (Range=0-16)	<u>8.36</u>	4.72	<u>11.24</u>	5.29	<u>8.63</u>	3.40	<u>11.75</u>	4.90
Social Isolation Subscale (Range=0-8)	<u>3.55</u>	2.12	<u>7.94</u>	4.43	<u>3.93</u>	1.34	<u>8.19</u>	4.07
Academic Engagement Subscale (Range=0-12)	<u>6.69</u>	3.85	<u>3.54</u>	1.90	<u>7.43</u>	2.84	<u>3.90</u>	1.67
Self-Regulation Subscale (Range=0-16)	<u>10.40</u>	4.58	<u>6.54</u>	3.40	<u>11.47</u>	3.38	<u>6.81</u>	3.30
	Case File Cases (N=50)				Case File Cases (N=50)			
LARRC Risk Scores for Case File Cases								
Total Risk Score	<u>23.08</u>	9.17	<u>22.62</u>	10.07	<u>30.94</u>	5.83	<u>29.30</u>	9.14
Delinquent Behavior Subscale (Range=0-14)	<u>7.88</u>	3.23	<u>7.64</u>	3.41	<u>9.88</u>	3.05	<u>9.34</u>	3.27
Delinquent Affiliations Subscale (Range=0-12)	<u>5.24</u>	2.44	<u>5.72</u>	2.77	<u>6.86</u>	1.81	<u>6.38</u>	2.41
Delinquent Orientation Subscale (Range=0-8)	<u>4.40</u>	2.47	<u>4.14</u>	2.29	<u>5.90</u>	1.45	<u>5.86</u>	2.18
Substance Abuse Subscale (Range=0-12)	<u>5.56</u>	3.39	<u>5.12</u>	3.27	<u>8.30</u>	2.98	<u>7.72</u>	3.43
Family Interactions Subscale (Range=0-22)	<u>10.00</u>	5.95	<u>5.12</u>	3.27	<u>13.18</u>	4.01	<u>7.72</u>	3.43
Interpersonal Skills Subscale (Range=0-16)	<u>6.92</u>	4.57	<u>9.46</u>	5.21	<u>9.20</u>	3.14	<u>12.54</u>	5.54
Social Isolation Subscale (Range=0-8)	<u>3.14</u>	2.10	<u>6.70</u>	4.61	<u>4.08</u>	1.28	<u>8.70</u>	4.65
Academic Engagement Subscale (Range=0-12)	<u>5.50</u>	3.73	<u>3.36</u>	1.97	<u>8.02</u>	2.51	<u>4.16</u>	1.89
Self-Regulation Subscale (Range=0-16)	<u>8.98</u>	4.67	<u>5.60</u>	3.74	<u>12.40</u>	2.98	<u>7.12</u>	3.71

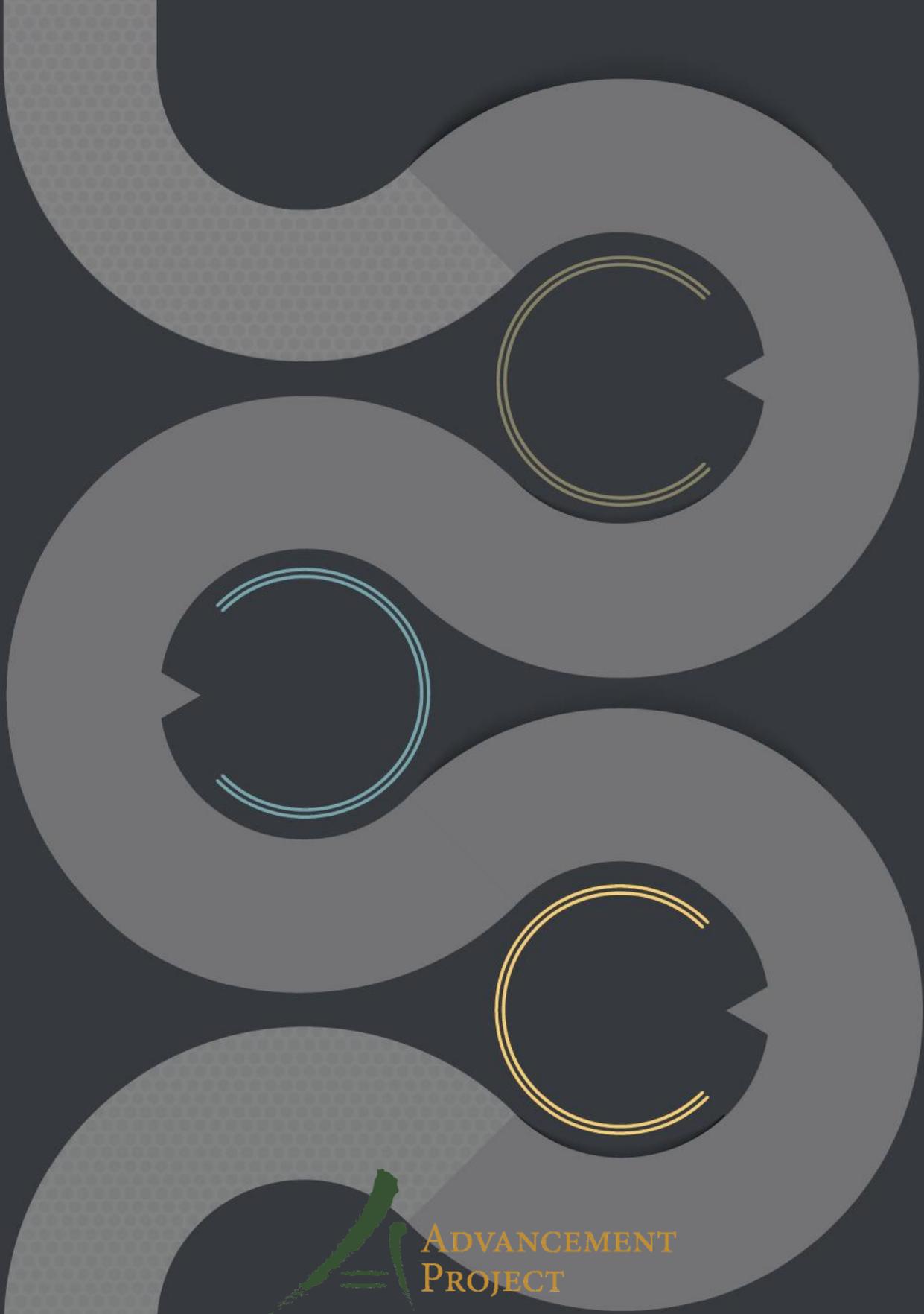
NOTE: Total Risk Score is a composite measure based on the following risk score thresholds: Low Risk=0-14; Moderate Risk=15-26; and High Risk=27-46.

These thresholds are for male youth – the thresholds vary by 1-2 points for females.

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