

## **Sacramento Community Protection and Treatment Program**

### **Overview:**

While providing treatment and services to minors and their families, the Community Protection and Treatment Program has reduced high population levels within our institutions.

### **Problem/Challenge:**

The Sacramento County Probation Department's Youth Detention Facility (YDF) has been overcrowded for numerous years and as a result, the Department has been operating under a Suitability Plan imposed by the Corrections Standards Authority. The Probation Department conducted an intensive analysis of YDF to alleviate overcrowding. While researching options, the Department simultaneously explored effective Evidence Based programming services for minors aimed at reducing recidivism. As a result, the Community Protection and Treatment Program (CPTP) was developed.

### **Solution:**

Built upon principles of balanced and restorative justice, CPTP is a collaboration of Probation and our community partners, Stanford Home for Children and Catholic Healthcare West (CHW). Counselors and facilitators, contracted through the Stanford Home for Children, utilize Evidence Based Practices, such as Aggression Replacement Therapy and Functional Family Therapy to achieve offender accountability and family reunification. CHW provides individual counseling by a licensed clinical social worker for minors and their parents. CHW services include crisis intervention, mental health and medical support, parenting counseling, and educational assistance. CPTP simultaneously decreases high population levels within our institutions, holds minors accountable for their behavior, and reintegrates minors within their community by providing necessary treatment services to them and their family.

In lieu of serving a commitment to the Warren E. Thornton Youth Center (WETYC), if an agreement is reached with Probation, the District Attorney, and Public Defender, a minor is evaluated to determine if he/she is an eligible candidate for completion of the commitment through participation in CPTP. CPTP, a voluntary 12-month program, which is budgeted to service up to 60 minors at a time, is provided to families free of charge regardless of income level.

### **Budget:**

Implemented in 2004, the CPTP budget for FY 2006-07 is \$2,053,539. These monies, which are part of the Probation Department's overall budget, are used to provide probation supervision, therapists, licensed clinicians, family advocates, and program administrators. Flex funds, available to program participants, are utilized to overcome barriers to success; provide positive reinforcement; and engage minors in pro-social activities. Flex funds allow the program to purchase clothing, recreational activities, bus passes and bicycles to assist in transportation, and interpreters to assist in counseling sessions.

### **Cost Savings:**

The cost savings of a minor participating in CPTP versus institutional housing is substantial. The yearly cost for a minor to participate in the CPTP program is \$34,225. The cost for a residential commitment at the WETYC is \$195.48 a day or \$71,350.20 for one year. The cost savings are immeasurable given the overall construction costs and time to build additional commitment facilities, the immediate relief in overcrowding within the institution, and the high level of treatment services provided to the minor and their family free of charge. Commitment alternative programs,

such as CPTP, are a necessary and valuable alternative to proactively address vital areas of concern within the department and our community.

**Results:**

There are numerous desired outcomes of CPTP, including but not limited to, increasing socially acceptable behavior; reducing the likelihood of future delinquent behavior; providing safe and effective services to youth in the community; and improving anger control and moral reasoning skills. Victim impact, empathy development, and substance abuse treatment are also key elements of the program.

Since August 2004, CPTP has served 356 juveniles and their families. During the 2006 calendar year, 123 minors graduated from the CPTP. Of these minors, 41 have successfully completed the program and are off probation, while the remaining 82 are supervised on a furlough or field caseload. Evidence based practices are effective methods that allow the minor to successfully reunify with their family and community. CPTP can easily be replicated provided proper funding, resources, and community support. A collaboration of community based organizations to provide counseling services and intervention allows this type of innovative program to succeed.

*Source: Sacramento Probation Department*