

## 2018 CSAC Challenge Awards - Executive Summary

### Butte County – Transitional Age Youth Probation Program



#### **Overview:**

The Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Probation Department program provides tailored interventions and supervision to young-adults ages 18 – 21 as an alternative to County Jail.

#### **Challenge:**

Public Safety Realignment has changed the environment of county jails, with more serious offenders serving their sentences locally. Butte County Probation wanted to provide rehabilitative programs for young adults to keep them out of the County Jail environment, which could negatively influence future behavior and their development as adults.

#### **Innovative Solution:**

Butte County Chief Probation Officer Steve Bordin worked with representatives from other jurisdictions and Sen. Jerry Hill to develop language for SB 1004 (Young adults: deferred entry of judgement pilot program), which enabled the TAY program to be piloted in five counties. The Butte County model allows eligible defendants age 18-21 the opportunity to have their felony charge dismissed after successfully completing the year-long program. Participants move through phases of supervision and interventions – substance abuse, MRT, anger management/domestic violence, community service and job development/educational support – meant to provide participants the opportunity to make better choices moving forward and have their conviction erased upon completion. The program is based within the Butte County Juvenile Hall, with staff managing the sight/sound separation requirement between the TAY and Juvenile Hall youth during 24-hour supervision. After the initial phase of the program, participants transition from Juvenile Hall to either a transitional or a stable home living environment. Participants living outside of Juvenile Hall are monitored utilizing 24-hour GPS monitoring. To help make this program possible, Probation staff have worked closely with their Juvenile Hall colleagues, other County departments and community-based organizations to provide needed programs and services. Specific partners include the Alliance for Workforce Development, Butte County Behavioral Health, Tri County Treatment, Butte County Office of Education and Butte College, to name a few.

### **Originality:**

The Butte County TAY model includes an immense amount of collaboration to benefit participating youth. Working with other Butte County departments, as well as community-based organizations focused on job development, education and treatment, provides participants the best programming available in our area.

### **Cost Effectiveness:**

Butte County funds the TAY program from its General Fund (no State or federal funds). While the program does require the redirection of resources, spending funds on rehabilitation and prevention is more cost effective than the cost of incarceration at the County Jail. The TAY program also utilizes existing County resources/empty juvenile hall space. In addition, TAY is expected to significantly lower the recidivism rate of young-adults 18-21, resulting in future savings and an overall safer community.

### **Results:**

Since starting the program in May 2017, TAY results through May 2018 include:

- 28 TAY program enrollments
- 1 Graduation (just hit the year milestone of the year-long program, one upcoming in June)
- 68 Programs Completed (Courage for Change Journaling group, MRT, Anger Management, Strengthening Families, Job Readiness, etc.)
- 310.5 Community Service Hours
- 19 Participants with Stable Employment/SSI/SSD
- 19 Participants with Stable Housing
- 8 Enrollments in Vocational/Secondary Education
- 3 Diploma/GED/HISET Completions
- 0 New Misdemeanor or Felony Violations from TAY participants

Program staff have also helped participants obtain 11 California IDs, 13 Social Security cards, 15 birth certificates and 14 medical cards, which assists participants in applying for, and accessing, services, employment and educational opportunities. Six participants have exited the program due to program compliance issues. Program staff continually work with local law enforcement and the District Attorney to identify potential participants and continue to develop partnerships that provide needed services and helpful opportunities.

### **Program Contact**

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