

# Current State of Juvenile Court Schools

Bridget Baublits  
Assistant Superintendent  
Educational Services



# Senate Bill 823

## Realignment of the Division of Juvenile Justice

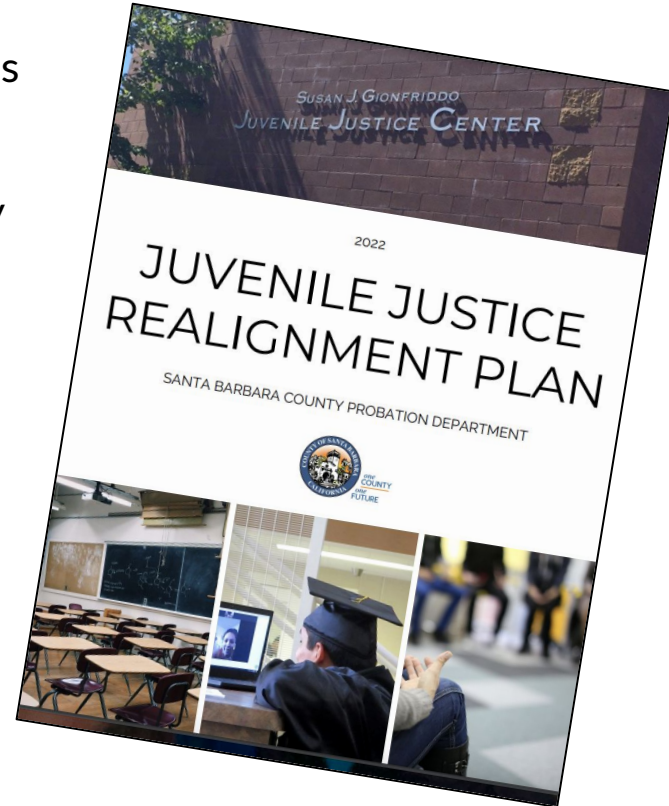
- ★ Established the Office of Youth and Community Restoration beginning July 1, 2021
- ★ The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), which operated four facilities officially closes June 30, 2023
- ★ As of July 1, 2021, youth previously sent to one of the DJJ's four facilities are now placed in county operated juvenile facilities
- ★ Santa Barbara County youth are placed in the Susan J. Gionfriddo Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) located in Santa Maria which houses Dos Puertas School
- ★ County facilities now house adjudicated youth aged 13-23, including youth who committed serious or violent offenses, such as burglary, assault, homicide and other crimes

# Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)

- ★ Operates within the California Health & Human Services (CalHHS) Agency
- ★ Director, Former Judge Katherine Lucero, appointed by Governor Newsom

## PURPOSE

1. Assess the efficacy of local programs
2. Provide technical assistance and support
3. Review local Juvenile Justice Realignment Grants
4. Fulfill statutory obligations of an Ombudsperson
5. Develop policy recommendations



# Office of Youth and Community Restoration

Support youth  
transition to local  
facilities

Promote a youth  
continuum of  
services

Support positive  
youth development

Increase  
community based  
response and  
intervention

Promote the use  
of evidence based  
practices

Improve youth and  
public safety  
outcomes

Reduce the justice  
involvement of  
youth

Reduce the  
transfer of youth  
into Adult Criminal  
Justice System

Reduce racial and  
ethnic disparities

We're going to have kids in their communities, and we're going to transition them back welcomed and healed and forgiven because that's how we're going to lead it.

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Katherine Lucero, Director, Office of Youth and Community Restoration

# SB County Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan

Juvenile Justice Explainer: Elevating Care for Youth in Secure Custody



Grounded in the *8 Guiding Principles Elevating Care for Youth in Custody* developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation:

1. Lead with values that promote equity and well-being
2. Maintain uplifting and safe environment
3. Develop staff to build positive and supportive relationships
4. Provide varied, useful, and evidence-based programming
5. Ground practice and culture in knowledge of adolescent development
6. Treat family members as partners
7. Encourage community connections
8. Incorporate continuous quality improvement

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation

# AB 2741 – Juveniles – Youth Bill of Rights



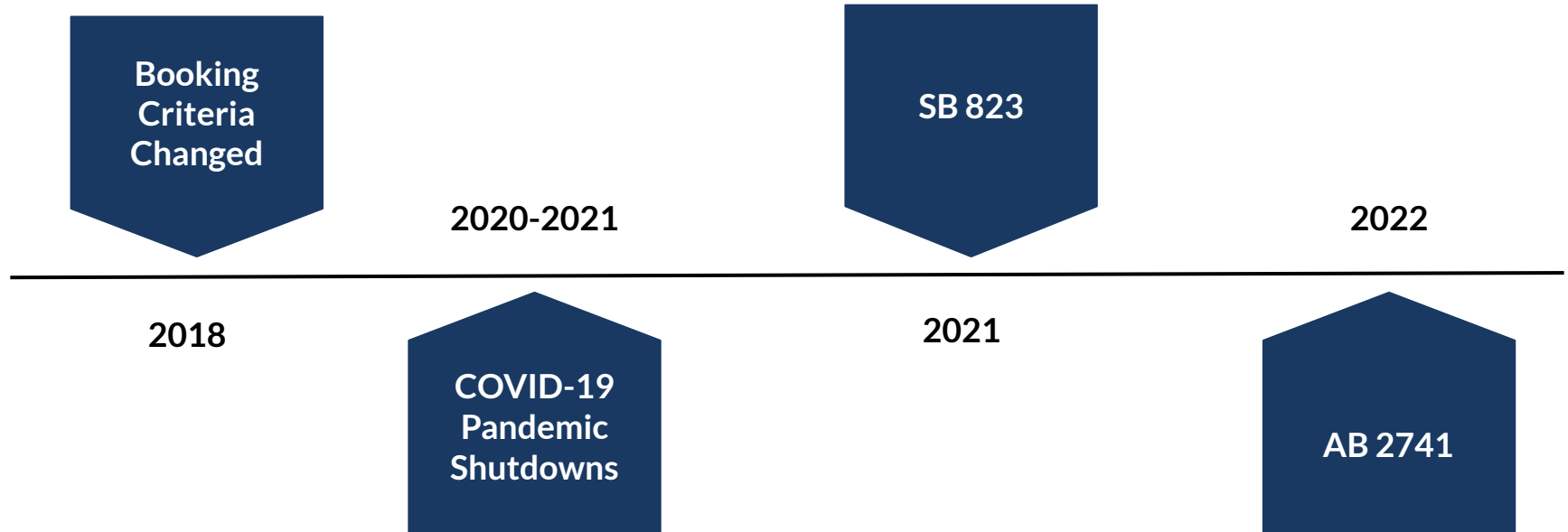
- ★ Signed by Governor on September 29, 2022
- ★ Made the Youth Bill of Rights applicable to youth confined in any juvenile facility
- ★ Requires standardized information explaining these rights be developed by July 1, 2023
- ★ Requires that adjudicated youth have access to postsecondary academic and career technical education programs
- ★ Adds the prohibition of discrimination of adjudicated youth on the basis of gender expression or immigration status to existing list of protected classes

# Youth Bill of Rights – Sampling

- ★ To live in a safe, healthy, and clean environment conducive to treatment, positive youth development, and healing and where they are treated with dignity and respect.
- ★ To be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment.
- ★ To receive adequate and healthy meals and snacks, clean water at any time...
- ★ To receive adequate, appropriate, and timely medical, reproductive, dental, vision, and mental health services provided by qualified professionals, and consistent with professional standards of care.
- ★ To maintain frequent and continuing contact with parents, guardians, siblings, children, and extended family members through visits, telephone calls, and mail...
- ★ To receive a rigorous, quality education that complies with state law, and the abilities of students and prepares them for high school graduation, career entry, and postsecondary education; to attend appropriate level school classes and vocational training; to have access to postsecondary academic and career technical education courses and programs...



# Timeline



# Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Facility

## ★ Secure Youth Treatment Facility (Secure Track)

- PEAK Restoration Program: Perseverance, Equity, Accountability and Knowledge
- Youth who are adjudicated of a 707(b) WIC offense (felony; serious or violent offense)

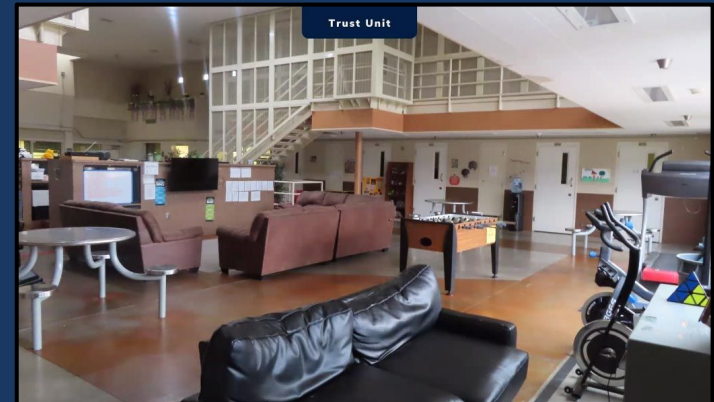
## ★ Trust Unit (Max 8 youth)

- Youth must complete an application and exhibit a period of good behavior
- Open home like setting with couches, flat screen TV, and gaming system
- Youth can freely move around unit and yard without permission from staff
- Youth are allowed to wear different clothes

## ★ General Population

- Adjudicated youth who are not Secure Track

## ★ Treatment Program - Relocation of Camp Program



# Data Analysis

Data from an analysis of **local youth commitments** to  
Division of Juvenile Justice from July 2017 through December 2020.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- ★ **Gender**
  - 88% male
  - 12% female
- ★ **Age at commitment**
  - 47% age 16-17
  - 53% age 18+
- ★ **Race/Ethnicity**
  - 71% Hispanic
  - 24% Black
  - 5% Asian
- ★ **Committing Offense**
  - 7 Assault with Deadly Weapon/Assault
  - 5 Robbery
  - 2 Murder/Attempted Murder
  - 2 Sex Offenses
  - 1 Shooting at an Inhabited Dwelling

## ADDITIONAL FACTORS

- ★ 36% had a mental health diagnosis at the time of commitment
- ★ 82% had a history of trauma
- ★ 18% were in foster care at some point before they were juvenile-justice involved
- ★ 100% had prior juvenile justice involvement and attempted interventions
- ★ 82% had gang association
- ★ 90% committed an offense resulting in harm (physical, psychological and/or monetary) to their victim
- ★ 55% were high school graduates or near graduation at the time of the committing offense

# Impact on Juvenile Justice Center (JJC)

## ★ Reduced number of youth

- Previously, about 60-70 youth were in the facility
- Currently, about 20-35 youth are in the facility

## ★ Changing youth population

- Youth have experienced significant trauma
- Demonstrate exacerbated behavioral, mental, and academic needs

## ★ Youth adjudicated of serious or violent offenses

- Previously, a majority of the population had committed a misdemeanor
- Currently, a majority of the population has committed a felony

## ★ Youth with longer term commitments

- In 2017, the average length of a commitment was less than 18 days
- Currently, the longest commitment is 7 years.

## ★ Increased number of highschool graduates

- Currently, about 40% of the total population (10 youth) are high school graduates

# Impact on Dos Puertas School

- ★ Current students (15 students in total)
  - 20% are freshman; 20% are sophomores; 40% are juniors; 20% are seniors
  - 33% of students (5 students) are Secure Track
- ★ Instructional model
  - Credit recovery model - Traditional high school model
  - WASC accreditation to provide A-G courses
  - Focus on preparing students for college and careers
  - Individualized Learning Plans - adapted for short-term and long-term planning
    - Some students will be with us for a short-term — focus on credit recovery
    - Some students will begin high school and graduate with us
- ★ Staff professional learning
  - Trauma informed practices
  - Behavior management
  - Breadth and depth of curricula



# Impact on Los Robles School – Los Prietos Boys Camp

## ★ Reduced staffing levels at Camp

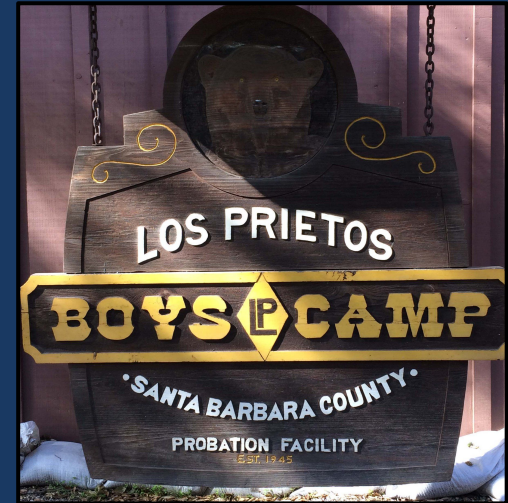
- School staff = 6
  - Teacher and teaching assistant
  - Itinerant staff includes: administrative assistant, special education teacher, paraeducator and director
- Probation staff = 12
  - 10 regularly assigned staff
  - 2 itinerant staff

## ★ Reduced number of youth assigned to Camp

- Currently 3 youth; 2 students and 1 graduate

## ★ Program will be relocated to Juvenile Justice Center

- Become new Treatment Program - Housed in remodeled Unit 3
- Construction has not yet begun - Date TBD



# Office of Youth and Community Restoration Mission

To promote trauma responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support the youths' successful transition into adulthood and help them become responsible, thriving, and engaged members of their communities.



**Thank you**