

WHAT'S NEW AT JUVENILE COURT AND THE JJC





Our New Facility

A Fourth Courtroom and Judge Handling Long Cause Delinquency and Dependency Trials: As of November of 2009 we began to utilize our fourth courtroom at the JJC. This courtroom is handling most of our long cause juvenile delinquency cases as well as some long cause dependency cases. We have also been able to utilize this department to ease some of the case loads on our other three departments when needed with the goal of allowing this department to handle all stages of juvenile proceedings.

Offices for other Community Organizations: Currently the Court houses the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Probation, Ciummo and Associates, and ADO, as well as therapists from DBH (assigned to BHC), a coordinator for CJC and a coordinator for our parenting programs. The building also has private offices for interpreters, a library and several conference rooms.

A Children's Waiting Room: This waiting room opened in January of this year and allows families to leave their children in a safe and child friendly environment while attending court.

Our New Facility

The Children's Waiting Room: This is a free service for those who have business in the Court, including: defendants, witnesses, litigants and persons filing papers. The children's waiting rooms are a community outreach project and are operated by the Central Valley Children's Services Network of Fresno County, an organization with over 30 years of delivering accessible, caring and professional services to all families.

- The Children's Waiting Room is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed during the lunch hours), Monday through Friday excluding Court Holidays and Court Closure Days.
- The Children's Waiting Room is available to children 6 months to 16 years of age. Children 13 years of age and older may use the Children's Waiting Room to assist with watching younger siblings or as approved by the Site Aide.

Central Valley Children's Services Network
(559) 456-1100
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Court Programs

Community Justice Conference (CJC): This program is directed toward minors that commit misdemeanor offenses and has a goal of restorative justice. The minor must be adjudicated a ward of the court or be eligible for informal probation (with an admission of responsibility). Certain offenses are not eligible (i.e. gang related offenses). Upon acceptance of responsibility the minor is referred to the CJC office (located on site) and a mediation session is scheduled between the minor, the minor's family and the victim. An agreement is reached amongst the participants and that agreement is forwarded to either probation or the court and thereafter the court determines the suitability of the agreement terms. These terms are either incorporated into a program of informal probation or are incorporated within a probationary disposition. It is anticipated that follow-up data will be gathered by both CJC and Probation and that there will be empirical data to support the continuation of this program. Currently over 125 minors have been referred to the program since July 2009.

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Court Programs

Behavioral Health Court (BHC): This program is directed toward minors that are diagnosed with an Axis I mental illness. The minor must come within the provisions of §602 (through an admission) and thereafter is screened by our therapist to determine eligibility and suitability. Certain offenses are not eligible for the program (i.e. 707(b) offenses gang offenses and firearm charges). The court and team members have a screening hearing to ultimately determine suitability for the program. The program is voluntary and requires regular review hearings over 8-15 months. The program involves intensive services being provided for the minor and his/her family in order to meet the specialized needs of the minor and the minor's family. The goal is to have the team create a case plan for the minor and his/her family that will address the family's unique needs. Currently the program is serving about 30 minors.

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Court Programs

Substance Abuse Unit (SAU): The program is an intensive day treatment program provided by Mental Health Systems. It is based on a therapeutic community model. There are 30 boys (one pod) and 10 girls (they share a pod with the 63-day girls program.) For every 10 minors in this program there is one psychologist and one drug treatment counselor full time. It is a very intensive program. The program is 180 days in duration and eligibility is based upon the nature of the charge and the results of an ASI (addiction severity index). Case management services will be provided by the treatment team.

The treatment components include individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, multi-family groups, psycho-education and case management. Medical treatment and medication therapy will be utilized when appropriate by Juvenile Justice Medical Services.

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Court Programs

Juvenile Drug Court (JDC): Juvenile Drug Court is a grant-funded program consisting of a Superior Court Judge, Deputy Probation Officer, Deputy District Attorney, Defense Attorney, Licensed Mental Health Clinician, and Substance Abuse Treatment Provider. This team approach aims at providing juvenile participants with the tools necessary to lead a drug and crime-free lifestyle is used. The program length is 12 months and consists of substance abuse treatment, intense supervision, drug testing, and court reviews.

The goal of the program is to divert minors whose primary issues are substance abuse from further involvement in the criminal justice system. The program holds periodic graduation ceremonies to celebrate those who have successfully completed the program.

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Court Programs

New Horizons: New Horizons is a 30 patient all male program in juvenile hall for youths that are assessed to need specialized and intensive treatment and may involve substance abuse treatment. The program is a 1 year program and is JJC's most intensive local commitment. Other adjunct services will include school (including academic and vocational evaluations), medical treatment, psychiatric evaluations, toxicology screenings, 12-step meetings (including sponsorship), case management, discharge planning and supervision by a Probation Officer. Each resident will have an individualized Inter-agency treatment plan, including a discharge/community re-integration plan. Professional staff will provide all treatment. Each minor will have a mental health clinician and a substance abuse specialist if needed, and case management services will be provided by the treatment team.

Court Programs

New Horizons

A family support partner will assist families in accessing services and provide the necessary link between clinician, counselor and families. The treatment components will include group therapy, individual therapy, multi-family groups, psycho-education, case management and family therapy. The program will be composed of Therapy groups; Process groups; Community groups; Life Skills; Anger Management, Recreation Therapy; Art Therapy and Support groups. Topical groups will be provided based on the needs of the clients. Sexually Reactive, Trauma and Gang Prevention are examples of such groups. Therapy and Unit staff will meet regularly to coordinate implementation of the treatment plan. These meetings may include Probation Officers and other interagency staff.

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Community Programs

Focus Forward Programs: The mission of Focus Forward is to create positive change and promote successful outcomes for youth in the Fresno County juvenile justice and foster care systems. The majority of services are in place at the Juvenile Justice Campus where they work in partnership with the Probation Department. Focus Forward serves as a broker of services, bringing in interns and community volunteers or working with other agencies to provide programs. The Focus Forward strategy includes developing strong transition and aftercare programs as well as programs for youth who are not in custody. The direction for Focus Forward programs is to reduce recidivism, build healthier communities and to decrease both the social and monetary costs of incarceration.

Focus Forward is funded by grants, donors, and one annual fund raising event. Probation and the Court provide office space and equipment. Focus Forward has a combination of paid and volunteer staff.

Community Programs

Focus Forward

Mentoring: Mentoring and case management services utilizing Social Work interns who spend an academic year working with the youth. This program is in its fourth year and has been of tremendous benefit not only to the youth but also to the interns who are able to gain unique experience. Some of the mentors also work with the JJC schools to provide tutoring to the youth. The program has been expanded to include community volunteers who mentor the youth and who, in some cases, will continue working with the youth when they are released. Youth who receive mentoring services have shown improved decision making skills, substituting positive behavior for risky behavior. The Court is currently working collaboratively with Match 2 Mentors, Focus Forward, Probation, Boys and Girls Club and Big Brothers/Big Sisters to create a transitional mentoring program which will allow for matches to occur within the last 90 days of a commitment and extend for an additional nine to twelve months in the community. The hope is that this program will allow for better transitions from a custodial structured environment to the home setting.

Community Programs

Focus Forward

Arts and Culture: Focus Forward facilitates art, creative writing, dance and music workshops. These workshops are led by volunteers and, in some cases, by local artists and musicians who are paid a stipend for their services. Research indicates that youth who participate in these programs develop critical thinking skills, improve academically, exhibit better behavior, and begin to recognize their potential for success. We are in process of seeking funding so that the youth can continue receiving these services when they return to the community. Focus Forward has an annual art show fund raiser which is held at the Court building and youth art is auctioned at this event, scheduled to be held June 17, 2010.



Community Programs

Focus Forward

Yoga and Meditation: As funding permits, Focus Forward engages community yoga and meditation instructors who lead six to eight week workshops. Both yoga and meditation assist the youth in building core strengths, give them tools for dealing with stress, provide anger management skills and improve mental agility. Focus Forward recently completed a grant cycle which funded these services and are applying for additional funding to add more services in the facility as well as fund classes in the community that will be available to the youth when they are released.

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Community Programs

Focus Forward

Bright Futures Pregnant and Parenting Teen Programs: Bright Futures is a Focus Forward program in its third year of funding from First 5. The program was developed in response to the relatively high number of youth in custody with children. The overarching goal of the program is to strengthen the family structure so that both the youth and their children can experience positive outcomes. All youth in custody with children 0 - 5 or who are pregnant are eligible for this program. The program offers a parent/child bonding component in which the children of the youth are brought into the facility to visit their parent once a week for nine weeks. There is a visiting room reserved for these visits that is furnished with toys, videos, a rocking chair and a changing table. The incarcerated youth are prepared for these visits each week with a "lesson plan" prior to the visits. The visits are videotaped as part of a research project for which Probation received a grant and asked Focus Forward to implement.

Community Programs

Focus Forward

Bright Futures Coordinator: We have just added an out-of-custody component to Bright Futures. A half-time Program Coordinator will be stationed at the Juvenile Delinquency Court to receive referrals from the judges and other partners in the juvenile justice system. The coordinator will meet with the pregnant or parenting teen at least twice to assess and refer them to appropriate services in their area of the County. The coordinator will follow up with the referral agencies. The coordinator will also stay in contact with Probation Officers supervising these youth to help ensure the youth are following through with the referrals, which offers reproductive health classes to the young women at the Juvenile Justice Center. The young women who participate in these classes will be given referrals to services in the community with incentives to attend. The goal is to provide the young women the education and opportunity to participate in wise family planning. Other community-based programs include *The Nurturing Parenting Program* and *The Incredible Years Program*.

Community Programs

The Nurturing Parenting Program, which was the first parenting program offered by the Department of Children and Family Services and the Incredible Years Program, which is much newer and has been available since 2004, are both examples of some of the options available to our youth and their parents.

Both programs are nationally known and have each won various educational awards.

The parenting programs consist of 3-hour classes, held once a week, for 14 sessions. The programs also provides free childcare, class materials at no charge, and GED credit for adult education.

Each class is filled with information and exercises, which are challenging, educational, and fun.



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Community Programs

This past year, through collaborative efforts, the recreation room at the JJC was converted to a Boys and Girls Club which is operated by that organization and by Probation staff. All of the minors in the commitment units can earn the ability to spend hour long sessions at the Boys and Girls Club which contains a ping pong table, various televisions which have gaming units, such as Play Station and X-Box, and a foosball game. There are also board games, dominoes and other games available. The Boys and Girls Club also has staff from local Boys and Girls Clubs that encourage minors to continue with their association with the club once they transition home. This is a fantastic new service that is being provided to our youth.



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Community Programs

Community Schools:

Teilman Community Day School: Some of the students at this school are placed through probation although some are otherwise referred to this campus. All incoming students are assessed in their academic ability levels and each student receives an ILP (reflecting individual and credit needs). The school is a transition school as most students stay at Teilman for only one to two semesters, although some may stay longer if the program continues to meet the minor's unique needs. Class sizes are small and will contain a wide range of academic abilities. There is a behavior level system at the campus and there are personal/social development classes which assist students with anger management, and behavioral/social counseling. There is therapy provided to the students on campus and there is a parent resource center. Staffing includes a full time psychologist, a part time school psychologist, 3 part time interns and 1 part time mental health practitioner.

Teilman Community Day School
559/488-7529

Community Programs

Community Schools:

Violet Heintz Educational Academy (VHEA): This school based program is a court ordered six month educational program combined usually with either mental health treatment or substance abuse treatment. The program is appropriate for minors between the ages of 14 and 17.8 years. The program provides mental health counseling (approx. 2 hours/week) and/or substance abuse treatment (approx. 2 hours/week). The class sizes are smaller and there are other group services provided including truancy prevention, video production and some organized sports. The program does not provide intense mental health or substance abuse treatment and Medi-Cal eligibility is mandatory for the mental health program.

Violet Heintz Educational Academy
(559) 443-4850

Community Programs

Community Schools:

Kermit Koontz opened as a school on April 20th with 16 students coming from Elkhorn Correctional Facility as well as a few early releases from JJC. This program, has as its goal, to work with older student populations 16 to 18.

This population is made up of both male and female Probationary students the present population at KKEC is approximately 50 students. This facility may take up to 110 students at full capacity. KKEC Community School consists of 6 classrooms, Library assessment orientation center, and a Multi-Purpose room that is used as a ROP classroom for the 1st. Responders class. The school has three teachers, and one teacher on Special Assignment who is responsible for transitioning, orientation, and assessments.

Community Programs

Kermit Koontz :

This court school program offers Career Technical Education (CTE) courses and vocational experiences to teach relevant world to work opportunities. KKEC also offers GED, and CAHSEE Prep, and every effort is made to accommodate the needs of students in collaboration with probation and other agencies.

There is a Summer Youth Jobs Program with EOC as the employer and KKEC as the work site scheduled for Summer School starting July 1st and continuing through September 30th. These monies are available through the counties Work Force Investment Board of Directors and the Federal stimulus monies. Students that qualify and meet all the documentation requirements required by EOC will work four to five hours each day, three hours developing a raised garden bed with a green house and covered shade area where produce will be grown to supply our ROP Culinary Arts program with Chef Luke, and one hour daily in a classroom setting studying propagation and basic culinary arts.

Kermit Koontz Education Complex
559/ 443-4861



Fresno County Office of Education

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(559) 488-7529
- **Violet Heintz Education Academy**
[4939 E. Yale](#)
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(559) 443-4850
- **Kermit Koontz Education Complex**
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Other Programs

Other Programs:

Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS): A unique, short-term intensive intervention that may be included as one component of a comprehensive mental health treatment plan. TBS provides one on one support in helping youth replace inappropriate behavior with more suitable behavior. Eligibility is based upon either current placement outside the home or being “at risk” for placement outside the home or the minor has received a psychiatric hospitalization in the past 24 months or is in danger of such hospitalization. The youth must be referred to the program by a licensed therapist/psychologist. TBS services are provided in the home of the minor (or in the group home) and the services that are provided include intervention to decrease problem behaviors, social skills development and enhancing family interactions. Services are provided for 60 day periods and can be renewed.

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Other Programs

SB 163/ Wraparound: is an intensive planning process to design and deliver strength-based, needs-driven, individualized, community-based services and supports. It is an alternative to out of home placement (i.e. foster-care or group home placement). Wraparound is designed to focus on children and adolescents who have serious emotional or behavioral issues and are either at imminent risk of out-of-home placement or are returning from out-of-home placement. Wraparound utilizes a child-focused, family-centered practice model aimed at enhancing family strengths and resources in order to minimize risk, ensure safety, improve functioning, and assist and support families in caring for their children. Wraparound efforts are based in the community and encourage the family's use of their natural supports and resources.

The Wraparound approach is a team-driven process involving the family, child, natural supports, agencies, and community services working together to develop, implement, and evaluate the individualized service plan. SB163/Wraparound services assist over 100 minors in Fresno County.

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Thank You