



# Meeting the Needs of Youth and Families Through Cultural Responsiveness

Santa Cruz County Probation Department

# History of Family Engagement (Looking at the past!)

- Placement Screening
- Multidisciplinary approach (Behavioral Health, Probation and Family)
- Family involvement limitations (Nuclear family only)
- Location/time limitations (Felton/AM)
- Cultural Relevance (Population served)
- Recommendation



# How we have used CCR as a tool for change



- 2017 Continuum Care Reform (CCR) AB403 (Probation/Child Welfare Shift).
- Key Element in the reform “Increased Family Engagement”.
- Challenged Probation/Child Welfare to engage formal/informal supports in the planning process.
- Changing our practices from telling families what to do to now asking them what they want to do.
- Santa Cruz ahead of the curve-Transformed/Replaced Placement Screening Process

# Child and Family Teams (Family Centered~Needs Driven~Family Voice Choice)



- CFTM are not just for youth in STRTPs.
- CFTM are being utilized for many types of scenarios and individualized.
- Utilizing Trauma informed Practices.
- Integrity to family's unique cultures-integrating their cultures into their family plan.
- Engaging community partners.
- 2018 Concurrence Rate: 64%



# Meeting the Needs of Youth and Families

- ▶ Eric D. "Goblin Story"
- ▶ Families leave feeling respected and supported despite law enforcement stigma.
- ▶ Utilizing CFTM as a tool for alternatives to placement.





# FUERTE Wraparound

*A Collaborative Partnership between  
Santa Cruz County Probation Department  
and  
Encompass Community Services*



# FUERTE PROGRAM

Familias Unidas En Respeto, Tranquilidad y Esperanza/

Families United in Respect, Tranquility, and Hope

- ▶ **FUERTE was strategically developed from data analysis**
- ▶ Findings included
  - ▶ Disproportionate number of minority youth were on probation and sent to placement.
  - ▶ A majority of youth on probation had an undiagnosed or untreated mental health condition(s)-specifically trauma related.



# MIOCR Grant Proposal

- ▶ Incorporated the following JDAI standards:
  - ▶ Collaboration (community effort)
  - ▶ Rigorous data collection and analysis
  - ▶ Alternative to detention
  - ▶ Reduce the number of youth detained
  - ▶ Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity (RED)
- ▶ High number of Latino youth cycling through probation
- ▶ Barriers to services for Latino families include language barriers and long working hours of farm working families



# Unique From Other Programs

- ▶ Short term program - 4 to 6 months
- ▶ Small caseload – 10
- ▶ More intensive cases including those who are transitioning from WRAP
- ▶ Consented information sharing- collaborative treatment approach
- ▶ Robust data tracking-Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)
- ▶ Evidence Based Practices: TF-CBT and Motivational Interviewing
- ▶ Transitional Specialist to connect family community resources
- ▶ Flexibility in hours to fit with family's schedules and needs
- ▶ Crisis response

# Snapshot of Outcomes

*\*\*All data from July 1, 2015- June 30, 2018*

- ▶ 41 youth completed the program
  - ▶ 66% successful completion – 27
  - ▶ 14 participants did not fully complete the TFCBT model but were able to partially complete some of their goals

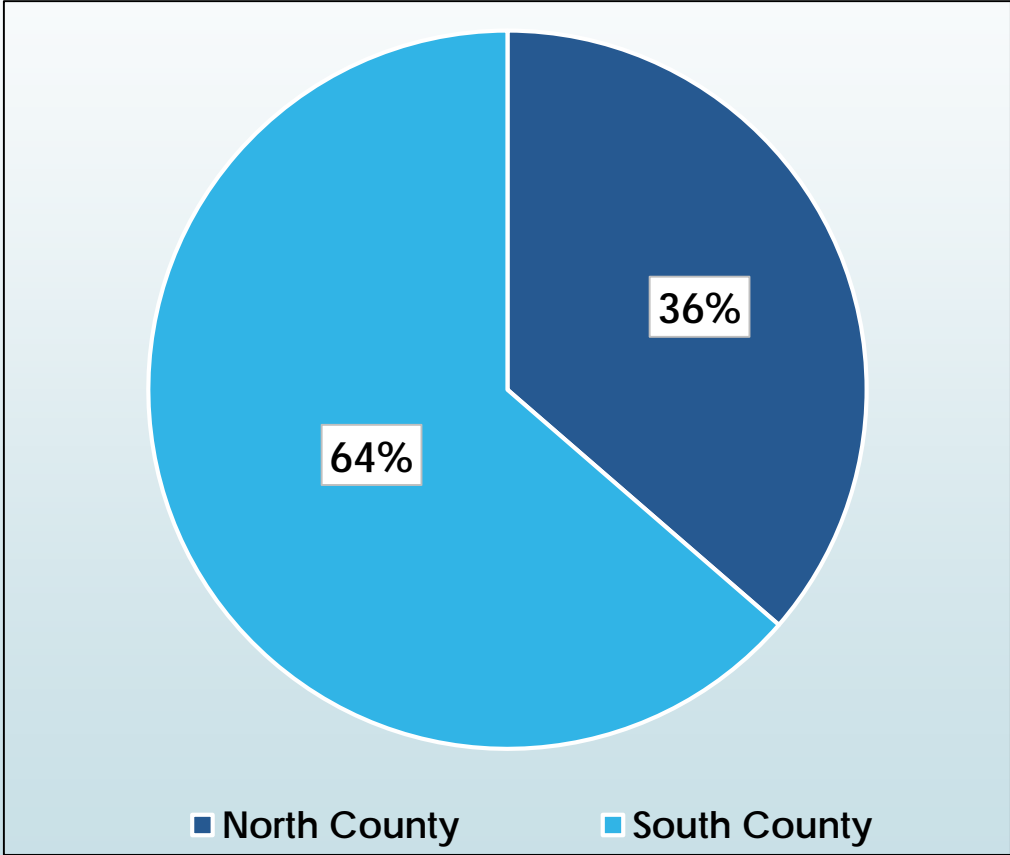
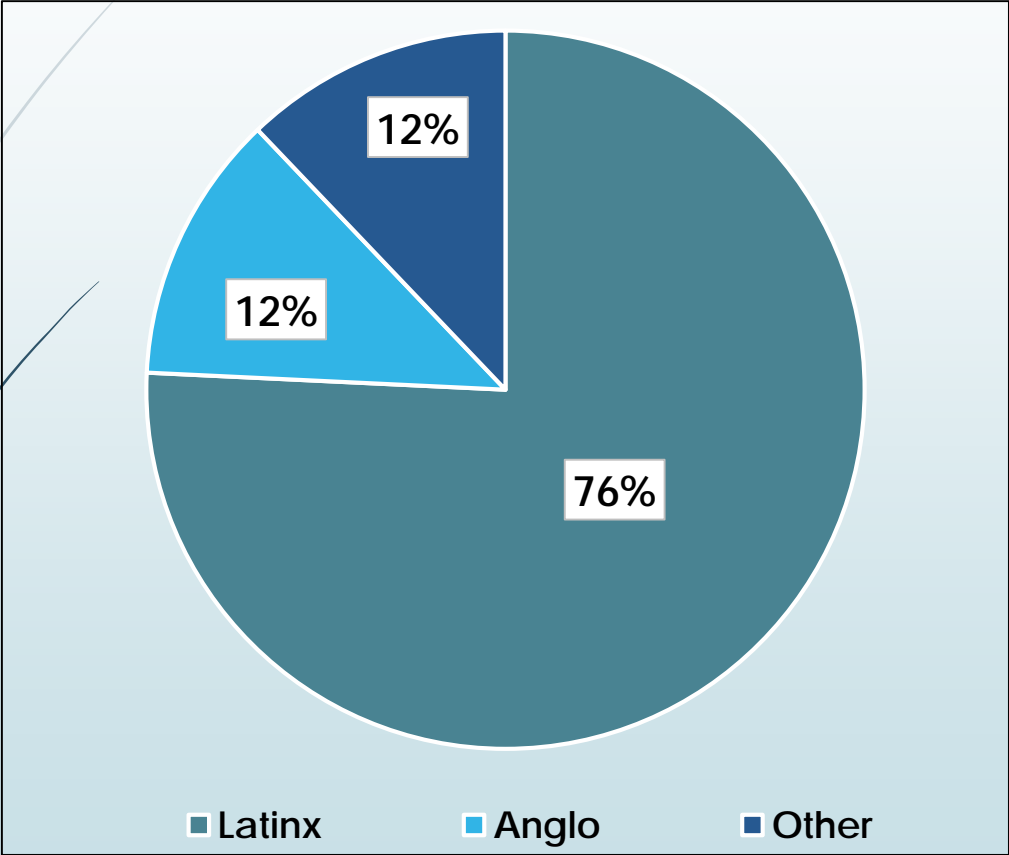
**From:**  
**FUERTE**

**To:**  
**FUERTE**  
**Wraparound**

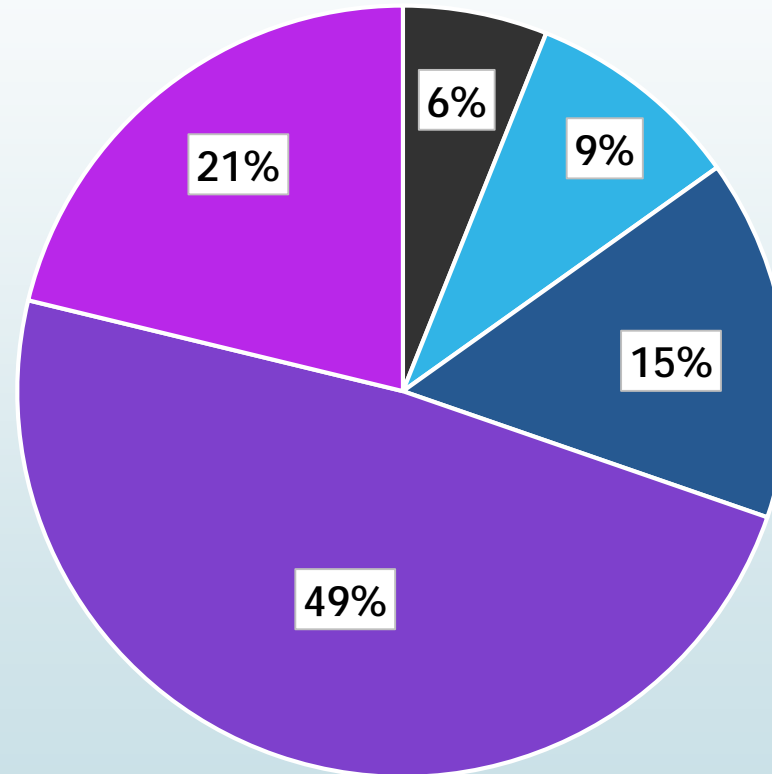
# Transitions

- ▶ July 1, 2018 FUERTE became FUERTE Wraparound
- ▶ Probation and Encompass held a joint Wraparound training
- ▶ Significant changes:
  - ▶ Court ordered program- insurance purposes
  - ▶ Program duration is up to 1 year
  - ▶ Addition of Wraparound meetings
  - ▶ Not necessarily focused on TF-CBT
  - ▶ Crisis support continued
  - ▶ Inclusive to all youth on probation (not only wards)

# FUERTE Wrap Demographics

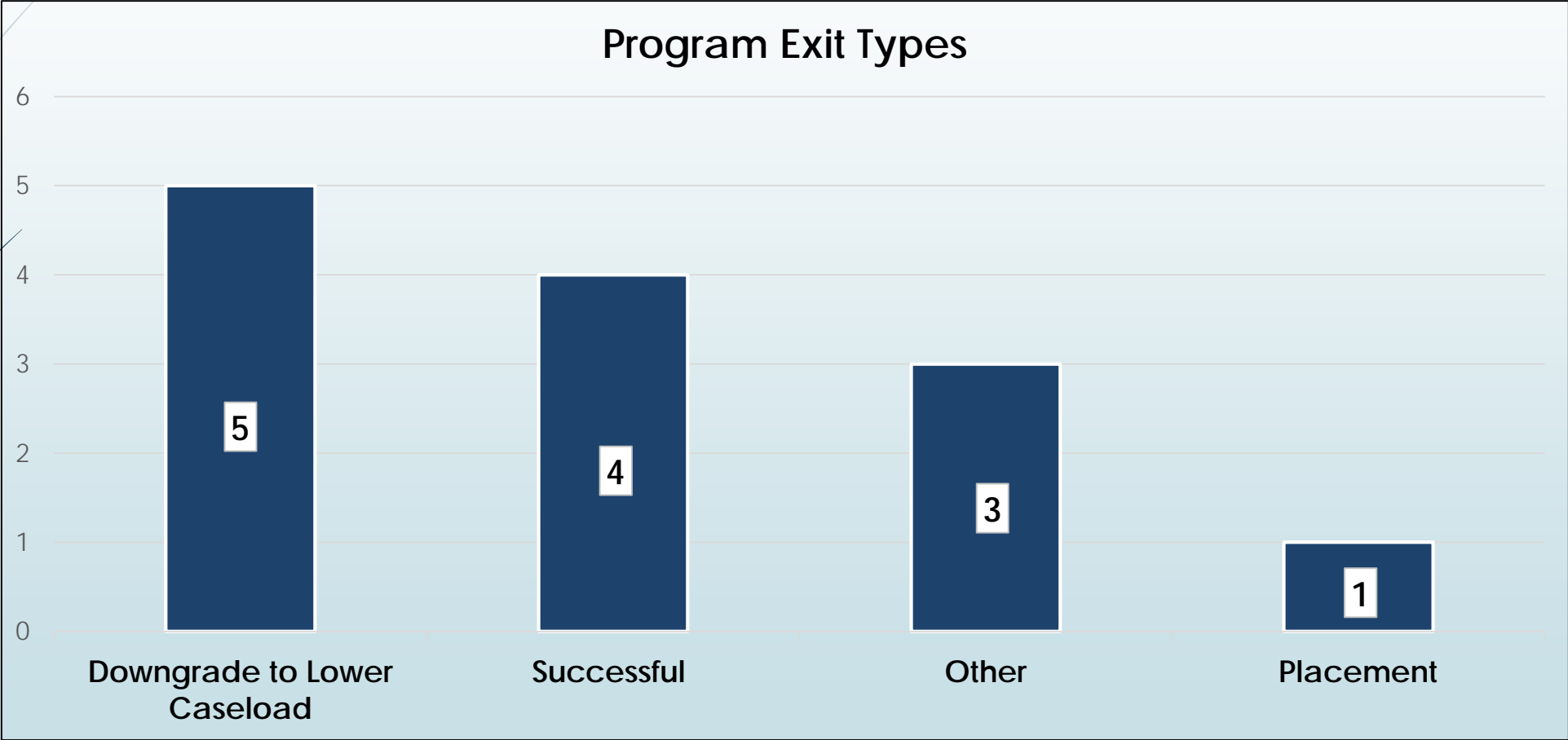


# FUERTE Wrap Referring Offenses



■ Drugs/Alcohol ■ Property ■ Return from Placement ■ Violence/Weapons ■ VOP/High Needs

# FUERTE Wrap Outcomes



*Other exit types are 2 B/W and 1 adult charge*



# The Start of Aztecas

- ▶ Gang intervention
- ▶ South county community
- ▶ Creating a program to meet the needs of youth in a pro-social environment
- ▶ Target population-Wards of the Court
- ▶ Success
- ▶ Encompassing other program referrals





# Evolving to meet the needs of the community

- 1 indoor team, 2 indoor teams
- Outdoor soccer team
- Mentorship
- Changing the way youth identify (our logo)
- Tutoring, academic case management, college enrollment, K.H. Scholarship
- Life skills classes, Heads, Hearts and Hands (HHH)
- Fieldtrips
- Community events/services
- Summer soccer camps for youth 6-14years-old
- Girls program

# Tiered Mentoring program





# Staff, Interns and Mentors

- Mentors-100% Latino and from the community
- Similar experiences
- Language
- Soccer helped them overcome barriers
- Making a connection with the youth through the game, teaching life lessons
- Training, trauma informed
- Paid positions
- When it's not a fit-Letting people go



# Adaptive Change – The Luna Evening Center

“ Cross-system collaboration is a key element of a trauma-informed juvenile justice system, because youth who enter the delinquency system have challenges that cannot be addressed solely through punitive measures. These young people have been strongly influenced by their familial context and the communities in which they live. Therefore, in an effort to ensure public safety and rehabilitate youth, the juvenile justice system must be equipped to work with other systems and community partners that can assist youth in other domains of their life.”

-Macon Stewart, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

# Luna Evening Center – Pre & Post Adjudication Alternative

## ► Purpose

- The Evening Center Program serves a maximum of 10 probation wards at any given time.
- Provides a place for youth who have a probation violation that are in need of additional supervision, structure for a brief period of time (between 12 and 30 days), and/or capacity/skill building.
- A youth may be ordered to attend the Evening Center as often as the Court deems this alternative appropriate.
- Staffed by personnel from the Probation Department, Children's Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Program and occasional community based agency staff.

# Evening Center - Services

- Transportation (adult to adult hand off)
- Evening Supervision (between the hours of 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM)
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Tutoring and Homework Assistance
- Employment Readiness and Mentoring (Job Training and Mentorship through CRP)
- Aggression Replacement Training
- Friday Night Live Program-Life skills building program promoting healthy drug and alcohol free activities
- Expanded learning opportunities and technology through on-site collaboration with County Office of Education

# Cultural Competency – It has to be intentional

- The program is working towards being culturally competent by:
  - Staffing the program with adults who are bilingual and bicultural
  - Staffing the program with adults who have close community ties and life experiences that help them relate to youth
  - Working with several CBOs' whose staff is bilingual and bicultural and closer in age to the youth at the evening center
  - Locating the program in Watsonville, where 80%-90% of the probation caseloads are Latino

# Snapshot of Data as of 1/9/2019

<b>Total Episodes</b>	<b>1716</b>
Unique Episodes	864
Duplicate	50%

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Latino	93%
Anglo	5%
Other	2%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	88%
Female	12%

<b>Successful Completions</b>	<b>70%</b>
Average # days Ordered	12
Average # days Completed	10
Total days served at the EC for CY 2018	859



# School Project

## Santa Cruz County Office of Education/Probation

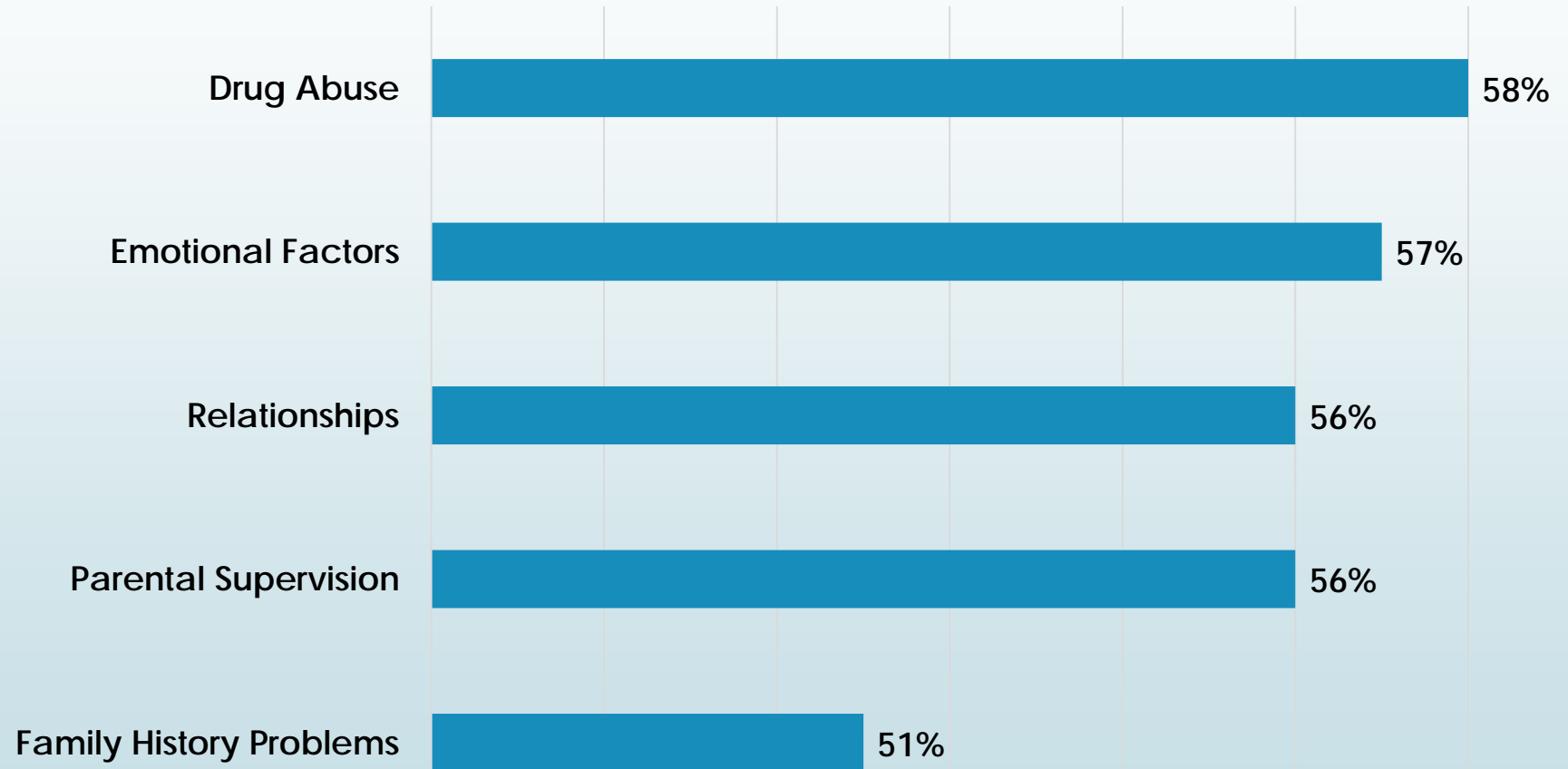




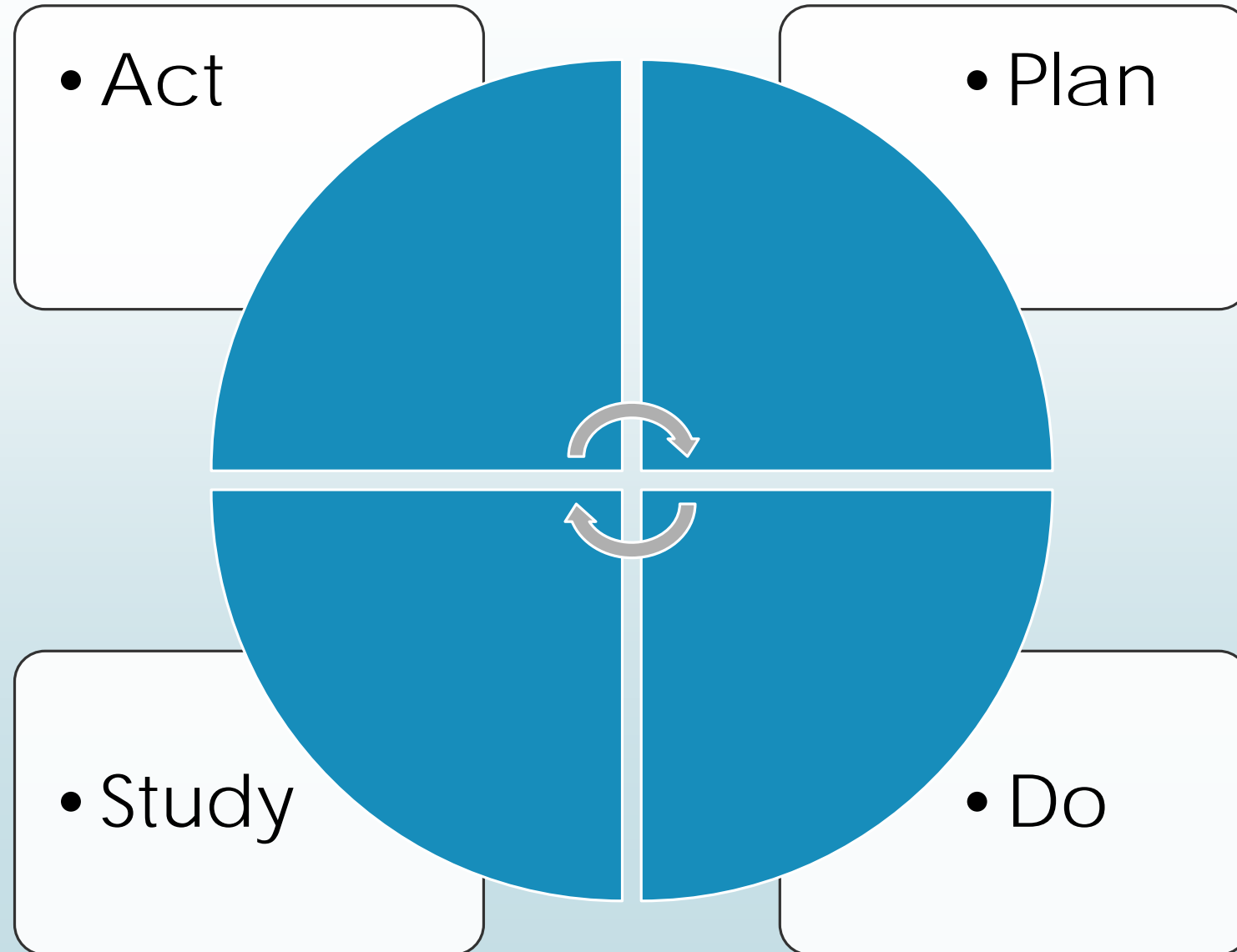
# How we got started

- ▶ Graduation rates lower for youth of color vs. Caucasian youth
- ▶ JAIS data identified Top 5 Criminogenic needs (Social/Emotional)
- ▶ Plan Do Study Act (PDSA)
- ▶ Partnership with County Office of Education (Evening Center)

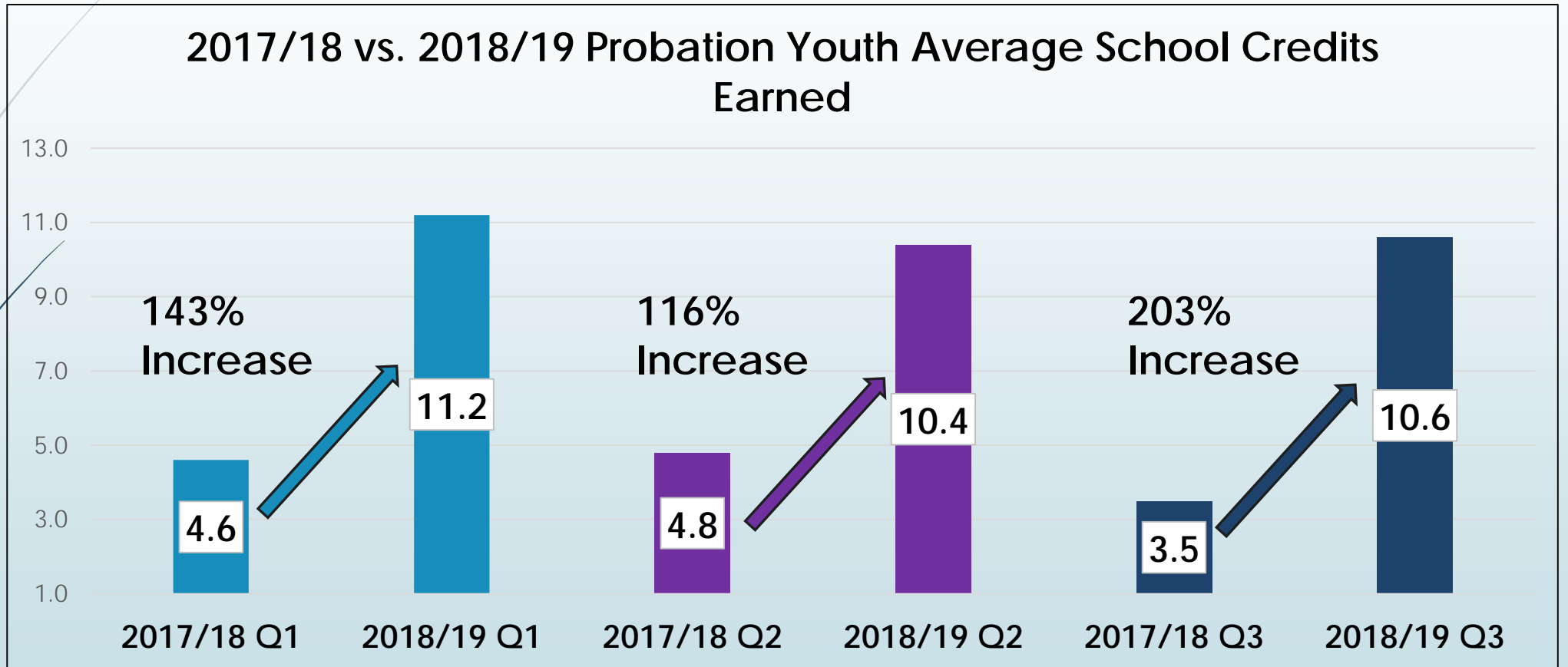
# South County Probation Youth – Top 5 Percentage of Principal Service Needs



# PDSA/Small Test of Change



# Credit Accrual Results





## Next Steps.....

- ▶ We do we go from here
- ▶ Transforming how Probation work is being done.
- ▶ Preventative vs. Reactive services

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# Presenters

Robert Doty, Juvenile Division Director

Jose Flores, Supervising DPO

Gina Castaneda, DPO II

Karla Wade, DPO II