



# CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

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OF CALIFORNIA

## Conference Spotlight: Solano County Probation

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The proudest accomplishment for the Solano County Probation Department (the Department) under the banner of YOBG funding includes transforming the philosophy of the juvenile field service division based on the application of evidence based practices (a validated risk assessment tool, treatment services, and cognitive behavior interventions). The Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) provided an opportunity for the Department to address the gap in service delivery for substance abuse and mental health treatment for youth. YOBG funding allowed the Department to provide evidence based and/or evidence informed services which were not dependent upon the parents' income or access to health insurance.

For the past 10 years, funding received through YOBG supports the implementation of the risk assessment tool used for youth, the Juvenile Assessment Intervention System (JAIS) in addition to treatment services. YOBG has allowed the Department to partner with several community based organizations including Aldea and Heathright 360 to provide in-house substance abuse and mental health treatment services to youth in the community or detained at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). Additionally, as a result of the partnership with the faith based community, YOBG funds are used to provide mentoring services to youth in an effort to reduce the number of probation violations filed, as well as, increase reentry and aftercare efforts.

The Department has also designed and implemented the Challenge Academy which is a nine month treatment program for males adjudicated for serious offenses that as a result of SB81 are no longer eligible for a commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The program includes treatment services, cognitive behavioral treatment interventions, vocational training and education support. Currently, there are two youth in the Academy that attend community college and one youth that is working part-time. These youth are transported to school and work by JDF staff.

Moving forward, Solano County will continue to place a heavy emphasis on treatment services to include independent living skills. It is important to ensure that the youth that are served under the banner of YOBG funding are given every opportunity to be successful.