

INYO COUNTY
Juvenile Justice Plan





Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan

Executive Summary

Executive Summary: Inyo County Juvenile Justice Multi-Agency Plan (2025-2026)

This plan, developed by the Inyo County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), outlines a comprehensive, multi-agency strategy to reduce youth involvement in the justice system. The plan prioritizes prevention, early intervention, and supervision strategies grounded in nonpunitive, community-based, healing-centered, culturally competent, restorative, and trauma-informed principles, aligning with Senate Bill 1057.

The JJCC, comprised of key stakeholders from health and human services, education, law enforcement, the judiciary, and community organizations, oversees the allocation of approximately \$51,000 annually from the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), supplemented by saved growth funds. Historically, these funds have primarily supported the Healthy Communities Program (60%) and the Inyo County Office of Education (ICOE) Extended Day Program (40%).

Recognizing the unique challenges of Inyo County's vast, rural geography and limited-service infrastructure, a community survey was conducted to identify service gaps. While respondents generally felt current responses to juvenile offenses were adequate, key areas for improvement included coordination and communication in case planning, enhanced after-care/re-entry services, and bolstering programs such as counseling, job readiness, social/afterschool activities, specialized courts, and substance abuse treatment. Recurring themes emphasized the need for greater parental support, public education about local resources, and consistent consequences for youth.

Based on the survey findings and Council priorities, the JJCC will focus on the following strategies for the 2025-2026 fiscal year:

1. **Continued Funding:** Maintaining support for the Healthy Communities Program and the ICOE Extended Day Program.
2. **Enhanced Information Access:** Expanding ICOE funding to develop and maintain a comprehensive website featuring local services, events, and contact information.
3. **Collaborative Resource Sharing:** Partnering with Health and Human Services to promote and integrate the existing "211" hotline for improved community access to services.
4. **Truancy/Absenteeism Prevention and Intervention:** Developing a new program to address the significant 25% truancy rate among non-tribal youth and tribal youth.
5. **Community-Based Grants:** Establishing a grant program to support local community-based organizations offering youth crime prevention and pro-social activities.

These strategies aim to leverage existing resources; address identified service gaps and strengthen collaborative efforts among local agencies to effectively prevent youth involvement in the justice system and promote their successful reintegration into the Inyo County community.

Purpose for this plan

The coordinating council will develop a comprehensive, multiagency plan that identifies local resources and strategies to reduce youth involvement with the justice system by offering prevention, early intervention and supervision strategies that promote rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community.

Mission/Guiding Principles

The council will assess existing services, prioritize feedback and oversee funds allotted from the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) to be distributed to community groups whose primary focus is on preventing young people from entering the juvenile justice system. Services sponsored with this funding should be nonpunitive, community based, healing centered, culturally competent, restorative, and trauma informed as outlined in Senate Bill number 1057.

Additionally, the Inyo County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council is overseeing the Local Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan for the county. The Council is serving as an overseer of the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)

2024 Members on the Council

| <u>Name:</u> | <u>Agency:</u> | <u>Title:</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Anna Scott | Health & Human Services | Director |
| Barry Simpson | Inyo County Office of Education | Superintendent of Schools |
| Dana Crom | Inyo County District Attorney | District Attorney |
| Elizabeth Corpora | Inyo County Superior Court | Public Defender |
| Gerard Harvey | Inyo County Superior Court | Public Defender |
| Jeff Griffiths | Inyo County Board of Supervisors | Supervisor, District 2 |
| Jeffrey Thomson (Chair) | Inyo County Probation | Chief Probation Officer |
| Jose Garcia | Bishop City Council | Council Member |
| Krystal Leonard | Inyo County Probation | Administrative Services Manager |
| Nate Derr | Bishop Police Department | Chief of Police |
| Penni Brown | Inyo County Probation | Probation Manager |
| Shane Scott | Inyo County Sheriff Department | Lieutenant |
| Sharon Freilich | Inyo County Arts Council | Director |
| Stephanie Rennie | Inyo County Sheriff Department | Sheriff |
| Steven Dondero | Inyo County Community | Community Member |
| Susanne Rizo | Inyo County Superior Court | Superior Court Judge |
| Willie Taylor | Inyo County Community | Community Member |

What is the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), enacted in 2000, is a California law that provides **stable state funding to counties through non-competitive grants**. The primary **purpose** of the JJCPA is to support local juvenile justice programs aimed at **curbing crime and delinquency among at-risk youth and juvenile offenders** by providing a continuum of responses.

The Juvenile Justice Prevention Act requires that each county establish a juvenile justice coordinating council that consists of a variety of local agencies and community groups to ensure that county's multi-agency juvenile justice plan is collaborative and comprehensive.

JJCPA aims to empower local communities to address juvenile crime through collaborative, evidence-based programs and services, with a strong emphasis on preventing youth from becoming involved in the justice system.

Anticipated amount of funding

Annually, the Inyo County Probation Department receives approximately \$51,000.00 from the Vehicle Licensing fees in California through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act. Most years, counties are allocated growth funds when available. These growth funds are available to supplement the annual allocation the probation department receives. This plan will address how the council will identify local resources and strategies to reduce youth involvement with the justice system. This includes prevention, early intervention, and supervision strategies.

How the yearly funding has been used in Inyo

The JJCPA funding in Inyo County has primarily been used to assist the Healthy Communities Program, a community-based organization located in southern Inyo County and to the Extended Day Program at the Inyo County Office of Education (ICOE). Healthy Communities receives 60% and ICOE receives 40% of the annual funds.

In brief, Healthy Communities Program in Southern Inyo County provides constructive activities and programs of interest to all community youth, including those "at risk", that build self-esteem, good character and those that enhance job skills. This funding pays for the Executive Director's position as he/she coordinates the activities for the south county region.

The Extended Day Program at the Inyo County Office of Education provides the Jill Kinmont Boothe community school with the ability to extend the school day for at-risk students. The grant helps fund instructors for a variety of elective and vocational classes in the afternoon, including Art and Career and Workplace Readiness. The funds also help to fund the online curriculum program.



Overview

Inyo County Service Area

Inyo County is a rural county in eastern California that is bordered by the state of Nevada. The county is often considered as a “frontier” county due to the long distance between communities and the geographical challenges. The county spans over 10,000 square miles and is the second largest county in California yet the population is approximately 19,000 people, making the county the second least populated county in California. In fact, in the 2020 census, it was calculated that there was a population of 1.9% per square mile.

The city of Bishop contains the largest populous in the county and consists of approximately 3,800 people. The surrounding communities are significantly smaller and can be as far as 4 hours away from the main populous. Those communities beyond 1 hour from Bishop average 60 people in population. The county seat is in Independence CA, which is a 45-minute drive from Bishop. Many people will travel to major cities, that are at least a 3-hour drive north or south, to stock up on groceries or attend specialized medical services. The terrain in the county varies from Mount Whitney (Paiute: Too-man-i-goo-yah or Too-man-go-yah) the highest point in the contiguous United States to the lowest elevation in North America, Bad Water Basin in Death Valley. There are many lakes, rivers and creeks in the county. These mountainous and desert terrains are like no other in the state. Recreation and tourism accounts for a large revenue source for the county.

Most services are limited due to the small overall population in the county. From the Bishop area, workers will often commute to provide services to the surrounding communities which can be up to 4 hours away. Many of these services are offered only one time per month making for a deficit of services to south county and Death Valley. Adding to the long commutes, extreme temperatures and weather can be present during the summer and winter months subsequently affecting travel and service provision.

Although there is a large amount of land in the county, only approximately 2% is privately owned and approximately 91% is owned by public agencies such as National Forest and Park Services, China Lake Naval Base, Bureau of Land Management and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The county and the state control about 3 percent. There are 5 Native American Nations that have land in the county. This landlock results in limited options for housing or development and has driven housing costs up.

The Owens Valley has 6 separate and distinct school districts and communities: Bishop, Round Valley, Big Pine, Independence, Lone Pine, and Death Valley.

Most people in the county are employed in the fields of Government, Health Care, Social Assistance or Accommodation and/or hospitality services.

Most community members describe the local culture as being close-knit and often come together to assist families in crisis.

Demographics

In the 2022 Census, the racial make-up included 78% White, 24% Hispanic and 14% Native American. There was an 11% rate of people in poverty. 38.6% access federal Medi-Cal assistance. Private landownership accounted for 1.7% of the county.

There is a rich Native American heritage in the county with generations of family relations. Many other families historically came to the area for pioneering, railroading, ranching and farming industry and have also stayed for multiple generations. The Hispanic population has grown significantly as seen in the school population where a little over 40% of youth are Hispanic in the local school districts.

At-risk (at-promise) areas

Most services are limited due to the small overall population throughout the county. Even in the higher populated area of Bishop, there is a lack of full services resulting in many residents traveling to larger cities to access shopping and/or medical services. Bishop area workers will often commute to provide services to the surrounding communities which can be up to 4 hours away. Many of these services are offered only once per month making for a deficit of available support. Because most of the available services are based out of Bishop; many community residents must travel a long distance to get the help they need. There is an overall school statistic that 63% of youth in Inyo County are considered to be disadvantaged. With service limitations, this leaves south Inyo County and Death Valley communities with a greater deficit of services and therefore those distant communities should be classified “at-risk (at-promise).” This is only considering risk per region; however, there are multiple communities throughout all areas of the county that contain disadvantaged populations.

Current Services and Resources

Although services are limited, the services that are available are robust and efforts are collaborated to help lower the number of youth arrests, detained youth, and youth on probation in Inyo County. The following is a list of agencies that work together frequently: The Inyo County Administrative Officer, Inyo County District Attorney, Inyo County Sheriff's Office, Bishop Police Department, Inyo County Probation Department, Inyo County Office of Education, Bishop Unified School District, Big Pine School District, Lone Pine School District, Inyo County Health and Human Services, the Juvenile Justice Commission, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Healthy Communities of Southern Inyo County, the Bishop Paiute Tribe, Timbisha/Shoshone Tribe, Toiyabe Family Services, Big Pine Tribe, Bishop Paiute Tribe's Juvenile Healing To Wellness, Bishop Paiute Tribe's ICWA Specialist, Owens Valley Career Development Center, Wild Iris Family Counseling and Crisis Center, Inyo Resilience Collaborative, Family Strengthening Team (FST), the Inyo Council for the Arts, City of Bishop, United States Forest Service, Eastside Student Center, c5 Art Studio, Salvation Army, Crossroads Recovery Center, Laws Railroad Museum, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Sacred Rok Organization.

The above listed agencies work very well together to provide excellent services to the youth and families of Inyo County. Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings with key agencies are held regularly to address resources and services for youth and their families. School administrators for Keith Bright School, Jill Kinmont Boothe School, Bishop High School and Bishop Elementary School attend these meetings along with Probation, Behavioral Health, Tribal Healing to Wellness and the School Resource Officer are usually in attendance.

Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings may be held to assist youth and families with stabilization when there is a crisis. This meeting format is required for any youth who is in placement or at risk of placement. CFT participants will often include the FST, CASA, the youth, the family members, school staff, tribal representatives, Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health, School Psychologist, Probation Staff, and any other representative identified by the family for support.

Many of these same agencies attend the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) that works with youth and families who are struggling with truancy/absenteeism and/or behavioral issues in school. The SARB board members include the District Attorney, the School Resource Officer, a Deputy Probation Officer, the County Superintendent of Schools, Health and Human Services, Child Protective Services, and Tribal representatives. SARB provides a forum for agencies to coordinate efforts to improve attendance for youth and their families and any other needs to keep the youth out of formal Court proceedings.

The probation department works with area schools to provide services to youth on campus through the Probation Early Intervention Program. In addition to probation services, there are other agencies that provide counseling, cultural activities and presentations on prevention topics on school campuses. There are also several afterschool programs for youth of all ages offered by internal school programs. A variety of community partners such as the City of Bishop, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Big Pine Tribe, Probation and community-based organizations like the Eastside Student Center, c5 Art Studio and Inyo Council for the Arts also provide afterschool programs. Many of the same partner agencies offer summer programs for youth covering a variety of activities.



Delinquency and Data

Continuum of Response Summary

Inyo County's juvenile justice action strategies include the provision of research-based interventions for at-risk (at-promise) youth who enter the system via truancy, behavioral issues, or through the juvenile justice system. Many efforts are provided at the prevention level in hopes of diverting youth from the formal court system. Outlined below are several of the efforts provided to youth by local agencies.

Prevention

There are a variety of community events, outreaches and programs for youth at the local community level. Throughout the year multiple agencies come together for health and educational events. This provides an opportunity for youth and families to learn about various positive pro-social activities in their communities.



In 2024 the Juvenile Probation Department participated in over 30 outreach events and made over 15 presentations on prevention topics in addition to providing ongoing group or individual programming.

Early Intervention

The early intervention program is one strategy to meet the probation department's goal to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system whenever possible. Early intervention is one tool used as a means to prevent youth from becoming justice involved.

In addition, the local school systems employ a continuum of interventions designed to prevent suspension and expulsion. The Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) is utilized to address chronic truancy/absenteeism or behavioral issues that are occurring at the school level. SARB is managed by the Inyo County Office of Education and includes every school in Inyo County. Referrals from this Board can provide services to address issues before they get to the legal system. Inyo County Probation has become very involved in the County's SARB process and provides early intervention and prevention services when referred by the SARB board. The Bishop Unified School District has a School Resource Officer who is instrumental in handling attendance and behavior issues in the Bishop schools. Referrals to the Family Strengthening Team (Wraparound Program), Bishop Paiute Tribe's Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court or other appropriate services are available to help prevent youth from entering the legal system.

Probation's Early Intervention Program is a specialized program that was created after the juvenile hall transitioned to a special purpose facility. Since the highly trained and skillful juvenile hall counselors (now Rehabilitation Specialists) were no longer needed in a detention facility, they were reassigned to provide services to youth and families in their communities, homes, and schools. The idea was to meet the youth and families where they were. Rehabilitation Specialists, meet with identified at-risk (at-promise) youth weekly on school campuses throughout Inyo County. This is a unique opportunity to provide mentoring and research-based interventions to help youth make better decisions. Services are provided individually or in a group setting. The program is voluntary and requires parental approval. However, in some instances some schools use the early intervention program as an early step in their progressive discipline action plan.

Designed to keep youth from entering the formal probation system, the early intervention program provides mentorship, one-on-one guidance, and programs at the school in addition to off-campus activities like the Youth Summer Escape program which incorporates gardening, crafts, cooking, life skills, sports, and outings, and often serves as a diversion for youth who have come to the attention of probation officers.



In 2024 the Probation Department worked with 107 youth for early intervention services. 15 had formal or informal probation, 92 youth worked with Probation staff voluntarily, without being involved in the juvenile justice system.

Supervision

Probation department contact with a youth is usually generated by a referral from law enforcement, the schools or directly requested by parents. Youth referred to Probation for supervision are provided a risk/needs assessment. With the goal of addressing risk areas before behaviors rise to the level of legal intervention, an officer can use his/her discretion to refer the youth for local services such as counseling, substance abuse prevention, community service, restorative justice conferencing and/or informal probation.



Probation receives an average of 10 referrals per month that are received from law enforcement, schools, parents and other agencies.

Those youth who have been ordered by the Court to formal supervision are assessed with the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT Assessment) that looks at risk areas that can lead a youth to re-offend. The assessment highlights protective factors as well. This tool guides supervision strategies with the idea that youth scoring in the low risk level would be supervised on a low-level caseload such as checking in monthly. Research indicates that low risk youth have more protective factors and are most likely able to resolve their legal issues with their natural strengths and supports. Likewise, a youth that has a moderate or high risk assessment will have more risk and need areas that would contribute to their re-offending. Those youth would benefit from a higher level of supervision and intervention. Youth that are moderate to high risk to re-offend are more likely to have law offenses needing formal intervention from the District Attorney and Juvenile Court. The Court, District

Attorney, Public Defenders and Probation work to advocate for the most suitable and least restrictive way to help support opportunities for rehabilitation along with accountability.

Youth on formal supervision will have the opportunity to reduce their term of supervision when they make productive corrections. Inyo Probation utilizes a reward/sanction matrix to reward the youth for positive changes while holding him/her accountable for negative behaviors. The goal is to work with youth so that they may be supervised in their community. Rewards can include certificates, food cards, special outings, or individual requests. Sanctions can range from reprimands, community work service, home supervision, electronic monitoring, RF house arrest and Weekend Work Program. Sanctions can be assigned through the Court or by the probation officer. Collaborative supervision with the parent and the probation officer appears to have better outcomes and is preferred. Those cases with complex needs benefit from agency collaboration partnering with the family.

With the nearest juvenile hall located 3 plus hours away, creative means are often employed as an alternative to incarceration. Youth with more serious violations may be ordered to a high level of supervision that could integrate case planning, Court School attendance, afterschool programming and/or referrals to other services. At times, it may be beneficial for a youth to enroll in a voluntary cultural-based treatment program. These options can be imposed in lieu of custody if the youth is not a danger to the community.



In 2024 the Probation Department Juvenile Probation Officers provided supervision for 60 youth. 36 were on formal probation and 24 on informal probation. Additionally, a total of 42 youth went to court and 18 transports were provided for youth being detained in a secure facility or going to voluntary residential treatment programs.

Alternatives to custody

Inyo County Probation utilizes several custody alternatives or programs with the goal of assisting the youth with court requirements while remaining in his/her community.

The Probation department offers a non-secure weekend commitment program for lower-level violations, where youth provide community work service and receive cognitive programs on the weekends. The program collaborates projects with local agencies such as the US Forest Service.



In 2024, there were 20 Weekend Work Programs offered by the Probation department with 21 youths completing an average of 2 weekends each.

Electronic monitoring for house arrest is a custody alternative that allows the youth to remain in his/her home while participating with court requirements. With the use of a GPS monitor, the youth is “detained” in the home unless attending school/work and/or assigned services.



In 2024, approximately 13 youth candidates participated in an Electronic Monitoring Program.

Secure Detention

Secure detention is usually the last option on the supervision continuum. Detention is used only when there is a need for the protection of the community and/or the safety of the youth. Inyo County no longer operates a full-service juvenile hall. When

detention is ordered, youth are transported to a partner County facility. These long distances provide significant logistical challenges. Most detention episodes are short-term; however long-term commitments can become necessary depending on the needs of the youth and the protection of the community. In most cases, youthful offenders are supervised in the community.

Youth are transported by probation staff to the facilities contracted by the Department. During the youth's time in a juvenile facility, his/her probation officer will maintain communication with them, their family and the facility staff regarding any service or program needs.



In 2024, 8 youth from Inyo County were booked into a Juvenile Hall and 669 days of custody were logged amongst the 8 youth. It should be noted that a couple of these youth served longer commitments as all other treatment options were unsuccessful or was warranted from the youth's adjudicated charges.

Placement

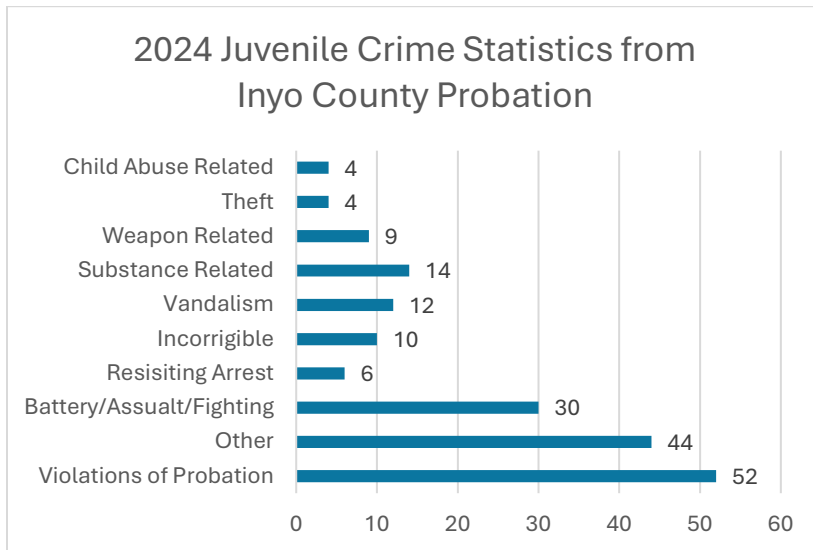
Due to the known benefits of keeping youth close to home or with a family member, family finding and placement alternatives are a priority when a youth appears to be at-risk for removal from a parent and placement in a non-secure setting. Family finding efforts start early and continue through the life of the case. Tribal Representatives and Child Family Team meetings become essential resources in the efforts to keep youth at home. Inyo County has a Family Strengthening Team (Wraparound Program) to assist the whole family with addressing the risk factors affecting the youth. The Bishop Paiute Tribe operates a Youth Healing to Wellness Court program that can often assist families with addressing the issues before placement becomes necessary. Other programs such as Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), intensive case planning and management, collaborative partnerships with the School Resource Officer, or culturally based treatment may be utilized to offer another layer of support in hopes of diverting a youth from being removed and placed into foster care or a short-term treatment program out of the area. Inyo County Health and Human Services has recruited and supported resource family homes (foster homes) in the local area that can be an option for youth who can no longer remain in their own homes. If a youth requires a residential substance abuse treatment program or a foster home is not a good fit, the youth may be placed outside of the county in programs that best match his/her needs. While in placement, the probation officer maintains contact, meets with the youth onsite and will support the family with any needs they may have to meet the goal of reunification. Specialized Wraparound and re-entry services are utilized to help provide support for youth who are returning to the community.



In 2024 the Probation Department did not place any youth into short term treatment programs (formally known as group homes). 4 youth were referred to or participated in the Inyo County Family Strengthening Team (Wraparound Program) and 13 youth were referred/deferred to the Tribal Healing to Wellness Program.

Juvenile Crime

In 2024 youth who were referred by law enforcement for a new offense had an age range of 8-18 years old. The ages with the highest number of referrals were between the ages of 15-17. A total of 97 youth with a total number of 188 new offenses were referred to the Probation Department. There were 52 violations of probation filed during the same period.



Community Service

In 2024, youth working with Probation completed 340 hours of the 590 hours of community service that were ordered by the court or probation officer. It should be noted that some youth are still on probation and are working on completing their hours.

Restitution

In 2024, there was a total of \$2380.63 that was ordered by the Juvenile Court for Victim Restitution; a total of \$2207.48 was collected.

Juvenile Probation Case Terminations

In the year 2024, 35 juvenile probation cases terminated during this period. Most terminations are deemed successful and record seals are imposed.

Probation Data Source

Inyo County Probation Department uses Tyler Supervision Case management system. This CMS is a robust system that provides many useful outcome reports. Dispatch has access to this system; and Probation will share data and information with their partners if appropriate for case management purposes. The data collected is analyzed and used to provide information regarding the effectiveness of juvenile programs.



Current Efforts

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council activities in 2024-2025

The JJCPA funding in Inyo County has primarily been used to assist the Healthy Communities Program in Southern Inyo County (60% of the yearly grant is allotted to this program) and the Extended Day Program at the Inyo County Office of Education (40% of the yearly grant is allotted to this program)

To help determine service gaps and to allocate funding accordingly the Council created a sub-committee to create a survey to assess the efficacy of local juvenile prevention programs and to identify any service gaps. This gap analysis of juvenile services in Inyo County will help the JJCC to direct resources to support youth programs throughout Inyo County

Subcommittee and Community Survey

The JJCC Subcommittee was tasked to conduct a survey that would help inform the council about the service and program need gaps in the community. The survey was published and distributed throughout Inyo County via social media, local news sites, outreach events, email, posters and word of mouth. The survey was published in English and in Spanish.

A total of 106 responses were received from the community regarding juvenile justice services in Inyo County. Most respondents were educators or parents. Most respondents were female over the age of 30. In general, most respondents agreed that the juvenile justice system was responding with adequate services for handling juvenile-related offenses with adequate investigations, interventions, collaborations, assessments and diversionary alternatives. Several comments suggested that current prevention efforts should continue. Some areas identified as needing improvement include coordination and communication for case planning as well as the need for better after-care or reentry services. Programs that could be bolstered included counseling, job readiness, social/afterschool programs, specialized courts and substance abuse treatment. Top reoccurring themes from the comments and subcommittee input included offering more support to parents, public education about local programs and services, and more imposition of consequences for youth.

Survey Results Summary

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

The Council launched a survey regarding local prevention services for juvenile justice in Inyo County California. The survey was open October 1, 2024, and was closed January 1, 2025.

Current Juvenile Justice System services appear suitable

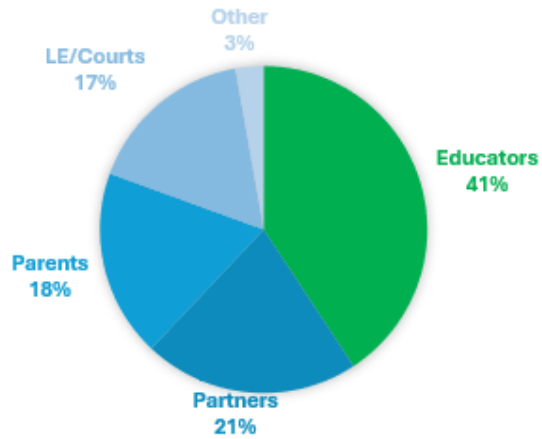
In general, most respondents agreed that the Juvenile Justice system was responding with adequate services for handling juvenile-related offenses with adequate investigations, interventions, collaborations, assessments and diversionary alternatives.

For example, in question # 15, regarding providing adequate treatment resources to address youth and family needs.

42 participants agreed
18 were neutral
23 disagreed

Additionally, several comments suggested that current prevention efforts should continue.

SURVEY TAKERS



106 responses were received. The majority of the respondents ranged in the categories of ages 30 to 50 years old and 50 or above. 59% of respondents were female.

Areas to Improve

🍃 Improve coordination and communication across agencies in order to improve case planning for youth and parents

🍃 Reentry or aftercare case management

More Programs Needed

Counseling
Job readiness
Social programs
Specialized courts
Substance Treatment

Reoccurring Themes from Comments & Subcommittee

Support & Resources

to parents managing challenging behaviors from their children

▶ Public Forum
▶ Hotline

Public Awareness

education & information regarding available programs

▶ Website

More Consequence and Accountability

for youth from the system

▶ Community Court
▶ Restorative Justice

Community Programs

for art, vocational training, community projects

Continue and Bolster Prevention

addressing trauma, mental health, family dynamics

Counseling and Treatment Programs

increase support to youth and families



Next Steps

Strategy Priorities

After reviewing the needs identified from the survey, the Juvenile Justice Council and Subcommittee determined the following priorities to address:

1. Continue funding to the Healthy Communities to provide activities for south-county youth.
2. Continue funding to the Inyo County Office of Education to assist with the extended day activities.
3. Expand funding for Inyo County Office of Education to create and maintain a comprehensive website that features local services and events as well as contact information for programs.
4. Collaborate efforts with Health and Human Services' existing "211" hotline roll out that aims to improve community access to local services.
5. Explore options to address truancy/absenteeism.
6. Create grant opportunities for community-based organizations to support programs that target youth crime prevention and/or prosocial activities for at-risk (at-promise) youth.

Healthy Communities

Healthy Communities provides constructive activities and programs of interest to all community youth, including those "at risk", that build self-esteem, good character and those that enhance job skills. Healthy Communities continues to find creative ways to keep young people from engaging in inappropriate behavior or illegal activities. They provide a variety of youth services that include family recreation, outdoor activities, after school and weekend programs, and summer family programs for at risk youth. This organization also provides volunteers to assess and address needs of youth and adults in the community and create and implement programs to address those needs; work to increase the number of youths served by Healthy Communities; establish partnerships with other organizations having similar goals and work with them to better serve the community.

Currently JJCPA grant funding is allotted to the Healthy Communities Program in Southern Inyo County. This funding pays for the Executive Director's position as he/she coordinates prosocial community activities for the south county region. The JJCC will receive regular updates regarding the activities and programs offered by Healthy Community throughout the year.

Inyo County Office of Education

Currently, JJCPA grant funding provides the Jill Kinmont Boothe community school with the ability to extend the school day for at-risk students. The grant will help to fund instructors for a variety of elective and vocational classes in the afternoon, including Art and Career and Workplace Readiness. The funds will help to fund the online curriculum program Edgenuity and Measures of Academic Progress assessment. Edgenuity is an online curriculum program that allows JKBS to offer a wider variety of courses to students. Most of the students who go to JKBS are credit deficient. By integrating Edgenuity into the regular curriculum, JKBS is

better able to meet the academic needs of the students. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is an online assessment that is aligned to the Common Core standards. These computerized tests are adaptive and offered in reading, language usage, science, and mathematics. MAP assessments are given three times throughout the school year; the students are placed in "booster courses" in reading and math in the Edgenuity program based on the testing results. This is proving invaluable in providing the students with individualized extra support in core academic areas.

The Inyo County Office of Education operates the Jill Kinmont Boothe community school and has used grant funding to offer cooking, music and art classes for the youth attending the alternative education school.

2025-2026 Community Services Priorities

Local Resource Guide

This year, expanded funding will be provided for the creation and maintenance of a local website that will feature resources, programs and information for local families looking for support throughout the county. The website will be a place where local agencies can include upcoming events for Inyo County Residents. An information website hub has been identified as the top need by many local agencies, making this a fitting strategy for the plan. It is anticipated that there will be multiple agencies contributing information to make this a beneficial resource for the community.

Community Resource Hotline

Health and Human Services operates an existing 211 hotline. This hotline currently supports youth and families for mental health needs. The hotline will be expanded to include referral services for programs and services available to community members. The Council members will assist with the roll out and support HHS with providing the information to the public about the new service. It is anticipated that a link to 211 will be available on the new information/resources website created by the Office of Education. In addition, the 211 program will direct community members to the new information/resource website.

Truancy/Absenteeism Services

Although, truancy and absenteeism was not highlighted in the survey results, it continues to be an identified concern for the schools and local agencies assisting the schools. Currently, the Bishop Paiute Tribe has a truancy program for tribal members. There remains a gap for non-tribal youth as the truancy rate has reached 25% in the last years. The Juvenile Justice Council will make truancy/absenteeism a priority and work with the schools and the community to seek out any programs that can help address this identified need over the next year.

Local CPO Grant Program

The Juvenile Justice Council will develop a request for proposals to provide grant opportunities to community-based programs that can demonstrate a plan to assist local youth with prosocial or vocational programs in the fiscal year 2025-2026. The Council will oversee the RFP applications and select grant recipients that align with the overall goal of reducing juvenile crime throughout Inyo County.

Conclusion

The Juvenile Justice Council has looked at gaps in local services that could result in increased juvenile crime and higher numbers of youth entering the juvenile justice system in Inyo County. With Inyo County being rural and having many isolated communities, the Council recognizes that there is a large number of youth that are at-risk and considered to be disadvantaged. The main populous region of the county hosts the majority of services and providing services to all communities of Inyo County has been historically challenging.

Many agencies come together to provide positive and prosocial events throughout the county. Agency partners work well with each other, which can be a benefit for the youth and their families. Better outcomes have been seen when there is communication and collaboration between agencies and the families being served. This multiagency juvenile justice plan outlines several services and partnerships among agencies; however, work will continue to engage other local agencies that may not work as frequently with the typical juvenile justice partners.

In the juvenile justice area specifically, immense effort is spent on prevention and diversion programs since avoiding the justice system altogether provides for better outcomes. Research has shown that purely punitive systems are not as effective for rehabilitating young lives as is researched based cognitive type programs, outdoor activities, prosocial activities, and education. These alternatives/diversions to custody are utilized by the probation department as well as incentive matrixes that support positive changes that youth make.

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council provides guidance and oversight for the JJCPA funding and have determined that funding will continue to assist the Healthy Communities of Southern Inyo's program and Inyo County Office of Education as they provide community and educational programs for local youth. The Council will focus on new strategies for the upcoming year that includes the creation of a local website hub, an expanded "211" hotline to support families, truancy/absenteeism prevention programs and to provide grant opportunities to local programs that target youth crime prevention.

