

LASSEN COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Lassen County Probation Department is an integral part of the justice system, providing direct services to the court, community, and offenders.

Our mission is:

- 1) To protect the community;
- 2) To strive to prevent and reduce the frequency, severity, and impact of criminal and delinquent behavior among adults and juveniles who come within the jurisdiction of the Probation Department;
- 3) To enforce court orders;
- 4) To promote responsible behavior in offenders;
- 5) To provide information and recommendations to the courts;
- 6) To provide services to victims.

CODE OF ETHICS

- ◆ Act without prejudice and respect the rights of all persons.
- ◆ Uphold the law with dignity.
- ◆ Be objective in the performance of my duties.
- ◆ Cooperate with fellow workers, other agencies & the public.
- ◆ Protect, as appropriate, confidences entrusted to me in my official capacity.
- ◆ Improve professional standards by continuously enhancing my knowledge & expertise.

LASSEN COUNTY PROBATION: A YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2020-2021 year flew by for the Lassen County Probation Department, giving us so much to reflect on. From our two divisions moving into one office, getting some of our in-person trainings back, to creating new in-house programs, and building a stronger social media presence within our community; 20-21 was a full year.

Navigating our way through a merge of two full divisions into one office was as challenging as it was rewarding. We had to work in closer quarters to one another, while still finding our own space to keep our work flowing. The benefits, however, have definitely tipped the scales. While it was an adjustment, the ability to have impromptu meetings for the entire department has been a positive. More face to face communication between the Adult and Juvenile Divisions has helped create an open environment allowing cross-training and support for one another. Gaps for coverage have become almost non-existent. While losing the Juvenile Detention Facility was hard, the positive outcome of our Juvenile Division coming to the Adult office has made our Department that much stronger.

Through all of that, our department was able to bring back some in-person trainings. Both Juvenile and Adult staff attended first aid trainings, ART (Aggression Replacement Training), and numerous other trainings put on in-house. Officers and Probation Assistants have been able to get back into the field to do address verifications, home checks, and even participate in an abatement operation in Ravendale.

Lassen County Probation was also able to create and implement a new in-house program for clients. The Vital Intervention and Behavior Education (VIBE) Program was offered to both Juveniles and Adults. The VIBE Program is a skill building group that teaches safe coping skills to men and women. The beginning of this program shows promise to be a long lasting asset to the Lassen County Probation Department and it's clients.

With new programs on the rise and our staff getting back into the full swing of things, our department has stepped into the light by way of Social Media. The Lassen County Probation Department Facebook page is a place where we can connect to those in the community who want to learn more about the criminal justice system or our department. There has been positive feedback from the public, telling us that they love to see us out in the community and seeing how much our department does.

As some restrictions lifted on the COVID-19 Pandemic, our department had to adjust to suit them as well. We are adapting to the everchanging regulations that are slowly becoming a normal procedure for everyone. Lassen County Probation continues to strive forward to ensure the safety of employees and the public.

During July of each year, Pre-Trial, Probation, and Parole Supervision (PPPS) Week is observed. It is a time that the Lassen County Probation Management team use to show their appreciation for staff. They hand out gifts, cook a breakfast and lunch, as well as put on a “movie afternoon” for staff to gather and enjoy a fun afternoon together. 2020 was celebrated with masks and special coins being given to our staff.



After moving through several locations, Lassen County Probation has landed in the building on Riverside Drive, before that it was located on South Roop for many years. When the move happened, Chief Jennifer Branning made sure to take a keepsake: the sign. She then fitted it into a table top, that we now display in our office. Accompanying it is a collection of badges from probation departments throughout the state of California.

ADULT DIVISION

For a second year, the COVID-19 Pandemic affected the community and our lives, making it seem as if there was no light at the end of the tunnel. However, our department interlocked as a family and persevered through some of the most challenging times. We came together and covered what we needed to cover for each other as family does. We worked from where we could and if we could not be in the office, we did our best to cover for those who were out. We ensured the required reports, projects, and alike were completed in a timely manner as the world did not stop, rather, we had hit a colossal roadblock causing us to maneuver around it, which we did.

As challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic continued, our small rural community was hit on June 30th with the Beckworth fire, a fire that began a devastating fire season. The fires that followed were some of the biggest California has ever seen. Through this, our department helped to support the community and firefighters.

Due to the restrictions that come with the pandemic, for a time our department utilized “drive-through” drug testing. As the name implies, the clients would come to the office and be tested in the parking lot using an oral swab test. They would then wait for the presumptive results. With some restrictions lifted, our Adult division has since gone back to traditional testing methods.

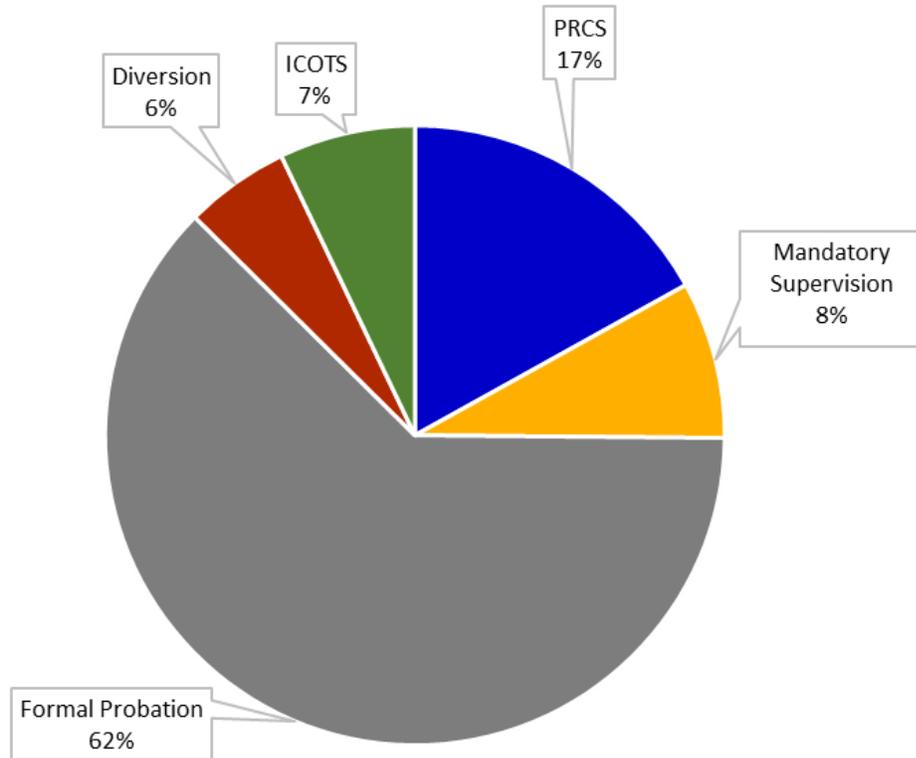
We have again implemented case planning and case conferencing, which has been a tremendous help to the officers who are confronting barriers of productive progress for their clients. This allows officers to complete a plan of resources and classes to ensure success for their clients.

After many discussions, we have started the smooth transition of those who have been granted PC 1000 diversion. There are now monthly meetings being held in order to obtain progress reports to provide to the court at status hearings.

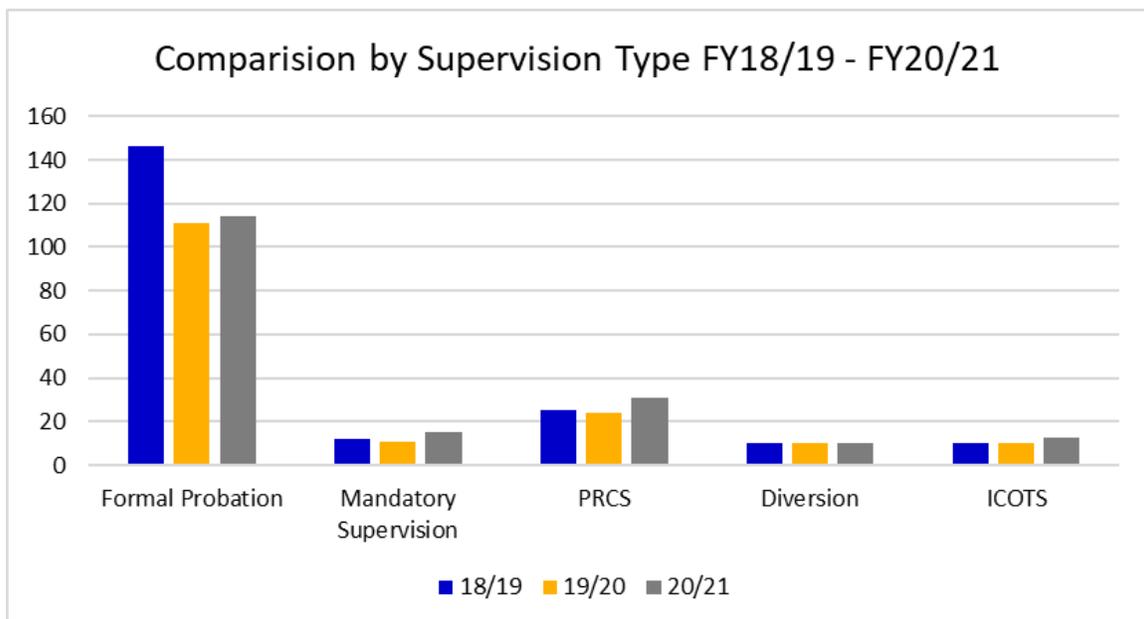
Finally, yet importantly, we have begun posting on our Facebook page about the court and probation processes. We aim to educate the public and those who are not familiar with the Criminal Justice System on a better understating of it and the role we play.

ADULT STATISTICS

At the end of FY 20/21, there were a total of 183 adults on supervision in Lassen County. 114 adults supervised on formal probation, 31 on Post Release Community Supervision, 10 on Diversion, 13 on ICOTS, and 15 on Mandatory Supervision.

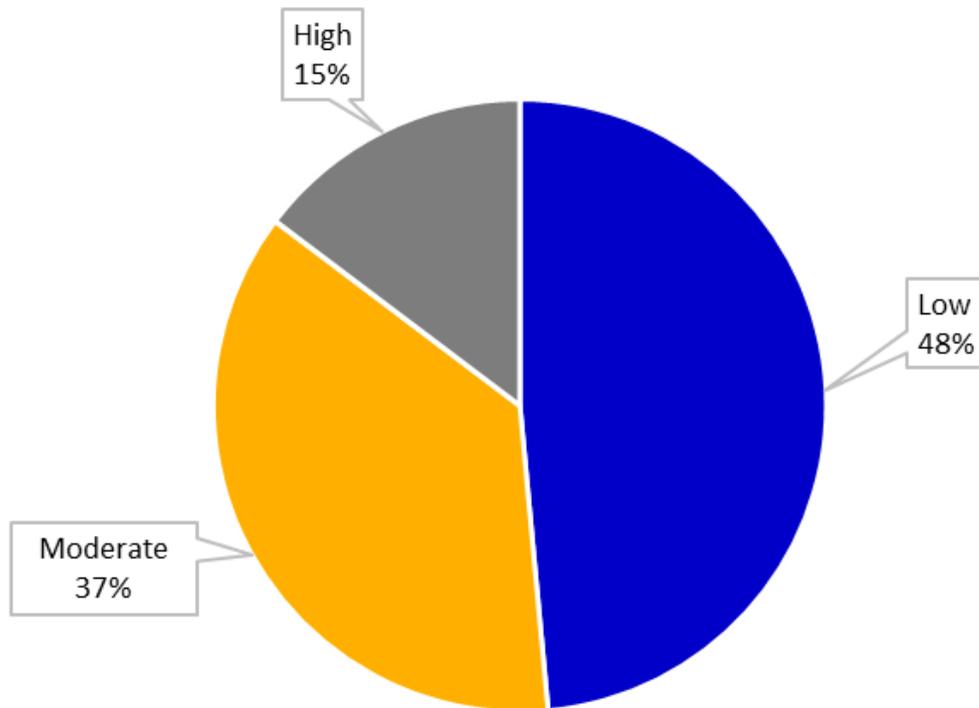


The following chart represents the supervision types over the last three fiscal years.

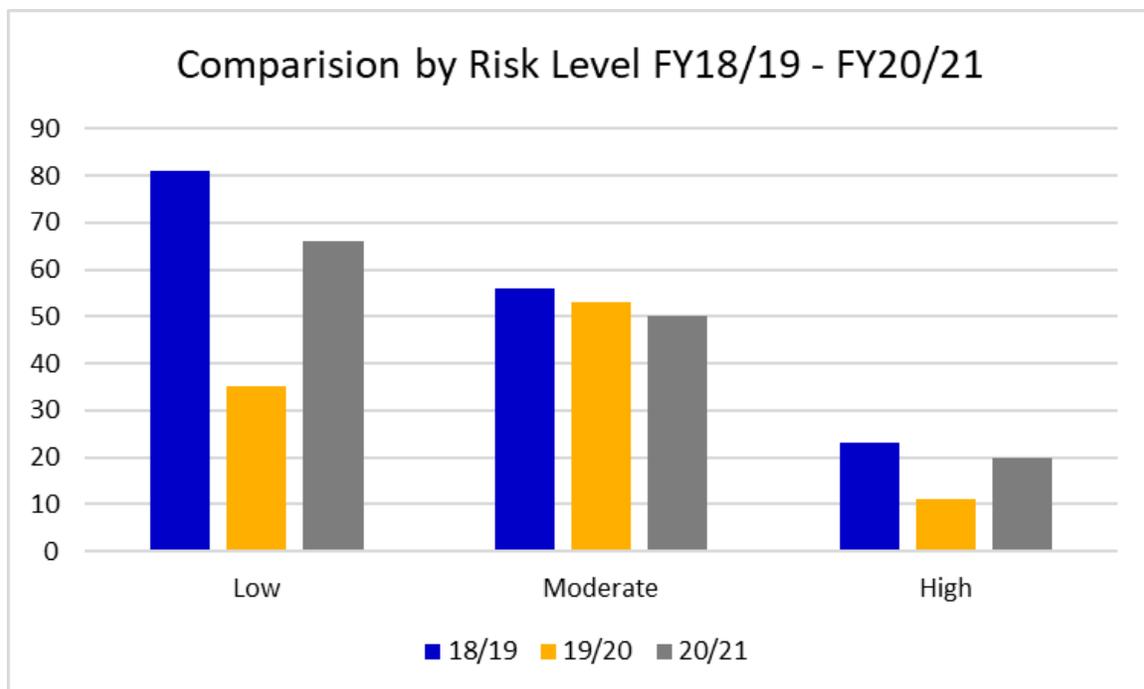


ADULT STATISTICS

Of the 183 adults on supervision, 136 of them were assessed. 20 were assessed as high risk, 50 as moderate and 66 as low risk.

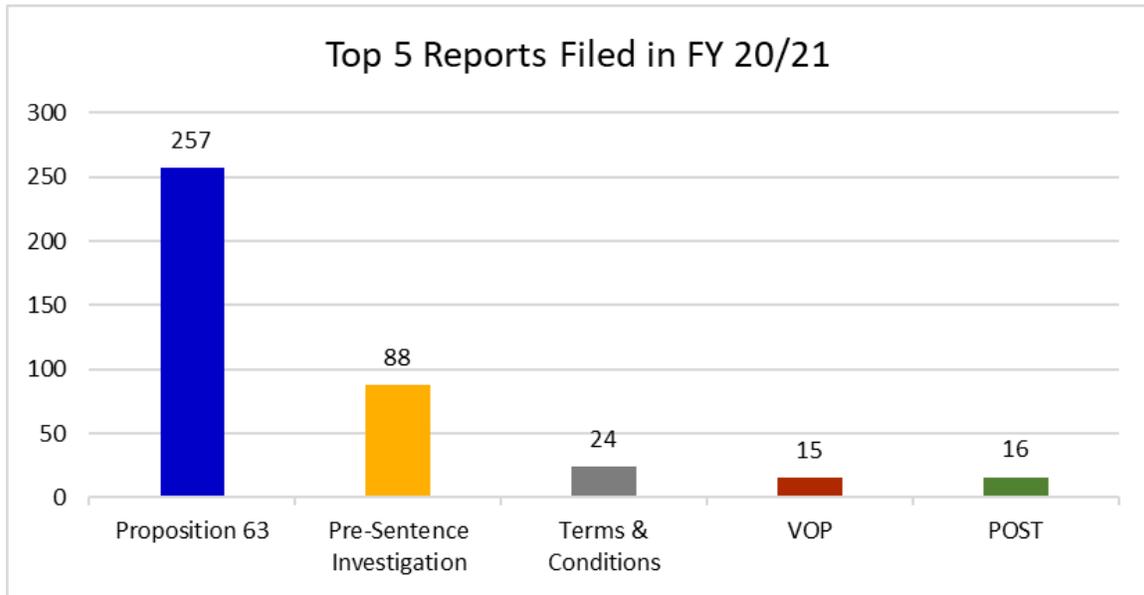


The following chart represents the risk levels over the last three fiscal years.

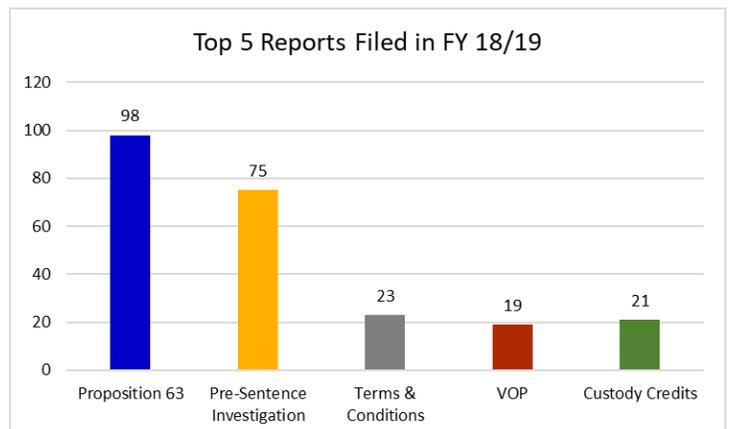
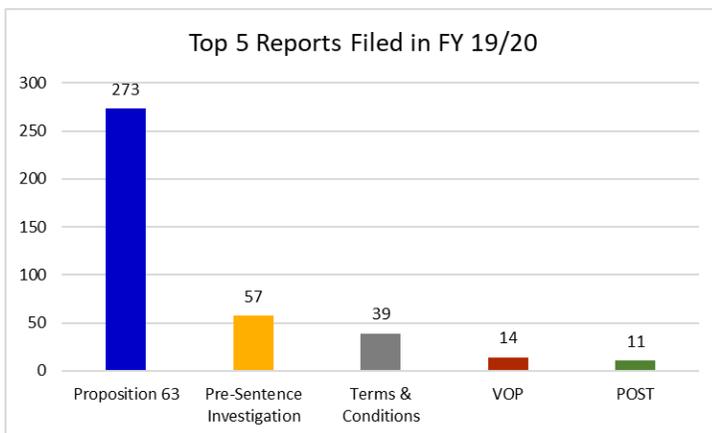


REPORT STATISTICS

A large part of the workload in the Adult Division of the Lassen County Probation Department is report writing. The Adult Division receives referrals from the court for a variety of reports. In FY 20/21, the Adult Division filed 448 court reports. The highest being Proposition 63 Reports at 257 reports filed. The top 5 reports filed by Lassen County Probation in FY 20/21 are represented in the chart below.



The following charts represent the top 5 reports filed in FY 18/19 and FY 19/20.



JUVENILE DIVISION

Just like every other agency and individual, the Juvenile Division continues to evolve practices and procedures to provide appropriate services during the pandemic. We transitioned to virtual trainings, meetings and court appearances. Pursuant to legislation, we transitioned from in-person visits with youth in out of home care, to virtual, back to in-person visits. We conducted our first virtual job fair; our County Self-Assessment was cancelled and we are diligently working on a hybrid virtual model to conduct a meaningful CSA to assist in the writing of our new 5 Year System Improvement Plan.

We requested information from the juvenile division for ideas around transforming Juvenile Probation. We created and implemented the Vital Intervention and Behavioral Encouragement Program, case conferencing, and with the collaboration of several agencies redesigned and brought back meetings for the Children's Systems Allocation Team. The state implemented and provided training on a new user-friendly data system to manage out of state and transfer in cases.

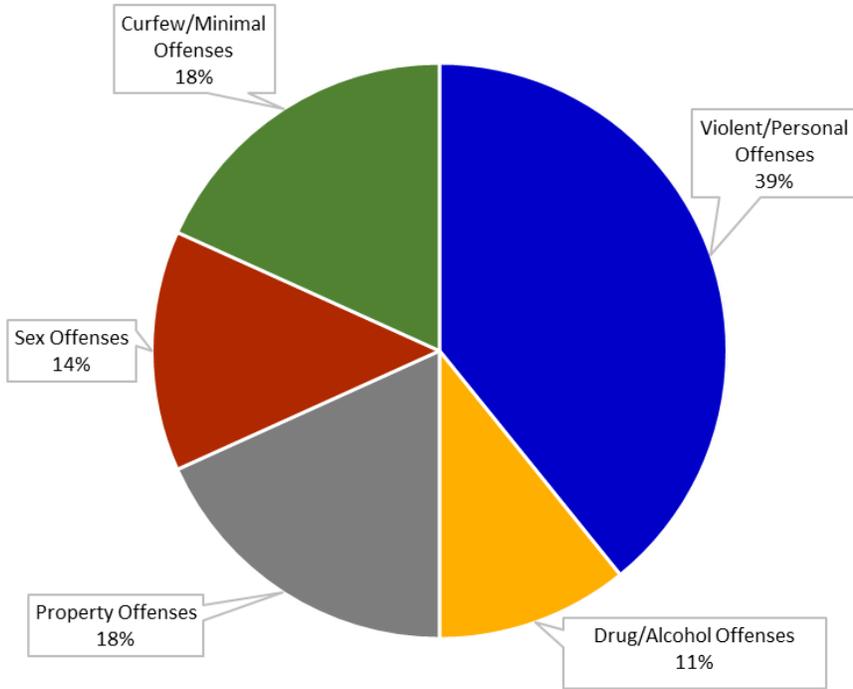
With the closure of the Department of Juvenile Justice, we had to come together to determine how to appropriately serve our juvenile population. We focused on preventative measures to assist in reducing confinement and out of home placement. The department partnered with Lassen Intervention to create a specific program to bring individualized services to our youth and families. Lassen Intervention created a proposal for services which will be further reviewed and decided upon in the next fiscal year.

As of February 2021, the Juvenile and Adult divisions have merged into one department site. This has been a journey of merging personalities and work styles. With everyone in the same building we have been able to come together for potlucks and "family time" to get to know one another not only as co-workers but friends. As a team we had the privilege of celebrating graduations from college/universities and a retirement celebration. Additionally, we had the opportunity to provide a letter of recognition to Officer Miller for his exemplary work with the youth he serves.

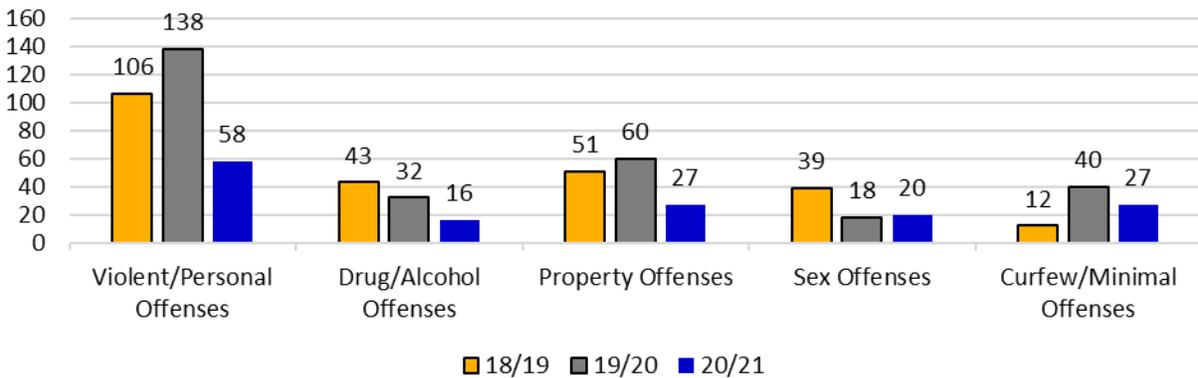
JUVENILE STATISTICS

In Fiscal Year 20/21, the Juvenile Division of the Lassen County Probation Department received 109 referrals. Of those referrals, there were 154 offenses. 148 of those offenses fit into the following categories: Violent and/or Personal Offenses – 58, Drug and/or Alcohol Offenses – 16, Property Offenses – 27, Sex Offenses – 20, and Curfew and/or Minimal Offenses – 27.

Juvenile Referrals by Category FY 20/21



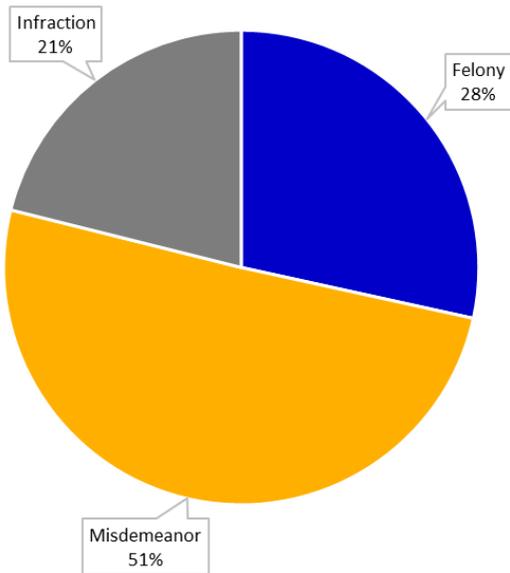
Comparison of Juvenile Referrals by Category
FY 18/19 - 20/21



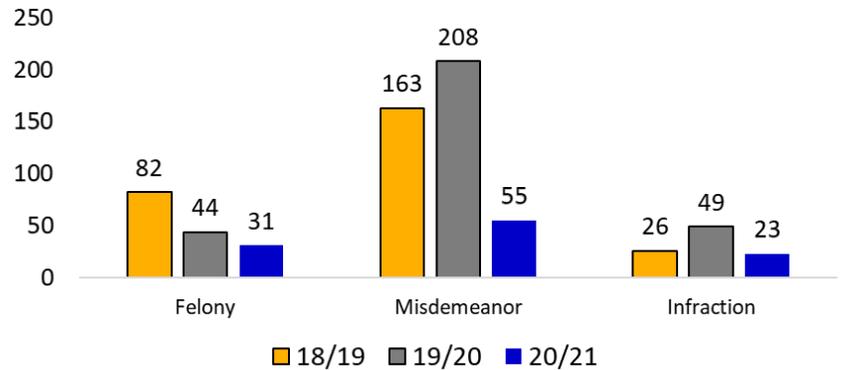
JUVENILE STATISTICS

Of the 109 referrals to the Juvenile Division of the Lassen County Probation Department, there were 31 Felony Offenses, 55 Misdemeanor Offenses and 23 Infractions.

Juvenile Referrals by Offense Level FY 20/21

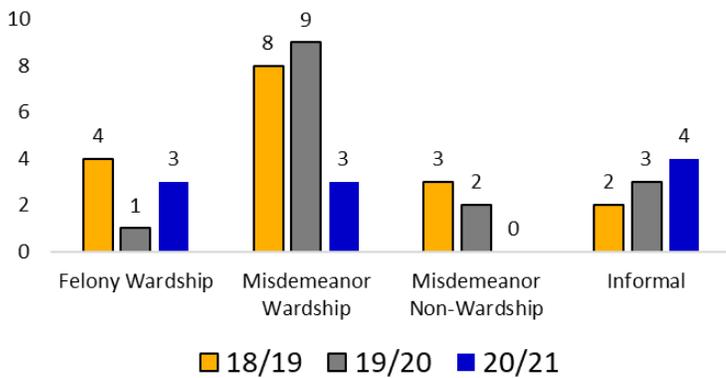


Comparison of Juvenile Referrals by Offense Level FY 18/19 - 20/21

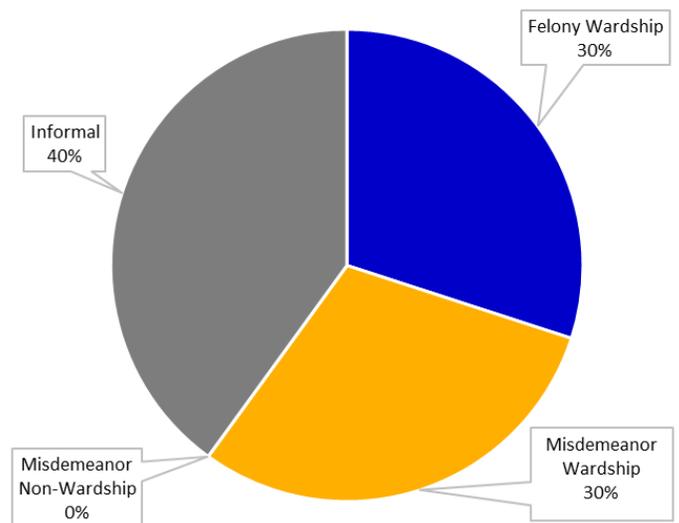


At the end of FY 20/21, there were 10 juveniles on supervision in Lassen County. 3 juveniles on felony wardship, 3 on misdemeanor wardship, and 4 on informal supervision. There were no juveniles on misdemeanor non-wardship.

Comparison of Supervision Type FY 18/19 - 20/21

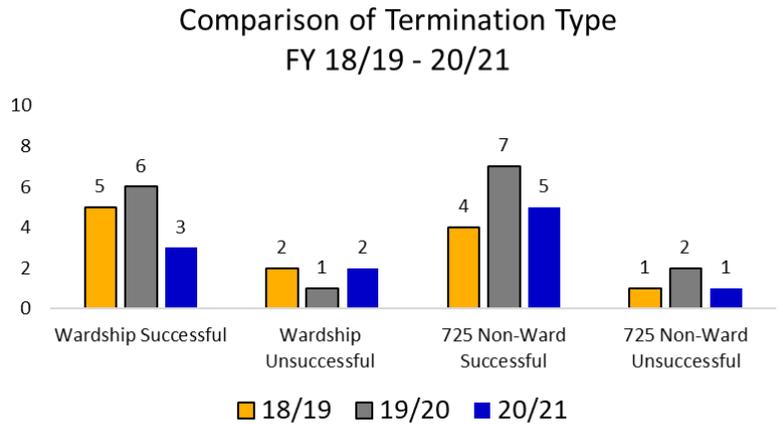
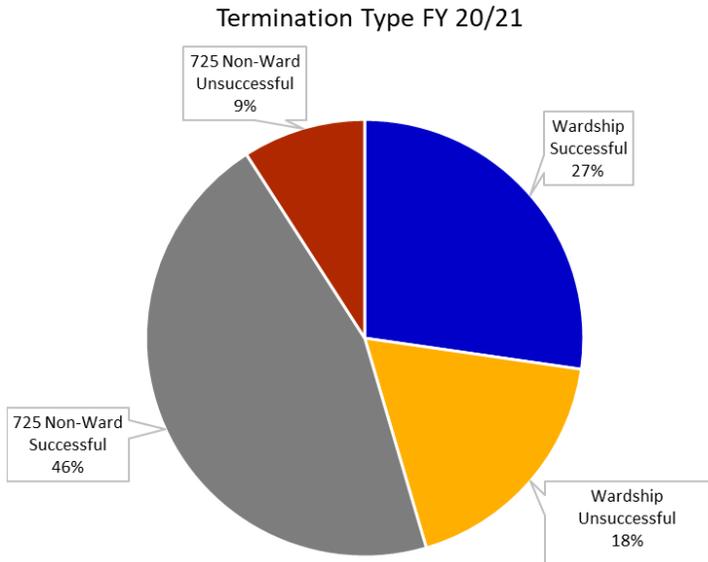


Supervision Type FY 20/21

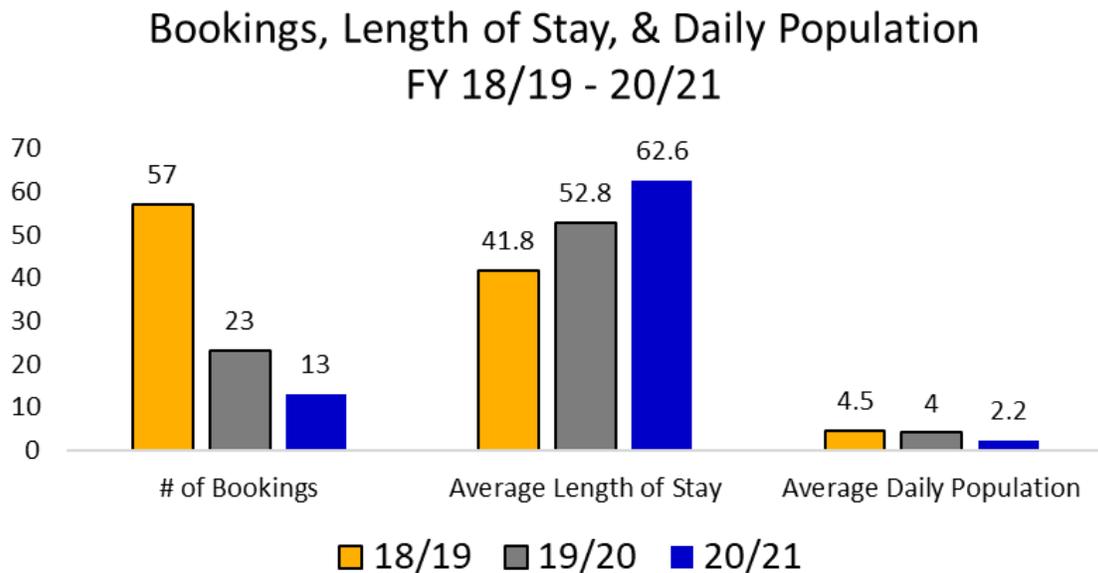


JUVENILE STATISTICS

In FY 20/21, Lassen County had a total of 11 probation terminations. There were 3 successful wardship terminations, 2 unsuccessful wardship terminations, 5 successful non-wardship terminations and 1 unsuccessful non-wardship termination.

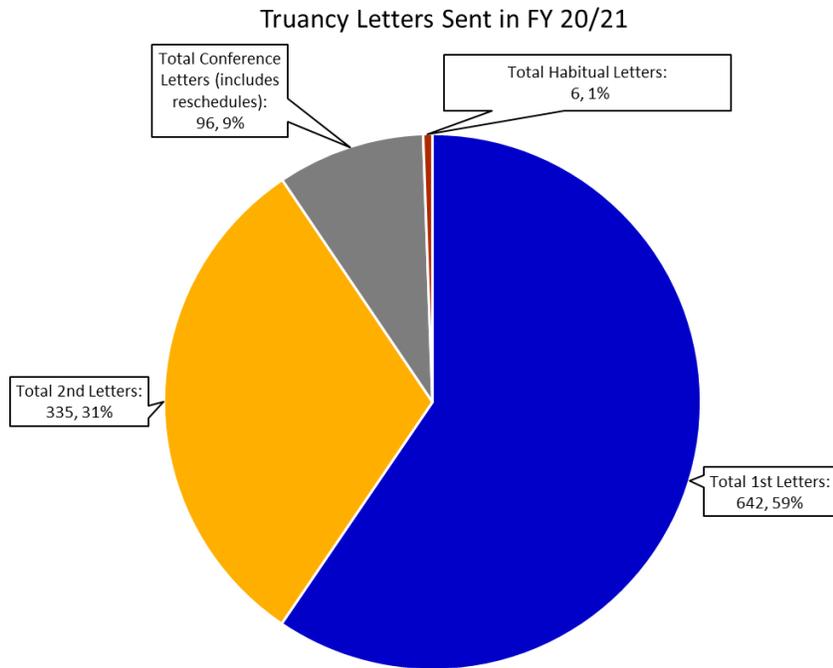


The following graph shows the number of bookings, average length of stay and the average daily population in custody for FY 18/19—FY 20/21

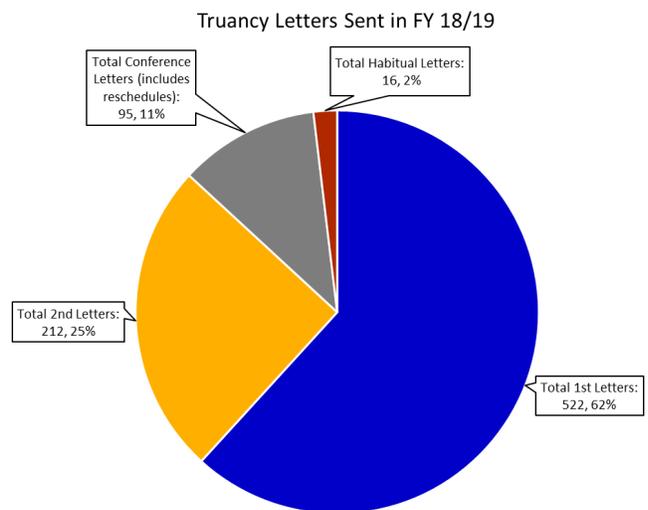
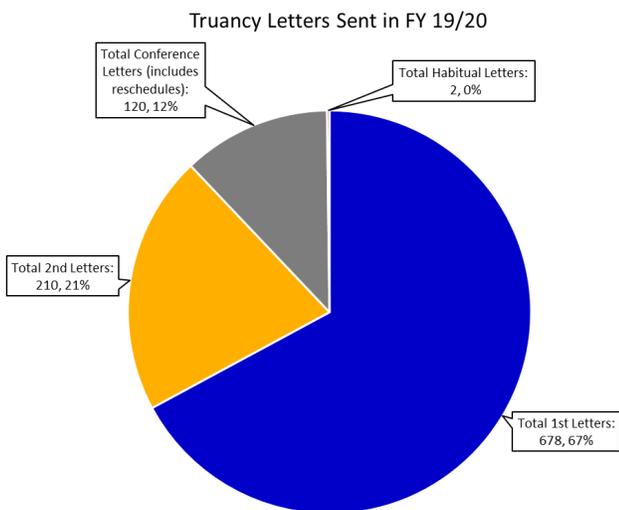


TRUANCY

In the school year of 2020-2021, there were 9 schools who participated in the Lassen County Probation Department’s Truancy Program. The Probation Department and participating schools collaborate to support students and families in removing barriers to success. Together we make active efforts to engage parents and students in improving student attendance, increasing academic success, and strengthening parent participation/communication with the schools. For the school year 2020-2021, there were 642 1st Outreach letters, 335 2nd Outreach letters, 96 Student Success Plan letters, and only 6 Habitual letters. The chart below represents the letters sent; the Habitual letters were so low they count as 0.556%. According to the previous school year’s data, 2nd Outreach letters increased by 125 due to limited access to fully in-person learning and accessibility to internet service for remote learning. In fiscal year 2020/2021, there were six criminal complaints filed with the Lassen County District Attorney’s Office. The cases referred were habitual truancies prior to the pandemic.



The following charts represent the number of letters sent in FY 19/20 and FY 18/19.



FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES & INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Foster Youth Services

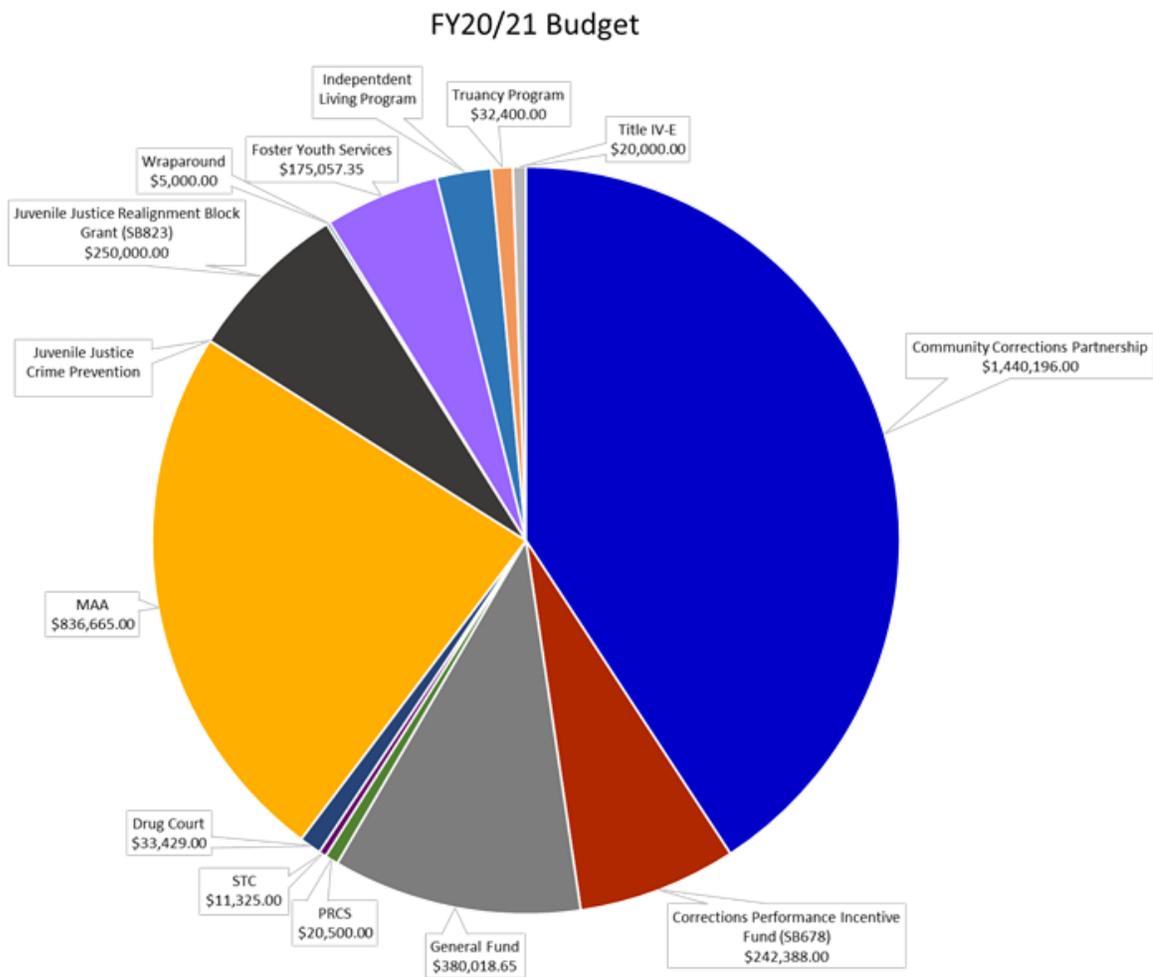
The program continues to expand year by year. Lassen County Foster Youth Services (FYS) provides tutoring services to all Foster Youth in Lassen County. Tutoring occurs three-four days a week. Tutoring is available to any foster youth enrolled in school. The program contracts with two tutors who are both teachers at our local high school. The goal of providing tutoring services is to ensure our foster youth are staying on track, keeping up on assignments, and providing a safe place for the youth to better their education. In the 2020-2021 school year, the program provided tutoring services to 35 Foster Youth.

Independent Living Program

Lassen County Independent Living Program (ILP) provides daily life skills to current and former foster youth aging 15-21. ILP is offered to youth every other Wednesday. The program provides the necessary skills to assist the youth in achieving self-sufficiency prior to leaving the foster care system. In the 2020-2021 year, 24 Foster Youth received ILP services. A total of 111 services were provided.

FISCAL

Fiscal is responsible for the diligent and accurate management of all the department funds and provides support in the areas of: payroll and personnel, fiscal, contracts, procurement, new hire paperwork and coordinating and tracking staff training, information technology and data, research and analysis. The Department’s financial goals are met through careful budgeting and grant funding. Fiscal handles the Department Budget, Accounts Payable/Receivables, Grant funding and reporting, etc. The Probation Budget includes Community Corrections Partnership, Corrections Performance Incentive Fund (SB678), Probation Administration and Services, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS), Standards and Training for Correction (STC), Drug Court, Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA), Youthful Offender Block Grant, Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (SB823), Foster Youth Services, Independent Living Program, Truancy Program, and Title IV-E.



OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Each year the Lassen County Veteran's organizations pay tribute to local Law enforcement at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Susanville. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the ceremony took place in the Probation Department Office. Deputy Chief Sara Gould was recognized as Lassen County Probation Department's Officer of the year for 2020.

Deputy Chief Gould was chosen as the Probation Officer of the Year by the department due to her years of dedication and hard work.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Though community events held some restrictions due to the ongoing pandemic, Lassen County Probation found a way to be involved throughout the year. While some events were cancelled completely, others were merely modified to ensure the safety of the volunteers and the public. Members of the probation team volunteer their time to these events. The outreach that we conduct when out with the community is a huge resource to our department.

Safe and Sane Halloween

Each year the Historic Uptown Susanville Association puts on a Safe and Sane Halloween where children and families can dress up and visit local business for treats. This year the event was held at Memorial Park.



Bell Ringing

Lassen County Probation participated in Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army. The funds raised from this go to help those who won't have a holiday without a little help from their community.



Holiday with a Hero

Holiday with a Hero is an annual event in Susanville. Local children get to shop, play and interact with our area's first responders. Instead of having all the children shop with our heroes in 2020, the presents were all delivered to their homes by the volunteers.



Walk A Mile

The annual Lassen Family Services Walk A Mile event, at the end of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, shares information raising awareness about sexual assault and child abuse.



Child Abuse Prevention Week

As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month, a flag raising was held Friday morning in Susanville to honor children across the country, and close to home, who were lost to violence. Lassen County Probation planted a garden of pinwheels in a show of support.



Foster Care Awareness Month

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness for the children and youth in foster care. Lassen County Probation wears blue to support foster care.



Denim Day

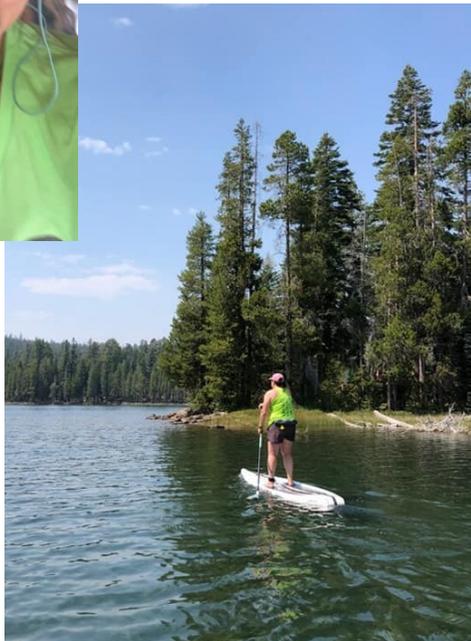
Denim Day is recognized every year in April, we wear denim to show support and raise awareness of rape and sexual assault.



Courage Triathlon 2020

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Courage Worldwide Triathlon had to be conducted remotely. Each team did their leg of the race separately; a 12 mile bike ride, a 2.8 mile run, and a 4.1 mile water event.

Our team consisted of Chief Jennifer Branning, SDPO Jennifer Sommerfield, & Probation Clerk Becky Kuhns.



SPONSORSHIPS

The Lassen County Probation Department enjoys sponsoring local programs. Below are a few programs that were sponsored throughout the fiscal year, and some information on each of them.

Courage Worldwide Triathlon

Courage Worldwide is an international, non-profit organization that builds homes for children rescued out of sex trafficking around the world. Courage Worldwide started out as an all volunteer organization, and has grown to a multi-million dollar non-profit organization with thirty paid employees, over fifteen hundred active volunteers and two long term residential care facilities – one in Northern California and the other in Tanzania, Africa.

Out of Darkness

The Community Walks, held in hundreds of cities across the country, are the core of the Out of the Darkness movement, which began in 2004. These events give people the courage to open up about their own connections to the cause, and a platform to create a culture that's smarter about mental health. Friends, family members, neighbors and coworkers walk side-by-side, supporting each other and in memory of those we've lost.

Dancing for a Brand New Me

Dancing For A Brand New Me is Lassen Family Services' largest fundraiser. The money raised by this event helps LFS pay the mortgage on our emergency shelter for victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. This is the first year Lassen County probation sponsored a team. ILP also sponsored a team for the event held in October 2021.



Staff from the Lassen County Probation Department taking part in the virtual version of the 2020 Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention

TRAININGS FACILITATED IN LASSEN COUNTY

Alliance for Children's Right Training: Lassen County Foster Youth Services brought Alliance for Children's Rights staff to Lassen County to provide training on the Foster Youth Education Toolkit. This training was attended by Social Workers, Probation Officers, School Staff and other members of the community.

Ohio Risk Assessment System Training/ Ohio Youth Assessment System: Facilitated by Megan Paterson – A 2 day training to assist officers and support staff in understanding the Assessment tools. The training is facilitated to increase staff knowledge of the principals of effective classification, knowledge of the Assessment tools, teach effective interviewing skills and certify staff on the scoring of the OYAS and ORAS.

DTACT: Facilitated by Megan Paterson and Jennifer Sommerfield – A four hour refresher training to ensure staff are well versed in the departments use of force policy and current and new legislation on use of force. The training is facilitated to ensure officers have the knowledge and experience to effectively and safely de-escalate a potential combative situation.

Report Writing: Facilitated by Tom Ready – Training focused on legal requirements and contents of reports. Completing clear, concise, thorough high quality reports to submit to Courts. Participants focus on three different models for review, rules of courts and code section requirements.

Communications: Facilitated by Tom Ready – Training focused on Professionalism, de-escalating situations to get "Voluntary Compliance, active listening, Coaching, Collaborating, Consulting.

Radio Procedures: Facilitated by Robert Roadifer – This training gives staff the ability to communicate properly and clearly to dispatch with either the handheld radios or vehicle radios when doing transports to either juvenile or adult facilities as well as allowing you to be able to communicate while out in the field.

Fingerprinting Procedures: Facilitated by Robert Roadifer – With this training, staff were taught how to roll finger prints properly on youth that are being booked into juvenile facilities; when you need to roll prints on juveniles, i.e. new charges; how to properly fill out the finger print cards as well how many finger print cards are needed.

Aggression Replacement Training (ART): Facilitated by Lassen County FYS, with trainer Tom Ranalli from Education and Treatment Alternatives. ART is an intervention designed for aggressive adolescents, children, and adults. This training was offered to social workers, probation officers, probation assistants, school staff, youth service officers, and more.

Goals and Vision for the Upcoming Year

- ⇒ Further reduce the juvenile detention population to only those most at risk of reoffending through implementing Trauma Informed Care.
- ⇒ Redesign Juvenile and Adult Probation programs and supervision.
- ⇒ Create more opportunities for community involvement and sponsorship opportunities.
- ⇒ Increase adult and juvenile mentors.
- ⇒ Re-establish a Juvenile Court Work Program and implement a similar model for adult offenders.

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<https://www.facebook.com/Lassen-Independent-Living-Program-470747503756113/>

