**PREVIOUS SECTION 6**

## Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System

**Describe how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of the target population within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system, in lieu of transfer to the adult criminal justice system: (WIC 1995 (5) )**

Probation Department personnel will no longer recommend the transfer of youth cases to the adult system, except in cases of extremely serious and violent offenses. The Probation Department has also begun using a structured decision-making process, or disposition matrix, to ensure that recommended dispositions are at the lowest optimal level to achieve desired outcomes for the youth and the protection and safety of the public (W&I 202(a)).

**REVISED SECTION 6 AS OF 8/16/2021**

**Part 6: Retaining the Target Population in the Juvenile Justice System**

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Research has shown that juveniles tried in adult criminal court reoffend at a higher rate than youth who remain in the juvenile system (OJJDP Bulletin, Redding, 2010) and the San Diego County Juvenile Justice System’s Core Beliefs highlight the importance of rehabilitation, support, and accountability, versus punishment and punitive sanctions. The San Diego County Probation Department enacts these beliefs through the use of a structured decision-making tool which guides Probation Officers to recommend the lowest level of intervention available under statutory guidelines which will provide for the rehabilitation of the youth and safety of the community. The local Juvenile Court has a variety of disposition options for youth including:

* Probation to the Court (W&I 725(a))
* Community Supervision (W&I 790)
* Probation Supervision on a low, medium, or high-risk caseload with services in the community
* Commitment to Urban Camp for 85, 130, or 250 days
* Commitment to the HOPE program

The Youth Development Academy will add another layer of rehabilitative services and re-entry support for youth who have received true findings for the most serious charges. By developing a robust program to meet needs and reduce risk in this population, the County creates another option and level of support to reduce the likelihood of youth entering the adult system. To the extent that the Youth Development Academy is implemented with fidelity, achieves its goals, and meets or exceeds outcome measures, it will effectively reduce transfers to adult court.