

COUNTY OF YOLO

Public Defender's Office

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Yolo County Public Defender's Office

Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Funding

In 2021-22, the Public Defender's Office received the following CCP funding:

Departmental Allocation: \$519,556 Innovation Allocation: \$168,000 Total: \$687,556

The Departmental Allocation fully funded 2 Mitigation Specialists; partially funded 1 Paralegal; and partially funded 1 Supervising Deputy Public Defender.

The Innovation Allocation partially funded 4 Deputy Public Defenders.

Program Summaries & Metrics 2021-2022

CCP Funding of 2 FTE Positions in the Mitigation Unit

See the attached Adult Mitigation Unit reports entitled Adult Mitigation Unit – July – December 2021 and Adult Mitigation Unit – January – June 2022. In addition to funding the Chief Mitigation Specialist, CCP funds were used to hire new Mitigation Specialist who began employment 02.28.2022.

CCP Partial Funding of 1 Paralegal Position

The Paralegal began employment in June 2022; data will be reported in next year's report.

Creation of the CCP's Mental Health Diversion Program

The Yolo County criminal justice system seeks to decriminalize those individuals who commit crimes as a result of untreated mental illness and substance use disorders. Decriminalization means allowing people receive treatment instead of prosecution and jail after being charged with a crime.

In 2021, individuals with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders could participate in Mental Health Court (MHC) and Addiction Intervention Court (AIC) if they met the narrow criteria established for each program. Both MHC and AIC are collaborative programs, relying on the combined efforts of HHSA, the court, the Public Defender, the District Attorney, and the Probation Department. While MHC/AIC led to successful outcomes for individual participants, slots are limited

and there was a dearth of other targeted programs within the local criminal legal system to adequately address the issues of those individuals not eligible for MHC/AIC.

In an effort to build an infrastructure that would support diversion for a wider range of those struggling with behavioral health disorders, the CCP funded the Mental Health Diversion (MH-Div) Program.

The MH-Div program is modeled after MHC and AIC, relying on collaboration between the court, the Public Defender, the District Attorney, the Probation Department, and CommuniCare Health Center. MH-Div focuses on the early identification of suitable individuals, obtaining necessary assessments, the creation of individualized treatment plans, and consistent support as individuals resolve their criminal justice issues. Participants' progress is regularly reviewed by the court, with court reviews scheduled as necessary to support success.

CCP Partial Funding of Positions in the PD Mental Health Unit

In criminal cases, the Public Defender's Office is appointed to represent individuals at the first court date, called the arraignment. The arraignment court judge then assigns criminal cases "for all purposes" to one of four judges who oversee four independent criminal courtrooms.

Individuals who ultimately participate in MHC, AIC, MH-Div, or any other treatment-based program (e.g., Department of State Hospital diversion, Restorative Justice Partnership program, etc.) first must have their cases processed in one of the four criminal courtrooms.

In September 2021, the Public Defender's Office (PD) created a Mental Health Unit comprised of four attorneys, with each attorney home-based in one of the four criminal courtrooms. When clients with behavioral health disorders are identified, their cases are assigned to an attorney from the PD Mental Health Unit. The PD Mental Health Unit attorneys are up to date on the eligibility criteria of the various specialty programs and, based on their clients' individualized situations, refer their clients to the most suitable program. They assist clients with understanding program rules and expectations, ensure application packets are complete and assessments are performed, liaison with program staff, attend multi-disciplinary meetings, and advocate for clients. Until clients are accepted into a program, the PD Mental Health Unit attorneys prepare cases to move them through the legal system through case investigations, hearings, motion work, and, if necessary, trials.

The Innovation Allocation partially funds each of the four attorneys in the PD Mental Health Unit and a portion of the Departmental Allocation additionally partially funds the Supervisor of the Mental Health Unit (who is a member of the four-person team).

In early September 2021, when the PD Mental Health Unit formed, there were 22 clients in MHC, 24 clients in AIC, and 5 clients in the DSH Diversion grant. As of August 4, 2022, MHC has 30 participants (36% increase), AIC has 27 participants (12.5% increase), and the DSH diversion grant is full at 8 participants. As of August 4, 2022, 5 of the 12 pending referrals for MHC and AIC were PD Mental Health Unit clients, accounting for 41.6% of the referrals despite this unit constituting 13% of the

office. The PD Mental Health Unit also represents 100% of the roughly 27 diverted felony clients receiving Full-Service Partnership services through different county and subcontracted agencies.

Members of the PD Mental Health Unit participated in the interview process for clinicians hired by Communicare for MH-Div and the PD Mental Health Unit has been responsible for staffing the bimonthly meetings and bi-monthly MH-Div Court appearances. Currently there are 21 total clients in MH-Div Court. The Public Defender's Office represents 14 of the 21 clients (66% of the total participants). The PD Mental Health Unit represents 13 of the 15 pending Public Defender applicants for MH-Div, or 86.7% of all pending Public Defender referrals.

HHSA completes regular outcome reports for MHC and AIC. A similar outcome report will be issued directly by the multi-disciplinary MH-Div team.



COUNTY OF YOLO

Public Defender's Office Adult Mitigation Unit

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ADULT MITIGATION UNIT – JULY - DECEMBER 2021		
PROGRAM PURPOSE STATEMENT	Increase attorney preparedness in pre-adjudication cases to mitigate case outcomes; Increase client connection with appropriate community services.	
CORE UNIT FUNCTIONS	The Adult Mitigation Unit provides auxiliary mitigation and support services to indigent adult clients of the Public Defender's Office. These mitigation services generally fall within two categories, pre-adjudication services and post-adjudication services.	
	Pre-adjudication mitigation services are performed based on case goals as set by the assigned attorney and commonly include, but are not limited to: writing social history reports & mitigation memos; developing diversion plans; collecting and analyzing client mental/physical health & educational records; and consulting with clients' family and circle of support, including existing community-based service providers.	
	Post-adjudication mitigation services are designed to help clients live successfully in the community and commonly include, but are not limited to: developing post-release plans based on clients' needs & goals; short-term case management; advocacy & assistance w/ navigating local bureaucracies; referrals to community-based services; and warm hand-offs to community service providers*. Post-adjudication mitigation services also include assisting cases handled by the office's Post-Conviction Relief Unit.	
	*When pre-adjudication clients are out of custody and living in the community, mitigation services on these cases may mirror those on post-adjudication cases.	
Auxiliary Functions	In addition to the above-mentioned core functions of the Mitigation Unit, the unit also supports and maintains the following office programs: post-release clothing closet; office's food pantry; social media outreach. During this report period, members of this until also participate in the following internal or	
	County committees/meetings: Public Defender's Racial Justice Committee; WellPath's Quality Assurance meetings; Yolo County weekly diversion meetings; Data Driven Recovery Project meetings.	

* Client Advocate positions are grant funded through Partners for Justice

HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

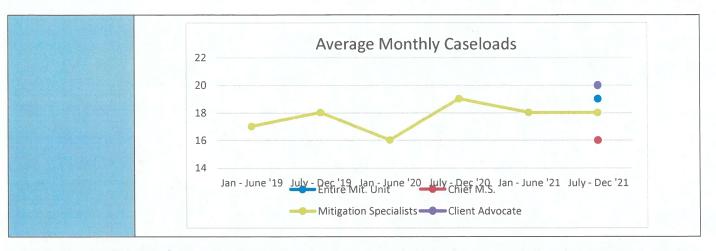
Total FTEs: 4

STAFF

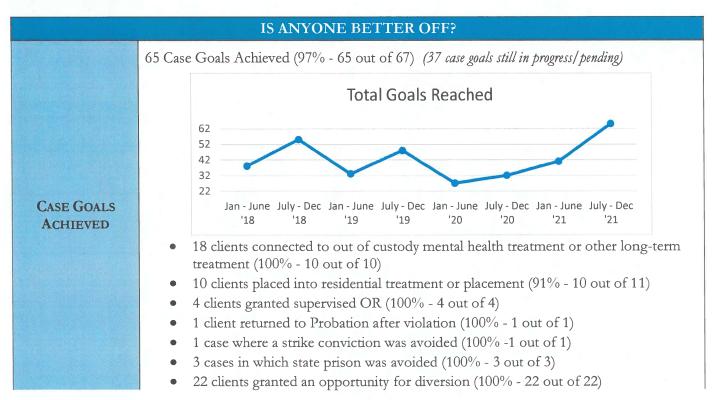
2 Client Advocates *

1 Mitigation Specialist II ** 1 Chief Mitigation Specialist ***

& staff were placed at Yolo Public Defender's Office on 8/2/21 ** a second Mitigation Specialist position funded by CCP was approved by the BOS on 10/26/21 but position was not filled during this period *** one Mitigation Specialist II was promoted to Chief M.S. on 11/21/21 108 new case referrals 144 clients served (108 new case referrals + 36 clients referred prior July '21) Pre-Adjudication Post-Adjudication 76% of Mit. Unit caseload 24% of Mit. Unit caseload Client Referrals & Clients Served 150 REFERRALS & 130 CLIENTS SERVED 110 90 70 50 30 Jan - June July - Dec '18 19 '20 '20 '21 '18 '19 New Client Referrals Total Clients Served 12 clients who required and/or received competency restoration treatment 28 clients who struggle with serious mental illness (SMI) 4 clients eligible for services through the regional centers 6 clients who may be eligible for Youthful Offender Parole (under age 26 & could be sentenced to 15+ yrs in state prison) SPECIALTY 11 post-conviction relief clients **POPULATIONS** SERVED 6 clients required to register under penal code 290 2 clients currently detained at the state hospital under W&I Code 6600 (SVP) 17 clients also being served by West Sacramento's Project Homekey 1 straight release client (no-post release supervision) Mitigation Unit averaged caseloads of 19 active clients per month (per each staff) Client Advocates averaged caseloads of 20 clients per month (each) CASELOADS Mitigation Specialist II averaged a caseload of 18 clients per month (each) Chief Mitigation Specialist averaged a caseload of 16 clients per month



HOW WELL DID WE DO?		
Number of Days Client Cases were open	This data was not collected during this report period but will be collected moving forward for future reports.	
	During this report period, 54% of cases remain open, while 46% of cases were able to be closed while. Of these closed cases:	
Number of Days Client Cases were open*	 52% of cases were closed between 1-90 days 22% of cases were closed between 91-180 days 26% of cases were closed for more than 180 days 	
	* data only for Mitigation Specialist caseload — data not collected on Client Advocate cases during this report period	

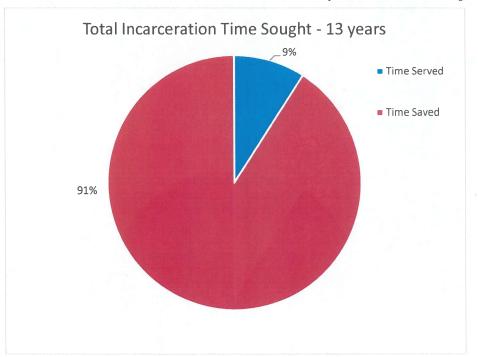


- 3 clients successfully resentenced (75% 3 out of 4)
- 3 clients received reduced jail/prison time (100% 3 out of 3)

Total Incarceration Time **Sought** By Prosecution – 13 years*

Total Incarceration Time **Saved** w/ Assistance of Mitigation Unit Services – 11yr., 10mo.*

*reported in time as sentenced by the court



The California average annual cost per inmate in state prison in 2021-2022 was \$106,131¹ and the annual cost per inmate in Yolo County Jail is approximately \$56,940².

The total 11yrs, 10mo saved from clients' sentences equates to roughly \$643,296 to \$1,254,962 in savings.



DIRECT SERVICES

- 12 clients were assisted with getting psychiatric or other necessary medications
- 23 clients were provided with weather appropriate clothing *

¹ https://lao.ca.gov/PolicyAreas/CJ/6_cj_inmatecost

² Cost per inmate per year in county jail is based on Yolo County Sheriff's Office's 2020 calculation of \$156 per jail bed per day.

AND/OR

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

- 12 clients were provided with transportation assistance
- 24 clients with assistance applying for or reinstating their Social Security benefits
- 37 clients signed up for Medi-Cal
- # of clients proided w/ food assistance was not tracked during this report period **
- 44 clients provided w/ non-prescription reader glasses while in county jail

* in addition to providing clothing directly to 23 clients, Mit. Unit donated clothing to jail's inmate welfare clothing to provide to individuals upon release from custody



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Yolo County Public Defender Fighting for Justice

ADULT MITIGATION UNIT – JANUARY – JUNE 2022	
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PROGRAM INFORMATION	The Adult Mitigation Unit provides auxiliary mitigation and support services to indigent adult clients of the Public Defender's Office. These mitigation services generally fall within two categories, pre-adjudication services and post-adjudication services. Pre-adjudication mitigation services are performed based on case goals as set by the assigned attorney and commonly include, but are not limited to: writing social history reports & mitigation memos; developing diversion plans; collecting and analyzing client mental/physical health & educational records; and consulting with clients' family and circle of support, including existing community-based service providers. Post-adjudication mitigation services are designed to help clients live successfully in the community and commonly include, but are not limited to: developing post-release plans based on clients' needs & goals; short-term case management; advocacy & assistance w/ navigating local bureaucracies; referrals to community-based services; and warm hand-offs to community service providers*. Post-adjudication mitigation services also include assisting cases handled by the office's Post-Conviction Relief Unit. *When pre-adjudication clients are out of custody and living in the community, mitigation services on these cases may mirror those on post-adjudication cases.
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	HOW MUCH DID WE DO?
STAFF	 Total FTEs: 5 2 Client Advocates * 2 Mitigation Specialists (1 Mitigation Spec. II and 1 Mitigation Spec. I **) 1 Chief Mitigation Specialist * Client Advocate positions are grant funded through Partners for Justice # Staff were placed at Yolo Public Defender's Office on 8/2/21

** Mitigation Specialist I was hired and started on 2/28/22



HOW WELL DID WE DO?	
Case Assignment	Upon receipt of a referral from an attorney, most Mitigation Unit cases were opened within 5 calendar days • 85% of referrals were open and assigned within 5 calendar days • 15% of referral were open and assigned after more than 5 calendar days
Number of Days Client Cases Were open	Data unavailable during this report period ⁱ

IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

CASE GOALS ACHIEVED	Data unavailable during this report period '
Post-Release Services Provided	Data unavailable during this report period [†]

ⁱ Prior to the expansion of the Mitigation Unit, data regarding length of open cases, case goals, and post-release services was stored in manually in an excel spreadsheet. Starting January 2022, the Mitigation Unit data began recording and storing data within the office's case management system (PDRMS). At this additional infrastructure needs to be built into PDRMS to report back on the data which is being entered.