



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Probation Officers Recognize Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Month

(Woodland, CA) - October is nationally recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Locally, Yolo County Probation Officers are wearing a purple ribbon on their vests this month to underscore the importance of domestic violence awareness and prevention. Additionally, the Probation Department will be represented by four teams at the 2023 Battle of the Badge Bowling Tournament, an event in which local law enforcement and civil servants gather to raise awareness and funds in support of violence intervention and prevention programs in Yolo County.

Throughout the year, Yolo County criminal justice partners continue to pilot an alternative domestic violence intervention program. In 2018, Assembly Bill (AB) 372 was passed to help advance domestic violence batterer intervention programs to allow select counties more flexibility in how they programmed and engaged with batterers to reduce recidivism and victimization. As part of Yolo County's Strategic Plan objective to reduce criminal activity and recidivism, the Probation Department, along with the District Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office, volunteered to be one of AB 372's six pilot counties authorized to offer an alternative program for individuals convicted of domestic violence-related offences.

As part of the pilot, Yolo County hired a consultant to assess its contracted Batterer's Intervention Providers (BIPs). BIP counselors were then trained on the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute's evidence-based Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions-Domestic Violence (CBI-DV) curriculum which is in phased pilots across the country. The CBI-DV curriculum is designed for individuals with a recent pattern of intimate partner violence. Using social learning and cognitive-behavioral approaches, the curriculum teaches individuals how to identify and manage high risk situations related to intimate partner violence, with particular emphasis on emotional regulation such as motivational engagement, cognitive restructuring, violence awareness, emotional regulation, social skills, problem solving and success planning.

Besides use of the CBI-DV curriculum, the pilot includes fidelity monitoring, booster training and spot audits of BIP counselors. Additionally, Yolo County implemented a Best Practice Tier System that replaces the previous one-size-fits-all model (52-weeks of curriculum) to a model that is based on risk assessment scores (10 weeks for low risk and up to 52 weeks for high risk).

AB 372, which continues to July 2026, requires participating counties to provide data for an annual State Legislative Report, which includes program participation and completion rates, demographic data, risk level and criminal history. Data collected also shows if any participant violated restraining orders, received a new

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conviction or booked into the jail during or within six months of program completion. The most recent report can be found at: www.counties.org/csac-bulletin-article/csac-releases-year-3-legislative-report-ab-372-piloting-alternative-domestic.

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Pictures:

- Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Month purple ribbons worn by Probation Officers
- Probation Department 2022 Battle of the Badge Bowling Tournament Team (pictured left to right: Officers Schaer, Seelig, Rocha-Torres and Willis)