



# CREATING RESULTS WITH YOUTH & THEIR FAMILIES

## Annual Evaluation

FAMILY PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

San Mateo County  
Probation Department  
Juvenile Justice  
Coordinating Council (JJCC)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>Program Description .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Programmatic Challenges in FY 2015-16 .....	3
<b>Evaluation Methods .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Evaluation Findings .....</b>	<b>5</b>
FY 2015-16 Data Highlights .....	5
Profile of Clients Served .....	5
Risk Indicators .....	5
Justice Outcomes .....	6
Program-specific Outcomes .....	6
Client Vignette .....	7

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

---

The Family Preservation Program (FPP) serves youth ages 12 to 18, with a primary focus on those who have entered the juvenile justice system with criminal charges that resulted from behaviors related to significant emotional or mental health issues and who are at high risk of being placed out of home. The program is also appropriate for minors charged with low-level (non-predatory, non-violent) sex offenses, minors who have substance abuse issues, and minors who come from a home where domestic violence is present. All minors in the program are at high risk for out-of-home placement.

The program's primary goal is to maintain youth in their homes by expanding the use of intensive supervision, flexible support services, and community-based resources. Each probation officer in this unit has a caseload of up to 18 youth with significant family, emotional, and/or mental health issues. The program offers intensive probation case management and therapeutic interventions by County and contracted mental health providers.

The Probation Department unit that administers this program works collaboratively with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Human Services Agency, schools, and other strengths-based, collateral agencies. Depending on the court orders and the youth's needs, participation in the program may be from less than a year to as many as three years.

### Programmatic Challenges in FY 2015-16

None reported.

## EVALUATION METHODS

---

Programs funded by San Mateo County Juvenile Probation (SMCJP) monitor their programs and report client, service and outcome data to the department and its evaluator, Applied Survey Research (ASR). The methods and tools used to collect this data are described below:

**Clients and Services**—Grantee programs collected and entered demographic (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity) and service data (e.g., types and hours of service) for individual clients and entered these in their own data systems prior to transferring the data to ASR for analysis.

**Risk Factors**—In FY 2015-16, SMCJP implemented two new measures of client risk level, the pre-JAIS and the CANS. Funded programs were asked to complete these measures with existing clients beginning January 2016 and at intake with all new clients subsequently. The Family Preservation Program (FPP) only collects the pre-JAIS.

- The **Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS)** is a risk, strength and needs assessment designed to assist workers to effectively and efficiently supervise youth, both in institutional settings and in the community. It is reliable and has been validated across ethnic and gender groups. The JAIS consists of a brief prescreen assessment (**pre-JAIS**) in addition to full assessment and reassessment components; SMCJP has elected to administer the pre-JAIS to provide an initial indicator of recidivism risk. The pre-JAIS consists of 8 (girls) or 10 (boys) items and yields an overall risk level of low, moderate, or high.

**Outcomes**— In FY 2015-16, FPP collected the following outcome measures:

- JJCPA-funded programs are also required to report data on the following six mandated justice-related outcomes for program participants: 1) arrest rate, 2) incarceration rate, 3) probation violation rate, 4) probation completion rate, 5) court-ordered restitution completion rate and 6) court-ordered community service completion rate. San Mateo County has elected to report these outcomes at 180 days post-entry with the reference group being the past year's cohort of program participants (i.e., whose six-month milestone occurred in FY 2015-16).
- Additionally, many grantees elected to collect their own program-specific outcome data. FPP reported on the number of youth receiving out-of-home placement.

# EVALUATION FINDINGS

## FY 2015-16 Data Highlights

- The number of youth served continued to decrease, by 51% compared to FY 2014-15 and by 65% since FY 2011-12
- FPP continues to serve families of youth with high need: 4 out of 5 participants had moderate (60%) or high (21%) criminogenic risk levels on the pre-JAIS, and most had problems at program entry with attendance (80%), suspension/expulsion (73%) and/or drugs/alcohol (52%)
- 1 out of 48 participants (2%) received an out-of-home placement, down from 4 out of 45 (9%) last year

## Profile of Clients Served

This year Family Preservation Program (FPP) served 49 youth, 44 of whom (90%) had demographic data (see Table 1). A majority of participants were male (73%) and identified predominantly as Latino (71%), followed by White/Caucasian (21%) and Black/African American (7%). The average age of clients was 15.8 years. Participants completing the program (n=17) received an average of 6.0 months of service. Almost all participants (98%) received mental health services, and two fifths (40%) received substance use services.

Table 1. Client Demographics, FY 2015-16

Metric	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16
<b>Clients &amp; Services</b>					
Number of clients served	139	136	123	95	48
Average number of hours of service <sup>a</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Average time in the program (months)	7.2	6.8	7.1	5.4	6.0
<b>Risk Indicators</b>					
<b>Pre-JAIS Risk Level <sup>b</sup></b>	Data not collected in prior fiscal years				
Low					19%
Moderate					60%
High					21%
<b>Risk Indicators at Program Entry <sup>c</sup></b>					
Alcohol or drug problem					52%
Attendance problem					80%
Suspension/expulsion in past year					73%

<sup>a</sup> FPP does not report the number of service hours. <sup>b</sup> n = 48 clients with complete pre-JAIS data. <sup>c</sup> n = 44 clients with risk data.

## Risk Indicators

In FY 2015-16, FPP served clients primarily moderate- to high-risk clients. Participants assessed with the pre-JAIS were predominantly Moderate (60%) and High risk (21%). In addition, a majority of participants had an alcohol or drug problem (52%) or an attendance problem (80%) at program entry, or had been suspended or expelled from school in the past year (73%).

## Justice Outcomes

Table 2 presents justice-related outcomes for 29 youth whose six-month post-entry evaluation milestone occurred in FY 2015-16. Thus, data presented in this section are for youth who enrolled in the program in the 2015 calendar year. As shown, the rate for Arrests increased, while the rates for Incarcerations and Probation Violations decreased. All three rates were in line with the range over the past five years. The rates of completion of court-ordered Probation, Restitution and Community Service all declined, as sample sizes for restitution and community service remained low.

**Table 2. Justice and Program-Specific Outcomes, FY 2015-16**

Metric	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16
<b>Outcomes</b>					
<b>Justice Outcomes<sup>a</sup></b>					
Arrests (for a new law violation)	33%	35%	45%	31%	38%
Incarcerations	69%	87%	67%	87%	79%
Probation violations	35%	41%	38%	58%	55%
Completed court-ordered probation	4%	0%	4%	2%	0%
Completed court-ordered restitution	11%	5%	25%	31%	14%
Completed court-ordered community service	57%	44%	30%	50%	33%
<b>Program-specific Outcomes</b>					
Out-of-home placement	6%	2%	0%	9%	2%
<sup>a</sup> Sample sizes vary for each FY and indicator; for FY 2016, n = 29 for Arrests and Incarcerations, Probation Violations and Completed Probation, n = 7 for Completed Restitution, and n = 9 for Completed Community Service.					

## Program-specific Outcomes

**Out-of-Home Placement**—The central goal of FPP is to maintain youth in their homes. For the program-specific outcome of out-of-home placement, just 1 of 48 youth (2%) was given a placement order, underscoring the program’s effectiveness in meeting its goal of keeping families intact.

## Client Vignette

As a way to illustrate the effort of the Family Preservation Program and the benefits to its participants, staff provided a summarized case history of one client served this year.

<b>Name of focus client:</b>	“Romeo”
<b>Age and sex of client:</b>	“Romeo” is a 15-year-old male resident of Daly City.
<b>Reason for referral:</b>	He was referred to FPP after being on probation for 3 months in San Mateo County (he was a transferred-in from Contra Costa County). His issues were behavioral/mental health issues. He threatened his stepmother’s life and his older brother’s life with a knife.
<b>Client’s behavior, affect and appearance when they first started your program:</b>	When Romeo was referred to FPP, he was an anxious kid who was jumpy and insecure. He would be talkative because he was nervous. He was always afraid to get a visit from probation, as prior to being ordered in the FPP program, he served time in detention. He did not want to return to the juvenile hall.
<b>What activities did your client engage in and was their engagement consistent?</b>	The activities Romeo engaged in were completing his court ordered community service, and working with his father when he had the time in the weekends. His mother helped in that she provided the structure he needed, and he knew she would not hesitate to contact the authorities if he stepped out of line.
<b>Describe client’s affect, behavior or appearance toward the end of your program, noting any ways in which they changed.</b>	He appeared to have more confidence, and appeared to have a better understanding of how his behaviors impact others.
<b>What did your client learn as a result of this program?</b>	Toward the end of the program, Romeo learned to follow and maintain structure in the home. He also said he learned to handle conflict/ disagreements without violence. He learned to communicate with each of his family members constructively.
<b>What is your client doing differently in their life as a result of the program?</b>	As a result of the program, Romeo understands how to manage conflict wherever he is, and how to communicate effectively to his family without distress or violence.
<b>What does your client say is the value of the program for them?</b>	Romeo stated he wished the family counseling was twice weekly instead of once weekly. He said he felt he could express himself honestly to his family without judgment.