

Advocating for At-Risk & Dual Status Youth



CROSSOVER YOUTH

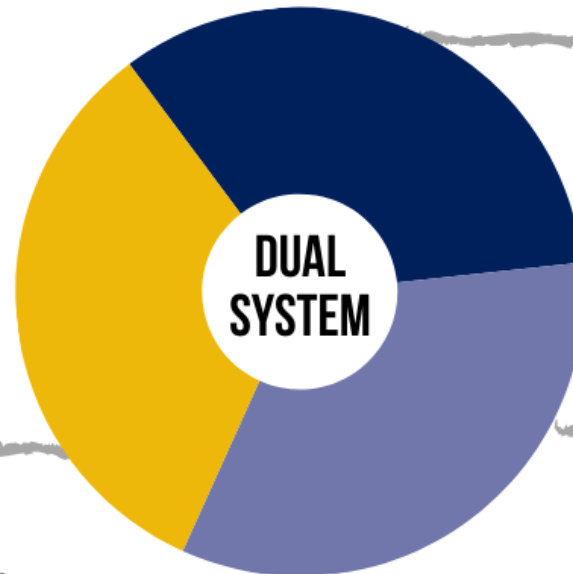
Youth who are at risk of or are fluctuating between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

DUAL SYSTEM

Crossover youth who are referred for an investigation and/or have involvement with both the CW and JJ systems

DUALY INVOLVED

Dual systems youth who are referred for an investigation and/or have involvement with both the CW and JJ systems concurrently



DUAL CONTACT

Dual systems youth who are referred for an investigation and/or have involvement with both the CW and the JJ systems but the referral/involvement across systems is non-concurrent

DUALY ADJUCATED

Dual systems youth who are formally adjudicated in both the CW and JJ systems concurrently.

Risk Factors for Youth in Foster Care

Foster youth are at a significantly higher risk than their peers for involvement in the juvenile justice system

Upon contact with law enforcement, foster youth are less likely to be offered diversion, more likely to be detained, and more likely to demonstrate a pattern of chronic offending



Possible explanatory factors include:

- History of trauma
- Academic achievement gap
- Congregate care and placement instability
- Disproportionality

History of Trauma

- History of abuse, neglect, and removal from home
- Lack of consistent and healthy relationships with adults
- Exposure to violence and substance use
- Complex trauma manifests in:
 - Difficulty regulating emotions and impulses
 - Challenges setting and achieving goals
 - Engaging in risky behaviors as an escape or to cope
 - Low self-esteem and sense of self worth
- Studies have found a strong relationship between complex trauma, justice involvement, and recidivism

Academic Achievement Gap

There is a direct correlation between deprivation of education and juvenile justice involvement

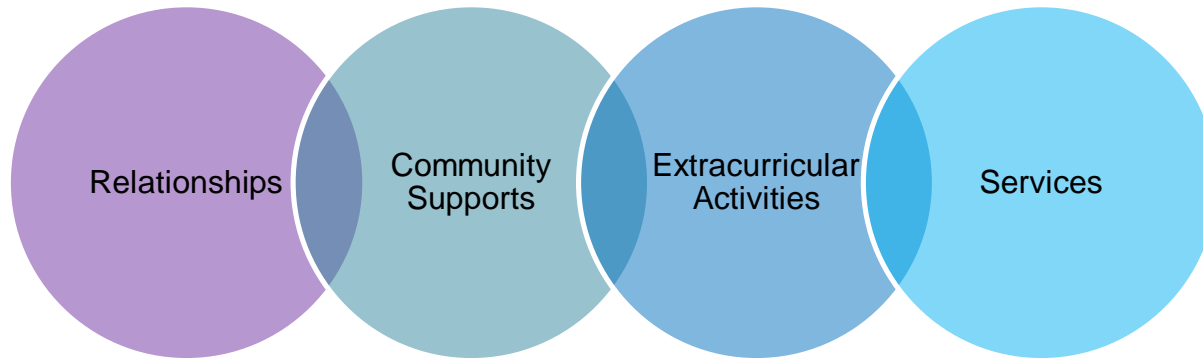
Youth in foster care are more likely to:

- Score significantly lower on standardized tests
- Change schools frequently
- Be enrolled in special education classrooms
- Repeat at least one grade
- Drop out of high school



Placement Instability & Congregate Care

- Placement instability increases the risk of justice involvement by disrupting natural supports



- Congregate care settings can increase the risk for justice involvement due to increased law enforcement visibility and negative peer influences

Demographics of Crossover Youth

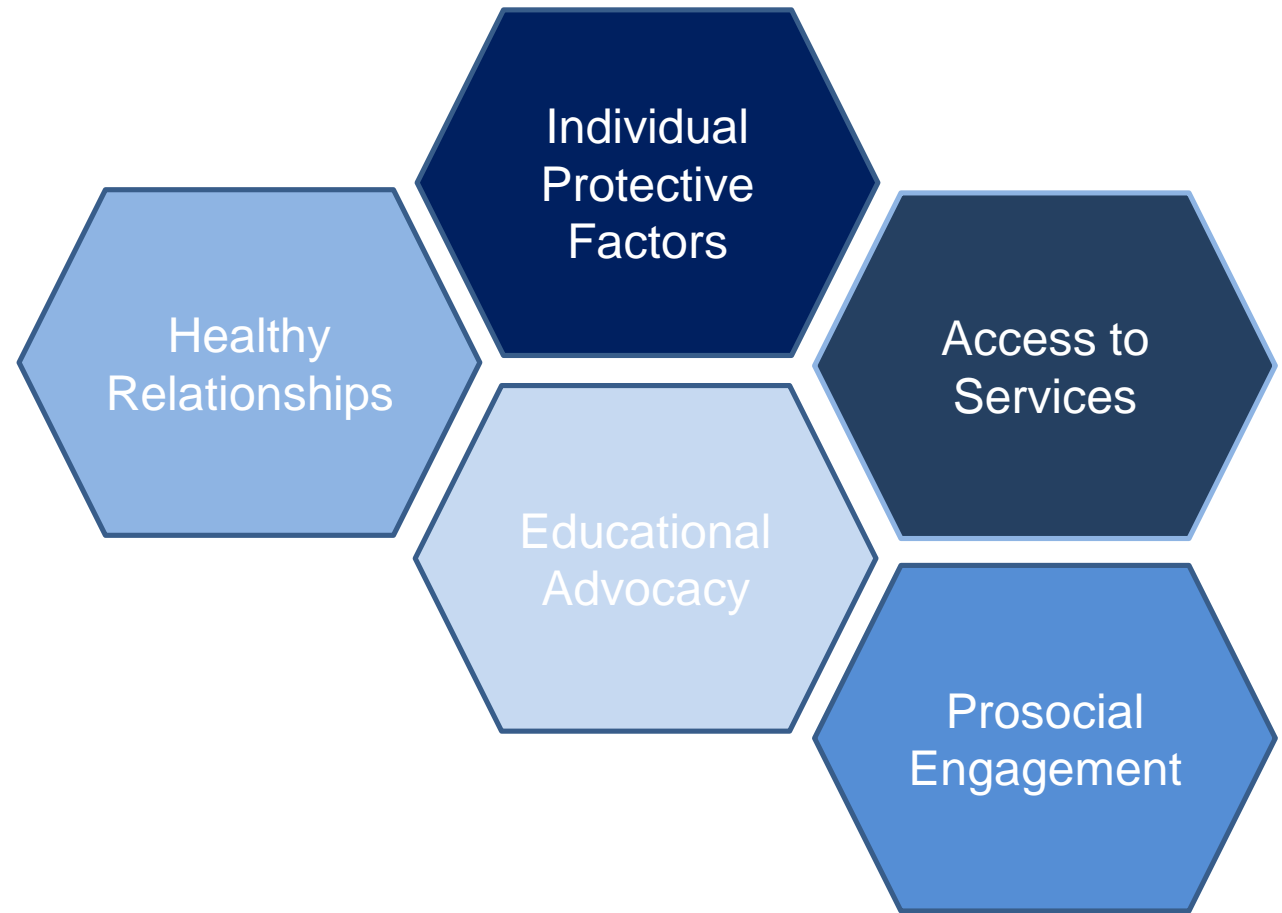
- Disproportionality is compounded in crossover populations:
 - Black youth are overrepresented in child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and that overrepresentation doubles in the crossover population
 - American Indian and Alaska Native youths are disproportionately involved in both systems at a national level
 - Females make up 30-50% of crossover cases, but less than 30% of juvenile justice cases
 - 20% of crossover youth identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ population

- Crossover populations experience high rates of:
 - Mental health challenges
 - Substance Use
 - Disability

CASA Advocacy

**Mitigating risk factors to prevent
juvenile justice involvement**

Areas of Advocacy



Individual Protective Factors

What You Can Do As a CASA

- Ensure your youth feels safe and supported
- Foster the belief that their circumstances can be improved through a commitment to change and consistent effort
- Encourage regular physical activity, nutritious food, adequate sleep, good hygiene, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle as best they can in their current circumstances



Foster Healthy Relationships



Positive Relationships:

- YOU!
- Family / NREFMs
- Caregivers
- Peers
- Community



Relationships that build:

- Connectedness
- Trust
- Belonging
- Belief that they matter

Support Prosocial Engagement

- Extracurricular Activities
 - Sports, clubs, music, art
- Community Engagement
- Skills Building



- Identity Development
- Increased Confidence
- Relationships and Belonging

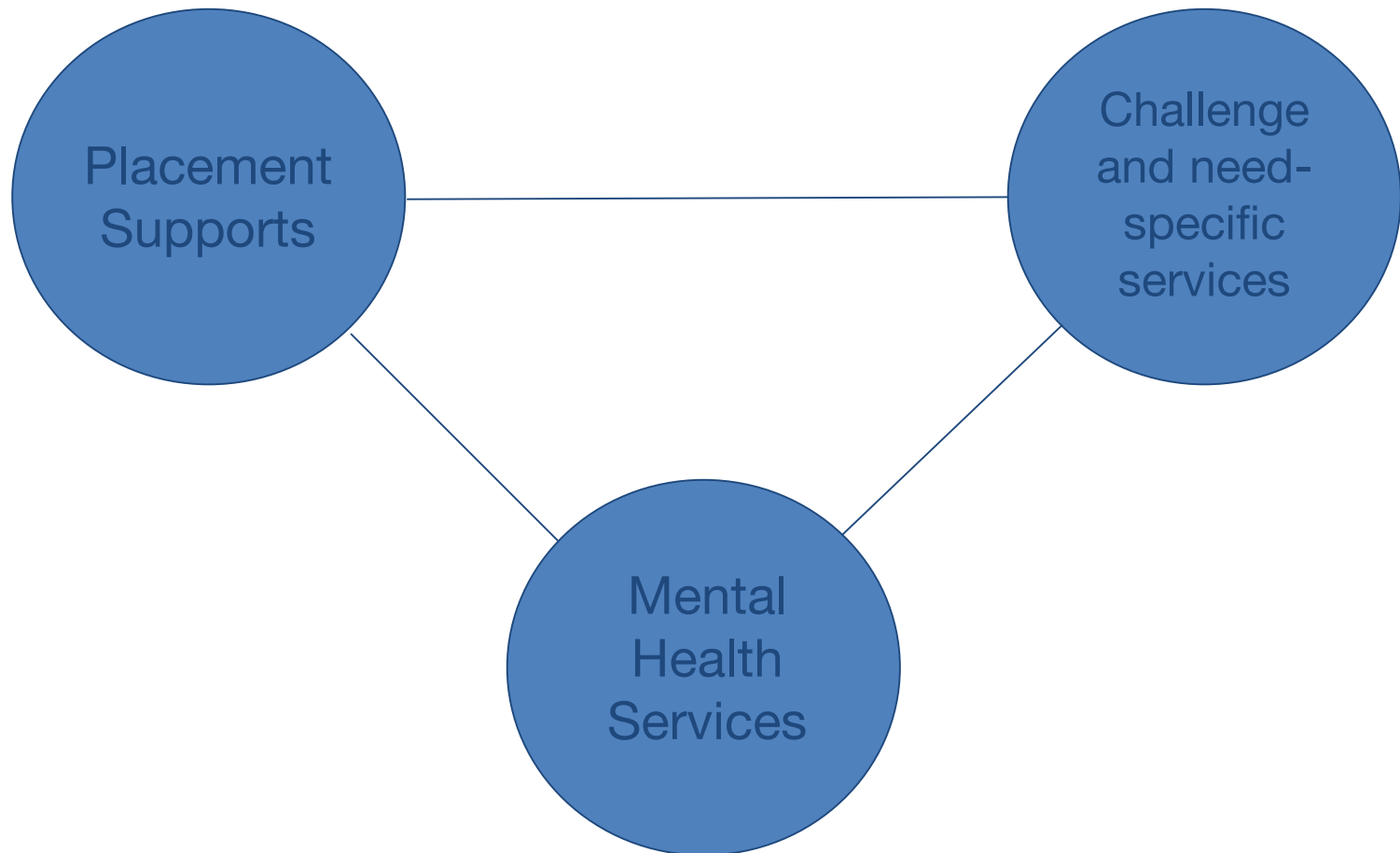


Provide Educational Advocacy

- Hold or co-hold educational rights
- Provide special education support
 - IEP & 504 Plans
- Facilitate access to support services
 - Tutoring programs
 - Provide graduation support
 - AB 167/216



Promote Access to Services



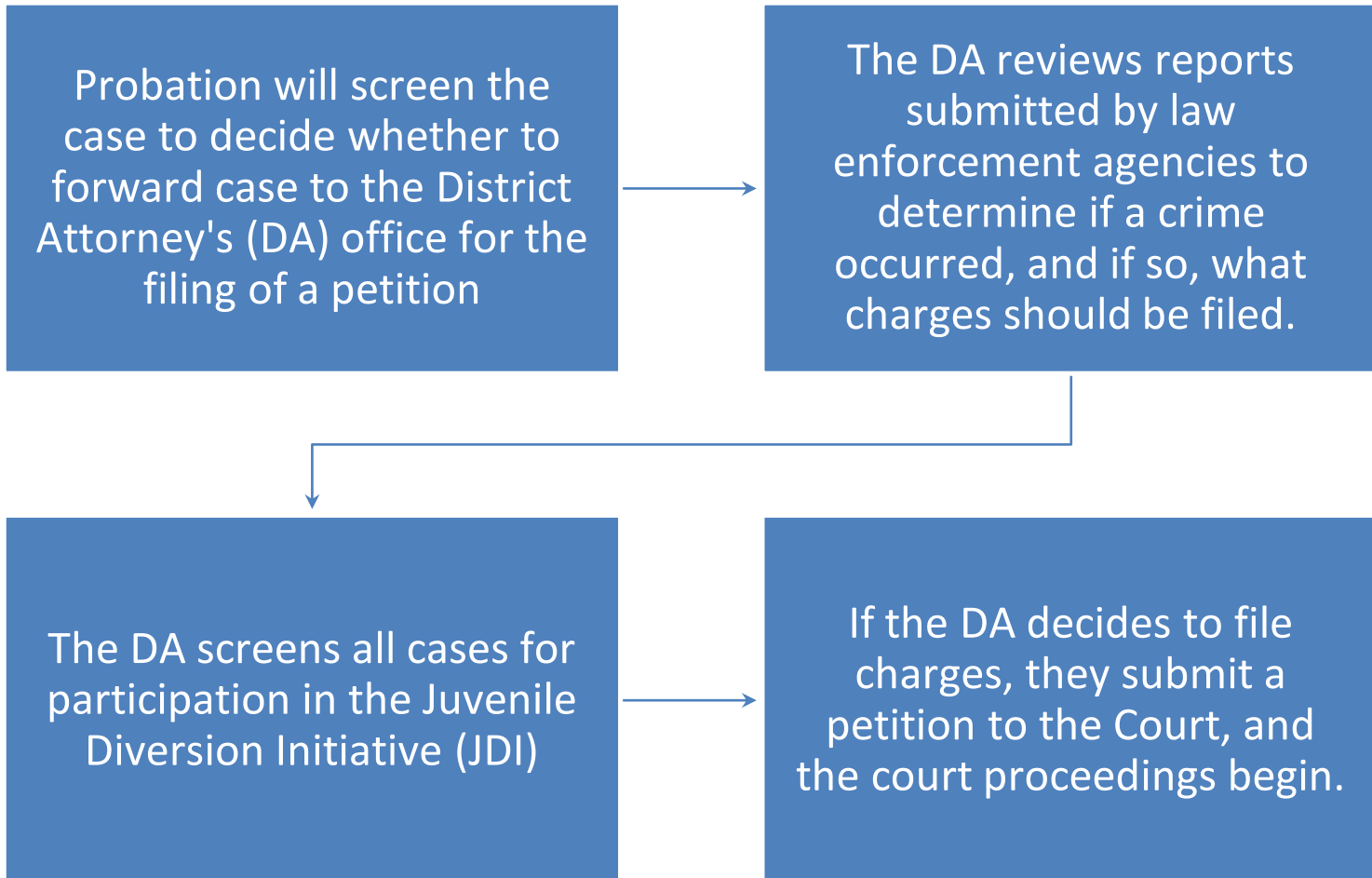
Juvenile Justice Court Process

What happens after initial law enforcement contact

Initial Law Enforcement Contact

1. Release the minor with no further action; (usually to parent/guardian/caregiver)
2. Deliver or refer the minor to a community agency to provide shelter or counseling
3. Deliver or refer the minor to a cool bed
4. Release minor under 14 or who committed a misdemeanor, to parents/guardian with a "Promise To Appear" ["PTA"]
5. Deliver minor to Juvenile Hall without unnecessary delay

Diversion or Probation



W&IC 241.1 Protocol

Youth Arrested

- Transported to Juvenile Hall
- Identified as a dependent

Detention Hearing

- Occurs within 48 hours of arrest
- Readiness hearing is set

Meet & Confer

- SW & PO confer to make a joint recommendation on which system will best serve the youth
- CASA can provide input

Readiness Hearing

- SW & PO submit reports
- CASA can submit report
- Judge decides which system will best serve youth

Dual Court

- Dual Court is a collaborative specialty courtroom that incorporates a multi-disciplinary team approach in assisting youth who have complex needs

Required Parties

- District Attorney
- County Counsel
- Minor's Dependency Attorney
- Minor's Juvenile Justice Attorney
- Minor

Additional Parties

- CASA
- Probation Officer
- HHSA Social Worker
- VFC Liaison
- Parents
- Additional Supports

Role of the District Attorney (DA)

- Also known as the “prosecutor”
- Represents “the people” during the court proceedings
 - This representation also includes the interests of the victim
- Mission is to protect public safety
- Once the youth is adjudicated, at further hearings, the DA makes recommendations to the judge whether to keep the youth on probation or terminate probation
 - This is based on youth’s progress but takes into account the public’s safety

Role of the Public Defender (PD)

- Defends and advocates for their client in court
- Discusses allegations and options for resolving allegations, explains rights, deny vs. admit
- Represent youth's wishes in court
 - Not youth's Guardian ad Litem (GAL)
- Looks into services that the youth can be offered based on their circumstances and suggests these to the Court
- Supported by investigator and paralegals

Role of the Probation Officer (PO)

- Care, Custody, Control
- Work with youth and family to assess and ensure compliance with court terms
- Broker of services
 - Provides service opportunities in an attempt to change or eliminate behavioral issues
 - Up to family to pursue services

Types of Probation Officers		
Correctional Deputy Probation Officer (CDPO)	Deputy Probation Officer (DPO)	Supervising Probation Officer (SPO)
<i>work in institutions</i>	<i>case and field work assignments</i>	<i>supervise CDPOs & DPOs</i>

Sharing Information

- **Youth:** CASA cannot discuss any past or current charges/petitions with youth
- **Public Defender (PD):** Any/all case issues. CASA should run any concerns by the public defender before reaching out to the PO or other professionals
- **Probation Officer (PO):** CASAs should be discerning about what info they share and always consult AS and PD prior.
- **District Attorney (DA):** CASA should not share info with DA or DA's staff
- **Social Worker (SW):** Refrain from discussing any information related to the charges, as it may end up in a report.

Dual Court Reports

- With the exception of the readiness hearing, you should only submit reports for the **dependency hearings** you would normally submit for
- Do not include incriminating information in your report
- Contextualize behaviors with a trauma-informed lens
- Information and recommendations in court reports should never come as a surprise to case professionals

Placement Options

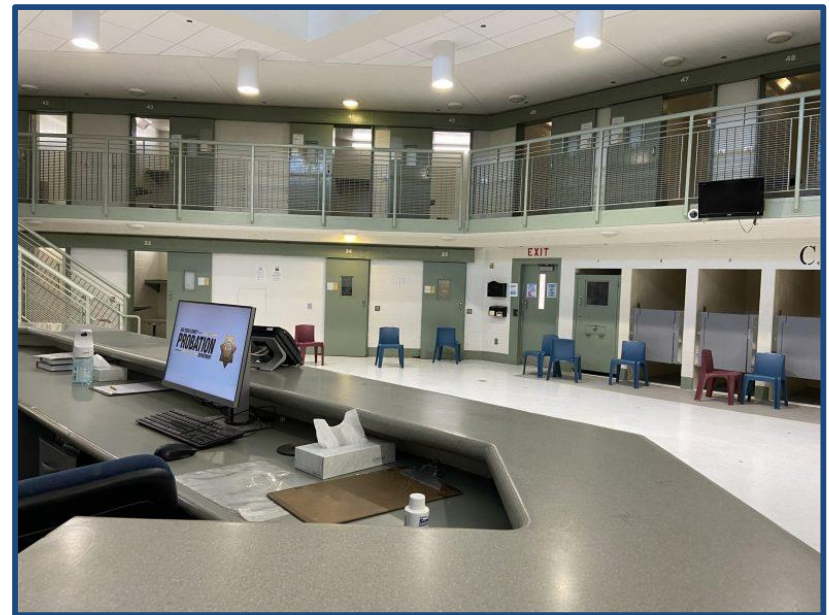
Home Supervision	With/without GPS monitoring
Suitable Placement	STRTP Locked STRTP Resource Family
Detention Facility	East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (EMJDF) Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (coming in Dec. 2023)
Custodial Commitment Youth Transition Campus	Urban Camp HOPE Program YOU Program

Youth Transition Campus



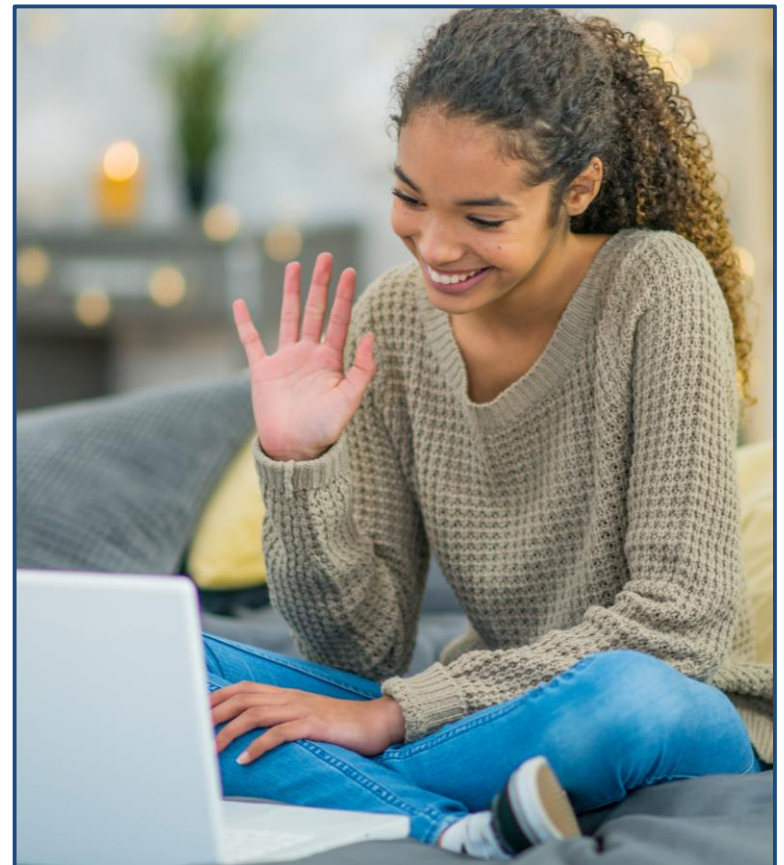
CASA's Role When Youth is Detained

- Maintain contact with case professionals and attend CFT, orientation, and re-entry meetings
- Support continuity of service and transition back into the community
- Visit youth as frequently as possible
- Provide educational oversight
 - SOAR Academy



CASA's Role When Youth is Placed out of County

- Maintain healthy relationship with youth through phone calls, texts, video messaging
- Maintain contact with professionals, including caregiver/group home staff
- Provide educational oversight
- Motivate youth to complete probation and group home requirements to return to San Diego
- Ask about therapeutic support that is available to your youth



CASA's Role in Supporting Probation Completion

- Identify community service opportunities
- Support youth in writing apology letters
- Connect youth to court-ordered services
- Assist with transportation to court ordered appointments
- Help youth set achievable goals
- Collaborate with case professionals and service providers to remove barriers

CASAs Role in Supporting Transition & Re-Entry

- Assist with accessing and connecting to community services and resources
- Explore placement and housing options and supports prior to release
- Support maintaining extended foster care (EFC) eligibility



Termination of Probation



Successful Termination

- Probation satisfactorily completed
- Records automatically sealed



Unsuccessful / Termination without Comment

- Probation not completed satisfactorily
- Can petition to have records sealed

Important Contacts



- **East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility: (619) 671-4400**
- **Youth Transition Campus: (858) 694-4500**
- **Public Defender's Office: (858) 974-5757**
- **Juvenile Probation Department: (858) 694-4600**

Key Takeaways

- CASAs can help mitigate the risk factors that put foster youth at a high risk for justice-involvement
- If a youth becomes justice involved, CASAs can support them to successfully complete their probation requirements
- CASAs foster improved outcomes in:
 - Academic attainment
 - Prosocial engagement
 - Access to trauma-informed care
 - And successful completion of probation

