

PLACEMENT SCREENING COMMITTEE MEETING JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES

What is the Placement Screening Committee?

Placement Screening Committee is a group people engaged in a process developed by Probation to assist Probation Officers in determining the appropriate level of service youth. Probation Officers are usually requesting a higher level of probation supervision / service, up to and including out of home placement. All meetings are held at the Juvenile Probation Center on Graham Hill Road.

What information will the Probation Officer present?

The Probation officer will present information regarding the following life areas including any current circumstances unique to your child/family.

Life Areas include:

- Family,
- Education
- Legal,
- Emotional
- Involvement with other agencies
- Social
- Physical Health
- Family's Finances
- Substance Abuse

Who is on this committee?

- Probation Officer, Probation Supervisors & 1 Probation Manager
- Children's Mental Health Supervisor and Clinicians
- Drug and Alcohol Specialists
- Community Agency Representation
- Parents/Guardians/Family Member
- Youth

How does this meeting work?

Introductions – All members of the committee are introduced, identifying their roles

Confidentiality – A confidentiality agreement is explained and signed by all

Case Presentation – The youth's probation officer will present a summary of your child's/family's circumstances

Discussion – All members engage in a respectful discussion regarding possible interventions or questions about current circumstances

Decision Making – All members express their opinion regarding possible recommendation and do their best to reach consensus.

County of Santa Cruz

Wraparound Family Solutions Program

WHAT IS WRAPAROUND PROGRAM

The Santa Cruz County Wraparound Program provides intensive and comprehensive services for youth and families seeking to avert a placement away from home. The Probation Department, Children's Mental Health, Family Partnership and Alcohol and Drug Program serve the youth and families as teammates. Wraparound provides services that are individualized and chosen by the family. All members of the child and family team participate in the development of an individualized youth and family plan in order to strengthen and respect families and preserve community.

The Santa Cruz County Wraparound Program design furthers the collaborative efforts of the Human Services Department, Probation Department, Children's Mental Health, Family Partnership and Alcohol and Drug Program. By utilizing a Child and Family Team conferencing model, individualized case plans are developed, evaluated and revised on a regular basis. Parents, children and family members actively participate in crafting the plan, establishing family goals and determining which services the family will need to support the plan. A goal of the program is to preserve and strengthen the home environment and increase a family's capacity to function in the community, so that youth may continue to live in their natural environments. Creative approaches are persistently encouraged, most often operating from a team approach regarding interventions or responses to technical probation violations.

Some examples of program services include:

- Family Partners, who advocate for parents and educate them, as they navigate through the various systems (educational, juvenile justice, child welfare);
- Flexible funding that allows for the use of non-traditional services to be applied when requested by a family. This may involve purchasing clothing for employment, relocating to another residence, providing assistance with PG&E bill, gym membership or books for youth or a family dinner;
- Counseling services when requested by the family or youth;
 - Specialized substance-abuse counseling; 7 Challenges or 12-Step models
 - Family counseling
 - Trauma specific counseling
- Connections to community-based pro-social activities and natural helpers;

In 2009, the Wraparound Program expanded and merged with the Family Preservation Program to provide culturally competent, intensive supervision services utilizing a single service delivery model. By moving toward a single service delivery model, the Probation Department and Children's Mental Health improved upon the menu option of services available for youth and their families while maintaining the youth in their home and their communities. Through utilization of California Senate Bill 163 (SB 163) foster care funds, the probation department is able to divert up to 40 youth from escalating into residential care, thus preventing an increase in County funds for residential care. Children's Mental Health also leverages EPSDT funds, while Probation also leverages federal Title IV-E funding.

The Wraparound Program is an alternative to placement for many youth. Presently there are three full time Deputy Probation Officers who are each assigned caseloads of up to 13 youth. Each Probation Officer is paired with two clinical staff and in most cases a family partner is assigned to a parent/guardian. Counseling, educational support and recreational activities are provided to youth and their parents/guardians. These services continue to demonstrate excellent outcomes in terms of cost avoidance in County out-of-home placement costs.

HOW ARE YOUTH REFERRED TO WRAPAROUND

All youth referred to the Wraparound program are referred by their probation officer through a multi-disciplinary team meeting, Placement Screening Committee (PCS). PCS is a group of people engaged in a process developed by Probation to assist Probation Officers in determining the appropriate level of service for youth considered for escalation in the juvenile justice system. Probation Officers are typically requesting a higher level of probation supervision or service, up to and including removal of a youth to an out of home placement. All meetings are held at the Juvenile Probation Center.

The Probation officer presents information regarding the following life areas including any current circumstances unique to your child/family.

Life Areas

- Family
- Education
- Legal
- Emotional
- Involvement with other agencies
- Social
- Physical Health
- Family's Finances
- Substance Abuse

The process is one that attempts to make the families feel comfortable sharing information regarding their presenting circumstances, as much as possible. All members of the committee are introduced, identifying their roles. A confidentiality agreement is explained and signed by everyone participating. The referring probation officer presents a summary of the current circumstances that led up to referral and a summary of services/interventions already attempted or provided. The committee engages in a respectful discussion regarding possible interventions or questions about current circumstances, encouraging the youth and family to engage in the discussion, presenting their suggestions for services/intervention(s). After the group discussion, the youth and family is asked to step out of the room while the committee engages in further discussion regarding possible recommendations and do their best to reach consensus. The youth/family are notified of the recommendation, often immediately upon conclusion of the meeting.

Key Principles of Wraparound

Santa Cruz County Probation Wraparound Program

FAMILY VOICE AND CHOICE

Family and youth direct perspective are given priority and emphasized in all phases of wraparound. Our families and youth are strongly encouraged to express their voice throughout our probation process, particularly in our referral process. Our Placement Screening Committee encourages the family's participation as well does the child and family team's discussion concerning most recommendations for the Court. The wraparound team elicits the family's participation from identifying goals to choosing appropriate strategies to reach those goals, thus implementing a family driven process.

TEAM BASED

Each youth and family identifies additional members of their team, which can consist of formal and informal supports. The child and family team members consist of the youth, their family members as chosen, a team facilitator, a family specialist, a family partner upon the family's request, a probation officer and any other members whom the youth and/or family have relationships and are support in their efforts.

NATURAL SUPPORTS

Each child and family team seeks to elicit natural supports from their family and or community. Our child and family team has enlisted youth's boyfriend or girlfriend, siblings, neighbors, family friends or other identified support persons. Natural supports are drawn from the youth and family's interpersonal and community relationships.

COLLABORATION

Each team member works cooperatively and collaboratively, sharing responsibility for developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating each family's wraparound plan. Each member contributes and coordinates their mandates, perspectives and individual contributions towards meeting the goals of the family plan.

COMMUNITY BASED

The wraparound team implements service and support strategies in the least restrictive environment, the youth and family's home and community. Through providing services within the family's community, the wraparound team aims to implement strategies accessible within their communities. Wraparound also seeks to improve the safety and daily living their home and community life.

CULTURALLY COMPETENT/ AWARENESS

Each child and family team member respects the youth and family's values and beliefs unique to each youth and family. The team seeks to promote inclusion, respect for their unique family's culture, traditions and values.

STRENGTHS-BASED

The wraparound process promotes identification of each member's strengths and contributions towards meeting their goals. Our wraparound team implements values from the Cara Y Corazon curriculum which aims to help each family member identify their own strengths to build from.

INDIVIDUALIZED

The wraparound process identifies strategies, interventions, techniques and supports aimed to meet the individual needs identified by the youth and their family. Family specialists meet individually with youth to promote skill building on identified issues while family partners provide the same service.

PERSISTENCE

The wraparound team remains persistent in assisting the families remaining focused on their identified goals. The team will keep the youth and family on track, working towards the completion of their goals and identified needs.

OUTCOMES BASED

Measurable and observable indicators have been identified according to Santa Cruz County Wraparound plan, monitoring and reporting these outcomes. These indicators and outcomes are connected to the family's identified goals and unique plan.

PROTOCOL FOR REFERRAL AND TRANSFER OF YOUTH TO WRAPAROUND PROGRAM

Program Referral Protocol

The Wraparound/Family Preservation probation officer is to meet the following protocol when a youth is being referred to either of these programs as an escalation of services. Please keep the essential elements of a successful referral process in the forefront. This includes:

- After staffing the potential youth with your immediate supervisor or Placement Alternative Programs (Wraparound) Supervisor, sign him/her up for Placement Screening Committee (PSC), inviting the youth and his/her family to participate
- A Disposition report must be completed for all cases with a recommendation for Wraparound
- After PSC has approved the recommendation for the Wraparound Program
 - Complete the required ICWA Forms ICWA 010, ICWA 020 and attached originals to the Disposition Report for Court, maintaining copies in the case file. Forms may be found at:
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/forms.cgi>
 - Contact the Placement Alternative Programs Supervisor to find out who the new Probation Officer and assigned Clinician will be.
 - Telephone call to the new probation officer and advise him/her of your intent to send the case to them for supervision
 - Contact the youth and parent/guardian to advise them of the name and phone number of the new probation officer immediately upon knowledge of the new Court Order
 - Tell the youth that they have a responsibility to meet with their new probation officer within 48 hours of the transfer/Court
 - Complete a chronological case note in the form of a Transfer Summary, indicating the salient facts surrounding the need to transfer the case, listing outstanding probation terms and identifying case plan update due date
 - Follow-up by making telephone contact with the new probation officer a few days after the effective date of the transfer

Protocol for Youth returning home from Placement

The Wraparound probation officer is to meet the following protocol for youth returning home from out of home placement and once the probation officer learns of their return and that the youth has been referred and/or will be transferred to their caseloads.

- The Placement Screening Committee process for the Wraparound recommendation should be done within four weeks prior to the youth's program exit/graduation date.
- The Wraparound probation officer shall attend and participate in the transition /continuing care meeting (arranged by the placement probation officer) to take place at the minimum of two weeks prior to exit/graduation or immediately following their graduation.

Participants who should attend are

- youth,
- parent/guardian,
- clinician from Wraparound / Preferable CFT Facilitator
- ILS Coordinator (if eligible),
- therapist/caseworker from the placement (when possible),
- Wraparound probation officer
- other stakeholders/support persons who would contribute to the stability of the youth as they exit placement.

- Remember that effective practice for developing an aftercare or reentry case plan should include a plan in each of the following domains: peer group and friends, mental, behavioral and physical health, substance abuse, education, vocational training/interests and employment, and leisure time/recreation interests
- The placement probation officer will facilitate the meeting, completing the continuing care/transition form. Each participant will take a copy of the completed plan with the action steps that they have agreed to be responsible for.

Family Choices May Include

- Job Training Skills
- Individual Counseling
- In-Home Support
- Parent Support
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Educational Assistance
- Mentors
- Spiritual/Religious Support

Wraparound Values

- Success
- Teamwork
- Fun
- Mutual Respect
- Love
- Flexibility
- Cooperation
- Cultural Awareness
- Communication
- Personal Responsibility

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Santa Cruz County
Wraparound Program

FAMILY SOLUTIONS



Santa Cruz County
Wraparound Program

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Family Solutions

Family Solutions is a Santa Cruz County Wraparound Program that is provided by Children's Mental Health, Juvenile Probation and Human Resources Agency.

Wraparound is an approach that encourages the family to take the lead in developing a plan to have youth be successful in their own home.

Family Solutions uses the support of extended family, local community, and professional supports.

The family is the most important part of the team.

The Family Solutions team is committed to providing culturally appropriate services

Who Do we Serve:

- Families of youth who are on probation and are at risk for out of home placement
- Youth transitioning out of residential placement back into the community.
- Families who welcome support and have the willingness to participate.

What Happens?

- An individual plan is developed by a child and family team which includes the people who know the youth best.
- The plan is based on the personal strengths, values and preferences of the family.
- The family team works to meet the needs identified in the family plan.
- The family is supported until the youth is stable in the home and community.



Santa Cruz County
Wraparound Program

The Family solutions Wraparound Team Includes:

- family members
- family partnership advocates
- mental health counselors
- probation officers
- substance abuse specialists
- community members
- any person the team chooses

We are committed to keeping families successfully together in their own homes.

Santa Cruz County Wraparound Program

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