



# CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA

## Conference Spotlight: San Diego County Probation

The San Diego County Probation Department **Youthful Offender Unit (YOU) Program** is a custodial and community program that supervises male and female juvenile offenders between the ages of 16-20 who would have otherwise been sent to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (CDCR DJJ) as non-WIC 707(b) offenders. YOU youth have either committed serious felony offenses and/or have a lengthy criminal history. YOU works with youth who are involved in gangs, substance abuse, and display behavior problems at home and in the community as well as WIC 707(b) youths who may be amenable to treatment at the local level due to extenuating circumstances.

YOU is a long term program with custody time between 180-480 days (6 to 18 months) and community supervision lasting until the youth has demonstrated pro-social behavior or is terminated as a result of program failure. However, their actual stay in custody is typically shorter and structured based on an assessment of each youth's risks & needs. Probation Officers in the program work closely with Alcohol and Drug Program Specialists (ADPS), contract program personnel, schools, families, and community programs in order to provide intensive supervision for the youths upon release. The YOU program places emphasis on the highest level of accountability and rehabilitation, requiring all parties to work closely together on the case plan toward a common goal.

The Second Chance Program is also under contract to provide comprehensive rehabilitative counseling, classes and job training to YOU youths in custody and after their transition into the community. Second Chance provides custody rehabilitative programming, including Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), victim awareness, substance abuse, gender issues, creative process, graphic design, and vocational education. In addition, the youths participate in individual and small group counseling.

Second Chance employs a full time job developer, who assists the youth in connecting with real jobs in the community. Furthermore, the ADPS workers and contract counselors provide several opportunities throughout the year to participate in pro social activities, such as hikes, fishing trips, and sports days. A Pre-Release meeting is convened one month prior to a youth's release. The youth, his or her parents or legal guardians, the field probation officer custody probation officers, and alcohol/drug counselor, the youth's Second Chance Counselor and the Office of

<b>YOU Success Rate through the Years</b>			
<b>YOU Success*</b>	<b>6 months after supervision</b>	<b>12 months after supervision</b>	<b>18 months after supervision</b>
2013-2014	91%	72%	63%
2014-2015	87%	85%	83%
2015-2016	85%	74%	77%
2016-2017 (Q1 - Q3)	95%	91%	82%

\*Success is defined as no juvenile true finding or adult conviction for a felony or misdemeanor offense occurring during the period of probation.

Education all participate and develop the release plan collaboratively. The release plan establishes the youth's transition to school and back into the community. Once back in the community the youth continue to work with their Second Chance program counselors as well as their probation officers.