

Department of Youth Development

May 29, 2025

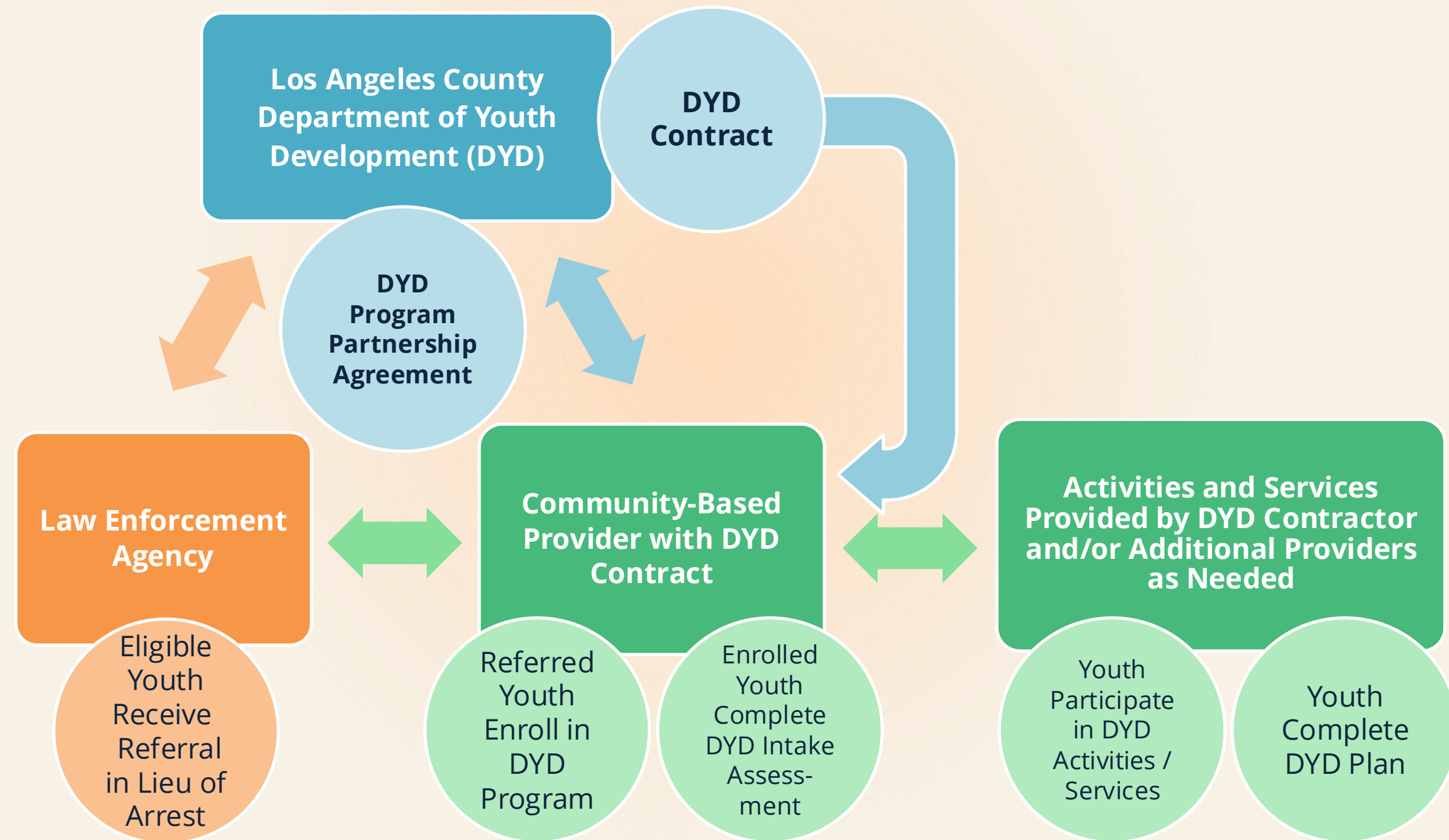
Presentation to LA County Youth Commission

Youth Diversion

- An intervention that redirects system responses to prevent a young person's involvement or further involvement in the justice system.
- On average a 6–9-month program that is centered around youths' goals and supporting wholistic family needs provided by community-based organizations
- DYD coordinates partnerships with 32 referring agencies, including LASD, LAPD, municipal law enforcement agencies, the District Attorney's Office, and Probation to support equitable access to diversion.



Youth Diversion Model



95% of youth enrolled in diversion stayed out of trouble with the legal system

\$40K saved per youth enrolled compared to costs of arrest or court

5 out of 5 key strengths improved supporting both youth & families

Only 5% of youth who enroll in diversion had a petition filed within 12 months *

Compared to around 20% of youth who did not enroll in the program

* This result is statistically significant and equitable by race and ethnicity, gender, and age. Enrolling in diversion has the greatest impact on recidivism for youth referred for alleged felonies.



**DIVERSION
COST SAVINGS
PER YOUTH**

=



ANNUAL COST TO CONNECT
**20 YOUTH
WITH A MENTOR**



**EMOTIONAL
REGULATION**



**SCHOOL
ENGAGEMENT**



**SOCIAL
SUPPORT**

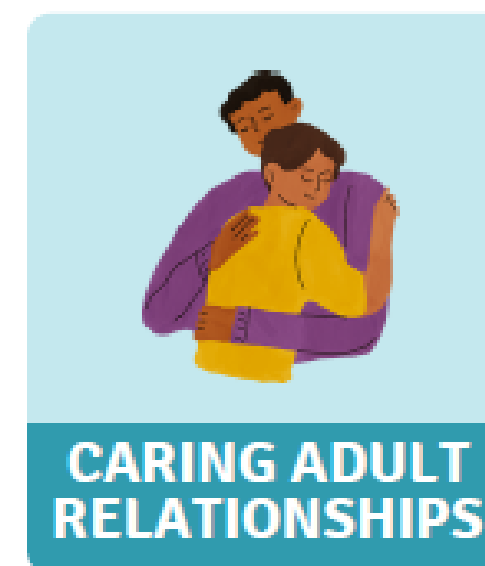
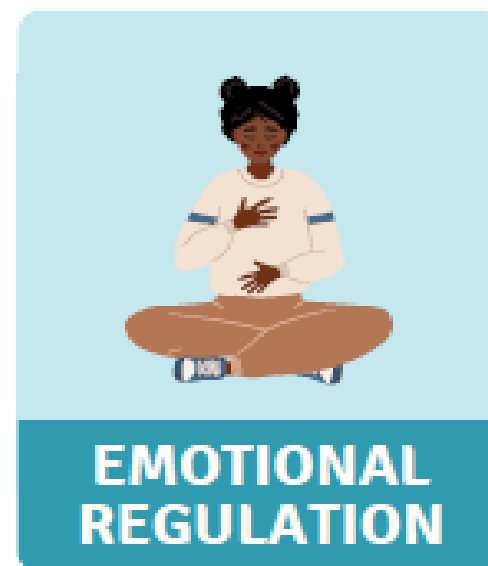


**CONFLICT
RESOLUTION**



**CARING ADULT
RELATIONSHIPS**

5 out of 5 key strengths improved supporting both youth & families



RECOMMENDATIONS for expanding and improving access to benefits of diversion

1

Address Racial
Disparities in Stops
and Enrollment to
Equitably Improve
Access to Diversion

2

Increase Training
& Coordination for
Providers, Partners,
and Other Youth-
Serving Agencies

3

Improve Law
Enforcement Partner
Compliance with
Record Sealing After
Program Completion

4

Update Assessment
Processes to
Respond to
Populations with
Unique Needs

Key findings outlined above summarize the comprehensive Outcomes, Equity, Cost, & Youth Participatory Action Research Evaluation conducted by RDA Consulting for the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development.

This evaluation would not have been possible without the incredible Youth Participatory Action Research team who made sure the stories of youth, families, and partners were part of the fabric of youth diversion's impact, built their own research skills, and shared their experiences.

Current Climate and Goals

- Addressing decrease in referrals
 - Building opportunities for increased training with referring agencies
 - Continuing to establish formal partnership agreements with each agency
 - Identifying opportunities for sharing diversion success stories from youth, victims, and referring agencies
 - Long term goal: Reduce opportunities for bias in referrals through legislation
- Strengthening partnership with District Attorney's Office
 - Building protocols for communicating diversion to youth
 - Establishing stronger pathways for communication
 - Increasing shared understanding of data





REENTRY ACTION *for* YOUTH

YOUNG PEOPLE THRIVE WHEN THEY HAVE ACCESS
TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND CARING
ADULTS THAT HELP THEM TAP INTO THEIR OWN
STRENGTH AND POTENTIAL



los angeles county
department of
**Youth
Development**

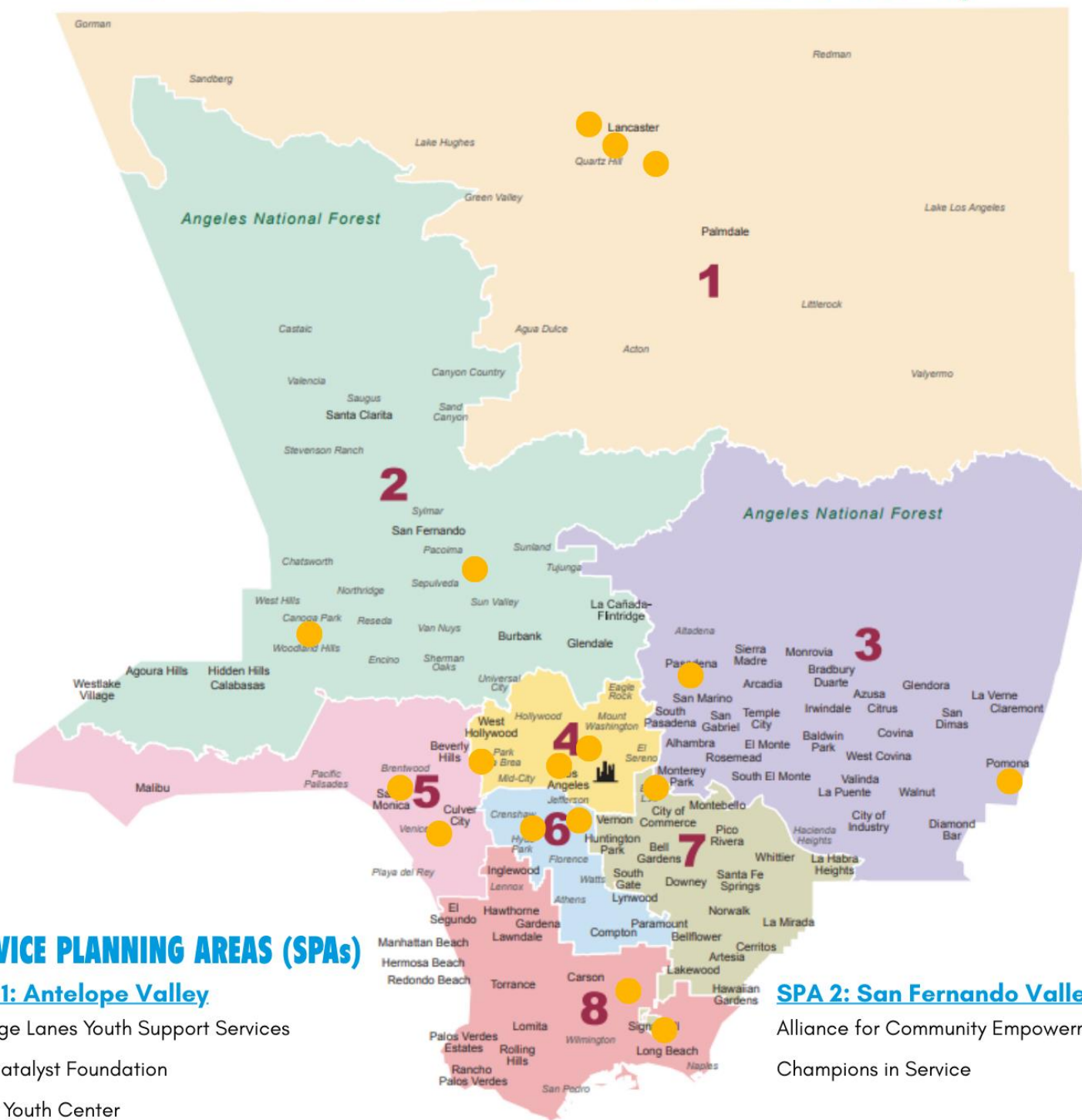


RAY Services

- **Mentorship:** Youth are paired with a mentor with lived experience
- **Resource navigation:** Youth are connected to essential services such as housing assistance, job training, substance use treatment, educational resources, and other support systems to meet their specific needs.
- **Monetary incentives:** Youth receive a \$200 monthly stipend for up to 12 months and access to up to \$7000 yearly in discretionary funds for rent assistance, transportation, etc..
- **Court Accompaniment:** Mentors accompany youth during court proceeds to offer advocacy and emotional support

Eligibility

- Juvenile justice court involved youth aged 12-25 years old.
- Priority Focus
 - Youth released from juvenile facilities to the community, either pre or post disposition
 - Additional populations as prioritized by referral partners, including
 - Non-detained youth in community, pre or post-disposition



SERVICE PLANNING AREAS (SPAs)

SPA 1: Antelope Valley

Change Lanes Youth Support Services
The Catalyst Foundation
Asian Youth Center

SPA 3: San Gabriel Valley

Center for Empowerment of Families
Flintridge Center
Project Hope CA

SPA 6: South LA

Bryant Temple
Resilient Agency

SPA 4: Metro LA

El Centro Del Pueblo
Inside Out Writers

SPA 7: East LA

Soledad Enrichment Action, Inc.
Jail Guitar Doors

SPA 2: San Fernando Valley

Alliance for Community Empowerment
Champions in Service

SPA 5: West LA

Coalition for Engaged Education
New Earth Organization

SPA 8: South Bay

Children's Institute
April Parker Foundation

Program timeline and statistics

- March 10, 2025 launch
 - RAY contracts were executed with the initial cohort of 18 providers
 - Program capacity: 34 Mentors across 18 providers with capacity to serve 340 at a time
- Convenings
 - April regional orientations
 - May 13 – full cohort convening
- Starting July 1, 2025:
 - Program capacity will grow to 19 providers, with 40 mentors able to serve 400 youth at a time
- Current enrollment numbers:
 - 47 active participants.
 - 49 in progress (undergoing intake assessments and will shortly be enrolled)
 - Remaining capacity: 244 slots
 - # of slots dedicated for Girls and Gender Expansive youth: 50
- Referrals are coming from:
 - Defense counsel
 - Probation Department
 - Providers who operate programs inside Juvenile Hall of Camp Facilities
 - Community – i.e. parents and guardians of youth getting released from facilities

Notable Partnerships in Progress

- DYD is partnering with the Probation Department to create further referral pathways targeted at pre-disposition youth to be connected to the RAY program.
- The plan is still being developed but anticipates referrals can also happen via:
 - Juvenile Investigation Unit of Probation would link appropriate, new pre-disposition cases that are being referred to the DA to the RAY Program
 - Piloting where court officers could link pre-disposition youth to RAY, including through proposed co-located staff at a few courthouses to start

County of Los Angeles Probation Department - Juvenile Intake and Court Processes Flowchart

