

Department: Atascosa Juvenile Probation Department

Kim Wendel-Mental Health/Instructor

Job Description

Program name and detailed description:

Life Skills Education: Juveniles participate in various activities to improve communication, problem solving and coping skills. Juveniles learn about goal setting and how choices, positive or negative can influence their relationship with self and others. Juveniles' role play different scenarios and discuss the negative and positive outcomes relating to their own lives.

Substance Abuse Education: Juveniles are presented with information on different drugs of abuse including alcohol abuse. Each class focuses on a certain substance given with a pre-test and post-test to test their knowledge on the drug discussed. Juveniles learn about adolescent brain development and how drug use may hinder different areas of the adolescent brain. Juveniles learn the different stages of abuse leading to addiction and are able to identify the stage they may be experiencing or have experienced. They also learn to identify Protective Factors and Risk Factors and how to increase or reduce those factors they have control over.

Relapse Prevention Group: Juveniles learn to identify triggers, high risk situations and recognize the signs of relapse. Juveniles learn about the addiction process and the Bio-Psycho-Social model of addiction. They also identify ways to stay in recovery and share this in a group setting. At times group members will lead the group in discussion or give their own personal stories about how they became addicted and how they have stayed sober.

Parenting Education Classes: Parents participate in various activities to improve communication skills, learn about teen development and problems that may arise due to risk factors and trauma that children may have experienced or faced.

Individual Life Skills/Parenting: Meet with child and/or parent to help with issues and conflict resolution within the family by teaching and demonstrating skills needed to help with identified problems.

Anger Management Classes-as needed or assigned.

All classes will focus on **Trauma Informed Care** and risk factors that affect our youth on probation and their families. *Life Skills Education* are 6 weeks in duration, meeting one hour a week after school. *Drug and Alcohol Education Classes* meet for 8 weeks, one hour a week after school. *Parenting Classes* are 6 weeks long coinciding with Life Skills Classes. *Relapse Prevention Classes* are for those Juveniles that have completed rehab placement to offer ongoing aftercare to reinforce skills learned while in placement. The

duration of these classes are at least 12 weeks long, meeting one hour a week after school. Class can be for a longer duration if needed based on individual risk for relapse. Activities include interactive DVD's on substance use, communication skills, dating violence, anger management and conflict resolution are presented to class to supplement handouts, role playing, and job preparation and interview techniques including completing applications etc., games focused on objective and any other activity that would help engage both probationer and parent. Will also, help with educating parents on current trends that would possibly put juvenile at risk. Classes and activities can be costumed to some degree on individual or group needs.

Assessments- for every Atascosa County Juvenile Probationers to help screen for risk factors including mental health needs, substance use and academic risk and to offer services and wrap-around services within department and community.

MAYSI- Will review any MAYSI that is scored that falls into the caution or warning category, especially if high score is in suicide ideations or anger. Meet with individual juvenile to assess and ask relevant questions to help determine reason for score and make referrals as necessary. Also, to take off close observation for SI, attempts in past per SAT screening as warranted.

Individual Skills- for youth at JJAEP, detained or on probation that request or need to speak to Counselor regarding any difficulties they may be experiencing.

Crisis Interventions- Suicide intervention for individuals that may be experiencing mental health crisis that may need further assessments, services or de-escalation.

Calling Crisis Hotline (Avail) when needed to activate MCOT for services. Meet and staff with MCOT crisis worker when needed for better clarification of Juvenile's risk or outcry.

Under special circumstances- ED for crisis intervention. Will fill out required documents for Judge to sign. Help arrange transportation to hospital for further assessment.

On Call—special circumstances for Crisis Interventions or de-escalation at detention center **if needed.**

Online Classes- during COVID or for those that live out of county, but are required to complete classes for probation.

Self-Seclusion Assessment per State Guidelines-Access juveniles at the detention center that have self-isolated for 3 days or more to stay compliant with states requirements regarding seclusion to help determine if self-seclusion is behavioral or mental health in nature.

PREA Compliance--Access juveniles that have made outcry of being a victim of sexual assault, make CPS and Police report and offer services while detained and in their community. Also meet with and document those that are sexual predators and make notations for their protection, as well as, other Residents. Offer services if needed.

Determent Intervention-(CRISIS INTERVENTION) meet with child and parents to refer to services needed within the community to deter child from entering the juvenile justice system.

CPS/Law Enforcement contact or report for services or investigation as needed.

Staff's with JPO/Chief/Deputy Chief as needed about juvenile in detention or on probation regarding behavioral and mental health needs or any other pertinent information needing to be addressed.

***On occasion will staff with JPOs from other counties concerns regarding their Juvenile in detention.**

***On occasion will contact Camino Real MHMR for available services or compliance regarding juveniles on probation.**