



# OCCARES

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*Justice through Prevention & Intervention*

**2025 Vision  
Annual Report  
July 2021 – June 2022**

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## Executive Summary

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As presented, the FY 2021-22 Annual Report of the County's 2025 Vision highlights the achievements and continued commitment to improve the lives and outcomes of individuals involved in the criminal and juvenile justice systems through the County's OC CARES initiatives.

### **Background:**

The OC CARES system links the various systems of care in the County of Orange to provide full care coordination and services for justice-involved individuals to successfully reenter society and work towards self-sufficiency. These systems of care include behavioral health, healthcare, housing, benefits & support services, and community correction. This innovative approach was developed building on the County's efforts as part of the nationwide Stepping Up Initiative and locally developed Integrated Services Strategy. The overall strategy focused on reducing the number of individuals with mental illness in custodial care and required the integration of services from disparate County departments and community partners. This strategy was then expanded and used to create the Integrated Services – 2025 Vision (2025 Vision) implementation plan, which has been updated to serve OC CARES.

### **The 2025 Vision:**

The 2025 Vision was adopted by the Board of Supervisors (Board) on October 22, 2019 and links the County criminal justice system and our systems of care to provide inmates and at-risk-individuals with the services they need to become self-determined and facilitate successful reentry. The 2025 Vision was built on five "pillars" with each made up of overarching "goals" assigned to specific departments that are tracked and implemented via "action items." The pillars include:

1. **Prevention:** Developing public informational campaigns and interventions – particularly related to substance use and mental health – that divert people from involvement in the criminal justice system.
2. **Courts:** Strengthened coordination between County agencies and the courts, including an examination of potential adjustments to existing specialty courts to make data driven decisions pertaining to expansion of services and diversion.

3. **In-Custody:** Enhanced mental health and substance use programs, linkages to post-custody services, and training and education to prepare people for successful reentry.
4. **Reentry:** Developing a comprehensive system to ensure continuity in treatment for mental health and substance use disorders and promote a positive transition into the community.
5. **Juvenile & Transitional Aged Youth (TAY):** Expanded mental health services, substance use disorder treatments, and stable housing options for juveniles and TAY who have a high risk to enter or reenter the criminal justice system.

The 2025 Vision is a permanent component of Orange County’s annual Strategic Financial Plan. Its oversight is provided by the Orange County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (OCCJCC), co-chaired by Supervisor Andrew Do and Chairman Doug Chaffee. The OCCJCC includes County departments, Courts, and local law enforcement.

**Highlights and Achievements:**

Each Goal and Action Item included in the 2025 Vision is reviewed and updated with the current status on a quarterly basis. The OCCJCC receives the updates and collectively formulate directives to meet the needs of the target populations. Revisions are approved by the OCCJCC and included in the County’s Strategic Financial Plan.

The table below highlights the progress made this past year in implementing the 2025 Vision:

	As of 7/1/2021	As of 6/30/22	% Increase/(Decrease)
Revisions Made:			
# of Goals Total	20	23	2%
# of Action Items Total	121	151	25%
Progress Made			
# Goals Completed	5	5	0%
# Action Items Completed	53	60	13%

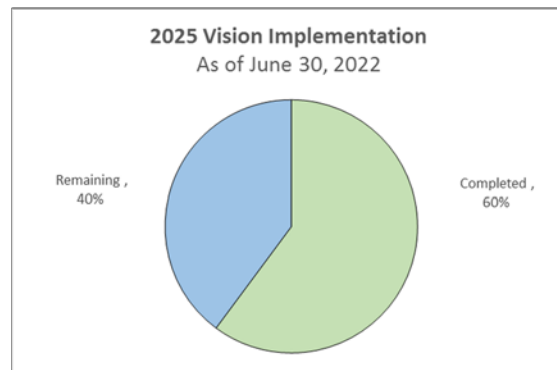
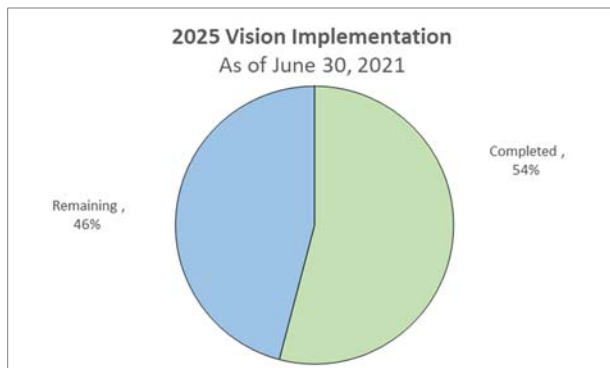
**Summary of Revisions Made:**

- FY 2020-21 action items that were incomplete as of July 1, 2021, were moved to the FY 2021-22 timeline to align with expectations.
- Under the Prevention Pillar, two new Goals and seven associated Action Items were added to establish the Be Well Irvine Campus (South) and implement a public safety mental health diversion program. The Be Well Irvine Campus will follow a similar model to the previously established Be Well Orange Campus and will have an additional focus on children and families. The public safety mental health diversion program aims at providing options for individuals encountered by local law enforcement to divert away from the criminal justice system.

- Under the Courts Pillar, a pre-trial intervention program was outlined by adding six Action Items to implement a diversion program for individuals experiencing mental illness or related issues during the arraignment process.
- The Juvenile & TAY Pillar was revised to address the areas of prevention, courts, custody, and reentry specific for the juvenile and TAY populations. The existing goals were enhanced to align with each area and one Goal was added to establish a juvenile campus to meet the current and anticipated future needs. The number of Action Items increased by 17 which address all areas, specifically prevention programs at the schools for youth aged pre-K to 11 years and juveniles aged 12 to 15 years and life and social skills and vocational programming to encourage self-sufficiency and job readiness.

**Highlights of Progress Made:**

The charts below show the progress made in implementing the 2025 Vision as of July 1, 2021, and as of June 30, 2022. The percent completed went from 54% at the start of the year to 60% at the end and that includes the addition of three Goals and 30 Action Items.



This Annual Report provides detailed highlights and achievements made within each pillar during the past fiscal year of implementation. Below shows the percentage completed at the start and end of the fiscal year for each pillar. The detailed information for each pillar is included in the pages that follow.

Pillar	July 1, 2021	June 30, 2022	Difference
Prevention	77%	85%	8%
Courts	40%	61%	21%
In-Custody	44%	61%	17%
Reentry	56%	56%	0%
Juvenile & TAY	54%	37%	(17%)

# Highlights and Achievements

## PILLAR #1: PREVENTION

The Prevention Pillar addresses the informational campaigns for the general public to educate them on the signs and symptoms of mental illness or substance abuse issues; behavioral health campus with co-located services accessible by the public and law enforcement; and a behavioral health-based law enforcement response program that coordinates efforts and response with other stakeholder departments for care coordination and case management. The focus of this pillar is on informing and providing diversion options for individuals experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis that include seeking treatment services rather than being taken into custody.

The following goals are established for the Prevention Pillar:

- Goal 1:** Increase public awareness of various mental health and substance use topics and resources
- Goal 2:** (*Completed*) Increase staffing resources to address increased demands for mental health Services
- Goal 3:** (*Completed*) Behavioral Health Services Campus (North-Orange)
- Goal 4:** Establish a robust multi-response behavioral health-based law enforcement program in the Sheriff's Department to address the training, response, and analytics
- Goal 5:** (*Completed*) Implement a multi-disciplinary team to provide oversight of the overall care coordination within the Community Correction System of Care and County's other Systems of Care
- Goal 6:** (*New*) Expand the Behavioral Health Services Campus model to establish the Be Well South (Irvine) Campus and potential third campus
- Goal 7:** (*New*) Implement a public safety mental health diversion program that connects justice-involved individuals to services at an earlier point than is available through the criminal courts

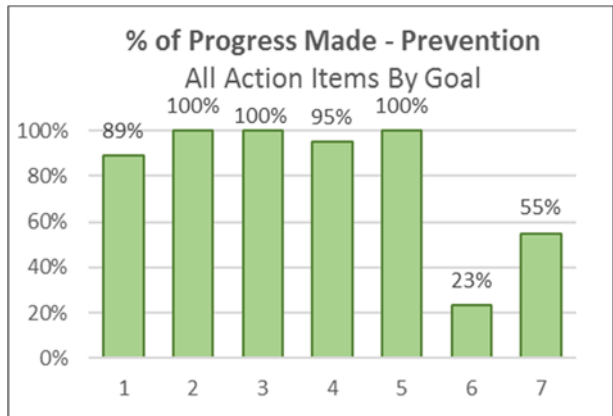
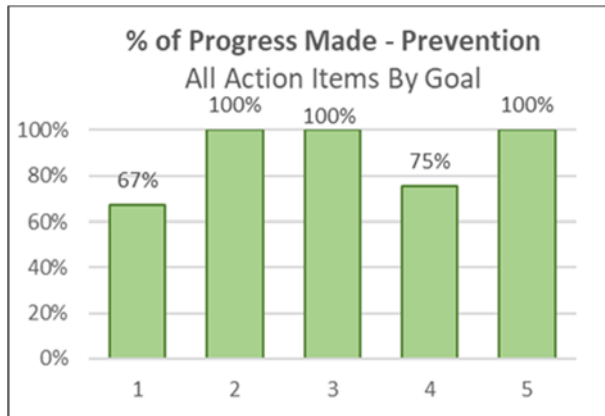
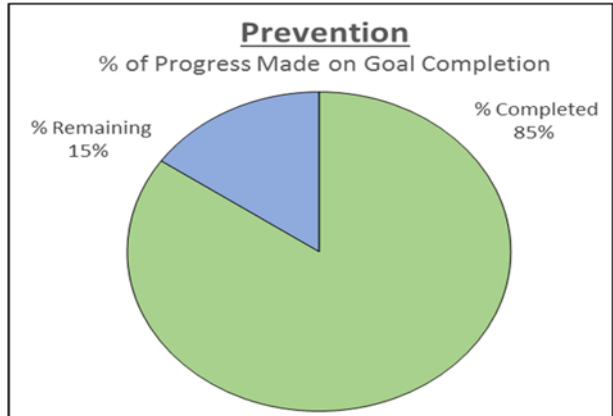
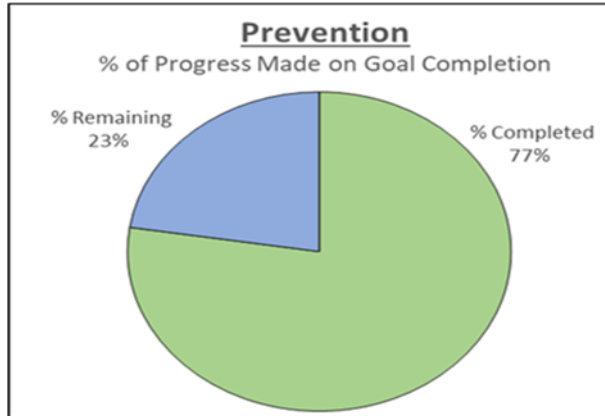
Progress on the established goals is tracked on a quarterly basis based on the percentage of completion of the identified action items. As of June 2022, this Pillar is approximately 85% completed, up from 77% at the start of the fiscal year, with Goals 2, 3, and 5 completed and Goals 6 and 7 added in the second quarter of FY 2021-22.

Highlights include:

- The County identified the location and funding needed for a second Be Well Campus in Irvine on existing County property. Working with the existing partners from the Be Well Orange Campus, the concept and planning has been substantially completed and the design and construction is anticipated to begin in FY 2022-23. This campus will expand the services currently provided at the Orange Campus and will have an additional focus on the community, children, and families.
- The Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) obtained the necessary resources to expand their pilot program for a dedicated mental health public safety response unit to an additional area in the County. The dedicated response unit is a collaboration with the Health Care Agency (HCA) and includes a Behavioral Health (BH) Clinician to assist with response and follow up with identified individuals as warranted.
- The OC CARES Task Force was established to bring together key individuals from all stakeholder departments and involved community providers to report on the current status on specific areas in each of the County's Systems of Care reduce barriers or obstacles to essential services or programs.
- OCSD established a process to track calls for service that include a mental health nexus. The new process allows certain elements such as the disposition, length of the call and total consumed time be tracked which will then enable data-driven decisions to be made.
- FIRST Point, a public safety mental health diversion program, was developed and piloted in April. This program focuses on diversion at the point of law enforcement encounter to allow for treatment rather than enter the criminal justice system

The following charts are provided to show the progress made this fiscal year.

### July 1, 2021



All Goals and Actions Items in the Prevention Pillar are in line with the 2025 Vision with four incomplete Actions Items being substantially completed yet carried forward to the next fiscal year. Below are the objectives identified for FY 2022-23:

- Begin construction of the new Be Well Irvine Campus and development of programming to be implemented.
- Establish standardized reporting around public safety services calls that have a mental health nexus to identify positive impacts of the program and continued gaps in meeting community needs.
- Analyze the FIRST Point pilot to identify services and capacity needs and link to case management.
- Continue to integrate the relevant public protection databases into the County’s data platform project to enhance care coordination and track aggregate data.



## **PILLAR #2: COURTS**

The Courts Pillar aims to strengthen coordination between County agencies and the Courts by documenting best practices and measurable data to effectively coordinate care between the Courts, Public Defender, District Attorney, OC Probation, OCSD, HCA, Social Services Agency, and other providers for individuals in the court system who need treatment. In addition, the data gathered would be used to determine and support a possible expansion of the Adult Specialty Court system.

The following goals are established for the Courts Pillar:

- Goal 1:** Develop a tool for tracking data and individuals moving through the Collaborative Court process to be used by County departments and OC Courts to evaluate program effectiveness
- Goal 2:** Expand Adult Specialty Courts
- Goal 3:** Identify, develop, and implement diversion options within the Adult Court System
- Goal 4:** *(Completed)* Establish a standing Collaborative Committee

As of June 2021, this Pillar is approximately 61% completed, up from 40% at the start of the fiscal year, with goal 4 completed. There were nine Actions Items identified for FY 2021-22 with none completed and, hence, carried over to the next fiscal year.

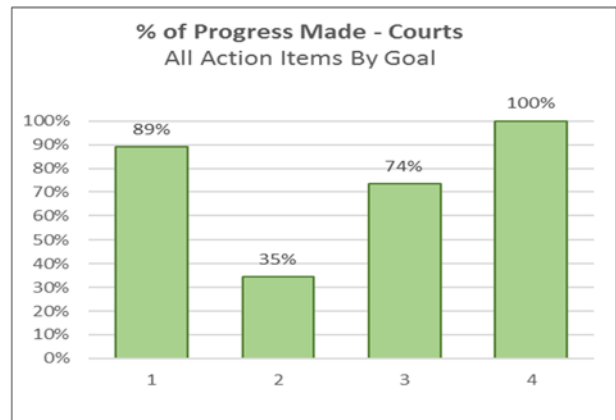
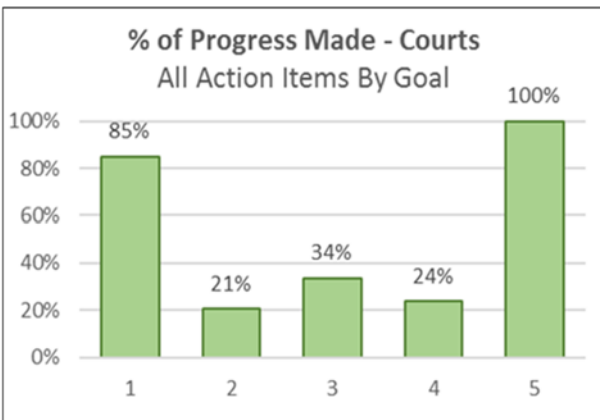
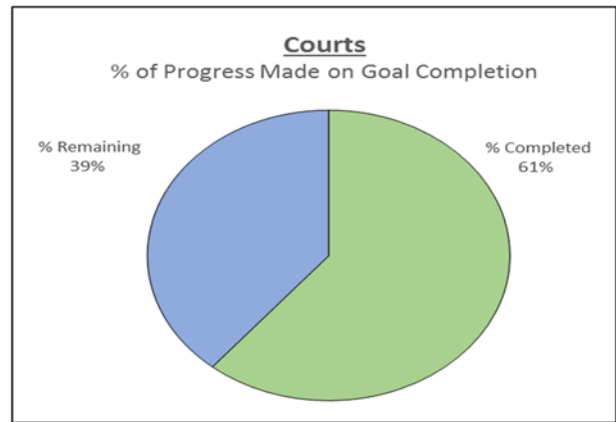
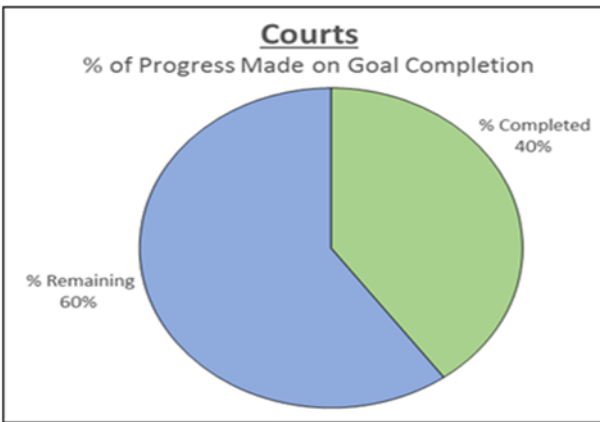
Highlights include:

- A pilot data tracking program, SCRAM Nexus, was implemented in the WIT (Whatever It Takes) Court with plans in progress to expand to other Collaborative Courts, such as DUI.
- Working with the County and the city of Anaheim, the Courts are developing a program to identify potential participants for the Collaborative Courts earlier through the Justice Center arraignment process.
- Significant progress was made in developing a pre-trial intervention program where arrested individuals would be triaged and, as applicable and agreed upon, be connected to services and treatments to prevent them from further entering the criminal justice system.

The following charts are provided to show the progress made this fiscal year.

**July 1, 2021**

**June 30, 2022**



The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the progress of completion of the action items associated with this pillar. In addition, Goals and Action Items pertaining to the juvenile and TAY population in the juvenile justice system were moved to the Juvenile and TAY pillar, as described in detail in the Juveniles & TAY section below. Following are the objectives identified for FY 2022-23:

- Continue to gather, track and analyze data to support services, expansion, and effectiveness of the Collaborative Courts and related programs.
- Identify existing space and implement the Pre-Trial Intervention Program.
- Develop a comprehensive plan and identify resources needed to establish Care Court.

## PILLAR #3: IN-CUSTODY

The In-Custody Pillar focuses on creating a comprehensive in-custody BH program that will identify individuals upon intake who require specialized BH services and stabilize them in designated jail housing modules; provide advanced and specialized behavioral health programming and treatments, personalized discharge planning and linkage to community services; and provide 24/7 in-custody substance use treatment that will link to post-custody services and case management.

The following goals are established for the In-Custody Pillar

**Goal 1:** Enhance mental health and substance use treatment services in-custody

**Goal 2:** Establish specialized in-custody housing

**Goal 3:** Enhance inmate programming services

As of June 2022, this Pillar is approximately 61% completed, up from 44% at the start of the fiscal year. There were seven Action Items identified for FY 2021-22 with one pertaining to establishing specialized housing completed and four others substantially completed and two with some progress made. All incomplete Action Items will be carried forward to FY 2022-23.

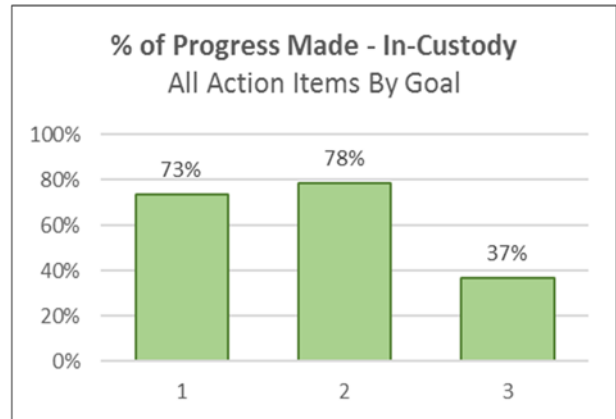
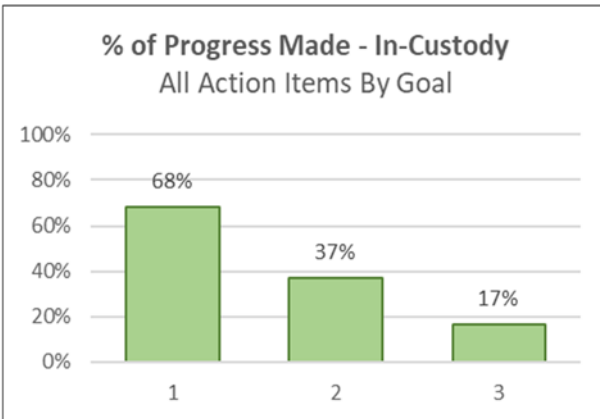
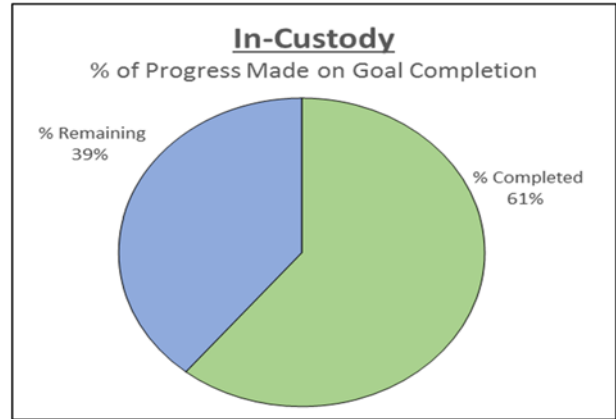
Highlights include:

- The in-custody drug treatment program was implemented and is seven days per week and offers multiple substance use recovery groups and includes individual counseling, MAT (medication-assisted treatment), and discharge planning services.
- A specialized housing model for Emerging Youth, inmates considered transitional aged youth, was implemented with a capacity of up to 32 inmates. This program, along with the Veterans Module implemented the previous year, include established curriculum and discharge planning.
- Construction continues to establish a full mental health housing module for both males and females that includes hospital-level care (LPS) as well as step-down and observatory. Modification of the female module was completed in Fall 2021. Step down care is being provided.
- Approximately 80% of the Deputy Sheriff's assigned to custody operations have completed or are scheduled to complete CIT (Crisis Intervention Training).
- OCSO Inmate Services Unit has created an enhanced vocational program with three separate tracks. The program includes assessments, aptitude tests, in-custody programming, direct links to outside employers and a case management component. In addition, they are working with Santiago Community College to incorporate new vocational certificate-based programs.

The following charts are provided to show the progress made this fiscal year.

### July 1, 2021

### June 30, 2022



In FY 2022-23, efforts will be focused on the following:

- Continue the construction of the mental health housing modules and populate to provide the needed services to move the individuals toward stabilization.
- Implement the planned vocational training programs in custody and incorporate the use of individual tablets to specialize programming and increase participation in-custody.

## PILLAR #4: REENTRY

The Reentry Pillar establishes a comprehensive reentry system accessible by all individuals released from custody that involves coordination among County and community partners to ensure services meet the identified needs and there is a seamless and warm hand-off transition from in-custody to post-custody with no disruption in treatments, services and/or programming.

The following goals are established for the Reentry Pillar:

- Goal 1:** *(Completed)* Analyze existing resources and services to identify gaps and needs for a Coordinated Reentry System
- Goal 2:** Develop a comprehensive plan for a Coordinated Reentry System for successful re-integration
- Goal 3:** Implement communication strategy
- Goal 4:** Establish ongoing oversight

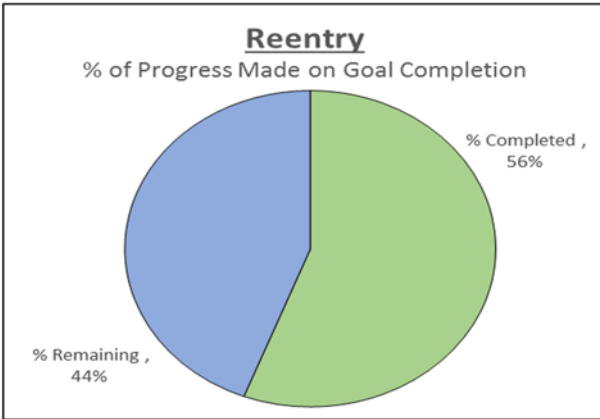
As of June 2022, this Pillar is approximately 56% completed, which is the same from the start of the fiscal year. However, increased efforts were made during the last quarter of FY 2021-22 with significant results anticipated in subsequent year, FY 2022-23. There were three action items identified for FY 2021-22 which partially completed. The three incomplete action items will be carried forward and tracked in FY 2022-23.

Highlights include:

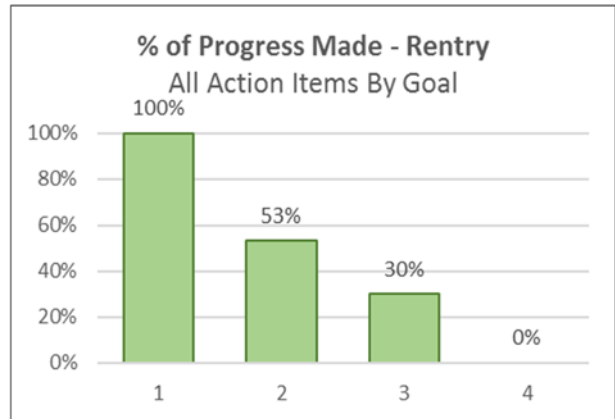
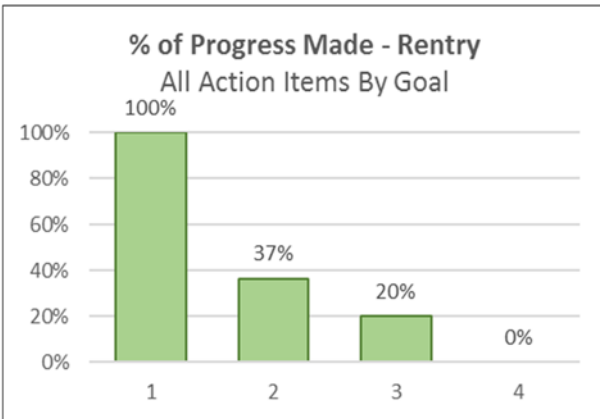
- The model for the coordinated reentry system was expanded to include a regional approach with service centers throughout the County which may also provide services to family members or others to support the individual as they reintegrate back into their community.
- A location was identified for the first Reentry Resource Center at an existing County facility and is expected to be implemented in Spring 2023. This location will serve individuals just released from custody and link them to the immediate resources, services, or treatments they need to continue their journey to self-sufficiency.
- The location for the Adult Reentry Center has been established with initial funding identified and, as applicable, continued to be set aside to minimize the fiscal impact to the County for any large construction or facility modification costs.

The following charts are provided to show the progress made this fiscal year.

### July 1, 2021



### June 30, 2022



In FY 2022-23, efforts will be focused on the following:

- Establish the first Reentry Resource Center in South County with transportation services from jails for individuals released from custody who seek linkages for services, treatments or basic needs.
- Analyze the success of the Reentry Resource Center and modify and establish plans for expansion to other areas in the County. This includes the use of mobile units to remove any barriers to access.
- Enhance case management services provided and coordinate efforts through the Office of Care Coordination.
- Increase the presence and awareness of reentry services in the community through community events and informational campaigns, involving all community partners.
- Develop the plan, timeline and programming for the Adult Reentry Center.

## **PILLAR #5: JUVENILES & TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH**

The Juvenile and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Pillar addresses the areas of prevention, courts, custody, and reentry especially with respect to the specific mental health and/or substance use treatment needs of the youth and TAY in the juvenile correction system.

The following goals are established for the Juvenile and TAY Pillar:

- Goal 1:** Establish and maintain a community-involved outreach and prevention program to address juvenile and TAY mental illness and substance use prevention and intervention.
- Goal 2:** Analyze the need to expand the Juvenile Specialty Courts and implement as appropriate.
- Goal 3:** Analyze and enhance programming available to detained youths to address identified gaps or needs.
- Goal 4:** Establish a coordinated reentry system for the juvenile and TAY population
- Goal 5:** (*New*) Establish a Juvenile Campus to meet current and anticipated future needs.

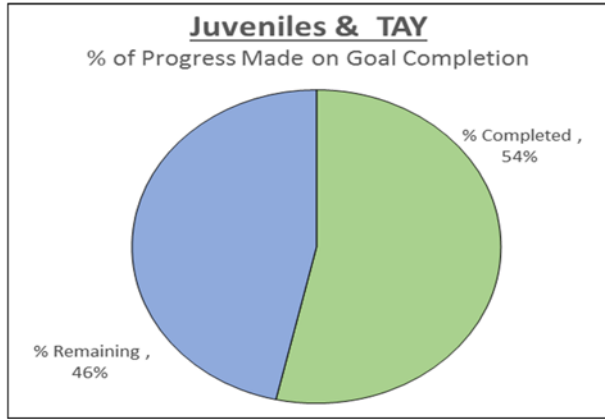
As of June 2022, this Pillar is approximately 37% completed, down from 54% at the start of the fiscal year. The Goals and Action Items for this pillar were enhanced to address the areas of prevention, courts, custody, and reentry. Existing Goals and Actions Items applicable to this population that were included with the other pillars were moved to be reported and tracked here. This resulted in a total of 14 Action Items identified for FY 2021-22 of which three were completed. The incomplete Action Items will be carried forward and tracked in FY 2022-23.

Highlights include:

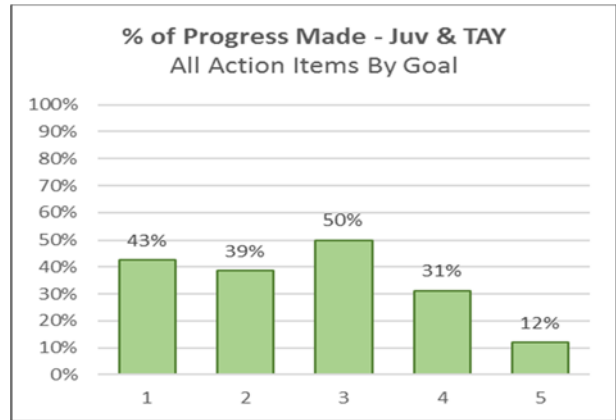
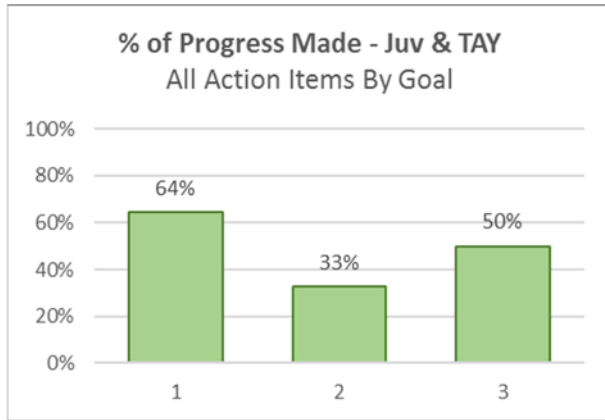
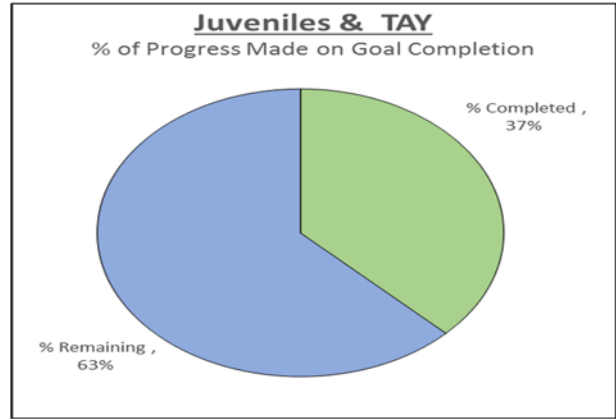
- Engaged an Architect & Engineering firm team to design and establish a Youth Transition Center and post-custody TAY housing at the existing Juvenile Hall with a target date of Fall 2025.
- The Juvenile Courts established the Crossover Youth Court: a small specialty court dealing with youth who are both dependents on the child welfare side, and delinquents (or wards) on the juvenile justice side.
- An offsite was held in June 2022 which brought together County and community stakeholders and focused on the current Juvenile & TAY Goals and Action Items. The results of this offsite is still be processed and will be included in future reporting.

The following charts are provided to show the progress made this fiscal year.

## July 2021



## June 2022



The focus for FY 2022-23 will be on the following:

- Enhance the BH presence in schools, specifically prevention efforts addressing youth aged pre-K through 11 years and juveniles aged 12 through 15 years.
- Continue with the design and construction of the Youth Transition Center and TAY transitional housing units.
- Incorporate the results from the offsite held in June 2022 and incorporate any new projects into the 2025 Vision.