



Training Bulletin

SANTA BARBARA POLICE DEPARTMENT



BERNARD MELEKIAN, Chief of Police

VOL. 2021, No. 002

April 6, 2021

Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program

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The Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program is a grant-funded diversion program established to provide resources and offer juveniles alternatives to traditional forms of intervention. Youth and their parents are referred to the YES Program by a school administrator, law enforcement, or probation officer for offenses that qualify for a restorative justice program, instead of being referred to the juvenile justice system or receiving traditional school disciplinary consequences.

The YES Program is a partnership between CADA (Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse), Santa Barbara County Juvenile Probation, and UCSB. Following a referral by law enforcement, school staff, or probation, the juvenile and their family will receive an orientation call from a YES counselor to discuss the reason for the referral and the program. The juvenile and their family will then complete a needs assessment and develop an action plan. The plan can range from a few classes to long-term counseling sessions and assignment to additional community resources.

Goals and Objectives:

The intent of the program is to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system through a community-based diversion effort provided at the time of contact that would otherwise result in citation, referral, or arrest.

Provides resources and interventions to address issues such as: mental health, substance abuse, criminogenic thinking, social struggles, and family dynamics. Services are provided to the juvenile involved as well as the family as a supporting unit.

Who is eligible?

- Juveniles ages 12-17 at the time of the offense
- Juveniles who would otherwise be arrested or cited for approved misdemeanor offenses (see DOJ Crime Table for applicable sections)

Who is not eligible?

- Juveniles who have committed an infraction or felony
- Juveniles under 12 or over 18 years of age
- Juveniles currently under Probation supervision
- Quality of life issues that do not meet the elements of a crime
- Cases that will result in restitution

How to Refer

If juvenile meets the criteria, the officer will discuss the YES Program with the juvenile and advise them that their parents will be contacted by CADA, if parent/guardian is not on scene.

Complete the YES Program referral form, either hard copy or .pdf. ***Please note, updated contact information for parent/guardian is especially critical.*** In reference to calls for service that only result in a YES referral, only an FI/SC should be submitted in MRE. The YES Program referral should not necessitate a lengthy narrative or GO. If a parent/guardian is not on scene at the time of the referral, you do not need a parent/guardian signature to submit the referral.

After completing the YES Program referral form, submit the form to Records, either via email or in person. Records personnel will forward the form to CADA and scan into Versadex.

Considerations

- It is the officer's discretion whether to refer the juvenile to YES or Probation. It is possible that if the referral is made to Probation, the Probation Department will determine that the YES Program is appropriate and make the referral directly to YES/CADA
- School personnel can make referrals to the YES Program, but only for Education Code violations
- Juveniles can be referred to the YES Program more than once
- There is no penalty if the juvenile does not successfully complete the assigned action plan

Community Resources	
CADA (Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse)	(805) 730-7575
Juvenile Probation	(805) 934-6270
FSA (Family Service Agency)	(805) 965-1001
CALM	(805) 965-2376
Noah's Anchorage	(866) 435-8335
SAFTY (ages 0-20)	(888) 334-2777