

February 5<sup>th</sup> , 2021

Humboldt County Administrative Office  
825 Fifth Street, Rm 112  
Eureka, CA 95501

**Re: City of Arcata Measure Z Quarterly Report**

**Measure Z 2nd Quarterly Narrative Fiscal Year 2020-21**

- 1. Please describe the Measure Z activities completed and/or total numbers served or reached.*

As of January 11th, 2021, the Arcata Police Department's Juvenile Diversion program has provided services to 317 K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and families in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisorial District and the western portion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District (west of Berry Summit), with direct services and case management. Our Juvenile Diversion Counselors (JDC's) and a School Resource Officer (SRO) continue to serve the Northern Humboldt area, including McKinleyville, Arcata, Blue Lake, Trinidad and Samoa areas.

As a whole the program has been referred 159 cases via law enforcement (e.g., APD, HCSO, EPD, Juvenile Probation), 150 via school administration and the Student Attendance Review Board), and eight via community partners. Officers and Diversion Counselors responded to 199 incidents regarding school aged youth, not all of these incidents required long-term case management. Many of these issues were addressed or resolved with referrals and support to community partners and resources, while 9 families required a higher level of case management and support from Diversion.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and Shelter-in-Place orders, distance instruction via Zoom and Google Classroom continues in our Northern Humboldt K-12 schools. At the request of school officials, Diversion Counselors and the School Resource Officer (SRO) conducted welfare checks on local families who had children who were not attending virtual school or school staff were unable to contact. The SRO also takes calls from various school administrators on a weekly basis to answer questions or address concerns regarding families. Diversion Counselors continued to provide support to families participating in the program via telephone, Zoom, and in-person when conditions would allow. Diversion assisted with case management duties, such as assisting families with accessing free meals. Our Juvenile Diversion counselors worked with other service providers in the area to enable youth and families to gain access to community resources, activities and services during these trying times.

As families and our community adjust to social distancing and distance learning, issues such as homework, truancy, and in-home conflict continue. Our Diversion Department saw an increase in requests for informal support from community providers, schools, and parents. Our office also saw an increase in requests for our parenting classes from mental health providers, family law, and drug court. In response, Diversion hosted both a Parent Project and a Loving Solutions Series concurrently in the second quarter. Diversion collaborated with HCOE and Humboldt

County Juvenile Probation to host Parent Project via Zoom. Our Loving Solutions was co-hosted by Humboldt County Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Healthy Communities Division. Hosting our parenting curriculum via zoom also allowed our Diversion Department to provide the curriculum to parents who otherwise would not have access to it. Families from all five of Humboldt County's Supervisorial Districts attended these classes. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, Juvenile Diversion had 15 parents complete our Parent Project course and seven families complete our Loving Solutions course, representing 43 youth in our community. Juvenile Diversion Counselors continued to offer job counseling, mentorship, and drug and alcohol intervention for youth involved in our program. This, along with continued support and structure for families and youth, remain our top priority.

The Juvenile Diversion Program has also used the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter as an opportunity to explore program development, strengthen existing community support, and participate in several trainings. Diversion presented Community Resiliency Model (CRM) training to McKinleyville Middle School. CRM was created by the Trauma Resource Institute and seeks to train community members of all ages, race and backgrounds to understand the effects of trauma on the brain and to recognize biological responses to stress and trauma. CRM teaches skills for coping with trauma and build individual and community resiliency. Juvenile Diversion plans to present this model to other agencies and organizations in our community including first responders.

Juvenile Diversion, Humboldt County Transitional Age Youth Services and Sunrise Rotary of Arcata have worked together and were recently awarded a grant that will fund seven paid internships to homeless and foster youth. The grant supports youth who face additional barriers to employment and helps strengthen at-risk youth and community relations. Our agency has also reached out to Humboldt County Youth Services Bureau, the Raven Project and local businesses to create opportunities of interest for our youth. Diversion participated in trainings, webinars, and roundtables such as; Skillful Self-Disclosure with at risk youth, Mindfulness Strategies for drug addicted youth, Strengths and Challenges of Child Abuse Prevention in Rural Communities, Juvenile Justice Series of School to Prison Pipeline and Juvenile Justice Reform, Technology harm and impact on youth brain and social development.

- 2. What difference did Measure Z funding make in our community and for the population you are serving? Please discuss evidence of effect (e.g., community indicators, outcomes, etc.).*

As Covid-19 has impacted the local economy, we also see direct impacts on families. Families are struggling with supporting their children in academics, and food and housing security. Case management and parenting classes have proven to be some of the most effective strategies to address these challenges. Case management allows Diversion to provide referrals, support and follow-up with local resources for struggling families and youth. During this time, we have seen an increased need and requests for our Parent Project and Loving Solutions classes. Parents who have completed the program have all reported positive changes in their homes such as, decreased arguing and conflict in the home and increased school attendance. Traditionally we only hold one series a year but as we see the increased need for support as well as the effectiveness, our Diversion Department is dedicated to offering more of these opportunities to the Humboldt County Community as a whole. Diversion has been referred 317 cases since October 2016,

averaging approximately 100 formal cases a year. As stated previously, in the most recent quarter many of these referrals came from school administrators concerned about truancy. Truancy accounted for 75% of our referrals this quarter. In-home conflict accounted for the remaining 25%. As schools, youth, and families are continuing to adjust to changes in their daily routines, our program continues to modify and evolve to meet the need and provide the best support to our community. Our records show 92% of youth are successful in completing our program. Success is measured by completion of counseling, increased school attendance, and absence of further offenses. Only eight percent of youth who have entered the program failed to fulfill their Diversion Agreement or did not qualify for Diversion services due to the gravity of their offenses. Failure to complete is measured by not completing community service, continuing to violate the law, no improvement in school attendance, and failure to show up to Diversion meetings.

The JDC's continue to be active community partners and participate in monthly-quarterly meetings to better serve our community with the following agencies: Multi-Agency Crisis Intervention Team (collaboration with local law enforcement departments, DHHS, and other community partners to serve local homeless/houseless and mentally ill populations), Child Abuse Services Team, SARB, Arcata and McKinleyville High Schools, Humboldt Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention, Juvenile Justice Delinquency & Prevention Commission, and Suicide Prevention Network. These working relationships enable Diversion to use best practices in supporting youth and families in our community. The relationships we have built over the past several years has enabled our agency to become a true resource and support for fellow organizations, law enforcement agencies, educators, as well as youth and families.

3. *Describe any unanticipated impacts of receiving Measure Z funding, positive or negative, not already described above.*

At this time, we have not experienced any unanticipated impacts of receiving Measure Z funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Ahearn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Ahearn  
Chief of Police