


Community Supervision Practices for High Risk Juvenile Probationers

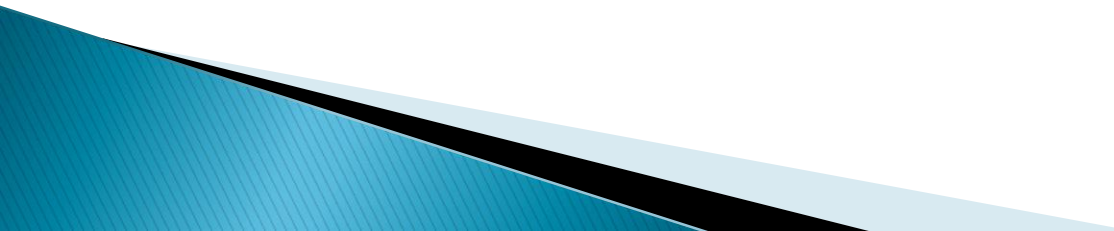
City and County of San Francisco
Juvenile Probation Department
Juvenile Probation Commission Meeting
April 10, 2013

William P. Siffermann, Chief Probation Officer
Allen A. Nance, Assistant Chief Probation Officer

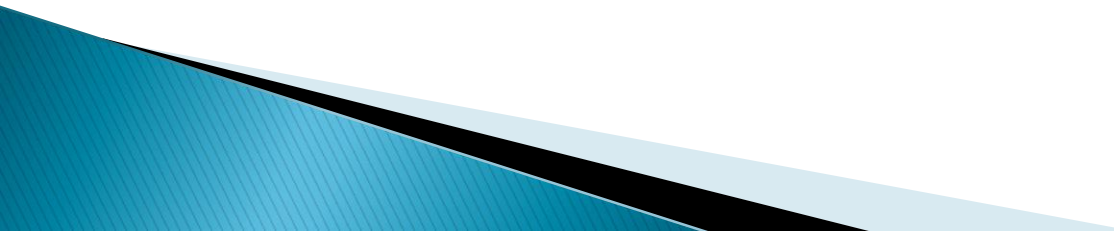
Objectives

- ▶ Review San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department (SFJPD) case processing and supervision practices
 - ▶ Highlight local Bay Area counties practices in the supervision of High Risk offenders
 - ▶ Examine national trends and best practices in probation supervision
 - ▶ Review state and national arming trends within Probation Departments
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SFJPD Probation Case Processing Practices

- ▶ Screen juvenile arrests and identify cases eligible for diversion away from juvenile court
 - ▶ Determine eligibility for temporary detention within Juvenile Hall pending appearance before a judicial officer
 - ▶ Review new arrests with District Attorney's office regarding appropriateness to file a petition pursuant Welfare and Institutions code section 602
 - ▶ Investigate the circumstances of the youth related to the offense
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SFJPD Case Processing Practices Cont'd.

- ▶ Conduct interviews with minor, parent/guardian, victims, and collateral contacts
 - ▶ Obtain and review school, medical, behavioral health, and other relevant reports regarding the youth's history
 - ▶ Conduct assessments of risk factors and needs
 - ▶ Develop a detention hearing report containing recommendations regarding further detention or release from custody
 - ▶ Prepare dispositional reports and case plans containing recommendations for judicial consideration
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SFJPD Case Supervision Practices

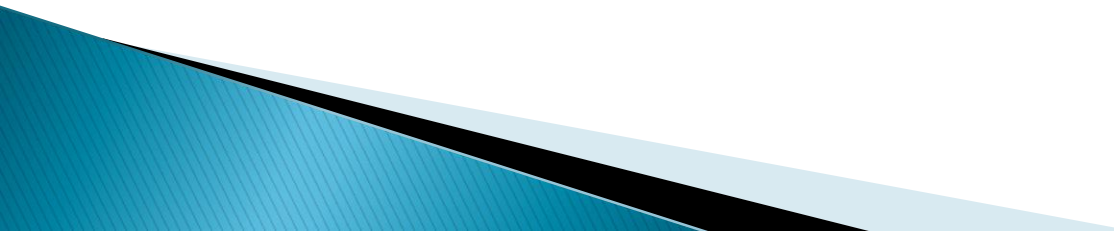
- ▶ Case supervision is the practice whereby a Probation Officer or other entity assigned by the court:
 - assesses the risks, needs, strengths, and protective factors of a youth,
 - develops and implements a case supervision plan to address a youth's risks factors and needs,
 - makes referrals for services,
 - monitors the progress of the youth and family in meeting the action steps, objectives, and goals, of the plan.

SFJPD Case Supervision Practices Cont'd

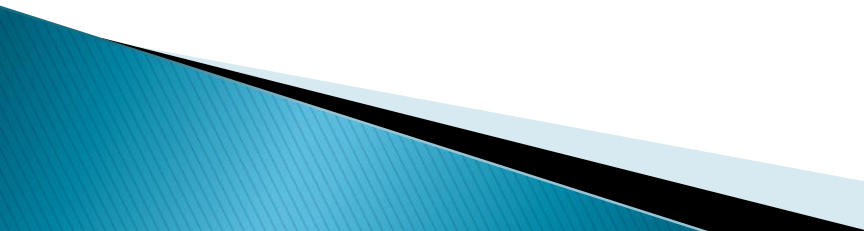
- ▶ As Peace Officers pursuant 830.5 P.C. probation officers have the authority and duty to perform specific law enforcement functions. They include:
 - Monitoring compliance with court ordered conditions and probation officer mandates
 - Implement intermediate sanctions
 - Conduct home visits and searches that are unannounced and random
 - File petitions alleging violations of probation
 - Conduct drug and alcohol screens
 - Arrest absconders, escapees, and probation violators
 - Render mutual aid to other law enforcement agencies
 - Transport high risk detainees

Bay Area Probation Department Practices

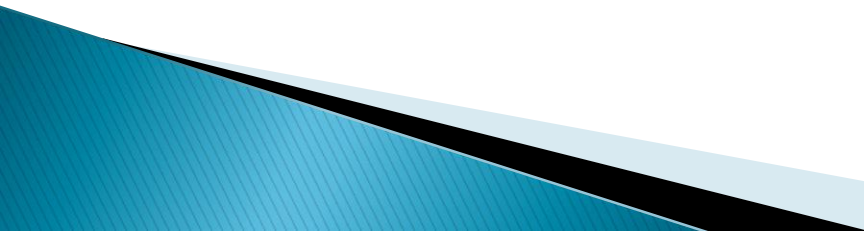
Alameda County

- ▶ Alameda County – 5 years ago armed Adult Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) assigned to inter-agency task forces and several managers.
 - ▶ No juvenile DPO's are armed
 - ▶ All field staff have access to pepper spray, flashlights, body armor and handcuffs
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Contra Costa County

- ▶ Presently, No officers are armed. However, the department is reviewing arming options for juvenile counselors who perform transportation duties and adult probation officers.
 - ▶ All staff have Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, handcuffs, and safety gloves
 - ▶ All field staff have safety vests
 - ▶ Some staff have access to two-way radios
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Marin County

- ▶ Civil Grand Jury Report prepared in 2008 strongly recommended arming probation officers
 - ▶ Both Juvenile and Adult DPO's are armed
 - OC, collapsible batons, and flashlights are also issued
 - ▶ DPO's not assigned firearms are equipped with OC, collapsible batons, and flashlights
 - ▶ Two-way radios with Sheriff department dispatch connectivity
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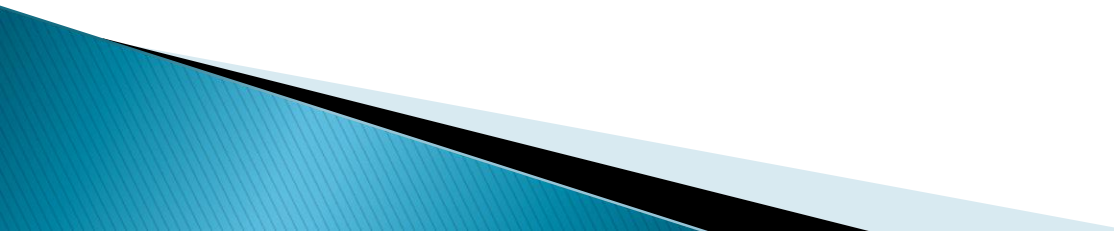
San Francisco County (Adult)

- ▶ Adult DPO's assigned to Post Release Community Supervision or Mandatory supervision are required to be armed
- ▶ All DPO's who supervise high risk offenders can choose to be armed
- ▶ Unarmed DPO's are required to have OC spray, safety vests, handcuffs, and radios
- ▶ All DPO's can request to be armed, but must obtain approval
- ▶ Training includes 832 P.C. Firearms training, Defensive Tactics, and weapon's retention, first aid and cpr, and verbal de-escalation

San Mateo County

- ▶ Select Juvenile and Adult DPO's are armed
- ▶ Armed DPO's also receive OC spray
 - Training in defensive tactics and use of force continuum
- ▶ DPO's not assigned firearms can choose to possess OC spray. These officers must also participate in officer safety and defensive tactics training. Officers can choose to wear safety vests
- ▶ Expectations for field visits are the same for armed and unarmed DPO's


Santa Clara County

- ▶ No juvenile DPO's armed with firearms
 - ▶ Only Adult DPO's in intensive units
 - ▶ Officers have access to OC spray, handcuffs, two-way radios, and safety vests
 - ▶ Radios can be checked out by officers trained in their use
 - ▶ Juvenile DPO's coordinate with local law enforcement to effect an arrest or upon request
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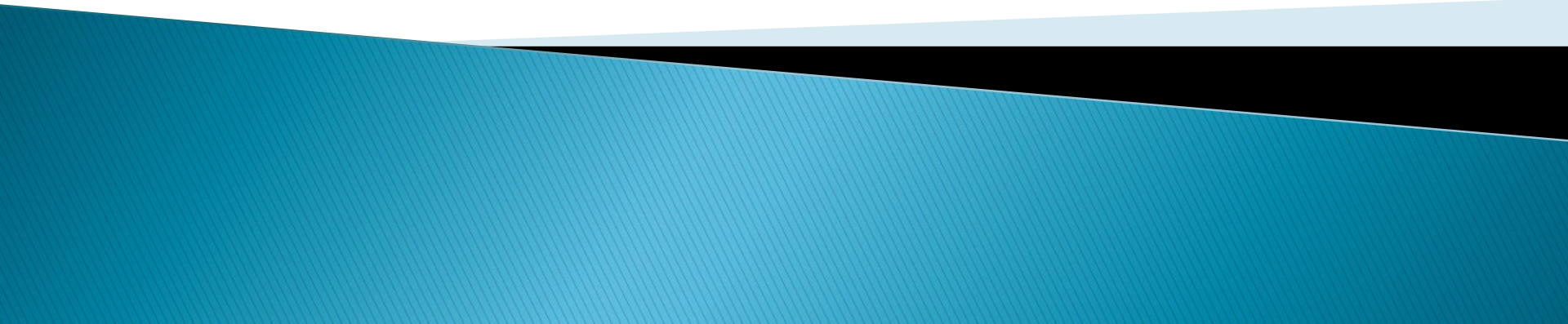
Solano County

- ▶ No DPO's are armed with firearms
- ▶ All field officers have access to pepper spray, two-way radios, handcuffs, and safety vests

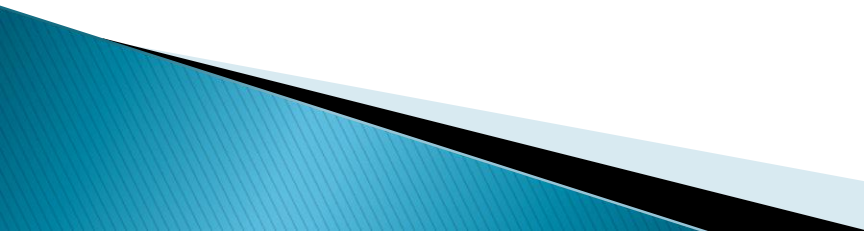
Sonoma County

- ▶ Some adult and juvenile DPO's are issued firearms
 - ▶ All DPO's are issued OC spray
 - ▶ All High Risk and Post Release Community Supervision caseloads are armed
 - ▶ All Supervision Supervisors are armed
 - ▶ Two specialty caseloads supervising gang and mental health offenders are armed
 - ▶ Juvenile DPO's identified as gang officers are armed
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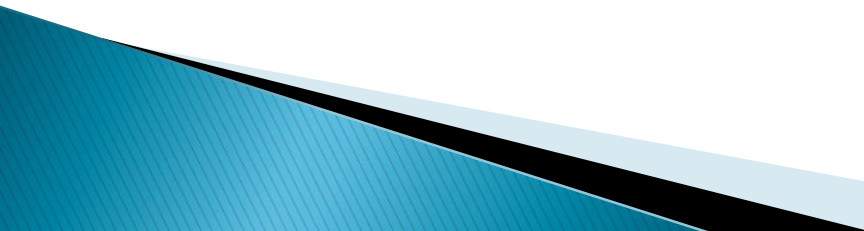
National trends and Best Practices



8 Principles of Evidence-Based Community Supervision

- ▶ Assess risk, needs, protective factors
 - ▶ Targeted Interventions
 - ▶ Enhance intrinsic motivation for behavioral change
 - ▶ Skill train with directed practice (Cognitive behavioral strategies)
 - ▶ Increase positive reinforcement
 - ▶ Engage ongoing community supports
 - ▶ Measure relevant practices and processes
 - ▶ Provide feedback
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Supervision Strategies for High Risk Offenders

- ▶ Intensive Probation Supervision units
 - Designated officers assigned to high risk juveniles
 - Typically, reduced caseload size
 - ▶ DPO's Assigned to specialized Task Force details
 - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)
 - ▶ Interagency Collaborations
 - *Operation Ceasefire*
 - ▶ Limitations on Home or field visits
 - Specific high crime areas
 - Daylight hours only
 - Conducted in pairs or with law enforcement
 - ▶ Electronic Monitoring
 - ▶ Day Reporting Centers
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Supervision Strategies and Safety Equipment Cont'd.

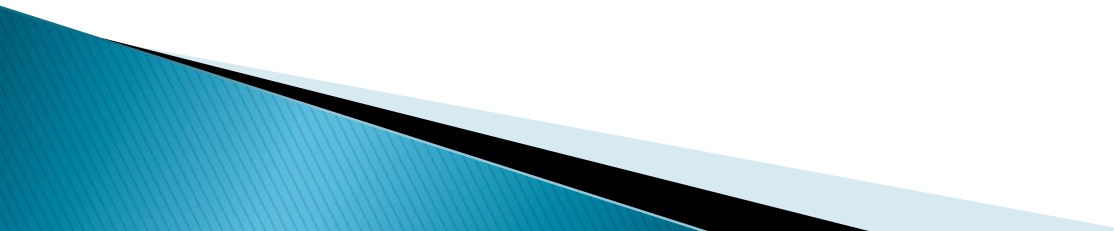
- ▶ Assigned High Risk Transportation details to Police or Sheriff personnel
- ▶ Issuance of Specific Safety equipment
 - Safety Vests
 - Handcuffs
 - Firearms
 - Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper Spray)
 - Batons
 - Radios (Often connected to local Law Enforcement)
 - Official marked or unmarked vehicles, including caged cars

State and National Arming Trends

Arming Trends within California Probation Departments

- ▶ Penal Code section 830.5 states that Probation Officers may carry firearms if authorized and under those terms and conditions specified by their employing agency
- ▶ Presently, 46 of 59 Probation Departments in the State of California have armed officers
- ▶ 6 Bay area counties arm probation officers:
 - Alameda
 - Marin
 - San Francisco (Adult)
 - San Mateo
 - Santa Clara
 - Sonoma

California Legislative initiatives to arm Probation Officers

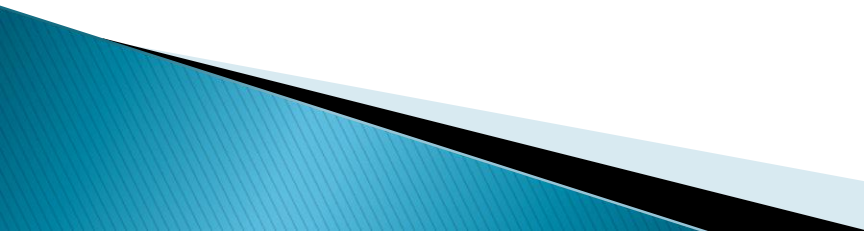
- ▶ A.B. 1968 – Authored by Bay Area legislator Bob Wieckowski (D–Fremont) sought to require chief probation officers to develop arming policies for DPO’s who supervise high risk offenders. Introduced February 23, 2012
 - ▶ Measure passed in the Assembly 79–0 and later passed in the Senate 32 to 4.
 - ▶ A.B. 1968 was vetoed by Governor Brown on September 30, 2012.
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Governor's veto message

- ▶ *“...I am sympathetic to what the proponents are trying to accomplish by this bill. But since local circumstances differ, I am reluctant to force this matter from the state level. The chief probation officers are closer and better situated to make the decision. The principles of subsidiarity apply.”*

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

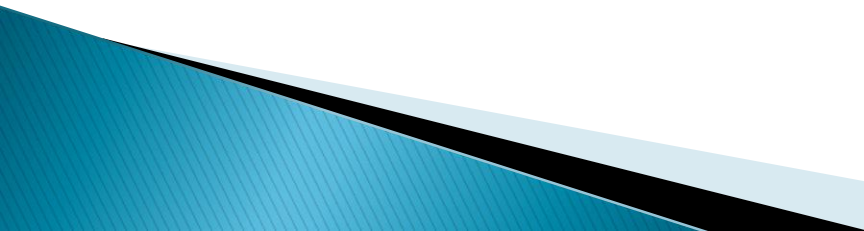
National Arming Trends for Probation Departments

- ▶ According to a 2006 report by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) 40 states had already armed their parole officers and many had armed probation officers as well.
 - ▶ In 1994, the APPA published a position paper on the topic of weapons carried by probation officers. While they neither supported or opposed weapons, they offered sound recommendations for departments considering such a plan.
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APPA considerations for Probation Departments on Arming

- ▶ Develop clear and concise policies and procedures reviewed by legal counsel
- ▶ Develop formal selection process to include physical examination and psychological assessment
- ▶ Implement comprehensive training to include:
 - Weapons familiarity, maintenance, qualifications, and retention
 - Field safety techniques
 - Verbal judo
 - Other relevant department policies and procedures

APPA Considerations Cont.d:

- ▶ All equipment should be specified by the agency and be of standard issue
 - ▶ Field and home visit strategies/techniques should allow, if not encourage, officers to work in pairs
 - ▶ Officers should be able to communicate with the agency at all times via cell phones or two-way radios
 - ▶ Vehicles should be unmarked
 - ▶ Incident Response Team should exist for immediate response to all weapons-related situations
 - ▶ Standing Incidence Review committee should review all situations involving staff safety
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Questions