



**HUCKLEBERRY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT
AND REFERRAL CENTER (CARC)
ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009**

CARC is a public-private partnership involving the following organizations:

PRIVATE

- Huckleberry Youth Programs (lead agency)
 - Bruce Fisher, Executive Director
 - Denise Coleman, Director of Juvenile Justice Programs
 - Stacy Sciortino, CARC Program Director
- Brothers Against Guns
- Community Youth Center
- Instituto Familia de la Raza
- San Francisco State University – Mentoring Program

PUBLIC

- Mayor's Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
 - Maria Su, Director
- San Francisco Probation Department
- San Francisco Sheriff Department
- San Francisco Police Department

Huckleberry Youth Programs
Community Assessment and Referral Center

44 Gough Street, Suite 104, San Francisco, California 94103

Phone: 415.437.2500 Fax: 415.437.2511

www.huckleberryyouth.org

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 9am-midnight

CARC STAFF

Administration - CARC

- Director of Juvenile Justice Programs, Denise Coleman
- Program Director, Stacy Sciortino

Administration – Huckleberry Youth Programs

- Bruce Fisher, Executive Director
- Bruce Rice, Fiscal Director
- Stephanie Smith, Director of Research and Evaluation
- Frank Landin, Director of Human Resources

Senior Case Manager

- Edwin Bernardez

Night Lead Case Manager

- Jeff Lin

Mentor Program Coordinator/ Case Manager

- Harvey Lozada

Lioness Leadership Specialist

- Minna Dubin

Case Managers

- Kisai Henriquez
- Andres Rios

Clinical Therapists

- Megan Kearny

Support Staff

- Bobbie Waldon

Case Managers Partner Agencies

- Zully Batres – Instituto Familia de la Raza
- Hans Chiu – Community Youth Center
- Quincy Collins –Brothers Against Guns



PARTNER CITY AGENCIES

San Francisco Sheriff's Department

- Deputy Ken Harrison

San Francisco Juvenile Probation

- Bill Smith
- Carlos Gonzales

San Francisco Police Department

- Lieutenant Vicky Dockery

Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC)

2008-2009 Annual Report

Introduction

Huckleberry CARC is a city-wide program for arrested non-violent juvenile offenders in San Francisco. The program is a unique public-private partnership which effectively diverts youth from detention and formal probation. CARC is at the heart of San Francisco's Juvenile Justice continuum of care and is currently in its twelfth year of operation. This report contains statistical data for fiscal year 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. The report summarizes key CARC data for circulation to San Francisco's Juvenile Justice and Youth Policy community and provides an overview of the program, highlights new initiatives, and includes significant achievements.

Purpose of CARC

CARC uses a rehabilitative approach to non-violent offenders in the juvenile justice system. The program seeks to reduce recidivism by intervening early enough in a young person's life to break the cycle of criminal activity. CARC is designed to prevent youth arrested for non-violent offenses from going deeper into the juvenile justice system. CARC's goals are:

1. To provide youth with a day-of-arrest community based intervention;
2. To create an intervention plan and provide intensive case management to ensure the youth's stability and prevent recidivism;
3. To improve overall mental health and academic stability of arrested youth; and
4. To divert youth from detention

History

CARC began in May of 1998 as part of Mayor Brown's Local Action Plan for Juvenile Justice reform. The Bureau of Corrections funded the CARC as a 4-year pilot project. The Delancey Street Foundation headed the planning process for the Local Action Plan and operated the CARC for the first two years (May 1998 to June 2000). In the summer of 1999, Delancey Street and the Mayors Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) asked Huckleberry Youth Programs (HYP) to assume operations of the CARC. HYP had provided case management services as a sub-contractor and was familiar with CARC procedures. After meeting with MOCJ, the Chief Probation Officer and the other community based organizations at CARC, Huckleberry Youth Programs' Board of Directors agreed to assume the lead role at CARC. HYP, a 43 year old community based organization, provides services to adolescents in San Francisco and Marin. Since 2002, three community based agencies have received contracts to locate an on-site case manager at CARC.

Overview of CARC

The Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC) provides a single point of entry for crisis intervention, assessment, case management, and referral of arrested youths. The program provides a forum in which staff from juvenile probation, the sheriff's department, and community based organizations, work together in the same space to form an interdisciplinary team that assess and case manage youth who are arrested for a variety of nonviolent offenses. Police deliver youth directly to CARC. The Huckleberry CARC staff conducts an intensive needs/strengths



assessment, develops an intervention case plan, and works with the youth in the community to reintegrate with school, connect with other community resources and specifically avoid recidivism.

Location, Hours and Eligibility

The program is now located at a new, expanded facility - 44 Gough Street at Market. CARC is open from 9:00am to 12:00 midnight, Monday through Friday. Eligible youth include all youth ages 11 – 17 who are arrested in the City of San Francisco for delinquent offenses, with the exception of youth arrested under “707 (b),” youth with outstanding warrants, youth who commit offenses that are violent and/or inflict serious injury to the victim, and youth under 11 years of age. Status offenders, youth living outside San Francisco and youth that are admonished or diverted by police are not eligible for CARC



Intake Process

Youth are brought to CARC in police custody at the time of arrest. Once at CARC, the young person meets with a probation officer for an abbreviated intake and with a case manager who conducts an assessment of the youth using a specially designed assessment instrument. *The assessment is designed to focus not on the circumstances of the arrest, but on what is happening in the youth’s life, specifically: their strengths and interests; the situation at home and in school; whether there are substance abuse issues; and how they spend their time.*

Case Planning

After the initial interview occurs, CARC staff works in interdisciplinary teams to develop a preliminary case plan for the youth. The case plan includes, but is not limited to, health services, school and educational support services, after school programming, family support services, and community service requirements. The parent or guardian is called to come to the CARC to pick up the youth. When family members arrive, CARC staff meet with the parent/guardian, and offer the parent/guardian an opportunity to express concerns, issues, or to identify any situation pertaining to the youth and/or family. After discussing the preliminary case plan with the parent(s) and the youth, the youth is released to the custody of that parent/guardian and able to go home.

Case Management

CARC’s case management staff provides follow-up meetings. CARC staff have successfully worked with eligible youth to reintegrate them into schools and arrange for special education services, obtain mental health services, complete community service and probation requirements, and engage the youth in social, arts and athletic strengths-building programming. CARC staff devote two hours/week for in-depth case review. The interdisciplinary team discusses each new youth at length, their case plan, the services provided and next steps.

Lioness Girls

Lioness Girls is a program of Huckleberry Youth Programs now located at the Community Assessment and Referral Center. Lioness Girls provides young women ages 13-17 with safe, supportive and enjoyable after school programming. The program aims to support their development as leaders and high achievers and provide them with the opportunity to create positive change in their community. The program currently focuses on high risk girls in the Western Addition. The program encompasses career planning, relationship building, public speaking and leadership skills.

Mentoring Program

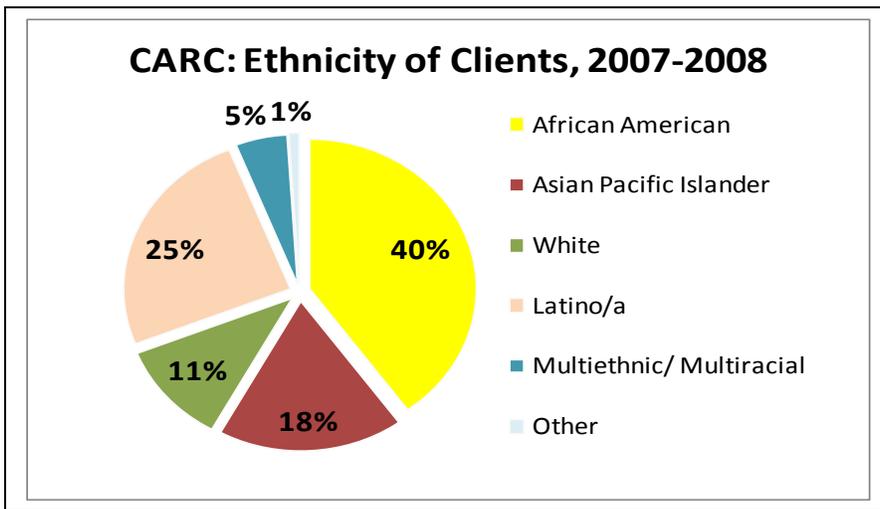
The CARC Mentoring Collaborative began in 2009 and is a joint project of Huckleberry Youth Programs and San Francisco State University’s Juvenile Justice Mentoring Programs (SFSU/JJMP). The program is designed

to provide mentoring for thirty youth, ages 11-17, who have been arrested in San Francisco and sent to CARC. Mentors are recruited from the Community Psychology class at San Francisco State. This collaborative is in its first year and was designed using evidence-based research on the effectiveness of mentoring in reducing recidivism among youth.

CARC Achievements

This past year has seen CARC expand and reach many of its goals, in terms of individual juvenile progress and systems change. Among these accomplishments are:

1. **Number of Youth Served: In 2007-2008, CARC served 584 unduplicated arrested youth. In 2008-2009, CARC served 554 unduplicated arrested youth.**
2. **Gender, Age and Ethnicity of Youth Served:**

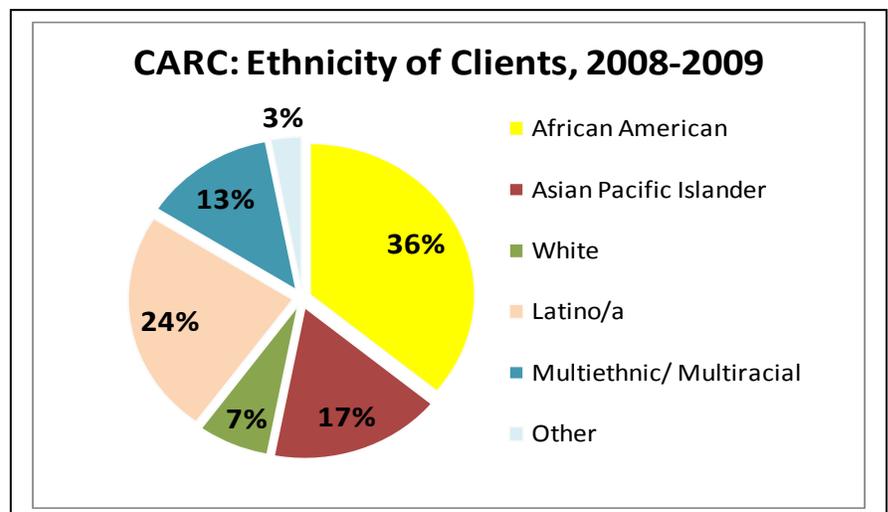


Gender	CARC (%)
Female	30%
Male	70%

Age	CARC (%)
11-13	22%
14-15	36%
16-17	42%

Gender	CARC (%)
Female	38%
Male	62%

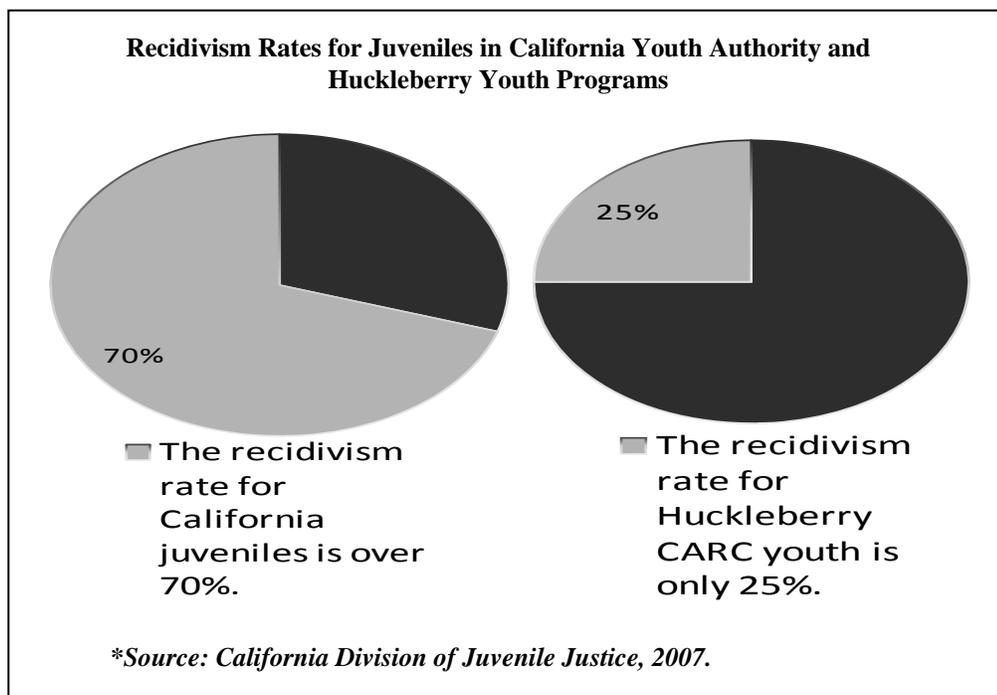
Age	CARC (%)
11-13	16%
14-15	40%
16-17	44%



3. **Reason for Arrest/Charges:** Youth are brought to CARC and sited for a variety of offenses. The most common of which are petty theft, vandalism, and battery. Other more prevalent offenses include: possession of marijuana, conspiracy, graffiti and burglary. Less common causes for arrest include: loitering, possession of stolen property, possession of graffiti tools, possession of ecstasy, fighting,

driving without a license, resisting arrest, grand theft, minor possession of alcohol and/or tobacco, pulling a fire alarm and trespassing. **In 2007-2008, CARC handled 164 felonies and 370 misdemeanors. In 2008-2009, CARC handled 114 felonies and 431 misdemeanors.**

4. Neighborhood of Residence: CARC receives youth from throughout San Francisco. The majority of youth brought to CARC live in the following areas: Bayview-Hunter's Point, Inner Mission/Bernal Heights, Ingleside-Excelsior/Crocker-Amazon, Western Addition and Visitacion Valley/Sunnydale/Portola.
5. Percentage of Cases Closed at CARC: The majority of CARC youth are high-need juveniles arrested for misdemeanors or certain middle level felonies. CARC clients are often in 'high need' of community services, case management, and counseling to get them back on track, and out of further trouble with the law. Over the past 10 years, Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) and CARC staff have worked together to reduce the number of youth cited to JJC for the less serious crimes. A case can be "closed at CARC" once the young person has complied with the assigned consequences of the arrest. The Probation Officer assigns the consequence and the CARC Case Managers work with the youth to make sure the consequence has been satisfactorily completed. Most misdemeanors are closed and handled at CARC. **In 2007-2008, approximately 70% of the youth served at CARC were NOT cited to JJC for probation intakes, were case managed, and were subsequently closed by CARC case managers. In 2008-2009, 76% of the youth served at CARC were NOT cited to JJC for probation intakes, were case managed, and were subsequently closed by CARC case managers.**
6. Effect of CARC on Recidivism: One of the key indicators in determining the effectiveness of a juvenile justice reform program is recidivism. CARC has had a significant impact in reducing repeat offenders in San Francisco's Juvenile Justice Center. **For all youth assessed in fiscal year 2007-2008, 77% were not re-arrested the following year. Re-arrest data for 2008-2009 is not yet available.**



Success Stories

** Please note that specific names and places have been changed to protect the confidentiality of CARC clients.*

Sachiko, age 14

Sachiko was arrested and cited to CARC for theft at Marshall's Department Store – a misdemeanor crime. The police brought her to CARC where she met with a Case Manager (CM). The Probation Officer assigned Sachiko to Theft Awareness Class at City College. This is a one day, five hour class.

During her intake, the CM learned that Sachiko and her family were living with another family (10 people under one roof) and that Sachiko had to share a room with her parents. This was a stressful situation for Sachiko, especially since she had a very strained relationship with her father. She did not like to be at home. Sachiko also did not like to be at school as she was habitually truant. This was a major issue for the family. Sachiko was also a substance user (marijuana) and in a very unhealthy relationship with a young man. Sachiko's CM at CARC asked her if she would like a mentor. When Sachiko said yes, the CM referred her to the CARC Mentor Program where she was immediately matched with a Mentor. Sachiko's Mentor was a student at SF State. On one of their outings, Sachiko's Mentor gave her a tour of the college. This opened her eyes to the world of higher education and Sachiko decided that she wanted to do better in school. She even expressed interest in one day becoming a nurse. Sachiko's CM began to work with the school to get Sachiko back in class and earning credits. Sachiko attended Washington High School. Sachiko did not feel this was the best school for her, but she committed to going to class and doing her best. It was not long before Sachiko became discouraged as many of her classmates and counselors were teasing her for being too far behind. Sachiko and her CM decided that she needed an alternative school site. The CM suggested Life Learning Academy on Treasure Island. After getting her parent's approval, Sachiko had an interview with the Principal of Life Learning Academy. The very next week, the Principal of Life Learning Academy called to offer her a spot at Life Learning Academy. Sachiko jumped at the opportunity and she has not looked back.

Sachiko is now getting straight A's and has near perfect attendance. She loves Life Learning Academy and the school loves her. Even Sachiko's relationship with her Dad has improved as a result of the glowing reports she gets from her teachers at Life Learning Academy. Sachiko continues to meet with her Mentor once a week. Sachiko also has a job. Her CARC Case Manager hooked her up with the YMCA where she works 10 hours a week. Sachiko's CM reports that when she met Sachiko she was sad, gloomy and discouraged. Now Sachiko is really happy and almost always smiling. Sachiko's case was closed at CARC four months after it was opened. There have been no subsequent arrests.

Carissa, age 14

Carissa was arrested and cited to CARC for petty theft – a misdemeanor crime. She was caught shoplifting at Macy's. She was brought to CARC and assigned the consequence of a Life Skills Class. This is a one day, five hour class, conducted at Mission Police Station. The class focuses on making the right decisions, morals, balancing responsibilities, etc. During her initial intake, Carissa's CM learned the following: Carissa lives with her mother and three siblings in the Western Addition Housing Development; Carissa's mom is from Guam and her father is not in the picture; and that her mother is working full-time and going back to school part-time. School was not an issue for Carissa. She was doing OK and was attending class on a regular basis. She was a student at Lincoln High School. She was a special education student at Lincoln receiving therapy every week. Carissa's CM learned that she had a Mentor through a photography program, but that Carissa really wanted a

Mentor outside of photography, someone who she could do things with and talk to about life. The CM referred Carissa to the CARC Mentor program where she was matched with a Mentor. Carissa and her Mentor meet weekly and have a great relationship. They have good outings and do lots of 'girly things.' The CM also referred Carissa to Huckleberry's Lioness Girls Program to further develop her leadership skills. Carissa was among the first class of graduates of this Program. Way to go Carissa! Carissa attended the Life Skills class at Mission Police Station and her case was closed at CARC six months after it was opened. There have been no subsequent arrests.

Anthony, age 13

Anthony was arrested and brought to CARC for carrying a knife in his backpack. He was charged with carrying a weapon on school grounds. This is a felony crime. Anthony met with a CARC Case Manager and was referred by the Probation Officer for an intake at the SF Juvenile Justice Center. This intake usually occurs approximately ten days after the initial arrest. Anthony was sent home from CARC in the custody of Mom and Dad. About two weeks later, the CM accompanied Anthony and his family to the Probation Intake hearing. Anthony's Mom and Dad had a lot of questions about the process. The CM referred Anthony and his parents to the Juvenile Public Defender's Office for legal advice and guidance. The family proceeded to meet with the Probation Officer where the case was handled informally and later closed. During this time, the CARC CM was actively working with Anthony to refer him to an after-school program. Anthony was an eighth grader at Roosevelt Middle School with average grades. Anthony began attending Instituto Familia de la Raza – which he loves. In this instance, Anthony's case was closed at JJC, but the CARC CM continued to stay in touch with Anthony and his family. It has been over a year since the case was closed and there have been no subsequent arrests.

Aiden, age 15

Aidan was arrested and cited to CARC for allegedly making terrorist threats. This is a felony crime. Anthony was referred for a Probation Intake at JJC. While speaking to Aiden, the CARC CM learned that Aiden was surrounded by a lot of racial tensions at Burton High School and this is what got him into trouble. Aiden also expressed that these racial tensions persisted in the housing development where he lived. This was a source of much stress for Aiden. When Aiden's mother came to pick him up at CARC, she did not feel comfortable speaking in English, so arrangements were made to secure a Cambodian speaking translator from the Vietnamese Youth Development Center (VYDC). She was a single, unemployed mom, raising two children. Her husband had another family in Eureka, and would make periodic visits to San Francisco to provide financial support for the family.

Both the CARC CM and VYDC translator accompanied Aiden and his mother to the initial Probation Intake. A petition was filed with the District Attorney's Office and a court date was set. A referral was made to VYDC for Aiden to receive continued Case Management in a language that his mother was more comfortable with. Another referral was made for Aiden to receive counseling from Huckleberry. The counselor has continued to meet with Aiden on a regular basis for over a year. This relationship has proven extremely valuable for Aiden. The end result of the case was that Aidan was placed on informal probation. It has been over a year since the case was closed and there have been no subsequent arrests.