



San Mateo Police Department

School Resource Officer Program

A Partnership for Restorative Justice,
Enhanced Trust, and Safer Communities



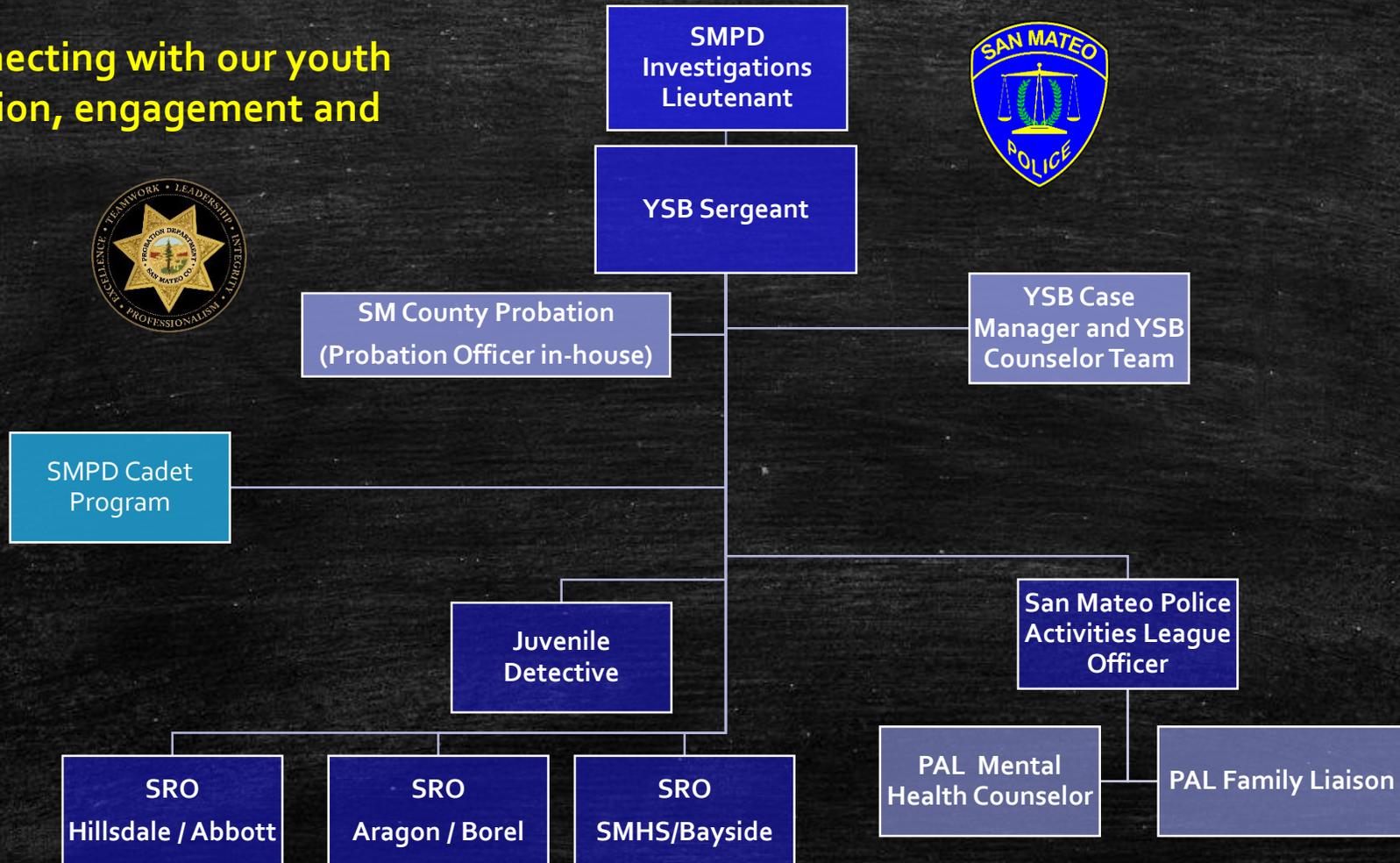
SROs in San Mateo Public Schools - Mission

- Close Connection with Faculty and Admin for Important Safety and Communication Issues **24-7-365**
- Connecting with Students to facilitate early Identification of at-risk or vulnerable youth and fragile families for outreach and services **truancy-health-safety-threat**
- Provide Preventative Education to Youth – to reduce behavior issues and crimes on campus **G.R.E.A.T**
- Assuring Security Presence on Campus
 - Big Five / Violent Intruder Training (all SROs are certified instructors)



SMPD Youth Services Unit (YSU) As of January 2020

Effectively connecting with our youth through education, engagement and intervention...

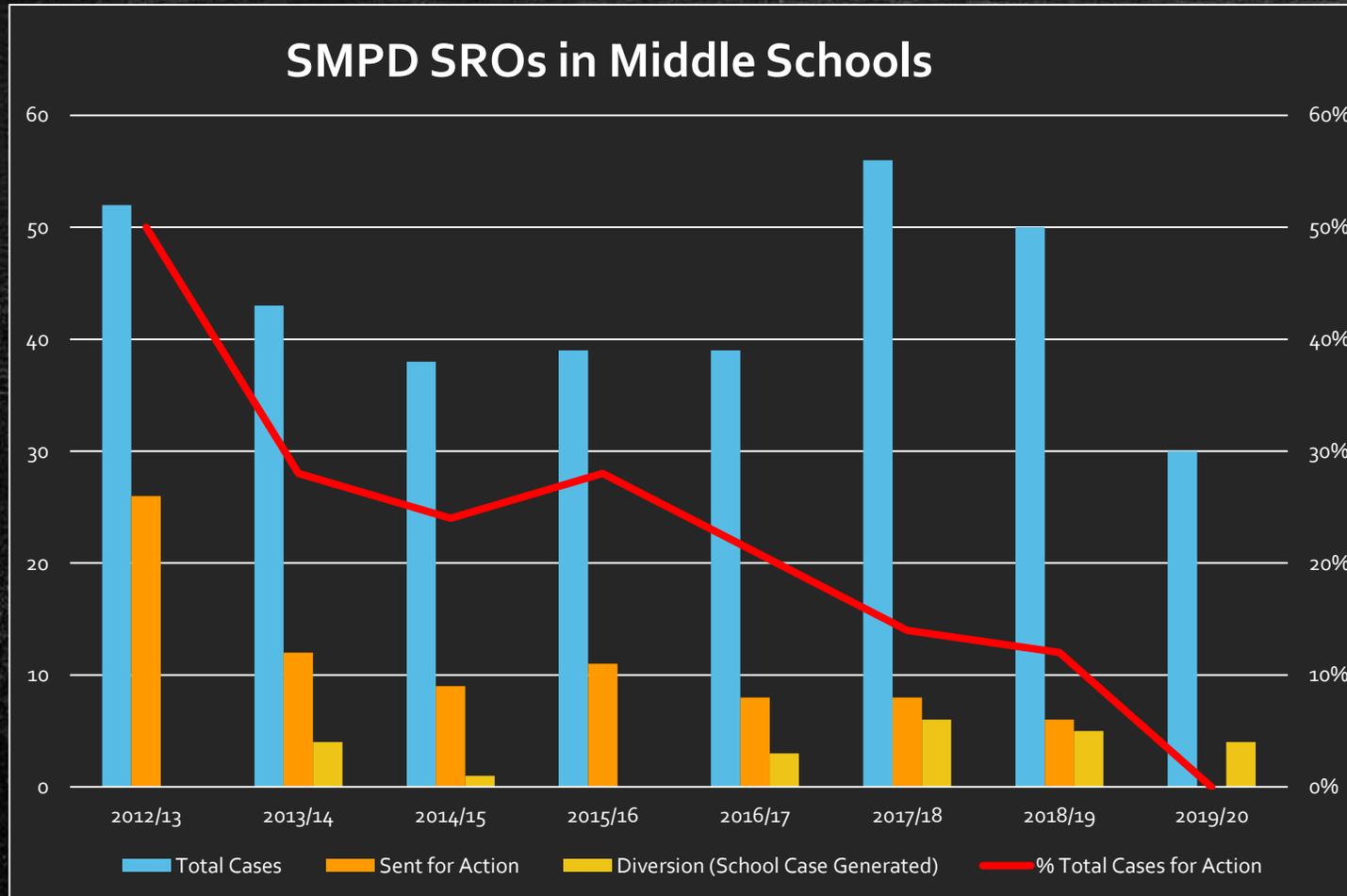


GANG RESISTANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- **Over 1000 students** have received training since 2013
 - SROs dedicate 550 hours per year to this training!
- **Class of 2019** - first High School graduating class of students to have all received G.R.E.A.T. in the San Mateo/ Foster City middle schools
- **G.R.E.A.T.** - 13 Week Structured and Evidence-Based Program
 - This course **taught by** Police Officers to **every Public School 6th Grader** in San Mateo **empowers students** by teaching them Anti Bullying, Anti Gang, "**Social Defense Skills**"



Prevention / Intervention through GREAT



BLUE BAR – Documented SRO contacts with students

ORANGE BAR – Number of documented cases sent for prosecution

GOLD BAR – Middle School Cases identified for Diversion

RED LINE – **TREND**: Percentage of middle school contacts sent for prosecution

SMPD Diversion Program

- **Program Goal**
 - Keep youth out of the Juvenile Justice System and re-engaged in school, family and community through an evidence based holistic program
- **Multi Disciplinary Team** providing wrap around support to youth and families
 - Partnership with many Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for services and education
- **Program Services**
 - Evidence Based Behavioral and Clinical Needs/Risk Assessments
 - Individual and family counseling
 - School and Family Check-ins & Support
 - Community Service
 - PAL Membership, Activities and Events
 - Trauma informed care
 - Educational classes related to drug/alcohol prevention, anger management, victim impact/empathy, stress management, nutrition, conflict resolution/decision making, suicide prevention, gang awareness/prevention, healthy relationships, career development/goal setting, cyber safety

Threat Assessments

➤ San Mateo County **Student Threat Assessment Team**

- **All SROs are trained in student threat assessments** for goal of ensuring school safety and intervention plan for youth
- Level 1 Threat Assessments are handled collaboratively with school admin and the SRO. If necessary, Level 2 Threat Assessments are conducted by a County Team. **SMPDYSU Sergeant is part of the Level 2 Team**
- **Addition of Adult Threat Assessment Team**
 - Applicable if adult is making threat to a school or teacher/staff deemed a threat
- **Case Example of Middle School Threat Assessment**
 - Connected youth with mental health resources, PAL, Diversion

Approximate Statistics on SROs in the Middle Schools from August 2018 - April 2019

- Calls for service vs reports taken:
 - Incidents – Approximately **460**
 - Police Reports – Approximately **60 (not all are crime reports)**
- Restorative Justice, Wellness, Safety and other activities
 - Threat Assessments – **8 students**
 - Diversion Referrals – **11 students**
 - SARB Meetings – Approximately **12, plus home visits**
 - Regular CARE Meeting attendance
 - Crisis Intervention
 - 5150s – **34 students**
 - Welfare Checks (Including physical/sexual abuse) – **Over 200 incidents**
 - Constant interaction – multiple opportunities per week
 - Restorative Justice meetings, Student / Parent meetings, Consultations with Faculty on Safety Matters

2020 COVID-19 – Pivot to Continue Services

- SRO home welfare checks for students non-responsive to distance learning
- Continued communication and coordination with School District, YSU Sergeant, School Admin and SROs
- PAL Food Delivery / Distribution for families
- POA and PAL Easter Basket Delivery to youth
- PAL & One Life Counseling Center virtual counseling and parenting class
- PAL Family Activity Boxes
- Future Event PAL BackpackPALooza to provide backpack and school supplies to youth for upcoming year

Combating the School-to-Prison Pipeline

“With such high stakes related to court involvement at an early age, law enforcement agencies and school administrators must ensure that removals from school by suspension, expulsion, or arrest are strictly options of last resort. Careful integration of SROs within a system of educators, service providers, and juvenile justice system partners may have the potential to ensure school safety and promote better educational outcomes for students.”

- Chuck Wexler, Executive Director of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), 2018

Key Recommendations:

- ✓ Encourage school resource officers to engage with youth in neutral, nonthreatening situations and settings.
- ✓ Empower students, families, and victims to work collaboratively and determine the best path forward following student misconduct.
- ✓ Monitor school discipline and juvenile justice data to avoid racially disparate and consequentially disproportionate outcomes.
- ✓ Comprehensively identify and address students' unmet needs by working collaboratively with community service providers.

An Inclusive Approach to School Safety
Collaborative Efforts to Combat the
School-to-Prison Pipeline in Denver



POLICE EXECUTIVE
RESEARCH FORUM

SMPD, our Schools, and our Youth – A Vital Partnership!

- The relationship between our Police Department and our community's children is a high priority for the City of San Mateo and SMPD.
- The presence of SROs on campus builds bonds between the students, SMPD, and School Staff, and also provides significant background and important context for our police officers interacting with youth at all times – day or night, citywide – lowering risk, elevating safety, and facilitating communication with both the present and the future of this community.
- **This is an investment in our future...**