



San Diego County Probation Department's Disposition Matrix

Class Objectives

1. Students will be able to analyze the Department's Disposition Matrix and produce an optimal recommendation for the Court.
2. Students will be able to explain their rationale for a disposition recommendation including why they may have to deviate from the matrix due to specialized programs or the youth's unique needs.

STC Guidelines for Virtual Training

- Please ensure your cameras are on
- In order to avoid background noise, please remain muted unless you're participating in the discussion
- Type your name in the chat so we can account for everyone being present
- If you need to step away, please use the chat feature to let us know your expected time of return
- To participate- You may raise your hand, use the raised hand feature, or type questions/comments in the chat
- Engage, have fun, and ask questions
- We value your feedback, please complete and return the course evaluations to the PSG Staff Development email or to P-83.

What is the Disposition Matrix?

- A tool to assist POs with matching youth to the optimal level of supervision and interventions.
 - The matrix is based on the youth's risk level (determined by the SDRRC-II) and the most serious presenting charge or true finding.

Optimal vs Appropriate Recommendations

- ❑ Optimal is the least restrictive disposition within the recommended cell that has not previously been attempted or has proven to be successful for the youth.
- ❑ Appropriate is *not* considered the optimal recommendation, rather, it is any other intervention within the recommended cell range.
- ❑ For a medium risk youth with a serious/violent felony, “3a” is considered an “**optimal recommendation**” as it is the least restrictive. “3b, 3c, and 4” are considered “**appropriate recommendations.**”

Level 3 a-c, or 4

Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) Framework

- ❑ Tells us **WHO** to concentrate on (high risk) – **WHAT** to concentrate on (criminogenic needs) - **HOW** to use our scarce resources
 - ❑ Low risk youth remain in the community with minimal supervision.
 - ❑ Medium risk youth are linked with more structured community-based programs coupled with probation supervision.
 - ❑ High risk youth receive the highest level of supervision after community-based interventions have been exhausted.

Why are we changing things up?



- ❑ Introduce evidence-based dispositional practices.
- ❑ The matrix will provide data-driven & research-based guidelines to determine the optimal intervention.
- ❑ Maximize our staff and resources.
- ❑ Develop a continuum of care with the most successful and efficient interventions in the least restrictive environment.

Advantages of Using the Matrix

- ❑ Resources are focused on the youth who need it most.
- ❑ Reduces intensive interventions/
involvement for low-risk youth.
 - ❑ We already know this increases recidivism.
- ❑ Promotes equity and fairness.
 - ❑ Youth with similar offenses/risk levels receive similar disposition recommendations.

Matrix Development

- ❑ In collaboration with Georgetown University and Vanderbilt Peabody College, a probation-led committee (with officers from various ranks), collaborated and reviewed our department's risk and disposition data to guide the development of the matrix and determine the most effective recommendations. The team looked at:
 - ❑ Youth's risk level
 - ❑ Offense Type
 - ❑ Past Interventions or services
- ❑ The matrix was shared with stakeholders and approved for implementation.

Use of the Matrix

1. Identify the most serious presenting offense or true finding.
2. Review and/or update the SDRRC-II and determine the youth's current risk level.
3. Determine the optimal disposition recommendation by plotting the most serious presenting offense/true finding and the youth's risk level (as determined by the SDRRC II):
 - Begin with the least restrictive option within the allowable recommendation range.
 - If previous tried intervention was unsuccessful, PO may select the next available intervention within the recommended range.
 - If previous tried intervention was successful, PO may use the same or an enhanced version of the service.
4. Include the matrix's recommended disposition outcome in the Court report.



San Diego County Juvenile Justice Disposition Recommendation Matrix

(Staff must always begin with the least restrictive setting that has not been previously tried within a particular disposition category)

Most Serious Presenting Offense	SDRRC-II		
	Low Risk to Recidivate	Medium Risk to Recidivate	High Risk to Recidivate
Misdemeanor	Level 1	Level 2 b-c	Level 2 c
Felony	Level 2 a-b	Level 2 b-c, or 3 a-b	Level 2 c, or 3 a-c
Serious and/or Violent Felony Non-707(b)	Level 2 a-c, or 3 a	Level 3 a-c, or 4	Level 3 a-c, or 4
707(b)	Level 2 a-c, 3 a-c	Level 3 b-c, 4, or 5	Level 4 or 5

- * For youth in Collaborative Courts and/or Placement please consider Multi-Disciplinary team recommendations
- ** Dispositional recommendations should not exclude recommending Placement and/or Collaborative Courts

Level 1 – 725(a), Probation to Court

Level 2 – Community Supervision, W&I Code 790

(2a) – Probation Supervision Low Risk Case Load, Services in the Community

(2b) – Probation Supervision Medium Risk Case Load, Services in the Community

(2c) – Probation Supervision High Risk Case Load, Services in the Community

Level 3 – Urban Camp Commitment

(3a) – Urban Camp 85 Days or GRF

(3b) – Urban Camp 130 Days or GRF

(3c) – Urban Camp 250 Days or GRF

Level 4 – YOU Commitment

Level 5 – DJJ Commitment

When to use this...

- ❑ Effective **January 4, 2021**, when making disposition recommendations to the Court for any new offense.

Reports and Documentation

- ❑ Disposition reports - Use the most serious true finding. If the youth sustains true findings for multiple counts, use the most serious count.
- ❑ Fast Tracks – Given findings have not yet been sustained use the most serious presenting offense.
- ❑ Supplemental reports - Use the most serious true finding or presenting offense. If the youth sustains true findings for multiple counts, use the most serious count as the most serious offense.
- ❑ The matrix results and disposition recommendation will be included in the juvenile Court reports.
- ❑ PCMS – Pertinent notes, disposition recommendation, and Court outcome will be noted in the PCMS Disposition Matrix node. PCMS Matrix node build is in progress.

Factors to Consider

- ❑ Enhancements - Review enhancements when considering the most serious offense as they may alter a charge, making the offense a serious/violent felony.
- ❑ Multiple Counts - Use the most serious true finding or presenting offense.
- ❑ Probation Violations - The matrix was intended to be used when determining dispositional recommendations for new offenses not probation violations. The tool may be used as a resource; however, standard procedures should be followed when addressing probation violations.
- ❑ Harvey Waivers – Officers will not consider counts dismissed with a Harvey Waiver when determining the most serious offense.

Alternative Recommendations

- ❑ Regardless of the youth's risk level or offense:

- ❑ Out-of-Home Placements may continue to be recommended when deemed appropriate and approved by the Interagency Placement Committee (IPC).

- ❑ Collaborative Court referrals:

- ❑ Continue to prescreen with RISE and JFAST SPO/SrPOs.

- ❑ Collaborative Courts should consider the matrix; however, given the youth's unique needs, recommendations may be outside of the matrix's recommended range.

Previous Wardships

- ❑ Successfully terminated wardships/Sealed records:
 - ❑ Previously attempted interventions will not be considered.
- ❑ Prior wardships (Unsuccessful or without comment):
 - ❑ Previous interventions may be considered when determining the optimal recommendation; however, officers must use the current most serious presenting offense or true finding and the current assessed risk level.

Screening Committees

- ❑ Urban Camp and Youthful Offender Unit screenings will no longer be required.
- ❑ The matrix will not replace the Interagency Placement Committee.



Matrix Deviations

- ❑ Choosing the optimal intervention should be the norm; however, each case has unique and individualized circumstances.
- ❑ Reasons for a deviation may include but are not limited to age, mental capacity, disabilities, maturity, criminal sophistication, etc.
- ❑ If casework Probation Officer (PO) believes a deviation may be necessary, the PO must first screen the case with the Supervising Probation Officer (SPO).
- ❑ If the SPO deems it appropriate, the matter will be screened with Division Chief (DC) for approval.
 - ❑ DC approval is required for any deviation.
- ❑ Research indicates deviations from the matrix guideline, for either more or less restrictive, may result in higher rates of recidivism.

Above/Below Matrix Guidelines

- ❑ ABOVE GUIDELINES - are instances where a recommendation is submitted that goes above the recommended cell guidelines.
- ❑ BELOW GUIDELINES - are instances where a recommendation is submitted that is below the recommended cell guidelines.



Case Scenarios

Quality Assurance

- ❑ The Business Intelligence Unit will track data related to the youth outcomes (success versus recidivism) and Court adherence to recommendations.
- ❑ Collected data will be used to determine potential modifications to the matrix.
- ❑ Data will be shared with YDCSS.

Manual Tracking

- ❑ Until the PCMS build is completed, it is anticipated that each officer will be responsible for submitting the following:
 - ❑ Optimal or appropriate recommendations submitted to Court
 - ❑ Matrix deviations
 - If so, what was the reason
 - ❑ Previous interventions attempted and considered in the case planning process
 - ❑ SDRRC (San Diego Risk and Resiliency Check Up) risk level
 - ❑ Court outcome
- ❑ Further details regarding this process will be sent out at the time of implementation.

Manual Tracking

Youth's Name: _____ PCMS #: _____

Prob Officer: _____

SDRCC-II Level: _____ (See Below)

Dispo Matrix Level: _____ (See Below)

Deviation: _____

Deviation Reason: _____

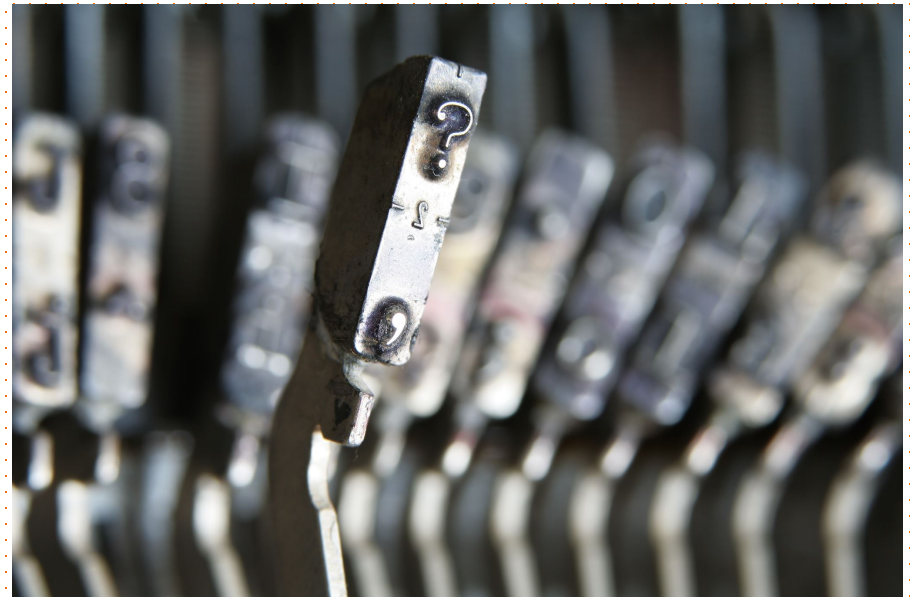
If Other Explain:

Recommendation: _____

Court Followed Prob Rec: _____

Comments:

Questions?



References

Baglivio, M. and Russell, M. (2014). The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Disposition Matrix: A Validation Study, from: [Florida State Disposition Matrix 2014](#).

Meldrum, R.C. (2017). Evaluation of The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Disposition Recommendation Matrix, from: [Florida State Disposition Matrix 2017](#).

Several jurisdictions have implemented and experienced successful outcomes with similar disposition matrixes including Berks County, Pennsylvania and the states of: Florida, Washington, and North Carolina.