



## YOLO COUNTY: STEPS TO SUCCESS

Steps to Success is a **voluntary diversion program** that uses **restorative justice and trauma-informed care** principles and practices to provide treatment and wraparound services. The program serves Yolo County residents who are facing **misdemeanor or low-level felony criminal charges** related to their mental health and/or substance use condition. The program is implemented collaboratively by the Yolo County **Health and Human Services Agency, District Attorney's Office, Probation Department, and Public Defender's Office** and three community-based organizations: **CommuniCare, Empower Yolo, and Legal Services of Northern California.**

### PROGRAM COMPONENTS

*(data from program start in June 2018 through March 2019)*

#### Intensive Case Management



**48 participants** received intensive case management and wraparound support from a multi-disciplinary team which includes behavioral health clinicians, case managers, peer advocates, an employment specialist, and a probation officer.

Staff support each participant to implement an individualized case plan, providing trauma-informed resolutions to life barriers that have inhibited the participant's full engagement in healthy life choices. Supports emphasize peer mentorship, connection with basic necessities and creating an ongoing stable support network.

#### Diversion



**5 participants** completed facilitated restorative justice conferences with trained community members to reach an agreement, resulting in their case being closed or dismissed.

#### Civil Legal



**42 participants** received civil legal services to address non-criminal barriers to housing, employment, and public benefits and **120 participants** attended Know Your Rights workshops.

#### Housing



**43 participants** received housing support services, with **24 participants** placed in temporary housing and **8 participants** placed in permanent housing.

### PARTICIPANT STORY

Prior to Steps to Success, Stephen was living homeless with a long history of substance use, relying on recycling to support himself. Although he had been offered various interventions and programs in the past, when the District Attorney offered Steps to Success, Stephen decided it was a key moment to turn his life around for the better. Through Steps to Success, Stephen enrolled in an outpatient substance use treatment program and steadily increased his engagement, working with the team to connect to basic necessities, including medical insurance, food benefits and general assistance. After four months of increasingly consistent efforts, Stephen moved into transitional housing. He subsequently obtained employment, increased to full time hours and graduated - with six months clean - from outpatient substance use treatment! Stephen is now focusing on next steps to obtain permanent housing and to resolve his criminal issues through the Restorative Justice conference process. He tells his story to others, serving as an inspiration and reminder that they too can move forward with their own unique Steps to Success.

