

# NOAB

## Neighborhood Opportunity and Accountability Board

The Neighborhood Opportunity and Accountability Board (NOAB) is a youth development and diversion program that provides youth an alternative to the juvenile justice system at the point of arrest or other key points in the adjudication process.

When a youth is referred to NOAB, they appear with their family before a board of community members—including business owners, clergy, local leaders, crime survivors, family members of incarcerated young people, and others—to be held accountable for their behavior and develop a plan of success. They are immediately connected to a Life Coach and community-based services, with an emphasis on addressing underlying causes of behavior, improving decision-making, and reducing recidivism.

The NOAB model offers a new approach to youth justice that focuses on restorative practices; increases community involvement in decision-making; and invests resources in youth, families, and neighborhoods.

## Why Divert Youth?

### We know it works.

- To date, over 90% of youth enrolled in NOAB have participated in NOAB hearings and adhered to their service plans.
- More than 65% of NOAB participants who were enrolled more than a year ago have either completed or are still enrolled in a youth development program.
- A recent review of 45 diversion studies found that youth diversion programs “are significantly more effective in reducing recidivism than the traditional justice system,” and that the less contact youth have with the system, the lower their chances of recidivism.

### The juvenile justice system creates negative outcomes.

- Numerous studies show that, controlling for other factors, involvement in the juvenile justice system causes youth to have worse outcomes. Studies have found that:
  - ▶ For youth who commit nonviolent crimes, doing nothing creates better outcomes than placing them in the juvenile justice system.<sup>1</sup>
  - ▶ Incarceration itself results in “large decreases in the likelihood of high school completion and large increases in the likelihood of adult incarceration.”<sup>2</sup>
  - ▶ Research has found that “persistent and extensive physical and mental health conditions affect young people long after their release from custody”<sup>3</sup>

### The juvenile justice system is expensive.

- A 2019 SF Chronicle investigation found that CA counties spend upwards of a half-million dollars per year to keep a youth in juvenile detention.

## Benefits of Youth Participation in NOAB

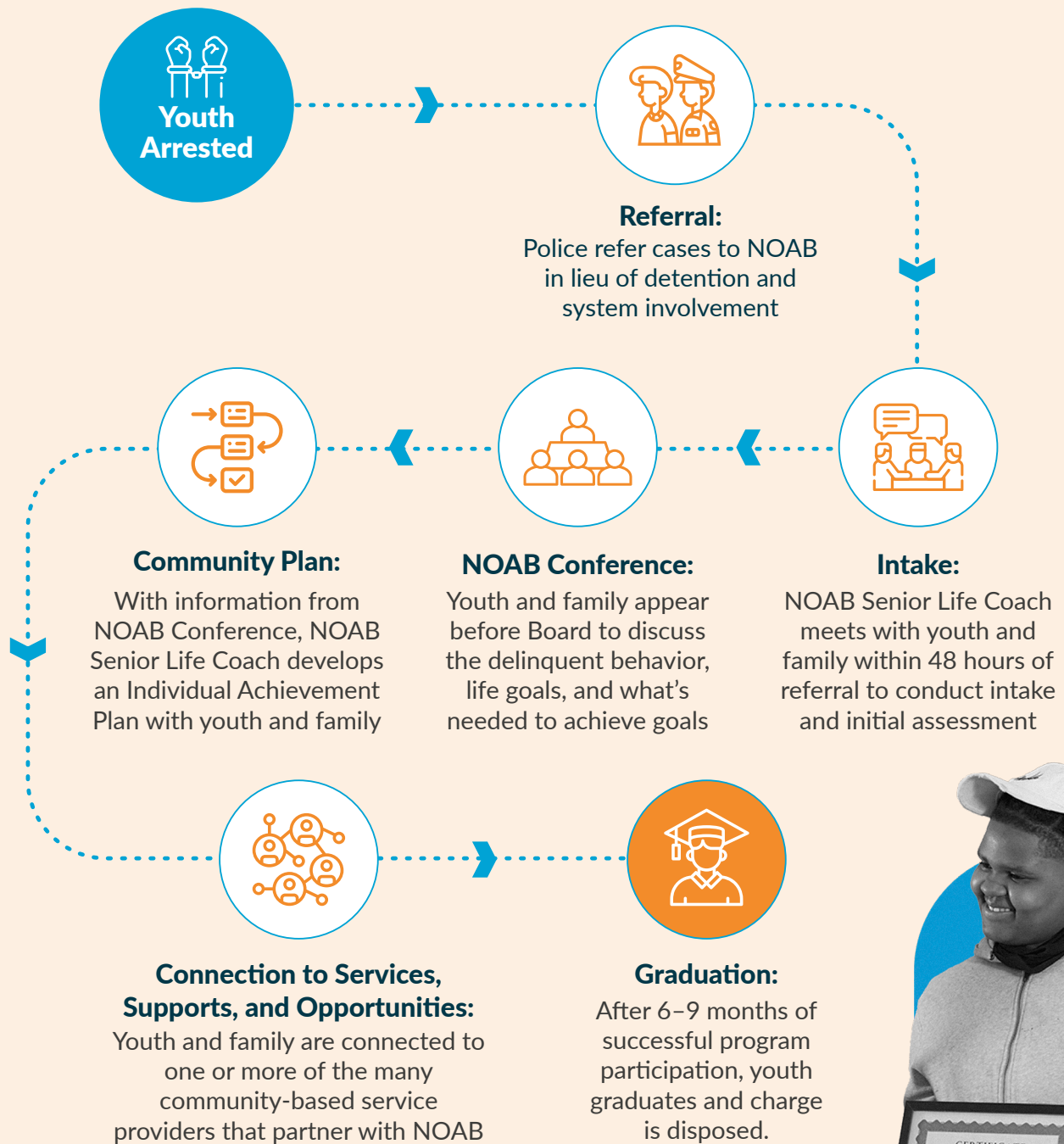
- Opportunity to avoid charges for the offenses for which they were arrested, assuming they fully participate in NOAB
- Connection with a Life Coach who provides intensive mentorship and support in pursuing the Individual Achievement Plan, in addition to guidance and referrals to services from members of the Neighborhood Opportunity and Accountability Board
- Help connecting to community-based services and supports to pursue educational and career goals
- Family services for additional support such as family counseling

1 <https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2009-10992-013>

2 <https://www.nber.org/papers/w19102>

3 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2468-2667\(19\)30250-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2468-2667(19)30250-6/fulltext)

# The NOAB Process



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