



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL Youth Justice Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June 05, 2024

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Welcome, Chair's Opening Comments, Roll Call, and Meeting Agenda

1:30 p.m.: OYCR Deputy Director Alani Jackson welcomed everyone and announced that Chair Katherine Lucero will not be present and that she will be facilitating today's meeting.

1:32 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members, Ex-Officio members, and members of the public. Deputy Director Jackson provided meeting instructions for participants and provided instructions to address IT issues.

1:35 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson reminded the committee and audience the importance of maintaining collaborative leadership and listening to one another, youth, and their families during this process of youth realignment. She further clarified that the committee was entrusted to identify the needs and solutions for youth as they transition back into their communities.

1:37 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson provided updates regarding committee membership. Hon. Patrick Tondreau, Chief Brian Richart, and Chief Kelly Vernon have submitted resignations from the committee. Deputy Director Jackson thanked them for their contributions and proceeded to welcome Chief Robert Reyes, Chief Jennifer Branning, and youth member Juan Gamez as new members to the committee.

1:38 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson introduced meeting facilitators Tara Layne and Jackie Skapik from Harley Consulting Group and asked them to provide instructions for the meeting. Tara Layne provided meeting instructions for both the committee and members of the public.

1:40 p.m.: Tara Layne continued by taking the roll of committee members. The following committee members were present at the start of the meeting via Zoom or in-person:

- Chief Jennifer Branning

- Dr. Carly Dierkhising
- Juan Gamez
- Frankie Guzman
- Brooke Harris
- Honorable Robert Leventer
- Chief Dan Prince
- Chief Robert Reyes
- The following committee members joined later in the meeting:
 - Elizabeth Calvin
 - Danielle Lowe
 - Rosalinda Vint
 - Tyee Griffith
 - Diana Becton
- The following committee members were absent:
 - Chair Katherine Lucero
 - Virginia Corrigan
 - Kasey Halcón
 - Lauren Mendez

1:43 p.m.: Tara Layne conducted roll call of committee members. Quorum was met at 1:43 pm.

2. Action Item: Approve Minutes from March 6, 2024 Meeting

1:43 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson moved to approve the meeting minutes from the March 6, 2024, meeting. Member Chief Dan Prince moved to approve with a second from Member Elizabeth Calvin. All members approved with no one opposing or abstaining.

3. Action Item: Nominations and Selection for two Co-Chairs for the YJC

1:44 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson asked for nominations for two co-chairs for the YJC. Member Chief Dan Prince nominated Member Chief Robert Reyes of San Luis Obispo County as co-chair. Deputy Director Jackson reminded the committee that Member Brooke Harris was also nominated during previous committee meeting. Member Chief Dan Prince commented on his support of Member Chief Robert Reyes. No other nominations provided. Member Chief Dan Prince moved to approve Member Chief Robert Reyes and Member Brooke Harris as co-chairs with a second from Member Chief Jennifer Branning. All members approved with no opposing or abstaining.

4. OYCR Updates - Ombudsperson

1:48 p.m.: Alisa Hartz, Ombudsperson introduced the topic of the Youth Bill of Rights. The Youth Bill of Rights (YBOR) poster and brochure publication prints in English and Spanish have been mailed to all counties. OYCR's Ombudsperson division has mailed out 4,820 posters and 29,200 brochures.

1:50 p.m.: Alisa Hartz announced that the YBOR is available to all Juvenile Justice stakeholders at no charge. Alisa provided contact information for OYCR's Ombudsperson division at OYCROmbuds@chhs.ca.gov or through the helpline at 1(844)402-1880. The printable web version was made available on the [OYCR Website](#).

1:50 p.m.: Alisa Hartz provided Ombudsperson Division staffing updates. The team is still recruiting for their 4th Ombuds Liaison position located in the Bay area region (Oakland). The interview process will proceed in the coming weeks.

1:51 p.m.: Alisa Hartz provided brief overview of AB 505 changes and an update on recent site visits and presentations. The team has visited 15 facilities in 11 counties for annual site visits.

1:52 p.m.: Alisa Hartz provided an update on complaints and casework data. 357 total cases opened from September 2022 to May 2024. The most frequent complaint issues included conditions, staffing and programming. The Ombudsperson will be compiling a summary of how these complaints relate to certain topic areas within the YBOR. The floor was opened to questions.

1:52 p.m.: Member Chief Robert Reyes posed a question requesting clarification on more specific youth complaints on staffing. Alisa Hartz mentioned this can relate to impacts of lack of staffing or relationships between staff and youth. The Ombudsperson is actively working to categorize complaints to report out.

1:53 p.m.: Member Brooke Harris posed a question regarding the ability for youth to make private calls and if the Ombudsperson has seen this issue. Alisa Hartz responded that there are several factors relating to a youth's ability to make calls privately, including whether or not the calls are being recorded and the request to speak with an Ombudsperson from probation.

1:56 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson thanked Alisa Hartz for her leadership and reintroduced Will Lightbourne, OYCR special advisor to discuss trauma-informed care and re-entry briefs.

5. UCLA Briefs – Trauma-Informed Care & Reentry

1:57 p.m.: Will Lightbourne provided an overview of trauma-informed care and re-entry. Last year, the Youth Justice Committee adopted the stepping home model, developed in partnership with the UCLA School of Social Welfare to prepare and support justice impacted youth as they re-enter their communities. The model identified 10 key elements for care and services of youth within the SYTF and as they transition home.

1:59 p.m.: Will Lightbourne discussed previous briefs accepted by the Youth Justice Committee including the Credible Messengers, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders briefs. For this meeting, as part of the agenda materials, two briefs were provided that involved addressing needs of youth who have experienced trauma and youth re-entry into community.

2:01 p.m.: Will Lightbourne introduced the team from the UCLA School of Social Welfare, Laura Abrams, Liz Barnert, and Kassandra Angel to take questions regarding the briefs.

2:02 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson facilitated questions for Will Lightbourne and the UCLA School of Social Welfare team.

2:02 p.m.: Member Dr. Carly Dierkhising, commented on information she feels is missing from the trauma-informed care brief. She has a copy of the brief with comments that can be provided to the UCLA School of Social Welfare team. She mentioned it would be helpful to include knowledge from more “grey” literature, including resources from the National Childs Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). Laura Abrams responded with clarification about the focus of the brief. Kassandra Angel requested that Member Dr. Carly Dierkhising send the information she referenced.

2:11 p.m.: Member Brooke Harris posed a question on the trauma-informed systems and organizations and the effectiveness of trauma-informed practices covered in the brief. She emphasized the need for training on trauma-informed practices for probation staff and asked if there would be guidance on how probation can implement these recommendations.

2:13 p.m.: Member Dr. Carly Dierkhising provided an example of what trauma-informed care could look like in practice. She mentioned that the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) should look like a therapeutic milieu, such as the evidence-based sanctuary model.

2:14 p.m.: Will Lightbourne cited the importance of practice fidelity highlighted in the brief.

2:15 p.m.: Member Juan Gamez emphasized the importance of focusing on youth strengths and not overwhelming them with paperwork. He commented that not all youth want to revisit/relive their trauma.

2:17 p.m.: Laura Abrams suggested that the brief give more guidance on what implementing trauma-informed care looks like in practice and stated most youth don’t see themselves as traumatized and may not always seek help. She noted that an accompanying brief on positive youth development that talks about nurturing the strengths of youth that could be of interest.

2:19 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson asked for any additional comments and expressed her appreciation for the discussion. No further questions or comments were provided. Deputy Director Jackson then introduced Krystle Englehart, Research Data Specialist to discuss recent updates to AB 102.

6. AB 102 Report Update

2:19 p.m.: Krystle Englehart provided updates on the AB 102 summary of findings report. She explained that the goal of the report was to provide the first statewide snapshot of data on the progress of SB 823 realignment; identify who is being sent to SYTFs; identify any evidence of statewide net widening; and provide feedback on progress and areas of concern.

Some takeaways from the report include an overrepresentation of Brown and Black youth within SYTFs; no evidence of statewide net widening; an increase in Less

Restrictive Placements (LRP); evidence that SYTFs are being used for serious crimes; and evidence that the report increases data transparency.

It was noted that San Bernardino County has been flagged for net widening due to an increase in commitments within the DJJ in 2021 to commitments in the 2022/2023 fiscal year of the SYTF. Other counties to watch include Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, and Riverside. Krystle Englehart hypothesized that these increases could be caused by systemic issues within county judicial system, potentially related to transfer hearings.

2:35 p.m.: The meeting was opened to questions. Member Frankie Guzman posed a question on how Less Restrictive Placements are defined and what they are being compared to. He provided an example, explaining that some SYTFs change youth between units that are still within the Juvenile Hall and those new placements are being considered LRPs. Krystle Englehart explained that AB 102 language did not define Less Restrictive Placements and OYCR is working with youth justice stakeholders to develop a definition.

2:39 p.m.: Member Dr. Carly Dierkhising added a request to define what would be considered an LRP. Deputy Director Jackson noted that as we continue to refine the AB 102 report, OYCR can look to define or break out what LRPs are being utilized.

2:40 p.m.: Member Elizabeth Calvin asked where OYCR is in defining LRPs and ensuring the capture of data around system and community organization placements. Krystle Englehart stated OYCR is working with various youth justice stakeholders and Deputy Director Jackson provided a link to the [OYCR One Pager on LRPs](#).

2:42 p.m.: Member Elizabeth Calvin posed a second question, that there is confusion across the board about the definition of LRPs, she saw that many youths are staying through their base term, and asked if OYCR will be able to look at data to see if youth are receiving step-downs during base term vs after base term. Krystle Englehart responded that OYCR does not currently have that information.

2:43 p.m.: Elizabeth Calvin posed an additional question on what additional data OYCR would like to see to help evaluate realignment. Krystal Englehart indicated that data related to the point at which youth are referred to LRPs would be helpful in that vein, along with other detailed points such as data in alignment to other reporting cycles including school year to calendar year, etc.

2:46 p.m.: Member Hon. Robert Leventer commented that he would like to see the number of youth committed to SYTFs or LRPs and understand how much Los Angeles County is driving those statistics. Deputy Director Jackson mentioned that OYCR has worked on a county breakdown, but a county-by-county comparison can't be released due to small youth population sizes below 12 within the SYTF.

2:47 p.m.: OYCR staff Krystall Rollins provided [OYCR AB 102 Report](#) in comments.

7. CBO Capacity Building Update

2:48 p.m.: OYCR Systems Change and Equity Chief, Marcia Rincon-Gallardo provided updates on the Community Based Organization (CBO) workgroup, formerly known as

the CBO capacity development workgroup. She explained that the CBO workgroup is determining the terms of the deliverable.

2:49 p.m.: Marcia Rincon-Gallardo proceeded to introduce Abraham Medina from the Sierra Health Foundation (SHF) and briefly acknowledge two additional partners, the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) and the Public Works Alliance (PWA) as part of the three-member partnership from the CBO initiative.

2:50 p.m.: Abraham Medina thanked Marcia Rincon- Gallardo and proceeded with his presentation. Abraham Medina stated he is the senior program officer at SHF and the lead in the ongoing partnership with OYCR. He provided an overview of the Center at Sierra Health Foundation and its members. He outlined the \$24.1 million investment initiative to transform youth justice in CA through three intersecting initiative pillars including:

1. CBO capacity building initiative (CBI), which will encompass eight organizations, launching after July 2024 still in the planning phase.
2. Ending Girls Incarceration (EGI) initiative, partnerships with the Vera Institute and OYCR, throughout four counties.
3. Justice Servicing Network (JSN) development initiative, encompassing 20 organizations.

He explained that all three initiatives will be about 18 to 24 months.

2:53 p.m.: Abraham Medina communicated that SHF has partnered with NCYL and PWA for these three initiatives.

2:53 p.m.: Abraham Medina provided a more in-depth overview of the CBO Capacity Building Initiative (CBI). He explained that the CBO CBI is intended for community-based responses and interventions for justice-involved youth in four CA regions and that the areas of concentration and evaluation were as follows:

- Capacity Building Areas of Concentration:
 - Youth Justice Policy and Systems Operation
 - Sustaining services through public funding
 - Medi-Cal billing infrastructure
 - Financial compliance for public funding
- Evaluation activities will include:
 - Administering an assessment to identify strengths for organizational transformation
 - Commissioning and evaluation that focuses on the capacity-building efforts of the initiative

Abraham Medina clarified what is meant by capacity building. He defined capacity building as the intent to support organizations in developing expertise, confidence, and becoming self-sustaining. He explained that the goal for CBOs is to engage in public funding at the local, state, and federal levels, in addition to being able to bill medical for services they provide while supporting justice involved youth. Abraham Medina communicated that the initiative would have a strong evaluation component from his

team and a third-party entity, and that at the end of the initiative an assessment would be done to evaluate the success in strengthening organizations.

2:57 p.m.: Abraham Medina communicated that the purpose of this initiative is to improve the health, social, and intergenerational life course outcomes of youth and families impacted by the youth justice system. The goal is to build the infrastructure in community continuum of care. He stated that the awarded organizations will be receiving funding, technical support (TA), and participate in peer-to-peer learning opportunities in at least three community practice convenings. The following is the breakdown that was provided in the PowerPoint presentation by Abraham Medina.

- Funding period of approximately 24 months
- Up to eight CBOs will receive \$500,000 to expand organizational capacity for services
- Inclusion of Diversion Programs for justice-involved youth will target four regions throughout CA, for youth ages 12-26
- Award funding to focus on organizational capacity for grassroots emerging CBO's and Tribal organizations including 628s designated organizations
- Up to 20% of direct cost may be requested as indirect cost
- Communities of Focus:
 - ◆ Northern California (encompassing counties north of the Bay area)
 - Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Siskiyou, Shasta, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, and Yuba Counties
 - ◆ Sierra Nevada
 - Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, and Tuolumne Counties
 - ◆ Inland Empire (I.E) / Imperial Valley
 - Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties
 - ◆ San Joaquin Valley
 - Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties

Abraham Medina expressed that the focus on these regions is due to high unmet needs for justice involved youth.

2:59 p.m.: Abraham Medina proceeded to provide examples of potential funded activities:

- Programmatic Activities:
 - Establish a pre-arrest diversion program
 - Develop an intensive community based behavioral health program for youth accused of serious and violent offenses
 - Increase housing and employment services for justice-involved youth
- Organizational Capacity Building Activities:
 - Partnership development

- Increase organizational capacity to receive Medi-Cal funds for youth services provided
- Staff training on related content (e.g., organizational policies, secondary/vicarious trauma)

Abraham Medina provided an overview of the examples of Technical Assistance (TA) and training that will be provided by partners NCYL and PWA, both national organizations whose partnerships and expertise comes from research and data analysis in policy advocacy implementation:

- National Center for Youth Law (NCYL):
 - Research and Data Analysis
 - Strategic Communications
 - Policy Advocacy
 - Policy Implementation
 - Strategic Partnerships
 - Development Science Training
 - Evidence-Informed Best Practice
 - Strategic Planning
 - Youth Leadership Development
 - Legal Support
- Public Works Alliance (PWA):
 - Working with Justice-Involved Youth: Transformative Mentorship & Credible Messengers Approach
 - Medi-Cal 101: understanding How Medi-Cal Works and What it Will pay for
 - Navigating an unprecedented Reform Landscape: California Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) and CalAIM
 - Medi-Cal's New provider Classes and What it Means for CBOs Who Work with Justice-involved Youth
 - Schools at the Center: How to Work with Schools and Take Advantage of the New All-Payers Schedule

3:01 p.m.: Abraham Medina outlined the second initiative, EGI, which is partnered with The Vera Institute and OYCR on grant-making and thought partnership with the goal of reducing gender disparities in the youth justice system. The initiative will roll out in four counties, Imperial, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego. Abraham Medina communicated that the planning phase has already taken place and that the final details are currently being clarified. The expected roll out date is the second half of the year, awarding each county a million dollars. Updates will be provided as the initiative develops.

3:02 p.m.: Abraham Medina then outlined the third initiative, the JSN development, communicating that federally there had been changes to Med-Aid and in CA to Medi-Cal. Abraham Medina expressed that collectively in CA changes are known as CalAIM,

which has created new provider classes for funding streams, such as the emergence of a new workforce: community health workers. Abraham Medina explained that the JSN initiative aims to support CBOs in accessing Medi-Cal money by partnering 20 organizations with an entity that can bill Medi-Cal directly. The Full Circle Health Network and PWA will be partnering with these CBOs to build the infrastructure in community healing services for justice-involved youth. The initiative will support the emerging workforce in CA. Abraham Medina thanked everyone and ended the presentation.

3:04 p.m.: Abraham Medina then opened the meeting to questions. No questions or comments were provided.

3:04 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson proceeded to introduce next speaker, Will Lightbourne.

8. Less Restrictive Placement (LRP) Update

3:04 p.m.: Will Lightbourne provided context based on questions from earlier in the meeting. He stated that the LRP language in statute was very broad as to where the setting would be less restrictive than SYTF housing and that youth can continue receiving credit towards their baseline commitment outside of a custodial setting with court approval. He emphasized that this did not necessarily mean placements and that it could be done in stages using different settings and programs, such as youth being able to leave facilities to attend college by day and returning at night. The stages would include least restrictive settings, ultimately outside of custodial supervision. Will Lightbourne expressed that in June 2023, OYCR did a solicitation with all the County Probation Departments to commit to a strategy that included youth leaving the detention setting and provided funds to a community setting. The model must include support for low-income housing and supportive programming to ensure the youths' success, in addition to vocational and educational components. At the conclusion, it was identified that 11 counties had been interested and entered into funding contract agreements to support up to 2 years of funding. The number of participating youths depended on the size of the county. Some counties had begun LRP implementation, including the first participating county that had a youth attending college and living in the dorms. Will Lightbourne reported that OYCR has looked at the program reports for activities and collected anecdotal and statistical success rates to show other counties the LRP outcome to encourage this practice more broadly.

3:10 p.m.: Will Lightbourne opened meeting to questions. No questions or comments posed.

3:10 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson confirmed that there were no questions or comments and proceeded to introduce next initiative presented by Will Lightbourne.

9. DOR-OYCR Initiative

3:10 p.m.: Will Lightbourne provided an overview of OYCR's partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). He stated that data shows that there is a large proportion of youth in the justice system and community settings that have visible or

invisible disabilities, which can act as barriers towards their success academically and in vocational settings. The goal of the DOR-OYCR initiative is to partner with counties to support youth in overcoming such barriers. He communicated that currently there are nine counties who will operate a three-year pilot project to develop workforce navigators. This project will work with participating counties in identifying youth in the justice system that may have a disability, mental health need, or an impairment that would qualify them for supportive services. The DOR will help determine eligibility via contracted partner the Amity Foundation, which can coordinate local community service providers. The goal of this initiative is to help justice-involved youth overcome barriers and enjoy increased success while participating in educational programs, rehab, placement, mentorship, and vocational settings. Some counties have stated they are focusing on youth out of custody while others will focus on youth in custody. This initiative has already begun between OYCR and DOR, but actual recruitment of youth receiving services will start next month.

3:17 p.m.: Will Lightbourne opened meeting to questions. No questions or comments were posed.

3:17 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson confirmed that there were no questions or comments but stated that any additional questions can be sent to OYCR@chhs.ca.gov. The contact email was provided in the meeting chat by Krystall Rollins.

3:18 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson proceeded to public comments being facilitated by Tara Layne.

10. Public Comment

3:18 p.m.: Tara Layne read out the guidelines for public comment below:

Issue comment reminder:

- If joining via Zoom:
 - Please raise your hand and we will call upon you to make your comment.
- If joining via Phone (dial in):
 - Dial STAR 9 to raise your hand.
 - When asked to unmute, you can do so by dialing (STAR 6).

3:19 p.m.: Israel Villa from California Alliance-Youth & Community Justice (CAYCJ) commented on concerns regarding the distribution of LRP funds to counties awarded. He commented that upon reviewing three or four plans, he has concerns regarding the lack of budget and how the money is being used. He stated that he noticed the Sacramento plan showed eight hundred thousand dollars out of two million dollars going to administration overhead, which he believes is not right if the money is intended to go into LRPs. He also stated that in the San Francisco plan he noticed no community engagement with CBOs, and that the Fresno plan lacked budget and was unclear about what the awarded two-million dollars are going to, in addition to not listing any community partners. Israel Villa concluded by asking for more information about the allocation of resources.

3:20 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson thanked Israel Villa for comments and asked Will Lightbourne if would like to comment on question. Before turning it over to Will Lightbourne, Deputy Director Jackson responded that there had been an application process in addition to requirements that were both posted for public viewing and that all county applicants met those requirements. She stated that funding also comes with ongoing reporting requirements and that OYCR will be reviewing the impact the awarded counties LRPs have. She then proceeded to turn it over to Will Lightbourne for additional comments.

3:21 p.m.: Will Lightbourne mentioned that many counties could not identify who they will be contracting with due to their own internal procedures and the process of internal bidding for committing resources; OYCR will be monitoring if they do in fact develop these community partnerships. If they cannot, OYCR can cancel the funding commitment. He clarified that it is an allowable expense for counties to include costs related to the administration of these funds.

3:23 p.m.: Will Lightbourne opened the meeting for additional comments or questions. No additional comments or questions were raised.

3:24 p.m.: Tara Layne verified that there were no additional comments via Zoom or by phone.

11. Announcements, Call for Agenda Items & Adjourn

3:24 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson provided a reminder that the next quarterly meetings have been scheduled for September 4, 2024, and December 4, 2024, at the same time 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm via hybrid virtual and in-person participation. She communicated that if any attendees had any announcements that they could post those in the chat. Deputy Director Jackson noted that while this meeting did not include any general OYCR office updates, she would like to introduce new hires Chief Counsel Protima Pandey, and Data and Research Division Chief, Dr. Vincent Richardson. Deputy Director Jackson concluded by stating that additional staff will be hired by the end of the month, and introductions will be made at the next quarterly meeting.

3:30 p.m.: Deputy Director Jackson thanked everyone who participated, including members, ex-officio members, presenters, and members of the public. She proceeded to adjourn the meeting.

2024 CWC YJC Quarterly Meeting Dates:

- September 4, 2024
- December 4, 2024