



**CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL
Office of Youth and Community Restoration
(OYCR) Committee Meeting**

**Friday, December 16, 2022
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**[Virtual by Zoom:](#)
[ZOOM](#)**

Telephone: (669) 254-5252
Meeting ID: 161 929 6603

1. Call to Order: Welcome; Roll Call; Announcements; Introduction of New Staff

Chair Lucero convened the Committee meeting. The Chair thanked and welcomed everyone, introduced new committee members. Staff provided instructions to Committee members and for public comment.

1:03 p.m.: Chair Lucero welcomed meeting participants and encouraged all to put their introduction information in the chat. She also thanked and welcomed CWC OYCR Committee members, new Committee members and new OYCR staff.

New CWC OYCR Committee Members:

- CDE Ex Officio Committee Member Pete Callas, Director of the College, and Career Transition Division.
- Chair Lucero thanked Mr. Callas for selecting the CWC OYCR as his committee work.
- Chair Lucero emphasized the important role of education in youth development

New OYCR staff:

- OYCR Ombudsperson, Efrat Sharony, brings extensive experience working with a wide range of stakeholders in the justice system, including families, community members, government officials, advocacy groups, defense attorneys, district attorneys, criminal justice professionals, academics, and most importantly young people.
- OYCR Chief Technical Assistance Officer, Marcia Rincon-Gallardo, emphasized her extensive experience with addressing racial and ethnic equity and healing, community engagement and leadership at national, state, and local levels and creating momentum around systems transformation.
- OYCR Research Data Specialist I, Christian Lucchesi, highlighted his experience in the private, non-profit, and academic industries conducting research and building capacity in organizations to use data and lived experiences for program planning and implementation.
- OYCR Special Consultant, Will Lightbourne, was previously the interim Director of the Department of Health Care Services and the Director of Social Services. He was also the Director of Santa Clara Social Services.

Chair Lucero provided instructions for Committee members when providing comments. Chair Lucero introduced OYCR Deputy Director, Alani Jackson, who provided further meeting instructions.

1:08 p.m.: Chair Lucero turned the meeting over to OYCR Deputy Director Alani Jackson. Deputy Director Jackson provided instructions on how to provide Member and public comments. Deputy Director Jackson reminded all Members and participants to be mindful of the following when making remarks:

- speak clearly
- eliminate any background noises
- using the raise hand feature in person or by Zoom for Government
- stating name prior to speaking
- appearing on camera
- lowering hand feature if using Zoom for Government once names are received and called
- Or sending unanswered questions via OYCR email.

Deputy Director Jackson informed Chair Lucero she will now take roll call. The following committee members were absent:

- Diane Becton
- Breon Hatcher
- Danielle Lowe
- Lauren Mendez
- Chris Sanders
- Marcus Strother
- Rosalinda Vint

Deputy Director Jackson confirmed quorum.

1:11 p.m.: Chair Lucero thanked Deputy Director Jackson and transitioned the Committee to the next agenda item – approving the September 14, 2022, meeting minutes.

2. Action Item: Approve Minutes from September 14, 2022 CWC OYCR Meeting

Chair Lucero reminded Committee members minutes were distributed prior to this meeting. Chair Lucero asked if there were any corrections needed for the September 14, 2022, meeting. Chair Lucero asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Dr. Carly Dierkhising made a motion to approve the September 14, 2022, California Child Welfare Council's Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Committee Meeting minutes. The motion received a second by Brooke Harris. Chair Lucero asked if anyone had a point of discussion. Chair Lucero asked for votes – there were no objections from Members; Committee Member Sarah Belton abstained.

1:16 p.m.: Minutes approved

3. Information Item: Updates from the Office of Youth and Community Restoration

1:17 p.m.: Deputy Director Alani Jackson provided OYCR Staffing and Administrative Updates.

OYCR Staffing and Administrative Updates

- OYCR is up to 12 full time staff and 5 special consultants.
- OYCR is in the process of hiring staff for several County Liaison positions. The recruitment has closed, and interviews will soon be in progress.
- The Research Data Specialist II recruitment was extended through December 31, 2022. Please continue to share with your networks. Stay tuned for more OYCR opportunities.
- OYCR is in the process of hiring a Staff Services Manager II in the Ombudsperson Division. The recruitment has closed, interviews were conducted, and OYCR is in the process of selecting a candidate.
- At the Child Welfare Council meeting in September, Chair Lucero recommended to the full Council that it establish a permanent Youth Justice standing committee. Standby for updates – it should be taken up at the March 2023 full council meeting.

1:19 p.m.: Chair Lucero thanked Deputy Director Jackson and continued by providing updates on OYCR Key Projects and Activities.

Key Project and Activity Updates

- OYCR continues to conduct informational site visits around the state, prioritizing counties that have Secure Youth Treatment Facilities. In addition to touring the facilities, visits have involved observing programming and meeting with staff and youth. To date, OYCR has visited 31 facilities, with plans to visit the remaining three facilities early next year. The OYCR team also meets with Youth Advocates and

other community-based or government partners from the counties to ensure that we are hearing from a diverse range of stakeholders from each jurisdiction.

- Chair Lucero also updated the committee on the progress of the work selected as priorities by this committee. For the deliverable on higher education and career training, OYCR is working with a contractor called Forward Change, a highly respected organization with expertise in educational equity for justice-involved youth. OYCR expects to have a draft of the deliverable to share with this committee prior to the June 2023 meeting of this committee.
- For the deliverable relating to community-based organizations, a small group of presenters from the September 14th CWC OYCR meeting were invited to join OYCR's CBO Capacity Building Workgroup. This workgroup will be led by OYCR Chief Technical Assistance Officer Marcia Rincon-Gallardo; a doodle poll was sent out and we look forward to scheduling the kickoff later this month.

Chair Lucero reminded the Committee and public about the focus of the meeting – which was to discuss the third CWC OYCR Committee priority area: step-downs and alternatives to incarceration. Chair Lucero gave brief introductions on who would be presenting to the Committee (see bios online).

Chief Tracie Neal from Shasta County, and Chief Robert Reyes from San Luis Obispo County on their Step-down programs.

Gladys Carrión from Youth Correctional Leaders for Justice and Yumari Martinez with the Annie Casey Foundation regarding Maximizing Opportunities for Improved Outcomes for Youth in Confinement.

Dr. Elizabeth Barnert, Dr. Laura Abrams, and Dr. Eraka Bath with UCLA presenting on Continuum of Care for Stepping Home.

Chair Lucero reminded the Committee and public that comments will be taken at the conclusion of all presentations. Chair Lucero asked the Committee Members if they had any questions prior to the presentations. There were no questions from the Committee.

4. Presentations: Step-downs across the State, Maximizing Opportunities for Improved Outcomes for Youth in Confinement, Continuum of Care for Stepping Home

Presentations

Gladys Carrión, Esq. – Maximizing Opportunities for Improved Outcomes for Youth in Confinement

1:25 p.m. - Begins with introduction. Provides a brief overview of New York City's Close to Home (CTH) Initiative to include:

- Brief history of NYC's Juvenile Justice System
- Numbers of youth in placements facilities in the 5 boroughs

- Factors that influenced the development of CTH
- Key questions that guided the design of the new juvenile justice system
- Key collaborations among system and community partners prior to the passage of CTH
- The development of The Continuum for youth
- Partnerships with community-based organizations that could provide services upon youth transition

Yumari Martinez, Esq. – Maximizing Opportunities for Improved for Youth in Confinement

1:40 p.m. - Begins by acknowledging and thanking the Committee for the invitation to present. Provides data on the number of youths in the new CTH Initiative.

- CTH has positively impacted youth, families, and communities
- Youth arrests are down
- Youth placements are down

Chair Lucero thanked Gladys and Yumari for the presentation and reminded everyone questions will be taken at the end of the presentations. Chair Lucero invited the next presentation.

Chief Probation Officer Tracie Neal – Step-downs across the State

1:50 p.m. – Began by thanking the Committee for the invitation to present. Provided a brief background on Rivers Edge Academy (REA).

- REA opened in 2021
- An alternative to congregate care, out of county placements, and is a step-down option
- Home like environment, incorporates family and local supports, enhanced and supportive re-entry planning, pro-social
- Cross agencies collaborations
- Treatment environment based on the Five Stages of Change

Chief Probation Officer Robert Reyes – Step-downs across the State

2:05 p.m. – Introduced himself and thanked the Committee for inviting him to present.

- CVA opened in March 2017
- Alternative to Congregate foster care
- Serves as a secure track option or step-down alternative for DJJ realignment youth
- One purpose of CVA is to provide a safe and effective alternative to congregate care
- Cross system collaboration
- Cognitive Behavioral Curriculum – University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI)

Chair Lucero thanked both Probation Chiefs and asked the Committee and public if there are any pressing questions for Chief Neal since she will have to log off early.

No comments or questions were presented.

Chair Lucero continued to the next presentation and briefly explained OYCR has contracted with UCLA to help with realignment and continuum of care for youth.

Elizabeth Barnert, MD, MPH, MS – Continuum of Care for Stepping Home 2:20 p.m. – Thanked the Committee for the invitation to present and acknowledged the presenters and their approach in addressing young people in the juvenile justice system. Briefly introduced the UCLA team and the presentation.

- Overview of the Step-Home model
- Step-Home model promotes healing and accountability of youth with serious charges
- Model provides robust, developmentally aligned, trauma-informed, therapeutic, strength-based care
- Home and Community Healing Plan provides youth, families, and communities the opportunity to thrive
- Purpose of Step-Home Model is to optimize healing

Laura Abrams, PhD, MSW – Continuum of Care for Stepping Home 2:30 p.m. – Acknowledged the Committee and public and introduced herself.

- Elements of Step-Home Model is Trauma-Informed and Therapeutic, Strength Based, Developmentally Aligned, and Home-based.
- Robust: defined as service delivery that achieves youth engagement to optimally meet youths' needs and promote accountability
- The Four Rs of Trauma-Informed Care: Realize, Recognize, Respond, Resist Re-Traumatize
- Positive Youth Development: Building assets in youth, families, and communities

Eraka Bath, MD – Continuum of Care for Stepping Home

- Not present

OYCR Deputy Director Jackson thanked the presenters for their presentations. Deputy Director Jackson acknowledged and recognized the limited amount of time for comments and informed all to anticipate a robust discussion at the March 1st meeting where the Committee will select a deliverable.

Deputy Director Jackson continued with seeking Committee and public comments. Deputy Director Jackson also informed participants OYCR is accepting any suggestions for future speakers to present to the Committee.

Deputy Director Jackson briefly explained to all participants that at the March meeting, voting will occur on the deliverable for this topic, and we will be considering a series of learning opportunities to present on different aspects of the topic. UCLA will create the deliverable with OYCR's input which will be presented at the June meeting for discussion and sign off.

5. Committee Comments

2:40 p.m. – Deputy Director Jackson provided instruction on how to provide comments.

Member Guzman thanked Chair Lucero and the presenters. He acknowledged the point of standardized treatment models being affective, but often have low participation. Moreover, member Guzman asked if Cultural models were researched during this time. Lastly, he asked the UCLA team where they see culture fitting in these models, if at all.

UCLA team member Dr. Abrams thanked member Guzman for mentioning concerns about the lack of cultural models. Dr. Abrams further clarified there are many important cultural understandings to work with around treatment and trauma but acknowledged the UCLA team overlooked a cultural component. She mentioned the UCLA team will work on weaving a cultural component in the next model.

UCLA team member Dr. Barnert thanked member Guzman for the comments and recognizes culture is an important part to what robust service delivery means. She believes often stakeholders blame young people and families for not having “buy-in” in services but fail to realize services are not tailored to specific family’s needs

public member Michelle Cabrera agreed with member Guzman in the chat and added “within behavioral health treatment, we emphasize the medical model too much b/c it's what is insurance reimbursable vs looking at what is effective across cultures and communities.”

Deputy Director Jackson acknowledged there were no more Member comments and continued with requesting public comments.

6. Public Comments

2:50 p.m. – Deputy Director Jackson reminded the public about instructions on how to provide comments.

Public member Nazly Restrepo briefly introduced herself and thanked the Committee for the invitation. She mentioned conversations are happening around these topics in Orange County and wanted to know how funding/trainings are being directed and/or provided to the communities.

Chair Lucero acknowledged public member Restrepo and her questions. She also encouraged and reminded participants that this space is a public forum where concerns and questions should be presented and addressed to better understand the needs of young people in California’s Juvenile Justice system. She also emphasized the need to identify deliverables in the March meeting.

Public member Amy Price asked about the cottages that were discussed in a presentation. Would cottages be run by probation, or would that be contracted out?

She also asked how these cottages would be licensed and would they be different from STRTPs?

Chair Lucero encouraged the Presenters to address questions where they may feel they have an answers in response.

Gladys Carrión, Esq, provided her experience in New York and informed participants cottages in New York are run by community-based organizations that experienced child welfare providers. The CBOs are funded by the State and the city of New York. Moreover, both governments entities have strong oversight of these cottages.

Chair Lucero informed the Committee these are examples the Committee is tasked with developing regarding best practice models. She also emphasized the important role Will Lightbourne will play in these developments.

Public Member Quijai (Jay) Johnson briefly introduced herself and thanked the speakers for the information presented. She also encouraged all participants to keep in mind the important role of youth voice when making decisions that affect young people in the Juvenile Justice system.

Deputy Director Jackson thanked all public members who gave public comment and welcomed more public comments. Deputy Director Jackson closed public comments after seeing no more interest.

Chair Lucero informed participants that if they had any announcements, participants could place them in the chat. She also thanked all the members of the Committee, Ex Officio members, members of the public for their participation in the meeting, and speakers for their informative presentations.

2:55 p.m.: Meeting Adjourned