



Office of Youth and  
Community Restoration

# Child Welfare Council Update: Stepping Home Model

March 5, 2025



# Stepping Home Model Review

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**September 4, 2024:** OYCR presented an overview of the elements of the Stepping Home Model and the linked research briefs to the Child Welfare Council

**December 4, 2024:** The Youth Justice Committee approved the Stepping Home Model Memo and linked research briefs to be moved to the Child Welfare Council for adoption

**Today:** Call for the Council's Adoption of the Stepping Home Model Memo and Linked Research Briefs



# Youth Justice Committee Members

## CO-CHAIRS

**Director Katherine Lucero**  
OYCR

**Chief Robert Reyes**  
San Luis Obispo County Probation

**Brooke Harris**  
Executive Director,  
Pacific Juvenile Defender Center

## JUDICIAL BRANCH:

**Honorable Tilisha Martin**  
San Diego County Superior Court  
Assistant Supervising, Juvenile

## PROBATION REPRESENTATION:

**Chief Dan Prince**  
Imperial County Probation

**Chief Jennifer Branning**  
Lassen County Probation

## JUVENILE LAW EXPERTS:

**Elizabeth Calvin**  
Senior Advocate, Human Rights Watch

**Frankie Guzman**  
Director, California Youth Justice Institute  
National Center for Youth Law

## TRAUMA RESPONSIVE/THERAPEUTIC CARE EXPERT:

**Carly B. Dierkhising**  
Assistant Professor  
School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics, CSULA

## DIRECT YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM EXPERIENCE/ YOUTH ADVOCATE:

**Juan Gamez**  
Direct Youth Justice System Experience

## COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

**Danielle Lowe**  
Director  
Behavioral Health Services, Shields for Families

## OTHERS:

**Virginia Corrigan**  
Deputy Attorney General , Bureau of Children’s Justice  
Civil Rights Enforcement Section, CA Department of Justice

**Lauren Mendez**  
Child & Family Policy Institute of California  
Youth Engagement Project

**Diana Becton**  
Contra Costa County District Attorney

**Tyee Griffith**  
Associate Dean  
Educational Partnerships and Associate Faculty,  
Social Justice Studies, Norco College

**Rosalinda Vint**  
Program Director  
Woman of Substance, Men of Honor

## VICTIM VOICE/RESTORATIVE JUSTICE:

**Kasey Halcón**  
Deputy County Executive  
Office of the County Executive- Santa Clara County



# Stepping Home Model Overview

- Establishes a research-based framework, best practices and a series of elements to inform California's policy goals regarding care of youth committed to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs)
- Offers a model for stepping youth out of custody and into the community that will be informed by ongoing partnership with the field and emerging research



# Stepping Home Model Briefs

Research briefs included for adoption along with the Stepping Home Model Memo:

- Restorative Justice
- Credible Messengers
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Reentry
- Positive Youth Development
- Less Restrictive Programs
- Treating Behavioral Health Disorders in SYTFs and Facilities

