



**CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL
Youth Justice Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 3 2025
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Call to Order, Roll Call, Announcements

Co-Chair Reyes convened the meeting and welcomed attendees. Staff provided instructions to committee members for participation and for public comment, then took roll. The following members were present: Co-Chair Brooke Harris, Co-Chair Katherine Lucero, Co-Chair Chief Robert Reyes, Virginia Corrigan, Frankie Guzman, Danielle Lowe, Chief Dan Prince, Diana Becton, Rosalinda Vint

The following members were not present: Elizabeth Calvin, Juan Gamez, Hon. Tilisha Martin, Tyee Griffith, Dr. Carly Dierkhising, Chief Jennifer Branning, Kasey Halcón

Co-Chair Updates

Co-Chair Harris shared an update first focused on some of the issues facing some of the juvenile facilities in Los Angeles County, noting that the Attorney General's office has filed a motion for receivership to take over the Los Angeles County Juvenile facilities for the very first time in the history of the AG's office. She also made note that in San Diego County, the AG's office has opened a civil rights investigation into conditions in the halls and the court school system there. Co-Chair Harris then encouraged members of the committee and members of the public to review the recently published report, Please Don't Give Up On Us, Stories from Children and Youth Incarcerated in California. She also highlighted a working group launched by the CA Alliance for Youth and Community Justice, the Young Women's Freedom Center and MidCity CAN that is focused on exploring questions related to ending girls' incarceration, including whether or not we are investing deeply enough in community-based solutions and diversion for girls and gender-expansive youth.

Co-Chair Reyes highlighted the work being done by probation statewide to gather and submit timely data submissions pursuant to AB 169 as probation departments engage with local stakeholders and work collaboratively to strengthen services and address gaps. He also noted that member Prince would be leaving the committee, as he recently retired from the Imperial County Probation Department. He thanked member Prince for his service on the committee.

Co-Chair Lucero shared that OYCR is working to streamline some of the reporting so that dates and asks are as efficient as possible for probation partners. She then introduced OYCR's new Data and Research Chief, Kamillah Holloway so share some updates on behalf of her Division.

Division Chief Holloway noted that OYCR has posted the SB 823 DJJ Realignment report, that assesses the effectiveness of the realignment process, identifies areas for improvement, and recommends

best practices for local jurisdictions to ensure the best outcomes for youth and communities. She shared that OYCR will release the 2025 AB102 report in the coming weeks. The report presents findings from the fiscal year 2023-24 AB102 data alongside comparative data from the fiscal years 2021-22 and fiscal year 2022-23, examining the number of SYTF commitments

Action Item: Approve June 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes

When quorum was achieved, Co-Chair Lucero moved to approve the June 2025 minutes and member Prince seconded the motion. Member Corrigan abstained. The minutes were approved.

Discussion: Committee Priority Areas

Co-Chair Lucero kicked off the discussion about the proposed committee priority areas by providing context for the focus of the committee's work, sharing that the primary role is to advise the Child Welfare Council, which is appointed by the governor and advises the governor on all matters regarding children and youth in the state of California. To that end, the committee's focus (and focus areas) should be directed towards the welfare and health of the youth in the justice system. She highlighted some of the past focus areas and deliverables the Youth Justice Committee has produced, including the Stepping Home Model briefs, which have since been adopted by the Child Welfare Council as a best practice framework. She also noted that the committee has prompted meaningful research into how to ensure that young people involved with the justice system access to quality educational opportunities; and a workgroup dedicated to building CBO capacity which has been instrumental in growing a Juvenile Services Network to connect CBOs to reimbursable public dollars.

Co-Chair Harris then reminded the committee of the two areas that were selected as new priorities in March, Data with a focus on outcomes and Diversion. She asked the committee first to consider Data with a focus on outcomes, noting that the committee also determined that reducing racial and ethnic disparities should be a throughline for the area. Co-Chair Harris reminded members of some of the key discussion points from the conversation in March, including a lack of consistent outcomes and data for youth involved with the justice system that include indicators of well-being, wellness, and success (including jobs, education and housing); an interest in looking more, at data at different points of contact with the justice system; noted the work of the SB823 data group that produced a report on the lack of data and high-quality data in the state; and concerns about issues with consistency of data collection and identification for Indigenous youth and Hispanic youth that impact quality and accuracy. She opened the floor for member discussion. Member Prince noted the importance of having the data to look at outcomes along a continuum and to be able to look more closely at the accumulation of disadvantage as a young person moves through the youth justice system. Co-Chair Reyes agreed and noted that being about to have access to data that is linked to decision points as cases move through the system is important, as is being more focused on indicators of success post-involvement. Member Lowe noted that many of the same youth who are

involved with the justice system are also involved with the child welfare system and suggested that there is an opportunity to promote more information sharing to remove silos and ensure that the supports being provided through different systems are more aligned. Co-Chair Lucero suggested that it could be helpful for the committee to request an assessment or inventory of the available data across the different areas being discussed (including the Cradle to Career initiative at CHHS as an example of looking at education data and health data). There was interest in this as a pre-cursor to a deliverable from members. OYCR Data and Research Chief Kamilah Holloway shared that her staff could prepare a data inventory based on an environmental scan of what is available, proposing to come back to the committee in March.

Co-Chair Harris then moved the discussion to Diversion, first reminding members of two key discussion topics from the March meeting; the need to be clear about how we are defining diversion, including important differences between court-ordered diversion versus diversion that keeps youth completely out of formal contact with the system; as well the possibility of helping jurisdictions take inventory of what organizations are available for young people who are deferred, potentially in the form of a compendium of resources. She opened the floor to discussion from members and Co-Chair Reyes noted the potential value of being able to help capture the potential programs and services available, especially for key populations like youth under 12 who need access to specific services. Co-Chair Lucero shared that OYCR was selected to receive technical assistance from the Council of State Governments on diversion and one of the deliverables from that support is to identify 8-10 jurisdictions in California with examples of good practice in diversion. OYCR Systems and Equity Division Chief Marcia Rincon-Gallardo shared that they are making progress in this work, putting together a core team and beginning to identify examples of promising practices and—if the evidence is there—evidence-based practice. She also shared that the focus is front-door diversion: police-referred, community-based/organization-led. Member Guzman noted the importance of making a distinction between looking at what the responses actually are and the services that young people actually need vs the model for how the partnerships between organizations working in the community and the local youth justice agencies work. Member Corrigan agreed with this distinction and underscored that something of a gap analysis is needed and understanding if needs aren't being met for young people because the services aren't available in the community or if there are other issues in how the “model” of diversion is being engaged. Member Guzman also noted the example of the PEI from Santa Clara County that listed resources for referrals, as well as the Youth Reinvestment Grant Program which gave out funding to community partners doing front-end diversion and some of those grantees would be a good place to look for examples.

The committee decided to delay a vote on deliverables in both areas and instead agreed to the following next steps: in the area of Data with a focus on outcomes, the OYCR Data and Research team would be working on preparing a data inventory to inform the committee's work, with a plan to come back to the committee in a future meeting to present. In the area of Diversion, the committee opted to gather more information from the technical assistance supports being provided by the Council of State Governments to OYCR in this area and would plan for an update on this work at the December 2025 meeting to inform next steps.

Presentation: [Ombudsperson Report to the Legislature](#) Update

Alisa Hartz, OYCR Ombudsperson, shared with the committee some key takeaways and information from the Ombuds Report to the Legislature that was published in July 2025. She first walked through examples of some substantiated complaints that were included in the report that demonstrate how the complaint investigation process is working and to provide examples of some of the findings and recommendations that resulted. She also shared an example of an unsubstantiated complaint from one of the impact narratives included in the report, as well as two examples of complaints that resulted in no findings. Next Alisa shared the recommendations included at the end of the report to the Legislature which addressed common themes in the complaints the Ombuds Division receives, related to room confinement, food in facilities, family visitation, supports for youth who are pregnant in facilities, mechanical restraint policies, voting rights for youth, access to computers for education, informing youth about the results of internal investigations conducted in responses to complaints, and the creation of youth councils and advisory boards in facilities.

Discussion: Feedback from Committee on Forward Change Education Report

OYCR Consultant Tara Layne facilitated comments and feedback from the committee on the Forward Change Education Report, Fewer Chutes, More Ladders. Co-Chairs Lucero, Reyes and Harris expressed appreciation for the scope of the research that went into the report. Member Prince appreciated the content on early intervention programs in schools, and supporting schools to address misbehavior without involving law enforcement as a key to reducing the school to prison pipeline. Member Lowe cited the strength of the community schools model initiative and appreciated that the report highlighted the ability of schools to provide behavioral health services in a collaborative way.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Co-Chair Reyes thanked the members and staff, reminding participants that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. The meeting was adjourned.