



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Committee Monday, May 10, 2021 – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Discussion Highlights

1. Welcome and Introductions

Stephanie Welch opened the meeting highlighted Mental Health Awareness Month, and then called the roll.

Panelists present: Heather Bowlds, Judge Boulware Eurie, Chief Prince, Chief Richart, Chief Zuniga, Sue Burrell, Elizabeth Calvin, Miguel Garcia, Frankie Guzman, Diana Becton, Kelly Hood, Roslinda Vint, Jim Kooler, Libby Sanchez, Karen Pank, Sara Rogers, Tracy Kenny, John Prince, Katie Howard, Linda Penner, Aaron Maguire, Sarah Belton, and Patricia Soung.

Judge Boulware Eurie welcomed members, and turned over to Dr. Bowlds

Dr. Bowlds thanked members for sharing their ideas for best practices and programming, and noted that we have things to build upon and will evolve and benefit from expertise of the committee with shared focus of caring for our youth. Invite all to share what makes for good planning process and community engagement as we form plans.

Presentations focus on background, planning, tools, and next steps.

2. The Road to Best Practices and Effective Programs

Patricia Soung, President of PJDC, working with W. Haywood Burns on LA transformation of juvenile justice. Authored a manual on implementation of SB 823 and will present on that document.

Slideshow – PJDC worked collaboratively to put together a resource including resources and research to assist with this process. Worked in LA on local planning process for DJJ realignment and continuing to work locally on that process

Manual highlights:

- Full of research and citations as well as practical tips for implementation
- Formatted as a reference manual to be useful across the diversity of CA while striving for consistency
- Encourage people to look at TOC and determine what is useful for your county
- Background and intent of SB 823
- Local planning via JJCC subcommittee that will make recommendations
- Practices to avoid and those to advocate for
- Sections on special populations
- How to apply in your county
- Models for programs from other places – not all are ideal
- One key element is the leg intent language in SB 823 – trying to move away from punitive framework to something developmentally appropriate, public health focused, addressing structural racism, use evidence based practices, reduce transfer to adult, and use the least restrictive setting possible
- Overview of SB 823 provisions in the manual
- Updated to include information on secure track provisions in SB 92
- Highlights funding streams – ongoing and one time – block grant requires certain stakeholders on subgroup to develop plan to be reviewed by OYCR by January 1, 2022
- Includes timeline of benchmarks to be met to implement SB 823 and SB 92
 - Most counties currently in process of forming JJRBG committees – deadline to submit plan is next year, but allocation will take place this year, and no DJJ intake with exceptions starting at end of June 2021
 - Plan adopted will inform future allocations of block grant funding
- Focus of manual on secure facilities with the caveat that these should be the last resort, and need to invest across the continuum, but need to be aware about secure track given change
- Proposals may be short of ideal given urgency to create options by July 1, 2021, but for the long term want to commit to something better for young people
- Planning process critical to what plans are adopted and what outcomes result – how to engage JJCC and BOS
- Security needs to be rethought to shift to provide safety to youth and see if culture changes may result in fewer incidents of violence
- Graphic to demonstrate need for larger continuum to keep in mind when building secure disposition and ensure that these other options are considered for youth who might have been DJJ eligible
- Six-month court reviews provide opportunity to step youth down if ready

- Implementation and collaborative planning is hard – key that JJRBG have membership that is representative and its meetings are transparent and accessible to community
 - By July 1 BOS need to make some decisions about what to do to implement DJJ realignment in the short term
 - People looking to state for guidance on planning

Probation – Karen Pank, Executive Director of CPOC

Appreciate the partnership with folks on the committee as we go through this historic change, CPOC looks forward to being part of that effort – turn over to Chief Brian Richart on behalf of Chief Prince and Zuniga as well

Brief History of last 20 years

- JJCPA of 2000 – coming out of 90’s – leaving behind focus on gang violence, firearms, carjacking moving probation to public health and public safety – looking for pathways forward to reduce incarceration and arrest – first infusion of money to create alternatives and use evidence based methods so that JJ tailored to youth
- SB 81 – first realignment – non-707(b) returned to counties and YOBG capital invested to reduce caseloads to more reasonable numbers
- AB 1628 – realigned juvenile parole with reentry grants
- CCR in 2015 focus on high end youth with abuse and neglect issues placed into STRTPs – reforming group home model
- Reform Prop 21 in supporting Prop 57 by shifting responsibility back to the juvenile court to determine who should be transferred to adult court – return to better practices
- SB 823 - TODAY

Reductions in Custody and Trends in Last 20 years

- Over this same time period the average daily population in juvenile halls has been declining since the advent of SB 81 and ability to invest in community based efforts – a steady decline since that time
- Now able to benefit from that decline

Guiding Philosophies in Probation in CA

- Revamped philosophy around incarceration to ensure that youth in least restrictive setting
- Build out alternatives and infrastructure so that juvenile hall is last resort
- Investing in evidence based practices in late 90’s and see payoff in early 2000s but then more over time
- Spending less on custody allows more to be spent on non-custodial alternatives
- Better understanding of brain science and developmental models – focusing on the why of youth and behaviors and not just the behavior
- Focus on trauma and potential to trigger trauma response by probations practices if not informed about how this process works throughout community, providers, and institutions
- Engage youth and families much more strongly – CCR a big part of this – with focus on families and reunification practices spilled into other work

- Relying on alternative sanctions, matrices, more focused treatment
- Positive youth development – not so much sanction but response to assist with growth and transition to adulthood
- Successes yield resources to reinvest
- Cultural responsiveness – whether tribal, ethnic or racial

Evidence based and best practices

- Risk need responsiveness
- Evidence based ribbon
 - Risk based system but youth with the highest need should be targeted
 - Medical model – need focus – adjust treatment if positive outcomes do not result
 - Responsivity
 - Enhancing positive behavior and internal motivations
 - Targeting to specific needs (e.g. substance abuse may be trauma based or mental health based)
 - Role of coach or mentor in the youth's life to focus on positive outcomes by identifying strengths and risks
 - Positive reinforcement
 - Engaging ongoing communities of support – catalyst into that community so they can move on

Embracing change

- Early reforms have allowed probation to invest in alternatives so that confined youth numbers are way down across the state
- Understanding brain science and being trauma informed
- Child welfare family approach via CCR
- Proposal to raise the age of JJ to 19 given the development of brain

Short and long term planning for SB 823 implementation

- DJJ has been a critical piece of infrastructure for high need high risk youth especially for counties with more limited resources at this end of the continuum
- Now counties across the board will need to address this group
- Risk losing more to adult criminal system if we don't implement this effectively
- Committed to ensuring that replacement is as good but hope better than the current system keeping youth locally
- DJJ facilities are impressive from workforce development, to trauma based, to sex offender – don't want to lose that progress
- Not a state process – 58 local processes with local pressures
- SB 823 used older system of local oversight – builds on JJCPA process and SB 81 for review of planning and funding with the subcommittee
- Need to be reviewed locally – local BOS and probation etc. building into 21-22 budgets the process for managing this population locally
- Money for facilities plans due tomorrow – so challenging timing
- After RFAs approved and funds available – but plans due after intake closed for 5 months so local timeline is different – so conversations need to occur now and will also continue up to January 2022
- County budget decisions being made right now, intake closes 6/30/21,

- What do we know about youth previously sent to DJJ and what resources do we have available locally and regionally in order to provide for these high need and perhaps high risk youth
- Want to prevent knee jerk use of adult transfer
- Long term set up guidelines – want residential facilities that are age appropriate, trauma informed, close to home, and using best practices that are culturally responsive, and engaging with youth. Must prepare youth for transition to successful adulthood – workforce development, addressing trauma and mental health, like preparing any young adult
- Step down programs and reducing total time in custody as appropriate
- Not feasible to recreate state programming in each county – has to be group response with regional components – even counties with lots of beds won't have programming for every single youth
- Target population, and subpopulations to promote healthy adolescent development
- Programming and services that may go from facility to facility to meet needs and provide consistency
- Want appropriate support based facilities
- Regional agreements
- Data collection

Chief Prince adds that tremendous outreach being done to engage NGOs and advocates to solicit ideas and include system involved youth

Stephanie Welch – committees locally – who is developing plans?

Chief Richart JJCC annually approves funding and program plans for JJCPA and YOBG funding and then to BOS

- SB 823 is subcommittee of that group with additional members with requirements for at least three community based members
- Patricia Soung -- CMAJJP – many counties have JJCC look at other streams of funding as well; for JJRBG may have different composition than JJCC because task for JJRBG subcommittee is different than prevention focus of JJCC
- Stephanie noting that composition of this group may need to be different because of different needs of this population

Engaging families and youth and restorative justice?

- Chief Zuniga involving parents and youth in that conversation
- Chief Richart – every juris has approach to involving from a more formalized council to a less formal process by using a parenting program to get input when that is needed as a feedback mechanism

3. Committee Discussion

As part of CWC important to have larger statewide perspective to support this process

Q: What does cultural responsiveness mean to OYCR?

Dr. Bowlds: This group a good place to get feedback since right now no office.

Sue Burrell: Everybody on this committee was picked because they bring expertise and perspective, and not best use if we just give each other presentations. Need to turn outward to the state to the community and probation departments because there is confusion around the state about timelines, governance of committees, and we have a lot to offer because we have all read the law. Committee is time limited and should be creating a setting for people around the state to ask questions and get feedback. So we should have working groups to get started right now to train and provide forums for counties as they develop plans.

Miguel Garcia: Things are moving forward. Based on experience with 3 different JJCCs there is some lack of community involvement, interpretation of subcommittee and who selects, some counties lacking guidance and because subcommittee exists it should not be open to larger community for feedback. Individuals with experience who could provide insight and they may not have access – clarify guidance on process. Justice through geography is concerning for folks, we do not want shifts to adult system. Should be able to find information on all 58 websites for transparency.

Patricia Soung: Transparency and accountability – JJCC subcommittees – are they subject to Brown Act? Meeting in private and may not report openly, while others have determined that Brown Act applies so that there is public posting and public meetings. Need to note difference in views and practices.

Frankie Guzman: Agree with Sue that group should be doing what legislature intended by providing guidance and advice to implement SB 823. Working statewide and things are moving forward quickly without this subcommittee being involved and there are problems in the implementation and interpretation of the law. Plans being created without community input and calling them interim. Meanwhile no input on OYCR and Director. Clear that state and counties need help and we are squandering skills. Recommend that this body meet monthly, focus on areas of implementation failure and provide guidance to the counties to provide clarity on how to implement SB 823 with consistency as intended.

Chief Richart: Good points with regard to this body, needs to be considered relative to local process that is taking place, because planning has to take place at the local level and BOS and county counsel have to determine how to interpret and implement and county counsels won't all agree. What a JJCC subcommittee is and isn't is not clear in SB 823, being implemented in a very short timeframe. This body could be more instructive in providing guidance, but becoming educated internally helps inform that process.

Sarah Belton: In terms of having something to take back to CWC next meeting is in June, so not likely to be able to get to CWC until September. Concerned to hear about different views of subcommittee meetings – strikes me that there should be consistency across counties – may be able to fix in the short term with legal expertise – could get DOJ official legal opinion but that does take significant time

Judge Boulware Eurie: As CWC subcommittee don't have authority independently to put out guidance – need to gather expertise and bring it forward to CWC for approval and consideration. Don't disagree with opportunity, but it has to go before CWC as body and be approved.

Elizabeth Calvin: All the more reason to bring urgency to situation because if it has to go through CWC and confusion being heard from many sources and note that this committee is responsible for advising and if we have another process then we need to move all the more quickly. Strong supporter of counties making local determinations, but would go a long way to provide guidance. So set a meeting relatively soon and in between have working groups that begin to discuss these items so we know what process is.

Stephanie Welch: Will explore being able to draft some guidance around best practices and community engagement and explore how that could be done before OYCR established. Want to meet before the end of June, but because of Bagley Keene must be a publically accessible meeting even if working group – need 10 days notice. Checklist? Questions to ask? Making sure that community members know where to go if they want to participate and share at the local level.

Elizabeth Calvin: This is how meeting ended last time, suggesting that we meet much sooner with a smaller group and sooner – work group – plan for second week of June or first and members come up with plan and timeline – motion – made and carried

Stephanie: Just getting off the ground – no OYCR staff –

Judge Boulware Eurie: Eating into public comment. If you are interested in work group then let us know and we will determine staff ability to support that effort and make it work logistically with Bagley Keene etc.

4. Next Steps & Next Meeting Date:

Looking at June for next meeting to continue the work. Will look into what can happen earlier than that based on limited available staff.

5. Public Comment

Israel Villa: Thank you for your time, CA Alliance for Youth and Community Justice, counties not following the spirit, shutting out the community, not following Brown Act, Monterey County – JJCC had the people qualified but don't believe that – need to have 3 with formerly incarcerated youth. Confusion – this committee picked to help with process support the recommendation to meet more frequently. Wide universe of experience to tap – want to hire the best Director for OYCR that reflects our folks. CPOC aligned on many things but when it comes to subcommittees why no uniformity. Everyone on committee read SB 823, asking for your help.

Andrew Bigelow: Organizer, Santa Clara County – expanded subcommittee from 3 to 5 community seats, but two given two county employees including a DA employee, so have concerns around that because those seats were supposed to be for parents, and youth and those that have experienced the system. How is the committee going to help lift up those concerns. Committee meet more regularly and help with issues at the local level.

Kent Mendoza: ARC in Los Angeles, reiterate, currently on JJCC in LA County but not on subcommittee and concerns in LA county – no real transparency – no directly impacted individual. Encourage committee to do everything in their power to ensure that JJCC doing their job. Want to see more directly impacted people on committee (at least 3 only see 1). Confusion in LA, subcommittee meeting and not open to public and it's concerning. Committee should meet more often because this is urgent giving changes in June July – subcommittees, community members ready to step up – send out agenda more ahead of time.

Laura Ridolfi: W. Haywood Burns, encourage committee to take action, focus on unconscionable racial and ethnic disparities. Rethink justice. Advising and providing recommendations, tremendous expertise that counties can draw from and tremendous variability across counties with implementation. Inconsistencies in process of subcommittees, counties need guidance. If CWC needs to approve – time is of the essence – committee members willing to act

Brisely Martinez: Fresno Barrios Unidos – disheartened to hear similar concerns across counties, Fresno underserved, and no meaningful community engagement opportunities, wanting expertise and guidance from this community. Fresno serious racial and ethnic disparities, and seen the plans and no means to reduce or eliminate RED. Need guidance on that. Ask for representation on OYCR – Central Valley representation on future staff and committees. Asking for committee to use power and creativity.

Abraham Medina: California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice – meet more often – every week is deserved by youth of California, how will this committee provide leadership and guidance to OYCR and the staffing of that office.

Judge Boulware Eurie: Appreciate the timing and frustration

Dr. Bowlds: Understand and will follow up with next steps shortly.