

# Report on Office of Youth and Community Restoration Working Group Meeting

OYCR Committee Meeting

June 23, 2021

## **WIC 2201.**

...[T]he committee...shall be responsible for **advising and providing recommendations related to policies, programs, and approaches that improve youth outcomes, reduce youth detention, and reduce recidivism for...[youth adjudicated of serious (WIC 707(b)) offenses.**

# OYCR Committee's Statutory Obligations

# Two Primary Directions for OYCR Committee Action



**Outward Facing to  
Communities and Counties**

1) How can the OYCR subcommittee fulfill statutory mandates to support the implementation of SB 823 both in the short and long term?



**Inward facing  
The creation of the OYCR**

2) How can the OYCR subcommittee be useful in setting up the OYCR to help achieve its purposes?

# Outward Facing: Resource to Communities Bucket #1

There is an immediate need to serve as a resource to counties as they are developing their plans to serve youth.

- Host a virtual forum with presenters that can outline the contents of SB 823/SB 92. Use the additional time to talk through with the participants what questions they have about the laws and the process of implementation.
- Involve community-based organizations in setting up the forums to encourage authentic discussion.
- Consider producing an FAQ and providing a subcommittee to respond to questions and concerns.

## Outward Facing: Resource to Communities Bucket #2

There is need for the committee to conduct a simple check-in on where counties are in the process, and to gather input on what they need and how the OYCR subcommittee might be able to help.

- Conduct a simple survey of counties, asking, among other things:
  - How can we best reach out to counties and offer assistance?
  - What do counties need from the OYCR?
  - What is the status of their thinking on secure confinement options?
  - How is the planning process going?
  - Was the \$9 million provided for facilities enough, and are there other needs?

Outward Facing:  
Resource to Communities  
Bucket #3

There is a need to provide guidance on the grant submissions.

- Develop a sample grant document that provides some guidance on how to review and assess submitted grants.
- Include BSCC and HHS staff in the process.

Inward Facing:  
Shaping the OYCR Committee  
Bucket #4

There is a need define the  
OYCR Subcommittee  
Vision and Mission.

- Draft vision statement.
- Perhaps best to wait post-budget?

Inward Facing:  
Shaping the OYCR  
Bucket #5

There is a need to provide input to HHS on the qualities and the qualifications needed for the Executive Director and key staff.

- Discuss and develop recommendations.



Inward Facing:  
Shaping the OYCR  
Bucket #6

There is a need to provide input to HHS on the structure of the OYCR.

- Discuss and develop recommendations for:
  - The structure of the Office, and
  - How to balance the process of staffing up in concert with what has to get done (sequencing).

## Inward Facing: Shaping the OYCR Bucket #7

There is a need to provide input to HHS on the use of contract funds in the immediate future.

- Discuss and develop recommendations for:
  - Where contract funds could be used immediately to provide the most useful support to county implementers and other technical assistance.
  - Rely on info from survey of counties.

# For later?

## Providing Technical Assistance and Training

Suggestion:

Better to wait post-budget, and appointment of directors

- Should be contracting with individuals who have subject matter expertise through lived experienced to support all aspects of OYCR and specifically to design TA and training. It was noted that mentors and mentorship should be a value and a program under OYCR
- Identify and disseminate best practices in configuring existing facilities for long-term custody
- Identify and disseminate various community programs that can be alternatives to secure environments
- Need to talk about what specifically trauma-informed care looks like in these programs (e.g. use of seclusion and restraints)
- Develop guidance on least restrictive environment
- Determine how secure youth treatment facilities should interact with BSCC
- For OYCR there is value in contracting for TA in developing metrics to review plans, such as:
  - What should be expected in the short-term, midterm, and long-term
  - Identify goals for the OYCR and link it back to the data that can measure how the goals are being met
  - While it is often that we measure “negative outcomes” e.g. recidivism, we should make a conscious effort to measure positive outcomes ... how did programs/ interventions/ policies lead to improved lives and quality of life
  - Stay current on research on the science of what works, program evaluation

# For later?

## Various Roles

Suggestion:

Better to wait post-budget, and appointment of directors

- Need to establish a working relationship with BSCC
- Explore the ways OYCR can work with other parts of HHS, e.g., Surgeon General
- Support the OYCR to not just keep up with current best practices and research, but to have the capacity to develop California's own best practices
- Explore moving the committee out of Child Welfare Council to facilitate being more nimble

**Items for  
Immediate  
Work Group  
Action**

Host Forum, develop FAQ Doc

Simple Survey

Draft sample grant

Input to HHS on the qualities and the qualifications needed for the Executive Director and key staff

Provide input to HHS on the use of contract funds in the immediate future.

Provide input to HHS on the structure of the OYCR.