



## Office of Youth and Community Restoration March 2022 Newsletter

I am honored and grateful to have been asked to lead this new Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR). I started on January 18, 2022, and it has been an exciting and productive time. I appreciate the support of the diverse group of partners and stakeholders who are working tirelessly on behalf of California's court-involved youth.

Our most immediate priority is to ensure that the youth returning to their home counties for rehabilitation after the Department of Juvenile Justice closure experience a seamless and safe reentry back to their home communities. Having youth close to home will allow for meaningful family and community engagement in their rehabilitative journey, but we also acknowledge that it may present challenges for some counties. Our mission is to identify resources, technical assistance, and support for counties making this critical transition.



**Director Katherine Lucero**

In this first newsletter, I will address the county plans, the OYCR staffing, and some of the footwork that the OYCR has been engaged in the last four weeks. My hope is that this ongoing newsletter will help create dialogue and engagement between OYCR and stakeholders – together we can make change happen!

*"The office's mission is to promote trauma responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support the youths' successful transition into adulthood and help them become responsible, thriving, and engaged members of their communities."*

## County Plans - Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grants

SB 823 provided funding for counties to provide developmentally appropriate, rehabilitative services and supervision to youth who could previously have been sent to the Division of Juvenile Justice. To receive such funding, each county prepared a plan addressing how funds will be used to provide trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and developmentally appropriate programs and how counties will prepare to care for youth over a longer time period.

As reported in our last correspondence, all 58 counties submitted timely plans. Our office reviewed the plans and is engaging with each county to discuss any needed modifications prior to final acceptance of each plan. As this is the first county plan creation, review, and acceptance, we recognize the need for flexibility and understanding that this is an iterative process that will likely evolve over time. We appreciate and are pleased that the counties are willing to partner in this important work.

### Building our Team

OYCR is happy to announce two new team members who will provide subject matter expertise in ombudsman activities and juvenile justice support: Rochelle Trochtenberg and Marc Buller.

Rochelle brings incredible expertise in youth advocacy to the OYCR team as a former California Foster Care Ombudsperson.

Rochelle will assist in creating the OYCR Ombudsman Division - a unit able to appropriately receive and investigate complaints and concerns from youth, families, staff, and other stakeholders. Marc is another strong team member who comes to OYCR as a former Santa Clara County Assistant District Attorney. Marc will focus on supporting counties' efforts to maintain youth in Juvenile Court and to prevent an increase of juvenile cases being transferred to Adult Court as the county capacity building is underway. This evidence-based goal is a core value of OYCR, as research shows that youth that remain close to home

## HOW TO FIND YOUR COUNTY PLAN

The plans will be posted on the OYCR website once they are accepted. If you would like a copy of any plan as originally submitted to the OYCR, please contact our office at [OYCR@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCR@chhs.ca.gov) and we will make sure that your request is filled.



## JOB POSTINGS

To review OYCR job postings, please visit [CalCareers](#).

We appreciate your help in disseminating future postings and encouraging applications.

results in better outcomes for community safety and avoids the increase in recidivism seen when juveniles are placed into the adult system. Marc, and the entire OYCR team, strive to support DA's, Judges, and probation officers in keeping youthful offenders in the Juvenile Justice system wherever possible

### Child Welfare Council OYCR Committee

DO YOU WANT  
OYCR COMMITTEE  
NOTIFICATIONS?

Please email us at  
[OYCR@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCR@chhs.ca.gov) to  
register for the OYCR  
email list.

This committee will resume meetings this month and it will play a vital role in providing recommendations on policies and programs to promote improvement of youth outcomes, reducing youth detention and reducing recidivism. Our OYCR team looks forward to working with this diverse committee. The next meeting will be held by Zoom on March 29, 2022, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. An agenda and Zoom link will be posted on the OYCR website and will be emailed to this list.



### Engaging with the Juvenile Justice Community and other Collaborators

Our OYCR team has met with many passionate stakeholders in recent weeks. We are fortunate to have so many people from across the state and all over the nation reach out and ask us how they can be part of our work. We have met with youth advocates, probation officers, national juvenile justice strategist, research specialists, attorneys, a victim advocate and restorative justice expert, legislative offices, journalists, as well as state staff from the Board of State and Community Corrections, the Department of Justice, the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Finance. We plan to continue to meet with interested supporters as we build the OYCR to its full potential as outlined in the statute.

Thanks for all that you do to serve our youth,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Lucero".

Katherine Lucero, Director  
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