



**CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL
Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Committee
Minutes**

**Meeting
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Virtual:
*Link forthcoming***

**In Person:
Northern California:
Allenby Auditorium - California Room
1215 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814**

***Southern California:*
SHIELDS for Families
121 W. Victoria Street
Long Beach, CA 90805**

Members in attendance (in-person): Daniel Calabretta, Katherine Lucero, Dan Prince, Brian Richart, Elizabeth Calvin, Frankie Guzman, Danielle Lowe and, Rosalinda Vint

Members in attendance (online): Honorable Robert Leventer (Ret) and Kelly Vernon

Special consultants: LaRon Dennis and Marc Buller

1:00 pm – 1:10 pm: Call to Order by *The Hon. Katherine Lucero, OYCR Director, CalHHS*

- **Welcome**

- Virtual meeting protocols and roll call
- DD Jackson provided meeting instructions including on how to make public comment that include:
 - Speaking clearly
 - Eliminating any background noises
 - Using the raise hand feature in person or by Zoom for Government
 - Stating name prior to speaking
 - Appearing on camera

- Lowering hand feature if using Zoom for Government once names are received and called
- Completing a comment card and / or sending unanswered questions to OYCR website.
- **Chair's Opening Comments**
 - Director Lucero:
 - Thanked committee members including The Hon. Daniel J. Calabretta, who is a judge for the Sacramento County Superior Court in California
 - OYCR is up to 10 staff and three special consultants and is launching the ombudsman office, finalizing the hotline procedures. A live person will answer during business hours and on off hours will return calls within 24 hours of the next business day. There is a job posting for the ombuds position to Cal HR to be posted as soon as it is approved.
 - Thanked other members for their contributions to the meeting / committee to include Kelly Hood, MSW of Youth Engagement Project (YEP).
 - Acknowledges LaRon Davis, Esq. and Marc Buller, Esq. as OYCR Special Consultants
 - Chair Lucero recommends exploring the article "The Evolution of Juvenile Justice and Probation Practices in California" as an excellent overview of how probation departments over the last 25 years moved with the realignment, policies, and reform.
 - Jessica Heldman and Melanie Delgado, The Evolution of Juvenile Justice and Probation Practices in California (Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law, 2022)
 - Youth Law Center, Pathways to Higher Education
 - Ombudsman Hotline Procedures have been established and a live person will answer during office hours and 24 turnarounds. The Ombudsman is a person that will see juvenile justice and probation through an evolutionary lens. OYCR hopes to provide a positive realignment and best practices for our youth with some of the possibilities presented today.
 - Today will feature three presentations along with facilitated discussions on the topics of higher education and career or job training both in and outside facilities. The three topics were selected at a prior meeting for deep diver work by the committee.
- **Roll call is taken**
 - Director Lucero declares there is a committee of 8 and thus, no quorum
 - Confirms committee meeting will continue by consensus
- **Today's Agenda**

1:01 pm: Director Lucero:

- Reminded all present about the Bagley- Keene Act

- Informed everyone about the hybrid meeting and how it is a new approach to the California Child Welfare Council's Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Committee Meetings.

1:05 pm: Action Item: Request to Approve Minutes from May 4, 2022, Meeting *The Hon. Katherine Lucero, OYCR Director, CalHHS*

1:05 – 1:19 Information Item: Updates from OYCR and Introduction of New Staff by *The Hon. Katherine Lucero, OYCR Director, CalHHS & New OYCR Staff*

- Welcomed new OYCR members Miguel A. Garcia in the role of Staff Services Manager I; Debra Lewis in the role of Bay Area Regional County Liaison; Alani Jackson as Deputy Director (DD); Krystall Moore as Staff Services Manager II and Chief; and Ebony Sylvester Baptiste as Northern California Regional County Liaison

Director Lucero informs the Committee:

- At the end of today's presentation, there will be facilitated discussion
- She is hopeful the members can begin with at least one deliverable.

- **Presentations: Higher Education/Job Training**

1:19 pm – 2:26 pm Presentations: Director Lucero thanked presenters for being present.

- **Presenters:**

- Tarik Ross Jr. - Prison Education Project (PEP)
- Bruce Saito - California Conservation Corps (CCC)
- Chief Dan Prince - Imperial County Probation Department
- Danielle Lowe - Shields for Families
- Frankie Guzman - National Center for Youth Law
- Hon. Robert Leventer - Los Angeles County

Chair Lucero invites Mr. Tarik Ross, Jr., program coordinator for PEP and counselor and professor at Mt. San Antonio college to speak.

- **Tarik Ross Jr. - Prison Education Project (PEP)**
 - Tarik Ross Jr. is a college counselor, educational advisor, speaker, and personal development coach.
 - Provides a brief overview of program PEP to include:
 - increasing the mental health awareness of each youth on a case-by-case basis
 - discussing each day's challenges with each youth
 - helping youth identify needs, including necessary financial gains
 - validating that there is an immense value in feeling safe assisting students in receiving grants, loans, and scholarships
 - informing our youth of supplementary advantageous programs
 - equipping youth with soft skills training youth on how to present juvenile pasts
 - providing aftercare services for youth with agencies in their communities
 - acknowledging and working through the disabilities the youth may present with discussing youth formed plans and developing realistic expectations providing soft handoffs to agencies with face-to-face personal conversations and relationships

- **1:37 pm:** Director Lucero thanks Tarik Ross Jr. for his outstanding presentation and requests this presenter's email. Presenter's email: Tarikrossjr@gmail.com Power point presentation to be provided via the OYCR webpage.

Chair Lucero invites Bruce Saito, Director of the California Conservation Corps to speak about opportunities for secure track youth and other youth involved in the juvenile justice system

- **Bruce Saito** – California Conservation Corps (CCC)
 - CCC Director.
 - Provides a brief overview of the California Conservation Corps to include:
 - CCC's beginnings by Governor Jerry Brown in 1976
 - CCC's qualifications of being aged 18-25 years
 - CCC providing job experience
 - 24 active centers throughout the state
 - CCC's encouraging youth learning to live and work together
 - CCC's great environmental work and fire training a nurturing and positive work ethic
 - requirement of charter high school attendance
 - community college offerings
 - skill based learning / OTJ training
 - the many CCC graduates who go on to successful careers in fire service
 - that CCC believes in giving youth many opportunities to support services to the youth and their families
 - Presenter's email: Bruce.saito@ccc.ca.gov. CCC email: WWW.CCC.ca.gov
 - **1:47 pm:** Director Lucero thanks Bruce Saito for his informative presentation.

Chair Lucero invites Dan Prince, Chief Probation Officer of Imperial County, to speak on programs offered by probation departments throughout the state.

- **Dan Prince** - Imperial County Probation Department
 - Chief Probation Officer
 - Begins with introduction. Dan Prince is the Chief of Probation for The Imperial County Probation Department. Chief Prince congratulates Miguel A. Garcia and Debra Lewis on their new roles within OYCR and invites all attendees to chime in during this presentation.
 - Provides a brief overview of Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) and Imperial County Probation Department to include:
 - acknowledging that Imperial County's juvenile justice issues are not unique to any other California County
 - Imperial County's providing charter services to nearly all probation youth up to 25 years of age recognizing San Diego State's relationships with Imperial County Probation

- acknowledging there are other resources Imperial County hopes to provide the youth pride in that 36 units of college credits can be acquired through the community collaterals established in this county an Associates and / or Bachelor's degree are options available to the youth the latest County statistic of only 4/54 in youth recidivism workforce development significance the popular work programs of truck driving and electrical training for telephonic careers youth moving on to good sustainable careers
 - **1:56 pm:** Director Lucero thanks Dan Prince for his positive presentation.
- **1:57 pm:** Q&A from **El Dorado County Chief Brian J. Richart** to include:
 - Growing a variety of opportunities for youth so that they can pursue a career
 - Fostering very strong partnerships with collaterals such as Office of Education and Northern California Construction Training Academy
 - Establishing trade union agreements made especially for youth making a way for the youth to obtain a living wage and benefits for their family's fire service as a fruitful career expanding community college and university services for the youth
- **2:01 pm:** Director Lucero thanks attendees for their insightful comments and adds that we are a bit behind schedule so additional comments can be shared in the chat.

Chair Lucero invites Danielle Lowe, Director of Shields for Families, to speak from a community based mental health perspective.

- **Danielle Lowe-Shields Behavioral Health Services**
 - Director
 - Provides a brief overview of Shields for Families to include the importance of partnerships with local school districts and probation departments
 - Addressing the youth's chronic homelessness issues
 - Directing each case of an individualized basis
 - Resolving immigration needs
 - Wraparound services in order to ensure complete success
 - Liberally tackling mental health needs
 - Promoting higher education for the whole family
 - Setting timelines to complete sustainable tasks
 - Ensuring culturally based services
 - **2:06 pm:** Director Lucero thanks Danielle Lowe for her positive presentation.

Chair Lucero invites Frankie Guzman, Director of California Youth Justice Institute, National Center for Youth Law, to make a presentation.

- **Frankie Guzman** - National Center for Youth Law
 - Director of the Youth Justice Initiative
 - Provides a brief overview of National Center for Youth Law to include the importance of his personal journey to becoming an attorney began at the age of 15 when he was arrested
 - Introducing college options and personal academic that are of interest to the youth
 - introducing the potentials within career histories
 - having culturally relevant counselors available to youth
 - providing work-study income
 - allowing chances to those that violate parole to pursue college
 - using evidence-based modalities
 - allowing credible messengers to engage with the youth
 - addressing the often-low self-esteem the youth experience
 - exploring what a major is within post-secondary education
 - allowing youth many chances while they attempt to meet new expectations
 - viewing the youth as different and not criminal
 - enhancing youth recruitment and retention by letting all know what resources are available
 - continuously allowing for questions
 - providing information / stats about educational opportunities for juvenile justice involved youth
 - **2:16 pm:** Director Lucero thanks Frankie Guzman for his heartfelt presentation. Presenter's email: Fguzman@youthlaw.org Power point presentation to be provided via the OYCR webpage.

Chair Lucero invites Commissioner Robert Leventer to present a perspective from the bench.

- **The Hon. Robert Leventer**, (Ret.) Commissioner
 - Los Angeles County Superior Court.
 - reentry ports that allow for more resources than reprimands
 - allowing students to choose their own career paths and the adults needs to make any of those resources available to the student
 - “problem kids” ending up in unsustainable warehouse and / or landscaping jobs
 - dead end jobs not allowing youth to make a living wage
 - implementing and using a stepdown feature throughout all facilities
 - executing laws that do not force the youth to immediately become employed or forced to serve time in a halfway house
 - allowing the youth 2-6 months to gather their freedom ad needs so that they may begin to address their new path / outlook
 - granting youth time to address their mental health and academic issues with dignity
 - creating a network to shelter the many needs of the youth
 - conceding to early releases for those that are heavily engaged in educational services

- **2:26 pm:** Director Lucero thanks The Hon. Robert Leventer for his expertise.

2:26 pm – 3:00 pm Facilitated Discussion: Higher Education/Job Training for CWC OYCR Committee deliverable(s)

- **Discussion:**
 - Facilitator Corrin Buchanan (CalHHS):
 - What aspects of each topic the Committee cover? What subtopics or related issues should be included?
 - Committee members give comments/reflections.
 - What kind of learning does the committee wish to do to have a common basis for discussing each topic? What kind of experts does the committee wish to hear from to develop a common knowledge base on this topic?
 - Committee members give comments/reflections.

2:26 pm: Director Lucero acknowledges Corrin Buchanan (CalHHS) who stated she was pleased to facilitate this discussion to form some deliverables.

2:30 pm: Committee commentary includes:

- Brian J. Richart stated he was pleased with the discussion and remarked that providing remote choices is of the essence. Richart went on to state he was especially moved by the discussion, especially The Hon. Robert Leventer's suggestion of making options to tailor the needs of the youth.
- The Hon. Daniel J. Calabretta stated that choices for the youth are indeed important as they provide special skill sets and / or jobs that set the youth up for success long term. For instance, when examining the area for barber occupations, EDD revealed the Sacramento area does not have a need for barbering. The Hon. Daniel J. Calabretta remarked that Tarik Ross Jr.'s presentation was tremendous in outlining long term reentry plans.

2:32 pm: Committee commentary includes:

- Director Lucero states that aftercare support means that we need to stick by the youth to ensure their basic needs and housing are met.
- Corrin Buchanan reports to be impressed with Frankie Guzman's reflections and data. Corrin Buchanan states she wants to see a model that steps a young person down while meeting their needs, with specific / sought after hand holding / mentoring and mental health resolving, so that the youth can be engaged in wrap services. This would greatly benefit the families and thus the youth.

2:36 pm: Committee commentary includes:

- Community colleges and technical training in person, so that the youth has a chance to leave the facility has also proven a benefit. The youth can see themselves outside the facility with support. Perhaps this will enhance parole options. When the youth is released, they would have the option of going directly into the classroom.

- Corrin Buchanan asks if there are any further comments. Help and guidance is necessary to create and realize choices and potential deliverables for OYCR's current limited number of staff.

2:38 pm: Committee commentary includes:

- Deliverables may lead to further questions from the whole family. We need to offer the entire family choices in aftercare, wraparound services, and community-based assistance with accessible and multiple touch points. This will likely empower the young person to choose themselves over delinquency.
- Dan Prince chooses to resolve option 5, as it can be easily and readily accomplished.

2:43 pm: Committee commentary includes:

- The Hon. Daniel J. Calabretta chooses to tackle option 3 and remarks that high level research can come later, and action needs to be taken now.
- Chief Richart chooses to resolve option 5 and asks what is happening on the ground right now? What is happening in California right now? Richart believes we need to grow education in this moment.
- Director Lucero supports the commentary and states that we must continue all options that are working. We also need to discuss solutions with youth and their families. Director Lucero turns it back over to Corrin Buchanan. Corrin Buchanan asks if there is any further commentary.

2:50 pm: Committee commentary includes:

- Frankie Guzman's agrees with the stated commentary and remarks that as a committee we need to look beyond California and learn from other states and countries. We sometimes do not properly identify shortcomings. Although it does not feel good to identify inadequacies, this is something we must do if we are to overcome the issues and thrive. Frankie Guzman agrees with Director Lucero in that we need to speak with youth, their families, and educators. We need to examine if we are suitably assisting educators in coming to our facilities.
- The Hon. Robert Leventer likes option 3 states he is frustrated because southern California continues to implement rudimentary programs, so then the youth do not always benefit nor see the benefit in the programs. We need more information to guide how we should be operating for the primary benefit of the youth.

2:53 pm: Corrin Buchanan asks if the Committee members want to weigh in.

- Director Lucero states principles 3 and 5 encapsulate what we want to accomplish locally and nationally. Options 1, 3, and 5 will assist the Committee in identifying barriers.

2:56 pm: Corrin Buchanan thanks the OYCR team and states some consensus has been made. Corrin Buchanan asks to hear from the public.

2:56 pm – 3:00 pm Action Item: Select and Identify a deliverable(s) for Higher Education/Job Training for CWC OYCR Committee

3:00 pm: Public Commentary

- Kendra Jackson
 - Foster Care Ombudsperson Office.
 - Kendra Jackson graduated May 21, 2022, with a master's degree using the Guardian Scholar Program as a formerly incarcerated youth and adult. Kendra Jackson states it is awesome to hear all the commentary and work to be done. Kendra Jackson remembers the demand for her probation officer, which was to get a job. This would not have worked for Kendra and attending school produced better outcomes for her. She attended post-secondary education at the risk of probation violation, but she felt compelled to advocate for herself. The youth will benefit from culturally competent resources with culturally competent staff. This will foster independence for youth as they try to navigate programs and agencies designed especially for them, like Project Rehab. Kendra Jackson believes the guiding principles discussed today are phenomenal. Kendra states she is herself a juvenile justice expert, as she just authored an academic record about these youth, basing her studies in the state of Virginia. The youth need to engage with those who have lived with inner-city elements, guiding them within the appropriate programs. They youth do not benefit from agencies that enforce every rule to be enforced every day. The youth need to feel human again. We need to remember we are engaging with children and youth that are becoming parents as 9th grade students, so they will require a unique set of skill sets from community-based organizations. Juveniles will meet recidivism if not humanized.

3:02 pm: Director Lucero states there will not be a vote today without a quorum and is excited for what the agenda items may be for future meetings.

3:03 pm: Meeting adjourned

- Chair Lucero thanks each member and the public for their perspectives and participation. She notes a vote is not able to be taken as there is not a quorum but that there is a consensus. The next task is to begin the work, to reach out where necessary, and get input at the next meeting on what has been started. She notes the commission will reconvene at the next quarterly meeting, September 7th, from 1 to 3PM. She thanks everyone for their contributions and adjourns the meeting.

2022 CWC OYCR Quarterly Meeting Dates:

- September 7, 2022 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Sacramento
- December 7, 2022 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Sacramento

