



JUVENILE JUSTICE and DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

County of Riverside
Christopher Collopy, Chair
Paul Parker, Vice-Chair
Laurel Cook, Secretary

**JJDC Quarterly Inter-Agency Meeting
AGENDA**

April 11, 2024 @ 9:30 AM

Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1)
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507 (Room #1055)

Please Note: Regular Monthly JJDC Meeting follows the Inter-Agency Meeting.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call, Welcome and Introductions
3. Motion to Approve Agenda
4. Motion to Approve Minutes – January 11, 2024
5. Review general program metrics, successes, and challenges: comments, programs and latest reports from department heads or assigned designees of:

Riverside County Superior Court
 Riverside County District Attorney
 Riverside County Probation Department
 Riverside County Public Defender
 Riverside County Counsel
 Riverside County Juvenile Defense Panel

Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
 Riverside County Superintendent of Schools (RCOE)
 Riverside County Sheriff Department
 Riverside County EDA/ Workforce Development

Riverside County Correctional Health Services
 Riverside City Police Department
 Riverside University Health System (RUHS)
 Riverside Community Care Licensing
 Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)

Youth Program Guests:

Access California
 A Better You
 Kids In Konflikt (KIK)

Moving Mountains Unlimited
 Oak Grove Center
 Operation Safe House

The Happier Life Project
 Voices for Children

6. Adjournment
7. **NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING: July 11, 2024, 9:30 am**



JJDPC Quarterly Inter-Agency Meeting
Minutes
January 11, 2024
Location: Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1)
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

IN ATTENDANCE (In-Person): Christopher Collopy, Paul Parker, Laurel Cook, Pam Torres, Micheal Malsed, Amanda Wade, Natasha Dunlap, Carlos Monagas, Emily Headlee, Elisa Judy, Daniel Castaneda, Shannon Crosby, Joelle Moore, Allison Donahoe-Beggs, Cynthia Magill, Janine Moore, Ramon Leija, Melanie Thomas, Norma Biegel, Rebecca Acevedo, Carolina Ayala, Max Miner, Ryan Brown, Jennifer Chang

GUEST: Anton Osborne

Applicants: Michael Belknapp

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- a. With the presence of the quorum, the meeting was initiated at 9:40 am.
- b. Commissioner Micheal Malsed led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Welcome / Introductions / Announcements / Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- a. All participants were welcomed by Commission Chair Christopher Collopy, and given the opportunity to introduce themselves (by name and title).
 - i. Chair Collopy highlighted the significance of the JJDPC Quarterly Inter-Agency meeting for new attendees, emphasizing the need to share programming updates, address challenges, and seek advocacy support. He also urged participants to voice any legislative concerns affecting their organizations.
- b. Approval of January 11, 2024, Agenda and October 12, 2023, Minutes
 - i. Motion made by V.C. Paul Parker, seconded by Secretary Laurel Cook
 - ii. Chair Collopy confirms the affirmative vote: The ayes have it and the motion accepted.
- c. It has been decided by the Commission, with no objection by County Counsel that three new items will be added to the Inter-Agency meeting agenda.
 - i. Roll Call
 - ii. Motion to Approve Agenda
 - iii. Motion to Approve Minutes

3. Operation SafeHouse, Inc. - Norma Biegel

- a. Overview/Updates:
 - i. Ms. Biegel mentioned, that Operation SafeHouse provides urgent support to young individuals and offers 24/7 services at their facilities in Riverside and Thousand Palms.
 - ii. In the last quarter, Ms. Biegel mentioned 68 clients received 490 hours of individual counseling, and 32 families took part in 63.75 hours of family counseling. The facility also offered 774 bed nights. Additionally, Operation SafeHouse has schooling and daily counseling for youth, plus an option for family counseling if desired.
 - iii. During Christmas, some youth had the chance to reunite with their families, but around seven missed out due to various reasons. Additionally, she mentioned that various organizations gave gifts, and the UCR women's softball team had their holiday celebration with the kids. Churches also held parties for them, making the experience very enjoyable.
 - iv. Ms. Biegel highlighted the struggles of maintaining their numbers despite outreach endeavors, citing a decrease in shelter figures in California. However, she encouraged the group to direct any troubled youth to SafeHouse. She also mentioned that SafeHouse is presently hiring new staff.
 - v. Discussions are ongoing about relocating children and bed availability at SafeHouse. The organization was previously a placement choice for DPSS before an incident caused it to be put on hold. However, talks are now underway for additional services. Ensuring capacity and efficient resource utilization is a challenge. Ms. Biegel recommends partnering with Probation or DPSS to accommodate more youth. Currently, SafeHouse has 20 beds available in their desert shelter and 17 beds in the Riverside Shelter, those beds are not full.
 - vi. Further discussion focused on SafeHouse's licensing criteria and the need for further deliberations with authorities. SafeHouse currently holds licenses for 20 and 17 individuals but is not categorized as an STRTP, despite its initial approval. Probation aims to bring in more local placement to provide continuum of care in Riverside County and would like to see SafeHouse obtain the proper licensing to serve the Probation population.
 - vii. The commission inquired about visiting SafeHouse. Ms. Biegel invited them to tour the facilities, which included a newly built cutting-edge location in Palm Desert and an established Riverside location with expansions over the years. The Riverside site also has an RCOE school, allowing youth to access education without transportation.
 - viii. Lastly, Today's JJCC meeting at the Orange Community Center was discussed by Ms. Biegel, who questions whether she should attend. CDPO Judy clarified that today's meeting is intended to form a subcommittee to provide guidance for at-risk youth, including those in the system from placement to reintegration into the community. In order to ensure community voices are heard, CBOs are collaborating to nominate three representatives for the



upcoming JJCC meeting. Today's meeting is CBO-led and CBO-driven, and is focused on facilitating discussions and preparations for the main meeting. The goal is for these representatives to gather feedback and assess whether the larger group is meeting the needs of all the CBOs involved.

4. Behavioral Health: Deputy Director, Janine Moore

- a. Updates:
 - i. There are currently no updates or developments to report.

5. Community Care Licensing (CCL) Licensing Program Manager, Natasha Dunlap

- a. Updates:
 - i. Ms. Dunlap mentioned that Community Care Licensing oversees the licensing children's residential facilities in Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, and San Diego counties. CCL reported no updates to share for the previous quarter.
- b. Group Home Inspections:
 - i. The commissioners initiated the discussion on various topics. One of which was regarding the concerns expressed by some youths during the inspection of STRTP group homes. These concerns revolved around the \$75.00 clothing allowance and the process/rules for requesting a \$300.00 stipend.
 - ii. Ms. Dunlap noted that County stipends for group home residents are outlined in the Group Home Program statement, with complaints regarding allowances addressed by Community Care Licensing. Also, noted was as long as the minimum allowance is given, there should be no licensing issues. Youth entitled to county funds should consult their social worker for support.
 - iii. Allison Donahoe-Beggs of DPSS outlined that the \$300 clothing allowance quarterly, with additional requests for additional clothing funds for growth spurts or wear and tear. Social workers complete paperwork for approval to access the quarterly funds, ideally it shouldn't take more than three to four months. The responsibility for taking the child shopping and managing the clothing allowance may vary depending on the circumstances, with possibilities including the facility or the social worker. In a case where more than the quarterly allowance is needed, youth can seek guidance from their attorneys to petition the court for additional support as deemed necessary.
 - iv. Chair Collopy disclosed the name of the facility where youth expressed their concerns regarding the procedures and regulations for the extra stipend. Ms. Donahoe-Beggs will subsequently communicate with the designated region and social worker to inquire about the progress of the clothing allowance application.
- c. The Utilization of Naloxone (Narcan) within STRTP group homes:
 - i. The commission raised concerns over the limited availability of Naloxone in STRTP group homes and emphasized the need for clear regulations on its possession. Ms. Dunlap mentioned that statewide provider meetings have taken place, and CCL is notifying facilities about their offer of Narcan through email and field visits. Providers can request Narcan by emailing CCL, who will manage the request and waiver letters.
 - ii. Deputy Director Janine Moore of RUHS Behavioral Health announced an upcoming joint provider meeting which will include Probation, Behavioral Health, County Office of Education, and Community Care Licensing. The meeting will address the topic of opioids and Deputy Director Moore sees it as an important opportunity to educate participants about the waiver process and the availability of Narcan training. She also noted that some providers have expressed concerns about Narcan due to liability issues. To address this, she suggested providing information on rights, the Good Samaritan law, and other relevant details to ease their worries.
 - iii. The commission discussed several topics, including the good Samaritan law, informing facilities about the CCL waiver for Narcan, county protocols for Narcan in facilities, current legislation in California, and the automatic dissemination of Provider Information Notices about Narcan. It was noted that amending the interim licensing standards would be necessary to enforce mandatory use of Narcan in facilities.
 - iv. The commission offered to be a source of information for CCL and requested details on Narcan distribution to use during facility visits. This would help ensure that facilities are well-informed. Ms. Dunlap presented PIN 2112-CRP to the commission, providing steps for naloxone implementation in facilities. As a result, the commission requested Ms. Dunlap to share PIN 2112 with the JJDCP Executive Assistant for distribution to the commissioners. They can then share it with providers during their visits.
 - v. The commission questioned cell phone and Wi-Fi usage in group homes. Ms. Dunlap explained that cell phones are a personal right and cannot be confiscated without a court order. Wi-Fi data should also be accessible. If phone calls need supervision for youth safety, CFTs can seek the courts advice, but phones cannot be confiscated without a court order.

6. The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ramon Leija, OYCR County Liaison

- a. Overview / Highlights
 - i. Mr. Leija shared details about OYCR's monthly webinar series on Juvenile Justice. Topics of upcoming webinars include AB 505 changes, Credible Messenger Mentoring, and Victims' Rights. Mr. Leija plans to present on AB 505 at the next JJDCP meeting. Previous webinar recordings are available on their website, and to stay updated, individuals can provide their email to OYCR (OYCR@chss.ca.gov)



- ii. The OYCR is also working on an initiative called The CBO Capacity Development Workgroup, addressing challenges faced by community-based organizations. The OYCR is addressing challenges faced by community-based organizations through its CBO Capacity Development Workgroup. They have identified CBOs across the state dealing with leadership capacity, grant writing, grant funding, and service delivery issues. The OYCR aims to support the growth of these organizations to reduce recidivism rates and reliance on the system. They are partnering with The Sierra Health Foundation who will oversee the distribution of \$14 million.
- iii. Mr. Leija also mentioned a funding opportunity from OYCR for Lease Restrictive Programming, targeting county probation departments and community partners to demonstrate innovative approaches to assist youth in the secured youth treatment facilities, and transition quickly into lease restrictive programs. Grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per youth are available for a 24-month service period. It was noted that the Riverside County Probation Department has submitted letters of interest for both The CBO Capacity Development Workgroup and the Lease Restrictive Programming initiatives.

7. Office of the Public Defender - Attorney Joelle Moore

a. Updates / Overview / Highlights:

- i. Ms. Moore reported, the final vacancy in the Delinquency unit of the Riverside County Public Defender's office has been filled. Once the new team member joins, the focus will shift towards training and optimizing impact. Spark referrals have increased by 25% compared to last year, with 378 referrals received thus far, covering various services. The team has also started handling expulsion appeals.
- ii. The Spark services have positively impacted the flow of cases through the courts. Youth are now released into treatment programs earlier, and transitional plans are established sooner. The team provides support to released youth, ensuring they receive the necessary assistance. Their proactive approach allows them to address issues before they escalate.

8. County Counsel - Emily Headlee

a. Updates / Overview / Highlights:

- i. There are no updates or developments to report currently.

9. The American Community Corrections Institute (ACCI), Anton Osborne

a. Updates / Overview / Highlights:

- i. Mr. Osborne provided informed the group that ACCI is a well-established provider of evidence-based cognitive life skills programs. ACCI provides self-directed courses for individuals dealing with negative thinking patterns and behaviors. They offer Education Life Skills programs for high schools and middle schools, using a non-punitive disciplinary approach. Students have the option to complete the course online or offline and learn about the connection between their thoughts and behavior. ACCI recently partnered with a San Diego middle school, leading to immediate enrollment and successful completion. Additionally, ACCI offers integrating cognitive behavioral programs in corrections to address the school-to-prison pipeline and is forming partnerships with CCDR and correctional facilities in California. They are also developing a Parole proposal with CCDR, and they are also in the process of becoming a vendor in Riverside County.
- ii. The commission sought financial details of the school district's partnership with ACCI. ACCI's pilot program in California had a very low cost and offered 95 programs for various age groups, including juvenile delinquents in correctional facilities. The district received a discounted site license for all ACCI programs, paying \$1000 instead of the standard \$2500. ACCI did not make significant profits from working with schools.
- iii. Additionally, the commission inquired about the program's administration process. Mr. Osborne explained that registering for the program was like creating a social media account. Participants receive an email with a course link to access the program.
- iv. ACCI provides courses lasting from 45 minutes to 8 hours. Youth engagement is encouraged through quizzes, and their responses are screened using algorithms to detect signs of suicidal thoughts. Therapists analyze all responses and provide insights to designated individuals interacting with the youth. Metrics like login frequency and completed course hours are assessed to measure participation. The program also gathers substantial quantitative and qualitative data through quizzes.
- v. Mr. Osborne discussed curriculum and modules on school violence, bullying, and truancy. They are developing a curriculum for vaping and pornography concerns. Currently, there are around 15-16 structured courses offered. Mr. Osborne highlighted the importance of quantitative data on dosage hours for probation. Additionally, noted was that ACCI course duration varies based on individual pace.
- vi. The Commission discussed with Mr. Osborne the efforts made by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJJPC) to prevent delinquency and rehabilitate detainees. They inquired about how ACCI discovered the JJJPC, to which Mr. Osborne mentioned they had attended the last JJCC meeting and was invited to attend by CDPO Judy. Additionally, Mr. Osborne shared their work with youth in juvenile detentions and the community, emphasizing the positive impact of their courses on reducing sentences in Arizona courts. They also highlighted their vast network of 2400 partner organizations and involvement of one million children in educational initiatives. Additionally, they mentioned a recent meeting with Martha's Kitchen to address homelessness.



- viii. Lastly, Mr. Osborne also shed light on Dr. Doug Luffborough, a motivational speaker, and Educational Partner at ACCI Educational Life Skills. The group was provided with packets containing sample courses from ACCI and QR codes for immediate access to demonstrations. Registration is necessary to enroll in the courses, similar to setting up a social media account.

10. Voices for Children – Advocacy Supervisor, Melanie Thomas

- a. Highlights / Updates:
- i. Voices for Children, also known as CASA, is expanding its advocacy efforts to include delinquency cases in Riverside County. They recently started serving their first strictly 600 JJDC child and are making commendable progress. Collaborating with probation, attorneys, and judges, they are finalizing their program proposal and developing a training model for advocates working with JJ youth. Their focus is on youth at YTEC during the initial stages. With 191 CASA volunteers in Riverside County, each dedicated to working with one youth or sibling group. They are excited about this expansion.

11. Moving Mountains Unlimited - Max Miner, CEO & Founder, Ryan Brown, COO & Co-Founder

- a. Program Overview / Highlights:
- i. Mr. Miner reported the participation rates in their program at Indio Juvenile Hall have increased, with 86% of youth actively involved. In unit one, Ryan has excelled in engaging all youths. In unit two, three individuals from Group A have not joined yet, but Mr. Miner believes they will reach 100% participation soon.
- ii. The committee inquired about the quick development of the second unit and if there was any interaction between the two units. Mr. Brown clarified that unit two was recently established and there was no communication between the two units. He added that initially, the focus was on unit two due to lack of participation in unit one, but attention later shifted to unit one. Several youths in unit one has successfully completed phase one and started a positive cultural transformation.
- iii. The commission mentioned that during their inspection at Indio, 5 or 6 boys expressed their excitement and gratitude for the program's impact on their lives. The commission commended Mr. Miner and Mr. Brown for their work, acknowledging the significant difference the program has made with the youth.
- iv. The commission expressed concerns about staffing and managing with limited resources and requested details on their approach. Mr. Miner explained their specific approach involves a supportive community, surrounding themselves with like-minded individuals, engaging in meaningful discussions, sharing their goals and a team prepared for growth.
- v. Moving forward, the goal is to expand the program to other Riverside facilities as well as other counties. They are awaiting feedback from Probation for the next steps to add Moving Mountains to other Probation facilities. Additionally, they are assisting Probation in implementing the title 15 SAP programming and plan to integrate their program with various other programs.

12. Riverside County District Attorney, - Chief Deputy District Attorney, Carlos Monagas & Managing DDA, Jennifer Chang

- a. Updates / Overview / Highlights:
- i. The District Attorney's office has restructured their Delinquency Unit to better address local needs. Each office location now has a dedicated management team and attorneys for that region. Jennifer will oversee the Riverside Juvenile division. Colleagues from the other regions will serve as representatives when Ms. Chang or Mr. Monagas aren't available to attend the JJPC meetings.
- ii. Mr. Monagas discussed the DA's Crime Prevention Unit, which works closely with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) and provides annual reports to the JJCC. Their focus is early intervention with at-risk youth to prevent involvement in the juvenile justice system. The unit collaborates with schools, offering assistance to at-risk youth, giving presentations on topics like Anti-Bullying, Drug Prevention, and online predators. They also have social workers from the Family Justice Center on their team.
- iii. Mr. Monagas offered to have the Crime Prevention Unit, do a presentation for the commission for more information. The commission embraced Mr. Monagas' proposal, recognizing its importance in combating School violence and understand public data on the issue.

13. Riverside County Probation (Institutions) - Chief Deputy Probation Officer (CDPO) Daniel Castaneda

- a. Congratulations:
- i. Chair Collopy congratulated Daniel Castaneda as the new Chief Deputy Probation Officer, over Institutions. CDPO Castaneda's 23-year background overseeing various institutions, including juvenile facilities, was highlighted. He expressed enthusiasm for initiatives like ACCI, Moving Mountains, and Spark, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing safety, stimulation, and engagement for successful facilities and the well-being of youth.
- b. Overview / Highlights:
- i. CPDO Castaneda reported progress on the PTS young lady employed full-time for a month in the hospitality sector since December 11th, 2023. Despite challenges, she finds her customer service role invaluable, using skills developed during her custody period to handle difficult situations.



- ii. YTEC has resumed pro-social activities post-COVID-19, including visits to Homeboy Industries, college football games, and tours, aiming to keep youth engaged, help them learn, and broaden their horizons.
- iii. Program scheduling challenges were addressed by CDPO Castaneda, he noted to ensure youth have access to behavioral health services, community-based organizations, and SAP programming, management teams are actively seeking solutions for scheduling conflicts through various methods/strategies.
- iv. The importance of credible messengers and collaborative partnerships with safe protocols were discussed.
- c. Current Population:
 - i. It was reported that there has been no suicide or escape attempts. The Indio units have had 135 incident-free days, aiming to exceed 150. CDPO Castaneda praised the engaging activities created by the hardworking staff.
 - ii. Southwest's Christmas decorating contest was judged by the commissioners, he acknowledged the effort put in by the youth and staff to make the facility look less like a juvenile facility. The youth were rewarded with incentives for their efforts.
 - iii. Kids in Konflikt (KiK) and Desert Church provided gifts, and the facilities were served a special Christmas lunch with prime rib, Au Gratin potatoes, and brownies.
 - iv. The commission requested an overview of the young woman from the Pathways to Success program, who had previously been convicted of a serious crime. CDPO Castaneda highlighted, despite minimal family support and being in detention since 2018, she excelled in the program and was recommended for a less restrictive one. After a successful job interview, she was immediately offered a position, making her a success story for Probation. Other counties are looking to Riverside as a model for youth integration in the community.
- a. YTEC Updates:
 - i. CDPO Castaneda shared a video and updates on the new vocational space funded by Senate Bill 81. RCP has finished designing the vocational and classroom space, along with a recreational area for Pathways youth. Construction is expected to begin within six months and be completed in 18 to 24 months. He will continue to provide updates on the project's progress and opening date.

14. Riverside County Probation (Field Services) - Chief Deputy Probation Officers (CDPO) Elisa Judy

- a. Overview / Highlights
 - i. CDPO Judy updated the group on changes within the Executive Team, specifically mentioning that Daniel Castaneda has been promoted to CDPO. She also announced that Rudy Lovato has been promoted to CDPO. In addition, Natalie Rivera has been promoted to Probation's Assistant Chief. CDPO Judy and Rudy Lovato will now share the responsibility of overseeing adults.
 - ii. The 2083 work group, co-chaired by CDPO Judy and Deputy Director Janine Moore, includes Probation, DPSS, Behavioral Health, The Public Defender, and RCOE. Their main objective is to establish a Trauma Informed System of Care for children, aligning with their MOU's continuum of care reform. Next month, there will be a statewide convening to ensure alignment with the law and proper implementation. The group aims to remove barriers, provide support, engage stakeholders, and find timely solutions for youth in the system.
 - iii. CDPO Judy highlighted the success of the JJCC and the addition of the JJDC to its board. She invited other Commissioners to the meetings to gain valuable knowledge of future plan that are on the horizon. CDPO Judy expressed optimism about the JJCC progress.
- b. Hiring / Staffing / Updates:
 - i. CPDO Judy reported the Probation Field hiring process is ongoing, nearing its capacity.
 - ii. Due to marijuana legalization, inquiries about past marijuana usage are no longer permitted as part of the hiring process, eliminating a barrier for applicants.
 - iii. The commission inquired about the number of youths under field services supervision. It was noted that it ranges from 600 to approximately 700 after COVID. It was also noted the ratio of probation officers to clients varies based on risk levels: SSTS cases have loads in the 20s, high-risk youth in the 30s, and placement cases between 12 and 15.

15. Probation Report: Special Services Division - Division Director, Shannon Crosby

- a. Youth Report:
 - i. Div. Dir. Crosby indicated that there have been minimal changes since the previous youth report from last month. There are currently 26 youth placements, with 23 in STRTPs, and one in the county. One youth is in Emergency placement, with a potential Resource Family Home. Additionally, there is one youth in a Resource Family Home, one in a Foster Family Home. DPSS is the lead agency for 17 dual status youth, while 30 non-minor dependents are in extended foster care.

16. Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) – Deputy Director, Allison Donahoe-Beggs

- a. Updates:
 - ii. Deputy Director Donahoe-Beggs noted she will be attending the JJDC meetings in place of Deputy Director Jennifer Kopfler, who is now required to attend the CWDA meetings monthly. Deputy Director Kopfler sends her regards and regrets not being able to continue with the group.



- iii. During Deputy Director Donohoe-Beggs she outlined her responsibilities at DPSS, which includes overseeing the Youth and Community Region, Resource Family Approval Region, Placements, and managing adoptions. She also mentioned that 100 youth were adopted in one day during a November adoption event.
 - iv. She reported, the hotline receives 5-6000 calls per month, mostly from school partners, teachers, law enforcement, and therapists. In November, they conducted around 3000 investigations, higher than last year's 2500, with a 400-referral increase. December saw a decrease in referrals due to school closures and breaks, but 2300 individuals were still investigated. Referrals that don't meet abuse and neglect criteria are directed to Prevention Service unit for assistance to families in need.
 - iv. In October, approximately 5200 youth were dependents in care. By December, the number increased to around 5400 before decreasing to 3000 currently. Referrals to the hotline include physical and emotional abuse, as well as neglect, with neglect consistently receiving the highest number. Efforts are focused on reunification and case closure. Riverside County is home to around 2000 placed children, while just over 800 are placed outside the county. She noted that those were the main statistics from DPSS.
 - v. Harmony Haven DPSS's, temporary shelter, is in the process of getting a license. Established in 1978, the facility requires upgrades, especially for its electrical system. As a result, the shelter is functioning below its full capacity and currently accommodating 31 youth. Notably, 11 of them are housed in hotels due to their complex care requirements, which can pose integration challenges. Placing them in hotels ensures everyone's safety.
 - vi. January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. DPSS has organized weekly webinars covering various perspectives on human trafficking. The recent seminar focused on the Law Enforcement Perspective, while upcoming seminars will cover the Human Rights, Child Welfare, and Health Perspectives. To participate, simply visit the link on the provided flyer and sign up on the Google Doc.
 - vii. During the commission's discussion on youths at Harmony Haven, they noted that there are 31 in total, with 11 staying in hotels. Harmony Haven has additional beds, including 12 in a cottage. However, the cottage isn't currently used due to electoral problems. It was noted the average stay for these youths' ranges from one to two days, though some have stayed for three months.
 - viii. Additional discussions took place regarding potential choices for accommodating youths, such as STRTPs, Foster Family (FFA) agencies, relatives' foster homes, and foster care homes specifically designed for individuals with complex requirements. It was highlighted that both STRTPs and enhanced Foster Care homes possess specialized training to cater to distinct behaviors. The significance of collaborating with programs affiliated with STRTPs and Foster Family agencies was also stressed upon, as it aids in facilitating the transition and providing support to the youth.
- b. Staffing / Highlights / Updates:
- i. DPSS is hiring new staff members and their orientation program has high graduation rates. Attrition rates have decreased. However, many staff members are still undergoing training and not yet handling a full caseload. Average backend caseloads are currently around 29 and the goal is to reduce it to 23-25 as staff gain more experience. Investigations receive an average of 11 referrals per month and the aim is to lower it to 9-10. The objective is for new staff members to gradually take on more referrals and cases.

17. Neighborhood College – Rebecca Acevedo

a. Updates:

- i. Ms. Acevedo stated her attendance at today's meeting to actively listen and expressed gratitude for the high level of transparency, uncommon in community-based organizations. She thanked the commission for including her.

18. Happier Life Project – Executive Director, Carolina Ayala

a. Updates:

- i. Ms. Ayala updated the group on the Happier Life Project, a recovery community organization that offers nonclinical peer-based recovery support services to young people. The organization takes groups to different locations, like Oak Grove School and Sherman Indian School, where individuals who have gone through similar experiences provide support to those who need assistance. Ms. Ayala attended today's meeting to share updates on their activities, discuss county happenings, and offer her support. She expressed thanks for the opportunity to be at today's meeting, and that she appreciated everyone's time.

19. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm

20. Next Meeting:

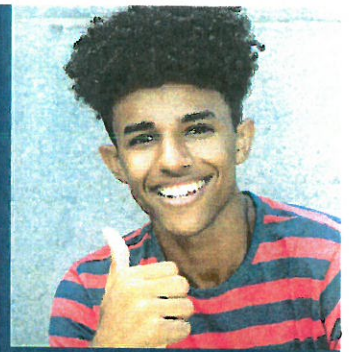
Date: April 14, 2024

Time: 9:30 am

Location: Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1) Room TBD
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

AB 505: Background and Key Changes

February 2024



Overview

1. Introduction to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)
2. AB 505 Impacts: Ombudsperson Division of OYCR
3. AB 505 Impacts: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Changes
4. AB 505 : Additional Updates
5. Questions



Director, Katherine Lucero
katherine.lucero@chhs.ca.gov



Deputy Director, Alani Jackson
alani.jackson@chhs.ca.gov



Ombudsperson, Alisa Hartz
alisa.hartz@chhs.ca.gov



Chief of County Coordination, Krystall Rollins
krystall.rollins@chhs.ca.gov



Research Data Specialist, Christian Lucchesi
christian.lucchesi@chhs.ca.gov

Vision

We envision a Healthy California that enables all youth to be responsible, thriving, and engaged members of their communities.

Mission

Promote trauma-responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support the youths' successful transition into adulthood.

AB 505 : Ombudsperson Authorities

Ombudsperson

What is the OYCR Ombudsperson?

An impartial person whose job it is to help resolve complaints about violations of youth rights and harmful conditions or practices in California's juvenile justice facilities

The Ombudsperson will:

- Receive, investigate, and refer complaints, at their discretion
- Maintain confidentiality
- Resolve complaints where possible in collaboration with facilities and staff
- Help youth, families, and other stakeholders understand youth rights.
- Provide regular reports to the Legislature

The Ombudsperson cannot:

- Give legal advice or change court orders.
- Investigate complaints about attorneys or judges.

The Youth Bill of Rights

Together with a diverse group of stakeholders, OYCR developed a Youth Bill of Rights publication to inform youth of their rights.

These publications will be free and distributed to counties to display. They must be used to orient youth to the rights and to be posted in classrooms, living units, and visitation areas.

YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

In California, we have ideas to protect the rights of young people who are in a juvenile hall, camp or on the lines that exist. Below is a list of the rights.

Discipline

- No one is allowed to take away any of the following things from you as a form of discipline or punishment: food; contact with your parents, family, or attorney; sleep; exercise; education; bedding; clean clothes; religious services; a daily shower; clean water; a toilet; grooming products; medical care; reading materials; and sending or getting mail.
- You have the right to not be locked in a room as a punishment.
- You have the right to be given the rules on discipline. You must be given these rules in writing.
- If someone accuses you of something, you have the right to know what it is, to be heard, to defend yourself by sharing evidence or testimony, and to appeal the discipline decisions.
- You may want to contact your attorney to get their help to defend yourself and appeal discipline decisions.

Phone, Mail, & Visits

- You have the right to make at least two long distance calls each week or two or more at a payphone facility after an initial 30-minute period of confinement.
- You have the right to receive and send mail, including correspondence with your family, attorney, and friends.
- You have the right to receive and send mail, including correspondence with your family, attorney, and friends.

Confidential Contacts

- You have the right to contact your attorney. The OYCR of the Department of Justice, California Office of the Attorney General, and the California Office of the Child Welfare Director are confidential contacts. You have the right to contact them in person, by phone, or by mail.
- You have the right to have phone calls, send and receive phone calls, and have phone calls with your attorney. The OYCR of the Department of Justice, California Office of the Attorney General, and the California Office of the Child Welfare Director are confidential contacts. You have the right to contact them in person, by phone, or by mail.

Education

- You have the right to a quality education and to receive the same level of education as other students in the same grade level.
- You have the right to receive the same level of education as other students in the same grade level.
- You have the right to receive the same level of education as other students in the same grade level.

Religion and Spirituality

- You have the right to practice your religion or spirituality in a safe and secure environment.
- You have the right to practice your religion or spirituality in a safe and secure environment.

No Abuse

- You have the right to be free from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
- You have the right to be free from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.

Treated Equally

- You have the right to be treated fairly and not to be discriminated against based on race, ethnicity, or religion.
- You have the right to be treated fairly and not to be discriminated against based on race, ethnicity, or religion.

WHAT IS AN OMBUDSPERSON?
An ombudsman is an independent position holder who is responsible for monitoring and ensuring the operations of the state's institutions. The Ombudsman is an independent position holder who is responsible for monitoring and ensuring the operations of the state's institutions. The Ombudsman is an independent position holder who is responsible for monitoring and ensuring the operations of the state's institutions.

WHO TO CALL ABOUT MY RIGHTS:
If you have a complaint about your rights, you should contact the OYCR of the Department of Justice, California Office of the Attorney General, and the California Office of the Child Welfare Director. You can contact them by phone, by mail, or by visiting their website.

Phone: (844) 422-1882
Email: OYCR@oag.ca.gov
Website: www.oag.ca.gov/youth

OYCR Department of Justice
1212 G Street, 9th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95834

AB 505 : Changes to Ombudsperson Authorities

1. Access to records
2. Access to youth and witnesses
3. Access to facilities
4. Clarifications
5. Mandatory annual site visits

AB 505: Access to youth, witnesses, and facilities

Welf. & Inst. Code § § 827(a)(1)(U), 2200(d)(4), (5), (7)



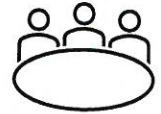
Access to youth and facilities at all times (no notice required)



Take notes, audio or video recording, or photographs



Interview witnesses (including volunteers)



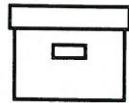
Interview sworn probation personnel (consistent with law, probation dept. policies, and collective bargaining agreements)

AB 505: Access to records

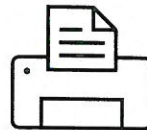
Welf. & Inst. Code § § 827(a)(1)(U), 2200(d)(4), (5), (7)



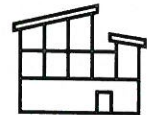
Access to juvenile case file (Welf. & Inst. Code § 827)



Access to records at all times (no notice required)



Review, receive, and make copies of records



Records include juvenile facility records (excluding confidential personnel records)

What is a “record”?¹

Welf. & Inst. Code § 2200(d)(8)

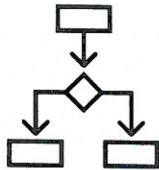


1. Documents
2. Papers
3. Memoranda
4. Logs
5. Reports
6. Letters
7. Calendars
8. Schedules
9. Notes
10. Files
11. Drawings
12. Electronic content (e.g. videos, photos, blogs, texts, emails)

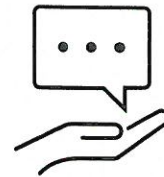
¹Records do not include material that is protected by privilege.

AB 505: Clarifications

Welf. & Inst. Code § 2200.2(e), (f)(3)



The ombudsperson may recommend changes to improve services or to correct systemic issues.



The ombudsperson shall advise all complainants that retaliation is not permitted and constitutes the basis for filing a subsequent complaint.

Ombudsperson site visits

Welf. & Inst. Code § 2200(d)(9)

Ombudsperson staff shall conduct a site visit to every juvenile facility and premises within the control of a county or local agency, or a contractor with a county or local agency, no less frequently than once per year.



AB 505 : Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Updates

1. The plan should be updated annually and must be approved by a majority of the subcommittee.
2. The subcommittee, which may decide to have a cochair in addition to the probation chief, shall convene no less frequently than twice per year to consider and review the plan.
3. The subcommittee may decide to have a cochair in addition to the probation chief, with a selection process determined by the subcommittee.
4. Plans must be developed with the review and participation of subcommittee community members.
5. Counties must report progress made on actions established in the previous year's JIRBG county plan.
6. The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) will review the plan to ensure it contains all required elements, follows the planning process, and may return it to the county for necessary revisions or completion before final acceptance. Any requests for revisions does not impact the allocation of the JIRBG funds.

Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant

What is the JIRBG County Plan?

Funding has been allocated for counties to develop their approaches to provide appropriate restorative and supervision services for youth that otherwise could have been cared for in DJJ.

The JIRBG County Plan provides information in the following areas:

- Data on youth who have committed serious offenses (707(b))
- Facilities where they will be housed
- Retaining youth in juvenile system
- Data and outcomes of block grant

Outlines how funds address the following needs :

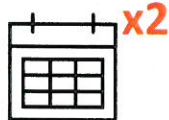
- Mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs.
- Healthy adolescent development.
- Family engagement.
- Reentry (employment, housing, and continuing education).
- Involvement of nongovernmental or community-based providers.

AB 505: Changes to Planning Process

Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b), (c), (e)



The plan must be updated annually.



The subcommittee shall convene no less frequently than twice per year to consider the plan.



Subcommittee may decide to have a cochair, in addition to the probation chief, using a selection process determined by the subcommittee.



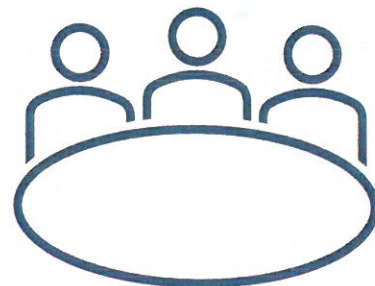
Plan must be approved by a majority of the subcommittee.

AB 505: Increased Involvement of Subcommittee Community Members

Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(b), (c)

The plan must be developed with the review and participation of subcommittee **community members**.

Each subcommittee must continue to have at least three community members who are defined as “individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system.”



AB 505: New JJRBG Plan Element

Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(d)(8)

Progress on implementation and development of innovative solutions to programs and services for youth will be included in the plan.



AB 505: OYCR Plan Review

Welf. & Inst. Code § 1995(f)

As plans are submitted by **May 1st**, OYCR will review the plan to ensure that the plan contains all elements and follows the planning process and may return the plan to the county for revision as necessary or to complete the required planning process prior to final acceptance of the plan.

The planning process includes the new planning changes such as the requirement that subcommittee meets twice a year, involvement of community members in developing and reviewing the plan, plan approval by a majority of the subcommittee.

OYCR's requests for revisions will not impact the allocation of funds.



AB 505 : Additional Updates

AB 505: Judicial Inspections

Welf. & Inst. Code § 209(a)

Judges must now annually inspect local **probation camps, ranches, and county SYTFs.**





Questions?





Contact OYCR

Office of Youth and Community
Restoration
OYCR@chhs.ca.gov

Ombudsperson Division
OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov

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Thank you