

STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (SACJJDP)



STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2011

**California's State Advisory Committee on
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
(SACJJDP) serves the Governor, the Legislature,
and the people of California by promoting
effective juvenile justice policies and programming
in compliance with goals set forth in the Juvenile
Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.**



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About the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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Chief Executive Officer
The Children's Initiative

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Youth Member

Mr. Scott Crane
Youth Member

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State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Subcommittees

EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mimi Silbert – Chair
Carol Biondi
Sandra McBrayer
David Paulson
Winston Peters

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT SUBCOMMITTEE

Sandra McBrayer – Chair
Judge Gail Bereola
Rita Cameron-Wedding
Pamala Gilyard
Laura John
Olin Jones
Sandy Keaton
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About the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

SACJJDP AND CORRECTIONS STANDARDS AUTHORITY (CSA), CORRECTIONS PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

Pursuant to the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act, each state must establish a State Advisory Group (SAG), known in California as the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) to receive Title II Formula Grant funds¹. The SACJJDP mandated responsibilities as detailed in the JJDP Act include:

- 1) *Participating in the development and review of the State's three-year juvenile justice plan;*
- 2) *Reviewing grant applications;*
- 3) *Providing recommendations regarding the State's compliance with the four core protections of the JJDP Act; and*
- 4) *Reviewing the progress of projects funded under the State plan.*

As defined in reauthorizations of the JJDP Act, each state's SAG must consist of at least 15 members with special knowledge or training concerning the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency and administration of juvenile justice.

*“On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord. Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America:
They will be met.”*

~President Barack Obama

¹ Title II Formula Block Grants Program supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements.

About the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Members must represent a broad spectrum, including locally elected officials; representatives of law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies; public and private nonprofit agencies concerned with delinquency prevention and treatment; volunteers and youth workers who work with delinquent or at-risk youth; persons with special experience in school violence, alternatives to suspension or expulsion, learning disabilities, mental health problems, and child abuse and neglect. In addition, a majority of the members (including the chair) cannot be full-time state or local government employees, one fifth of the members must be under the age of 24 at the time of appointment, and at least three members must have been (or be) involved in the juvenile justice system.



About the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

In carrying out its responsibilities, California's SACJJD serves as an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) of the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA). The SACJJD, as an ESC, is a model for making better decisions pertaining to activities, projects and programs that will be implemented through the use of SACJJD subject matter experts. The ESC process, in brief, consists of the CSA staff's preparation and presentation of pertinent justice information to the SACJJD, which reviews the information, collects additional data if necessary, and submits recommendations on the particular subject to the CSA.



Often, the particular justice issue may require funding allocations and a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. In this case, the CSA adopts a general template and then appoints the SACJJD ESC to provide recommendations on program design, implementation and operation as well as funding awards. Specific responsibilities often include the development of the technical requirements, rating criteria and evaluation process for the RFP. The CSA makes final funding decisions based on the recommendations of the SACJJD.

About the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Due to the complexity of assigned task(s) SACJJD has established subcommittees or workgroups to ensure the appropriate expertise and allocation of resources are committed. The idea behind the use of subcommittees is to expand understanding and awareness, and to increase the SACJJD's ability to respond to all issues under consideration. As all of us have become more accustomed to the fast delivery and explosion of information, we have come to expect quick, easy solutions. Rarely do our organizations set-aside time to truly think about all of the data confronting us.

The subcommittee approach is designed to allow for a more sophisticated thinking and active discussion process intended to make sense of a complex environment quickly. Subcommittees also allow for more informed decisions based on extensive experience, reflection by contemporary professionals, and the inclusion of current real time practical data. This allows the SACJJD access to information, which enables them to view challenges from an expansive variety of different perspectives. These interactions unlock creative problem solving potential that generates new and innovative ideas with clockwork regularity. Having this rich investment of talent and experience, contributed by the local corrections community, consistently results in the selection of the most useful solutions and translates those solutions into practical terms. This process consistently wins support for the ideas and for putting those ideas into action.



About the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

In that vain, the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), Executive, and Planning Subcommittees have been established. Each of the Subcommittees has a specific role that supports the SACJJD's leadership and strategic plan.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

The DMC Subcommittee ensures compliance with the federal DMC mandate by undertaking intentional and strategic activities to ensure DMC reduction is underway statewide; and provides guidance through recommendations to the SACJJD regarding issues of disparity and disproportionality.

Executive

In the absence of a quorum at a regularly scheduled SACJJD meeting, or between regular meetings as may become necessary, the Executive Subcommittee may take limited time-critical actions to carry out the essential responsibilities of the SACJJD. Additionally, this body makes recommendations to the SACJJD regarding nominations and active participation by members.

Planning

The Planning Subcommittee offers recommendations to the SACJJD in relation to federal applications, associated deadlines related to the Strategic plan, and compliance with the core protections within the Federal Title II legislation.

In order to allow the SACJJD to thrive under this highly successful approach, the Governor has entrusted the Chair of the CSA board with the responsibility for developing recommendations on appointments to the SACJJD and with appointing the chair of the SACJJD (who must always be an eligible member of the CSA).

SACJJDP's Vision, Mission and Core Principles

Pursuant to the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, each state must establish a State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice to receive Title II Formula Grant funds. California's SAG or SACJJDP is made up of Governor-appointed subject matter experts who are committed to enhancing the quality of life for all youth in California.

Vision

California's SACJJDP Vision is to have a healthy and safe California where youth are held accountable for their actions and receive necessary support and services to become productive adults.

Mission

California's SACJJDP serves the Governor, the Legislature, and the people of California by promoting effective juvenile justice policies and programming in compliance with goals set forth in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act.

Core Principles

Strategy – a coalition of knowledgeable stakeholders and communities, current or former wards, and local elected officials;

Advocacy – a plan to prevent juvenile delinquency while providing treatment and rehabilitation for youthful offenders; and

Compliance – a means of monitoring program compliance and ensuring adherence with the core protections of federal law.



About the Strategic Planning Process

BACKGROUND

As the administering agency for the Title II Formula Grants program, the CSA is responsible for the development and submission of a three-year State Plan application that identifies California's prioritized juvenile justice needs. The JJDP Act requires that the SACJJDP participate in development of the State Plan application.

Toward this end, the SACJJDP endeavored to develop a broad three-year plan for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention in the state. The new plan supplements its own required three year plan application submitted to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and also provides a strategic approach for the statewide leadership activities undertaken by the SACJJDP for the betterment of California's youth and families.

The strategic planning process commenced during the summer of 2008 in the form of a strategic planning session. This involved a facilitated, collaborative dialogue by SACJJDP members, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention consultants and CSA staff. Subsequently, and over the course of several months of on-going discussions, data review, assessment of juvenile justice issues and Evidence-Based training (provided by Dr. Peter Greenwood, Executive Director of the Association for the Advancement of Evidence-based practice), the SACJJDP prioritized the following five focus areas:

- Alternatives to Detention
- Disproportionate Minority Contact
- Evidence-Based Programming
- Restorative Justice Principles
- Holistic Approach to Counsel



About the Strategic Planning Process

The following steps will be performed to ensure implementation of the strategic plan:

Program lead staff will implement the specific work plans for each objective, track the strategic plan performance and regularly update SACJJD members.

SACJJD members and staff will establish/enhance where appropriate, additional subcommittees to address the complexity of the focus areas.

SACJJD members will monitor the strategic planning process and assess the ongoing relevance of goals, objectives and progress in achieving its strategic focus areas.

“Justice Integrity Act, legislation is designed to increase public confidence in the justice system and address any unwarranted racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal process. The Justice Integrity Act will establish advisory groups in ten federal districts, under the supervision of the United States Attorney General, to study and determine the extent of racial and ethnic disparity in the various stages of the criminal justice system; make public reports on the results of their findings; and make specific recommendations to help to eliminate racial and ethnic discrimination and unjustified racial and ethnic disparities.”

~Vice President Joseph R. Biden

SACJJDP Focus Areas

I: Alternatives to Detention -

Research has shown that juvenile detention has critical, long-lasting consequences for court-involved youth. Youth who are detained are more likely than their counterparts to be formally charged, adjudicated and committed to an institution. Detention disrupts already tenuous connections in school, services and families. Over the long-haul, the detention experience negatively impacts educational and employment levels.² In California, many youth are detained pre- and post-adjudication for offenses posing no threat to themselves or the public and where there is no indication of flight risk. Community based alternatives are an underutilized option for addressing the vast majority of youthful offender behavior that lies outside the parameters of public safety and/or flight risk.

Goal:

- Reduce the number of youth held in secure detention.

Objectives:

- Expand the use of alternatives to detention;
- Increase the use of promising approaches/evidence based programs; and
- Increase effective prevention programs through strategic incentives.



² Annie E Casey Foundation

SACJJDP Focus Areas

II: Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) -

Disproportionate representation of youth of color coming into contact with the juvenile justice system in California is alarming and costly – California’s minority youth are disproportionately represented as they progress through the juvenile justice system and the differences between minority and non-minority juveniles’ representation becomes amplified at each successive decision point- from contact through commitment.

Goal:

- Reduce the number of youth of color coming into contact with the juvenile justice system.

Objectives:

- Increase the number of County Probation Departments that have a long-term, data driven, DMC initiative under-way by eight (8) counties;
- Provide on-going technical assistance and support for DMC efforts to those local jurisdictions that wish to address specific gaps in their DMC reduction effort; and
- Provide statewide DMC education strategically and through the development of collaborative partnerships at the state level.

“California is one model for change, for example, as a state that has taken leadership of disparities reduction and provided the funds necessary to make such efforts attainable. This is a forward-thinking formula: Focus dollars in amounts that will provide support for change; delineate expectation for reductions; and provide intense technical assistance to jurisdictions aimed at measurable results.”

~James Bell, W. Haywood Burns Institute

SACJJDP Focus Areas

III: Evidence-Based Programs/Promising Approaches -

The inappropriate allocation of resources is exacerbated by the inconsistent use of evidence-based programs/promising approaches.

Goal:

- Improve juvenile justice system efficiency/effectiveness and lower the arrest and recidivism rates through the increase use of Evidence-based/promising approach programs.

Objectives:

- Collect and review juvenile justice system data (disaggregated by race, age and gender);
- Support the use of evidence-based/promising approach programs by providing education to juvenile justice stakeholders;
- Support the use of evidence-based/promising approach programs by providing incentives to juvenile justice stakeholders toward that end; and
- Explore steps toward the development of evidence-based/promising approach database for constituents' use.

“Progress in implementing effective programs, is slow. Although more than ten years of solid evidence is now available on evidence-based programs, only about five percent of youth who should be eligible participate in these programs. The challenge is to push these reforms into the mainstream of juvenile justice.”

~Dr. Peter Greenwood, Executive Director Association for the Advancement of Evidence-Based Practice

SACJJDP Focus Areas

IV: Restorative Justice Principles -

Research indicates that the community, victim and offender are best served subsequent to a crime occurring if each is a partner in the development of the justice response. The juvenile justice system in California weighs heavily on the punitive and less on the reparative elements in its response toward youth and crime.

Goal:

- Restore victims' wounds; restore offenders to law-abiding lives; and repair harm done to interpersonal relationships and the community.

Objectives:

- Support through resource allocation and advocacy, justice agencies that through collaboration with public health and human service agencies, engage communities, families and youth in transforming the traditional relationship between communities and their governments in responding to crime; and
- Develop initial steps toward a database of evidence-based restorative justice programs that communities may draw upon in determining the best use of resources that most effectively address their jurisdiction-specific issues.

“Crime does not happen in isolation; it is invaluable for the offender, victim and community to work together to ensure accountability and closure.”

~Sandra McBrayer, The Children’s Initiative

SACJJDP Focus Areas

V: Holistic Approach to Counsel -

The national report, “A Call for Justice: an Assessment of Access to Counsel and Quality of Representation in Delinquency Proceedings” revealed major failings in juvenile defense across the nation.”³ In California, the streamlined approach to counsel of “one size fits all” is ineffective and costly in terms of resources and improved outcomes for youth.

Goal:

- Promote quality legal defense representation of youth in the juvenile delinquency system in California through well funded children’s legal defense systems that emulate best or promising holistic legal practice models.

Objectives:

- Promote and Explore funding for Best or Promising Practice legal defense models that incorporate and apply therapeutic jurisprudence/ holistic principles for youth in the juvenile justice system in California at the pre-trial and post dispositional stages of juvenile delinquency court proceedings. These defense advocacy models should effectively address the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency such as mental illness, substance abuse, co-occurring disorders, developmental disability, abuse and trauma, education, employment, homelessness and thereby promote a more holistic legal approach to representing youth in the juvenile justice system;

³ The National Legal Aid and Defender Association

SACJJDP Focus Areas

V: Holistic Approach to Counsel (continued)

Objectives (continued):

- Explore funding for pilot projects that seek to develop more collaborative model programs and relationships that include the Public Defender, District Attorney, Juvenile Court, law schools and other stakeholders that focus on prevention, intervention and re-entry strategies to address the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency; and
- Enhance resources for technical training and support for juvenile justice stakeholders including the Public Defender, District Attorney, Probation Department and the Juvenile Court in areas that include best practice treatment options, scientific developments in child development, and disposition alternatives that promote positive outcomes for youth in the juvenile delinquency system.



The SACJJDP Strategic Plan will be implemented with vision, leadership and a commitment to a philosophy of collaboration.