



*Building bridges between
criminal justice & behavioral health
to prevent incarceration*

CCJBH Juvenile Justice Workgroup: Potential Projects for Calendar Year 2021

Below is a list of potential projects for Calendar Year 2021, most of which reflect recommendations made in prior CCJBH Annual Legislative Reports. The exception is the first project, the Juvenile Justice EBP Compendium/Toolkit, which will be a new CCJBH contract. Although all projects listed below are critical for improving California's juvenile justice system, given the limited resource capacity, CCJBH staff highly recommend that the Juvenile Justice Workgroup selects only one project for Calendar Year 2021, and that the project selected be the Juvenile Justice EPB Compendium/Toolkit project since SB 823, Juvenile Justice Realignment, will implement on July 1, 2021. Other entities may wish to perform work on the remaining projects and/or these projects may be selected by the Juvenile Justice Workgroup in future years. Projects for consideration are as follows:

- Juvenile Justice Evidence-Based Practices and Programs Compendium and Toolkit – Make this contract the focus of the CCJBH Juvenile Justice Workgroup discussions, with participants reviewing and providing feedback on deliverables throughout the year, and ensuring that this information is shared at Full Council meetings. **RECOMMENDED**
- Data-Informed Decision-Making (Juvenile Justice Focus) – Analyze available data and trends to examine the causes and effects of the declining population and remaining concentration of youth with serious behavioral health needs in the Juvenile Detention Centers statewide. If data is not available to review, CCJBH can develop a survey (distributed statewide) to assess what factors local implementers and stakeholders attribute to the decline and concentration of the population. Specifically, CCJBH can explore how youth with behavioral health needs have been impacted and what were the opportunities for diversion.
- Identify Best Practices for Strengthening Families that are Involved in the Criminal Justice System – Study best practice approaches for children and youth visiting parents or family in the California State Prison system and position CDCR as a resource by exploring improved strategies, such as training regarding effective methods to approach and handle youth and children in a correctional setting, proper identification for youth and children for visits and strategies for promoting family visits from youth and children as a therapeutic healing process that may lead to breaking the cycle of generational incarceration.
- Understand and Apply Trauma Principles – Research, study and seek to support the work of the California Surgeon General and the California Department of Education regarding ACEs and preventative programs to mitigate or divert youth with high ACEs from becoming justice-involved.
- Understand Trauma in the Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Populations – Research if foster youth and probation youth have parallel high ACEs and what services available to foster youth are effective, which can help to determine how both youth populations with similar needs can experience improved outcomes.

- Research/Build Capacity for Court-Appointed Advocates –Research if there are court appointed advocates for youth with behavioral health needs, and work with the necessary subject matter experts to assess which steps would be needed to create such a process and/or program.
- Juvenile Justice Forum – CJBH can continue to host forums that feature juvenile justice issues. Objectives could include providing a platform to hear from providers, youth and engaging more system-impacted youth; feature innovative approaches to juvenile justice as a public mental health issue; share information with the legislature on emerging juvenile justice issues; and partner with families, youth and communities to identify solutions through facilitated forums with state leadership to support consistency across counties that emphasize treatment, community support and school support over incarceration.
- Identify Residential Treatment Capacity as an Alternative to Juvenile Hall -To better understand high-end service capacity alternatives for youth, CCJBH can conduct, in partnership with key stakeholders and providers, an assessment of residential treatment capacity for juveniles as an alternative to juvenile hall.
- Research Existing Law Enforcement Juvenile Arrest Protocols –Explore and research existing law enforcement protocols for arresting youth in California with the intention of identifying their pre-charge diversion, treatment, and crisis support services procedures as alternative options.
- Educate Criminal Justice Partners on Pre-Charge Diversion Options - Bring awareness to our law enforcement, behavioral health, Judicial, and community partners on pre-charge diversion, treatment, and crisis support services for youth known to have or assessed as having behavioral health needs as alternative options.
- Research/Build Capacity for Clinical Coordinators in Juvenile Court Rooms –Research if there are clinical coordinators present in juvenile court rooms, who can provide guidance to judges and probation staff about juvenile mental health evaluation and community-based treatment, and work with the necessary subject matter experts to assess which steps would be needed to create such a process and/or program.