

Juvenile Justice Workgroup #2

Friday, September 25, 2020

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Workgroup Focus: The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the input and recommendations from the first session, define better served and improved outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system using objective criteria and incorporating the perspective of youth with lived experience and determine how to support the changes to DJJ as a community to achieve success for youth.

Council Member Advisors:

Chief Mack Jenkins, Council Member, Ret. Chief Probation Officer, San Diego Probation Department

Dr. Danitza Pantoja

Meeting Information

Meeting Minutes

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ralph M. Diaz, Chair
Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Will Lightbourne
Director, California Department of Health Care Services

Stephanie Clendenin
Director, California Department of State Hospitals

Jessica Cruz, MPA
Chief Executive Officer, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California

Matthew Garcia
Field Training Officer, Sacramento Police Department

Tony Hobson, PhD
Behavioral Health Director, Plumas County

Mack Jenkins
Chief Probation Officer, Ret. San Diego County

Stephen V. Manley
Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge

Danitza Pantoja, PsyD
Coordinator of Psychological Services, Antelope Valley Union High School District

Tracey Whitney
Deputy District Attorney, Mental Health Liaison, Los Angeles County District Attorney



I. Welcome and Introductions

II. 10:00 AM Overview of the first Workgroup

Chief Mack Jenkins, Panelist Council Member, Gave the meeting recap and discussed the purpose of the group moving forwards. They discussed the diversion description to keep juveniles from the formal system of juvenile justice after initial contact occurs. There were approximately 71,000 referrals juvenile referrals statewide last year, and observed the trend over the last 13 towards a much smaller proportion of youths through probation discharge of low risk youth community supervision and general supervision, noting that the higher risk youths needed a significantly higher amount of services to address their criminogenic needs. Noted the much lower rates of referrals to the state systems. Discussed chronically delinquent youths and the links with adult criminality. Over 90% of the youth served by probation departments are kept within the community. DOJ is undertaking the task of revamping how the statistical data surrounding outcomes is gathered and working to find new ways to measure what can be measures.

III. Discussion: Identifying Metrics for Improved Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System:

CPOC Chief Heitman.

Director Jenkins asks the panel and audience what metrics they feel should be considered.

First Topic: Recidivism, and the metrics that may be used to measure rates. Currently there is not a broadly applicable definition. Dr. Pantoja brought up the need to measure high school completion, job placement numbers, or matriculation to college will help them achieve success later on in addition to reduced recidivism rates. Chief Heitman, brings up the need to find a concrete definition of youth in the juvenile justice system when considering that the majority of cases are diverted away from the formal system. Might there be broader outcomes that can look at their connection to the system at different levels. Chief Jenkins feels that the metrics need to

look at the youth formally adjudicated and retained by the system. Chief Heitman would like to see a measurement of the youth placed in wardship through the lens of an early exit from supervision.

*****Public Comment*****

Poshi Walker's comment suggests exploration of the LGBTQ youth metrics, due to higher risk of falling into the school to prison pipeline, higher risk of rejecting behaviors within their family circles. Wants to see the implementation of risk assessment to see what is driving their issues. Also brought up the need for equal family reunification services that places the same emphasis on the importance of reunification for LGBTQ youth. Would like to see metrics for transgender youth regarding gender affirmation. Wants to acknowledge the systemic hetero-cis-sexism that multiplies in these youth. Wants to see the Dept of Education to be involved in training bias in education. Mack asked for clarification of the screening tool, Poshi discussed the tool for family rejecting behaviors, tool developed by the Family Acceptance Project, and steps that should be taken based on scores. Also stated that LGBTQ individuals have higher ASIS scores in general, but funding has caused the training efforts to be cut.

Pam Hawkins with United Parents, works with youth have behavioral healthcare needs. One metric of success is that the youth is diverted out of a higher level of healthcare. The tools are evidence based practices, Youth Outcome Measure looks at several areas. Mack asks for an email follow up regarding tools.

Eric with Self Awareness and Recovery is a facilitator for youth, talks about his experience in the system from ages 16-35. His experience is that there were very little resources to the help youth understand the traumas and background behaviors that contributed to their delinquency, feels that more care needs to be emphasize to help youth work through the myriad of traumas. Also spoke about the importance of reaching youth as early as possible so that they can use the tools gained to make better decisions. Programs that give them another perspective are crucial, and further incentives for youth to do the right thing. Mack asks how this could be measured, in response Eric says looking at their behavior and the thinking they have about themselves.

Yvonne/Evon Evans, brought up the efforts to provide grants to organizations that are already being undertaken by the Dept of Education. Explains the possibility of looking at transitions between county facilities and local school districts, which is where most kids would fall through the cracks. Also, further education about the difference between county and state juvenile facilities closing.

IV. 11:00 AM Proposed Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Transition Chief Mack Jenkins, Ret., San Diego County Probation, Councilmember, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

Asking anyone on the call for their opinion of the legislation and the higher level of needs experienced by the youth who are served at the state level. Mack explained his experiences that the state system served youths that had much higher behavioral health and violent behavior needs. How will local programs adapt to serve the individuals with significantly higher needs. Mack is asking what programs and services are being done and can be done at the local level.

Miguel Garcia with the Anti Recidivism Coalition, speaking to his own experience in the system and the absolute lack of local level diversion. Rather he was immediately moved to



being tried as an adult and the system functioned as purely punitive. When he got to DJJ he was provided with counseling, and training, and experience that helped him feel more rehabilitated. Says that the counties need to think differently about the youth who they are serving, and their need to be involved in a culture of change that understands what kind of experiences they need to change their lives. The state programs provide more effective programs. Mack asks what kinds of programs we should recommend the legislature encourage. Miguel's responds that education was the most important pathway for him to breakdown barriers. Vocational trainings can give youth the confidence and skills to apply for jobs. Individual counseling and having credible messengers allow for communication that is taken to heart by youthful offenders. Also suggests making the juvenile hall facilities feel more like a campus than a jail because youth will value the trust placed in them and work to keep it.

Chief Heitman, thanks Mr. Garcia for his valuable comments. Explained the changes surrounding moving youth the adult courts, and the elimination of pathways for very young offenders to move into adult courts. DJJ is 96% male, the 4% female youth will be hard to disperse into the population. 74% are 18-21, 7% 22 or older, 19% are 17 or younger. Older youth need more focus beyond high school completion. 42% enrolled in HS, 63% in vocational programs, 28% in college, 8% mental health focus, 13% sex behavior treatment, 6% behavior treatment program. 28-month average stay in DJJ system. Only 707(b) offenses can go (manslaughter, rape, robbery, etc.) only serious offenses are eligible to go. Must change the environments in juvenile halls to foster trust and encourage healthy thinking.

Mack explains that these percentages show what kind of programs the state needs to address to ease the transition to local programs.

******Public Comment******

Rosie, thanks Eric and Miguel for their comments. Highlighting the importance of understanding that youth are still growing and how the system has changed recently to understand these things. Focus on individualized programming and experiences.

Molly with CBHDA offers to send her recommendations with regards to DJJ.

V. 11:20 AM Youth Perspective on the Juvenile Justice System Youth Panelists: Miguel A. Garcia, Advocacy Coordinator, Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) Joshua Dixon, California Justice Leader, Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)

Joshua Dixon began his time with the system beginning with CPS and escalating to the adult suspended sentence in DJJ. Felt abandoned by his PO and the system and while homeless and barely clean he found his way to a program that was there to help him. Recommends redirecting funds to diversion, afterschool programs, and the use of system impacted guidance counselors, and especially housing. Transitional environments that help system impacted youth move to the next steps in their lives.



Miguel Garcia feels that system collaboration will be essential to making the systems function better. Reiterated previous point about how youth are still growing and the need to facilitate training aimed at that.

*****Public Comment*****

Helen from SEIU 1000, addressing the concerns of teachers who are involved in these highly specialized programs. Wants to keep kids in a centralized place where these extremely sensitive programs can be employed. Explains that it will not work on the local or regional level because of the small numbers of kids, state is the only entity positioned to provide these types of programs. Will follow up with an email.

Daniel SARS, importance of talking too kids about the traumas faced as kids.

VI. 11:40 AM Next Steps

- Council approves policy recommendations for annual report.
 - Next Council Meeting: October 29, 2020 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
- Next workgroup meeting: November 13, 2020 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

DRAFT



THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that all times indicated and the orders of business are approximate and subject to change.

****NOTICE****

Please be advised, in accordance with Executive Order N-29-20, and to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of infection during the current state of emergency, the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) will conduct this meeting by remote participation only. Council members and members of the public may only attend this meeting using the teleconference/videoconference options described in this Notice.

The CCJBH, and any committees thereof, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act by ensuring meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities, and providing that this notice and information given to the Members of the Council is available to the public in appropriate alternative formats when requested. If you need further assistance, including disability-related modifications or accommodations, you may contact Monica Campos, at monica.campos@cdcr.ca.gov no later than one day prior to the meeting.

Questions and/or requests for additional information prior to the CCJBH meeting may be referred to Monica Campos at (916) 248-2956 or monica.campos@cdcr.ca.gov. To view this agenda online, visit our web site at: <https://sites.cdcr.ca.gov/ccjbh/>