



Request for Proposal (RFP) Concept for a Juvenile Justice Professional’s Evidence-Based Practices and Programs Compendium and Toolkit Draft: 11/19/2020

During the 2019-2020 Regular Session of the California legislature, Senate Bill 823, Juvenile justice realignment: Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) was sent to the Governor (Chaptered, September 30, 2020), and with his signature, youth with higher behavioral health needs who commit serious offenses will no longer be sent to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), effective July 1, 2021. Under SB 823, County probation departments will now be responsible for managing and addressing the needs of two youth populations:

- 1) the existing county youth probation population and
- 2) The population of youth who will transition to counties due to the closure of the DJJ (and youth that would have been remanded to DJJ).

Because of the nature of their offenses, their level of criminal sophistication and delinquency, as well their complex social and physiological issues, the latter group will require a comprehensive approach involving a collaboration of juvenile justice stakeholders (the juvenile court, probation, behavioral health providers, schools, social services and the community) to effectively address their criminogenic and behavioral health needs. As of October 2020, there were 761 youth in the care of DJJ, with 85.5% of the population falling into three offense categories (15.3% homicide, 32.7% robbery, 37.5% assault) and three treatment programs (11.1% sexual treatment, 8.2% mental health treatment and 1.2% intensive treatment) according to DJJ reports (May 2020).

The primary goal of the juvenile Justice system is to ensure the protection of the public while providing accountability, treatment, and guidance for youth who enter the system. Over 10 years ago, with the passage of SB 81, the first Juvenile Justice Realignment in California, jurisdiction was transferred to county probation for all youth except those with serious violations. With SB 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment, the remaining youth (i.e., those who have committed some of the most serious crimes, have been assessed as high risk and, as noted, have the highest and most complex needs), will be served locally at the county level. Although county probation has made significant efforts to develop evidence-based programs for high-risk youth, there is still much work to be done. Given the challenges counties will face in serving these youth, no single agency is nor can be expected to alone have the knowledge, expertise, and capacity to navigate the funding and service requirements for these justice-involved youth. Their needs cross multiple systems and, as a result, an interdisciplinary collaboration, involving a pooling of knowledge, expertise and resources, is the way forward. Counties will need to develop strategies in the areas of funding, workforce, training, and treatment services.

The Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health can serve as a resource to justice and behavioral health collaborates because we recognize the challenges of this major shift in services to these justice-involved youth, and our mission is to support the collaboration between criminal justice and behavioral health agencies. We propose hiring a consultant / working with a consulting firm to develop a *Juvenile Justice Professional's Evidence-Based Practices and Programs Compendium and Toolkit* to provide counties with a compilation of the latest information related to best practices and evidence-based programs that have been shown to be effective in serving youth involved in the criminal justice system who have serious behavioral health needs. Specifically, at a minimum, the compendium/toolkit will support counties in:

- ✓ Identifying and understanding the heterogeneous composition and needs of their juvenile justice-involved youth population.
- ✓ Knowing and understanding the juvenile justice system agency partners, their roles and responsibilities and potential funding opportunities available through each agency.
- ✓ Strengthening and sustaining cross-system partnerships to promote shared decision-making by those most cognizant and well-informed of the unique needs of this population.
- ✓ Screening and assessing youth behavioral, behavioral health (including trauma) and criminogenic needs.
- ✓ Utilizing a [multi-tier systems of support](#) (MTSS) to improve outcomes for juvenile justice involved based on screenings and evidence-based practices through a Tier 3 system.
- ✓ Identifying best practices and evidence-based practices to improve process and treatment outcomes.
- ✓ Leveraging existing data, or collecting new data, to establish baselines and track process and treatment outcomes.
- ✓ Identifying funding streams that may be used to for planning, implementation and ongoing monitoring/quality improvement.

In addition to the CCJBH Juvenile Justice Workgroup and Full Council, both the County Probation Officers of California and County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California should be included in the development of this toolkit. Optimally, the contractor will provide direct consultation to counties on how to implement the evidence based practices and programs, but if there is not sufficient funding for this effort, at a minimum, the toolkit will include a detailed plan that counties may use to secure such consultation.

The compendium/toolkit will serve as a key resource for county probation/child welfare and behavioral health departments to access and explore the myriad of available benefits, treatment services and funding streams, and will support the OYCR in developing recommendations related to policies, programs, and approaches that improve youth outcomes, reduce youth detention, and reduce recidivism for the realigned population.