



Building bridges to prevent incarceration

Juvenile Justice Workgroup

Friday, September 10th, 2021

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

Workgroup Purpose: Sharing information on CCJBH's Request for Proposal for the Juvenile Justice Compendium and Toolkit, as well as reviewing findings and recommendations for CCJBH's 2021 Legislative Report.

Council Member Advisors:

Mack Jenkins, *Chief Probation Officer, Ret. San Diego County.*

Danitza Pantoja, *Psy.D., Coordinator of Psychological Services, Antelope Valley Union High School District*

CCJBH Staff:

Brenda Grealish, *Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health,*
Monica Campos, Liz Vice, Angela Kranz, Jessica Camacho Duran, Emily Grichuhin,
Paige Hoffman, Catherine Hickinbotham, Daria Quintero

I. Welcome & Introductions:

Ms. Grealish welcomed participants and reviewed the agenda.

II. Update on Juvenile Justice Compendium and Toolkit

CCJBH has been developing a Juvenile Justice Compendium and Toolkit Request for Proposal (RFP) with the purpose of providing a compilation of information related to best practices and evidence-based programs that have shown to be effective in serving justice involved youth who have serious behavioral health needs.

CCJBH has completed the initial draft of the RFP and it is currently under internal review. The contract term will be for two years and will include deliverables on the completion of the compendium and toolkit, development of training and technical assistance for counties, and implementation of the training and technical assistance as funding allows.¹ It is anticipated that the RFP will be posted to <https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/index.aspx> in mid-October, 2021. CCJBH will notify stakeholders via our listserv when the RFP has been posted.

The work done through the compendium and toolkit will focus on assisting counties as they implement activities related to [SB 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment](#) and complement the efforts of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration. It will also serve as a key resource for county probation, child welfare, and behavioral health

¹ The contract has been amended since this meeting and no longer includes implementation of training and technical assistance as it now requires the development of a training plan.

departments, help to strengthen and sustain cross-system partnerships, utilize a multi-tier system of support, identify funding streams, and leverage existing data to track progress, treatment, and program outcomes.

Q & A with Councilmember Advisors:

Q: Chief Jenkins stated he is pleased to see the progress of the RFP and thinks it will be a useful tool to advance juvenile justice service delivery across the State. He asked if the public has been able to see the RFP.

A: Ms. Grealish answered that since it is a competitive bid we have only been able to talk about the RFP in concept because some meeting participants may be interested in bidding on the contract. CCJBH discussed the concept in detail late last year as they were developing the RFP.

*****PUBLIC COMMENT*****

Q: A participant asked if there is a body that certifies juvenile halls and detention centers in California. Is it required, and if so who does it?

A: Chief Jenkins answered that it is the role of the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). It has been the role of the BSCC to inspect all juvenile camps, ranches, and detention centers for a long time. There are a set of standards that must be met by every Chief in California and they should be knowledgeable about the standards and have a relationship with the inspector. Inspectors are able to come unannounced to review both the written policy and procedure manuals that govern how the facility operates, as well as interview staff and youth. There are provisions in the statute that a juvenile detention facility can be decertified if the standards are not met and the BSCC has the authority to close the facility if it is not operating in the way that is outlined in the statute.

Q: The participant asked a follow-up question that recently came from a judge regarding access to medication assisted treatment for a 17 year old being housed in a detention facility whose short-term residential therapeutic program plan was misplaced. How is that being handled with the new changes to medical practices within juvenile hall?

A: Chief Jenkins stated he can only speak from his own experience and would recommend asking a current sitting Chief to talk about current practices. In his experience, it was not uncommon for youth held in juvenile hall to be prescribed psychotropic medication. He asked the participant to clarify if they are speaking about psychotropic medication.

Q: The participant stated they were speaking about the new practices for treatment of opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder, specially the use of buprenorphine.

A: Chief Jenkins stated he is not able to speak to that in terms of current practices.

Q: Ms. Grealish asked the participant if they have reached out to BSCC.

A: The participant stated the question came to mind in terms of operation standards and would appreciate if they could send their question to Ms. Grealish and be put in touch with the sitting Chief or someone at BSCC.

A: Ms. Grealish stated she would be happy to put them in touch with BSCC.

III. 2021 Annual CCJBH Legislative report Juvenile Justice Recommendations

Brenda Grealish, *Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health*

The draft Juvenile Justice Recommendations for CCJBH's Legislative Report have been posted on the [CCJBH website](#). Recommendations were developed as a result of discussions and input from the March and June 2021 Juvenile Justice Workgroup meetings, as well as input from Councilmembers. CCJBH is mandated to produce an Annual Legislative Report by December 31st of each year that includes juvenile justice and diversion/reentry recommendations for the Administration and the Legislature in areas related to the justice system and behavioral health.

The March 2021 Juvenile Justice Workgroup focused on the implementation of SB 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment and featured presentations from Stephanie Welch, with the Health and Human Services Agency, and Dr. Heather Bowlds, with the Division of Juvenile Justice, to discuss State level efforts. The workgroup also had presentations from BSCC on funding provided to help local entities build out infrastructure to serve the SB 823 youth population, and the Chief Probation Officers of California discussed the work being done by probation to build out local infrastructure for the population. Additionally, CCJBH gave an update on the Juvenile Justice Compendium and Toolkit RFP.

The June 2021 Juvenile Justice Workgroup focused on the impacts of COVID-19 on youth who are justice system involved. The panel consisted of Dr. Daniel Lee from the Department of Education, Dr. David Diehl from Monterey Peninsula School District, and Councilmember Dr. Danitza Pantoja. The panelists discussed the pandemic, as well as general recommendations for the justice system.

The information gathered from these two workgroups was used to develop the Legislative Report Recommendations. The recommendations provide common definitions for the terms juvenile justice system, at-promise youth (formerly referred to as at-risk youth, but legislation has reframed it to a more strength based perspective), and justice involved youth. The juvenile justice system is not just incarceration in juvenile hall or institutions, it is any contact with law enforcement, such as an arrest that did not lead to incarceration. At-promise youth are individuals who present with risk factors that could make it possible for them to end up experiencing contact with law enforcement or bring them deeper into the justice system. Justice involved youth have experienced some type of contact with law enforcement.

The recommendations are bucketed into findings and recommendations for prevention, intervention, SB 823, mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on justice-involved youth

returning to school, and general school-based supports for justice-involved youth. They include prevention findings for at-promise youth and the risk factors that might make youth susceptible to becoming involved in the justice system or coming into contact with law enforcement. The report then examines prevention specific findings and discusses recommendations regarding interventions and how to address them. The next bucket focuses on SB 823 and the findings and recommendations for this population.

Additionally, the report includes findings on the impacts of COVID-19 for justice involved youth, being mindful of the experiences youth had during the pandemic as they return to school, and system level recommendations for the education, justice, and behavioral health systems when serving this population. The report also includes general findings and recommendations for school-based support for justice involved youth.

In addition to input from Councilmembers and workgroup discussions, the report will incorporate additional information including Federal and State investments, such as the Child and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, and examine recommendations from past [Legislative Reports](#). CCJBH has compiled the recommendations from the past 20 years to track progress and build on the work that has been done. Finally, the report will look at recent research and reports to inform and shape the recommendations.

Chief Jenkins expressed his approval for the framework of the draft report and thanked Ms. Grealish for her focus on reviewing past recommendations and analyzing the work that has been done so the Council can see the impact. Chief Jenkins stated he believes this is one of the most comprehensive reports relative to juvenile justice that has been prepared in his time on the Council. He emphasized the importance of the report starting with definitions to give context and be a starting point of conversation, even if people disagree with the depth of the definitions provided. In many conversations with both community groups and system stakeholders over the course of his career, Chief Jenkins has witnessed people assuming that juvenile justice is synonymous with juvenile hall, and that juvenile hall is the sum total of the juvenile justice experience. This is incorrect, in fact there are five times as many youth that are justice involved than those who have experienced incarceration.

Chief Jenkins stated he appreciated the definition of at-promise youth in reference to AB 413 and the shift to a strength based perspective. It is important for the Council, and those who want to contribute to the efforts to better serve justice involved youth, to recognize that there are kids who are at a higher risk of not only coming into the system, but staying in the system for a longer period of time. The factors that may contribute to a youth's increased risk of justice involvement are well known, and it may be helpful to intervene early and redirect the youth before they enter the system. It is empirically proven that not every kid is at the same risk of coming into the system and staying in the system. He showed approval for the distinction of justice-involved youth prevention. In an earlier workgroup a participant provided feedback that the Council should be speaking to the importance of prevention, which is recognized in this report.

Prevention involves recognizing the youth who may be at risk of coming into the system and the supports that can be offered to these youth and their family to decrease the

likelihood of formally entering the system. The report provides a distinction of prevention and intervention efforts. There is a plethora of information and research around effective intervention for justice involved youth that is referenced in the report, such as the Positive Youth Justice Model. Chief Jenkins recognized the unintended consequence of an increase in adult commitments for high risk youth as a result of SB 823. He stated while it may be unintended, it should not be unsurprising that youth who are found unfit for services at the juvenile court level will be waived or transferred to the adult court level, as it is included in the language of the law. The juvenile justice system in the United States, particularly in California, was designed to serve youth who were not properly nurtured or cared for and whose family environments failed, which resulted in the youth engaging in behaviors that brought them under law enforcement control, or to be impacted by the justice system. The original concept of the juvenile justice system was not designed for youth who committed adult type crimes, or the most serious types of crimes. There are effective practices that can be employed for the high-risk, high-need youth who stay at the local level.

Dr. Pantoja stated that she appreciated all the recommendations and the changes made to the report. There is a lot of input with what school districts can do to support our juvenile justice population, such as asking students what happened to them versus what is wrong with them. The school component is important because that is where things get lost with students.

Q & A with Councilmember Advisors:

Q: Chief Jenkins expressed the importance of the recommendation report including input from an educational perspective and stated the report would be incomplete if we do not focus on education in terms of both at-risk youth who are at risk of entering or are currently in the juvenile justice system. As a probation chief, he knows the importance of working very closely with the educational system, for both the youth on probation and those directly in the system. The report should also recognize the importance of education from a broader standpoint. School engagement and academic achievement are key pieces of serving youth in the juvenile justice system. He also expressed the importance of the report considering information from the Judicial Council, particularly from juvenile court judges, because they are experts on the topic. Each county has a presiding Juvenile Court Judge who oversees the service delivery for youth who enter into the system. Their input should be solicited for the report because probation and education are only a part of it, but once the youth come under control of the Juvenile Court, the Juvenile Court Judge is responsible for serving the youth and staying abreast on the latest literature and knowledge of best practices for justice involved youth.

A: Ms. Grealish stated CCJBH values our Judicial Council partners and often interacts with them. The importance of having the court as a key partner is reflected in our recommendations. From our June workgroup meeting with Dr. Lee from the Department of Education, education wants to come to the table. CCJBH has been able to help make some connections with education and our juvenile justice system

partners. Dr. Lee stated that the Department of Education was hoping to put together a task force focused on this population because it is important to be attentive to the justice involved population and address the disproportionalities they face.

*****PUBLIC COMMENT*****

A: A participant from the Chief Probation Officers of California commented that she agrees that the recommendations are comprehensive and touch on youth in the juvenile justice system. It touches on prevention, intervention, and on the narrative around the importance of education and vocation needs. Youth and family engagement with the community is critical in serving this population. From a probation perspective, juvenile justice is viewed as rehabilitative and focuses on getting youth and their families on a path to wellness. Eventually through time and established services, they will no longer need to be served and supported by probation if the system is successful in offering supports established that surround the youth and their families.

Q: A participant asked if there is any work being done to support transitional housing. Is there funding in the different jurisdictions incentivizing community-based organizations to open transitional housing?

A: Ms. Grealish stated CCJBH is getting involved broadly and getting educated on how to best build out housing for the juvenile justice population. CCJBH has been working closely with the Council of State Governments Justice Center and recently launched the report, [Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prison and Jails](#). CCJBH has also been working with the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council, who will be focusing on youth populations in the future.

A: Chief Jenkins stated that when the Division of Juvenile Justice was fully operational, San Diego County had to focus on youth who were returning back to the county from the Division of Juvenile Justice institutions. The transitional housing needs of this population were a huge challenge. Casework, resources and transitional opportunities should be on the radar of probation chiefs around the state. San Diego County was able to use allocated funding directly toward transitional housing supports.

Q: A participant asked if standalone services such as indicated prevention programs, substance abuse treatment, and multi-dimensional family therapy have been considered.

A: Chief Jenkins stated he had not heard of indicated prevention programs, but he pays a lot of attention to substance abuse treatment and multi-dimensional family therapy.

IV. Announcements/Next Steps

The CCJBH staff is currently writing the 2021 Annual Legislative Report, which addresses a broad range of social issues. The goal is to have the final report completed



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by the end of September and a final vote on the report at [CCJBH's Full Council Meeting on October 29, 2021](#). Ms. Grealish encouraged participants to provide feedback to influence the legislative report.

Ms. Grealish announced that September is Suicide Prevention Awareness and Recovery Awareness month. This week CCJBH focused on Suicide Prevention Awareness and had a webinar on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, with the California Department of Public Health that discussed statistics and trends of their suicide data and injury prevention. The California Mental Health Services Authority shared suicide prevention resources that are available on the [CCJBH website](#). The focus for the upcoming three weeks will be on recovery awareness and CCJBH will host webinars on September 15, September 22, and September 29, 2021.



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V. Adjourn

The Diversion and Reentry Workgroup meeting on September 17, 2021, will discuss recommendations for the Annual Legislative Report. The next [CCJBH Full Council Meeting](#) is scheduled for October 29, 2021. CCJBH created a resource that explains the recent CalAIM proposals and how they relate to the justice system, which can be found on the [CCJBH website](#).