

CCJBH Juvenile Justice Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 19, 2024

12:45 – 2:45 PM

In-person and MS Teams Meeting

Workgroup Purpose: The webinar served as the launch of the Juvenile Justice Toolkit, developed by the RAND Corporation under contract with CCJBH and in partnership with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR).

Councilmember Advisors:

Mack Jenkins, *Chief Probation Officer, Retired, San Diego County*

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

CCJBH Staff:

Staff Members Present: Brenda Grealish, *Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice, and Behavioral Health (CCJBH)*, Elizabeth Vice, Kamilah Holloway, Jessica Camacho Duran, Catherine Hickinbotham, Emily Mantsch, Cameron Byrd, and Belicia Smith.

I. Welcome & Introductions

Ms. Grealish welcomed participants and gave an overview of the purpose of the workgroup and agenda.

II. Overview of and Next Steps for the Juvenile Justice Toolkit

Mack Jenkins, *Chief Probation Officer, Retired, San Diego County*

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

Councilmember Jenkins stated that the concept for the Juvenile Justice Toolkit project began when he had a conversation with CCJBH Executive Officer, Brenda Grealish, regarding the significant shift in the way the juvenile justice system would serve youth in California. At that time, the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was scheduled to close and the youth who had previously been served by DJJ, most of whom had high-needs (including intense clinical needs) and had oftentimes committed the most violent crimes, would be transferred and served at the local level.

Due to his 40+ years working within the system, Councilmember Jenkins addressed how there have been significant evolutions in the care for youth, which we now call evidence-based practices, that are critical to ensure that care and rehabilitation is appropriately managed within the juvenile justice system. He suggested that CCJBH play a leading role in helping better assist local counties, particularly probation departments, to ensure they are well prepared to provide the type of services the

youth need, incorporating evidence-based practices, which are the product of decades of research around working with youth in the juvenile justice system, and evidence-based interventions, which are a product of research that have shown some efficacy, when applied with fidelity, to high-risk and the high-needs youth.

Councilmember Pantoja expressed excitement and satisfaction seeing the toolkit come to fruition. She explained that the main goal with this project was to help support counties as the youth return while considering the variations in county size and resources. She explained how the toolkit aimed to address both challenges and barriers regarding the reintegration of the youth into their counties.

III. Project Launch

Brenda Grealish, *Executive Officer, CCJBH*
Katherine Lucero, *Director, OYCR*

Ms. Grealish thanked the Councilmembers for their foresight on recognizing the need and raising it, expressing her excitement on taking the idea forward into something beneficial for the counties and the youth. She provided a timeline for the development of the toolkit, explaining how in early 2021, the development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) occurred based on the Councilmember Advisors' ideas and was released in December 2021. Shortly after OYCR was established, CCJBH collaborated with Director Lucero on the selection of a contractor. The RAND Corporation was selected as the contractor and onboarded in April 2022.

Throughout the duration of the project, CCJBH, OYCR, and RAND worked together to identify and select members for the System Partner Community Advisory Board (CAB) and the Lived Experience CAB. The CAB members provided their time and expertise to shape the final work product through feedback given on the development of each deliverable. CCJBH facilitated monthly meetings with RAND and OYCR to ensure the development of the deliverables were in-line with the feedback received by the CABs in a manner to best meet the needs of the youth.

Director Lucero shared that when she began her role at OYCR, she was pleased with CCJBH's work to launch the compendium and stated the importance of the project being tailored to California's demographic, emphasizing the whole child approach. She explained how this population needs more than a probation officer to help them through the process as they also need educators and mental health providers. Director Lucero stated she is pleased with the work being done on California Advancing and Innovating (CalAIM) Justice Package and related Medi-Cal reform efforts to give counties the tools to serve this population.

IV. Overview of the Juvenile Justice Toolkit

Melissa Labriola, *Senior Social Behavioral Scientist, RAND Corporation*
Alex Dopp, *Social Behavioral Scientist, RAND Corporation*
Laura Whitaker, *Senior Policy Analyst, RAND Corporation*
Nastassia Reed, *Research Assistant, RAND Corporation*

Jill Donaghy, *Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation*

Mr. Dopp presented an overview of the objectives outlined in the initial RFP, and how the contract deliverables lined up with a framework, called Exploration, Preparation, Implementation and Sustainment (EPIS). The framework is a tool to identify the types of evidence-based and emerging programs and practices that should be selected to assist counties in serving justice-involved youth. To implement the selected programs and practices, a toolkit was necessary to support the partners and community. The training and technical assistance plan allowed for supports to be in place to make changes on the ground. Sustainment needs to be considered from the beginning to ensure the programs and practices will have lasting benefit to the youth and families within the community.

Mr. Dopp then provided an overview of the toolkit and its structure, highlighting its three-step process and user interface. He explained the toolkit's capability to guide users through program selection, comparison, and detailed exploration. Additionally, he emphasized the comprehensive nature of the toolkit, which includes definitions, instructions, and funding resources to support successful implementation in communities. The link to the toolkit is available through [CCJBH's website](#) and [OYCR's website](#). A Methods Report acknowledging how the toolkit was developed will be available on the CCJBH website following the approval process.

Mr. Dopp continued with a walkthrough of the toolkit, highlighting the 234 programs and practices and the different search criteria available. He explained the keyword search component of the toolkit. Once you have narrowed down the search criteria, a list will be populated with the results that includes demographic information on the programs and practices and implementation information, the cost of the program, available funding, etc.

Mr. Dopp discussed the process of developing the toolkit highlighting the importance of the CABs throughout the project's development. The toolkit consists of 234 programs, with 33 identified as being evidence-based, 56 were emerging, 97 were exploratory and 45 had no effect or insufficient evidence. A total of 25 percent of the programs and practices are for youth with serious or moderate juvenile justice involvement and 51 percent are mental health services.

The development of the compendium began with expert interviews to get an understanding of the current status of the juvenile justice system and the state of the available research. The initial list of programs and practices were gathered from comprehensive literature research and sources outside of published academic research. The literature review examined published research on programs and practices outcomes with justice involved youth or at-risk youth. The initial search resulted in 5,933 articles, which was narrowed down to 411 articles for consideration that resulted in the 234 programs and practices outlined in the compendium. A standardized Excel template was developed to summarize the information in the compendium. Mr. Dopp then presented early mockups that were presented to the

CAB members in which he mentioned how CCJBH suggested the use of Tableau to enhance user experience. He then highlighted the detailed Implementation Toolkit, which was informed by Results First or similar websites, and the program developers were contracted directly as necessary. The information was compiled into a standardized template to summarize the information, with a separate tab for funding information. The Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) plan was still in development stages. Throughout the project, the CABs provided guidance on each deliverable.

Mr. Dopp explained that the goal remains to aim for the incorporation of the best practices from implementation research and community knowledge. He also stressed the need for the toolkit to evolve by integrating more local knowledge and community-defined program practices. Additionally, he discussed the necessity of discontinuing ineffective practices to make room for more effective ones.

V. CAB Participation

Kathleen Howard, *System Partner CAB Member, Executive Director, Board of State and Community Corrections*

Lon Chhay, *Lived Experience CAB Member, Director, Alternative Interventions and Reentry Initiatives*

Ms. Howard began by congratulating the RAND team for their work and expressed her perspective on the toolkit as a CAB member. She emphasized the benefit of having a diverse group of system partners on the CAB as it helped with the enrichment of the project. She also recalled the project's timeline and explained how she spoke with Ms. Grealish in 2021 about the development of the RFP. CAB meetings began in October 2022 and occurred every other month. She reflected on the experience being an example of living into our values: collaboration, listening and considering other people's perspectives, a commitment to continuous learning, and incorporation of feedback. She particularly mentioned appreciating joint meetings between the Lived Experience CAB and the System Representative CAB, which allowed for shared goals and collaboration to optimize the usability of the tools. Ms. Howard expressed how valuable the Compendium, Toolkit, and upcoming TTA Plan would be as resources for community-based service providers, the communities, and the system-involved youth.

Mr. Chhay also thanked everyone for allowing him to be a part of such project. He then shared his personal experience with the juvenile justice system as he was incarcerated from the age of 14 through 39, and he explained how, due to his background, he was motivated to join the CAB and help contribute his insights on the juvenile justice system. He stated that a challenge he faced during the project was technology and navigating the system altogether due to the length of time he spent incarcerated. He thanked RAND for their patience and help with understanding with the technology. While he was unable to attend all CAB meetings, he appreciated the flexibility from the team to schedule one-on-one sessions to

update him on the information discussed in the CAB meetings. Mr. Chhay concluded by explaining how he felt that his comments and suggestions were valued during his participation in the CAB and appreciated being included.

VI. Project Future / Next Steps

Katherine Lucero, *Director OYCR*

Juan Carlos Arguello, *DO, Chief Health Policy Officer, OYCR*

Director Lucero elaborated on the evolution of OYCR over the past 26 months since its establishment, noting that it has become a fully developed technical assistance office with 22 full-time staff members, several contracts, and consultants. Director Lucero emphasized the importance of collaboration with CCJBH and expressed OYCR's willingness to advance the next steps of the project. She expressed optimism for future collaborations and highlighted the Compendium as an invaluable resource, particularly for partners such as probation departments. OYCR has established a County Coordination Unit and assigned one staff member to each county. She discussed the potential of sharing the tool with counties at public meetings and utilizing RAND's expertise to implement a train-the-trainer model. Dr. Juan Carlos Arguello expressed his excitement with OYCR's role leading the next phase of the project focusing on TTA. He emphasized the necessity of the collaboration with RAND Corporation to provide counties with the necessary support for any interventions found in the toolkit. Dr. Arguello also acknowledged the limitations regarding evidence-based interventions and the importance of community knowledge.

Dr. Arguello stated there would be a need for different levels TTA in different counties to ensure maximum benefit from the toolkit. TTA could be used to ensure current or new interventions provided in the county are appropriate, ensure fidelity to the interventions and involved collecting outcomes measures. He also mentioned de-implementing treatment modalities that do not have adequate evidence for effectiveness in youth involved in the justice system.

As the TTA provider, OYCR will provide technical assistance and support to counties implementing interventions found in the toolkit, as follows:

- ✓ Develop an individual training plan and strategy for counties implementing treatment interventions from the compendium.
- ✓ Convene and regularly engage with OYCR's Youth Advisory Council and other lived-experience community groups that will advise on the best approach to engaging community-based organizations and those with lived experience in project activities.
- ✓ Evaluate the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Toolkit to assess the fidelity, effectiveness, and challenges encountered during the TTA process.
- ✓ Compile information on best practices and evidence-based programs for justice-involved and at-risk youth to maintain completeness of the Juvenile Justice Toolkit content and to expand its scope when warranted.

Councilmember Discussion

Q: Councilmember Jenkins asked Mr. Dopp if his area of expertise of taking research into practice would be another version of implementation science. Evidence-based practices and interventions are only as good as the fidelity in which they're implemented.

A: Mr. Dopp stated expertise in taking research into practice was in fact another implementation science.

Q: Councilmember Jenkins recommended extending the utilization of the toolkit beyond custodial care for youths, stressing the importance of continuity of care as they transition back into the community. He acknowledged that youth transferring back from DJJ will have institutional stays of four to seven years. He emphasized the importance of incorporating the toolkit across the continuity of care (e.g., the court process, adjudication, incarceration, and reentry). Councilmember Jenkins also promotes collaboration with various organizations through a multidisciplinary team to help provide care for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. He highlighted the need for TTA to assist in implementation and identify key players and their roles throughout the youth's journey, from custody to community reintegration. It is important to acknowledge that the roles will change given the course of care the youth have. There will be definitive roles while the youth is in custody, but roles will change once they reenter the community.

Councilmember Jenkins emphasized the importance of multisystemic family therapy, emphasizing its potential impact on outcomes and the importance of it being implemented with fidelity to the model. He also highlighted the need for engagement of the key players and stakeholders, such as the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), would be necessary to ensure the Juvenile Justice Toolkit's success.

Q: Councilmember Pantoja shared her appreciation for consideration from RAND and the CAB members for looking at evidence-based practices across the continuum of care to support both counties and community-based organizations that will be assisting youth with reentry into the community and diversion from the juvenile justice system.

Councilmember Pantoja directed a question to Lon Chhay, Lived Experience CAB Member, regarding his perspective on the project's impact on the youth due to his lived experience and his experience being a CAB member.

A: Mr. Chhay stated when he was in the juvenile system there weren't many programs to assist him in identifying the cause of his actions and instead focused more on punishment (i.e., camps, the California Youth Authority). He shared his personal experience with generational trauma due to his family escaping genocide in Cambodia. The generational trauma contributed to his involvement in gangs, and eventually the criminal legal system. Mr. Chhay emphasized how when he was

growing up there were no programs dedicated to mental health counseling or educational programs and explained how if those programs had been implemented it could have helped him avoid entering the adult correctional system.

Public Comment

Q: A member of the public from the Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council expressed their gratitude and thanked everyone for their work on the toolkit. The member then directed a question to Dr. Arguello regarding how the TTA would be brought to Orange County and available to the public.

A: Dr. Arguello clarified that the access to the toolkit was available now through both the CCJBH and OYCR websites. He mentioned his intention of future collaboration with RAND to help incorporate a link dedicated for technical assistance. Dr. Arguello also explained how as far as technical assistance goes, they are currently in the final stages of refining the technical assistance plan and the goal for providing technical assistance is set out for July 2024.

VII. Announcements

The next [Full Council Meeting](#) will be on June 28, 2024, from 2:00- 4:30 PM, and will focus on best practices in substance use disorder (SUD) services. The [Juvenile Justice Workgroup](#) will be on June 7, 2024, from 12:45-2:45 PM and focus on restorative justice for individuals with behavioral health needs and residential care for youth with serious mental illness and substance use disorder service needs. The [Diversion/Reentry Workgroup](#) will be on June 7, 2024, from 3:00-5:00 PM and will highlight presentations on services and programs that utilize peers to provide substance use disorder treatment at the state and local levels.

VIII. Adjourn