

June 2024 Juvenile Justice Workgroup Recap and Key Points

Workgroup Purpose

The workgroup included a continued discussion on defining restorative justice, as well as three presentations on community-based behavioral health residential programs for justice-involved youth with serious mental illness(es) and substance use disorder(s).

Discussion: CCJBH Definition of Restorative Justice

CJBH will adopt the [restorative justice definition](#) that includes CPOC's definition of restorative justice, as well as additional considerations for the behavioral health (BH) / justice-involved (JI) population, with the caveat of updating the term "delinquent behavior" to "law breaking behavior".

Community-based Behavioral Health Residential Programs for JI Youth with BH Needs

Presenters:

- [California Alliance of Children and Family Services \(Alliance\)](#): The Alliance is made up of members who are child and family-serving organizations with programs and services in the areas of child welfare, juvenile justice, education, and children's mental and behavioral health.
- [Trinity Youth Services \(Trinity\)](#): Trinity provides quality short-term residential programs, foster care and adoption services, and mental health programs to underrepresented youth in Southern CA.
- [Rancho San Antonio \(Rancho\)](#): Rancho provides trauma-informed therapeutic services to youth and families.

Key Points:

- Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) serve both 600s (delinquency court) and 300s (dependency court). Rancho and Trinity both serve more juvenile justice youth but are contracted for both.
- "Short-term" for STRTPs should be six months to one year, but in reality, it depends on how long it takes the youth to successfully complete the program.
- It is difficult to obtain insurance (especially for fires starters) for many STRTP programs due to behaviors and CDSS Rate Reform potentially jeopardizes the STRTP provider's ability to continue providing services.
- AB 2711 would provide school districts with the discretion to use other means of corrections in lieu of suspension or expulsion and require them to consider those methods.
- Trinity's SAFETTY Stages of Treatment program targets youth who have engaged in sex offending behavior (e.g., rape, sexual battery, sexual assault, fondling). The PROFESR assessment is administered at intake and throughout treatment to ensure the case plan is appropriate.
- Trinity uses a CBT curriculum, which has not been validated to serve youth populations, but there are no evidence-based programs for youth with problematic sexual offending or sexually reactive youth. The CBT curriculum is the closest available for adolescents and Problematic Sexual Behavior Program for children has been tried and studied. Councilmember Jenkins stated researchers would study the impact for a small amount of funding.
- Referrals for Rancho's Youth Diversion Program come from the probation department for youth leaving juvenile hall or the police department for youth who have touched the system.
- Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) removed group homes, which causes kids to "fail up" to the level of STRTP due to the lack of options between an STRTP and diversion and a lack of step-down options for youth once they've graduated the STRTP. There is limited county funding for

aftercare, which is required the Families First Prevention Services Act, but not always properly funded as it is often done in the form of warm handoffs to a wraparound service provider rather than comprehensive support provided in the community. Many STRTPs plan to become CalAIM ECM providers to ensure continuity of care post-STRTP.

- Schools are seeing a lot of aggressive behaviors and residential facilities aren't accepting them because of the level of aggression and type of behaviors.
- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool will be considered in determining the rate paid to an STRTP or FFA (no other state has ever tied CANS scores to rates). The Alliance is putting together a group to comment on this proposal.
- STRTPs are able to accept a youth based on their unique service needs and the youth is also able to decide if they want to attend since it is voluntary (aftercare is also voluntary).
- Youth in the STRTP can attend continuation school adjacent to the facility or traditional school.
- Rancho and Trinity have both had good and bad experiences with probation officers (Pos), but with many POs being reassigned to correctional facilities they've lost the day-to-day relationship, which has resulted in a lack of accountability and the authority the PO has on the youth in the STRTP. Nati had positive experiences with the POs he spent more time with because they built a rapport.