



STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE & DELINQUENCY PREVENTION: RACIAL ETHNIC DISPARITIES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting

September 9, 2025
1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Physical Location:

925 L Street, Suite 1275
Sacramento, CA 95814

Virtual Public Participant Link:

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 161 064 3200 | Password:
170083

Welcome and Framing (1:00 P.M. – 1:20 P.M)

Facilitators: Chair Judge Brian Back, Mikaela Galvis-Venegas and Victoria Birch Youth Advisory Board member, Marcia Rincon-Gallardo

- i. Chair Back called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.
- ii. **The State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) RE/D members were in attendance**
 - Christina Peoples, Founder and Executive Director of the Amelia Ann Adams Whole Life Center (AAWLC)
 - Dr. B.J. Davis, SACJJDP member and Executive Director of the Sacramento Recovery House
 - The Honorable Brian Back, Retired Judge for Ventura County and RE/D subcommittee chair
 - Laura Ridolfi, Racial Justice Well-Being Strategist at the Burns Institute
 - Mikaela Galvis-Venegas, Youth Advisory Board member
 - Sandra McBrayer, CEO of the Children's Initiative
 - Sergio Coronel, Founder of the Youngsters for Change and Gang Consultant
 - Victoria Birch, Youth Advisory Board member
 - William Feather, Ukiah Unified School District Social Worker and a member of the Round Valley Indian Tribes
- iii. **The State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) RE/D members not in attendance**
 - Keven Flores, Youth Advisory Board members
- iv. **The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)**

- Marcia Rincon-Gallardo, Chief of System Change and Equity
- Cecilia Arredondo Simmons, County Liaison with System Change and Equity
- v. **RE/D Chair Judge Back on framing**
 - It has been over six years since the last RE/D subcommittee meeting.
 - The committee's goal is to identify problems, determine the necessary tools, and assess the outcomes.
 - Use data effectively, providing examples of successful data-driven initiatives.
- vi. **RE/D Mikaela Galvis-Venegas and Victoria Birch on framing**
 - The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is an extension of OYCR. They uplift and empower youth voices in decision-making that affects youth in the juvenile halls.
 - YAB was launched in October 2024 and has been involved in organizing conferences, facilitating workshops, and conducting training sessions.
 - It is important to have youth presence in various committees and as part of the decision-making process.
- vii. **Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Chief of System Change and Equity, Marcia Rincon-Gallardo**
 - Marcia and Cecilia both staff the RE/D subcommittee.
 - The importance of system change to address racial and ethnic disparity.
 - The committee aims to drive statewide systems change based on data, both qualitative and quantitative.
 - The goal is to end disproportionality and disparities in the youth justice system, driven by data and accountability.
- viii. **Questions**
 - How can youths be involved with the Youth Advisory Board in their region.
 - They can send an e-mail to the Youth Advisory Board at yab@chhs.ca.gov.

Gathering Circle (1:20-2:45)

Facilitators: All

- i. **Picture that describes who you are**
 - RE/D subcommittee Chair Judge Brian Back
 - Has experience as a carpenter, an attorney and judge. His experience with trade work has connected him to young people interested in that field who have been in the system.
 - RE/D subcommittee member Sandra McBrayer
 - Her love for the outdoors and nature helps her cope with the challenges of advocating for children.
 - RE/D subcommittee member Sergio Coronel
 - Sergio shares his personal journey of being incarcerated at a young age and the teachers who helped him improve his reading and writing skills, which changed the trajectory of his life.
 - He launched a program called Theaters across the State, working with young people in the juvenile system.

- RE/D subcommittee member Dr. B.J. Davis
 - Dr. Davis said, like a phoenix being reborn from transformation, he was transformed after his second time in prison.
 - 25 years later, he has two masters, a doctorate, is a licensed clinician and impacted thousands of lives.
- RE/D subcommittee member Christina Peoples
 - Christina said that principles of my pain is my purpose. Which drives her work in the community.
 - She describes her family as non-traditional family and how her experiences with adversity have shaped her into a disruptor for fairness and equity.
- RE/D subcommittee member William Feather
 - William is a narrative therapist, he tells stories. Education isn't just a four-year college or two-year college; it can be a trade school or anything you want it to be.
 - William shared his journey from various challenging backgrounds to becoming a social worker and champion for youth.
- RE/D subcommittee member Mikaela Galvis-Venegas
 - Mikaela shares that Casa Sueños Power Zone is an organization her dad founded. It represents a lot of who she is and why she does this work.
 - Cultural healing is the solution to community healing. In order to help with generational hurt.
- RE/D subcommittee member Victoria Birch
 - Victoria talked about ancestral struggles with culture, new generations, representing work that generations before having done, that is important.
 - How barbed wire with flowers can symbolize confinement to growth, no matter the circumstances.
- RE/D subcommittee member Laura Ridolfi
 - Laura's favorite place is Yosemite National Park and draws a lot of strength from nature.
- OYCR staff-Marcia Rincon-Gallardo
 - Marcia shared her Mexican heritage and the importance of re-indigenizing and decolonizing their mind.
 - She said because of the disparity in the system, she feels we need to have vigilance to ensure that her family and youth get the best education and opportunities. Even though a lot of young people entering these public systems, get chopped down and entered into these systems.
- OYCR Staff- Cecilia Simmons
 - Cecilia's Mexican and indigenous cultural is important for her kids to know about it and be able to speak Spanish.

ii. Picture that symbolizes “why” you do this work

- RE/D subcommittee Chair Judge Brian Back

- The book, “We Don’t Eat Our Classmates,” talks about negative influences and treating others with respect. Judge Back reflects on their role in juvenile justice and aims to prevent young people from ending up in the criminal justice system.
- RE/D subcommittee member Sandra McBrayer
 - Sandra highlights a success story of a secure track youth who graduated from college and is now thriving.
 - Her work is driven by the desire to help children like him grow and contribute positively to society.
- RE/D subcommittee member Sergio Coronel
 - Sergio was involved in Jui Jitsu, which has become a therapeutic and motivational tool for him and the youth he works with.
- RE/D subcommittee member Dr. B.J. Davis
 - Dr. Davis expressed his commitment to working hard to bring justice and fairness to the system, inspired by his personal journey and experiences.
- RE/D subcommittee member Christina Peoples
 - Christina emphasized the importance of love and community in her work, aiming to plant seeds of change wherever she goes.
 - She shares her vision of herself as a farmer, sowing seeds of impact and love in every community she engages with.
- RE/D subcommittee member William Feather
 - William reflects on his experience with trauma, mental health, the criminal justice system and his commitment to helping young people avoid prison.
- RE/D subcommittee member Mikaela Galvis-Venegas
 - Mikaela shares a picture of her daughter in her naming ceremony and her daughter being the 7th generation in her family. The next generation.
- RE/D subcommittee member Victoria Birch
 - Victoria mentioned when young people are incarcerated, they don’t have the opportunity to be a young person or kid, because they are behind bars.
- RE/D subcommittee member Laura Ridolfi
 - Laura mentioned her kids and how it reminds her of the importance of childhood.
 - Highlights the structural racial inequities in the justice system and the need to build a new system where childhood is not rationed by race and zip code.
- OYCR staff-Marcia Rincon-Gallardo
 - We all have medicine that gives us strength and has us connected. However, it is hard to tap into that medicine when structural racist and social control purposes keep you from knowing who you are and disconnected from the healing medicine.
- OYCR Staff- Cecilia Simmons
 - Cecilia’s brother was in the system, and he had a community behind him to support him during these difficult times. Not all kids have that support.

Next Steps (2:45-3:15)

Facilitators: All

- i. Meeting Cadence and Schedule
 - Will decide meeting cadence and schedule future meetings.
- ii. Purpose and Responsibilities
 - We will work on the purpose and responsibilities in future meetings.
- iii. Membership and recruitment
 - We will have an orientation on racial ethnic disparities and disproportionality for the subcommittee.
 - Future recruitment for a RE/D subcommittee member with any of the below criteria:
 - A transitioned youth, someone from Southern California, medical/mental health background or someone with law enforcement background.
 - The Subcommittee currently has 10 members and no vacancies.
 - i. **Motion by:** Dr. B.J. Davis and Christina Peoples. To have 11 subcommittee members instead of 10 members.
 1. **Ayes:**
 - a. Dr. B.J. Davis
 - b. Christina Peoples
 - c. Judge Brian Back
 - d. Laura Ridolfi
 - e. Mikaela Galvis-Venegas
 - f. Sergio Coronel
 - g. William Feather
 2. **Nays:**
 - a. None
 3. **Absent:**
 - a. Keven Flores
 - b. Victoria Birch
 - c. Sandra McBrayer
- ii. **Motion carries**
 - Subcommittee members will reach out to possible individuals interested in being the 11th RE/D member. E-mail Cecilia with that information. We will vote at the next meeting.
- iv. **Co-Chair**
 - The Honorable Back is interested in a 2nd co-chair to help when he is not available to attend in person or virtual meetings.
 - i. **Motion by:** Christina Peoples and William Feather to have a 2nd Co-Chair for the RE/D Subcommittee.
 1. **Ayes:**
 - a. Christina Peoples
 - b. Dr. B.J. Davis
 - c. Judge Brian Back
 - d. Laura Ridolfi
 - e. Mikaela Galvis-Venegas

- f. Sergio Coronel
 - g. William Feather
 - 2. **Nays:**
 - a. None
 - 3. **Absent:**
 - a. Keven Flores
 - b. Sandra McBrayer
 - c. Victoria Birch
 - 4. **Motion carries**
 - All subcommittee members will submit their bios. If anyone is interested in being a Co-Chair, or nominated someone, e-mail Cecilia at cecilia.simmons@chhs.ca.gov. Also, at the next meeting the RE/D Subcommittee will nominate a co-chair.
 - v. **Creating 2025-2026 priorities**
 - In future meetings we will create RE/D priorities.

Open to the Public (3:15-3:25)

Facilitators: All

- i. Santiago Gil Ceja is interested in becoming a member. Sergio Coronel knows the youth and will follow up with him for a possible nomination.

Closing

- i. Next steps
- ii. If you are interested in being a co-chair, or RE/D member recommendations, please e-mail Cecilia at cecilia.simmons@chhs.ca.gov
- iii. Cecilia will send a poll regarding the next meeting to RE/D subcommittee members.
- iv. Two members of the public attended. Meeting adjourned at 3:16pm.

Upcoming Subcommittee Meeting Dates:

To be determined.

The order in which agenda items are considered may be subject to change. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to address the Committee, the Chair may establish specific time limits on comments.

The agenda and meeting materials can be viewed on the [State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention webpage](#). Please contact OYCR at SACJJDP@chhs.ca.gov with questions about the meetings.

Any person who wishes to request this notice or other meeting materials in alternative format, requires translation services, or any disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, which would enable that person to participate at the meeting must make that request at least seven (7) business days prior to the meeting date to: SACJJDP@chhs.ca.gov.