



**State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Meeting Subcommittee Community Investment & System Accountability
(SACJJDP Subcommittee)
October 21st, 2025, 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM**

Call to Order: Welcome; Roll Call

CHAIR Dierkhising called the meeting to order and welcomed members and participants.

- Present: Carly Dierkhising, Andrew Garcia, Lucero Noyola, Mariana Mora, Michelle Guymon, Anthony Ortiz, Jr., Matt Cervantes, Krystal Lewis-Britton (OYCR), Protima Pandey (OYCR), Christian Lucchesi (OYCR)
- Not present: Carol Biondi, Matt Duncan, Jorja Leap, Johny Diaz

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from September 16, 2025 meeting
- **Matt Cervantes abstained** as he did not attend the first meeting.
- Motion carried.

Guest Presentation: California Youth Outreach (CYO)

Presenter: Anthony Ortiz, Jr.

Overview:

California Youth Outreach (CYO) operates across Northern and Central California, including Monterey County. The organization provides intervention and reentry programs for youth impacted by gang involvement, offering education, supportive services, and community-based resources.

Mission Statement:

To serve at-risk and justice-involved youth, their families, and their communities through education, intervention, and supportive services.

Program Background:

The program's foundation stems from the founder's personal family experience; Mr

Ortiz's father, a former gang member who served time in both juvenile and adult systems, began providing post-release support through church-based services. This initiative evolved into CYO's broader community model.

Program Goals

- Reduce violent crime among youth on probation.
- Serve high-risk youth populations in Salinas and Monterey County.
- Collaborate with probation departments for referrals and funding.
- Leverage the credibility of former gang members as mentors and intervention specialists.

Eligibility Requirements

- Youth referred from secure confinement facilities (Secure Track, Youth Center, Juvenile Hall).
- Ages **16–25**, categorized as **high-risk, gang-impacted, or offenders**.

Key Discussion Points

Carly: Asked for clarification on the post-DJJ (Division of Juvenile Justice) process and where youth transition afterward.

Response: Youth released from DJJ who reoffend often transition to the adult system, as probation departments may not retain jurisdiction.

Carly: Noted this aligns with data from prior discussions and highlights county-level differences in handling secure track options.

Anthony explained that Monterey County lacks step-down facilities due to limited state and federal funding. CYO currently functions as the main “step-down” agency, providing transitional support.

Carly: Expressed concern about the expansion of the juvenile hall and noted the need for more community-based alternatives.

Anthony stated that the Youth Center is outdated, and the expansion aims to create a safer and more effective space for youth.

Service Area Focus: East Salinas (noted for high rates of gang-related homicides).

Program Components

Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI):

- 8-week curriculum, 1-hour sessions weekly.
- Focuses on self-reflection, cognitive restructuring, and problem-solving skills.
- Provided from release through probation discharge.

Pro-Social Activities:

- Exposure positive community experiences to counter antisocial behaviors common in gang-affiliated youth.
- Emphasis on building healthy social skills and relationships.

Program Successes

- Increased access to supportive and rehabilitative services for youth.
- Parent-focused programming to strengthen family relationships.
- Youth who complete the full program demonstrate lower recidivism rates during participation.

Community Needs

- Funding: For pro-social community activities and ongoing youth engagement.
- Continued Support: Sustained intervention services post-discharge.
- Location-Based Programming: Addressing territorial conflicts between rival gangs.
- School-Based Prevention: Implementing early intervention programs in schools to prevent justice involvement.

Additional Discussion

Krystal: Requested clarification on CYO's prior Title II involvement.

Anthony: Explained that CYO initially bid for Title II independently but later partnered with probation to enhance youth engagement. Cross-training with probation has improved collaborative intervention efforts.

Matt: Inquired about funding sources for pro-social programming.

Anthony: Reported that limited funding comes through the City of Salinas and county partnerships. CYO fills resource gaps for youth at home and assists adults with housing needs.

Andrew: Asked about CYO's community training approach.

Anthony: Highlighted the organization's capacity-building training focused on gang identification, behavioral understanding, and trauma-informed engagement. Emphasized the lack of consistent county-level funding for such initiatives.

Next Steps and Future Planning

Carly:

- Proposed additional meetings focused exclusively on grantees (must remain public and open).
- Suggested developing a survey to assess grantee needs and support opportunities.
- Recommended compiling a committee report on grantee progress and resource needs.
- Proposed learning opportunities featuring funded organizations (based on Matt's idea).

Krystal: Requested that Christian present on funding projects at the next meeting, as this agenda item had to be carried forward.