



**State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday, September 17 2025
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Welcome; Roll Call

Chair Mendoza called the meeting to order and welcomed participants. OYCR staff provided instructions for participation by committee members and members of the public. Vice Chair Franco took roll.

The following members attended in person:

Chair Kent Mendoza, Vice Chair Franco.

The following members attended virtually:

Supervisor Joe Baca Jr, Carol Biondi, Dr. BJ Davis, Dr. Tecoy Porter Sr., Michelle Guymon, Michael Duncan, Hon. Brian Back

The following members were not present: Dante Williams, Dr Mimi Silbert, Montay Magic McKay, Susan Sands, Isaiah Barber, Tyrique Shipp

Action Item: Approval of June 2025 Minutes

Chair Mendoza called for the action item of approving the Minutes from the June 2025 SACJJDP meeting. Hon. Brian Back moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Carly Dierkhising seconded the motion. There were no comments or questions and the minutes were approved.

Chair Updates

Chair Mendoza noted some of the serious issues in LA county juvenile halls and camps, including staffing shortages and drug overdoses that have recently resulted in the county's juvenile halls at risk of being placed into receivership by the Attorney General. He shared that he believes there is work happening at DYD and among leaders there to move the county in a different direction that members may not be aware of. Chair Mendoza suggested that the committee consider having LA County leaders working with the Department of Youth Development and the Probation Oversight Commission to talk about some of the progress that has been made and the vision for the future in the county. Members Carol Biondi, Dr. BJ Davis, Michelle Guymon and Dr. Carly Dierkhising expressed interest in having leaders from LA County's DYD and POC attend an upcoming SACJJDP meeting. Member Hon. Brian Back agreed and further recommended presentations to the committee about other timely issues in the state at every meeting.

Discussion: Review Proposed By-Laws.

Members briefly discussed the draft proposed by-laws, clarifying that there were not official by-laws in the most recent iteration of the committee and the proposed by-laws were meant to increase transparency and aid in committee governance. There was discussion about the efficacy in using the by-laws to promote member attendance and potentially increase the number of members. OYCR staff noted that applications for interested potential members were available and the committee noted that the appointment process could take an extended time period. Vice Chair Franco then called for a vote on the proposed by-laws. The following members voted to approve the by-laws: Chair Mendoza, Vice Chair Franco, Supervisor Joe Baca Jr, Carol Biondi, Dr. BJ Davis, Dr. Tecoy Porter Sr., Michelle Guymon, Michael Duncan, Hon. Brian Back. The following members were not in attendance and did not vote: The following members were not present: Dante Williams, Dr Mimi Silbert, Montay Magic McKay, Susan Sands, Isaiah Barber, Tyrique Shipp.

The by-laws were approved.

Presentation: OYCR's Focus on Juvenile Justice Commissions Statewide

OYCR CCU County Liaison Darius Parakh, Regional Specialist Julian Eliot and Systems Change and Equity Chief Marcia Rincon Gallardo shared a presentation about California's Juvenile Justice Commissions and Councils. Staff explained the differences between the various local oversight bodies: the juvenile justice commissions (JJC's) are civilian oversight bodies appointed by a court to inquire into the administration of juvenile court law that exist in every county across the state. Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions (JJDP's) are optional commissions that can be appointed and created by a Board of Supervisors, focused on delinquency prevention efforts within California. The JJCC's develop annual plans that lay out the activities and funding used to support juvenile justice and those plans are shared with OYCR to inform the youth offender Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grants. Julian Eliot then described the technical assistance that OYCR provides these bodies, which falls into the following focus areas: supporting counties in building collaboratives that include representation from youth and families, in addition to the system; promoting practices that aim to reduce the transfer of youth into the adult criminal justice system; juvenile justice law and policy; expanding community-based responses and interventions through capacity building; and encouraging data-driven decision-making and policy development. He then shared some data about the technical assistance OYCR has provided, including attending over 300 of the meetings of the councils and commissions and responding to over 100 technical assistance requests. He highlighted the role of the Youth Advisory Board in providing guidance on how to meaningfully engage with young people, review county plans and reports with a youth-centered lens, share strategies to increase youth representation in the councils and commissions, and help ensure that decisions reflect the realities and needs of the youth most impacted by the justice system. Darius then highlighted a new development within the work of the local councils and commissions, a statewide collaborative called the California Juvenile Justice Commissioners Collaborative, or CJJCC. T Staff highlighted opportunities for partnership between the SACJJDP and the local oversight bodies, including developing educational materials around jail removal and sight and sound separation, as well as time limitations on secure detention in law enforcement agencies- all core requirements that the committee is empowered to ensure

compliance with on the state level. Marcia Rincon Gallardo closed by adding a recommendation that a member of one of the local oversight bodies have the opportunity to join the SACJJDP to provide important perspective from the local level.

Chair Mendoza then announced that the committee would take a 30 minute break.

After the break, OYCR Grants Title II Manager Krystal Lewis-Britton to introduce the subcommittee chairs and facilitate member discussion.

Presentation: Subcommittee Updates

Policy and Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee

Chair Dr. Tecoy Porter Sr. provided an update on behalf of the Policy and Legislative Advocacy Committee. He announced they held public meetings on August 19th and September 16th and have elected Dr. BJ Davis as committee Co-Chair. They also developed a subcommittee purpose statement: to support the SACJJDP by tracking policy trends, analyzing legislation, and offering data-informed recommendations to advance youth justice reform in California to meet the goals and purpose of the federal JJDBA. He also outlined the committee's responsibilities: to lift up community and youth voices, track policy trends and legislation related to youth justice, Promote compliance with JJDBA core requirements, provide neutral educational resources to legislators upon request, and respond to formal legislative requests, and recommend data-informed strategies to SACJJDP. The subcommittee meets every third Tuesday through 2025, then plans to meet bi-monthly in the new year. Regarding member recruitment, the subcommittee is recruiting for a youth member, ideally from the Central Valley or a rural northern county with an interest in policy and advocacy. Dr Porter also announced that they have added a new member, Joanna Rasmussen, the chair of the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee

Chair Hon. Brian Back provided an update on behalf of the RED subcommittee. Chair Back reflected on the history of the subcommittee, which extends over 6 years, and noted that this is a new iteration with new membership and leadership. The subcommittee met earlier in September for their first public meeting to focus on identifying some of the key issues they hope to address and discussing what tools and information they will need to do so. He noted that the committee membership is largely full at 10, but that they were recruiting for a member from Los Angeles county to ensure that area was appropriately represented.

Restorative Justice Subcommittee

Subcommittee members Dr. Jerdine Clark and Efrain Morales presented on behalf of the Restorative Justice Subcommittee. Dr Jerdine Clark, a clinical psychologist and clinical director at Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, first shared the subcommittee's purpose: to advance healing centric, community-rooted approaches to accountability by promoting restorative justice practices, understanding historical and systemic trauma, prioritizing relationship building, repairing harm and centering impacted voices. The subcommittee will work collaboratively to challenge punitive and exclusionary systems by promoting restorative alternatives; to support policy transformation that uplifts community-led restorative justice practices; to build capacity across institutions and communities to implement restorative justice frameworks that uphold

safe trauma-informed collective care with dignity; and move beyond the oversimplified victim-offender binaries, recognizing the complex experiences of trauma, harm, and healing. The subcommittee plans to bring in insights from stakeholders, youth with lived experience, harmed parties, survivors, justice system workers, restorative justice practitioners through listening sessions and interviews, work with the Youth Advisory Board and inform policy recommendations for the SACJJDP on Restorative Justice (RJ) issues. They also hope to engage with RJ initiatives that align with their purpose and create more awareness broadly about what RJ is. She reported that they have a full membership at present, with 15 members, including SACJJDP Chair Mendoza and subcommittee Co-Chair Jessica Ellis. Efrain Morales noted that the membership also includes individuals with varied experience and expertise from across state, including survivors, lived experience individuals, youth, mental health experts, education experts, regional and national experts. He noted that the committee meets once per month and plans to hold at least one in-person meeting annually.

Community Investment and System Accountability (CISA) Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Dr. Carly Dierkhising presented on behalf of the CISA subcommittee. She first shared that the subcommittee met on September 16th and selected Andrew Garcia, a community-based organization leader, JJC member for Tulare County and community violence interruption practitioner as co-chair. Dr. Dierkhising explained that the CISA subcommittee plans to take a two-pronged approach: first to strengthen relationships between Title II grantees and other grantees in the state, working to establish a network for grantees so they can learn from each other and the broader committee can learn from their work. The subcommittee hopes to bring attention to the work grantees are doing, she noted they had a recent presentation from Russ Deegan, the leader of Operation New Hope in San Bernadino. The other prong of the subcommittee's focus is to focus on transparency and accountability within the system for how the grant funding is distributed, ensuring there is equitable access. She shared that the subcommittee currently has 8 members, with one new member likely onboarding. They are recruiting for a few additional members, with a focus on finding individuals with lived experience and/or has worked with youth within the system or in a CBO capacity, as well as researchers with program evaluation experience. The planned meeting cadence is every third Tuesday through the end of the year.

Youth and Emerging Leaders Subcommittee

Chair Mendoza presented on behalf of subcommittee Chair Tyrique Shipp who was unable to be present. He shared that the subcommittee is currently planning to meet monthly and plans to have a shared calendar to ensure they can work collaboratively so members can plan around work, school and family calendars. The current membership is 7 members, with a goal of recruiting a total of 15, with statewide representation (they are currently looking for more members from Northern California and the Central Valley). Chair Mendoza shared some of the subcommittee's long-term goals: to build a leadership pipeline to support young people in serving in leadership positions across the SACJJDP and other public, bodies, agencies or entities; to develop a youth-led feedback and accountability tools for Title II programs and state plan implementations; and to produce a report that includes youth voices from the Youth Advising Board and the Youth Emerging Leaders Subcommittee. He noted that there is also a plan to have members of this subcommittee serve on the other SACJJDP subcommittees and

clarified that one important difference between this subcommittee and the YAB is that this group is specifically focused on supporting the work of the SACJJDP and their core requirements, ensuring their decisions are informed by strong youth input. Chair Mendoza ended the update with a call for recommendations for additional youth members to serve on this growing subcommittee.

Presentation: 2025 DJJ Realignment Report

OYCR Director Katherine Lucero and OYCR Data and Research Division Chief Kamillah Holloway shared a presentation on the 2025 DJJ Realignment Report that OYCR recently published, in partnership with Applied Survey Research. Director Lucero provided context for the report, noting that it was mandated in SB 823 that a 5-year report be completed by July 2025. The report examines not only what happened since the signature of the governor to SB 823 in 2020 to close DJJ, but really dives into the last two full years of implementation, given that July 1 2023 was the official closure date. She highlighted OYCR's new role in shepherding a new model for youth justice statewide that included major shifts to how the system operates, including transfer of responsibility to counties, expanding juvenile court jurisdiction to 25, opening 37 secure youth treatment facilities and the opportunity for less restrictive programming within communities, where probation and the court finds it appropriate. . According to the report, while fewer youth are entering the system overall, racial and geographic disparities remain a key concern. The population of youth in confinement has continued to shrink, which aligns with the reform's intent, although according to counties' AB102 data submissions, the total number of adjudications for 707B, and PC290.008 offenses has increased. staff then highlighted some of the key implementation challenges surfaced by the report: Counties face uneven infrastructure and staffing shortages, data systems remain underdeveloped, making it difficult to track outcomes in real time, and some staff still struggle with shifting away from punitive models. She then highlighted some emerging progress to celebrate; counties are repurposing spaces into youth-centered environments, building regional treatment hubs in places like Fresno and Sonoma, and piloting new service models through probation. Most importantly, youth themselves are reporting a stronger relationship with staff and more meaningful engagement in programs. . Members flagged some questions/interest in the increase Chief Holloway cited in SYTF commitments between 22-23 and 23-24 and the potential reasons behind it. Chief Holloway again noted that more information was needed to determine the factors driving the trends, including a need to gather more information from counties about how their specific practices were shifting. Further noting that too little post-DJJ closure data was available to accurately interpret the early trends. Members also flagged the evidence of persistent racial and ethnic disparities and the interest in getting ongoing insights, including county-level data if available. OYCR staff reiterated also the importance of attention to analysis of decision-making across all of the decision points in the system, to ensure more insight into where decisions are disproportionately impacting youth of color.

Public Comment

Vice Chair Franco opened the floor for general public comment. Ruby Lizarraga, from the Anti-Recidivism Coalition in Los Angeles, shared a comment underscoring the ongoing responsibility this committee carries, ensuring realignment fulfills its promise of rehabilitation and community-based support, rather than simply recreating DJJ at the county level. She expressed concern about a proposed Global Plan in Los Angeles County that would move all girls and gender-

expansive youth into a single facility, Campus Kilpatrick. She noted that this is a remote facility that would make it harder for families to visit, for youth to attend court or medical appointments, and for them to remain connected to their communities. Additionally, she noted that concentrating all girls in a facility that was historically designed for boys raises serious concerns about equity, safety, and whether their developmental and programmatic needs will truly be met. She acknowledged that the SACJJDP does not control county-level decisions, but that the committee has a potentially powerful role in shaping statewide priorities. She ended by thanking the SACJJDP members for their ongoing work to build a more just and rehabilitative system for California's youth.

Rob Hansen, a member of Butte County's JJDPC, first thanks the committee for their work and the work of the subcommittees. He noted that one of the things that would help smaller communities, smaller counties and smaller jurisdictions, is the ability to find out resources in other JJC's throughout the state. Having a network to contact other JJC's directly and a clearinghouse or other resource to share the work would be helpful. He noted that the CJJCC sounds like it is working toward that end, and encouraged OYCR and the committee that any additional work they could do to support commissions in smaller counties would be valuable.

Announcements, Call for Agenda Items & Adjourn

Chair Mendoza called for any final announcements, thanked members and encouraged all members to plan to participate in the next meeting and final meeting of the year on December 17th. He then adjourned the meeting.