



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

OYCR's Focus on Juvenile Justice Commissions and Councils Statewide

02.20.26

Overview:



1.

**California's Juvenile
Commissions & Councils**



2.

**OYCR's Focused Work With
Juvenile Justice Commissions**



3.

**Opportunities for CISA
Collaboration**

Juvenile Justice Commissions (JJs):

How do JJs ensure accountability in California's youth justice landscape?

Per Welf. & Inst. Code § 229, **Juvenile Justice Commissions** are appointed by a juvenile court to inquire into the administration of juvenile court law in the county in which the commission serves.

Juvenile Justice Commissions:

- Annually inspect and publish reports on any law enforcement facility that held a youth in secure detention (if so delegated by the juvenile court judge)
- Annually inspect any jail, lock-up, juvenile hall, camp, or secure youth treatment facility that was used for the confinement of youth for more than 24 hours
- May hold hearings, with a judge of the juvenile court issuing subpoenas to require attendance, testimony, and the production of papers



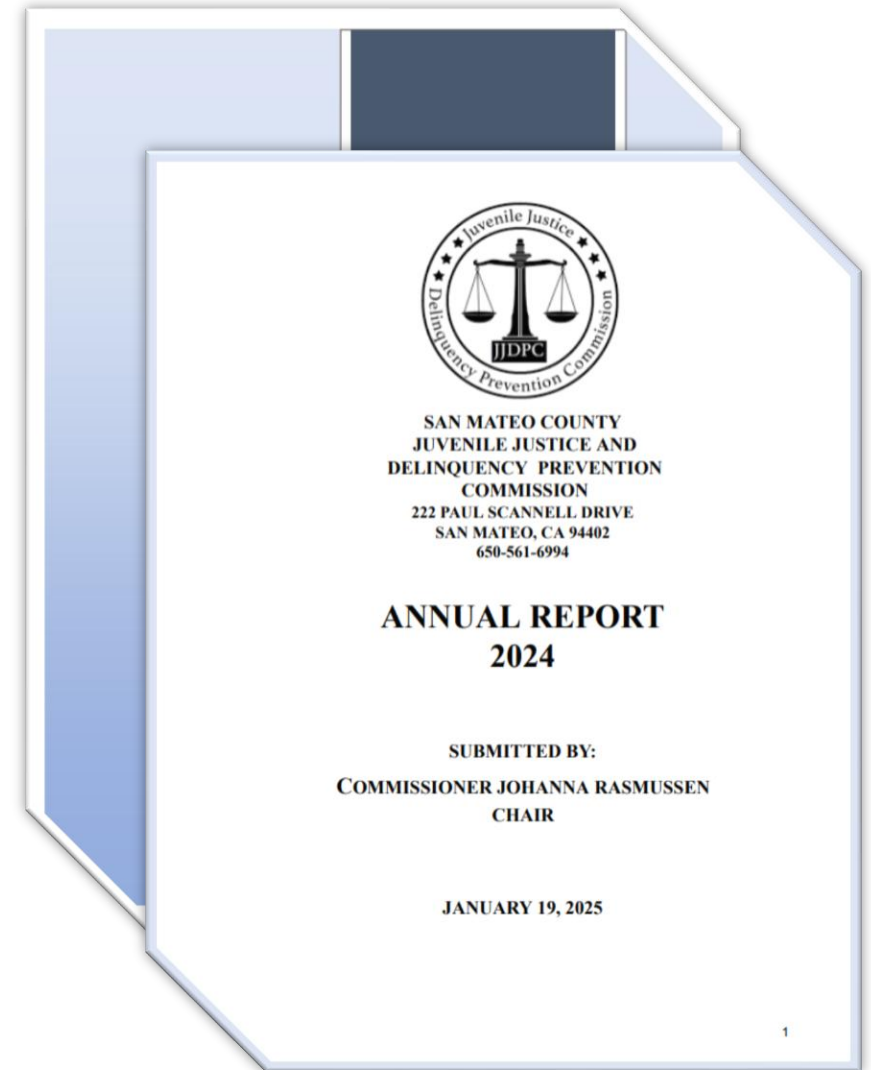
Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commissions (JJDPCs):

How do JJDPCs differ from JJs?

Unlike JJs, **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions** are appointed by a county's board of supervisors to coordinate all county-wide activities designed to prevent juvenile delinquency.

JJDPCs may:

- Include members of the county's Juvenile Justice Commission (if so appointed by a County's Board of Supervisors)
- Receive an executive secretary and operational funding through governmental sources overseen by the Board of Supervisors





Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils (JJCCs):

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils are a multi-agency body charged with developing and implementing a continuum of county-based responses to youth crime.

Required JJCC Councilmembers:

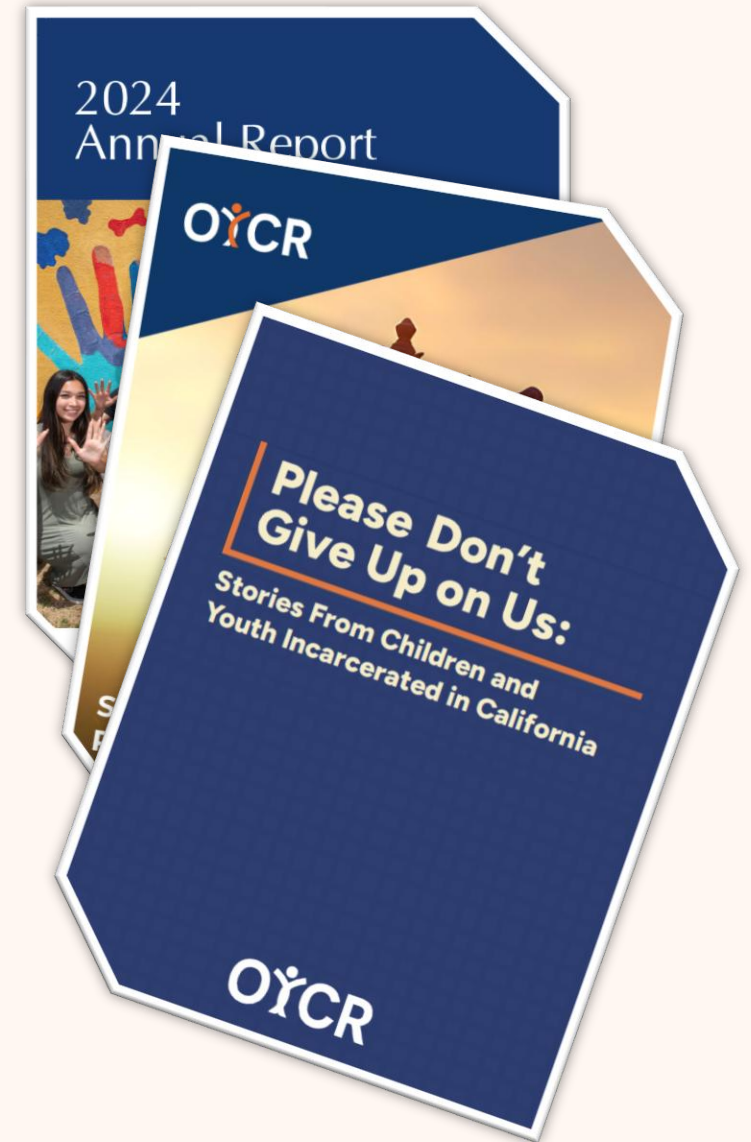
- Chief of Probation, Chair
- District Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Sherriff & Police Department
- Board of Supervisors
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Mental Health
- County Office of Education
- 3 community members

JJCCs annually:

- Meet to develop a comprehensive plan that identifies the resources, strategies, and programs that will be funded through OYCR's Youth Offender and Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grants
- Ensure civilian oversight into the fiscal and programmatic outcomes of a probation department's intervention, prevention, and carceral services

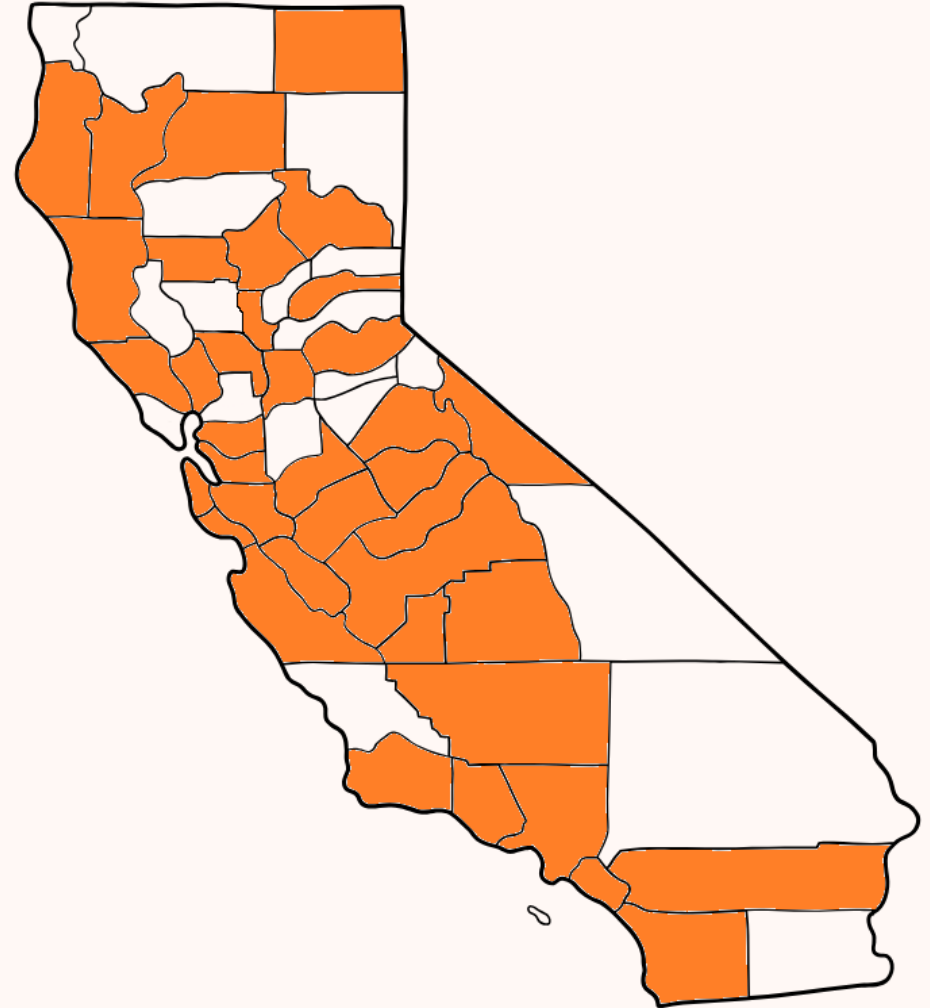
OYCR Provides TA to JJC's, JJDPCs, and JJCCs by:

1. Building **diverse, county-wide stakeholder collaboratives with youth voice** representation
2. Promoting practices that **reduce the transfer of youth** into the adult criminal justice system
3. Offering **juvenile justice policy and law expertise** to support councils and commissions in their knowledge of court functions
4. Increasing **community-based responses** and interventions through capacity-building measures
5. Promoting **data driven decision-making** and policy development



JJCC Technical Assistance:

- Since the foundation of OYCR, the Office has attended **134 JJCC meetings** across **38 counties**
- Over this same time, OYCR has assisted JJCCs with **44 TA requests**





The Impact of OYCR's Work: Promoting Accountability in California

Across **304 meetings** and **139 completed technical assistance requests**, OYCR has:

- Increased the **representation of community-members with lived experience** in California's councils and commissions
- Provided **guidance and policy recommendations** on the use of Less Restrictive Programs
- Connected **dozens of community-based organizations** to system partners **to promote culturally-relevant and gender-honoring interventions**
- Developed **confidential and trusted partnerships** that alert the Office promptly of potential Youth Bill of Rights violations

The Youth Advisory Board: Increasing Youth Voice in Commissions

Pursuant to Welf. & Inst. Code § 225 and Welf. & Inst. Code § 233, at least two youth members between the ages of 14 and 21 shall be appointed to a county's JJC or JJDPC. The **Youth Advisory Board** will:

- Provide technical assistance to increase the **representation of youth with lived experience** in California's councils and commissions.
- Provide **guidance on centering youth voice** in creating and reviewing county plans and reports.





The California Juvenile Justice Commissioners' Collaborative (CJJCC):

What is the CJJCC – and how are OYCR and the CJJCC partnering to develop the capacity of California's commissions?

Formed in early 2025, the **California Juvenile Justice Commissioners' Collaborative** includes commissioners from all 53 active JJs and JJDCs in California. As OYCR guides the transformation of California's youth justice system, the Office is partnering with the CJJCC to support civilian oversight commissions through:

- The development of a comprehensive needs assessment;
- Direct technical assistance; and
- Formalized peer-to-peer commissioner trainings.





Opportunities for CISA & JJC Partnerships:

How can the CISA Subcommittee work with civilian oversight commissions to promote accountability?

Under current state law, **Juvenile Justice Commissions (JJs)** must annually inspect any law enforcement facility that held a youth in secure detention (if so delegated by a juvenile court judge), which includes reviewing a facility's policies, procedures, and detention logs to ensure their compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) jail removal and sight and sound separation requirements.

As the **SACJJD** is committed to promoting the core requirements of the JJDP, the CISA Subcommittee could partner with JJs to **develop educational materials** for institutions across California **to ensure their compliance with state and federal law.**



Opportunities for CISA & JJC Partnerships (Cont.):

As of this month, **OYCR** is in the final stages of developing a **statewide needs assessment** for juvenile justice commissions across the state.

Created **in partnership with 12 juvenile justice commissions** from across the state, the needs assessment will inform OYCR and the CJCC's future capacity development efforts.

Once the survey is distributed and the results are analyzed, OYCR would welcome the CISA Subcommittee's assistance **in identifying the areas in where OYCR should provide technical assistance to both the CJCC and California's JJs.**



Credit: Youth Alliance



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Questions?



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Thank you