



STATE ADVISORY GROUP ON YOUTH JUSTICE: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2026

1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Physical Location:

925 L Street, Suite 1275
Sacramento, CA 95814

Virtual Public Participant Link:

[Via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 161 623 7296 | Password: 605558

Welcome and Roll Call (1:00 P.M.-1:10 P.M.)

Facilitator: Chair Kent Mendoza

- I. Meeting starts at 1:04 pm
- II. Please state if you are here or present
Kent Mendoza-**Here**
Greg Srolestar- **Here**
Javier Stauring- **Here**
Jessica Ellis- **Here**
George Galvis- Not here
Julie Hilt- Not here
Jerdine Clarke- Not here
Efrain Morales- **Here**
Don Carney- **Here**
Sheri Wiedenhoefer-**Here**
Kasey Halcon- Not here
Rodrigo Jimenez- Not here
Alannah Tomich- Not here
Victoria Birch-**Here**
Stephanie Autumn- Not here

Approve March Minutes (1:10 P.M.-1:15 P.M.)

Facilitator: Chair Kent Mendoza

- I. Victoria Birch and Javier Stauring made a motion to pass the minutes. None opposed.
- II. Motion passed for minutes

Doodle Poll results for rescheduled May meeting (1:15 P.M.-1:20 P.M.)

Facilitator: Chair Kent Mendoza

- I. Meeting moved from May 25, 2026, to May 26, 2026, from 9:00am-10:30am, because of Memorial Day.

Inactive Member Discussion and Vote (1:20 P.M.- 1:35 P.M.)

Facilitator: Co-Chair Jessica Ellis

- I. It was reported three members were identified as inactive due to limited capacity/attendance: George Galvis (CURYJ), Kasey Halcon (Santa Clara County), and Stephanie Autumn (Tribal Youth Resource Center).
- II. Members were contacted to confirm continued interest; two explicitly reported lack of bandwidth and one was non-responsive.
- III. Suggestion to bring another person with victim/survivor experience. RK subcommittee will continue targeted outreach for replacements or substitutes from those organizations.
- IV. Cecilia Simmons (OYCR) will share the RJ Charter for outreach purposes to subcommittee members.
- V. Kent Mendoza made a motion to remove 3 inactive subcommittee members, George, Kasey and Stephanie. Victoria Birch second that. Motion passed. None opposed.

Joint Legislative and Policy subcommittee recap and thought on deferred entry of judgment presentation (1:35 P.M.-1:50 P.M.)

Facilitator: Co-Chair Jessica Ellis

- I. [Deferred Entry of Judgement 10.21.25](#)
- II. Deferred entry of judgment (DEJ) explained as a court-supervised diversion option where a youth admits allegations, completes community supervision/treatment, and the case can be dismissed without a conviction if conditions are met; violations or new offenses can lead to imposition of judgment.
- III. Typical DEJ elements include probation/supervision, education/workforce/drug treatment, minimum age 14 at hearing, cannot involve sex offenses, and prior probation revocations disqualify.
- IV. Data discussed from a Policy and Legislation joint subcommittee with the Racial Ethnic Disparity (RED) subcommittee use of DEJ declined over recent years; in 2015 Black youth were 75% less likely and Hispanic youth were 50% less likely than white youth to be offered DEJ.
- V. Counties vary widely; many do not use DEJ regularly. There is limited public data on DEJ success rates.
- VI. Concern noted, DEJ can create long probation windows (e.g., 3-year suspended periods) that deter attorneys/judges from recommending it; this is viewed as a pitfall that may reduce uptake for some communities.
- VII. Restorative practices offered as part of DEJ (or as RJ diversion) can speed resolution, increase judicial comfort to close cases, and create alternative paths that reduce records for youth.
- VIII. RJ was discussed as both a court-adjunct (offered during prosecution process, DEJ period) and a pre-charge diversion option (interrupt booking, pre-file diversion, or DA/probation post-file diversion).
- IX. RJ can function at multiple points of the continuum: pre-arrest, post-arrest/pre-filing, post-filing (DEJ), and court-referred RJ processes.

- X. Local programs divert hundreds of young people annually by interrupting booking and offering community-based services instead of prosecution.
- XI. RJ components discussed include victim/survivor participation, family and wraparound supports, educational and workforce development, and substance-abuse treatment — tailored to the youth’s needs and community context.
- XII. Challenges, inconsistent offering of DEJ/diversion across counties; private counsel clients more likely to receive DEJ offers than public defender clients; data gaps on outcomes and success rates.
- XIII. Integrating RJ into diversion pathways and educating judges/prosecutors on RJ benefits may increase DEJ/diversion uptake and reduce racial disparities.
- XIV. It’s important to provide resources for victims and survivors, DEJ. We want to divert young people into the system, but not the only ones in the system.
- XV. Jessica Ellis and Don Carney are doing diversion work. Don diverts kids before they are charged, after the arrest and coming from the Judge. Jessica interrupts the booking, 400 cases, and accepts other types of cases.

List of Possible Deliverable Options for RJ Subcommittee and review RJ Charter (1:50 P.M.- 2:20 P.M.)

Facilitator: All

- I. Proposed adding language to Title II planning/application criteria to prioritize projects to incorporate RJ/diversion practices, and include opportunities for both the harmed party and the responsible party to participate in RJ where appropriate.
- II. Interview/spotlight Title II recipients who already fund diversion/RJ and surface replication examples and successful models for the larger advisory group to consider.
- III. Use public comments and presentations at the larger State Advisory Group on Youth Justice (SAGYJ) meeting to influence Title II priorities and funding decisions.
- IV. A short informational brief on DEJ and RJ (definition, benefits, examples, pitfalls),
- V. Having a community assessment of DEJ/diversion usage, gaps, and county-level disparities.
- VI. Members suggested cross-committee collaboration, presentation slots at the larger SACYJ meetings, and invitations to current Title II grantees and RJ practitioners to present so the committee can ground recommendations in practice.
- VII. Next meeting will focus on prioritize one or two deliverables to develop further (members asked to return with specific implementation ideas and speakers/resources).
- VIII. Invite families, survivors and RJ practitioners to the large SACYJ meetings. Show why RJ is important.
- IX. Disproportionality on status offenses, change policy. Also change youth court. Ending detention of status offenders is in the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA). Providing community alternatives with Title II.
- X. Interview Title II recipients who work on RJ and diversion and spotlight work to the large SAG committee on the importance of providing funding.
- XI. Add language to Title II to prioritize applications that provide opportunities for harmed party and responsible party to come together in RJ when possible/appropriate.

- XII. Produce a short informational paper for the DEJ/RED committees on the benefits of RJ diversion offered to the court to provide an incentive for DEJ usage. Successful examples.
- XIII. Of the Title II recipients, 4 grantees are doing diversion work – City of Gilroy, Operation New Hope, Center for Training & Careers, Inc. DBA ConXion to Community, County Valley Band of Pomo Indians.
- XIV. Greg, Sheri and Efrain will each present having community assessment as a possible deliverable.
- XV. Don and Victoria will present on pathways to decriminalize status offenses as a subcommittee deliverable.
- XVI. Jessica will present at the SACYJ meeting on 6/17/26 in Southern California for the subcommittee update.

Public Comment (2:20 P.M.-2:25 P.M.)

Facilitator: All

- I. None

Closing (2:25 P.M. -2:30 P.M.)

Facilitator: Kent Mendoza and Jessica Ellis

- I. None

Upcoming Subcommittee Meeting Dates:

- 5/26/26 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
- 6/22/26 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
- 7/22/26 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

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 Group on Youth Justice webpage](#). Please contact OYCR at SAGYJ@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: SAGYJ@chhs.ca.gov.

ADDENDUM - Notice of Expected Remote Attendance

Member	Expected Attendance
Kent Mendoza	Virtual
Sheri Wiedenhofer	Virtual
Jessica Ellis	Virtual

Greg Srolestar	Virtual
Javier Stauring	Virtual
Don Carney	Virtual
Victoria Birch	Virtual
Efrain Morales	Virtual