



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

State Advisory Group on Youth Justice (SAGYJ)

June 17, 2026



Agenda

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Action Item: Approve March 2026 Minutes
- SAGYJ Chair Updates
- OYCR Informational Updates
- Ombuds Presentations and Discussion
- *Break*
- Community Presentation: National Compadres Network
- Subcommittee Updates and Discussion
- Public Comment
- Announcements, Call for Agenda Items and Adjourn



Participant Check-In



Use the QR code or link to check-in. This optional check-in helps us capture meeting participation and stay connected with attendees about future meetings and related committee updates.



Action Item

- Approval of March 2026 Minutes



Office of Youth and
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SAGYJ Committee Chair Updates

OYCR Informational Updates

- Health Policy Division
- Youth Justice Committee
- Submission of CAFY25 Title II Application
- Compliance Monitoring Audit Update
- Los Angeles Lawsuits



Office of Youth and Community Restoration

Los Angeles EGI Action
Network Implementation

June 17, 2026



EGI-CA Action Network

Partnership with OYCR, Vera Institute of Justice, and four California counties – Imperial, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego – have launched the End Girls' Incarceration in California Action Network

- California accounts for roughly 13 percent of girls' long-term commitments nationally.
- Addressing the disparities that drive girls' incarceration is an urgent matter of race and gender equity. Girls and gender expansive youth of color—particularly Black, Native American, and Latina youth—have largely been left out of juvenile justice reforms.

How One California County Is Ending Girls' Incarceration

Santa Clara County Serves as a Model for California—And the Country

Nazish Dholakia Senior Writer

Apr 25, 2023



OYCR



Progress January- June 2026

- All four counties expected to move forward into a fourth year of implementation with contract amendments in progress
- Working to implement changes beyond deliverables initially required and that reflect local context and input in each county

Los Angeles EGI Update



Los Angeles EGI

- Strengthened collaboration between Probation, OYCR, and Beloved Village, improving communication and coordination regarding girls and gender-expansive youth.
- Convened two EGI Collaborative meetings, engaging more than 40 cross-system partners to advance shared priorities and implementation efforts, with work sessions occurring between meetings.
- Probation approved an executive-level Technical Assistance Plan with OYCR, including dedicated staffing to support EGI implementation.
- Probation committed to weekly interagency release planning and population review meetings informed by weekly data reports.
- Judicial officers have been trained on the Los Angeles Detention Screening Tool (LADS), with scores expected to be incorporated into detention decision-making imminently.
- In May, Los Angeles partners participated in a San Diego peer learning visit focused on alternatives to detention and community-based services.

Reform Priorities		
Focus Area	Core Purpose / Description	Target
1. Reducing Admissions	Risk Assessment & Overrides: Align detention decisions to screening tool and intake criteria Bench Warrants & Violations	- Safely Reduce intakes to CVK - Reduced warrant admissions; reduced overrides - Improved community-based responses to safety concerns and “runaway”
2. Off-Ramps for non-detained youth	Create a unified workflow for youth not detained at intake, including diversion, RAY ATD referrals, and safe “drop-off” locations.	- Strengthen off-ramps to increase use of diversion and alternatives
3. Gender-Responsive Assessment & Release Planning (Detained Youth)	Implement structured gender-responsive assessment and coordinated release planning within 2 weeks of detention; create expedited process for overrides.	- Reduce length of stay - Increase successful community reintegration

OYCR Consulting Team

Team Member	Title	Role / Focus Area
Lindsay Rosenthal	EGI SME	Facilitating cross-system implementation efforts across probation, court engagement, and continuum of care development
Angeles Zaragoza	LRP SME	Lead for Least Restrictive Program (LRP) Planning for SYTF Youth ,Support for EGI Community-Based Continuum Development
Mark Varela	Just Solve Consultant	Probation Systems Support, Implementation Planning, and Operational Coordination
Shelan Joseph	OYCR Consultant	Implementation support for court-based efforts

What's Next: Summer–Fall 2026



Collaborative Convenings:



July 2026: Present Draft Metrics & Discuss Continuum of Care



September 2026



November 2026

Ongoing Work Between Meetings:

- Release planning process development
- Interagency coordination
- Data review and implementation metrics
- Continuum of care development
- Diversion and release pathway planning



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Questions?



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FY25 Title II Updates

June 17, 2026



CA Title II 3-Year Plan & Progress Updates



FY25 is Year 2 of 3 submission for the FY24 – FY26 CA Title II Plan

FY24 marked the 1st year of current 2024-2026 State Plan Cycle

FY25 was intentionally designed as a streamlined continuation year, focused on implementation

No substantive changes ---> No full 3-year plan resubmission required

[SACJDP Slides 6-18-25](#) (p. 5-9)



CA OYCR submitted FY25 Application on May 1, 2026:

No-substantive change memo for [2024-2026-CA-Title-II-State-Plan.pdf](#)

Proposal Narrative noting progress made towards CA 2024-2026 Title II Goals & Objectives (see next slide)

Title II Plan



CA Title II (2024–2026) Plan / 2025 Application for Funding Progress / Proposal Narrative

Goal 1: Community-Based Prevention and Early Intervention

During the reporting period, California expanded access to community-based prevention and early intervention services through Title II subgrantees including ARC, VOALA, Pacific Clinics, Reading and Beyond, FLY, and ONH. These programs delivered diversion, mentoring, counseling, and supportive services to system-involved and system-at-risk youth. Quantitatively, subgrantees collectively reported multiple training events, technical assistance activities, and service contacts focused on preventing deeper justice system involvement, demonstrating progress toward statewide access to early intervention supports.

Goal 2: Alternatives to Detention and Aftercare/Reentry

Progress toward reducing reliance on secure detention was advanced through subgrantees such as Santa Cruz County Probation Department, City of Gilroy, Arcata Police Department, and the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians. These agencies implemented alternatives to detention, diversion programming, and reentry supports. Quarterly Progress Reports indicate consistent service delivery activity across fiscal quarters, reflecting continued utilization of community-based alternatives aligned with Title II priorities.

Goal 3: Mentoring, Counseling, Education, and Workforce Readiness

Title II funds supported mentoring, counseling, and workforce readiness initiatives implemented by subgrantees including CTC, YMC, ARC, and Reading and Beyond. Programs reported delivery of structured mentoring and training activities, including job readiness and skill development services for youth. Quantitative data collected through QPRs demonstrate ongoing participation in these services, supporting positive youth development and long-term outcomes.

Goal 4: Equity and Trauma-Informed Approaches

Equitable and trauma-informed practices were promoted through funding of culturally responsive community-based organizations such as VOALA, Pacific Clinics, ONH, and tribal partners. These subgrantees focused on serving disproportionately impacted youth populations using trauma-informed and culturally relevant service models. Program activity data reflect continued engagement with priority populations, advancing the State's equity goals.

Goal 5: Statewide Coordination and Accountability

OYCR strengthened coordination and accountability by aligning Title II funding with the 2024 - 2026 Three-Year State Plan and monitoring subgrantee performance through Quarterly Progress Reports. All Title II subgrantees submitted QPRs aligned with federal fiscal quarters, and aggregate data were incorporated into the Annual Performance Report.

Recap of 2025 SAG Co-Chairs 3-Year Plan Review

OYCR

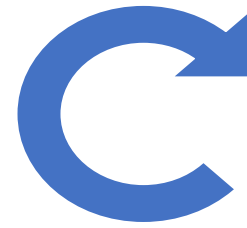
2025 Plan Updates

1. SACJJD Re-established/Governor-appointed Members (November 2024); 1st OYCR Convening w/Elected Chairs (December 2024)
2. All references of “juveniles” changed to “youth”
3. 2024 references/data points updated to 2025 (as available)
4. Continuation of strategic planning from 2024-2026 3-Year Plan w/ Review/Input from Chair Mendoza & Co-Chair Franco

SAG and State POCs

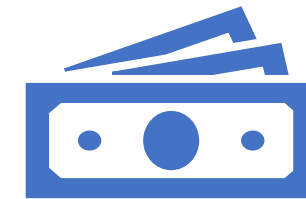
- SAGYJ
 - Co-Chairs (K. Mendoza & C. Franco)
 - Members (16 member total)
- CA Points of Contacts
 - JJ specialist (K. Lewis-Britton, OYCR)
 - Director (K. Lucero, OYCR)
 - Compliance Monitoring (J. Robertson, OYCR)
 - R/ED Coordinator (TBD, OYCR)
 - SAG Chair (K. Mendoza)
 - Financial Officer (CDSS/CalHHS Accountant)

Other FY25 Updates



Compliance expectation unchanged

Compliance and R/ED data related to this NOFO last July (2025) did not require new submission of data



Budget Plan for \$4,204,755

Planning and Administration (up to 10%)

- Staff
- Travel
- Training

Program Areas (up to 85%)

- Subgrantee Allocations

State Advisory Group Allocation (up to 5%)

- Travel
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)
- Subcommittee Projects



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Questions?



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Ombuds Presentations and Discussion

Alisa Hartz, OYCR Ombudsperson

Taneka Shehee Gomez, Ombudsperson, Los Angeles County Department of Probation



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Ombuds Presentations and Discussion

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Ombudsperson Division Duties



Receive, investigate, and where possible **resolve complaints** relating to youth in local juvenile facilities



Provide regular reports to the Legislature about numbers, trends, issues, & recommendations



Educate youth, families, and other stakeholders **on the Youth Bill of Rights**



Visit every local juvenile facility at least once annually

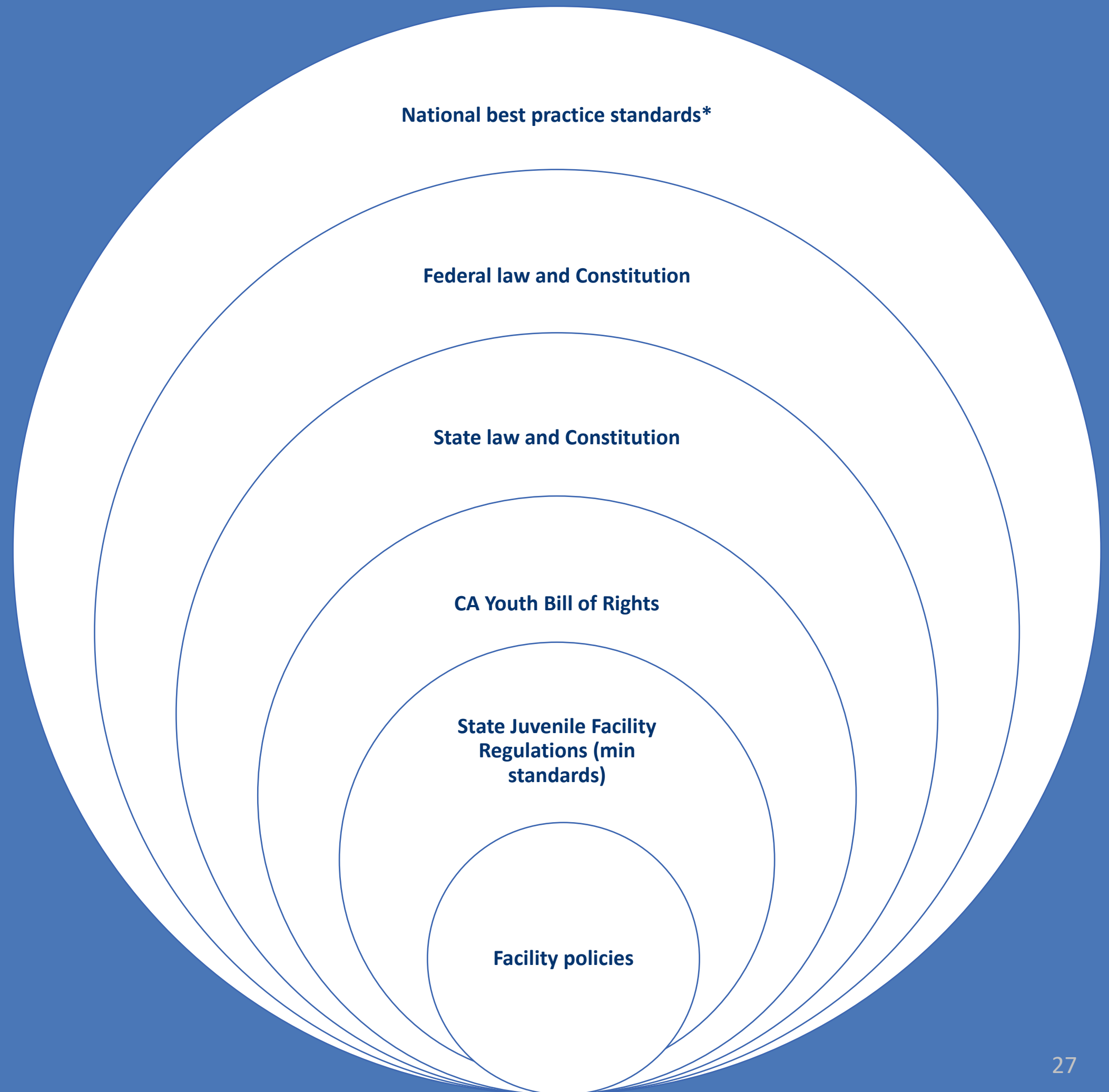
Complaint Process Overview

OYCR Ombuds Division Complaint Investigation Process

EFFORT TO CLOSE WITHIN 60 DAYS



Youth Rights and Facility Standards



The Youth Bill of Rights

Together with a diverse group of stakeholders, OYCR developed a Youth Bill of Rights publication to inform youth of their rights. They must be used to orient youth to the rights and to be posted in classrooms, living units, and visitation areas.

To request materials (free of charge)

1 (844) 402-1880

<https://oycr.ca.gov/publication-request-form/>



In California, we have rules to protect the rights of young people who are in a juvenile hall, camp or on the laws that exist. Below is a list of the rights:



Discipline

- **No one is allowed to take away any of the following things from you as a form of discipline or punishment: food; contact with your parents, family, or attorney; sleep; exercise; education; bedding; clean clothes; religious services; a daily shower; clean water; a toilet; grooming products; medical care; reading materials; and sending or getting mail.**
- You have the right to not be locked in a room as a punishment.
- You have the right to be given the rules on discipline. You must be given these rules in writing.
- If someone accuses you of something, you have the right to know what it is, to be heard, to defend yourself by sharing evidence or testimony, and to appeal the discipline decisions.
- You may want to contact your attorney to get their help to defend yourself and appeal discipline decisions.



Phone, Mail, & Visits

- You have the right to make at least two free phone calls within an hour of arrival at a juvenile facility after an arrest.
- You have the right to frequent and continuing contact with your parents, brothers and sisters, your children, and other relatives.
- You have the right to talk to them on the phone, have them visit you, or send them letters. You may be given access to a computer to connect with your family, but it shouldn't replace seeing them in person.
- You may be allowed to visit other family members and supportive adults with approval from the Facility Administrator.
- Mail that you send or get from family, friends, your children, and other supportive adults can be opened to search for contraband and can only be read by staff when they have a good reason to believe that the letter or mail could risk the safety and security of the facility, other youth, or the public.



Confidential Contacts

- You have the right to contact your attorney, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson, advocates, and certain people who work for the government about your rights being violated and what is happening inside the facility. You cannot be punished for contacting them.
- You have the right to make private phone calls, send and receive private mail, and have private visits with your attorney, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson, advocates, court personnel, people who give you legal services, and people who hold a public office.
- You have the right to have these visits and letters be confidential, which means that the Probation Department is not allowed to be listening or recording these visits or looking at or reading mail or letters from these people. The Probation Department can authorize certain staff to open mail from these people only to search for contraband and this must be done with you there.



Education

- You have the right to a quality education that follows the state law and standards, and prepares you for high school graduation, college, and a job.
- You have the right to attend the classes for your grade level and job training.
- You have the right to have access to college, career, and job training programs.
- You have the right to have access to a computer and the internet for your school, career, or job training program.
- You have the right to get educational services even if you are on disciplinary or medical status.
- You have the right to have access to information about the education options that are available to you.



Treated equally

- You have the right to be treated fairly and have equal access to all available services including housing, care, treatment, and benefits.
- You should not be treated unfairly or discriminated against because of your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, language, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental or physical disability, immigration, or HIV status.



Religion and Spiritual

- You have the right to practice your religion or spiritual beliefs including religious services and activities.
- You have the right to refuse to take part in religious services or activities.



No abuse

- **You should tell your attorney, a trusted adult, a staff person, or your probation officer if you are being abused.** You can also call the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson at 1-844-402-1880.
- **You have the right to not be abused in any way.** This includes physical, sexual, emotional, or any other abuse. No one is allowed to punish you by hitting you.

WHAT IS AN OMBUDSPERSON?

A person whose job it is to help you if you are in a juvenile justice facility in California and need help to solve problems about how you are being treated.

The Ombudsperson is an independent problem-solver responsible for investigating complaints and attempting to resolve them for the people involved. As a youth in a juvenile justice facility, you have the right to ask questions or file a complaint with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson. You can file a complaint if your rights have been violated or ignored or you are concerned about the condition of the facility you are in. You cannot be punished or threatened for making a complaint. If you are not sure how we can help, please call, email, or write to us.

WHO TO CALL ABOUT MY RIGHTS:

If you think your rights are being violated or have concerns with the juvenile justice facility you are in, you have the right to privately contact the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson. You cannot be punished or retaliated against for making a complaint.

- **Helpline:** (844) 402-1880
- **Email:** OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov
- **Website:** www.chhs.ca.gov/oycr
- **Address:** OYCR Ombudsperson
1215 O Street, MS-08
Sacramento, CA 95814

By the Numbers

	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Complaints received	14	203	294	416
Complaints closed	No data	No data	154	465
Helpline calls (inbound and outbound)	No data	No data	2490	2569
Annual site visits	N/A	N/A	62	60
Investigative site visits	No data	No data	22	37

2024

OYCR Ombudsperson Report to the Legislature

Available at
ovcr.ca.gov/Ombudsperson

TABLE 16

Complaints
Received by
County
(2024)

County	Case Record Type	Count	Total
San Diego	General Complaint	33	67
	Youth Complaint	34	
Los Angeles	General Complaint	37	59
	Youth Complaint	22	
Sacramento	General Complaint	13	21
	Youth Complaint	8	
Tulare	General Complaint	1	21
	Youth Complaint	20	
Alameda	General Complaint	3	12
	Youth Complaint	9	
San Joaquin	General Complaint	3	11
	Youth Complaint	8	
Contra Costa	General Complaint	3	9
	Youth Complaint	6	
San Bernardino	Youth Complaint	9	9
Ventura	General Complaint	5	9
	Youth Complaint	4	
Kings	General Complaint	2	7
	Youth Complaint	5	

TABLE 17

Closure Findings by County (2024)

County	Closure Finding	Count	Total
San Diego	Decline to investigate	27	37
	No findings	4	
	Unsubstantiated	4	
	Substantiated	2	
Los Angeles	Decline to investigate	8	25
	Substantiated	8	
	Unsubstantiated	3	
	Referred Out	2	
	Inconclusive	2	
	No findings	2	
Sacramento	Decline to investigate	6	8
	Unsubstantiated	2	
Alameda	Decline to investigate	6	8
	Unsubstantiated	2	
Tulare	Unsubstantiated	2	8
	Inconclusive	2	
	Decline to investigate	3	
	Substantiated	1	

Types of Resolutions



Specific desired outcome achieved



Systemic/ policy change



Robust collaboration/
technical assistance



Unintended
consequences



No response

Dear Ombudsperson:

WE ALL MESS UP
BUT WE ARE ALL
STILL HUMAN, NEVER
PERFECT.

JAN 26 24 - 1:05

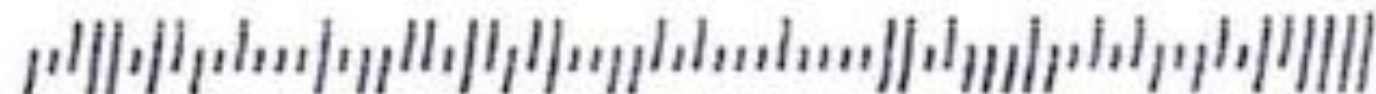
Sincerely,



USA

NON-MACHINEABLE SURCHARGE

TO:
The California Youth
OMBUDSPERSON
1215 O Street, MS-08,
Sacramento, CA 95814



Contact us:

OYCR Ombudsperson Division

Email: OYCRombuds@chhs.ca.gov

Phone: 1(844)402-1880

Website: oycr.ca.gov/ombudsperson

Follow OYCR





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Ombuds Presentations and Discussion

Alisa Hartz, OYCR Ombudsperson

Taneka Shehee Gomez, Ombudsperson, Los Angeles County Department of Probation



Office of Youth and
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Break



Office of Youth and
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Community Presentation: National Compadres Network

Maestro Jerry Tello, Founder and Director of Training

Subcommittee Updates and Discussion

- Community Investment and System Accountability (CISA)
- Policy & Legislative Advocacy
- Racial/Ethnic Disparities (R/ED)
- Restorative Justice (RJ)
- Youth and Emerging Leaders (YEL)



Community Investment & System Accountability(CISA)

Chair: Dr. Carly Dierkhising
Co-Chair: Andrew Garcia

Community Investment & System Accountability (CISA) for Youth Justice:

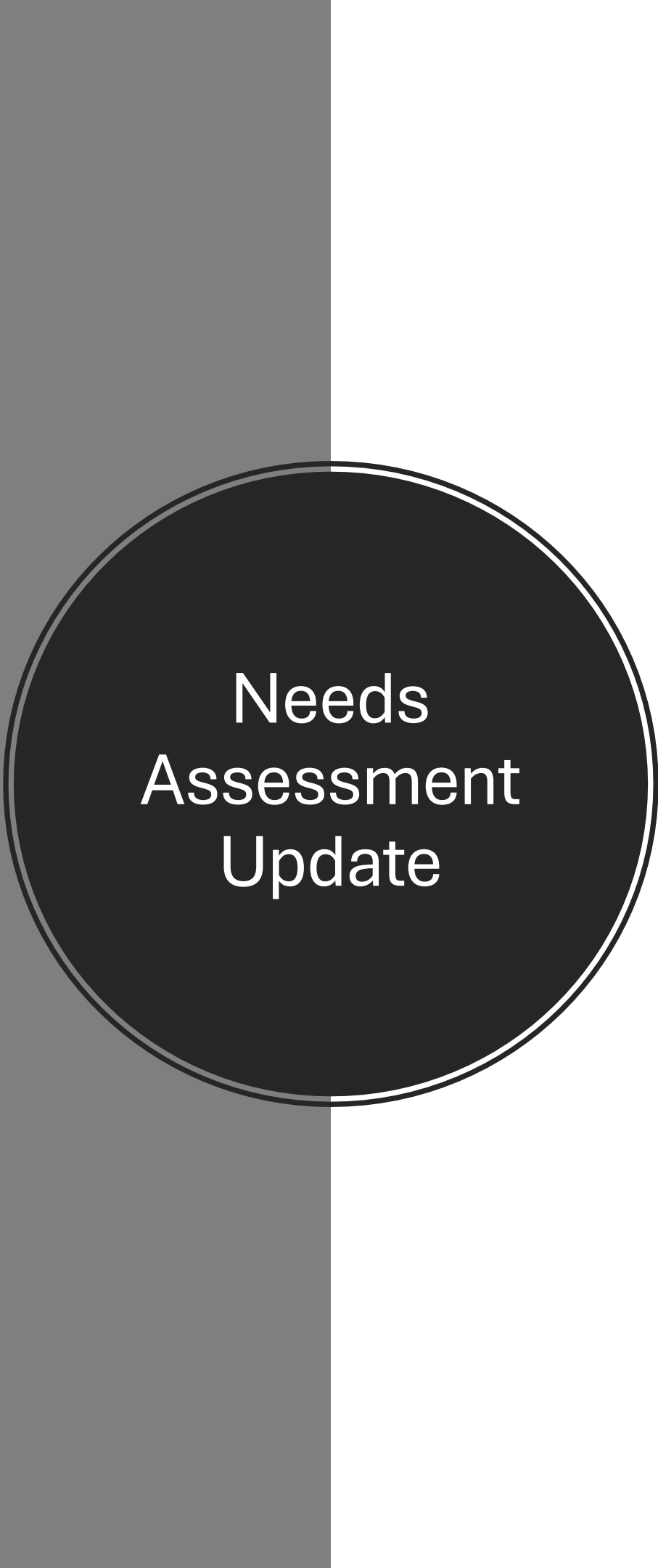
Strengthen Relationships with Grantees: Create opportunities for engagement with grantees to foster collaboration, build trust, and share lessons learned.

Establish a Statewide Network of Practice: Connect current and former grantees to promote the exchange of innovative practices, shared challenges, and community-driven solutions across jurisdictions.

Promote Transparency and Accountability: Monitor and assess how federal and state juvenile justice funds are used by probation departments and related agencies to ensure spending aligns with intended outcomes and public trust.

Elevate Community Voice and Impact: Ensure that funding decisions and program evaluations consider the perspectives and needs of youth, families, and communities most affected by the juvenile justice system.

Serve as an Informational Resource: Provide community-based organizations and stakeholders with information about what is working in other counties and how they might replicate or adapt those approaches.



Needs Assessment Update

KEY GOALS

COLLABORATION & NETWORK BUILDING

- Interest in engaging with other grantees and CBOs
- Recommendations for collaboration and shared learning
- Interest in a network of service providers for justice-impacted youth

SYSTEMS AWARENESS & SUPPORT

- Awareness of local Juvenile Justice Commissions
- Awareness of state level bodies (SACJJDP and subcommittees)
- Desired technical assistance and support
- Greatest needs and how the State can help

Needs Assessment Update

Contacted all Title II Grantees → 2 interviews conducted

Next Steps

- Distribute a survey to grantees instead
- Synthesize feedback for SAGYJ consideration
- Goal: Present recommendations on how to build up capacity and engagement among grantees in the next grant cycle



Policy & Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee Report

State Advisory Group on Youth Justice
Quarterly Meeting | June 17, 2026
Presented by Dr. Tecoy Porter, Co-Chair

Expanded Focus Since Late 2025



✓ Strengthening data-driven policy recommendations



✓ Advancing equitable outcomes

✓ Transitioned from bi-monthly to monthly meetings



✓ Enhancing collaboration across subcommittees

Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) Initiative

Examining DEJ Utilization Across California. Requested analysis includes county-level data, year-to-year trends, and race and gender disparities.

Further analysis covers public vs. private legal representation and pre-disposition detention status to identify systemic inequities across jurisdictions.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands in a dark suit and white shirt. The person is holding a black pen over a document on a wooden desk. Another hand is visible in the background, gesturing. A laptop and a notebook are also on the desk.

Addressing Disparities

Why County-Level Data Matters

Joint Work with the Racial & Ethnic Disparities Subcommittee

- Identifying inequities in youth justice outcomes
- Recognizing local variations across counties
- Supporting evidence-based policy development
- Informing future policy solutions

Advancing equitable opportunities for youth requires understanding where disparities exist and why. Data visibility drives accountability.

"What gets measured gets addressed."





Progress Update

DEJ Data Request Status

Accomplishments

- OYCR developed DOJ data application
- Submitted by OYCR Data & Research Team
- Awaiting Department of Justice approval
- Potential model for future policy research
- Framework may be replicated to study additional youth justice issues.





Legislative Monitoring

Key Measures Reviewed Family Engagement

- AB 1646 – Contact visitation rights, Education & Reentry
- AB 1659 – School transition liaisons
- AB 2178 – Community college partnerships - Probation & Treatment
- AB 1886 – Probation limits
- AB 1902 – Secure youth treatment facilities- Least Restrictive Placement
- SB 1009 – Alternatives to detention
- SB 1157 – Guidelines for less restrictive programs



National Perspective

Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual Conference
Washington, D.C.

Key Themes

- ✓ Youth Voice
- ✓ Youth Leadership
- ✓ Prevention
- ✓ Diversion
- ✓ Restorative Practices
- ✓ Authentic Youth Engagement

States are increasingly emphasizing prevention, diversion, restorative practices, and authentic youth engagement.

California Continues to Lead



Looking Ahead

Priorities Moving Forward

1. Monitor DEJ Data Request
2. Explore Disparities and Outcomes
3. Continue Legislative Review
4. Develop Policy Recommendations
5. Advance Evidence-Based Youth Justice

Appreciation

Subcommittee Leadership & Members

Dr. B.J. Davis

Dr. Maria Leon

Commissioner Johanna Rasmussen

Charlie Nguyen

OYCR Partners

Protima Pandey

Krystal Lewis-Britton

Darius Parakh

Together, we remain committed to ensuring that
California's youth justice policies are:

Data-informed | Grounded in equity | Centered on successful rehabilitation

Questions?



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Public Comment

Announcements and Adjourn

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2026

SAGYJ

- September 16, 2026
- December 16, 2026