



**State Advisory Group on Youth Justice (SAGYJ)
Community Investment & System Accountability (CISA) Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 17, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Chair Carly Dierkhising called the meeting to order.

Present

Andrew Garcia (Co-Chair), Krystal Lewis, Carol Biondi, Lucero Noyola, Anthony Ortiz Jr., Christian Lucchesi, Jacqueline Skapik, Lazandra Dial, Michael Duncan, Protima Pandey, Ramon Ramos, Matt Cervantes, Juan Acosta, Devonte Springer

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion: Andrew Garcia
- Second: Lucero Noyola
- Outcome: Motion passed unanimously; March minutes were approved.

Needs Assessment Update (Andrew Garcia)

Purpose:

To provide an update on outreach efforts for the CISA Subcommittee's needs assessment for Title II grantees.

Update:

Initial outreach emails were sent March 30, with a follow-up on April 8; no deadline was included. Outreach has reached approximately 6–7 of 12 grantees, with only Operation New Hope responding and completing an interview. Common responses included no reply, requests to answer questions via email, or declines after internal review. Initial feedback emphasized the importance of capacity building over funding and interest in convenings for shared learning.

Discussion:

Members discussed challenges with engagement, including outdated contact information, internal approval processes, and hesitancy engaging with state-led assessments. Suggestions

included adding deadlines, using phone outreach, contacting multiple staff within organizations, and offering a mixed-method approach (interviews and surveys). OYCR staff offered to support outreach and encourage participation. Quarterly reporting timelines and funding structures were also discussed as potential leverage points.

Next Steps:

Send follow-up communications with clearer expectations and deadlines. Utilize phone outreach and expanded contact lists. Consider a survey option for non-responsive grantees. Continue tracking responses and provide updates at future meetings.

Presentation: Transform Youth Justice Program (The Center at Sierra Health Foundation)

Presenters: Juan Acosta, Matt Cervantes, Devonte Springer

Purpose:

To provide an overview of the Transform Youth Justice (TYJ) Program and its initiatives.

Overview:

The TYJ Program is a multi-partner collaboration funded by OYCR and the California Department of Health Care Services. The program supports 33 community-based organizations statewide and focuses on building community capacity, improving youth outcomes, and advancing healing-centered approaches.

Program Components:

Community-Based Organization Capacity Building Initiative (CBI): 8 organizations are funded (approximately \$500,000 each) to strengthen infrastructure and program capacity, including data systems, staffing, governance, and financial management. Technical assistance is provided by partners such as the National Center for Youth Law and Public Works Alliance.

Ending Girls Incarceration Initiative (EGI): Five organizations are funded across multiple counties, including Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, and Imperial. Awards range from approximately \$300,000 to \$1 million. The initiative focuses on diversion, housing, mentoring, transportation, and reentry support to reduce incarceration of girls and gender-expansive youth.

Justice Serving Network (JSN): Organizations are supported in building Medi-Cal (CalAIM/PAVE) billing capacity. Each organization receives approximately \$450,000 and participates in peer learning, technical assistance, and in-person convenings.

Discussion Highlights:

Members raised concerns regarding ongoing challenges in reducing girls' incarceration, particularly in Los Angeles, including system-level barriers such as probation alignment and leadership changes. Presenters noted that funding prioritizes direct support to youth and

requires coordination across multiple systems. The importance of accountability, monitoring, and measurable outcomes was emphasized.

Program Implementation and Challenges:

Discussion highlighted that systems change is complex and varies by county, capacity-building needs differ across organizations, and implementation requires sustained coordination among system partners. Monitoring includes hands-on engagement, evaluation, and technical assistance. Concerns were raised about delays in impact and alignment across systems.

Member Discussion:

Members emphasized the importance of accountability in funding and program outcomes. Concerns were raised regarding conditions for girls in detention facilities and the lack of progress in some jurisdictions. Discussion highlighted the need for transparency and clearer expectations for grantees.

Agenda Development / Next Meeting:

Members discussed continuing updates on the needs assessment, potential grantee presentations at future meetings, and upcoming updates on the 2025 application process.

Next Steps:

Continue needs assessment outreach and data collection. Identify and invite potential presenters for upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Andrew Garcia thanked members for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Next Meeting

Friday, May 15, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Resources Shared

[TYJ Program](#)

[CISA Agenda 4-17-26](#)

[Strategies and Insights to End Girls' Incarceration: Lessons from the Field | Vera Institute](#)

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