STATE ADVISORY GROUP ON YOUTH JUSTICE: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2026
9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Physical Location:
925 L Street, Suite 1275
Sacramento, CA 95814

Virtual Public Participant Link:
Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 161 623 7296 I Password: 605558

Welcome and Roll Call (9:00 A.M.-9:10 A.M.)
Facilitator: Jessica Ellis

I. Meeting starts at 9:10 A.M.

Approve April Minutes (9:10 A.M.-9:15 A.M.)
Facilitator: Chair Kent Mendoza

I. Victoria motioned and Greg second. Minutes have been approved.
- Jessica Ellis
- Alannah Tomich
- Efrain Morales
- Greg Srolestar
- Rigo Jimenez
- Victoria Birch
- Kent Mendoza

RJ Subcommittee Presentation on Deliverable Options (9:15 A.M.-10:20 A.M.)
Facilitator: Greg Srolestar, Sheri Wiedenhoefer, Efrain Morales, Don Carney, Victoria Birch

I. Community Assessment deliverable discussion
   a. Proposed a qualitative community assessment to map restorative justice capacity, definitions/labels of RJ across counties, barriers to RJ use, and opportunities to expand practices statewide.
   b. Recommended products: a standalone synthesis report (short, actionable), executive takeaways, and a one or two page summary and/or short slide deck for SACJ.
   c. Use semi-structured interviews with a sample of counties/programs (suggested 3–5 programs across Northern/Central/Southern CA).
   d. Interview individual stakeholders (public defenders, prosecutors, youth, caregivers, victim survivors) in short 30–60 minute sessions to gather candid perspectives.

e. Supplement interviews with surveys and existing reports/data (CBO activity, program outcomes) to triangulate findings.
f. Proposed approach: split members into pairs/teams to cover locations or program types; expect a few hours per person for interviewing plus synthesis time; start outreach in 2–3 weeks, full assessment will take months.
g. Anticipated near-term deliverable: distilled lessons from existing scans (Sentencing Project, DOJ, EGI) and sample jurisdiction summaries to present at SACJ.
h. Bagley-Keene Act rules apply. Either we invite the public to join the meeting or we would do a survey.

II. Decriminalizing status offenders and front-end diversion deliverable discussion

a. Focus on deinstitutionalization of status offenders and creating off-ramps for youth via RJ and community-based diversion to reduce system entry.
b. Tie work to Title II / JJDPA goals: identify how findings can inform Title II funding priorities and help jurisdictions apply for/redirect funds to RJ providers.
c. Emphasize front-end diversion (interrupt booking, legal diversion at police contact) and RJ practices that meet harmed parties' needs to secure law-enforcement and prosecutor buy-in.
d. Schools are a critical intervention point: focus on school-level RJ adoption (restorative practices, alternatives to suspension/expulsion) to prevent net-widening from truancy → suspension → status offense referrals.
e. Attention to racial disparities and structural drivers: even small counts of status offenses can disproportionately affect youth of color and create entry points into the system.
f. Produce clear guidance and examples showing how jurisdictions can use RJ and diversion to keep kids out of the system, and identify where Title II funding could unlock capacity gaps.
g. Please Don't Give Up on Us: Stories From Children and Youth Incarcerated in California
h. https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/restorative-justice-diversion-a-better-way-to-provide-meaningful-accountability-for-youth/

III. Next Steps

a. Review and extract key takeaways from three anchor reports (Sentencing Project report, RJ CA scan, EGI/girls & gender-expansive youth research).
b. Produce a concise one-pager / short PPT summarizing findings, lessons learned, and suggested local applicability for SACJ presentation.
c. Plan to present report highlights at the larger SACJ public meeting; use that forum to seek broader input and surface Title II funding implications.

Public Comment (10:20 A.M.-10:25 A.M.)
Facilitator: All

I. None

Closing (10:25 A.M.-10:30 A.M.)
Facilitator: Kent Mendoza and Jessica Ellias

I. None

Meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month. **Upcoming Subcommittee Meeting Dates**:

- 5/26/26 1:00 pm-2:30 pm
- 6/22/26 1:00 pm-2:30 pm
- 7/27/26 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
Jessica Ellis	Virtual
Greg Srolestar	Virtual
Victoria Birch	Virtual
Efrain Morales	Virtual
Rigo Jimenez	Virtual
Alannah Tomich	Virtual