



**Juvenile Justice &
Delinquency Prevention Commission
September 24, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.
Joint Meeting Minutes**

I. Preliminary Business

- a. Call to Order: Chair Johanna Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.
- b. Sherry Golestan, Clerk gave Instructions for Spanish translation services.

c. Commissioners Present

Chair Johanna Rasmussen, Vice Chair Administration, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice Chair Membership, Ruchi Mangtani, Shakeel Ali, Paul Bocanegra, Eugene Jackson, Ameya Nori, Susan Swope, and Kenneth Williams. A quorum was established.

Commissioners Attending Online via Zoom

Jennifer Blanco

Commissioners Absent

Whitney Geneviro, Sathvik Nori

Staff Present

Sherry Golestan, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Juvenile Court

Hon. Susan I. Etezadi, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court

Stakeholders Present

Ron Rayes, Private Defender Program

John Keene and Nora Cullen, Probation Department

Sarah Notch, San Mateo County Office of Education

Maria Delgado, FLY-Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Stakeholders Absent

Sanam Aram, Probation Department

Ornit Shoham, BHRS

John Fong, Director of HSA: Children & Family Services

I. Oral Communications

Clara Jaeckel shared that the Sequoia School District is hosting a Youth Town Hall on November 13th from 5-8 pm at Sequoia High School in Redwood City.



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II. Meeting Agenda

- a. **M:** Swope, **S:** Huber-Levy to accept the Agenda for September 24th with Item V moved before Item IV. Passed unanimously.

III. Presentation by the National Center for Youth Law, Raymundo Armendariz, Senior Policy Associate and Alejandra Gutierrez

Formed in 1971, the Center has five attorneys, one policy advocate, and one community organizer. They advocate for a shift from punishment to a public health approach in juvenile justice, and to reduce youth incarceration and justice system involvement. They work to increase community capacity to serve youth. They are active in San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Benito, Monterey, San Joaquin, Fresno, and Riverside Counties. Among their legislative accomplishments, they removed youth from the adult system, reduced reliance on justice systems for youth and increased community power and resources to benefit youth. They have done a lot of research on alternatives to incarceration for youth, pre-arrests, post-arrest and pre-charge.

IV. Updates from System Partners

- a. **Private Defender**—Ron Reyes reported 41 new cases assigned, seven with 707(b) allegations, and nine detentions. The rest were out-of-custody (five with 707 allegations) They held 19 SB 203 Miranda consultations on the hotline. Ron shared that Kevin Nowack received 2024 PJDC Annual Youth Defender of the Year Award on September 13, 2024, for his “fearless advocacy of young people facing transfer to adult court in San Mateo County”.
- b. **Probation**—Nora Cullen gave the full report from probation, in Sanam’s absence. Nora reported 22 youth in custody at the Juvenile Hall—20 males and 2 females. There are two housing units open, Forest 3 (co-ed) and Pine 4. Of the 22 youths, two were from another county. 193 youths are being supervised on probation, 13 youths are in the Electronic Monitoring Program, and 176 youths are participating in diversion.
- c. **County Office of Education**—Sarah Notch reported that Commissioners had conducted their inspections all day today. She was appreciative of the team’s thoughtfulness in scheduling to avoid disruption to the school day. COE is in talks with Commissioner Blanco on Educational Summit. Commissioner Rasmussen noted Dr. Maria Ramos, the new principal of Court and Community Schools (Juvenile Hall, Camp Kemp, Canyon Oaks, & Gateway) was placed on administrative leave shortly after the school year began. This is the second year in a row where a new principal was hired and then placed administrative leave within weeks.



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- d. **Behavioral Health and Recovery Services**— Commissioner Rasmussen read a written update provided by Regina Moreno that stated: BHRS has hired two bi-lingual clinicians who will be on-boarding in mid-October.
- e. **HSA: Children and Family Services**—Did not attend or send written report.
- f. **FLY**: Commissioner Rasmussen read a written update submitted by Maria Delgado stating: “There are 14 youth in the TAY program—two of which are new entries to the program. There are 4 youths on the TAY wait list. The Re-Entry program currently has two case managers managing 25 youth—23 males and 2 females. There are currently 10 youths on the wait list. FLY reports that there are enough youth consistently on the waitlist to expand the program and add a third case manager. However, funding is not currently in place to support the expansion.

V. 2024 Inspection Team Updates

- a. Canyon Oaks: Commissioner Sathvik Nori reported that Canyon Oaks is complete. Their top concerns were the team’s inability to interview a youth in residence who is on active probation and the facility currently does not have a PE teacher.
- b. Juvenile Hall: Commissioner Rasmussen reported the team formally requested the routine annual data for Juvenile Hall and SYTF/Secure Track on July 25, 2024, 64 days ago. There is currently no ETA on when the data will be made available. The team typically receives the data within 7-10 days— the delays are unprecedented and excessive. The team is currently 6 weeks behind the agreed upon timeline.
- c. Camp Kemp: Commissioner Rasmussen reported that the inspection has been completed. The team formally requested the routine annual inspection data on July 8, 2024, 82 days. The Probation Department has no ETA on when the data will be provided.
- d. Education: Commissioner Ameya Nori noted that Juvenile Hall inspection was conducted today. Chair, Rasmussen joined Commissioners, Ameya Nori, Huber-Levy, and Blanco for the inspection. The team hopes to present the Hillcrest educational inspection report in November. The Canyon Oaks Educational Inspection will be presented at the October meeting.
- e. Police Holding Facilities: Commissioner Rasmussen: South San Francisco and San Bruno Police Department inspection reports will be presented at the October meeting.
- f. Elysian: Commissioner Rasmussen: The report is expected to be presented at the November meeting.



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VI. Project Updates

- a. Educational Summit: Commissioner Blanco said she has met with Kris Shouse at the County Office of Education, and they will be meeting again. She plans to have the Summit on a Saturday at CSM because CSM's Cafeteria would not be available during the week when classes are in session. Her committee includes Commissioners Swope and Ali, and Dr. Cousins.
- b. Foster Care: Commissioner Geneviro has met with John Fong. She has emailed Alameda, San Francisco, San Diego and Santa Cruz Counties. She has also contacted Santa Clara's JJDPCC Chair about their Foster Care programs.

VII. Liaison Updates

- a. Voting Rights: Commissioner Huber-Levey reported that eligible youth at YSC have all been registered to vote. The County Register is happy to arrange to provide and collect ballots.
- b. Justice Bound & Jobs for Youth: Commissioner Mangtani reported that she is working to provide formerly incarcerated youth with resumes, interviewing skills, and clothing to assist in gaining employment.

VIII. Matters of Commission Interest

- a. Commissioner Rasmussen said that the Annual Family Support Group's Fall Dinner will be on October 18, 2024.

IX. Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.



Youth Justice Team

Reymundo Armendariz , Sr. Comm. Policy Associate
Alejandra Gutierrez, Policy Attorney

National Center
for **Youth Law**

The Youth Justice Team

Attorneys, Policy Advocates,
Community Organizers



Diverse Backgrounds & Experiences

- Race, Ethnicity, Nationality
- Low-Income/Underserved
- Justice-Impacted Communities
- Formerly Incarcerated

Goals

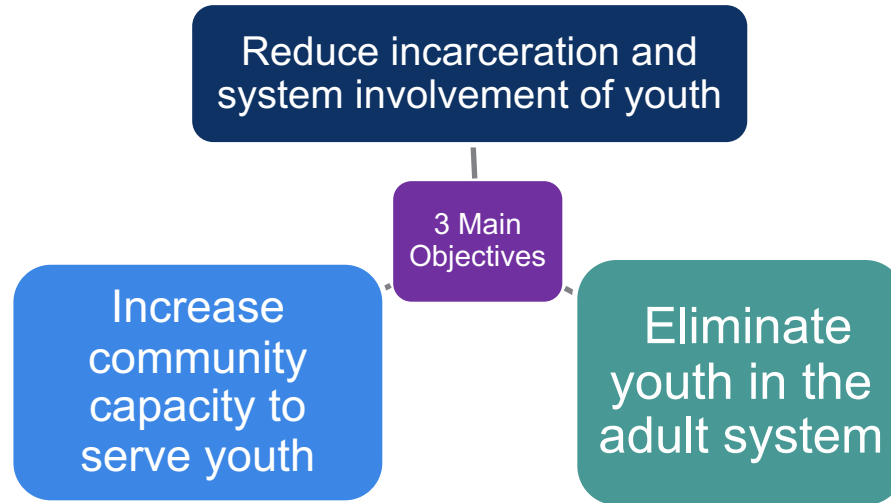
Ensure youth are treated fairly and appropriately for their age and level of development, in a trauma informed and culturally-centered manner, in their communities

Sub-goals:

1. Shift youth justice system away from punishment to public health
2. Empower impacted youth and communities to advocate for and participate in systems reforms
3. Fight justice by geography – Raise floor of progress
4. End racial, ethnic disparities in youth justice system

Project Mission

We work at state and local levels to create an equitable, trauma-informed, gender responsive, youth- and family-centered justice system that values community and is aligned with positive youth development principles.



Activities

Youth Leadership
Development

Strategic
Communications

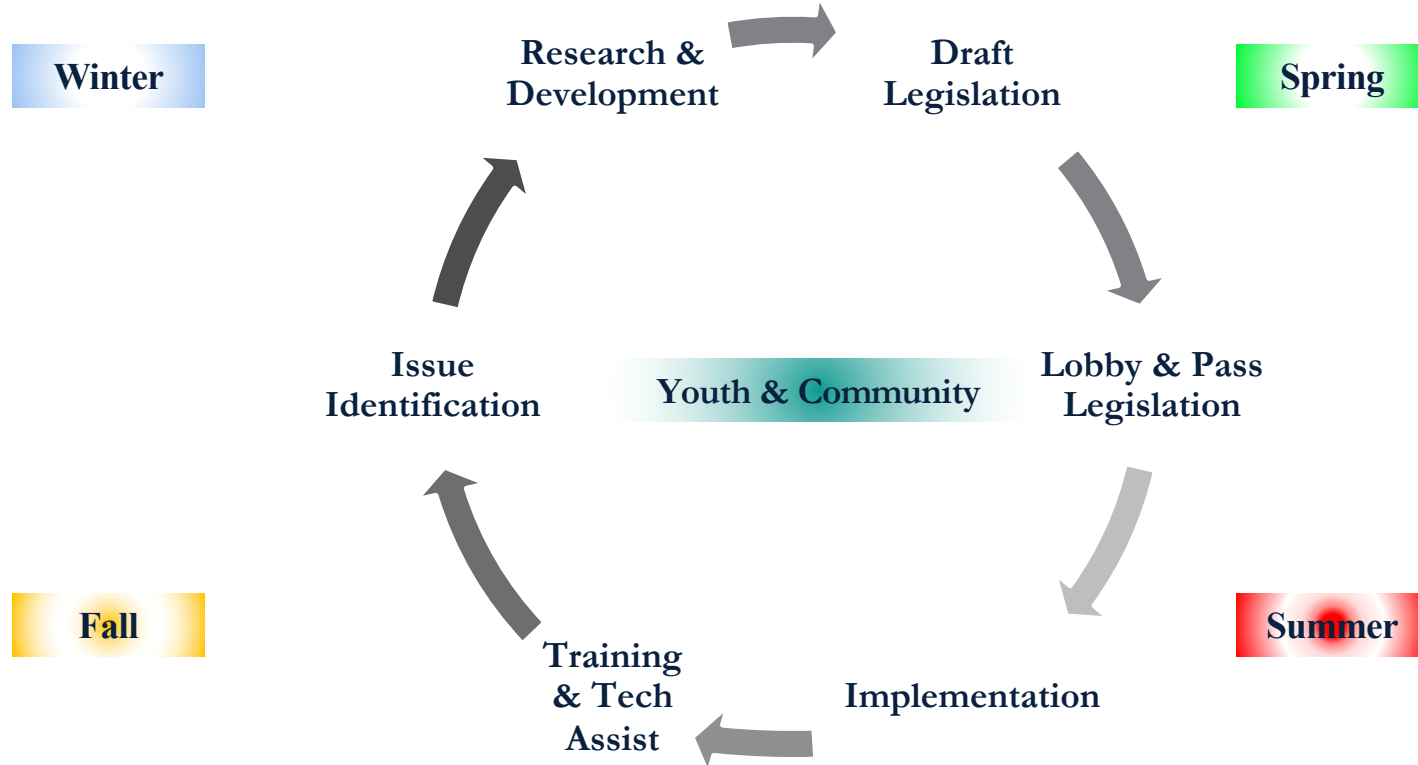
Community Power,
Capacity Building

Data & Research

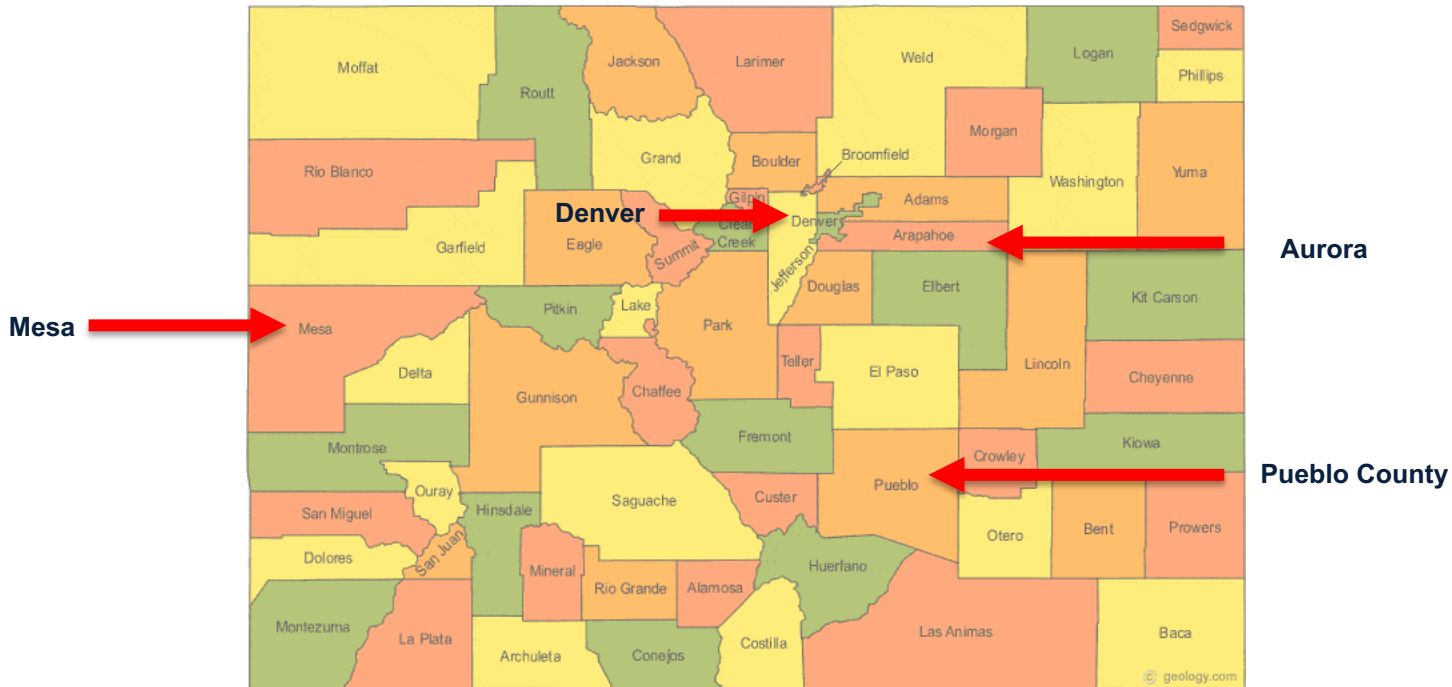
State & Local
Policy Advocacy

Technical
Assistance &
Policy
Implementation

Our Approach: Policy-Practice-Policy







Partnerships

State	Local
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child-Serving Agencies• Community Coalitions• Corrections & Parole• Governor & Cabinet• Health Services• Labor• Legislature• State Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community-Based Orgs• Courts• Education• Faith-Based Orgs• Law Enforcement• Probation• Public Health Depts• Service Providers• Youth & Families

Legislative Accomplishments

Remove youth
from adult
justice system

Repealed Prosecutorial Direct File, Abolished Juvenile LWOP, Established Youthful Offender Parole Hearings, Trauma Informed Sentencing (Gender Justice)

Reduce reliance
on justice systems
for youth

Enhanced Miranda Rights, Established Minimum Age of Juv Court Jurisdiction, Expanded Pre-Arrest Diversion Programs & Resources, Closing DJJ (Youth Prisons)

Increase
community power
and resources to
benefit youth

Established Statewide Coalition, \$57.5M for Pre-Arrest Diversion & Community-Based Services, Community Capacity Building

Current Priorities

Strategies for Health-Based Alternatives to Incarceration

Addressing the impact of the system on Girls and Gender Expansive Youth

Addressing the erasure and disproportionate justice system involvement of Native American youth

Increasing investments in the under-resourced community

Building partnerships with allies (i.e. Labor Unions, Courts)

YJI Areas of Support: Capacity Building



TRAININGS

Provide trainings for staff and youth on juvenile justice transformation, youth justice policy implementation, and rights of youth.



POLICY ADVOCACY

Identify and develop ideas for policy change at the local and state levels. Partner with communities to advocate for health-based alternatives.



ACCESS

Support youth and communities to gain access to decision-making spaces



RESEARCH & DATA

Assist with gathering and analyzing local juvenile justice data, including racial/ethnic disparities, to identify areas of focus for advocacy.



POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Provide implementation information, guides, and trainings on recent policy changes to be implemented locally.



SUSTAINABILITY

Build sustainability plans, including fundraising and infrastructure, alongside local partners to institutionalize the long-term goals and strategies. Support partners in identifying, navigating, and advocating for funding opportunities.



COMMUNICATIONS

Inform strategic communication to shift public perceptions, and influence policymakers and administrators to improve responses to systems-impacted youth.



COALITION BUILDING

Support relationship building and forming connections with other organizations working to achieve similar goals.



LEGAL SUPPORT

Connect to organizations providing legal clinics and participatory defense trainings to address pressing needs and help bolster direct legal representation in delinquency court.

Legislative Priorities

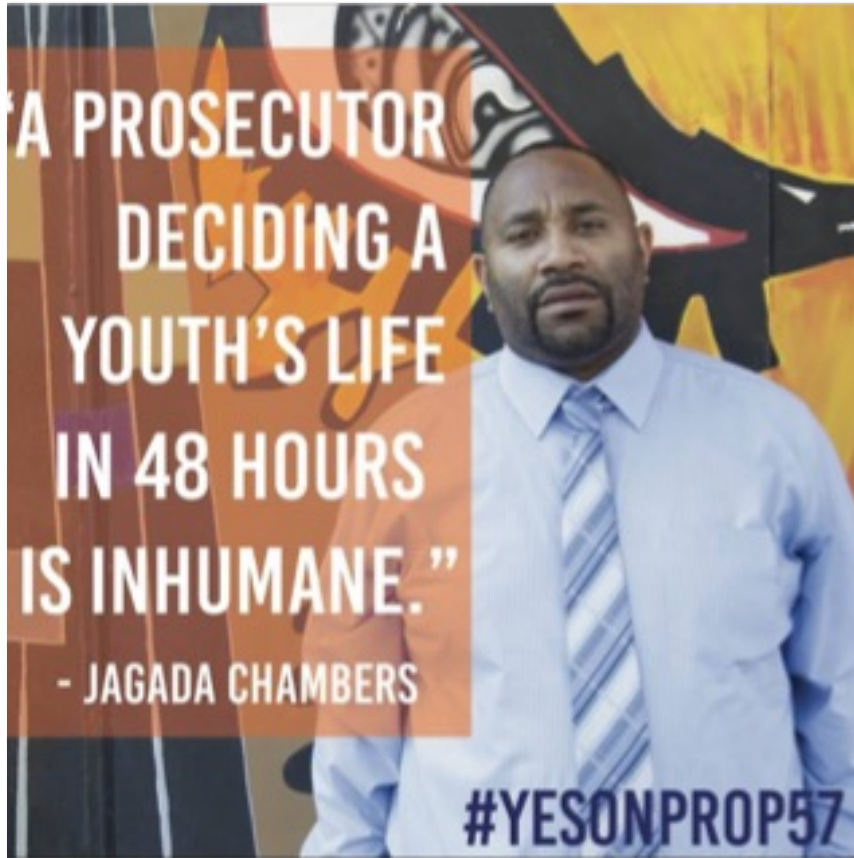
1. Ending the Adultification of Youth
2. Reducing Reliance on the Juvenile Justice System
3. DJJ Realignment (SB 823 & SB 92)
4. Alternatives to Incarceration



Adultification of Youth



- I. Legislation and policies that enter youth into the adult justice system or have consequences based on adult level punishment instead of rehabilitative services.
- II. Examples of legislation and policies to roll back adultification
 - Senate Bill 260 (2013)
 - Senate Bill 261 (2015)
 - AB 124 Justice for Survivors
 - Prop. 57 Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act
 - SB 1391 Barring youth from Adult Courts and Facilities



Ending the Adulthood of Youth

Proposition 57: Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act (Ballot Initiative, 2016)

- Eliminated prosecutors' authority to directly file charges against youth in adult court and established new procedures for judges in determining whether to transfer a youth's case to adult court.

SB 1391 (Senator Ricardo Lara, Senator Holly Mitchell, 2018)

- Youth under age 16 cannot be sent to adult court.



AB 124 JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS

**A judge makes a decision based on the evidence
of these mitigating factors**

History

Physical

Psychological

Childhood

Age

25 or younger

**Presently or
at the time of
the offense**

Victimization

**Human
Trafficking**

**Intimate Partner
Violence**

Sexual Violence

REDUCING RELIANCE ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



SB 203: Miranda Protections for Youth Bill

Effective January 1, 2021

- All youth under the age of 18 must consult with an attorney in person, by telephone, or by video conference prior to a **custodial interrogation** or **waiver of Miranda Rights**.
- This includes custodial interrogations that occur on school campuses.
- The consultation may not be waived.
-

The JJDPC can help ensure implementation by inquiring into local practices.



What Protections Does SB 203 Provide to Youth?

- The Miranda Protections for Youth Bill ensures that:
 1. Students have meaningful access to understanding and asserting their constitutional rights, and
 2. Students understand the consequences of waiving those rights.
 3. It does this by requiring them to consult with an attorney prior to speaking with police



DJJ Realignment-Closing Youth Prisons



Senate Bill 823 (Senator Nancy Skinner)

- Closed the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) by transferring the responsibility for the custody, treatment, and supervision of youth to local counties.
- Established the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), a state agency to provide meaningful oversight and administer state juvenile justice funding programs.

Senate Bill 92 (Senator Nancy Skinner)

- Established requirements for local counties, such as local secure youth treatment facilities (SYTF) for youth 14 years or older adjudicated for offenses that would have resulted in a commitment to DJJ.

Less Restrictive Programs (LRP's)

- **Less restrictive program (LRP)** (also known as step downs):
- Any program or setting that is less restrictive than an SYTF
- This may include a community residential living program, a camp or ranch, or home with support.
- **Process:**
- Every 6 months, youth in SYTF have a 6 month review hearing
- This is an opportunity to:
 - Reduce term of confinement
 - Step down to a less restrictive program, or
 - Release the youth



- **LRP's help prevent recidivism and help increase public safety**

Challenges with Implementation

- Lack of appropriate programming in SYTF
- No Individualized Rehabilitation Plans (IRP)
- Lack of less restrictive programs (LRP)
- Lack of reentry support → high recidivism rates
- Inadequate conditions inside SYTF
-
- **The county's SB 823 subcommittee is tasked with overseeing implementation.**
- **JJDPC members should be informed of implementation and of the subcommittee's work.**
- **JJDPC should inquire about conditions inside SYTF.**
- **Ensure Title 15 minimum standards and Youth Bill of Rights are enforced.**

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION



A community-based response that serves as an alternative to formal court system-involvement by providing youth the support, treatment, and services they need to address unmet needs.

- **This is related to the JJDPC's purpose of reducing system-involvement and increasing public safety.**

- **This is related to your focus on prevention.**

DIVERSION



Focus on the Earliest Point of Intervention

Pre-Arrest Diversion

Law enforcement refers a young person to a diversion program instead of arresting them or referring them to probation.



Post-Arrest Diversion

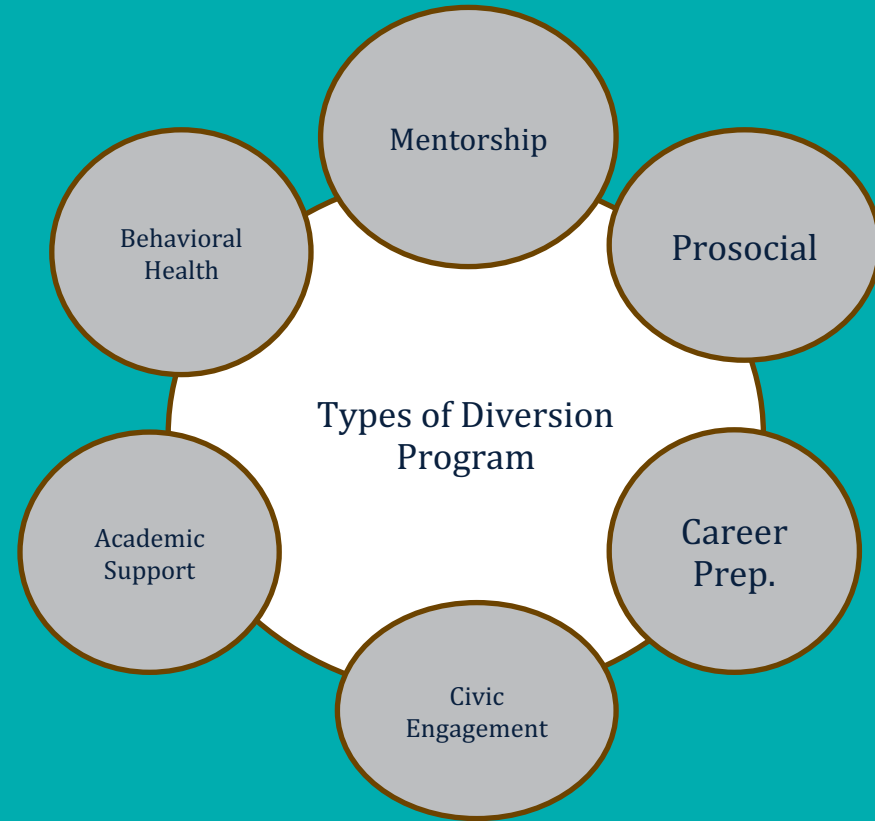
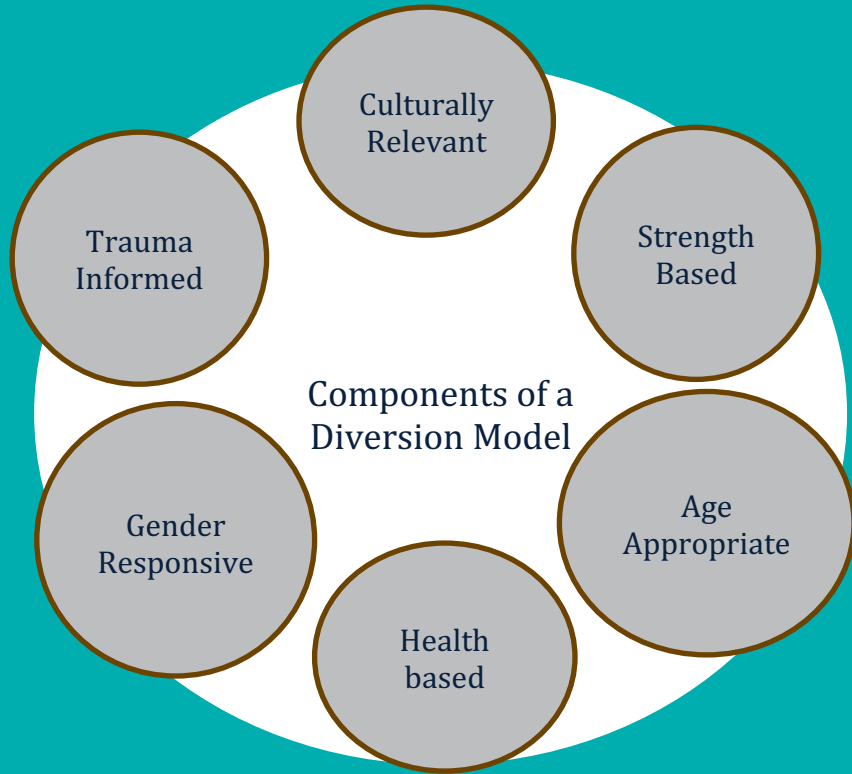
Law enforcement or probation refers a young person to a diversion program after arrest, instead of referring to the District Attorney for filing.



Pre-charge / Pre-filing Diversion

A District Attorney refers a young person to a diversion program instead of filing a petition (charging or prosecuting them).

Community Based Diversion Model



CALIFORNIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FUNDING SOURCES

This guide provides an overview of state funding streams that fund components of county-level juvenile justice systems in California. Some of these funds are available for community-based programs and support for youth.

Name	Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Stated Uses	Relevant Links
<p>Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)</p>	<p>The JJCPA program provides state funding for counties to implement programs that have proven effective in reducing crime and delinquency among “at-promise” youth and “youthful offenders.” This can include early prevention, intervention, supervision, and treatment programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of JJCPA and YOBG with links to plans, reports, etc. • WIC 749.22 • Government Code Section 30061
<p>Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG)</p>	<p>SB 81 (2007) developed the YOBG program to provide flexible state funding for counties to deliver custody and care (i.e., appropriate rehabilitative and supervisory services) to “youthful offenders” who previously would have been committed to the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of JJCPA and YOBG with links to plans, reports, etc. • WIC 1950-56
<p>Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG)</p>	<p>SB 823 (2020) developed the JJRBG to support counties in caring for youth who would otherwise have been committed to DJJ. This funding is used for services for youth in local Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF), which replaced DJJ facilities. The funding can also be used to provide transitional/reentry services to youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans by Individual Counties for JJRBG Funding / SYTF Programming • WIC 1991 • WIC 1995

The logo consists of two white circular arcs, one above and one below the text, forming a partial circle around the words "National Center" and "for Youth Law".

National Center for Youth Law