

DJJ Realignment Subcommittee (SB 823/W&I 1995)
Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)

Meeting Notes
June 1, 2021

- **Introduction of Membership**

List of Subcommittee Members Present

Wayne Barley – Chief Probation Officer, Butte County Probation Department
Melissa Romero – Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Butte County Probation Department
Amy Asher – Program Manager, Butte County Probation Department
Michelle Hinkle – Program Analyst, Butte County Department of Employment & Social Services
Mike Ramsey – District Attorney, Butte County District Attorney’s Office
Leonard Goldkind – Deputy District Attorney, Butte County District Attorney’s Office
Suzie Boothe – Court Operations Manager, Butte County Superior Court
Nino Pinocchio – Superintendent, Butte County Juvenile Hall
Mariah Ruddy - Supervising Counselor, Butte County Juvenile Hall
Debbie Morris - Butte Community Based Coalition/Butte County Office of Education
Joe Hejl – Boys and Girls Club
Rashell Brobst – Boys and Girls Club
Heather Chavez – Alliance for Workforce Development
Ron Reed – Attorney, Butte County Public Defender
Karen Stiles – Butte County Office of Education
Bobby Jones, Sr. – Executive Director, African-American Family and Cultural Center
Scott Kennelly – Director, Butte County Behavioral Health
Beth Parsons – Youth for Change
Sarah Feingold – Youth for Change
Karen Eley – Youth for Change
Maria Leon – Northern Valley Catholic Social Services
Darin Haerle – California State University, Chico
Shawnie Hurte – Supervising Administrative Analyst, Butte County Probation Department

- **Discussion Notes**

- Amy Asher provided a brief review of the Draft Implementation Plan for DJJ Realignment.
 - It was noted Juvenile Hall staff members will undergo training in the specialized needs of LGBTQ+ youth with Stonewall Alliance.
 - Joe Hejl proposed a correction to the Boys and Girls Club section of the plan to indicate the organization serves youth ages 12 to 18 (instead of 12 to 17). He noted Boys and Girls Club provides numerous services,

including Aggression Replacement Training, transition planning, interactive journaling, gang intervention, and social/emotional learning.

- Mike Ramsey requested additional information regarding the duties of the OYCR ombudsman, as well as a definition of “net-widening.” Amy Asher addressed the role of the ombudsman and provided an explanation of the terminology used in the plan.
- Ron Reed noted there is often an argument presented in Juvenile Court that youthful offenders should be sent to DJJ or certified to Adult Court because the local community does not have the resources in place to handle tougher cases, including homicide or assault with a deadly weapon/great bodily injury. He asked if there are provisions for violent cases, or options for a regional facility if youthful offenders are difficult to manage at the local level but are amenable to treatment. Mike Ramsey noted we will be effectively excluded from handling female youth and sex offenders at the local level under the current terms of the realignment plan. Wayne Barley indicated there is discussion at the state level with respect to handling those populations. There is a low need in Butte County for specialized services for female offenders, but there will be greater need for sex offender treatment options. Those youth will not be handled locally.
- Mike Ramsey noted the census and race data can be misleading, as numbers can be skewed. Wayne Barley noted this information is a reporting requirement for the implementation plan.
- Heather Chavez asked if it would be possible for AFWD staff to receive training specific to working with this population. Amy Asher confirmed that trauma-informed care training is available to community partners.
- Mike Ramsey asked if there is a difference between the services provided by a multidisciplinary team versus the Probation Officer or Juvenile Hall Case Manager. Amy Asher explained that the Probation Officer will provide court reviews and recommendations, while the Case Manager will provide collaborative coordination of services with the multidisciplinary team, develop the case plan, and be the key contact person within the Juvenile Hall. Nino Pinocchio added that the Case Manager will disseminate the case plan to line staff.
- Mike Ramsey inquired as to the security measures that will be implemented at the Juvenile Hall with respect to this population. Amy Asher noted Butte County is classified as a small county and therefore qualified for a smaller amount of funding for facilities upgrades. Upgrading the camera system and other security measures will be too expensive in light of the limited funding. As such, it was proposed to use

the funding to install enhanced security fencing. Nino Pinocchio added that the facility was designed for the type of youth who will be served under DJJ realignment. Some of the technology installed at the Juvenile Hall is outdated and needs to be brought current; however, the facility already houses similar risk youth during adjudication. Wayne Barley agreed that the Juvenile Hall is already a secure facility, and measures are currently being taken to soften its appearance to comply with trauma-informed care. Melissa Romero noted there is a desire to connect the housing pod to a programming pod with a secured pass-through; however, there is not enough funding available to do so.

- Mike Ramsey noted it is difficult to collect victim restitution while youth are detained at a facility. Amy Asher noted restorative justice discussions are ongoing. There are existing opportunities for youth to earn money, including the Fresh Start Youth Farm, and there is a potential for youth to work on other projects to be sold to repay those debts. Debbie Morris noted raised garden beds are popular and easy for youth to construct.
- Sarah Feingold and Karen Eley provided a brief presentation regarding Wraparound services and Child and Family Teams (CFT).
 - Youth for Change has provided these services for twenty years. Wraparound is considered a placement option, and CFT is used to prepare families for the transition from a high level of care to gradual independence.
 - Every youth is assigned a facilitator. A youth and their family members receive multidisciplinary services that facilitate case planning, help the family achieve a vision, develop stronger bonds within the family, and create sustainable solutions to needs within the community.

- **Next Steps**

- Realignment planning and discussions will continue in an effort to finalize the implementation plan.
- Questions, ideas, or items to be submitted for group discussion/consideration can be forwarded to Amy Asher (aasher@buttecounty.net) and/or Melissa Romero (mromero@buttecounty.net).

- **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. An invitation with an updated Zoom link and an agenda was sent to the subcommittee members/designees via email. Due to the social distancing recommendations set forth by

the Governor due to the COVID-19 emergency, the next meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Meeting notes prepared by S. Miller, Butte County Probation Department