

Public Listening Session

Public Listening Session: Main themes and recommended areas of focus

NOTE:

✓ - How many times the item was mentioned

Low income assistance

- Housing ✓✓✓
- Transitional housing ✓✓
- Social work ✓
- Financial aid ✓

Mental health

- Mental health (in general) ✓✓
- Trauma informed care ✓
- Mental health diversion ✓

Education

- Education (in general) ✓
- In-custody education ✓
- Implementation of transitional programs for college readiness ✓

Employment

- Job services ✓✓✓✓✓✓
 - Jobs for land-based cultures ✓
- Job training ✓✓
- Job placement ✓
- Internships with CBOs that provide youth with juvenile justice services ✓

Family-based initiatives, services and programs

- Engaging families ✓✓
- Family wraparound services ✓

Community-based initiatives, services and programs

- Investing in community-based organizations (CBO) ✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
- Funding CBOS that are ethnically and culturally aligned with population ✓
- Helping CBOs get evidence-based programs ✓
- Juvenile facility coordination with community ✓

R.E.D. ✓✓

Culturally-responsive initiatives, services and programs

- Cultural relevance ✓
- Investing in community resources ✓
- Moral traditions ✓

Alternatives to detention and placement

- Alternatives to detention ✓✓✓
- Alternatives to incarceration ✓✓
- Alternative placements ✓
- Resourcing communities to provide services instead of focusing on detention facilities as service providers ✓
- De-institutionalization of status offenders ✓✓
- Jail removal ✓
- Rehabilitation rather than punitive responses ✓
- Decriminalization ✓

- Ticketing ✓

Diversion

- Diversion (in general) ✓✓✓
 - Arrest ✓
 - Police contact (in general) ✓
- Community efforts when dealing with diversion (vs. Law enforcement) ✓

Evidence-based practices ✓✓✓✓

Re-entry programs ✓✓✓✓✓✓

Aftercare services and programs ✓✓✓

State Plan

- Transparency ✓
- Ongoing feedback ✓
- Gap analysis and addressing identified gaps ✓
- More outreach using social media ✓
- Asking the public session attendees to share information ✓
- Need for SACJDP to seek community input into the State Plan ✓

Systemic reform

- Systemic reform ✓
- Clear vision ✓
- Youth development vision ✓
- Data transparency ✓
- Holistic approach ✓
- Support for public defenders ✓
- Clear, concise and feasible court orders ✓

Intervention ✓

Other youth programs

- Programs that align with adolescent development ✓
- Providing youth-oriented services ✓

Agencies – needs

- Access to resources ✓
- Staff capacity ✓

Assessment

- Assessment upon initial contact is essential ✓

Networking

- Making connections ✓
 - Dialogue circles ✓
 - Cultural connections ✓
- Fostering positive relationships ✓

Public Listening Sessions

The State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice (SACJJD) held two public listening sessions, one in Sacramento on June 21, 2017 and another in Los Angeles on September 20, 2017. The purpose of the meetings was to gather input from the communities across California about what they believe are the most important and effective interventions to help at-risk young people succeed - what works, what does not work and where are the gaps in service. The information is intended to help the SACJJD develop its three-year state plan, and the strategies and policies that will direct spending under the federal Title II grant program.

Sacramento Listening Session Notes

There were 13 community members that provided input on personal experience and the services they deemed most needed. There was interactive discussion between Committee members and the members of the public. Public input is listed in blue font, and where it occurred Committee member discussion follows in black font.

Jon Morse, Owner, JM consulting

- Mr. Morse would like help from SACJJD in finding things that work to reduce recidivism

Daniel Mendoza – Youth Advocate, Motiving Individual Leadership for Public Advancement (MILPA)

- Mr. Mendoza stressed the need for cultural relevance, trauma informed care, evidence based practices, aftercare, investing in community resources, and engaging family.

Christian Franco – Intern, MILPA

- Mr. Franco addressed reentry needs, housing, transitional-housing, and job training and experience.

Dominique Nong – Senior Policy Associate, Children’s Defense Fund

- Ms. Nong discussed SACJJD providing transparency and ongoing feedback on State Plan draft. She also talked about the need for gap analysis, addressing identified gaps, alternatives to detention, investing in community-based organizations (CBO), helping CBOs get programs deemed evidence-based, and the need to support public defenders.

Member comments following Ms. Nong:

Chief Michelle Brown inquired about the program purpose areas (PPA) that Ms. Nong is referring to. Ms. Nong responded alternatives to incarceration, community-based programs and services and systemic reform. Dr. B. J. Davis inquired about gaps in service and are there any that Ms. Nong has identified or thinks that SACJJD should focus on. Ms. Nong replied that the current gap relates to alternative placements and alternatives to detention and resourcing communities to provide those services rather than focusing on detention facilities to do so.

Israel Villa – Program Assistant, MILPA

- Mr. Villa talked about reentry, family wrap around services, education, job training, job placement, alternatives to detention, deinstitutionalizations of status offenders, jail removal, diversion, the

need to invest in CBOs, and the need to do more outreach on state plan development perhaps using social media.

Member comments following Mr. Villa:

Chair Rachel Rios asked for suggestions about how SACJJD can do better outreach. Mr. Villa replied social media and asking those who regularly attend public sessions to share the information.

Anthony Trevino – Intern, MILPA

- Mr. Trevino talked about aftercare, reentry, deinstitutionalization of status offenders, and transitional housing.

Member comments following Mr. Trevino:

Dr. Davis inquired about Mr. Trevino's pre-release prep and what services he received, either from state or family, upon release from the detention facility. Mr. Trevino replied that resources were limited that and there was no direct referral to CBOs that could assist with reentry

Erica Webster – Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

- Ms. Webster talked about the need to invest in community/CBOs, juvenile facility coordination with community, housing, employment, reentry, Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.), the need for SACJJD continue to seek community input into State Plan, and the provision of seed money to CBOs such as ARC

Tre Vasquez – Middle School Restorative Justice Manager, Restorative Resources

- Mr. Vasquez stressed the important to not only focus on evidence-based outcomes, but understanding that simply making connections is also important, i.e., dialogue circles, cultural connections, moral traditions, and fostering positive relationships, and job creation – specifically, jobs tied to the land for land-based cultures.

Member comments following Mr. Vasquez

Chief Susan Manheimer commented that working with middle school age youth is vital because they're looking for answers at that age and it's important that they get them from people who have relevance and understanding.

Michael Rizo – Advocate, Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)

- Mr. Rizo discussed the need for education in custody, and implementing a transition program for college readiness.

Daniel Silva – Founder, Self-Awareness and Recovery (SAR)

- Mr. Silva stressed diversion, intervention, CBO programs, reentry, recovery programs, housing, and jobs.

Member comments following Mr. Silva

Chair Rios stated that Mr. Silva and Victor Malin did a presentation for Sac County Probation youth and invited Mr. Silva to speak to some of the needs of youth entering probation. Mr. Silva stressed the importance of housing and jobs and the need to be more help for youth coming out of juvenile hall, DJJ and prisons. Dr. Davis asked Daniel Mendoza about what worked for him during his incarceration and

reentry. Mr. Mendoza said during incarceration it was the rehabilitative rather than punitive response to his offense that made the difference and during reentry teachers and community providers/volunteers first made sure his basic needs were met and he was placed a family and then enrolled in college – that combination of services contributed to his ability to stay out of the system. Mr. Ramon Leija stated the need for a list to identify service-providing CBOs, and added that identifying as a formerly-incarcerated youth that was tried as an adult makes it hard to find gainful employment. Chair Rios mentioned an initiative that was introduced that would omit the formerly incarcerated question from job applications, but she did not know the status of the initiative. Chief Manheimer discussed Community Corrections Partnerships (CCP) funds in San Mateo County that are mandated for reentry plans that happen in the jails and suggested that the same would be beneficial in the juvenile system. Kathleen Howard said all 58 counties have CCPs as outlined in statute, and each county is responsible for determining how to use those funds to meet local needs, and that these listening sessions will help in determining priorities for the use of Title II money.

[Sue Burrell – Policy and Training Director, Pacific Juvenile Defender Center](#)

- [Ms. Burrell talked about Juvenile defense funding, mental health diversion, funding CBOs that are ethnically and culturally aligned with population, the need for programs that align with adolescent development, and the need for clear, concise and feasible court orders.](#)

Member comments following Ms. Burrell

Chair Rios discussed mental health diagnoses and services for system-involved youth, and adolescent behavior differentiating it from criminal behavior. Chief Manheimer asked Ms. Burrell for an example of an adolescent development type of outcome and Ms. Burrell referenced a book published by the National Academy of Sciences, Reforming Juvenile Justice – An Adolescent Development Approach that defines four core things that are important for healthy adolescent development. Chief Brown commented on Ms. Burrell’s suggestion for concise and feasible court orders and stated that it is being talked about at the national level and said she had participated in and exercise recently at the CJJ conference in DC. Chief Brown found that the exercise’s sample court orders would have been difficult for adolescents, and perhaps even parents, to comply with. Chief Brown stated she is not sure how this issue could be addressed with Title II funds, but stated it is an important issue. Dr. Davis commended Ms. Burrell for talking about the significance of adolescent development as it relates to criminal misconduct and how the consideration of this is an important factor in the goal of reducing juvenile recidivism.

[Raymond Garcia – Intern, ARC](#)

- [Mr. Garcia talked about the need to support CBOs that provide youth with the necessary juvenile justice services.](#)

[Victor Malin - Sacramento Director, ARC](#)

- [Mr. Malin stated the need for more funding for CBOs, and employment services and opportunity such as internships with CBOs that provided youth juvenile justice services.](#)

Member comments following Mr. Malin

Chair Rios asked Mr. Malin to provide the SACJJD with a summary of what the ARC does. Mr. Malin described ARC as a non-profit organization based out of Los Angeles that provides a pro-social circles

and services for formerly incarcerated young men and women, and advocates for fairer criminal justice policies.

Los Angeles Listening Session Notes

There were four community members that provided input in Los Angeles. The discussion was narrative in nature and less interactive than the session in Sacramento. The following community members talked about their experiences with a focus on the services that their agencies provide.

Roy Brown, Officer, Santa Monica Police Department, Youth services

- Officer Brown stated that assessment upon initial contact is essential, as well as providing youth-oriented services. Santa Monica Police Department uses YASI Youth Assessment Screening Instrument. Most young people the department encounters are the first-time offenders. Often, families want to engage. The biggest issue the department is facing is access to resources and staff capacity. They saw 45 kids since the program started.

Kim McGill, Organizer, Youth Justice System

- The Youth Justice System works with formerly incarcerated people. Ms. McGill expressed that a clear vision is lacking in California. It is the state with the largest jail system in the world, largest sheriff's departments, juvenile halls, etc. Ms. McGill urged for a youth development vision in California. Currently, most resources are going to the Law Enforcement, as opposed to community operated organizations. In addition, a youth development department does not exist in LA. Ms. McGill also calls for the programs focusing on data transparency; diversion (not just arrest but police contact), decriminalization (ticketing was vicious), de-incarceration, etc. State wide youth development and regional wide youth development departments handle diversion and housing for people, but also provide everything young people need.

Detective Kim, City of Gardena Police Department, Los Angeles County

- Dr. Kim compared the situation in Gardena to the situation in Santa Monica – the department brings in the high-risk youth and divert them to the program, where social workers assess the youth. Mr. Kim expressed that the City of Gardena needs better mental health assistance, financial aid, social work, and overall, a holistic approach. Mr. Kim asked SACJJD about grants available to cities such as Gardena. Mr. Kim also asked if there is a statutory method to bring kids into the programs.

Jessica Ellis, Centinela Youth Services

- Ms. Ellis explained the work of the agency, specializing in diversion, and shared their success stories and impressive results in lowering the rates of recidivism. She advised SACJJD to focus on efforts to keep the kids out of the system and minimize all contact with the system and law enforcement. Ms. Ellis also encourage community efforts when dealing with diversion vs. Law Enforcement. Ms. Ellis praised Title II, which holds the grantees accountable but also allows them to be creative.