Subcommittee #2: Youth Formally Processed in the Legal System
How can the legal system be re-structured to have healing and restorative responses to arrested youth?

Chairs: Danielle Dupuy, UCLA Bunche Center, Million Dollar Hoods; Joanna Lowry, W. Haywood Burns Institute; Raquel Mariscal, W. Haywood Burns Institute; Kent Mendoza, Anti-recidivism Coalition

Objectives: The objectives of this sub-committee are to design, enhance and/or eliminate responses, structures and policies for youth arrested by law enforcement, going through the legal court process, declared a ward of the court and/or adjudicated on probation. We will consider both resource allocation and the workforce related to these objectives. What should be new/transformed/gone in this regard?

Context: The impact of involvement in the legal system is borne by young people of color. The long-term consequences of youthful misbehavior for youth of color are numerous and oftentimes, extreme. Most young people are allowed to grow out of these behaviors without getting entangled in the legal system. However, youth of color are more likely to be arrested, prosecuted, sentenced, and incarcerated for these behaviors than are their White peers. According to data from the California Department of Justice (DOJ), youth of color are more likely to become system involved in Los Angeles County, too. In 2018, Black youth were 14.6 times more likely than White youth to be referred to Probation, and 26 times more likely to become a ward of the court. Latino youth were more than three times as likely as White youth to be referred to Probation and nearly five times as likely to become a ward of the court. Given research on adolescent behavior, brain development and evidence about intervention strategies that promote healing, personal growth, positive development and long-term success for youth involved in the legal system, the design will look to re-imagine and transform systems.

Subcommittee Focus:
- Processes, functions and workforce impacting young people who are arrested by law enforcement and are cited and released or referred to detention.
- Processes, functions and workforce impacting youth with regards to:
  - Filing of a formal petition
  - Formal wardship
  - Informal probation
  - Non-wardship probation [WIC 725]
  - Home on probation

Build On:
- The responses designed by this sub-committee will rely on the principles of racial equity and youth development.
- The sub-committee will build on existing recommendations, including but not limited to:
  - A Culture of Care For All, Envisioning the LA Model
  - Los Angeles County Probation Reform and Implementation Team.

Opportunities to Engage the Broader Community:
- Listening sessions and focus groups with stakeholders in the following categories including but not limited to:
  - Youth impacted by the legal system
  - Probation staff
  - Police officers
  - Impacted unions
  - Bench officers
  - Prosecutors
- Defense attorneys
- Faith-based organizations
- Youth serving community-based organizations
- Schools
- Group Homes
- Parents/families/guardians
- Girls impacted by the legal system
- LGBTQ+ youth impacted by the legal system
- Youth serving mental health providers
- Local academics
- Survivors

- Town Halls in each district

**Related Questions Raised by Work Group:**

1. Who are the youth that are processed through the legal system?
   a. How many youth were arrested between 2014-2019
   b. How many youth have been processed between 2014-2019?
   c. What are the crimes they are being charged with?
   d. What is the race, ethnicity, age and sex demographics of these youth?
   e. What were the dispositions?

2. How do existing policies and practices need to change in a reimagined ecosystem?
   a. What are the current functions/decisions of the legal system? (e.g., admissions, assessments, probation reports, court orders, supervision of probationers, etc.)
   b. If these functions need to shift, what governmental department or agency and/or non-governmental entity will existing functions go to promote well-being?
   c. What are the non-negotiables? What are the functions that must continue to be administered by current stakeholders?
   d. What legal roadblocks do we need to keep in mind as we develop a new system?
   e. What are the legislative proposals needed to achieve the level of change proposed in design?

3. How can we create space to ensure people that are directly impacted are heard, including the voices of survivors and arrested youth?

4. How do we reimagine the workforce for a new model?

5. What resources will be needed for this reimagined system and how much of the current resources can be re-allocated for these new purposes?
   a. What resources are currently allocated to the part of the system that is the focus of this sub-committee?
   b. Are these resources sufficient to carry out the current responsibilities of these entities?
   c. Which operations will no longer be needed in a re-imagined system and how much is allocated to those functions?
   d. What projections can be made about the number of youth and the needs of the youth in the re-imagined system?
   e. Are there functions of the re-imagined system that are unaccounted for in a resource shift? If so, where can we go for additional resources?


[2] Data in this factsheet were retrieved via public record request to the California Department of Justice (DOJ). DOJ collects data via the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System (JCPSS). The JCPSS database is designed to collect, compile and report statistical data on the administration of juvenile justice in California. It provides information on a juvenile's process through from probation intake to final case disposition. The JCPSS electronic files date from 2002 to the present and are submitted to DOJ by County Probation agencies. See https://oag.ca.gov/cjsc/databases.