Subcommittee 3: Addressing Needs for Alternatives to Detention, Placement and Incarceration

Chairs: Patricia Soung, Children’s Defense Fund; Isaac Bryan, UCLA Bunche Center, Million Dollar Hoods; Laura Ridolfi, W. Haywood Burns Institute

Objectives: This subcommittee will conduct quantitative and qualitative research and build on existing recommendations to reduce the number of young people exposed to detention, placement and incarceration and to use youth development principles. For the small number of youth who are unable to return to their home or community, the subcommittee will identify effective, healing centered facilities to care for young people until they can return to their homes.

Context:
A growing body of research demonstrates that detention and incarceration of young people is harmful to their development and impedes public safety. The harmful impact of incarceration is felt most acutely by youth of color. According to 2018 Department of Justice data, in Los Angeles County, Black youth are 22 times more likely to be securely detained than White youth and more than 26 times more likely to be placed out of home as the result of a court ordered disposition. Latino youth are nearly four times as likely as White youth to be securely detained and nearly five times as likely be placed out of home as the result of a court ordered disposition.

Subcommittee Focus:
Reducing the number of young people impacted by detention, placement and incarceration.
- Identifying strategies grounded in youth development principles to further reduce use of detention, placement and incarceration.

Pre-Adjudication Detention.
- Assessing the current population of youth securely detained pre-adjudication.
- Identifying an equitable decision-making process for the use of pre-adjudication confinement, for a limited number of youth who are unable to their home or community pre-adjudication.

Post-Disposition Removal from Home.
- Assessing the current population of court ordered dispositions that currently result in a young person’s removal from their home or community, including suitable placements, juvenile halls and camps.
- Identifying an equitable decision-making process for the use of out of home placements (non-secure and secure) for a limited number of youth who are unable to their home or community pre-adjudication.

Effective, Healing-Centered and Trauma Informed Facilities.
- Proposing effective, healing-centered and trauma informed out-of-home placements (non-secure and secure) for the small population of youth who are unable to return home pre-adjudication and post-disposition.
**Build On:**
In addition to best practices and promising models elsewhere, build on recommendations and implementation lessons in Los Angeles County from:
- Los Angeles County Alternatives to Incarceration Work Group Final Report
- The “LA Model” and “Culture of Care” project
- SB 439 implementation
- Department of Mental Health and YDD’s diversion motion
- The Los Angeles County Probation Reform and Implementation Team

**Opportunities to Engage the Broader Community:**
- Conduct Listening Sessions and focus groups with:
  - Youth currently and formerly detained in juvenile hall
  - Youth currently and formerly committed to local camps/ranches
  - Youth currently and formerly committed to other forms of out of home placements

**Related questions Raised by the Work Group:**
- Who is currently in juvenile hall pre-adjudication? How can we further reduce our reliance on pre-adjudication detention, while protecting for public safety considerations, including the child’s risk of harm to him/herself or others?
- Who is currently in a placement out of their home and community, including suitable placements, juvenile halls and camps, as the result of a court ordered disposition? How can we further reduce our reliance on dispositions that result in a youth’s removal from their home or community, while protecting for public safety considerations, including the child’s risk of harm to him/herself or others?
- How do we implement and strengthen therapeutic models (considering examples like Kilpatrick, Kirby and Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs) (STRTPs) to address the needs of youth with more serious trauma and mental health issues, and who may pose some risks of harm to him/herself or others?
- When is some level of security necessary, and what response is appropriate? What is an ideal alternative placement?
- What would a facility look like that is healing centered and transformative rather than punitive? What is this model grounded in principles of youth development?
- How do we reimagine the workforce for under a reimagined model? What do these workers need to be effective? How do we create pathways to opportunities for a shifting workforce, and what do those pathways look like?