Youth Justice Work Group Subcommittee Proposals and Considerations:

Each Youth Justice Work Group Subcommittee will be focused on a set of functions and will be informed by the broader Work Group’s assessment of components of systems of wellness / wellbeing and youth development, including literature review, qualitative research, system assessment, and scan of available resources.

In addition to questions specific to that committee’s focus, each Subcommittee will answer:

- What functions and/or justice system decisions fall under each subcommittee’s focus?
- If these functions need to shift, what governmental department or agency and/or non-governmental entity will existing functions go to promote well-being? How do existing policies and practices need to change in a reimagined system for these functions? How do we shift existing resources into the governmental agencies and/or community-based organizations tasked with these new functions?
- How do we reimagine the worker for these functions? What do these youth workers need to be effective? How do we create pathways to opportunities for a shifting workforce, and what do those pathways look like?

(1) Addressing Root Causes and Inequities, Community-based Youth Development and Diversion

- Build on: existing initiatives/recommendations that have proposed strategies to equitably reduce youth involvement in the justice system and promote youth development, including the Youth Diversion and Development roadmap, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council’s Countywide Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan, the Ready-to-Rise Initiative, the Office of Child Protection’s prevention plans and the Office of Violence Prevention, and SB 439 implementation.
- Focus on: identifying components of a successful model that can effectively and equitably reduce the number of young people who are involved in the justice system and provide young people access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. based on a youth development framework, rather than a suppression framework.
- Related questions raised by the Work Group include: How will a new model address issues that contribute to justice system involvement (ie. economic conditions; education; mental health; trauma)? How can we build on and strengthen the existing infrastructure and implementation of youth development and diversion? What are early measures and supports we can put in place for early adolescence? How will a new community-based youth development model engage and interact with governmental agencies responsible for providing services to youth such as public schools, DCFS, DMH?

(2) Healing-Centered Accountability, Restorative/Transformative Responses, and Repairing Harm

- Build on: existing recommendations that have proposed youth justice systems reforms, including the Probation Reform and Implementation Team.
- Focus on: identifying processes and strategies necessary to promote wellbeing and improve community safety if and when a young person cannot be diverted pre-arrest or pre-booking.
- Related questions raised by the Work Group include: What healing, restorative/transformative responses can / should be available to youth adjudicated of serious and violent crimes? Are those responses available in existing governmental departments or agencies and/or non-governmental entities? How can we create space to ensure survivor’s voices are heard? What is the connection of this process to the court (including monitoring and orders)?

(3) Addressing Needs for Alternatives to Placement and Incarceration

- Build on: existing recommendations, including the LA Model and Culture of Care report, Continuum of Care Reform and SB 439 implementation.
- Focus on: identifying strategies to support young people who do become involved in the delinquency court in their home and community wherever possible and effective / equitable responses for the small population of youth who may not be able to return home.
- Related questions raised by the Work Group include: How do we implement and strengthen therapeutic models to address serious trauma and mental health issues? How do we ensure youth who are determined to have high needs are not unnecessarily penalized by removal from their home and community? 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 transformative rather than punitive and addresses causal issues such as poverty, unemployment, lack of access to quality education, right to culture, disempowerment, unmet health needs, and unresolved trauma?
Once each subcommittee meets, they should begin to answer the following questions:

- **What** is the goal of the subcommittee?
- **What** questions will the subcommittee answer?
- **Who** else should be engaged for the subcommittee to be able to answer its key questions?
- **How** do subcommittees complement/interact with the strategies of the Consultant Team, broader Work Group, and other Subcommittees?
- **What** recommendations will this Subcommittee develop?
- **When** will those recommendations be most useful to the broader process?

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### For Reference: Questions Presented January 23rd to Guide the Work Group and Integrate into Subcommittee Focus Areas

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<th>For Reference: Questions Presented January 23rd to Guide the Work Group and Integrate into Subcommittee Focus Areas</th>
<th>How will this be answered?</th>
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| **What is our vision for systemic change that ensures a healthy and safe future for all young people in Los Angeles County?**  
  - **What** values and principles should guide this opportunity to imagine something new?  
  - **How** should existing stages or functions be reimagined and transformed to ensure well-being and safety?  
  - **What** type of accountability and oversight system(s) would need to be put in place to ensure well-being and safety? | Consultant Team will facilitate for Youth Justice Workgroup; each Subcommittee will react to and further shape for specific functions along the continuum of youth wellbeing and safety. |
| **What are the characteristics and needs of young people currently involved in each of the existing stages of the justice system?**  
  - **How** many/which youth can be served outside of these altogether? And how?  
  - **What** are the dynamics and needs of the most challenging cases?  
  - **What** do these young people need in order to thrive? | Quantitative Data Analysis, Qualitative Research, Literature Review, and System Assessment (Consultant Team will inform the Work Group and each Subcommittee) |
| **What are the legal, labor, and local policy considerations involved in transitioning young people away from each of the above functions?** | **Legal**: What legislative and other legal constraints need to be considered or changed to transition youth from probation?  
  **Labor**: How do we reimagine the role of the juvenile probation officer? What kinds of workers are needed to prevent or reduce youth’s system involvement? What do these youth workers need to be effective?  
  **Local Policy and Practice**: How do existing policies and practices need to change in a reimagined system? How should decision-making tools change? How should orders of the Court be enforced? | Legal Framework (Consultant Team with County Counsel), iterative based on work of each Subcommittee.  
  Stakeholder Engagement (Consultant Team), iterative based on work of each Subcommittee.  
  System Assessment to provide existing framework (Consultant Team) and specific questions to be explored by each Subcommittee. |