Youth Justice Reimagined

October 15, 2020
A Youth Justice Group... to explore the transitioning of Los Angeles County's (County's) juvenile justice system out of the Probation Department into another agency, with the goal of creating a rehabilitative, health-focused and care-first system.

Systems centered on healing and growth are essential for improving the well-being of young people.

Shifting towards a rehabilitative, care-first model is not just ideal, it is necessary and likely requires a different structure and framework to achieve.

If the County is to meet its obligation of adequately addressing the rehabilitative needs of the youth in its care, it must acknowledge that the juvenile camp and halls model is fundamentally flawed, and that housing supervision and services within an agency with a law enforcement orientation may be counterproductive.

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✓ More Clarity and Justification.
✓ More nuanced language for relationships between the model and justice partners.
✓ More details about how diversion will be expanded.
✓ More details and clarification on phasing.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conflicting Feedback</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More explicit commitment to equity and racial justice.</td>
<td>Held that naming “white supremacy” is critical for addressing structural</td>
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<tr>
<td>vs. Concern that language was too explicit or uncomfortable.</td>
<td>racism and aligns with the values of the YJWG and County’s Anti-Racism</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initiative.</td>
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<td>Functions should transition to the new model more quickly.</td>
<td>Moved some elements to earlier phases and moved others to later phases</td>
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<td>vs. Recommended transitions were too quick.</td>
<td>after capacity is built—balancing sense of urgency with time required to</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>build new infrastructure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal does not go far enough in scope.</td>
<td>Reimagining youth justice requires broader change-need reforms in other</td>
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<tr>
<td>vs. Proposal goes too far beyond Juvenile Probation.</td>
<td>justice agencies and child-serving systems for youth and their</td>
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<td></td>
<td>communities to achieve safety and well-being.</td>
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<td>Need more specific detail about reallocation of resources</td>
<td>Kept initial budget proposal but clarified that specific sources of</td>
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<td>vs. requests to remove specific funding sources or timing</td>
<td>funding will require further assessment by County.</td>
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</table>
By 2030, all young people in Los Angeles County have access to youth development resources and opportunities that promote their well-being and safety and that of their families and communities. In every community, systems are accountable to the people they impact, address the root causes of conflict and harm, and meaningfully empower young people to build accountability and responsibility to repair harm.
Youth Justice Reimagined: Reducing Need For Justice System

• **Proactive Investment in Community Safety**
  • All youth have access to 24-hour youth and community centers with high quality activities and services in their communities that support their health, social, cognitive and creative, vocational, environmental, and leadership competencies.

• **Support for Schools and Other Systems**
  • Schools are supported in building their capacity for Youth Development and restorative practices.

• **Crisis Response and Intervention**
  • Goal of this crisis response model is to increase short- and long-term safety for both the youth and any person who has been harmed as well as the broader community. Crisis response includes supportive services provided by Peacebuilders, Credible Messengers, and restorative justice practitioners who work to repair harm as a network of 24-hour crisis response and accountability connected to YCC’s.

See Youth Justice Reimagined Page 30
• Further design and planning will be critical to implementing YES Teams.

• Operates out of the 24-hour Youth and Community Centers.

• YES Teams can include: Peacebuilder, Credible Messenger, family member, social worker, peer advocate, RJ/TJ Practitioners, community member and, in some cases, medical professionals and justice partners.

• Potentially 3 sub-teams:
  • Team A: First/Emergency/Crisis Responders
  • Team B: Resource and Accountability Facilitators: Create care plans
  • Team C: Legal Advocacy Support: Collaborative decision-making in legal continuum

• Confidentiality agreements are in place to safeguard the youth’s due process.

See Youth Justice Reimagined Pages 31 and 55-57
Responses to Harm

• “Off ramps” that eliminate the need for the youth to interface with the courts are embedded in the process at multiple decision-making points.
  • Initial Reporting and Response
    • YES Teams respond with or without law enforcement
  
  • Youth and Community Safety
    • YES Team ensures safety and support
    • Youth may go home, referred to diversion program or taken to YCC or Safe and Secure Healing Center

  • Care Plan and Coordination
    • YES team develops care plan for youth
    • YES team also works with person harmed and begins restorative process if all agree

See Youth Justice Reimagined Pages 30-32
Responses to Harm

• **Collaborative Review and Decision Making**
  • If case is serious, YES Team works with justice partner to provide input on next steps in legal continuum
  • Physical structure of court adheres to Youth Development principles and cultural responsiveness

• **Community-rooted support**
  • Culturally responsive support rooted in community and Youth Development replaces probation supervision – Includes Credible Messengers

• **Safe and Secure Healing Centers**
  • For small # of youth removed from home, placements are small, home-like and healing centered

• **Secure Alternative to Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)**
  • Youth that would have otherwise been subject to DJJ are addressed through a holistic, trauma-informed approach focused on healing, enhancing public safety and RJ.

See Youth Justice Reimagined Pages 30-32
1. Shrink the existing footprint of Juvenile Probation by equitably reducing the need for judicial intervention.
   • Maximize pre-arrest diversion by establishing referral partnerships with every law enforcement agency in the County.
   • End Probation-led diversion efforts, including Probation’s Citation Diversion Program and WIC 654 Diversion and begin to eliminate School-Based Probation Supervision and replace with appropriate, needed community-based supports.

2. Transition existing functions of Juvenile Probation that do not require legislative changes.
   • Transition the JJCC’s administrative function to the new Department.
   • Identify staff and corresponding funding from Juvenile Probation that will transition to the new Department.

Outline of Phase 1 Budget for Youth Justice Reimagined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Need</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staffing</td>
<td>$15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community-Based Programming</td>
<td>$55,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting Services &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost</td>
<td>$75,000,000</td>
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See Youth Justice Reimagined Pages 41-42
Workforce

1. **Redefinition** of the primary job and job qualifications of a youth development workforce, and development of that workforce to provide care, compassion and safety within a youth justice system.

2. **Reductions** in probation workforce and budget, and **reinvestment** in a youth development workforce and labor transitions and support.

3. **Create a labor support and transition planning process** immediately, including to discuss complex issues related to the size of a YD workforce and equity in public and private sector jobs.

See Youth Justice Reimagined Pages 44-48
1. Duties and authorities of Chief Probation Officers and probation officers
2. Relations with Labor Bargaining Units
3. Existing and Alternative Youth Facilities
4. Shared Decision-making body
5. Data and Information Collection and Sharing
6. Duration of System-Involvement
7. Diversion Eligibility
8. Administration and Reallocation of Funding
9. Accountability Mechanisms

See Youth Justice Reimagined Pages 49-51
Youth Justice Reimagined: Three Phases

**Phase 1**

**Establishing Infrastructure and Initial Administrative, Program and Planning Capacity**
- Reallocate at least $75 million of Probation funds to establish DYD.
- Expand YDD’s pre-arrest diversion network countywide.
- First YDD and then DYD continue planning for the implementation of an improved alternatives to DJJ, Safe and Secure Healing Centers and YCCs.
- First YDD and then DYD develop YDLC to facilitate shared learning and capacity building for youth development.

**Phase 2**

**Transitioning Transformed Functions to YJR and Capacity-building**
- Reallocate additional Probation funds to DYD for continued development of the YDN.
- Establish an initial cohort of 24-hour YCCs, launch YES Teams, Transfer facilities to DYD and expand the Safe and Secure Healing Centers model.
- Coordinate a comprehensive continuum of reentry services for youth exiting detention and incarceration.

**Phase 3**

**Full Transition to Youth Justice Reimagined**
- Reallocate additional Probation funds to DYD for continued development of the YDN.
- Advance countywide Youth Development Priorities.
- Continue expanding the 24-hour network.
- Fully fund restorative alternatives to supervision and integrate YES Team input at all key decision points.
- Close remaining halls and camps as Safe and Secure Healing Centers expand.

See Youth Justice Reimagined Pages 33-39