AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING
AD HOC COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 1:00 P.M.

MEETING HELD BY ZOOM AND TELECONFERENCE ONLY

****Pursuant to the provisions of California Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, issued on March 17, 2020, this meeting will be held by Zoom and teleconference. Members of the public may attend and participate by following the instructions below.****

Bryan Prieto, Chair
Probation

Kimberly Doyle
District Attorney

Lynn Garrett
Education Representative

Meghan Medlin
At Large Community Representative

Jose Pelayo
Sheriff-Coroner

Nazly Restrepo
Community Based Drug & Alcohol Rep.

Ken Santini
Social Services Agency

Dawn Smith
Health Care Agency

Darren Thompson
Public Defender

*The Ad Hoc Committee for the Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. The Committee encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda, please press *9 following the Chair's invitation from the public to speak. Once acknowledged and prompted by the Chair or Clerk, you may begin to speak. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda. When addressing the Committee, please state your name for the record prior to providing your comments.*

**** INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING THE MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE****
Members of the public may observe and participate in the meeting telephonically. To attend the meeting via teleconference please call:

- iPhone one-tap: US: +16699009128, 81499975495# or +13462487799, 81499975495#
- Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
  US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 814 9997 5495 (once you enter this code, you should be automatically connected to the call; you will remain on the line until meeting begins).

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify the Clerk of the Board's Office 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 834-2206

All supporting documentation is available for public review in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors located in the Hall of Administration Building, 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., 10 Civic Center Plaza, Room 465, Santa Ana, California 92701 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: (Items 1 - 2)

At this time, members of the public may ask the Committee to be heard on the following items as those items are called.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Draft ad hoc committee report – discuss, finalize and approve report and provide to Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council for consideration at their 10/22/20 Council meeting

PUBLIC & COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

At this time members of the public may address the Ad Hoc Committee for the Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council on any matter not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee or Chair may limit the length of time each individual may have to address the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

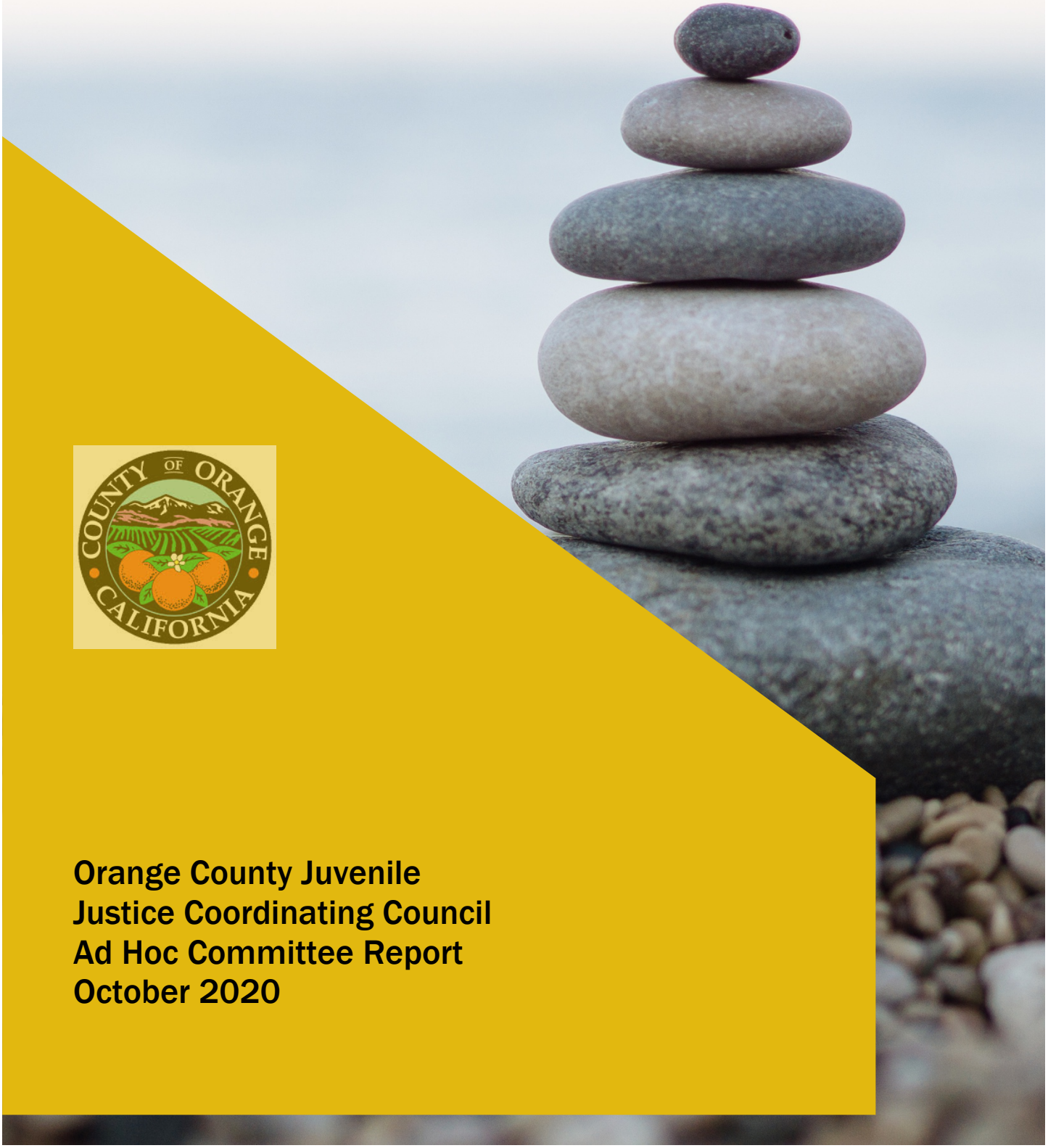
COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT

pre

Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council – Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations

Building an Effective and Meaningful Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan



Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Ad Hoc Committee Report October 2020

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Executive Summary

During their regularly scheduled meeting this past July, the Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (OCJJCC) approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to review Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) programs approved by the OCJJCC, as part of its comprehensive multiagency juvenile justice plan, and any outcome reporting of that plan required under JJCPA. The creation of this Ad Hoc Committee came after review of an audit report that was released by the state auditor in May of 2020. Representatives of the OCJJCC as well as the public were invited to provide recommendations on how the comprehensive plan may be better managed, the population of youth that should be the target of the plan and how the plan can be measured for success.

With the above in mind, the Ad Hoc Committee focused its analysis, findings and recommendations on five key areas: the membership/composition of the larger OCJJCC body, the definition of the target population, the process for developing the plan, the metrics that should be used to measure success and ultimately how JJCPA funds ought to be used. The recommendations were developed with an eye towards establishing a template that can be overlaid on the existing comprehensive plan and other plans created in the future. Additionally, these recommendations can be relied on to weather funding fluctuations or shortfalls, and/or manage any legislative changes that influence diversion efforts or have direct impacts on juvenile justice related operations.

Findings and Recommendations

Focus area: **Membership/Composition of existing OCJJCC**

Findings: The existing composition/membership of the OCJJCC complies with legal requirements.

Recommendations: In order to ensure consistent oversight of the OCJJCC comprehensive plan and balance government and community involvement the OCJJCC should consider:

- Maintaining an additional seat for a community-based service provider, or non-profit community-based juvenile social services organization, and;
- Update the OCJJCC by-laws and refine the requirements for OCJJCC membership.

Focus area: **Definition of the target population**

Findings: The OCJJCC has not adopted a uniform definition of local youth that may benefit from services provided through the OCJJCC's comprehensive plan.

Recommendations: In order to provide the OCJJCC with the flexibility to develop comprehensive plans that benefit youth in Orange County, the OCJJCC should consider:

- Adopting the definition of "at promise" youth as defined by 13825.4 PC

Focus area: **Development/Management of OCJJCC Comprehensive Plan**

Findings: Currently, the OCJJCC meets quarterly, but reviews the plan and plan metrics once per fiscal year. Until recently, committee members would review key metrics and plan outcomes during the same meeting that the recommended plan for the next fiscal year, along with the funding for that plan, is approved.

Recommendations: In order to remain more current on the progress of youth participating in JJCPA funded programs, the OCJJCC should consider:

- Creating a permanent OCJJCC Ad Hoc Committee, or OCJJCC Working Group Sub-committee. This new committee would be required to meet regularly (e.g. monthly), review key metrics of the current comprehensive plan, seek out additional strategies that may be added to the plan in response to community safety or legislative changes, and report out/make recommendations at each OCJJCC quarterly meeting.

Focus area: **Metrics Used to Measure Comprehensive Plan Success**

Findings: The OCJJCC relies on demographic data (e.g. age at entry, gender, ethnicity, city of residence) to track program participants as well as certain behaviors (e.g. days in program, types of program exits, re-arrest) to "measure" program success.

Recommendations: In order to provide a more complete description of individual progress within a JJCPA funded program, the OCJJCC should consider:

- Implementing a "pre" and "post" program participation assessment in order to measure the program participant against him/herself.
- Tracking "protective factors" used to manage behavior.

Focus area: **How JJCPA Funds Should be Utilized**

Findings: The OCJJCC currently uses JJCPA to fund strategies intended to divert youth from the juvenile justice system, reduce school truancy, reduce/mitigate the incidents of violence committed on local school campuses, address substance use disorders of juvenile probation youth, and utilize youth reporting centers, rather than secured detention, to address youthful acting out (including low level criminal acts) behavior.

Recommendations: In order to ensure limited JJCPA resources are used appropriately, the OCJJCC should consider:

- Funding programs that have been proven to reduce crime and/or build the capacity (increase protective factors) of youthful participants.

Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
Ad Hoc Committee Report

October 2020

Introduction

On June 26, 2019, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) approved an audit of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) spending, decision-making, and reporting.[1] The decision to the approve the audit came about following concerns raised by assembly members Jones-Sawyer and Garcia, along with senators Bradford and Skinner. In their letter to the JLAC, the above-mentioned legislative members indicated that counties use grant dollars to offset county salary and employee benefits (primarily probation department personnel) rather than collaborate with community providers, convene incomplete Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils (JJCC), if at all, that do not include community based organizations, and provide incomplete or meaningless program data.[2]

Following audit approval, the state auditor conducted a JJCPA related audit of Kern, Los Angeles, Mendocino, San Joaquin, and Santa Barbara counties. The purpose of the audit was to review the counties' spending and reporting out of JJCPA funds received. Additionally, the state auditor reviewed the "... decision-making processes and evaluation of programs..." each of the five counties used in order to determine how JJCPA funds should be used. The findings of the audit were released to the public in May of 2020.

In general, the state auditor found that counties had weak JJCC oversight, operationalized inappropriate or outdated comprehensive plans, and misreported or failed to include outcomes information to the state that supported the use of JJCPA funding. Additionally, the state auditor noted that state level oversight was weak as well. Rather than working with counties to ensure comprehensive plans were up to date and met grant fund criteria, the Board of State and Community Corrections (Community Corrections) simply relegated its role to receiving comprehensive plans and posting these plans on its website, no matter how error ridden or outdated the plans were.[3] The findings prompted other counties to review their own JJCPA related activities.

On July 23, 2020, during its regularly scheduled meeting, the Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (OCJJCC) created an Ad Hoc Committee meeting to review current JJCPA approved programs and reporting requirements. The Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by the Probation Department, met over the subsequent weeks to discuss the scope of the analysis, the process the group would use to

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[1] https://legaudit.assembly.ca.gov/sites/legaudit.assembly.ca.gov/files/June%2026_Roll%20Call%20Votes_FINAL.pdf

[2] https://legaudit.assembly.ca.gov/sites/legaudit.assembly.ca.gov/files/2019-116%20Juvenile%20Justice%20Crime%20Prevention%20Act%20Funds%20%28Asm.%20Jones-Sawyer%29.pdf

[3] https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2019-116.pdf

develop its areas of focus, and determine how its review/recommendations would be provided to the OCJJCC. It was ultimately determined the following report, including its recommendations, would be presented during the regularly scheduled OCJJCC on October 22, 2020.

In brief, the Ad Hoc Committee concentrated its analysis and recommended actions on five focus areas: ***1) membership/composition of the existing OCJJCC, 2) the definition of the target population, 3) development/management of the OCJJCC comprehensive plan, 4) metrics used to measure comprehensive plan success, and 5) how JJCPA funds ought to be used.*** The Ad Hoc Committees findings/recommendations in each of these focus areas highlights areas where plan development and oversight can be improved. Ultimately, the recommendations were developed to ensure the OCJJCC can weather any/all funding fluctuations and/or legislation impacting juvenile operations that may materialize in the future.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks go to the OCJJCC Ad Hoc Committee members (please see insert), members of the County Executive Office, Probation Research and members of the public for their time and significant contribution in analyzing information for this report as well as developing recommendations for the OCJJCC. Finally, thanks go to Jamie Ross (Clerk of the Board) for coordinating and moderating the meetings on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee.

AD HOC COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE
COORDINATING COUNCIL

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Dawn Smith
Health Care Agency

Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (OJJCC)

In its review, the state auditor determined local oversight of the JJCPA comprehensive plan including, but not limited to, development, management and funding of that local plan was generally weak in the counties reviewed. Of note, assuming the county had an operational Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, was the fact that counties had a few key representative seats vacant especially those occupied by members of the community (e.g. community-based organizations). The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed the membership/composition of Orange County's local committee (i.e. OJJCC) and determined that the existing group met all requirements.

History of the OJJCC

On December 3, 1996, the Orange County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 96-830, authorizing the Chief Probation Officer to apply for Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant Program Planning funds. The Resolution also established the Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (OCJJCC) to fulfill the purposes of 749.22 WIC. The Chief Probation Officer was appointed Chair of the OCJJCC which included 10 other representatives:

1. County Board of Supervisors representative
2. County Sheriff representative
3. County District Attorney representative
4. Local law enforcement representative
5. County Office of Education/local school districts representative
6. County Public Defender representative
7. County Department of Mental Health representative
8. County Department of Social Services representative
9. Community-based drug and alcohol program representative
10. At-large community representative

On November 10, 1998, the Orange County Board of Supervisors approved an expansion of the group to include three additional members in accordance with the grant funding requirement of the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG). This grant required the establishment of a Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition (JCEC) which included many of the same members as the OCJJCC. Additionally, the JCEC was required to conduct a jurisdiction-wide needs assessment and develop a local juvenile justice plan. Orange County's JCEC included the above-mentioned 11 members (including the Chief Probation Officer) and the following three expanded members.

11. A non-profit community-based juvenile social services organization
12. The Juvenile Court
13. The business community

Although the County would eventually stop pursuing JAIBG funding, the expanded OCJJCC remained to this day.

Current OJJCC

Despite the fact that it is not a requirement of 749.22 WIC or JJCPA, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends the OCJJCC consists of its original eleven members and continues to have a membership seat for the Juvenile Court and a member of the community (preferably a juvenile services provider, or a community-based juvenile social services organization). Moving forward, this group will strike the necessary balance between government, court and community interests when it comes to crime reduction through the use of effective and/or research supported youth services. The existing vacant seat (i.e., Business Representative seat) can be set aside and occupied by a member of the community that aligns with the above description. Finally, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends the OCJJCC bylaws be revised to outline the requirements for membership. For example, the bylaws may be rewritten to include a regularly scheduled (e.g. annual) affirmation of a member's desire to remain on the council. Furthermore, the bylaws can be further refined to describe what should occur when a sitting member decides to withdraw from OCJJCC involvement.

In light of the above, the following is offered for consideration:

Focus area: **Membership/Composition of existing OCJJCC**

Findings: The existing composition/membership of the OCJJCC complies with legal requirements.

Recommendations: In order to ensure consistent oversight of the OCJJCC comprehensive plan and balance government and community involvement the OCJJCC should consider:

- Maintaining an additional seat for a community-based service provider, or non-profit community-based juvenile social services organization, and;
- Update the OCJJCC by-laws and refine the requirements for OCJJCC membership.

Target Population

According to state auditor findings, four of the five counties reviewed did not formally define the "at-risk" population being served by the local plan. In fact, the same four counties did not formally identify the risk factors that made youth eligible to participate in (or be served by) JJCPA funded programs. While a review of the Orange County comprehensive plan provides some detail, the target population and the risk factors that make a youth eligible for support can be better defined.

The previous focus of Orange County's comprehensive plan was on a very specific group of youthful offenders. Based on research conducted by the Orange County Probation Department, JJCPA monies were utilized to support a collaborative partnership intended to manage youthful offenders known as the 8% population.[4] Generally speaking, these "chronic recidivists" were 15 years or younger at the time of their first case disposition, and exhibited at least three of the following "risk" behaviors: poor performance/behavior at school, dysfunctional family dynamics, substance abuse, and/or delinquent

[4] https://www.ocgov.com/gov/probation/about/8percent/findings

behavior. Over time, the funds required to support Probation's Youth and Family Resource Center (YFRC) model of intervention for 8% youth diminished and the program closed.

While there are no specific youth risk factors currently identified, the present comprehensive plan does look to divert first time offenders away from the juvenile justice system, reduce/mitigate violent crime on school campuses, use youth reporting center interventions, rather than secure detention, to address youthful offender acting out behavior (including low level criminal offenses), and address substance use disorder issues amongst wards of the court.

In light of the above, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends the adoption of a formal target population definition. Leveraging a unified target population definition would greatly assist the OCJJCC in developing and maintaining a comprehensive plan that focuses support/services to the needs of its specific youthful offenders. Through its deliberations, the Ad Hoc Committee believes the definition of "at promise" youth as defined in 13825.4 PC should be utilized to support the OCJJCC's current and future efforts.

13825.4 PC was amended on October 12, 2019 to replace the term "at risk" with the term "at promise." There was no substantive change that occurred as a result because the definition included 10 specific characteristics that were to be considered if a youth were to be identified as belonging to this specific category. Currently the definition of "at promise" youth is, "… persons age 5 to 20 years of age and who fall into one or more of the following categories…"

1. Live in a high-crime or high-violence neighborhood as identified by local or federal law enforcement agencies.
2. Live in a low-economic neighborhood as identified by the U.S. Census or come from an impoverished family.
3. Are excessively absent from school or are doing poorly in school as identified by personnel from the youth's school.
4. Come from a socially dysfunctional family as identified by local or state social service agencies.
5. Have had one or more contacts with the police.
6. Have entered the juvenile justice system.
7. Are identified by the juvenile justice system as being at risk.
8. Are current or former gang members.
9. Have one or more family members living at home who are current or former members of a gang.
10. Are identified as wards of the court, as defined in Section 601 or the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Although the above definition was created in support of the California Gang, Crime and Violence Prevention Partnership[5], it does provide the OCJJCC with broad latitude to develop diversion and other juvenile justice strategies that reduce crime and meet the needs of its specific targeted youth population.

In light of the above, the following is offered for consideration:

Focus area: **Definition of the target population**

[5] See 13825.2 PC – definition of California Gang, Crime and Violence Prevention Partnership program administered by the Department of Justice.

Findings: The OCJJCC has not adopted a uniform definition of local youth that may benefit from services provided through the OCJJCC's comprehensive plan.

Recommendations: In order to provide the OCJJCC with the flexibility to develop comprehensive plans that benefit youth in Orange County, the OCJJCC should consider:

- Adopting the definition of "at promise" youth as defined by 13825.4 PC

OCJJCC Comprehensive Plan

The state auditor noted counties made little or no changes to their local juvenile justice coordinating council plans despite significant legislative changes. For example, San Joaquin County indicated it made no changes because its local plan met the minimum requirements of Community Corrections. Kern County simply stated that there was no need to change its plan, while Mendocino County could offer no explanation as to why its local plan was rarely updated.

Although Orange County's local comprehensive plan underwent several significant changes, the process for review/approval became rote over time. As indicated previously in this report, a great deal of JJCPA funding was utilized to manage Probation's 8% population through the YFRC model. JJCPA funds were also used to support incarcerated youth that were dealing with substance use disorder issues. When the aforementioned JCEC was established, JAIBG dollars were leveraged to support the District Attorney and Probation's efforts in prosecuting and managing a burgeoning juvenile sex offender population. Although other strategies would ultimately be added to the plan when funding was available, the OCJJCC/JCEC only met once a year for the purposes of reviewing population trends and the prior year's outcomes and approving the proposed plan for the next fiscal year. This process continued until April of 2020.

On April 23, 2020, during a special meeting, the OCJJCC met to approve the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 JJCPA recommended program budget, and the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 comprehensive plan. Additionally, the OCJJCC approved changes to the bylaws to require more frequent meetings (i.e. quarterly rather than annually) of the group. Although requiring more frequent OCJJCC meetings is a step in the right direction, the Ad Hoc Committee agrees a more frequent review/analysis of the approved plan may further assist the OCJJCC in its quarterly deliberations.

Upon review of the OCJJCC/JCEC's history and considering the group's desire to convene more frequent meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends the formation of a permanent Ad Hoc Committee, or OCJJCC Working Group. This latter group would be required to meet regularly (e.g. monthly) to review elements that may influence the OCJJCC's comprehensive plan such as population trends, program outcomes, and changes in the juvenile justice landscape. Additionally, this group could serve as the first stop for any community based, or for-profit service provider that wishes to be considered to offer services to the OCJJCC's targeted population. The chair of the group could provide a report out (at each quarterly meeting), which in turn could greatly assist the OCJJCC in determining the effectiveness of the existing plan or discuss options for plan modification/enhancement.

In light of the above, the following is offered for consideration:

Focus area: **Development/Management of OCJJCC Comprehensive Plan**

Findings: Currently, the OCJJCC meets quarterly, but reviews the plan and plan metrics once per fiscal year. Until recently, committee members would review key metrics and plan outcomes during the same meeting that the recommended plan for the next fiscal year, along with the funding for that plan, is approved.

Recommendations: In order to remain more current on the progress of youth participating in JJCPA funded programs, the OCJJCC should consider:

- Creating a permanent OCJJCC Ad Hoc Committee, or OCJJCC Working Group Sub-committee. This new committee would be required to meet regularly (e.g. monthly), review key metrics of the current comprehensive plan, seek out additional strategies that may be added to the plan in response to community safety or legislative changes, and report out/make recommendations at each OCJJCC quarterly meeting.

Metrics to Measure Success

In its review, the state auditor noted that counties visited could not generally prove the effectiveness of their JJCPA funded programs. In fact, four of the five counties simply used JJCPA funds to offset the costs of their probation department operations. Ultimately, it was determined that counties could not coalesce its data to produce meaningful evaluations of program effectiveness. In the end, the general finding was that counties could improve their ability to measure program effectiveness by using JJCPA dollars to improve data collection.

Orange County has established a long history of relying on data and research analysis to support its business operations. The reliance on data and the analysis of that data, particularly by Probation's research function, has greatly assisted in the development of the comprehensive plan and other strategies that have been proven to reduce crime. More specifically, Probation's research team has greatly assisted the department in improving upon its effectiveness in both the juvenile and adult arenas. That being said, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends the OCJJCC turn to the body of research evidence that is present within the field of mental/behavioral health when considering the effectiveness of its JJCPA funded programs.

There exists a body of research that indicates increasing the presence of "protective factors" in young people has a positive effect on reducing the prevalence of future mental health/behavioral health issues later in life. A protective factor is defined as, "a characteristic at the biological, psychological, family, or community (including peers and culture) level that is associated with a lower likelihood of problem outcomes or that reduces the negative impact of a risk factor on problem outcomes."[6] A youth, for example, exhibiting poor performance at school, showing aggression towards peers, or associating with groups that accept drug/alcohol as part of their social norm would benefit from the increase of protective factors such as mentors/support systems that encourage positive engagement in school/social activities, establish clear expectations of behavior, and physical/psychological safety.

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[6] O'Connell, M. E., Boat, T., & Warner, K. E.. (2009). *Preventing mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders among young people: Progress and possibilities*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press; and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2009).

The Ad Hoc Committee agrees that the goal of the OCJJCC plan is to reduce certain behaviors in youthful offenders (e.g. re-arrest). The effectiveness of the plan's strategy, however, should also include how certain protective factors increased. Ultimately, the Ad Hoc Committee believes that a youth's likelihood to re-offend and/or remain in the juvenile justice system will be significantly reduced if the individual's capacity for more successful autonomy is increased.

In light of the above, the following is offered for consideration:

Focus area: **Metrics Used to Measure Comprehensive Plan Success**

Findings: The OCJJCC relies on demographic data (e.g. age at entry, gender, ethnicity, city of residence) to track program participants as well as certain behaviors (e.g. days in program, types of program exits, re-arrest) to "measure" program success.

Recommendations: In order to provide a more complete description of individual progress within a JJCPA funded program, the OCJJCC should consider:

- Implementing a "pre" and "post" program participation assessment in order to measure the program participant against him/herself.
- Tracking "protective factors" used to manage behavior.

JJCPA Funding

As indicated previously in this report, the OCJJCC approved its comprehensive plan for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. That plan and the funding for that plan was submitted to the Orange County Board of Supervisors for review as well as Community Corrections for acceptance/posting. The focus of the plan for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 will be to divert eligible youth away from the juvenile justice system, reduce school truancy, reduce/mitigate incidents of violence on local school campuses, address substance use disorders of juvenile probation youth, and utilize youth reporting centers, rather than secured detention, to address youthful acting out (including low level criminal acts) behavior.

Moving forward, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends the OCJJCC use its JJCPA resources to support programs that have been proven to reduce crime and/or build the capacity of the OCJJCC's intended/targeted population. In other words, JJCPA funds should be utilized to support "at promise" and/or youthful offenders that cannot, or do not qualify for other youthful programs. This is not to suggest that the current approved OCJJCC plan is not a laudable pursuit. Rather, it is a reminder that other initiatives—in existence today, or soon to be—may address the needs of youth that are the focus of the current plan.

The County of Orange is currently developing its Integrated Services Model for Community Corrections. The focus of this model is to use existing resources to reduce the number of individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorder issues from cycling in and out of the County's jail system, treat those that are causing harm to society or themselves, and diverting juveniles and young adults from the criminal justice system. In order to achieve the model's goals the County is leveraging existing facilities/resources and working towards enhancing its partnerships with community based organizations to increase "in reach services" intended on improving re-entry of juvenile and adult system involved individuals and fortifying post custody services for juveniles/adults transitioning back out into their respective communities. As the initiative continues to develop, some youth once served

by the OCJJCC comprehensive plan may instead be eligible to participate in the County's more comprehensive system of care.

Now more than ever is an opportunity to focus resources on a targeted population determined by the OCJJCC. By focusing its finite resources on specific youthful offenders and their needs, the OCJJCC runs less of a risk of providing duplicative support, or servicing youth that may have derived benefit from other support systems such as the County's larger Integrated Services Model. With a more focused effort, the OCJJCC also has greater opportunity to collaborate with the community to operationalize alternative strategies that have proven results.

In light of the above, the following is offered for consideration:

Focus area: **How JJCPA Funds Should be Utilized**

Findings: The OCJJCC currently uses JJCPA to fund strategies intended to divert youth from the juvenile justice system, reduce school truancy, reduce/mitigate the incidents of violence committed on local school campuses, address substance use disorders of juvenile probation youth, and utilize youth reporting centers, rather than secured detention, to address youthful acting out (including low level criminal acts) behavior.

Recommendations: In order to ensure limited JJCPA resources are used appropriately, the OCJJCC should consider:

- Funding programs that have been proven to reduce crime and/or build the capacity (increase protective factors) of youthful participants.

Conclusion

In May of 2020, the state auditor conducted a review of five counties. The focus of that evaluation was to review the spending and reporting out of funds received as required by JJCPA. In general, the state auditor found that local and state oversight of comprehensive plan development was weak, plans were found to be outdated and outcome reporting of those plans was misreported or non-existent.

The above review prompted the OCJJCC to create an Ad Hoc Committee tasked with reviewing its own local oversight mechanisms, process of developing/managing the comprehensive plan and measuring for success in order to determine if further funding is appropriate. The Ad Hoc Committee met, and, along with the public, completed an analysis as requested by the OCJJCC. Additionally, the Ad Hoc Committee developed a few recommendations that are believed to assist the OCJJCC in weathering funding fluctuations as well as any upcoming legislative changes that will have direct impacts on juvenile diversion program efforts, and/or formal juvenile justice operations. In light of recent legislation including Senate Bill 823, which adds a new level of bureaucracy to the development/oversight of multidisciplinary juvenile justice plans, and Assembly Bill 901 which effectively removes the ability of the juvenile court to manage a youth determined to be a habitual truant, the recommendations will greatly assist the OCJJCC in fashioning a plan that will address the needs of its targeted youth population now and into the future.