

# Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee Charter

Adopted: February 2021; Updated December 2021

**Vision:** What's the overarching vision for the Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS)?

The JJRS' vision is to transform the way we serve youth who were formerly committed to the California Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) so that all youth served re-enter their communities prepared for successful, self-sufficient and crime-free participation in their communities. We will do this by:

- Keeping youth close to family and natural supports;
- Building prosocial skills and connections;
- Assuring youth receive treatment services that they need, including mental health, substance use and trauma-informed services;
- Safely preventing transfer to or later entry into the adult criminal justice system; and
- Meaningfully addressing racial inequities.

**Goals and Objectives:** What are the main purposes of the JJRS?

From Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 1995: A subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council (JJCC) shall develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for youth who formerly would have been sent to DJJ.

To support this goal, the Probation Department's Juvenile Division will provide program planning information for review by the Subcommittee.

**Scope and Boundaries:** What are the expectations of the JJRS's responsibilities? What boundaries exist related to their roles or functions?

From WIC Section 1995: The plan shall include all of the following elements:

- A description of the realignment target population in the county that is to be supported or served by allocations from the block grant program, including the numbers of youth served, disaggregated by factors including their ages, offense and offense histories, gender, race or ethnicity, and other characteristics, and by the programs, placements, or facilities to which they are referred.
- A description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the target population.
- A description of how grant funds will be applied to address each of the following areas of need or development for realigned youth:
  - Mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs.
  - Support programs or services that promote the healthy adolescent development.
  - Family engagement in programs.
  - Reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education.
  - Evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive.
  - Whether and how the plan will include services or programs for realigned youth that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers.
- A detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine realigned youth at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term

commitments. This element of the plan shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics.

- A description of how the plan will incentivize or facilitate the retention of realigned youth within the jurisdiction and rehabilitative foundation of the juvenile justice system in lieu of transfers of realigned youth into the adult criminal justice system.
- A description of any regional agreements or arrangements to be supported by the block grant allocation pursuant to this chapter.
- A description of how data will be collected on the youth served and outcomes for youth served by the block grant program, including a description of the outcome measures that will be utilized to measure or determine the results of programs and interventions supported by block grant funds.

**Roles and Responsibilities:** Who participates and in what ways?

From WIC Section 1995: The Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee shall be composed of the Chief Probation Officer, as chair, and one representative each from the district attorney’s office, the public defender’s office, the department of social services, the department of mental health, the county office of education or a school district, and a representative from the court. The subcommittee shall also include no fewer than three community members who shall be defined as individuals who have experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system, or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system.

**Members:**

- Chair: The Chief Probation Officer or their designee

One representative each from the following organizations:

- District Attorney’s Office
- Public Defender’s Office
- Department of Human Services, Family, Youth and Children’s Division
- Behavioral Health Division of the Health Department
- Sonoma County Office of Education
- No fewer than three Community Members with experience providing community-based youth services, youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system, or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system.
- A representative of the court which may include Juvenile Court Judges.

Each included Department, agency, or organization must provide the Probation Department with the name and contact information of its designee to the JJRS, in advance of attendance. Appointments of community members to the JJRS are made by the JJCC. Youth members may be accompanied by an adult support who meets the community member criteria above.

As needed, additional staff from the Probation Department will attend to provide information to the JJRS to support the planning process.

**Communication Protocols:** How does the JJRS communicate internally and communicate with other teams or entities? How is communication facilitated and how often?

- Agendas and review material will be provided by the Probation Department in advance of each JJRS

meeting.

- Meeting Minutes will be recorded by the Probation staff, approved at the subsequent meeting by the JJRS, and posted online in compliance with the Brown Act.
- Communication of the Plan to the County Board of Supervisors and to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration will be facilitated by the Probation Department.
- Plans will be posted publicly on Probation's website.

**Resources available to the project:** What resources are available to support the work? What resources are important to document in the charter?

- Program Development Team creating program and service options for the realigned juvenile population
- PIE Team planning, implementation and evaluation support
- Probation's WebEx virtual meeting platform and SoCo Cloud document storage, if wanted.
- Guidance from the Chief Probation Officers of California and the Judicial Council of California on the implementation of SB 823.
- Analysis documents, including a summary of SB 823, an analysis of the needs of youth committed to DJJ over the last four years, and a scan of relevant evidence-based and evidence-informed programs for consideration in the new program.
- Potential funding via the Youth Programs and Facilities Grant Program for development of a local continuum of care to respond to Juvenile Justice Realignment
- Ongoing Juvenile Justice Realignment funding

**Authority:** Over what decisions or processes does the team have authority? What are the limits of the team's authority?

Under WIC Section 1995, the JJRS makes the plan, with the assistance of the Program Development Team. Decisions about the types of services to implement are within the group's authority. Decisions about which Community Based Organizations receive funding to provide services are not within the group's authority. Contract awards are made via a competitive process subject to the County's purchasing rules.

Decisions are made via working consensus which adopts the option that the most members want and that the remainder are willing to consent to; those holding deep disagreement must be heard and given proper consideration, but not the power to veto. In checking for agreement, each represented organization has a single vote, regardless how many are present from that organization. Guidance on developing consensus: <https://www.seedsforchange.org.uk/shortconsensus>

**Deliverables:** What are expected deliverables of the JJRS and its members?

- Complete the Plan for consideration by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors by April 1, 2021.
- Complete the Plan for submission to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration by January 1, 2022.
- Annually review any updates to the Plan, each year, beginning in 2023 for submission to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration by May 1.

**Implementation Plans:** Are there specific stage-based activities related to implementation components that should be included in the charter?

Implementation plans will be managed by Probation's Program Development Team with assistance from the Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation Team. These will include the following:

- Policy Development
- Selection of interventions
- Training & coaching plan
- Set up data collection
- Improvement cycles
- Program evaluation: plan and carry out