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July 13, 2021

Youth Justice Reimagined: Fulfilling Los Angeles County's Commitment to A New

Youth Justice Model

The Board of Supervisors (Board) has made its commitment to a new youth justice model in Los Angeles County (County) clear. Fundamentally, this model prioritizes principles of youth development and racial equity, opportunities for genuine healing and the development of therapeutic relationships, meaningful connection to community, and access to effective community-based support across the continuum of services for young people in our County. The Youth Justice Reimagined model is about much more than simply establishing a new County department. It is about a holistic vision that leans on service providers, community stakeholders, and youth justice advocates to promote healing, treatment, restorative justice, peacebuilders in schools, and significant expansion of diversion and reentry services.

In order to realize the vision proposed by the Youth Justice Work Group in its report entitled, "Los Angeles County: Youth Justice Reimagined", it is essential that we leverage existing resources in the service of this vision, which has been unequivocally adopted by the Board. The Board took a critical first step by funding the Department of

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Youth Development's (YDD) Countywide expansion of its diversion program, consistent with the Phase I recommendations of the Youth Justice Work Group.

It is well established that this Board's decision to move youth out of the Probation Department (Department) necessitates substantial redirection of duties and funding from the Department to both the Division of Youth Diversion and Development (YDD) and the future Department of Youth Development (DYD). Ongoing analysis of legislative, labor, and budgetary considerations must include the immediate identification of eligible functions and corresponding funding streams that can be transferred to the Youth Justice Reimagined (YJR) model, ensuring that progress on this effort is not significantly impeded.

In addition to identifying transferrable functions and associated funding that will facilitate the creation of the DYD, developing transition plans for Probation staff should be an integral part of next steps in the implementation of YJR Phase 1. As we shift Juvenile duties and resources from the Department, it is critical that we simultaneously design a comprehensive transition plan for current Probation employees assigned to Juvenile Operations so that they can seamlessly shift to other roles within the Department or other opportunities of interest to them. As part of this transition planning, we must also carefully consider strategies that will prevent the Probation Department from growing in a manner that will complicate the transition to a Department of Youth Development.

Now is the time for the County to reaffirm its commitment to a new youth justice model. When we invest in young people, we invest in their communities and in public safety. This model signifies a paradigm shift, which can only be actualized through the restructuring of the current system and the resources that sustain it.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct CEO, in collaboration with the Chief Probation Officer, YDD, DHR, and County Counsel to submit the next Youth Justice Reimagined quarterly report in 45 days with detailed information on the following areas:
 - a. A comprehensive list of functions, duties, activities or programs currently carried out by the Probation Department that are not statutorily required to be performed by sworn peace officers or other Probation Department staff, including any school or home-based activity that Probation is currently engaged in, as well as any therapeutic services that are currently being provided directly by sworn personnel;
 - b. An update on the analysis and conceptual framework called for in Directive 4(d) of the November 24, 2020 motion entitled “Youth Justice Reimagined: A New Model for Youth Justice in Los Angeles County,” with an additional focus on strategies that can be used to ensure the Probation Department’s footprint does not grow in a manner that might hinder or delay the transition from a Probation Department to a Department of Youth Development; and
 - c. A detailed update on the legislative strategy that will be implemented to pursue the legislative changes that are necessary in order to move forward with the Youth Justice Reimagined Model. The update should focus on legislative changes in a manner that correlates to the phased implementation set forth in the October 2020 report entitled “Los Angeles County: Youth Justice Reimagined.”
2. Direct YDD, in consultation with CEO, the Chief Probation Officer, and the Research and Design Consultant, to report back in 45 days by providing the following updates in the next Youth Justice Reimagined quarterly report:

- a. The status of establishing a Youth Justice Transition Advisory Group (YJ-TAG) including the following details:
 - i. Composition structure, and meeting schedule of the YJ-TAG
 - ii. Resources that have been identified, and any funding gaps, to meet the needs of the YJ-TAG
 - b. The status of establishing a transition-planning team, including retaining two consultant teams—one with operational expertise and one with research expertise to support implementation of Youth Justice Reimagined, as well as a description of any related unmet funding needs.
3. Direct County Counsel to report-back in 30 days with the following:
- a. A public-facing fact sheet summarizing the legal considerations associated with implementing the Youth Justice Reimagined model, including those issues that require legislative change as well as those that can be implemented without legislative change; and
 - b. A detailed plan, in consultation with the Court, Probation, and YDD for ending Probation's role in the Citation Diversion Program (formerly Informal Juvenile Traffic Court) including the need for any necessary legal agreements or MOU's between the County and the Courts, as well as a description of any funding, including the amount and source, made available for other uses as a result of ending this program.
4. Direct the Chief Probation Officer, in consultation with CEO, to report-back in 45 days with a comprehensive list of all funding streams that are connected to its Juvenile Operations, including a detailed description of the funding source, requirements, and existing commitments tied to said funding streams.
- a. To the extent a particular funding stream is committed to staff positions,

the list should detail how many staff positions are paid for with the identified funding stream; the percentage of the source, and amount, used to fund staff positions, utilizing allocation and expenditure data from, at a minimum, the last three fiscal years as a reference; whether the identified positions are allocated to the field, institutions, or a different function; and whether the identified positions were filled or unfilled as of June 28, 2021.

- b. To the extent a particular funding stream is committed to services obtained from other departments (such as DHM or DHS), the list should detail how much was paid to such other departments in FY18-19, FY19-20, FY 20-21, and how much is budgeted for FY21-22.
5. Instruct the CEO to report back in the Supplemental Budget with details on the “DYD Project Fund” referenced in the CEO’s County Budget Letter dated June 28, 2021 which the CEO expects to be seeded with funding over multiple budget years and deployed as appropriate to maximize services to system-involved youth.