

Progress Update on RAND Evaluation of JJCPA Funded Programs in Los Angeles County

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Justice Policy Program

RAND Objectives

- Provide consultation for developing program evaluation design and metrics
- Report on JJCPA programs in compliance with JJCPA Program Outcomes, BSCC rules and requirements, and County requirements
- Provide annual gap analysis
- Conduct evaluability assessments on existing programs
- Conduct literature reviews of effective programs
- Conduct process and outcome analysis

Timeline

- Period of performance is one year, with four additional option years
 - Year 1 was impacted significantly by COVID, so RAND did not spend its complete funding
 - Currently midway through Year 2

Progress on Objectives to Date

Provide consultation for developing program evaluation design and metrics

- Reviewed 2020 report by the Auditor of the State of California
 - “Los Angeles ... should collect data on all individuals participating in each of their JJCPA programs and services to adequately assess the effectiveness of those programs at reducing juvenile crime and delinquency.” (emphasis added)
- Collaborated with Probation to identify potential options for collecting data to fulfill the audit finding (e.g., collection of identifiable vs. de-identified data)
- In consultation with Auditor, determined that identifiable data will be necessary to report on justice-system related outcomes, which will be required by most programs
 - Potential exception identified for more universal prevention-oriented programs, for which de-identified outcome data may be a workable alternative

Provide consultation for developing program evaluation design and metrics, cont.

- Held meetings with program staff from 19 agencies/organizations across 35 JJCPA-funded programs
 - Assessed current data collection efforts
 - Identified barriers to collecting new required data
 - Discussed program-specific, more proximal outcome measures
 - Explored current evaluation efforts underway for certain programs to determine how these efforts relate to RAND's scope of work
- Reviewed 24 draft Statements of Work to ensure relevant and required data elements are identified

Report on JJCPA programs in compliance with JJCPA Program Outcomes, BSCC rules/requirements, County requirements

- Reviewed and provided recommended language for JJCPA-YOBG FY 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Plan submission (May 2020)
- Assisted with writing of 2020 JJCPA-YOBG Data Expenditure Report for BSCC, including evidence supporting programs, analysis of countywide trends, examination of racial and ethnic disparities (Sept 2020)
- Reviewed and provided recommended language for FY 2021-2022 CMJJP, including interpretation of data from 2020 and trends observed between 2017 and 2020 (Nov 2020)
- Reviewed and provided recommended language for JJCPA-YOBG FY 2021-2022 Consolidated Annual Plan submission and JJCPA Application (including JJCPA Funded Program, Strategy, and/or System Enhancement Sections) (March/April 2021)

Provide annual gap analysis

- Conducting gap analysis that builds on Resource Development Associates (RDA) Gap Analysis from 2018 (in process)
 - Updated literature review focusing on best practices for juvenile justice systems
 - Survey with JJCC members and interviews with subsample of JJCC members to understand how best practices are integrated into JJCPA portfolio and funding decisions
 - Survey: All JJCC members invited; 13 completed thus far
 - Interview: Randomly selected one-third of members to invite; three completed thus far
 - Document review to understand shifts in the vision and objectives for the JJCPA portfolio over time, as well as findings from the Community Advisory Committee survey

Conduct evaluability assessments on existing programs

- Questions regarding evaluability, current data collection, data collection capacity, and data collection desires or needs have been integrated into data-focused meetings and process evaluation semi-structured interviews
- Working with Probation to understand how our evaluation efforts dovetail with existing ongoing evaluation efforts for JJCPA programs

Conduct literature reviews of effective programs

- Conducting literature reviews related to our initial programs undergoing full process and outcome evaluation efforts to understand consistency with best practices
- Conducting literature review as part of the gap analysis to identify best practices in juvenile justice systems
- Have developed updated literature summaries related to some of the required local and state-level reports described previously
 - JJCPA-YOBG FY 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Consolidated Annual Plan
 - 2020 JJCPA-YOBG Data Expenditure Report

Conduct implementation and outcome analysis

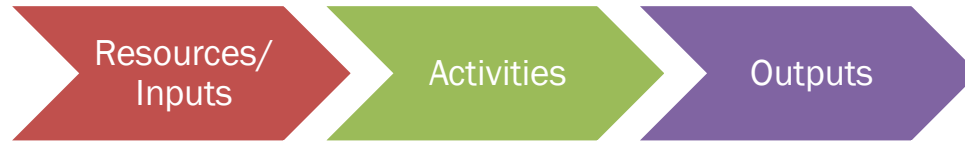
- Two pronged effort
 - Conducting complete process and outcome evaluations on a subset of programs each year
 - Analyzing justice system outcomes annually

Evaluation approach

- Develop a logic model for each program of interest



Process evaluation methods



- Utilization data provided by programs
- Interviews/focus groups with staff
- Interviews/focus groups with youth and parents/guardians

Outcome evaluation methods



- Programmatic and administrative data
 - E.g., justice-system involvement, school measures, behavioral health measures, employment outcomes
- Specific measures vary by program goals or theory of change

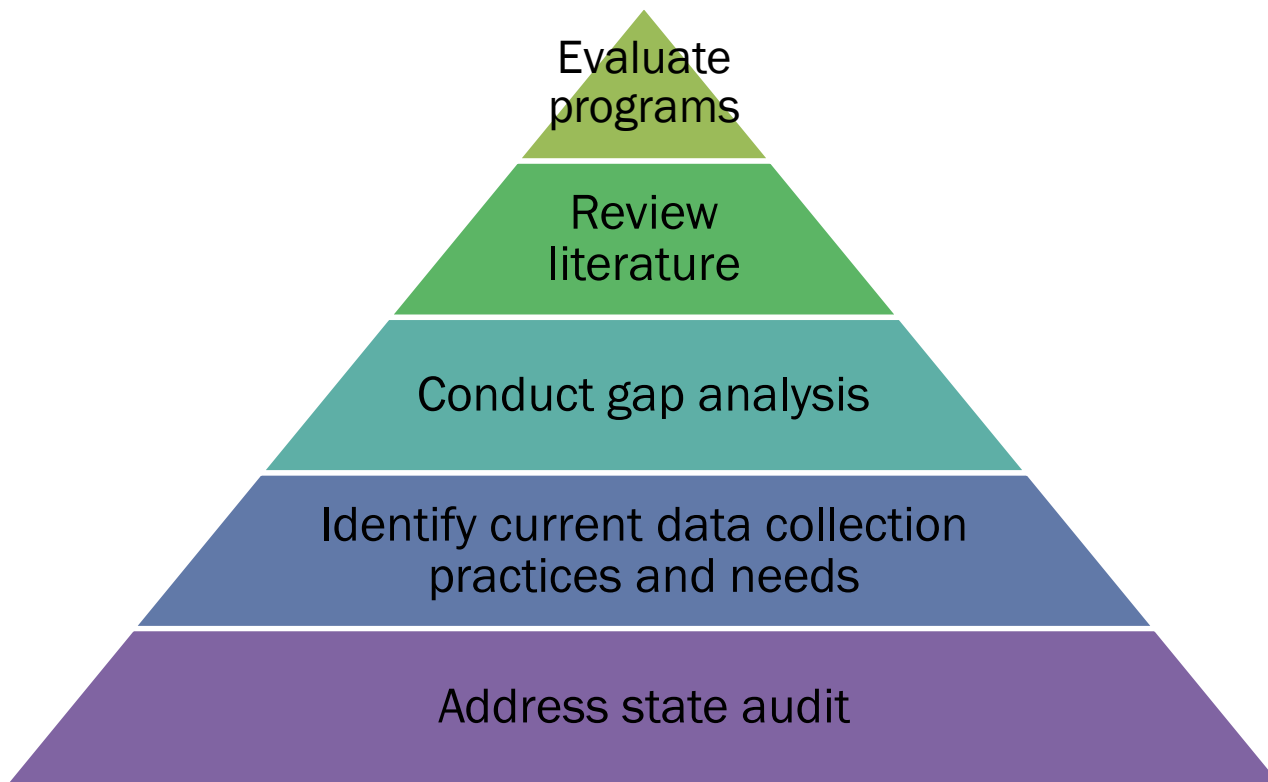
Current programs of focus

- DMH-funded programs
 - Mental health screening, assessment, and treatment
 - Multisystemic therapy
- Juvenile Mental Health Court
- CARE Program

Evaluation progress to date

- Conducting process evaluation interviews with key leadership and staff from across programs of interest
 - Have completed interviews with 17 staff members to date
- Identifying available sources of programmatic data and working with Probation to determine data available for quantitative analysis
 - Petition approved; awaiting final data submission to Probation and cleaning
- Petition currently under review for youth and family engagement

Next steps for RAND



Next steps for RAND, cont.

- Complete gap analysis (report expected this year)
- Provide technical assistance to Probation on completion of 2021 JJCPA-YOBG Data and Expenditure Report
- Continue conducting implementation evaluation interviews with program staff
- Commence data collection with youth and parents/guardians once data collection is approved
- Analyze quantitative data on youth served and preliminary outcome data
 - Potential for preliminary reporting to JJCC in the Spring for first 6 months of FY2021-2022 if data available
- Identify next programs to undergo complete process and outcome evaluation
- Develop format for annual reporting to Probation and JJCC

Feedback and Questions?

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