

# Los Angeles County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJCC-JJRBG) Subcommittee Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Draft Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council – Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJCC-JJRBG) Subcommittee

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Location of Meeting:** Department of Mental Health, Terrace Conference Room  
510 South Vermont, Los Angeles, CA 90020  
Hybrid Meeting: Live In-Person and via Virtual Platform: WebEX

## Members Present = 7:

1. Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair Probation Department (JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair), (Virtual Attendance)
2. Luis Rodriguez, Public Defender's Office (PD) (JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair)
3. Dr. Karen Streich, Department of Mental Health (DMH)
4. Shelan Joseph, District Attorney's Office (DA) (Virtual Attendance)
5. Tricia Penrose, Juvenile Superior Court
6. Tapau Osborne, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)
7. Lisa Wilson, Non-Profit Community-Based Organization (CBO) Supervisorial Representative, District 5 Audio Time Stamp: 0:02:06-0:03:15

**Members Absent:** Alisa Blair, Non-Profit Community-Based Organization (CBO) Supervisorial Representative, District 2, Wason Fu, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Josh Green, Non-Profit Community-Based Organization (CBO) Supervisorial Representative, District 3, Samuel Lewis, Non-Profit Community-Based Organization (CBO) Supervisorial Representative, District 1, Ronaldo Villeda, Non-Profit Community-Based Organization (CBO) Supervisorial Representative, District 4

**Meeting Minutes by:** Sharon Hawkins, Probation Department

## I. Call to Order and Roll Call of JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee Members

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair called the meeting to order and asked Sharon Hawkins to conduct the roll call. Audio Time Stamps: 0:05:09-0:05:29

Sharon Hawkins, Probation Department, completed the roll call and welcomed the five (5) members of the public who were present in person and mentioned there were 13 members of the public who had joined virtually at the time of her announcement.

**(JJCPA Administrative Note:** After Roll Call, JJCPA Administration provided information regarding the process to make a public comment. The audience was directed to the Notice and Agenda that included the process to provide public comments during the live virtual meeting. Past recurring issues were covered to provide clarity and assist those wishing to make a public comment.) Audio Time Stamps: 0:03:16-0:05:08

## II. Welcome

Chief Deputy Kimberly Epps, Probation Department indicated that due to the inability to establish quorum (in-person) she moved to the next agenda item (IV. a.). Audio Time Stamp: 0:05:09-0:05:29

## III. Approval of JJCC-JJRBG Draft Minutes of June 27, 2024

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- a. Motion to adopt JJCC-JJRBG Draft Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2024

Handout: JJCC-JJRBG Draft Meeting Minutes of 6-27-24 (On JJRBG Agenda of 11-20-24) D

**(JJCPA Administrative Note:** Due to the lack of a quorum, the meeting moved to Agenda Item IV.)

**IV. New Business**

- a. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council – Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJCC-JJRBG) Plan Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Update**

Handout: 2023-134 – Report – Auditor of California JJRBG Audit 2024

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair she indicated she would cover two (2) updates that included Ad-Hoc Subcommittee’s (AHS) work, as well as the funding request submissions and unspent funds. Audio Time Stamp: 05:30-0:05:39

**i. Ad-Hoc Subcommittee’s Work**

**1. FY 2025-26 Funding Request Submissions Process**

**a. Continuance of Funding Request Submission Process**

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair indicated the AHS continued to work through a series of meetings and they were working on processes that included a review of how agencies submit funding requests. This included a review about proper funding request submissions and the continuance of funding. When the annual funding request form was sent to governmental partners, a new form was created that that included a new process. The new form was to allow governmental partners the ability to request the ability to utilize unspent monies as carryover funding. That was used to explain the request and how the governmental partner planned to utilize the carryover of unspent funds. She paused to inquire if the JJRBG Subcommittee had any questions. Audio Time Stamp: 0:05:41-0:06:26

**JJRBG Subcommittee Discussion :** None

**Public Comment:** None

**b. Creation of process to address Unspent Funds**

**i. Creation of Unspent Funds Funding Request Submission Process**

Luis Rodriguez, PD, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair, stated he wanted to return to discuss previous work of the AHS. The group talked about what was needed to do as “next steps”. They discussed establishing a timeline to review specific programs, review expenditures as well as unspent funds. They decided they did not wish to burden the JJRBG with two (2) parallel funding processes between Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and JJRBG. It was decided to complete the work of the JJCPA AHS and then move back to have the JJRBG AHS resume their work. To be clear, he stated that the JJRBG AHS would resume their work once the JJCPA AHS completed their work. The JJRBG AHS would identify a

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timeline, and the funding window was open as for new funding requests and requests for unspent funds.

He proposed and recommended a mid-year review, rather than waiting for year-end closing totals. The recommendation included reconvening mid-year (at minimum) to review with agencies how they were doing. This would also ensure whatever processes adopted, had indeed facilitated the processes changes in practice. The process would provide an opportunity to see what was working and/or not working. Additionally, it would provide an opportunity if changes were needed for the agency, as well as an avenue to address the needs, or to re-adjust as needed. *Audio Time Stamps: 0:38:20-0:40:39*

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair, thanked Mr. Rodriguez for returning to the agenda item to provide the update. She inquired if there were any questions by JJRBG Subcommittee members or public comments. *Audio Time Stamps: 0:40:40-0:40:09*

**(JJCPA Administrative Note:** Luis Rodriguez, PD, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair, returned to this item following Fiscal Update – (pages 4-5 ) to handle the item. At the conclusion of his remarks, the meeting moved to Agenda Item SYTF Update on Programming and Education (page 6.)

**JJRBG Subcommittee Discussion:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**c. FY 2025-26 Funding Request Submission Window (September 17, 2024, through November 12, 2024) and process**

Chief Deputy Epps, Probation Department, introduced Luis Rodriguez, PD, JJRBG Co-Chair to provide the update on FY 2025-26 Funding Request Submission window (September 17, 2024, through November 12, 2204).and process. *Audio Time Stamps: 0:06:40-0:07:00*

Luis Rodriguez, PD, JJRBG Co-Chair, began by stating that he wanted to highlight AHS work that occurred prior to the State Auditor's report release that included the substantial amount of dollars that are unspent. Prior to the State Auditor's report completion, the AHS had addressed the issue in looking at unspent funds. They began by identifying what steps they would take to ensure that something (contracting process or programs that has not yet launched) would be done to move the items along. At that point, they were ahead of the curve by doing and the AHS set a timeline for new applicants (governmental partners) to apply for the upcoming fiscal year [FY 25-26], with the window of September 2024 through early November 2024. He indicated they wanted to work in similar fashion to the JJCC's process for JJCPA funding. Within the JJCC, they established a clear process for applying for the funds and a submission timeline. He indicated Mr. Smythe would cover the budget in the past year's unspent funds and what is available.

The AHS also provided a path for agencies who had not spent money to roll over funds to be able to use the funding. He stated that he wanted to highlight

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those everyone on the JJRBG Subcommittee, and those who joined virtually and in person that there was a deep commitment by the AHS Subcommittee members to ensure they create a clear process for funds moving forward and that for those with unspent funds, they are afforded the opportunity for the public to cover their concerns. They were fully committed to making sure the funds are not only spent but are spent for the right reasons. At that point he opened it up to JJRBG Subcommittee members to questions. *Audio Time Stamp: 0:0:07:04-0:09:40*

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair thanked Luis Rodriguez for the update and asked JJRBG Subcommittee members if there were any questions. She stated that there was no committee action needed on the item and inquired if there were any public comments. She moved to Fiscal Update and introduced Mr. Smythe. *Audio Time Stamps: 0:09:41-0:09:50*

**JJRBG Subcommittee Discussion:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**(JJCPA Administrative Note:** At the conclusion of this agenda item, the meeting moved to Fiscal Update (pages 4-5.)

**2. Unspent Funds Work and process by the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee**

Luis Rodriguez, PD, JJRBG Co-Chair, stated he wanted to take the group back to the beginning of the work of the AHS, and they talked about what was needed for next steps and to establish a timeline of reviewing specific programs, what has been spent, and what had not been spent. They decided that the majority of the AHS did not want to burden with JJCPA and JJRBG. We decided to finish JJCPA and then moved to JJRBG. We have applications for review new funding requests, funding requests for unspent funds. They would review it, create a timeline and review the information. He wanted to propose a mid-year review that we follow through to see if they are working. This is a recap on what they had agreed on and recommendation as they looked forward to reconvening as an AHS. *Audio Time Stamp: 0:38:20-0:40:39*

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair, asked if there were any questions. *Audio Time Stamps: 0:40:40-0:42:30*

**JJRBG Subcommittee Discussion:** None

**Public Comments:** None

**(JJCPA Administration:** Luis Rodriguez, PD, JJRBG Subcommittee Co-Chair, announced at the end of the Fiscal Update that there was a need to return to agenda item Unspent Funds Work and Process by the AHS. Upon completion of his remarks, the meeting moved on to SYTF Update on Programming and Education (page 6.) *Audio Time Stamps: 0:42:35-0:42:39*

- b. Fiscal Update regarding FY 2021-2022 (No approved budget for FY 2021-22), FY 2022-2023 (No approved budget for FY 2022-23), FY 2023-2024 (Approved budget as of July 13, 2023), and FY2024-2025 (Approved budget as of July 13, 2023)**

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Handout: JJCC-JJRBG Fiscal Update SYTF Funding Plan Summary of Unspent Unallocated Funds

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair introduced Robert Smythe, Administrative Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair Probation Department regarding this item. Audio Time Stamp: 0:08:34-0:08:40

Robert Smythe, Administrative Deputy, Probation Department, provided an update as the handout was shown on screen during the meeting. He described the spreadsheet that included funding and expenditures for each fiscal year that funding was received for JJRBG. FY 21-22 Los Angeles County received \$8.3 million, FY 22-24 approximately \$30 million, FY 23-24, received \$48,563,250.00 and for FY 24-25, received \$52,539,420. By rounding up, he stated it was a total of approximately \$141 million dollars. A budget was not established until the second fiscal year, which resulted in very few expenditures. He explained the difference between the amount listed in the State Audit report compared to the information on the spreadsheet. Although the report listed \$82 million, the actual number was approximately \$76 million. The reason for the difference was based upon the state auditor had to stop their audit process and the cut of period did not capture the end of the fiscal year spending which ended July 2024, with actual number of \$76,439,000.00. By adding in FY 24-25 allocation of \$52,539,420, the total neared 100-120 million. He estimated that approximately 20 million would be spent in FY 24-25, which would result in having over 100 million in unspent funds. He answered questions posed by Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair regarding the ability to hire employment specialists and other types of on-site staff at institutions. He stated that they could do that, and there was some delegated authority from the Board when it came to Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf facilities. He stated there might be issue and provided the example of hiring social workers and would need to speak with county counsel. He was unclear if we could hire outside social workers (outside of DMH or Department of Children and Family Services) and bypass DMH or DPSS. Audio Time Stamps: 0:10:32-0:17:15, 0:19:22-0:19:22,0:21:19-0:22:28, 9:26:22-0:27:45, 0:30:51-0:31:30, 0:32:50-0:34:03, 0:34:06-0:35:02, 0:35:11-0:35:49, 0:37:00-0:37:27, 0:37:29-0:37:42

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair, she thanked Mr. Smythe for the update and asked if the JJRBG Subcommittee members had any questions. She asked Mr. Smythe if they were authorized to use those for contracted positions that we might wish to embed into SYTF services. Specifically, an Employment Specialist having contracted social workers to reintegration activities. Additionally, potentially a Re-Entry Coordinator and items we could embed to round out the level of services and expertise in those res that are available on site for our youth at the facility. She asked if that was something they had the ability to do? Audio Time Stamp:0:18:00-0:18:07, 0:22:34-0:23:43, 0:28:09-0:30:06,0:35:49-0:36:59

Luis Rodriguez, PD, JJRBG Co-Chair, asked for the details on the process. Audio Time Stamps: 0:17:20-0:17:33

**JJRBG Subcommittee Discussion:** Tapau Osborne, LACOE, Tapau Osborne, LACOE, Tapau Osborne, LACOE, Tapau Osborne, LACOE, Tricia Penrose, JC, Tricia Penrose, JC, Tricia Penrose, JC Audio Time Stamps: 0:17:20-0:17:33,0:2-:33-0:21:19, 0:18:30-0:19:21, 0:19:23-0:19:23, 0:19:23-0:20:32, 0:27:50-0:28:09, 0:31:55-0:32:48,0:34:03-0:34:05, 0:35:20-0:35:10

**(JJCPA Administrative Note:** Upon conclusion of Fiscal Update, the meeting moved back to Agenda Item Iv. a. i. b. (Creation of Unspent Funds Funding Request) (page 4).)

**Public Comment:** None

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**c. Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Update on Programming and Education**

Sharon Hawkins, Probation Department, announced that the presenters for this agenda item were unavailable. At that point, she stated the next agenda item would be V. Other Matters.

Audio Time Stamp: 0:42:28-0:43:01

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair, stated for the record, she wanted to defer the two items. She was aware Dr. Corral, Probation Department, Education Director, was unable to attend that date. She stated Ms. Newble, Probation Department, had confirmed, for the meeting date. She stated perhaps something taken her away from the meeting. She asked that both agenda items be added to the next meeting. She asked if the JJCPA administrative staff had been able to reach the public commenter. Audio Time Stamp: 0:43:03 -0:43:45

**V. Other Matters/Public Comment**

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, JJCC-JJRBG Co-Chair, announced the agenda item and stated it was an opportunity for members of the public and JJRBG Subcommittee members to make a comment on anything JJCC or JJRBG related subject matters. She asked if there were any public comments. Audio Time Stamp:043:01-0:43:46,0:46:16-0:46:39

Sharon Hawkins, Probation Department, announced the one person who requested to make a public comment had not responded, and they were still waiting for a response. She stated if they received a response, they would place the public comment under this agenda item.

As they waited for a response, she made an announcement that the JJRBG Fiscal updates would be posted on the JJCC website. The fiscal handout for 11/20/24 meeting had been posted on the JJCC website. She stated the State Audit for JJRBG had also been added to the website as a handout for the 11/20/25 meeting.

She indicated the original public comment person had not re-contacted the public comments team. At that point, there were no other pending public comments. She announced the upcoming meeting JJCC meeting date of December 5, 2024. Audio Time Stamp: 0:44:20-0:46:15, 0:47:23-0:47:39

**Public Comments:** None

**VI. Adjournment** – Meeting Adjourned at 2:01 pm