

October 18, 2022

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

**Supporting the Programming and Transition of Secure Track Youth to Secure Track Facilities**

On May 26, 2020, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion directing the County's Youth Justice Workgroup (YJWG) to develop a set of recommendations in response to Governor Newsom's announcement on April 14, 2020, to close the California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and redirect youth back to their counties of residence for treatment, care, and housing. In late 2020, the YJWG submitted recommendations to the Board for alternative placements and programmatic practices to guide the County's planning for DJJ youth.

On February 9, 2021, the Board approved a motion instructing the newly formed Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) Subcommittee - established by Senate Bill 823 to advise on the realignment of its juvenile justice functions - to develop a plan for local implementation of the DJJ closure, draft recommendations on possible locations for a Secure Youth Track Facility (SYTF), and seek Board approval prior to submission of an implementation plan to the State. Based in part on the recommendations of the JJRBG, on July 27, 2021, the Board approved a subsequent motion identifying Campus Kilpatrick as a temporary SYTF. Designed with a cottage-like feel and as the implementation space for the LA Model, Campus Kilpatrick provides a youth-centered aesthetic more conducive to rehabilitation and healing. The Board motion also directed the Division of Youth Diversion and Development (YDD) of the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), and eventually the Department of Youth Development (DYD), to implement and oversee a Credible Messenger Pilot Program (Pilot) to be integrated into the planned programming at Campus Kilpatrick.

Through this and other adopted motions, YDD, and now DYD, has facilitated planning

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meetings with the Probation Department, the Department of Mental Health, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and community-based stakeholders to develop the Pilot and the necessary training. In its August 5, 2022 report to the Board, DYD outlined the Pilot, noting that it would function as an integrated staffing and programming model within Campus Kilpatrick to identify and connect existing organizations and activities at the facility. The report also noted the importance of community-based reentry services and the critical role credible messengers and coordinated efforts would play in transitioning young people back to their communities.

Most young men dispositioned to a SYTF are currently housed at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (Nidorf). Citing the limited or in some cases nonexistent programming present at Nidorf as well as its carceral design, multiple reports have noted its incompatibility with a youth-centered rehabilitative focus. These conditions and the rising number of youth dispositioned to secure youth track have increased the urgency to provide appropriate programming to this population.

Six youth were transferred to Campus Kilpatrick from Nidorf on September 14, 2022. While this progressive step bodes well for youth dispositioned to a SYTF, the limited notice of this transfer strained the ability of partner departments to quickly marshal their resources to create comprehensive programming. To provide these services, DYD and other partner departments will need to expeditiously contract with credible messengers and other providers to establish the critical services and model needed at Campus Kilpatrick. Additionally, because most of the youth dispositioned to secure youth track remain housed at Nidorf, consideration of credible messenger programming at Nidorf should be included in any implementation plan as these youth await placement at a SYTF.

DYD is prepared to launch the Pilot by late Fall 2022 and has identified funding to support this innovative effort. Additionally, DYD conducted a survey of organizations operating in the County to better understand their availability and capacity to launch credible messenger programming at SYTFs. 18 organizations responded, and while a number of those organizations have important relevant experiences, two of those organizations, the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and Healing Dialogue in Actions, currently provide limited programming to youth dispositioned to

secure youth track at Nidorf and Campus Kilpatrick. These organizations have long standing relationships with youth and facility staff and have been working closely with the Probation Department and other partners in developing support and programming for SYTFs. Expanding the programming of these two providers to be consistent with the credible messenger model would provide a sufficient Pilot to meet the needs of many of the youth at both locations for the short-term.

Standing up this effort in a quick but thoughtful way will require the ability to swiftly provide additional training support to providers contracted to work in SYTFs. Los Angeles Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LA CADA) has served as the Department of Health Services' training coordinator since 2019. YDD, and now DYD, have worked with LA CADA to implement a Countywide training series on restorative justice for youth diversion providers to increase their capacity to facilitate such practices. LA CADA works closely with DYD staff to contract with subject matter experts who are aligned with programmatic goals and who demonstrate the cultural competencies necessary to work effectively with DYD's partners. These efforts should be replicated to support the trainings needed to successfully launch the Pilot.

The Pilot, previously approved by the Board for Campus Kilpatrick, will be comprised of the following:

- **Facility-Based Credible Messengers**
  - 6 - 12 staff to provide meaningful engagement with youth at Campus Kilpatrick and youth dispositioned to a SYTF at Nidorf throughout their stay and as they transition back into the community.
- **DYD Staff Presence**
  - One DYD staff person co-located at Campus Kilpatrick and Nidorf (or any other facility designated as a SYTF) to assist in coordinating and facilitating relationship building between all partner organizations and facility staff.
- **Staff Training**
  - Core curriculum and modules that are culturally sensitive and promote positive

youth development and interventions to guide the interaction of credible messengers and facility staff.

- **Complementary Programming**

- In partnership with the Probation Department and other partner departments, provide programming (e.g., healing arts, vocational opportunities, college credits, conflict mediation, and visual arts) to enrich the experiences of youth.

While this expedited contracting process is needed to ensure that programming and a Pilot model is in place for youth at Campus Kilpatrick and Nidorf as soon as possible, it is temporary and smaller in scale. Moreover, it does not eliminate the need for a competitive solicitation process to identify community partners to perform credible messenger services long-term and on a broader scale at facilities which may be designated by the Board in the future to house youth dispositioned to secure youth track on a permanent basis. DYD will continue developing a competitive solicitation to launch in early 2023, building off and incorporating the survey results from the many organizations who expressed interest in providing credible messenger services to this population.

The solicitation will be larger in size than the Pilot, will consider any lessons learned during the initial launch of the Pilot, and will be drafted to allow for the fullest participation of organizations of varying sizes, ethnic and cultural compositions, and geographical interests. Additionally, the solicitation will be shared through various mediums to ensure that a diverse and varied group of organizations have an opportunity to apply and may consider opportunities for the credible messenger model to be offered to other groups of young people in the County that DYD aims to support (e.g., youth in foster care placements, reentry youth, etc).

Currently, there are more than 60 young men dispositioned to a SYTF and in need of credible messenger services. The launch of the Pilot will meet a critical need while advancing the Board's vision of "Youth Justice Reimagined" and expanding the County's "Care First" infrastructure to support our most vulnerable youth.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Find that the authorized actions herein related to implementation of a Credible Messenger Pilot Program (Pilot) at facilities where youth who are dispositioned to a secure track facility are housed are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the activity is excluded from the definition of a project by section 21065 of the Public Resources Code section 21065 and consists of organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines. Further find that the implementation and oversight of a Pilot at Campus Kilpatrick, which was previously approved by the Board, is within the scope of the Board's previous finding that the action did not constitute a project under CEQA. Prior to approving any activity that would constitute a project under CEQA, appropriate findings would be necessary. Upon the Board's approval of the actions herein, the Probation Department will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with section 21152 of the State CEQA Guidelines and will post the notice to the County website in accordance with section 20192.2.
2. Authorize the Interim Director of the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to launch the Pilot at facilities where youth who are dispositioned to a secure youth track facility are housed.
3. Authorize the Interim Director of DYD to negotiate, execute, and amend (if necessary) agreements with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and Healing Dialogue in Actions not to exceed one year (plus one six-month extension to be exercised at the discretion of the Interim Director or his designee) to support the needs of the Pilot; and the Los Angeles Center for Alcohol & Drug Abuse for Credible Messenger staff training. The maximum contract sum for all of the agreements shall not exceed a grand total of \$2,000,000, which will be fully supported by funds in DYD's Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget. The agreement(s) and any amendment(s) shall be approved

as to form by County Counsel.

4. Direct the Interim Director of DYD to provide a written progress report, within 120 days, on this effort and on efforts to launch the Pilot solicitation.

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