

COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE **September 11, 2024** MEETING

510 South Vermont Avenue
9th Floor – Conference Room C
Los Angeles, CA 90020

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chair Pro Tem: Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender

Darren Arakawa, President, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association

Darren Arakawa for Cosme Lozano, President, Southeast Police Chiefs Association

Jeffrey Cohen-Laurie for Ricardo Ocampo, Supervising Judge, Criminal Division,
Superior Court

Beatriz Dieringer, California League of Cities

Ted Docks for Akil Davis, Director in Charge, Los Angeles Division, Federal Bureau of
Investigation

Kimberly Epps for Guillermo Viera Rosa, County Chief Probation Officer

Yolanda Figueroa for Robert Luna, Sheriff

Randall Fudge for Michael Webb, President, County Prosecutors Association

James Garrison for George Gascón, District Attorney

Brian Hoffman for Fesia Davenport, County Chief Executive Officer

Rimmi Hundal for Lisa Wong, Director, County Department of Mental Health

Robert Leoning for Natasha Alexander-Mingo, Chief U.S. Probation Officer

Kelly LoBianco, Director, County Department of Economic Opportunity

Jay Mastick for Dominic Choi, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

John Mathews for Ricardo Garcia, County Public Defender

Edward McIntyre for William Parent, Chair, County Quality & Productivity Commission

Emilio Mendoza for Brandon Nichols, Director, County Department of Children and Family
Services

Dora Sandoval, County Economy and Efficiency Commission

Susan Sullivan Pithey for Robert Bonta, California Attorney General

Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Commission on Human Relations

Odey Ukpo, County Chief Medical Examiner

Craig Valenzuela, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County

Alfonzo Webb for Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District

Nick Wyville for Lindsey Horvath, Supervisor, Third District and Chair of the County
Board of Supervisors, Chair of CCJCC

Doug Young for Chris Margaris, Chief, Southern Division, California Highway Patrol

Norayr Zurabyan for Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender, Chair Pro Tem

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender, Chair Pro Tem.

Ms. Anzoategui read the Land Acknowledgment for the County of Los Angeles, which can be found at the following link:

<https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/>

Self-introductions of members and alternates followed.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender, Chair Pro Tem

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the July 10, 2024 meeting. Bea Dieringer of the California League of Cities made a motion to approve the minutes. This motion was seconded by Emilio Mendoza of the County Department of Children and Family Services.

ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2024 meeting was approved without objection.

III. ENHANCING SERVICES FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS

Jim Zenner, Director, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Zuleyda Santana, Chief Deputy, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Jim Zenner, Director of the County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA), provided an overview of the MVA's efforts to promote services for justice-involved veterans. Zuleyda Santana, Chief Deputy of MVA, and Manuel Gomez, Chair of the MVA's Lived Experience Advisory Committee, joined Mr. Zenner in this presentation.

The MVA provides benefits to veterans in Los Angeles County. These can be benefits through the Veterans Administration, referrals to other departments, other benefits, housing, etc.

As background, a motion by the County Board of Supervisors last November called upon departments to collaborate and develop a framework for providing services to the veterans in the justice-involved population.

In January of this year, the MVA presented its strategic vision to this committee. The MVA is focused on identifying service gaps, launching training initiatives, and planning a dedicated Justice-Involved Veterans (JIV) division within MVA.

Since the Board motion, MVA has conducted monthly stakeholder meetings with key partners across the county. This has identified a need for a standardized referral

system for JIV individuals, improved data collection, and targeted training on military and veteran culture.

To address the latter issue, MVA has launched training initiatives to increase awareness among county staff about JIVs' unique challenges. The target audience are social workers, case managers, legal professionals, healthcare providers, and administrative personnel. The focus of the training is on transition from military to civilian life, and challenges within the justice system.

This standardized training implementation is being done across all county departments, service providers, and law enforcement agencies.

In addition, a data collection and referral system is in development, which will be a comprehensive system to track services and ensure that JIVs are linked to necessary programs.

Other actions include MVA being appointed as the central coordinator for JIV services, and a focus on collaboration between veteran service providers and law enforcement.

The planned JIV Division within the MVA will seek to centralize and coordinate services for JIVs, as well as ensure consistent and comprehensive support from initial contact to reentry. The MVA will work closely with other county departments to implement standardized practices and streamline referral processes.

The next steps include support for a training rollout and the formation of a CCJCC subcommittee. With the former, MVA is requesting assistance in facilitating staff participation in cultural competency training. With the CCJCC subcommittee, the purpose would be to monitor implementation of the Board of Supervisors' directives, support ongoing coordination, and address emerging justice involved veteran challenges.

Robin Toma, Executive Director with the County Commission on Human Relations, made a motion to establish a standing CCJCC subcommittee to coordinate services for JIVs. This motion was seconded by Bea Dieringer.

The specific motion reads:

Formation of a CCJCC Subcommittee

- *To sustain our efforts and ensure continuous improvement in services for Justice-Involved Veterans (JIVs), we propose the formation of a dedicated subcommittee within CCJCC. This subcommittee would be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Board's directives, supporting ongoing coordination among partners, and addressing emerging challenges in serving JIVs.*

- *The proposed subcommittee within CCJCC should be chaired by the Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) department and would consist of stakeholders who routinely engage veterans or provide services related to the mission(s) of the subcommittee, including:*
 - *Alternate Public Defender's Office*
 - *Department of Mental Health (DMH)*
 - *Department of Health Services – Office of Diversion and Reentry (DHS-ODR)*
 - *Department of Public Health – Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DHS-SAPC)*
 - *District Attorney's Office*
 - *Justice Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD)*
 - *Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)*
 - *Public Defender's Office*
 - *Sheriff's Department (LASD)*
 - *Superior Court*
 - *Other stakeholders identified by the subcommittee*

ACTION: **The motion to establish a standing CCJCC subcommittee to coordinate services for Justice-Involved Veterans (JIVs) was approved without objection.**

PowerPoint slides that were used in this presentation are available online at <https://ccjcc.lacounty.gov/meetings> under Documents.

IV. PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER PROGRAM

Dana Cherry, Mental Health Program Manager, Public Defender's Office

Mark Delgado, Executive Director of CCJCC, provided background information on the Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW) program. Regular updates on the PSW program have been provided to this committee over the course of the past few years.

As a reminder, the PSW program was launched with funding support from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The PSWs work cases and develop social history reports for eligible female clients. These reports may be considered during the adjudication process and can help to determine the best suitable outcome, including alternative sentencing dispositions that may be under consideration.

The Public Defender's (PD) Office began this program in September 2020 and the Alternate Public Defender's (APD) Office began three months later. The grant funds three PSWs in total (two in the PD's Office and one in the APD's Office).

As part of the grant requirements, an annual report is sent to CDCR at the end of each September. This includes data from both the PD and APD on the number of cases supported and the outcomes achieved. The presentation at this meeting is a preview of that report.

Mr. Delgado introduced Dana Cherry, Mental Health Program Manager with the Public Defender's Office, to provide the update on the PSW program in both the PD and APD Offices.

Ms. Cherry began by discussing vulnerability factors of clients in the program. She noted that, of 472 combined clients served by the PD and APD PSWs, (352¹ with the Public Defender's Office and 120 with the Alternate Public Defender's Office), 34% are Black/African American and 38% are Indigenous and People of Color (IPOC). In addition, 61% have a substance use disorder, 77% have a history of mental health issues, 44% have a history of domestic violence, 43% have a history of sexual abuse, and 60% have experienced homelessness.

Other vulnerability factors experienced by some of the participants include physical abuse as a child, physical health issues, having been trafficked, developmental disability, and being LGBTQ+.

The 48-month program statistics (September 3, 2020 through August 31, 2024) show that, of 486 total clients served, the prison time saved as a result of the PSW program amounts to 3,193 years (1,074,168 days), with a cost avoidance to CDCR of just over \$247.8 million.

In addition to the CDCR funding of PSWs, the county has funded additional PSWs with local funding to do the same work on cases that do not fit the eligibility criteria from CDCR. When adding in the results from these additional PSWs, the numbers increase to 534 total clients served and the time saved amounts to 3,268 years, 6 months (1,101,401 days), with a cost avoidance of just over \$253.9 million.

The results of clients being served by the PSW program can include the following:

- Case being closed
- Client released on Probation
- Ordered time served
- Accepted to Women's Reentry Court
- Accepted to the Office of Diversion and Reentry
- Released to a residential and/or housing program
- Released to a community-based substance abuse or mental health program
- Refused services/conflict/private counsel/brief service
- Reduced sentences
- State hospital
- Dismissal
- Brief service
- Mental health diversion

¹ 68 clients are not included in the totals.

PowerPoint slides that were used in this presentation are available online at <https://ccjcc.lacounty.gov/meetings> under Documents.

ACTION: For information only.

V. FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Angela Ovalle, Manager, Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Cameron Gil, Senior Analyst, Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Angela Ovalle, Manager with the Chief Executive Office’s (CEO’s) Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Office, provided an overview of justice-related legislation in the 2024 legislative session as well as an upcoming ballot measure. She was joined in this presentation by Cameron Gil, Senior Analyst with CEO’s Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Office.

Ms. Ovalle reviewed the following:

Federal – Legislation and Funding

U.S. Department of Justice – Local Program Funding

- Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025:
 - The House is proposing to reduce Juvenile Justice Formula Grant funding.
 - The Senate is proposing to increase Juvenile Justice Formula Grant funding.
 - Both Houses are seeking to increase Victims of Crime Act and Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grants funding over the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 level.
 - Both Houses are seeking to decrease Byrne Justice Assistance Grants grant funding.
- House of Representatives Bill (H.R.) 8061 - Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act of 2024 - Would redirect unobligated funds collected through the False Claims Act to the Crime Victims Fund through Fiscal Year 2029. Additional funding would mitigate or prevent reductions in grant funding for victim services and support staff. The County of Los Angeles has a support position.

State – Budget Updates

Signed Into Law

- State
 - Public Defender Pilot Program (PDPP) - The Governor’s Proposed Budget proposed a \$40 million one-time decrease in FY 2023-24 for the PDPP. County advocacy contributed to the reversion of proposed cuts, which keeps intact

funds for indigent defense providers, including public defenders, alternate defenders, and other qualifying entities.

- Victims Services/Backfill of federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funds - The California Office of Emergency Services forecasted a significant reduction to the California VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program. County advocacy contributed to the allocation of \$103 million in supplemental funding to preserve victims' services and support staff.

State – Legislation

County-Advocacy Position In Support

- California Assembly Bill (AB) 3042 - DNA Crime Lab Funding - Would extend the sunset date of the DNA Identification Fund through 2027. This bill preserves funding for staff who perform and support DNA testing, which assists criminal investigations, prosecutions, and exonerations of the wrongfully convicted.
- AB 1810 - Incarcerated Persons: Menstrual Products - Requires a person in a state prison, local detention facility, or state or local juvenile facility to have direct access to personal hygiene products and reproductive care without needing to request them. Requires detention facilities to acquire and provide these products in a safe, accessible form.
- California Senate Bill (SB) 1020 - Law Enforcement Shooting Range Targets - Prohibits the use of “ethnic shooting targets” at law enforcement shooting ranges. Requires agencies to acquire race- and feature- neutral targets.

County-Advocacy Position Removed

- SB 285 - Sentence Enhancements - Makes ineligible for resentencing certain inmates. County advocacy contributed to the adoption of amendments that addressed concerns over court sentencing discretion, impacts to County operations, changes to criminal justice reforms, and removes burdensome litigation requirements.

Mr. Gil reviewed the following:

Criminal Justice Reform Package

Tools for Enforcement

- AB 1802 - Organized Theft - Makes permanent the crime of organized retail theft as a misdemeanor or felony. This bill also extends the operation of the California Highway Patrol Regional Property Crimes Task Force indefinitely. Depending on

charges filed and prosecutorial outcomes, county and state detention facilities will incur addition costs.

- AB 3209 - Retail Theft Restraining Orders - Authorizes a court to issue a restraining order on a defendant's sentences for retail theft, vandalism, and/or battery of staff. This bill also authorizes a prosecuting attorney, city attorney, county counsel, or attorney representing a retail establishment to file a petition for the issuance of a criminal protective order. Law enforcement could face additional costs responding to restraining order violations.

Tools for Prosecution

- AB 1960 - Sentencing Enhancements for Property Loss - Creates a sentence enhancement for taking, damaging, or destroying property in the commission or attempted commission of a felony. Depending on charges filed and prosecutorial outcomes, county and state detention facilities will incur addition costs.
- SB 1416 - Sentencing Enhancements for Stolen Property - Creates a sentencing enhancement for selling any property acquired through retail theft. Depending on charges filed and prosecutorial outcomes, county and state detention facilities will incur addition costs. Costs associated with legal casework and investigations could increase.

November 2024 Ballot

Proposition 36

- Proposition 36 allows felony charges and increases sentences for certain drug and theft crimes. The proposition is aimed at increasing penalties for drug (fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine) and theft crimes while reversing parts of Proposition 47 of 2014 (Prop 47). Proposition 36 includes three primary categories of action that would:
 - Authorize the charging of certain Prop 47 drug and theft-related misdemeanors as felonies based on prior criminal history. Certain drug and theft-related charges will require sentence enhancements and incarceration in state prison. This part of Proposition 36 would increase punishment tools and increase costs associated with legal casework and incarceration.
 - Require warning those convicted of certain drug-related crimes that subsequent illegal drug distribution resulting in death can be charged as murder. This part of Proposition 36 would increase deterrence tools and, if used in subsequent criminal casework, could increase costs associated with investigations, prosecution and defense, and incarceration requirements.

- Create a treatment-mandated felony and associated process that diverts individuals to treatment programs in lieu of incarceration, culminating with the dismissal of the charge upon successful completion of a treatment program. This part of Proposition 36 would increase rehabilitation and treatment tools and potentially decrease costs associated with incarceration.

PowerPoint slides that were used in this presentation are available online at <https://ccjcc.lacounty.gov/meetings> under Documents.

ACTION: For information only.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

DRAFT