

JJCC-CAC Meeting June24, 2021 Written Public Comments Agenda Item V. a

1. Mark Schmidt

This comment is for JJCC-CAC Meeting June 24, 2021, Agenda item V a.

The history of SB 823 shows how bad this law is. It does nothing to safeguard the public, or rehabilitate the criminals. It does enrich the advocates for the bill. I urge the supervisors to implement SB 823 in a manner that properly safeguards the public, especially the victims. The victims will not be comfortable having their assailants housed nearby. And member of the public in close proximity to where the criminals housed will not be safe.

I urge the supervisors to not be swayed by terms such as juvenile and offender and realize these are for the most part hardened criminals. Also the so-called "therapeutic environment" (especially with eventual removal of law enforcement) is not appropriate for the criminals and most certainly does not safeguard the public.

While SB 823 is now law, I urge the board to house these criminals in facilities where the county can safeguard the public and work with your counterparts in other counties to get this bad law repealed and the criminals sent back to state custody where they belong.

2. Janet Gibson

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3. Fred Gilly

Understanding that there are areas in the Criminal Justice System that may need to be reviewed, altered and reformed; placing violent juvenile criminals any place other than totally secured prisons is not one of them.

With the implementation of SB 823 and the housing of these individuals in community based locations, you are putting the public in a precarious position. With no on- staff law enforcement and no plans to bring them on, how will you handle those who decide they don't wish to be there any longer?

What is being done to protect the victims and their families?

Why was there no public notice about this?

Why is only one viewpoint being acknowledged?

Do you really think this is what the families in these communities want to deal with?

It's bad enough you relocate sex offenders in our neighborhoods, now convicted (ejudicated) VIOLENT CRIMINALS???

I am afraid you are badly out of touch with your constituents....

Please reimagine your staffing for these facilities.

4. Christine Kurano

Hi my name is Christine Kurano. I live the area of the camps and heard the plans to move juvenile convicted of violent acts going to be housed at these camps.

I am absolutely against it. The reasons are:

They are in a perfectly good facility for security. Why waste money on upgrading the camps that were built for non-violent offenders.

That money should be used to help them in rehabilitation. This is a shell game moving them to support the bill that makes no sense. We are still housing them locked up. So while the appearance and claim is we shut down juvenile detention the only thing that is really being done is moving them and having to spend more money to do it. If that is the case then build a new center next to Pitchess.

I am so opposed to this being in our neighborhood. They will be surround by residential communities and brush. So housing rapists, murders, arsonist and other violent offenders should someone get hurt the state will be sued for this decision if it pushes forward. I wouldn't bet on one of them not getting out. That is a big bet to lose.

There was no time for the community to speak about this. Even the meeting today was a rush job. It's disgusting behavior by our elected officials.

5. Doreen Govari

I am submitting this written public comment as a general public comment (Agenda Item VI).

Comment:

My name is Doreen Govari and I am a law clerk with UCLA Law's Criminal Justice Program. I support the Los Angeles County Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) subcommittee's recommendation of the use of Camps Joseph Scott and Kenyon Scudder as long-term holding facilities for all male youth countywide.

It is significant that the County is investing in a new restorative model that is premised on healing, repairing harm, and giving back to the community rather than having young people sit idly in cages. This model is most essential for the young people who would have otherwise gone to DJJ. They are the young people who have also experienced the most harm.

Keeping young people in LA County reduces the influence of "prison culture" and recidivism, which contributes to reducing cycles of violence often created from the environments youth are in. This is an opportunity for the Santa Clarita community to capitalize on this environment shift and invest in young people whose entire life trajectory can be changed based on these shifts. Youth in these facilities are often victims/survivors themselves and so investing in rehabilitation methods and housing these youth in these camps, located in the Santa Clarita community, best ensures healing for everyone involved while preventing more victims from being created.

These facilities are also secure by several definitions. Camps Scott and Scudder are defined as Secure Facilities, which means they are regulated by the Board of State and Community Corrections.

Additionally, the Sheriff is completing an inspection of “security” of these facilities. Further, with Probation’s juvenile budget amounting to \$409 million for nearly 400 incarcerated young people (including those who will be sent to Scott and Scudder), there is over \$1 million per youth which is more than enough to ensure the communities’ safety.

I hope that the JJCC takes this information into consideration.

6. Ruth Tyson

I will address:

Item 5a. JJRBG Presentation

Our union continue to work with the Department on the implementation of the JJRBG annual plan. Legislation requires we complete this plan. We appreciate all of the Work for the initial plan.

- One of our concerns is there appears to be consideration for alternate staffing models. We would like clarification about how the Creditable Messengers would work with our staff?
- Should there be incident that occur between young people or between youth and staff or other agency’s, How would that be addressed and who would assume liability? How will this work out?
- How will the liability process be handled, because we are concerned for our staff. We are fully in support of a team that places safety first. We will work side by side, but everyone should have a clear understanding of their role.
- There should be policy for absolute clarity. We are in total support of working together to support the design and implementation of this program. But in everything that we do, we must hold the safety of our young people, staff, the community and victims as a priority in this planning process.

7. Alexia Cina

Hello my name is Alexia Cina and I am a youth advocate and community organizer with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) and the LA Youth Uprising Coalition. As a young women who was incarcerated for three years and as someone who got nothing but traumatic experiences out of it I want stress my concerns with the culture of DJJ facilities. They contribute to the narrative that these youth are violent and dangerous and need to be caged up. The model of youth justice reimagine would be doing the opposite of this and is dedicated to ensuring that youth are working on healing, repairing, and giving back to their communities. Youth in these facilities are often victims and survivors themselves and this is an opportunity for Santa Clarita to invest in youth who are our future.