

Implementation of the California State Auditor Report Recommendations Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act: Weak Oversight Has Hindered Its Meaningful Implementation

By
County of Los Angeles Probation Department (DRAFT)



JJCC Meeting
August 26, 2021

JJCPA State Audit Overview

- June 26, 2019 - the State Legislature's Joint Legislative Audit Committee approved an audit related to spending, decision-making, reporting and evaluation of JJCPA funds by the counties of Kern, Los Angeles, Mendocino, San Joaquin and Santa Barbara, covering FYs 2013-14 through 2017-18, as requested by Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer
- May 12, 2020 - Date California State Auditor JJCPA report issued
- JJCPA State Audit Recommendations for Los Angeles County:
 - **Recommendation #7:** To determine the effectiveness of its use of JJCPA funds, Los Angeles should include in its year-end reports to Community Corrections descriptions or analyses of how its JJCPA funded Programs influenced the county's juvenile justice trends, as required by law.
 - **Recommendation #11:** To adequately assess the effectiveness of its programs at reducing juvenile crime and delinquency, Los Angeles should collect data on all participants in each JJCPA program and for each service it provides.
 - **Recommendation #15:** To accurately assess the effectiveness of its programs, Los Angeles should determine how to accurately identify in its case management systems the JJCPA programs and services in which each individual participates or enhance these systems to provide this capability.

JJCPA State Audit Overview

Date Responses Due

Draft Audit Report Response: 3/24/2020 (included in the California State Auditor's JJCPA issued Report)

60-Day Due Date: 7/11/2020

6 Month Due Date: 11/12/2020

1 Year Due Date: 5/12/ 2021

Annual Follow-Up

JJCPA State Audit Response #7

Recommendation #7: To determine the effectiveness of its use of JJCPA funds, Los Angeles should include in its year-end reports to Community Corrections descriptions or analyses of how its JJCPA funded Programs influenced the county's juvenile justice trends, as required by law.

- **Response for 6 Month Due Date (11/12/2020)***: As a follow-up to our 60-Day response, the influence of the JJCPA funded programs on juvenile justice trends in Los Angeles County was previously documented in several evaluation reports. Additionally, Probation included information in the year-end report submitted to BSCC (October 1, 2020). Examples of information included in this report are as follows: regarding School-Based programming, a recent evaluation from Research Development Associates (RDA), completed in April 2018, included the finding that "youth receiving these services were 30-40% less likely to recidivate than the comparison group."

**Most recent Audit Response related to current Audit Recommendation status.*

JJCPA State Audit Responses #7

Recommendation #7:

Response for 6 Month Due Date (11/12/2020) (Continued)*:

- In an analysis by the RAND Corporation focusing on Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2017, youth receiving Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) were compared to those who were near misses for program participation. Youth in MST had better outcomes with respect to arrest, incarceration, completion of probation, restitution, community service and probation violation, even if not statistically significant. Similarly, an RDA evaluation of the Client Assessment Rehabilitation Evaluation (CARE) Project found that the program was highly effective in reducing negative contacts with the juvenile system and improving dispositional outcomes for Public Defender clients. These evaluation efforts provide more direct evidence that JJCPA-funded programming may be contributing to decreases in juvenile arrests that have been observed since 2017. In addition, many of the JJCPA-funded efforts are grounded in evidence-based prevention and intervention models. Therefore, although recent evaluation data are not yet available for all programs, the use of evidence-based practices further increases the likelihood that JJCPA-funded programs contributed to overall reductions in youth juvenile justice involvement. Evaluation efforts are underway for additional JJCPA-funded programs, and we will continue to include available evaluation and other descriptions/analyses in future year-end reports.
- **Status - Fully Implemented**

**Most recent Audit Response related to current Audit Recommendation status.*

JJCPA State Audit Response #11

- **Recommendation #11:** To adequately assess the effectiveness of its programs at reducing juvenile crime and delinquency, Los Angeles should collect data on all participants in each JJCPA program and for each service it provides
 - **Response for 1 Year Due Date (5/12/2021)*:** As a follow-up to our 6-Month response, the County of Los Angeles is working with our JJCPA Evaluator to document confirmation of data collected on “all participants in each JJCPA program and service to adequately assess the effectiveness of those programs at reducing juvenile crime and delinquency” for Base and one-time Growth funded programs. This process will be completed in lieu of direct State Auditor’s Office follow-up, as discussed with their Office after the 6-Month response was submitted. Additionally, there were some unanticipated delays in completing this process due to COVID-19. It is anticipated that this process will be completed prior to the next 1 Year audit response due May 12, 2022.
- **Status: Pending**
 - **Update:** Continuing work with RAND and funded agencies to collect and submit data on all participants in each JJCPA program. Emphasizing the data collection efforts for 7/1/2021-12/31/2021 as RAND has met with many agencies to enhance the data for evaluation and annual reporting to JJCC as well as data for the prior Fiscal Year (2020-2021). This data will be provided to RAND, who will verify and document; this documentation will be utilized to respond to this Audit Recommendation due on 5/12/2022.

**Most recent Audit Response related to current Audit Recommendation status.*

JJCPA State Audit Response #15

- **Recommendation #15:** To accurately assess the effectiveness of its programs, Los Angeles should determine how to accurately identify in its case management systems the JJCPA programs and services in which each individual participates or enhance these systems to provide this capability.
 - **Response for 1 Year Due Date (5/12/2021)*:** As mentioned in our 6-Month response, the County of Los Angeles Probation Department's case management system is designed to track Probation youth case information only as models are designed to meet other criteria. We continue with the process of seeking ways to upgrade our case management system to meet the evolving needs of data collection and evaluation. It is anticipated that our previous target completion date remains in place and will be reported by the next 1 Year audit response due May 12, 2022.
- **Status: Pending**
 - **Update:** Continuing work on a tracking method for Probation youth participation in JJCPA programs and services in our case management system. Once finalized, Probation will submit data to RAND for verification; RAND will in turn, document this process and Probation will attach the documentation to the Audit response due on 5/12/2021.

**Most recent Audit Response related to current Audit Recommendation status.*

California State Auditor Links

- **California State Auditor - Home Page Link**

[State Auditor's Website](#)

- **Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act: Weak Oversight Has Hindered Its Meaningful Implementation - Link**

[Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Weak Oversight Has Hindered Its Meaningful Implementation \(ca.gov\)](#)

Questions
