

**JJCC Meeting December 3, 2021**  
**Written Public Comments Submitted via E-mail**  
**Agenda Item Vb.**

1. George Rio

Let us talk about the why the advocates on this call, want to shut down school-based probation.

They do not know what they do.

They do not care what they do.

They just want to throw away.

Why, because it is organized by a law enforcement agency and funded by JJCPA

To members of the public, do your research, it is not just school-base-probation they want to shut down.

It is any law enforcement program helping juveniles.

They do not care about the benefits any such programs can provide.

The advocates live in an imaginary utopia where no consequence reduces crime.

Let us look at the benefits justice reform has given us.

Increased crime,

Public smash and grabs,

broad daylight looting of stores.

It is bad enough it's getting on TV,

Stores servicing communities are shutting down because of it.

Why, because the juveniles are smart enough to know they can get away with it.

If they steal less than \$950 it is essentially not a crime in Los Angeles.

If they get caught, even for a violent crime, advocates are want to give them diversion.

This is documented, and public knowledge if you look for it.

It means they want the cases closed,

They want the criminals released, as if it never happened.

Justice reform, as imagined by these advocates is the legalization of crime.

They cannot do it legally, but they are doing it by removing all consequences.

Their current target is school-based probation, they will not stop there.

Without consequence we are moving to a society without law or safety for the citizens.

Think about what is going on, Is this the world you want to live in?

Fund school-based probation through JJCPA funding.

2. Ruth Cusick

My name is Ruth Cusick and I'm the co-founder of the Collective for Liberatory Lawyering. I have been supporting local organizers and impacted families in LA for the last 15 years, representing numerous young people in expulsion proceedings, young people who were criminalized for school incidents that should have been responded to with care and intervention.

I have previously offered verbal public comment at the JJCC meeting urging the committee to end funding of School-Based Probation. Today I again urge the committee to end their financial support of school-based probation services as such services unnecessary criminalize and surveil young people rather than offering meaningful support. Year after year the community has asked for transparency and accountability for this program and yet Probation has shared nothing with us.

Additionally, please restore funding to the Ready to Rise partnership to previous level.

And lastly, from a process perspective, how decisions are made in this committee is high flawed. JJCPA funds should be stewarded through a truly collaborative process and one that does not have Probation at the helm.

Thank you,  
Ruth S. Cusick (she/her)  
co-founder  
The Collective for Liberatory Lawyering  
[www.c4ll-ca.org](http://www.c4ll-ca.org)

### 3. Gloria Davis

Thank you for the Ready To Rise Initiative – LA Probation Public-Private Partnership over the past two and half years.

Girls Club of Los Angeles is one of the 20 organizations selected in the first cohort serving over 133 youth and 3,182 program touchpoints. Last week, we received the youth report cards, and the improvements were significant. As a result, our at-risk and high-need students are just getting back into a routine. The services we provide and the R2R collective have made immense progress on students' grade levels, vocation, college, and career pathways.

Would you please help our students and families by investing in their future and actively promoting fair and just opportunities to thrive according to their needs? Please do not cut the R2R initiative funding by 40 percent.

We banded society's systemic challenges and stopped the bleed for the past 2 in half years. It is time for Probation to make a long-term commitment to youth and their family while addressing the root cause of institutional racism, inequity, and oppression. Unfortunately, your budget recommendation could drastically reduce the number of students the Girls Club of Los Angeles can serve.

In closing, can we work collaboratively to break the patterns contributing to disparities and social injustice in our communities?

### 4. Keisha Irving

My name is Keisha Irving, Principal of Long Beach Jordan High School. I would like to make a comment regarding JJCPA Funding – V-b and I would like to speak on behalf of JJCPA Funding:

DPO II Hawkins-Woods has been assigned to the campus of Long Beach Jordan High School since the beginning of the current school year and is already an integral part of the staff and success of the school. On any given day you will find her doing the following:

- 1) Greeting students as they arrive to campus
- 2) Walking the campus during nutrition and lunch, talking to students and building positive relationships.
- 3) Saying goodbye to students and reminding them to stay safe after school

DPO II Hawkins Woods has established herself as one of the most sought-after and trusted adults on the campus. When students need advice or want to speak to an adult that is supportive and they can trust, they often go to her. She also takes time out of her daily schedule to go and sit and talk with our special needs students and they love it; they look forward to it. Anytime she has a meeting and is not on campus, they ask about her.

DPO II Hawkins-Woods also personifies school spirit. She goes to our rallies, athletic events and is one of the biggest cheerleaders for our students. The positive relationships that she establishes with our students makes it much easier when she has to address any type of inappropriate behavior that students exhibit from time to time. They are more receptive because they know that she cares.

DPO II Hawkins-Woods is an essential part of the Jordan High School faculty and we feel very fortunate to have her and hope to have her on our campus for years to come.

Please feel free to call me or email at [Kirving@lbschools.net](mailto:Kirving@lbschools.net), if you have any questions or would like to speak further about the benefits of DPO II to the campus of Jordan High School. Thank you for your time.

Best,

Keisha Irving

Keisha Irving

Principal

Jordan High School

#### 5. Ruth Tyson

My name is Ruth Tyson, I represent the Supervisors Union SEIU 702. The Union continues to support school base and is asking the JJCC to make sure the funding remains.

I read an article today about the real price of reform and how many people of color are being victimized at alarming rates b/c of these policies and the reimagining experiment. It's harming our youth, the tax payers don't feel safe, and all in the name of what???

Reform shouldn't include a 87 year old women not feeling safe in their homes, business owners being destroyed, and people losing their life's because there is accountability. Improve a system don't destroy the system. You guys are single handedly destroying our communities by getting rid of community base programs that work. We have a high school where the school climate and the restorative Justice officer walked off the job. Working with our youth isn't easy but it's worth it.

#### 6. Angela Talamantes

My name is Angela Talamantes and I am a teacher for the JDRC (Juvenile Day Reporting Center) program located at Panorama High School. The purpose of this email to express support for the program to continue working in conjunction with Central HS/Tri-C. The assigned probation officer to the classroom

as well as the adjacent supportive officers have been a significant part of a team that works collaboratively with the classroom staff to support student success. What has contributed to the positive outcomes for these students has been the consistent demonstration of genuine care and encouragement by the assigned officer and adjacent officers by the actions that are but, not limited, to the following:

Acknowledging students by name daily and greeting them in a respectful manner, recognizing and celebrating successes such as class completions and/or milestones, participating/contributing to classroom celebrations (that may include holidays, birthdays, special occasions, etc) . The officer does an incredible job of archiving academic and behavioral data, participating in curricular activities with students, and supporting the classroom behavioral and academic programs. One quality that is exceptional is how the officer works in conjunction with the classroom staff to assist students in adhering to JDRC norms and how a situation is approached to with respect and dignity especially when de-escalating students in crisis. The officer excels at communicating with appropriate caregivers and officers, maintaining meticulous notes and supporting the classroom staff.

I implore that you consider keeping the school-based officer program. With our partnership, students can continue to thrive, grow, and succeed.

Angela Gallegos Talamantes

Teacher

Panorama Tri-C CDS/JDRC

#### 7. Janet Denise Kelly

I am in the meeting as an attendee, but may need to leave shortly to support a staff member. I would like to share with the council how important it is to maintain the Ready2Rise Public/Private partnership listed in the spenddown at current funding or more. The loss of 40% funding would gravely impact program services and the communities youth return to thrive. This year, Sanctuary of Hope has seen more youth than ever before. The capacity building provided by California Community Foundation, Liberty Hill, and others have strengthened our ability to leverage more resources for young people and to grow. Just an example, we were recently awarded the Elevate Youth Grant thanks to the coaching and sharing of grant opportunities. This will all us to have a substance abuse counselor on-site for youth and families struggling with substance. I am quite sure my Ready2Rise cohort peers would share similar stories.

I urge you to take into the consideration the value that the public-private partnership brings to the table and the youth who benefit from the investment. It would be disappointing to serve less youth or have fewer agencies supported.

Janet

#### 8. Nicole Brown

December 3, 2021

Dear members of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council:

I am writing to provide public comment on the FY 2022-23 Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan and recommended spending allocations, item 5b on today's agenda.

I want to start by thanking the members of the CMJJP taskforce. I know that this is an extremely hard task, and that you put many hours into it. I also know that you put intention into holding up the guiding principles in the plan. However, having observed and participated in this process over several years as a community member and advocate, I have serious concerns about this process and recommended budget which I would like to share with you.

Lack of information and transparency:

My first concern is about a lack of information provided to CMJJP members, and a lack of transparency for the public. I support the mission, guiding principles and spending parameters outlined in the CMJJP; however, there is no information provided to know whether these principles are being upheld. I also believe that CMJJP taskforce members have not been provided with adequate information on the demographics of youth served or program outcomes to assess whether this spending allocation is making a real impact on the mission of the CMJJP. Further, I understand that the CMJJP taskforce is not a Brown Act body, but much more robust public engagement and transparency is needed. All rubrics, scoring, carry-over funding, and funding applications should be posted publicly online. Also, much greater efforts are needed to inform the public about the opportunity to submit proposals (with a process comparable to that of County departments), and more opportunities for input are needed.

Immediately change administration of JJCPA funds:

I believe that as volunteers the CMJJP taskforce made laudable efforts to be good stewards of these funds; however, there has been inadequate support. While I know that some Probation staff have worked hard to support this process; the administration of JJCPA funds should be transferred from Probation to another agency starting next year, such as the example in San Diego. While state law mandates Probation to be chair of the JJCC, it says nothing about administration of the funds. Probation is not set up to facilitate meaningful public engagement or a collaborative, data-informed budgeting process. The Governance Subcommittee's work should include identifying other administration options. Youth Justice Reimagined calls for moving the administration of JJCPA funds out of probation in Phase 1 of the plan. It has already been one year since the Board of Supervisors endorsed this plan, so the work to make this transfer should begin immediately.

Youth Justice Reimagined:

JJCPA spending should be aligned with Youth Justice Reimagined, yet there is no mention of the plan in the transformative plan in the 87-page CMJJP. This should be added to the guiding principles and spending parameters, and should be reflected in budget priorities.

What the JJCC is being asked to do today:

How are the public and members of the JJCC (who were not on the CMJJP taskforce) supposed to meaningfully engage with this proposed spending plan today? I appreciate the fact that materials were sent out last week, but this is an 87-page plan allocating almost \$45 million over 44 proposals. A 2-hour Brown Act meeting (with other agenda items) is not adequate for meaningful questions and engagement. Further, JJCC members are being asked to approve the plan, with no opportunity for the CMJJP taskforce to make changes based on the questions or concerns of other JJCC members or the public. In year's prior, it was recommended that the JJCC meet once to be presented with the CMJJP so they can ask questions and raise concerns. Then, the CMJJP taskforce could meet again to be responsive to this, and then the JJCC could approve the plan in a future meeting. Why is the JJCC being asked to approve the plan and spending allocation today?

Spending Allocation:

Despite my concerns outlined above, there are many allocations which I strongly support in this plan, such as Capacity Building for Violence Intervention Agencies, the Youth Commission, and funding for YDD. I would, however, like to raise concerns about the following allocations:

- City of Paramount, Youth Activities League (YAL) – I do not believe a police-run activities league will be effective in reaching the youth who need services most, therefore it is not effective for preventing contact with the system
- Superior Court, Special Needs Court Juvenile Mental Health Court - this program has historically served a very low # of youth. Please review outcomes from the evaluation and cost carefully before funding this further next year
- LAC Probation, Conflict Resolution in Institutions – Probation received \$1.2 million in JJCPA funds for Credible Messengers in camps and halls, and almost \$1 million for Restorative Justice in facilities and we have not seen any meaningful outcomes for this. Therefore, while I support the spirit of this proposal, I do not believe they should receive more funding.
- LAC Probation, School-based Supervision – We need learning and positive supports in schools, not law enforcement. Juvenile Probation has a \$570 million budget. We should not spend precious JJCPA funds on this unaccountable program. This has been echoed by many stakeholders, yet this continues to be one of the top-funded programs by the JJCC.
- Ready to Rise Public Private Partnership – This program has provided [thousands of youth](#) with support, and important capacity building for CBO's. Why, then, was there a 40% cut to this program?

Thank you for your work on the CMJJP, and I hope you take these concerns into account today and in the future. I urge you as JJCC members to take action on improving governance and administration for these funds.

Kind regards,

Nicole Brown

#### 9. Aimee Garcia Fuentes

To the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)

I am writing this letter on behalf of my support of having a School Base Deputy Probation Officer on school campus. I have seen the benefits of having one on my school site, Panorama High School, and how it has helped with bridging the gap of communication with school staff when working with children on probation. This has helped in knowing what supports a student is in need up to help improve their academic success and minimize the likely chances of them violating their probation. I am a school psychologist on the campus, and have worked with Officer Linda Corral over the past 5 years with students that have had special education along with those that did not. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Aimee Garcia Fuentes  
School Psychologist  
Panorama High School

#### 10. Christina Silva

To whom It May Concern:

I would like to express how important it is to have Probation Officers on high school campuses. Since we no longer have School Police, it is imperative to have support for students who are at risk, especially with all types of violence going on in schools. My experience with Probation Officers on campus has been very

positive. They have supported students at risk many times on different occasions here at Kennedy and they are strongly needed.