

**JJRBG Meeting March 30, 2022**  
**Written Public Comments Submitted via E-mail**  
**Agenda Item III c.**

1. Clara Keane

The Anti-Recidivism Coalition has concerns as to why Probation is the only entity that is making these types of programming pitches. It would be great to know the outcomes of these programs. There are many community based organization that are currently and have been serving young people in SYTFs, for example, you have organizations such as us (ARC), Inside Out Writers (IOW) and Healing and Dialogues that have been working with young people yet are not event funded by probation and are limited to how much access they can have with youth. Why aren't they included in these processes since they are the ones closely working with these youth?

ARC continuously hears from the young people we are currently mentoring at BJNJH and DJJ that they want programming and are willing to take any program at this point. They are in need of our support in a more holistic way. ARC and other community-based orgs should be allowed to enter BJNJH and camps to provide crucial programming, for more than just one hour.

2. Yesica Cambero

I am a hope and redemption team life coach at ARC. I am representing the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. As a formerly incarcerated youth offender I am here to share my story about what could've helped me when I was 17 and detained at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. Barry J. was unable to provide the proper safety and security therefore would leave us locked in a cell for 23 hours a day. I was not provided proper guidance as to what to do after I was released, there wasn't any efforts of rehabilitation nor a safe place to provide those measures. Placing Children in a facility like youth authority and Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall hinders them from self-healing, growth and maturity. If placed in a camp based placement will allow these children to have weekly visits to help with family reconciliation, they will have access to outside volunteers that will provide classes for life skills, job readiness and self help. As a former Lifer I know the difference these resources made in my life, I was able to grow and learn from my past as opposed to letting my past define me. Thank you for your time in this matter, God bless you and have a great afternoon.

3. Alexia Cina

The county has already voted that Barry J will not be a permanent housing facility for youth and there is still not a selected site. At this point the youth who are currently confined in Barry j should have been moved to a secure youth track facility 8 months ago. These are youths lives we are talking about and they are being put on the back burner. To add, ARC continuously hears from youth that we are mentoring in BJNJH and DJJ that they want more programming. These youth need more then one hour a week of organizations going in to mentor them and provide the programming they deserve. The JJRBG should continue to be guided by youth Justice reimagined and support the reentry and services components of it. YJR needs investments and we need to continue to build from the youth Justice reimagined model.

4. Sophia Cristo

As a young person who was impacted in a negative way by probation, I am extremely concerned about why probation is the only entity making these program pitches. There are a multitude of other organizations such as ARC, Inside Out Writers and others that have been serving our youth and continue to do so that should be part of this process every step of the way. Our youth need real support and services like these organizations provide. It would make a major difference in these youth lives and journey if they could have more access to these organizations and the mentors that support them.

5. Chloe Thomas

I'm a staff member at the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC). As someone that works closely with previously incarcerated youth and young adults, I'm writing on item 3A, 3C and 3D. At this point, LA County has already agreed that Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall is not an option nor ideal for any type of youth rehabilitative setting or location. Youth need to start receiving the correct treatment, mentorship, support, and education that will ultimately address their traumas and behaviors. You don't accomplish this with more punitive practices. That's why at ARC we believe that those closest to the problem are the closest to the solution. We need to implement credible messengers, allow CBOs to start working with youth more holistically, and invest in more diversion and services provided by community. Right now, young people need guidance and support from people that they can relate to while at the same time, be provided with services that can support their transformation. I urge this committee to stop playing with the lives of young people and actually get the ball rolling in helping this population. They are suffering as we speak.

6. Melissa Mercado

I work for the Anti-Recidivism Coalition as an office assistant. I am also representing the Anti-Recidivism Coalition in this hearing today. As a formerly incarcerated person I know how a prison environment can be traumatic. The housing environment can be depressing when your in a closed confined cell. It makes a person feel dehumanized, like an animal. Although these adolescents are convicted of serious crimes the were children when they enter these facilities and can redirect their lives in a more humanized environment. I know this because I was also in a jail-like environment for a few years and it was so much harder to positively program. It wasn't until I went to a college-like environment that I could focus more on my rehabilitation. Please do not make Barry J Nidorf Juvenile hall the permanent facility for youth. It is not the right place for the youth that need help. We need this body to support Youth Justice Reimagined and implement its components of reentry and programming. Young people who have been committed to serious offenses also deserve love, compassion, safety, and the opportunity to change for the better. Let's move away from this facility conversation and start talking about what services we can actually provide them with right Now!!!!