

# Progress Update on RAND Evaluation of JJCPA Funded Programs in Los Angeles County

Stephanie Brooks Holliday, PhD

August 31, 2022

The research documented in this briefing is intended to share RAND's latest findings with a limited audience; it has not been formally reviewed or cleared for public release. It should not be cited without the permission of the RAND Corporation. RAND's work does not necessarily reflect the opinions of its research clients and sponsors.



Justice Policy Program

# RAND Objectives

- Provide consultation for developing program evaluation design and metrics
- Provide annual gap analysis
- Conduct literature reviews of effective programs
- Conduct implementation and outcome analysis of funded programs

# Timeline

- Period of performance is one year, with four additional option years
  - Currently midway through Year 3

# Progress on Objectives to Date

# Provide consultation for developing program evaluation design and metrics

- Recap from 2021 update:
  - Reviewed 2020 report by the Auditor of the State of California
    - “Los Angeles ... should collect data on all individuals participating in each of their JJCPA programs and services to adequately assess the effectiveness of those programs at reducing juvenile crime and delinquency.” (emphasis added)
  - Collaborated with Probation to identify potential options for collecting data to fulfill the audit finding (e.g., collection of identifiable vs. de-identified data)
  - In consultation with Auditor, determined that identifiable youth-level data will be necessary to report on justice-system related outcomes, which will be required by most programs
    - Potential exception identified for more universal prevention-oriented programs, for which de-identified outcome data may be a workable alternative

# Provide consultation for developing program evaluation design and metrics, cont.

- Reviewed 5 draft Statements of Work to ensure relevant and required data elements are identified
- Spoke with staff of 4 agencies (overseeing 12 programs) regarding data collection requirements
- Reviewed evaluation-related language in Funding Request Submission Form
- Reviewed and provided literature review and updates for selected programs for BSCC JJCPA Application

# Provide annual gap analysis/Conduct literature reviews of effective programs

- Conducting a comprehensive review of evidence-based practices for juvenile justice populations (in progress)
  - Conducted a search of five academic databases (PubMed, PsycINFO, Criminal Justice Abstracts, Social Science Abstracts, Social Services Abstracts)
  - Focus on articles published since 2000 reporting outcomes of youth-focused behavioral interventions



# Provide annual gap analysis/Conduct literature reviews of effective programs, cont.

- Abstracting data regarding the outcomes of the evaluations, including data regarding criminal justice, academic, behavioral health, aggressive behavior, and relationship outcomes
- Includes information on the rigor of the study design and any equity-oriented outcomes (e.g., tests of differential outcomes by gender or race and ethnicity)
- Goal is to have published version available by late December/early January, with JJCC and JJCPA grantees as the target audience



# Conduct implementation and outcome analysis of funded programs

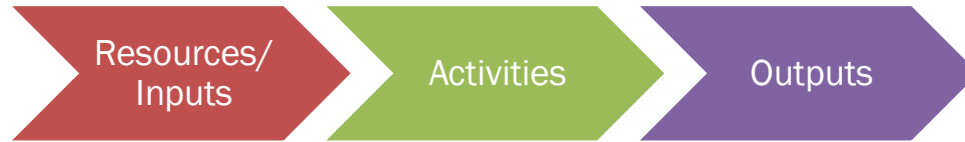
- Overview of the proposed evaluation approach
  - Conducting complete process and outcome evaluations on a subset of programs each year
  - Analyzing justice system outcomes annually (if data allow)

# Evaluation approach

- Develop a logic model for each program of interest



# Process evaluation methods



- Utilization data provided by programs
- Interviews/focus groups with staff
- Interviews/focus groups with youth and parents/guardians

# Outcome evaluation methods



- Programmatic and administrative data
  - E.g., justice-system involvement, school measures, behavioral health measures, employment outcomes
- Specific measures ideally vary by program goals or theory of change (but are subject to data availability)

# Current Programs of Focus

2021

- Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Treatment
- Multisystemic Therapy
- CARE Program
- Juvenile Mental Health Court

2022

- DPH Substance Use Programs (Youth Substance Use, CENS, Support Services)
- LA County WDACS
- LA City EWDD
- Youth Development Training
- PPP (Ready 2 Rise)
- DPH Office of Violence Prevention Trauma Prevention Initiative/Capacity Building Training

# Initial Set of Programs

2021

- Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Treatment
- Multisystemic Therapy
- CARE Program
- Juvenile Mental Health Court

# Initial Set of Programs: Progress Update

- Between March 2021 and December 2021, conducted 39 interviews with 44 respondents
- Conducted outreach to 52 youth/caregiver dyads between November 2021 and July 2022 and conducted 4 interviews
- Received initial juvenile justice outcome data in May 2022
- Received quantitative program data in August 2022
- Aim for analysis to be completed by December 2022 and report in early 2023

# Second Set of Programs

2022

- DPH Substance Use Programs (Youth Substance Use, CENS, Support Services)
- LA County WDACS
- LA City EWDD
- Youth Development Training
- PPP (Ready 2 Rise)
- DPH Office of Violence Prevention Trauma Prevention Initiative/Capacity Building Training



# Second Set of Programs: Progress Updates

- During 2022 to date, conducted 18 interviews with 27 people
  - Still in process of conducting outreach and scheduling interviews (outreach continues to ~17 individuals)
  - Average time to receive interviewee recommendations after an initial introductory call is 71 days (range from 0 to 172 days)
- Two of these programs are youth-serving and we will be brainstorming how we might interview youth; three are not youth-serving and we will be speaking with the organizations/individuals who participate
- Quantitative data for the youth-serving organizations (Substance Use programs, WDACS, EWDD) not yet available
- Goal is to complete staff interviews across programs and determine method for youth/caregiver data collection by end of October 2022; conduct interviews with capacity building participants by end of December 2022

# Common Barriers Encountered to Evaluation Activities

- COVID continued to affect the operations of the organizations, which affects evaluation activities (e.g., due to limited staff availability, significant changes in delivery of programming, challenges related to data collection)
- Agencies have raised concerns about the submission of identifiable youth data, limiting the available data for quantitative analysis of program usage and outcomes
- Youth and caregiver recruitment involves several complicated steps, which likely diminishes the number interested in participating

# Potential Future Programs of Focus

2023

Possible options

- City of Los Angeles Housing Authority
- LAC Development Authority
- City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks
- LAC Parks and Recreation
- LAC Department of Arts and Culture
- City of Paramount
- LAC Public Library

2024

Possible options

- LAC Probation programs (Restorative Justice, Credible Messenger, School-Based)
- LAC DHS YDD programs (School-Based Supports, Diversion Programs and Services)
- LAC Office of Education
- LAUSD
- City of Los Angeles GRYD

# Feedback and Questions?

*For additional questions, please contact:*

Stephanie Brooks Holliday, PhD

[holliday@rand.org](mailto:holliday@rand.org)

310-393-0411 x7439



Justice Policy Program