

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
Program Review and Development Subcommittee
MINUTES**

February 13, 2023

NEXT MEETING:

March 13, 2023

JJCC Subcommittee Members Present: Chris Modica, Mark Howe, Maureen Byrne, Jennifer Dougherty, Ramon Leija, Veronica Martinez, Ana Magbitang, Jennifer Dougherty, Noe Villa, Michael Rodriguez, Kate English, Jessica Davis, and Veronica Martinez.

Other meeting attendees: Gabriel Candelario, Maya Zumaya, Joe Ramirez

Members Absent: Judge Covarrubias, Bertha Mateo, Pam Stewart, Ramon Leija, Stefanie Rodriguez, David Swanson Hollinger.

Discussion/Conclusions	Recommendations/Actions	Responsible
<p>1. Call to Order Chris Modica called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.</p>		
<p>2. Approval of the January 9, 2023, minutes – Michael Rodriguez moved to approve the January 9, 2023 meeting minutes; Noe Villa seconded the motion. All in favor; Minutes approved.</p>		
<p>3. Public Comments – None heard. None received telephonically or via email.</p>		
<p>4. Review of Youth Advisory Council – Chris Modica introduced Gabriel Candelario, Joe Ramirez and Maya Zumaya who work for One Step a la Vez. Gabriel is the ERC coordinator. Joe is the Interim Development Director, and Maya is the Operations Director. Chris noted that this is the last program we will be reviewing in the ASR Report. Joe noted that in the past year, there has been some turnover at One Step a la Vez which made it difficult to hold consistent YAC meetings. There was a 5-month period of time with no meetings. Now that Gabriel is on board, they will be more consistent.</p> <p>Successes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration between the YAC staff and the ERC coordinators to boost youth awareness and interest in the YAC program. • Openness and willingness to develop an evaluation system and receive technical assistance and training. • Staff understand importance of ensuring youth feel heard and getting them involved. • Loving and accepting environment provided for the youth. • Stipends, scholarship programs and incentives provided for youth to boost engagement. Discussion ensued. Gabriel noted that this strategy has been successful. There are currently 9 youth in YAC. Hoping to build up to 10-12 youth. • Having support of the Burns Institute who can continue bringing their knowledge and expertise to help steer the vision and goals of the YAC. Kate noted that the Burns Institute is working with DEI office to transition this role from Burns Institute to the Youth Equity Positions. <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low participation due to COVID-19; high turnover and lack of staff consistency at the center. 		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Took 4 months for YAC to fill the Executive Director position and additional time to get up to speed and learn how to run the program; youth who were engaged lost interest. Discussion ensued. Some of those youth have returned. Currently, 3 of the 9 are returning youth. • Feedback from youth showed that after attending the first two meetings most youth did not seem to understand the overarching vision and goals of the YAC or the overall plan for reaching those goals. Discussion ensued. Gabriel noted that their meetings with Probation has helped clarify the role of this group. • Feedback from youth suggested the language used to talk about key concepts may be inaccessible to most youth attending the meetings. Gabriel stated it has been a challenge to get youth familiarized with the terms. • While the value for youth input in determining program content is a strength, there is need for establishing a strong overall program model as the container within which youth-led work is done; the evaluative evidence suggests that such a model or framework has yet to be developed or implemented. Gabriel noted that YAC has put people in place and started to work on this as well. <p>Noe stated that in his experience working with youth, you spend 80% of your time developing them. He asked if One Step A la Vez sends youth to seminars to work with youth outside Fillmore. Gabriel stated that at this time, One Step a la Vez does not have that capability. Maya added that she was recently invited to a conference for HOPE which teaches youth how to advocate. This is something she will be looking into. Kate added that One Step used to have a partnership with other youth organizing initiatives in the county; the Ventura County Youth Coalition would meet quarterly. Kate can provide One Step a la Vez with some history/information on that program.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the aim of the YAC is to provide a drop-in like center where youth can feel safe, meet other youth and staff, and engage in a few prosocial activities, the YAC will need the following support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide YAC staff with research and evaluation support, technical training and assistance to develop a logic model and evaluation plan to help them demonstrate their impact and increase their level of accountability for delivering these services/activities to youth in a timely and effective manner. • Services and activities currently being delivered need to be more clearly articulated. • At the time of the interview, there were many activities listed by One Step Staff that are 	<p>Kate to provide information re: Ventura County Youth Coalition to One Step a la Vez.</p>	

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<p>intended to impact certain youth outcomes, but youth feedback suggested they may not be getting as much out of those activities or understanding the purpose of that activity as intended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAC needs to strengthen programing and assess youths' experiences of that programming and the impact those experiences have on youth outcomes through satisfaction surveys and pre/post assessments. Gabe noted they plan on developing those surveys/assessments. • While units of service data may not have been available because the first youth meeting hadn't taken place yet, YAC staff should be asked to report on other interim performance measures that track their efforts and progress in launching the program. If however youth are to participate and benefit from the initial aims and goals of this program set out by the YES Collaborative which includes the Burns Institute, then significant changes to the program are needed: there is need for a more intentional and systematic program model to do this, as well as staff who have the capacity to implement that program model to fidelity. • Overall program model needs to provide a clear structure within which youth led work is done. • Decisions about major program components, activities services and intended outcomes should be grounded in developmental research including what is known about effective youth leadership programs for justice-involved youth. Suggest identifying an evidence-based program model and making changes to programming that address how concepts and ideas are communicated to youth in an accessible manner. If current YAC staff continue providing YAC programming, VCPA will need to invest in increasing staff capacity to deliver effective programming by providing training in youth development, as well as running the day to day operations of a youth leadership program that will move the dial on key outcomes. Joe noted that one of the strengths of One Step is their relationship with Probation. <p>Maureen asked if One Step is using an evidence based model. Gabriel noted that he was not aware of an evidence based model. Kate added that the current model is based off of what Santa Clara County has been doing. Burns Institute helped share the program prior to COVID. Kate noted she does not believe there is an established youth advisory evidenced based model.</p> <p>Maureen asked if all youth involved are justice involved. Gabe answered that currently about 50% are justice involved.</p>		

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<p>5. DEI Youth Equity Positions Update</p> <p>Kate provided an update on the DEI Youth Equity positions. The MOU between Probation and the CEOs office is in process. This MOU will authorize the agreement for funds to be used for both positions in the CEOs office. These positions will report to Phin Xaypanga. Hiring is underway for both positions. Kate noted that these position won't be running programs but rather working with organizations that serve youth, understanding data that represents the impact on youth, disparities that youth face, and making recommendations on what some solutions may be. They will take over the role that Burns Institute has had. Burns Institute has provided a transition plan and will be working as a coach for the first six months. Discussion regarding the need in areas such as Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru, and Ojai. Kate hopes that the Youth Equity positions can be a channel for getting youth voices into decision making rooms. Question regarding how the people in these positions will be able to facilitate difficult decisions. Kate noted that anyone hired for these positions will have the ability to navigate these difficult conversations around race with different stakeholders. Kate shared some tools she uses to facilitate conversations.</p>		
<p>6. Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris noted that Probation has an RFP for youth advocate positions. Probation has 2 and would like 2 more. • Chris noted that he's working with the JF to put together a comprehensive RFP for therapeutic services. (\$1.8M contract). • Chris reported that they are looking to expand preventative services through current contracts with Interface, incorporating interactive journaling, MRT and other evidence based programming • Chris noted that a goal for this group is to look at ways to expand preventative services and programming for youth. • Chris reported that Dr. K is working with us to create family specialist and family mentor RFPs. Currently there is not a lot of support services for families. Hoping to get something in place to provide support those families need. • Mark Howe noted that he will put money into a 'Project Fund' for this group to use. Discussion ensued. <p><i>Jennifer left at 3:56pm.</i> <i>Ana left at 3:58pm.</i></p>		
<p>7. Adjourned – Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.</p>		