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Dear Chair Chief Still and SB 823 JJCC Subcommittee Members:

We wanted to follow up on our letter dated March 11, 2021. As we mentioned in that letter, we believe the SB 823 JJCC subcommittee should have an intentional conversation to ground its planning process in shared values. We appreciate the list of values previously shared with the subcommittee, as well as the subsequent conversation on April 1, 2021. The Free Our Kids coalition met to discuss the values currently proposed, and urge you to consider our suggestions below for a more defined statement. We hope that some time can be dedicated at the next JJCC subcommittee meeting, on April 9, 2021, to hear from subcommittee members on these suggestions.

The suggested values below build off of the list of values previously shared with the SB 823 JJCC subcommittee:

1. Recognizing the false dichotomy between victims and perpetrators and the importance of support and healing for victims and perpetrators alike, justice system responses to youth should Promote & Support Youth Development, be healing-centered & trauma-informed, and utilize restorative and transformative justice Principles.
2. Youth's family and community should be actively involved in their healing and reunification and reentry; family reunification planning should begin immediately.
3. Analysis and recommendations should be grounded in historical context, racial and gender equity, and the recognition of intersectional oppressions. The significant Racial & Ethnic disparities that exist in the administration of justice in Alameda County must be considered and challenged in the County plan. All programming and practices must be culturally affirming.



4. Public Safety is best achieved through a community health approach, focusing on Youth and community justice wellbeing, not punishment. In line with SB 823's intent, evidence-based and promising practices and programs should be used to prevent the transfer of youth into the adult criminal justice system.
5. The County Plan should be grounded in Evidence-Based Decision-Making with an Intersectional Lens, which includes research and evidence showing that: (1) removing young people from their homes increases risk of reoffending compared to community-based approaches; and (2) justice system responses for youth charged with violent offenses that are punitive are unnecessarily expensive, ineffective, and unjust.
6. **QUESTION:** Transparent & Collaborative Communication [*In the process? In the plan? In monitoring youth who are subject to the "Secure Track"/Secure Youth Treatment Facility?*]
7. **ADDITION:** Justice system should make intentional investment in CBOs rooted in directly impacted neighborhoods to provide support services for youth in and out of custody.
8. **ADDITION:** The voices of those impacted by the deepest harms of the justice system should be centered in the County Plan.
9. **ADDITION:** Any form of out-of-home placement should promote healing in a therapeutic environment; youth should not be warehoused in punitive, institutionalized settings.
10. **ADDITION:** Facility staffing should prioritize people with lived experience and backgrounds in social work, healing, restorative and transformative justice.
11. **ADDITION:** A key aspect of developing a plan in line with the intent of SB 823 is a **participatory** process in which subcommittee members, the community, and those who have been most impacted by the incarceration of our youth are able to meaningfully contribute to the JJCC subcommittee's ultimate proposal.

We look forward to discussing these values.

Sincerely,

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Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)



East Bay Community Law Center

Ella Baker Center

Genesis, An Affiliate of the Gamaliel Network

Justice Reinvestment Coalition

National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform

Urban Peace Movement

Restore Oakland

Youth Law Center

Young Women's Freedom Center

W. Haywood Burns Institute

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