

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: November 8, 2012

SUBJECT: Juvenile Justice Standing Committee

AGENDA ITEM: O

ACTION:

INFORMATION: X

RESOURCE PERSON: Shalinee Hunter

Summary:

The enabling legislation for the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and the corresponding broad range of issues related to the integrated statewide goal of improved public safety may necessitate the establishment of special standing committees relevant to its mission. At the September 2012 Board meeting, the Board established the Juvenile Justice Standing Committee.

Background:

Under the enabling legislation, the Board shall regularly seek advice from a balanced range of stakeholders and subject matter experts on issues pertaining to adult corrections, juvenile justice, and gang problems relevant to its mission. The Board shall seek to ensure that its efforts are: (1) systematically informed by experts and stakeholders with the most specific knowledge concerning the subject matter; (2) include the participation of those who must implement a board decision and are impacted by a board decision; and (3) promote collaboration and innovative problem solving consistent with the mission of the Board.

On September 13th, the Board approved the creation of a Juvenile Justice Standing Committee (JJSC) to assist in fulfilling the statutory requirements in relation to an array of juvenile justice issues that fall within the purview of the BSCC. Additionally, the Board approved Board Member, David Steinhardt, as the Chair of the JJSC.

Subsequently, the Chair and BSCC staff met to develop the attached proposal for Board discussion (Attachment A). Mr. Steinhart will review the proposal with the Board members.

Recommendation/Action Needed:

Information Only

BOARD of STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – JUVENILE JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE

Under the enabling legislation for BSCC (SB 92) the Board is required to solicit input from a “balanced range of stakeholders and subject matter experts” in the adult and juvenile justice fields. The stakeholders must include those who are impacted by and responsible for implementing Board decisions.

On September 13th, the BSCC Board approved the creation of a Juvenile Justice Standing Committee (JJSC) to fulfill the statutory stakeholder requirement in relation to an array of juvenile justice programs and operations that fall within the purview of the Board.

The Board has asked that a scope of work statement for the committee be submitted to the full Board for review and approval. Based on subsequent meetings between BSCC staff and David Steinhart (committee chair-designate) this proposed scope of work statement is now provided for Board review.

The proposed scope of work covers two general areas:

- Informing and advising the Board on the current mandates that traveled to BSCC from CSA and other state agencies.
- Informing and advising the Board on a broader set of juvenile justice system, program and policy issues, thus exercising the Board’s new statutory leadership and technical assistance role as described in SB 92.

A. Current mandates

A core purpose of the JJSC would be to consider and advise the Board on the primary juvenile justice mandates that fall by code and by tradition to BSCC and as transferred by statute from CSA. These are comprised of four main categories:

1. Data and performance outcomes;
2. Juvenile Justice Realignment;
3. Juvenile Facility Regulations (Title 15);
4. Juvenile justice grants monitoring & reporting tasks.

B. Leadership, coordination and technical assistance for juvenile justice and youth community corrections

SB 92 vests BSCC with a new and broader mission statement than CSA. Under SB 92, *“The mission of the board shall include providing statewide leadership, coordination, and technical assistance to promote effective state and local efforts and partnerships in California’s adult and juvenile justice system...”*

On the juvenile justice side, this mission statement creates the opportunity for BSCC to define its leadership and coordination role in relation to a range of relevant youth justice issues and challenges. Overall, the goal of the JJSC would be to help ensure that the state, counties and community partners are working as effectively as possible to promote public safety and positive youth outcomes. To meet this goal, the JJSC would apply the presumably impressive expertise and experience of its members to a review of relevant issue areas. It would be up to the JJSC to identify the leadership, program or policy issues that it deems worthy of review and report-back to the full Board. Additionally, the JJSC would address issues referred to the committee by the BSCC Board. An overall guideline for this area of work would be to make sure that the Board is aware and fully-informed on best-practices in the field, emerging state/national juvenile justice developments that deserve BSCC attention and other matters likely to enhance the capacity and productivity of the BSCC staff and Board. It would be up to the JJSC, working with the staff and within this scope of work, to develop a work plan consistent with the schedules of its members and the overall resources of BSCC.

An overarching principle inherent in this scope of work is that the Juvenile Justice Standing Committee is an advisory and not a decision-making body. Any recommendations coming out of the JJSC must necessarily come to the full Board for review and decision on any BSCC action to be taken.

PROCESS CONSIDERATIONS

- JJSC would meet quarterly
- Meetings would be in Sacramento—except for special meetings—and probably synchronized with SACJJDP.
- Depending on the applicability, some meetings could be by conference call.
- Agendas would be developed by the BSCC staff and the JJSC chair/ co-chair and based on JJSC and BSCC member interests and requests.
- BSCC staff support will be provided, consistent with Board policy and available resources and with the stakeholder input requirements of SB 92.
- A coordination mechanism will ensure integrated operation with the SACJJDP.
- Regular reports would be made to the full BSCC Board by the JJSC
- Additions or changes in JJSC membership to be approved by the BSCC Board.

MEMBERSHIP

Below is a suggested list of disciplines that could or should be represented on the JJSC.

- A chief probation officer with juvenile justice expertise
- A law enforcement representative (sheriff or chief of police) with juvenile justice interest and expertise
- A prosecutor with juvenile justice expertise
- A defense expert or attorney with juvenile justice expertise
- A judge with juvenile justice experience and expertise

- An expert in juvenile justice and child welfare crossover issues
- An education expert with juvenile justice credentials
- A mental health professional who deals with juvenile justice programs & clients
- A recognized juvenile justice expert on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the JJ system
- One or more representatives of youth and community youth service providers
- A member from the SACJJDP
- A recognized academic or research leader in the juvenile justice field
- A representative of the private foundation community with juvenile justice knowledge to advise on public-private funding and partnerships
- A faith community representative having juvenile justice credentials (e.g., in restorative justice or at-risk youth services).
- A youth age 18-24 with juvenile justice advocacy or program experience

Individuals to fill approved positions would be selected in coordination with staff, with adequate attention given to diversity representation among the persons proposed for service on the Committee. In line with the normal practice for ESC's and Board Committees the proposed member roster would come back to the full Board for approval in a future meeting.