

DATE: June 10, 2015 **AGENDA ITEM:** H

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Colleen Curtin, Field Representative, colleen.curtin@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: The Juvenile Justice Data Working Group Recommendations to Revise County Reporting Requirements for the Youthful Offender Block Grant and Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Programs: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

Staff is requesting approval from the Board to adopt the recommendations set forth in the California Juvenile Justice Data Working Group's April 30, 2015 report titled "California Juvenile Justice Data Working Group: Recommendations to Revise County Reporting Requirements for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) Programs" (Attachment H-1). If adopted, staff is requesting approval to seek the statutory changes to California Government Code Section 30061 and California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1961 that are necessary to implement these recommendations.

Background

Assembly Bill 1468, Statutes of 2014, established the Juvenile Justice Data Working Group (JJDWG) to be housed at the BSCC and designated its membership to include experts and practitioners representing courts, probation, county government, state data agencies, academia and youth service and advocacy organizations. The statute further required the JJDWG to recommend options to improve, upgrade and modernize state and local juvenile justice data systems in California, with a report due to the Legislature in January 2016. In addition, by April 30, 2015 the JJDWG was required to submit recommendations to the Board on how to improve reporting requirements for the JJCPA and YOBG programs. These recommendations are to address "streamlining and consolidating current requirements without sacrificing meaningful data collection."

The need to review JJCPA and YOBG reporting requirements was driven by a growing recognition that current statutory reporting requirements are producing disjointed and unreliable data that are not useful in assessing the overall performance of the grants or the juvenile justice systems they support. Additionally, a 2012 report from the California State Auditor was critical of the approach used to report outcomes for the YOBG program, citing poor methodology and flaws in sampling.

The JJCPA Program, adopted in 2000, supports an array of local youth crime prevention and juvenile justice supervision programs. Current reporting requirements for JJCPA are contained in California Government Code Section 30061 (see Attachment H-2). The YOBG Program provides counties with resources to manage the caseload of non-violent juvenile offenders who were shifted from state to local control under California's juvenile justice

realignment law (Senate Bill 81, Statutes of 2007). Current reporting requirements for YOBG are contained in California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1961 (see Attachment H-3). In Fiscal Year 2013-14 these grant programs provided counties with \$220 million in juvenile justice system funds.

The JJDWG and its Grant Reports Subcommittee met five times between them in 2014-15 to consider reporting requirement revisions. In these meetings the JJDWG conducted a thorough review of current JJCPA and YOBG requirements, assessed current data system limitations, considered evolving juvenile justice trends and weighed multiple revision options.

The JJDWG recommendations cover three main areas: county juvenile justice plans that must be submitted annually to BSCC; county annual reports to BSCC on grant outcomes and expenditures; and annual BSCC grant reports to the Legislature. These recommendations, including the discussions leading to them and the rationale behind them, are explained in detail in the text of the report, beginning on page 10 (Attachment H-1) and are summarized here:

A. County Plans Submitted to BSCC: By May 1 of each year, counties will submit one consolidated plan for JJCPA and YOBG grant programs, to include:

- Descriptions of the programs and system enhancements to be funded;
- Expected outcomes for those programs or system enhancements; and
- An evaluation plan for each program and system-enhancement supported by these funds that follows BSCC guidelines for evaluation plans.

B. County Annual Reports Submitted to BSCC: By October 1 of each year counties will submit one consolidated outcome and expenditure report for the JJCPA and the YOBG grant programs that will include:

- System-level data (as detailed in the report) on countywide juvenile justice arrest, probation and court-related outcomes as captured in the Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical System and Monthly Arrest and Citation Register;
- A description of how the programs and system enhancements have contributed to or influenced system-wide trends;
- A description of evaluation outcomes tied to local evaluation plans for the unique programs and system enhancements supported by JJCPA or YOBG funds; and
- Expenditure data listed by program.

C. Annual BSCC Reports to the Legislature: By March 1 of each year the BSCC will submit to the Legislature one consolidated summary outcome and expenditure report for the JJCPA and the YOBG grant programs.

The implementation of these recommendations will require some changes to the YOBG and JJCPA statutory provisions. These changes are limited to consolidation, streamlining and improving the plan and report requirements. They would not alter the fundamental structures, goals, allocation criteria or other core features of the grant programs.

Recommendation/Action Needed

1. Staff requests approval of the recommendations contained on pages 10 through 17 in the report submitted by the Juvenile Justice Data Working Group on April 30, 2015 titled, "*California Juvenile Justice Data Working Group: Recommendations to Revise County Reporting Requirements for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) Programs.*"
2. Staff requests approval to pursue the statutory changes needed to implement the recommendations.

Attachments

- H-1: April 30, 2015 Report, *California Juvenile Justice Data Working Group: Recommendations to Revise County Reporting Requirements for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) Programs.*
- H-2: California Government Code Section 30061 (Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act).
- H-3: California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1961 (Youthful Offender Block Grant).