

SB823 Questions and Answers

What is SB 823?

SB 823 was signed by Governor Newsom on September 30, 2020. Among other things, the bill will close the State's Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as of June 30, 2023. DJJ will stop taking new intakes from counties beginning on July 1, 2021. Similar to AB 109 (adult realignment), the bill will send juveniles who are committed (sentenced) to the counties in lieu of DJJ to provide care and custody during the term of their commitment.

What does this mean for Solano County?

This bill will have a significant impact on the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). Juveniles who would have otherwise gone to DJJ will now be housed at JDF. JDF was built as a short-term holding facility. Now youth may potentially be held for several years at the JDF.

Does this mean JDF may house older youth?

Yes, if the youth was committed to the JDF as a juvenile, they could remain up until age 25.

Will the State be providing funding for the realigned youth?

Yes, the State has allocated funding through FY2023/24 to serve this population. The funding allocation is as follows; Year One (FY2021/22) \$496,773, Year Two (FY2022/23) \$1,471,567, and Year Three (FY2023/24) \$2,437,942.

What is required to receive the funding?

To be eligible for the funding each county was required to create a subcommittee of the multiagency juvenile justice coordinating council (JJCC), to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for the realigned youth.

Who is on the subcommittee?

The membership of the subcommittee is outlined in the legislation and includes the following members: Christopher Hansen, Probation (Chair), Elena D'Agustino, Public Defender's Office, Mary Smith, District Attorney's Office, Aaron Crutison and Gerry Huber, Health and Social Services, Sandra Sinz, Behavioral Health, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Solano County Office of Education, Judge Ellis, Solano Courts, and Julie Hilt, Lawrence Barnes, and Pastor Anthony Gilmore, Community Members.

When did the subcommittee start working on the plan? Were the meeting public?

The subcommittee began meeting monthly to discuss the plan in January 2021. Input was received during these meetings from community members (see below) and other

stakeholders. The subcommittee meetings were held in public forums (via Zoom) and all meeting minutes were posted on the Probation Department's website at the following link: [Solano County - Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council](#)

What input was received from external stakeholders prior to developing the plan?

Internal workgroup members began listening to youth voices in and out of detention, JDF and Field Services staff, community-based organizations, and treatment providers. In addition to the work of internal workgroups, a questionnaire was developed, approved by the Subcommittee, and sent to several groups/organizations to include: the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, Community Corrections Partnership, Juvenile Justice Commission, Probation staff, Youth Achievement Center Focus Group, youth detained at the JDF, Solano youth currently at DJJ, parents of Solano youth at DJJ, a sample of 18 to 25 year old's in the Solano County Jail, Judges of the California Superior Court, and a parent of a youth that was formerly involved in the juvenile justice system. The recommendations of all parties were considered in formulating this initial plan. The voices of youth were instrumental in creating the Plan.

What are the required areas to be covered by the plan?

A description of the youth in the county that is to be supported or served by the state funding; a description of the facilities, programs, placements, services and service providers, supervision, and other responses that will be provided to the youth; a description of how the funds will be applied to address mental health, sex offender treatment, or related behavioral or trauma-based needs, support programs or services that promote the healthy adolescent development, family engagement in programs, reentry, including planning and linkages to support employment, housing, and continuing education, evidence-based, promising, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive programs, whether and how the plan will include services or programs youth that are provided by nongovernmental or community-based providers; a detailed facility plan indicating which facilities will be used to house or confine the youth at varying levels of offense severity and treatment need, and improvements to accommodate long-term commitments. This element of the plan shall also include information on how the facilities will ensure the safety and protection of youth having different ages, genders, special needs, and other relevant characteristics.

Does the plan cover early intervention and delinquency prevention?

No, even though the legislation describes overarching goals of the juvenile justice system, the bill is specific to youth who were eligible for commitment to DJJ prior to its closure, and are adjudicated to be a ward of the juvenile court based on an offense described in subdivision (b) of Section 707 (Welfare and Institutions Code) or an offense described in Section 290.008 of the Penal Code

Can the plan be expanded to fund any services for youth not impacted by the bill?

Unfortunately, no (see above).

Who approves the plan developed by the JJCC subcommittee?

The JJCC subcommittee approved the initial plan on April 13, 2021, for fiscal year 2021/2022. That plan remains local and does not have to be forwarded to the new state

Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR). To receive 2022-2023 funding, the plan must be filed with the OYCR by January 1, 2022. To continue receiving funding, the subcommittee will convene to consider the plan every third year, but at a minimum the County must submit the most recent plan regardless of changes to the OYCR.

Is the initial plan due by July 1, 2021?

No, there was no specific date for the first plan (which does not get submitted to the OYCR) to be submitted; however, the plan was approved by the subcommittee on April 13, 2021, to have a plan in place prior to the commitment of youth who fall under the bill and to allow the County to expend the first year's funds of \$496,773 as soon as they are received from the state.

Will the initial plan be modified or updated prior to being sent to OYCR?

Possibly, the subcommittee will reconvene in September/October to receive an update on any youth committed under SB 823 to the JDF. The subcommittee will assess if any revisions or further input is needed on the approved plan prior to submission in January 2022 to the OYCR.

Does the Board of Supervisors approve the plan?

No, in making allocations, the Board of Supervisors shall consider the plan, but does not need to approve the plan.

What are the responsibilities of the OYCR?

OYCR's mission is to promote trauma responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support the youths' successful transition into adulthood and help them become responsible, thriving, and engaged members of their communities.

OYCR has the following responsibility and authority: once data becomes available as a result of the plan developed by the County they will report on youth outcomes in the juvenile justice system; identify policy recommendations for improved outcomes and integrated programs and services to best support delinquent youth; identify and disseminate best practices to help inform rehabilitative and restorative youth practices, including education, diversion, re-entry, religious and victims' services; and provide technical assistance as requested to develop and expand local youth diversion opportunities to meet the varied needs of the delinquent youth population, including but not limited to sex offender, substance abuse, and mental health treatment.