



PRESS RELEASE

Sacramento, California, June 23, 2023 – The Board of Directors for the County Probation Consortium Partnering for Youth Realignment, known as the Consortium, announced today that with the closure of California’s Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities at the end of this month and the completion of the transfer of all youth from state facilities to their counties, the critical need for the Consortium has come to an end.

“The Consortium assisted counties in meeting the challenge caused by the accelerated closure of the state facilities and served as a helpful resource for many of us,” said Amador Chief Probation Officer Mark Bonini and President of the Consortium’s Board. When SB 823 became law and mandated the closure of all state facilities, there were up to 600 youth in state facilities. It was unknown how many would require alternative placements. At least 15 counties had no secure facilities for those youth. “Immediately upon passage of SB 823, it was clear that counties had little time to quickly assess all available resources as they planned for the smooth and safe transfer of these youth. The Consortium was created due to this gap created by the state’s fast timeline for the transition.”

The Consortium was able to support the transition and be a resource to DJJ, the new Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), and local counties. The Consortium allowed county probation officers to discuss common questions and challenges created by SB 823, developed tools for inter-county cooperation, identified treatment needs and gaps, and worked directly with DJJ and OYCR to develop solutions.

“The Consortium was created to assist counties in ensuring that they could find appropriate treatment options for youth with the most pressing needs on the very short timeline dictated by the state. It served as a resource to help mitigate what would have been a greater chaos resulting from the state’s action as there was no clear transition plan or adequate resources,” said Elizabeth Siggins, executive director for the Consortium.

“Now that the transition is over, our probation departments and local counties will still need the state as a partner. We ask state leaders to not forget about these youth. There are still unaddressed needs and resources required to help ensure this policy is ultimately successful and supportive of these youth,” said Karen Pank, Chief Probation Officers of California executive director and board member of the Consortium.

The transition to dissolve the Consortium is expected to be complete by the end of 2023. For more information about the Consortium, go to www.caconsortium.org.

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