



PRESS STATEMENT

Consortium Announces Settlement: CAYCJ Lawsuit Wasted Charitable Dollars That Could Have Been Used to Address the Needs of Youth

Sacramento, California – July 11, 2025 -- The Board of Directors for the County Probation Consortium Partnering for Youth Realignment (the Consortium) announced today that it has reached a settlement in a lawsuit filed several years ago by the California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice (CAYCJ). The Consortium Vice President and Contra Costa County Chief Probation Officer Esa Ehmen-Krause issued the following statement:

“We chose to settle this lawsuit to stop the waste of charitable assets that were being diverted from addressing the needs of youth into legal fees for the plaintiffs’ lawyers. The settlement is clear that there was no admission of liability, wrong-doing, or any concession to any factual or legal claim made by CAYCJ.

It became evident that the attorneys behind the lawsuit were willing to drain the Consortium’s remaining charitable assets without providing any benefit to youth outcomes. Every dollar spent responding to their baseless claims was a dollar that could have gone to addressing the needs of California’s youth.

Our focus remains where it belongs -- on working with our local court and community partners to address the needs of youth who have been committed to secure youth treatment facilities in our counties.”

The Consortium was duly created as a nonprofit corporation and acted in accordance with all laws to help counties navigate the transition of the closure of California’s Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities and the completion of the transfer of all youth from state facilities to their counties. The Consortium completed its work under budget nearly two years ago and has moved to dissolve.

At the time, when SB 823 became law and mandated the closure of all state facilities, there were up to 600 youth in state facilities. The Consortium helped counties respond to this unprecedented challenge by serving as a multi-county collaborative forum for counties to avoid having to individually reinvent the wheel as they quickly sought to address the needs of youth at the deepest end of California’s juvenile justice continuum. Without this coordinated effort, the closure of the state’s facilities would have most likely resulted in even greater disruption to youth and potential risk to community safety.

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