



# COUNTY *of* VENTURA

## Probation Agency

September 14, 2021

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject:**

Creation of the Realignment Plan Subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council as Required by Welfare and Institutions Code section 1995 for Receipt of Funding under the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Program; Approval of the Appointment of Three Community Members to the Subcommittee; and Authorization for the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council to Appoint Replacement and Additional Community Members to the Subcommittee

**Recommendations:**

1. Create the Realignment Plan Subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), composed of the Chief Probation Officer (as chair); one representative each from the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Human Services Agency, the Behavioral Health Department, the County Office of Education, and the Superior Court, to be chosen by those entities; and no fewer than three community members, as required by Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 1995.
2. Approve the appointment of three Ventura County community members to the Realignment Plan Subcommittee: Dwight Thompson (District 4), Sal Flores (District 1), and Gabe Teran (District 5), as required by WIC section 1995(b).
3. Authorization for the JJCC, by majority vote, to appoint replacement community members to the Realignment Plan Subcommittee when a vacancy occurs, and to appoint additional community members to the Subcommittee when needed.

**Fiscal Impact:**

None

**Discussion:**

WIC sections 1990 through 1995 establish the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) or who would otherwise be eligible for commitment to the DJJ prior to its closure pursuant to Senate Bill 823.

Under WIC section 1995(a), to be eligible for funding allocations associated with this grant program, the County must create a subcommittee of its JJCC to develop a plan describing the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitative services for realigned youth. Under WIC section 1995(b), this subcommittee must be composed of the following: the Chief Probation Officer (as chair); one representative each from the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Human Services Agency, the Behavioral Health Department, the County Office of Education, and the Superior Court; and no fewer than three community members.

While most of the subcommittee's members will be chosen by the organizations identified in WIC section 1995(b), your Board is being requested to make the initial appointments of the three community members to the subcommittee. By law, these community members must either have experience providing community-based youth services, be youth justice advocates with expertise and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system. Your Board is being requested to appoint Dwight Thompson (District 4), Sal Flores (District 1), and Gabe Teran (District 5), who meet these qualifications. Your Board is also being requested to authorize the JJCC, by majority vote, to make replacement appointments of community members when vacancies occur, and to appoint additional community members as needed to achieve the subcommittee's goals.

County juvenile justice realignment plans are to be submitted and revised in accordance with WIC section 1995, and may be posted, as submitted, to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration website. The County has been working on its plan with the assistance of key stakeholders and will be submitted to Your Board for review in October 2021.

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This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel, Auditor/Controller's Office, and the Office of the County Executive Officer. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Chief Probation Officer Mark Varela at (805) 654-2100 or Chief Deputy Tim Dowler at (805) 981-5526.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Varela', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Varela  
Director/Chief Probation Officer