

Yolo County Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

I. Purpose

The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) underwent a revise process for their 2014-2019 Strategic Plan from March 2018 to January 2019. One of the new objectives outlined in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan is:

1b – Find ways to more effectively receive input and share information with the public regarding criminal justice and CCP efforts.

One of the actions under this objective is to explore the creation of a Yolo County Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. This action was made a priority by the CCP at the January 2019 meeting, and potential alternatives are summarized below.

II. Recommendation

Use the CCP to address the research gaps. The CCP already contains the criminal justice department heads, and therefore has much of the internal expertise needed to provide a balanced and accurate look at the cause of recidivism and the effects of new or upcoming criminal justice reform. If the CCP were to dedicate 2 to 4 monthly CCP meetings to discussing these research topics, and do so in a collaborative forum with community members and outside experts, there could be a huge benefit in better understanding these issues. This method would also allow the public to partner with the CCP as opposed to creating yet another separate committee, and therefore only requires some adjustments of current practices and would not require additional staffing or lead to competing adult criminal justice advisory bodies.

III. Advisory Bodies in Other Counties

In response to the CCP's interest, staff did examine a few advisory boards in other counties. These advisory bodies included:

Advisory Bodies in Other California Counties Related to Adult Criminal Justice Populations					
Advisory Body	Assigned County Supervisor?	Number of Voting Members	Membership Composition	Members of the Public?	Purpose
Sacramento County Sheriff's Outreach Community Advisory Board	Uncertain	10 – 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheriff appointed – 5 • BOS appointed – 5 • City Appointed – 1–7 	Yes	<p>The purpose of the SOCAB is to collaboratively establish and implement programs that seek to resolve conflict, concerns and issues regarding the Sheriff's Department and the community it serves.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Notes</p> <p>This advisory board may have potential, but the Sacramento experience shows that it tends to not be attended¹ or as useful in practice in addressing issues between the community, the Board of Supervisors, and the Sheriff's Office in its current form.²³</p>
Los Angeles Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee	Yes	59	Heads of various criminal justice and continuum of care related departments (similar to the CCP)	No	<p>CCJCC's mission is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the local criminal justice system by strengthening interagency communication, cooperation, and coordination. Since its creation in 1981 by the Board of Supervisors, the Committee has gained state and national recognition as a model for interagency collaboration. With the support of the Board of Supervisors and the commitment of members representing criminal justice system, education, and health and human services agencies, CCJCC transcends traditional agency lines and addresses justice system issues from a countywide perspective.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Notes</p> <p>This committee predates the creation of CCPs, but have many of the same leaders involved. According to my research, this body commission's research related to the criminal justice system, as well as facilitation interagency coordination.⁴⁵ In Yolo County, it is the CCP that facilitates this coordination, so if we were to follow example, the CCP would also take on a research role.</p>

¹ Sacramento Bee. <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article106989782.html>

² Sacramento County Supervisor Kennedy. <http://patrick-kennedy.com/the-county-board-of-supervisors-re-purposes-the-sheriffs-outreach-committee-was-it-enough/>

³ KCRA. <https://www.kcra.com/article/sacramento-county-votes-on-oversight-for-sheriffs-department/25402840>

⁴ LA Times. <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1998-mar-19-me-30425-story.html>

⁵ Los Angeles County. <http://ccjcc.lacounty.gov/About-Us/Bylaws>

IV. Current Yolo County Criminal Justice Advisory Bodies

The criminal justice system is not monolithic, but instead is constituted by a plethora of topic areas. Below are the current advisory bodies that exist in Yolo County relating to a dimension of the criminal justice system:

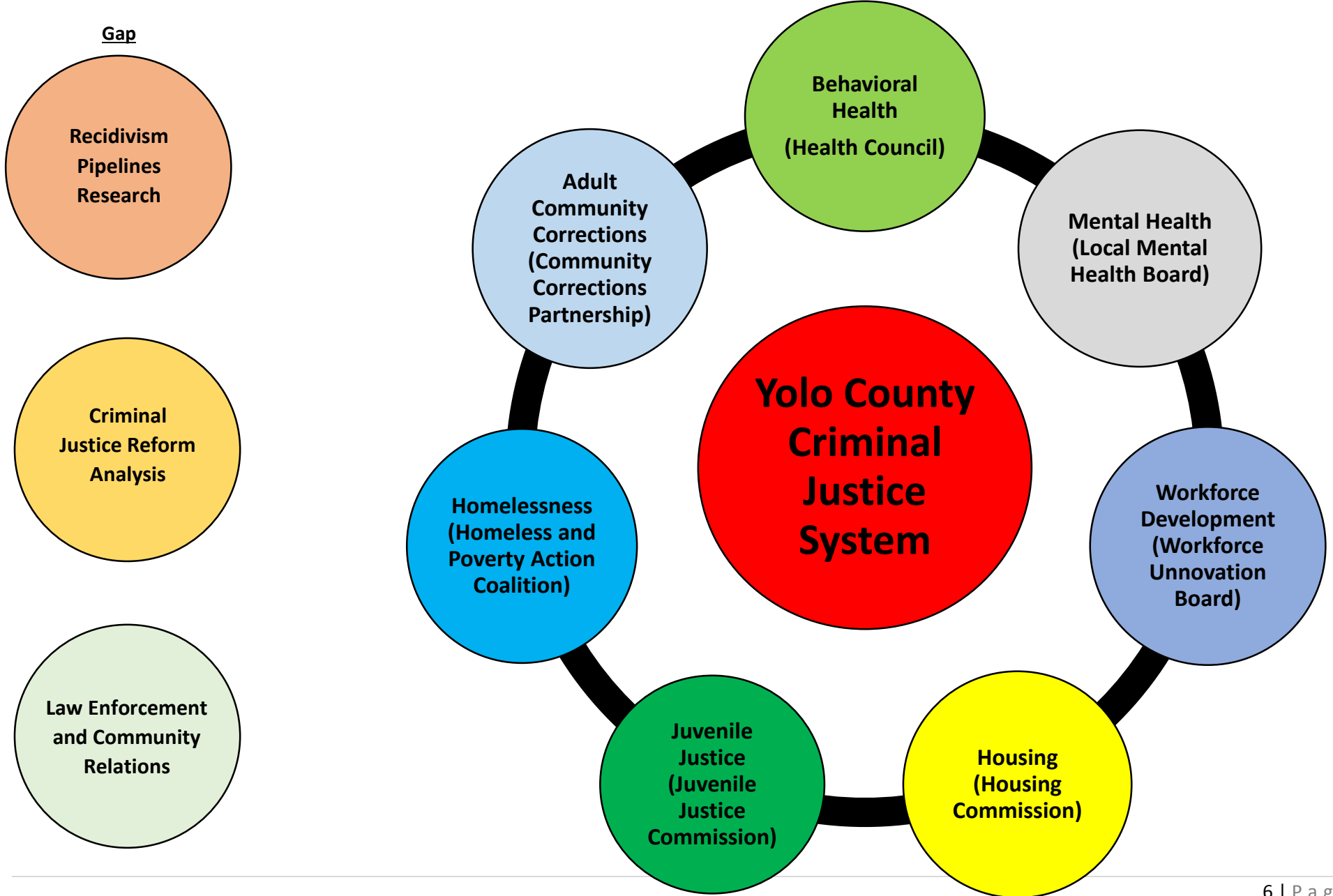
Advisory Bodies in Yolo County Related to Criminal Justice Populations					
Advisory Body	Assigned County Supervisor	Number of Members	Membership Composition	Members of the Public?	Purpose
Health Council	Don Saylor	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Supervisor Appointed – 5 • At-Large – 3 • Members of health care system providers – 9 • County Committee Representatives – 8 	Yes	This committee is the liaison between the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and health systems. It establishes and maintains the area-wide health planning and activities identifying health goals and needs of Yolo County. It aims to develop and improve health services in the county.
Yolo County Local Mental Health Board	Don Saylor	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Supervisor – 1 • Consumers or family members of consumers of mental health services 	Yes	This board reviews and evaluates the community's mental health needs, services, and special problems and reports to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, the local governing body and the local Mental Health Director.
Workforce Innovation Board	Don Saylor	19-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Education/Literacy – 1 • Vocational Rehabilitation – 1 • Higher Education – 1 • Wagner-Peyser – 1 • Economic Development – 1 • Business – 9 – 12 • Workforce – 3 – 5 • Labor – 2 – 3 	Yes	This committee serves as an intermediary to assist the local service administration to respond to the business community. It is the contact point in the local service delivery systems and combines education and training in order to become more responsive to local employment and business development. It provides direction for the establishment of programs designed to prepare eligible youth, dislocated workers, and unskilled adults for entry into the labor force.

Yolo County Housing Commission	Gary Sandy	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Supervisor – 1 • Davis – 1 • West Sacramento – 1 • City of Winters – 1 • City of Woodland – 1 • 62 Year Old+ Tenant – 1 • Tenant – 1 	Yes	To assist with the provision of safe and affordable housing for low income, senior and other disadvantage residents.
Juvenile Justice Commission	Don Saylor	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the community 	Yes	To inquire into the administration of juvenile court law in Yolo County and to assist in the effort toward prevention and reduction of juvenile delinquency, as required by law. Duties include the annual inspection of the Juvenile Hall, and any jail or locked facility within the county that was used in the preceding calendar year for the confinement for more than 24 hours of any minor, or, any police holding facility in which a minor was held in secure custody. Additionally, the Commission actively assists in the county's effort toward preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency.
Yolo County Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition	N/A	18 voting members, Varying non-voting members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting member organizations include those who send a member to at least 6 monthly meetings within a year. Non-voting members include those who come to meetings but are not designated as voting members. 	Yes	HPAC provides leadership on homelessness and poverty in Yolo County, as well as create and sustain a comprehensive, coordinated, and balanced array of human services for homeless and low-income individuals and families within Yolo County. HPAC also seeks to achieve a synergistic relationship with the Yolo County Strategic Plan to End Homelessness Executive Commission to achieve all of the goals in the Yolo County Strategic Plan to End Homelessness and to address issues of homelessness and poverty countywide.

<p>Community Corrections Partnership</p>	<p>Jim Provenza</p>	<p>7 voting members, 12 members total</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation (voting) • County Superior Court (voting) • District Attorney (voting) • Public Defender (voting) • Sheriff (voting) • Health and Human Services Agency (voting) • Local Police Department (Winters) (voting) • County Administrator • County Supervisor • Head of County Education • Community Based Organization Representatives • Victim’s Interest Representative 	<p>No</p>	<p>The mission of the Yolo County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) is to protect the public by holding offenders accountable and providing opportunities that support victim and community restoration, offender rehabilitation and successful reintegration. The CCP acts as the governing body responsible for developing and submitting public safety realignment implementation recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Yolo County CCP takes an active and collaborative role in reforming existing corrections practices by emphasizing the importance of evidence-based practices and cost-effective strategies. Considering the significant shift of state responsibilities to local jurisdictions Yolo County can only afford to implement cost effective strategies that are known to improve public safety.</p>
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V. Gaps

Criminal Justice Related Public Advisory Bodies



VI. Conclusions

From my research on advisory bodies related to the criminal justice system in Yolo County, **I have come to the following conclusions:**

1. **There are many opportunities for public participation in the County criminal justice system.** There appears to be an advisory body related to the significant aspects of the criminal justice system and continuum of care in Yolo County, with the exception of law enforcement/ community interaction. As noted above, the CCP could be serve as a venue for increased community conversation simply by modifying the meeting format and approach on a periodic basis.
2. **Two of the three remaining gaps are related to research.** Specifically, how recidivism pipelines work in Yolo County (causes of recidivism, process of recidivism, concrete data related to community and structural influences on recidivism) and how criminal justice reform on a state level affects our local criminal justice system. The latter gap would be more important for Yolo County moving forward, since the state appears to want to continue making major criminal justice reforms, and exploring what these changes could mean ahead of time would be a benefit.
3. **The public has multiple opportunities for involvement.** The current advisory bodies have community members on their boards (except the CCP) and are public meetings.
4. **The adult criminal justice system is mostly included within community corrections.** While the CCP became charged with public safety realignment in 2011, the original purpose of the CCP (starting in 2009) was to analyze and give recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on strategies to reduce recidivism. The CCP has developed over time to analyze, discuss, and collaboratively improve the adult criminal justice system more broadly. This is expressed in their strategic plan and various workgroups that report back to the body on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Potential Solutions to Fill Gaps

1. **Use the CCP to address the research gaps.** The CCP already contains the criminal justice department heads, and therefore has much of the internal expertise needed to provide a balanced and accurate look at the cause of recidivism and the effects of new or upcoming criminal justice reform. If the CCP were to dedicate 2 to 4 monthly CCP meetings to discussing these research topics in a round table format with community members and outside experts also at the table, then there could be a huge benefit in better understanding these issues. This method allows direct community participation in an existing format which already includes the major criminal justice related departments.
2. **Create a County advisory body on criminal justice research.** The Board of Supervisors, Sheriff or District Attorney could create a criminal justice research advisory body which would be charged with conducting and presenting research to the Board or Sheriff or DA. In theory, the benefit to this approach is that this entity could focus solely on the subject of the adult criminal system and associated research and best practices. In reality, however, this is the very authority given to the CCP. In addition, this approach not only creates yet another advisory committee to compete in an already crowded

field of advisory committees, but also will require new staffing to be productive. Thus, in the spirit of collaboration, staff suggests the alternative hybrid approach whereby the CCP engages directly with public members on a periodic basis to explore topics of mutual interest.