
From: Brandi Nuse-Villegas <brandiangela78@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 4:32 PM
To: BOSComments
Subject: Correction: Item 7 (not 6), Agenda 4-27-21

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Dear board,

This plan affects the whole community, but it specifically affects certain members of the community. Advocates who work with youth in the communicating are aware that there has been a lack of substantive community involvement in this plan. This plan has not been created with input from directly impacted youth, families, and communities. Those closest to the pain are closest to the cure. Their voice matters and we want a plan that reflects their wisdom, values, and experience.

I ask that the board take this into advisement and not just take public comment now, but direct for there to be outreach to the community and ask for the help of community groups like Barrios Unidos, Building Healthy Communities, Boys and Girls Club to help with successful outreach. Real and significant effort must be put in seeking info.

I understand that there is data used in this plan, but evidence based info is still no substitute for this feedback from those actually living here who can tell you the needs, weakness, and what would help.

I appreciate the state's intent to have a more holistic plan with juvenile that is more restorative, but we need to ensure that this plan here actually accomplishes these aims. We need a realignment of our care to children and to ensure that students don't end up in county jails because we want to see change in these children's lives and treat children more like children than convicts.

Restorative justice and trauma informed care should be the focus. The point of this plan is to give the Department of Health and Human services would take the children and give them support services and funding be given to the Community Based Organization.

I ask that the Department of Social Services and Community based Organizations run this and not have it run by the department of corrections. and ensure that those who are experts in these items have authority over the implementation of the proces. Programming for youth should prioritize CBO's and individuals who are directly impacted who are better equipped to provide trauma informed care and positive youth programming and mentorship. Probation officers who will serve as guards are not appropriate to provide such care/services.

The JJC staff cannot both serve as 'role models' while also holding the key to the cell. Contrary to the plan's belief of creating a healthy balance, this will be a major block for youth in their development and healing.

Trauma informed care for healing should absolutely be the focus and priority. Trauma-informed care should also acknowledge how youth (specifically youth of color) experience trauma from sources beyond their homes (ie. police, state violence, probation officers, correctional guards.

We need to reduce youth incarceration. This means giving youth the services, resources, and programming needed for them to heal from what led them to incarceration in the first place. The major focus on centering the reduction of recidivism, although important, minimizes the importance of prioritizing the healing and trauma-informed care youth crucially need.

The committee needs to ensure that while the state bills were intended to avoid incarcerating youth do not get sent to adult facilities.

Youth deserve healing centered care and nobody can get well in a cell.

Fresno county's DJJ realignment plan of holding youth in the juvenile hall for 2-4 years of confinement does the opposite of SB 823's intent to reduce youth incarceration.

Also, the intent of SB 823 is to reduce and then eliminate racial and ethnic disparities, but the draft realignment plan does not say anything about how Fresno is going to reduce disparities in its system. For example, 30% of Fresno county youth sent to DJJ were Black even though only 5% of Fresno county youth are Black. This is not ok. Youth and community need to be engaged to design a plan to keep our Black and Brown youth connected to the communities that love them.

From: Briana Zweifler <briana@fresnobarriosunidos.org>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 8:32 PM
To: BOSComments
Subject: Board Meeting 4/27/21 Public Comment, Agenda Item 7

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Board Meeting 4/27/21, Agenda Item 7

Fresno Barrios Unidos writes in opposition to the DJJ Realignment Plan being presented to the Board. SB 823 outlines a bold vision for transformative youth justice. This plan fails to deliver. The number one predictor for adult incarceration is juvenile incarceration, and yet Fresno's realignment plan proposes lengthy confinement times for realigned youth. SB 823 calls for the reduction of youth incarceration - Fresno's plan expands it. And the intent of SB 823 is to reduce and then *eliminate* racial and ethnic disparities. Fresno's plan highlights severe disparities - Black youth in Fresno are 5x more likely to be sent to DJJ - and yet says nothing about how the county plans to address those disparities. Youth who have experienced incarceration know what they need, and yet the county has utterly failed to include their voices in this planning process. Fresno County is headed in the wrong direction and preparing to invest millions of dollars in a system that will harm youth and harm the community. We ask that you reject this plan and demand a planning process that includes the voices of youth, families, and community members impacted by the juvenile justice system. Fresno's youth need investments in their healing, not their harm.

--

Briana Zweifler
Youth Law & Policy Attorney

Pronouns: They/Them/She/Her

*"...when we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard nor welcomed
but when we are silent we are still afraid. So it is better to speak
remembering we were never meant to survive." -Audre Lorde*



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through advocacy, education, and wellness. We are inclusive, respectful, and appreciative
of the youth and families we serve.*

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From: Jamie Katz <j.barclay.katz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 9:05 PM
To: BOSComments
Subject: April 27 2021; Agenda Item #7 Comment

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My name is Jamie Katz. I am a resident of Fresno County and I am gravely concerned by the lack of engagement of directly impacted youth and their communities in this process. The County must not rubber stamp a realignment plan that will continue to lock up young people of color rather than care for them. Treat all kids like they are your kids. I urge the board to listen to community and demand a better plan for our kids.

From: Briana Zweifler <briana@fresnobarriosunidos.org>
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 8:32 PM
To: BOSComments
Subject: Board Meeting 4/27/21 Public Comment, Agenda Item 7

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 Youth Law & Policy Attorney

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From: Ruben Espinoza <espinoza23ruben@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 1:29 AM
To: BOSComments
Subject: Tuesday 4/27/21 BOS meeting

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Re:agenda item #7. file # 21-0242

To whom it may concern,
thank you for the opportunity to comment on the juvenile justice realignment block grant plan. My name is Ruben Espinoza and I am a systems impacted community member who resides in Fresno. I am concerned that the plan the county has created is lacking input from people who have precious life experience that would help ensure that youth are getting healing centered care. Youth members of the community who have been through the system know what creates and perpetuates trauma in these systems. The committee has done really nothing to engage the community about the development and creation of this plan. Even when community members had to do some extra work just to even attend these JJCC meetings, our concerns fell on deaf ears because the committee instantly moved to approve the plan without batting an eye. We know that youth deserve healing based care and nobody can get well in a cell. The county's realignment plan to lock up youth for 2-4 years is opposite of the intent of SB 823 which aims at rehabilitating youth and reducing incarceration. The realignment plan needs to honor the intent of SB 823 because our youth deserve care not more trauma.

Sincerely ,
Ruben Espinoza

4-27-21
Item #7

From: Jon Morse Sr <jonfmorsesr@mail.fresnostate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 6:52 AM
To: BOSComments
Subject: DJJ Realignment Plan

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I believe that continued incarceration of our youth returning to Fresno County should be reconsidered by the DJJ committee.

With over 56 years of experience with young people from all walks of life I have found that providing a caring environment with individual or group Cognitive Behavioral Training to be the most effective way of reducing high rates of recidivism in our country and local Fresno County.

I highly suggest that additional suggestions for working with our returning youth should be investigated by the DJJ Realignment Committee.

Jon

Jon F. Morse, Sr., M.A.
Choice Theory/Reality Therapy Certified
Adjunct Faculty/Lecturer
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I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep....Robert Frost

From: Efrain Botello <efrainebotello@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 7:34 AM
To: BOSComments
Subject: Public Comment 4/27/21, Agenda Item 7

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Public Comment 4/27/21, Agenda Item 7

Hello my name is Efrain Botello and I am concerned with Fresno's realignment plan. There has been no community engagement. The majority of residents don't know what is going on and you guys have done nothing to make this plan according to the needs of Fresno youth who have been impacted by incarceration.

The goal of SB 823 is to rehabilitate, heal, and prepare youth for healthy community engagement. Your plan does not do that. It only create a local version of the state facilities that are closing down due to it's inefficiency. Let's not take a step backward.

From: Earl Aguilera <earl.aguilera@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:24 AM
To: BOSComments
Subject: Public Comment for April 27, 2021 Meeting, Agenda Item #7

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Greetings.

My name is Earl Aguilera and I am writing with regard to Agenda Item #7 for today's (April 27, 2021) meeting. I am an assistant professor at California State University, Fresno, though this message does not necessarily represent the views of my employer.

I would like to express my concern that Fresno County's realignment plan does not currently have specific provisions or a structured plan for how to address the inequitable arrests of Black and Brown youth. In solidarity with Fresno Barrios Unidos, 99Rootz, the Fresno Education Justice Collaborative, and the many youth and families calling for CARE, not cages.

Youth need healing-centered care; we know that [empirically, people do not "get better" in a cell](#). Further, youth being the most directly impacted have not been consulted in the development of proposed changes. The JJC staff cannot serve as both 'role models' while also holding the key to a cell. Instead, youth programs should prioritize community based organizations / individuals who are directly impacted, and who are equipped to provide trauma informed care and positive youth programming / mentorship. Examples include the following:

<https://fresnobarriosunidos.org/get-involved/youth-advocacy-leadership/>

<https://yli.org/program/fresno-boys-men-of-color/>

<https://yli.org/region/fresno/>

And of course, the wide variety of programs currently available and in need of funding within the Fresno Unified School District and California State University Fresno.

If there is anything I can further offer to support a transition toward community-based care and investments in cultural wealth, please do not hesitate to reach out on this or my work email at earl.aguilera@mail.fresnostate.edu.

Sincerely,

- Earl Aguilera

From: Brisely Martinez <brisely@fresnobarriosunidos.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:42 AM
To: BOSComments
Subject: BoS public comment

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Good morning,

My name is Brisely Martinez and I am submitting a public comment for today's Fresno County Board of Supervisors meeting on agenda item #7 (DJJ realignment plan).

Fresno's plan falls short of the codified SB 823 law, which aims to REDUCE youth incarceration and REDUCE THEN ELIMINATE racial and ethnic disparities. Community members previously submitted public comments in the JJCC subcommittee meeting on April 13th, but the Council moved forward without much consideration of community comments or engagement requests. Further, there has been no input from directly impacted youth and their families, which should be centered in what their wellbeing and care looks like. Fresno's plan has no plan to reduce racial/ethnic disparities, contrary to what is codified in SB 823. Lastly, programming for youth should prioritize CBO's and individuals who are directly impacted who are better equipped to provide trauma informed care and positive youth programming and mentorship. Probation officers who will serve as guards are not appropriate to provide such care/services. I am a community member but also a person impacted by the incarceration of many loved ones. I urge you to please hear the community and not let our concerns fall on deaf ears as it did at the JJCC meeting.

With gratitude,

--

Brisely Martinez
Youth Law & Policy Community Organizer

Pronouns: She/ Her/ Ella

"The enemies of the country and of freedom of the people have always denounced as bandits those who sacrifice themselves for the noble causes of the people" - Emiliano Zapata



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