



**MEASURE J RE-IMAGINE LA
REENTRY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:00 PM- 8:30 PM

- 1) **The Reentry Subcommittee was called to order by co-chair, Roberto Luca.**
- 2) **Introduction & Grounding**
 - a) Chrysta Wilson introduced the co-chairs, Roberto Luca and Raymundo Zacarias, discussed that Measure J efforts will build on the history of the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) workgroup and will incorporate Anti-racism Diversion and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) in an effort to dismantle systemic racism and heal LA County of impact of mass incarceration and racism.
 - i) Asked the subcommittee to consider what it wants Measure J funds to heal in the County
 - ii) Discussed meeting goals
 - (1) What communities do we want to focus on?
 - (2) What programs?
 - (3) Begin to focus on what, who, and the how
 - (4) Set our “North Star”
 - (a) Where will this funding help the community heal or begin to heal
 - (b) the goals for today is to share data share stories on this focus area of reentry is to begin to set the reentry subcommittees big goal for what are the funding recommendations.
 - iii) Reviewed group agreements regarding meeting decorum.
 - b) Raymundo discussed community concerns lifting up the community concerns or equity
 - i) Reached out to individuals to help improve diversity
 - ii) Giving the community information on how the facilitators are there to guide the community but not influence
 - iii) Discusses how funds need to be put where the community wants them
 - iv) Encouraging the voices of the community to be heard
 - c) Co-chair Roberto – Introduced and explains the information about Measure J
 - i) And introduced the co-facilitators Chrysta Wilson and Aparna Shah

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3) Subcommittee Orientation

- a) Roberto provided an overview of the subcommittee
 - i) The subcommittee has two co-chairs
 - (1) Roberto from the Advisory Committee and Raymundo who was elected in the first subcommittee meeting.
 - ii) Anyone who attends the meeting is a member of the subcommittee
 - iii) Advisory committee is a Brown Act body
 - iv) Responsible for making Measure J spending Allocation Recommendations to the Advisory Committee
- b) Overall Decision-Making process
 - i) Each subcommittee will send recommendations to Measure J Advisory Committee who will send one set of recommendations to the CEO, who will send one set of recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors who will determine who Measure j funds are allocated.
 - ii) Public may also share their voice through an upcoming digital survey and town hall meetings.

4) Data & Analysis Presentations

- a) Aparna provided that 4 upcoming presentations will provide data that will inform subcommittee recommendations.
- b) **Andrea Welsing - The Office of Violence Prevention: Programs and Services to Reduce Violence & Promote Healing**
 - i) Andrea is the director or the Office of Violence Prevention which is an office within the Department of Public Health
 - ii) Andrea explained the mission of the office is to strengthen collaboration, commitment and partnerships to prevent multiple forms of violence and promote healing across communities in LA county
 - iii) Much of their budget will go out to community-based organizations (CBOs)
 - iv) Strategic priorities
 - (1) Support Children, Youth, and Families
 - (2) Foster Safe Neighborhoods
 - (3) Create a Culture of Peace
 - (4) Build Infrastructure for Healing Informed Policies & Systems
 - (5) Data and Evolution
 - v) Shared the office's current implementation priorities including effort to center voices of survivors and those most impacted.

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- vi) Explained the Prevention Continuum which includes different opportunities to provide support.
- vii) Provided data including violent crime and suicide rates by Service Planning Area (SPA) and divided gang homicide rates by SPA and demographic groups as well as domestic violence rates by demographic groups.
- viii) Public comment was opened following the presentation. The following people provided public comment.
 - (1) Alex Sanchez
 - (2) LaTanya Ward
 - (3) Baba Akili
 - (4) Bamby Salcedo
 - (5) Gabrielle Melville

5) Doug Bond, Troy Vaughn - Amity Foundation

- a) Doug provided his background and asked that people remember to consider the children of the incarcerated, and shared that he doesn't want to focus on data but give the conversation to the community. Troy also provided his background.
- b) Reviewed ATI recommendations dealing with reentry
- c) Provided data on families and housing and issues with lack of health care when people return home from incarceration
- d) Stressed importance of pre-trial release and shared matrix of needs for the reentry community including housing, employment, healthcare and reclassification clinics.
- e) Provided thoughts of implementing and operationalizing programs
- f) Discussed methods to evaluate programs through data and mentioned data tracking by Maori tribe.
- g) Shared data establishing that recidivism reduces when using ATI
- h) Data of families and housing
 - i) 113 million people have an immediate family member who has served time
 - ii) Children of people who have or are serving time are 6 times more likely than other children to develop a substance use disorder as adults and nearly twice as likely to have a diagnosable anxiety
 - iii) People returning home who do not have housing are 7 times more likely to be rearrested
 - iv) Programs are not offered in these communities to assist the children and create positivity
- i) Health Programs & services

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- i) CA CJ system includes around 200,000 people who are incarcerated more than 400,00 who are under community supervision. About 36,000 people were released from CA prisons annually over the past decade, and over a million people admitted and released from jails, with many cycling through the CJ system multiple times a year.
- ii) Population leaving the carceral system are characterized by high rates of physical and mental problems. A Washington State study in 2007 found risk of death was almost 13 times higher for formerly incarcerated in the two weeks following their release compared to the general population.
- iii) Health and medical costs now form a major part of most corrections budgets, totaling about a fifth of all corrections expenditures nationwide and 31% in CA
- iv) The “aging” prison population (age 50+) is growing and are far more costly incarcerated compared to younger cohorts, and prisons and jails are among the most expensive place to deliver care. State Prison population over 50 year old grew from 4% to 21% between 1990 and 2013
- j) Breaking the cycle
 - i) Reentry programs that are in the community that repair harms suffered by victims, provide benefits to the community, treat the drug-addicted or mentally ill, and rehabilitate offenders
 - ii) Alternatives can also reduce prison and jail cost and prevent additional crimes in the future
 - iii) Must repeal mandatory minimums and give courts the power to use cost-effective, recidivism-reducing sentencing options instead.
- k) Implementation and Operationalizing
 - i) Once the funding is identified how to operationalize it and implement?
 - ii) What are the infrastructure needs? Housing, community centers, officer space, equipment, treatment facilities, management development workforce training
 - iii) Maximize resources with braided lines of funding from other funding from other funding i.e. Federal, state, local, and philanthropic/private sector
 - iv) Mentorship between people and community-based organizations
 - v) Will the services encourage hiring of those impacted and how do we reduce barriers
- l) Combined focus
 - i) Health
 - ii) Programs and services
 - iii) Housing
- m) Left the subcommittee with the following questions to consider when working:

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- i) Why look for alternatives to incarceration?
- ii) What program type is needed?
- iii) Where do we have opportunities?
- iv) How good is our program quality?
- v) When do we need to scale successes?
- vi) Who is the target population
- n) Public Comment on the presentation. The following individuals commented.
 - i) Phillip Rock Lester
 - ii) Trent Grandberry
 - iii) Kristian Huling
 - iv) Tim Kornegay
 - v) Adriana Mendez
 - vi) Kacey Bonner

6) Myles Flournoy - Anti-Recidivism Coalition (Youth)

- a) ARC works to end mass incarceration in CA by empowering formerly incarcerated people with the opportunity to thrive.
- b) Started housing for youth in 2013
 - i) Specific tenet of the program is housing the youth
- c) Everything ARC does is designed by formerly incarcerated people for formally incarcerated people
- d) ARC focuses on 3 programmatic areas
 - i) Inside Programs
 - (1) Hope and Redemption Team
 - (a) Formerly incarcerated lifers provide ongoing programming, rehabilitative services and reentry support to incarcerated individuals
 - ii) Reentry services
 - (1) Wraparound supportive services to improve health and wellbeing of members including education, workforce training and housing
 - iii) Policy and advocacy
 - (1) Advance policies that reduce contact with the justice system and improve reentry outcomes for individuals returning home from incarceration
- e) Measure J - information
- f) Provided demographic information of youth currently in Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

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facilities

- g) Key component of ACR approach for youth is programming begins inside carceral facilities
 - (1) Began a Women and non-binary Service department to address better gender responsive services
- h) Overcoming Systemic Barriers Justice
 - i) involved youth are an underserved population in need of effective community-based interventions
- i) Barriers our returning youth citizen's encounter
 - i) Housing – ARC provides transitional housing services for formerly incarcerated youth returning home in LA County
 - ii) Education – ARC's model of support heavily emphasizes the need of formerly incarcerated youth to enroll in educational programs to secure employment
 - iii) Employment (internships) – connect system-impacted youth with resources and support systems that will provide stabilization and opportunities for community reintegration when they return home
 - iv) Medical Care – connect youth with reentry mental health program to access on-site mental health therapy
 - (1) With mandatory 3 months of therapy for juveniles upon release

7) Subcommittee Focus

- a) Chrysta led an exercise for the subcommittee to begin to focus on the “who” and the “what”
 - i) Who do we want to direct measure J funds to?
- b) The subcommittee was asked to submit answers to identify the most impacted groups upon whom the subcommittee should focus Measure J funds

8) Public Comment

- a) **Following the exercise, the meeting was opened for public comment**
 - i) The following individuals commented:
 - (1) Jose Osuna
 - (2) Gabriela Vazquez
 - (3) Sam Lewis
 - (4) Alex Sanchez
 - (5) Jason Espinoza
 - (6) Baba Akili
- b) Following public comments, Roberto and Raymundo provided closing comments with Roberto

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reminding the subcommittee that co-chair terms only last for two years.

9) Adjournment

Adjournment for the Measure J Re Imagine LA Reentry Subcommittee of Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned by co-chairs Roberto Luca and Raymundo Zacarias.