



## Meeting Notes

### Proposition 64 Advisory Group

March 2, 2023

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Members Present	
Denise Galvez	Ruben Cantu
Jim Keddy	John de Miranda
Lynn Silver	Martin Martinez III
Gail Gronert	Nicole Coxe
	Amanda McAllister-Wallner

### Opening Remarks and Introductions

*Denise Galvez, Prevention and Youth Branch Chief, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)*

*Jessica Fielding, Program and Policy Section Chief, DHCS*

Galvez opened the meeting by thanking the Proposition 64 Advisory Group (P64AG) members for attending the meeting, opening introductions for the in-person attendees, and moving to the virtual attendees. Galvez provided a brief overview of the P64AG agenda and objectives for the meeting.

Galvez turned the meeting over to Natasha McGee-Jones for contract updates.

### Proposition 64 Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account (YEPEITA) Contract Updates Round Five

*Natasha McGee-Jones, Prop 64 Program Unit Chief, DHCS*

McGee-Jones introduced herself and provided an update on the 2022-23 and 2023-24 Fiscal Year (FY) YEPEITA contracts, respectively. The contracts include California Department of Social Services (CDSS), DHCS, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

CDPH - Round four contract is executed and discussions for Round five are currently under development. YEPEITA funds are used for surveillance, research, and evaluation, including purchasing survey questions for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance, California Healthy Kids Survey, and California Adult Tobacco Survey. Funds are also used to continue the California Youth Cannabis Education and Prevention Media and Social Marketing Campaign. CDPH's Substance Abuse Prevention Branch (SAPB) is partnering with Rescue Agency, a media consulting firm, to develop creative campaign concepts for teens ages 13 – 17 and their parents/guardians. The campaign aims to educate and inform youth and adult role models about the potential health risks and consequences associated with cannabis use and to influence youth attitudes, social norms, and perceptions of cannabis. Campaign materials include health education resources and toolkits that can be utilized by families, educators, and local governmental and non-governmental organizations. The campaign is a result of the formative research findings CDPH conducted in Fall 2021), which consisted of 23 focus groups and 21 in-depth interviews with tweens ages 11-14, teens ages 15 -20, young adults ages 21 -25, and adult role models ages 33 – 50.

CDSS- Administers the following three programs that provide subsidized childcare vouchers and payments in counties across the state, the California Alternative Payment Programs (CAPP), General Child Care and Development Program (CCTR), and the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children (Bridge Program).

CDSS's contract is currently being amended from a 1-year contract to a multi-year contract.

CNRA- Utilizes YEPEITA funds to provide Youth Community Access Grants to organizations across the state. The Youth Community Access Grants support youth access to natural or cultural resources focusing on low-income and disadvantaged communities. CNRA is currently evaluating grantee applications and anticipates awarding approximately 75 grants this year.

Elevate Youth California (EYC) - Rounds one through four, approximately \$189,000,000, have been directly awarded to 225 organizations throughout the State of California. DHCS will release the Round Four Capacity Building Track for \$16,690,000.

The EYC Program continues to grow, strengthen, and evolve as each round is announced. DHCS is currently working with Sierra Health Foundation (SHF) for the next round of funding, Round Five Standard Track. SHF will go into more detail about the next round of funding next.

McGee-Jones turned the meeting over to Sierra Health Foundation (SHF).

## **EYC Cohort Updates**

*Palvinder Kaur, Senior Program Officer, Sierra Health Foundation (The Center)*

Kaur welcomed the attendees and shared the agenda for the presentation, which included an update for Round Four, upcoming program activities and highlights, and next steps.

The Standard Track released 61 awards, totaling approximately \$58,500,000, with awards up to \$1,000,000. The grant period will be from November 2022 to November 2025. Awarded partners attended an orientation and kick-off to discuss next steps and address any questions.

The Capacity Building Track released the Request for Applications (RFA) and received 135 applications, requesting approximately \$49,958,404 in funding. Kaur also shared an increased applicant pool due to targeted outreach in areas not represented in prior rounds. The application process has been completed, and applications are currently under review, focusing on grassroots organizations. Awardees will receive up to \$400,000 from May 2023 to November 2025.

EYC Round 1 Track contracts were completed in January 2023.

The EYC Annual Report was recently released, which includes data from Rounds 1-3 and covers November 2021 to November 2022. Kaur informed members that 24,796 prevention program events occurred during the reporting period, with 220,208 participants. Program activities included education workshops, trainings, meetings, and mentoring sessions focused on substance use prevention, leadership, and mental health.

Additionally, 36,683 youth were engaged from November 2021 to November 2022, with 5,523, or fifteen percent, of those youth being 2S/LGBTQ+. Kaur informed members that there had been an increase in 2S/LGBTQ+ youth engaged in the last year totaling 13,000.

Kaur described the racial and ethnic background, and age of the youth engaged from the annual report, highlighting this funding being grounded in social youth development and focused on youth in foster, homeless, and justice systems.

Kaur also informed members about the specific call out to native and tribal organizations in the RFAs.

Kaur shared that funded partners engaged 3,118 new diverse stakeholders, and schools were the primary partner.

Kaur moved into the Capacity Building activities, which include the Applicant Proposers' Conferences, Grantee Orientations, Programmatic Technical Assistance Webinars, Technical Assistance on Data Reporting Tools, and Individual Technical Assistance to Partners. All of these activities resulted in applicants and partners engaging in more than 3,457 hours of technical assistance and training since the inception of EYC. ,

Kaur shared that EYC has implemented 153 youth listening sessions. Youth listening sessions were held across the state and covered various topics, such as harm reduction and resources to share with their peers who may want to stop using substances or engage in safer use. Youth shared about the need for safe spaces and what they consider safe. Youth also expressed interest in a youth center with caring and inclusive staff and mentorship support. Youth expressed concerns about mental health and lack of support from family. Additionally, youth shared about their experience on school campus regarding equity, teacher targeting, dress codes, and general help on campuses.

Youth experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness expressed the gaps in community services, the need to destigmatize youth homelessness, and the need for more advocacy opportunities.

Kaur discussed the importance of youth-led initiatives and shared some of the work the EYC-funded partners do that is youth-led. Kaur shared some successes and examples of youth championing change through this work.

Trans and Queer Youth Collective youth created art and social media content highlighting the topics and issues that are most important to them.

Eden Youth and Family Center's Youth Advisory Council implemented a social media campaign on CA Prop 31 to uphold the state law banning the sale of flavored tobacco.

On March 15, 2022, the City of Santa Ana City Council had a second reading and unanimously voted to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products, at all locations throughout the city, with no exemptions. The ordinance took effect 30 days after the adoption of the second reading by Santa Ana City Council. America on Track achieved the Policy Goal of Ending the Sale of Flavored Tobacco in Santa Ana by participating in numerous coalition meetings, conducting strategy sessions and other activities, training our volunteers, collecting over 800 signed resident endorsements, meeting with elected officials, participating in a press conference and providing public comment at City Council meetings.

Kaur shared additional examples in which EYC-funded partners have supported youth in developing leadership, advocacy, and organizing skills. Kaur also shared ways in which partners have achieved success in creating safe spaces for youth. One example is the Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center which has placed full-time community intervention workers at Sacramento middle school and high school sites to provide social and emotional support for youth and their families. As an alternative to suspensions, students met with a community intervention worker for restorative justice activities and support.

Kaur went on to discuss next steps, which include work with an external evaluator to update reporting templates and finalize the evaluation plan, review applications for EYC Round Four Capacity Building, finalize the agenda for 2023 EYC Youth Convening, and continue to support funded partners through office hours, networking sessions, technical assistance webinars and more.

Kaur turned the meeting over to presenter Ashely Crandall.

### **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**

*Ashley Crandall, Youth and Education Program Manager, IRC*

*Syeda Hamdani, Youth Specialist, IRC*

Crandall introduced herself and Hamdani and their roles within IRC. Crandall informed members that IRC is an international humanitarian organization that oversees refugee resettlement and provides wrap-around services.

IRC is a Standard Track Round Three funded partner through EYC.

Crandall started the presentation by explaining the structure of the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) within IRC, which consists of 12 youths from the Afghan population who live in the Sacramento area and are refugees. These youth act as an advisory board and design, plan, and run activities. The goal of YLC is to provide the resources and knowledge to impact their communities and become leaders and change makers.

YLC starts with three captains, who are youth from previous cohorts, who then choose the 12 crew members. The crew members are selected after reviewing their applicants and completing a formal interview. This structure allows the captains to step into a leadership role and provides the members with an opportunity to build interviewing skills. The total service time on the YLC is 10 to 11 months.

Crandall explains that the direction of the work YLC does is driven by common themes from the youth listening sessions hosted by IRC. One continued theme was vaping ease of access to vapes, and lack of education. Another recurring topic was mental health concerns leading to substance use. Crandall informed members that youth took the data from the listening sessions to identify initiatives led to the work on Proposition 31.

Crandall shared that IRC hosts not only listening sessions, but also free social events, a Youth Advocacy Showcase, and cultural orientations for any newly arrived refugees in the program.

The Youth Advocacy Showcase is an event that involves policymakers, media, community leaders, program funders, and Afghan community members. At the showcase, Youth present on program efforts, what they have learned, and the initiatives they are leading. The IRC youth are currently requesting funds from these policymakers to provide resources to fund substance use education and prevention materials to be translated into Dari, Farsi, and Pashto and increased education efforts for youth on the dangers of vaping.

Crandall went on to inform members about the Afghan Community survey the YLC members designed and implemented in collaboration with IRC Elevate Youth staff. Two hundred community surveys were administered in May 2022 and February 2023 to the Sacramento Afghan community. The survey reinforced the lack of awareness regarding the impacts of substance use in the Afghan community.

Crandall turned the meeting back to Galvez for membership updates.

### **Membership Updates**

*Denise Galvez, Prevention and Youth Branch Chief, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)*

Galvez informed members that membership renewal is coming this year, and DHCS will proceed by providing everyone an opportunity to provide a letter for continued participation or discontinuing membership. Galvez explained that to be a member, you must be a prevention professional or part of youth prevention, recovery, treatment, or a youth-serving advocacy body, and those serving on the panel are ineligible for applying for EYC funds.

Galvez told members to expect something from the Prop 64 inbox and website with more information. Galvez shared that letters for continued or discontinued membership will be due by May 2023.

Galvez turned the meeting over to presenter Garcia-Acosta.

### **CURYJ**

*Ricardo Garcia-Acosta, Director of Community Peace, Communities United Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)*

Garcia-Acosta started the presentation by sharing the mission of CURYJ, which is to unlock the leadership of young people to dream behind bars.

CURYJ is a Round Two Standard Track partner with EYC, starting their work with EYC in November 2020.

Garcia-Acosta explained what their mission looks like in action, which consists of using alternative approaches to focus on internal healing in their recovery. CURYJ believes relationships matter and all young people are held as sacred. CURYJ aims to provide all youth an opportunity to live beyond the justice system, isolation, and criminalization because these are the principles that cause self-hate, self-doubt, and lead to substance use. CURYJ focuses on the root cause and operates under “La Cultura Cura,” culture heals.

Garcia-Acosta explained the three core service strategies of CURYJ are community peacebuilding, organizing and policy work, and organizing and policy work within leadership development.

Community Peace Building is a movement led by young people allowing them to create their own culture with life coaches, community healers, and holding intentional spaces regarding police violence/brutality. Without community healing and peacebuilding strategies, individuals will cycle through the same services throughout their lives. CURYJ reported crime, assault, and homicide has decreased 40 percent at the locations CURYJ has implemented services.

Organizing and Policy work acts to support endless legislative campaigns. Of the 40 campaigns supported by CURYJ, 18 were passed into law. Those legislative efforts amplified the voice of youth.

CURYJ continues working with coalition partners to abolish slavery, involuntary labor, and endless probation for youth. One area of focus is Alameda County, which has individuals on probation for the longest period of time due to substance use struggles, leading to probation violations.

Organizing and Policy within Leadership Development correlates with the work implemented by youth and youth leaders. Through this core service strategy, CURYJ offers two youth programs for systems-impacted youth and adults. These programs use violence prevention and youth leadership development to work towards a sustainable impact by embracing a “reach one teach one” philosophy and encouraging youth to implement outreach strategies to the young people surrounding them.

The Dream Beyond Bars Fellowship Program uplifts young leaders in Alameda County, typically 18-24 years of age. Homies for Justice Internships is a network of School-aged youth ages 14-17 in Oakland which seeks to create alternatives to incarceration and substance use, breaking ongoing cycles.

Garcia-Acosta shared about the Oscar Grant Youth Power Zone model of community-led ecosystems of care that will eventually provide affordable green housing, social services, and a deep connection with the youth and their elders. In August 2021, developers broke ground and are currently halfway through the build-out, with the goal to move in next year.

### **RFA Review for EYC Capacity Building Track**

*Denise Galvez, Prevention and Youth Branch Chief, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)*

Galvez asked members to review the Round Three Capacity Building Track RFA and requested feedback, suggestions for changes, or additional areas of focus members would like to see added. Galvez informed members that the Round Four Capacity Building RFA included the option for county agencies, which provided the opportunity for counties that serve as the primary source of prevention services.

### **Public Comment**

No public comments received.

### **Closing and Next Steps**

*Denise Galvez, Prevention and Youth Branch Chief, DHCS*

Galvez informed members that the next Proposition 64 Advisory Group meeting will be held on August 24, 2023, and will be provided in a hybrid format. Galvez provided an update on the Statewide Behavioral Health Prevention Plan (BHPP), informing members that the Needs Assessment, Evaluation, and Planning Chapters have been completed. Galvez shared that The Center participates in the State Epidemiology Work Group (SEW), and by August, the BHPP will have received public comments. Galvez informed members to contact the Prop 64 mailbox if interested in participating in the SEW. Galvez shared that DHCS has contracted with UCLA Integrated Substance use program, who will be lifting a library or repository for community-defined, evidenced-based practices and strategies across the continuum of services.