

PROPOSITION 64 ADVISORY GROUP STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Date: April 16, 2026

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Members Present

- » Ilana Rub
- » Jessica Guerra
- » Stephanie List
- » Stephanie Chen
- » Gabriel Teran
- » Adrienne Shilton
- » Martin D. Martinez III

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Jessica Guerra, Section Chief, Prevention and Youth Branch, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Jessica Guerra welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Virtual attendees introduced themselves.

Guerra announced several updates. Advance Behavioral Health Prevention California Action Lab is offering the [2026 Action Lab](#) on May 12-14, focused on prevention workforce development and emerging priority topics. DHCS released the [CSSA Cohort 2.0](#) Request for Application (RFA) on April 17, offering \$820,000 to help prevention providers evaluate the effectiveness of their interventions. DHCS will also host the 20th [Substance Use Disorder Integrated Care Conference](#) on August 25-27 in Long Beach, California. The [Behavioral Health Services Act \(BHSA\) Module 4](#) is now available, offering guidance to counties on evidence-based and community-defined practices. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released its final [BHSA population-based prevention plan](#). DHCS and The Center at Sierra Health Foundation (The Center) published the [Elevate Youth California \(EYC\) Round 3 Evaluation](#) summarizing outcomes from 103 funded programs.

Guerra turned the meeting over to Stephanie List for contract updates.



Contract Updates: Rounds 7 and 8

Stephanie List, Unit Chief, Prevention and Youth Branch, DHCS

List shared contract amounts for fiscal year (FY) 2025-26. CDPH received \$12 million for prevention education campaigns and drug data surveillance. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) received approximately \$195.42 million for childcare and child development programs. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) received approximately \$13.03 million for youth access to natural and cultural resources. The Center received approximately \$51.07 million for the EYC program.

List shared the contract amounts for FY 2026-27 based on projections. CDPH will receive \$12 million, CDSS will receive approximately \$172.72 million, CNRA will receive approximately \$11.5 million, and The Center will receive approximately \$45.14 million.

Elevate Youth California Cohort Updates

Matt Cervantes, Associate Vice President of Programs, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation (The Center)

Palvinder Kaur, Senior Program Officer, The Center

Shyra Murrey, Program Officer, The Center

Marbella Uriostegui-Hernandez, Senior Researcher, Education Northwest (EdNW)

Julie Petrokubi, Managing Researcher, EdNW

Matt Cervantes opened the session by reflecting on the progress of EYC.

Palvinder Kaur shared the agenda for the presentation, which included updates for the Round 3 External Evaluation, Round 7, listening sessions, and training and technical assistance (TTA).

Marbella Uriostegui-Hernandez provided a brief overview of the Round 3 External Evaluation, informing that Round 3 included 103 funded partners, comprised of 58 Standard, 11 Innovation, and 34 Capacity Building Tracks, each with unique funding cycles, number of funded partners, program goals and youth engagement approaches. Round 3 Funded partners collectively engaged 51,074 new youth participants. These participants reflected the diverse communities served by the program. The Round 3 Evaluation found strong youth-level outcomes, with 92-96% of youth reporting increased knowledge about substance-use harms, community impacts, and how to seek support. Among youth with mentors, 77-89% frequently engaged in supportive relationships that included problem-solving and goal-setting, and 40-79% of youth in the Standard and Innovation Tracks participated in civic engagement activities such as identifying community issues and contributing to community change. All Capacity



Building Track partners demonstrated progress in strengthening organizational capacity, though limited data prevented firm conclusions about overall achievements. Standard and Innovation Track partners implemented policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) activities aimed at improving community protective factors.

Kaur shared that EYC Round 7 Standard Track resulted in 57 awards totaling over \$46.98 million across 42 counties, including partial coverage in Amador and Mariposa. The RFA was released in August, and awards were made in December. Nearly all contracts have been executed, and payments are in process.

Kaur shared three maps illustrating award distribution and reported that EYC has achieved coverage across all 58 counties.

Kaur discussed the six listening sessions, focused on civic engagement, that six funded partners hosted in 2025 across the state. Emerging themes show that youth engage civically out of responsibility, empathy, and a desire to elevate unheard voices; they participate more meaningfully when opportunities are accessible, mentored, and centered on their strengths; their interests span social, health, educational, and environmental issues; and they envision communities grounded in support, inclusion, youth-centered decisions, and opportunities for all to thrive.

Shyra Murrey provided an update on the EYC training and technical assistance (TTA) available to funded partners. In addition to ongoing one-on-one coaching and networking sessions, a wide range of training sessions were offered throughout 2026 by multiple partners. The Emergent Learning Project led two sessions on emergent learning principles and planning for improved results, with an additional session on reflection. Mirror Group provided two workshops on work planning and youth-led data sensemaking, followed by additional sessions on youth-led survey development and data analysis. The Public Health Institute's Prevention Policy Group facilitated regional workshops on local cannabis policy approaches, with further regional sessions and webinars on cannabis policy scorecards and youth health impacts. The Youth Leadership Institute offered a virtual learning community and trainings on Youth-led Participatory Action Research, youth capacity-building, and staff management. Leverage Point Development will lead a webinar series focused on capacity building, sustainability, fund development, strategic planning, and change-management tools. Flourish Agenda will offer a webinar series and small cohort learning opportunities centered on healing-centered engagement.

Kaur stated that the upcoming milestones include releasing the Round 4 External Evaluation in 2027; coordinating with the California State University, Sacramento to host



the 2026 EYC Regional Training and Technical Assistance Convenings in Fall 2026 in Northern and Southern California; conducting the 2026 EYC youth listening sessions; and finalizing the robust TTA plan through mid-2027.

Stephanie Chen mentioned that the Round 3 Evaluation focuses on short-term and intermediate outcomes of EYC and inquired if there are plans to include long-term, population-level outcomes. Kaur stated that there are no current plans to include population-level outcomes given that the evaluation runs on each of the cohorts and their three years of programming. Guerra adds that youth, as part of the grant, may select PSE goals that have population-level impacts.

Adrienne Shilton observed that only 6% of Round 3 youth participants were identified as 2S/LGBTQIA+, inquired if youth participants discussed community and law enforcement topics during listening sessions, and recommended addressing non-response bias. Kaur explained the 6% is based on available demographic data and confirmed both community and law enforcement topics were discussed by youth participants during listening sessions. Uriostegui-Hernandez added that participants shared examples of building relationships with local law enforcement.

Guerra introduced Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA).

Youth Listening Session Report

Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA)

Jesus Escobar expressed appreciation to DHCS and The Center for the opportunity to participate in EYC as well as to share about the funded project.

The CHLA presenters introduced themselves.

Irene Lim explained that the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine empowers youth to become informed health advocates, advances adolescent wellbeing through integrated care and youth development, and serves young people ages 12 to 25, particularly Medi-Cal beneficiaries and youth of color. Lim presented an overview of youth treatment services offered by CHLA, which are supported by funding from the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUBG). CHLA's prevention initiatives are sustained by diverse state and federal funding streams. The organization delivers educational and leadership programs to youth and families within both school and community environments.

Escobar provided an overview of the Collective of Youth Leaders (COYL) participant demographics, acknowledging it is reflective of the workforce demographics.

Programmatic data showed COYL implemented more than 200 activities, including 110



peer-led projects, 94 civic engagement efforts, and 25 conference and presentation events, along with annual youth and parent listening sessions. The program directly reached over 1,600 peers and professionals in LA County Service Planning Areas 4 and 6, with an estimated broader impact of 12,000–13,000 young people. A survey conducted at the time of program registration identified drug overdose as the biggest concern for youth, so COYL decided to focus efforts on opioid overdose.

Youth presenter Naomi explained that COYL focused on opioid overdoses after witnessing the issue in their schools, families, and communities, and recognizing its disproportionate impact on minority and low-income groups. COYL emphasized that overdose deaths are preventable through education, harm-reduction strategies, and access to naloxone. Youth presenter Skye explained that, at the school level, COYL organized campus presentations that led to an invitation to brief the school board in September 2024 and collaborated with district staff to update the student naloxone policy, which was adopted in November and formally approved in December 2024. Naomi explained that, at the city level, COYL built partnerships with local government and community organizations to expand youth-led education and naloxone access, contributed input on the use of opioid litigation settlement funds, and were publicly acknowledged by city officials. Skye explained that, at the county level, COYL co-developed the first-of-its-kind “Recognizing and Responding to an Opioid Overdose” training, approved by the LA County Department of Public Health, training over 600 peers and distributing more than 400 Narcan devices, supported by the [Naloxone Distribution Project](#), since June 2025.

Escobar, Naomi, and Skye shared that youth evaluation results show strong gains in confidence, leadership, and feeling valued. COYL’s peer-to-peer approach, supported by adult allies, helped identify key needs and inform strategies for youth-driven structural change in substance use prevention. Through these efforts, COYL expanded their influence by taking on leadership roles across schools and community settings.

Guerra thanked the presenters for showcasing youth-centered work and presented a DHCS letter of acknowledgement and gratitude to Naomi and Skye.

Shilton extended a heartfelt thank-you to Naomi and Skye. Skye’s story about naloxone and advocating for policy change illustrates why youth voices are essential. Shilton expressed hope that this model can expand statewide, including during conferences attended by teachers and school administrators.

Gabriel Teran stated that policy initiatives influence both present and future generations.

Open Discussion: Round 8 Planning



Jessica Guerra

Guerra opened the Round 8 Standard Track planning discussion by sharing that the estimated budget is approximately \$46.06 million.

Guerra shared the timeline and upcoming milestones for the Youth, Education, Prevention, Early Intervention, and Treatment Account (YEPEITA). In May 2026, the DHCS will review the Governor's May Revision, complete the closeout of contracts with CDPH and Round 4 funded partners, publish the 2025 EYC Annual Report, and hold Round 7 listening sessions. Moving into July, DHCS plans to amend existing YEPEITA interagency agreements, review the enacted fiscal year 2026-27 State Budget, initiate Round 8 contracting with The Center, amend the YEPEITA interagency agreements to reflect the Governor's Budget, and convene the next Proposition 64 (Prop 64) Advisory Group meeting.

Guerra asked Prop 64 Advisory Group members to reflect on [the EYC Round 3 Evaluation](#) findings and suggest ways for EYC to strengthen its impact, particularly when it comes to serving transition-aged youth (TAY) and young men and boys of color. Given that DHCS is considering the inclusion of a TAY Track for Round 8, Guerra requested that members provide considerations for the funding amount and structure. Guerra discussed Governor Gavin Newsom's recent [press release](#) on the EYC program, which is aligned with the Governor's [Path and Purpose Initiative](#) by focusing on mentorship, connection, and purpose for young men and boys. Guerra also requested that members advise on how the EYC program could enhance efforts to support young men and boys of color.

Kaur discussed strategies implemented by several funded partners to enhance TAY engagement, including internship and fellowship opportunities.

Teran suggested funded partners recruit male staff to be positive role models for young men and boys of color.

Guerra reported that, based on known data, only 5% of Round 3 Standard Track youth participants that completed their EYC program were aged 21 to 26 and 9% were aged 18 to 20. Guerra also reported that about 40% identified as a young man or boy.

Chen agreed with Teran and believes the best way to engage TAY is to provide paid positions or educational opportunities, if possible. Given that LA County is also looking for best ways to serve high-risk TAY such as those aged out of foster care or are houseless, Chen believes broadening outreach to locations where supportive services are offered is another option. Chen thinks it would be wise for DHCS to set aside money



for a TAY Track and recommended analyzing the gap in the data to determine the percentage of the total Round 8 budget to allocate towards the TAY Track.

Teran agreed with Chen to have a separate TAY Track and review the data.

Guerra informed that the upcoming EYC regional convenings will include trainings on TAY and young men and boys of color.

Kaur informed that funded partners that exclusively serve young men and boys of color have higher retention rates relative to funded partners that serve all genders.

Public Comment

All participants

No public comments were made.

Closing and Next Steps

Jessica Guerra

Guerra closed the meeting by thanking all attendees and expressing appreciation to Cornelle Jenkins for his service on the Prop 64 Advisory Group. One membership position will be available this summer, with updates posted on the [Prop 64 Advisory Group webpage](#).