

## PROPOSITION 64 ADVISORY GROUP STAKEHOLDER MEETING

**Date:** July 16, 2026

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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### Members Present

- » Denise Galvez
- » Jessica Guerra
- » Stephanie List
- » Martin D. Martinez III
- » Vince Leus
- » Stephanie Chen
- » Adrienne Shilton
- » Logan Hess
- » Jim Keddy

### Opening Remarks and Introductions

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

Denise Galvez welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Virtual attendees introduced themselves.

Galvez opened with updates on statewide efforts in substance use disorder prevention. Galvez noted that DHCS opened [registration](#) for the 20th annual Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Integrated Care Conference, which will take place on August 25–27, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach and Convention Center. Galvez also shared that the Request for Application (RFA) to the [California Services to Science Academy \(CSSA\)](#) has officially closed and announcements are expected in early fall.

Galvez referenced that during Proposition 64 (Prop 64) Advisory Group meeting on April 16, 2026, DHCS solicited feedback from members regarding strategies to address identified service gaps for youth. The [Elevate Youth California \(EYC\) Round 3 Evaluation](#) highlighted the need to deliver EYC services to transitional age youth (ages 16–26) and young men and boys of color.



Galvez informed that, in response to feedback from Prop 64 Advisory Group members, the EYC Round 8 Standard Track RFA will seek to uplift organizations serving transitional age youth as well as boys and young men of color. These organizations are expected to provide culturally responsive and developmentally appropriate strategies tailored to the unique needs of these populations. Consistent with the EYC program's commitment to regional coverage, this initiative will emphasize equitable access to substance use disorder prevention services for these groups.

Galvez added that The Center at Sierra Health Foundation (The Center) plans to offer expanded training and technical assistance (TTA) to help funded partners engage these populations more effectively.

Galvez turned the meeting over to Jessica Guerra for contract updates.

### **Contract Updates – Round 8**

*Jessica Guerra, Section Chief, Prevention and Youth Branch, DHCS*

Guerra shared about the Youth Education Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Account (YEPEITA) contract funding for fiscal year (FY) 2026–27. Guerra reported that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) contract will be executed for \$12 million for prevention education campaigns and drug data surveillance; the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) contract will be executed for approximately \$189 million (including approximately \$11.8 million from the California Natural Resources Agency [CNRA] that will be redirected to CDSS for a new contract/one-time payment as required by the Governor's Budget) for childcare and child development programs; CNRA will not receive YEPEITA funds for FY 2026-27<sup>1</sup>; and The Center's contract will be executed for approximately \$46 million for the EYC program.

Jim Keddy shared that the changes proposed in Assembly Bill 564 to the cannabis tax mechanism would not impact the childcare funding stream. To meet this commitment, CNRA's FY 2026-27 YEPEITA funds were redirected to CDSS.

Galvez welcomes the partners at The Center, Palvinder Kaur and Shyra Murrey.

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<sup>1</sup> CNRA is still in the process of spending YEPEITA funds received from previous FYs so prevention services will continue and not be halted due to the cut in YEPEITA funds for FY 2026-27.

## Elevate Youth California Cohort Updates

*Palvinder Kaur, Associate Director of Healthy Youth Development, The Center  
Shyra Murrey, Program Officer, The Center*

Palvinder Kaur opened the presentation and welcomed attendees.

Palvinder Kaur shared the agenda for the presentation, which included updates for the 2025 Annual Report, 2026 TTA, 2026 Regional TTA Convenings, and upcoming milestones.

Kaur shared that the EYC 2025 Annual Report will be available on the EYC website and across social media channels and includes funded partner accomplishments and data from EYC Rounds 4–6 (January 1 through December 31, 2025). Kaur reported that 29,084<sup>2</sup> youth were engaged in core programming, 2,441<sup>3</sup> youth (8 percent) openly reported that they identify as part of the 2S/LGBTQIA+<sup>4</sup> community, and 89 percent identify as BIPOC<sup>5</sup>, 69,886<sup>6</sup> youth attended 54,898 prevention program events, and funded partners engaged 18,132 youth through 921 youth listening sessions that ensure youth voices inform the direction and implementation of EYC and create space to explore youth interests and community concerns.

Kaur provided funded partner highlights from Japanese Community Youth Council, Southern Sudanese Community Center of San Diego, Homeboy Industries, Amelia Ann Adams Whole Life Center, and Native Sisters Circle. Young leaders from the **Japanese Community Youth Council** led a youth participatory action research project to address youth access to substances, educate peers about substance use disorder, and challenge harmful norms around substance use within Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. Youth from the **Southern Sudanese Community Center of San Diego's Young Leaders Council** strengthened their leadership and civic engagement skills through bi-weekly evidence-based trainings focused on substance use prevention, trauma-informed mentorship, and culturally relevant education. Youth

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<sup>2</sup> Total number of unduplicated youth that engaged in programming.

<sup>3</sup> This reflects the number of youth who self-identified as 2S/LGBTQIA+ when asked, but 17,580 (60%) youth either did not answer or were not asked this question due to its sensitive nature.

<sup>4</sup> Two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, and additional identities used by community members.

<sup>5</sup> Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. Race/ethnicity was self-reported by youth and percentage excludes unknown values.

<sup>6</sup> The number of event participants is larger than the total number of youth engaged because individuals participated in multiple events.



from **Homeboy Industries'** Lifted Minds Youth Council advanced local civic advocacy by presenting their concerns about nitrous oxide to Los Angeles city leaders, highlighting the drug's impact on their community. **Amelia Ann Adams Whole Life Center** supported boys ages 12–17 in building emotional strength and resilience through its Strong Minds, Strong Moves: Empowering Youth Kings program, which helped participants develop coping strategies and greater self-awareness as protective factors against substance use disorder. **Native Sisters Circle** youth led Talking Circle Tuesdays, fostering cultural connection, peer support, and problem-solving skills in a safe and culturally affirming space that strengthened participants' sense of belonging.

Shyra Murrey announced that the 2026 TTA selection has been expanded to include specialized training in healing-centered engagement (HCE) and the Four Pivots (Awareness, Connection, Vision, Presence), delivered by [Flourish Agenda](#). Additionally, the EYC Collective Action Project will be featured, which emphasizes youth civic engagement, amplifying youth voices, and strengthening substance use prevention through impactful storytelling.

Kaur shared that the 2026 EYC Regional TTA Convenings will take place on October 2 in Sacramento and October 14 in Los Angeles. Both events feature a keynote address by Dr. Shawn Ginwright and include TTA by Flourish Agenda.

Kaur discussed upcoming milestones, including the Round 8 Standard Track RFA; Round 4 Evaluation; Round 5 Evaluation; and continuation of partner support through office hours, networking sessions, coaching, and TTA opportunities.

Galvez highlighted that Homeboy Industries did public education regarding concerns with nitrous oxide. Galvez called on Stephanie Chen to discuss if there is a coordinated effort to address nitrous oxide use. Chen confirmed that it is a coordinated effort from funded community-based prevention providers, working to support Los Angeles city to move forward with drafting an ordinance to ban nitrous oxide. This coordinated effort came about after multiple efforts, including a community environmental scan to assess the availability of nitrous oxide and an increase in community engagement and education.

Vince highlighted how powerful the EYC visuals and personal stories have been in demonstrating the program's impact. He encouraged the team to continue sharing these materials beyond this group, noting that they serve as strong advocacy tools and help build broader support in the field.

In response, Galvez emphasized that the various reports developed each year (e.g., evaluation reports, annual reports, and legislative reports) play a critical role in

informing both internal and external stakeholders. These reports help illustrate why EYC must continue and how it fills gaps left by limitations in other funding streams, reinforcing the program's value across multiple audiences. Galvez noted that because federal funds often come with restrictive parameters, this specialized state funding allows the department to work more effectively across county and community systems, addressing unmet needs and doing meaningful, innovative work in the SUD prevention space.

Building on this, Kaur highlighted the growing momentum behind the EYC Collective Action Project, which is focused on expanding youth capacity for storytelling as a strategy for civic engagement. The project aims to empower young people to speak publicly about their experiences, advocate within their communities, and drive efforts to address youth SUD. Ultimately, the goal is to increase the number of youth leaders actively engaged in the field, strengthening civic participation and expanding youth-driven advocacy statewide.

Keddy expressed appreciation for the update, noting that the numbers shared were impressive. Keddy highlighted emerging concerns observed through a youth summer internship project in which interns conducted "secret shopper" research at local vape shops. They reported frequent availability of kratom and nitrous oxide in Sacramento, an issue Keddy emphasized as something the group should collectively find ways to elevate and address.

## **Public Comment**

*All participants*

No public comments were made.

## **Closing and Next Steps**

*Denise Galvez*

Galvez closed the meeting by thanking all attendees. Galvez mentioned the next Prop 64 Advisory Group meeting is November 19, 2026, where CDPH, CDSS, CNRA, and The Center report on the progress of the YEPEITA-funded programs. More information on the meeting will be available on the [Prop 64 Advisory Group website](#).