Office of Youth and Community Restoration



WHAT IS THE OYCR MISSION?

Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) mission is to promote trauma responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support their successful transition into adulthood and help them become responsible, thriving, and engaged members of their communities. OYCR will use the following core values to guide and ground the work.













Youth Centered

Community

Equity Focus

Compassion

Innovation

Data Driven

WHY WAS OYCR FORMED?

Senate Bill 823, which set out the timetable for the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), also established OYCR. OYCR was created within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) to support counties in their care for all youth, including those youth who would otherwise have been sent to DJJ, and to provide statewide leadership on court-involved youth through a health-oriented, evidence-based rehabilitative mindset that is informed by an understanding of adolescent development.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF OYCR?

By promoting the use of evidence-based and promising practices, OYCR seeks to support counties in improving youth and public safety outcomes by identifying and promoting practices around these three areas of focus.

Reduce the transfer of youth into the adult criminal justice system.

Reduce racial and ethnic disparities.

Increase communitybased responses and interventions.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

OYCR strives to be a thought partner with local communities in efforts to identify and disseminate best practices. OYCR is committed to maintaining strong relationships with all stakeholders by engaging with county probation officers, youth advocates, representatives from the judicial branch, district attorneys, clinicians, researchers, and other key groups. All these views are critical to strengthening local rehabilitative systems and supporting the delivery of trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate services for court-involved youth. On staff, OYCR has expertise in various areas and will provide technical assistance and support as requested.

You can reach the OYCR team at oycrcounties@chhs.ca.gov



STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



Director, Katherine Lucero – <u>katherine.lucero@chhs.ca.gov</u> – 916-879-4852

Katherine Lucero is leading the realignment of the Department of Juvenile Justice into the Office of Youth and Community Restoration as required by Senate Bill 823. Prior to her appointment, she had been the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division for Santa Clara County Superior Court, where her responsibilities included presiding over the Juvenile Justice Dual Diagnosis County (which she founded in 2014) and the Santa Clara County Dually Involved Youth Court. Director Lucero has focused on justice for children

and families throughout her judicial career and brought the Educational Champion concept to Juvenile Justice in Santa Clara County, resulting in a robust Justice Ed program that prioritizes school engagement as a key resiliency marker. Over the past thirty years, she has served on numerous committees, panels, boards, councils, and projects on behalf of the community, and has trained judges, child welfare professionals, and juvenile justice stakeholders on various issues, including such topics as Collaborative & Trauma Informed Court Systems and the Disproportionate Impact of the Child Welfare System on Children of Color.



Chief Health Policy Officer, Dr. Juan Carlos Argüello - <u>juan.arguello@chhs.ca.gov</u> - 916-539-6929

Dr. Juan Carlos Argüello, comes to OYCR from the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) where he served as the statewide Associate Medical Director. Dr. Argüello completed his Child and Adolescent Psychiatry fellowship at Harvard Medical School/Children's Hospital Boston. He began his civil service career at the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in 2007 as statewide Senior Psychiatrist Supervisor. His responsibilities in DJJ included the clinical

supervision and administration of all psychiatrists in juvenile correctional facilities and the development and implementation of all mental health policies and procedures. Dr. Argüello was the lead psychiatrist for the Farrell Task Force and ensured compliance with the DJJ's Mental Health Remedial Plan. He joined DSH in 2012 and in 2015 became Assistant Deputy Director and statewide Associate Medical Director. With DSH, Argüello assisted in the provision of clinical direction and oversight for the five California Department State Hospitals. He worked closely with clinical leadership to design data collection methodologies which were used to better understand patients, identify patterns and trends, to create tools for mentoring clinical staff, to identify best practices within DSH and other forensic facilities outside of California and in the current academic literature. He used clinical data and analyses to assure the provision of clinical services provided appropriate and effective treatment modalities. Dr. Argüello assisted in the formulation of policy for the development and implementation of clinical programs designed and implemented with the goal of maintaining standards of the current science of mental health treatment and helped ensure goals were met within available resources while providing quality care that meeting the needs of the patients.





Chief Data and Research Officer, Dr. Holly Child – holly.child@chhs.ca.gov – 916-531-9087

Dr. Holly Child is the inaugural Chief Data and Research Officer at the Office of Youth and Community Restoration at the California Health and Human Services Agency. Dr. Child's professional focus has been on supporting non-profit and government agencies with program improvement through evaluation, training, and consultation. Her research and publications focus on "data to action." Child has served as Director of the Research and Development Unit at Santa Clara County Probation Department since 2016. She was

Program Manager of Justice Projects at Applied Survey Research from 2015 to 2016. Child was Program Manager and Research Associate at Children and Family Futures at the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare from 2010 to 2015. She was Department Chair of the Criminal Justice Department at Saginaw Valley State University from 2006 to 2010. Child was Director of the Crime & Justice and Community Development Units for the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University from 2002 to 2006. She was a Research Associate at the Corrections Institute at the University of Cincinnati from 1999 to 2002. Child was Research Associate at Talbert House from 1999 to 2001. She earned a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Evaluation and Research from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI.



Special Consultant, LaRon Dennis – laron.dennis@chhs.ca.gov – 916-212-8052

LaRon Dennis retired in 2018 as the Supervising Deputy District Attorney of the Juvenile Justice Unit of the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office. Over her nearly 30 year career, she served as an attorney specializing in delinquency law and policy with the Judicial Council's Center for Families, Children, and the Courts and an adjunct law professor at Santa Clara University School of Law and the University of San Francisco School of Law. She worked as a Senior Program Associate at the Berkeley Center for

Criminal Justice at the University of California, Berkeley Law School and as a Deputy Legislative Counsel for the Office of Legislative Counsel in Sacramento. She spent 12 years as a probation officer in Santa Clara County prior to attending law school. She has authored articles on juvenile mental health issues, girls in the juvenile justice system, and the first published academic article on California's Juvenile Deferred Entry of Judgment. LaRon continues to be a coauthor of *Seiser & Kumli on California Juvenile Courts Practice and Procedure*.



Executive Assistant, Austin Dickman – austin.dickman@chhs.ca.gov – 916-216-7989

Austin Dickman is the Executive Assistant with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) within the California Health and Human Services Agency. Prior to joining OYCR in April 2022, he was the Volunteer Coordinator for Junior Achievement of Sacramento where he managed the recruitment, training, retention, and communication with volunteers from partner organizations to assist youth in learning

about financial literacy and work-readiness. He has a demonstrated history of success in the nonprofit sector working with diverse populations across the U.S. He is highly invested in collaborating with a passionate and



innovative team, who serve through a social justice and equity lens, to advocate for and impact the lives and long-term positive outcomes of youth. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Gonzaga University and is currently pursuing his Master of Public Health at California State University, Sacramento.



Special Consultant, Les Fujitani – les.fujitani@chhs.ca.gov

Les Fujitani serves as a retired annuitant providing advice and support to OYCR. Prior to retirement, Les dedicated over 32 years of his career serving the citizens of California in different capacities. He possesses a strong passion towards helping and improving the lives of Californians, especially the most vulnerable and underserved populations. Les intends to use his knowledge and experience to assist OYCR in meeting its goals to promote a youth continuum of services that are trauma responsive and culturally

informed, employ public health approaches that support positive youth development, build capacity of community-based approaches; and reduce the justice involvement of youth. During his career, Les was the Project Director of the Child Welfare Services - New System Project leading the design, development, and implementation of a new system to improve the delivery of services to California's at-risk children, including foster children and youth. He previously worked for the Department of General Services, Chief Information Officer, conducting information technology project planning and oversight as well as developing information technology policies. Les served on Governor Schwarzenegger's California Performance Review Team researching and providing recommendations to transition the State into the first 21st century government in America using innovative approaches and technologies. This work precipitated into the development and launch of California's first Statewide Information Technology Strategic Plan. He also worked on Governor Gray Davis' eGovernment initiative in the year 2000 to harness the power of the Internet and provide online government services to Californians. Les led the needs assessment survey and statewide business process review, as well as implementing one of the five online pilot systems as a proof of concept. In addition to his government career, Les co-founded a legal recruiting business with his wife where he formulates business strategies/tactics and takes care of the back-office functions.



Regional Specialist, Angel Garcia – angel.garcia@chhs.ca.gov – 916-531-8052

Ms. Garcia comes to the OYCR with extensive community college experience directly serving marginalized students, most recently serving as a Program Director at American River College. Prior to her time in the Los Rios Community College District, she worked as a Program Manager for the California Charter Schools Association supporting and consulting with school developer teams and serving as a strategic thought partner in

building and submitting equitable school plans from beginning to end. In her state service experience starting a decade ago, she has served as a policy specialist in education, workforce development, and social services working within the Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Social Services, and the California Workforce Development Board. While there, she focused on building strategic plans and partnerships, identifying promising and best practices, providing technical assistance, guidance, and resources to local localities, and serving as a subject matter expert. Angel first gained her policy knowledge by navigating multiple social service



and education systems through her self-advocacy as a young mother then later advocating on behalf of marginalized youth and families. She has served on various state and local committees related to youth and been extensively involved in youth and student advocacy efforts focusing on issues related to serving students with disabilities and the school to prison pipeline. She has her bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento.



Regional Specialist, Miguel Garcia - miguel.garcia@chhs.ca.gov - 916-214-6137

Prior to joining CalHHS in 2022, Miguel A. Garcia served as a Governor's appointee on the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, an advisory body to the Board of State and Community Corrections. He also currently serves as the Senate's appointee for the Board of State & Community Corrections (BSCC). Furthermore, the California Judicial Council selected him to serve on the Secure Youth Treatment

Facility Classification Matrix Working Group. Mr. Garcia has prior experience in restorative justice practices at Impact Justice and focused on youth justice issues as Human Rights Watch Policy Fellow and Youth Justice Specialist with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC). He has served on Riverside County's Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Committee and Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee. He is the former Western Regional Board Member for the Coalition for Juvenile Justice executive board. Mr. Garcia was also a consultant for the Annie E. Casey Juvenile Justice Strategy Group Youth Advisory Council and Northwestern University's Center for Child Trauma, Assessment, Services, and Intervention. Miguel received his bachelor's degree in political science and international relations from the University of California, Riverside, and several associate degrees from Riverside City College. Aside from his work and academics, Miguel has been heavily involved in the community as a youth justice advocate, mentor and professional, a passion that began after his experiences with the justice system as a youth. Miguel plans to attend law school to continue his advocacy work in youth justice and human rights.



Counsel, Alisa Hartz – alisa.hartz@chhs.ca.gov – 916-869-6932

Before joining OYCR, Alisa was a Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary in the Office of Governor Newsom. Her work in the Governor's Office was focused on supporting the State's response to COVID-19 and working with the Office of Emergency Services and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Prior to entering state service, she worked for over five years at Public Counsel in Los Angeles where she litigated impact

cases on a range of civil rights issues relating to education, homelessness, immigration, and the criminal justice system, among others. Alisa served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Dean D. Pregerson in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California and to the late Honorable Judge Stephen Reinhardt in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.





Deputy Director, Alani Jackson - alani.jackson@chhs.ca.gov - 916-224-4548

Prior to joining CalHHS in 2022, and since 2015, Mrs. Jackson was the Chief of the Medi-Cal Dental Services Division within the Department of Health Care Services. She had full management responsibility for administering the Medi-Cal Dental Services Program (Fee for Service and Dental Managed Care), which provides dental services to approximately 14.5 million Medi-Cal members including oversight of contracted vendors who manage

claims processing and beneficiary and provider services management and support. Mrs. Jackson also has over eight years of administrative and managerial experience with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, California Correctional Health Care Services. She has extensive experience and knowledge working in health care policy – planning, development, implementation, and evaluation. Mrs. Jackson has dedicated over 16 years serving Californians as a public servant and has experience working with and in the California legislature and children's advocacy. She has a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, and two Bachelor's in Community and Regional Development and Political Science from the University of California, Davis.



County Liaison, Ramon Leija - ramon.leija@chhs.ca.gov - 916-215-2817

Prior to joining CalHHS in 2022, Mr. Leija served as a Constituent Affairs Representative for the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. He currently serves as a Governor-appointed subject-matter expert on the California State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, an advisory body of the Board of Community and State Corrections. He also served as a subject-matter expert on the Riverside County Juvenile

Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee. Mr. Leija has further demonstrated his passion for public service as a Volunteer Reserve Firefighter/EMT for the Riverside County Fire Department, a position he formerly held. Moreover, he has demonstrated his passion for juvenile justice by working alongside several community-based organizations as a juvenile justice advocate and youth mentor. His dedication to serving justice involved youth is rooted in his own lived experience within the California Department of Juvenile Justice. Mr. Leija received his bachelor's degree in education and political science from the University of California, Riverside. He also received two associates degrees and three vocational certificates from College of the Desert.



Special Consultant, Will Lightbourne

Will Lightbourne retired in 2021 as Director of the Department of Health Care Services, California's Medicaid and behavioral health agency. Prior to that he served as Director of the California Department of Social Services, overseeing the state's child welfare, public assistance and home care programs. Before entering state service, he directed the public human services agencies of Santa Clara County, the City and County of San

Francisco, and Santa Cruz County. He began his career with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, becoming the first layperson to direct that century-old agency. In his more than 45 years of service, Mr. Lightbourne has participated on numerous local, state and national boards and commissions.





Research Data Specialist I, Christian Lucchesi – christian.lucchesi@chhs.ca.gov – 916-639-8051

Christian Lucchesi is a trained evaluator and business psychologist from West Allis, Wisconsin. He has worked in the private, non-profit, and academic industries conducting research and building capacity in organizations to use data and lived experiences for program planning and implementation. He is excited to support the initiatives of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration using data and thorough methodologies to promote human-centered and compassionate servicing. Christian

earned his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin – Stout located in Menomonie, WI, in applied psychology with a focus on industrial and organizational psychology and program evaluation. His professional interests include interpersonal communication, knowledge-sharing and facilitation practices, participatory evaluation methodologies, and data visualization.



Special Consultant, George Maynard - george.maynard@chhs.ca.gov - 916-584-6535

George Maynard retired in 2020 as the Deputy Director of Administrative Services at the Department of State Hospitals (DSH). Over his 38-year career in public service, he worked in a broad number of fields, ultimately culminating with a 17-year career with DSH managing the administrative functions of 5 state hospitals and an annual budget in excess of \$2 billion. He also worked closely with CDCR and the Coleman Special Master team on the management of inmate patient placements at DSH and the

development of MOU's and other Policies & Procedures guiding the care and treatment of inmate patients navigating the DSH continuum of care and returning to CDCR. He was a member of the Coalinga State Hospital activation team and has managed the development of statewide Policies and Procedures guiding state hospital operations that included over 9,000 patients and employed nearly 13,000 staff. He has served as a member of the DSH Executive Team and represented the Department in numerous County courts regarding admission, discharge and transfer policies. His most recent role prior to retirement was coordination of DSH response to COVID, managing the procurement, delivery and ongoing supply channel of critical resources for staff and patient safety.



Chief of Ombuds, Ahmed Nemr – ahmed.nemr@chhs.ca.gov – 916-531-9376

Prior to joining OYCR, Mr. Nemr was a manager with the Office of Foster Care Ombudsperson for over five years overseeing the helpline, case management system, data, and reporting in addition to the core function of the Office which involves investigating and informally resolving complaints impacting foster youth, increasing awareness about foster youth rights, and making recommendations to help support

systemic change. He has been working in the fields of Social Services and Mental Health for over fifteen years in the micro and macro levels in community-based organizations and government settings. He has extensive child welfare and mental health knowledge and experience, direct practice work with juvenile sex offenders, emotionally disturbed children, and adult with mental health in a psychiatric health facility. Ahmed has a Bachelor of Art in Social Work.





Chief of Systems Change and Equity, Marcia Rincon-Gallardo marcia.rincongallardo@chhs.ca.gov — 916-508-9350

Marcia Rincon-Gallardo MSW is the Chief of Systems Change and Equity with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR). Prior to joining OYCR, she was the Executive Director of the Alianza for Youth Justice, Principal of NOXTIN: Equal Justice for All, Adjunct MSW Policy Professor, and author. At the Alianza, she directed the coalition's efforts to amplify visibility and advocacy of Brown, Chicanx/Latinx, Afro-Latinx,

LGBTQ+, and Two Spirit youth to transform youth justice systems with long term solutions rooted in cultura, comunidad and healing. At NOXTIN, she provided training, technical assistance, and consultation nationally with local communities and youth justice system efforts to increase equity for Brown, Chicanx, Afro-Latinx and Indigenous youth by decreasing to end the use of incarceration. Ms. Rincon-Gallardo has partnered with the Vera Institute, CA Endowment, National Girls Initiative, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Burns Institute, to implement proven effective strategies to successfully end use of incarceration downsizing the nation's youth justice systems utilizing locally based healing informed, community centered approaches. Ms. Rincon-Gallardo, recognized as a leader and author in the field, co-wrote Adapting JDAI to Tribal Lands: Lessons Learned, 2019, Latinx Youth Data Gap in the Youth Justice System, 2020 and Chicanx/Latinx Girls in the Youth Justice System, pending release. She presents nationally and implemented the Ollin Youth co-written curriculum locally with directly impacted youth to expand their knowledge and leadership skills. Ms. Rincon-Gallardo is Chicana, Mexicana, Indigena.



Chief of County Coordination, Krystall Rollins – krystall.rollins@chhs.ca.gov – 916-207-3312

Prior to joining CalHHS in 2022, and since 2017, Mrs. Rollins was employed with California Department of Social Services in the Adult and Senior Care Program of the Community Care Licensing Division. Most recently, she was the Regional Manager of Sacramento South Adult and Senior Care Regional Office. She had the responsibility of overseeing senior and adult care facilities in seven counties ensuring compliance with

regulations and law. Prior to this position, Mrs. Rollins was also a Licensing Program Manager I overseeing approximately 600 facilities. She has previously worked at San Joaquin County Child Protective Services as a Social Worker and, a Supervising Social Worker in the Emergency Response Program conducting investigations of child abuse and neglect and a Training Supervisor. She has dedicated over 12 years serving clients who are vulnerable. She is eager and energetic to work for an amazing program and Agency to support youth transition successfully into adulthood, help them fulfill their goals and achieve their potential as responsible, thriving, and engaged members of their communities. Mrs. Rollins has a Master's in Social Work from Sacramento State and a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from Southern University and A&M College.





County Liaison, Valerie Salazar - valerie.salazar@chhs.ca.gov - 916-539-8520

Valerie Salazar joins the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) as a County Liaison for Central California. Ms. Salazar was a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for CASA of Ventura County and was chosen for the 2022-2023 Community Scholars for Black Lives fellowship program at California Lutheran University based on a community event she

proposed to bring community-based organizations to local youth and their families in the City of Oxnard. She previously served as Chair and Commissioner for the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission. She is a National Juvenile Justice Network Youth Justice Leadership Institute and Next Generation Fellowship alumni, with a passion to serve system-affected youth and build community ignited by her lived experience in the juvenile justice system. She has also worked in the private sector for environmental health and safety consulting firms for over 15 years. Ms. Salazar received her bachelor's degree in psychology from California Lutheran University, where she is currently completing her Master of Public Policy and Administration. She also received three associates degrees from Ventura College.



Ombudsperson, Efrat Sharony - efrat.sharony@chhs.ca.gov - 916-203-1137

Ms. Sharony has over twenty years of experience serving persons affected by the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on serving justice-involved youth. Her most recent role was a Criminal Justice Advocate and Consultant. Her contracts include working on legislative issues with Californians for Safety and Justice and working on resentencing and trainings with LA County's District Attorney George Gascon's office. Her work has focused on understanding and educating about the cycles of violence and

trauma in our communities to advance criminal justice reforms. Prior to her consulting work, Ms. Sharony served as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Reentry for the City of Los Angeles. She was the Mayor's subject matter expert on emerging criminal justice trends, conditions, and best practices for reentry initiatives at the city, state, and national levels. Her varied projects included spearheading the expansion of Project ImPACT to include youth released from Division of Juvenile Justice, with the tools to help them thrive upon return home and beyond. Ms. Sharony spent 10 years at Loyola Law School's Center for Juvenile Law and Policy where she helped transform the way social workers and future attorneys interact with and serve their clients- from juveniles in delinquency proceedings to juvenile lifers serving LWOP sentences. She helped found the Juvenile Innocence and Fair Sentencing Clinic and served as an Adjunct Professor and Mitigation Specialist. She has also been appointed and testified as a juvenile gang expert and mitigation expert on capital cases, special circumstance juvenile cases, as well as other serious cases in the Los Angeles Superior Court. Ms. Sharony has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a Masters of Social Work from Columbia University.





County Liaison, Nancy Victor - nancy.victor@chhs.ca.gov - (916) 584-6301

Ms. Victor brings nearly 20 years of community-based work and expertise to her role with OYCR. Nancy has worked in an array of fields supporting those impacted by a multitude of systems. This includes experience working with families impacted by social services and the foster care system as well as with prevention and early intervention services supporting school-aged children at risk of school disciplinary actions. Since

2016 she has worked specifically with Juvenile Justice impacted youth as a court advocate, case manager and Director. Nancy has served as part of the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice gender Responsive Task Force and co-lead the overall initiative to end girls' incarceration in the county. Through her roles, she was able to successfully support with efforts to reach "0 Girls Incarcerated" in SCC for both its youth detention facilities. Supporting and overseeing gender responsive diversion and re-entry support, this contributed to 87% reduction of girls incarcerated and recidivism rates. Nancy has partnered with research and technical assistance intuitions such as VERA, NYU, and the Burns Institute to formulate and build on effective evidence-based practices and models to support diversion programs and alternatives to incarceration. Additional notable advocacy efforts for system navigating communities include advocacy, development and implementation of When Young Moms Thrive in Santa Clara County, co —authoring the "When Young Moms Thrive" report in 2022 as well as oversight and implementation of universal basic income pilots for young women at risk of and impacted by sexual exploitation. Nancy achieved her Bachelors in Sociology and Criminology at San Jose State University in 2013 and her Masters in Chicano Studies with an emphasis in Education in 2017. Aside from advocacy efforts, Nancy also dedicates her time as an educator on behalf of the Ethnic Studies Department at California State University, Sacramento.

OYCR REGIONS BY COUNTY





Bay Area Region 2

Alameda" San Benito
Contra Costa" San Francisco"
Glenn San Mateo"
Lake Santa Clara"
Marin Santa Cruz
Mendocino" Solano"
Napa Sonoma"

Central Region 3

Mariposa Alpine Amador Merced" Calaveras Mono Fresno** Monterey" Inyo San Joaquin" Kern** Stanislaus" Kings" Tulare" Madera" **Tuolumne**

Southern Region 4

Imperial" San Diego"
Los Angeles" San Luis Obispo"
Orange" Santa Barbara"
Riverside" Ventura"
San Bernadino"

^{*}Part of a Tri-County Facility in Yuba

^{**}Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)