1. Of the juvenile regulations listed in Title 15 and Title 24 (for example, Section 1328. Safety Checks, or Section 1230.1.17. Visiting Space), which regulations would you like to see improved?

___X___ I have an improvement but it isn't specifically related to an existing regulation, or I don't know the specific section.

_______ I have an improvement to a specific Title 15 or Title 24 section.

2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Community members with direct experience around county youth facilities provided a variety of recommendations aimed at improving county youth facilities, overall. The following community feedback is based on an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities.

When survey respondents were asked, “What else would you want people to know about your experience? Is there anything else you would change about juvenile county facilities that made you angry or sad?” they provided the following recommendations:

- Just staff in fire camp need to do there jobs and stop being in their feelings
- I felt sad to be in a place that felt so institutional and dark. I think our youth would benefit from being in a more community type of setting.
- I'd like staff to be more fair. It seemed like the staff would pick on the same people.
- They need socks and to remove the huge gate that they have that closes behind you. It seemed like a real prison. It didn't seem like what I thought Juvie would be like. I also would like a clock so I could know what time it was.
- Staff needs counseling to know their job is not to punish our punishment is being there period, there is no need for their belittling.
- It was gladiator school. Not rehabilitation. Youth authority should be centered around restorative justice and trauma informed. And learning about the impact of our crimes. As well educating our youth and helping with employment once were released.
- they need to listen more and help more
I would want juvenile facilities to be more sanitary. I didn't feel comfortable.

More group family visitation where we can spend more time together and eat together and more phone time.

I would change the way young people get access to things. A lot of young people who come from poverty and don't have a support system outside they go crazy trying to get a cup of noodles. This is the root of a lot of conflict and problems inside.

I learned more about drugs and the streets in juvenile halls/camps then I came in knowing. Staff uncaring or unknowing how to work with troubled youth. Placements and group homes only a number with dollars bills attached. I needed to be home with my family not strangers that were only there in JJ halls, placements and group homes to collect a check. What would have helped was a mentor/big brother someone to help guide me. I grew up w/out a male role model.

Yes place cameras all throughout so they can have proof.

Show the kids and teach and give them resources to STAY out of detention.

Close facilities based on 50% drop in population. End youth incarceration and replace with community justice centers.

Just too get more privileges and get more equipment.. soccer tournaments those who deserve it.. Do not get yourself in trouble to end up in a facility away from ur parents... it's not a good experience!

How little the family visits time was and only having one the whole time iwas there

more freedom more programs

Recognizing that the forced separation of children from their loved ones, can create far more and long term traumas for kids, it should be the absolute last resort. The use of powerful mind and mood altering medications that were overused as a response to misbehaviors or the traumas related to forced separation. Medication should be the absolutely last resort, as it promotes chemical dependencies in dealing with lifer stressors.

they need to take the youth out of doors for regular exercise when the weather is good, even those youth in the maximum security units. The outdoor play area has a very high fence around it with barbed wire on top, so it is very secure. This is a big problem at the Alameda County juvenile hall.

I would provide more and better opportunities for youth to reintegrate with parents, I would also bring education to the juvenile regardless of crime, creating pathways to higher education, rebuild the infrastructure of counseling and disciplinary processes,

I would have liked to have been better prepared for life after being in the juvenile hall. More mentors and examples of successful people. Also more college readiness and pathways to higher education.

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?
The following community feedback is based on an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.

**Focus group participants** from Youth Justice Coalition noted:
- “I didn’t have no business going in the first place minor cases.”
- “When you go in you are no longer human”
- Being incarcerated made youth spiral “out of control,” “more crazy,” and any issue they were struggling with worse.
- “Only good thing that came out of juvenile hall was learning how to fight”

**Additional comments** were provided by survey respondents who answered the question, “What else would you want people to know about your experience? Is there anything else you would change about juvenile county facilities that made you angry or sad?” Here are their relevant comments, in their entirety:

- what made me angry is that some staff treated the youth as if they were dumb and felt like they could treat us however they wanted like break the rules and regulations of the facility.
- How we had to be locked up for so long.
- I was held in a holding tank at Compton court because there was a mistake with me being on the agenda. I knew I had no court that day and repeatedly advise the officer that was monitoring the people in the tank. I had been the only person in the tank, sitting there from about 8a-3p. I grew angry that no one had listened to me all day long and yelled at an officer who held me in the chokehold until I blacked out. When I came to, I was confused about what happened. I never touched that officer to choked me so severely. I was angered but never told anyone because I didn’t think they would believe me.
- The hardest part about being locked up was not knowing when I would go home. I didn't understand the court process and it felt like I could be in there forever and I had no control. I felt really scared and hopeless and was suicidal a lot of the time I was in there.
- They also did not allow him to go to church at Central due to gangs but they placed him there
- Being away from my family friends and loved ones
- There was no counseling nor redirecting of the youth from the ills they faced growing up mostly in conditions of property. They had no ways of being introduced for the most part to things outside of their community.
- how long I was in there.
- Food, fairness
• We were just kids that made mistakes.
• there is little offer to help redirect youth, and prepare them for release.
• Being held down and not being able to be with our love ones.
• It was all a waste of life.
• staff being unfair
• The way time gets added on to your time for minor things. Like getting in a fight with another inmate.
• It was frightening at first and then I got used to it. The system makes an individual adapt to these conditions.
• They should be able to see family more often than required and more education
• The bad guards’ behavior often went unchecked.
• Angry
• id revise the entire system implac
• At that time the worst thing was for me to be removed from the community. I was arrested for a non-violent crime ultimately and there was no legitimate reason for me to be taken into custody other than punitive reasoning.

Additional comments were provided by survey respondents who answered the question, “Is there anything the juvenile facility did a good job with?”

Here are the relevant comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:
• Nope
• No
• Maximum security in Indio juvenile was the best facility I been too because they actually care about us and know we might do a lot of time
• They did a good job in making us go to school.
• Teaching me about the real risks of STDs and how to protect myself from getting them.
• No
• Some staff went out the way to make me felt they cared.
• Staff were pretty laid back and did their job but made sure we were reminded they had mace. Also we need to have the lights be able to turn off in our room. We need more uninterrupted sleep and guards keep me up by pacing in front of room and counting us

• no needs lots of work and good people who follow rules but treat kids with respect

• There was good training on culinary arts some trade schools, but it was all out dated.

• Tell me never to go back to the places if you want to see your family frequent basic

• Showing me how to fight

• Caring for others well being

• No

• Yes

• Some staff were cool

• I graduated highschool but felt like i didnt learn much

• locking up youth.

• Food at (camp) and sports availability

• Prepared me into being a better person .

• On the contrary, I learned more criminal networking.

• naaahhhhhhh !!!!!

• no

• following

• The food

• they did a good job of having books out for young people to read. but they could do a better job of having culturally relevant books.

• I can't recall!! Only my mother/ grandmother never giving up on me

• No

• No! Well I learned how to fight and learned how to be alone but then again I had no choice

• Healthy food, good working tv's.

• Recidivism, dehumanization, expansion of violence and intergroup conflict (aka "gang violence and recruitment), recruitment of sex workers, and mental deterioration and illness - both created and increased. They were great on all of that.
• Feeding us 3 times A day :)
• There were some counselors that really cared and made a difference.
• Be nice and prepare for kids with mental Illness
• No
• Over-all the competency and compassion of the majority of the staff in many of the facilities I was at were impactful. The facilities that provided extra curricular programs like film or poetry/creative writing classes.
• Security
• no
• no
• The psychologists who works at Alameda County JJC is excellent (Dr. Himelstein). He is very compassionate and a great therapist and wonderful man. also the priests there are very thoughtful.
• Not that I can remember but I am sure there were good things there.

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

_______ Yes
_______ No
____X____ Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.

5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

As mentioned, above, this feedback was gathered with the assistance of California Endowment grantees who work with formerly incarcerated youth and their families.

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Phone number: (213) 928-8642
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_____ X____ I have an improvement to a specific Title 15 or Title 24 section.

2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topic of access (phone, visitation, and letters) to family and friends. The specific relevant regulations are:

- Title 15: Article 6, Section 1374 (Programs and Activities, Visiting)
- Title 15: Article 6, Section 1376 (Programs and Activities, Telephone Access)
- Title 15: Article 7, Section 1390 (Discipline)

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.
Q21 Did the facility allow your family and friends to visit you in-person when you wanted, and were you able to communicate with your friends and family by phone or mail as much as you wanted?

Answered: 67  Skipped: 10

Yes

No

Q22 If you were a parent when you were locked up, were you able to see your children?

Answered: 67  Skipped: 10

Yes

No

Not a parent
67 survey respondents answered each of the two questions around the ability to maintain connections with family and friends while in county youth facilities.

About half of the respondents to the first question (34, or 50.8%) indicated that they were allowed contact and communication with family and friends, when desired, with the other half of respondents (33, or 49.3%) reporting a lack of access to visits, calls, and correspondence.

Most survey respondents (56, or 83.6%) indicated that they were not parents. Of those respondents who were parents (11, or 16.4%), the majority (6, or 54.5%) reported not having been able to see their children while incarcerated.

Common themes around the topic of family and friends included: restricting visitation to biological parents, no access to telephone, limited opportunities to make phone calls, insufficient time for in-person visits and phone calls, visitation/communication denied as a form punishment, desire to see siblings, access to and duration of phone/visits varied widely. Youth who were parents while incarcerated were not allowed to see their children or pregnant partners. Many youth stated that the limited visitation and telephone access had a negative impact on them.

Several respondents cited violations of current regulations: not allowed to see “... persons standing in loco parentis, at reasonable times” (Section 1374), contact with parent withheld as a form of punishment, “provisions for special visits” not provided. (Section 1374.)

Focus group participants from Youth Justice Coalition noted:

- Undocumented parents do not feel safe visiting their children at county lock-ups, leaving children in facilities that only allow parental visits without any visitors.
- Visitation rights denied as a form of punishment
- None of the participants were offered family crisis support, therapy, or reunification programs.

29 survey respondents submitted comments around access to family and friends. Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:
When I got locked up my girlfriend was pregnant while I was locked up she had our son and I didn't get to see my son

It was a relief family is everything

It was good, not really much to say here.

I was raised my mother and stepfather my entire childhood. My stepfather passed away unexpectedly when I was 9 years old. My mother was suffering with and autoimmune illness and major depression. The facility I was incarcerated at did not allow non-biological relatives to visit with me without going through an application process which took weeks to approve for each visit. For this reason, I only got to see my sister and mother twice. Unfortunately, my mother was already requiring a high level of care and my sister was being cared for by my step grandparents. If they had been allowed to visit me I think they would have been motivated to bring my sister more often.

It was just family. There was a room with a table. I got 4 hours to talk to them. We'd play games and talk.

It was only one day on the weekends, no it wasn't enough time and I wanted more support people to visit me. It was hard to get phone calls in.

My parents were able to come visit (although only one parent would come). I couldn't see siblings and access to the phone was limited.

Calls was few. Only once or twice a week

I was shackled and escorted but I was given a special visit to see my grand mother and aunt on the weekend

It wasn't good because I couldn't see all my family. L

Its sad

Phonecalls were only 2 times a week depending on how the staffs feel but its mandotory for the staffs o give us are phone call but sometimes they didnt want to

i only talked on the phone

By mail you could write as much as you wanted. but by phone was harder. you needed to have money in the system/books and then you were given a 10 min phone call once a week. in-person visits were 3 per week. if you got in trouble they took those rights away from you for at least two weeks. and they would make it harder for you to have respectable visits, because now you didn't get to hug your family, they made you look like an animal by having to see you r family behind a glass window.,

We always had 1 hour but only 40 minutes to talk because of transportation.

Only one call per week to my mother.
• Once I found out I was going to be a father and requested to talk to my PO. He actually did show support and allowed me to visit with my pregnant girlfriend and feel the baby kick. Probably one of the most important events in my life.

• We had no phone calls so we had to just pray our Family would come visit even after I had a baby and went back to camp they did not let our kids in only Mother

• 1/2 hr visit w/only parents NOT siblings

• Families are not seen as resources, are often criminalized during visits and beyond. See prior question on need for families and youth as advocates, establish family resource centers and family councils run by community.

• My family and friends had been locked up all of my life, and I can tell you that it wasn't easy and still isn't easy. My heart is torn every single holiday and every single day, I think about them at least 3 times a day or more if that.

• Only certain days during limited times. We were offered 15-minute calls maybe three times a week.

• it made things harder to deal with

• Being able to consistently have access to communicate with family was very important to keeping a connection with them and by extension with the community. It does not fully address the trauma's related to forced separation, but with an emphasis of creating more access for working parents/siblings it helps to stem some of its negative impacts. For some families that face financial and social challenges, having access of visiting their loved one would go a long way to healing some of those traumas caused by forced separation.

• I didn't get visits

• its fucced up

• No contact, severely secure process for visiting approval process, never received stamps or stationary

• My son was not able to communicate with any friends except by mail. He was able to call me on the phone a few times a week, but often as a reward for doing some extra chores or activities.

• My parents came to see me as much as they could.

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

  _____  Yes
  _____  No
  ___X___  Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.
5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

As mentioned, above, this feedback was gathered with the assistance of California Endowment grantees who work with formerly incarcerated youth and their families.

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_____ X____ I have an improvement to a specific Title 15 or Title 24 section.

2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topic of overall living conditions within county youth facilities. The specific relevant regulations are:

- Title 15: Article 7, Section 1390h (Clean and Sanitary Living Conditions)
- Title 15: Article 12 (Facility Sanitation and Safety)
- Title 24: Section 1230 (Interior Environment)

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.

Common themes around the topic of overall living conditions within county youth facilities included: cold room temperatures prevented youth from sleeping, sweltering room temperatures, filthy and unsanitary environment, persistent smell of urine, mold, roaches, dried nasal mucus ("boogers") on walls.
Several respondents cited pervasive violations of current regulations around youth facility living conditions, such as those described above.

Focus group participants from Youth Justice Coalition noted:

- “You come out [of facility] with fungus on your feet.”
- Due to excessive heat in facilities, one youth “had to pour water on myself to cool myself down”
- Excessively cold temperatures in facilities, many youth noted using their sweaters as sweatpants, to stay warm.
- Cold temperatures in rooms made sleeping difficult.
- Rooms infested with spiders, resulting in spiders crawling on youth.
- Persistent and pervasive smell of urine
- Dried mucus on walls
- Generally filthy, unsanitary conditions.

3 survey respondents submitted comments around living conditions inside youth facilities. Here are the relevant comments submitted by survey respondents:

- Given clothes and bedding that were sometimes soiled or had bed bugs, and fungus ridden community shower slippers.

- Rooms too hot or too cold, rooms dirty, bathrooms filthy. Rating overall F If my home looked like this it would have been ruled unfit for me to return home.

- I also had a good friend locked up that got extremely sick after he was released he was able to go to a good doctor and they told him he had got an infection from breathing all the bad air and toxics

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

_______ Yes
_______ No
____X____ Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.
5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

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2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topic of transitioning out of youth facilities. The specific relevant regulation is:

- Title 15: Article 6, Section 1378 (Social Awareness Program)

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.

**Recommendation** from Youth Justice Coalition focus group participants:

- Have staff assist in youth getting the documents they need to succeed

**Recommendations** from survey respondents;

- I wish there was people that their only job was to help me transfer from the juvenile facility to the outside world like for example school and finding job because I was lost and did not know what to do exactly.
- There were never any life skill classes provided for the youth. That sure would have helped a job.

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?
The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.

Of the 68 survey respondents who answered this question, most (51, or 75%) indicated that they did not receive any help around preparing to leave county youth facilities.

Common themes around the topic of transitioning out of youth facilities included: staff consistently told youth they would return to incarceration, many youth wished that they had had someone assist them with schooling, jobs, and other life preparations. Some youth mentioned positive programs run by non-profits (such as New Roads), which assisted with the transition. Youth felt lack of transition programs contributed to their recidivism.
Several respondents cited violations of current regulations as “programs designed to promote social awareness and reduce recidivism” were not provided (Section 1378).

Focus group participants from Youth Justice Coalition noted:

- 8 of 9 incarcerated youth were told “you will be back"

26 survey respondents submitted comments around transitioning out of youth facilities. Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:

- FFLIC
- No steps
- I wish there was people that their only job was to help me transfer from the juvenile facility to the outside world like fro example school and finding job because I was lost and did not know what to do exactly.
- The school could not even provide me with material which I found challenging and they did nothing to prepare me to renter regular high school. I was lucky to have some family support and an ability to learn new skills quickly.
- All i got was advice
- Made an appointment to meet with an advocate at a school for help with registration but she never showed.
- I was trial as an adult so i went to prison from Youth Authority. Y.A. prepared me for prison.i ended up serving 25 yrs total.
- Not in any instant. I also never got assistance with preparing me for transportation to men's central jail
- Yes I had counselors who followed up with me from a non profit group, new roads who supported me while being inside and outside
- Yes, an after school program called New Roads helped me out. And my counselor Edwin still keeps in touch with me and visits me from time to time.
- my counselour
- Yes, there was an afterschool program that was not run by probation staff or any other county official that really helped, It was a community based organization staff that ran the class which helped me prepare for life after detention.
- I went from JH, to CYA, and then transfered to Chino State Prison and never in any of the tranistions was I offered support for ehen I got out. It was all on me. sinck or awim.
I live with my mom and brother, but they are struggling and do not know how to help me. We have no one.

There were never any life skill classes provided for the youth. That sure would have helped a job. I didn't a Probation officer that I never saw or only when it was time to write a progress report on me. Or bust me for going AWOL or not going to school.

Thrown back out without any support. They knew I would return and said as much.

No we were on our own that's why I kept going back I had no education or job skills I eventually went to prison after from lack of education or basic life skills we had to hold all our emotions in when we had a problem we had no one that cared or even talked to us

No one helped. Their was a resource room but it was only for youth in certain cities, no resources for my son's area.

No they just sent me to a group home, it felt weird going back after so long.

Didn't receive that level of preparation.

new roads helped me with a counselor on the outside

There was absolutely no follow up assistance after being released from detention. I don't know if such procedures or mechanism exist now, but the need and the positive impact of providing follow up assistance for youth creates better outcomes than no assistance.

i was left to fend for myself once again save for the fact i had to start over again and with nothing thanks to the juvenile system

no preparations for re-entry was ever considered

My son was sent to placement for 8 months from juvenile hall. He did participate in the Rites of Passage program for a while.

I was told to not break the law again or I would come back. That was all.

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

_______ Yes
_______ No
___X___ Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.
5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

As mentioned, above, this feedback was gathered with the assistance of California Endowment grantees who work with formerly incarcerated youth and their families.

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_____ X ____ I have an improvement to a specific Title 15 or Title 24 section.

2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topic of activities and programs. The specific relevant regulations are:

- Title 15: Article 6, Section 1371 (Recreation, Programs and Exercise)
- Title 15: Article 6, Section 1378 (Social Awareness Program)

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.

Recommendations from Youth Justice Coalition focus group participants:

- More programs addressing addiction
- Offer communications classes
- Programs rooted in restorative practices/restorative justice
- Additional job-readiness opportunities and career guidance

Common themes among survey respondents around worthwhile programs and activities were requests for programs focused on: writing, self-expression, healing, mentoring, arts, music, tutoring, workforce/career training, sports/working out and culturally relevant programming.

52 survey respondents submitted comments around the activities and programs they would have liked to participate in while not in school. Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:
• Detention facilities need more programs that allow minors to access the feelings and assess their experiences so that they may overcome them in healthy ways.

• Yes like regular work out or able to have options

• Writing programs and the program were they bring in dogs to the youth facilities.

• I would have been provided a space and time to self express my cultural identity in meaningful ways. I would have benefited from more family therapy. I would have benefited from leadership training and workshops intended to increase adaptive coping skills.

• No

• playing basketball.

• I wasn't there long enough but I heard there was a movie night and I liked the gym

• Healing and therapy type programs. Training and rehabilitation workshops.

• no

• I would have like to have access to classes that challenged me more. Not all students are struggling academically, but for those who are not, that does not mean that we should not remain stimulated while incarcerated.

• Be in the outside bunk

• Go outside

• Football mentoring things to make us feel important

• Some additional sports on a regular basis. Prep for driver license in Camp

• Restorative justice, (A.V.P.) alternative to violence program. PTSD, Trauma informed programs. And tutoring. Sports with staff would of been nice. Poetry, writing programs to put our thoughts or feelings on paper.

• Any artistic meditative programs that teach consistently, not classe or activities that come for short periods and then disappear. Consistency builds trust.

• study more

• I would have loved to be able to showcase my poetry at open mic nights or maybe have had us be able to describe our passions and have a moment in the day that was dedicated to researching different avenues to be productive in that field once returned back to the community

• There wasn't any programs

• No

• Play sports with my friend

• More arts. And time to play.
- More sports
- Be with the family
- art technology
- Soccer
- School work
- Workforce program. So that when you get out you have some money.
- LOOK AT THE TOP PARAGRAPH.
- nope
- no
- football
- Sports
- programs that would facilitate community building, that would bring people together and learn about each others stories.
- He was always into music so that would have been a good thi for him and also many other kids too!
- More importance put on pregnancy since I was pregnant at the time, that was not taken as a priority and I was told my child would be taken away.
- sports, art classes, extra help with my math and reading
- Yes culturally rooted programs, critical thinking and life skills offered by formerly incarcerated folks who knew the struggle.
- No
- Yes...gym, handball, boxing, art
- Transform lock ups into youth development centers that prepare and resource youth in education, employment and career, have each lock up co-run by a community based organization, labor union and community college and ensure every youth leaves with housing, employment and education in place.
- Yes, Volleyball, Soccer/Basketball.
- Sports
- mentorship
- Have a more comprehensive and structured curriculum (e.g., GED, high school classes).
- no
There needs to be more emphasis on practical employable skills programs for youth to engage in. The lack of any technology based programs also created a gap between kids that have served their time and their peers in the outside world, this gap creates longterm negative consequences for kids lacking in these skills to reenter the education system or find and keep a job.

- college prep courses
- the above listed
- Yes, to be able to get out of the cell and read in groups, do art, and listen to motivational speakers
- There should have been more outdoor activities. As a matter of fact they never took my son out of doors because he was in the maximum security unit. So he was only allowed to exercise in the gym, or the indoor courtyard. This was not a health practice for a growing teenage boy. Every person needs to be out doors to get sunshine and fresh air to be healthy and happy.
- There was not a ton for teens to do where I lived. What was there for us was created by adults and teens had little interest in doing these things, or -- due to funding or insurance -- programs required so much info from us that we didn't feel comfortable participating

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.
Of the 70 survey respondents who answered this question, the majority (37, or 52.9 %) indicated that they did not participate in worthwhile activities and programs, while in county youth facilities.

When asked what youth did when not in school, common themes included: boredom, sleeping, sports/working out, reading, television, and being locked in their rooms. Programs that youth felt were positive: Inside Out Writers, New Roads, and church or other non-profits that provided programming.

Several respondents cited violations of current regulations around activities and programs: the absence of activities and programs, a failure to “maximize the amount of time youth are out of their rooms” (Section 1371a), and a lack of programs designed to “promote social awareness and reduce recidivism” (Section 1378).

Focus group participants from Youth Justice Coalition noted that time outside of school was difficult as many were not allowed pencils or books.

62 survey respondents also submitted comments around the activities and programs they participated in while not in school. Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:

- On Weekends I called my family and read books and worked out
- Outside wreck they need activities for the youth
regular time outdoors

I was at a camp in a program called "Breakthrough" for majority of the time I spent incarcerated which was structured with daily physical activity. I enjoyed the Family Fling event we had and I enjoyed when we were allowed to pick what music to listen to during free time. I also enjoyed being in a program were a mentor would come visit me once every couple of weeks.

workout or sleep

Reading books

read books in my cell

Reading and religious activities

They locked us up in our rooms.

I participated in an amazing creative writing program called IOW that really helped me channel my feelings and understand who I was as a person. Detention facilities need more programs that allow minors to access the feelings and assess their experiences so that may overcome them in healthy ways.

Sleep

I think we played cards and stuff. I don't remember.

The weekends was a lot of dead time and he found it to be sad

I was in a lot of lockdown situations so sleep was a way of passing time.

N/A

Board games basketball football

We, as IOW creative writing weekly classes in all units in the Sylmar compound, and in Central in all units. Classes are volunteer, self-select for true participation, and have been popular and packed.

regular time outdoors

Weekend's were a relief for I participated in the outside out writers program. We were rarely given outside rec when I was there

We were in our room. We only got like an hour for outside to play sports.

Watch tv and library time

Play sports with my friend

playing sports, games

I was working out.

Sit in our rooms
• Stay in bed, read, or workout
• read books  exercise
• Sports and evening programs provided by non profits that helped me change my life
• Listen to music exercise
• Play sports
• I participated in the New Roads program. The classes helped me out a lot on how to spend my time in camp. Other than that I slept my time away.
• WE HAD A PROGRAM WHEN THESE CHURCH PEOPLE WOULD COME AND PLAY GAMES WITH US EVERY SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.
• watch movies, play outdoor rec, stay in the day room.
• we would go outside sometimes depending how kids behave, we go outside for 30mins or an 1 hour, sat and sunday were the worse days cause if you dont got a visit you stay in your cell for 4 to 5 hours looking at the wall doing nothing
• I was reading books, drawing, or writing music
• Smoke
• Regular time outdoors
• Locked up in room
• I read and wrote on my down time at my bunk. And when the opportunity was available, i would attend programming,
• when not in school most of the time we were working or in our room all day. at night they would brings us out to watch a movie and then we'd go back to our room. programs are super limiting in both CYA and JH outside of school.
• He would work out, he always was in good health.
• Take care of family
• Be in the rooms all day doing nothing but look at the wall.
• Locked in my room most of the time
• some rec, mostly watching tv
• They kept us locked up in our one man room all day
• No programs available, just tv all the time
• Either open "day room" with (sometimes with TV but little else) or cell time - sometimes locked. Overnight almost always locked in. With overcrowding at times, people sleep in plastic "boats" on the floor of day room.

• Work out in a one man cell! Read books!

• Nothing

• Played basketball, art class, therapy, music,

• I spent time with my friends

• My brother would write and draw

• Worked as a trustee, attended Bible studies, played basketball and worked out.

• art program, new roads program

• Their where sports activities, also other extra curricular activities like poetry and creative writing.

• work out

• they had no such programs in my facility

• regular time outdoors

• Stay in the cell listening to the radio without any books or writing materials.

• read books, played chess, played basketball, listened to music, or slept.

• Activism, graffiti

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

______ Yes
______ No
____ X Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.

5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

As mentioned, above, this feedback was gathered with the assistance of California Endowment grantees who work with formerly incarcerated youth and their families.

Mary Lou Fulton, Healthy California Director, The California Endowment
Email address: MFulton@Calendow.org
Phone number: (213) 928-8642
BSCC Regulations Revision Process
Proposed Changes to Title 15 and/or Title 24 Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities
Submitted January 20, 2017 to Ginger Wolfe, ginger.wolfe@bscc.ca.gov

1. Of the juvenile regulations listed in Title 15 and Title 24 (for example, Section 1328. Safety Checks, or Section 1230.1.17. Visiting Space), which regulations would you like to see improved?

_______ I have an improvement but it isn't specifically related to an existing regulation, or I don't know the specific section.

_____ X___ I have an improvement to a specific Title 15 or Title 24 section.

2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topics of discipline and grievance procedures. The specific relevant regulations are:

- Title 15; Article 5, Section 1357 (Use of Force)
- Title 15: Article 5, Section 1359 (Safety Room Procedures)
- Title 15: Article 5, Section 1360 (Searches)
- Title 15: Article 5, Section 1361 (Grievance Procedure)
- Title 15: Article 5, Section 1362 (Reporting of Incidents)
- Title 15: Article 7, Section 1390 (Discipline)

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.

Recommendation from survey respondent:

- YJC fought successfully for locked grievance boxes but complaints still not followed up on. Too few resources with ombudsmen at Probation and not enough authority or independence from the department. There needs to be effective and strong community oversight commissions of Probation that create and control the complaint processes including inspections of the process and follow-up. Hire youth and families who have experienced the system to serve as system advocates/navigators inside.

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?
The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.

**Q24 Did staff ever use pepper spray or other weapons on you or other people around you?**

<table>
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<th>Answer</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>8</td>
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</table>

**Q25 Did staff ever physically or sexually abuse youth?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Q26 Did staff ever leave you or other youth alone in a cell or room for more than 4 hours?

Answered: 66  Skipped: 11

Yes

No

Q27 Did you agree with the way youth were treated when staff felt they were breaking rules?

Answered: 66  Skipped: 11

Yes

No
The survey included 5 questions around discipline and grievance procedures in county youth facilities. Two-thirds (46, or 66.7%) of respondents indicated that staff used pepper spray or other weapons against them or other young people in county youth facilities. About one-third (21, or 30.9%) of respondents reported that staff physically or sexually abused youth.

Three-quarters (49, or 74.2%) of respondents indicated that they or other youth had been left alone in a cell or room for more than 4 hours. Most (54, or 81.2%) of survey respondents did not agree with the way staff disciplined youth. Most survey respondents (56, or 88.9%) said there was not a fair grievance process that included follow-up on complaints.

**Common themes around the topic of discipline and grievance procedures included:** group punishment, use of force as punishment (including chemical agents), ineffective grievance policies, wanton use of force (including chemical agents), retaliation for filing complaints or grievances against staff, no accountability for staff who violated rules. Staff did not report excessive use of force or punishment policy violations committed by other staff. Staff would facilitate or allow violence amongst youth as a form of discipline.

**Several respondents cited violations of current regulations including:** group punishment, group searches that did not “maintain the privacy and dignity” of youth (ARTICLE 5. Section 1360), insufficient grievance policy, corporal punishment (including chemical agents), safety rooms used as a form of
punishment and “substitute for treatment” (Section 1359), youth put in safety rooms without access to toilet, clothing.

Focus group participants from Youth Justice Coalition noted:

- Staff routinely administered group punishment
- Staff used solitary confinement as punishment, one youth noted they would “send you to the hole for having a pencil, for trying to write a letter to your folks”
- The staff relied on use of force as punishment, and would “beat some sense right into you.”
- Wanton use of chemical agents
- Staff used violence to solve problems, and most injuries resulting from fights were caused by staff.

30 survey respondents submitted comments around discipline and grievance procedures. Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:

- Djj Fire camp you get threatened to get rolled out if you try to write a greivence

- I did see staff physically abuse youth, but it was more in a excessive force type of sense.

- The entire system seemed to be set up to ensure any rights violations were being covered up. I think good people were often motivated to cover up bad decisions because of the fear they could lose their job. On one night after being left alone in a cell with two people I had never met there was an argument which I was not involved in. When the staff finally intervened they accused me of starting the entire argument. I did not speak Spanish and the two young women arguing in the cell had been only communicating in Spanish so I actually did not understand any portion of their argument. Despite communicating all of this to the staff member I was disciplined and forced to move into a new cell in the middle of the night.

- I saw one staff member bite a kid in the arm.

- When there is a fight everyone needs to go into their room and then stay there all day so more fights don't break out

- I think protocol was followed by most staff, but it was always manipulated in some form. Staff would find some way to "beat the system."

- We did a lot of PT or were confined to the unto for discipline. Looking back now as an adult, one of the most traumatic parts of being incarcerated as a youth was being routinely strip searched, especially if something was missing such as a pencil after school or an eating utensil after a meal. We would be strip searched in groups every 2 hours or so until the item was found, usually due to a counting mistake.

- My son was pepper sprayed at Central and the staff did it while he was already restricted and told him prior to incident that she could do it again as a result he now where glasses. I was also told that my son got slammed by staff and another kid got his toes broke by staff at Camp. But my son is still there and is affair of retaliation
• I was maced often and staff in Preston would set up fights so things would not escalate. It worked but we used it as a way to fight. I was in Tamarack lockup and in a night owl program. Lockup all day and let out during 1st watch.

• Well I can recall one day one of the staff at sylmar was having a bad day and she got in my face told me fuck my dead mother and attempted to punch me because I called her a dumb black hoe. I was then sprayed and grabbed by other staff after the incident was already defused.

• Yes, there was a complaint process, but there wasn't any follow up. I think the grievance system is poorly executed

• ive never got disline i always ran my program

• if you misbehave or get kicked out of class you cant go out you stay in your cell for the rest of the day

• i never got disciplined

• Anyone who ever complained about the treatment or conditions of the institution wherever i was, it seemed the standard to deal with people who complained was to intimidate and retaliate against those who reported any wrong doings. There was a system in place to report abuse, but it was nothing that ever lead to any accountability. There were grievance forms that either ended up in the trash or shredded.

• seperating youngstas in solitary was an every day thing. they did that to get a reaction out of the youth. that way they could have a reason to put them in more trouble. I would hear all the time staff talking about they could not wait to use pepper spray when the next conflict broke out. they enjoyed using force.

• I went to the halls at a young age not too street smart.. I came out with a lot more anger at the system due to mistreatment of the youth. Pepper spray used just for their amusement cussing at us all the time. Provocating fights between youth some bringing the drugs that parents were accused of smuggling in to the facilities.

• Had at the time some body builders (we suspected they used steroids) and when they had the chance they slammed us, and I mean picking us up off the ground and violently slamming us to the cement.

• They would beat us up when we fought or acted up we couldn't even be teenagers we had to act like adults at 12 years old

• Solitary confinement or staff dragged their feet

• See above.

• I complained about not having a haircut for 7months and never got one

• A few staff were bullies, even criminalistic, when dealing with kids, often rising to the level of physical abuse.

• the staff did what they wanted. we really didnt have no say
• A complaint process that was not independent of what or who you are complaining about is not a process, but a sure way of receiving retribution for any complaints. There were definitely more good staff, rather than bad staff members, but the fact that bad staffs exist and persisted was a testament to the good being unable to or unwilling to discipline their peers and coworkers.

• I had no real disciplinary experiences in juvenile hall

• there is hardly diciplinary actions for those whom impose harm or crime on us

• No due process was taught or exposed for juveniles, no handbooks or rules posted,

• Not sure if any of the youth were left in a room for more than 4 hours. My son get pepper sprayed once because he got into a fight and they had to break it up. His eyes were burning badly after that and he showered. However he also has some asthma and this caused him to have an asthma attack soon after being pepper sprayed.

• The questions I left blank are because I am not sure. But would be surprised if the answer was NO to any of the questions I left blank.

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

_______ Yes
_______ No
___X___ Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.

5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

As mentioned, above, this feedback was gathered with the assistance of California Endowment grantees who work with formerly incarcerated youth and their families.

Mary Lou Fulton, Healthy California Director, The California Endowment
Email address: MFulton@Calendow.org
Phone number: (213) 928-8642
1. Of the juvenile regulations listed in Title 15 and Title 24 (for example, Section 1328. Safety Checks, or Section 1230.1.17. Visiting Space), which regulations would you like to see improved?

_______ I have an improvement but it isn't specifically related to an existing regulation, or I don't know the specific section.

____X____ I have an improvement to a specific Title 15 or Title 24 section.

2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topic of education. The specific relevant regulations are:

- Title 15: Article 3 (Training, Personnel, and Management)
- Title 15: Article 6, Section 1370 (Education Program)

**Recommendations** from Youth Justice Coalition focus group participants:

- Culturally relevant courses - access to young people’s roots, history, culture
- Career guidance and job training
- Restorative Justice programs

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.
Q9 Did you regularly attend school?
Answered: 71   Skipped: 6

Q10 Did you feel you were learning?
Answered: 68   Skipped: 9
71 respondents answered the first education question, and 68 answered the subsequent two questions.

While 73.2% of survey respondents indicated that they regularly attended school, more than two-thirds (67.7%) of respondents reported that they did not feel they were learning, and a majority (52.9%) were kicked out or not allowed to go to school.

Common themes around the topic of education included: teachers who did not teach (overreliance on packets and worksheets), content that was not challenging and universal regardless of education level, and schooling being arbitrarily denied. For many students, once they completed a course, credits, or GRE, no further educational opportunities were provided.

Several respondents cited violations of current regulations including: not meeting needs of students with learning disabilities, frequent and arbitrary suspensions, group punishment, not enrolling students within 3 school days, transcripts not obtained.

Focus group participants from Youth Justice Coalition noted:

- People would choose not to go to school – staff would just let them
- “Staff just give you packets, they don’t really try and help you, just say ‘figure it out’. I told [the teacher] straight up, ‘I don’t know how to read,’ and she looked at me like I was stupid. I [went to another staff person and said] ‘I need some help with this - I don’t know how to read, I don’t know how to do this stuff,’ and was told ‘don’t worry about it. Don’t do nothing.’
• The teachers are not there to help you. There is not really much of a point to put in effort.
• Everyone gets the same packet, regardless of education level.
• The teachers do not check the work. They just want you to look busy.
• There is nothing for you if you have graduated - no college classes.
• Students were pepper sprayed in class, and threatened with pepper spray for standing up and stretching while in class.

45 survey respondents also submitted comments around education in county youth facilities. Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:

• I went to school everyday I enjoyed school very much I also got my GED while I was in there
• Some teachers don't teach they just hand you the book and you do the rest
• I was verbally assaulted by another student who was not receiving the mental health services she needed. I responded by making some inappropriate remarks to the student verbally assaulting me. I was suspended from school for remainder of day and entire next day. I was told I had to sit in chair in center of unit for the full day before the suspension would be lifted. I completed the punishment and was allowed back in school.
• We had a history and english class. English was reading a book and being able to summarize it.
• If you talked the slightest bit you got sent out and it seemed like the teacher didn't really care
• The teachers don't teach us things we should know
• I reached my credit limit, and earned my GED. So, I would have to stay in my room and spend my time unproductively for hours at a time.
• It was totally remedial work and there was no pressure to get anything done. We got credits for every day we were there, not the work we did
• Teachers don't care
• He had a fight in class with another gang which he did not get alone with and he was send to the box, however the other kid was not punished and it was a mutual fight
• We had to teach ourselves or cheat to get credits. The instructors were not equipped to help us.
• I have a friend that was in jail and he went to school everyday just to give him something to do. If the teacher would get upset with him, they would not allow him to attend class.
• Only as an observer of LACOE teaching methods and lack of engagement, it makes sense to me that the students are disinterested, bored, and rowdy. Many get tossed out for discipline issues. There must be a way for teachers to connect with their class teaching interesting in learning
Well first I was forced to go to school in subjects that I had already passed because my transcript were not found. Then once they were and I was found to have already passed I was locked down and told that there was no further educational path for me here.

The education experience wasn't that good. Teachers not putting enough effort to teach us.

It wasn't challenging

but instructor thought I was messing around and kick me out of class

Kept teaching the same subject as I was pass to geoamtry with still learning the same.

Decent

Teachers in rare cases were extremely helpful and wanted to help us pursue an education.

You get kicked out for the most pettiest things. Lets say, were not suppose to be talking. Okay I understand were not suppose to be talking but i was asking for help. What do you mean i have to leave now?

I NEVER ATTENDED THE SCHOOLS IN MY JUVENILLE FACILITY.

they just give you book work, you are allowed to get up and do an example.

the classes were easy the teacher didnt care if u copy someone, didnt teach nothing, some teachers did tho

i enjoyed the school in there it was fun and educational

the material that was covered in school was so low standard that we could prposely write in the wrong answers on the assignments and still get credit for the day. There material did not challenge thought, improve skills, or assist anyone with the basics of education.

CYA there are more vocation programs, in JH it's not regulated right. Your either going to go in there and bullshit or get in a fight. they just engage you enough to get you through the day, but there not going to teach you no history or things to get you learning on a higher level. A lot of teachers have a negative outlook on young folks locked up and are not engaging so they often kick students out of class for disengaging.

He didn't have any good educational school while we had in juvenile hall.

I was a frishmen and they were trying to give 11 grade work and work that I didn't understand and couldn't been explained to me by the teacher, she said find it how ever and she when back to her book

Poor!!! I was in special ed. prior to coming to school at JJ hall. My mother was never informed about an over due IEP.

teachers were ill equipped to manage a class of traumatized and angry young men.

It was a joke I still struggle to this day from the Mack of education I receive from there so call schools
• Wasn't there long enough to attend school (3 weeks)

• But I saw and continue to see many excluded from school. We are working on protections against school push out, transformative justice and PBIS for lock-ups in much the same way it exists in community districts. Lack of access to library and ability to take writing materials and books into cells is extreme. Worst part of lock-up to endure for me and many was the boredom and inability to read and write with all the time. Made me crazy quickly - within hours my mind would unravel.

• We would go too school on time. I had to Pay so much focus too learn, because other juveniles were being disruptive towards the teacher.

• IF WE GET INTROUBLE ITS NOT FAIR THAT THEY TAKE OUR SCHOOL FROM US. NEVER SHOULD TAKE OUR EDUCATION AWAY

• I learned a lot but I fell behind because there wasn't a world language class

• I had a great experience and learned a lot, but I was driven to do so.

• they were alright they took time to help me learn

• In many of the facilities the turn over rate was high, so a curriculum that was able to maximize the learning experiences of a large portion of kids was often lacking and not responsive to our needs. The lack of responsiveness creates an environment where kids are often just graded by attendance.

• Not very interactive. More of the packet model learning.

• the school was a joke and my teacher was promiscuous

• Due to staff not being able to control the juveniles wee were typically locked down on a normal basis being hindered from going to school

• NOT sure what it was like for my son, but he did say that school was very easy and some of the kids interrupted the teachers, so they couldn't teach.

• I did not attend school while incarcerated

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

_______ Yes
_______ No
____ X___ Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.
5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

As mentioned, above, this feedback was gathered with the assistance of California Endowment grantees who work with formerly incarcerated youth and their families.

Mary Lou Fulton, Healthy California Director, The California Endowment
Email address: MFulton@Calendow.org
Phone number: (213) 928-8642
1. Of the juvenile regulations listed in Title 15 and Title 24 (for example, Section 1328. Safety Checks, or Section 1230.1.17. Visiting Space), which regulations would you like to see improved?

_______ I have an improvement but it isn't specifically related to an existing regulation, or I don't know the specific section.

_____ X _____ I have an improvement to a specific Title 15 or Title 24 section.

2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topic of food. The specific relevant regulation is:

- Title 15: Article 7, Section 1390c (Full Nutrition)

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.
Of the 72 survey respondents who answered this question, 44 (or 61.1%) indicated that they did not receive enough healthy, good-quality food to eat while in county youth facilities.

**Common themes around the topic of food included:** off-putting food of poor quality, insufficient portions (especially for growing children), lots of carbohydrates and few fruits and vegetables, and no vegetarian options. Many youth noted that the food in camps was superior to that of the juvenile halls. Several respondents were provided expired, stale, and/or moldy food.

**Several respondents cited violations of current regulations including:** not meeting daily caloric requirements, and food that did not consider the ethnic makeup of the facility (e.g. no food for lactose intolerance).

Nearly two-thirds (47, or 65.3%) of the **72 people who responded to this survey question also submitted comments** around food in county youth facilities. Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:

- The food was not good quality one time they had a meal and I got sick but they wouldn't let me see a nurse
- We need more food In the juvenile halls and djj facilities they need to eat like the people in fire camps were all human.
- The food was basic and not really good quality.
I gained over 20 lbs. and came out weighing 135 lbs. which is the most I have ever weighed in my life. I am only 5'2. I observed most meals to be high in carbohydrates and starch.

No. It was always a small portion and wasn't cooked all the way.

We had food everyday but it was not good quality, it was like frozen processed food like a tv tray dinner.

The food was sometimes good but the eggs never had flavor.

The food was healthy enough. Perhaps, the quality was a good enough to be "jail food."

Sometimes it was good food, however on weekends they get sandwich and for Xmas dinner It was very depressing for my son to get a sandwich.

My family members say the food is nasty but they do eat.

Teenagers are notoriously hungry and I think they don't always get enough to eat and the food is inferior quality.

Yes the food was good at some days yet the portions were insufficiently proportional. The amount was inadequate for most of us.

I didn't know what I was eating half of the time.

No I didn't get any vegetable only OPP I got was bread and water it in futures about healthy food even though nutrition at all.

I was hungry at time and nothing to eat.

Not enough food

I didn't really eat much it wasn't good at all.

- awful tasting - not fit for the proper development of a young man.

My first half of my time at a juvenile hall, the food was not healthy or good tasting. You end up getting used to it and it's no problem after all. In reality, dessert was the only delicious part of the meal. My second half at a probation camp was much healthier and I could almost watch my food get cooked.

No bkuz I was locatose in tolerance.

When I was in the juvenile facilities the food was really bad. I only ate because I was starving. However, in camp, the food was great! #Flight

FOOD IS FOOD, APPRECIATE WHAT YOU GOT WHILE YOU GOT IT.

sometimes the food was cold and nasty didn't really have a flavor to it but ones your in there you have to get use to it, cause you gotta eat something, and if they want they don't feed you nothing.

yes i enjoyed the hot plates

the food was shit
It's hard to explain the quality of the food, you kind of have to be there to see it. But, i can say this. the milk they would give us would be days away from expiring. The bread was always stale, and the food always seemed old. It almost looked unnatural at times.

the food was good enough to get you through the day. Fruits were mainly during lunch like a banana or apple.

From my understanding the food was not good, and most of the time the bread they got was and had mold.

No, when we would have lunch and dinner they wouldn't give out lof of bead we get everyday and that's out porten 2 beads

Food looked like dog food at times. Needed to ask for a medical slip so that I could get extra food to fatten me up. I was very skinny for my height (underweight)

Food was terrible, gained excessive weight during the time

It was ok but not the best

Food was good but he didn't get enough

Portions too small with often severe weight loss for young men and starch filled so as to cause weight gain for young women. Expired products are not uncommon. Juvenile halls, food is often covered in saran wrap and contains irradiated meat. I was locked up in juvenile facilities throughout the 90s but regularly visit now and organize with youth and parents and problems persist. Food in camps is better than at halls.

It wasn't good at all

Sometimes we would get something that other incarcerated juveniles were allergic too!

WAS NASTY

Sometimes it was nasty and not enough

A lot of soy product which was not even appetizing

Fruits and vegetables were sparse, and there was plenty of starchy, sweet and fatty foods.

For us to have been locked up the food was okay

i wanted better quality food or more options not the same thing

The portions could be challenging for kids that are more active, but over-all, no one would starve. The health and quality of foods is fair, you could see their is great care in meeting the minimum Federally set standards.

the food was trash....... and the portians were meager

We received lots of donated carbs from local businesses, and received very small portions throughout spread out 3x a day.
• Portions were too small for a growing teenage boy. He was often hungry even after a meal and had to ask for snacks in between meals.

• I became a vegetarian at age 13. While detained at SF YGC I was given bologna sandwiches daily and told that if I didn't want it, I could starve.

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

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If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.

5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

As mentioned, above, this feedback was gathered with the assistance of California Endowment grantees who work with formerly incarcerated youth and their families.

Mary Lou Fulton, Healthy California Director, The California Endowment
Email address: MFulton@Calendow.org
Phone number: (213) 928-8642
1. Of the juvenile regulations listed in Title 15 and Title 24 (for example, Section 1328. Safety Checks, or Section 1230.1.17. Visiting Space), which regulations would you like to see improved?

_______ I have an improvement but it isn't specifically related to an existing regulation, or I don't know the specific section.

_____ X _____ I have an improvement to a specific Title 15 or Title 24 section.

2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topic of hygiene. The specific relevant regulations are:

- Title 15: Article 7, Section 1390b (Daily Shower, Access to Drinking Fountain, Toilet and Personal Hygiene Items, and Clean Clothing)
- Title 15: Article 10 (Clothing and Personal Hygiene)
- Title 15: Article 11 (Standard Bedding and Linen Issue)
- Title 24: Section 1230 (Interior Environment)

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.
Of the 72 survey respondents who answered this question, nearly two-thirds (46, or 63.9%) indicated that they did not have what they needed to feel clean, while in a county youth facility.

**Common themes around the topic of hygiene included:** showers (access to, length of, and frequency), adequate personal care products (specifically for African American youth and youth with skin conditions), and inadequate bedding (thin blankets and mattresses).

**Several respondents cited violations of current regulations.** Youth noted not being able to shower daily or showering with cold water, no access to razors and being forced to share razors without any disinfection, not being able to brush teeth after each meal, and being forced to wear stained underwear and sleep in soiled bedding.

**Focus group participants** from Youth Justice Coalition noted:

- Shoes youth were given were too small, did not fit.
- Youth had to use their sweater as sweatpants, just to stay warm.
- Underwear and bedding provided were stained and unsanitary.
49 of the 72 people who responded to this survey question (69.4%) also submitted comments around hygiene. Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:

- No, I was only given 5 minutes to shower. They didn't let me shave what i wanted to shave and they only gave me 5 minutes to. We had to use the same soap we washed our hand with for our body and hair. The deodorant would make you musty.

- Most of the items listed above were provided. As a female, I felt disposable underwear and feminine product's accessibility were limited.

- I don't think anything in the facility was very clean. The underwear looked disgusting. I worked in the laundry facility at one point and the practice was to jam the washer as full as possible, turn the water on, and then once the clothes/sheets were wet to push them down and jam more stuff in. Then we would put like half a cup of crappy powdered detergent in.

- My son told me they don't change their bedding or clothes. He has the same dirty sweater on and jacket. The clothes change but not the bedding, jackets or sweaters that they provider. As for showers and tooth brush time it is long enough he stated.

- The mattresses were torn and stained. Blankets had hair and filthy. Everything else hygiene was provided by family and canteen.

- I was never locked up, but I have family member who are in jail.

- Sometimes when not enough beds, kids sleep in day room in "sleepers". Blankets thin & scratchy.mattresses and pillows, thin, flat. Shores often cold and not long enough. I have no information on hygiene but the multiuse paper towels are rough.

- My Mattress was always torn and missing the covers I also had to usually piss in a towel because staff would not come to open our doors when we needed or called. Showers were also a hassle for if anyone had an incident in any capacity showers were canceled.

- I had aczma I didn't get lotion. Not enough time in the shower.

- It was nasty everyone had like a fatty faction I wish they had better's bed in the bathroom was dirty I believe Julie was a horrible place I learn my lesson I've never never go back.

- Everything was uncomfortable. Felt like I was sleeping on cement. Than they made a privilege having double mattress.

- Very Basic

- The soap gave me allergy

- - waited days before receiving hygiene products and basic needs products

- Mattresses we're left without stuffing inside and made it difficult to sleep. Showers were often cold and towels were never helpful because they were short and ripped. You would have to be lucky in order to recieve a towel in good condition. Toothpaste was very unbenefficial. Products did not work effectively, including lotion and shampoo.
County items did not make me feel clean. I used personals that my mother brought me. Everyone complained about the county products.

WE WERENT ALLOWED TO USE RAZORS BECAUSE SOME GIRL TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE. OTHER THEN THAT YES.

you take 2 showers a day morning and night , you have 5mins to shower thats clearly not enough time , they give you tooth paste and tooth brush every morning ,

yes i was always clean kept my room clean and body clean

they would let us brush our teeth every 2 days

It was uncomfortable and I didn't feel clean.

I have never been locked but the people I know who have complain about not having supplies consistently.

At the probation camps, the only time we received adequate bedding (mattresses, pillows, blankets) was when the Department of Justice visited the institution. They would also make sure everyone had presentable clothing to show the DOJ officials that we were being taken care of. The week of the visit, staff would go around the facility checking for mattresses that were not in good condition. In regards to the clothing, it was deplorable and the distribution methods for the clothing was just unbelievable. The underwear were stained, the shirts had holes, and the socks were always torn. Again, the only time we ever had decent clothing was when government officials were visiting the facilities. And when we asked for better clothing, the staff would say things like "this is what happens when you come t jail" or "if you want to wear better clothes, dont come here".

In JH all the hygien products are locked outside, not in our room so we do not have access to it. Basically in Juvenile hall they have things for you, in CYA you have to buy it yourself then you could keep it in your room. Quality in JH was all bad, lot's of people complained about it. Many of my cell mates would get rashes, and would not give them them other option to use on their skin. so you either user it or you get nothing.

My cousin didn't get good blankets, clothes, long showers.

terrible cheap hygiene products, Kids broke out w/rash lot of the times. Mattress/sleeping pad about four inches thick, cot too small for my 6 foot 1 inch stature thin blankets, rooms too hot or to cold rooms dirty, bathrooms filthy. Rating overall F If My home looked like this it would have been ruled unfit for me to return home.

Often basic hygiene lacking, at times slammed/segregated and showers are restricted

We did not have access to any of these only soap and they made us stand in line and use the same razor one after another if we didn't they would send us to the hole

It was dirty, walls were filthy and they didn't let my son shower, he had to keep asking staff.

Hygiene products continue to be insufficient and so poor in quality as to cause rashes, break-outs, dry skin and especially for African Americans - hair breakage and loss.

Yes, only if you asked the Probation Officer!

THEY NEED BETTER SUPPLIES
- The pillow connected to the mattress was too small and hurt my neck. The mattress was too thin and blankets weren't thick enough. Way too cold.

- IN some places we were only allowed to shower every other day

- My bother was locked up and no he didn't , I also had a good friend locked up that got extremely sick after he was released he was able to go to a good doctor and they told him he had got an infection from breathing all the bad air and toxics

- Generally, yes. However, showers were three minutes, about the same for brushing teeth (while having to share the sink with ten other kids), given clothes and bedding that were sometimes soiled or had bed bugs, and fungus ridden community shower slippers.

- Of course they gave us the basic needs but as far as time in the shower we would get about 2-3 minutes in cold water

- stuff i needed i got

- Often the mattresses and pillows where thin and in ill repair, causing sleep deprivation and other physical complications. Having to sleep on the floor with such a mattress and pillow was often challenging.

- no the treatment towards me was garbage

- I did not receive all of the nessecary products to ensure that I felt good about my personal hygiene. We would never get deodorant, which was important at a time, going through puberty.

- I believe my son had all clean clothes and products in juvenile hall.

- Was only able to access showers every other day

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

   _____ Yes
   _____ No
   ___X___ Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.

5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

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2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topic of medical care. The specific relevant regulations are:

- Title 15, Article 5, Section 1356 (Classification and Segregation, Counseling and Casework)
- Title 15: Article 8 (Responsibility for Health Care Services)

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.

**Recommendations** from Youth Justice Coalition focus group participants:

- More therapists
- More programs on addiction, help youth get to the root of their problems
- One-on-one counseling

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.
Of the 69 survey respondents who answered this question, the majority (42, or 60.9 %) reported that they were able to see health care staff and access treatment and medications, while in county youth facilities.

**Common themes around the topic of medical care included:** denied and/or delayed care, prescribing medication youth felt was unnecessary (specifically for mental health issues), misdiagnosing mental health conditions, and no addiction treatment or mental health support. Access to healthcare varied amongst respondents.

**Several respondents cited violations of current regulations around medical care including:** dental care being limited to extractions, a lack of 24-hour care, little to know privacy/confidentiality, requiring written requests for health services, staff not confirming that youth have swallowed their prescribed medication, and failure of staff to “advocate for the youth when the need for service appears to be urgent.” (Title 15: Article 8, Section 1433b)

**Focus group participants** from Youth Justice Coalition noted:
- The staff force medications on youth, diagnose and medicate for conditions they don’t have (schizophrenia, insomnia, etc.)
Two-thirds said they were under the influence when they went into the facility.
None of the participants were offered drug or alcohol treatment programs at any time during incarceration.
The only way to get counseling was to say you were going to kill yourself.
“The only time we saw medical staff was when we had a riot.”
If youth said they were suicidal, they would be put in solitary.
Youth suffering from serious psychiatric episodes were not seen by psychiatrists.
Staff shackled youth on the way to treatment, creating more damage and making youth feel like there was “no treatment”.
In one instance, staff thought child was faking asthma attack while in solitary, refused medical attention, resulting in child “turning purple” and not being able to breathe.

33 survey respondents submitted comments around medical care. Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:

- The food was not good quality one time they had a meal and I got sick but they wouldn't let me see a nurse
- I had aczma I didn't get lotion.
- In juvenile hall and djj yes but fire camp they provided no good medication just ibripofin and water
- This is a yes and no situation because sometimes they would let me go and sometimes not.
- Anytime I needed anything I had to put my request through a chain of command system which was intended to help me learn delayed gratification. This system unintentionally served to communicate my physical needs were not worthy of being met. This experience served to damage my capacity for self worth. I was denied medication for a skin condition for weeks, I was often denied Tylenol for menstrual cramps until an hour after I requested it for severe pain. I was placed in a difficult living environment at the age of 14 which left me screaming in agony for up to one hour in a co-ed unit which was also humiliating.
- No, let's say if it was nighttime you had to wait until the morning.
- I went the checked on my ears when I felt sick.
- The only person I spoke to was my attorney
- I got more checked up than i expected
- I was able to get these things, but I felt that the doctor was really quick to prescribe medication when some of my issues could have been resolved without it. I was diagnosed as a manic depressant for the first time. I was given medication that exacerbated some of the psychological issues I was experiencing.
- We had to be strip searched when we came back from the nurses office, just like every other time we left the unit
When we went to see the psych the counselors were in ear shot so nothing was confidential and didn't feel comfortable talking. They always wanted to put me on meds but didn't explain the details so i felt they were trying to just medicate me.

Everyone I know who is incarcerated have received proper medical attention.

I didn't even know there was a psych there I was looking at two life sentences and never saw anyone. I would think a minor looking at such a long time would have the resources needed to help his mental capacity

Not when i needed

Yes but it took a little bit longer than what i thought

It would vary, depending on how badly you need it

you would just fill out or tell your board counsellor

yeah but yo have to wait a day for the doctor to see you

If you needed services, to see someone, or get something checked out, you needed to submit a written request, and it depended on how long the person initially receiving the request took to submit that request to the right people. The request usually took between 3 days to a week, it was case by case. so services are NOT accessible when one most needed them.

This other time he was locked up he got in a fight and broke his wrist, he did get a cast. But they gave him a pink cast.

Only doctor once but everything else no

Although I should had therapy, regular on going therapy was not provided.

received a physical exam when being processed but that was it

When we had a tooth ache they would only pull our tooth or tell us to live with the pain till we get out so we had no choice I'm missing 10 teeth from them pulling them out

Nurse lined up to give meds and a small amount of vaseline on napkin for skin and lips. Many people cheek their meds to save up to get high, to trade and occasionally to attempt overdose.

I would have to fill out an appointment form too see the doctor/Nurse.

I was, but as a trustee, I had more privileges than most.

didnt know i suffered from anxiety

This aspect of Juvenile facilities were to responsive. Over medicating kids or misdiagnosing kids that were finding it difficult and traumatic to be separated from their families often was the consequence of convenance, for staff and facility rather than the welfare of the youth in their charge. Medication should not be the first response. Therapists and counselors have far better training in these matters that do not leave far-reaching negative consequences.
• No need for any of these services

• it would be hours before i would reach the hospital, dying or not

• That didn't exist at my high school. If you "acted up" you were punished. That was the only way to get attention from admin

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

_______ Yes
_______ No
___X___ Not sure

If YES, please specify potential operational impact(s), cost or savings.

5. What relevant personal or professional experience can you provide that suggests this revision would improve juvenile facilities? (optional)

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2. Please identify the subject area in which you would like to see improvement and list any recommendations. Be as specific as possible.

Improvements are needed around the topic of staff. The specific relevant regulation is:

- Title 15: Article 3, Section 1320 (Training, Personnel, and Management, Appointment and Qualifications)

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.

**Recommendations** from Youth Justice Coalition focus group participants:

- more caring and uplifting staff
- replace law enforcement staff with social workers and staff from community organizations
- have staff trained in de-escalation tactics, so they stop solving everything with violence

**Recommendation** from survey respondent:

- There needs to be effective and strong community oversight commissions of Probation that create and control the complaint processes including inspections of the process and follow-up. Hire youth and families who have experienced the system to serve as system advocates/navigators inside.

3. Please describe the rationale for your recommendation and provide any data or evidence (optional). Why is this revision necessary? How will it improve conditions in juvenile facilities? What problem(s) will it solve?

The following community feedback is based on two sources: an online survey of 77 youth and family members who have direct experience with county juvenile facilities, and a focus group of 9 youth also with direct experience.
Q18 Did you feel any of the adults in the juvenile facility cared about you?

Answered: 68  Skipped: 0

- Yes
- No

Q19 If you had a problem with a staff person or another youth, was there someone you could talk to about it or report it to?

Answered: 69  Skipped: 8

- Yes
- No

68 survey respondents answered the first question question around staff and 69 answered the subsequent question.
The majority of survey respondents (37, or 54.4%) reported not feeling that any adults at county youth facilities cared about them. Similarly, nearly 60% of (41) survey respondents indicated not having had anyone they could go to about problems with staff or peers.

**Common themes around the topic of staff included:** uncaring staff, youth being treated differently because of their charges, staff breaking confidentiality, staff instigating and provoking fights, and an ineffective complaint process - including fear of retaliation for filing complaints against other youth or staff. Some respondents noted positive connections with a few staff.

**Several respondents cited violations of current regulations:** staff lacked the “knowledge, skills, and abilities, appropriate to their job classification and duties” (Title 15: Article 3, Section 1320b1)

**Focus group participants** from Youth Justice Coalition noted:
- 8 of 9 youth were told by staff “you are going to come back”
- 9 of 9 youth saw youth assaulted by staff.
- Staff treated youth differently based on their charges.
- Staff provoked youth (pushing and taunting youth), to initiate corporal punishment
- Staff punched kids to break up fights - most of the injuries youth sustained were from guards
- Staff feedback was mostly negative, nothing positive or uplifting.
- “It’s all punishment - not rehabilitation.”

**32 survey respondents submitted comments around staff.** Here are the comments submitted by survey respondents, in their entirety:
- They had 2 deputies I felt cared about my needs . Deputy Picard, and Deputy Baptist
- Djj Fire camp is corrupt
- There was someone I could report it to, but I did not want to be a snitch and be treated differently.
- I perceived some adults as really caring however I knew the adults with the most power were going to be loyal to the culture of blaming and punishing youth so I did not see them as my allies.
- There were a couple of adults I felt that cared.
- Yes they explained a grievance policy to us
- The staff would tell your business to the other detained people
- Yes and No to both of these questions. Like all places, there are good and bad people. In this places, there are more "bad" staff than good. Most of the staff judge you by your charge and treat you with little respect. Some staff claim not to "like" a juvenile and instigate conflict between them
and other juveniles. In cases like these, instead of coming to your aid, they will let your enemy assault you, sometimes setting up the assault and making themselves conveniently unavailable at the time of the assault.

- But the one time I did report something, I was just isolated in a room
- Staff seemed very rude and uncaring about the kids. They just had set rules not trying to get to root of problems
- There was a staff or two that was friendly, but it was in secret not in the open. If we complained about staff it would leak out and they would call us rats, or snitches so we kept quiet.
- I have heard complaints about the adults being rude or not understanding. Desensitized.
- Yea most of the staff was receptive to my concerns after I continued to make them aplarent. I did however in some instances have to refuse lock ups and stop programs to get that voice heard
- It just dont work that way inside
- most were caring but one or two of them were dismissive and not helpful
- If I told anyone about any of those issues, they would laugh about it and tell the other minors.
- yes talk to another staff and tell them whats wrong
- Out of 100 probation officers that i encountered during my time on juvenile probation, only 3 of them were people who actually cared about the people who they were in charge of supervising, One of those staff was fired for caring too much about us "detainees".That says everything about the way the system operates.
- however, it's tricky because you have to write a letter and submit it to the "box" and you have to wait till someone comes opens the box and get that letter a take a look at it, and there's no telling how long it will take for them to get back to you. so it would be better if there was an adult on hand that could address things as they come up.
- He wouldn't report anything, he would just try to fight them.
- Only my mother /grandmother.
- They would line us up every morning and ask us if we had gang enemies here if we did they would make us fight so we don't fight later on our own
- Staff was distant
- YJC fought successfully for locked grievance boxes but complaints still not followed up on. Too few resources with ombudsmen at Probation and not enough authority or independence from the department. There needs to be effective and strong community oversight commissions of Probation that create and control the complaint processes including inspections of the process and follow-up. Hire youth and families who have experienced the system to serve as system advocates/navigators inside.
- The officers want the juvenile's too fight so they can either pepper spray you or physically control you.
- I had a great rapport with most staff.
- no snitching
- I didn't talk much so didn't really have a connection with any staff. I also never had problems with other youth and if I did I wouldn't have gotten staff involved.
- id simply smash on them because thats what the system taught me
- any conflict resulted in being in your cell
- The clinicians on each unit were available to counsel my son, when needed.
- Snitching was not looked at favorably and could lead to problems outside.

4. Would your recommendation cause an impact on facility operations (for example, staff levels) or create any new costs?

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