

ALAMEDA COUNTY WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL

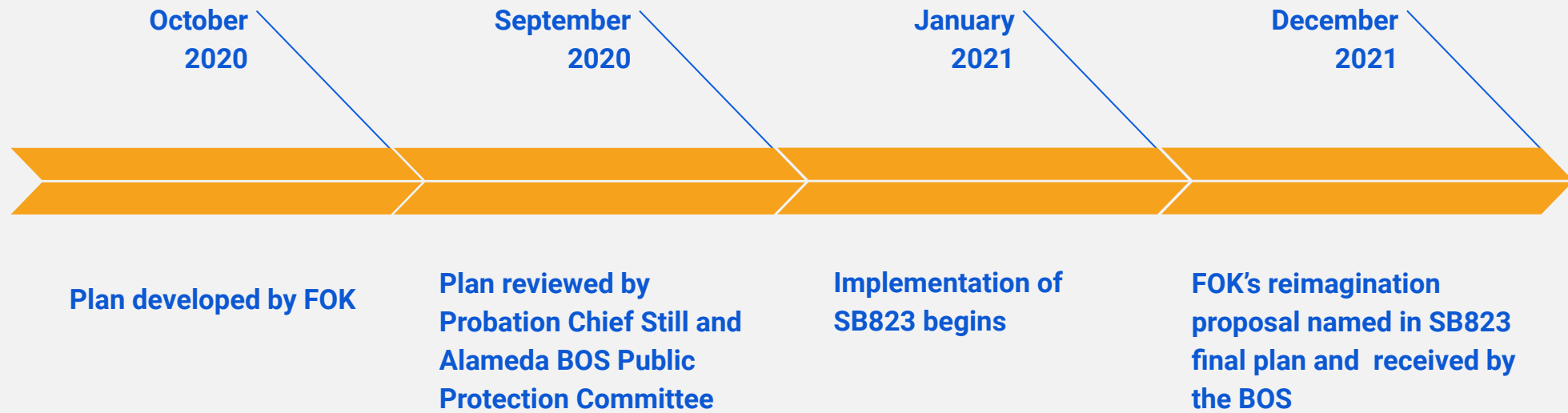
Free Our Kids Coalition



Restore Oakland



TIMELINE OF PROPOSAL



REIMAGINING YOUTH JUSTICE

The Alameda County SB 823 Realignment Plan already recommends the County review the Free Our Kids proposal and undertakes that process or a similar process to reimagine justice for youth in Alameda County



The Subcommittee recommends that the County review the working group proposal presented by Free Our Kids (FOK) and undertake that or a similar process for planning. This Subcommittee is committed to working with that process to develop subsequent Realignment Plans and to develop the resources identified as needed to serve the population.

Long-Term Planning for Facilities

Alameda County is committed to reimagining the possibilities for children and young adults in the County and to developing a new approach to responding to young people (even those who have committed the most serious offenses). This includes the commitment to move away from the current juvenile hall and ultimately close or repurpose that facility, and to instead establish a complete continuum of services and housing options to meet the needs of young people. The County will develop a full array of juvenile justice housing models to accommodate security, treatment, developmental, and emotional needs.

This Subcommittee has determined that even our most secure environments should be small, homelike, and designed to allow for normative development, emotional healing, and connectedness. The prison-like facilities that so many believed we required have been proven unnecessary and harmful.

The scores of youth offenders that were predicted to fill them did not emerge. Instead, our community, like most around the country, has witnessed unprecedented declines in juvenile crime. This does not guarantee that crime rates will decrease forever as that is highly dependent on a host of societal factors. However, the fact that the population is vastly smaller than predicted does offer a moment of great opportunity, and this Subcommittee has determined to capitalize on that opportunity to build a better approach for youth in Alameda County.

There is no way to fully develop and implement this new approach in the time provided—nor should a plan to develop a new model that takes the County well into the future be created without a collaborative, community-based planning process, which will include (but not be limited to) impacted youth and families, community members and individuals with lived experience, youth justice advocates, victims, community and faith-based organizations, and representatives from relevant county agencies. For that reason, the Subcommittee believes that Alameda County must take immediate steps to begin a planning and reimagination process. This must, as soon as possible, lead to the design, creation, and implementation of the services and facilities required to serve the Realigned population.

While the development of such a process is beyond the scope of this Subcommittee, it is the Subcommittee's recommendation that the County immediately begin a redevelopment process. To do this Alameda County must partner with directly-impacted youth and youth advocates to design and deliver a fiscally efficient and equitable plan that transitions the County away from a law enforcement response to children and that (1) builds the capacity of community based organizations to serve young people outside the current justice system; (2) results in a significant reduction in the number of young people who are in contact with the justice system; (3) explores a rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first model of youth justice that is meaningfully different in operations and outcomes from the current system; and (4) prevents the prosecution and incarceration of children in the adult system.

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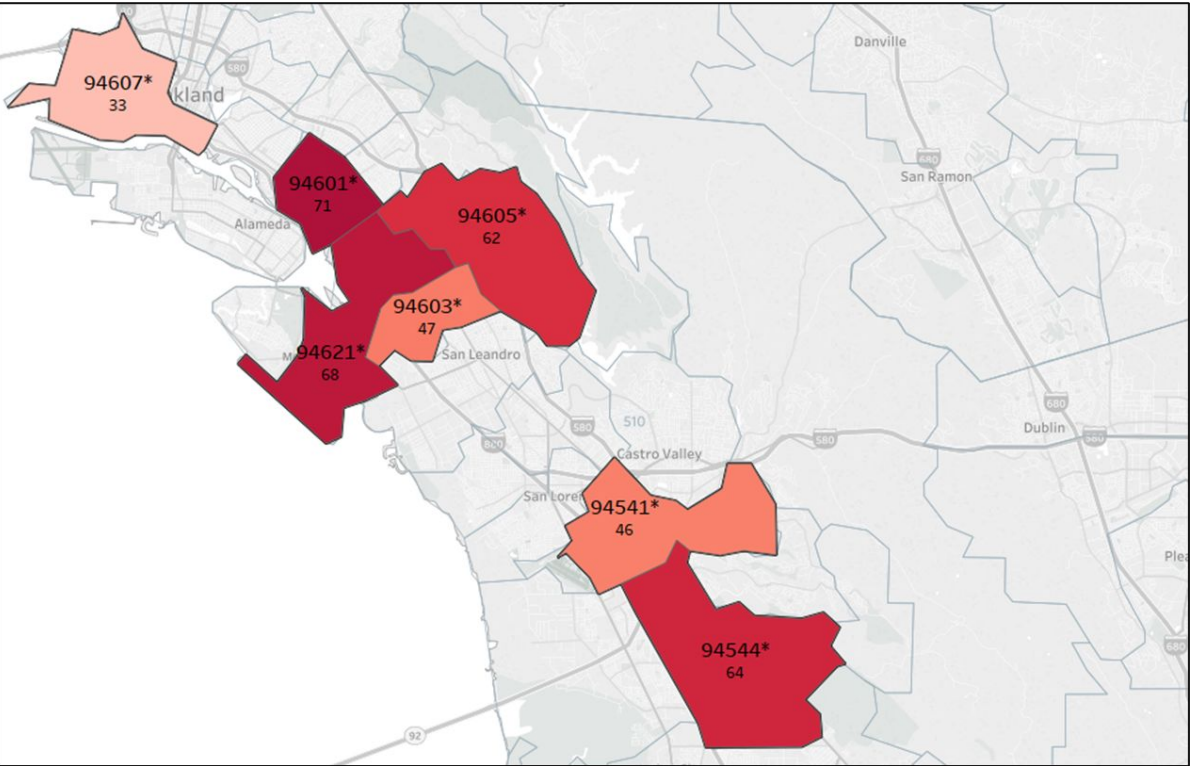
There is no way to meet the many lofty goals of juvenile justice realignment without also addressing other aspects of the system and our overall response to children. None of our services and responses can work or be developed in a vacuum. It is therefore the Subcommittee's intent to remain involved as the SB 823 realigned youth are particularly vulnerable to harsh system responses and the impacts of long-term confinement. The County should include a broad range of stakeholders, including significant and meaningful participation of system-impacted youth and their families. The planning process should be transparent and equitable, and the resulting plan should be fiscally efficient and grounded in equity.

Disparities for Justice involved Youth in Alameda County (Quarter 1 2020)

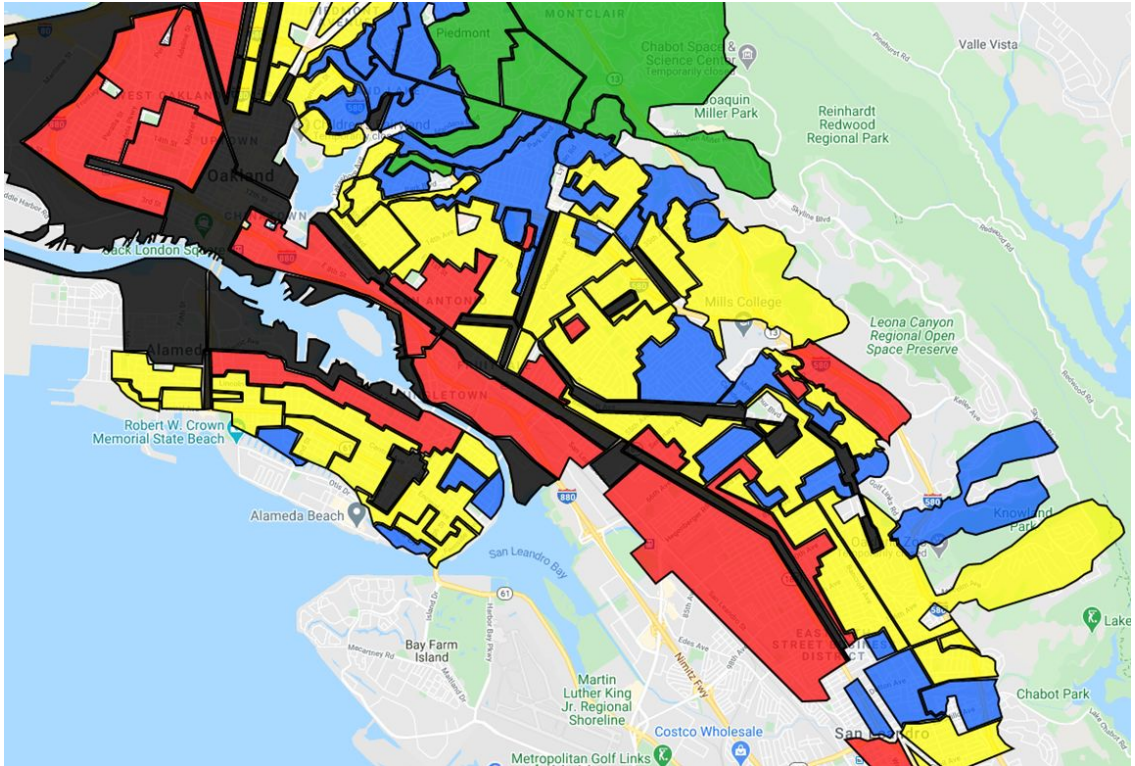
- **Black youth** were **129x** more likely to be in confinement or detention alternatives than white youth
 - **Latino youth** were **16x** more likely to be in confinement or detention alternatives compared to white youth
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- **Black youth** were **15x** more likely to be on probation than white youth
- **Latino youth** were **3x** more likely to be on probation than white youth

Justice Involved Youth Geography Mirrors the same Communities that were redlined



These top 7 zip codes represent over 50% of Justice Involved Youth in Alameda County



Oakland Redlining, 1936-1939

Source: ACPD Juvenile Services Community Engagement. 2020

CHARGE & SCOPE

Design and deliver a plan that:

- (1) builds capacity of community-based organizations to serve young people outside the current justice system;
- (2) results in a significant reduction in the number of young people who are in contact with the justice system;
- (3) explores a rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first model of youth justice that is meaningfully different in operations and outcomes from the current system; and
- (4) prevents the prosecution and incarceration of children in the adult system

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Community-led transformation is the best path toward a comprehensive system of community health and safety.
 - ❖ People directly impacted by the legal system must have opportunities to lead, make decisions, and inform recommendations and policy proposals
 - ❖ Alameda County must make intentional, capacity building investments in community-based organizations rooted in neighborhoods directly impacted by the justice system to enhance their ability to support youth in and out of custody.
- Children, young adults, and the community at large are best served at home, or close to their homes, by community-based organizations they know and trust.
 - ❖ Any form of out of home placement should focus on rehabilitation, healing, enhancing public safety, and restorative justice, and staffed with people with lived experience -- Credible Messengers -- trained in holistic, trauma-informed approaches to serving youth.

TIMELINE & PHASING

Phase 1
6-9 months

- **Community and Systems Needs Assessment**
- Collection, review, and analysis of data (including but not limited to Alameda County statistics, policies, and budgets)
- High level recommendations to the Board of Supervisors based on the Working Group's needs assessment

Phase 2
12-15 months

- **Planning and Design**
- Specific recommendations and complete plan to redesign the youth justice system based on the needs assessment and in keeping with the guiding principles

Phase 3
Commencing within 2 years
from start of phase 1

- **Implementation**
- Full plan implementation according to recommendations and timelines set out during Planning and Design phase

NEXT STEPS AND QUESTIONS