
Sacramento Kids First Coalition

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March 21, 2023

Who We Are

- Sacramento Kids First is the region's largest grassroots coalition, with **36 member organizations** and **over 1,900 individual supporters**
- Youth Forward serves our coordinating organization
- Participating organizations include EBAYC, Public Health Advocates, Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Self-Awareness and Recovery, Alliance for Education Solutions, PRO Youth and Families, Project Optimism, and many more!



How We Got Our Start

- Sac Kids First was established by a group of young Hmong leaders active in EBAYC Sacramento in 2017
- These young leaders started the process of surveying youth to identify their concerns and needs and **to build a coalition with the goal of establishing a stable funding source for children and youth in the city budget**
- From these early efforts emerged the Sac Kids First Coalition



Our Work

- Our mission is to serve as the unified voice of Sacramento's youth-serving organizations in the public policy arena. We are engaged in a long-term campaign to increase the well being of children and youth in the Sacramento region, particularly children and youth most affected by poverty, violence and trauma
- We advocate for:
 - **youth voice** and leadership in civic life
 - increased investments in children and youth
 - **racial and social equity in the city's policies** and resource allocations
 - greater stability in youth funding
 - policies that support children and youth that are research-based and data-driven



Sacramento Children's Fund

- In July of 2022, the City Council voted to place Measure L on the ballot. On November 8th, 62% of voters approved the measure. Going forward, this measure will require the City to spend the equivalent of 40% of its local cannabis tax revenues on child and youth services (about \$10 million annually, in addition to what the city currently spends on youth services).
- The measure prioritizes, amongst many things, ***preventing youth violence***



Public Safety Resolution

- Also in 2020, at the October 27th city council meeting, the Mayor and City Council unanimously passed a Resolution to Redefine Public Safety brought forth by Councilmember Jay Schenirer, District 5.
- The resolution is the first of its kind at any level of governance in the entire nation. Our partners at Public Health Advocates led the 18 month journey that began with listening sessions with young people throughout Sacramento to ask them: what is your definition of safety?
- The resolution ***broadens the definition of public safety to include prevention, early intervention, and youth services.***



Youth Justice Involvement

- Our goal is to influence the implementation of the state law SB 823 by advocating for a partnership between Probation and youth-serving CBO's and for a juvenile system that focuses on prevention and safe re-entry
- We have done our best since 2021 to achieve these goals in the form of:
 - Meeting directly with department leads and County Representatives
 - Providing feedback and edits on the Implementation Plan and Budget
 - Advocating for community membership in the JJCC Subcommittee
 - Hosting webinars for greater community understanding around SB 823 and how it functions



Brown Act Lawsuit

- In late 2021, we contacted County Counsel with our concerns that the JJCC Subcommittee was **in violation of the Brown Act in the areas of public participation**
- In 2022, in partnership with the **Youth Law Center** and the law firm of **Baker McKenzie**, Youth Forward brought forward a lawsuit against Sacramento County and the Probation Department with the goal of requiring the Probation Department to follow the state's open meeting law (the Brown Act).
- In December of 2022, the County agreed to follow the Brown Act, **settled the lawsuit** and the JJCC Subcommittee is currently holding its meetings and carrying out its decision-making with public input

**Baker
McKenzie.**



Our Top Priorities for SB 823 Implementation in Sacramento

- *Ensuring that proper community voice is represented on the JJCC Subcommittee* i.e. community members with lived experience
- Creating spaces and opportunities for the public *to provide feedback and participate in meetings* to enhance transparency of the Probation Department and JJCC
- Diversifying the CBO's that have partnerships with the Probation Department, and focusing on *locally sourced and trusted youth-serving organizations* versus statewide partners
- Advocating for county and state funding for this work to be spent on trauma-informed, culturally representative, and *preventative based programming*
- Enhancing our local youth justice facilities *to provide safer and more comfortable experiences*
- Acknowledging and working through *the difficulty that comes with the re-entry process* for every youth including job opportunities, mental health and wellness, housing, mentorship, and familial connection
- Increasing capacity and effectiveness of the JJCC and Probation Department *around direct community outreach related to SB 823 Implementation*

Why is all of this Important?

- SB 823 is very clear about the need to **solve the racial disparities in the CA youth justice system** and the need for enhanced relationship building between justice impacted youth and their families and friends
- This issue does not get solved without **youth voice and community input**, which Sacramento Kids First has been dedicated to since the passing of SB 823/Implementation rollout here in Sacramento County
- We have **ALL** been tasked with increasing the effectiveness of the youth justice system not for the safety of ourselves and our departments and our budgets, but for marginalized black, brown, and indigenous youth

