

W. HAYWOOD BURNS INSTITUTE



LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT REDUCTION PLAN 2008

Presented to the County of Los Angeles Probation Department

Submitted by:

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Introduction

The following is a plan of the County of Los Angeles to reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in the Los Angeles juvenile justice system. It is the result of collaborative work by the County of Los Angeles Probation Department (Probation) and other stakeholders in the juvenile justice system who have worked with Probation in the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) DMC Subcommittee. Significant support for this work was provided by the State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Corrections Standards Authority (CSA).

The Corrections Standards Authority (“CSA”) awarded a three-phase grant, designated the Disproportionate Minority Contact Technical Assistance Project (“DMC-TAP”), to Probation in 2006. The DMC-TAP is designed to assist Probation Departments in understanding how to identify DMC, and equip them with the tools and resources needed to provide leadership in a collaborative effort comprised of juvenile justice system partners and stakeholders (community representatives/partners) working on DMC reduction.

The first phase of the DMC-TAP focused on DMC infrastructure and education (including the training of Probation staff and developing of infrastructure for data collection and analysis for the reduction of DMC). The second phase targets outreach to create a collaborative made up of traditional juvenile justice system stakeholders and community representatives, to assist with the development of a countywide juvenile justice DMC reduction plan. The third phase seeks to implement the plan developed in Phase Two.

FLOW CHART

Below is a flow chart developed by Probation that illustrates the various ways a youth may flow through the juvenile justice system in the County of Los Angeles. It graphically displays the various decision-making points, with a principal focus on those of Probation, the District Attorney and the Juvenile Court. A glossary of terms used in the chart can be found at the end of this plan in attachment A.

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Establish an Executive Committee

It is recommended that the current CCJCC DMC Subcommittee function as the executive committee, providing oversight and leadership over the implementation of the DMC reduction plan. The Subcommittee membership consists of representatives from all major departments and agencies (Superior Court, District Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, police Chief’s Association, Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Probation and CCJCC) that make up the juvenile justice system in Los Angeles, and they have expressed interest in working on this issue. However, it is recommended that additional partners join the executive committee in order to lead a successful effort to achieve the work required by the plan, and to effectively reduce DMC. This would be accomplished with the creation of working Subcommittees tasked with specific assignments to contribute to the work that must be completed in order for DMC to be reduced in the County of Los Angeles.

The discussion that follows is an agency-by-agency, or “sector” in the case of law enforcement, examination of the plan’s recommendations.

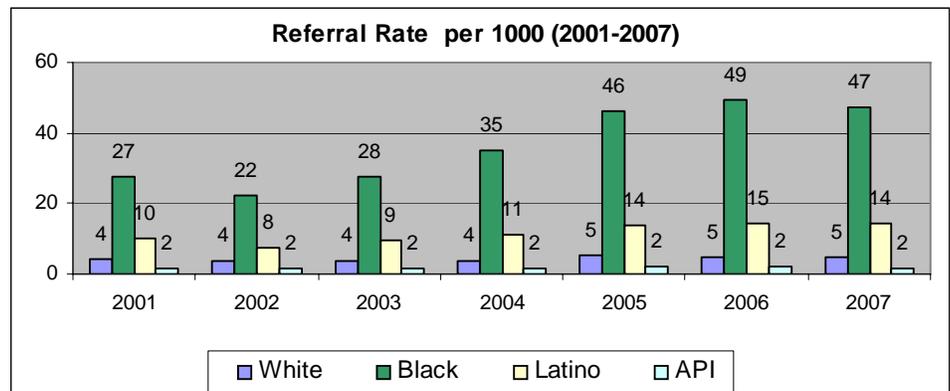
LAW ENFORCEMENT

The first contact that most young people have with the juvenile justice system is with law enforcement. It is at that initial point of contact where the decision is made whether to arrest the youth – and consequently set the youth on a path into the juvenile justice system.

Therefore, law enforcement agencies play a critical role in reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the County of Los Angeles.

The agencies who referred the most youth to detention in 2007 were the Los Angeles Police Department

Figure 1



Source: Intake and Detention Control System

In 2001

- For every 1,000 White youth in LA County, 4 were referred to IDC.
- For every 1,000 Black youth, 27 were referred to IDC (more than six times the rate of White youth).
- For every 1,000 Latino youth, 10 were referred to IDC (more than twice the rate of White youth)

In 2007,

- For every 1,000 White youth in LA County, 5 were referred to IDC.
- For every 1,000 Black youth, 47 were referred to IDC (more than nine times the rate of White youth).

(LAPD) and the County of Los Angeles Probation Department. LAPD referred 5,237 youth to Juvenile Hall/Intake and Detention Control (IDC – the unit that screens all youth brought to detention), and Probation referred 4,632 youth to IDC. Together, these agencies represented 55% of the total 17,952 youth referred to Juvenile Hall/IDC in the 2007 calendar year.

Significantly, some divisions of LAPD refer substantially more youth to Juvenile Hall than others. For example, from 2001 through 2007, LAPD's 77th Street Division referred 4,055 youth to IDC. This was considerably more than any other LAPD precinct. This number of referrals represented 13% of youth referred by LAPD, and over 4% of all youth referred by all Los Angeles County law enforcement agencies over this time period. No other LAPD division or bureau referred over 2.8%.

As Figure 1 shows, the overrepresentation of youth of color referred to IDC increased almost every year from 2001 through 2007 (with the exception of 2002). For example, in 2001, a Black youth in the Los Angeles County youth population ages 10-17 was 6.75 times¹ more likely than a White youth to be referred to IDC. By 2007, Black youth were nearly 10 times more likely than White youth to be referred to IDC. The same is true for Latino youth. In 2001, Latino youth were more than twice as likely to be referred to IDC. By 2007, Latino youth were nearly three times as likely to be referred to IDC.

Pilot Project with Law Enforcement

Probation in conjunction with the CCJCC DMC Subcommittee should identify a law enforcement agency that is willing to actively work on a pilot project to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. The first phase of the pilot project would include a staff survey and training at a precinct that historically referred a large number of youth to IDC. The Burns Institute (BI) would then analyze the survey and tailor the training accordingly. The training would (1) review law enforcement staff perceptions of racial and ethnic disparities and their role in reducing racial and ethnic disparities; (2) compare these perceptions with an analysis of available law enforcement data; and (3) address particular policies and practices within that agency that may be contributing to racial and ethnic disparities.

PROBATION

A report that the BI provided to Probation, entitled the "Final Report of Findings and Recommendations 2007," reviewed the activities of Phase One of the DMC-TAP. It provided analysis of Probation policies, practices; a comprehensive review of data; and extensive context for these recommendations submitted to

¹ Because Figure 1 shows rates per 1,000, the information shown takes into account population changes. However, it is interesting to note that Black youth population declined over the period shown. In 2001, Black youth represented 11.2% of the overall youth population. In 2006, this percentage was down to 10.2%.

the Department. The report can be accessed through the Probation internet website at the following link: (insert hyperlink)

Committee to Revise Krisberg Scale

First, it is recommended that Probation convene a Subcommittee with membership from Probation IDC, law enforcement, Juvenile Court and the Probation DMC Project Manager to recommend a tool to revise/replace the detention screening instrument (Krisberg Scale, currently utilized at IDC). The Subcommittee should facilitate the efforts to replace the detention screening instrument. BI would attend the meetings and provide technical support and analyses.

While the Krisberg Scale is still utilized by IDC to screen youth brought to Juvenile Hall, it presents a number of issues. First, it is over 20-years-old and far behind the current state of the art for screening instruments. Second, it has not been validated to Los Angeles County's population. Third, it appears that IDC staff may not have faith in the Krisberg's ability to accurately predict risk, due to an extremely high rate of overrides compared to what is accepted on a national standard. During the period of 2001 to 2007, the override rate was 84%. Translated, this indicates that of all youth who were deemed low-risk (and therefore not in need of being detained) by the Krisberg Scale, 84% were detained (overridden) despite the Scale's release recommendation. Of those who were overridden, 92% were for youth of color. Because of this substantial over use of overrides, this Subcommittee should develop procedures to review and if necessary revise the current override policy so that it is utilized appropriately by staff and the reasons for overrides are clear and can be tracked for reliability purposes.

Significantly, the Krisberg Scale only separates youth into two categories of risk (low and high); when an overwhelming number of juvenile justice systems utilize a risk assessment (this is a screening instrument) instrument with three risk categories (high, medium and low). The reason for this approach is that youth brought to the attention of juvenile hall intake staff for detention should be separated into three categories: 1) high-risk youth, who should be detained upon intake, 2) medium-risk youth, who may be released with conditions (for example released into an electronic monitoring program,² evening center,³ home supervision⁴ or other programs that serve as alternatives to detention) and 3) release of low-risk youth with no conditions. The revised screening tool developed by the Probation Department should be structured to have a three-

² Electronic monitoring is a program that requires a youth released into the community to keep on their person an electronic device that indicates their position.

³ Evening Centers offer programming in the community and supervision of youth from the end of the school day to later in the evening, generally 8 or 9 p.m.

⁴ Home supervision is when a deputy Probation Officer supervises a youth on probation who is staying at home.

level decision model (high, medium and low risk) to replace the current two-level (high, low risk) Scale to determine the number of youth at moderate risk level and possibly released under specified conditions.

Develop Consensus on the Purpose of Detention

Second, it is recommended that Probation ensure there is clear policy regarding the appropriate use of Detention and the current Probation DMC Committee be tasked with this responsibility. Once this is completed, Probation should engage its partners on the CCJCC DMC Subcommittee to build a consensus on the appropriate use of detention. Ideally, a consensus can be built around the two purposes for Detention: To detain youth who are likely to re-offend prior to adjudication; or are likely to fail to appear at scheduled Court appearances.⁵ Detention should be seen as a last resort and youth should be provided services in the least restrictive environment.

Develop New Alternatives to Detention

Third, in order to best implement the revised risk screening tool, designed to evaluate three levels of risk, Probation must have access to appropriate alternatives to detention for youth who are judged to be medium risk.⁶ Ideally, a robust range of alternatives to detention should be available and suited to match the range of scores in the medium range of risk. If not, Probation should develop community-based and community-run alternatives to detention in the neighborhoods that contribute the most youth to detention in partnership with schools and community partners. The development of community-based alternatives to detention should be pursued using evidence-based practices and include youth and parent accountability and restorative justice components. Finally, it is recommended that Probation begin the data collection process that will allow the evaluation of current programs utilized as alternatives to detention to assess how successfully they meet the needs of the youth and safety of the community. It is also recommended that Probation proceed to enhance the current Departmental process to review alternatives to detention by expanding the current structure to a subcommittee comprised of Probation management (including those managers with oversight of current alternatives to detention), a representative from community-based nonprofits, who have contracts with probation,, the BI, a representative from the DA, the Juvenile Court and law enforcement.

Begin Pilot Program to Notify Youth of Court Appearances

⁵ Pathways To Juvenile Detention Reform, Controlling the Front Gate, effective admissions policies and practices, The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

⁶ Moreover, providing more alternatives to Detention will certainly reduce detention population and likely reduce DMC.

Fourth, it is recommended that Probation in consultation with the Juvenile Court, pilot a court appearance notification program. The program would include the assignment of a staff, or otherwise arrange for staffing, to make contact with youth (and/or parent/guardian), who have upcoming court appearances, one or two days prior to the court date. Implementing this simple practice has the potential to reduce Failures to Appear, and thereby reduce the number of youth in detention. Moreover, because this strategy has been shown in other jurisdictions to be particularly effective with youth of color, it is also very likely that implementing this practice will reduce DMC. The forum for moving this item to completion should be the CCJCC DMC Subcommittee.

Designate a Full Time Staff Member to Lead Project

Fifth, and perhaps most important, Probation should dedicate a full-time staff person to coordinate the DMC reduction effort. The thrust of this plan — seeking partnership and working collaboratively with other juvenile justice system stakeholders and community representatives to reduce DMC — requires the full attention of the person responsible for accomplishing the goals of this plan.

Conduct Further Analysis on Probation Violation and Warrants

Sixth, it is recommended that Probation proceed with conducting an in-depth study using case file analysis to examine Probation Violations and Bench Warrants. Admissions to detention for probation violations and Bench Warrants have increased over the past six years, particularly for African American and Latino youth. Additionally, youth of color remain in detention for longer periods of time as the result of Probation Violations and Bench Warrants. However, without more information about these admissions, several questions remain. The Probation Department must address these questions in order to enhance policy and practice change that may reduce these numbers. For example, further analysis must be done on Probation Violations to determine:

- *How many of the youth have been violated previously?*
- *How many youth had a probation violation filed with the Court but were not detained? Are there any racial and ethnic disparities?*
- *What were the conditions of probation that were violated?*
- *How many out of detention sanctions were attempted before detention was utilized? Was a system of graduated sanctions exhausted?*

Figure 2

W. Haywood Burns Institute
County of Los Angeles Probation Department Final Report 2007

Warrant Case File Review Project

Demographic Information
 What is the youths' race/ethnicity? W AA L API O
 What is the youths' gender? M F
 What was the youth's age when warrant issued? _____
 In what zip code did the youth reside at issuance? _____

Warrant Information
 What type of warrant was issued? (list warrant types)
 1- _____
 2- _____
 3- _____
 What was the reason given for the issuance of the warrant?
 1 - Failure to Appear
 2 - New Offense
 3 - Other
 Who is the issuing authority? _____
 Did Probation recommend the warrant? Yes No
 What is the initial charge? _____
 What was the youths' original K Score? _____
 Was the youth placed in secure detention as a result of the initial charge? Yes No
 If the detention was an override, what was the reason given? _____
 Has the youth been placed on community detention previously? Yes No
 If yes, what was the result of the youth's community detention?
 Was the youth on probation at the time of issuance? Yes No
 If yes, which caseload? _____

- *What was the underlying offense for the probation violation—was it a detainable offense?*
- *What type of probation supervision was the youth on?*

Similarly, deeper analysis is necessary to determine the reason the Bench Warrants were issued including how many were the result of a youth's failure to appear for a court appearance. Because data around reasons for Bench Warrants is not maintained in the Probation Department's current database, the BI has provided the Probation Department with a template for gathering data from a statistically significant sample size of case files.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The District Attorney for the County of Los Angeles is a non-partisan official who is elected every four years. The District Attorney's Office prosecutes felony crimes throughout Los Angeles County. Deputy District Attorneys also prosecute misdemeanor crimes in unincorporated areas and in 78 of the 88 County cities. The staff of approximately 2,105 includes 1,017 Deputy District Attorneys, 277 Investigators, and 811 support personnel, comprising the largest local prosecutorial agency in the nation.

When a juvenile case is referred to the office of the DA, (referrals may come from law enforcement or after internal review, Probation) it is reviewed by a Deputy District Attorney. In making a determination about a case, the following options are available: (1) File, (2) Do not file, (3) Refer to Probation, if the crime is a misdemeanor listed in 654.3WIC, or a very low level felony (4) Refer to Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (JOIN) Program, and (5) Direct file in Adult Court. For referrals to the JOIN program, the DA refers the case to a Hearing Officer and Hearing Officer makes a determination whether the youth fits the criteria of the program. JOIN is under the DA's Bureau of Crime Prevention and Youth Services. If a youth is accepted into the JOIN program, she or he will not have a petition filed against them as long as they remain in the program. If the youth successfully completes the program, the charges are dropped.

Because the DA does not currently collect data in a manner that allows for disaggregation by race, ethnicity, gender and geography (REGGO), it is recommended that the DA revise its data collection methods to begin to collect the following data:

- *All basic demographic information about the accused youth*
- *DA identification*
- *Date petition received by DA*
- *Whether youth is in or out of custody*
- *Offense charged when petition received by DA*
- *DA Decision (file, not file, divert to JOIN, direct file to Adult Court)*

- *Date Decision made*
- *Offense filed*
- *Adjudication/Plea Date*
- *Result of Adjudication (i.e. dismiss, found delinquent, not delinquent)*
- *Date of Disposition*
- *Description of Disposition*

THE JUVENILE COURT

The Los Angeles Juvenile Court is made up of three distinct types of proceedings: Dependency, Delinquency, and the Informal Juvenile and Traffic Courts. In the Superior Court structure, the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court has oversight of the courts mentioned above. This plan will focus only on Courts that conduct Delinquency proceedings.

Delinquency proceedings involve children under the age of 18 alleged to have committed a delinquent act (would be criminal if committed by an adult) or who are habitually disobedient, truant or beyond the control of a parent. Delinquency proceedings are held in 28 courts at 10 locations throughout the County, either in stand-alone Delinquency facilities or in local Court districts.

Meetings of the Juvenile Court

It is recommended that Probation and BI engage the Juvenile Court on a recurring basis regarding information on DMC, alternatives to detention that are available for their consideration, and new techniques or strategies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Moreover, feedback and input from individual Judges regarding solutions regarding the racial and ethnic disparities that currently exist would be requested through this process and incorporated into the Reduction Plan. Providing a regular forum where information about DMC is presented and updated data analysis provided would allow for further exploration and possible implementation (e.g. via pilot projects, etc.) of programming that would result in DMC reduction. Because many Judges have day-to-day experience in the courtroom, engagement and feedback would prove very valuable to the overall effort to reduce disparities. Moreover, these meetings may also result in reconsideration of some of the current judicial practices based on the new information provided to the court.

Court Appearance Notification

It is recommended that Probation work with the Court to develop a pilot program in one of the juvenile Court Departments (ideally one that sends a large number of youth to Juvenile Hall) in which youth and or parent/guardian are contacted one or two days prior to scheduled court appearances. Refer to the relevant Probation recommendations for further information.

Two-Tiered Warrants

It is recommended that Probation engage the Juvenile Court and law enforcement agencies regarding the development of a possible two-tiered warrant pilot project. Under a two-tiered warrant pilot, the Court would issue warrants that allow the Judge to identify certain circumstances where Probation Officers would have the authority to detain or release a youth with an outstanding warrant. When a particular youth is brought to IDC with an outstanding Bench Warrant, the IDC Deputy Probation Officer would access the information when the Bench Warrant was issued to determine whether the court extended authority to Probation to release the youth, with citation to appear in Court in order for the Court to recall the Bench Warrant.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Public Defender represents individuals who are accused of public offenses and who cannot afford to retain the services of a private attorney. The Public Defender also represents any person under the age of 18 who is facing juvenile delinquency proceedings, or whom the state has instituted wardship proceedings because of habitual truancy or incorrigibility. They also represent individuals who are involuntarily detained in medical facilities in a variety of mental health proceedings because of purported mental disabilities, those to whom conservatorship proceedings have been instituted because they are alleged to be gravely disabled and patients whose competency to refuse medical treatment has been challenged. The Public Defender's Office employs more than 700 attorneys, 78 investigators, 55 paralegals, 17 psychiatric social workers, and a clerical/secretarial staff of approximately 150. The attorney's role is identical to that of a privately retained attorney. Deputy Public Defenders are all members of the State Bar, and are governed by the same regulations and ethical obligations which pertain to a privately retained attorney.

National Juvenile Defender Center Diagnostic

It is recommended that the Public Defender (and any other appointed delinquency defense counsel) undergo the diagnostic tool created by the National Juvenile Defender Center (NJDC), entitled "Achieving Excellence in Detention Advocacy: A Checklist to Evaluate Defense Representation at Detention Hearings". The NJDC offers support to public defenders, appointed counsel, law school clinical programs, and nonprofit support centers. While it focuses on the juvenile defense bar, the Center also provides professional development, along with training in adolescent development, to judges, prosecutors, probation officers, and other court personnel. This evaluation would help to assure that the Public Defender, while zealously representing their clients, also would seek to release youth from detention as soon as possible.

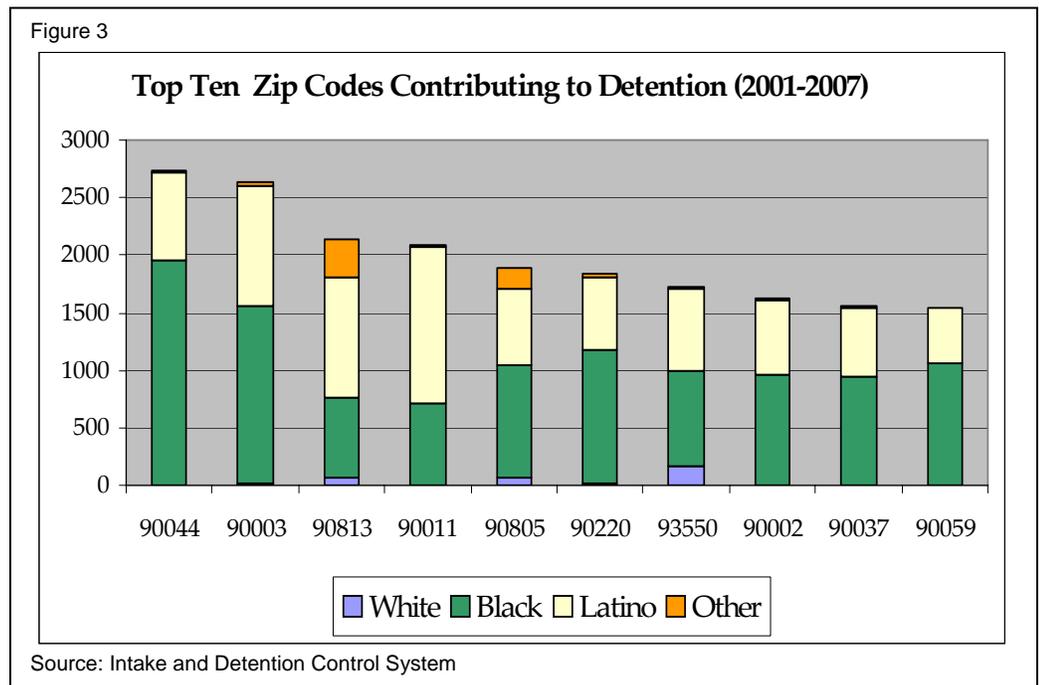
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Much remains to be done to engage the community in the work envisioned by the DMC-TAP. It is essential that the community be engaged for this effort to be successful. The community has resources and knowledge that traditional system stakeholders simply do not have. That knowledge and those resources are crucial to developing alternatives to detention and other strategies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. In line with what has been proposed in other areas, outreach to the community should start in a limited pilot area. The identified area to begin this process in Los Angeles County should be the area around zip code 90044, which as discussed in detail below, is the zip code that sends the most youth to juvenile hall for detention. Therefore, this community offers the greatest potential for detention reductions. Additionally, since virtually every youth referred to detention from 90044 is a youth of color, it also offers a great opportunity to effectively reduce DMC.

Include Community Representation at CCJCC DMC Meetings

It is recommended that community representatives be invited to participate in the CCJCC DMC Subcommittee. This will serve the dual purposes of building community support for the ongoing efforts of CCJCC to reduce DMC in the juvenile justice system, and communicating the results of those efforts to the community.

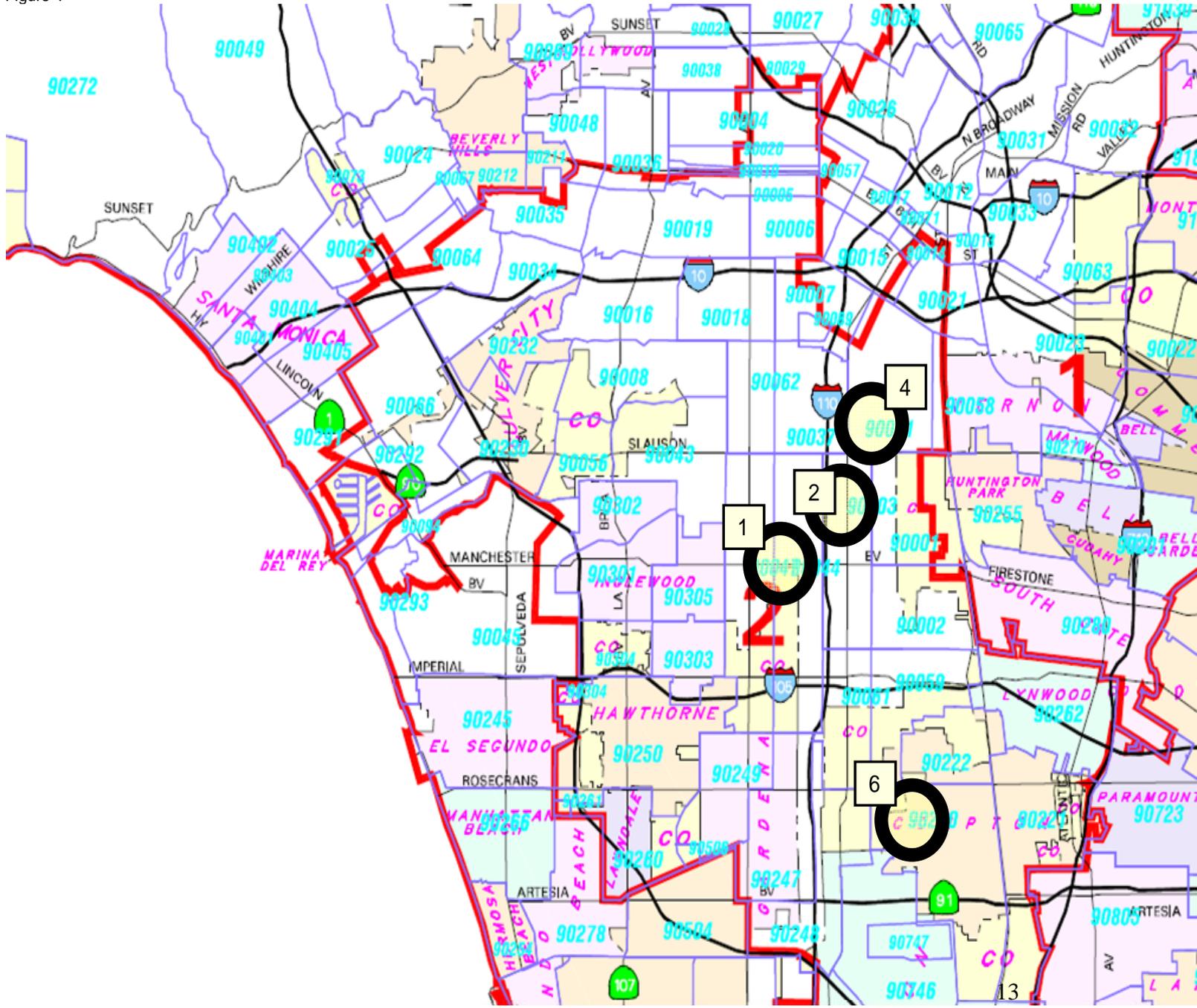
Particular focus should be directed to the zip codes that contribute most significantly to Los Angeles County juvenile Halls. As Figure 3 indicates, the top zip codes include 90044, 90003, 90011, and 90220, all of which are in close proximity of one another. See figure 4, a map displaying the close proximity of these zip codes below.



The BI recommends that Probation contract with service providers either located or located in close proximity and providing services to youth and families in the 90001 zip code in order to provide and expand/enhance those services and

alternatives to detention targeted to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors of identified medium-risk⁷ youth brought to detention from this zip code. It is critical to provide services in communities where youth of color reside (in their social ecologies) to increase the likelihood that these youth and their families will be able to access services and achieve success in identified programming, while minimizing the instances where they may have to cross dangerous territories in order to do so. By ensuring services are available in places where youth/families are able to easily access, it greatly enhances the probability that they will be able to take advantage of those services.

Figure 4



Attachment A

Juvenile Intake and Court Processes – Glossary of Terms WIC – (California) Welfare and Institutions Code

241.1 WIC Dual Supervision – Dependence minor placed on probation under 654.1, 725(a), or 790 WIC and not made a 602 WIC ward of the court.

241.1 WIC Dual Status – Active Dependency minor simultaneously placed on probation as Delinquency ward.

252 WIC (rehearing) – Refers to the process and timeframes for a minor or his/her parent/guardian to apply to the juvenile court for a rehearing

258 WIC (Informal and Juvenile Traffic Court) - Upon either an admission by the minor to a violation, or a finding that the minor committed the violation, as an option the hearing officer may direct the probation officer to undertake a program of supervision not to exceed six months.

601 WIC – Describes status offenders and truants. This includes incorrigible minors and those who violate curfew, truancy and other such codes that do not apply to adults.

602 WIC - Describes any person under 18 who violates any law other than one based solely on age.

602 CCP (Camp Community Placement) – Court order for placement in one of 18 Camps operated by the Probation Department.

602 HOP (Home On Probation) – Court order for probation, where minor resides in the community (usually with parent/guardian), initially for one year, with imposition of reasonable conditions of probation.

602 SP (Suitable Placement) – Court order for minor to be placed in foster care, at either a residential placement, group home, or relative's home.

631 WIC - Whenever a minor is taken into custody by a peace officer or probation officer, the minor shall be released within 48 hours after taken into custody (excluding non-judicial days), unless a petition has been filed according to this chapter or a criminal complaint against the minor has been filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.

632 WIC (Detention/Arrestment Hearing) - Judicial proceeding used to determine the legality and necessity of detaining a minor in a juvenile facility or alternative program pending adjudication of the petition.

652 WIC - Whenever the probation officer has cause to believe that there was/is a person within the provisions of Section 601 or 602, the probation officer shall immediately make an investigation to determine whether proceedings in the juvenile court should be commenced, including whether reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the minor from his/her home.

653.5 WIC - Whenever any person applies to the probation officer to commence proceedings in the juvenile court, the application shall be in the form of an affidavit alleging that a minor within the provisions of Section 602, or that a minor committed an offense described in Section 602 within the county, and setting forth facts in support thereof. The probation officer shall immediately make any investigation to determine whether proceedings in the juvenile court shall be commenced. If the probation officer determines that it is appropriate to offer services to the family to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the minor from his or her home, the probation officer shall make a referral to those services.

654 WIC- Section 654 WIC authorizes a maximum six-month, non-court ordered probation supervision program for minors as an alternative to closing the case or filing (601 WIC), or requesting the filing (602 WIC) of a petition.

654.2 WIC – Court order for minor to participate in a program of 6 months probation supervision, with the consent of the minor and parents. Parents must participate with the minor in counseling or education programs, including parenting programs. May be extended for three months (twice).

725 (a) WIC – Referred to as “Non-Wardship Probation”, where minor admits to the petition and is placed on six (6) months, court ordered probation.

727 WIC – Court order for minor to be placed on probation without supervision of the probation officer. The court may impose any and all reasonable conditions of behavior as may be appropriate under this disposition.

777 WIC- An order changing or modifying a previous order by removing a minor from the physical custody of a parent, guardian, relative, or friend and directing placement in a foster home, or commitment to a private institution or commitment to a county institution, or an order changing or modifying a previous order by directing commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ – formerly CYA) shall be made only after a noticed hearing.

790 WIC (Deferred Entry of Judgment) – The minor may qualify for their first felony offense and they must be a minimum of age 14 years. The minor must admit to the charges and if he/she obeys all the terms and conditions of

probation for 12 to 36 months the record will be sealed and the offense deemed to not have occurred.

Annual Review – Hearing set one year from the disposition order to assess the minor's compliance with terms and conditions of probation.

Adjudication – A hearing on a petition in which evidence is presented, testimony is taken and there is a judicial determination as to the truth of the allegation, or the court's take of an admission from the minor.

Arraignment – This is the minor's first appearance before that court. Formal allegations are reviewed for the minor and parents or guardian, the court ensures an attorney is assigned to represent the minor, and a plea is entered. The court typically orders a pre-plea report and the next hearing date is set. No testimony is taken.

C.D.P. (Community Detention Program) - CDP was initiated in 1990 as a viable pre-disposition detention alternative for minors who would otherwise remain detained in Juvenile Hall. CDP also offers an alternative to being removed from the community. A minor is placed on home supervision with electronic monitoring. It may also be imposed as a sanction at disposition or violation hearings.

Dennis H. Hearing - If a minor is ordered detained at the detention hearing, the minor has the right to confront those who have prepared reports upon which the detention is based. This hearing is held from three to five days following the detention hearing. If the witnesses do not appear, the minor is released.

Department of Juvenile Justice or DJJ (formerly California Youth Authority) - The most restrictive of all dispositions, DJJ is run by the State of California and intended to offer services and house serious, dangerous offenders. A minor can remain in DJJ until age 25.

Dismissal – The court's declaration that good cause for any jurisdiction over a particular case does not or no longer exists. In juvenile court it may be ordered when the evidence to sustain a petition is insufficient or after a period of probation has been successfully completed.

Dismissal with Prejudice – A final disposition of an action with a bar to bringing any other action on the same set of allegations.

Dismissal without Prejudice – Dismissal of an action specifically not barring subsequent action on the same set of allegations.

Disposition Hearing – By law (280, 702, 706 WIC), the probation officer must prepare a "social study" for the court to take into evidence prior to disposition

(sentencing). It is in fact a broader report, which provides the court with an account of the minor's offense and prior arrest record. The report concludes with an evaluation of the factual material and a recommendation. Following review of the dispositional report, the court will order the plan it deems most appropriate.

District Attorney (D.A.) - The title of the local public official who represents the government in the prosecution of criminals.

Fit – Court order for minor to be dealt with under juvenile court law and amenable to the care, treatment and training programs available through the facilities of the juvenile court.

Fitness Hearing - Any minor age 14 through 17 charged with certain and specific 602 WIC offenses may be ordered to a fitness hearing on the D.A.'s motion. The hearing officer determines whether the minor remains "fit" to be dealt with under juvenile court law or become the subject of adult proceedings.

Judicial – Relating to or concerning the administration of justice.

Petition – A formal, written application to a court requesting judicial action on a certain matter.

Pre-Plea Report – A report prepared by probation at the request of the court, to assist the court in its decision regarding sentencing.

Progress Report – Court report prepared by the DPO regarding the minor's conduct and compliance with conditions.

Sustained – If a petition is found true (found guilty) the minor is ordered to be a ward (minors under the care of the court) or probationer (under the supervision) of the Delinquency Court.

Unfit- Court order for minor not to be dealt with under juvenile court law; minor becomes the subject of possible adult proceedings.

William M Hearing - In this hearing, continued detention of a minor rests on a number of issues, including the presentation of a prima facie case that (in 602 WIC cases) the minor committed that alleged offense, and that the detention process was sufficiently individualized for the minor. "William M." hearings are held from three to five days following the detention hearing. ("Dennis H." and William M." issues are often heard at the same hearing.)

Ward – Minor whose care and custody has been placed under the supervision of the court.

Wardship – Status of a minor whose care and custody has been placed under the supervision of the court.

660.5 WIC (Expedited Youth Accountability Program) - In Los Angeles County, law enforcement agencies must cite minors to court when presenting arrests for prosecution. The cited court date is 60 days from the date the citation is written. If Probation decides to handle a matter without referring it to court (652 WIC), the citation date is cancelled.