

# Racial Justice Oversight Body Progress Report

Presented to the Public Protection Committee

August 7, 2023

---

## Overview

- What is the Racial Justice Oversight Body (RJOB)
- RJOB's Mission & Work To Date
- Future Directions
- RJOB's Data-Specific Work & Data Needs
- RJOB's Request to City Leadership



# What is the Racial Justice Oversight Body?

The Racial Justice Oversight Body (RJOB) was established in 2018 following the Board of Supervisors adoption of the Racial Justice Task Force's (RJTF) recommendations for improving racial equity within the County's justice system.

From April 2017-June 2018, RJTF met monthly to review local justice system data and assessed best and emerging practices for addressing racial disparities.



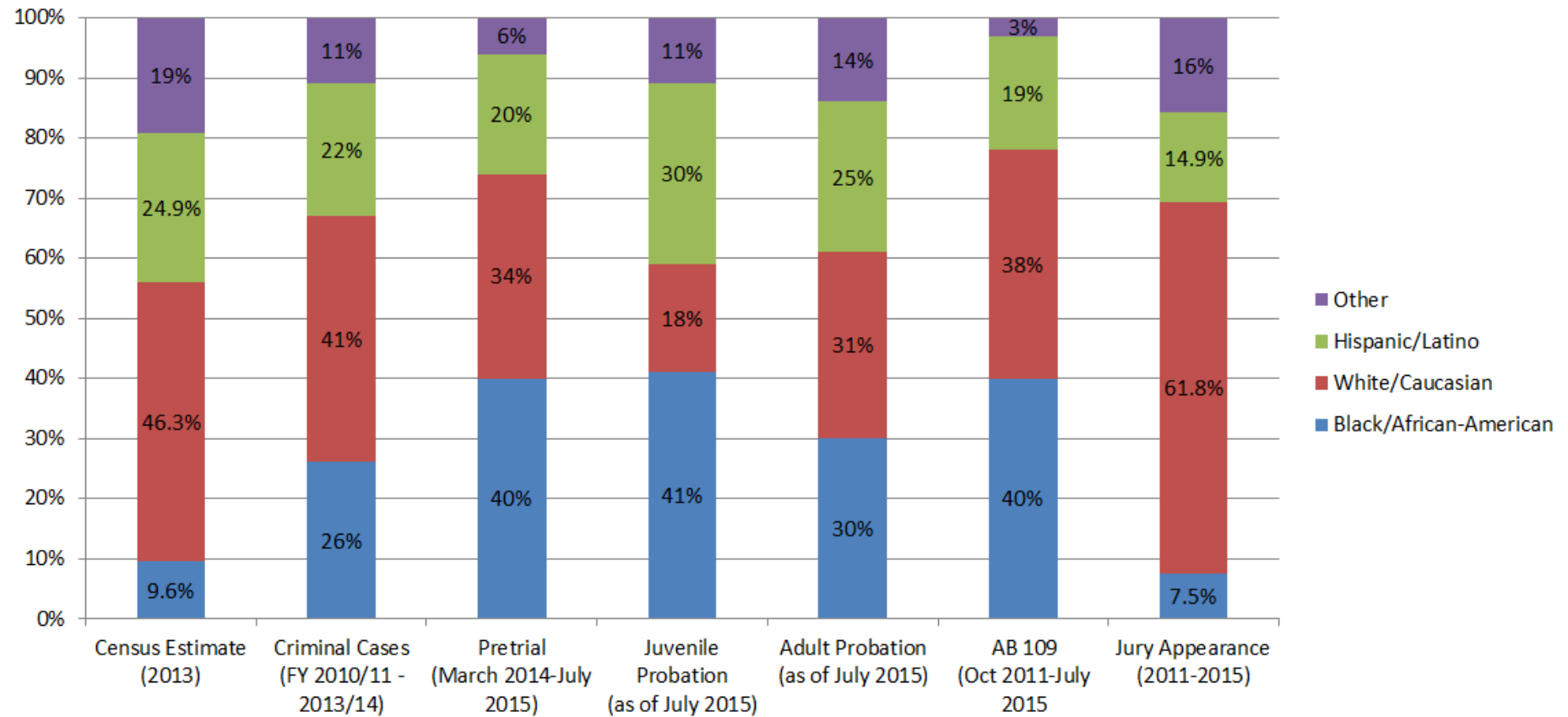
---

## What is the Racial Justice Oversight Body? (cont.) *RJTF Findings Presented to BOS, July 2018*

**The Task Force found disparities across the local justice system after review of data from law enforcement agencies, criminal and juvenile justice system. The highlighted findings included:**

1. Higher arrest rates for Black youth and adults drive disparities in County juvenile and criminal justice processes in 2014
2. Black and Latino youth were more likely than White youth to be placed in custody, both pre- and post-adjudication
3. Differences in the rate of disparity across cities indicated that different local contexts drive these disparities.
4. A higher proportion of Black and Latino defendants have sentence enhancements, due to characteristics of charges and/or defendants
5. Black adults in Contra Costa County were more likely than Latino or White adults to be detained pre-trial
6. In 2014, Black youth were sent to secure confinement at a higher rate than all other races; relative to being a ward of the Court, Hispanic youth were securely confined at a higher rate.
7. Changes to County jury selection processes have increased disparities in who services on juries in Contra Costa County.

# Data Snapshot: Summary of Race Data in CCC Criminal Justice Systems



# What is the Racial Justice Oversight Body? (cont.) *RJTF Final Recommendations*

---

Based on RJTF's findings and analysis, a set of 18 recommendations were developed and adopted by the County's Board of Supervisors. They cover the following domains:

- Oversight and Accountability (***formation of the Racial Justice Oversight Body***)
- Diversion
- Data
- County Support for Local Agencies
- Community Engagement and Services
- Practices Related to Trial & Adjudication Process
- Confinement

- *RJTF Final Report to Board of Supervisors, June 2018*

# RJOB's Mission

In adherence to the RJTF's oversight and accountability recommendations, RJOB was assembled in 2019 with the objective to:

1. Prioritize the RJTF recommendations
2. Establish subcommittees of RJOB members who bring expertise in and commitment to the topic area
3. Develop subcommittee workplans

The full body currently meets quarterly and reports to the BOS on an annual basis. Subcommittees meet monthly.

# RJOB Subcommittee Goals/Objectives

The RJOB has worked diligently to understand the various issues surrounding racial equity in the Contra Costa County justice system. Much of this work has been divided among three subcommittees:

## 1. **Community Engagement and Funding Subcommittee**

- Establish formal partnerships with community-based organization to provide greater capacity for programming and services
- Establish a community capacity fund to build the capacity of community-based organization
- Collaborate with the CCP-EC to consider increasing realignment funding for community services

## 2. **Data Subcommittee**

- Work with County criminal justice agencies and local law enforcement to improve the collection of individual level data on all encounters within the justice system
- Review and publish race-specific data for the purposes of improving transparency and accountability
- Support analyses of interventions to measure efficacy and assess impact on racial disparities

## 3. **Diversion Subcommittee**

- Recommend countywide criteria and protocols for formal and informal diversion. The recommendations shall be evidence-based and follow established best practices
- Separate recommendations to be developed for adult and juvenile populations



# RJOB Actions To Date

---

- **8/6/20: Approved joint statement on racial equity in light of COVID-19 and its impact on people who are incarcerated**
- **2/4/21: Approved diversion definition and guidelines developed by the Diversion subcommittee**
- **5/6/21: On behalf of the CEF Subcommittee, to strongly recommend to the BOS that they endorse the creation of the Miles Hall Non-Police Response Unit and AB 988 (The Miles Hall Lifeline Act).**
- **5/6/21: On behalf of the CEF Subcommittee, to request initial funding from the BOS for technical assistance with development of a proposal for a two-phase, hybrid cohort community capacity fund.**
- **5/6/21: On behalf of the Data Subcommittee, request a commendation to Probation at the BOS for their engagement in the subcommittee and their willingness to share data and promote transparency.**
- **8/5/21: RJOB urges the BOS to create a Sheriff Oversight Board pursuant to government code section 25303.7 and refer back to RJOB for recommendations regarding its charge and composition.**
- **11/4/21: Approved membership changes – seat vacancies and subcommittee roster updates**
- **11/4/21: Approved bylaws changes to allow for meeting discussions to continue despite lack of quorum with action items repeating at the following meeting**
- **6/6/23: Approved statement in response to tacist text message scandal involving Antioch Police Department**



# RJOB's Activities & Accomplishments To Date

- Community Engagement and Funding Subcommittee
  - Establishment of a community capacity fund for reentry Community Based Organizations
  - Brainstorming about a Youth Advisory Council
  - More accessibility to public members
  - Co-hosting community forum with Data Subcommittee (2022)
  - Preliminary planning for Youth Advisory Council proposal (2022)
- Data Subcommittee
  - Development of decision points matrix
  - Collection of current data from Probation, Sheriff's Office, County of Education
  - Development of commendation for participating agencies
  - Conducted analyses drawing from CA DOJ data
  - Receiving and sharing Probation, COE, and Sheriff's data
  - Supporting/promoting county race/ethnicity data website
  - Supporting/making data requests, written as well as via Zoom, to local county agencies/organizations
- Diversion Subcommittee
  - Completed a list of all current diversion programs
  - Developed a definition of diversion and a list of guidelines for countywide use
  - Diversion program staff presentations
  - Development of preliminary recommendations
  - Developing list of offenses excluded from diversion meant to expand eligibility (2022)
  - Developing pilot program to receive direct feedback about student needs in West Contra Costa Unified School District (2022)

# RJOB Activities 2023



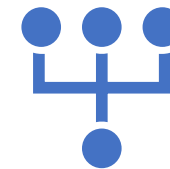
Public Statement in response to  
racism scandal in Antioch



Support and development of  
community healing spaces



Request for more clarity on role  
in implementation of the RJTF's  
Recommendations



Continuing to develop dialogue  
between RJOB and Board of  
Supervisors/subcommittees



Questions?