

January 11, 2016

Daniel Alvarez
Secretary of the California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3044
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Alvarez:

On behalf of the Juvenile Justice Data Working Group, I am pleased to submit our Final Report on *“Rebuilding California’s Juvenile Justice Data Systems—Recommendations to improve data collection, performance measures and outcomes for youth in the justice system.”*

The Legislature commissioned the Working Group and this Final Report in 2014 (Assembly Bill 1468). Our overall mandate is to conduct a thorough review of state and local juvenile justice data systems and to recommend “...options for improving interagency coordination, modernization and upgrading of state and local juvenile justice data and information systems.”

California processes more than 100,000 children and youth each year as arrest, diversion, prosecution, supervision and confinement cases. Yet, as our Working Group determined early in its review, the state’s capacity to monitor juvenile justice caseloads and outcomes falls below the threshold needed to support efficient policy and program development in the field.

Our “Rebuilding” report identifies how and where the state’s juvenile justice data capacity might best be upgraded—including a detailed “gap analysis” and comparison to other-state and national models. The report offers six major recommendations to modernize old technology and to rebuild state capacity to document, monitor and analyze case outcomes. It addresses the need for greater transparency and public information about the California juvenile justice system. An implementation plan, taking cost into account, is also presented.

Several recommendations address state agency responsibilities for juvenile justice data management, including a proposed, expanded role for the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). The BSCC Board will be reviewing these recommendations and providing its own response to the Legislature.

A separate Executive Summary of this Report is being transmitted along with the Full Report.

We thank the Legislature and the Governor for the opportunity to produce this report. State-level action to upgrade California's juvenile justice data capacity has long been deferred. Our recommendations provide a framework for modernizing this information capacity so that it better serves the needs of policymakers, stakeholders and communities as well as the needs of tens of thousands of youth who move through the California juvenile justice system each year. We remain available to discuss the issues and recommendations covered in this Report with Members and others who may be interested.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Steinhart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

DAVID STEINHART
Chair, California Juvenile Justice Data Working Group

