

Reimagining Safe Communities:

Coordinating violence prevention to help California thrive

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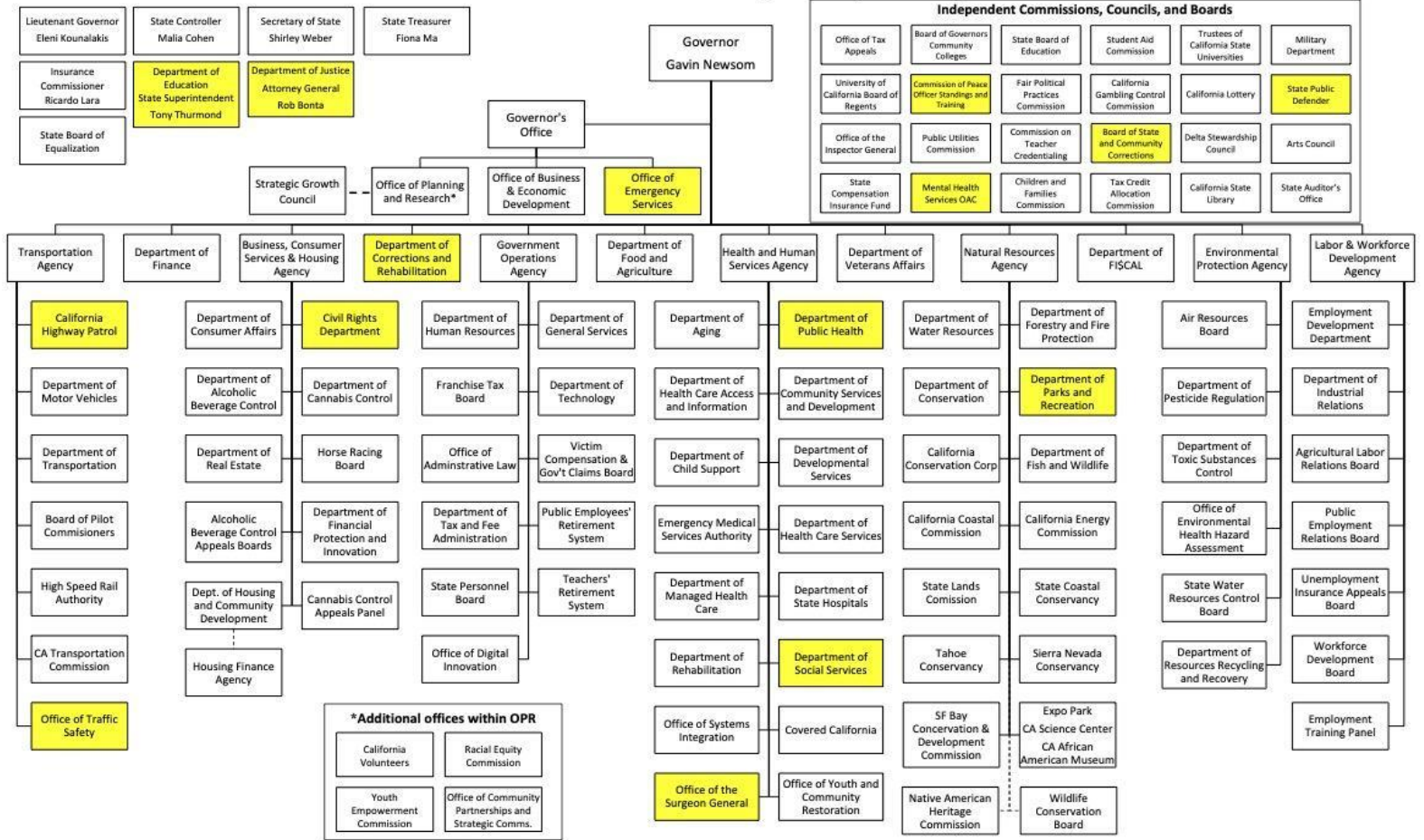
The Current Reality:

While violence affects the well-being of nearly every person either directly or indirectly, the State of California's response is often fractured and short-sighted.

Multiple government agencies and departments in California have offices and programs that attempt to tackle different symptoms of violence but there is no shared, state-level vision of a just, safe, and healthy society to work toward together.

California has an opportunity to forge a new path by aligning around a shared vision of safe communities that centers justice and community health, instead of the historically harmful approach of using punishment as a main tool for violence prevention.

CA State Government Org Chart (FY 2023)



"In a perfect world, there would be someone with a birds eye view really helping counties understand what violence prevention could look like."

-Julia Marmolejo Muruato,
Coordinator, STRYVE Youth
Violence Prevention Program,
Monterey County



Research Methods:

- Eugene Bardach's Eightfold Path, which is the recommended policy analysis method of The Goldman School of Public Policy, was used to create the recommendations:
 1. Define the problem
 2. Assemble the evidence
 3. Construct the alternatives
 4. Select the criteria
 5. Project the outcomes
 6. Confront the trade-offs
 7. Decide
 8. Tell your story
- Inputs to this method came from stakeholder interviews, literature review, and analysis of current violence prevention programs and policy

Recommendations:

- 1. Create a statewide strategic vision for safe and equitable communities**
 - 1a. Consult relevant departments to encourage an alignment behind this vision
 - 1b. Consult external stakeholders to ensure community voices are centered
- 2. Create an Office of Safe & Equitable Communities in the State of California with a mandate and authority to convene relevant departments**
 - 2a. Designate a Violence Prevention Officer(s) in each relevant department to attend meetings and integrate work
- 3. Empower localities to create offices to support violence prevention that reflect the needs of their individual, unique communities**
 - 3a. Treat existing local offices as pilot programs
 - 3b. Mandate the State Office of Safe & Equitable Communities to offer funding, administrative, and programmatic support to ensure longevity and success

“We are not here to take over what you are doing, we are here to coordinate to make everyone's jobs easier and make connections that might not already exist to support our common goals.”

-Kelly Fischer
Deputy Director, L.A. County
Office of Violence Prevention





1. Create a strategic vision for safe & equitable communities

1a. Consult relevant departments to encourage an alignment behind this vision

1b. Consult external stakeholders to ensure community voices are centered



2. Create an Office of Safe & Equitable Communities in the State of California with a mandate to convene relevant departments to carry out state vision

2a. Designate a Violence Prevention Officer(s) in each relevant department to attend meetings and integrate work

Where could the Office of Safe & Equitable Communities live?

Strategic Growth Council with CDPH having special role

- SGC has adopted the HiAP framework, more authority to convene, and has more access to governor
- This placement would avoid potential for other departments to see this as exclusively CDPH's work
- We must acknowledge the importance of CDPH's subject matter expertise and relationships with local offices

3. Empower localities to create offices to support violence prevention that reflect the needs of their individual, unique communities

3a. Treat existing local offices as pilot programs

3b. Mandate the State Office of Safe & Equitable Communities offer funding, administrative, and programmatic support to ensure longevity and success



State Funding, Administration, and Data Collection meets Local Planning:

- The communities that are most impacted by violence will have the most clarity about the problems and its solutions
- Building trust is paramount
- Violence Prevention is a long term project that needs data and comms support





Work smarter not harder

Violence prevention is already being funded at high levels but without organization or a strategic vision. Coordinating and aligning these efforts means more impactful work and a thriving California.

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Dan Ackland, Economics Professor, University of California, Berkeley

Sources:

[Crime Trends in California – Public Policy Institute of California](#)

[Armed Robbery: Who Commits it and Why? | Office of Justice Programs](#)

[The Overlap Between Those Committing Offenses Who Also Are Victims: One Class of Crime Victim Rarely Seeks or Receives Available Services | National Institute of Justice](#)

[California profile | Prison Policy Initiative](#)

[Findings from the First-Ever Survey of California Crime Victims and Survivors](#)

[Beyond Violence Prevention](#)

[Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention \(OVP\) Data Sources for Violence Prevention](#)

[Learning Evaluation Impact – Advance Peace](#)

[California's Racial Equity Commission](#)

CPDH [Violence Prevention Initiative](#)

[Release of the National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence: Strategies for Action | GPC | The White House](#)

[State Targeted Violence Prevention: Programming & Key Performance Indicators – National Governors Association](#)

Feedback & Discussion

Questions to discuss:

1. What is the right home for the leader of this work?
2. Language of violence prevention vs. safe and healthy communities
3. Mandating localities to make OVPs vs. encouraging
4. How can the roundtable support these recommendations?