

Oakland Neighborhood Opportunity and Accountability Board Protocols

NOAB DRAFT Mission Statement

The Neighborhood Opportunity and Accountability Board (NOAB) seeks to provide an alternative to the formal juvenile justice system by utilizing a community lead process that prioritizes restorative justice, healing, and making strategic connections between youth and support systems within the community.

The NOAB is a community based, restorative, youth diversion initiative in Oakland. The NOAB seeks to divert youth from formal processing into the juvenile justice system, involve community members in what happens with youth who engage in delinquent behavior, improve youth outcomes, provide a space for healing and increase public safety.

1. Target geographical area

The Oakland NOAB will begin with a focus on East Oakland (NOAB Zone). **The NOAB Zone will run between Fruitvale Avenue and the San Leandro Border.** Juvenile arrest data will be used to inform any further targeting of specific neighborhoods.

- We may consider a smaller pilot catchment area of 73rd Ave to the San Leandro border.

The NOAB will begin working with eligible youth who live in Oakland *and* commit a delinquent offense in the NOAB Zone. Eventually, the NOAB will expand to all youth who commit a delinquent offense in the NOAB Zone and live in Alameda County.

2. Target Population

The Oakland NOAB intends to be a true diversion program, meaning youth who commit lower risk offenses who would otherwise avoid system involvement will *not* participate in the NOAB. Youth who would usually only be counseled and released by police should continue to receive that intervention.

The NOAB is designed to provide an alternative to youth who would otherwise have some degree of system involvement as a result of committing a delinquent offense.

- a. Tier 1: Youth committing their 2nd misdemeanor offense
 - i. Assuming a youth who committed their first-time misdemeanor would not be formally processed in the youth justice system, the lowest risk youth that will participate in the NOAB are youth committing their second misdemeanor offense.

- ii. Referral to NOAB with “no pending charge”
 - 1. OPD will refer these youth to the NOAB with “no pending charge”, meaning no formal charges are filed or held against the youth and the NOAB becomes solely responsible for determining the appropriate response to the youth’s offense.
- b. Tier 2: Youth committing their 3rd or more misdemeanor offense
 - Process same as Tier 1
- c. Tier 3: Youth committing a non-violent felony
 - i. Youth committing non-violent felonies will be referred by OPD to the NOAB with their **charge held in abeyance**, meaning involvement in the NOAB accountability plan will result in no formal charges against the youth being filed but refusal or failure to participate will result in the case returning to OPD for referral to Probation and the DA’s office for formal processing.

NOAB Referral Criteria

The Oakland NOAB Pilot **target population** are youth:

- 12-17 years old
- Live in or committed their offense in East Oakland (between Fruitvale and San Leandro Border)
- Are accused of committing theft, auto-theft, auto-burglary, burglary and/or simple assault.

But the Oakland NOAB will accept additional youth as well. Any youth meeting the following criteria can be referred to the Oakland NOAB:

- Any youth who was going to be transported to juvenile hall for detention
- Any youth who a Notice to Appear was going to be issued to
- If the youth was going to be counseled and released, do NOT refer him/her, continue to counsel and release.
- Youth with their second or more misdemeanor
- The Oakland NOAB will accept, if the officer/Department is willing to refer, youth with any level of offense except 707b offenses.

3. NOAB Composition

The NOAB will be composed of 6-10 community members with a demonstrated commitment to the well-being of Oakland youth and the greater community. NOAB members will receive stipends for their service at an amount to be determined.

The NOAB will include but, not necessarily be limited to:

- i. Community and faith leaders
- ii. Residents of the neighborhood where offense(s) occurred
- iii. Youth leaders
- iv. Formerly incarcerated individuals
- v. Victims of crime
- vi. Business owners
- vii. Youth development professionals
- viii. Educators

4. NOAB Process

Police officers making an arrest of an eligible youth (based on the above criteria), will confer and get approval from the Oakland Police Department (OPD) Youth Intake Sergeant (desk) for referral to the NOAB. The OPD Youth Intake Sergeant will also screen all youth arrests for eligibility for NOAB referrals. The ultimate goal is to refer all eligible youth to the NOAB. Youth and their families will receive a referral similar to the current Notice to Appear process. Youth and their families will be referred to the NOAB Coordinator for further assessment.

The goal of the NOAB is to divert youth from any formal processing into the juvenile justice system and therefore primarily seeks to receive referrals at the point of arrest. However, the NOAB also hopes to work with youth who are not initially diverted but are referred by Alameda County Probation and the District Attorney's Office.

- **NOAB Coordinator:**

The NOAB will be initially staffed with a NOAB Coordinator. The NOAB Coordinator will be the main point of contact for referrals from OPD, will make the initial outreach to NOAB youth, their families, and any victims. The NOAB Coordinator may administer a risk assessment developed by the NOAB and help determine the appropriate tier of intervention for the youth. The NOAB Coordinator will meet with the youth, their families, and any victims, and develop a report to the NOAB and schedule a NOAB Conference. The NOAB Coordinator will also ensure all intervention referrals and services are made based on the NOAB Conference. The NOAB Coordinator will track the progress of all youth, including receiving regular reports from the intervention programs and will schedule further NOAB Conferences as needed. The NOAB Coordinator will maintain youth files, develop monthly progress reports, and make regular reports to the NOAB members and stakeholders committee.

5. NOAB Conference

Upon referral of an eligible youth that has been processed by the NOAB Coordinator, a meeting known as a NOAB Conference (what in the formal system would be a hearing), will be scheduled. The youth, their family, and any victim wishing to participate will meet with the NOAB. The youth will have an opportunity to be heard and will help determine the supports they need. Based on the NOAB Coordinator's Intake Report of the youth, the alleged delinquent offense, and the discussion in the meeting, the NOAB will determine the appropriate support and accountability plan with the youth.

Participation in the NOAB Conference should be voluntary for all parties. Everyone involved in the process will also be briefed and prepared so there are no surprises. Youth will be able to invite family and other loved ones to attend the NOAB Conference.

6. NOAB Program

The NOAB will connect youth to a wide range of relationships, opportunities, services, and interventions intended to support the positive development of each individual youth. The NOAB Coordinator will work with partner programs and service providers to connect all youth, families, and victims to appropriate services and supports. The NOAB partner services include:

- Restorative Justice (Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth)
- Case Management and Life Coaching (Community & Youth Outreach)
- Family Counseling (Carl B. Metoyer Center for Family Counseling (CBMCFFC))
- Mentoring (The Brotherhood of the Elders Network, Rites of Passage)
- Cognitive Based Therapy (Community & Youth Outreach)
- Internship and Fellowship opportunities (National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, W. Haywood Burns Institute, CURYJ)

In addition to the above program that will provide services and supports to youth and families when appropriate, Youth Uprising will serve as the NOAB hub, providing a physical location for police officers to drop youth off as an alternative to juvenile hall and it will be the host site for NOAB Conferences.

The family of the youth will be strongly encouraged to participate in the youth's NOAB conference. The NOAB will seek to provide support and incentive for family participation. For support/accountability plans that include family services or counseling, the youth's family will be required to participate.

When appropriate and feasible, the NOAB will consider providing restitution to victims, particularly in cases where restitution is a barrier to engaging in a restorative process.

7. Cost Savings

By diverting youth who would otherwise be processed through the criminal justice system, the NOAB also seeks to reduce the extremely high cost of juvenile justice. California spends more than \$200,000 annually to incarcerate a single youth in a state facility and counties spend on average \$135,000 per year for a detention bed. A study conducted by the [Justice Policy Institute](#) found that the national average cost to incarcerate a youth is nearly \$150,000. Money saved through the effective implementation of the NOAB would ideally be reinvested into communities and community lead interventions like the NOAB that are focused on positive youth development.