Created from a Richmond youth-led response to heightened violence in 2008, the RYSE Youth Center was designed according to priorities and solutions identified by youth. As the coordinating organization of the Contra Costa Youth Justice Coalition, RYSE serves in-risk youth ages 13 to 21 who experience disparity, limited opportunity and/or system intervention at every indicator of health and well-being. The RYSE Youth Center creates a safe space where youth feel empowered to love, learn, educate, heal and transform lives and communities.

**PARTNERS**
Youth Services Bureau
Catholic Charities
Public Counsel
W. Haywood Burns Institute

**STRATEGIES TO BUILD POWER**
Assessment of the Juvenile Justice System in Contra Costa County
Coalition Building and Expansion
Youth Policy Cohort
Policy Platform Development
Trauma-informed Community Empowerment Trainings

**POLICY ISSUES**
- Meaningful inclusion of youth voice in juvenile justice system reform efforts to address inequities
- Use of trauma-informed approaches to policy creation and training
- Eliminating racial inequities
- Minimizing police presence in West Contra Costa County schools

**KEY JUVENILE JUSTICE DATA**
- African Americans make up 9.6% of the county’s population, but 26% of all criminal cases
- African American adults make up 30% of probationers and African American youth make up 41%
- Youth of color make up 80% to 95% of the county’s juvenile justice detention population
- When asked about ways RYSE contributed to changes in themselves, about 75% of youth indicated a positive change related to socialization and self-regulation, community and culture, school, career and general skills

CONTACT RYSE YOUTH CENTER
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