

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – January 13, 2022

Stanislaus County Probation Department – Microsoft TEAMS

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Mark Ferriera, Chair/Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Jeff Anderson, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
Robert Housden, Children’s System of Care, for Ruben Imperial, BHRS
The Honorable Jeff Mangar, Stanislaus County Superior Court
Terrance Withrow, Board of Supervisors
Cynthia Duenas, Director, Center for Human Services
Angelica Ramos for Jody Hayes, Chief Executive’s Office
Amanda Sharp, Director, Community Services Agency

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Dave Chapman, Juvenile Field Services Division Director, Probation Department
Emily Herrera, Juvenile Facilities Superintendent, Probation Department
Leticia Ruano, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Janice Cree, Data Manager, Probation Department
Marian Martino, GJJJ Volunteer
Renee Flora, Center for Human Services
Michell Camacho, Without Permission

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm by Chief Probation Officer (CPO), Mark Ferriera.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public were present or wished to make a public comment.

III. **ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361**

CPO Ferriera reviewed the emergency order that allowed bodies, commissions, boards, and councils to skirt some of the Brown Act rules. It has since been revoked, and effective October 1, 2021, Assembly Bill (AB) 361 was put into effect. AB 361 allows for remote meetings to continue without meeting some of the requirements of the Brown Act, provided specific findings and a resolution is made. Included in the meeting invite were proposed findings and a resolution to continue meeting remotely.

The Honorable Jeff Mangar motioned to adopt the proposed resolution and numbering the resolution as “Resolution No. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council #2.” Second: Cynthia Duenas. All the members in attendance were noted: Hon. Jeff Mangar, Jeff Anderson, Robert Housden, Terrance Withrow, Cynthia Duenas, Angelica Ramos, Amanda Sharp, CPO Mark Ferriera: Aye. The resolution was passed, adopted, and will be attached to the minutes.

IV. **APPROVE OCTOBER 14, 2021, MEETING MINUTES: JJCC**

Motion: Cynthia Duenas. Second: Amanda Sharp. Noes: None. Abstain: None. The minutes from October 14, 2021, meeting were approved.

V. **JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE**

Facilities Superintendent, Emily Herrera, reported that due to recent COVID-19 issues amongst the staff, N95 masks are being used and staff mandates to work longer shifts in the Juvenile Institutions have been required. The Juvenile Institutions’ count is now at 42 youth. There are currently two positive

COVID-19 cases among the youth; however, these youth were positive before being admitted to Juvenile Hall.

In-person visits have been fully implemented as of December. Masks are necessary for visits, and everything has been going smoothly.

Two youth are currently enrolled in the MJC Program and actively attend their classes. One youth will soon be graduating high school and has started the enrollment process for MJC.

In December, four youth from the Juvenile Commitment Facility were permitted to attend an event at the Gallo Center. They were given adequate clothing and were accompanied by employees from the Juvenile Institutions. Everything went smoothly, and the youth were overjoyed and grateful for the opportunity.

Marian Martino raised a significant amount of money for the Santa and Elf Program from the community. The gifts give youth the ability to wrap a gift of their choice to give to a loved one during visiting. In addition, the youth in custody got pizza from Youth for Christ and a visit from Santa Claus (Darrell Long), who distributed community-donated gifts. Superintendent Herrera stated that the Santa and Elf Program was a complete success and expressed her gratitude to Marian Martino and her volunteer team for everything that they do.

Director for Human Services Cindy Duenas commended Ms. Martino and her volunteer team for the Writing Program she provides for youth in custody. She stated that it would be nice if the group received the opportunity to see the youth's work and how they express themselves through writing. CPO Ferriera agreed that Marian Martino and her team do fantastic work.

CPO Ferriera reported the following booking trends from 2016 to 2021:

- 2016 there were 890 total bookings; by 2021, the total number of bookings decreased to 445.
- There has been a steady decline in bookings and citations since 2016; however, the bookings for serious offenses such as firearm possession/use, murder, attempted murder, and 707B offenses have dramatically increased.
- The total number of bookings for murder was:
 - 2016 – 1
 - 2017 – 7
 - 2018 – 1
 - 2019 – 0
 - 2020 – 0
 - 2021 – 9
- The total number of bookings for firearm possession/use was:
 - 2016 – 43; 4.8% of the 890 youth booked.
 - 2021 – 60; 13.5% of the 445 youth booked.
- The total percentage of 707B offenses (30 of the most serious crimes youth can commit) was:
 - 2016 – 6.9% of the 890 youth booked.
 - 2021 – 14.8% of the 445 youth booked.

Youth booked for 707B offenses, provided the youth is over the age of 16, can be tried as adults at the discretion of the District Attorney's Office to file a motion and approval from the Judge.

As of July 1, 2021, DJJ has stopped accepting youth into their facility, and all DJJ-like commitments will remain in Juvenile Hall moving forward. Currently, zero DJJ-like commitments are being housed in Juvenile Hall. CPO Ferriera advised that the DJJ count is 14; the youth were committed to DJJ before July 1, 2021.

The group discussed how increasing serious bookings had impacted the Juvenile Institutions. CPO Ferriera noted that due to the seriousness of the offense, the youth's housing will be impacted but will not affect their programming. Superintendent Herrera noted that youth in custody for an extended period could receive better treatment such as Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Cognitive

Behavioral Interventions (CBI), and Choices, but the downfalls experienced are due to the staffing issues. There has been an increase in the number of youth with serious Mental Health issues requiring closer monitoring. Ms. Herrera advised that 49% of youth are on Mental Health medication.

CPO Ferriera advised that the Juvenile Institutions' vacancy rate is the lowest it has ever been, expressing relief for the low number of youth in custody. He voiced concern about staffing challenges and the seriousness of the situation if the Juvenile Hall count increased as it had in the past.

VI. **JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES UPDATE**

Division Director Dave Chapman noted that Probation Department staff continue with enforcement and prevention efforts by providing services to youth in and out of custody.

Marian Martino provided over 70 gift bags for the Field Services Staff to give to the youth during home visits. Mr. Chapman thanked Ms. Martino and her team for the gifts they provided; he noted that the response from the community was very well received.

Director Dave Chapman provided an update on the following Youth Offender Block Grant Funded Programs:

- **Gender Responsive Alternatives to Detention (GRAD):**
 - Currently, the caseload consists of 16 youth.
 - 3 are in custody
 - Three are Bench Warrant/ Pick-up and Hold status.
 - Ten have been referred, enrolled, and attending counseling through Haven, Without Permission, and BHRS.
 - Two are currently employed, one at McDonalds and one at Dominos.
 - Two are pending job interviews.
 - One is enrolled and attending Argus and Project Yes Program, where she is receiving extra assistance and tutoring and is projected to graduate in the summer of 2022.
 - One was referred to MJC/EOPS and will be registering for the Summer/Fall Semester.

- **Girls Advisory Council (GAC),** led by Renee Flora, partnered with the Center for Human Services and focused on empowering youth by pursuing various partnerships to come together and provide the youth with assistance specific to their needs. The GAC has expanded its partnerships, often providing conferences for youth to attend and hear guest speakers. Due to COVID-19, the conferences have been on hold. Renee reported the following update:
 - The Girls Advisory Council met remotely throughout the pandemic and recently resumed meeting in person.
 - Three new partnerships have joined the GAC.
 - There are possibilities of a conference for 2022 pending COVID-19 protocols.
 - A meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2022.

- **Without Permission,** led by Michelle Camacho, reported the following for the past three months:
 - They provided 72 mentoring sessions with at-risk CSEC male and female youth in Juvenile Hall.
 - One hundred ninety-two visits or contacts with out of custody CSEC youth were completed.
 - Provided 50 continuing educational opportunities to youth in custody covering topics such as the trauma-informed “Ending the Game” and “Seeking Safety” curriculums, the Power and Control Trafficking Wheel, and the “Cornerstones of Restoration.”
 - Services are still being provided while maintaining vital relationships with 13 youth who are no longer on probation in an after-care setting.
 - Ten parents of trafficking victims were provided resources as part of their support for families.

- **The Youth Assessment Center (YAC)**

- The YAC is in its second year of implementation and is now up fully running and is housed next to Modesto High School at the Sierra Vista Child and Family Services location as part of their Family Resource Center with the long-term goal of embedding the same concept in Family Resource Centers throughout the county.
- Last year 37 individuals were aided, and over 250 ancillary contacts to family members in connection to the youth.
- As part of a California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Process, the Modesto Police Department has reached out to the YAC to assist with the prevention portion of the grant. The Modesto Police Department would refer youth to the YAC bypassing the Juvenile Justice System as a preventative measure.

Division Director Chapman announced the opening of the onsite Juvenile Programming Center to serve as a one-stop-shop. He then went on to provide an update on the three programs that are being offered at this location:

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART):
 - Currently is in Week 8 of 10 with 8 students attending class and are on track to graduate on 1/27/22.
 - A new class will start on 2/1/22 and run concurrently with custody groups, simultaneously teaching the same lessons. Upon a youth's release, they can be routed to the Juvenile Programming Center and continue where they left off.
- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions – Core Youth (CBI-CY):
 - CBI is now being offered out of custody with 4 students attending.
 - There are 47 classes across 7 modules.
 - Due to COVID-19 impacts, video conferencing has been made available for youth in quarantine.
- Let's Work:
 - 5 youth are actively participating and are halfway through their 10-week program.
- Placement Update:
 - Partnered with Child Welfare have been working hard to comply with the new Federal FFPSA requirements that require assessments that BHRS must complete. The assessments are called "The Qualified Individual Assessment Process" for recommendations to continue into short-term residential treatment programs if applicable.
 - If the requirements are not met, Federal funding will be lost, and placement services will have to be paid for by the county.

Division Director Dave Chapman expressed concern about the recent changes: DJJ closure, the opening of Secure Track, the loss of out-of-state placement, and an increase in the severity of the type of youth being managed. He anticipates an increase in placement youth because the current youth on supervision have more intense needs, co-occurring offenses, and are more violent.

During the April meeting, Division Director Dave Chapman will present this group with the JJCPA-YOBS Annual Plan for FY2022-2023 to review and approve.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CPO Ferriera stated that as part of SB823, Superintendent Herrera and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee put together an SB823 Plan approved in April. CPO Ferriera suggested that the membership plan be reevaluated yearly in addition to updating the membership list. The meeting date and time for the JJCC Subcommittee to meet will be forthcoming.

Superintendent Herrera announced the Juvenile Institutions had the BSCC Pre-Inspection, and it went very well. The full comprehensive BSCC Inspection will be from April 4, 2022, through April 6, 2022.

VIII. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for April 21, 2022, at 12:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm.