

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
March 18, 2015**

Members Present: Darin Gharat, Chair, Vicki Maldonado, Lt. Mike Dailey, Jesse De La Cruz, and Teresa Guerrero

Members Excused: Sharma Uma Richard Breshears, Capt. Bill Duncan, Jorge Contreras, and Steve Ashman

Members Absent: Pedro Sorio

Probation Department Present: Jill Silva, Chief Probation Officer

Superior Court Present: The Honorable Valli Israels, Juvenile Court Judge

Call to Order: Chair Darin Gharat called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Public Comment: No public individuals were present. The public comment period was dispensed with.

Approval of Minutes: One correction was noted in the "Call to Order" section. MOTION: Lt. Mike Dailey. SECOND: Vicki Maldonado. The minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved with correction noted.

Probation Department Report: Chief Jill Silva

Chief Silva updated the members on the status of the following subjects:

- **Budget:** The Board of Supervisors has approved the public safety restoration funding. Because of this funding, along with the utilization of some fund balance from special revenue accounts, the Probation Department had 13 positions approved which will include positions at the Juvenile Institutions. With the hiring of additional PCO staff, the vocational programming at the Juvenile Commitment Facility will be able to move forward and additional evidence-based programming will be implemented at Juvenile Hall. Staff has been trained to implement these programs but they have not been able to leave posted positions in order to conduct these educational programs and services. Another position added is that of a Crime Analyst/Researcher who will be a dedicated evaluator for topics which include program effectiveness, juvenile crime trends and recidivism rates.
- The Probation Department has experienced the retirement of three supervisors this month and two supervisors at the end of last year. Approximately 20 staff members have been transferred to different units and Division Director Steve Jackson (Adult Field Services) switched positions with Division Director Leticia Ruano (Juvenile Institutions). These management transfers are the result of succession planning required within the department.

- The National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD) report on the Stanislaus County Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative Evaluation was distributed by e-mail to the Commission members. For the May meeting, PbS reports will be reviewed with the Commission members.
- The Probation Department conducted a Swearing-In ceremony on Monday, March 16th with 17 officers sworn in who have recently been promoted or hired in the department.
- A stakeholders meeting was held on March 4th for the Reducing Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.) grant. The consultants from the Burns Institute presented information on the plan for the grant funding. They had the opportunity to meet representatives from the various agencies who will be involved in the grant process. The next step will include the staff from the Burns Institute surveying the stakeholders, conducting interviews, and evaluating the data that has been collected to identify gaps that might be evident in the county. Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding will be conducting a training session entitled "Implicit Bias."
- Chief Silva advised she attended an American Leadership Forum at the University of the Pacific last weekend bringing together law enforcement and court representatives, and community-based organizations from Stanislaus, Merced, and San Joaquin Counties. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm ideas for improving relationships between law enforcement and the community. The keynote speaker at this event was Constance Rice, a civil rights attorney known for filing lawsuits against the Los Angeles Police Department. Now she works with the L.A. Police Department and emphasized that law enforcement should move away from making arrests for petty crimes and have police officers participate in community events and be visible in the community.
- Chief Silva discussed an effort statewide regarding the continuum of care for youth in the delinquency system and reform the use of congregate care with moving away from the use of group home care and turn these facilities into community care treatment facilities for a six-month period. The challenge would be placing a high-risk juvenile in a foster care family. Statewide, counties are trying to keep youth out of group homes. Dual status is being utilized for these youth and advocacy groups are evaluating the group homes and use of group homes. She noted that Stanislaus County tries to use group homes that are focused on treatment with some of these facilities located in Pennsylvania and Iowa.

Juvenile Court Report: Judge Valli Israels

Judge Israels reported that she attended a conference held in San Francisco on dependency and another conference on the subject of being a supervisor. She noted she will be interviewed by the consultants for the R.E.D. grant during their visit to the Probation Department in April.

Judge Israels advised that a delinquency team is being formed with Probation Department officers and attorneys to address caseload and delinquency issues. She noted that the Juvenile Drug Court numbers are recently lower than expected because more of the youth are being sent to placement. The Honor Roll continues to do well and is a good incentive for the youth at Juvenile Hall.

Judge Israels noted that one of the problems statewide is restoration. She explained that when a minor is not competent to stand trial, the attorney declares a doubt as to their competence because this defendant cannot assist their attorney with their case. Proceedings are then suspended and a doctor referral is made to evaluate the minor. If the report from the doctor indicates they are not competent, it is then necessary to try to restore the juvenile to competence. Statewide, with juveniles, there are no programs available to assist with restoration. Therefore, Juvenile Hall is being used for this type of program while they are in custody. However, Juvenile Hall cannot be used for a long period of time. Chief Silva advised that the Central Region of CPOC is addressing this issue. She noted that Juvenile Justice Mental Health provides treatment for restoration but does not have providers who understand the legal side of the competency issue and counties address this subject differently. Chief Silva discussed the expensive training required for all areas involved to assure competency.

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.