

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
February 18, 2016**

Members Present: Darin Gharat, Chair, Vicki Maldonado, Sharma Uma, Capt. Bill Duncan and Steve Ashman

Members Excused: Richard Breshears, Teresa Guerrero, and Lt. Mike Dailey

Members Absent: Jesse De La Cruz, Pedro Sorio and Jorge Contreras

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 12:10 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 7, 2015 and November 16, 2015 meetings could not be approved because a quorum of members was not present. This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

Chief Silva proposed amending the bylaws to indicate that decisions can be reached through majority voting, which is defined as a majority of the members present. The members present agreed that the bylaws should be amended and considered for approval at the next meeting. Chair Darin Gharat advised that letters should be prepared to send to the Commission members who have three consecutive unexcused absences.

Probation Department Report: Chief Jill Silva

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

- Chief Silva advised that youth advocacy groups and the legislature have been evaluating the use of room confinement for youth in juvenile detention facilities. She noted that putting youth in their cells for days at a time is not a productive response to addressing behavior. Performance-based Standards (PbS), which is utilized at the Juvenile Institutions, measures the use of room confinement. Chief Silva reviewed that room confinement was used more in the past and reported that the last PbS report showed that the average length of stay in room confinement was 2-1/2 to 3 hours, which is very similar to what is used as separation depending upon the behavior issue with the youth. Some behavior might cause a higher use of room confinement when other measures have been ineffective and the youth must try to gain control of their behavior.

Staff noted that there is a need to incentivize good behavior and they suggested that one of the living units not in use be converted to a recreation area. Ward welfare funds will be utilized to re-decorate an area for this purpose. Staff visited Butte County's program to take pictures and gather ideas. Chief Silva showed the

photos (photos presented are attached to original copy of minutes) featuring a Baby Elmo Room which is a room to be used for children visiting the youth in custody. One of the visiting rooms at the Juvenile Commitment Facility will be decorated in this manner. Other photos taken included a Rec Room that had colorful walls, an air hockey table, a ping pong table, couches, various wall decorations and a popcorn machine. The Rec Room would be available to youth who have earned the required number of behavior points. The maximum security unit might be included in the future.

- Chief Silva reported that the census has increased at Juvenile Hall and the Juvenile Commitment Facility. Morale among staff is better because more staff has been added and has attended CORE training. An employee survey was conducted to address the morale issue and has had positive results. She explained that an agenda item was presented to the Board of Supervisors to add more Probation Corrections Office III positions in order to have more permanent lead staff available. This has also made a positive impact at the Juvenile Institutions.
- The R.E.D. grant process is progressing with participation from community members to address the goal of reducing racial disparities of youth in custody. One of the work groups is developing a Violation of Probation grid to study other measures being utilized instead of lock-up for youth.
- The Juvenile Commitment Facility 30-bed unit is being utilized because of the increased population. Chief Silva discussed the department's high use of out-of-home placement and State funding will be received through a grant in partnership with BHRS to provide these youth wraparound services to bring them out of placement soon utilizing foster homes, homes of relatives and independent living. Outcomes for this grant funding will be tracked. The Continuum of Care indicates that group homes should not be used by 2018; however, Chief Silva advised that this goal is not realistic since foster homes do not usually want to care for youth who are on probation.
- Chief Silva reported that a Crime Analyst has been hired for Juvenile Field Services and reports will be available for future meetings. She is presently studying recidivism rates in juveniles.

Juvenile Court Report: Judge Valli Israels

Judge Israels reported that Juvenile Court has been busy with new law violations and VOP's. She advised that the Juvenile Court now has one court available when there should be 1-1/2 to 2 judges available. The philosophy is less custody and using the least restrictive measures, but resources are not always available to counsel youth or for foster care. She noted that it is often a struggle to work with parents on complying with school attendance requirements. The Juvenile Drug Court has a new makeup and some youth are doing well with staying away from drug use. School attendance is a problem with these youth and the use of foster care is difficult to establish and/or maintain.

The Judges' Honor Roll continues to be a program with good participation. In this program, youth who have obtained 30 out of a possible 32 points are rewarded with a certificate, a treat, and three days off their sentence.

Review and Sign Letter – Juvenile Institutions Inspection

The letter prepared from the inspection of the Juvenile Institutions conducted in November 2015 was reviewed and signed by Chair Darin Gharat.

Group Home Visit Discussion

The group home visit for the JJC members will be scheduled in March 2016 to visit Koinonia Family Services in Auburn.

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.


BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE NORTH VALLEY



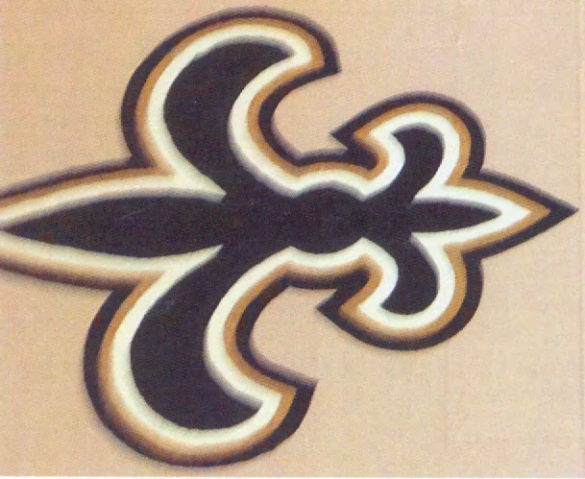








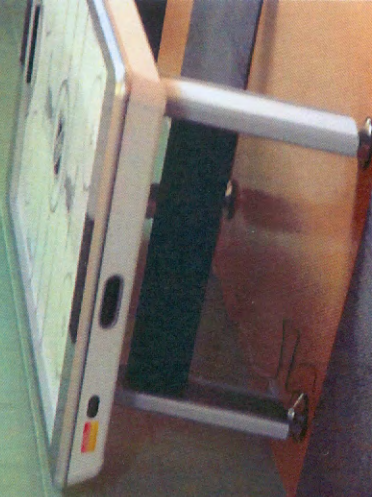
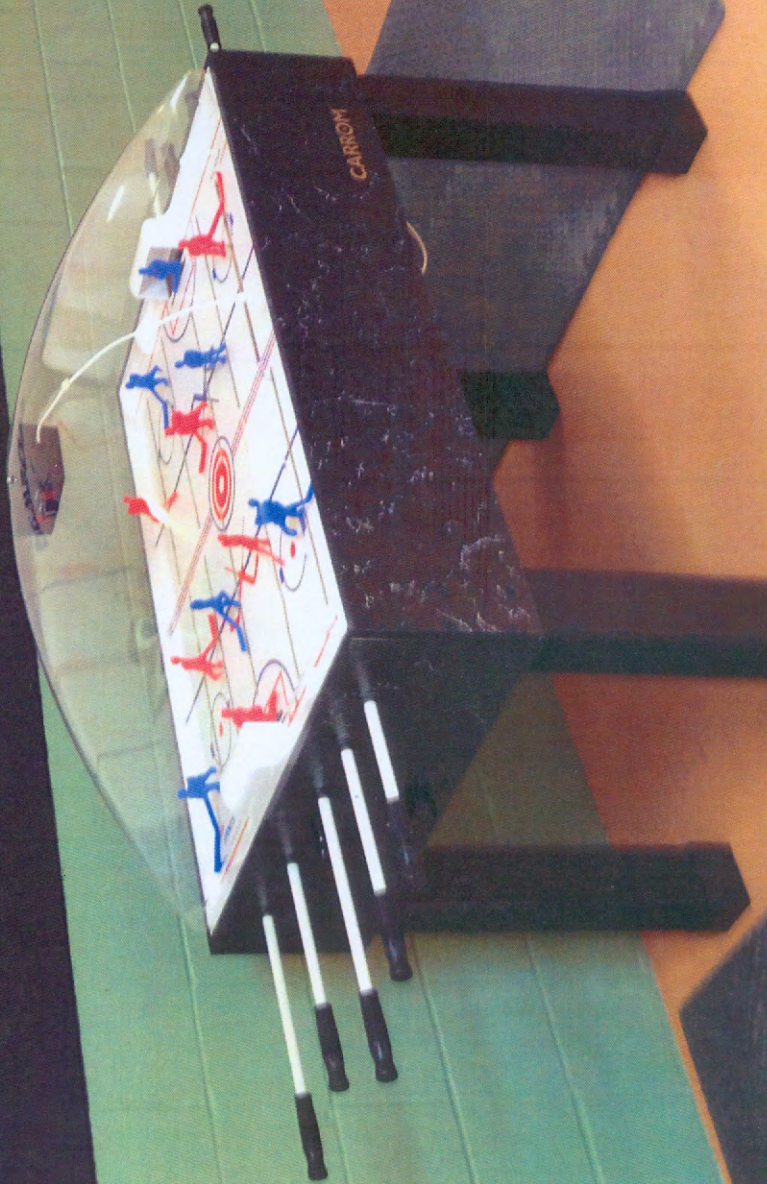




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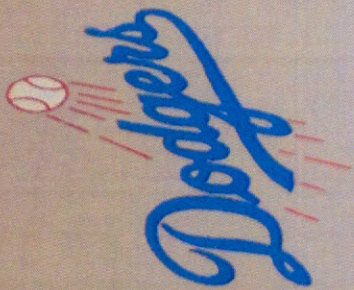
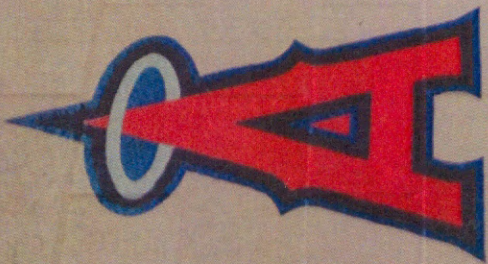


GANG FREE









GANG FREE ZONE

