

Stanislaus County Juvenile Justice Commission — Minutes
June 16, 2022 – Probation Department

Members Present: Marian Martino, Chair, Michael Baldwin Vice-Chair, Stephen Ashman, Sharma Uma, Cpt. Scott Houston, Dawn Cullum, Chief Fidel Landeros

Members Excused: Wanda Bonnell

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera, ACPO Leticia Ruano

Superior Court Present: The Honorable Jeff Mangar, Juvenile Court Judge

Call to Order: Chairperson Marian Martino called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Stephan Ashman. SECOND: Uma Sharma. The minutes from the April 14, 2022, meeting were approved.

Probation Department Report:

-Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera advised that the Juvenile Institutions' current population is 61 youth, with 10 females and 51 males. Additionally, he provided the following updates:

- 12 Juvenile Commitments
- 5 detained in the hall with placement orders

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) conducted their biennial inspection of the Juvenile Institutions, and the Juvenile Institutions were determined to be in compliance. This inspection is performed every two years to assure that the facility is fit for housing youth. The inspection took place from April 5th – 8th. They reviewed: Use of Force reports, policies, interviewed staff and the juveniles we serve, and inspection reports. The BSCC conducted a very thorough inspection and the Juvenile Institutions passed with flying colors. Chief Ferriera verbalized how pleased he was with how we serve our youth. Just as a point of reference, Los Angeles County is going before the BSCC Board to determine whether their facilities are suitable to house youth.

Chief Ferriera thanked the Commission, especially, Marian Martino, for her letter from the JJC to Wellpath regarding the importance of consistency while providing youth with mental health treatment.

Currently, the vacancy rate for facility staffing is at 51% and the department is having to reorganize staff to meet staffing levels.

-Marian Martino submitted a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding staffing shortages and referencing the lower pay rate for Juvenile Corrections Officers vs Adult COs. It is critical that Juvenile Hall retain staff that have history and expertise with the kids and that we avoid staff burn out.

-Chief Ferriera reported having more staff leaving. Superintendent, Emily Herrera, is leaving, and Tracie Martin will be the new Superintendent starting June 18, 2022.

The Department of Juvenile Justice will completely shut down on June 30, 2023. All youth from our county who are still being detained at the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) on June 30, 2023, will be returned to us. The Governor indicated that he would work with Probation Departments to work on the transition. We currently have 7 youth at DJJ with 1 youth committed to the Secure Track.

Aggression Replacement Training is being offered for in-custody youth. Currently we are not seeing any upticks in bookings of youth. No real trends to report. We have 233 youth on Probation which is a continued downward trend. To compare, in the year 2020, had 380 on Probation.

There were a lot of citations this month. Law Enforcement Officers can "Cite and Release", or "Cite and Book". There were 62 citations in April. That was an unusual spike.

-The Courts are still doing the hybrid model of in-person and remote Court appearances and will do so until next year. Attorneys can attend from anywhere and remote hearings are here to stay. The building of the new Courthouse is on track. Juvenile courts will remain next to Juvenile Hall.

-Chief Ferriera reported that he and ACPO Ruano attended a meeting this morning regarding the new courtrooms. Three years ago, a discussion was started that hit roadblocks. It was initially assumed that all Juvenile Justice matters would be moving downtown; however, the County is committed to revamping the existing juvenile courtrooms. This is going to be a county project.

-Judge Mangar advised his courtroom will remain at Juvenile Hall, and Judge Rees' cases will go downtown.

Juvenile cases continue to trend downward. In the original plans for the new courthouse, all matters would be downtown. After doing the cost estimate, it was an extraordinary expense. It is financially advantageous to keep Juvenile Justice matters next to Juvenile Hall. The County is looking to fund the modification of the building to accommodate the needs. During any remodel, we must have a courtroom available while the others are being built. With juvenile cases trending down, there have been prior discussions about raising the juvenile age to under 20 years old. Senator Skinner was the co-author of the legislation. That would double what we have, in terms of bookings, if the age went to 20.

-Underwood Scholarship approved unanimously for Humberto Nunez via email vote.

-Dawn Cullum will be returning as a conflict attorney to the Juvenile Courts on July 1, 2022.

Unit 3 is currently on quarantine as of June 9th, 2022. 10 days is the maximum time for quarantine.

Next meeting scheduled for August 18, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm.