

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – July 21, 2022

Stanislaus County Probation Department

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Mark Ferriera, Chair/Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Robert Housden for Ruben Imperial, Children's System of Care, BHRS
The Honorable Jeff Mangar, Stanislaus County Superior Court
Terrance Withrow, Board of Supervisors
Cynthia Duenas, Director, Center for Human Services
Joshua Woolworth for Jody Hayes, Chief Executive's Office
Joshua Clayton for Jeff Dirske, Lieutenant, Sheriff's Office
Dr. Steven Wood for Chau-Pu Chiang, Criminal Justice Department, CSU Stanislaus

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Dave Chapman, Juvenile Field Services Division Director, Probation Department
Tracie Martin, Juvenile Facilities Superintendent, Probation Department
Leticia Ruano, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Marian Martino, Volunteer/Juvenile Justice Commission Chair
Renee Flora, Center for Human Services
Isaiah Herrera, Youth for Christ
Ken Sylvia, Executive Director, Youth for Christ

I. **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chief Probation Officer (CPO), Mark Ferriera. Members, designees, and additional participants introduced themselves.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public were present.

III. **JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES UPDATE**

Division Director (DD), Dave Chapman, began by thanking the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council for their assistance in approving the annual JJCPA (Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act)/YOBG (Youth Offender Block Grant) plan. As part of approving the plan, the Probation Department was able to complete contracts with vendors for youth programming for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year on schedule.

The Probation Department continues to look to expand the Youth Assessment Center into other areas. Currently, the plan is to add a Youth Assessment Center in Turlock and ultimately embed the Youth Assessment Center into all of the Family Resource Centers (FRCs) throughout the County. The Youth Assessment Center is in year five of their strategic plan and a new strategic plan is being developed for the next three-five years to continue to advance the program. An emphasis is being placed on utilizing the mobile application that deputies and officers can utilize in the field to streamline referrals to the program.

Cynthia Duenas indicated that FRC leadership would be needed for any plans or discussions related to embedding the Youth Assessment Center into the FRCs. Mrs. Duenas suggested that the Probation Department reach out to Lori Schumacher for any plans or discussions related to the Youth Assessment Center being embedded into the FRCs. Mrs. Duenas added that the Youth Assessment Center does not necessarily need to be tied to the County's FRCs to be included as a service.

DD Chapman mentioned that he recently met with Isaiah Herrera, from Youth for Christ, to discuss mentoring youth once they are released from custody. Both the Probation Department and Youth for Christ are going to be continuing to meet to discuss this issue.

DD Chapman also reported that the Probation Department's training records were audited by the Board of State and Community Corrections this week and were found to be 100% in compliance with State standards. This week's audit marked the 16th time in a row that the Probation Department was found 100% in compliance, which includes the initial years of the pandemic. DD Chapman added that the results of the audit reflect that the department's staff are well-trained to work with youth.

Lastly, DD Chapman announced that he will be retiring and Friday, July 29, 2022, will be his final day in the office. His replacement, David Costa, will be representing the department and presenting the JJCPA/YOBG plans to this council during upcoming meetings. CPO Ferriera thanked DD Chapman for all of his hard work on the council. CPO Ferriera also invited the council to attend his retirement ceremony on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 3:00 pm, at the Juvenile Commitment Facility.

IV. **JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE**

Facilities Superintendent, Tracie Martin, reported that she is now in her fourth week as the Superintendent after taking over for Emily Herrera. She thanked DD Chapman for his assistance as she has acclimated to her new assignment.

Superintendent Martin reported the following data for the Juvenile Institutions as of this morning:

- 44 youth are in-custody, with nine of those youth being female
- 25 of the 44 youth are in-custody for an offense listed in Section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code
- 14 of the 44 youth are 18 years of age or older
- Two of the 44 youth have been committed to the Secure Track Facility
- Six of the 44 youth are pending transfer hearings to determine whether they should be tried as a juvenile or an adult
- Two of the 44 youth are being tried as an adult
- Three of the 44 youth are enrolled in Modesto Junior College (MJC) courses. Two additional youth have recently graduated from High School and will be attending MJC next semester. All participants are Business Administration majors

Superintendent Martin also indicated that ART (Aggression Replacement Training) in the Juvenile Institutions just ended and CBI (Cognitive Behavioral Interventions) has started. CBI started at the same time throughout the entire facility and for youth out-of-custody, which will allow any youth who is transferred to another living unit or released to pick up the curriculum wherever they left off prior to a transfer or a release.

Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Leticia Ruano, told the council that the Juvenile Commitment Facility was closed on Tuesday due to substantial staffing issues. CPO Ferriera noted the department is presently at a 50% vacancy rate among Probation Corrections Officer I/II positions. Supervisor Withrow asked if any candidates were in the pipeline to join the department. CPO Ferriera indicated that the department has several in background; however, on average, only one or two would likely be hired from the current crop. This led to a discussion on the reasons candidates do not pass the background, which include poor work history, serious drug use, criminal history, and dishonesty. CPO Ferriera indicated that previous criteria, such as prior related work history, are no longer being seen by the Probation Department as needed in order to be hired. Mrs. Duenas mentioned that her agency is revamping some of their protocols in order to hire more candidates.

CPO Ferriera added that more and more youth are being booked for the possession or use of a firearm. Earlier in the week, when the Juvenile Institutions had a total of 51 youth, 21 of the 51 (or 41%) were in-custody for the use or possession of a firearm. DD Martin mentioned the use of the Detention Risk Assessment that assists in keeping low-level youth from being detained.

DD Martin also reported that COVID-19 continues to be somewhat of an issue in the Juvenile Institutions, as Unit 3 is presently on a family-style quarantine.

- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
CPO Ferriera reiterated that David Costa will be replacing Dave Chapman and Tracie Martin has replaced Emily Herrera in the Juvenile Institutions. He also indicated that the council could contact him directly if there are any questions or issues related to the Probation Department, as his Executive Assistant, Eva Carrazco, will be out of the office.
- VI. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for November 3, 2022, at 12:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.