

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – February 29, 2024

Stanislaus County Probation Department

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Mark Ferriera, Chair/Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Robert Housden, for Tony Vartan, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Cynthia Duenas, Director, Center for Human Services
Dr. Abu Mboka for Chau-Pu Chiang, Criminal Justice Department, CSU Stanislaus
Saundra Day for Scott Kuykendall, Stanislaus County Office of Education
Karina Franco, for Jeff Anderson, Director, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
Jeff Davis, for Christine Huber, Director, Community Services Agency

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

The Honorable Annette Rees, Presiding Judge, Stanislaus County Superior Court
Leticia Ruano, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
David Costa, Juvenile Field Services Division Director, Probation Department
Tracie Martin, Juvenile Facilities Superintendent, Probation Department
Joshua Woolworth for Jody Hayes, Chief Executive's Office
Matt Alleson, Without Permission
Sonna Gilmoor, Without Permission
Renee Flora, Center for Human Services
Taylor Beckham, Center for Human Services

I. **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 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. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 09, 2023**

The adoption of the meeting minutes from November 9, 2023, was pushed to the next JJCC meeting.

IV. **JUVENILE PROBATION UPDATE**

Division Director (DD) David Costa DD Costa reported the following updates for the Juvenile Field Services Division:

- Deputy Probation Officers from the Juvenile Division of the Probation Department are set to complete a training today organized by Leaders in Community Alternatives with instruction provided by the University of Cincinnati (UCCI). This training aims to establish their certification as instructors for the evidence-based Cognitive Behavioral Interventions-Core Youth curriculum, providing a more comprehensive approach to addressing the criminogenic needs of the youth.
- DD David Costa expressed gratitude for everyone who participated in the Girl's Advisory Council #Shetoo Empowerment Conference last Friday. He also acknowledged Renee Flora from the Center for Human Services (CHS), who works on-site at the Probation Department, and Deputy Probation Officer Rosio Garcia for planning the event each year. The conference was held at the Project Yes campus in Ceres, with approximately 117 people in attendance. The youth in attendance ranged from 2 to 18 years of age. There were also about 20 different local service providers in attendance. He noted the keynote speaker was a young female who was once on probation herself and a victim of human trafficking but, with the help of the resources available, has now turned her life around; she is working for the Center for Human Services at the Youth Navigation Center and for Merced County Behavioral Health.
- Trained Officers collaborate with the Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) staff members to effectively conduct evidence-based programming in the Juvenile Programming Center and the Juvenile Facilities.

- ART (Aggression Replacement Therapy) training is scheduled for March, with officers having registered to attend.
- LCA works with the youth both in and out of custody in barrier removal. One of the things they work on is helping youth get their birth certificates, social security cards, or California IDs to assist them with attaining employment. LCA is assisted by the Probation Department Confidential Assistants, certified as Notaries for HR-related matters, to notarize documents for the youth in custody.
- Workforce Development has relocated the Let's Work course from the Juvenile Programming Center to their downtown location on 12th Street in Modesto due to the rise in referrals. The space is centrally located for accessible public transportation options and can accommodate larger class sizes with computer access. There is hope this move will benefit both the program and the youth.

V. **JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE**

Facilities Superintendent Tracie Martin reported the following Juvenile Institutions' update:

- 60 youths are in custody, with 54 males and 6 females.
- 16 youths are 18 or older; the oldest is 20, and the youngest is 14.
- 11 youths are committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).

Programming update:

- A partnership has been formed with Stanislaus County Office of Education to provide youth in custody with the following programming opportunities:
 - Paxton Patterson Labs is available to all units.
 - Digital Arts
 - Computer Coding for the Maximum-Security Unit.
 - The Secure Youth Treatment Facility is now participating in Mobile Culinary.
 - The Truck Driving Program will begin for the Secure Youth Treatment Facility in the upcoming weeks. Ms. Martin noted that 8 SYTF youth are interested in the Truck Driving Program.
- Youth For Christ has invited a comedian into the Juvenile Institutions to perform for the youth in custody by bringing them laughter with an educational message.
- CSU Stanislaus Project Rebound will be on-site at the Juvenile Commitment Facility every other Saturday for youth participation in mindfulness and addiction workshops.

Education update:

- 9 youth are attending the Modesto Junior College (MJC).
- The Prison Education Project (PEP) is due to resume in March; it is an introduction to college free of charge, offering intro to college and film studies.

VI. **REPLACEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED DRUG & ALCOHOL ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE:**

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera discussed the upcoming retirement of the Center for Human Services Director, Cindy Duenas, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council's community-based drug and alcohol organization representative. Upon retiring as the CHS Director in June, Ms. Duenas announced her intention to step down from the JJCC. Chief Ferriera stated that per the Welfare and Institutions Code and the JJCC Bylaws, a community-based drug and alcohol representative must serve as part of the JJCC. The recruitment process will require nominations to be submitted to Chief Ferriera, followed by the membership's vote; if the nominee is from a different organization, the Board of Supervisors must be notified. He inquired about Ms. Duenas' successor, Gina Machado, and her interest in serving in her place. Ms. Duenas noted Ms. Machado's interest in joining the JJCC. Ms. Duenas recommended Gina Machado as the primary representative and Emily Webster, Director of the Youth Navigation Center, as an alternate. Chief Ferriera suggested postponing the discussion of Cindy Duenas' replacement on the JJCC to the next meeting. The group agreed with Chief Ferriera. The discussion will be continued on April 25, 2024.

VII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None.

VIII. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for April 25, 2024, at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.