

**Stanislaus County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
July 29, 2021 – Probation Department - Microsoft Teams**

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

**Members Excused:**

**Probation Department Present:** Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Leticia Ruano

**Superior Court Present:** The Honorable Ruben Villalobos, Juvenile Court Judge

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Marian Martino called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**Public Comment:** Stephen Ashman introduced Lexi Gil, who is interested in becoming a probation officer and a member of the Juvenile Justice Commission.

**Consideration of Member Applications/Swear-in**

Ms. Wanda Bonnell and Chief Fidel Landeros, who have submitted membership applications to participate in this panel, were introduced by Chairperson Marian Martino. Stephen Ashman and Sharma Uma resubmitted their application to continue serving on the Juvenile Justice Commission.

The Honorable Judge Ruben Villalobos completed the swearing-in of Wanda Bonnell, Chief Fidel Landeros, Stephen Ashman, and Sharma Uma were sworn in as members of the Juvenile Justice Commission.

**Approval of Minutes:** MOTION: Stephen Ashman, SECOND: Michael Baldwin. The minutes of the June 24, 2021 meetings were approved unanimously.

**Probation Department Report**

Chief Mark Ferriera reported the following:

- The current population of the Juvenile Facilities is 55, with 49 males and six females. There are 17 youth due for release, while 38 youth are awaiting sentencing. Some of the offenses for which juveniles are being held include murder, attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, auto theft, and robbery.
- The Juvenile Facilities are currently under full quarantine and closed to all vendors and programming due to a recent COVID-19 outbreak. The facilities will reopen pending negative test results, hopefully within the following 48 to 72 hours.
- The Probation Field Services currently serves 232 youth on Formal Probation, 19 on Informal Probation, seven in short-term residential treatment programming, and one detained youth pending residential treatment placement.
- The contract with Leaders In Community Alternatives (LCA) for in custody and out-of-custody youth will soon be finalized. They will be providing Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI) on site. Recently, the ART instructed by probation officers had a graduation on July 13, 2021, and a new session will be starting. The new session will last

three months, followed by a graduation. The Commission will be advised of the following ART graduation once a date and time have been determined.

- CPO Ferriera briefly provided the group with a few details regarding the approval of the SB 823 Plan and the services that will be provided to the Secure Track Youth. He advised that currently, there are no Secure Track Youth housed in the Juvenile Facilities. The SB 823 Plan is public knowledge and readily available for anyone interested in obtaining a copy.

The Commission discussed the process and distinction between formal and informal Probation, noting that steps taken are specific to the needs of each youth.

Chair Marian Martino praised the personnel at the Juvenile Institutions for their exceptional efforts in keeping a COVID-19-free environment for so long. The Honorable Judge Villalobos agreed with Chair Martino, noting that all the collaborative partners have had a helping hand in maintaining a safe environment since the beginning of the pandemic.

### **Juvenile Court Report**

Honorable Judge Villalobos reported that due to COVID-19 and no longer having a lease to hold court at the Juvenile Commitment Facility (JCF), all in-custody court sessions are being handled remotely. In contrast, out-of-custody court hearings are held at the downtown court.

### **Discuss/Approve Updates to the Juvenile Justice Commission By-Laws**

The Commission discussed and approved the new Juvenile Justice Commission By-Laws. (A copy of the new By-Laws are attached to the minutes) The following amendments were made:

MOTION: Cpt. Scott Houston. SECOND: Steve Ashman. Modifications to Article 5, Section 3 of the Juvenile Justice By-laws to read: The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held bi-monthly (February, April, June, August, October, and December) unless otherwise ordered by the Chairperson was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Stephen Ashman. SECOND: Sharma Uma. The Juvenile Justice Commission By-Laws with the new modifications were approved unanimously.

### **Judge Underwood Scholarship Program**

Eva Carrasco notified the commission members that one scholarship recipient had been an active participant in the Judge Underwood Scholarship for the past year. The youth finished the Spring semester with a 3.25 GPA, and the commission members agreed to award him the \$500 scholarship. The youth has been accepted to Sacramento State University and will begin classes in the fall.

### **Announcements**

Chairman Martino proposed having an in-person Juvenile Justice Presentation in September; the date and time will be discussed at the next meeting.

Stephen Ashman announced that developing a CASA program for the 600 youth and offering educational rights training to Probation employees are being explored.

Sharma Uma announced that a SARB Workshop would be hosted, and the date and time are TBD.

The members discussed and agreed to change the meeting days to Wednesdays instead of Thursdays. The next Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting will be on August 18, 2021, at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

# STANISLAUS COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

July 29, 2021

## JJC Member

Marian Martino, Chair	Present
Michael Baldwin Sr, Vice Chair	Present
Stephen Ashman	Present
Sharma Uma	Present
Cpt. Scott Houston	Present
Dawn Cullum	Present
Wanda Bonnell	Present
Chief Fidel Landeros	Present
CPO Mark Ferriera	Present
ACPO Leticia Ruano	Present
The Honorable Ruben Villalobos	Present
The Honorable Ann Ameral	
Guest/Member of the Public: Lexi Gil	Present

**JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
OF  
STANISLAUS COUNTY**

**BYLAWS**

**Article I**

The Juvenile Justice Commission is established through the provisions of §225 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. County Ordinance Title 2, Chapter 2.76, (§§2.76.010, 2.76.020, 2-.76.030) designates the Juvenile Justice Commission to serve as the Delinquency Prevention Commission. The Commission shall be known as the Juvenile Justice-Delinquency Prevention Commission of Stanislaus County.

**Article II**

**Duties and Responsibilities**

The responsibility of this Commission is broadly defined in §229 and §235 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The general purpose is to “inquire into the administration of the Juvenile Court law in the County” and coordinate on a countywide basis the work of those community agencies engaged in activities designed to prevent delinquency. Within this statutory duty the Commission has the following functions:

- Section 1 To annually inspect any jail or lockup within the County, which, in the preceding calendar year, was used for confinement of any minor more than 24 hours. It shall report the results of such inspection together with its recommendations based thereon, in writing, to the Juvenile Court and to the Board of State and Community Corrections.
  
- Section 2 At its discretion, the Commission may inquire into the operation of any group home that serves wards or dependent children and is located in Stanislaus County (WIC 229.5)
  
- Section 3 To conduct public hearings on matters relevant to the implementation and administration of the Juvenile Court law in the County.
  
- Section 4 To assure that needed services are identified, developed and delivered to the children and youth of the County, particularly services that relate to the curtailing from or diversion of youth out of the juvenile justice system.

## Article III

### **Members**

- Section 1 Pursuant to §225 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, membership on this Commission shall be composed of not fewer than seven members and no more than 15. Two or more members of the Commission shall be between 14 and 21 years of age, provided there are available persons between 14 and 21 years of age who are able to carry out the duties of a commission member in a manner satisfactory to the appointing authority.
- Section 2 Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court with the concurrence of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. Recommendations for membership on the Commission may be made by the Board of Supervisors, community groups, clergy or an elected or appointed public official.
- Section 3 Pursuant to §225 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, appointments shall be for a term of four years or when a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee shall hold office for the term of their predecessor.
- Section 4 A member who wishes to serve an additional term shall notify the Chairperson and the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court prior to the expiration of his/her term. The Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, with the concurrence of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, will then have the discretion to reappoint the member seeking an additional term.
- Section 5 Each person appointed, or reappointed, shall appear before the appointing judge and qualify by taking an oath faithfully to perform the duties as a member of the Commission. The qualifications of each member shall be entered in the Juvenile Court record and the Commission minutes.
- Section 6 Any member desiring to resign from the Commission shall submit his or her resignation in writing to the Chairperson of the Commission and a copy to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.
- Section 7 Attendance of members shall be taken and recorded in the minutes at all called Commission meetings. Any Commissioner who accumulates three unexcused absences from called meetings

during the fiscal year may be considered as having resigned from the Commission. Absences must be communicated prior to the meeting to the Chair, the Chief of Probation, or the secretary, and the Commission will decide if the absence is an excused absence. Such resignation shall be communicated by the Chairperson to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court and Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court.

#### **Article IV**

##### **Officers**

- Section 1 The officers of this Commission shall be a Chairperson and a Chairperson-Elect.
- Section 2 Nominations for Chairperson-Elect shall be made at the Commission's regular meeting held in February. Election by Commission members shall be conducted annually in June.
- Section 3 The Chairperson-Elect shall assume office as the Chairperson at the beginning of the following term without further voting.
- Section 4 If the Chairperson-Elect position becomes vacant, the Chairperson will call a special election to fill the unexpired term of office. In the event the Chairperson's position becomes vacant, the Chairperson-Elect shall assume the chair for the remainder of the term.

#### **Article V**

##### **Meetings**

- Section 1 All meetings of the Commission shall be held in accordance with the Brown Act, providing public access to the Commission's activities. An agenda for the Commission's meetings shall be created and posted on the Probation Department's publicly accessible website no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.
- Section 2 Public comments at meetings are limited to three minutes for each agenda item. The Chairperson has the discretion to extend the time based on the complexity of the issue.
- Section 3 The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held bi-monthly (February, April, June, August, October, and December) , unless otherwise ordered by the Chairperson.

- Section 4 The location of the meetings shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- Section 5 Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, or at the request of the Commission members.
- Section 6 A simple majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum for Commission or committee business.
- Section 7 Commission business shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present, except for amendments to the Bylaws.
- Section 8 The Commission shall annually, at the December meeting, adopt the following:
- a. Prepare a yearly report of the Commission activities.

## **Article VI**

### **Committees**

The Commission may establish special or ad hoc committees to perform fact-finding functions on any matter under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

## **Article VII**

### **Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall guide the Commission in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order that the Commission may adopt.

## **Article VIII**

### **Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Commission by a two-thirds vote of a quorum, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing and all commissioners have been provided a copy of the amendment at least five days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.