

**Stanislaus County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
February 19, 2015**

**Members Present:** Darin Gharat, Chair, Vicki Maldonado, Lt. Mike Dailey, Jesse De La Cruz, Sharma Uma, and Teresa Guerrero

**Members Excused:** Richard Breshears, Capt. Bill Duncan, Jorge Contreras, and Steve Ashman

**Members Absent:** Pedro Sorio

**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 12:05 p.m.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** MOTION: Lt. Mike Dailey. SECOND: Jesse De La Cruz. The minutes of the September 30, 2014 and December 16, 2014 meetings were unanimously approved.

**Probation Department Report: Chief Jill Silva**

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

- The Probation Department is undergoing a process with the County to receive public safety restoration funding. The Board of Supervisors set some money aside for the four public safety agencies to restore some of the services lost during the bad economy. A five-year plan is being developed to restore programs and increase staffing levels at Juvenile Hall and the Juvenile Commitment Facility.
- Two Juvenile Institutions staff members have received training for the Paxton-Patterson vocational education modules covering subjects such as plumbing, electrical and medical assisting. The implementation of this program has been delayed because staffing levels at the Juvenile Institutions are at a minimum level as vacant positions are being filled and new staff is receiving their CORE training. Plans are also being made to increase the cognitive behavioral services at the facilities and staff members have been sent for training. As soon as staffing levels are increased, the educational modules will be made available. Chief Silva explained that the original staffing ratios developed for the new facility were inaccurate and, along with the budget cuts in 2009, approximately eleven positions were lost. The department is presently working on recruitment and filling these positions.

- The population continues to be low at both facilities and two units have been temporarily closed at the Juvenile Commitment Facility. Presently, there are approximately 50 youth in out-of-home placement facilities, which is a high number for this county. As soon as treatment services are more available at the Juvenile Commitment Facility, these youth will be brought back to this area in order to increase the family component.
- The Probation Department has received funding through the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) grant and the next stakeholders meeting is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>. The department will be working with a consultant to provide training and develop prevention services in order to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the county.
- The County has applied for Juvenile Accountability grant funding through the Sheriff's Department to assist with funding drug task force operations. In addition, a prevention program will be implemented through the Boys and Girls Club in Stanislaus County. A Deputy Probation Officer will be funded to be a liaison officer to link youth in the community found by law enforcement during drug offenses and youth are present. Three years of funding has been made available.
- The Girls Initiative task force will continue to operate. The NCCD evaluation report will be provided to the Juvenile Justice Commission.

**Juvenile Court Report: Judge Valli Israels**

Judge Israels noted that there have been many filings lately and the Juvenile Court is very busy. Juvenile Drug Court held a graduation ceremony this week and another one will be scheduled in the next couple of months. Judge Israels recently attended a juvenile dependency conference.

Judge Israels reported that a meeting was held with DPO's yesterday and a group will be formed consisting of Judge Israels, attorneys and Probation to address caseload and delinquency issues.

The members discussed the type of crimes being addressed and Judge Israels noted there has been an increase in the number of violent crimes filed. Chief Silva advised that the Probation Department's annual report is being completed for 2014 and statistics will be available in this report. She noted that JCPSS reports will include arrest information and explained that these reports are compiled by the State Department of Justice from information sent by Probation Departments. This report does include information regarding the type of crime committed. The report should be received in March or April for the year 2014.

Chief Silva also discussed the Performance-Based Standards (PbS) report that the Juvenile Institutions contributes data to on a twice-a-year basis. Data is collected for a month-long period including incidents and surveys of staff and youth to assess the safety and security of the operations of the facility. The report compares this county to

other counties in the State since 15 other counties now participate in this project. Chief Silva advised that performance goals are set based on the data. She will share the report at the next meeting.

**Swear-In New Commission Member**

A new Juvenile Justice Commission member, Teresa Guerrero, was welcomed and sworn in by Judge Israels. Ms. Guerrero is a Ceres Unified School District Trustee and works at the Parent Institute for Quality Education.

**Inspection of Law Enforcement Facilities for 2014**

Letters will be prepared to send to the law enforcement facilities visited in January 2015 that were reported to have held youth in their facilities. The agencies included the Modesto Police Department, Oakdale Police Department, Turlock Police Department and Riverbank Police Department.

**Adjournment**

The Commission meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.