

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
May 5, 2016**

Members Present: Darin Gharat, Chair, Vicki Maldonado, Sharma Uma, Capt. Bill Duncan, Steve Ashman, Richard Breshears, Teresa Guerrero, Lt. Mike Dailey, Jorge Contreras and Jeffrey Graham

Members Absent: Jesse De La Cruz and Pedro Sorio

Probation Department Present: Jill Silva, Chief Probation Officer

Superior Court Present: The Honorable Valli Israels, Juvenile Court Judge

Guest: Miranda Scoles

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: Capt. Bill Duncan. SECOND: Lt. Mike Dailey. The minutes of the October 7, 2015, November 16, 2015 and February 18, 2016 meetings were approved unanimously.

Steve Ashman introduced Miranda Scoles who is interested in becoming a member of the Juvenile Justice Commission. Miranda talked about her background in the juvenile justice system and desire to participate on this commission. Lt. Mike Dailey reviewed Jeffrey Graham's background as the mental health deputy at the men's jail.

Swear-In New JJC Commission Members: New members Jeffrey Graham and Miranda Scoles were sworn in as members of the Juvenile Justice Commission.

Probation Department Report: Chief Jill Silva

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

- Hiring efforts continue at the Probation Department and a request will be made to the Board of Supervisors at proposed budget for new positions to be funded with special State revenue funding. These positions were part of a five-year plan for the department to use public restoration funds. The Juvenile Institutions will receive six Probation Corrections Officer positions, which will bring the facilities into compliance with PREA requirements. The hiring process results in less than 2% of the applicants being hired and recruitment is continuous. The agility requirements were evaluated and revised. Deputy Probation Officers are used on an overtime basis to assist during visitation hours and with sick calls and vacation.
- Chief Silva reported that CPOC is working with Senator Leno on a solitary confinement bill. Previously, Senator Leno proposed legislation last year that CPOC was opposed to because it limited the ability of Juvenile Institutions to put youth in a single cell even as a means to address a behavior problem or during shift change. Chief Silva explained that some of the single-cell rooms at the

institutions are a behavior modification tool and utilized as an incentive. The youth have painted these rooms and the rooms are utilized as a reward and not a sanction. A number of bills have been proposed to address the issue of solitary confinement; therefore, CPOC decided it was better to work with Senator Leno and the youth advocates in favor of this bill. This bill will define use of time out as a means of addressing adverse behavior and PbS reports indicate that the use of room confinement has been reduced. Alternatives have been utilized such as a recreation room that has been developed in Juvenile Hall. Part of the bill will require that no more than four hours of room confinement is utilized and then an administrative review is required. Mental Health services in involved with youth requiring room rest time. This bill has passed through the Senate Public Safety Committee.

- Chief Silva reported that the Probation Department is part of a process involving other Central Valley Probation Department regarding research on LGBT youth and improving services for them. This process involves studying decision points for LGBT youth in custody. An MOU has been developed to study this issue and publish the results of the study. The MOU was reviewed with County Counsel who advised that an outside firm would not be permitted to gather juvenile data. This issue will be addressed further at the quarterly CPOC meeting scheduled for next week.
- Chief Silva provided an update of the continuum of care reform and use of out-of-home placements. By 2018, group homes will cease to exist. State funding was applied for and intensive wraparound services are being offered to youth who are coming out of placement early. An alternative is being developed to utilize foster families for a more home-type environment which will include training for the foster parents. Ms. Scoles talked about her group home experience and how youth feel about placement.

Juvenile Court Report: Judge Valli Israels

Judge Israels reported that Juvenile Drug Court has adopted new policies and procedures and Jeff Sabeau from BHRS JJMH is taking an active role in addressing improvements to this program. There has not been a graduate of the program in a while so these new policies and procedures will be evaluated over the next few months to improve this program.

The Honor Roll continues to be an amazing program and the youth participate at a high rate. Month-to-month youth are rewarded for good performance in the school system. The youth must average 30-32 points per day in school. The award is a certificate to bring to Court, a treat, and three days off their sentence. If they are not eligible for the time off their sentence, a special food treat is provided. This program has been working very well and the youth want to impress the Judge when they come to Court.

The number of youth in Juvenile Hall has been fluctuating. SARB cases are also handled regarding school truancy.

Judge Israels advised that progress has been made with the competency issue. A competency restoration program is in place with Deputy Probation Officers assisting with youth to restore competency. Training was provided to the DPO's on this program and this county is way ahead of other counties.

Review Juvenile Justice Commission By-Laws

The commission suggested reviewing the Juvenile Justice Commission by-laws regarding a requirement for a majority vote of the members present during the meeting. The by-laws do reflect this requirement and require no further revisions.

Judge Underwood Scholarship Program

Gail Kittel advised the commission members that Judge Underwood had passed away and his daughter contacted the Probation Department with a request to use this fund for donations in Judge Underwood's obituary. County Counsel was consulted and approved. The obituary was published and, to date, seven donations have been received for \$325. Acknowledgement thank you letters will be sent to donors. When the Commission resumes meeting in September, this scholarship fund will be re-instituted with youth in the juvenile justice system. Ms. Kittel reviewed that the scholarship is received through an application process and \$350 per semester is offered to students who have been in the juvenile justice system. Chief Silva proposed to increase the amount offered to students to \$500 per semester. The parameters of the scholarship will be evaluated further at the September meeting of the Commission.

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.