

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
October 11, 2017**

Members Present: Darin Gharat, Chair, Capt. Bill Duncan, Stephen Ashman, Miranda Martinez, and Richard Breshears

Members Excused: Jorge Contreras, Vicki Maldonado, Sharma Uma, Teresa Guerrero, and Jeffrey Graham

Probation Department Present: Mike Hamasaki, Chief Probation Officer and Leticia Ruano, Assistant Chief Probation Officer

Superior Court Present: The Honorable Ruben Villalobos and The Honorable Ann Ameral, Juvenile Court Judges

Call to Order: Chairman 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: Richard Breshears. SECOND: Capt. Bill Duncan. The minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Probation Department Report: CPO Mike Hamasaki

CPO Mike Hamasaki updated the members on the status of the following:

- Staffing for the Juvenile Institutions: There is a 33% vacancy rate for the Juvenile Institutions; however, staffing levels are manageable because the census at the institutions is averaging approximately 53 youth in both facilities, which is the lowest count in the history of the department. If this trend continues, the department will be evaluating a major re-purposing of the institutions. Statewide some institutions are closing and some counties have transformed their units into group home settings. This transformation is a more permanent type of change requiring major renovations and licensing issues with the State. Other institutions are also evaluating housing 18- to 20-year-olds. CPO Hamasaki reported that the number of juveniles requiring supervision by the Juvenile Field Services Division is low and this is also a statewide trend. The cause for the decrease in the number of youth in the juvenile justice system is being studied.

Juvenile Court Report: Judge Ann Ameral

Judge Ameral reported that the number of cases in Juvenile Dependency Court are at an all time high with approximately 900 children in dependency care. CPO Hamasaki discussed how to address this issue and not have these juveniles become part of the juvenile justice system. He advised that the number of adult probationers has remained consistent and the Probation Department is in the process of shifting DPO's from the Juvenile Field Services Division to the Adult Field Services Division.

Judge Villalobos reported that case numbers in Juvenile Criminal Court have decreased and this has coincided with the Prop 57 hearing changes that has caused an increase in the workload for the Court officers. He noted that high security cases must be heard downtown. CPO Hamasaki explained that Prop 57 requires direct files to be handled by the judges and not in the District Attorney's office. The Juvenile Division Crime Analyst will present a report at the January JJC meeting on the five-year recidivism rate for juveniles. Presently, there is a 23% recidivism rate for juveniles and 53% for adults in Stanislaus County. The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) defines recidivism as "... conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of release from custody or committed within three years of placement on supervision for a previous criminal conviction."

Steve Ashman advised there are 456 youth on the wait list for CASA services with 222 juveniles served last year and 170 presently active. He noted many of these youth have significant needs, such as autism or educational requirements, not being addressed by the schools. A three-year pilot project has been proposed to have an educational advocate work with the judges on the cases they are reviewing which should result in better educational outcomes. CPO Hamasaki noted the Juvenile Field Services Division is working with Aspiranet to recruit foster families to care for juveniles on probation.

Letters: Inspection of Police Department Facilities

The letters prepared for the annual inspection of law enforcement facilities, including Modesto Police Department, Oakdale Police Department and Turlock Police Department were signed by Judge Ameral and Judge Villalobos and will be sent to the respective police departments.

Set Date for Juvenile Institutions Inspection: The group decided the annual visit to Juvenile Hall and the Juvenile Commitment Facility will be scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th, at Noon. The commission members will meet at the Juvenile Commitment Facility to have lunch prepared by the youth in the Culinary Arts Program and then inspect the facilities.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.