

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
January 17, 2019 – Probation Department – TRAINING ROOM**

Members Present: Darin Gharat, Chair, Vicki Maldonado, Capt. Bill Duncan, Stephen Ashman, and Chief Marc Nuno

Members Excused: Richard Breshears, Miranda Martinez, Jeffrey Graham, Sharma Uma, and Teresa Guerrero

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mike Hamasaki, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Leticia Ruano, Division Director Dave Chapman, Supervising Probation Officer Melissa Marley

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: Steve Ashman. SECOND: Vicki Maldonado. The minutes of the November 27, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Probation Department Report

Chief Mike Hamasaki reported the following information:

- Effective January 2, 2019, Division Director of the Juvenile Institutions, Steve Jackson started a new position as the Assistant Chief Probation Officer in San Joaquin County. This will leave a vacancy in the management staff and on January 24th the manager promotional process will be completed. However, the next Division Director of the Juvenile Institutions will be Mark Ferriera who will transfer from the Adult Division.
- A significant change to report is there are 26 boys in the Juvenile Commitment Facility as of today. In Juvenile Hall, there are 56 boys and 3 girls for a total of 59 youth. Of these 59 youth, 48 are unsentenced and 11 are sentenced. Division Director Dave Chapman commented that the decrease in the number of girls in the facilities could be affected by identifying CSEC youth with the help of Without Permission and these girls are being kept out of custody. He advised out-of-custody issues with girls have increased and there are 20 girls participating in the GRAD program. Steve Ashman advised CASA is starting a pilot program in four counties to have CASA work directly with delinquent youth.

Juvenile Court Report

Judge Ruben Villalobos reported the following:

- John Mayne has been assigned as the new Deputy District Attorney for the juvenile division.

- The Courts are experiencing interesting developments with Prop 57, which created transfer hearings. Under SB1391, a 14- or 15-year-old could not have a transfer hearing and no matter the crime, the prosecution would be in juvenile court. Some cases have been sent back from State prison for final appeal. He advised he had one case to determine if the law was constitutional; and he noted he ruled the law was constitutional and an appeal is anticipated. Judge Villalobos advised that if this law is upheld, there will be a barrage of much more serious cases in juvenile court which could present security concerns.

Swear-In Commission Member Lt. Marc Nuno

Judge Ameral completed the swearing-in ceremony for Lt. Marc Nuno.

Juvenile Placement Services Discussion

Division Director Dave Chapman and Supervising Probation Officer Melissa Marley presented information regarding Juvenile Placement Services. Mr. Chapman reviewed the background of placement youth on the delinquent side noting that 10 years ago there were 60 to 80 youth in placement and today, there are 18 youth in placement. Over the last 10 years, front-end wrap-around services have been implemented in order to avoid placement of youth, which has resulted in a decrease in numbers. In addition, the utilization of the detention risk assessment tool (DRAI) has assisted in keeping youth out of custody and considers other alternatives. The GRAD program, initiated with the Juvenile Justice Initiative, helps with keeping girls out of custody.

Mr. Chapman explained the group home concept has changed as a result of the Continuum of Care Reform. Group homes are closing because they cannot meet the high expectations imposed by the State for facilities now called Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP). These facilities are designated as short-term because placements are for six months and then it is expected the youth will be brought back into the home setting or foster care. The impact of this change has been significant to dependency with a dramatic rise in the number of youth because more youth are being placed in foster care. The rise in the number of dependent youth and the decrease in the number of group homes creates a serious supply and demand issue. About half of the group homes qualify under the new STRTP guidelines. In contrast, the number of delinquent youth has decreased; however, it is very difficult to place a delinquent youth in foster care. Delinquency is dealing with the most severe youth with mental health and conduct disorders who need to be placed in homes qualifying under the new STRTP guidelines and most of these homes are out-of-county and out-of-state. Most of these youth stay in group homes 12 to 24 months since this time frame allows for programming, working with the family, and a transition process.

SPO Melissa Marley reported at present there are 18 placement orders with 11 youth in STRTP and three of these youth in out-of-state programs. Out-of-state programs are utilized when specific programming is required. She outlined the background of some youth, their needs, and the work involved in placing these youth in the appropriate STRTP. She emphasized that rehabilitation and getting the youth back home is the intent of placement. DJJ is still utilized for youth who need more services than placement can provide. She reported that the first CSEC male youth has been encountered and this youth is working with Without Permission to connect him to appropriate services.

SPO Marley reported the three local in-county programs were not approved STRTP. Elite and ROP are closing. Creative Alternatives run by Aspiranet is often filled by out-of-county youth from Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. Placing youth in local group homes has not been successful because they do not meet the standards of the Probation Department. Youth will not be placed in a home just because it is closer. If needed, youth will be kept in Juvenile Hall until a group home can be found that is appropriate and it is a lot of work to find the appropriate program for youth.

The commission members discussed visiting a home in Stockton and Merced, both a good one and a bad one, as well as group homes in Stanislaus County. The visit will be made unannounced and commission members will visit in pairs. SPO Marley advised that weekend visits have been made by probation officers in order to evaluate the facility. Information on facilities is shared with CSA, the State and other counties.

Judge Villalobos commented Governor Newsom might try to pass legislation that would change DJJ eligibility as far as what crimes qualify to go to these facilities which could have a dramatic impact on placement. In addition, homeless youth have to be considered and present a different situation.

Chairman Darin Gharat summarized that JJC members will visit groups home in Stanislaus County. These visits will be unannounced with a DPO accompanying the commission members. He thanked Director Chapman and SPO Marley for the informative presentation on placement of youth emphasizing the heart and soul of the Probation Department is assisting youth.

REVIEW/SIGN LETTER: JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS ANNUAL VISIT

Completed by Chairman Darin Gharat

UPDATE ON JUDGE UNDERWOOD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Gail Kittel reported that Savannah Mendoza continues her studies at California State University-Stanislaus and was awarded a \$500.00 for the Spring 2019 semester.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.