

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
September 17, 2019 – Probation Department – JUVENILE COUNSELING CENTER**

Members Present: Darin Gharat, Chair, Stephen Ashman, Chief Marc Nuno, Sharma Uma, and Lt. Scott Houston

Members Excused: Capt. Bill Duncan, Vicki Maldonado, Miranda Martinez, Jeffrey Graham, and Teresa Guerrero

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

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

Guest: Marian Martino

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: Lt. Scott Houston. The minutes of the May 30, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman Gharat introduced Marian Martino who will be sworn in as a new member of the Juvenile Justice Commission at the November 2019 meeting.

Probation Department Report

Chief Mike Hamasaki reported the following information:

- Section 225 of Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC): This code outlines the criteria for a Juvenile Justice Commission, which indicates that two or more members shall be persons who are between 14 and 21 years of age. Chief Hamasaki advised the Commission should do some outreach for this age group. Presently, there are ten members on the JJC. Member terms are for a period of four years. Suggestions were made to contact the Modesto Junior College Student Government, Explorer program, and a youth from the juvenile justice system would be beneficial.
- The Civil Grand Jury has scheduled their annual visit to the Juvenile Institutions on October 1, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Over the years, the focus of their visit has varied.
- The vacancy rate for Field Services is consistent. For the FY2019-20 budget, which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting this evening, the Probation Department is proposing to change five Probation Corrections Officer positions in the Juvenile Institutions to four Deputy Probation Officer positions in Field Services. Presently, there are 15 vacancies in the Juvenile Institutions and 14 vacancies in Field Services. Recruitment is challenging and recently two DPO's did not complete the training portion of their probationary period as a new DPO. CPO Hamasaki noted this is an unusual occurrence since the formation of the Professional Standards Unit.

- Recruitment strategies include a one-day interview session at California State University-Stanislaus and Modesto Junior College. An internship program is available through CSU-S. Some PCO's work in Juvenile Institutions and then promote to Field Services. Another area of recruitment is to focus on high school students.
- SB284, regarding DJJ fees, proposes to increase the fees to Counties from \$24,000 to \$125,000 per youth per year. This fee increase will have an impact on counties and will change how counties deal with youth. Judge Villalobos advised that the Court does not have a mechanism in place to consider cost when sentencing a youth. Fees will not ultimately be a consideration to use or not use DJJ.
- CPO Hamasaki advised that his retirement date will be February 28, 2020.

Juvenile Court Report

Judge Villalobos reported the following:

- The Court is concerned with the amount of time for youth from disposition to DJJ. This is a statewide problem as a result of the following issues:
 - The Courts were not setting 15-day reviews for DJJ commitments.
 - Communication between DJJ and Probation, particularly forms. When inquiring best practices used statewide, a checklist form was received which is used to keep the process moving and holding people accountable for their part in the process. At the 15-day hearing, this chart is available for review and monitoring. Probation has been supportive and this will speed up commitment times.
- Judge Villalobos commented if a youth will benefit from DJJ, they need to be sentenced there. He has researched DJJ and determined the programs offered are different than those offered here. The new system will hopefully focus on rehabilitation and meaningful change for victims. Presently, there is a hurdle present that all alternatives have been considered and that this facility will benefit the youth. More serious crimes are being seen since the start of Proposition 57. The use of DJJ has to be available and used wisely. Careful consideration is used in this County by Probation and the Courts and the use of DJJ is necessary in some instances.

Update on Judge Underwood Scholarship

Gail Kittel provided information on the two students receiving scholarship funding. One student is in her third semester at California State University – Stanislaus and is in the Nursing program. She is maintaining a 3.1 cumulative GPA. The other student is in her second semester at Modesto Junior College and is maintaining a 2.67 cumulative GPA. A brochure has been designed by Steve Ashman, which will be distributed to the Juvenile Institutions and Juvenile Field Services.

Schedule Visits to Police Departments

The Juvenile Court Judges and JJC members have to visit Modesto, Oakdale and Turlock Police Departments to evaluate the area used to hold juveniles in custody. Judge Villalobos and Chief Niuno will visit Oakdale Police Department, Steve Ashman and Sharma Uma will visit Turlock Police Department, and Scott Houston will visit Modesto Police Department. A checklist of items to evaluate will be forwarded to JJC members.

Discuss Date for Juvenile Institutions Inspection

The annual visit to the Juvenile Institutions will be scheduled for Tuesday, November 19th, at NOON. The meeting will be held at the Juvenile Commitment Facility with the tour to follow a brief meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.