

STANISLAUS COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

February 18, 2021

JJC Member

Darin Gharat, Chair	Present
Vicki Maldonado	
Stephen Ashman	Present
Jeffrey Graham	
Sharma Uma	Present
Lt. Scott Houston	Present
Marian Martino	Present
CPO Mark Ferriera	Present
ACPO Leticia Ruano	Present
The Honorable Ruben Villalobos	Present
The Honorable Ann Ameral	

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
February 18, 2021 – Probation Department - Microsoft Teams**

Members Present: Darin Gharat, Chair, Sharma Uma, Marian Martino, and Lt. Scott Houston, Stephen Ashman

Members Excused: Vicki Maldonado, The Honorable Ann Ameal, and Jeffrey Graham

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Leticia Ruano

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

Call to Order: Chairman Darin Gharat called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Public Comment: No public individuals were present.

Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2020 meeting

MOTION: Marian Martino. **SECOND:** Steve Ashman. The minutes of the October 22, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

Probation Department Report

Chief Mark Ferriera reported the following:

- The population at the Juvenile Institutions as of today is 41 boys and 9 girls.
- A new quarantine option has been developed in conjunction with Public Health, and Wellpath called the family-style quarantine. The family-style quarantine permits youth to leave their room for all purposes within the unit; unit transferring will be restricted.
- Since the start of the pandemic, Juvenile Institutions have had one positive COVID-19 case. Currently, the operational units are unit 3 as a coed unit, units 5 and 6 as the maximum-security units, and unit C in the Juvenile Commitment Facility.
- Juvenile Hall has had an increase in bookings for murder and attempted murders within the last month, all involving the use of a firearm. Three of the bookings were for murder and one for attempted murder. For the year 2020, there were zero reported bookings for murder and three for attempted murder.
- DJJ Realignment Update:
 - In December, Juvenile Hall opened the RFP process for new services. Four vendors submitted their proposals for services inside the institutions by the due date of January 19, 2021.
 - A panel that includes Marian Martino, two institution managers, and one institution's supervisor have convened to review the proposals; they will be meeting on February 26, 2021, to discuss and make a selection.
- The Aggression Replacement Training (ART) has started on the juvenile casework side for the out-of-custody female population. This training is on its third week and held twice a week to help youth manage their anger and reduce aggressive behavior. ART is currently offered out of custody and eventually will also be available in custody.

- The Lets Work Program, facilitated by the Workforce Development Department, provides employment skills and assistance. Last week, seven out of custody youth graduates received a Chromebook or gift card for completing the class requirements.

Chairman Darin Gharat commended Chief Ferriera and the entire Probation Department staff for an outstanding job.

Juvenile Court Report

Honorable Judge Villalobos reported the following:

- Judge Reese has joined the juvenile division and is currently stepping in full-time in Department 18 during the absence of Judge Ameral, who is expected to return in March. She will be overseeing the SARB calendar.
- DJJ intake has re-opened and is now accepting delivery of DJJ youth. CPO Ferriera advised that one DJJ youth was delivered on Tuesday, bringing down the DJJ count in Juvenile Hall to one.
- The COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic for the Court, Public Defender, and District Attorney staff is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2021.

Marian Martino questioned how sentencing youth to DJJ would be considered an improvement. The Honorable Judge Villalobos provided a brief explanation of why DJJ must be regarded as an option during sentencing and how a DJJ sentence's focus is more targeted for rehabilitation vs. punishment.

Sharma Uma thanked Judge Villalobos and the courts for restarting the SARB court, making it possible to have face-to-face contact with the youth. Judge Villalobos advised that the SARB court had not been in session for the past year due to the pandemic but has recently started up again with a few modifications. The Stanislaus County of Education is currently hosting SARB court at their location; youth must attend in person, and the judge appears via ZOOM.

The Honorable Judge Villalobos expressed concerns over the recent homicide bookings and the uncertainties for the reasons behind them.

Discuss/Approve Updates to the Juvenile Justice Commission By-laws

Chairman Darin Gharat thanked CPO Mark Ferriera and the Honorable Judge Villalobos for taking the time to review and amend the JJC By-laws.

The JJC group agreed to move the JJC By-laws' discussion and nominations for Chairperson-Elect in March. A copy of the proposed JJC By-laws will be forwarded to the group for review.

Update on Judge Underwood Scholarship

Eva Carrazco provided information on two students. One student has reported a GPA above 3.0 for the past three semesters and has recently started the Spring 2021 semester. The other student had some difficulties during the Fall 2020 semester failing two of her three classes; she has decided to withdraw from presently receiving scholarship funding, but she will continue to take one or two courses for now. Mr. Gharat

recommended following up with the student before the following school semester, noting the importance of helping youth succeed.

The Honorable Judge Villalobos expressed his appreciation for Mr. Gharat's outstanding job as Chairman for the JJC.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.