

STANISLAUS COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

May 27, 2021

JJC Member

Darin Gharat, Chair

present

Stephen Ashman

present

Sharma Uma

Excused for today

Lt. Scott Houston

Excused for today

Marian Martino

present

CPO Mark Ferriera

present

ACPO Leticia Ruano

Excused for today

The Honorable Ruben Villalobos

present

The Honorable Ann Ameral

Dawn Cullum : Guest

present

Jeffrey Graham

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
May 27, 2021 – Probation Department - Microsoft Teams**

Members Present: Darin Gharat, Chair, Marian Martino, Stephen Ashman

Members Excused: Scott Houston, Sharma Uma

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera

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

Call to Order: Chairman Darin Gharat called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Public Comment: Ms. Dawn Cullum was present but had no comment.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting could not be approved because a quorum of members was not present. This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

Probation Department Report

Chief Mark Ferriera reported the following:

- The population at the Juvenile Institutions as of today is 44 boys and 6 girls.
- There is a 27% vacancy rate for Sworn Staff in Juvenile Institutions and a 20% vacancy rate for the Deputy Probation Officers.
- The SB 823 Plan was completed and approved by the JJCC on May 19, 2021.
 - On June 29, 2021, it will be presented to the Board of Supervisors.
 - The allocations will be used on community-based organizations.
- SB 92, which clarifies the DJJ Realignment language, was signed by the Governor on May 14, 2021.
- The DJJ count as of today is 20, with an increase of two from last year.
- The number of wards on probation this year reduced from last year's 269 to 234.
- The Placement, Informal Probation, and Deferred Entry of Judgment count are low and have remained stable over the last year.
- Staff continues to facilitate the Aggression Replacement Training (ART).

CPO Ferriera stated that further services for the out-of-custody population are being developed.

Chairman Darin Gharat enquired as to what Chief Ferriera attributed to Juvenile Hall's low population. CPO Ferriera believed that a combination of factors such as legislative changes, programming, rehabilitation, and diversion emphasis, to mention a few, may have contributed; nonetheless, he believed that a single answer is tough to define.

Juvenile Court Report

Honorable Judge Villalobos reported the following:

- Juvenile Court continues to be held both in-person and virtually, with most hearings taking place remotely.
- Contested Hearings continue to be held at the JCF.
- The State has instructed the courts to maintain all state regulations as they apply to the courts; therefore, masks and social distancing will continue to be required until further direction from OSHA, the State of California, and the Judicial Council is obtained.

Nomination of JJC Officers

Chairman Darin Gharat advised that the nomination of JJC Officers would have to be deferred to the next meeting due to a quorum of members not being present. He did, however, indicate that Marian Martino would make an excellent Chair of the JJC.

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

CPO Ferriera reviewed the JJC Member Roster for clarification of the current JJC Members. He mentioned that some of the members on the roster might have resigned, and the number of members remaining would not suffice to the provisions of Section 225 WIC. Chairman Darin Gharat suggested that CPO Ferriera's Executive Assistant, Eva Carrazco, try to contact the members noted on the Membership Roster to confirm their resignation. Furthermore, he stressed that recruiting new members for the JJC has been difficult.

The group explored numerous ideas for recruiting, emphasizing diversity, and developing both an application process and a membership recruitment procedure that would aid in identifying term expirations and future appointments of JJC Officers. Stephen Ashman asked if any conflicts or disqualifying factors exist for membership consideration. The Honorable Judge Ruben Villalobos suggested deferring the discussion of membership conflicts and disqualifiers to the next meeting, pending further review of the Commission's governing statute.

Marian Martino nominated Dawn Cullum for membership of the JJC. Chairman Darin Gharat suggested that Ms. Cullum submit her application for consideration.

The JJC members discussed Article II; Section 2 of the JJC By-Laws noting, that the JJC is only authorized to inspect group homes that serve wards in Stanislaus County but are not limited to reporting any group home concerns. CPO Ferriera advised that any concerns regarding group homes in other counties should be reported to the Probation Department and State Licensing.

CPO Ferriera encouraged the Commission to notify him of clarifying comments to the proposed JJC By-Laws to be updated and reviewed at the next meeting. He also requested that the JJC and JJCC meetings be held concurrently, as most members attend both.

Announcements

The Honorable Judge Villalobos presented Chairman Darin Gharat with a plaque in recognition of his dedication and service as Chair of the Juvenile Justice Commission since June 2014.

Chairman Darin Gharat expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of a collaboration aimed at improving the future of Juvenile Justice youth.

The next JJC meeting will be scheduled a month out once confirmed that all members will attend. Chairman Gharat expressed the importance of all members attending the next meeting to move forward with the Officer nominations.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.