

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
April 14, 2022 – Probation Department**

Members Present: Marian Martino, Chair, Sharma Uma, Wanda Bonnell, Chief Fidel Landeros, Dawn Cullum, Steven Ashman

Members Excused: Michael Baldwin, Vice-Chair

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera,

Superior Court: The Honorable Jeff Mangar, Juvenile Court Judge

Call to Order: Chairperson Marian Martino called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Public Comment: Ms. Andrea Baldwin introduced herself to the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC); she had no public comment.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Sharma Uma. SECOND: Judge Jeff Mangar. The minutes from February 17, 2022, meetings were approved.

The Juvenile Justice Commission welcomed Ms. Andrea Baldwin, attending the Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting on behalf of Vice-Chair Michael Baldwin.

Probation Department Report:

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera advised that the Juvenile Institutions' current population is 55 youth, with 8 females and 47 males. Additionally, he provided the following updates:

- 10 youth are in custody for murder or attempted murder, with 5 pending transfer hearings to determine how they will be tried and 2 being tried as adults.
- 3 youth are pending placement.
- A youth was convicted of first-degree murder today and is scheduled to appear in court on April 27 for disposition.
- This county's first Secure Track Youth commitment was received on April 8, 2022. A rehabilitation plan will be submitted to the court within 30 days of the commitment date to ensure that the services outlined in the SB823 Plan are received during the Secure Track Youth's commitment time.
- Programming in the facilities continues; Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and all the other programs from mental health, educational, employment-based programs, and more.
- The Library Program has resumed a two-year break due to the pandemic and staff shortages.

CPO Ferriera informed the group that the Biennial Inspection of Juvenile Facilities by the Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC) was determined to be in compliance. This inspection is performed every two years to assure that the facility is fit for housing youth.

Effective May 1, 2022, Wellpath will be the juvenile facilities' sole medical and mental health services provider. Previously, they provided only medical services, and the Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) provided mental health services. However, due to BHRS' staffing situation, the decision was made to have Wellpath provide both services moving forward. The contract is for seven years and includes restoring youth to competency language.

The Juvenile Justice Commission announced that a letter to Wellpath would be drafted, highlighting the importance of consistency while providing youth mental health treatment.

The group discussed the rising need for mental health services among youth, noting that the county lacks such resources. CPO Ferriera informed the Commission that the Juvenile Institutions have seen an increase in youth with mental health issues and that the resources needed to deal with such youth are plentiful. He stated that an additional Clinician would be added to the agreement if needed.

Chairperson Marian Martino inquired about in-person visiting. CPO Ferriera noted that in-person visiting resumed in December, and he would provide the scheduling information once obtained.

Juvenile Court Report:

Judge Jeff Mangar provided the following update:

- The 709 hearing procedures are in the process of being updated.
- The Stanislaus County protocol has been revised to include a dual-status option recommendation for eligible youth referred to the 241.1.
- Judge Mangar is currently handling the SARB cases on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Sharma Uma announced that a SARB graduation was scheduled for May 18. She inquired about possible resources available that can be offered to SARB youth. CPO Ferriera suggested that low-risk youth be referred to the Youth Assessment Center to avoid mixing the high-risk youth. He advised that research has proven adverse outcomes when mixing the two groups.

The group had a lengthy discussion about youth referred to SARB and the lack of information on probation status. CPO Ferriera offered to assist by providing Sharma with a contact person to assist her with the information needed. He stated that the Probation Department takes education very seriously and has no issues referring youth back to court for not attending school. It was suggested that CPO Ferriera provide the schools with a presentation clarifying the difference between formal and informal Probation.

Chairperson Marian Martino congratulated Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera on their successful BSCC Biennial inspection.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting will be on June 16, 2022, at Noon, in the Probation Department Training Room.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.