

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
February 09, 2023 – Probation Department**

Members Present: Marian Martino, Chair; Michael Baldwin, Vice Chair; Stephen Ashman, Captain Scott Houston, Sharma Uma, Wanda Bonnell, Chief Fidel Landeros

Members Excused: Dawn Cullum

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera, ACPO Leticia Ruano, Facility Superintendent Tracie Martin, Division Director David Costa

Superior Court: The Honorable Jeff Mangar, The Presiding Judge Annette Reese

Call to Order: Chairperson Marian Martino called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comment

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Sharma Uma. **SECOND:** Michael Baldwin. The meeting minutes from December 02, 2022, were approved.

Probation Department Report:

Facility Superintendent Tracy Martin advised that the Juvenile Institution's current population is 68 youth, 9 females and 59 males, of which 21 are in custody for 707(b) offenses, 17 are over 18 years of age, and 5 are Secure Track commitments. Seven youths from this county are housed at the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) pending their release upon completion of their commitment time or closure of DJJ to be returned to this county's Secure Track unit within the Juvenile Institutions. Additionally, she provided the following updates:

Second Chance Podcast: A Performance-based Standards (PbS) employee has mentored youth from the Maximum-Security Unit and is developing a Podcast Library on achieving success within institutional barriers in which 2 youths will be part of the April production.

- The youth participating in the Podcast are 18 years of age and older, their identity will not be disclosed, and the youth has signed a waiver.
- The Podcast library will include interviews with incarcerated youth nationwide and will be available within Juvenile Facilities.
- The Probation Department has partnered with PbS for over a decade. They offer a data-driven continuous improvement process customized for juvenile facilities nationwide.

On Tuesdays, the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) offers computer coding and website design to Unit 5 youth taught by Bay Valley Tech. Upon program completion, participants will receive a certificate, which can be used as an additional resource in the job search. Additionally, beginning March 27, 2023, SCOE will launch a Career Inspiration Center that will include computer coding and video creations for one hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the other units.

Youth for Christ implemented the Love Notes program, which focused on identifying healthy relationships. The program is offered to all the units in the Juvenile Facilities.

Wellpath Mental Health Clinicians offer two Sunday groups: an Anger Management and Substance Abuse group for Secure Track youth and a Critical Thinking group for in-custody female youth.

Facility Superintendent Tracie Martin reported meeting with Marian Martino to discuss initiating an in-custody writing and art program that allows youth to share their creativity and life experiences on The Beat Within. A decision will be forthcoming pending further discussion.

Six youths attend Modesto Junior College and will participate in a 7-week introduction to college courses called Prison Education Project (PEP) thru CSU Stanislaus that will be implemented on February 21st. Additionally, CSU Stanislaus will be providing in-custody youth a Project Rebound Presentation.

The recreational area fencing upgrade was finalized, and the Shine Unit's planned opening is in March.

Juvenile Field Services Division Director David Costa announced that the #Shetoo Conference will be at the Hanline Elementary School on March 10th. Additionally, he provided the following Juvenile Field Services update:

There has been ongoing communication with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in preparation for their upcoming closure on July 1, 2023, and the return of youth currently in their custody to the local level.

The Juvenile Programming and Placement Unit has been working in compliance with SB 187 to assist the appropriate youth in applying for SSI as they approach their 18th birthday to ensure they receive appropriate financial assistance once they become adults. This effort will assist our placement with youth with disabilities as they transition out of the criminal justice system.

Training of Deputy Probation Officers to facilitate evidence-based programming for both in-custody and out-of-custody youth in collaboration with Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) staff.

DD Costa referenced recent events that took place in Memphis, noting that the Stanislaus County Probation Department provides officers with the necessary training to appropriately handle stressful or difficult situations, such as the following:

- 8-hour Verbal De-escalation training, addressing how to defuse situations verbally.
- 4-hour biannual training update on De-escalation.
- Annual certified Use of Force Continuum Course within the range program that builds officers' ability to transition to different force options, including de-escalation. Live scenarios with instructor feedback are included with the training.
- The following training tools are incorporated into the initial and ongoing training:
 - Force Options Simulator
 - Simunitions and Air-soft Scenario-Based Training

The training programs include shoot-and-no-shoot scenarios and force-and-no-force scenarios. The training program is geared to improve officers' ability to continuously evaluate the appropriate response in everchanging situations and make safe and legal choices.

DD Costa lastly reported that officers also receive the following training:

- Special Needs Populations in Probation/Corrections
- Emotional Intelligence
- Mentally Disordered Probationers: Probation Officer Skills for Optimal Outcomes.
- Ethics for Law Enforcement, which is required every two years.
- Cultural Competency for Today's Law Enforcement Professional

Chief Ferriera noted that following the closure of DJJ intake, the Juvenile Facilities' (DJJ) Secure Track population has increased, and DJJ closure is closely monitored. Facility Superintendent Tracie Martin stated that the population tends to rise every year after the holidays, and the spike is not associated with any other trend.

Court Report:

Presiding Judge Annette Reese announced that today will be Judge Jeff Mangar's last JJC Meeting, and Judge Ruben Villalobos will return as the Juvenile Justice Judge. Judge Mangar reported that the Courts are participating in a Court Observers Program through the California State University Stanislaus Criminal Justice Program. He noted that he will remain a backup for the Juvenile Justice Courts.

The Juvenile Justice Commission members expressed their gratitude to Judge Mangar.

Sharma reported increased youth runaways, family mental health issues within the community, and citations received.

Announcements:

Chairperson Marian Martino announced that the Juvenile Justice Commission continues to award Humberto with the Judge Underwood Scholarship. She shared that Humberto was first awarded the scholarship in 2020 and continues to move forward with his education focused on Criminal Justice.

Mr. Baldwin spoke briefly about the Legacy Alliance Outreach Program, an after-school program focused on youth engagement during peak crime hours. The program partners with various Modesto and Ceres schools and is available Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. servicing approximately 60 youth. During their program time, they receive a meal, tutoring, mentoring, training, and community engagement. Youth also have access to clothing donations, and older youth can volunteer at a nursing home, where they are exposed to empathetic opportunities, gaining empathy and respect for others.

Marian Martino shared that discussions with Facility Superintendent exist about having youth in the Juvenile Institutions being referred to by their first name. CPO Ferriera noted no issues with Marian's ask.

Marian asked if the JCF could have a co-ed unit to be able to house females that have been adjudicated. CPO Ferriera noted it was impossible due to the current staffing dilemma, even more during unforeseen circumstances.

Steve Ashman shared that Valley Music Institute would be a good outlet for the institution's youth to teach them how to play a musical instrument. CPO Ferriera appreciated the idea but expressed concern about not having enough time for additional programming due to the youth's mandated programming schedule. Programming opportunities are always considered, and if the ability to fit into the weekend schedule exists, the idea can be entertained.

CPO Ferriera noted that the bylaws require a yearly report of the JJC activities. Chair Martino will produce the report and forward it to the commission for review.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.