

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
June 05, 2025 – Probation Department**

Members Present: Marian Martino, Chair, Wanda Bonnell, Stephen Ashman, Lt. Fidel Landeros, Craig Orona, Dejeune Shelton, Dawn Cullum, Kelli Bravo, Sandra Ainslie

Members Excused: Sharma Uma

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Tracie Martin, Facility Manager Ramiro Romero

Superior Court Present: The Honorable Annette Rees, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge

Guests Present: Mikayla Dewitt

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

Everyone present at today's meeting introduced themselves.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Consideration of Member Applications/Swear-in

The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) received applications for new and renewing membership consideration from Ms. Dejeune Shelton, Mr. Craig Orona, Ms. Marian Martino, Mr. Fidel Landeros, Mr. Stephen Ashman, and Wanda Bonnell. Marian Martino briefly shared information about Ms. Jessica Godden, as she was unable to attend today's meeting. Ms. Mikayla Dewitt, a guest at today's meeting, expressed interest in becoming a member of the JJC.

MOTION: Stephen Ashman. SECOND: Fidel Landeros: This Board's recommendation to approve the admission of Dejeune Shelton into the Juvenile Justice Commission of Stanislaus County was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Fidel Landeros. SECOND: Sandra Ainslie: This Board's recommendation to approve the admission of Craig Orona into the Juvenile Justice Commission of Stanislaus County was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Dawn Cullum. SECOND: Judge Annette Rees: This Board's recommendation to approve the admission of Wanda Bonnell into the Juvenile Justice Commission of Stanislaus County was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Kelly Bravo. SECOND: Marian Martino: This Board's recommendation to approve the admission of Stephen Ashman into the Juvenile Justice Commission of Stanislaus County was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Stephen Ashman. SECOND: Dawn Cullum: This Board's recommendation to approve the admission of Fidel Landeros into the Juvenile Justice Commission of Stanislaus County was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Judge Annette Rees. SECOND: Wanda Bonnell: This Board's recommendation to approve the admission of Marian Martino into the Juvenile Justice Commission of Stanislaus County was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Stephen Ashman. SECOND: Judge Annette Rees: This Board's recommendation to approve the admission of Jessica Godden into the Juvenile Justice Commission of Stanislaus County was approved unanimously.

The Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, Annette Rees, completed the swearing-in of Ms. Dejeune Shelton, Mr. Craig Orona, Ms. Marian Martino, Mr. Fidel Landeros, Mr. Stephen Ashman, and Wanda Bonnell. Ms. Jessica Godden will be sworn in at the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Stephen Ashman, SECOND: Judge Annette Rees. The minutes of the October 17, 2024, meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairperson Elect Discussion/Vote

Chairperson Elect Dawn Cullum announced that she was in the background process for the San Joaquin District Attorney's Office, and if hired, she would no longer be able to serve on the commission. The group discussed the need for a vice chair in case the current chairperson is unable to fulfill their duties. Mr. Ashman recommended Lt. Fidel Landeros as the Vice Chair of the Juvenile Justice Commission if Dawn Cullum is no longer able to move forward as the JJC Chair.

MOTION: Stephen Ashman. SECOND: Wanda Bonnell. The Vice-Chairperson for the Juvenile Justice Commission, to be Fidel Landeros, was approved unanimously.

Review/Approval of the JJC 2024 Activities Report

The JJC 2024 Annual Activities Report was submitted for review and approval (The JJC 2024 Activities Report is attached). The membership accepted it with no requests to amend.

MOTION: Wanda Bonnell. SECOND: Judge Annette Rees. The submitted JJC 2024 Annual Activities Report was approved unanimously.

Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Presentation

Cecilia Simmons from OYCR provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached) that gave an overview of OYCR's roles and initiatives. The group emphasized the importance of clearly understanding OYCR's role in advising counties, offering technical assistance, and ensuring that youth are informed of their rights and available resources.

Each year, the plan must be submitted to and reviewed by the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) to ensure compliance with legislative requirements. In addition to reviewing plans, OYCR manages grant administration and serves as an ombudsman, occasionally receiving and addressing concerns from youth in custody.

Probation Department Report

Chief Ferriera briefly discussed the origin of the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), which was established following the closure of the state-run Department of Juvenile Justice. Counties are now responsible for housing SYTF youth locally up to the age of 25, with the need to provide housing and support for significantly longer periods than ever before, requiring adapting facilities and programming accordingly.

Lastly, he reported that currently in custody, there are two 21-year-olds, two 20-year-olds, four 19-year-olds, thirteen 18-year-olds, and 18 SYTF commitments. One youth has been in custody for 1,598 days, while 14 others have been there for over a year, a demographic makeup that did not exist before the legislative changes. Dawn Cullum indicated that confidence in local youth care has grown, suggesting that the rise in SYTF commitments may stem from past concerns about DJJ. Noting that the well-developed local program offers better care, without the need to justify alternative placements.

Facility Manager Ramiro Romero reported the following:

- Juvenile facilities are currently undergoing security upgrades, which include enhancements to the camera system.
- The installation of artificial turf in the recreational area has been completed.
- There has been an addition of a K-9 officer to conduct routine perimeter checks.
- The installation of a body scanner is underway to prevent the influx of contraband into the facilities.
- The VOLT Truck Driving Program is being redesigned to offer continuous, stackable certifications, giving youth tangible achievements that support their future goals and foster a sense of pride.
 - In May, 3 youths graduated and received their Truck Driving Certification.
- The institution's population has risen above pre-COVID levels due to a surge in gang-related bookings involving guns and serious assaults. An additional unit was opened to manage the increase, requiring staffing adjustments and extended hours. Despite the strain, all programs and services have continued uninterrupted. A further population rise is expected during the summer.

Juvenile Court Report

The Honorable Judge Villalobos has transferred to the downtown Modesto courthouse; all juvenile-related matters will be overseen by the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Annette Rees.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2025, at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

2024 Juvenile Justice Commission Year End Report

Hon. Judge Ruben Villalobos and Hon. Judge Annette Rees continued to serve as Presiding Juvenile Judges in Department 17 and 18 respectively. Captain Scott Houston complete his term and resigned from the Juvenile Justice Commission. Additionally we welcomed Kelli Bravo as a new, sworn member of the Commission.

Throughout the year Chief Ferriera and his staff kept the Commission informed with detailed reports at each meeting regarding the current population of youth in custody, with specific information for each Unit. In addition we are provided updates about existing and new programs and services available for the youth. Advance educational opportunities and additional college accredited courses are eagerly accessed by the older youth with promising results. In June 17 youth were enrolled in college.

Programming available to the youth includes:

- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Financial Literacy Courses
- Computer Coding and Website Design
- Love Notes Program
- Culinary Program
- Soft Skills/Life Skills
- Victimization Courses
- Online MJC Courses
- Agricultural Program

New in 2024 - Northern California Construction Training, VOLT, a manufacturing training program and Truck Driving Simulator courses are now active and available for youth as requirements are met.

Probation has also contracted with the Psychology Assessment Resource Center (PARC) to provide Sex Offender treatment for youth in and out of custody.

A full-time Substance Abuse Counselor is now also available in the facility.

The first year of housing Secure Track youth was completed and the unit has moved from its initial space in Unit 7 to Unit C in the JCF. Secure Track youth housed within the institution are receiving the required programming in accordance with the SB823 plan. Step-down programming is in place with community-based organizations including Pine Grove Fire Camp and the Youth Navigation Center, which assists with wraparound services and transitional housing.

Division Director David Costa provided the following update:

- Deputy Probation Officers from the Juvenile Division attended a training hosted by Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) but taught by the University of Cincinnati, certifying them as instructors for the Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI)-Core Youth curriculum. Cognitive
- Barrier removal in helping the youth get identification documents is improving. LCA works with our youth in and out of custody in barrier removal. They assist in helping youth get their birth certificates, social security cards, or California IDs which aids them with attaining employment. A question was raised regarding assisting undocumented youth with immigration resources. This remains an unknown.
- Workforce Development teaches the Let's Work course which outgrew its current space. They have relocated to the Downtown location on 12th Street in Modesto

In October our Commission conducted our annual tour and inspection of both facilities with positive reports. Commissioners again were pleased to see attention given to educational options and job skill training in the Max Units, JCF Camp and Secure Track. We marveled at another new mural in the hallway and remain impressed with the on-site County Library and activity/game room available for the youth as well as the Culinary Program. While we witnessed improvements in most units, Unit 3 remains a challenge. While fully safe and secure, the need to function as a co-ed unit has inherent issues and limitations. This is a combined result of fewer female detainees and staffing issues.

Additionally, our Commission has informally adopted the practice of receiving a report from a service provider or program at our regularly scheduled meetings to become better acquainted with offerings and services available to the youth. In February, Deputy Probation Officer Rosio Garcia and the Center for Human Services (CHS) Case Manager Rene Flora presented on the Gender Responsive Alternatives to Detention (GRAD), a collaborative program between Stanislaus County Probation and CHS. In June the Center for Improving Youth Justice (CIYJ), formerly known as Performance-based Standards, delivered a presentation to the Commission. At our August meeting we were briefed by Sierra Vista Center for Family Services Case Managers regarding the function and services of the Youth Assessment Center (YAC).

In keeping with our annual commitment, Commissioners visited and inspected the Oakdale and Modesto Police Department holding areas for youth and reviewed related record keeping. All requirements were met and reports were submitted.

The Commission adopted a succession plan approving Commissioner Dawn Cullum to succeed as Chair beginning July 2025.

Humberto Nunez, a former juvenile justice youth and recipient of the Judge Underwood Scholarship is now a Sacramento State University graduate, husband, and soon-to-be father. Humberto visited the Stanislaus County Juvenile Facilities on May 24, 2024 to share his story. The youths showed great interest and asked Humberto many questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marian Martino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Marian Martino
Stanislaus County Juvenile Justice Commission, Chair



Office of Youth and Community Restoration



Overview

1. Introduction to OYCR
2. OYCR's Role in Promoting Positive Youth Justice
3. Initiatives & Partnerships
4. Projects and Publications



OYCR is a new approach to support court-involved youth

The Goals of Senate Bill 823

- Closed the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as of June 30, 2023
- Established the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)

OYCR was created within the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)

- To provide statewide leadership on court-involved youth through a **health-oriented, evidence-based, healing mindset** that is informed by an understanding of adolescent development.

OYCR Implementation Timeline





About OYCR

- OYCR is the first state office to implement a health-based, youth-centered approach to youth justice and we are not a regulatory body.
- OYCR guides the state's youth justice transition from a lens of punishment to accountability, health, and healing and provides funding and connection to encourage youth development and prepare youth for future success, in partnership with community-based organizations.
- OYCR promotes trauma-responsive, culturally-informed, gender-honoring, and developmentally appropriate services for youth involved in the justice system that support their successful transition into adulthood.
- OYCR works closely with partners across the youth justice continuum, including impacted youth and their families, local judicial systems, county probation departments, schools, behavioral health service providers, and advocates to support youth and safer communities.

Vision

OYCR envisions a Healthy California that enables all youth to be responsible, thriving, and engaged members of their communities.

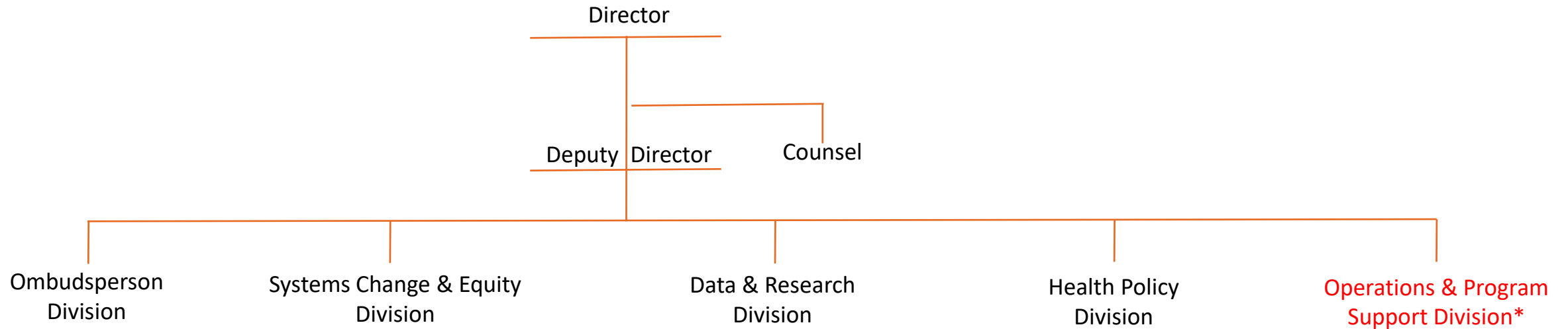
Mission

Promote trauma-responsive, culturally informed services for youth involved in the juvenile justice system that support the youths' successful transition into adulthood.

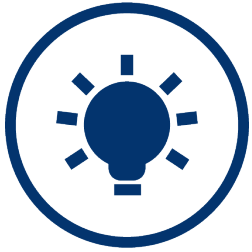
OYCR Goals

1. Increase community-based responses and interventions.
2. Assess the efficacy of local programs.
3. Reduce the transfer of youth into the adult criminal justice system
4. Reduce racial, cultural, and gender disparities.
5. Fulfill statutory obligations of Ombudsperson Office.
6. Provide technical assistance and support
7. Develop policy recommendations

OYCR Organizational Structure



Ombudsperson Division Duties



Receive, investigate, and where possible **resolve complaints** relating to youth in local juvenile facilities



Provide regular reports to the Legislature about numbers, trends, issues, & recommendations



Educate youth, families, and other stakeholders **on the Youth Bill of Rights**



Visit every local juvenile facility at least once annually

Key Collaborative Initiatives

1. Ending the Incarceration of girls/gender expansive (EGI) youth with Vera
2. Community Based Organization (CBO) Capacity Development Building Initiative
3. Youth Dignity Guide Project
4. Department of Rehabilitation Workforce Development Initiative
5. Less Restrictive Programs (LRP)
6. Direct technical assistance to counties or stakeholders
7. Credible Messenger Mentoring Movement
8. Monthly Youth Justice Webinar Series

Ending the Incarceration of Girls & Gender-Expansive Youth

Partnership with OYCR, Vera Institute of Justice, and four California counties – Imperial, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego – have launched the End Girls' Incarceration in California Action Network

California accounts for roughly 13 percent of girls' long-term commitments nationally.

Addressing the disparities that drive girls' incarceration is an urgent matter of race and gender equity. Girls and gender expansive youth of color—particularly Black, Native American, and Latina youth—have largely been left out of juvenile justice reforms.

How One California County Is Ending Girls' Incarceration

Santa Clara County Serves as a Model for California—And the Country

Nazish Dholakia Senior Writer

Apr 25, 2023



EGI Updates and Next Steps



Work to Date:

The EGI Initiative, initially launched in May 2023, is currently in its 2nd year, and has achieved significant milestones including each county developing reform and sustainability plans committing to policy shifts to sustain reform efforts, data collection on low/med risk girls in detention, and analysis to identify incarceration drivers.

In partnership with Sierra Health Foundation, OYCR released a grant opportunity for CBOs to fund diversion programs for girls and gender expansive youth.

Next Steps:

Sierra Health has received applications as part of the Grant Request For Application (RFA) process and selected 5 CBO's:

Imperial County: Rite of Passage Adolescent Treatment Centers and Schools, Inc Treatment

Los Angeles: Young Women's Freedom Center

Sacramento: FosterHope Sacramento and Hooked on Fishing not on Violence

San Diego: San Diego Youth Services



CBO Capacity Development Workgroup

OYCR, in partnership with Sierra Health, is assisting local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that utilize lived-experience staff and who serve justice-involved youth to contract with managed care plans as Essential Care Management (ECM) and Community Health Worker (CHW) providers.

Support includes guidance on Medi-Cal and CalAIM, backend business system help, and direct fiscal aid for covering upfront MCP contracting costs.





OYCR network development project with Public Works Alliance (PWA)

OYCR aims to assist community-based organizations serving justice-involved youth and young adults in accessing public funding and navigating evolving reforms. This includes organizational capacity analysis, managed care benefit analysis, network development with Full Circle Health Network, and collaborative service delivery enhancement efforts.





DOR/OYCR Workforce Development Project

OYCR is collaborating with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) to implement programs to support vocational and related educational services for juvenile justice youth who meet disability eligibility requirements.

OYCR has started to receive \$10 million annually over the next three years from DOR to support services to youth living in the community and secure settings.

OYCR is in the process of executing contracts with 8 Counties and hiring Workforce Development Navigators to identify and engage potential youth enrollees.



OYCR Less Restrictive Program Grants



OYCR is providing grants to County Probation Departments for innovative programs helping youth transition from Secure Youth Treatment Facilities to less restrictive programs, offering funding of \$100,000 - \$200,000 per youth over 24 months.

Contracts have been executed with 11 counties for a total of \$15,900,000. Counties are required to focus on identified areas such as community coordination, housing, education, income support, and workforce linkages. OYCR is guiding program design, implementation, and evaluation.

Credible
Messenger
Mentoring
Movement



“Credible messenger work is about forming a deep, trusting relationship. It's about committing to work with a young person over time and to co-navigate that process with them.”

Clinton Lacey, President and CEO, Credible Messenger Mentoring Movement (CM3)

National Compadres Network & Brotherhood of Elders - Healing Justice



OYCR Youth Advisory Board



CA Juvenile Justice Toolkit

The toolkit was developed by RAND Corporation in partnership with the Council of Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) and OYCR.

The toolkit is a web-based compendium of programs and practices used in youth justice with different level of evidenced. Our probation partners can access the toolkit to search intervention to implement in facilities.

OYCR has taken the lead in the training and technical assistance phase of the project and has partnered with RAND and University of Cincinnati to assist our partners in learning and implementing toolkit interventions.



SACJJDP

California's State Advisory Group on Federal Title II-funded activities is the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP), a Governor-appointed committee. OYCR assumed administrative responsibility for the SACJJDP in July 2024.



Title II - Compliance Monitoring

- Oversees 900+ local detention (secure and non-secure) and law enforcement facilities throughout CA
- Inspects and Evaluates facilities for compliance with the Federal JJDPA
- Facilitates Data collection and Reporting via facility surveys & monthly reports

2022-2025 Title II-Funded Programs:

Aftercare/Reentry

Alternatives to Incarceration

Community-Based Programs and Services

Diversion

Job Training, and/or

Mentoring, Counseling, and Training Programs

Workforce Development



Youth Employment
Initiative in
Partnership With
Department of
Rehabilitation



Forging Strategic
Alliances with State
Agencies, Local
Entities, and
Community-Based
Organizations to
Enhance Workforce
Development
Initiatives



Building Awareness
Around the Need for
Workforce Programs
for Youth Impacted
by the Justice
System

Resources

- OYCR Website: www.oocr.ca.gov
 - Publications
 - Youth Bill of Rights
 - UCLA Briefs- Stepping Home
 - Youth Dignity Guide
 - Reports
 - Partner Resources
 - Technical Assistance Materials
 - Funding Opportunities
 - Trainings
 - Less Restrictive Programs



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Questions?



Office of Youth and
Community Restoration

Contact OYCR

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Thank You!