STANISLAUS COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

Meeting Date, Time, and Venue

Thursday – August 27, 2026

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Stanislaus County Probation Department

2215 Blue Gum Avenue

PROBATION DEPARTMENT- HR TRAINING ROOM

Modesto, CA 95358

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment Period

III. Approve February 5, 2026, and June 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes

IV. Stanislaus County Office of Education Presentation

V. Probation Department Report

VI. Juvenile Court Report

VII. Announcements

VIII. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2026, @ Noon

MEETING AND PARKING NOTICE:

- The meeting will be held in the Human Resources Training Room in the gated parking lot on the corner of Blue Gum Avenue and Second Street.
- The entrance to the parking lot is off Second Street, directly across from the Modesto Junior College parking lot.
- Press the button for the gate attendant to allow you entrance into the parking lot.
- The meeting notice will be in front of the HR Training Room.

Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
February 05, 2026 – Probation Department

Members Present: Fidel Landeros, Chair; Sharma Uma, Chair-Elect; Marian Martino; Wanda Bonnell; Sandra Ainslie; Dejeune Melanie Shelton, Antony Little

Members Excused: Stephen Ashman, Kelli Bravo, Craig Orona, Jessica Godden, Fallon Ferris

Probation Department Present: Mark Ferriera, Chief Probation Officer; Olivia Lopez, Division Director; Sylvia Valladares, Deputy Probation Officer III

Superior Court: The Honorable Annette Rees

Guest: Angelica Gomez

Call to Order: Chairperson Fidel Landeros called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comment

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION**: Marian Martino **SECOND**: Saundra Ainslie. The meeting minutes from October 16, 2025, were approved.

Youth Assessment Center (YAC) Presentation (The presentation is attached to the minutes):
Deputy Probation Officer III Sylvia Valladares presented on the Youth Assessment Center, which was fully implemented following the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 439, which took effect on January 1, 2020. SB 439 prohibits youth under the age of 12 from being booked into Juvenile Hall or entering the juvenile justice system, except in limited circumstances involving certain serious offenses. As a result, counties were required to develop alternative processes and services to appropriately respond to and support these youth.

The Youth Assessment Presentation included the following:

- Origins and Implementation
- Most Referred Offenses
- Foundation and Philosophy
- Eligibility and Participation
- Locations and Accessibility
- Program Process
- Services and Approach
- Restorative Justice Component
- Program Duration and Completion
- Outcomes

Although the Youth Assessment Center does not currently have data on recidivism, demographics, age, or race, a program oversight committee meets monthly to review program trends and reassess individual cases, including those involving youth who reoffend while participating in services.

Chief Ferriera will present updated information and findings to the Juvenile Justice Commission upon completion of data collection and analysis by the Probation Department's Data Analyst.

Review and Approval of the 2025 JJC Annual Activities Report (The report is attached to the minutes):
Chairperson Fidel Landeros submitted the 2025 JJC Annual Activities Report for the membership's review and approval.

MOTION: Dejeune Melanie Shelton SECOND: Wanda Bonnell. The 2025 JJC Annual Activities Report was approved.

Probation Department Report:
Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera reported the following Juvenile Institutions update:

Population Overview

- Current facility population: 76 youth (69 boys, 7 girls).
- The population has stayed consistently in the 70s over the past year.
- Average Daily Population (ADP) 2025: 73
- ADP 2023: 59 reflects a significant increase, almost equal to an additional unit.
- 15 youth are committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).
- Age range reflects legal changes allowing custody up to age 25:
    - 22 individuals are adults (18+)
    - The youngest youth is 12 years old.

Offense Severity & Legal Status

- 41 youth are in custody for serious 707(b) offenses (more than half the population).
- 7 youth in custody for murder.
- 8 youth in custody for attempted murder.
- 2 youth pending transfer hearings that could result in adult court proceedings.

Staff Safety Concerns

- Three experienced lead staff were assaulted in January; staff injuries were reported.
- Additional assaults occurred in December and September.
- Some offenders were adults transferred to the county jail and booked on adult charges.
- Situation is under close monitoring, with continued focus on accountability and safety.

Inspections & Compliance

- Board of State and Community Corrections unannounced inspection (Jan. 13):
    - The facility passed the inspection with no findings.
    - Commendations were received for being among the cleanest, safest, and most organized in the state.
    - Positive feedback on youth movement and educational programming.
- Kitchen environmental inspection (Jan. 22) resulted in no findings, maintaining full compliance.

Programs, Education & Rehabilitation

- Launch of Industrial Mechanics “Volt on the Go” curriculum.
- 15 youth enrolled in Modesto Junior College on-line courses.
- Library reopened following construction and security upgrades.
- Truck Driving Program continues progressing.
- Body scanner implementation:
    - Three contraband discoveries in three months.
- Stanislaus County Office of Education Trauma-Informed Art Program has been expanded to all living units; the program supports therapeutic healing and creative expression.

Juvenile Court Report:
Judge Annette Rees reported the following:

The court now operates a combined juvenile justice and dependency calendar. Non-violent youth are increasingly released into the community on GPS, leaving a population with more serious offenses. Positive behavior is recognized through the monthly Judge’s Honor Roll, which rewards youth who maintain good conduct and participate in programming, with January seeing an entire unit earn Judge’s Honor Roll status.

Dependency caseloads have declined significantly, from over 500 foster youth 5 to 10 years ago to just over 300, aided by AB1376, limiting wardship to 12 months unless extended for public safety or best interest. While overall caseloads decrease, the Juvenile Hall population remains elevated due to the severity of offenses. Youth remaining in the facility are showing some positive behaviors, while those who committed assaults have been removed.

Juvenile Field Services Division Director Olivia Lopez reported that, as of January 1, with the passage of AB 1376, approximately 213 youths were on probation and declared wards. Of these, about 80 had reached the 12-month limit under AB 1376. Of the 80 youth, 33 were recommended for continuation of probation, and 47 for termination of probation.

The Probation Department worked closely with the Public Defender's Office and the Alternate Defense Office to collaborate and reach consensus on case recommendations. Judge Rees commended Chief Ferriera and his staff

for proactive preparation for AB 1376, providing timely data and information before the law went into effect. Ms. Martino, a long-serving commission member, praised Chief Ferriera for being highly effective, and Ms. Ainslie added that community members and youth have recognized the department's positive impact.

Announcements:
The County is planning major courtroom renovations and reconfiguration, including consolidating courtrooms, constructing temporary hearing space, and modernizing facilities during an anticipated 18-month construction period.

The Juvenile Hall construction upgrade observed during the most recent JJC Juvenile Facilities tour has been completed. Chief Ferriera offered a walkthrough to any interested commission members.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2026, at Noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

2025 Juvenile Justice Commission Year-End Report

Throughout the year, Chief Ferriera and his staff kept the Commission informed with detailed reports at each meeting, providing current population data for each unit. In In addition, we were provided with updates on existing and new programs and services available to youth.

The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) received applications for new and renewed membership considerations. 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. Shephen Ashman, Wanda Bonnell, and Ms. Jessica Godden.

At a later meeting, Chairperson Elect Fidel Landeros announced the resignation of Juvenile Justice Commission Chair Dawn Cullum. Following her resignation, Lt. Fidel Landeros was appointed the new chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Commission, and Sharma Uma was appointed chairperson elect.

During one of the meetings, 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 was expected during the summer.

Notable Presentations

Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Presentation. Cecilia Simmons from OYCR presented a PowerPoint 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.

Manufacturing and Truck Driving Presentation by SCOE. Kevin Fox, Director of Career and Technical Education with the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting two programs under accreditation: the West Campus Trucking Program and VOLT Institute. The West Campus Trucking Program provides youth with career and character-building opportunities in the trucking industry. Led by an experienced instructor and trucking company owner, the program offers both classroom and simulator-based training totaling 180 hours and is aligned with Department of Transportation (DOT) standards. Students learn safety regulations, vehicle inspections, and industry practices while preparing for their commercial driver's license (CDL) written test.

Facility Inspections

The facility passed the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Biennial Inspection with flying colors. Our Commission also conducted its annual tour and inspection of both facilities and received positive reports. Additionally, commissioners visited and inspected the Oakdale and Modesto Police Department holding areas for youth and reviewed related record-keeping. All requirements were met.

Fidel Landeros

Stanislaus County Juvenile Justice Commission, Chair

Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting
June 11, 2026 – Probation Department

Members Present: Vice Chair Sharma Uma, Wanda Bonnell, Antony Little, Kelli Bravo

Members Not Present: Chair Lt. Fidel Landeros, Marian Martino**,** Dejeune Shelton, Jessica Godden, Stephen Ashman, Sandra Ainslie, Craig Orona

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Tracie Martin, Facility Superintendent David Costa

Guests Present: Saundra Day, Brandon Fromm from the Stanislaus County Office of Education

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

A roll call was conducted to determine whether a quorum was present. Following the roll call, it was determined that a quorum was not present.

At 12:08 p.m., Vice Chair Sharma Uma adjourned the meeting due to a lack of a quorum. No business was conducted, no agenda items were considered, and no action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.