Stanislaus County Juvenile Justice Commission June 6, 2024 – Probation Department

Members Present: Marian Martino, Chair; Stephen Ashman; Wanda Bonnell; Sandra Ainslie; Dawn Cullum

Members Excused: Lieutenant Fidel Landeros; Michael Baldwin Sr., Vice Chair; Sharma Uma

**Probation Department Present**: Mark Ferriera, Chief Probation Officer; Maryvel Becerra, Probation Manager; Kevin Pen, Supervising Probation Corrections Officer

**Superior Court**: The Honorable Annette Rees; The Honorable Ruben Villalobos

Guest: Kelli Bravo; Anna Snell; James Smith

Call to Order: Chairperson Marian Martino called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comment

**Approval of Minutes: MOTION:** Dawn Cullum **SECOND:** Sandra Ainslie. The meeting minutes from February 8, 2024, were approved.

Everyone present at today's meeting introduced themselves.

### Performance-based Standards (PbS) Presentation

Coach James Smith, with the Center for Improving Youth Justice (CIYJ), formerly known as Performance-based Standards, delivered a presentation to the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC). The Center for Improving Youth Justice is an evidence-based approach that collaborates with organizations in charge of the well-being of juvenile justice youths to improve their care and treatment. The data-gathering process targets many dimensions, including safety, organization, security, health, mental health, programming, justice, reintegration, family, and social support, to guarantee specific circumstances of confinement and overall quality of life. Mr. Smith reviewed the Stanislaus County Juvenile Facilities data collection, which revealed that youths are being assessed within the initial hour of the booking process.

Facilities also collect information by surveying youths, staff, and families and reporting administrative data, unusual incidents, and the services offered by the facility or program twice a year. All the data collection is confidential and takes place in April and October. Once the data collected has been analyzed, the Center for Improving Youth Justice will work with the facility to develop an improvement plan. Chief Ferriera noted that facilities can see how they are doing compared to other facilities nationwide. Currently, 501 facilities nationwide participate in CIYJ data collection, and among the top-rated facilities is the Stanislaus County Juvenile Facilities.

Dawn Cullum inquired about the youth surveys and how long-term commitment youths differ from the generally populated youths. Mr. Smith noted that all data collected is on an individual basis, and everyone's needs vary based on their circumstances. Probation Manager Maryvel Becerra advised that data collection specific to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) population is forthcoming.

### **Probation Department Report:**

Chief Ferriera shared an update on Humberto Nunez, a former juvenile justice youth and recipient of the Judge Underwood Scholarship. Humberto is now a Sacramento State University graduate, husband, and soon-to-be father who has turned his life around. On May 24, 2024, Humberto was invited to visit the Stanislaus County Juvenile Facilities and share his story with the youths in custody. He noted that everything went well; the youths showed great interest and asked Humberto many questions.

Chair Marian Martino inquired about the procedures for becoming a guest speaker in the juvenile facilities. Chief Ferriera expressed a willingness to allow individuals who have turned their lives around to visit the facility and share their success stories with the youth; for liability purposes, individuals who are sex registrants would not qualify to enter the facility and engage with the youths.

Chief Ferriera also reported that an agreement between the Stanislaus County Probation Department and Psychology Assessment Resource Center (PARC) for sex offender services is being finalized. Services will be available to youths starting in July 2024.

Lastly, Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera provided the following updates:

- The current Juvenile Hall population is 66 youths, of which 63 are male and 3 are female. Of the 66 youths in custody, 14 are in the Secured Youth Treatment Facility.
- The average daily population is 60, above average compared to 45 in 2022; he attributes the increase to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) closure. Judge Ruben Villalobos indicated that the Juvenile Justice Bench's increased reliance on the SYTF may be another contributing factor.
- A high school graduation is scheduled for June 12, 2024.
- 17 youths are enrolled in college; this is the highest number of college enrollments thus far.
- The average length of stay (SYTF not included) is 15 days in Juvenile Hall and 83 days at the Juvenile Facility Center. The numbers have been steady compared to the previous 2 years.
  - Judge Villalobos requested data on the average length of stay for youth pending transfer hearings. CPO
    Ferriera will provide information on recidivism and the average length of stay for pending transfer
    hearings at the next JJC meeting.
- 7 individuals are pending a transfer hearing.
- 1 youth is being tried as an adult.
- 8 youths are pending a transfer hearing for murder-related charges.
- The Truck Driving simulator course is expected to go live in July.

For context purposes, Chief Ferriera shared that in 2007, Juvenile Hall had a bed capacity of 158 beds and an average daily population of 145 youths, of which 68% were court-committed youths; over 1000 youths were on juvenile probation.

# **Juvenile Court Report**:

Judge Ruben Villalobos discussed the newly developed Secure Youth Treatment Facility step-down program, which consists of a residential component combined with services for transitioning back into the community. Additionally, coordinating with the attorneys' schedules to reduce the wait time for the court appearance is in the works.

# **Chairperson Elect & Membership Discussion/Vote:**

The Juvenile Justice Commission Chair, Marian Martino, discussed having a succession plan as one is not detailed in the JJC Bylaws.

MOTION: Steve Ashman SECOND: Sandra Ainslie for Dawn Cullum to be the Juvenile Justice Commission Chairperson Elect; term as Chair to become effective upon Chair Marian Martino's exit or July 2025, whichever comes first, was unanimously approved.

### **Announcements:**

Chair Martino announced Captain Scott Houston's resignation from the Juvenile Justice Commission.

Steve Ashman announced his intent to retire and recommended that Kelli Bravo replace him on the Juvenile Justice Commission.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2024, at Noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.



