

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
April 27, 2023 – Probation Department**

Members Present: Marian Martino, Chair, Dawn Cullum, Captain Scott Houston, Sharma Uma, Wanda Bonnell, Chief Fidel Landeros

Members Excused: Stephen Ashman, Vice Chair Michael Baldwin

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera, ACPO Leticia Ruano

Public Defender's Office Present: Kimberly Gonzales

Superior Court: The Honorable Ruben Villalobos

Guest: Sandra Ainslie

Call to Order: Chairperson Marian Martino called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comment

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Chief Fidel Landeros. **SECOND:** Wanda Bonnell. The meeting minutes from February 09, 2023, were approved.

Probation Department Report:

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera advised that the Juvenile Institution's current population is 53 youth, 4 females and 49 males, of which 2 are pending placement, 7 are Secure Track commitments, and 7 are pending transfer hearings to determine if they will be tried as adults or juveniles. Five youths from this county are housed at the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), of which one is scheduled to go before the Parole Board. He stated that any youth awaiting release from DJJ with time left to serve will be returned to this county's Secure Track unit, which is now open and within the Juvenile Institutions. The unit has been named the SHINE (Supporting Healthy Individuals Needing Encouragement) unit. DJJ's effective closure date is June 30th, 2023. Additionally, he provided the following information:

Programming available to the youth is as follows:

- 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; 5 youth completed, and 3 to 4 additional youth are set to start.
- An Agricultural Program giving youth participating the opportunity to receive Career Technical Education credits is forthcoming.

He shared that the 2 youth that participated in the April production of the Second Chance Podcast did wonderfully, and once a copy of the podcast is available, he would share it with the group. He also mentioned that all vocational programs are only available to long-term in-custody youth and that they are always looking to enhance the programming being offered.

CPO Ferriera advised that the administration of psychotropic medication, which includes sleeping medication within our Juvenile Institutions, is being tracked. As of this morning, 18 youth are on psychotropic medication. He noted that the monthly averages of youth on psychotropic medication had increased from past years; 14 youth in 2021, 17 youth in 2022, and 24 youth in 2023. Additionally, he reported a decrease in the number of youth on Formal Probation; as of April, 183 youth are on Formal Probation, 173 in 2022, and 250 in 2021.

Lastly, Chief Ferriera announced that the Probation Department will host an Open House event on May 13th. The event is open to the community; there will be tours of the facility, demonstrations, employment information, other partner agencies, and fun-filled events.

Chair Marian Martino asked Chief Ferriera for an update regarding youth within the Juvenile Facilities being referred to by their first name, as discussed during the previous JJC meeting. Chief Ferriera advised Ms. Martino that staff have been told to refer to youth by their first name but would need to follow up with the Facility Superintendent and get back to her.

Chief Ferriera advised the commission that he and Judge Villalobos have discussed competency restoration. When a youth is deemed incompetent, they are referred to an agency to provide restoration services. He stated that restoration services are provided by Victor Community Support Services (VCSS). The commission noted interest in receiving reading material outlining a description of the restoration services Victor provides. After a lengthy discussion, the commission expressed interest in a presentation on the restoration process. Chief Ferriera will work on organizing a presentation for the JJC.

Court Report:

Judge Ruben Villalobos stated that, in light of the various changes in the legislation, he and the Public Defender, District Attorney, and Probation Department are working hard to ensure that the right protocols are followed. He also expressed a desire to have the Juvenile Court proceedings resume in person.

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.

Chief Fidel Landeros announced that a Town Hall meeting in partnership with BHRS to discuss the dangers of Fentanyl was held in Hughson and was a great success. He noted that the presentation is available in both English and Spanish and is very impactful. He also announced that this weekend the Hughson Fruit and Nut Festival would be taking place.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2023.

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