

**Stanislaus County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
June 22, 2023 – Probation Department**

**Members Present:** Marian Martino, Chair, Dawn Cullum, Sharma Uma, Wanda Bonnell, Chief Fidel Landeros, Sandra Ainslie

**Members Excused:** Stephen Ashman, Vice Chair Michael Baldwin, Captain Scott Houston

**Probation Department Present:** Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera, ACPO Leticia Ruano, Division Director David Costa

**Superior Court:** Presiding Juvenile Judge Annette Rees

**Guest:** Humberto Nunez (Virtually)

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

**Public Comment:** No public comment

**New Commission Member Swear-In:**

Presiding Juvenile Judge Annette Rees completed the swear-in of Sandra Ainslie as a sworn member of the Juvenile Justice Commission.

**Approval of Minutes: MOTION:** Wanda Bonnell. **SECOND:** Chief Fidel Landeros. The meeting minutes from April 27, 2023, were approved.

**Probation Department Report:**

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera advised that the Juvenile Institution's current population is 56 youth, 1 female and 55 males, of which 1 is pending placement and will remain in custody until the commitment time has been completed. The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) closure date is June 30, 2023, and zero youth from this county remain in their custody. Youth that would formally be sentenced to DJJ will now stay locally within Juvenile Hall. The Secure Youth Treatment Facility/Secure Track Facility within Juvenile Hall has been designed to house youth that would formally be sentenced to DJJ; the Secure Youth Treatment Facility's current population is 9 youth, and 6 are pending transfer hearings to determine if they will be tried as adults or juveniles. Additionally, he provided the following information:

Chief Ferriera reported the demographics of youth currently in custody for firearm-related charges.

- 58.9% of the current population were booked for charges of possession or personal use of a firearm.
- 70% of cases that are pending to be resolved are related to firearm charges.

In-custody programming update:

- The Secure Youth Treatment Facility (Unit 7) and Maximum Security (Unit 5) started college courses Introduction to Financial Literacy and Introduction to Psychology, which are part of the Prison Education Program.
- Unit 7 started Principles of Agriculture, which takes place at the JCF garden every Wednesday.

- Computer Coding provided by Bay Valley Technical Institute is offered in Unit 5 every Tuesday, and the Juvenile Institution's Superintendent is in discussions with the provider about also making the class available to Unit 7.
- MJC summer school begins June 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - 8 youth are enrolled.
  - 1 Secure Track youth is actively in ELTEC 322 Technical Measurements, a vocational summer school course through MJC.
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART) is provided in all the units 3 days a week.

The Commission discussed the efforts made within the juvenile facilities to call youths by their first name and how some youths prefer being referred to by their last name.

Chief Ferriera also announced that the Probation Department has partnered with the Center for Human Services to provide Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) services within the Juvenile Facility. Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, one-on-one counseling services will be available to in-custody youths.

Division Director (DD) David Costa reported that the service agreements for the Juvenile Justice Youth programming are in the works, noting that programming for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 would be expanding. He highlighted the following:

- Service hours for Without Permission will expand to provide additional services to male youth with risk factors for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).
- Service hours for Healthy Alternatives to Violent Environments (HAVEN) will expand for additional Domestic/Sexual Violence Programming in custody.
- Service hours with LCA will expand to increase consistency and fidelity for the in-custody/ non-secure track programming.
- Pine Grove will be forthcoming as a step-down program for the Secure Track Youth.

### **Court Report:**

Presiding Juvenile Judge Annette Rees reported the following:

- Judge Ruben Villalobos's efforts on the step-down programs for youth committed to Secure Track were recognized.
- Presiding Judge Rees attended the Quarterly Juvenile Justice meeting, noting that it was well attended.
- Juvenile Court proceedings are now held in person.
- The implementation of CARE Court is scheduled for October 2023 and will be overseen by Judge Ruben Villalobos.
- Juvenile Dependency will be solely overseen by the Presiding Judge, Annette Rees.
- SARB will resume in the fall and will be in person.

Lastly, the Honorable Annette Rees announced the recent passing of beloved Judge Ann Ameral.

### **Discuss/Approve Updates to the Juvenile Justice Commission Bylaws**

Chairperson Marian Martino discussed modifying the meeting schedule in the Juvenile Justice Bylaws. She suggested the meetings be held quarterly in February, June, August, and October, noting that the proposed months align with important JJC matters. The Commission discussed Ms. Martino's suggestions and had no opposition. The Juvenile Justice Commission Bylaws were amended to reflect the new meeting schedule under Article 5 of the JJC Bylaws. (A copy of the Bylaws is attached to the minutes.)

- (Section 3) The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held quarterly (February, June, August, and October) unless otherwise ordered by the Chairperson.

MOTION: Wanda Bonnell. SECOND: Dawn Cullum. The new Juvenile Justice Commission Bylaws with the amendment to Section 3 under Article 5 were approved unanimously.

Chief Ferriera pointed out that changing the month in Section 8 of Article 5 would also be necessary to align with the newly adopted meeting schedule. The Juvenile Justice Commission membership agreed with Chief Ferriera.

Section 8 of Article 5, "The Commission shall annually, at the December meeting, adopt the following:  
a. Prepare a yearly report of the Commission activities," was amended to read as follows:

- (Section 8) The Commission shall annually, at the February meeting, adopt the following:  
a. Prepare a yearly report of the Commission activities.

MOTION: Wanda Bonnell. SECOND: Sandra Ainslie. The new Juvenile Justice Commission Bylaws with the amendment to Section 8 of Article 5 was approved unanimously.

### **Announcements:**

Chief Fidel Landeros announced that the National Night Out will take place on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, an event to enhance the relationship between the community and law enforcement.

Sharma Uma invited the members to join the Annual SCOE SARB Workshop on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, and Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Martin Petersen Event Center in Modesto. An event flyer will be sent to the members via email.

Marian Martino announced that the Creative Writing class she teaches within the Juvenile Institutions would adopt a new program called the Beat Within as of July 1st.

Lastly, Ms. Martino provided a quick update on the Judge Underwood Scholarship. She announced that the youth actively participating in the Judge Underwood Scholarship was recently granted the scholarship by the Juvenile Justice Commission. She advised that he had completed the spring semester with outstanding grades.

The Judge Underwood Scholarship recipient, Humberto Nunez, virtually joined today's meeting; Chairperson Marian Martino introduced him to the Juvenile Justice Commission. Humberto briefly shared about himself and how he turned his life around from being in the Juvenile Justice System to being an upcoming graduate of Sacramento State University. Additionally, he shared his plans to start a career in Criminal Justice working with youth. He expressed hope to inspire others with his story and appreciated the opportunity to be a Judge Underwood Scholarship recipient. The Juvenile Justice Commission members were delighted to have him as a guest and discuss his plans. They commended Humberto for all his hard work and gave him encouraging words, including career opportunity invitations.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
OF  
STANISLAUS COUNTY**

**BYLAWS**

**Article I**

The Juvenile Justice Commission is established through the provisions of §225 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. County Ordinance Title 2, Chapter 2.76, (§§2.76.010, 2.76.020, 2-.76.030) designates the Juvenile Justice Commission to serve as the Delinquency Prevention Commission. The Commission shall be known as the Juvenile Justice-Delinquency Prevention Commission of Stanislaus County.

**Article II**

**Duties and Responsibilities**

The responsibility of this Commission is broadly defined in §229 and §235 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The general purpose is to “inquire into the administration of the Juvenile Court law in the County” and coordinate on a countywide basis the work of those community agencies engaged in activities designed to prevent delinquency. Within this statutory duty the Commission has the following functions:

- Section 1 To annually inspect any jail or lockup within the County, which, in the preceding calendar year, was used for confinement of any minor more than 24 hours. It shall report the results of such inspection together with its recommendations based thereon, in writing, to the Juvenile Court and to the Board of State and Community Corrections.
- Section 2 At its discretion, the Commission may inquire into the operation of any group home that serves wards or dependent children and is located in Stanislaus County (WIC 229.5)
- Section 3 To conduct public hearings on matters relevant to the implementation and administration of the Juvenile Court law in the County.
- Section 4 To assure that needed services are identified, developed and delivered to the children and youth of the County, particularly services that relate to the curtailing from or diversion of youth out of the juvenile justice system.

## Article III

### **Members**

- Section 1 Pursuant to §225 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, membership on this Commission shall be composed of not fewer than seven members and no more than 15. Two or more members of the Commission shall be between 14 and 21 years of age, provided there are available persons between 14 and 21 years of age who are able to carry out the duties of a commission member in a manner satisfactory to the appointing authority.
- Section 2 Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court with the concurrence of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. Recommendations for membership on the Commission may be made by the Board of Supervisors, community groups, clergy or an elected or appointed public official.
- Section 3 Pursuant to §225 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, appointments shall be for a term of four years or when a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee shall hold office for the term of their predecessor.
- Section 4 A member who wishes to serve an additional term shall notify the Chairperson and the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court prior to the expiration of his/her term. The Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, with the concurrence of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, will then have the discretion to reappoint the member seeking an additional term.
- Section 5 Each person appointed, or reappointed, shall appear before the appointing judge and qualify by taking an oath faithfully to perform the duties as a member of the Commission. The qualifications of each member shall be entered in the Juvenile Court record and the Commission minutes.
- Section 6 Any member desiring to resign from the Commission shall submit his or her resignation in writing to the Chairperson of the Commission and a copy to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.
- Section 7 Attendance of members shall be taken and recorded in the minutes at all called Commission meetings. Any Commissioner who accumulates three unexcused absences from called meetings

during the fiscal year may be considered as having resigned from the Commission. Absences must be communicated prior to the meeting to the Chair, the Chief of Probation, or the secretary, and the Commission will decide if the absence is an excused absence. Such resignation shall be communicated by the Chairperson to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court and Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court.

#### **Article IV**

##### **Officers**

- Section 1 The officers of this Commission shall be a Chairperson and a Chairperson-Elect.
- Section 2 Nominations for Chairperson-Elect shall be made at the Commission's regular meeting held in February. Election by Commission members shall be conducted annually in June.
- Section 3 The Chairperson-Elect shall assume office as the Chairperson at the beginning of the following term without further voting.
- Section 4 If the Chairperson-Elect position becomes vacant, the Chairperson will call a special election to fill the unexpired term of office. In the event the Chairperson's position becomes vacant, the Chairperson-Elect shall assume the chair for the remainder of the term.

#### **Article V**

##### **Meetings**

- Section 1 All meetings of the Commission shall be held in accordance with the Brown Act, providing public access to the Commission's activities. An agenda for the Commission's meetings shall be created and posted on the Probation Department's publicly accessible website no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.
- Section 2 Public comments at meetings are limited to three minutes for each agenda item. The Chairperson has the discretion to extend the time based on the complexity of the issue.
- Section 3 The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held bi-monthly (February, April, June, August, October, and December) , unless otherwise ordered by the Chairperson.

- Section 4 The location of the meetings shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- Section 5 Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, or at the request of the Commission members.
- Section 6 A simple majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum for Commission or committee business.
- Section 7 Commission business shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present, except for amendments to the Bylaws.
- Section 8 The Commission shall annually, at the December meeting, adopt the following:
- a. Prepare a yearly report of the Commission activities.

## **Article VI**

### **Committees**

The Commission may establish special or ad hoc committees to perform fact-finding functions on any matter under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

## **Article VII**

### **Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall guide the Commission in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order that the Commission may adopt.

## **Article VIII**

### **Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Commission by a two-thirds vote of a quorum, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing and all commissioners have been provided a copy of the amendment at least five days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.

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