

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – August 13, 2020

Stanislaus County Probation Department – Microsoft TEAMS

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT

MARK FERRIERA, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department, Chair
LETICIA RUANO, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
JEFF ANDERSON, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
JEFF MANGAR, for Birgit Fladager, District Attorney
JOHN R. MAYNE, District Attorney
LT. JOSHUA CLAYTON for Jeff Dirkse, Sheriff
CANDACE HUBBARD for Laura Arnold, Public Defender
ROBERT HOUSDEN, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
KATHY HARWELL, Director, Community Services Agency
CINDY DUENAS, Director, Center for Human Services
ANGELICA RAMOS for Jody Hayes, Chief Executive Officer
JUDGE RUBEN VILLALOBOS, Superior Court
DAVE CHAPMAN, Juvenile Field Services Division Director, Probation Department
MARIAN MARTINO, GJJI Volunteer
AMY SOLIS, Deputy Probation Officer, Probation Department
MICHELL CAMACHO, Without Permission

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera. Members of the group present on the TEAMS meeting were identified.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public were present.

III. **APPROVE APRIL 2020 MEETING MINUTES: JJCC**

Motion: Jeff Anderson. Second: Cindy Duenas. The minutes of the April 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

IV. **GENERAL UPDATE**

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera reported the updates to the Governor's proposal regarding DJJ. On May 14th during the May Revise, the Governor's proposal for DJJ to shift from CDCR to Health and Human Services Agency with the state changed. It was announced that DJJ would be realigned to the County Probation Departments along with the responsibility for housing these commitments moving forward potentially up to their 25th birthdate. Once a final closing date for intake is determined, DJJ would no longer be accepting new commitments. Furthermore, any existing commitments or commitments pending delivery to their facility would not be sent back to counties prior to their parole date. The Governor proposed to close intake on July 1, 2021, but a final closing date for DJJ was not established.

On July 27, 2020 the Legislature reconvened and released an alternate proposal for DJJ to stop accepting new commitments effective July 1, 2023 and for all DJJ facilities to close December 31, 2023. He pointed out that there will be charges to the counties for youth charged in adult court; but, those charges have not been determined. These charges would also create incentives not to charge youth as adults and would also develop the Office of Youth Justice to replace the Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC). The Office of Youth Justice would establish regulations and enforcements, best practices, data collection, training, and ombudsmen duties over all Juvenile Halls throughout the state. He noted that a baseline sentencing matrix was also mentioned in the proposal and a trailer bill is expected to follow.

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera reported DJJ intake is currently closed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 outbreaks at their facilities and any youth pending delivery to DJJ must remain in Juvenile Hall until they reopen. The DJJ Intake re-opening date has not been determined and more details will be released in the coming weeks.

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera reported the Juvenile Hall population is currently at 58 with 4 youth awaiting delivery to DJJ. He noted that in the past few months there has been an increase in serious offences being booked into Juvenile Hall resulting in Max Units nearing capacity. Currently the operational units in Juvenile Hall are units 3,5,6, and 7 and unit A at the Juvenile Commitment Facility. He explained the process in place during bookings due to COVID-19. Youth continue to attend School via remote classroom and MJC courses are also remotely available. As a precaution and due to COVID-19 concerns two housing units are currently on quarantine. Mr. Ferriera pointed out that the Juvenile Hall has not had any youth test positive for COVID-19 since the start of this pandemic.

Cindy Duenas, from the Center for Human Services noted that having a work group established of Community Based Organizations and Probation would be essential to start working on a long-term housing and programming plan in anticipation of DJJ closing. She expressed her interest in being part of this work group. Chief Mark Ferriera agreed and noted that a team can be established to work on a long-term plan once a closure date is determined. He expressed concerns regarding the long-term sex offender commitments and noted that currently the programming available in Juvenile Hall is only designed to be short term.

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera expressed his appreciation for all the programming assistance received from Cindy Duenas, from the Center for Human Services and Jeff Anderson, from Sierra Vista Child and Family Services. He also noted his desire to see other Community Based Organizations join in to help with the long-term programming.

Marian Martino and Judge Villalobos commended Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera and the Probation Department for the proactive approach being taken to keep the youth safe and avoid any potential COVID-19 outbreaks in Juvenile Hall.

The group discussed establishing a new restoration program and 709 Competency Protocols. Judge Ruben Villalobos expressed interest in taking charge of this project in collaboration with the Probation Department and other Community Based Organizations with Mental Health backgrounds. Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera explained the restoration program is designed to provide assistance to youth that are not competent to have a trial before a judge and/or lack the ability to consult with counsel to assist in preparing his/her defense with a reasonable understanding of the charges or proceedings. Judge Villalobos indicated that although restoration happens in both Adult and Juvenile Court, the circumstances could be more critical and related to mental health issues in Juvenile Court. Youth in need of being restored to competency should receive their services locally and establishing a local plan would make this possible. Judge Villalobos noted that although the Probation Officers currently assist in providing the resources needed, their duties are more specific to supervision vs restoring as they are not trained Mental Health Counselors. Division Director, Dave Chapman agreed that having other agencies with that specific knowledge in restoration is needed and although a curriculum is currently being used by the Probation Department a validated program is still needed.

V. **LOCAL ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Dave Chapman, Division Director, from the Probation Department, expressed his appreciation to the JJCC members for all of their hard work in creating the 2020-2025 Local Action Plan (LAP) and combined JJCPA/YOBG Plan that was approved and submitted to the state in mid-April. He noted that Stanislaus County was one of the first in sixteen counties to have their Local Action Plan approved and turned in to the state.

Dave Chapman, Division Director, reported all contracts were completed and turned in on time. He expressed his appreciation for all the hard work and assistance in completing these contracts to the Center for Human Services, Workforce Development, Without Permission, The Haven, and Sierra Vista Child and Family Services. He noted that although COVID-19 has presented new challenges,

the new Fiscal Year has begun and referrals to the local agencies will continue. He advised that with the help of Janice Cree, Data Manager, from the Probation Department, a data evaluation is being devised to track the efficacy of the programming in connection with the participants recidivism.

Dave Chapman commented about DJJ; the 2020-2025 Local Action Plan was established to address these situations the county will be faced with once DJJ closes. Once an effective date is established, he proposed that the JJCC members discuss if any updating or adjusting to the Local Action Plan is needed to present the following year.

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Judge Villalobos expressed his appreciation to the Probation Department for devising the solution of holding court in the basketball court room at the Juvenile Commitment Facility. Chief Mark Ferriera noted it was challenging and is satisfied knowing everything turned out well in addition to continuing to have a virtual courtroom.

VII. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be scheduled for October 15, 2020 at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.