

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – November 03, 2022

Stanislaus County Probation Department

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Mark Ferriera, Chair/Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Tony Vartan, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
The Honorable Jeff Mangar, Stanislaus County Superior Court
Terrance Withrow, Board of Supervisors
Cynthia Duenas, Director, Center for Human Services
Joshua Woolworth for Jody Hayes, Chief Executive's Office
Jeff Anderson, Sierra Vista Child & Family Services
Dr. Steven Wood for Chau-Pu Chiang, Criminal Justice Department, CSU Stanislaus
Jeff Davis for Christine Huber, Community Services Agency
Mark Zahner for Birgit Fladager, District Attorney

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Jon Appleby, District Attorney
Robert Housden, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
David Costa, Juvenile Field Services Division Director, Probation Department
Tracie Martin, Juvenile Facilities Superintendent, Probation Department
Leticia Ruano, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Janice Cree, Data Manager, Probation Department
Rosio Garcia, Probation Department
Marian Martino, Volunteer/Juvenile Justice Commission Chair
Michelle Camacho, Without Permission
Renee Flora, Center for Human Services
Isaiah Herrera, Youth for Christ
Ken Sylvia, Executive Director, Youth for Christ
Timothy Mejia, Youth for Christ

I. **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm by Chief Probation Officer (CPO) Mark Ferriera. Members, designees, and additional participants introduced themselves.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No members of the public were present.

Chief Ferriera reviewed the membership of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC). Members of the JJCC had member recommendations, and Chief Ferriera advised his Executive Assistant, Eva Carrazco, that anyone interested in serving as a JJCC member should apply. He also suggested revising the JJCC Bylaws, pointing out that the last revision was in 2015.

III. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 20, 2022, AND JULY 21, 2022**

MOTION: The Honorable Jeff Mangar. SECOND: Cindy Duenas. The Minutes of April 20, 2022, and July 21, 2022, were approved unanimously.

IV. **JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES UPDATE**

Division Director (DD) David Costa introduced himself to the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and everyone present. He noted that this was his first time attending as the Juvenile Field Services Division Director.

DD Costa reported the following updates for the Juvenile Field Services Division:

- The out-of-custody programming for youth at the Juvenile Programming Center located next to the Juvenile Hall is starting to run in unison with the programming offered in the Juvenile Hall to allow youth to transition seamlessly from in-custody programming to out-of-custody programming.
- Approval from the Board of Supervisors was received on Tuesday, November 1st, for an additional contract with Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) to provide programming and case management services to Secure Track youth 14 years of age or younger. Suitable Programming will now be available for this population.
- There has been ongoing communication with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in preparation for their closure on July 1, 2023, to have individualized plans for each youth currently in their custody who will need to be either released or returned to our facility. Mr. Costa advised that the Probation Department makes contact via ZOOM with the DJJ youth before their release or transfer.
- The Youth Assessment Center (YAC) provides preventative services to youth referred to the Probation Department with lower-level offenses or citations. The preventative service is to avoid youth with a lower-level offense or citation exposure to the Juvenile Justice System and focus on the needed services. In partnership with the Family Resource Center run by Sierra Vista in Modesto, resources are provided to the youth and their families outside the Juvenile Justice system. DD Costa noted that most referrals to the YAC are from the Probation Department. He advised that the YAC and Probation will be in contact with local law enforcement agencies to expand their referrals by using the YAC mobile application to provide services to more youth before they ever receive a citation or get arrested.

V. **JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE**

Facilities Superintendent, Tracie Martin, reported the following data as of this morning:

- 56 youth are in-custody, with 1 of those youth being female
- 21 of the 56 youth are in custody for an offense listed in Section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code
- 12 of the 56 youth are 18 years of age or older
- 2 of the 56 youth have been committed to the Secure Track Facility
- 7 youth remain at DJJ, with 1 of those youth being female
- 1 youth is at the Pine Grove Fire Camp
- 1 youth is housed at the Adult Institutions
- 6 of the 56 youth will enroll for the Spring Semester at Modesto Junior College (MJC), and 5 youth are nearing completion of High School credits

Superintendent Martin indicated that the Juvenile Institutions initiated a contract with My Next Step, a program offered through MJC for youth committed to the Secure Track Facility. Meetings with the youth are held while in custody to make their transition back into the community as smooth as possible and provide them with resources for vocational curriculum.

Cynthia Duenas indicated that funding streams are being made available for resources that would benefit the formerly incarcerated. Connecting with the youth before their release would help achieve a seamless transition into the community. She suggested that the Probation Department contact the Youth Navigation Center (YNC) as an added resource for youth in preparation for their release. DD Martin indicated that reintegration meetings before youth releases are forthcoming, noting that having a YNC representative participate in these meetings would be favorable.

Renee Flora shared that as an added resource for youth interested in further education, Stanislaus California State University has a program for the formerly incarcerated called Project Rebound. The group discussed how the education opportunities available to youth leading up to high school graduation and registration into MJC within the Juvenile Facilities have been rewarding, giving youth a sense of pride and hope for the future.

The JJCC discussed the work programming available through the Probation Department and other resources within the county, such as Workforce Development. DD Martin mentioned that on October 20th, 2022, a tour of the Juvenile Institutions was given to members of the Office of Youth and Community Restorations (OYCR), which was created to oversee the SB 823 guidelines and regulations put in place for institutions with a Secure Track Facility.

Lastly, Superintendent Martin announced that masks are no longer required inside the Juvenile Facilities after two and a half years, as COVID-19 within the facility has toned down.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Youth For Christ:

Isaiah Herrera reported that an uptick in referrals for youth mentoring upon their release from custody has been favorable, expressing interest in continuing to work on the streamlined process.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services:

BHRS Director Tony Vartan advised that as part of their Mobile Assessment Team, reintegration meetings are conducted to identify the client's needs and provide assessments and referrals to streamline the process. He noted that attending the youth reintegration meetings could be beneficial to youth in preparation for their release from custody.

District Attorney's Office:

Effective January 2023, upon District Attorney Birgit Fladager's retirement, Jeff Laugero will be the new District Attorney.

Marian Martino voiced her concerns about the difficulties individuals encounter when entering the Juvenile Commitment Facility (JCF). CPO Ferriera advised that before going to the JCF, all individuals must use the main entrance through the court lobby to sign in. Additionally, she noted that the acoustics in the JCF Visiting Center made it very difficult to hear; CPO Ferriera stated that other meeting areas are available.

Ms. Martino also announced that Deck the Halls and Santa's Workshop is coming up in December. CPO Ferriera expressed appreciation for Marian's participation in the upcoming events and everything she does for the youth.

Sierra Vista Child and Family Services:

Director Jeff Anderson expressed his appreciation for the YAC partnering with law enforcement which has been a big help with the referrals. He noted that the YAC is a great program and expressed his excitement about how things are moving along. CPO Ferriera praised YAC staff for a well-organized presentation on the YAC at a Law Enforcement Executive (LEX) meeting.

Center For Human Services:

Director Cindy Duenas announced the Youth Navigation Center's first full year of implementation, serving over 80 young adults. Additionally, she reported the following:

- There has been a decline in individuals serviced through Hutton House, which provided 80 days of shelter for CPS after dark. Approximately 150 clients were serviced in the past, and this year have only serviced about 45.
- Documentation, such as birth certificates and identification cards, can be obtained with the support of the YNC.
- Project Home Key will include 10 studios and 4 one-bedroom units and is expected to be ready sometime before April 2023; vouchers for the living space have been handed out.
- The old Hutton House is being reconditioned for a Pilot Program in partnership with the Stanislaus Community Foundation for young single moms.
- 332 young individuals are currently in the HMIS database who are homeless in this county.
- Formerly incarcerated is being tracked.
- CHS and Sierra Vista Child and Family Services applied for a Behavioral Health infrastructure through the state for young adults ages 18-24. Mr. Anderson advised the group of their purchase of an old church building which they plan to refurbish for programming with the grant funding.

Tony Vartan, BHRS Director, was welcomed. He gave a bit of his professional history. He highlighted their collaboration with the Aspiranet Project, a regionalized psychiatric facility right-level of care center located in Turlock, and how it will benefit youth and adults in the county. Additionally, he noted favor of the Center for Human Services housing project and is looking forward to providing any assistance needed.

Without Permission:

Michelle Camacho announced the purchase of a commercial and residential building. She reported that they have a day facility that services young males Mondays and Fridays and females on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. She extended an invitation to anyone interested in touring their facility. She noted that the referrals for girls are received through Juvenile Hall and requested male referrals as well. DD Martin took note of Ms. Camacho's request and will advise the staff to incorporate the referral process during booking for all youth.

Renee Flora announced that the upcoming Girl's Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2022, from 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm in person at CHS or via ZOOM for anyone interested. Partnered with Deputy Probation Officer Rosio Garcia, program information has been provided to youth at different school locations about the opportunities available through the Girl's Advisory Council.

California State University, Stanislaus:

Dr. Wood announced that internship applications are being reviewed, and several students have expressed interest in working with youth and adults. He advised that several interns have been placed at various county departments and expressed his gratitude for granting students the opportunity. Ms. Duenas expressed interest in the internship program. Chief Ferriera expressed appreciation noting the success of the partnership.

Judge Jeff Mangar requested referrals of psychologists that can help with evaluations restoring youth to competency to help youth from falling into the system. He asked that if any contacts are known, to please e-mail him directly to provide this additional help. It was noted that it was a Statewide problem. BHRS Director Tony Vartan stated that he could assist him in that field. The Judge provided the group with a brief description of what could happen if the youth cannot be restored to competency. The group discussed the issues arising from needing help to restore the youth to competency.

- VII. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for February 2, 2023, at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 pm.