

**STANISLAUS COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes
Thursday – July 27, 2023
Stanislaus County Probation Department**

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

**Mark Ferriera, Chief Probation Officer, Chair, Probation Department
Kimberly Gonzales, for Jennifer Jennison, Stanislaus County Public Defender’s Office
Telka Walser, for Scott Kuykendall, Stanislaus County Office of Education
Honorable Ruben Villalobos, Stanislaus County Superior Court
David Houck, for Sara Noguchi, Modesto City Schools
Joshua Clayton, for Jeff Dirkse, Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Office
Terrance Withrow, Board of Supervisors
Christine Huber, Community Services Agency
Cindy Duenas, Center for Human Services
Marian Martino, JJC Chair/Volunteer
Isaiah Herrera, Youth for Christ**

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

**Renee Flora, Center for Human Services
Robert Housden, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
David Costa, Probation, Division Director
Tracie Martin, Probation, Facility Superintendent
Leticia Ruano, Probation, Assistant CPO
Matt Aleson, Without Permission
Mylton Cruz, Youth for Christ
Miguel Garcia, Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)
Abraham Andres, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services**

Members/Staff Absent

Dr. Abu K Mboka - Excused

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was received.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 24, 2023

MOTION: Joshua Clayton. SECOND: Isaiah Herrera. The Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2023, was approved.

4. JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES UPDATE

Division Director David Costa reported the following updates for the Juvenile Field Services Division:

- a. We have just about finalized our contract with Pine Grove as a step-down program for our Secure Youth Treatment youth. This program will not work for all youth. Participation will depend on their age, amount of time left to serve, nature of charges, behavior, and medical or psychological needs.
- b. Multiple staff attended training organized by the Court on Non-Minor Dependents held here in this room yesterday. Many had to attend virtually due to the class filling up which was good to see.
- c. The Probation Department has been working in conjunction with BHRS to fund diversion services at what is called the Youth Assessment Center (YAC). This is a program which is run by Sierra Vista Child and Family Services through their Family Resource Center located in Modesto. The goal is to prevent youth from formally entering the juvenile justice system and provide them with resources to help them improve their behavior and family situation.
 - i. Originally all referrals came through probation. Our officers sorted through all citations and filtered out those that appeared appropriate for a referral to YAC rather than continuing through the juvenile justice system.
 - ii. We then opened up a second path for referrals which allowed local law enforcement agencies to use a cell phone app to directly refer youth to the YAC.
 - iii. We are now working on a third path for referrals to come through school districts. We have already met with Modesto City Schools and are working toward establishing processes. We are also scheduled to meet with SCOE.

5. JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

Facilities Superintendent, Tracie Martin, reported the following Juvenile Institutions' update:

- a. Population: 65: Males: 61 Females: 4
- b. Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF): 11 (10 with one released today). 5 youth were promoted to Phase A. Presentations on their success plan were required.
- c. AB 134 added WIC 208.55 which clarifies when a juvenile must be sight and sound separated from an incarcerated adult in juvenile detention facilities. The major change/clarification here is that now an individual who is 18 years of age or older and has been arrested as an adult but is still under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, no longer is required to be separated from other youth.
- d. SCOE Summer school ended 7/21/23, school resumes 8/7/23.
- e. Prison Education Project (PEP) classes ended. Financial Literacy and Intro to Psychology, resume in Sept with Creative Expressions and Business 101.
- f. Ruben Martinez (CHS) SUD counselor started full-time on 7/19/23. He will be doing individual counseling with the youth as well as educational classes. He will now be a part of our MDT and reintegration meetings to bridge the gap between in custody and out of custody.
- g. Board of State Community Corrections Inspection scheduled for Sept 2023.

- h. We contract with Performance Based Standards (PbS) annually to conduct reviews on our in-custody processes. PbS is a data driven continuous improvement process for detention facilities. 551 detention facilities nationwide participate in Pbs. Our review covered the months of October 2022 and April 2023: PbS reviews things like:
 1. Staff and youth relationships
 2. Parent and youth relationships
 3. Use of force incidents
 4. Use of OC spray
 5. Room confinement
 6. Parent and staff relationships
 7. If staff feel safe working in the institutions
 8. If youth feel safe working in the institutions/are they treated fairly
 9. How staff and youth feel about the education and programs offered
 10. If youth are familiar with the rules and behavior modification system
 11. If medical and mental health are providing services adequately and in a timely manner
 12. Youth and staff injuries
 - o Surveys: Staff, youth, parents

If PbS identifies an area that needs improvement, they will assist us in developing and implementing a Facility Improvement Plan. They will monitor our progress until goals are met.

They did not identify any areas needing improvement. All areas either met or exceeded expectations based on national averages.

Chief Ferriera mentioned that SB 823 closed the DJJ. DJJ housed youth in the deepest end of the system. Secure Track Youth were formerly sent to DJJ. DJJ is now closed. These youth are now kept in the Juvenile Institutions.

Marian Martino, JJC Chair, asked if the youth in the Secure Track receive the same type of mental health treatment as they did at Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

Superintendent Martin explained that the Institutions, to date, has not received any severely mentally ill youth at the facility. Any youth requiring treatment can be referred to Mr. Martinez by Institutions staff and/or medical staff. She added that DJJ had a robust team to treat their severely mentally ill. Institutions does not currently have a treatment program as extensive as DJJ.

6. REVIEW/VOTE ON PROPOSED JJCC MOU/BYLAWS UPDATES

- a. Chief Ferriera made two recommendations:
 - i. Article V -Membership – remove the last line in paragraph three that states: *and then forwarded to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for approval.*
 - ii. Article IX – Amendments – remove the second part of the sentence that states: *and shall be effective upon approval by the Board of Supervisors.*
- b. Joshua Clayton asked why the bylaws were being changed. Chief Ferriera explained that there were no bylaws until 2015. The bylaws were then created. The Council is working to amend them now.

- c. Terrence Withrow asked if neighboring cities such as Ceres, Turlock, or Patterson should be included. Chief Ferriera indicated that some of the cities Supervisor Withrow mentioned previously attended JJCC meetings and he will look into the matter of inviting them.
- d. Adoption of Changes: MOTION: Isaiah Herrera SECOND: Joshua Clayton
The changes to the proposed JJCC MOU/bylaws were unanimously approved.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Cindy Duenas, Center for Human Services, announced she will be retiring in June 2024. She would like to introduce her replacement at the January 2024 meeting.
- b. Cindy Duenas, Center for Human Services, stated that their referral numbers are up and they continue to develop housing. A recent meeting with the Judges boosted the number of referrals received. Center for Human Services is currently meeting with the Probation Department to incorporate a Step Down program for Secure Track Youth. Most of these youth are 18 years old or older. Chief PO Ferriera elaborated on the Step Down program by stating that youth who would be housed at DJJ are now being housed locally due to SB 823. These youth can serve their commitment as a Secure Track Commitment instead of in the Juvenile Institutions. The youth would complete the Step Down program while in the community.

Assistant CPO Leticia Ruano, indicated that this program is a priority for the Probation Department, and she is diligently working on the details of the program.

Ms. Duenas also stated 13 beds are available through Project Homekey. Homeless youth are eligible if deemed appropriate.

- c. Miguel Garcia, OYCR, noted that the Secure Track population is now in the hundreds as opposed to, at one point, in the thousands at the California Youth Authority. OYCR discussed the Step Home program which focuses on supporting the transition of justice involved youth being served in local communities. The Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program was established for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody, and supervision of youth who are realigned. Areas of focus are physical, mental, and educational health of the youth. To be eligible for funding, a letter of intent is due to OYCR on July 31, 2023.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.