

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – February 02, 2023

Stanislaus County Probation Department

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Mark Ferriera, Chair/Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Tony Vartan, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
The Honorable Annette Rees, Presiding Judge, Stanislaus County Superior Court
Joshua Clayton, For Sheriff Dirkse, Sheriff's Department
Emily Webster for Cynthia Duenas, Director, Center for Human Services
Joshua Woolworth for Jody Hayes, Chief Executive's Office
Jon Appleby, for Jeff Laugero, District Attorney's Office
Dr. Abu Mboka for Chau-Pu Chiang, Criminal Justice Department, CSU Stanislaus
Janeth Gutierrez for Sara Noguchi, Modesto City Schools
Brandon Gillespie, Chief, Modesto Police Department

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Antonio Prado, Juvenile Facilities Manager, Probation Department
David Costa, Juvenile Field Services Division Director, Probation Department
Tracie Martin, Juvenile Facilities Superintendent, Probation Department
Michelle Camacho, Without Permission
Brienne Huak Rangel, Without Permission
Renee Flora, Center for Human Services
Isaiah Herrera, Youth for Christ
Timothy Mejia, Youth for Christ

I. **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 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.

III. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 03, 2022**

MOTION: Tony Vartan. SECOND: Joshua Clayton. The Meeting Minutes for November 03, 2022, was approved.

IV. **REVIEW/VOTE OF JJCC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND ROSTER UPDATE**

Chief Ferriera shared that JJCC Member Chau-Pu Chiang from CSU Stanislaus had submitted her resignation and will no longer be serving on the council. He reviewed the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) applications submitted for membership consideration by Dr. Abu Mboka, CSU Stanislaus Professor, Marian Martino, Volunteer/Juvenile Justice Commission Chair, and Isaiah Herrera, Director from Youth for Christ. Ms. Martino was unable to attend today's meeting.

MOTION: Tony Vartan. SECOND: Joshua Clayton. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council accepts Dr. Abu Mboka, Marian Martino, and Isaiah Herrera as members of the JJCC.

Chief Ferriera will work on the JJCC MOU amendments to forward to the membership to review and vote on at the next JJCC meeting.

V. **JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES UPDATE**

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

- Ongoing communication with the Department of Juvenile Justice in preparing individualized plans for youth in their custody which must be either released or returned to the Juvenile Institutions before their closure on July 1, 2023. He indicated that DJJ currently has 7 youth from this county, of which 5 are expected to return to the Shine Unit.

- The Probation Department partnered with the Center for Human Services and the Youth Navigation Center for the Girls Advisory Council #Shetoo Conference on March 10th at Hanline Elementary School.
- As a result of the recent SB 187 changes, the Placement Unit now assist qualifying youth in applying for SSI as they approach their 18th birthday to have financial assistance established once they become adults.
- Officers are trained to facilitate evidence-based programming in the Juvenile Programming Center and the Juvenile Facilities and collaborate with staff from Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA). An ART (Aggression Replacement Training) training is scheduled for March, which officers are signed up to attend.

DD Costa noted that due to recent events such as what took place in Memphis, all officers receive efficient training to handle stressful or difficult situations appropriately. The Stanislaus County Probation Department's officers are required to go through the following training:

- 8-hour Verbal De-escalation training, addressing how to defuse situations verbally.
- 4 -hour Biannual update training on De-escalation.
- Annual Certified Use of Force Continuum Course within the department's range program that builds officers' ability to transition to different force options, including de-escalation.
- The Force Options Simulator, Simunitions, and Air-Soft Scenario-Based training tools are incorporated in initial and ongoing training.

He advised that all the programs include shoot, no-shoot, force, and no-force scenarios. The goal is to improve officers' ability to continuously evaluate the appropriate response in ever-changing situations, making safe and legal choices.

Some additional courses the officers are provided are as follows:

- Special Needs Populations in Probation/Corrections.
- Emotional Intelligence.
- Mentally Disordered Probationers: Probation Officer Skills for Optimal Outcomes.
- Ethics for Law Enforcement (the training is required every two years).
- Cultural Competency for Today's Law Enforcement Professional.
- Defensive Tactics (Chief Ferriera emphasized zero tolerance to tactics or behavior seen on the Memphis body-worn camera footage.)

VI. JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

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

- 68 youth are in-custody, with 9 of those youth being female.
- 21 of the 68 youth are in custody for an offense listed in Section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- 17 of the 68 youth are 18 years of age or older.
- 4 of the 68 youth have been committed to the Secure Track Facility.
- 7 youth remain at DJJ, with 1 being female.

Programming update:

- Performance-based Standards (PbS) Podcast is creating a library focused on incarcerated youth succeeding and overcoming barriers. Two youth from Unit 5 will be participating in the Podcast, sharing their story.
- Computer Coding and Website Design are offered in Unit 5 every Tuesday by Bay Valley Tech. Certificates of completion are awarded and can be used in job hunting.
- SCOE's Career Inspiration Center will provide computer coding and video game creation to all the other units 2 days a week for 1 hour starting March 27, 2023.
- Youth For Christ facilitates Love Notes, focused on identifying healthy relationships to Units 5 and 6; Unit 3 and the Juvenile Commitment Facility completed their session.
- Wellpath Clinicians provide Mental Health small group sessions on Sundays. The Secure Track youth attend Anger Management and Substance Abuse groups, and the females participate in Critical Thinking.

Education update:

- 6 youth are attending MJC.
- CSU Stanislaus Project Rebound will be on-site on February 21, 2023, to present to the youth about their program.
- The Prison Education Project (PEP) has been implemented; it is an introduction to college free of charge, which offers entry-level college courses to youth in custody.

Facility goals:

- Start transitioning the Secure Track youth into the Shine Unit in March.

- Expand the outside recreation area for the maximum-security units now that the secure fencing project has been completed.

VII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Center For Human Services:

The director of the Youth Navigation Center, Emily Webster, advised of their plan to create a formal Board by bringing together youth and the YNC advisory group. Additionally, she reported the following:

- Hutton House is open and has 8 beds available; they have zero clients now.
- The Low Barrier Youth Shelter for youth ages 18 to 24 is at capacity; a waitlist is available.

Chief Ferriera inquired about the decrease in Hutton House numbers in addition to the availability of overnight shelter for Dependency Youth picked up on a 300 Warrant by law enforcement. Ms. Webster explained that the population being serviced fluctuates from one day to the next and shared her view of what has been affecting the Hutton House population. Regarding providing overnight shelter to Dependency Youth, she stated that due to their funding and licensing, Dependency Youth couldn't be dropped off and provided overnight shelter without the company of their social worker.

Renee Flora announced that the upcoming Girl's Advisory Council #Shetoo Conference is scheduled for March 10th at the Hanline Elementary School. The conference is for female youth in both junior and high school; they will hear keynote speakers talk about adversity and how they overcame it. Other community service providers will also be presenting.

Ms. Flora also shared that, partnered with the Stanislaus County Youth Empowerment Alliance (YEA), SCOE, and the Stanislaus County Library, a Youth Summit is in the works for anyone ages 16 to 26. The summit will consist of a youth keynote speaker and a youth panel. She shared that the Youth Navigation Center now employs a prior probationer and will be part of the youth panel.

Lastly, Renee advised that a \$10,000 grant donation was received from the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), which is being utilized to organize the #Shetoo Conference and the Youth Summit.

Youth For Christ:

Isaiah Herrera reported that Youth for Christ received a government grant to serve students, and he reported serving about 400 youth in the past two years. He advised that they have visited different school sites and juvenile institutions providing an evidence-based curriculum called Love Notes.

Without Permission:

Without Permission Program Director Brienne Huak Rangel announced hiring a male navigator, Matt Allison, who will work with male youth. She informed the group that the navigators provide youth assessments for any human trafficking or sex trafficking. Their curriculum is Seeking Safety, My Life, My Choice. Youth learn about human and sex trafficking and how to identify the warning signs and are provided with resources to escape that lifestyle.

Juvenile Justice Court:

Judge Annette Rees announced that effective February 27th, Judge Ruben Villalobos will return to Juvenile Justice Court, and Judge Mangar will go downtown to the Adult Misdemeanor Courtroom. She reported a decline in Dependency and Juvenile Justice caseloads, noting the reason to be unknown. She expressed concerns over Foster Youth. Judge Rees expressed interest in Juvenile Justice programming and services for Dependency Youth.

Chief Ferriera talked about how the Probation Department and law enforcement, in general, are facing recruitment struggles. He stated that they continue to work hard on overcoming the vacancy challenges. Dr. Abu Mboka from CSU Stanislaus suggested making contact with the students early on before graduating to inform them of the hiring process and the requirements to obtain a position with the department. Mr. Ferriera advised that the Probation Department's Public Relations Unit is working hard to contact various colleges and high schools that offer Criminal Justice Courses to provide presentations. He expressed interest in giving presentations to any class interested at CSU Stanislaus. He advised that a college degree is not required to work in Juvenile Hall, and although a 4-year degree is required to be a Deputy Probation Officer, students could be hired as trainees before their degree is acquired.

VIII. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for April 20, 2023, at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.