

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – July 25, 2024

Stanislaus County Probation Department

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Mark Ferriera, Chair/Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Jeff Anderson, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
Keri Magee for Tony Vartan, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Gina Machado, Director, Center for Human Services
Rick Mury, for Jeff Laugero, District Attorney's Office
Saundra Day for Scott Kuykendall, Stanislaus Office of Education
Isaiah Herrera, Youth for Christ
Jeff Davis, for Christine Huber, Community Services Agency
Judge Ruben Villalobos, Stanislaus County Superior Court

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Tracie Martin, Facilities Superintendent, Probation Department
Jon Appleby, District Attorney's Office
Robert Housden, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Brandon Fromm, Stanislaus Office of Education
Taylor Beckham, Center for Human Services
Cecilia Simmons, OYCR

I. **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm by Chief Probation Officer (CPO) Mark Ferriera. Members, designees, and additional participants introduced themselves.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Cecilia Simmons from the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) advised that vocational and educational financial assistance not covered by FAFSA existed through the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). She also noted that secure funding exists through Cal-Aim for mental health services provided to youth. A presentation by an expert with Public Works Alliance is available by request. The point of contact is Alex Briscoe.

III. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 25, 2024**

MOTION: Isaiah Herrera. SECOND: Rick Mury. The Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2024, were approved.

IV. **JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE**

Juvenile Institutions Superintendent with Probation Tracie Martin reported the following Juvenile Institutions' update:

Institutions' population update:

- 66 youths are in custody, with 2 being female.
- 18 of the 66 youths are 18 years of age or older.
- 16 of the 66 youths have been committed to the Secure Track Facility, formerly DJJ commitments.

Ms. Martin noted that about 27% of the Juvenile Hall population is 18 years of age or older.

Education update:

- 17 youths finalized the Modesto Junior College (MJC) summer courses; 15 progressed into the fall semester, and 2 of the 17 youths decided to go into a vocational training program.
- The youths in the Maximum-Security units have initiated the Truck Driving Vocational Training, which, upon completion, will be certified. In September, the department will partner with the Stanislaus County Office of Education, and the Student Repair Academy will go live at the Juvenile Commitment Facility. This program will teach youths how to repair laptops, chrome books, and screen repairs; upon completion, they will receive a certification, should they choose to go into that field of work.

- The Prison to Education Summer courses Music Appreciation and Career Development have ended, and Introduction to Debate and Astronomy will be initiated.

Ms. Martin acknowledged Without Permission for allowing their service dog, Baxter, to visit and interact with the youths in the juvenile facilities; Baxter has been well received.

Chief Ferriera stated that the SB823 Plan created by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee must be submitted to the OYCR annually by May of each year. He noted that the SB823 Plan had been accepted, and no adjustments were required due to the excellent working relationship among the partners present.

Tracie Martin provided an update on the SB823 less restrictive program. The Stanislaus County Probation Department, partnered with the Center for Human Services (CHS) and Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA), developed a less restrictive program as part of SB823 for the SYTF youths. The court determines whether the SYTF youth is eligible for the program. She discussed the transitional process, including the roles that the Probation Department, the Center for Human Services, and Leaders in Community Alternatives will play in the youths' return to the community. The less restrictive program will include mentoring, needed treatment services, food, housing, life skills, education/vocational training, job-seeking assistance, transportation, and probation supervision at no cost to the youths. A CHS Peer Navigator, LCA Case Manager, and Deputy Probation Officer will be assigned to the youths and will hold monthly meetings to monitor the youths' progress and identify if there are any extra needs to complete the program successfully.

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council discussed the living arrangements of the SYTF youths upon their transition from the CHS to the rental property that the LCA Case Manager will manage. Mr. Jon Appleby voiced concerns about the less restrictive program due to the level of supervision and structure of the housing program for the SYTF youths and the security of their victims. Chief Ferriera discussed the difficulty in predicting the outcomes of the housing program as part of the less restrictive program; nevertheless, he did note that individual consideration of who and how many youths would be placed in the home would be necessary.

V. **JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES UPDATE**

Chief Ferriera reported the following for Juvenile Field Services:

There has been a spike in the number of youths under some level of supervision. According to Chief Ferriera, while 725 (a) and Deferred Entry of Justice (DEJ) cases have increased, they have not impacted juvenile institutions to the level of SB 823. Before the closure of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), SB 823 youths were transported to DJJ to serve their commitment time; currently, they serve it locally in the Secure Track Facility within Juvenile Hall.

Demographics of youths in the Juvenile Justice System average year to date:

- 290 in 2024; 48 725(a) youths; 36 DEJ
- 243 in 2023; 25 725(a) youths; 18 DEJ
- 234 in 2022; 22 725(a) youths; 16 DEJ

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Center for Human Services Executive Director Gina Machado announced that the Center for Human Services will start constructing the Behavioral Health Facility in front of the CHS. Chief Ferriera inquired about who the targeted population would be and what services would be focused on. Ms. Machado noted that services are yet to be determined, but the new facility will focus on individuals aged 0-25 and their families. They will use the facility as an expansion to their current services, providing Mental Health services and holding substance use disorder (SUD) groups for youths and their families. Chief Ferriera congratulated Ms. Machado on her recent promotion to the Center for Human Services Executive Director position.

Ms. Machado also mentioned that the SUD counselor in Juvenile Hall is holding a steady caseload of 30 youths.

Sierra Vista Child and Family Services Director Jeff Anderson announced the groundbreaking in South Modesto, where a Family Resource Center will stand. He expects the development to be completed in April of 2025.

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

The next quarterly meeting will be scheduled for November 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.