

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – November 21, 2024

Stanislaus County Probation Department

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Mark Ferriera, Chair/Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Tony Vartan, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Joshua Clayton for Sheriff Jeff Dirkse, Sheriff's Department
Terrance Withrow, Board of Supervisors
Gina Machado, Director, Center for Human Services
Saundra Day for Scott Kuykendall, Stanislaus County Office of Education
Karina Franco for Jeff Anderson, Sierra Vista Child & Family Services
Christine Huber, Community Services Agency
Jon Appleby for Jeff Lauguero, District Attorney
Isaiah Herrera, Youth for Christ
Marian Martino, Volunteer/Juvenile Justice Commission Chair

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

The Honorable Annette Rees, Stanislaus County Superior Court
Joshua Woolworth for Jody Hayes, Chief Executive's Office
Kim Saing, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Brandon Fromm, Stanislaus County Office of Education
Olivia Lopez, Juvenile Field Services Division Director, Probation Department
David Costa, Juvenile Facilities Superintendent, Probation Department
Tracie Martin, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Janice Cree, Data Manager, Probation Department
Robert Housden, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Taylor Beckham, Center for Human Services
Sonna Gilmour, Without Permission
Renee Flora, Center for Human Services
Milton Cruz, Youth for Christ
Deena Elliot, Member of the Public
Mikayla Dewitt, Member of the Public

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**

Members of the public had no comment.

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

MOTION: Tony Vartan. SECOND: The Honorable Annette Rees. The minutes of July 25, 2024, were approved unanimously.

IV. **DISCUSSION OF THE SOON-TO-EXPIRE LOCAL ACTION PLAN (LAP) 2020-2025**

Division Director (DD) David Costa advised that the Local Action Plan 2020-2025 expires in June of 2026, and LAP 2025-2030 must be created. Workgroups will be created at the next JJCC meeting to work on the Local Action Plan 2025-2030. He stated that the groups will focus on prevention, intervention, enforcement, and detention, and together, they will set the foundation for the next five years of programming. The workgroups will meet separately from the JJCC quarterly meetings and present the final draft for approval at the April JJCC quarterly meeting. The Local Action Plan 2025-2030 must be submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration by May 1, 2025.

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera advised the group of the following Probation Department shifts in positions: Tracie Martin has assumed the Assistant Chief Probation Officer position, David Costa has transitioned from the

Juvenile Field Services Division Director to the Juvenile Institutions Superintendent position, and Division Director Olivia Lopez is now overseeing the Juvenile Field Services.

V. JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

Assistant Chief Probation Officer Tracie Martin announced that VOLT, Northern California Construction Academy, and the Truck Driving Program have gone live in the Juvenile Institutions as part of the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) programming.

She also indicated that a SYTF youth in the Less Restrictive Step-Down program recently participated in the Modesto Junior College Rising Scholars Symposium. He spoke very highly about the opportunities and support provided to him by the Probation Department in continuing his education to further his career. Additionally, she reported that the youth continued attending MJC after their release from custody.

Ms. Martin also reported the following data:

- There has been a rise in bookings related to bomb or shooting threats to schools; in the past year, there have been 11. Ms. Martin also reported an uptick in assault on school grounds by female youth, resulting in injury.
- 43 bookings were reported for November; October had 59 bookings.
- 81 youths are in custody, with 9 being female.
- 16 of the youths are 18 years of age or older.
- 5 of the youths are 20 years of age or older.

JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES UPDATE

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

- A contract is now in place with the Psychology Assessment Resource Center (PARC) to provide sex offender assessments and counseling services to both in-custody and out-of-custody youth. PARC offers both group and one-on-one sessions. ACPO Martin noted that the in-custody youths are provided with face-to-face sessions.
- Pine Grove remains available as a step-down program for the SYTF youths. One youth is enrolled at Pine Grove and doing well. Mr. Costa advised that other youth have expressed interest in Pine Grove. One additional youth was recently assessed but was deemed not ready.
- The Probation Department has ongoing meetings with the Modesto Police Department (MPD) leadership to discuss and better understand each other's processes. MPD has also been sharing statistical data they collect about crime trends in specific geographical areas to help the Probation Department better focus its efforts for the community's benefit.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services:

The Children's System of Care Chief Kim Saing discussed collaborating with the Probation Department and Child Welfare on Assembly Bill 1051.

Center for Human Services:

The Center for Human Services Director Gina Machado reported that a couple of youths at the Youth Navigation Center (YNC), as part of the Less Restrictive Step-Down Program, have been successfully programming and will soon be transitioning onto the next step of the program facilitated by Leaders in Community Alternatives.

Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE):

Sandra Day discussed SCOE's focus on helping previously detained youths obtain their high school diplomas. She advised that through the SCOE Charter Program, youth aged 17 or older can graduate with fewer credits; thus far, 3 youths have enrolled and received their diplomas.

Community Services Agency (CSA):

CSA Director Christine Huber inquired about the process for in-custody youth to obtain Medi-cal services. ACPO Martin noted having success partnering with Shauna Heifner from CSA, who is informed daily of the youths in custody to sign up for services.

Taylor Beckham announced that the Girl's Advisory Council #Shetoo Conference is scheduled for February 28, 2025. A flyer with additional information will soon follow.

Without Permission:

Sonna Gilmour discussed Without Permission's service dog, indicating that Baxter's interaction with the youths within the juvenile facilities has been a great success.

Chief Ferriera briefly discussed the Probation Department's appearance on the news, expressing that he was taking the situation seriously. He spoke highly of his staff, noting that it was not reflective of the daily job the Probation Department staff performs in the community. He said he has high standards for his staff and will hold them accountable if they do not meet the department's standards, values, and laws.

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

The next quarterly meeting will be at noon on January 23, 2025.

Chief Ferriera's Executive Assistant Eva Carrazco will send the group additional meeting dates for the LAP 2025-2030 workgroups.

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 pm.