

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – July 24, 2025

Stanislaus County Probation Department

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Mark Ferriera, Chair/Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
Jeff Anderson, Sierra Vista Child and Family Services
Kim Saing for Ruben Imperial, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Gina Machado, Director, Center for Human Services
Brandon Gillespie, Modesto Police Department
Saundra Day for Scott Kuykendall, Stanislaus Office of Education
Kenneth Sylvia, Youth for Christ
Dwight Simpson, for Christine Huber, Community Services Agency
Joshua Clayton for Jeff Dirkse, Sheriff's Office
Marian Martino, JJC Chair/Volunteer
Nancy Brown, California State University, Stanislaus

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sara Noguchi, Modesto City Schools
Jeff Laugero, District Attorney's Office
Jennifer Jennison, Public Defender's Office

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Tracie Martin, ASPO Probation Department
David Costa, Facility Superintendent
Olivia Lopez, Probation Department
Honorable Annette Rees, Stanislaus County Superior Court
Taylor Beckham, Center for Human Services
Renee Flora, Center for Human Services
Sonja Gilmour, Without Permission
Brandon Fromm, Stanislaus Office of Education
Robert Housden, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Chief Probation Officer (CPO) Mark Ferriera. Members, designees, and additional participants introduced themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public were not present.

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 24, 2025

MOTION: Joshua Clayton. SECOND: Dwight Simpson. The Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2025, were unanimously approved.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF NEW JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEMBER

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera informed the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council that council member Abu K. Mboka had resigned and suggested California State University, Stanislaus Professor Nancy Brown as his replacement. Chief Ferriera confirmed he received Ms. Brown's membership application, which was emailed to the JJCC members for review and consideration. Ms. Brown introduced herself to the group and shared her background in juvenile justice and her previous experience on the Solano County Juvenile Justice Commission.

MOTION: Marian Martino. SECOND: Judge Annette Rees. The acceptance of Abu K. Mboka's resignation and the approval of Nancy Brown as his replacement were unanimously approved.

V. JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS & PROBATION FIELD SERVICES UPDATE

Facilities Superintendent David Costa provided the following Juvenile Institutions' updates:

- **First Female in SYTF:** The Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) has admitted its first female youth. She will receive the same programming, vocational services, and opportunities as male youth, though she will be housed with the general female population to support her adjustment. Plans are in place to ensure she has equal access to the less restrictive programs upon release.
- **Success in Less Restrictive Programs:** One youth housed in the department's community home is thriving in his higher education with plans to transfer to California State University, Stanislaus. Another youth at the Youth Navigation Center has obtained full-time employment in the ACT field. A third youth is currently placed at Pathways.
- **Facility Improvements:** Major facility upgrades are underway, including a security system overhaul with new cameras, wiring, and door locks. Unit One, built in the 1970s, is undergoing its first renovation, which includes cabinetry removal and upcoming flooring work.

The facility has seen an increase in serious offenses, with 19 youths in custody for murder or attempted murder over the past 18 months. Of the 73 youth currently housed, 25% are aged 18 or older, including individuals up to age 25, prompting the opening of a second maximum-security unit.

To combat ongoing contraband issues, the facility has enhanced safety measures, including regular use of a detection dog, updated protocols, implementation of an electronic mail system, and the upcoming installation of a body scanner.

Juvenile Field Services Division Director Olivia Lopez reported the following:

There has been a notable rise in female bookings and serious, gang-related offenses involving multiple co-responsible individuals, sometimes up to six individuals per incident, during the last quarter. She noted that the year-over-year (FY 23/24 to FY 24/25) data shows significant increases across various Juvenile Field Services categories:

- Informal Probation Cases increased from 119 to 165 (38% increase)
- Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ) Cases rose from 60 to 89 (48% increase)
- Secure Track Cases went from 17 to 29 (47% increase)
- Formal Probation Cases climbed from 323 to 374 (15% increase)
- Without Permission is expanding its volunteer navigator team with the addition of 4 male volunteer navigators to assist with male assessments.
- Discussions are ongoing about establishing a Gender Response Alternative to Detention (GRAD) like program to serve male youths. The program provides youth with assistance in setting goals, access to resources and referrals, participation in group sessions at the Center for Human Services (CHS), and transportation to and from their appointments, ensuring consistent support and access.

The discussion focused on analyzing the geographic distribution and demographics of youth involved in crime to identify patterns and trends that may explain the rise in youth delinquency, which has led to increased facility populations and probation caseloads. The goal is to explore community resources and prevention services to address the growing juvenile crime issue.

Chief Ferriera discussed AB 1376, a proposed bill that would limit the period of wardship to nine months, unless the court determines there is good cause to extend it.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VII. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.