

# STANISLAUS COUNTY

## JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday – January 23, 2025

### Stanislaus County Probation Department

#### MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT:

Mark Ferriera, Chair/Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department  
Dr. Bernard Mora for 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  
Jeff Anderson, Sierra Vista Child & Family Services  
Jeff Davis for Christine Huber, Community Services Agency  
Isaiah Herrera, Youth for Christ  
Marian Martino, Volunteer/Juvenile Justice Commission Chair

#### ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Brandon Fromm, Stanislaus County Office of Education  
Olivia Lopez, Juvenile Field Services Division Director, Probation Department  
Tracie Martin, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department  
Janice Cree, Data Manager, Probation Department  
Taylor Beckham, Center for Human Services  
Renee Flora, Center for Human Services  
Milton Cruz, Youth for Christ

#### I. **CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 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 NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

MOTION: Isaiah Herrera. SECOND: Marian Martino. The minutes of November 21, 2024, were approved unanimously.

#### IV. **WORKGROUP DISCUSSION TO UPDATE LOCAL ACTION PLAN (LAP) 2020-2025**

Division Director (DD) Olivia Lopez discussed updating the Local Action Plan 2020-2025 which expires in June 2025. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and the Probation Department develop a new LAP every five years. This year focused on prevention, intervention, enforcement, and detention. The workgroups will meet separately from the JJCC Quarterly Meetings. The LAP workgroup meetings are scheduled for February 13, 2025, and March 6, 2025. The final draft will be presented for approval at the April 24, 2024, JJCC Quarterly Meeting.

The Local Action Plan 2025-2030 is due to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration by May 1, 2025.

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera emphasized the importance of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council's input, expertise, and experience in establishing the LAP 2025–2030 goals and laying the groundwork for addressing juvenile crime prevention. Ms. Lopez advised that a Probation workgroup is actively working on the LAP 2025–2030 and will be joining the JJCC workgroups for feedback and ideas. Assistant Chief Probation Officer Tracie Martin noted that the LAP 2020-2025 will be emailed to the group before the workgroup meeting.

#### V. **JUVENILE FIELD SERVICES UPDATE**

Division Director (DD) Olivia Lopez reported that for the Juvenile Field Services Division the current focus is finalizing the 2025-2030 LAP, renewing the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services/Youth Assessment Center agreement, other service provider agreements, and MOUs that are due to expire.

**VI. JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE**

Ms. Martin also reported the following data:

- 61 youths are in custody, with 6 being female.
- 29% of the youths in custody are 18 years of age or older.
- 13 youths are in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility.
- Marian Martino partnered with Youth for Christ and hosted the annual Deck the Halls event in the Juvenile Institutions. Youth receive gifts and get to enjoy having a pizza party hosted by Youth for Christ. Marian also provided 85 gift bags to the Probation Officers for the youth on Probation. Lastly, she reported providing approximately 300 gifts, that come with a note of encouragement to youth and their families.
- LCA continues to facilitate Cognitive Behavior Therapy and Aggression Replacement Therapy in custody and had graduations in units 3, 5, and A.
- The Truck Driving Program is now available for the in-custody youths. Ms. Martin shared pictures of the truck driving simulator located in Academics at the Juvenile Commitment Facility. Chief Ferriera noted the experience simulates being in a truck and the experience of driving. Youth receive a certificate grading their driving upon completing. Partnered with Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), the Truck Driving Program is also available when out of custody for youths that want to continue their training upon release.
- VOLT continues to work with the SYTF youths; they have completed their first cohort of 9 weeks and starting on their second cohort. Ms. Martin noted that there have been discussions about VOLT expanding their curriculum to learn other trades.

Chief Ferriera talked about the increase in the number of youths on Juvenile Probation. The current number of youths on probation is 322 and same time last year. In January of 2024 there were 265 youths on Probation. He noted the uptick of youth on Probation could be associated with several circumstances such as the end of COVID-19 and the closure of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Ms. Martin noted the increase could also be associated with targeted crime operations, such as theft.

Division Director Olivia Lopez thanked Ms. Martino for the McDonalds gift cards she donated to Probation for youth.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Sierra Vista Child and Family Services Director Jeff Anderson announced that the South Modesto Wellness Center will be having their grand opening today from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm. The Youth Assessment Center will be servicing youth and their families out of this location.

The Center for Human Services Director Gina Machado announced the hiring of a second SUD counselor that will be now working in Juvenile Hall. The expansion of their program that will be assisting individuals ages 0-25 and their families will be opening their doors in May.

Dr. Bernard Mora from the Behavioral Health & Recovery Services announced that Director Kim Saing will be attending the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council meetings representing BHRS.

Brandon Fromm from SCOE announced that job skills training, resume construction, and job marketing will now be offered to the youth at the Juvenile Commitment Facility.

Milton Cruz from Youth for Christ shared that a former juvenile justice involved youth is working as an intern at Youth for Christ. Milton and Isaiah Herrera talked about a gang prevention curriculum provided to Youth for Christ employees to implement into their services upon certification. Chief Ferriera noted interest in having further conversation about the gang prevention curriculum. Mr. Herrera noted the training is based out of Los Angeles and is actively used in Los Angeles County and San Diego County. Further information will be forthcoming.

Taylor Beckham announced that the Girl's Advisory Council Annual #Shetoo Conference is scheduled for February 28, 2025. She gave a brief description about the #Shetoo Conference to the group and will forward a flier to the Chief's Executive Assistant to forward to the JJCC.

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

April 24, 2025, at noon.

The LAP 2025-2030 workgroups meetings will be held on February 13, 2025, and March 6, 2025, at noon and will last 90 minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.