

STANISLAUS COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday – April 23, 2026

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
Lt.TJ Moffett for Brandon Gillespie, Modesto Police Department
Brandon Fromm for Scott Kuykendall, Stanislaus Office of Education
Kenneth Sylvia, Youth for Christ
Dwight Simpson for Christine Huber, Community Services Agency
Wendell Emerson for Jeff Laugero, District Attorney's Office
Nancy Brown, California State University, Stanislaus
Marian Martino, Volunteer
Joshua Clayton for Sheriff Jeff Dirkse, Sheriff's Office
Reed Wagner for Jennifer Jennison, Public Defender's Office

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sara Noguchi, Modesto City Schools
Terry Withrow, Board of Supervisors

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS PRESENT:

Tracie Martin, Assistant Chief Probation Officer
David Costa, Juvenile Institutions Superintendent
Trisha Birchard, Probation Department
Taylor Beckham, Center for Human Services
Reina Martinez, Probation Department
Patrick Hogan, District Attorney's Office
Christina Anguiano, Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA)
Denise Gutierrez, Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA)
Milton Cruz, Youth for Christ

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Chief Probation Officer (CPO) Mark Ferriera. Members, designees, and additional participants introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public were not present.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 22, 2026

MOTION: Joshua Clayton. SECOND: Kenneth Sylvia. The Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2026, were unanimously approved.

REVIEW/APPROVE THE COMBINED JJCPA/YOBG PLAN FOR FY 2026-2027

Last year, around this time, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) met and developed the five-year Local Action Plan. Focused on prevention, intervention, enforcement, and detention, the group developed 11 priority goals to guide strategic efforts over the five-year period (Goals are attached).

Juvenile Field Services Division Director Olivia Lopez highlighted the following:

- Tattoo removal services for youth are currently provided through the Day Reporting Center (DRC), with future consideration of expanding the service to an in-custody setting. The service is provided by a company that also works with state prisons and uses mobile units. It was originally created for probation clients but is now open to the community. Upcoming service dates are June 2 and July 14 at the Day Reporting Center.
- Recent facility upgrades have focused on improving safety and reducing contraband by implementing body scanners in Juvenile Hall's Unit 1, with a second scanner planned for the visitation center. These measures were introduced in response to restrictions on strip searches and the increasing risk of contraband. Since implementation, the scanners have proven effective, identifying contraband within the first week and consistently thereafter.

In anticipation of AB 1646 (the "Hug Act"), which would allow physical contact between youth and visitors, the facility is also planning to expand scanning protocols to include all visitors and potentially youth after visits to mitigate the risk of contraband. In addition to safety enhancements, the body scanners have supported investigative efforts by identifying concealed items, thereby strengthening both facility security and case documentation.

- Youth Assessment Center (YAC) has had an increase in referrals from law enforcement via the YAC mobile application, allowing for discretion and preventive intervention rather than arrest or citation. Ongoing efforts aim to expand presentations to schools and local law enforcement agencies to promote the app and preventive resources.
- David Costa discussed ongoing efforts aimed at better preparing youth for community reintegration.
 - Vocational programs include culinary certification, truck-driving preparation, construction training through Northern California Construction Training (NCCT), and industrial mechanics (VOLT), each with hands-on and classroom components.
 - Additional programs teach technological and computer skills, preparing youth for employment in local industries and providing a range of practical training.
 - Youth are encouraged to pursue higher education, such as working toward an AA degree through Modesto Junior College (MJC), though some prefer vocational training.
 - A plan for an on-campus auto shop and welding facility has been submitted to the county as part of the capital improvement plan, but it has not yet been prioritized for funding.

The updated Combined Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act & Youth Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG) plan for FY 2026-27 was reviewed, and the membership had no objection to moving forward with approval.

MOTION: Joshua Clayton. SECOND: Marian Martino. To approve the Combined JJCPA & YOBG Plan for FY 2026-27 was unanimously approved.

JUVENILE PROBATION FIELD SERVICES UPDATE

Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) provided updates on programming and success stories.

- Christina Anguiano and Denise Gutierrez from LCA provided updates on youth programs for those in and out of custody, including financial literacy classes and case management. A success story highlighted a youth who earned certifications, overcame language barriers, and maintained post-custody engagement. The importance of continued engagement after release was emphasized.
 - LCA recently expanded its Out of Custody Programming by launching a Financial Literacy class, enhanced case management services, and barrier removal supports, including transportation to class and ID acquisition.
 - Language accessibility efforts were highlighted through the translation of curriculum for Spanish-speaking youth, ensuring equitable access and supporting successful program completion, graduation, and goal attainment.
 - Relationships with youth after release are maintained, providing transportation and weekly follow-ups to support ongoing participation and goal attainment.

- Youth are supported with service eligibility by addressing various challenges, connecting them to appropriate resources, and guiding them through application and access processes, even when direct services cannot be provided.
- LCA will host an in-custody Aggression Replacement Training (ART) graduation on June 30.

JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

Juvenile Institutions Superintendent David Costa provided the following update:

- The in-custody population remains high, with additional units opened and expectations of higher summer occupancy.
- Participation in less restrictive programs (GPS, Pine Grove Fire Camp, Youth Navigation Center, Valley Mountain Regional Center) has increased, with seven youth currently participating.
- Probation, in partnership with the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), will launch an Electronic Sports Academy, enabling youth to compete in organized esports against other schools. The program promotes teamwork, positive engagement, and improved behavior.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Center for Human Services provided a recap of the 2026 GAC #Shetoo Conference, noting increased youth attendance, strong engagement, and plans to expand. Additionally, the success of a formerly in-custody youth now at Pine Grove Fire Camp was highlighted, noting significant improvement, increased engagement in programming, and goals of starting a business after receiving two years of support.

Youth for Christ is hosting a resource fair, “Block Party and Summer Kickoff,” on May 30, 2026, at La Loma Church in Modesto.

The California Mental Health Advocate with Children and Youth conference will be held in Sacramento during the second week of May. Behavioral health providers, community organizations, and youth interested in leadership roles are encouraged to attend.

California State University (Stockton campus) is gearing up for upcoming graduations.

Sierra Vista Child & Family Services is gearing up for its Annual Golf Tournament on May 8; information is available on its website.

The Probation Department’s 2026 Open House will be held on May 16. Facility tours, a shooting simulator, K9 demonstrations, resource booths, and employment resources will be available. School faculty can request early access for college groups to the open house.

The Modesto Police Department (MPD) has expanded its structure and investigations, focusing on building stronger community connections by assigning officers to specific areas. The department encourages communication and welcomes participation in community events.

The District Attorney’s Office discussed recent trends in violent chain robberies and sophisticated gang activity targeting youth at school who wear expensive jewelry.

The Public Defender’s Office reported ongoing challenges in assigning counsel to conflict cases, particularly when multiple responsible matters arise, as well as ongoing efforts to address the shortage of qualified attorneys.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

STANISLAUS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

1. TRANSITION THE YOUTH ASSESSMENT CENTER (YAC) PROGRAM FROM A PILOT PROGRAM TO A PERMANENT PROGRAM AND EXPAND YAC TO ASSIST WITH ADDITIONAL FAMILY RESOURCES BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS WITHIN THE COUNTY.
2. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF YAC REFERRALS FROM SCHOOLS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, PRIOR TO CITATION AND/OR ARREST.
3. EXPAND COMMUNITY MENTORING AND SUD PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH.
4. EXPAND SERVICES FOR SEX OFFENDERS AND CONTINUITY OF CARE FOR YOUTH.
5. EXPAND VOCATIONAL COURSES FOR YOUTH BOTH WHILE INCARCERATED AND RELEASED INTO THE COMMUNITY.
6. PROVIDE TATTOO REMOVAL SERVICES FOR BOTH YOUTH THAT ARE IN AND OUT OF CUSTODY.
7. PARTNER WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF SHARED CRIME DATA TO BETTER FOCUS OUR EFFORTS ON YOUTH INVOLVED IN DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR AND CRIME TRENDS.
8. MEET WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION ABOUT PROCESSES AND INFORMATION SHARING.
9. FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS FOCUSING ON BOTH YOUTH AND STAFF SAFETY.
10. EXPAND PHYSICAL FITNESS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH.
11. PROVIDE ANNUAL UPDATES OF THE LOCAL ACTION PLAN (LAP) TO THE JJCC FOLLOWED BY RE-EVALUATION OF THE ENTIRE LAP PLAN EVERY FIVE YEARS.

THROUGH ON-GOING EVALUATION OF THE LOCAL ACTION PLAN GOALS AND ADJUSTMENT OF THE CONTINUUM OF THE GRADUATED RESPONSES TO YOUTH CRIME AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION, THE JJCC CONTINUES TO ESTABLISH A ROAD MAP FOR FUNDING ALLOCATIONS, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, SERVICE DELIVERY AND ENSURES IT IS RESPONDING TO THE EVER-CHANGING NEEDS OF THE YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY.

