

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting Thursday, January 26, 2023 Location: Meeting held via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Present

John Celichowski
Gabriela Ferreira
John Forhan
Lynn Houston
Barbara Kate Repa
Donna Tanney

Absent

None

Also present: Melinda Barrera, Deputy Chief of Juvenile Services
Michelle Montez, Deputy County Counsel, Division Chief

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Probation Office Report

Probation promised to deliver an update on the November 9 incident at Juvenile Hall, which the commissioners requested earlier, at the February 2023 JJDC meeting.

Barrera gave an update on statistics of supervised youth:

A total of 222 in December

Demographics: 88% Hispanic, 85% male, Average age: 17

Geographics: 30% from Lompoc, 26% Santa Barbara, 44% Santa Maria

Facilities: Average daily population at the Juvenile Hall was 32, drop to 9 bookings
LPBC population was 3; average age 16

There were five youths in placement: 1 through an agency, 2 with relatives, 2 in STRPs

Barrera read and later forwarded the requested list of agencies with which Probation contracts, reprinted below.

BOARD CONTRACT						
Vendor Name	Division Type	Contract Type	BC/PO # Assigned	Program Manager	Contract Term Start	Contract Term Ends
AutoMon	Admin	Board Contract	BC19-085	Erin Cross	06/01/18	5/31/26

CAC (211) Communitify	Adult	Board Contract	BC21-051	Karyn Milligan	07/01/21	6/30/23
CAC (YOBG) Communitify	Juvenile	Board Contract	BC21-039	Erin Cross	07/01/21	6/30/23
CADA (Adult)	Adult	Board Contract	BC22-000	Emir Saafir	07/01/22	6/30/23
CADA (YRG)	Juvenile	Board Contract	BC19-409	Erin Cross	07/01/19	2/28/23
CFMG (WellPath)	Adult	Board Contract	BC17-237	Barton Clark	04/01/17	3/31/23
CSI (Adult) Community Solutions	Adult	Board Contract	BC22-001	Emir Saafir	07/01/22	6/30/23
CSI (CAJH) Community Solutions	Institutions	Board Contract	BC21-053	Barton Clark	07/01/21	6/30/23
CSI (MI) Community Solutions	Adult	Board Contract	BC22-005	Karyn Milligan	07/01/22	6/30/24
FBSMV (Cannabis Ed & T.I.)	Juvenile	Board Contract	BC22-006	Erin Cross	07/01/22	6/30/23
FSA (JJCPA) Family Service Agency	Institutions	Board Contract	BC21-037	Barton Clark	07/01/21	6/30/23
Good Sam (Housing/PSN) Good Samaritan	Adult	Board Contract	BC21-285	Emir Saafir	07/01/22	6/30/23
Good Sam (SWAS) Good Samaritan	Adult	Board Contract	BC22-009	Spencer Cross	06/08/22	6/30/24
Goodwill	Adult	Board Contract	BC21-054	Emir Saafir	07/01/21	6/30/23
PATH	Adult	Board Contract	BC21-049	Spencer Cross	07/01/21	6/30/23
Phillip G Tate PRRC Rent	Admin	Board Contract	BC-15033	Damon Fletcher	09/01/14	6/30/24
Salvation Army	Adult	Board Contract	BC21-052	Spencer Cross	07/01/21	06/30/23
Sanctuary Centers	Adult	Board Contract	BC22-003	Brian Swanson	07/01/22	06/30/23
SCRAM	Adult	Board Contract	BC22-004	Spencer Cross	07/01/22	06/30/23
STOP	Adult/Juvenile	Board Contract	BC21-057	Spencer Cross/Erin Cross	07/01/21	06/30/23
UCSB (YRG)	Juvenile	Board Contract	BC19-408	Erin Cross	07/01/19	06/30/23
Vocational Training Center	Juvenile	Board Contract	BC20-039	Barton Clark	07/01/20	06/30/23

Questions

?—Ferreira asked for an estimated number of youths placed in electronic monitoring, emphasizing her experience with the efficacy of GPS.

Barrera said she would include those figures in her next report. Recent legislative changes allow custody credit for time served for those who are monitored electronically; Probation began tracking that in January.

?—Ferreira asked what assistance *Fighting Back Santa Barbara* is currently providing, as well as what vocational services are being provided.

Barrera explained *Fighting Back* was currently used as a diversion program for all citations involving marijuana, as well as some targeted intervention at facilities. The Vocational Training is a contract within the facilities—attempt is to provide more secondary education to those who are incarcerated. (More info in this will be provided at next meeting.)

?—Forhan asked where the four youths recently arrested in Santa Barbara for murder were being held, raising a concern over the physical separation when the state is accepting federal money from the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act.

Barrera said that in general, youths under the age of 18 who are arrested for serious crimes such as murder remain at Juvenile Hall; they can stay within the facility until the age of 25 if under Juvenile Court supervision.

?—Celichowski asked where a person who is under 18, but charged as an adult, would be held.

Barrera said there is a transfer process for that that can take several months, but an individual would remain at Juvenile Hall until that process was completed.

?—Tanney asked whether *Fighting Back* is still operating in the schools.

Barrera said Probation now contracts with the group only for marijuana diversion.

?—Houston said that Music Technology had put together a program nationwide and is eager to bring it to the local facilities. Wanted to make sure this proposal did not “get lost in the system.”

Barrera assured it would not, and said Deputy Leach would follow up with Tiffany on the issue.

?—Ferreira asked for clarification on what services are contracted for well-being—the specific agencies that deliver help with mental health and education, for example.

Barrera said that in addition to the contracted services, Probation partners with some agencies that work within the facilities—not reflected on the contract list—such as BeWell (mental health), CADA (alcohol & drug groups), and schools providing vocational training.

?—Houston asked for clarification about whether *Freedom for Youth*, which is no longer paid by Probation, still provides outreach services there voluntarily. She also asked about Eddie Perez, who currently provides ministering to youth there on Sundays; there are pending requests to allow him additional visitation.

Barrera confirmed that *Freedom for Youth* is now working voluntarily, and said Probation also partners with Hancock College and *Prison to Schools* for education.

?—Repa asked for a list of the specific groups and individuals providing unpaid services, as well as the names of the STRTPs in which youth were currently living.

Barrera indicated she would provide both.

?—Houston asked where the youth evacuated from Hope Refuge were taken.

Barrera said no youths were currently there, though the facility would still be used as a placement option.

?—Celichowski asked whether youth from other jurisdictions were currently housed at Hope Refuge.

Barrera said that Child Welfare had such reports, and she would reach out to find out whether there were currently any youth there.

Brown Act Update

County Counsel Montez gave an update on Brown Act compliance and legislative bodies such as the JJDPC ability to meet remotely in 2023. (She promised to forward a copy of her slides after deleting her presentation notes.)

She explained there are three teleconferencing options:

1. **“Traditional” Rules**—before COVID

Legislative bodies can meet by teleconference if all votes are taken by roll call, location is posted in the agenda, location accessible to the public, quorum of members must participate within the county.

2. **COVID/Emergency Rules (AB 361)**—Most relevant to JJDPC

Allows meeting by teleconference if a declared state of emergency, recommendation for social distancing by the Public Health officer, legislative body must reconsider the need to meet remotely within every 30 days; must also allow the option for the public to participate. **On February 28, by declaration of Gov. Newsom, this option will no longer exist.** (The February 23 meeting would be the last one the JJDPC could legally hold by teleconference under this option.)

3. **New AB 2449**

Allows a member to attend by teleconferencing if there is “just cause” involving caregiving, contagious illness, physical/mental disability, or travel on government business. Another exception is “emergency circumstances”—a physical or family medical emergency that prevents attending in person. However, “just cause” and “emergency circumstances” may only be invoked a total of two times in a year—and not for more than three consecutive meetings.

Point clarified: Tanney, who lives in Solvang and might experience transportation challenges, may have two options: hold meetings in two locations or invoke just cause or emergency circumstances under AB 2449.

Discussion of JJDPC’s Origin and Authority

Tanney sought clarification about whether the JJDPC differed from the JJC or JJCDPC designations embraced in the rest of the state. May seek additional clarification from Judge Lavayan, who is now the presiding authority over our commission.

Items for February JJDPC Meeting Agenda

- Probation chief to deliver an update on the November 2022 incident at Juvenile Hall

- Search for additional commissioners, prompted by leavetaking of John Celichowski, who has accepted a position in the Midwest; his final JJDPC meeting will be in March
- Potential informational speakers for future JJDPC meetings

Proposed Calendar for 2023 JJDPC Meetings

February 23

March 23—In-person meeting & farewell to John C.

April 27

May 25

June 22

July 27—May schedule an inspection rather than a commission meeting

August 24

September 28—May schedule an inspection rather than a commission meeting

October 26

November 16

December—No meeting will be held

Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

March Meeting

The commissioners unanimously approved a motion to hold the February 23 meeting by Zoom.

Consideration of Minutes

Minutes from the 12/15/2022 and 1/12/2023 meetings—both held to approve future meetings by Zoom—were approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

The next JJDPC meeting will be on February 23, 2023, beginning at 10 am.

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