

# JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

## Minutes of Commission Meeting Thursday, January 27, 2022 Location: Meeting held via Zoom

### ATTENDANCE

#### Present

John Celichowski  
Gabriela Ferreira  
Lynn Houston  
Barbara Kate Repa  
Donna Tanney

#### Absent

None

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m.

### Probation Office Report

*Presented by Deputy Chief Kimberly Shean*

Shean shared highlights and salient points from the December, 2021 data to explain current trending.

**Current youth populations:** The number of youth is currently 20 at Juvenile Hall (two of them girls) and 4 at Boys' Camp. There are a couple youths at the Hall who will be sent to the Camp once the present COVID quarantine has ended. Probation is working on a transition plan for the sole youth at Hope Refuge—the only one in a STRTP.

**Capital projects:** Working on a grant for green spaces and just secured project managers from County General Services to help lead it. Next phase will be building an exercise/multi-activity area; start of project is still uncertain—will have an update next month. (Shean mentioned that securing construction bids has been more difficult due to COVID, but acknowledged that delays also mean increases in construction costs.)

Probation is planning to manage on its own green space and asphalt improvements to populated Units 4, 5 and 6, which should go more swiftly.

**Supervision summary:** Total number of youths currently being supervised is 196—marking an “historical milestone” of total number under 200.

*Gender divisions:* 84% male; 16% female—similar to past distribution

*Outstanding warrants:* 9

*Youth in Department of Juvenile Justice facilities:* now at 8, soon to drop to 7, when one youth will transfer to L.A. County to live with her mother.

*Race breakdown:* 87% Hispanic, 8% White, 4% Black, 1% Other (Shean says a goal this year is to get all Probation staff through some racial, ethnic, and equity training—with a focus on implicit bias training; half the staff was trained last year.)

*Age breakdown:* Average age remains at 16 years old

*Location:* 53% from Santa Maria; 32% Santa Barbara, 15% Lompoc

*Average daily population:* Around 19—down from 21 the previous months

*Institution trends for booking:* 6 youth in December—2 new law violations, 2 transferred in from other counties, 2 camp removals (youth who were fighting on site)

*Juvenile Hall population:*

Average age is 16.13

87% Hispanic, 13% White;

93% male, 7% female;

53% from Santa Barbara; 40% Santa Maria, 7% Lompoc

*Boys' Camp trendline:* 5 in December—two boys AWOL at the end of the month

Average age is 15.83

100% Hispanic;

50% from Santa Maria, 33% from Santa Barbara; 17% Lompoc.

STRTP: One female currently on a trial furlough at home (positive reports after one week there)

### **Questions from Commissioners**

--Donna Tanney questioned why there are incoming youth from out of county. Shean explained youths may be held temporarily in Santa Barbara if the crime was committed here, and juvenile law requires handling in the county of residence, as opposed to adults—who are processed in the court where the crime was committed

--John Celichowski asked the percentage of youth in Santa Barbara County who are Hispanic. Shean promised to send data shared with the JJCC earlier—and acknowledged inequities in race, but said they are not atypical—may be due to access to resources or family distrust of the system, implicit bias at all points of handling. Says the current disparity is similar to other areas with similar populations of economically disadvantaged/wealthy

--Gabriela Ferreira asked whether the racial disparity was related to differences in education. Shean said this was not studied, but posited it may be due to difficulties in “navigating the system” and restated that those currently incarcerated are there for very serious crimes—unclear where implicit bias takes hold. Gave an example of a young girl subjected to domestic violence and trauma exposure that escalated into violent acts when she became an adolescent,

--Donna Tanney asked whether community-based wrap-around services have made “lesser” crimes such as stealing a car accountable enough, given that Probation’s current focus is on the most serious offenses. Shean responded that it raises the risk to incarcerate both types of offenders together, and said also that juvenile crime is down nationally. Added that she is aware that law enforcement might have a “different” view of the numbers, but reiterated the view that low-risk and high-risk juveniles should not be incarcerated together.

-- Gabriela Ferreira tried to clarify that we were curious about whether the community-based services are providing an actual benefit. Shean referred to the 8% Solution research: 8% of the juveniles commit about 60% of the crime—dependent upon family criminality, domestic violence, substance abuse, and age of first occurrence.

--Donna Tanney emphasized that the longterm benefits must be studied and documented to continue receiving money and placements, and questioned whether the claimed benefits are real or sporadic.

-- Gabriela Ferreira suggested we have speakers from programs come to our JJDPC meetings in the future. Shean recommended that we attend the upcoming JJCC Work Group meeting on February 17, at which CADA would be speaking. (**Note:** The meeting and CADA presentation did not occur, for lack of a quorum when the JJCC meeting was held.)

--Donna Tanney said that social service and foster care kids also need services. Shean said she would make a professional assumption that child welfare offers a lot of programs and interventions to youth, and says Probation looks at evidence-based programs.

--Lynn Houston circled back to Shean's earlier illustration of the young woman, now 20 years old, who was slated to go back to L.A.—wondering whether there is some follow-up supervision for her. Shean said the woman would be assigned a reentry officer and would be offered services.

Shean and Ferreira encouraged JJDPC commissioners to attend JJCC and Work Group meetings. Shean concluded that Probation is currently working on a CMJJP multi-agency plan for next year that will address the diversion grant. Gabriela Ferreira also encouraged JJDPC members to submit questions to Probation in advance of our meetings.

**Discussion of planned meeting to inspect Hope Refuge:** Date set for Thursday, February 24 at 2:30 pm—an inspection in lieu of a meeting. Arrangements made to send Hope Refuge a pre-inspection questionnaire to help get basic information in advance of the inspection date.

**Update on JJDPC website:** Barbara Kate Repa reported locating a person within the court willing to help update the JJDPC web page and provide us with a link so that we are able to post our own meeting notices and updates, and expressed concerns that some of the documents currently posted there—including the JJDPC bylaws—seemed in need of revamping. John Celichowski agreed to help with the bylaw task.

**New Commission members:** Donna Tanney and Lynn Houston discussed the history and current status of individuals who had expressed interest in becoming JJDPC members.

There were no public comments.

The commissioners agreed to convene by Zoom on February 17 solely to determine whether the JJDPC March meeting could also be conducted by Zoom.

**Consideration of December 16, 2021 minutes:** Lynn Houston underscored her interest in an item mentioned in the minutes: Probation's stated willingness to review recidivism and community partner outcomes with the JJDPC.

--Lynn Houston moved to approve the minutes; John Celichowski seconded; the commissioners voted to approve them.

The meeting continued in closed session.

Donna Tanney moved to adjourn the February meeting; Lynn Houston seconded. The commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn.

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