

**Santa Barbara County Superior Court  
County of Santa Barbara**



**JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION  
COMMISSION**

**Commission Meeting  
Thursday, February 9, 2017  
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Chair Dominick Palera convened the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDC) meeting.

**Roll Call of the JJDC Members**

Present

Rich Adam  
Gabriela Ferreira  
Frank Iarossi  
Roland Kelly  
Jonn Ledlie  
Christy Morse  
Dominick Palera  
Billi Jo Starr

Absent

Andrew Brown  
Donna Tanney

**Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2017**

A motion was made by Roland Kelly, seconded by John Ledlie and approved by those present to accept the January 12, 2017, meeting minutes as submitted.

**Public Comment**

None

**Close Session**

The group adjourned to closed session

**Report out from closed Session – Dominick Palera**

- Chief DeLira advised that Chief Rabago is on administrative leave and retired Chief Beverly Taylor is currently the Acting Chief. The Chair will schedule a meeting with Acting Chief Probation Officer Beverly Taylor.
- Chair Palera will do outreach to Andrew Brown and inquire if he wants to resign his seat on the JJDC and can reapply once his Grand Jury term is over.

**Juvenile Probation Department – Deputy Chief Probation Officer Steven DeLira**

- Steve advised the group that he will be retiring as of tomorrow and Deputy Chief Lee Bethel will also be retiring at the end of March. Until her retirement at the end of March Deputy Chief Bethel will have oversight of the Institutions Division.
- Probation Manager Brian Swanson will continue to have oversight of the Juvenile Division and he will be a direct report to Chief Taylor.
- Brian will represent the Probation Department at the JJDC meetings and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) meetings.
- Probation Manager Wendy Stanley is currently assigned to juvenile and institutions special projects.
- Probation Manager Laurie Holbrook is retiring the end of March.
- Probation Manager Roger Dixon is the manager of the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC).
- If you need anything regarding Probation you can contact Melanie Davis.
- The Probation Department is looking at a \$1.9 million budget reduction packet. The executives met with Presiding Judge Kelly, Juvenile Presiding Judge Garcia and Court Executive Officer Darrel Parker to provide an overview of the budget reduction packet that would be submitted to the County Executive Officer. It is anticipated that annual reductions will continue over the next five years. If there becomes a point when the Chief determines that the Department can no longer meet the required mandates the Chief can provide a letter to the Board of Supervisors, we are not at that point yet. The Chief will be sending out a budget memo to the Department and Steve will provide a copy to Chair Palera.

- The proposed budget reductions includes a redirection in the oversight of the home detention program to field services which will result in a reduction of one Juvenile Institutions Officer (JIO) and one Senior Juvenile Institutions Officer (Sr. JIO) as well as the redirection of one JIO back to the SMJH.
- A reduction of two DPOs, one in Santa Maria and one in Santa Barbara.
- Lastly, a restructuring to the Lompoc Juvenile unit. The proposal is for the Senior Deputy Probation Officer (Sr. DPO) to remain in Lompoc. This change will result in a reduction of a Supervising Probation Officer (SPO), DPO, and Probation Assistant. The Department has been maintaining vacancies to ensure that if we lose positions we do not lose people.
- The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) calls for additional staffing including the third shift. There'll be two staff on the graveyard shift per unit. There were no cuts proposed to the institutions in FY 2017-18..
- The Department has been working with the Burns Institute (BI) and reviewing our booking criteria to ensure we are not pushing youth of color into the juvenile justice system.
- Of note for this commission when a DPO position is eliminated it can result in the staff having bumping rights to a JIO classification.
- A question was asked about the reopening of the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall for incarcerated mentally ill youth. Steve advised he has not been part of the discussion but thought the proposal was for adults. Deputy Chief Heitman and Supervisor Wolf have participated in meetings if commissioners have questions. It was clarified that the article just stated incarcerated individuals not specific to youth.
- The commission members acknowledged and thanked Steve for the work that he has done over the last 30 years for the Department and the assistance he provided to the JJDC.
- A question was asked about the status of the Community Transition Officers (CTOs) and School Based Officers (SBO). Steve advised that the CTOs are funded by the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) so they are not in danger of being reduced. Previously the commission had asked about the YOBG reserve balance which is at about \$1 million. The SBO are not impacted as they are funded by Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) which funding has not been reduced. The current reductions are to the Department's general fund allocation. After these proposed reductions it will leave the juvenile supervision units with two DPOs and juvenile investigators funded by the general fund. The Department does not fund ongoing staffing/programs with onetime reserve funding.
- The JJCC workgroup will be getting together to make a proposal for JJCPA funding for fiscal year (FY) 2017-18 and there will be a request to fund Jerry Tello to train up to thirty individuals on Jovel Nobles.
- A question was asked about the Leno bill. Steve stated the SMJH has made transitioned to a maximum of 24 hours room rest. We are working collaboratively with the union as the hours will continue to be reduced to be a maximum of four hour room time. We are looking to do restorative justice but it is necessary to have adequate staffing to meet this new mandate. SMJH plan is to implement at minimum 90 days prior to the law going into effect on January 31, 2018, to allow staff and youth time to adjust and build in incentive programs.
- The SMJH is also working on the second tier barrier to prevent youth from jumping off the second level.

#### **Chair Comments – Dominick Palera**

- Chair Palera met with Judge Garcia to better understand his vision for the JJDC. The Judge indicated the facility inspections are important and he would like the commissioners to be creative with a focus on what is happening in the community. Chair Palera indicated the violence in the community of Santa Maria and the work of One Community Action Commission could be an area that the commission could provide support. The commissioners need to get involved, attend meetings and bring the information back to the group.
- Judge Garcia would like to meet with the JJDC and if the meeting could be moved to the SMJH Conference Room during the lunch hour he would be able to attend. Chair Palera will do outreach to the Judge's secretary to determine if he is available to meet on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 for a brown bag lunch meeting.
- It was stated that at a previous meeting with Judge Garcia he mentioned inspections being a priority as well as an educational class that used to be presented at the schools regarding the juvenile the justice system. Steve stated this was a program that used to be provided in coordination with Probation, Courts, the District Attorney's office, and the school districts. The program stopped due to lack of funding and if this is a priority for the commission we would need to collaborate with community organizations for funding.
- Chair Palera sits as a voting member of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) and Roland is his delegate. There was an interesting presentation done by Dr. Jill Sharkey from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) which will be forwarded to the group.
- Steve advised that he is going to build a website on the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.) committee and all documents from the meetings will be posted for the public to access.
- Chair Palera advised that the schools meet the first Thursday of the month at Pea Soup Anderson which could be helpful to inform the commissioner about funding provided to the school districts.
- There was a JJDC website that has been suspended as the information stale. The website can be rejuvenated if there are commissioner volunteers willing to update the information and maintain the site.

Roland and Ferreira volunteer and will work with the Court IT personnel to get the website back up and running.

- A handout was provided at the JJCC by Mag Nicola from the District Attorney's Office regarding the new juvenile justice laws. Chair Palera discussed the changes in human trafficking laws and challenges that will arise with how to handle victims as options for placement will now be limited. This could be something that the JJDC looks into further if the group determines that this should be a priority.
- The Chair spoke with Amy Krueger from the Department of Social Services (DSS) regarding the transition of group homes. Steve advised that Probation has been working with DSS and are developing processes. There will be a presentation by DSS at a future JJDC meeting to advise the commission on the upcoming changes.

#### **Nomination for open Executive Commission Positions – Chair Palera**

- Chair Palera would like a nomination for a secretary/treasurer to provide an additional officer to sign claim forms and take meeting minutes in instances when the recorder or minute taker from Probation is not available. Frank Larossi volunteered to be the secretary but does not feel comfortable taking notes. The group wanted to continue to have Probation take notes and felt the note taking by the secretary/treasurer would be infrequent. A motion was made Ledlie and seconded by Roland for Frank to be the secretary/treasurer. All members present approved.

#### **Commission Reports/Comments**

- Billi Jo announced that on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Carriage Museum in Santa Barbara will be the retirement event for Probation Manager Laurie Holbrook and Senior Deputy Probation Officer Jim Clark. The event will be a fundraiser for the discretionary fund for LPBC and SMJH.
- A commissioner asked to see the reports that the JJDC did on LPBC and Noah's Anchorage. Chair Palera advised that he requested copies of the reports from Tom and will provide as soon as they are received. Steve advised that Probation has not received JJDC inspection reports for LPBC or SMJH for three years.