

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



**JUVENILE JUSTICE DELIQUENCY PREVENTION
COMMISSION**

**Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 9, 2017
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.**

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

Roll Call of the JJDC Members

Present

Rich Adam
Roland Kelly
Jonn Ledlie
Dominick Palera
Billi Jo Starr
Donna Tanney

Absent

Christy Morse
Gabriela Ferreira
Frank Iarossi

Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2017

A motion was made by John Ledlie, seconded by Roland Kelly and approved by those present to accept the February 9, 2017, meeting minutes as submitted.

Public Comment

- Steve DeLira addressed the Commission and advised since his retirement he has been selected as the co-chair of the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity (R.E.D.) committee. The Probation Department submitted a R.E.D. grant for third year funding which included funds to the National Compadres Network (NCN) to train thirty people on the Joven Noble. The thirty individuals then go out into the community and train at least two cohorts. The R.E.D. committee would like to fund Xinchtlil Rites of Passage Facilitator, Cara Y Corazon Parental Engagement, and Circle Keeper Process through NCN. A criticism of the JJDC has been that Probation has used the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds for probation officers and not services for youth. There is no cost to the JJDC but Steve would like to have the Commission's support as he will be requesting JJCPA funding be allocated by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) workgroup. The cost is approximately \$90,000 one-time for the three programs and the rental of meeting rooms. Chair Palera indicated that due to the Brown Act the group cannot discuss or vote on this item but as a member of the JJCC he was going to endorse this request but wanted to bring this to the group for discussion. The group had discussion regarding the program and requested the NCN program overview be sent to the Chair and forwarded out to the members.

Superior Court Juvenile Division – Judge Garcia

- Chair Palera advised that the JJDC membership is down and Commissioners are currently recruiting for new members. Andrew Brown has resigned due to his current position on the Grand Jury and can reapply once his term is over. Commissioners are looking to expanding out to the school to see what is going on with juvenile delinquency prevention. The Judge advised that the Commission should get a presentation from the District Attorney's Office regarding their truancy program.
- Chair Palera asked if there was any specific items the Judge would like the commission to focus on. The Judge encouraged the JJDC to think outside of the box to see what could be done differently. As the Probation Department is receptive to new ways to do things, he encouraged ideas to be forwarded to himself and the Probation Department. Moving forward with the juvenile detention facility inspections and Commissioner Tanney leads the group home inspections.
- Commissioner Ledlie stated there used to be an educational class that was provided and the other commissioners felt it would be beneficial to look at reinstating. The program, which target middle schools, was called Understanding the Juvenile Justice System. The group discussed how the program was run previously and ideas regarding reinstating such a program. It was determined that discussions would need to start with the school districts.

- Steve asked if it is a conflict for the JJDC request funding from the JJCC. Chief Taylor didn't believe so but stated that JJCPA reserve funding should be used for one-time request and not for ongoing services.
- There will be a change through the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) which will limit the number of group homes and the amount of time a youth can stay in a group home. Brian Swanson provided a brief review of the changes that will come with CCR. Chair Palera stated with the JJDC inspecting group homes it would be helpful if Probation provides information regarding changes with CCR. The group discussed the JJDC inspection process related to policy changes with CCR.
- It was determined that Probation and the Judge had not received the last few years' inspection reports, Commissioner Tanney will forward the inspections to the Chair for submission to the Judge and Probation.
- A question was asked about the pending move of the Santa Barbara Juvenile Court. The Judge advised that the move is progressing and notice will be going out in the near future. Judge Dandona will be taking over Santa Barbara Juvenile Court. Steve stated that he had previously advised a former Commissioner that a tour of the space could be provided to answer JJDC questions.
- Chair Palera asked if the state budget was going to impact the court. The Judge stated that the courts budget has been reduced. The Governor is considering changes that could reduce fines received by Courts that supplement the budget. The construction funding has not been made available which is why the Court remodel in Santa Barbara is on hold. Any reductions made to the Courts will not likely be restored. The Judge stated the Courts have a new computer system and there are no longer paper files in Court. Items are scanned into the system which will be great as everything will be electronic, but it is a process and there is a learning curve during the transition.
- Commissioner Ledlie asked if it would be possible to observe Juvenile Court. The Judge said absolutely, work with Chair Palera to schedule a date to come observe.

Juvenile Probation Department – Acting Chief Probation Officer Beverly Taylor

- Probation will be presenting the draft budget to the County Executive Office (CEO) February 10th with a proposed \$1.9 million reduction to meet budget. The County's Budget workshops are scheduled the week of April 17th with the final budget decisions in June. We are asking for restoration of several officers and will know more as we move through the budget process. Probation is holding vacancies to minimize layoffs as best as possible.
- The Department's Staff Recognition event is scheduled for March 24th at the Marriott in Buellton.
- Probation Manager Laurie Holbrook and Deputy Chief Probation Officer Lee Bethel will be retiring the end of this month.
- Wendy Stanley is now the Manager of Los Prietos Boys Camp and Probation Manager Roger Dixon has been assigned to the adult division. We have had a manager vacancy for approximately a year and will now have two vacant Deputy Chief positions.
- The R.E.D. meeting was held in February and three key areas are being worked on: booking criteria and purpose of detention, the juvenile intake and assessment tool, and a probation violation database.
- Brian stated Probation is working to re-envision and redefine priorities and how youth are supervised. The oversight of Home Detention is being transition from the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) to the juvenile division.
- The Department continues to work with Justice Benefits Inc. (JBI) to bolster the Title VI-E reimbursable services and increase the reimbursements to the Department.
- Changes through CCR are being rolled out with clarifications from the State as to the change in requirements. There are lots of things to be considered in the juvenile until as the division continues to shrink and work together to formulate plans for the supervision of youth.

Chair Comments – Dominick Palera

- The By-Laws modifications were approved by the group on March 10, 2016 but the By-Laws were never updated. Chair Palera wanted to confirm that all commissioners were aware of the changes and if any other changes should be made. This item will be added to next month's agenda for final approval.

Commission Reports/Comments

- Commissioner Ledlie advised that he has been volunteering with Billie Jo and her group assisting youth with public speaking.
- Commissioner Tanney asked for clarification if she can move forward with sending pre-inspection questions to the group homes. The group agreed she can forward the questions.
- Commissioner Kelly asked to have the website added to next month's agenda so the group could advise what information they want included.
- Next meeting will be at the Buellton Planning Commission on April 13th.