

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2023
Location: Buellton Planning Department
331-B Park Street; Buellton, CA 93427

ATTENDANCE

Present

John Celichowski
Gabriela Ferreira
John Forhan
Barbara Kate Repa
Donna Tanney

Absent

Lynn Houston

Also present: Melinda Barrera, Deputy Chief-Juvenile Services
Sam Leach, Deputy Chief-Facilities
Jon Masudo-Behavioral Wellness, Justice Services Manager
Kisha Ojeda-Behavioral Wellness, Team Supervisor
Heather Stolper-Behavioral Wellness, Lead Transition Team Practitioner

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

Leach and three staff representatives from Behavioral Wellness (BWell) presented an overview of the mental health services the program offers to youth held in probation detention facilities, and answered commissioners' questions.

Services BWell offers:

- Clinical assessment, including risk assessments
- Treatment planning
- Individual and group psychotherapy
- Crisis intervention (24/7 on-call)
- Family counseling (on Zoom since COVID)
- Psychiatric evaluation and medication monitoring
- Female-specific trauma-informed substance abuse counseling
- Moral Reconciliation Therapy or MRT (thought restructuring) and interactive journaling, and
- Post-custody community-based assessment outreach and engagement support.

Many of the youth in BWell also receive individual and family therapy; treatment teams and rounds are conducted every week. The program hours are 8 am to 6 pm, but staff is on call at all

hours; CBOs supplement services during off-hours. (As of March 1, CADA provides substance abuse treatment twice weekly at Juvenile Hall.)

Among the highlights and points underscored:

- Given that youth currently spend more time in detention, it is challenging to build modalities that can effectively treat and combat a sense of hopelessness for the aging population with longer commitments. Time can be an additional challenge, as school, showers, meals and recreation are all required activities for the population.
- Services—from initial clinical assessment to post-custody—are necessarily time-limited. The BWell program is currently striving to tailor treatment more to individuals, with staff trained to reach out to other experts to provide help.
- Staff reported a recent and evolving turnaround in rapport and trust, attributing it to:
 - Greater engagement with youth, who are asked to be more involved in their own treatments (an emphasis on “voice and choice”)
 - Periodic “check-ins” by staff that often lead to actual BWell therapy, and
 - More attention to child and family teams—as opposed to working in silos within the institutions. Help is offered for systemic issues within families; most parents who are involved reportedly seem open to support and guidance.

Probation Office Report

Barrera gave a brief update on statistics of supervised youth:
7 at the Boys’ Camp, 36 at Juvenile Hall.

Farewell

This was John Celichowski’s final meeting as a member of the JJDPC. Current commissioners were urged to use contacts and creativity to recruit individuals to the commission.

Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

Consideration of Minutes

Minutes from the January 26, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

The next JJDPC meeting will be held on April 26, 2023, beginning at 10 am.

Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors – Conference Room
105 East Anapamu Street, 4th floor
Santa Barbara, California

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