

JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting Thursday, April 21, 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 9:38 a.m.

Probation Office Report

Present: Deputy Chief Kimberly Shean

Shean noted there was a miscommunication about the date of the meeting, and neither she nor Chief Tanya Heitman were prepared to give a full summary report of Probation's activities.

All were reminded that JJDPC's meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Shean reiterated the need to post meeting notices 72 hours in advance of meetings to remain in compliance with the Brown Act. In the future, JJDPC should have the capability to post on our own website. After discussion, the commissioners opted to send future notices directly to the Clerk of Court rather than asking Probation to perform the task.

Questions from Commissioners

--Donna Tanney inquired about last month's meeting between Probation and Boys Camp staff at which the camp closing was formally announced.

Shean said it "went well" in that all were able to "celebrate the successes over the years"—particularly the decrease in the population of juveniles under supervision: down from the 500s to around 200. The "bitter part" was the emotional impact on the longtime staff, though Shean said they will be engaged in the process of building the new programs, going forward. She said there will be a series or "one-time big event" to recognize the history of the facility, but the current focus is on putting together planning groups for next year.

--Lynn Houston asked what would happen to the young men at the Camp. Shean said they are launching a treatment program at Juvenile Hall, which will aim to keep the treatment components of the Camp in a unit there, with an attempt to keep a more open setting. They are working through a rehabbing of one unit there; the project manager is currently pushing to refurbish the outside areas, though that has been slowed by contracting difficulties primarily due to COVID. Goal for reopening is July 1, 2023.

Shean also reported that Chief Heitman made a presentation about the closing at a recent Board of Supervisors meeting; there was one public comment there by a Camp volunteer—“mostly nostalgic,” according to Shean. Future use of the Camp property will be driven by the County Executive Office. She again referred to complications of a land use permit with U.S. Forestry in any transfer of the property—likely to be a 12 to 18-month process.

--Gabriela Ferreira expressed dismay that buildings may have to be destroyed (including four homes occupied by current employees).

Approval of bylaws. The Commission moved to add an item to the meeting’s agenda: voting on adopting an amended version of the bylaws, drafted by John Celichowski and Barbara Kate Repa.

Donna Tanney moved to add the item to the agenda for action; John Celichowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Donna Tanney moved to adopt the bylaws as amended; Lynn Houston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Changes to the JJDPC website. Barbara Kate Repa summarized proposed updates to the web page: changed names, updated forms and bylaws, ability to post meeting notices. Donna Tanney emphasized the proposed refresh to the site would also be a way for JJDPC to take back control of the process for accepting and perusing applications from potential additional Commission members.

Donna Tanney moved to “deputize” Barbara Kate Repa to work with court personnel on effecting the changes; Lynn Houston seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Update on inspections. Donna Tanney reported that she and Barbara Kate Repa had inspected Changing Faces on April 18, and that she and John Celichowski had inspected Agape House on April 20. Both are STRTPs for female-only residents, both located in Santa Maria. The report on Changing Faces has been circulated for approval by the commissioners; the Agape inspection report is in progress. Future inspections are planned for a new facility in Carpenteria and Serenity in Santa Maria—dependent on scheduling. The JJDPC will also need to inspect the Camp this year, potentially in August.

Search for additional JJDPC commissioners. Lynn Houston has been following up with two individuals who have expressed interest in becoming Commission members: John Forhan and Erika Sanabria. Both will be invited to attend our next meeting. [John Forhan’s CV was forwarded to commissioners in a 4/22 email message.]

Public comments. There were no public comments.

Future meetings—remote or in-person. Barbara Kate Repa asked about the current status of the decree allowing Commission meetings to be held by Zoom. Gabriela Ferreira said she will check with Santa Barbara County Counsel Maria Novatt, and report back to the commissioners.

Consideration of minutes. Donna Tanney moved to approve the minutes from the March JJDPC meeting; Lynn Houston seconded.

The commissioners unanimously voted to approve them.

Next meeting will be on May 26; the JJDPCC will convene briefly on April 28 to determine whether that meeting should be held in person or on Zoom.

The meeting continued in closed session.

Adjournment. Barbara Kate Repa moved to adjourn the meeting; John Celichowski seconded. The commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

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