

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



**JUVENILE JUSTICE DELIQUENCY PREVENTION
COMMISSION**

**Commission Meeting
Friday, May 11, 2018
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

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

Meeting was called to order with roll call of the JJJPC Members

Present

Gabriela Ferreira
Christy Morse
Roland Kelly
John Ledlie
Dominick Palera
Billi Jo Starr

Absent

Rich Adam
Frank Iarossi
Donna Tanney

Approval of Minutes from March 9, 2018

A motion was made by John Ledlie, seconded by Billi Jo Starr and approved by those present to accept the March 9, 2018, meeting minutes as submitted.

Public Comment

None

Child Welfare Services/Juvenile Probation Department

- Gustavo Prado from Child Welfare Services and Brian Swanson from the Probation Department attended the meeting to provide the JJJPC with information on resource family homes.
- Gustavo Prado advised he is assigned to the coordination, retention, recruitment and training of resource families. Foster homes/families transitioned into resource family homes with a change in law in 2017.
- A Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) agreement and sample of the latest initiative (Elevate Initiative) to recruit resource families was provided and reviewed with the Commissioners.
- Child Welfare Services (CWS) works with Probation to place youth in resource homes.
- Chair Palera asked how the transition is working and if resource homes are available for Probation youth; how is the transition with group homes being phased out, and are there any not able to transition to Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs). He indicated that "on paper" this process flows nicely, but he wanted to know how it is working in reality.
- Probation Manager Brian Swanson advised that since Probation is moving away from traditional group care and transitioning to STRTPs, the type of kids that meet the eligibility requirements has changed. The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) favors community based treatment such as non-relative care. Probation can recruit for resource family homes but this is something that CWS already does, so it is not impactful to have them recruit resource homes for probation youth. There are opportunities to have youth placed with family members and now the process is easier and financial assistance is available to relatives as a resource family home. CWS has helped with the placement of Probation youth and they continue to assist with the requirements of CCR.
- Foster Care includes all placements and it is the type that falls underneath. Probation will primarily be using relative placements for resource family homes.
- Gustavo and Brian spoke about the process of identifying and reviewing individuals in a youth's life that might be an option to become a resource family home.
- Brian advised that there are approximately 40 youth currently in foster care with half of them, in relative placement, non-minor dependency or transitional aged placement.
- The group reviewed the requirements for foster care placements by CWS and Probation.

- The group discussed the JJDC conducting group home inspections and how it will change with resource family placements.
- Brian Swanson indicated that often Probation youth do not meet the eligibility requirements for STRTPs based on the criteria set by CCR.
- The group discussed the challenges with sharing family history and/or criminal charges on youth that are in need of placement.
- Brian stated that Probation now supervises a certain type of youth which results in those that are on Probation being more difficult to place, which is more challenging with the changes brought on by CCR.

Juvenile Probation Department

- Brian Swanson advised that the Probation Department will be moving to a new risk and needs assessment tool. There are two tools being reviewed and the plan is for selection in the next couple of months.
- In the next fiscal year there will be a move away from generalized services by providers to services that are more evidence-based and shown to reduce recidivism.
- The Juvenile Drug Court program was changed to a Clean and Sober Calendar countywide in December 2017. There have been some challenges with youth compliance in transitioning to the new process.
- Billi Jo stated that the JJDC can make a recommendation for mental health clinicians at Camp and Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) once the Commission reviews the ratio of clinicians to youth. Brian advised that all youth entering SMJH complete an assessment and if any area comes up with red flags they will be referred to a clinician for further evaluation.
- Chair Palera asked if Brian was familiar with the youth from Serenity Group Home that took the facility vehicle. Brian advised the youth were from out of county and would be going through the court process locally and then would likely be returned to their county of origin for disposition of the matter.
- The System Improvement Plan (SIP) between Probation and CWS has been completed. The focus on this year's SIP update was reunification of youth in foster care within 12 months. The SIP will be before the Board of Supervisors on May 15th.
- Currently, there are two Deputy Chief Probation Officer (DCPO) vacancies and one of the positions will be filled by Shawn Small on May 21st. Mr. Small has had a long career with Orange County Probation Department and will be assigned oversight of the Institutions Division.

Commissioner Reports

- Donna provided group home inspection forms to the Chair, he will send out to the Commissioners to review and discuss at the next meeting.
- The group discussed moving the meetings back to Thursday. Chair Palera will send an e-mail out to the group to determine what day of the week (Thursday or Friday) works best for the group going forward.
- Billi Jo and Christy will be added to the next agenda to provide project updates.

The next meeting of the JJDC is scheduled for June 8, 2018, location to be determined.