



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

**JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION**

**Commission Meeting  
Friday, June 27, 2019  
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Location: City of Buellton Planning Department  
331 Park St.  
Buellton, CA 93427

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

**Meeting was called to order with roll call of the JJJPC Members at 9:30 am**

Present

Rich Adam  
Gabriela Ferreira  
Christy Morse  
Roland Kelly  
John Ledlie  
Dominick Palera  
Billi Jo Starr  
Donna Tanney

Absent

**Commission Comments**

- John Ledlie recognized Billi Jo Starr for recently receiving her doctorate.
- Chair Palera announced that the Commission will now have their own recorder that can be utilized for the development of meeting minutes. The Commission appreciates the Probation Department for supplying the recorder and for preparing the minutes.

**Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2019**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ledlie, seconded by Commissioner Adam and approved by those present to accept the March 28, 2019, meeting minutes as submitted.

**Public Comment**

None

**Juvenile Probation Department**

- Deputy Chief Probation Officer (DCPO) Shawn Small advised that the Probation Department is moving forward with no service reductions next fiscal year.
- As a result of legislation it was agreed upon for the Courts' to transition pretrial assessments and supervision to Probation on January 1, 2020. Probation is working with the Court to transition staff.
- There is a lot of legislation coming forward regarding juvenile institutions. There are a number of competing bills moving forward to eliminate pepper spray in juvenile institutions, not a matter of if more a matter of when pepper spray will be eliminated. We are proactively scaling back the utilization of pepper spray in our facilities to transition to non-pepper spray juvenile facilities. Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) administration toured Santa Cruz and Solano County juvenile halls, as they do not use pepper spray, to see how those facilities are run to assist Santa Barbara County to develop a plan for the reduction/elimination of pepper spray in our facilities. Of note was staff are more measured in the time they take to respond to fights as they focus more on group safety then to the combatants. Pepper spray is considered a use of force and is currently used at the officer's discretion as appropriate to break up fights prior to going hands on with youth. Procedures and staff trainings are being developed to assist in the handling of multiple individual fights and reduction of injury

to individuals, but without pepper spray staff with need to go hands on. Juvenile Institutions Officers (JIO) are currently required to complete 24 hours of training annual which includes de-escalation techniques. A use of force review committee has been developed and meets monthly.

- A use of force review committee has been developed and meets monthly. Currently, force is based on reasonableness; there is new legislation which may change to reasonable and necessary, which is embedded in the context of deadly force but some are viewing the change as all force.
- The group discussed the lower juvenile hall population and the cost to house those individuals, along with the changing requirement around staff to youth ratios, mandatory programming time, required large muscle exercise, and education which can make running facilities very costly.
- San Francisco Juvenile Hall is being closed and the Commissioners asked where those youth will go. It was suggested to have one facility for multiple counties. DCPO stated that was something that was done in the past and there have been discussions amongst other counties about returning to this practice.
- Chief Heitman is the juvenile justice representative on a California State Association of Counties (CSAC) workgroup that is looking at alternative uses for juvenile hall and camp space.
- DCPO Small stated Probation is looking to revamp the Camp program. It has a good reputation in the justice system and the County, but Probation believes we can do better and we are currently reviewing programming.
- Probation is transitioning to a new juvenile assessment tool (PACT) which will look at criminogenic needs based on the development of a case plan that will follow the youth from custody to community.
- Chair Palera asked if Probation is looking at assisting the parents as often time the parents don't know how to parent. DCPO Small said yes that is something we have looked at but often parents do not participate when these types of opportunities are offered which could be related to unwillingness or other barriers such as distance or work obligations. It was also mentioned that parents might shy away from contact with law enforcement if they are not legally in this Country; there is fear currently among people about deportation. DCPO Small advised that in California Probation is prohibited from releasing information to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on adults and juveniles except under specific circumstances.
- DCPO Small reported that the SMJH population is 46 and Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) is 16.
- Commissioner Kelly asked what the cost was to operate LPBC. DCPO Small reported it is approximately \$2.5 million annually. The group discussed the cost to run LPBC with a low population and stated that other options should be reviewed to make it more cost effective.
- The LPBC latrine remodel is in the final stages and the youth will be moved back into the larger dorm in the next 30 days.
- The second tier barrier project is wrapping up in unit four at SMJH. There will be a final walk through on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. With the lessons learned from the challenges in unit four the next two units should go very smoothly with completion expected in mid-August. Commissioner Ledlie expressed his appreciation for the letter submitted to the JJDPC by Probation outlining the second tier barrier challenges.
- DCPO Small stated that all institutions policies and procedures have been updated based on the changes to Title 15. The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) inspector will be reviewing the policies and the plan is to inspect the facilities in the Spring of 2020.
- Chair Palera asked if there were any suggestions for the Commissioners that complete inspections to inform them of Title 15 changes. DCPO Small stated the BSCC has an inspection check list and the California Association of Probation Institutions Administrators (CAPIA) prepared a cheat sheet regarding the changes. The JJDPC requested both documents be shared.
- Commissioner Kelly stated the Grand Jury had previously recommended a girls camp at LPBC and asked if that was being considered. DCPO Small said that housing females at LPBC is not being considered. One of the challenges with developing a female program is the number of females in custody at any given time which ranges between two to ten as well as the different service needs for females.
- Commissioner Starr asked about the Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) that the Probation Department received. DCPO Small believes it will focus on juvenile field side and diversion, but he did not have the specifics with him but would provide the commissioners with an off line document via e-mail after today's meeting.

### **New Member Process**

- Chair Palera checked with the Court and there have been no new member applications received. Applicants should submit their application to the Chair and he will turn it into Judge Garcia's secretary.
- Is it possible for the Court website to include volunteer opportunities for the JJDPC similar to what is done for Grand Jury members. Chair Palera will make that request of the Court.
- The Commissioners discussed options to get information to the public to solicit members for the vacant JJDPC seats.

### **Future Agenda Requests**

- The group discussed the former drug court and Teen Court programs. Commissioner Starr stated that a new law went into effect that Probation can no longer refer to programs that charge the families. Commissioner Palera will request a presentation at a future JJDPC meeting.

- It would be helpful to have the Chief Probation Officer update the JJDPC annually.
- The Commissioners requested a briefing from Judge Garcia. Chair Palera indicated that the meeting time and location would need to be changed to accommodate the Judge. Another option would be for the Chair to meet with the Judge and then brief the Commission.
- Request the Probation Department to provide the JJDPC of Santa Barbara County youth that are placed in group homes in and out of county, and the location of those placements.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Tanny read a letter from a group home in Sonoma County regarding the transition of group homes to Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs). This home is closing due to the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) staffing and Medi-cal contracting requirements. Commissioner Tanny believes that group home as they are today will be no longer and it is irrelevant if she inspects them or not. CCR wants resource families for these youth. Chair Palera believes it is still important to inspect group homes and prepare an abbreviated report only highlight changes from last year. The group discussed Santa Barbara County youth that are placed in group homes out of county and out of State and what is the requirement for inspecting by Probation or by the JJDPC.
- Inspections will be completed in November and December of SMJH and LPBC. Chair Palera would like to keep the same inspection members with the changes to Title 15. Commissioner Tanny and Palera will inspection the group homes.
- Chair Palera and Commissioner Adams' four year terms are up at the end of 2019. Commissioner Tanny stated things are changing with her and she will know if she will remain on the JJDPC or not by the end of the year.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next JJDPC meeting will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am at the City of Buellton Planning Department.