



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

**JUVENILE JUSTICE DELIQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION**

**Commission Meeting  
Thursday, August 22, 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 (JJDCP) meeting.

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

Present

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

Absent

Christy Morse

**Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2019**

A motion was made by Roland Kelly, seconded by John Ledlie and approved by those present to accept the June 27, 2019, meeting minutes as submitted.

**Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2019**

A motion was made by Donna Tanney, seconded by Roland Kelly and approved by those present to accept the July 25, 2019, meeting minutes as submitted.

**Public Comment**

None

**Juvenile Probation Department**

- Chief Heitman provided the Commissioners with a copy of the 2019 Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) which is a requirement under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG). The CMJJP provides an overview of statistical information and outlines what is being funded by JJCPA and YOBG. The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Workgroup is now an every other month meeting led by Deputy Chief Probation Officer (DCPO) Holly Benton that helps to guide the development of the CMJJP.
- The JJCC has been in place since the late 1990s and when the State adopted the JJCPA they looked at Santa Barbara County as a model for the new statute. Our JJCC is the longest standing in its format and we have expanded individuals outside of the required members.
- The Santa Barbara County Probation Department was notified that we were included with Mendocino, Kern, Los Angeles and San Joaquin County for a State Audit review of JJCPA for five fiscal years (FY) 2013-14 through 2017-18. The three primary areas of concern are spending, decision making, and reporting.
- There are community based organizations (CBOs) that do not have the infrastructure to contract with the Probation Department.
- The Youth Reinvestment Grant (YRG) is for diversion services, which will be different than in the past as youth will not be able to be referred back to Probation if they are unsuccessful or do not complete. Youth are diverted because they are not appropriate for the juvenile justice system and just because they do not participate they should not enter the justice system.

- Billi Jo Starr advised that Freedom for Youth signed the letter supporting the audit as funding in Los Angeles County was not provided to CBOs. The Chief advised that the legislation does not have a requirement that funding needs to be provided to CBOs.
- The State Auditors are in County this week. We are relying on historical documents and are sharing what is happening locally.
- Agencies have not expressed concerns about the process or ability to participate in the JJCC.
- The Chief would like to have the JJDPC more collaborative and assist us in change going forward. Our outward facing communication such as our website needs to be reviewed to ensure that we communicate clearly to the public and assistance from JJDPC would be appreciated.
- Probation will take over pretrial in January and due to additional funding that was received through a grant the pretrial staffing will increase. The plan is to move Santa Maria pretrial staff to the Betteravia building. The former SMJH intake will be remodeled so juvenile court services personnel can be housed in that area as well as the old juvenile court room, allowing for more interaction with the juvenile court, attorneys, and parents. This will enable Probation Officers and SMJH personnel to work more collaboratively and jointly develop treatment plans for the youth in custody.
- DCPO Holly Benton will attend the September JJDPC meeting to provide a review of Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ). Chief Heitman encouraged the Commissioners to attend the December 6<sup>th</sup> JJCC meeting as there will be a recommendation by the RJJ participants at that meeting.
- The Santa Barbara building on Carrillo has limitations and there is a preliminary tentative agreement with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for a new Probation building to be built near Garden Street. The plan will be to bring adult, administration, juvenile and the Probation Report and Resource Center (PRRC) personnel to the new building.
- The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) pulled together a workgroup to review Juvenile Hall Utilization. The workgroup includes BOS and three Probation Chief's. The goal of the group is to establish a tool kit for policy makers to look at options for underutilized juvenile hall space. The group is still in the discussion stage and presenting what other counties are doing and workgroup members will be touring facilities that are using their space in an alternative way. It also needs to be determined what revenue is available for these alternative services/programs.
- San Luis Obispo Probation created a treatment program in one of the empty units at their juvenile hall and developed a Camp equivalent program.
- There is a current recruitment for Probation Manager and once the recruitment closes interviews will be scheduled. The Camp Manager has advised she intends to retire the end of October.
- Chair Palera congratulated Probation for the recent in-custody high school graduations, the family members that attended were so proud.
- The Chief intends to get information to the JJDPC regarding high school graduations as well as Camp graduations so they can attend when available.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Tanney reported the group home inspections were just completed. The one that was previously a concern has made major improvements. The group homes in County do not typically have Santa Barbara County youth. The JJDPC reviews the Probation Department but who has oversight and keeps an eye on youth in placements by Child Welfare Services. Chief Heitman stated the reason the youth in the group home is the underlying issues not their behaviors but traumas that happened to them increase the probability of them being in the justice system as a juvenile or adult. The longer youth are in congregate care the worse the outcomes for those youth. We need to focus on how to keep youth out of the justice system as that will result in better outcomes for youth.
- Chief Heitman stated there is a facility working on getting licensed as they would be able to provide crisis stabilization beds. She also suggested for the Commissioners to tour an out of county facility that did well in the Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) process.
- Commissioner Tanny has concerns about where youth will go with the transition of group homes to STRTPs.

### **Chair Comments**

- There is going to be a transition with the North County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) leadership for Teen Court, as such the presentation will be postponed until the new leadership for North County is in place.
- Chair Palera will forward the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) meeting minutes for the Commissioners information.

### **Next Meeting**

- The next JJDPC meeting will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am at the City of Buellton Planning Department.