

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



**JUVENILE JUSTICE DELIQUENCY PREVENTION  
COMMISSION**

**Commission Meeting  
Thursday, September 14, 2017  
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

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

Absent

**Juvenile Probation Department – Acting Chief Probation Officer Beverly Taylor**

- Renew 2022 is a County implemented project due to the budget reductions that began last fiscal year and will continue over the next five years. All Departments are reviewing efficiencies and how to more effectively and collaboratively work together. The Probation Managers met last week to determine potential items Probation would put forward to the County Executive Office as Probation's Renew 22 efforts.
- Chief Taylor is maximizing her hours, as the process is taking longer than anticipated, and her extra help hours will run out on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The hope was once there is resolution with the Chief's position, Bev will continue to assist the Department as there are two Deputy Chief Probation Officer vacancies.
- We are conducting an in house review of the juvenile caseloads to see who are currently on Probation as compared to other counties.
- The Juvenile Division is up to over 600 youth supervised from a recent downward trend. We were in the 640s several months back so we're still low comparatively.
- There are 24 youth in group care, nine in non-minor dependent and six in a Therapeutic Group Homes. The number of youth in group care is lower than previous years, which is in part due to Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). A question was asked regarding which placements require review, as the Commission was uncertain if foster care homes should also be inspected by the JJJPC. Chief Taylor will forward to the Commissioners the list of group homes in California that applied to be Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP).
- Probation and Child Welfare Services (CSW) had a booth a recent football game in Santa Barbara to recruit foster care families for both Departments.
- The group asked what the process is for individuals to be foster parents and what the requirements to maintain that status are. Chief Taylor suggested someone from CWS brief the Commission on the foster parent process as Probation only deals with a small piece of this process.
- There are four youth currently housed in the Division of Juvenile Facilities (2 for sex offenses, one for homicide, and one for assault with great bodily injury). One youth was paroled last month and another maybe paroled in December.
- According to the Commission Sweeny Group home closed. What happened to the youth that were housed there and where do we now send sex offenders for treatment? Chief Taylor was uncertain what home we send youth that are sex offenders but will look into it and advise the Commission.
- All units in the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) are participating in a new incentive based points system in preparations for change in the law limiting room rest to four hours as of January 2018.
- The Reaching Excellent Conduct (REC) Room is now available for A level youth and canteen is available for A and B level youth.

- Probation unit staff at the SMJH are supporting the Dos Puerta's character based literacy program by facilitating assistance and time to the youth in the unit to create art and make presentations of the character topic they learned in school. September through October 13<sup>th</sup> theme is Responsibility Requires Action from the book: *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jimenez.
- Youth have made puzzles and utilizing them at SMJH to lighten the institutional living environment. It has become a competition between the units with the girls' unit outpacing the boys' units.
- The new Booking Criteria was implemented in June. Work continues on the Intake Assessment tool and it is currently under review by the executive team.
- Last week a career day was held in conjunction with the school at SMJH.
- The Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) Business Center had new equipment installed and is taking on a few Department print jobs as they get familiar with the equipment. A workgroup has been developed to review the pricing, ordering procedures, and to develop performance measures.
- Reins of Hope, which is an equine therapy program, has begun at LPBC with two sessions a week, at no cost to the Department.
- Youth Interactive, which is an entrepreneurial carpentry program, will begin at LPBC on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The small engines ROP program will be starting next week and will be held in the LPBC workshop area.
- The Odyssey performance is this Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Center Stage in Santa Barbara and will have youth actors from LPBC and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB).
- The kick off meeting to repair the LPBC latrine will be held next week. Once this project begins the youth will be housed in the smaller dorm and the population cannot be more than 40 due to the size of that dorm.
- The second tier barrier project at the SMJH is moving forward. Installation will be done one unit at a time and unit youth will be moved to Unit 3 during this process.
- There has been a delay in the South County Juvenile Court move, the last tentative date the Chief heard was December 2017.
- Probation and the Court are looking at the feasibility of sharing building space in Santa Barbara.
- Chair Palera asked the status of the Chief and Bev advised she does not have an update.

#### **Approval of Minutes from August 10, 2017**

A motion was made by Christy Morse, seconded by John Ledlie and approved by those present to accept the August 10, 2017, meeting minutes as submitted.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **WEB Site Update**

- Roland Kelly advised that the JJDPC had a website previously and he has worked with the Court web designer to update and revive the site.
- The executive committee of the JJDPC will have access to the e-mail account and can bring information to the commission for approval as to what should be posted on the site.
- The group discussed the requirement of the JJDPC to complete an annual report of commission activities by October based on the By-laws.
- A motion was made by Rich Adam and seconded by Christy Morse and approved by those present to postpone completion of the JJDPC annual report to January 2018.
- The group discussed the SMJH, LPBC, and Group Home inspection reports and what format was used in the past and what format to be used this year. Outreach was done to the past chair Tom Parker and his computer broke so he is not able to access 2015 or 2016.

#### **Chair Report – Dominick Palera**

- The LPBC inspection is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup>. Frank Iarossi volunteered to gather the information and prepare the Commissioners report and submit it to the Chair.
- The SMJH inspection is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>. John Ledlie volunteered to gather the information and prepare the Commissioners report and submit it to the Chair.
- Chair Palera will forward the blank inspections form, the 2014 LPBC inspection and the 2016 SMJH inspection. The inspection report used by Sonoma County JJDPC will also be forwarded to the group. Either format can be used however, it is preferred that everyone uses the same format.
- The Chair stated that Darrel Parker had a discussion with the Public Defender and proposed not having juvenile court hearings in Santa Barbara, but to hold hearings in Santa Maria as the juvenile court is attached to the SMJH. Darrel wanted to get the JJDPCs thought on the proposed process. Chair Palera advised that

he needed to get the commissions feedback. This change could pose an issue for families as they would have to travel to Santa Maria for court hearings. The Commission wanted to get more information and will return this item to the October meeting.

- The Chair requested that Darrel have the new Commoners' identification cards available for the SMJH meeting in November.
- There were also no new commissioner applications received. There are three Commissioners that terms will be up in December. Chair Palera advised that those Commissioners could request a year extension to allow time for new members to come on board.
- The Chair provided the Commissioners with a review of the August 11<sup>th</sup> Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) meeting.
- Billie Jo did outreach to the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA) regarding the educational program that was previously funded by the JJDPC and provided at the local schools. She obtained a copy of the curriculum and provided it to the Chair. Is something that the Commission wants to look for funding to re-implement. The Chair stated that Probation does have funding for prevention but at this time all that funding has been allocated and he isn't interested in pursuing a request for funding until the Chief position has been determined. The Chair suggested that this be a goal for the Commission next year.
- **Christy** advised that she has been working with mental health and all the high schools in the south county are recognizing suicide prevention for the month of September. Wellness center clubs are now on each of the south campuses run by students. The issue is to identify students and ensure that the students know where to go to get mental health services.
- Donna advised that the Serenity Group Home inspection is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> for those Commissioners that are interested in participating.
- Chair Palera sent out the information regarding the conference that is being held in Sonoma and they need to know the number of attendees from Santa Barbara County by the end of September. Sonoma County sent a survey and are asking that JJDPC forward the survey to the group home in their jurisdiction. Donna advised she will send the survey out via e-mail to the group homes.

#### **Close Session**

- None

The next meeting of the JJDPC is scheduled for October 12, 2017 at LPBC.