

Juvenile Justice Commission
Teleconference & GoToMeeting Participation Only
Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order N-29-20
Thursday, April 22, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Steve MacFarland, Chairman
Betty Cunningham
Troy Foster
Jennifer Coulter
Nikolai Orloff
Joseph Hanna
Cindy Vogt
Barbara Van Dyke

Others Present

Chelsey Chappelle, Probation
Jeremy Kenyon, Probation
Tracie Neal, Probation
Erin Bertain, Probation
Carla Stevens, Probation
Twyla Carpenter, Probation

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions

3. Minutes

Steve MacFarland moved to approve the meeting minutes for October 22, 2020; Seconded by Jennifer Coulter; Motion passed. 8 Ayes, 0 Noes

4. Probation Reports

a. Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (JRF)

Carla Stevens reported the current population of the JRF at 21 including three out of county youth and two youth pending transport to Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). She said the facility is only accepting youth with the most violent offenses. Carla stated program facilitators were invited back to the JRF and are providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, fine arts therapy, and religious programs in person. She said youth are participating in basketball and volleyball and the grow program is doing its spring planting. She explained a LBGTQ group will be starting soon for youth who may need this additional support.

Carla announced River's Edge Academy (REA) opened on April 12 with three youth. Carla said staffing for REA includes a Supervising Juvenile Detention Officer, Juvenile Detention Officers, and GEO Behavior Management staff for rehabilitative programs. She stated the REA youth temporarily attend school on the pods where they were previously housed.

There was general discussion by Commission Members on the JRF monthly reports.

Tracie Neal reported the population in the JRF has been intentionally kept low to ensure the facility is safe for residents and staff. She explained they have limited the number of youth entering and exiting the facility by only booking youth on specific offenses and limiting youth being accepted from other counties. Tracie said lower numbers of arrests have also contributed to the lower population. She explained the number of arrests has averaged 250-300 in recent years but during COVID the numbers have dropped to about 153 arrests for 2020.

Tracie stated the Shasta County Board of Supervisors approved REA as a camp program and the paperwork has been submitted to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to establish REA as a separate program within the JRF. She explained there would be two separate BSCC bi-annual inspection processes in the future.

Tracie explained suicide prevention has been a priority to include reviewing existing procedures and services and identifying areas of improvement. Probation is partnering with HSA to improve mental and behavioral health services in the JRF.

Tracie announced the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) will stop accepting youth as of July 1, 2021 and will close their facilities on June 30, 2023. She explained the youth normally sentenced to DJJ would now be held in the JRF. She said the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council SB823 Subcommittee has been working on a DJJ Realignment Plan which she will share at the next meeting.

Tracie stated Probation recently hosted a Juvenile Correctional Officer (JCO) CORE training class and had 11 staff graduate on March 23, 2021. She explained the training is almost 170 hours and normally staff have to travel out of town to attend it.

Tracie stated the JRF has several vacancies and two seasoned staff will be leaving in the near future. She shared recruitment efforts have been difficult due to COVID. Tracie explained, in times of staffing shortages, Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) often fill open shifts in the JRF. She said Probation will host a 49-hour training in the near future that will allow these officers to receive the required instruction to be JCO Core trained.

b. Juvenile Probation

Jeremy Kenyon reported as COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, the Juvenile Probation building has been reopened to allow for meetings with families and youth that include appropriate COVID safety protocols. He explained the officers were previously meeting with the families and youth in the lobby or outside. Jeremy said he is working to transition treatment groups back to meeting in person. He stated the AmeriCorps staff are working in the building again as well.

Jeremy reported there are five youth pending court acceptance into the Integrated Family Wellness Program (IFWP) and 7 youth already enrolled in the program. He explained this program has a max capacity of 15 youth.

Jeremy stated Parent Project has been on hold due to COVID but will be starting again in the near future.

Jeremy reported staff in the Juvenile Division have been working on the implementation River's Edge Academy and explained they are involved in the referral process and transition planning for the program. Jennifer Coulter asked what the length of stay will be for a youth in REA. Jeremy answered youth would spend about six months to a year in the program.

Jeremy reminded the Commission Members of the Systems Improvement Plan (SIP) that was developed jointly with Children's Services in June 2020 and said the first annual progress report is due to the State by April 30.

Jeremy updated the Commission Members on the youth who was brought back from out-of-state placement. Jeremy reported they found a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) placement with only one other youth which has allowed her to receive more focused attention. He said the youth has done very well, has been on home passes to visit family, and is looking at terminating her placement successfully shortly after she turns 18 in May. Tracie reported there is pending legislation to permanently end out-of-state placements.

Tracie reported the Juvenile Division will be moving from its current location to 1810 Market Street. She said the move considerably expands the working space for the division and will have space for a large conference room, smaller group and or/interview rooms, and a computer lab for youth. Tracie also said there will be space where youth can complete homework, treatment assignments, and have a safe, pro-social place to be while they are

waiting for the start of a treatment group or to meet with their officer. She stated the long-term plan is to demolish the old building and create a West Recreation Yard for the JRF which will be focused on prosocial activities and vocational training.

Tracie reported the Shasta County Juvenile Justice Plan was updated and approved by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

Tracie said she is working with the Courts on youth transports to the new Courthouse to establish an area for youth that meets the requirements for sight and sound separation from adult offenders.

Chelsey Chappelle reported she and Jeremy have been attending the quarterly meetings to revamp the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB). She stated this process has been a positive move forward and is good for the youth in our county.

Steve MacFarland asked Tracie about staffing levels for Probation. Tracie said there is currently three Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) vacancies for which she has three internal staff identified to fill including two Juvenile Detention Officers. She reported they have also recently hired a new DPO who comes with a lot of experience with case management.

5. Judge's Comments

None

6. Discussion Items

None

7. Action Items

a. Approved the JFR Inspection Report

There was a general discussion by Commission Members regarding the review process of the inspection report. Betty Cunningham moved to approve the report with corrections to be made by Chelsey and reviewed again by Steve MacFarland and Jennifer Coulter before being finalized. Barbara Van Dyke seconded; Motion passed. 8 ayes, 0 noes.

b. Re-Appointment of Commission Member Betty Cunningham

Steve MacFarland moved to re-appointment Betty Cunningham; Cindy Vogt seconded; Motion passed. 7 Ayes, 0 Noes, 1 Abstain.

8. Commission Member Comments.

Steve MacFarland reported he was invited to Butte County's March JJC meeting to discuss DJJ realignment. He stated Butte County is not as far along in the process of developing their plan. He said Shasta County has been sharing information to assist them in their development process.

Betty Cunningham announced a Drug Take Back event on April 24, 2021, from 10:00 to 2:00 pm, at Redding City Hall.

Jennifer Coulter asked Nikolai Orloff if he was headed off to college next year. He answered in the affirmative. Jennifer recommended a recruitment for another member be started. Tracie agreed and stated Twyla Carpenter will distribute recruitment flyers through her normal process.

9. Other business

Steve MacFarland stated the next quarterly meeting is **3:00 p.m., on Thursday, July 22, 2021.**

Tracie shared that Probation received a federally funded Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) grant for just over \$62,000. She said a portion of the grant dollars will be shared with Youth Options and the balance will be used for COVID related expenses for Probation including in the JRF.

Tracie announced Probation is holding its annual employee luncheon on May 7. She said during the luncheon they hand out several awards including the Vision Award which is given to an organization or individual who holds true to Probation's vision and mission. She said the award for 2020 will be presented Steve MacFarland. Tracie stated the Commission is invited to attend the luncheon to support Steve in receiving his award.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Twyla Carpenter

APPROVED:

Steve MacFarland, Chairman