

Juvenile Justice Commission  
Teleconference & GoToMeeting Participation Only  
Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order N-29-20  
Thursday, January 12, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

**Members Present**

Steve MacFarland, Chairman  
Betty Cunningham  
Kaitlynn Hancock  
Jennifer Coulter (Richards)  
Nikolai Orloff  
Joseph Hanna  
Cindy Vogt  
Barbara Van Dyke  
Susan Duncan  
Troy Foster

**Others Present**

Chelsey Chappelle, Probation  
Jeremy Kenyon, Probation  
Tracie Neal, Probation  
Erin Bertain, Probation

1. Call to order

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

2. Introductions

3. Minutes

Cindy Vogt moved to approve the meeting minutes for October 22, 2020; Seconded by Steve McFarland; Motion passed. 10 Ayes, 0 Noes; By roll call.

4. Probation Reports

a. Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (JRF)

Chelsey Chappelle reported the current population of the JRF is at 21 including three out of county youth, three youth pending placement, and 2 with a commitment to DJJ. She said the JRF has continued to work through COVID procedures and it's impacts. She reported staff who are interested have begun to receive their vaccines. Chelsey shared pictures of the de-escalation room and reported that it is now operational. She said the JRF assigned Clinician has done a lot of work with the kids and is very helpful. She reported the fine arts program is running on Sundays. She said the JAG grant has funded a sports program which is currently focused on basketball and will be expanding to volleyball.

She said Victor Community Support Services (VCSS) continues to provide individual cognitive behavioral therapy to the kids and are making good connections. She clarified these services are currently being provided virtually. She said school, however, is being provided in person. She stated the River's Edge Academy is making progress and will open in March. Jennifer Coulter commented on the excitement of the group about the opening of the River's Edge Academy. Tracie shared the River's Edge logo with the group.

Tracie said the state has decertified all group homes out of state which means more youth will be brought back to California and further impacting bed availability in the state.

Tracie said the JRF has been required to do response testing weekly for the last three weeks because of positive tests within the facility. She says it's been difficult because even though there have been limited numbers of actual positive tests, after they identify close

contacts, the impact is more significant. She said Deputy Probation Officers, and even Division Directors, who are Core trained have filled in vacant shifts when needed.

b. Juvenile Probation

Jeremy continued the conversation about the out of state placement situation. He said that Shasta County had one youth out of state and they were given 45 days to bring her back. He said a lot of work was done to find her a placement in the state. He explained the reason youth are placed out of state is usually because they have exhausted in state placement options.

Jeremy stated the lobby of the Juvenile Division has been open and closed multiple times over the last several months as a result in COVID. He said the state will be implementing a new program called the Family Urgent Response Plan (FURS) which is intended to preserve placements. He stated the program implements a hotline, available 24 hours a day, for youth who are currently or were previously in foster care. He said the youth can request someone to respond to the home to help correct whatever their issue is with their current housing situation. He said there has been an Interagency Leadership Team established that has been working on how the County will respond to these calls. He indicated the county will initially respond to the calls with a goal of contracting with a provider for the response after July 1.

Jeremy highlighted the IFWP Caseload. He said they have one youth scheduled to graduate on March 3. He said there are currently 10 youth on the caseload but another four are pending.

Jennifer Coulter commented on the amount of time spent on just the one youth who had to be returned from the out of state placement. She noted it's hard to provide stats on how much work is really done when the work is tied to so few youth. Tracie said for those youth who were stable in their placement, the transition back to California caused some additional trauma. She stated the concern is that these youth will end up sitting in Juvenile Halls because they can't find an available placement for them within the state.

Tracie reported that Probation has recently brought on a new extra help Probation Assistant who previously worked in the Juvenile Division as a AmeriCorps worker. She said there are not currently Deputy Probation Officer vacancies but work still continues to be done to hire Juvenile Detention Officer Positions. She reminded the group that 11 positions were added for the Academy and said there are still about four to be filled.

She explained a Juvenile Detention Officer must have completed Juvenile Correction Officer (JCO) Core in order to provide sole supervision to the youth in the facility. She said because Probation currently has 11 new officers needing JCO Core, the department is administering the class locally. She stated, while it's difficult to administer the course, it's beneficial to not have to send that many staff out of town for 4 weeks.

Susan Duncan asked about staff being vaccinated. Tracie reported about 25 staff were vaccinated today and 10 more will be scheduled on Monday. Susan asked about vaccinating the youth. Tracie said they are scheduled in a later tier.

5. Judge's Comments

None.

6. Reschedule the Inspection of Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility

Betty Cunningham reported that she and Jennifer participated and have submitted their report to Twyla. She said it took two days and she said she felt they didn't have enough time with staff. She suggested having structured questions in future interviews with staff so they can compare the input received. She said staff previously reported no advancement was available and stated they heard positive feedback about the implementation of a JDO III step for staff. Jennifer agreed

that uniform questions is a good idea. She said she enjoyed interviewing the youth. Barbara Van Dyke said she was impressed with the facility. Kaitlynn Hancock said staff said it made them sad that they didn't do special things for the youth on their birthday.

Steve commented it was nice to see that the implementation of a suggestion (promotional opportunity within the JRF) from last year's inspection and how much it's appreciated by staff.

Betty said the report she sent to Twyla included input from 3 of the 4 inspectors. Erin stated she would check with Twyla on the status of the inspection document.

7. Discussion Items

Tracie discussed the opening of the new courthouse and the effects on juvenile custody transports. She said the majority of the hearings are currently done via video conferencing and, when they do have to transport a youth, its typically to Department 9 which is completely separate from Departments 1 and 2. She explained the new courthouse will have a small area where both adult and juveniles who are in custody and have court hearings will be received. She said she has been engaging with the court to discuss how they can assure compliance with the sight and sound requirements as well as the safety of the youth.

8. Action Items

None.

9. Commission Member Comments

Jennifer Coulter left the meeting – 3:46.

Kaitlynn Hancock reported on the first virtual peer court. She said it went very well and will likely improve as they do more in this venue. Kaitlynn stated they used zoom and had 8 youth. Tracie explained that, because the judge participates and confidentially guidelines, Youth Options had to buy a special, more expensive version of Zoom.

Betty shared that the requirement to increase technology for programs for CBOs has been a challenge. She reported Chemical People has also transitioned to virtual programs and has incurred some significant expense as well.

10. Other business

Steve MacFarland stated the next quarterly meeting is **3:00 p.m., on Thursday, April 22**. He said they will look into other meeting places that could accommodate the social distancing.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58

Respectfully submitted,

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Erin Bertain

APPROVED:

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Steve MacFarland, Chairman