



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2023

1880 Wardrobe Ave, Merced 95341

Present:

Kalisa Rochester, Chief Probation Officer
Josh Pedrozo, Supervisor, District 2
Jami Johnson, Deputy Director
Kimiko Vang, Director
David Carr, Director
Nicole Silveira, District Attorney
Holly Newlon, Director
Nancy Murrillo, Core Program Director
Justin Meldon, Commander
Jesse Ornelas, Program Manager
Katalina Zambrano, Executive Director

Probation Department
Board of Supervisors
Human Services Agency
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Merced Rescue Mission
District Attorney
Merced County Office of Education
Aspiranet
LB Police Department
Youth Leadership Institute
LGBTQIA+ Collaborative

Others Present

Robert Pierce
Sarah Marsh, Director of Administrative Services
Beatriz Ramirez, Program Specialist
Sharlee Fragulia, Staff Services Analyst
Christopher Henn, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Joel Daffron, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Ben Rodriguez, Division Manager
Amber Phillips, Management Analyst
Dondi Lawrence

MCOE
Probation Department
Probation Department
Probation Department
Probation Department
Probation Department
Probation Department
County Executive Office
University of California, Merced

Not Present:

Vern Warnke, Sheriff/Coroner
Vincent Andrade, Public Defender

Merced County Sheriff's Office
Public Defender

Opening:

Chief Rochester welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am, and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the November 3, 2022, meeting were independently reviewed. Supervisor Pedrozo motioned, and David Carr seconded. There being no opposition, the minutes were approved.

Quarter Three Data Review:

Sharlee Fragulia reviewed the quarter three data.

- Current Juvenile Division organization within Probation
- Countywide Referrals



- Referrals by Agency
- Type of Offense
- Referrals Sent to DA – there was an increase in the number by month within the quarter due to the recent flooding and staff catching up when they returned to work.
- Referrals Diverted
- Supervised Cases
- Officer Activities
- VOPs Filed
- PACT Assessments
- Child Family Team Meetings (CFT-M)
- Program Referrals
 - Culinary
 - Graffiti Abatement
 - Learn.Inform.Network.Know (LINK)
 - RISE - Rise to Higher Grounds is ready for its soft opening after spring break. The kids and the coffee cart will be at various locations, and they can be invited to events. When the cart isn't mobile it will be parked across the street from Merced College at the culinary program location. If they're able to, Chief Rochester suggested getting tables at the site for a stationary location while the cart is parked.
- Bear Creek Academy Programs & Events
- JJCPA Operational Tracking FY 22/23. Sarah reported that quarter three expenditures were status quo. Quarter two fully expended the coffee cart allocation. There was an expense for the alarm system. They'll continue with the RISE program and they have some funding set aside for Lifeline CDC.

Vote to Confirm:

Katalina Zambrano has been regularly attending the JJCC meetings and attends as a representative of a community-based organization that provides direct services to youth. Chief Rochester moved to approve Katalina Zambrano as a voting member and Supervisor Pedrozo seconded. There being no opposition, Katalina Zambrano was appointed as a voting member.

Alyssa Castro previously represented Youth Leadership Institute (YLI). She is no longer with YLI. Chief Rochester motioned to remove Alyssa Castro as a voting member, and District Attorney Nicole Silveira seconded. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.

Jesse Ornelas will be representing the Youth Leadership Institute. Chief Rochester motioned to appoint Jesse Ornelas as a voting member and Supervisor Pedrozo seconded. There being no opposition, Jesse Ornelas was appointed as a voting member.

Program Updates:

Stephen Leonard Center – Probation still has the Job Development Training Technician from MCOE at the Probation site. The desire is to have the Job Development Training Technician at the center to provide services to all youth, not just Probation youth. The most recent plan is to place a modular building outside the center. The city knows that Probation has been waiting to get the program off the ground for the last year.



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Art Program – Probation has applied for an art program grant specifically for youth in juvenile hall. The grant is for \$50k, and Probation plans to match it with another \$50k for Youth Leadership Institute (YLI). Probation will partner with YLI who are already coming into the facility to provide groups. Probation wants to run an art program; different types of ways youth can express themselves artistically (music, writing, art medium, etc.). At the end of the cohort, they'll have an art show at the multicultural art center. Chief Rochester thinks it's a great way for youth to show the community that they can do other things. Then after the art center event, Jesse Ornelas will attempt to have the artwork displayed at City Hall. Nicole is interested in having their art displayed at the District Attorney's office also.

Chief Rochester motioned to set aside \$50k for the art program. Supervisor Pedrozo seconded. There being no opposition, the motion to set aside \$50k for Youth Leadership Institute for the art program is approved.

Probation is having some murals painted at the juvenile hall by Patti Pratt.

YOBG Plan - There are no major revisions to the plan, the only thing pending is the Stephen Leonard Center and adding YLI. The plan will be emailed to the group together with a request for an electronic vote to approve the plan. It will go to the board on 4/25/23. It's due to the state on 5/1/23. The JJCPA YOBG plan will be sent out to everyone to review with a request for the council to vote to approve. The JJCPA YOBG plan was emailed to the council on 4/7/23 for review and consideration. District Attorney Nicole Silveira motioned to approve, and Supervisor Josh Pedrozo seconded. By unanimous vote, the plan was approved.

Open Discussion

AB702 seeks to eliminate funding to probation for JJCPA and to remove the Probation Chief from the Chair position. California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) have submitted letters of opposition. The chief asked the group if they would consider or have their organization write a letter in opposition. It would be devastating if Probation were to lose that funding. Ninety-five percent of the JJCPA funds would go to a community-based organization rather than the funds going to Probation and potentially losing \$1.3M in funding. Probation would not be able to provide services.

Jesse Ornelas provided a quick update for the Stephen Leonard Center. The city's insurance just approved the modular building. Jesse will find out how long it will take to get Stephen Leonard Center cleaned.

Additional Agenda Items:

- The next Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council meeting will be held at the Juvenile Justice Correctional Complex.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes scribed by Priscilla Martin, Secretary III