



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Kalisa Rochester
Chief Probation Officer

**Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention
Commission Meeting Minutes**
May 24, 2023
1880 Wardrobe Ave, Merced CA 95341

Attending

Joe Hoffar, Chairperson
Kelly Bentz, Vice-Chair
Linda Levesque, Commissioner
Sheri Campbell, Commissioner
Ronald Evans, Commissioner
Anthony DiBella, Commissioner
Mark Bacciarini, Judge
Kalisa Rochester, Chief Probation Officer
Chris Henn, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Ben Rodriguez, Division Manager

Absent

Jermaine Paster, Commissioner

Guests

Michelle Jiminez

Call to Order

Joe called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and asked Kelly to take roll call. Roundtable introductions were made.

Approval/Additions to Agenda

Joe asked to add the swearing-in of Anthony DiBella to the agenda. Kelly motioned and Linda seconded. There being no opposition. The item was added to the agenda.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Swearing-In of Anthony DiBella

Judge Bacciarini swore Anthony DiBella in as a JJDPCC commissioner.

Approval of Minutes – March 22, 2023

Joe asked for a motion to approve the March 22, 2023, meeting minutes. Linda motioned and Sheri seconded. There being no opposition, the minutes were approved.

New Business

- Budget - Other commissions have a budget for things like annual awards, and other things. The Merced Commission used to do scholarships. Mileage can be reimbursed for things like driving to the hall for inspections and travel to Los Banos for outreach. The CPPCA Annual Training Conference with the BSCC is an item the commission should add to its budget for members to attend. Membership and recruitment (like ads, media, and literature) that the commission would need to recruit, miscellaneous costs, office supplies, etc. are all things to add to their budget. Joe wanted to bring this up so members can think of other ideas. What amount should members be asking for donations? Joe shared Riverside's budget as an example. The commission has a checking account, which currently has \$1,891.53. Since that isn't a lot of money, Kelly summarized that Joe is looking at creating an annual proposed budget. Probation also budgets for \$1,000 each fiscal year. There is \$436.19 remaining in their budget for the JJDPC available until June 30 of this year. The funds do not roll over to the next fiscal year. Joe read out loud, "...funds from the JJDPA often used to use state agency groups . . . funding can be used for a variety of purposes related to improving the juvenile justice system and preventing delinquency including planning, administration, technical assistance, research, training, etc." Joe suggested the commission write a proposal and see where that goes. Joe believes he paid around \$450-\$500 for the hotel and the conference but he could only afford to attend for one day. He suggested budgeting for the full three days of the conference for the commissioners interested in attending next time. Ron told everyone about the Give Back Better Pledge website and suggested the commission draft a proposal fundraiser to post online for donations. This will be an agenda item for next time after members have had a chance to do some research. The group discussed different organizations or ways to do outreach and fundraising. Judge Bacciarini will consult the JCC ethics council regarding fundraising for the advancement of justice on behalf of the JJDPC. When the JJDPC has its PowerPoint presentation ready, he would be happy to attend a service organization meeting to help make a pitch and introduce the commissioners. Everyone can email their suggestions to Joe. Joe and Kelly will discuss creating a budget for the commission.
- Voting for Chair & Vice-chair – Joe asked the commissioners to nominate and vote for the next fiscal year's officers. Sheri motioned to nominate Kelly as Vice-Chair, Anthony second. Kelly, Linda, and Sheri nominated Joe for Chair. Sheri seconded. The commission will hold off on voting for a Treasurer until after they have a budget. The members voted by paper ballot. The ballots were counted and by unanimous vote, Joe Hoffar was elected as the Chair and Kelly Bentz as the Vice-chair for the next year effective July 1st.
- Youth Advocacy Letter – The Youth Advocacy letter was sent to Joe by the Sonoma County JJC which is part of a California-wide task force trying to bring all the JJC/JJDPCs. Joe emailed their request to everyone a while back regarding legislation for AB403 and the Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP). He explained the letter said nothing has been

done at the STRTP locations for mental health needs, staffing challenges, education, etc. Basically, these homes don't have the training, personnel, support, etc., and kids are falling through the cracks. Ron thought to take a tour or walkthrough of the Merced County STRTPs before sending the letter of support. This is something the commission hasn't done yet. Joe advises sending the letter stating that Merced JJDPC supports more awareness of the legislation. The JJDPC could do its own inspection and send another letter of support with Merced examples and their inspection report. Judge Bacciarini believes the letter is well written. He fully supports Solano's letter. Chief Rochester reported Merced's status of youth placed in STRTPs. Probation can provide a list of current STRTPs that are being used. She encouraged the commission to read the licensing requirements and state requirements so they're well-versed before they perform inspections. Joe asked for a motion for the Merced JJDPC to send their letter of support. Anthony motioned and Kelly seconded. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.

Legislative Updates

Chief Rochester is on the Title 15 Executive Steering Committee for regulation revisions & the Committee for Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) regulation revisions. There are two different regulations for the population in juvenile hall. They were supposed to have them up and going in July, but that isn't going to happen. They came out with some emergency regulations that the BSCC pushed forward for the group to consider. They were not able to convene again after getting the regulations. The BSCC is very busy with LA County which is slowing the regulation revision progress. If the commission would like to see the proposed regulation changes, she can send it to them. Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) regulations are primarily focused on young adults versus Title 15 which is for youth. Historically, they never had youth over 18, but now they will have them up to 25 years old. They must have regulations appropriate for young adults. The revisions need to be completed to have some clear direction for the young people who will be in the facility for the next few years.

SB823 Update

Probation is working on softening a wing in the facility. They have \$1.4M to help make some of the rooms more dorm-like instead of institutionalized. Chief Rochester invited the commission to come out and tour the facility after the remodel. The commission decided their next meeting on July 26, 2023, would be at the hall.

Tablet program – the kids will be able to do video visitation, email, and vocational courses online. They can also do some self-help stuff. The kids can earn points for every pro-social thing they do on the tablets. The more points they earn the more they can watch movies, listen to different music, read E-books, etc. The tablet program should be up and running by July.

Old Business

- Update on Board of Supervisors (BOS) PowerPoint – Joe spoke with Jermaine earlier; he's all done with the PowerPoint except for the group picture. At the next meeting, everyone will wear their shirt and take a group picture. Sheri commented her shirt

didn't fit right. Joe will speak with Jermaine to get some female polo shirts made. Chief Rochester suggested Elite as an alternative as well. The commissioners told Sheri to just go to McNamara and get a shirt that fits her with the logo on it. The commission still has some money left on the books from Probation. They could purchase swag items for their table. The commission suggested items to purchase. Joe asked for a motion to approve Linda purchasing swag items for their events. Ron motioned and Sheri seconded. There being no opposition, the commission approved Linda purchasing swag items with the funds remaining on their budget from Probation.

- Update on Youth Directory – Anthony and Ron liked the small pamphlet booklet. They suggested using a social media platform as a directory for youth to access online. This would include Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, etc. since kids are always on their phones. The commission could also use its social media platform to promote local programs or resources. Anthony and Ron will make a PowerPoint of what the commission's social media page would look like and present it at the September meeting.
- Update on Surveys – The surveys were done in Los Banos & Merced during the Week of the Young Child. As a reminder, the commission was hoping the survey results would help them fine-tune their goals which would in turn help the commission identify which programs they wanted to offer or support. It was difficult to get the kids engaged in doing the survey. Linda then reviewed the survey results with everyone. Anthony suggested engaging with youth in areas that aren't necessarily community events. For example, he saw some kids hanging out at the skate park and thought those were the kids they were trying to get. Joe would like to keep the survey going. They'll continue to discuss what they thought about the survey results at the September meeting. Commissioners can also bring more suggestions to update the survey.
- Service Club List – The commission reviewed the Service Club List that Linda put together. These are opportunities for networking and fundraising.

Events

Keep an eye out for events that the commission can attend to get their message out. The Nut Festival at the fairgrounds is in October.

Open Discussion:

Joe invited Michelle to submit her application for the commission to consider. Joe added as they continue to get more people from other areas like Los Banos, they'll have to consider providing a virtual option for people to attend or even holding their meeting at the Breaking Barriers location in Los Banos.

Chief Rochester gave each commissioner a Probation Patch which will be shared with the rest of the department in June for Pride Month. They'll be sold for \$10 each to the public and the funds raised will be donated to the LGBTQ Collaborative.

Kelly shared that one of their church members donated funding for the youth drop-in program that they were attempting to get a grant for last year. They hired a youth coordinator. She'll bring more information next time. They'll try for the grant again.

The next meeting will be at the facility on July 26. The commission wants to keep the agenda light so they can take a tour.

Closed Session

Sharing Critical Incidents Update

- DC Henn reported on the critical incidents for the last month.

Grievances Filed

- tabled.

Stars

- tabled.

Adjourned

The next meeting will be on July 26, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at 2840 Sandy Mush Road. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Minutes by Priscilla Martin, Secretary III