



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council  
Meeting Minutes**

August 2, 2022, 9:00 am  
1880 Wardrobe Ave, Merced

**Present:**

Kalisa Rochester, Chief Probation Officer	Probation
Sarah Marsh, Director of Administrative Services	Probation
Lisa Maples, Deputy Chief Probation Officer	Probation
Joel Daffron, Program Manager	Probation
Zach Robertson, Program Manager	Probation
Beatriz Ramirez, Program Specialist	Probation
Sharlee Fragulia, Staff Services Analyst	Probation
Josh Pedrozo, Supervisor, District 2	Board of Supervisors
Justin Melden, Commander	Los Banos Police Department
Holly Newlon, Director	MCOE
Jeff Sabeen, Division Director	BHRS
Yvonnia Brown, Director	HSA

**Not Present:**

Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney	District Attorney
Vincent Andrade, Public Defender	Public Defender
Vern Warnke, Sheriff/Coroner	Sheriff's Office
Nancy Murillo, Core Program Director	Aspiranet
David Carr, Director	Merced Rescue Mission
Alyssa Castro, Program Coordinator	We'Ced Merced Youth Media

**Opening:**

Chief Rochester welcomed everyone and took roll call. There were not enough members present to form a quorum. The Chief called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes March 7, 2022:**

The minutes from the March 7, 2022, meeting were independently reviewed. A request to vote was sent by email on August 2, 2022, after the meeting. Jeff Sabeen electronically motioned to approve the minutes, and Yvonnia Brown electronically seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.



**Approval of Minutes Special Meeting April 14, 2022:**

The minutes from the April 14, 2022, special meeting were independently reviewed. A request to vote was sent by email on August 2, 2022, after the meeting. Jeff Sabean electronically motioned to approve the minutes, and Yvonnia Brown electronically seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Quarter 3 Data Review:**

Program Manager Zach Robertson presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Data. There were only three quarters of data (Quarters 2 through 4) presented since the information was captured after the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter (PowerPoint presentation attached herewith).

- Overview of the Juvenile Division - A total of 7 Probation Officers and 1 Probation Assistant is funded by JJCPA funds.
- Countywide Referrals
- Referrals by City - Supervisor Pedrozo asked, of the 340 cases in Merced vs. the other cities, why the Merced cases were so high. Merced has a higher population, and it might also have higher police activity. Supervisor Pedrozo would like to figure out what the root cause of the high number of cases is with Merced versus Los Banos's low number. Justin Melden stated the police department is staffed at 48 but they are down 15 officers. He's unsure if this is a contributing factor to Los Banos' lower number. Zach explained the data presented is Merced Probation's data. Justin will look into the issue; it might be a clerical issue. This would be a good opportunity to look at their data. He will have updated information for the next meeting.
- Type of Offense
- Referrals Sent to DA - Supervisor Pedrozo is interested in the data regarding time frames for referrals to the District Attorney's office. The Chief gathered that data and time frames were discussed.
- Referrals Diverted
- Supervised Cases
- Officer Activities
- VOPS Filed
- PACT Assessments
- Child Family Team Meetings
- Program Referrals
- Bear Creek Academy Programs & Events
- Community Based Programs & Events
- Mobile Coffee Cart - MCOE is working with Environmental Health. It passed the first inspection. The estimated completion was 3 months as of a month ago. They will have to take the trailer somewhere else to wrap it. They're utilizing some of the stuff from the old trailer that's been approved to put in the new trailer. They have to do the wiring, and the outside, and then they'll install the equipment. They'll have a DPO go with Tisha and the



kids when they go out into the community. They need to start securing areas where people and businesses would be comfortable having them stationed. Supervisor Pedrozo suggested the site across from the Administration Building next to the Post Office, Lorenzi's property. There has been some interest in wanting to have a food truck village there. This would be something to look into. Another location would be across from the college and other MCOE locations. MCOE will do some classes to train the DPOs to drive the trailer. Ten kids across the school year work in the trailer. The kitchen and trailer are small, so it looks like two kids at a time. Sarah reported they're repurposing the old trailer. They're going to have a community events trailer similar to the Sheriff for the two community events officers. They'll be able to take the trailer with them and have all their supplies available.

- JJCPA Operational Tracking - Sarah Marsh reviewed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter JJCPA budget
  - For final county expenditure costs, they were at \$1.124. \$100k is a re-budget for the trailer that is being repurposed. MCOE cost came to \$123k for the last fiscal year. The staffing cost of \$946K is for the 7 officers and 1 assistant shown at the beginning of the presentation.

**Coffee Cart Update:**

This item was reviewed during the data presented earlier.

**Stephen Leonard Update:**

The Chief requested an update from the city yesterday for an update. She saw the disaster van taking all the burned materials out. After the city finishes, Probation will go in and make it more inviting. If she's being optimistic, she doesn't anticipate being back in the building until January. Stephanie will provide an update sometime today. The Job Development Training Technician is stationed at the Juvenile Office. They're waiting to hire the Program Specialist and PSS until after the final budget. They will post the positions and then they anticipate after background checks they will hopefully join in December. Beatriz spoke about the Pathways to Success program that will be run out of the center. They're working towards having an established community member working out of the center to show that the center is a safe space to have programs/services run at the location.

**Personnel Update:**

This item was covered in the data presentation by Program Manager Zach Robertson.

**Program Updates:**

They received notification from the DJJ that they'll be getting seven kids back. The DJJ will close its doors officially on 6/30/23. Of the seven kids that they're anticipated to receive, 1 is a sex offender. They will reach out to Fresno County to contract with them for the youth. The annual cost to house the youth in Fresno County is \$135k per year. Fresno also has a female program. If Fresno will take the female, then the plan is to transition her back and then send her to Fresno. They're also in the process of contracting with Pine Grove fire camp for any youth who want to



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



work with CAL FIRE. When the youth exit, they will send them down to Ventura. After 18 months when they graduate they are CAL FIRE certified and they will be placed at a job. Pine Grove is cheaper at about \$96k a year per youth. However, they don't take sex offenders, females, or arsonists. For any youth interested in doing that Probation wants to foster that goal. Probation hasn't received its transition plan from the DJJ yet. The Chief anticipates that when DJJ has their review and the youth are retained to remain in custody, at that time they'll try to transition them back and get the plans then. Probation was slated to receive \$1.7M, but the state recalculated and now they're only going to receive \$1.1M (FY22/23). This amount will be recalculated every year. This makes things difficult when it comes to planning budgets and programs. The same as AB109 which seems more stable than SB823. They won't plan for anything until they see the funds and are actually funded because they had to move things around when they got the numbers. They voted on the strategies back in February but didn't get the actual numbers until July. They will keep everyone informed about SB823.

Today's Juvenile Hall population is currently at 27.

The first Annual Community Resource and Safety Fair is on Friday in Los Banos from 4:00 -7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**The next meeting is Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.**

Minutes scribed by Priscilla Martin, Secretary III