



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee
Commission Meeting Minutes**
August 10, 2022
Meeting In-Person

Present:

Kalisa Rochester, Chief Probation Officer	Probation
Sarah Marsh, Director of Administrative Services	Probation
Lisa Maples, Dep. Chief Probation Officer	Probation
Joel Daffron, Division Manager	Probation
Beatriz Ramirez, Program Coordinator	Probation
Sharlee Fragulia, Staff Services Analyst	Probation
Zach Robertson, Division Manager	Probation
Danielle Parga, Program Specialist	Probation
Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney	District Attorney
Michael Coughlin, Deputy Public Defender	Public Defender
Sharon Mendonca, Assistant Director	BHRS
Jeff Sabeau, Division Director	BHRS
Holly Newlon, Asst. Superintendent	MCOE
May Moua, Program Specialist	MCOE
Mary Whited, Coordinator	MCOE
Miguel Garcia, Specialist	OYCR
Dennis Haines, Supervisor	MCOE/Family Resource Center
Amanda Toste, Court Executive Officer	Merced Superior Court

Not Present:

Yvonna Brown, Director	HSA
Josh Pedrozo, Supervisor, District 2	Board of Supervisors
Kelly Turner, Founder	Symple Equazion
Jermaine Paster, Community Member	Students with Aspiring Goals

Opening:

Chief Rochester welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. She invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Minutes from April 27, 2022:

The minutes from April 27, 2022, were independently reviewed. A request to vote was sent by email on August 10, 2022, after the meeting. Holly Newlon electronically motioned to approve the minutes, and Kimberly Lewis electronically seconded. There being no opposition, the motion was passed unanimously.

Fiscal Year Review 21/22:

Beatriz Ramirez, Danielle Parga, and Sharlee Fragulia presented the 21/22 fiscal year data and programs within the JJCC (PowerPoint attached herewith):

- Demographics
- Offense Type
- Case Management Individualized Care
- Criminogenic Needs
- Well-Being (Behavioral Health and Recovery Services)
- Evidence Based Curricula
- Education & Training
- Education & Training – Ideas Questionnaire Results
- Family Engagement
- Community Engagement
- Programs & Events
- Realignment Block Grant

For fiscal year 21/22, the allocation was \$574,469 and the total budgeted was \$521k. They held \$200k for out-of-county contracts for those youth they can't place in the facility. This fiscal year the spending total was \$140,143, which left a trust balance of \$434,326. The 22/23 fiscal year proposed funding includes the MCOE contract, PBIS, the art instructor, Bitwise, transitional housing, the mentorship program (which closes shortly for the RFP), data evaluation, the consortium fee, and out-of-county placements at \$200k with some other services built in. Initially, they were expecting \$1.7m, however, the allocation came in at \$1.15m, so they had to readjust. The Program Specialist and PSS were factored in at a 6-month cost rate and the Wellpath DDP was estimated at a 6-month cost rate, which brought the total to \$1.25m. They are dipping into the trust for \$100k, leaving a \$325k balance. It's concerning they were under the impression they would receive \$1.7m from the state, only to find out the formula only allowed \$1.1m. The areas they had to pull from to adjust to the change in allocated funds include bringing in tablets and infrastructure to the JJCC which was a cost of \$200k, they shifted by paying out of the Ward Welfare Fund. Also, they had Probation Program Specialist and PSS and DDP fully funded, so because those positions weren't filled they were able to cut funding for those, which allowed a small decrease of \$1.2m.

Kimberly asked what areas were underspent in the last fiscal year. For 21/22 they were only scheduled to receive \$574k. Holly explains the MCOE budget included a 12-month instructor. Due to extenuating circumstances, it took a lot longer to get him on board. Between salary and benefits, it was \$100k. He just started this fiscal year. Those funds were set aside while he was clearing background. Kimberly asked how services were covered. MCOE supplemented with Pope who came in and provided construction with the kids.

They only had one secure track kid for the fiscal year, they added another one toward the latter part of the fiscal year. These funds are meant to be spent for the Secure Track youth. The money was there but had to plan with their partners to get everything together. Between COVID, and MCOE needing additional time to get the instructor cleared that accounted for the majority of the budget that was set aside in addition they wanted to hold funds back because knew they were going to receive seven youth back from the DJJ, two of which they will need to contract with out-of-county providers. They're hoping to go through the consortium. They've been in contact with Fresno County. Fresno is close enough for the youth's family to visit. Fresno County is going to have a sex offender treatment program. Fresno might have a female program as well. If they're able to contract with Fresno for those two youth, the annual cost is estimated at \$130k per youth per year. If Merced tried to run a sex treatment program, the youth would essentially be isolated because he'd be the only one versus contracting with Fresno, the youth would not be alone. It would be the same with the female. Merced has one female committed to the DJJ.

The other contract that's pending is with the Pine Grove fire camp. They came in at an annual cost of \$100k per youth. That will come with certain stipulations (can't be an arsonist, can't be a sex offender, good behavior, have to be within a certain amount of months from release). The benefit is if they leave Pine Grove in good standing, they would be sponsored to go to the fire camp in Ventura. When they leave they would be CAL Fire certified, and they would be eligible for CAL FIRE. The only downside looks like they just take cohorts. If they leave the camp in January and the next cohort starts in October, this would leave a lot of downtime.

For the remainder of the BSCC grant, they're still waiting for the solar kits to come in. There was a period of dead time when they were waiting for the BSCC to get the contract agreement back to Probation. Until they had the contract agreement in their hands, they couldn't order the solar kits. They're still waiting for the solar kits for a grant that was approved in the early part of 2021. Everything seems to be taking a substantial amount of time possibly COVID-related because of a lack of manpower.

They're planning for the DJJ youth to return in 2023. Five youth will come back to Merced and two they'll have to contract out. They need to be financially prepared to contract out with other counties even though they won't come until June.

DJJ Youth Discharging:

The Chief asks Michael if he's heard anything regarding the youth discharging. He expected 1 or 2 back already, but he hasn't heard anything. The DJJ connected with Probation to notify them which youth were being sent back. Probation will attend the case planning meetings for those youth. The Chief asked Michael if he wanted to attend those meetings. Michael indicated that Anthony would be taking over the youth side. He would ask Anthony if he wants Probation to send the meeting invites for the case plan meetings. There will have to be hearings for those youth.

Secure Track Commitments:

Lisa Maples reviewed the demographics of the current commitments. Three youths are in Secure Track, one has been in for six months, one has been in for a month, and the last one just got in. All three are Hispanic, ages 15 and 16. Time is from 4 years base term, 7 years and the max term is 9 years.

Update on Progress on Strategies FY/22/23

- The Stephen Leonard Center caught on fire four months ago. The city is working through the cleanup and repairs to be back to being inhabitable. Once done, Probation will need to go in and make necessary changes for staff to go in. The Peer Support Specialist and the Program Specialist will be at the center. Probation will have three early intervention community-based Deputy Probation Officers stationed there. The Job Development Training Technician at the center as well. He is here at this office and will work closely with Mr. Rodrigues assisting continuity of services for kids transitioning juvenile hall portion. The City has applied for a grant through the BSCC for Peer Support Specialists (what the city calls Credible Messengers). As everyone saw in the presentation, the budget for the Program Specialist and PSS will start mid-year. The City has not provided an update on the Center yet. Probation is using the JJCPA plan and YOBG plan and merging them with the Center. They will run the re-entry program in the early part of the day and then in the afternoon, they'll open it for the for officers to run an early intervention program. The majority of referrals received for the past three years have been runaway and truancy. They want to focus on CSEC and working with schools on truancy issues and families and provide resources and centers.
- They're still working with Wellpath to get the quotes for the additional positions that the group previously approved. One of which is the Dual Diagnosis Specialist. Wellpath has an equivalent position that they'll be able to provide a quote for. The County will pick up the cost for a licensed position, tele-psych, and psychiatric position. Wellpath has a mental health worker type of person, they'll provide a quote. Once those quotes come in Chief Rochester will update the group on the status of the contract.
- Probation will receive one-time funds from the state. The Governor set aside \$100m. They don't know how it will be allocated. The purpose of the one-time allocation is for infrastructure to make the facilities softer. Probation ordered Norwex furniture. They're working on softening the look of

Building 2. They also ordered individual cubicles for the youth working on computers to minimize distraction and allow them to have space to work on their assignments.

- They are working through a contract with DJ Pittenger. She will work with PBIS-involved staff.
 - The group discussed DJ Pittenger's qualifications. She worked with San Luis Obispo. There are a series of contract services she will provide. Everyone at the facility will need to take the training together so they're on the same page. Mary Whited asked to be invited to the training also.
- \$50k has been set aside for homeless youth. They're working on a contract amendment with Merced Rescue Mission so they can assist in ensuring no youth is released to a homeless shelter.
- Beatriz has been working with Dr. Roussos on the data evaluation piece. He will provide updates in the upcoming meetings. Once he starts implementing those evaluation tools, Probation is ready to go.
- Probation does not receive STC funding for Peer Support or non-sworn staff. Probation pays with no reimbursement; those funds are set aside from the budget. It is about \$800 per individual for the moral recognition training. The PSS positions are highly transitional.
- \$10k has been set aside for incentives which will probably be used through PBIS.
- The Coffee Cart is near completion. Environmental Health is working closely with the contract provider in Fresno. the group discussed the different ways to help support the kids and the cart in the community.
- Miguel Garcia with the OYCR expressed his thanks for the meeting invitation. He is interested in an in-person visit to the facility and coffee cart.
- May announced that Vice-Principal Mr. Mike Dixon started this week and the new teacher started in July. The two of them will be working together. May has heard positive comments from Straughter at the facility. Things are going well.

Next Meeting November 10, 2022.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Minutes scribed by Priscilla Martin, Secretary III