



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2023, 3:00 pm

Iris Garrett Juvenile Justice Correctional Complex
2840 W. Sandy Mush Road, Merced CA 95341

Present:

Christopher Henn, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Yvonnia Brown, Director
Kit Chang, Division Director
Todd McLean, Deputy Public Defender
Tom Min, Chief Deputy District Attorney
David Carr, Director
Mary Whited, ROP Coordinator
Nancy Murrillo, Core Program Director
Debbie Perez, Esq.

Probation Department
Human Services Agency
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Public Defender
District Attorney
Merced Rescue Mission
Merced County Office of Education
Aspiranet
Fitzgerald, Alvarez & Ciummo

Others Present

Joel Daffron, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Sarah Marsh, Director of Administrative Services
Beatriz Ramirez, Probation Program Coordinator
Sharlee Fragulia, Staff Services Analyst
Ben Rodriguez, Division Manager
Monika Grasley, Executive Director

Probation Department
Probation Department
Probation Department
Probation Department
Probation Department
LifeLine CDC

Not Present:

Vern Warnke, Sheriff/Coroner
Josh Pedrozo, Supervisor, District 2
Justin Meldon, Commander
Katalina Zambrano, Executive Director
Jesse Ornelas, Program Manager

Merced County Sheriff's Office
Board of Supervisors
LB Police Department
LGBTQIA+ Collaborative
Youth Leadership Institute

Opening:

Deputy Chief Christopher Henn welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Minutes from April 6, 2023:

The minutes from April 6, 2023, were independently reviewed. Director Yvonnia Brown motioned, and Deputy Public Defender Todd McLean seconded. There being no opposition, the minutes were approved.

Vote to Add Debbie Perez as a Voting Member:

Deputy Chief Chris Henn introduced Debbie Perez. She is an attorney with the firm Fitzgerald, Alvarez & Ciummo contracted to work with the Public Defender's office. Deputy Chief Henn motioned to add Debbie Perez as a JJCC voting member, and Deputy Public Defender Todd McLean seconded. There being no opposition, the motion was approved.



2022-2023 Annual Data Review:

Staff Services Analyst Sharlee Fragulia reviewed the quarter three data:

- Juvenile Division
- Countywide Referrals
- Referrals by Agency
- Types of Offense
- Referrals Sent to the District Attorney's Office
- Referrals Diverted
- Supervised Cases
- Officer Activities
- VOPs Filed
- PACT Assessments
- Child Family Team Meetings
- Program Referrals
- Graffiti Abatement Program
- Bear Creek Academy Program & Events
- Rise to Higher Grounds Café
- Lifeline Community Development
- Community Based Program & Events
- JJCPA Operational Tracking – Director of Administrative Services Sarah Marsh reported they finished the year with \$57,822 left over. Luckily, they expensed the entire coffee cart. They had to get a new generator and a few other things. The majority of the funding went to the community-based Deputy Probation Officers and the Bear Creek Academy. She then reviewed the 23/24 approved budget. There was an additional request from Lifeline CDC for \$50k, and if the group approves, the total allocation for 23/24 will be \$1.5M.

Lifeline CDC Presentation

Lifeline CDC Founder Monika Grassley has been working with the community for the last seventeen years. She explained the history of Lifeline, why she started the organization, and the impetus to create Lifeline to empower under-resourced communities to thrive. She's hoping to expand to three new sites: the Atwater Bellevue area, the Merced McNamara area, and the Weaver district area. She discussed the process they go through for starting a center in an area. First, they meet with community officials in the area to find out what the community wants. They map what assets the community may have, what they want to see in the community center, and the maintenance of the community center. She reviewed the timeline for creating the community center and spoke about the different things the kids learn about and participate in, like enrichment activities, community gardens, field trips, various presentations by different organizations, library bookmobile, and physical activities. They always partner with people because they don't want to replicate something that's already been doing well. They have mental health come in, and they even have Parks & Recs come in from time to time. They also help adults with their resumes.

Vote to Approve Lifeline CDC's Request:

Monika requested \$50k to hire one youth part-time person to help Lifeline and then start exploring more community centers and getting more young people involved from the beginning to help. Deputy Chief



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Henn motioned to approve the request, and Director Yvonnia Brown seconded. There being no opposition, the request was approved.

JJCC Tour:

Deputy Chief Henn gave a tour of the Juvenile Justice Correctional Complex's Building 2 and walked them through the plans for the E Wing.

Monika asked how Probation works to connect with families. Probation Program Coordinator Beatriz Ramirez said they host parent cafes and hold Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, and Division Manager Ben Rodriguez added they recently had five graduations where families were able to attend. GEO staff at the facility do things for Mother's Day and Father's Day with the kids. Probation Program Coordinator Beatriz Ramirez continued they also have Pathways to Success and work on family reunification.

Probation Program Coordinator Beatriz Ramirez said Merced College got the RFA. This allowed them to expand into youth centers regardless of numbers and will be able to provide the Golden 4 college classes in the hall. Deputy Chief Henn said they have ten kids in college classes.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Minutes scribed by Priscilla Martin, Secretary III