



Riverside County
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

Christopher Collopy, Chair
Paul Parker, Vice-Chair
Laurel Cook, Secretary

JDPC Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2023

Location: Rustin Conference Center
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

IN ATTENDANCE: Christopher Collopy, Paul Parker, Cynthia Magill, Laurel Cook, Pam Torres, Micheal Malsed, Jennifer Kopfler, Shannon Crosby, Emily Headlee, Daniel Castaneda, Tamara Alexander, Ramon Leija

Unexcused / Excused Absence: Charles Trembley (Excused)

Applicants: N/A

1. **Call to Order**
 - a. With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
 - a. Commissioner Parker led the pledge of allegiance.
3. **Roll Call, Welcome, Introductions and Special Recognition**
 - a. Roll call – JDPC Executive Assistant
 - b. All participants were welcomed by Chair Collopy and given the opportunity to introduce themselves (by name and title).
4. **Public Comment**
 - a. No public comment
5. **Motion to Approve Agenda:**
 - a. Motion was made by Paul Parker, seconded by Laurel Cook. Passed unanimously.
6. **Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes:** July 13, 2023, Monthly Business Meeting minutes..
 - a. The motion to approve minutes as amended was made by Paul Parker, seconded by Pam Torres. Passed unanimously.
7. **County Counsel Report: Emily Headlee**
 - a. No report
- 8A. **Probation Report - Daniel Castaneda, Division Director (SWJ)**
 - a. Updates:
 - i. RCP has separated YTEC females. There were nine (9) females on the day of the move. As of today, there are five. Two (2) of the nine (9) females were lost to Ricardo M custody. One goal has been to reduce the YTEC wait list.
 - ii. One goal has been to reduce the YTEC wait list. The list at one time was up to fifteen (15). There has been some unit movement at YETC. They took three (3) youth three weeks ago, three (3) youth last week, and three this week. Currently, they're at six (6) on the wait list, with plans to take another three within the next couple of weeks.
 - iii. DJJ youth in Indio. There are currently three (3) in Unit 4. They are compliant, yet, not doing too much programming. A couple of the youth feel like they've "been there, done that". They stated they would not cause problems, nor would they go above and beyond doing anything extra.
 - iv. BSCC inspection for the 2023/2024 cycle, taking place in October. Earlier this morning, we had a meeting with our state representative, Shay Molennor. She will visit Riverside County Juvenile Hall institutions on October 2nd, 9th, and 16th. The population counts for the three (3) Juvenile youth facilities.
 - b. Current Population:
 - i. One hundred fifty-eight (158) youth are being housed between the three (3) facilities, with plans today to move a few males from Southwest Juvenile Hall to Riverside. No reports of Covid-19 at any of the Juvenile Hall facilities.
 - ii. Indio Juvenile Hall (IJH) - Fifty-one (51) youth. 48 Detention, and 3 DJJ youth.
 - iii. Southwest Juvenile Hall (SWJH) - Forty-two (42) youth. Males: 36, Females six (6.)
 - iv. Alan M. Crogan Youth Treatment and Education Center (AMC-YTEC) - Thirty-four (34) youth. Males: 30, Females: 4.
 - v. Pathways (PTS) – Twenty-nine (29) youth.
 - c. Incidents: (June 2023)
 - i. Fights: Indio Juvenile Hall (IJH), total of six (6), fights. YTEC and Pathways combined, nine (9). fights. Three were in the girls' unit. They will split those females between the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), and Southwest Juvenile Hall (SWJ).
 - ii. Southwest Juvenile Hall (SWJ) had eleven (11) fights in June.



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- d. Critical Incidents: (June 2023)
 - i. Fight/Assault: One (1) youth suffered a medical emergency, and CPR had to be performed. The youth was taken to the hospital and released to return to the facility within a couple of hours. The group briefly discussed the incident, and Division Director Castaneda noted the investigation of the incident was still underway. Chair Collopy noted that in the past, the JJDC was notified immediately of such incidents. Director Castaneda would follow up regarding notifying the JJDC of such incidents with the Chief Deputy, and circle back to the commission.
- e. Further discussed:
 - i. Returning youth vs. youth listed as Pathway youth, Riverside is now at three (3) males and one (1) female. Three (3) of the youth who had court dates were not released.
 - ii. Increased Fights: Every thrown punch is considered a fight, counted as such, and taken seriously. Although several factors may contribute to fights, those fights have not been attributed to the returning of the DJJ youth. Moreover, as staff intervene rather quickly, most of the fights are over as quickly as they begin. Currently, probation is working with the District's Attorney's office on options for holding any accountable for assaults on staff.
 - iii. Unit one is approaching day 52 of 60 with no fights. As an Incentive, for thirty days they wanted and received pizza, and for the sixty days mark they requested and would receive Raising Cane.
 - iv. The three (Pathways) males, who continue to self-isolate. No longer self-isolating.
 - v. Questions raised on: Whether Probation offers any education programs for staff on gang culture, if pepper spray has been outlawed, and if there has been any attempt to liaise with Homeboy industries on post release. Director Castaneda noted there is some training available to staff on gang culture, and there are in-house semi-gang experts who share their expertise in their knowledge of area gangs. Pepper spray has not been outlawed, and Riverside county and neighboring counties still use pepper spray. As to the question regarding Homeboy industries, Probation has visited Homeboy industries, but Director Castaneda is unaware of any liaison between Probation and Homeboy industries.

8B. Probation Report: Special Services Division - Division Director, Shannon Crosby

- a. Youth Report:
 - i. The number of youth currently in placement is thirty-seven (37) youth in probation placement facilities. Two (2) of the thirty-seven are placed in the county, they placed the remainder youth outside of the county. Three (3) are in emergency placement, one (1) in FFA. Twenty-three (23) youth have dual status with DPSS placement, and thirty (30) take part in extended foster care youth.
 - ii. Extended foster care youth can choose where they want to live, and are not all placed within the country and live in a transitional housing program, and those would be in the state, or they may live in Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) greater selection of living options and a higher level of independence. Youths placed in county or out of county receive monthly visits by a county representative as mandated, and they also receive a six-month review in court as well.
 - iii. Additionally, if a youth is removed at anytime, e.g. violation of probation, the youth will return to custody, until a subsequent placement can be located. However, if a youth is removed because of allegations, e.g. unlivable conditions etc., they will transfer the youth to another placement without being taken into custody.
 - iv. Non-Minor Dependents. Youth who are between the ages of 18 to 21 in foster care on their 18th birthday qualify for extended foster care services. Typically, under DPSS jurisdiction, there are youth in foster care placement who are at least 17 years and five months who may have probation dismissed and transition to non-probation extended foster care (i.e., transition jurisdiction). Those youth will continue to be eligible for foster funding (stipend) and foster care placements. Most Probation youth under placement orders under 18 are under mandatory placement and not voluntary.

9. DPSS Report: Jennifer Kopfler, Deputy Director

- a. DPSS Overview: Highlights
 - i. The property DPSS was securing is under escrow. Formerly known as The Welcome Center, and will now be known as Harmony Haven. Formerly known as Childhelp, and the property is being purchased in its entirety.
 - ii. Harmony Haven will reduce the need for as many hotels as DPSS has throughout the county. There will be a need to separate some of the youth, and some hotels will still be needed, but most will be mainly on a campus. The census remains at approximately forty (40) each night, DPSS is unable to find placement.



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- iii. Students who are in foster care face unique challenges in maintaining educational stability, due to finding placements, and sometimes youth are often transported some distance. DPSS is striving to bring tutoring services to the campus to assist with keeping youth up to date with educational credits.
 - iv. Partnering with other agencies e.g. Behavioral Health, School Districts, and independent living, and tutoring services to have on campus.
 - v. A brief discussion ensued on “Hard-to-Place” Foster Child, and the various reasons, and length of time youth awaiting placement. It was noted several agencies are involved to maximize the networking possibilities for the youth based on their individual needs, so the length of stay varies. Additionally, discussed were efforts explored by DPSS to improve placement.
 - vi. Director Kopfler also mentioned that, because the commission requested the list of current SRTP 's, it gave them an opportunity to see they had a much higher percentage of the placements that are available to them in riverside county that are being utilized by other counties. They intend to look at all contract language, and change the language to reflect that Riverside county is given first preference, along with adding emergency beds to contracts.
 - vii. Briefly discussed, other counties paying a premium, bed holds, foster homes right to refuse placement, hotel incidents that have taken place, staffing cases, hiring as many people as possible, in the process of an RFP for an external staffing agency to staff the Welcome Center and Harmony Haven’s environment/Continuum of Care Model that’s nestled in the mountains.
- b. DPSS Report Overview: Highlights and Breakdown of July 2023 (Report Provided in Packet).
- i. Statistics In the report, there has been an expected increase in incoming investigations now that schools are back in session.
 - ii. Director Kopfler briefly reviewed the data report. She noted they are hovering at about 5200 youth that are dependent children, and just over 3000 that are in out-of-home placement. The other seventeen (17) to nineteen (19) are in family maintenance with their parents, so they're adjudicated cases and dependent youth, and are not in out-of-home care. There are still about 3200 in out-of-home placements. other counties are accessing such a greater percentage of placements with Riverside county.
 - iii. She noted DPSS plans to review the contracts, to the bottom of how other counties are accessing such a greater percentage of placements with Riverside county.

10. Presentation: Restorative Justice Program – Tamara Alexander Ph.D., Co-Director, Mediation & Restorative Justice Clinic

- a. Highlights of “Restorative Justice Program” Presentation:
 - i. Ms. Alexander, provided an in-depth overview and background of the Restorative Justice Program. The program offers an alternative route to finding justice, bringing together the court, the District Attorney's Office, the police and probation departments, and students from the Dispute Resolution for Juveniles Clinic to provide restorative justice services to Riverside County. In this program, students work creatively to provide a safe and meaningful platform for open communication and mediation between victims and youth
 - ii. Restorative Justice is an approach to justice that aims to get offenders to take responsibility for their actions, to understand the harm they have caused, to give them an opportunity to redeem themselves, and to discourage them from causing further harm. For victims, its goal is to give them an active role in the process and to reduce feelings of anxiety and powerlessness.
- b. Methods:
 - i. Victim-offender dialogue
 - ii. Family group conferencing
 - iii. Restorative conferences
 - iv. Circles of Support and Accountability
 - v. Sentencing circles
- c. In closing, after taking several questions from participants, Ms. Alexander walked through each of the questions and provided answers.

11. New Business:

- a. Group Home / STRTP / Lockups / Juvenile Institutions / BSCC (Inspections)
 - i. Scheduling of Lockups inspection: Commissioner Malsed and Vice Chair Parker volunteered to complete the Lock-ups Inspection.
 - ii. Scheduling of Juvenile Institutions: IJH, and Indio Pathways (Unit 4), Inspecting commissioners Parkèr and Cook. SWJ, Inspecting commissioners, Collopy and Parker. YTEC, Pathways, and Detention, and Placement, Inspecting commissioners, Collopy, Parker and Cook.



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- iii. Scheduling Group Home: Scheduling of group homes will be at a later date. DPSS will provide a current group home / STRTP inspection list for the scheduling of this year's group home inspections.
- iv. Further discussed was Community Care Licensing (CCL) facility locator. Information can be obtained about each licensed facility, often including facility inspection reports, citations, and violations. Director Crosby will provide the website information to the group after today's meeting. Additionally noted, DPSS's Harmony Haven is not a placement facility.
- v. A brief discussion ensued about Narcan in group homes. It was noted that foster homes, and group foster homes, are not mandated to carry Narcan. Riverside County can only recommend group homes to carry Narcan but, only CCL can mandate them to do so. Noted, was that anyone could carry Narcan. It's very easy to find, and widely available with little or no training.
- b. School Violence Reporting Inconsistencies; Next steps: Commissioner Malsed
 - i. Chair Collopy gave a brief rundown of the increase in school violence. He further briefed the commission on the conversation he and Judge Petersen held regarding the increase in violence that prompted the letter that you see in your packet to Judge McLaughlin.
 - ii. The response from Dr. Edwin Gomez, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, Riverside County Office of Education, had a very thorough list of where to go to find the information requested.
 - iii. Next steps: Commissioner Malsed, receive actionable steps that schools are taking to develop a comprehensive, targeted violence prevention plan and create processes and procedures. The letter is to be vetted by the commission at today's meeting, and sent to Riverside Unified School District Superintendent and other school districts. Once the JJDPC receives a response from Riverside Unified School District. Commissioner Malsed will keep the commission abreast of any response received at the next scheduled JJDPC meeting.
 - iv. Further conversation ensued on definitions and standards of how school violence is defined. A broad definition encompasses various forms of bullying, aggression, fighting, threats, and weapons offenses.
- c. Commissioner Recruitment:
 - i. Conversation ensued about changing the current JJDPC recruitment flyer, as the flyer did not seem to capture the attention of the JJDPC target audience. It was noted that one of the best ways to recruit volunteers is to ask friends and family if they or someone they know might want to volunteer.
 - ii. Ramon Leija, Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), noted that there is interest within the OYCR to provide assistance to the county commissions in their recruiting efforts. The OYCR will notify county commissions, letting them know that using the OYCR social media platform can be one way of reaching a larger, diverse population.
 - iii. Probation, Public Relations department, has already agreed to assist with creating a new flyer, Once, the new JJDPC flyer has been created, it will be forwarded to Mr. Leija, to add to the OYCR social media platform. Mr. Leija additionally, noted that recruiting is a common issue across all county commissions, simply due, to the fact that it's a volunteer position, and that makes for a difficult task. Moreover, he noted that the OYCE will also be asking for each county commission to provide their annual reports.
 - iv. Chair Collopy, inquired if the OYCR could carry school violence issues forward to see what type of feedback is received from other county commissions. Mr. Leija is happy to touch base, with the commission on how they would like to move forward.
 - v. Commissioner Cook noted that while attending next months CPPCA conference, she will broach the subject with other commissions and discuss how other their counties are handling recruitment.
- d. Recruitment efforts are underway, utilizing Probation's
 - a. Brief overview of letter, and previously discussed.

12. Correspondence Discussion:

- a. No new correspondence this month.

13. Activities of the Commission:

- a. School Violence
 - i. Previously discussed
- b. Anti-Trafficking
 - i. No updates
- c. By-Laws/Policies/Procedures
 - i. By-Laws completed and uploaded to the Probation website, under the JJDPC Tab, and will no longer appear as an agenda item.



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- d. Ad-Hoc Legislative Committee:
 - i. No updates
- e. JJCC Activity:
 - i. Due to of a lack of a quorum, The last Quarterly JCC meeting was cancelled, and rescheduled two weeks later, where several things were accomplished.
 - ii. A sub-committee was established to analyze the effectiveness of CBOs across the county, and how services can be more effective all across the country. The sub-committee will look at where CBOs are currently providing services. Currently, services are very Riverside city centric, and the activity in the east county is really not being addressed.
 - iii. On behalf of the JJDPC, commissioner Laurel Cook will join the sub-committee, and will report back to the JJDPC, on the CBO coverage across the county. The subcommittee will include several CBOs, and chaired by the JJDC. Noted, Director Kopfler will send a regional list of CBO's, that are used by DPSS to ensure equity across the county.
 - iv. Ramon Leija (OYCR) – Southern California County liaison, provided a brief run-down of passage of Senate Bill 823, which transfers the responsibility of the California Department of Juvenile Justice to counties providing housing and treatment.
 - v. Mr. Leija summarized the work he's being doing with the OYCR, e.g., meeting with the JJC, JJDPC, Public Defenders Office, Community Partners from across the state, and the sub-committees of counties that are tasked with creating The Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) plans. He noted that, under Senate Bill 823, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) operates within the California Health and Human Services (CalHHS) Agency.
 - vi. Additionally, Mr. Leija provided a brief background of his own life experiences that led him to where he's at today, e.g., incarcerated at a Riverside county juvenile detention center at 17, for armed robbery, Paroled out of Ventura County where he served a year and a half in their fire camp, and returned to his hometown in Riverside county, post incarceration, a felony conviction and a strike. Unable to find work, he volunteered, connected with the Boys and Girls club, worked for the Boys and Men of color, worked for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the state level. During his time there, he graduated from the University of California, Riverside. Became a representative for the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom for two years, and eventually, moved on to a career with the OYCR.
 - vii. In closing, Mr. Leija responded to comments and questions raised by the participants and noted that the Riverside County JJDPC collaborative efforts are impressive. He encouraged the group to reach out to him if they had any further questions.

14. Old Business:

- a. Youth Justice Committee Meeting (Zoom Call) Update:
 - i. There was a motion to postpone indefinitely, seconded by Paul Parker. Without objection, the agenda item was adopted as postponed indefinitely.

15. Commission Member Reports:

- i. No other reports were provided.

16. Adjournment:

- a. There was no further comment from Commission members or attendees. The Chair thanked all for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2023, JJDPC monthly meeting cancelled. Commissioners will attend an off-site training session this month. The next regularly scheduled monthly JJDPC meeting will be on October 11, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. (following the 9:30 a.m. JJDPC Quarterly meeting) 2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507 (Room # TBD).