



**Riverside County
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission**

Christopher Collopy, Chair

Paul Parker, Vice-Chair

Laurel Cook, Secretary

JJDC Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Christopher Collopy, Paul Parker, Cynthia Magill, Laurel Cook, Pam Torres, Charles Trembley, Jennifer Kopfler, Emily Headlee, Lori Wilson

Unexcused / Excused Absence: Michael Malsed

Applicants: Amanda Wade

1. Call to Order

- a. With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 12:50pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Accepted from JJDC Quarterly Inter-Agency Meeting

3. Roll Call, Welcome, Introductions and Special Recognition

- a. Accepted from JJDC Quarterly Inter-Agency Meeting

4. Public Comment

- a. No public comment

5. Motion to Approve Agenda:

- a. Motion made by Pam Torres, seconded by Charles Trembley.

6. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes: August 10, and July 13, 2023 (Monthly and Quarterly) meeting minutes.

- a. Motion made by Charles Trembley, seconded by Paul Parker.

7. County Counsel Report: Emily Headlee

- a. No report

8. Probation Report – Lori Wilson, AD (SWJH)

- a. Current Population:

- i. Accepted from JJDC Quarterly Inter-Agency Meeting

- b. Updates:

- i. Juv. Hall Halloween contest will all be on Tuesday, October 31st. Commissioners are welcome to take part in the judging.

a. YTEC / PTS contest at 12 noon.

b. SW Juv. Hall contest at 2:00pm.

c. Indio Juv. Hall contest at 4:00pm.

- ii. New Door Readers: Probation was provided a demonstration on a new door reader system that manages door control and monitoring. The system uses either a bar-code or plastic reader for each door and is like a phone. The youth's picture and name can be displayed, which can help prevent missed checks. The old door reader system was prone to malfunctions and failures, which resulted in additional work for the officers. Each malfunction required an incident report, which further added to their workload. However, the new system is more efficient and accurate. It can record, take pictures, store information, and track in real-time. This will help reduce the extra work caused by malfunctions and improve accuracy.

- iii. Vital Bracelet Series - The first generation of the Vital Bracelet Series is a thick leather bracelet with a buckle and a small circle similar to a watch, and can monitor youth's vital signs, e.g., blood oxygen, heart rate, blood pressure, etc. It also can detect if someone's heart stops beating.

The second generation of the Vital Bracelet Series will have some new features, and will become available in January 2024. Appropriately, 50 vital bracelets will be piloted at SW juvenile Hall, Wi-Fi is needed for the Vital Bracelets to work, and SWJH, has Wi-Fi available. Vital Bracelets are currently being utilized in some adult facilities.

- iv. Noted juvenile facility nursing staff currently check vital signs of youth, vital bracelet devices will be voluntary for youth who are willing to participate, and will not be mandatory. Additionally, Riverside county would be the first to use the vital bracelets on juveniles. Currently, vital bracelets are only being used in adult facilities.

9. DPSS Report: Jennifer Kopfler, Deputy Director

- a. DPSS Report Overview: Highlights and Breakdown of September 2023 (Report Provided in Packet).

- i. Review of Response Priority Rates (Breakdown) - The report includes information about the response priority time that DPSS responds initially to reports, as well as the total number of reports that required an in-person investigation, which was 3,759. The breakdown of response times includes a 10-day response and a 5-day



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response, which was added to capture the highest risk with younger youth, typically serious injury or risk younger children under the age of five.

- ii. Immediate Response - The command post is a 24-hour operations center that handles immediate response after normal business hours. Two years ago, the structure of the command post region was changed to expand its capability to respond to all immediate responses, enabling the operational regional social workers to focus on pending investigations.
 - iii. Continuous Quality Improvement Efforts - The SDM tool, or Structured Decision-Making tool, is an evidence-based tool used for structured decision making at every stage of the investigation process, from the time a call comes into the hotline to ongoing services. The SDM tool is used to determine the response based on safety risk factors and to assist with fidelity and worker bias. The hotline screener has their own set of tools, which are used to go through a list of questions and determine the screening decision. The SDM decision-support tool promotes safety and well-being for youth, and combines best practices to offer workers a framework for consistency in key child welfare decisions.
 - iv. Breakdown of Abuse Types by Region (September) - Breakdown of abuse types by region throughout the county for the month of September. The report provides numbers and rates of children with one or more reports of abuse or neglect. It is important to note that sometimes one child in the family will have different allegations. One child may be the only one that had physical abuse, but the others are at risk and possibly neglect allocations.
 - v. Additionally noted, the reason for the small number of investigations is the addition of the mobile strike team, comprising three roving investigators that can assist regions that have exceeded their investigations and caseloads. This team has been on board for about a year and can jump in and absorb the extra workflow for that region and then move on to triage who they're going to assist each week.
 - vi. Exiting /Closing Dependencies - In September, there were about 200 closures of dependencies, with most cases closing because of reunification. There were eight adoptions in September. At the end of the month, DPSS will hold two big ceremonies for Indio Court and Riverside, where about 48 adoptions will be finalized. Noted, DPSS always holds adoptions on Saturdays, and they welcome as many people to come out and join in the celebrations of the adoptions.
 - vii. Placements of Dependents Categorized by Facility Type (Review) - Roughly half of the kids in care are with relatives or non-related extended family members (Kinship placements), while the other half are in foster family Agencies (FFAs), with a very small percentage in STRTPs and other placements within Riverside County and outside of Riverside County.
- b. Harmony Haven Children and Youth Center (Update)
 - i. DPSS expects Harmony Haven to be fully operational today, with the opening of the third cottage to accommodate an influx of kids that came in last night. Once fully open and operational, the cottages will allow access to approximately 43 children. Discussed was the smaller Bolo court property retained prior to Harmony Haven, which can accommodate 1 to 3 youth. Bolo court can also be used to isolate a particular teen or teens with higher needs.
 - ii. Equally important to note, hotels will continue to be used for youth with specialized and/or higher needs, behavioral issues, and mental health challenges as safety precautions for the rest of the children in the unit. The staffing needed to support those youth depends on the number of children placed in hotels, and the needed support would depend on the specific needs of the children.

10. New Business:

- a. JJDP Commission Reappointment
 - i. Commissioner Chair Collopy is seeking reappointment/extension of his term as JJDP commission, ending November 22, 2023. Noted for the record, Chair Collopy has submitted the proper documentation for his reappointment/extension of his term, beginning on November 22, 2024.
 - ii. Commissioner Cook motioned to support the reappointment request, seconded by commissioner Trembley. The ayes have it, and the motion carries.
- b. JJDP Inspections - Group Home / STRTPs / Juv. Institutions / BSCC Lockups
 - i. The annual inspections for all juvenile institutions are all scheduled, and arrangements for scheduling the remaining annual inspections for Group Home, STRTPs, and BSCC Lockups are still in process. We expect the scheduling for these inspections to be wrapped up next week.



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- ii. Further conversations ensued on the JJDCP/BSCC inspections of the Secure Detention of Minors in Lockup institutions. Noted during the inspections, commissioners review programs designed to address juvenile issues, menus for nutritious, well-balanced meals, safety, and other areas of concern. We report the results of the inspections in writing to the presiding judge of the juvenile court and to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). The California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) follows up with the institution when there are areas of concern.
- iii. Briefly discussed amongst the group was the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDCP) inspections of group homes and Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs) as part of their review process. However, these inspections are optional and not mandated, and the JJDCP is not required to conduct them.
- iv. Lori Wilson, AD (SWJH), informed the group, the BSCC will visit Riverside County Juvenile Hall institutions on October 2nd, 9th, and 16th.
- c. JJDCP Applicant (Meet and Greet) – Amanda Wade
 - i. Commissioner Trembley motioned to move forward with Ms. Wade, commissioner's application for membership. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion. The ayes have it, and the motion carries. Ms. Wade's application will continue to move forward through the membership and background processes.

11. Correspondence Discussions:

- a. Response from Riverside Unified School District (RUSD) – Regarding School Violence
 - i. Tabled until December's monthly JJDCP meeting.

12. Activities of the Commission:

- a. School Violence:
 - i. Chair Collopy tabled the school violence agenda item until the December 2023 monthly meeting. Commissioner Malsed, who is spearheading School Violence, is not in attendance today due to completing JJDCP inspections. Additionally noted, Commissioner Malsed is actively researching the response received from Raúl Ayala, Director of Pupil Services at Riverside Unified School District (RUSD), regarding school violence.
- b. Policies/Procedures: Chair:
 - i. The JJDCP bylaws have been amended, and no longer need to be addressed under the activities of the commission. Therefore, the bylaws will be removed from the agenda until further notice.
- c. Ad-Hoc Legislative committee:
 - i. None. Commissioners will continue to take on the role of bringing relevant legislation to the committee.
- d. JJCC Activity:
 - i. The quarterly JJCC meeting next month will include a discussion on the establishment of a subcommittee to cover CBO effectiveness in the county. Commissioner Cook will sit on the committee representing the commission and will have a hands-on approach. One issue the subcommittee will look at is revising how CBOs are being compensated. Noted that the establishment of a subcommittee to cover CBO effectiveness in the county shows that there is a focus on improving the juvenile justice system and the role of CBOs in it.
- e. DPSS Liaison:
 - i. Ms. Kopfler will provide DPSS updates during her DPSS report. The DPSS Liaison no longer needs to be addressed under the activities of the commission. Therefore, the DPSS Liaison will be removed from the agenda until further notice.
 - ii. Briefly discussed, was that Harmony Haven is an emergency transitional shelter that is under the Title 22 licensing. It is not a placement facility for children in care.
 - iii. Ms. Kopfler invited the commissioners to attend the upcoming Riverside County Community Partners Forum. The Riverside County Community Partners Forum is an annual gathering of public, private, and nonprofit service providers throughout Riverside County with the purpose of increasing collaboration in serving the children and families of the County. The upcoming forum is being held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023!

13. Old Business:

- a. Review of Mileage Reimbursement Instructions (Revised) Handout Provided
 - i. Item 3 (Back Up Documentation). The revision request, that when submitting claims to the JJDCP EA commissioners are to provide the back-up documentation, e.g., copy of agenda, sign-in sheet, inspection reports with signature(s) etc., within 30 days of the meeting/event. Noted, providing back up documentation within the 30 days can help ensure we process claims in a timely and accurate manner.



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b. JJDC Annual Awards Ceremony - 2024

- i. The JJDC Annual Awards Ceremony - 2024The JJDC Annual Awards Ceremony for 2024 will take place on May 16, 2024, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The CAC location, and last year's musicians, has already been reserved, and additional planning is underway to ensure another successful awards ceremony for 2024.

14. Commission Member Reports

- i. Commissioner Torres and commissioner Trembley provided a brief review of the Harvest Safe Haven For Boys' inspection. Commissioner Trembley noted Administrator Lachelle Fenison, expressed an interest in attending the JJDC quarterly meeting, and commissioner Trembley extended the invitation for her to attend.
- ii. Commissioner Cook discussed a new pilot program in California that seeks to end the incarceration of girls and young women. The program is being piloted in Santa Clara County and has expanded to other counties, including Imperial County, Sacramento County, and Los Angeles. The program provides support to girls and young women instead of incarcerating them.
- iii. The commission provided no additional reports.

15. Adjournment

- a. The Chair declared the adjourned by unanimous consent.

Next Meeting: November 09, 2023 @ 1:30 pm
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507 (Room # TBD)