

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 2, 2023, AT 2:00 P.M.**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Host Location:** Rustin Conference Center, 2085 Rustin Avenue, Conference Room 1051, Riverside

**1. Call to Order – Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chief Probation Officer Christopher H. Wright at 2:03 p.m.

Roll call of the members was taken. The following representatives were present:

Chris Wright, Chief Probation Officer, Chairman  
James Krachmer, Correctional Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Department  
Dr. Michael Gunther, Riverside University Health Systems, Mental Health  
Christopher Collopy, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Committee  
Frank Assumma, Deputy Chief, City of Riverside Police  
Joelle Moore, Deputy Public Defender IV, Public Defender's Office  
Jared Haringsma, Assistant District Attorney, District Attorney's Office  
Marcus Walls, Juvenile Director, Riverside Superior Court  
Jeffrey Greene, Chief of Staff, Board of Supervisors First District  
Norma Biegel, Operation Safe House  
Cesar Gomez, StudentNest Foundation  
Cynthia Prewitt, Carolyn E. Wylie Center  
Dr. Mona Davies, Community Outreach Ministry  
Marc Sakoda, Nathanael Foundation

In attendance but not present during roll call:

Bridgette Hernandez, Department of Public Social Services

**2. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2023, Meeting**

Chris Wright entertained a motion to approve the March 20, 2023, minutes of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) meeting. Motion to accept the minutes was seconded by Dr. Mona Davies. Minutes were approved.

Oppositions: None

Abstentions: Marcus Walls, Riverside Superior Court

**3. Approval of JJCC Bylaws (handout)**

After review of the Amended JJCC Bylaws handout an error was found on third page under Article VI Officers the following section d) was added but *missing* from some of the packet handouts:

*"d) If Chairperson or Acting Chairperson is unable to participate in the meeting due to a discussion or action that would constitute a conflict of interest, the Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDCP) shall preside over the Council meeting."*

Chris Wright read the missing section d) aloud and presented the handout to all council members for their review and approval. All members present reviewed the added section. There were no

questions from council members. Chris Wright entertained a motion to approve the Amended JJCC Bylaws with section d) added. Norma Beigel made the motion to accept the Bylaws and was seconded by Joelle Moore.

Oppositions/Abstentions: None

#### **4. CBO Term Dates**

Chris Wright explained when the Bylaws were first approved on January 13, 2020, there was no start date or effective date specified for our CBOs who are already voting members at that time. As such, it is recommended the council approve the January 13, 2020, date to be used as the term start date for those applicable CBOs: Operation Safe House, StudentNest Foundation, and Carolyn E. Wylie Center and rotate off in January 2024. Similarly, the first, second and fourth district CBOs will also rotate off in 2024 as they will have completed their second term. The Probation department will work with the district supervisors to have CBOs appointed and identified for approval at the appropriate meeting date. There were no questions from council members and no questions from the public. Chris Wright entertained a motion to approve the term start date for the applicable CBOs: Operation Safe House, StudentNest Foundation, and Carolyn E. Wylie Center to be identified as January 13, 2020. JJDPC Christopher Collopy seconded. The Council approved unanimously.

Oppositions/Abstentions: None

#### **5. A Community-Based Approach for Youth Justice System Services Workgroup**

##### **a. Review Goals**

Based on the approval of the proposal submitted on behalf of Jitahadi Imara the workgroup was to build a working framework and recommendations and bring back to the JJCC on the following goals: reconsider the allocations of the JJCPA funds; increase the availability and capacity of community-based approaches; recommendations to the JJCC for unused funding and programming; data tracking and accountability for all JJCC programs will be done by a contracted vendor with the pending RFP.

##### **b. Suggest Parameters**

Establish a workgroup that is Brown-Act compliant and is aware of pertinent factors that may impact the overall goal. All applicable partners participate in a Brown-Act Training that is provided by County Counsel. Have a Fiscal representative serve as a liaison to communicate relevant information regarding county processes and procedures. Encourage participation and commitment.

##### **c. Determine number of members**

It is respectively recommended the workgroup consist of three members of the Community Based Organizations/Public, one member from the JJDPC, and three members from County agencies. It is also recommended to have LaToya Thomas help coordinate and facilitate the workgroup.

##### **d. Identify members**

We want to get the workgroup up and running as soon as possible and ask if anybody wants to volunteer and participate in the workgroup now. There were no CBOs at this time. Public members Rebecca Acevedo and Van Houston were interested in participating. From JJDPC, Chris Collopy will participate. If there is someone within your organization that is a good candidate, and you would like to consider them that is fine too. If there are members and the public that do not

have a copy of the approved proposal, we will get it re-disseminated and reconvene and vote at the November meeting. Chris entertained a motion to re-vote at the November meeting. JJDCPC Chris Collopy seconded. The Council approved unanimously.  
Oppositions/Abstentions: None

**Council Comments:**

Norma Biegel would like more information to take back to her board of directors so they can decide. What is the mission and commitment of the workgroup.

**Public Comments:**

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned the information was presented to the council at the last three meetings and encouraged anyone that has questions to reach out to those organizations that directly worked on the proposal to provide some clarity. On behalf of the CBOs that are not present today it would be in our County's best interest to reach out to those organizations regarding their presentations.

**6. Subcommittee Update**

**a. CBO Review Ad-Hoc Committee**

**LaToya Thomas, Division Director, Riverside County Probation**

Since the last meeting in March the CBO Review Ad-Hoc Committee has not met due to scheduling conflicts; however, we continue to move forward our efforts getting a meeting on calendar.

**b. SB 823**

**Monica Rose, Division Director, Riverside County Probation**

The Juvenile Justice realignment annual local plan was submitted on July 7 and included updates regarding the transition of youth from DJJ to Riverside County. The closure of DJJ was effective on July 1. On June 26, Riverside County Probation received a total of four DJJ youth (3 males and 1 female) and all have been transitioned in a secure track setting.

- Riverside County Probation is seeking two community members to be part of the SB823 Subcommittee. These individuals should have experience providing community-based youth services, are youth justice advocates with experience and knowledge of the juvenile justice system or have been directly involved in the juvenile justice system. Said individuals will assist in researching and developing resources, services, and programs for youth and their families within the juvenile justice system, both in and out of custody.
- The term will expire July 2025.
- Link to the application - <https://rivcoprobation.org/sites/g/files/aldnop236/files/migrated/pdf-ijcc-JJCC-Application.pdf>
- Applications are due by September 5, 2023, and must be emailed to Supervising Probation Officer Kathy Arias, [karias@rivco.org](mailto:karias@rivco.org), and CC Monica Rose, [mrose@rivco.org](mailto:mrose@rivco.org), and Bryon Hansen, [brhansen@rivco.org](mailto:brhansen@rivco.org).
- The voting of said members will take place at the next JJCC meeting on November 13, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

**Public Comments:**

Rebecca Acevedo thanked Monica for the update and appreciates the transparency regarding SB 823. I have experience working on SB 823 back in 2017 and excited to hear that you are currently accepting applications.

## **7. Status of Council Plan and Survey / GAP Analysis RFP**

### **Jessica Holstein, Administrative Services Manager, Riverside County Probation**

The JJCC approved the ability to go out to bid for the Request for Proposal (RFP) to accrue services which include the GAP analysis, evaluation services and a strategic plan on July 18, 2022. Since the last report out on March 20, 2023, the JJCC subcommittee reviewed the initial draft RFP scope of work in January; however, there was an additional request from the JJCC subcommittee to have a second review. Probation received and reviewed the second round of edits in April. Probation's dedicated Procurement Contract Specialist (PCS) continued with drafting the final documents needed to post the RFP which Probation received in early May. Since May Probation's dedicated PCS went out on FMLA leave which has caused delays in posting the RFP to the County's Purchasing website. County Purchasing is currently assessing workloads of staff to identify which PCS will be assigned to facilitate the RFP. County Purchasing is currently reviewing the draft and researching all necessary criteria prior to posting the RFP. Based on the prior timeline there is still about 145 days left on the RFP which would adjust the timeline to mid-March of 2024.

## **8. Public Comments**

Elisa Judy introduced herself as the Chief Deputy over Juvenile Services and will be the Chief Deputy attached to the JJCC. As the Probation Department and Chief work towards filling the vacant Board of Supervisor district's representatives, this will include a recommendation to fill the vacant CBO Drug and Alcohol Program as stated in the Bylaws under Article V Membership. If anyone knows of any organizations that fit this space, please reach out to Elisa or LaToya Thomas.

Jeannette Sepulveda introduced herself and the organization Inland Southern California United Way. Thank you for the Grant provided to Inland SoCal 211. Inland SoCal 211 has gone through various mergers covering much of Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties and most recently the Desert with the merger of United Ways of the Desert. We have grown our service area and services. 211 offers many resources and direct services. We have peer mentors from the adult re-entry population who offer case management along with re-entry services such as training, supportive services, employment services and housing services. We also offer direct services such as Cal Fresh applications, Medi-Cal application submissions, transportation, and the Riverside Crisis Helpline along with resources for a myriad of assistance. We have re-branded TEMPO to Youth Connect and have opened it up to the general public for those families, counselors or anyone in the community looking for Diversion programs for a fee. We currently have over 2500 agencies in our database with over 4000 programs, we ask that anyone who has a program to please connect with 211 to have the program in the database available to our community whenever needed we are a 24/7 contact center that can be reached by phone, text, or chat.

Van Houston, Locked In Inc. We are a new grassroots organization comprised of people passionate about mental health awareness, substance abuse and treatment and social justice. We are focused primarily on three pillars: Communication, Education, Action. Our services include motivational interviewing, educational three-month curriculum that engages young people, and provide alcohol and drug counseling. We believe we can help the community solve a lot of problems with our personal experiences and system impact. Our programs are currently found in

two prison facilities and facilitated by rehabilitated system impacted individuals. We are new and continue to network across the community and government agencies sharing our vision and goals.

**9. Council Comments**

Norma Biegel reported there are beds available at Operation Safe House if anyone is interested in learning about our programs, please contact me. Goal is to try and reach out to more community agencies including the Sheriff and Police Departments. Operation Safe House serves youth ages 11-17 and youth that are on informal probation. Operation Safe House does not take CPS youth or youth on formal probation. Norma will be available after the meeting if anyone has any questions.

**10. Adjournment**

Chris Wright thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

An attendance sheet was signed by all present and will be kept on file.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Executive Secretary Bryon Hansen