



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

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

JJDPC Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 09, 2023

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Christopher Collopy, Paul Parker, Laurel Cook, Pam Torres, Cynthia Magill, Jennifer Kopfler, Emil Fischer, Rachel Ligtenberg, Shannon Crosby, Emily Headlee, Melissa Cushman, Michael Gunther, David Adlington

Unexcused / Excused Absence: Micheal Malsed (Excused), Charles Trembley (Unexcused)

Applicants: Amanda Wade

1. Call to Order

- a. With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 1:32 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 – JJDPC Executive Assistant
- b. 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 Laurel Cook, seconded by Paul Parker

6. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes: October 12, 2023, Monthly Business Meeting minutes.

- a. The motion to approve minutes as amended was made by Paul Parker, seconded by Pam Torres.

7. County Counsel Report: Melissa Cushman

- a. No report

8a. Probation Report (Institutional Services) Emil Fischer, Assistant Division Director (IJH)

- a. Current Population:
 - i. Indio Juvenile Hall is comprised of 48 males and a single female. The female is transient and had a court appearance earlier today. It is probable that she will either be relocated or set free.
 - ii. Southwest Juvenile Hall currently has 46 male and 9 female youth, 10 pending placement and 45 pending court.
 - iii. YTEC and PTS combined total of 36 males and 4 females. Specifically, PTS had 28 males and 1 female. Encouragingly, six youth have found employment outside of the facility. As furloughs are ending, things are moving towards a post-COVID phase where external services and activities are slowly starting up again.
- b. Incidents: (October)
 - i. IJH had no escapes or suicide attempts. But there were six fights, possibly due to new clients and facility rotation. However, the good news is that the number of fights seems to be decreasing. IJH had no assaults on staff.
 - ii. SWJH there were five incidents of fights reported, and no instances of anyone escaping.
 - iii. YTEC and PTS both encountered two fights each, with two incidents in October where staff members were attacked. One attack was unprovoked, while the other occurred during a disturbance with a client who failed to comply with directives. The individuals involved in these incidents have been removed from the program, and charges have been filed for the unprovoked attack.
 - iv. SWJH experienced an incident where they had to utilize the Emergency Treatment Services (ETS). The situation was effectively managed, and the youth involved safely returned to the facility without any harm.
 - v. The YTEC facility noticed that some of the youth who returned from jail had gained a higher level of criminal knowledge. Upon their return, they attempted to bring in prohibited items such as contraband and pruno into the facility, testing their chances of success. However, the facility's managers, line staff, and seniors were aware of this and took appropriate action. Regular meetings are now held among the staff to minimize and quickly address such activities among the youth in the facility.
 - vi. The drug test incident during recent inspections, the review of facility videos to determine how contraband entered, the importance of short sleeve shirts during visits, the discovery of psychotropic medications affecting drug tests, and the implementation of the Tek84 body scanner for the PTS program were all discussed.
 - vii. Additionally, the discussion covered handling facilities reaching operational capacity, the ratio of new and seasoned staff at Indio and YTEC, and the department's efforts to recruit and hire more staff. Training for new staff was also emphasized.



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- viii. Chair Collopy asked Director Ligtenberg and Administrator Fischer to convey to the leadership that the commission desires a monthly report, either in advance or during the meeting, to monitor the information provided by Institutional Services such as population count, fights, incidents, and so on.
- c. Updates: (October)
 - i. IJH Pathways to Success (PTS) unit is integrating the DJJ returnee youth who were impacted by the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) shutdown. At present, only one of the three DJJ youth has been released, while the other two are still in custody. IJH is optimistic that they will be released before the year ends. It was observed that the two DJJ youth who are still in custody have not been involved in any altercations, and as a result, they are being given a 90-day "no fight" support incentive.
 - ii. IJH has three youth with Ricardo M. time, six youth are facing private placement, one is awaiting a referral to the Pathways to Success program, one is deemed unfit, and there are 36 youth with Youth Court status.
- d. Projects:
 - i. The Indio Juvenile Wi-Fi project is currently in progress. Conduits are being installed and various technological equipment is being relocated. The installation of the new fire alarm sprinklers is around 50% complete. Moreover, the Indio Juvenile Hall is currently replacing its security camera system. The new cameras will provide film footage and archival storage. This task is approximately 35% complete.
 - ii. The new Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse is still in progress, and the construction is gradually advancing.

8b. Probation Report (Special Services Division) - Division Director, Shannon Crosby

- a. Youth Report: Overview and Updates
 - i. At present, 31 youth are under Special Services supervision. Among them, three are staying with relatives while awaiting resource family approval. Furthermore, one youth is residing in a foster family agency home, and the remaining 27 are placed in congregate care, and have dual status with DPSS as the lead agency, and there are 29 non minor dependents who are in extended foster care. It is important to mention that one youth is placed in county.
 - ii. Riverside County has 32 licensed facilities, but not all of them are suitable for probation youth or accept them. The conversation persisted about the reduced probability of probation youth being placed in foster homes and the suitability of such placements, for instance, in the case of teenage mothers.
 - iii. The topic of placing youth in foster homes on probation and the chances of them being accepted was further discussed. The suitability of the placement was also a point of discussion. For example, in the case of a juvenile sex offender, there are specific facilities available for them to receive the required treatment.
 - iv. A work group was created during the strategic planning session with DPSS to discuss placement options. Currently, the focus of this work group is to improve our support letter committee. This committee is responsible for issuing letters of support to individuals who are looking to open an STRTP or foster family agency. These letters are required by the host county or the county planning to place youth in the facility.
 - v. The STRTP process has been acknowledged as overwhelming, but it is a necessary step to obtain a license through community care licensing. There are ongoing efforts to simplify the process and make it more efficient, which will encourage more applicants to apply. Ultimately, this will lead to more homes being available in Riverside County.
 - vi. The discussion also covered foster parents who are willing to care for our 602 youth. It was mentioned that there are unmatched resource families; however, efforts in recruiting unmatched homes have not yielded significant results. It was also mentioned that an unmatched home refers to a situation where someone in the community contacts us to express their interest in becoming a foster parent specifically for Riverside County. Once they have completed the required procedures, it is up to them as foster parents to decide whether to accept or decline the opportunity to foster the child.
 - vii. Since May 2020, a total of 518 establishments throughout the state have made the decision to either close their doors or opt out of transitioning from group homes to STRTPs. As of October, the number of remaining facilities has dwindled down to just 349, affecting both Probation and child welfare.
 - viii. Furthermore, private group homes do not have to be STRTPs and are authorized to accept private insurance. As a result, there are currently 351 group homes that remain as group homes and exclusively accept private insurance. In some cases, school districts may also refer youth to these homes. However, probation and child welfare agencies are unable to place youth in these homes due to the lack of necessary licensing. If parents have insurance coverage, alternative options will be explored instead of placing the child in foster care. In these situations, a foster care placement order will not be issued. Instead, a more innovative approach will be taken by releasing the child into the custody of their parents. It is also important to note that these private group homes are not eligible for title 4E funding.



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9. DPSS Report: Jennifer Kopfler, Deputy Director

a. DPSS Overview: Highlights

- i. DPSS celebrated their 100th anniversary in September and recently completed 100 adoptions last Saturday. The adoptions were divided between the Indio and Riverside courts, with about 70% taking place in Riverside and just over 30% in Indio. This resulted in approximately 68 adoptions in Riverside and slightly over 30 in Indio. Additionally, there were 16 adoptions in October.
- ii. In the month of October, the hotline received 5800 calls. Of those, 3,515 calls were investigated. Hence, the number 3,515 is displayed for October, along with the detailed breakdown of response categories.
- iii. Harmony Haven has seen a small decrease in numbers. In September, they had around 43 teenagers that they couldn't find a place for. By October, the number went down to 32, and at one point, it reached 29.
- iv. The discussion briefly touched on nine or ten youth who are currently staying in hotels. These youth present a challenge in finding them a suitable placement due to their history of sexual or violent behavior, which could be a risk to others.
- v. Although it's not ideal to have youth staying in hotels, it's a reality that's faced every day. Sometimes, they only stay for a night, while other times they may be moved to the Bolo Court house depending on the needs of other children. The Bolo Court location can house up to six youth.
- vi. The discussion also highlighted the difficulty of managing three separate sites, which led to the addition of approximately 260 staff members to the team. It's worth noting that these staff members are not currently handling any case loads.
- vii. DPSS is currently seeking an agency to take over staffing through an open RFP. While the search continues, DPSS is working alongside Seneca, who offers on-site services and supports with coaching, training, and administrative assistance to staff.
- viii. Additionally, DPSS is establishing partnerships with other agencies to expand their services, including transportation to school.
- ix. Furthermore, DPSS is in the final stages of finalizing a contract with Moving Mountains to involve them in their efforts. They have also hired a cook for daily cooking responsibilities. It's important to note that there are no schools, therapists, or medical facilities at Harmony Haven. Instead, transportation is arranged for the youth to attend school and medical appointments, and staff administers required medication. Substance abuse groups also visit the site to provide treatment.
- x. Director Kopfler was asked by Chair Collopy, if the commission could plan a visit to Harmony Haven. Director Kopfler responded by expressing her warm welcome to the commission's visit and requested them to provide their availability. It was mutually agreed that the visit would take place after the first of the year.
- xi. Visiting retired teacher David Adlington, hailing from California and now residing in North Carolina, shared his insights and experiences as a foster youth provider. With a background in working with young people, including those in the juvenile justice system, David graciously expressed his thoughts through multiple comments. Additionally, he discussed his ongoing adoption process for one of his former foster youth, highlighting his dedication to providing a loving home.

b. DPSS Staffing Overview:

- i. DPSS is always in the process of hiring new staff members. Upon being hired, they undergo a 13-week induction training before moving on to the training region where they handle various caseloads for three months.
- ii. As part of their induction training, new staff members are exposed to different agency stations such as courts, forensics, and RUHS. They also have the option to volunteer at Harmony Haven after completing their induction training and while in the training region.
- iii. Currently, DPSS has 405 staff members on board, with a goal of reaching 610 and approximately 150 in the pipeline. However, they do experience attrition with an annual rate of 23%. In September, they lost 7 staff members, and in October, they lost 13.

c. DPSS Report Overview: (Report Provided in Packet).

- i. The DPSS data report was examined to uncover any instances of abuse in different parts of the county. This analysis provides a comprehensive overview of the data specifically for the month of October. The subsequent section of the report focused on children who have left care, revealing 16 adoptions, 59 reunification's with parents, 14 cases of emancipation, and 7 instances of guardianship establishment.
- ii. Currently, there are a total of 5,078 dependent children in open cases for placement. Out of this number, approximately 2,900 children are in out-of-home placement, which represents slightly over half of the total.



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- iii. Additionally, the report included pie charts that showcased the distribution of facility types. The data for children in out-of-home care totals 2,900. Within Riverside County, 841 youth are placed with relatives, while 313 are placed with relatives outside of the county. In total, 11,154 youth are placed with relatives.
- iv. The number of youth in FFAs amounts to 1300, with a breakdown of slightly over 1000 FFA placements within Riverside County and 305 placements just outside of Riverside County. Additionally, there are currently 118 youth placed in STRTPs, with 32 located within the county and 86 placed outside of the county.

10. Behavioral Health Report: Michael Gunther, Administrator

- a. Behavioral Health Highlights:
 - i. Behavioral Health is working closely with the probation department to ensure that treatment services are tailored to meet their specific needs. These services are categorized into various tiers, including Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3, which align with the levels of care offered at juvenile hall, YTEC, and Pathways. As individuals advance through these programs, additional services are incorporated to support their progress.
 - ii. Behavioral health has been collaborating closely with probation and the Cal Aim initiative. They are working on determining the approach and establishing connections. Behavioral Health has already established a connection with Probation's Pathways to Success Program. Moreover, Behavioral health has linked probation youth to some of the behavioral health services as youth transition into Behavioral Health's New Life Clinic.
 - iii. Behavioral Health is now using the Change model for the Pathways to Success youth, which was adapted from the DJJ model.
 - iv. It was noted that youth who are leaving the facility are connected to services through Behavioral Health. YTEC also collaborates with children's facilities to ensure a smooth transition when they leave to make sure they are connected to services and to provide a warm handoff.
 - v. To wrap up, Mr. Gunter discussed the issue of hiring Substance Abuse counselors for YTEC. He mentioned the challenge of finding candidates who can successfully go through the background check. At the moment, there is a potential candidate being screened. However, Behavioral Health is tackling this issue by enlisting volunteers from the Adult side who are interested in volunteering on the Juvenile side. These volunteers are currently working at YTEC and SWJH. Furthermore, Behavioral Health is also providing training to their clinical therapists, who will be able to handle Substance Abuse cases effectively.

11. New Business:

- a. Inspections (Group Home / STRTPs / Lockups / Juvenile Institutions / BSCC)
 - i. Chair Collopy highlighted that inspections this year were ahead of schedule.
 - ii. Commissioners were provided the lockup inspections carried out by Commissioner Malsed to review and approve. The only anomaly was the report from Moreno Valley PD, where there were instances of youth being held for longer than the standard six hours. Specifically, there were incidents of 7 hours and 16 minutes, 8 hours, and even 7 hours and 30 minutes. Commissioner Malsed was not provided with any explanation for these incidents and there was no record of any reason.
 - iii. Commissioner Malsed has suggested in a letter to Moreno Valley PD that they should implement corrective measures to address this issue in the future and establish an internal monitoring process. A preliminary letter will be prepared and presented to you in December for your approval, ensuring that it encompasses all necessary aspects.
 - iv. Two matters were further discussed: the incorrect last inspection date for the Beaumont PD and the absence of Commissioner Malsed's signature on the Hemet PD report. Following that, the Chair proposed a motion to approve the inspection reports for Beaumont, Hemet, Moreno Valley, and Corona PD's with the required modifications. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
 - v. The inspection dates for New Beginnings Residential Treatment Facility/Shalom House in Perris, Community Access Network in Riverside and Parris, and Blythe PD have been scheduled for November 14th, November 21st, and January 24th respectively. Additionally, inspections for YTEC, Pathways, SWJH, IGH, and Pathways at IGH have been completed, and we are now waiting for the reports from the inspectors.
 - vi. The commission continued their discussion on whether or not the Riverside PD was scheduled for inspection by the BSCC. However, the BSCC list did not show any indication of an inspection for the Riverside PD. Commissioner Collopy requested that the BSCC data be reviewed to confirm that there were no oversights and to report any findings to the commission.
 - vii. After it was discovered that there were no youth held at Riverside PD's, the conversation shifted to where they were being sent now that juvenile hall is no longer an option. The possibility of youth being sent to County instead of being processed for juvenile hall was brought up. It was suggested that this could be related to recent law.



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changes that prevent youth under 18 from waiving their Miranda rights and require advisement from The Public Defenders office within two hours.

- viii. Chair Collopy asked Director Ligtenberg to reach out to Director Castaneda for further clarification on the matter. The clarification will be discussed during the December meeting.

12. Correspondence Discussion:

- a. No new correspondences this month.

13. Activities of the Commission:

- a. School Violence
- i. Tabled
- b. Anti-Trafficking
- i. Tabled
- c. By-Laws/Policies/Procedures
- i. The commission has made a decision to remove By-Laws/Policies/Procedures from the agenda items and will only address them when necessary.
- d. Ad-Hoc Legislative Committee:
- i. AB505 passing has resulted in OYCR taking over the responsibility of governing and inspecting secure track facilities. The inspections will bring in new criteria, but the standards for these inspections are yet to be established. This may lead to changes in the objectives and goals of the entity in our correctional setting. OYCR has approached Riverside County, Chief Wright, to collaborate and work on the guiding documents and inspection points, and has also reached out to other entities to ensure diverse perspectives. However, this is still in the early stages.
- ii. Chair Collopy has made a request for the JJDC to invite our OYCR representative, Ramon Leija, to our next meeting to provide the commission with more details regarding AB505 and the role of OYCR in inspections of Secure Track facilities.
- e. JJCC Activity:
- i. The JJDC is a member of the JJCC and reports back to the Commission on its activities. The upcoming Monday meeting will address important matters, such as the future of Pathways To Success (PTS) and its governing community. Chair Collopy has recommended that the JJDC be given a seat on the sub-committee which Laurel will fill. Although the JJDC had previously missed out on the opportunity to join the subcommittee, they are now expressing interest in being represented and will provide more information after the meeting.
- ii. A subcommittee has reviewed the RFP responses for a county-wide review of CBO services and submitted their findings to purchasing. The progress and results of this review will be discussed at the upcoming JJCC Quarterly meeting on Monday.
- iii. The conversation continued regarding the identification of service areas and the necessary services. It was acknowledged that the desert region is in need of services. Additionally, it was mentioned that the RFP assessment on CBO coverage will include information on service areas and will be presented at the upcoming JJCC quarterly meeting on Monday.

14. Old Business:

- a. None

15. Commission Member Reports:

- a. No 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: December 14, 2023 @ 1:30 pm
Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507 (Room TBD)