



JJDPC Quarterly Inter-Agency Meeting
Minutes
April 11, 2024
Location: Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1)
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

IN ATTENDANCE (In-Person): Christopher Collopy, Paul Parker, Laurel Cook, Pam Torres, Amanda Wade, Tammy Wilson, Bruce Fordon, Daniel Castaneda, Elisa Judy, Shannon Crosby, Joelle Moore, Allison Donahoe-Beggs, Cynthia Magill, Janine Moore, Ramon Leija, Lynette Jones, Jennifer Smith, Frank Assumma, Michael Belknapp

Guests: N/A

Applicants: Patricia Watson

1. Welcome / Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

- a. All participants were welcomed by Commission Chair Christopher Collopy.
- b. Vice Chair Paul Parker led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Roll Call / Announcements

- a. Roll Call:
 - i. Roll call of organizations and commissioners.
 - ii. With the presence of the quorum, the meeting was initiated at 9:35 am.
 - iii. Chair Collopy underscored the importance of the JJDPC Quarterly Inter-Agency meeting for newcomers, stressing the necessity of exchanging programmatic updates, tackling obstacles, and garnering advocacy backing. Additionally, he encouraged attendees to articulate any legislative issues impacting their respective organizations.

3. Approval of: July 11, 2024, Agenda

- i. Motion to approve agenda made by V.C. Paul Parker, seconded by Secretary Laurel Cook.
- ii. Chair Collopy confirmed the affirmative vote: The ayes have it and the motion accepted.

4. Approval of: April 11, 2024, Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- i. Motion to approve minutes made by V.C. Parker, seconded by Commissioner Wade.

5. Probation Report: Special Services Division (Field Services) - Division Director, Shannon Crosby

- a. Youth Report:
 - i. Division Director Crosby conducted a review of that data statistics as of April 1, 2024. The report indicated that there are 25 youth placed in STRTPs, with 1 youth being Probation lead dual status, 17 in extended foster care, and 27 dual status DPSS lead youth. Presently, there are no youth placed in the county. One youth was placed in Olive Crest for the JSO program, which is no longer offered, so the youth was moved to San Bernardino to complete the program.
 - ii. The commission asked for more details on the placement of Riverside County youth outside the county. Division Director Crosby discussed various counties where youth are placed, such as Monrovia, San Bernardino, Chino Hills, Oakland, and Mariposa County. It was mentioned that the placement of youth depends on their specific treatment needs and the willingness of facilities to accept them. Furthermore, it was noted that a portion of the dual status youth are placed in Riverside County as well as various other locations across the state.
 - iii. Further discussion centered on the examination of protocols for opening residences in Riverside County, which brought to light challenges related to licensing requirements and city approval of STRTPs in different cities. Additionally, it was highlighted that difficulties may arise during the application process, as STRTPs are required to have six months of income upfront due to payment delays. The evaluation and adjustment of processes to repatriate youth to Riverside County, as well as engaging STRTPs from other counties to encourage them to consider establishing an STRTP in Riverside County, thereby ensuring that local youth can stay within the county, were also key focal points.
 - iv. The commission emphasized that, during targeted inspections, youth reported encountering fewer difficulties when they are away from their hometowns and previous neighborhoods. Additionally, the commission observed that the proximity of multiple facilities owned by a single proprietor appears to offer financial benefits for STRTPs, enabling them to share staff and gain a competitive edge over standalone STRTPs. It was observed that certain circumstances do present challenges for some STRTPs, leading to the closure of several facilities facing difficulties.
 - v. The group discussed Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM) meetings for youth and families to have a say in youth placement. They also addressed STRTP hearings post-placement, family reunification visits funded by Probation. Monthly data gathering and dissemination for CWS and state reporting on foster youth and Probation Foster Care youth were emphasized.
 - vi. The conversation also covered the essential visits for juveniles placed outside the county. It was stressed that Probation must carry out home visits for at least fifty-one percent of the time every other month. Probation conducts home visits on a monthly basis, which involves inspecting the facility grounds, ensuring the living conditions are satisfactory, checking food availability, and verifying the posting of outing schedules, among other



things. Although these visits do not amount to a comprehensive audit like the one conducted by CCL each month, they do include basic inspections. Furthermore, it was mentioned that there is a probation officer placement monitor within the department who performs annual facility inspections.

6. Riverside County Probation (Field Services) - Chief Deputy Probation Officers (CDPO), Elisa Judy

a. Overview / Highlights

- i. CDPO Judy provided an update on Riverside County's acceptance into Georgetown University's Transforming Juvenile Probation event. The program aims to collaborate with teams from different states to reform probation approaches on a system-wide level. The Riverside County team will include members from Probation, Public Defender, Juvenile court Judge, and a probation youth participant. The Georgetown event is scheduled for June 10-14, 2024, and will be held in Washington, D.C. Probation intends to organize tours of the Capitol and the White House for the participating youth.
- ii. The JJCC has given the approval for an RFP for a Community Lead Diversion program that will prioritize prevention services. The proposal will soon be made public, with further details to follow in due course.
- iii. Probation is currently engaged in the process of an RFP specifically for supportive services. CDPO Judy is unable to provide extensive details on the scope of the RFP that has not yet been disclosed. However, the focus will be on the ongoing support of our community-based organizations and on providing services for At-Promise youth who have not yet entered the system. This is to ensure that parents and schools have access to necessary services throughout the county.
- iv. CDPO Judy emphasized the attendance of Probation at the Riverside County Joint Provider meeting, during which RUHS distributed Narcan to those interested and offered guidance to group homes on the process of obtaining Narcan.
- v. CDPO Judy announced and highlighted the partnership between Probation and DPSS in the System Improvement Plan (SIP) that received approval from the Board of Supervisors (BOS) last Tuesday.
- vi. The group briefly discussed the juvenile on probation who will be attending the event for the Georgetown University Transforming Juvenile Probation Project. The commission asked if she is the same youth who currently has a job in the community. Probation confirmed that it was indeed the same youth. Additionally, the commission inquired about the expected remaining duration of her stay in the juvenile detention center. CDPO Judy informed the group that the judge will ultimately decide on the length of the youth's stay at the facility, taking into account recommendations from the Probation department and the treatment team.
- vii. CDPO Judy elaborated on the participation of Riverside County Probation youth in Georgetown, which is anticipated to open new possibilities. In her personal statement submitted during the application process, the youth expressed her aspiration to enhance the circumstances for those who will come after her, drawing from her own life experiences. Additionally, Georgetown has underscored their youth advisory project, which holds the potential to generate opportunities for future endeavors in advocacy or professional fields for the youth. Probation will keep providing regular updates on the developing situation.

b. Hiring / Staffing / Updates:

- i. CDPO Judy indicated that the recruitment process for Probation Field is approaching its maximum capacity for field DPO's.
- ii. CDPO Castaneda updated the group on the ongoing recruitment process for filling PCO positions in the institutions. He elaborated on the advantages of the recent changes in the qualifications for new recruits. Despite some progress in the hiring process, it is not moving as quickly as initially anticipated. Furthermore, he noted that around 30 PCOs have been promoted to field positions in the past year.

7. Riverside County Probation (Institutions) - Chief Deputy Probation Officer (CDPO), Daniel Castaneda

a. Updates / Overview / Highlights:

- i. CDPO Castaneda informed the group that each facility now has three managers, one Division Director, and two assistant directors. This arrangement enables Probation to offer facility coverage seven days a week. Although the exact working hours are not fixed, the managers have the flexibility to adjust their schedules. Generally, they are present from Monday to Sunday, from seven in the morning to five in the evening. Some days they may arrive earlier to meet with the night shift staff, while on other days they might come in later to accommodate evening responsibilities or weekend visits on Saturdays and Sundays.
- ii. The new management team has made training a top priority for employees with less than two years of experience. They are utilizing tools such as ADL orientation and a 30 60 90 plan to expedite and streamline skill development. This plan includes daily tasks and debrief sessions with senior staff to provide feedback and improve communication among new hires. The emphasis on training has led to increased confidence and proficiency among new employees. Even those who have been with the department for over a year are showing interest in further training to enhance their skills. The goal is to ensure that all employees feel valued, respected, and competent in their roles, ultimately benefiting the department. As mentioned earlier, various training initiatives are currently in progress.



- iii. A recent three-day Rapid Improvement event was recently held with the participation of Probation management and management support team supervisors from the facilities to evaluate the most suitable housing options for youth in our three juvenile facilities. Throughout the event, Probation examined the facilities, staffing, and pinpointed various challenges. One of the obstacles encountered was the overwhelming nature of the Pathways To Success program for newcomers, attributed to the large group size and high level of engagement. A problem statement was formulated during the event, and Probation identified barriers related to facilities and staffing, although significant progress has not been achieved due to the intricate nature of the project plan. The plan entails the implementation of specific phases in a systematic manner.
 - iv. Probation is considering relocating youth from the Pathways To Success Program in Riverside to Indio, forming smaller groups of 10 or 14 in units four or one. However, a staffing shortage poses a challenge to this plan. Furthermore, the move presents an opportunity to transfer 20 individuals from Indio to Riverside, where a new unit will be established.
 - v. Out of the current 97 detention youth, approximately 50% are from the Riverside area, including Riverside, Corona, and Moreno Valley. This benefits Probation for court and family visit purposes, but slight plan adjustments may be necessary due to the number of screenings for Pathways. Construction for Senate bill 81 round two is progressing slowly due to dealing with State Public Works Board, Department of Finance, and CDCR, but once completed, it will include an automotive shop, welding lab, basketball court, and classroom space. Probation aims to break ground soon.
 - vi. A group of four Probation staff members conducted a visit to Pine Grove Youth Fire Camp in Amador County for the purpose of evaluating the facility. One male youth has been selected by Probation to participate in the fire camp, as he is nearing the completion of his final semester at RCC. Upon completion, the youth will obtain his AA degree and intends to further his education at Pine Grove. Probation's goal is to send a minimum of two youths to the fire camp, as it has been suggested that sending youths who are familiar with each other enhances their chances of success in the program. Additionally, Scott Budnick from BSCC and ARC paid a visit to Probation to engage with the youth and generate more interest. He also engaged with the youth at the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). CDPO Castaneda noted that both he and Mr. Budnick toured the facility, spending time conversing with both staff and youth.
 - vii. The commission received a detailed explanation about the introduction of the new safety inspection system for the facilities, called Guardian RFID "radio-frequency identification," and was given a summary of how it works. CDPO Castaneda highlighted that the system is cutting-edge and was officially approved by the board on Tuesday. It is expected that Probation will integrate the system in the facilities in the coming months.
 - viii. Furthermore, CDPO Castaneda emphasized that the current client management system, referred to as Enterprise Supervision (ESUP), has been in operation for around 110 days. However, the probation department is still working on creating thorough reports. Collaboration is taking place between the institutions, Probation's executive team, and Probation's BIOS team to develop coding that will simplify the retrieval of data, including demographic information and location-specific reports. These tools will empower Probation to make informed decisions through data analysis. Despite not progressing as quickly as hoped, advancements are being made steadily, and Probation is actively tackling any challenges that may arise.
 - ix. The commission sought additional information regarding the transfer of youth from Indio to Riverside, inquiring about whether the decision was influenced by the youths' origins in that county. It was stressed that proximity to their homes was a contributing factor. However, not all youth from Riverside can be returned there due to their presence in YTEC units, the Pathways Program, and the upcoming Omega transitional living unit. Furthermore, Probation also intends to relocate youth to smaller units in Indio, establishing a system that benefits both sides of the county. This system is anticipated to provide benefits such as easier visitation and timely court attendance.
- b. Current Population:
- i. It was reported that as of the first of April, there are a total of 172 youth currently in custody. Among them, 97 are youth in detention, including five young ladies. In the YTEC program, there are 43 youth, comprising of 37 males and six females. Furthermore, there are 32 youth in the Pathways program, with 31 being male and one being a young woman.
 - ii. Fights: Last month, IJH encountered four fights. Southwest initially reported five, but upon further investigation, it was confirmed that there were four. One of these incidents was a near fight, fortunately, the staff intervened before any physical altercation occurred between the youth. YTEC and Pathways, on the other hand, had a total of three fights combined. Currently, there are no staff or youth out due to COVID.
 - iii. The commission requested an update on the young man who attacked a staff member. CDPO Castaneda stated that the 19-year-old individual involved in the incident will not be returning and is currently in county jail. Probation is coordinating with the courts and the District Attorney on this matter. It was also mentioned that the individual had prior assaults and did not take advantage of the services offered by probation. The aim of probation is for the individual to remain in county jail.



c. Projects:

- i. In Indio, Probation is overseeing around 12 projects, including a comprehensive Wi-Fi network established for youths' school needs. The Wi-Fi system installation is completed, and the fire alarm system replacement and new surveillance cameras installation are nearing completion within the next 30 days. A multi-sensory room in classroom C is being developed for youths to decompress, with carpeting and painting already done. The Riverside County Office of Education and Probation Department are collaborating on this project. The construction of the Indio court, using tilt-up methods, is progressing steadily, with several walls already built. The Indio court is expected to be finished by summer or fall 2025.
- ii. The commission sought information regarding the staff member who was assaulted. CDPO Castaneda confirmed that the staff member is still out and has an upcoming medical appointment. Moreover, it was highlighted that the staff member is next in line for a promotion to Deputy Probation Officer, and he is awaiting medical clearance to begin his duties in the field and utilize his skills as a DPO.
- iii. Additionally, the commission requested CDPO Castaneda to review the management changes in the institutions. CDPO Castaneda noted that the YTEC team has remained unchanged since the previous year, with Rachel Ligtenberg serving as the Division Director, and Todd Hough and Veronica Soto as the two Assistant Directors. In Indio, Crystal Nieto was recently promoted to director, accompanied by Roy Ramirez and Emil Fischer as the two Assistant Directors. Roy Ramirez, a former member of probation's BSCC team, brings valuable institutional experience. Heading the Southwest Institution is Division Director Rebecca Cloyd, supported by Assistant Directors Lori Wilson and Matt Thompson. Matt Thompson joins the team with a background in field work and training. Collectively, these nine managers complete Probation's institutional management teams.
- iv. It was also noted that Rebecca Cloyd is the appointed intuitional BSCC liaison and coordinator. She was instrumental in forming the team and has an unparalleled understanding of Title 15 regulations. Her expertise led to her being chosen to continue leading the team. Furthermore, assistant directors and supervisors from each facility are diligently supporting Division Director Cloyd in these efforts. Shay Molennor from BSCC will conduct a pre-inspection briefing in July, with the final inspection scheduled for a later date.
- v. Further discussion among the group focused on the layout of YTEC, which includes one detention unit, 2 YTEC units/camp units, and one Pathways unit. CDPO Castaneda noted that the plan involves relocating young ladies to Murrieta, consolidating all girls at YTEC. Detention girls will be in unit 4, while YTEC girls will be in unit 3. Transferring girls to Murrieta will free up unit 6 to become a male unit, providing more opportunities for youth attending college or working in the community, and Pathways with fewer restrictions. This change aims to increase available beds and reduce the waitlist. It was also noted that the PTS and YTEC females will each have their own designated units, however, they will likely be sharing the same classroom.
- vi. The discussion also explored whether Pathways was designed to serve youth who would have otherwise been referred to DJJ, if all offenders assigned to PTS are DJJ appropriate, or if the court favors the program and directs a significant number of youths to participate in it. It was noted that Probation is handling a significant number of serious offenses such as murder, attempted murder, rape, robbery, and carjacking among youth. Furthermore, many of the youth enrolled in the Pathways program had previously been presented with other opportunities, whether in the community or at YTEC, but chose not to take advantage of them. As a result, they reoffended with more serious offenses than before.
- vii. The commission further discussed the client management reporting system, focusing on trends like population highs and lows, fight history, injuries, and fight nature for the monthly RCP report. CDPO Castaneda highlighted that fight and population trends could be included in the report. Chair Collopy mentioned that critical incident discussions from Probation are always shared with the Commission.
- viii. The Multi Sensor Dimension Room (MSDR) at Indio Juvenile Hall (IJH) in classroom C was briefly mentioned. CDPO Castaneda will present a progress report to the commission soon regarding the expected completion date of MSDR.
- ix. The commission discussed the recent JJDPC inspection of the Blythe sheriff's station. It was observed that there were only a few youths in detention, and no youth was detained for the rest of the year. Moreover, no inspection was conducted at the Police Department as they reported zero youth in detention. The commission requested clarification on the factors contributing to the absence of detained youth at both the sheriff's station and the PD. CDPO Castaneda highlighted that usually, any youth arrested in Blythe are directly transported to Indio Juvenile Hall.

8. Community Care Licensing (CCL) Licensing Program Manager, Jennifer Smith

a. Updates:

- i. Ms. Smith informed the group that the CCL regional office has recently been divided into two distinct smaller regional offices. She represents the Riverside regional office North, which oversees Orange and San Bernardino counties. The Southern region encompasses Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial counties, although split into two smaller regional offices, they are both situated in the same office location.



- ii. Ms. Smith explained that Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) must create a Program Statement approved by Community Care Licensing (CCL) to comply with Title 22 standards. Facilities can go beyond these standards if desired. The supplemental clothing stipend falls under DPSS, not CCL oversight.
 - iii. In addition, it has been observed that the CCL STRTP Program statement incorporates a provision that can be used for clothing, although it is not explicitly designated for that purpose and is automatically given. This provision is separate from the automatic quarterly \$300 DPSS allowance, which is specifically allocated for clothing. The amount provided by DPSS is the same for every youth. DPSS will examine potential variations in allowances between youth in FFAs and STRTPs.
 - iv. DPSS outlined the supplementary stipend procedure, which involves a social worker requesting an additional \$300 quarterly clothing stipend for a child. This request typically necessitates a court order as the child already receives a quarterly allowance. Any amount exceeding this allowance must be requested by legal representatives, approved by the court, and then ordered. Delays can happen due to various reasons like misdirected requests or personnel changes, leading to new workers being unaware of pending requests. DPSS recognizes the need for improvement in this process.
- b. Naloxone (Narcan) within STRTP group homes:
- i. The commissioners revisited the subject of the last quarterly meeting, focusing on concerns about Narcan. They inquired about the regulations governing the limited availability of Naloxone (Narcan) in STRTP group homes, whether it is dictated by state or county rules. Additionally, they sought clarification on why the county does not mandate Narcan in STRTP facilities, as well as the procedures for facilities to acquire Narcan through the county.
 - ii. Deputy Janine Moore emphasized that Narcan is currently not included in the interim standard. She further stated that the responsibility of incorporating it into the regulation lies with the state, and locally, it cannot be mandated. Ms. Moore further highlighted those certain facilities express apprehension regarding liability, which is why ongoing educational initiatives are being undertaken to educate them about the fact that Narcan does not pose any harm, regardless of whether it is related to opioids or not.
 - iii. Tammy Wilson, from Oak Grove Center, shared her efforts to obtain Narcan for her facility. She highlighted that Oak Grove had to go through the process of obtaining a waiver from CCL. However, she mentioned that the waiver process is somewhat unclear. Ms. Wilson stated that the necessary training has been completed and mentioned that she is currently waiting for additional guidance from CCL. Oak Grove intends to follow up with them. She emphasized that Oak Grove is committed to having Narcan readily available in their facility. Ms. Wilson revealed that a nurse from Riverside County conducted Narcan training for their team, ensuring their readiness, and now they are awaiting the next steps in acquiring Narcan for their facility.
 - iv. Frank Assumma of the Riverside Police Department elaborated to the commission that the initial establishment of procedures for obtaining Narcan was a complex undertaking. This involved navigating through REMSA, ensuring compliance with multiple department policies, and meeting various other requirements before finally gaining access to Narcan.
 - v. The commission highlighted that their discussion with the group regarding Narcan for facilities dates to Fall of 2022. They are seeking further input during the upcoming quarterly meeting to tackle the challenges surrounding facilities acquiring Narcan.
 - vi. Ms. Smith noted she focuses on the waiver process in her department, noting that many STRTPs under CCL have obtained approved waivers. She noted importance of Provider facilities reading the provider information notices sent out by CCL. These notices, which are essentially the "memos" regarding Narcan, have also been distributed during several provider meetings where the process is thoroughly explained. CCL. Additionally, CCL has streamlined the waiver application process, making it easier for providers to apply to acquire Narcan. An updated program statement is no longer necessary from the facilities. The emphasis is on saving lives in emergencies over having the waiver, as outlined in the notices and meetings.
 - vii. Deputy Director Janine Moore informed the commission about Behavioral Health goals, which involve utilizing information, conducting outreach, ensuring providers are well-informed, and assisting with the Narcan waiver process. She mentioned that during the Joint Provider meeting, the Behavioral Health team gave a presentation on opioids and distributed Narcan to interested providers. Furthermore, Behavioral Health organizes Provider meetings with different contracted providers that provide specialty mental health services, where they are also provided information on Narcan. Deputy Director Janine Moore also communicated that the Behavioral Health Quality Improvement department conducts monthly technical assistance meetings with all providers, which also includes information on the Narcan waiver process for STRTP providers.
 - viii. Division Director Crosby shared that Probation conducts provider meeting specifically for STRTPs and discussions have covered Narcan waivers. However, she suggested that a refresher on the topic could be scheduled for an upcoming Probation provider meeting.
 - ix. Chair Collopy highlighted that the Commission is actively engaged in a coalition with JJCC and JJDC's across the state, encompassing approximately 24 different counties. Utilizing the collective strength of this group would send



a strong message to Sacramento regarding the necessity for reform. He noted that additional discussions on this matter can be scheduled for upcoming meetings.

9. Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) - Ramon Leija and Alisa Hartz

- a. Presentation (Overview) AB 505: Background and Key Changes:
 - i. Alisa Hartz, Ombudsperson, along with Ramon Leija Liaison, delivered a presentation regarding AB 505. They discussed significant modification related to the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) plan prerequisites and the enhanced responsiveness of the Ombudsperson in addressing youth Grievances.
 - ii. Ms. Hartz, and Mr. Leija walked through the introduction to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), AB 505 Impacts: Ombudsperson Division of OYCR, AB 505 Impacts: Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Changes and AB 505: Additional Updates.
 - iii. Ms. Hartz and Mr. Leija concluded by addressing the comments and questions raised by the participants, urging the group to contact them for any additional inquiries.
 - iv. Lastly, Mr. Leija urged the group to participate in the upcoming OYCR webinar scheduled for May 6th.

10. Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) – Deputy Director, Allison Donahoe-Beggs

- a. Updates: Staffing / Highlights / Updates:
 - i. DPSS is actively recruiting new staff members to achieve their target. Currently, they are bringing on board approximately 10 to 15 new employees every month. DPSS has successfully conducted seven orientation trainings, integrating around 137 new employees. In the year 2024, they have already conducted four trainings and have four more scheduled.
 - ii. As DPSS continues to hire new staff members, means more than half of the workforce has less than two years of experience, meaning that many employees are still in the learning phase. To support their development, DPSS has introduced a training program that includes a three-month orientation followed by personalized supervision and a lower caseload in a specific training region. The aim is for staff to transition to the region within six months, providing relief to the regions. The goal is not only to retain these staff members but also to keep them engaged and connected.
 - iii. Currently, DPSS new staff caseloads have decreased from 29 to 27 since the last quarter. The goal is to further reduce this number to reach the target range of 23 to 25.
 - iv. DPSS is currently receiving an average of 10 new referrals per month, which aligns with the organization's goals. Staff members typically manage around 23 cases at a time, with an average of 10 new referrals coming in monthly.
 - v. DPSS recently hosted a significant hiring event where individuals participated in a welcome orientation video, underwent interviews, and their names were promptly forwarded to a separate group in another room for selection. Once selected, the candidates were able to proceed directly to the HR department for expedited processes such as fingerprinting and other necessary procedures. This streamlined approach was implemented to accelerate the hiring process, which is typically known for its time-consuming nature. DPSS is thrilled about the outcome of this event, as it proved to be successful.
 - vi. DPSS is currently dedicated to the ongoing effort of finding suitable placements for children at all levels, with a primary focus on placing them with relatives whenever possible. DPSS has successfully placed approximately 38% of youth in out-of-home care with either relatives or non-related kin, as referred to by DPSS. Additionally, there are youth placed in STRTPs, and the largest group consists of youth in FFA's, which are resource family homes.
 - vii. DPSS has been effective in placing a significant number of youths in resource homes or with family members. DPSS noted that the older teenagers, specifically youth, face various challenges such as complex care issues, behavioral health issues, drug use, and frequent running away. These factors make it particularly challenging to find suitable placements for them, especially at the FFA level. DPSS strives to avoid placing them in STRTPs whenever possible. However, many FFAs struggle with the responsibility of accommodating a youth who exhibits such behaviors. This is especially true for families who already have other youth in the home and are concerned about exposing them to these behaviors. Consequently, DPSS is actively collaborating with partners, regularly meeting with FFAs and STRTPs, to strengthen working relationships and address these challenges effectively.
 - viii. Currently, Harmony Haven, DPSS's transitional shelter, is home to a collective of 28 youth. Out of this group, four youth are not physically residing within the premises of Harmony Haven, but rather, they are being accommodated at nearby hotels. The number of youths at hotels has decreased compared to the previous quarter, with report showing that there were 11 youth, but now the number has decreased to four. DPSS is actively working to reduce the number of youths staying in hotels.
 - ix. The youth placed in hotels are usually there due to their inclination to run away, often taking other children along with them, which raises concerns about human trafficking. Among these youth, there are those who have caused damage to property and engaged in aggressive behavior towards both staff and their peers. Consequently, these youth are kept in isolated at hotels. DPSS is currently focusing on a project at Harmony Haven, a spacious campus, aiming to construct designated isolation areas within the campus premises instead of relying on hotels.
 - x. DPSS emphasized partnerships with Probation and Behavioral Health, with an upcoming joint meeting scheduled with Probation partners next week. The focus of the meeting will be on dual status youth and workers.



Additionally, there are regular provider meetings with Behavioral Health to discuss dual status youth and their placement. They meet weekly to prepare the youth for successful placement, especially when dealing with challenging behaviors. The focus is on finding appropriate services and ensuring a smooth transition to placement.

- xi. There are slightly over 6000 dependent youth, with around 3000 in out-of-home care, 38% of whom are with relatives. DPSS saw an increase in referrals in March, receiving over 3400, up from 3300 in February. DPSS continues to direct individuals towards preventative services to avoid full investigations, support families, provide resources, and ultimately prevent them from entering the care system. DPSS has 105 youth in STRTPs, most placed with relatives or resource family homes, including the 27 dual status youth under Probation. Additionally, approximately 834 DPSS youth are placed out of Riverside County.
- xii. Deputy Director Donahoe-Beggs delved deeper into analyzing data by distinguishing between physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. She noted neglect, which accounts for the highest percentage, is the primary reason why youth are placed in care.
- xiii. Harmony Haven is currently undergoing electrical upgrades, but it has also expanded the utilization of other cottages. Currently, four cottages are being fully utilized, with one half of one cottage serving as office space for staff and the other half designated for youth. Despite the increased usage of the cottages, there have been no electrical problems reported thus far.
- xiv. DPSS concentrates on organizing various activities for the youth in one location, such as school or off-campus venues. In the absence of school, like during spring break, outings are arranged. A detailed schedule is planned for each day, with every hour accounted for. The youth are taken off-campus to places like John's Incredible Pizza or ice skating. They are also given the opportunity to choose the activities they would like to participate in. These off-campus activities provide the youth with a break from being together constantly.
- xv. Further deliberated was the average duration of stay at Harmony Haven. It was observed that some adolescents have resided there for several months, while others only stay for a day or two. The primary focus is on securing appropriate placements. The objective is to have stays of five days or less, with the goal being to meet the transitional shelter requirement of three days or less. Deputy Director Donahoe-Beggs informed the group that exceeding the three-day limit necessitates reporting to the state. Finding suitable accommodations for youths with intricate care requirements proves to be challenging, which is the current dilemma faced by DPSS.
- xvi. Deputy Director Donahoe-Beggs notified the group that this month is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. As a gesture of solidarity, she has chosen to wear blue. Additionally, numerous events are being organized across the county to enhance awareness regarding the prevention of child abuse.

11. Office of the Public Defender - Attorney Joelle Moore

- a. Updates / Staffing / Highlights:
 - i. Ms. Moore reported, the Juvenile, SPARK Unit is fully staffed and busy, with 126 new SPARK referrals and 23 resumed services in the first quarter. They have double the number of filings in the Southwest region compared to Riverside, leading to a larger calendar and resource allocation. A meeting is planned with Probation and the District Attorney's office to discuss rerouting lower-level cases for alternative handling, aiming to reduce filing numbers, especially for lower-level misdemeanors like school incidents. An update on the meeting will be discussed at the next quarterly meeting.
 - ii. Ms. Moore mentioned that her team met with child welfare and attendance administrators countywide to discuss strategies on collaborating at an earlier stage to prevent disciplinary actions such as suspension or expulsion. Valuable feedback was received from some LEAs expressing enthusiasm for working together to identify and provide services for youth. The team is looking forward to this collaborative effort.
 - iii. Ms. Moore also indicated that SPARK has had productive conversations with SafeHouse recently. SafeHouse currently has numerous beds available and is looking for ways to expand their services. So far, Probation has not arranged for probation youth to stay at SafeHouse, even those at lower probation levels who have not yet become wards. Nevertheless, SafeHouse has an empty shelter in the desert and is willing to start having broader conversations about how to be able to use them as a less restrictive option before reaching the STRTP level for some youth who have not yet reached wardship. This could also be beneficial for youth in the community who have not been involved in the justice system but need a temporary stint away from their families. Additionally, SafeHouse provides family therapy, aftercare services, and the opportunity to reenter the residential program if necessary, making it a potential choice for SPARK. While there are still administrative and logistical details to be worked out, and the final decision for these youth will ultimately be up to the court. Positive discussions have occurred, and SPARK is hopeful about the possibility of having less restrictive alternatives before turning to higher levels of placement.
 - iv. The group briefly discussed the number of beds at Operation SafeHouse, and the possibility for partnership with Children Services. Additionally, SPARK is investigating strategies to make use of the open spaces and the additional services offered by Operation SafeHouse. Moreover, Ms. Moore has expressed her intention to engage with Probation and the Courts to explore the utilization of SafeHouse services.



12. Oak Grove Center - Tammy Wilson

- a. Updates:
- i. Ms. Wilson reported that overall, things are progressing smoothly. They have exclusively been accepting Riverside dependents for quite some time now. Oak Grove is currently the sole IMD in the state, meaning they are a larger facility with more than 16 individuals. Due to the change in federal law in 2018, the state no longer provides a 50% match on mental health funds, specifically for mental health services, not room and board. This situation has been ongoing for some time, but recently there has been a slight increase in pressure. Ms. Wilson believes this is because Oak Grove is the only facility of its kind and they were asked if they would consider reducing their size, which they are not willing to do. Oak Grove currently has 43 children placed by school districts with severe needs, 8 individuals with acute placements by insurance companies, and 2 ORR youth, 8 dependents, and 1 adoption. While dropping to a group home level is an option, they prefer to remain at their current high level like an STRTP. Discussions are ongoing with the state, and there will be a follow-up meeting next week to address the situation further.
 - ii. Oak Grove's hope would be that they maintain status quo, with the added benefit of being able to provide treatment to the Probation youth. However, it is imperative that they resolve the issue concerning the IMD. Ms. Wilson hopes to have more news to share at the next quarterly meeting.

13. Behavioral Health: Deputy Director, Janine Moore

- a. Updates:
- i. There are no updates or developments to report other than the information shared about Naloxone.
 - ii. Chair Collopy emphasized the importance of leveraging the coalition of JJCC's and JJDPC's statewide to send a powerful message to Sacramento advocating for reform.

14. Kids in Konflikt (KIK) - Executive Director, Lynette Jones

- a. Highlights / Updates:
- i. KIC participated in the annual Women's Empowerment Day conference. Ms. Jones, a committee member, reached out to probation to request a speaker for the event held at Riverside City College. The conference attracted many young women, and together with RPD and other partners, they motivated the attendees. The conference focused on various topics including sex trafficking, self-empowerment, self-esteem, self-care, meditation, anger management, and conflict resolution. Ms. Jones conveyed her satisfaction with the committee's efforts.
 - ii. In recent months, Kids and Konflikt granted a \$500 scholarship to a young woman who is seeking vocational training or higher education post high school. Furthermore, Miss Cole, KIC's parent partner, joined the Black History Parade in Hemet to provide information to families. Moreover, on March 15th, KIC organized a listening session/focus group with OYCR, where 18 young individuals shared their experiences in the juvenile justice system. The session was a fruitful and productive event, with pizza sponsored by KIC.
 - iii. The KIK Champs program, which stands for commitment, honesty, achievement, motivation, positivity, and success, has recently concluded. The program was organized by KIC and was made possible through a grant from the Sierra Health Foundation Elevate Youth Grant. A total of fourteen youths took part in the 12-week program, focusing on leadership, team building, and cultural awareness. The group was made up of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including a transgender youth, and youths from various ethnicities, races, and socioeconomic statuses. Currently, eight out of the original 14 participants remain actively engaged with KIK. Upon finishing the program, each youth received a \$350.00 stipend, which could be received either at the end or throughout the series, which some youth used to open bank accounts and help their families financially.
 - iv. KIK maintains a strong collaboration with the SPARK team. Ms. Jones mentioned that KIK is currently assisting 4 special challenge youth. Regrettably, one of the young men, who had ties to a gang, was shot multiple times in the Hemet / San Jacinto area. Ms. Jones also highlighted the exceptional work of Ms. Tatiana and Ms. Teresa Ruiz from the SPARK program. She specifically praised Ms. Teresa for her outstanding efforts in working with the four special challenge youth involved in gang activities, providing crucial support and assistance to their families.
 - v. KIK is hosting their first fundraiser with Applebee's for upcoming events. The breakfast event will take place on May 4th and tickets are priced at \$12.00 each. The youth are not required to sell tickets as KIK wants to ensure they do not feel pressured. Instead, the staff and volunteers will handle ticket sales. Mr. G is offering a \$100 gas card incentive to the staff member who sells the most tickets. The youth are involved by distributing flyers and posters in the community to invite people to the event. Donations have been received, with a special thanks to Commissioner Chris Collopy from Ms. Jones for his donation. Youth who received donated tickets can invite family and friends or distribute them to the community. The event will run from 8:00 am to 10:00 am, with the kids taking on roles of host and servers to give back to the community. The fundraising event will take place at Applebee's, situated in downtown Riverside at 3820 Mulberry St., Riverside, CA 92507. The requested a copy of the event flyer to share it on the JJDPC social media platform.
 - vi. KIK's annual summit is scheduled for June 26th at the Youth Opportunity Center in Rubidoux, running from 1:00 to 4:00. Currently, there are 12 vendors confirmed to participate and support the youth. The summit will showcase the progress of the youth, including those who have shown improvement, left gang affiliations, achieved sobriety



for a month to a year and enhanced their academic performance. KIK will also award scholarships, such as the Judge Luebs scholarship worth \$500. Judge Luebs was a strong advocate of the program during his time on the bench, contributing over \$500 annually to the toy drive. In honor of his support, the youth decided to establish a scholarship in his name. Additionally, there are other individuals interested in sponsoring scholarships in memory of a loved one or in recognition of those dedicated to assisting at-risk youth. These scholarships will also be presented during the summit.

- vii. KIK is pleased to announce an exciting new partnership with Frenchie Canine, a mobile dog grooming unit. The owner, Mr. Crane, recently visited and shared his inspiring story with the young people. He discussed his past involvement in the system and his family's connections to gangs, emphasizing the importance of positive change. Mr. Crane highlighted the significance against carrying just a wad of cash and emphasizing the necessity of having a wallet. As a way of giving back, he generously provided each young person with a wallet containing a \$20 start-up seed. Additionally, he offered internship opportunities to two individuals for the summer, allowing them to work alongside him. For every dog they groomed, they would receive half of the earnings. This collaboration goes beyond just the internship, as Mr. Crane plans to visit once a month. This will enable the youth who volunteer to participate in dog washing events to share the proceeds. KIK is thankful for Mr. Crane's commitment to supporting the community's youth in earning honest money.
- viii. KIK operates at two locations: The Rubidoux Adult Center and the Rubidoux Youth Opportunity Center. The main challenge during the summer is the lack of places for youth to go after the centers close early. Mr. G is actively seeking a new building to address this issue, with hopes of having a space open six days a week from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, including Saturdays. The new building will cater to the youth's desires, offering a gaming system, basketball court, meditation room, homework area, and tutoring services. Additionally, the youth proposed creating a KIK clothing line. They have designed T-shirts and hoodies, with a collaborative partner assisting in printing them for free. The youth are actively involved in the design process, learning how to create and produce the clothing. The enthusiasm for the clothing line is evident, with the youth requesting more designs and actively participating in the process to ensure appropriateness.
- ix. KIK is expanding outreach to faith organizations, with three churches requesting presentations. Miss Cole, KIK's parent partner, works with 13 families, providing wrap-around services and parenting classes. She developed a curriculum that focuses on career development, teaching youth job skills and the importance of maintaining employment. Miss Cole researched 12 vocational trades based on youths' interests, emphasizing the distinction between a job and a career. The program's development is seen as a positive step.
- x. KIK conducts monthly staff training and has a young lady providing weekly Trauma Informed training. In addition to The Trauma Informed training, she covers cultural sensitivity, racial issues, and systematic issues. The volunteer dedicates two hours every Thursday to help staff improve services for youth.
- xi. Ms. Jones expressed gratitude and hope that KIK will be able to apply for a Probation RFP to hire more staff, including three mentors and a translator for Spanish-speaking families. They are optimistic about receiving additional funding when it becomes available.
- xii. KIK has provided services to a total of 1,423 youth and has dedicated 8,764 hours to their cause. Additionally, they have received 1,645 referrals. Out of these numbers, 668 youth have successfully completed the program, while the remaining individuals are still actively involved with KIK.
- xiii. The female youth in the Pathways program that KIK mentors is celebrating her 22nd birthday, and KIK is bringing a birthday cake and presents. The youth is excited about participation at the Georgetown University event. KIK has been working with her for over two years, mentoring her and helping her through past trauma. She is working and is diligent about saving money and will have saved \$10,000 by the end of the month. KIK continues to encourage her to keep up the good work and continue saving to ensure a secure future once she's out on her own.
- xiv. Ms. Jones concluded the discussion on Kids in Konflikt, inviting questions or concerns. She mentioned plans for an open house once they get the new building and encouraged visits to the Jurupa center until then. KIK offers tutoring on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm, with activities ending at 6:00 pm. However, youth tend to stay until 7:00 pm.
- xv. Chair Collopy expressed gratitude to Ms. Jones for the valuable contributions KIK makes to the community.

15. Riverside Police Department - Deputy Chief, Frank Assumma

- a. Updates / Highlights:
 - i. The Riverside Police Department is dedicated to preventing young people from participating in criminal activities through a variety of programs. These efforts include the Riverside Police Foundation Riverside Police Explorer Program 714, Riverside Youth Court program, The El Protector Clinic, Raincross Boxing Academy, Teen 2 Teen program, and The Riverside Youth Judo Club. Moreover, the Public Defenders office actively participates in restorative justice programs like youth court and Opportunity with Education (OWE) to dissuade youth from further entanglement in the criminal justice system. Through partnerships with different programs and organizations, the Riverside Police Department aims to steer young individuals away from the criminal justice



system. In collaboration with the Public Defenders office, they offer educational resources and restorative justice initiatives to discourage youth from involvement in criminal activities.

- ii. Deputy Chief Assumma highlighted that the Riverside Police Department places great importance on understanding the outcomes for youth once they are referred to other agencies or programs. The department acknowledges the significance of early intervention and prevention in guiding youth away from criminal behavior and towards positive opportunities. Through active participation in JJPDC meetings and gaining knowledge about the different available programs, the department strives to remain informed about the support systems and outcomes in place for youth who may have been involved in criminal activities.
- iii. Deputy Chief Assumma outlined his responsibilities within the Riverside Police Department, focusing on his role as Deputy Chief of Operations. He oversees various divisions such as investigations, special operations, and field operations, which encompass Traffic and patrol. Most programs discussed fall under the Community Services Bureau, overseen by another Deputy chief, and is part of the administrative aspect of the department.
- iv. Deputy Chief Assumma elaborated on the reinstated Youth Court program, which had been put on hold due to COVID but resumed a few years back. He emphasized the positive reception of tribal elders towards the program and their interest in implementing it within tribal communities. Moreover, he pointed out that schools make use of the Youth Court for cases that go beyond their own disciplinary procedures. The Youth Court employs restorative justice practices, which are well-received by young individuals due to the involvement of parents. Parental approval is required for the process, and youths themselves serve as judges and jurors. They not only take part in the program but also return as jurors to discuss and determine the appropriate actions to address the situation. This distinctive approach establishes a meaningful and efficient process. Additionally, Deputy Chief Assumma touched upon the different channels through which juveniles are referred to the Youth Court, such as schools, the RPD, and occasionally the probation department.

16. Meeting Adjournment:

- a. Chair Collopy asked for final comments before ending the meeting.
- b. DPSS Update (Clothing Allowance):
 - i. Deputy Director Donahoe-Beggs indicated that the quarterly clothing allowance applies to youth placed before January 2018. Starting from January 2018, the allowance is now integrated into the rates for FFAs and STRTPs, with FFAs receiving 7% of their basic rate. She will confirm if the same rate is applicable for STRTPs. It was stated that DPSS may provide additional funds for the child's needs, but the clothing allowance is already included in the basic rate to cover various monthly expenses for the youth. She highlighted that staff at facilities may not be fully aware that the monthly payments to providers are designated to cover different monthly expenses, which includes a clothing allowance for youth.
 - ii. Deputy Director Donahoe-Beggs elaborated on the \$300 clothing allowance, citing various reasons for approving additional amounts. These include scenarios such as a child returning with minimal clothing after running away, court orders, difficulties in finding sizes, sudden growth spurts, and weight loss. Moreover, funds may also be allocated for extracurricular activities, sports, and special occasions like graduation or prom. Although the standard extra allowance is \$100, court orders have been granted for up to \$300, with Deputy Director Donahoe-Beggs personally authorizing them.
 - iii. She also highlighted that DPSS social workers and Probation officers conduct monthly home visits to monitor the child's well-being. It is crucial for them to anticipate upcoming expenses for the youth, such as graduation, prom, job interviews, and the transition to adulthood at 18. If the youth is not pursuing higher education and is seeking employment, social workers should actively assist them in preparing for these milestones, given their time-sensitive nature.
- c. Adjournment:
 - i. Chair Collopy requested a consensus from the commission to adjourn the meeting after no additional comments were heard. Commissioner Cook motioned for adjournment, which was seconded by commissioner Parker.

17. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 pm.

18. Next Meeting: July 11, 2024 / Time: 9:30 am

Location: Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1) Room TBD
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507