

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

DOWNTOWN LAW BUILDING
3960 ORANGE ST, 5TH FLOOR COUNTY COUNSEL TRAINING ROOM
RIVERSIDE CA

September 17, 2024, 2:00 P.M.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Riverside County Probation

Chairman - Chief Probation Officer, Christopher H. Wright
or Designee

Superior Court of California, County of Riverside

Juvenile Court Director, Marcus Walls
or Designee

Department of Public Social Services

Senior Administrative Analyst, Mike Scebbi
or Designee

Community Based Organization

Community Outreach Ministry
Representative, Dr. Mona Salomo-Davies
or Designee

Riverside University Health Systems-Behavioral Health

Mental Health Services Administrator, Aaron Perez
or Designee

Community Based Organization

National Center for Youth Law
Representative, Alejandra Gutierrez
or Designee

District Attorney's Office

Deputy District Attorney, Greg Albright
or Designee

Community Based Organization

Immanuel House
Representative, Liz Reid
or Designee

Public Defender's Office

Supervising Public Defender, Joelle Moore
or Designee

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention

Representative, Laurel Cook
Or Designee

Riverside County Office of Education

Executive Director, Dr. Deanna McCarty
or Designee

In accordance with State Law (the Brown Act):

The meetings of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Subcommittee are open to the public. The public may address the council within the subject matter jurisdiction of this council.

Disabled persons may request disability-related accommodations in order to address the JJCC Subcommittee. Reasonable accommodations can be made to assist disabled persons if requested 24-hours prior to the meeting by contacting Riverside County Probation Department at (951) 955-2694.

The public may review open session materials at <https://rivcoprobation.org/juvenile-justice-coordinating-council-meeting-materials> or at Probation Administration, 3960 Orange St., Suite 600, Riverside, CA.92501

Items may be called out of order.

Agenda will be posted 72-hours prior to meeting.

Cancellations will be posted 72-hours prior to meeting.

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AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting March 26, 2024 – Action Item
3. Pathways to Success Updates – Discussion Item
4. Pathways to Success Educational and Vocational Expansion Update – Discussion Item
5. JJCC Subcommittee Updates – Discussion Item
6. Updated Volunteer Application process – Discussion Item
7. Proposed 2025 JJCC Subcommittee Regular Meeting Dates – Action Item
~~March 11, 2025~~ – [March 18, 2025](#)
September 16, 2025
8. Public Comments
9. JJCC Subcommittee Comments
10. Adjournment
Next JJCC Subcommittee Meeting
Date/Time: TBD

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
March 26, 2024, AT 2:00 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

Host Location: 3960 Orange St., 5th Floor Conference Room, Riverside, CA

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
Dr. Michael Gunther, Riverside University Health Systems - Behavioral Health
Dr. Deanna McCarty, Riverside County Office of Education
Joelle Moore, Deputy Public Defender IV, Public Defender's Office
Greg Albright, Deputy District Attorney, District Attorney's Office
Marcus Walls, Juvenile Director, Riverside Superior Court
Dr. Mona Davies, Community Outreach Ministry
Alejandra Gutierrez, National Center for Youth Law

In attendance but not present during roll call:
Liz Reid, Emmanuel House

Not in attendance:
Mike Scebbi, Department of Public Social Services
Laurel Cook, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Committee

2. Welcome to Subcommittee Members/Introductions

Chris Wright formally welcomed members to the meeting. It is great to have everyone here today our last meeting was held virtually in September of 2022.

3. Link to September 13, 2022, Virtual JJCC Subcommittee Meeting

Chris Wright referenced the link for the September 13, 2022, virtual meeting of the JJCC Subcommittee:

<https://imd0mxanj2.execute-api.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ssr/watch/633e481c3993be00090dd1f7>

4. Pathways to Success Updates

Chief Deputy Daniel Castaneda mentioned since the last meeting, much has changed. First, we have a new leadership team overseeing the Pathways to Success (PTS) program. Division Director Monica Rose retired at the end of December 2023, and we wish her well. Division Director Rachel

Ligtenberg is the new PTS Director and Rachel has been with the Probation department for 24 years and has vast experience in placement, field operations, and leading teams. Alongside Rachel, we have Assistant Division Directors Todd Hough and Veronica Soto. Todd brings two decades of institutional experience and operations knowledge and Veronica has worked both field and institutions. Together, they now provide seven days per week manager coverage onsite and we look forward to the continued changes and progress in the program for our youth.

With our one PTS female client, she has worked hard in the program and achieved numerous programming and educational milestones. For these reasons, she has been “stepped down” to the less restrictive program, and even more exciting, gained full time employment at a local hotel working near full-time hours. She has indicated that she enjoys working, learning, and being out in the community. In a recent conversation with her, she shared that she has been saving all her paychecks and had built up a nice balance in which she will use for housing and other essentials once she is released.

Another exciting update is that we are very close to placing our first youth at the Pine Grove Youth Fire Camp in Amador County. In late January, a small group of RCP staff went and visited the facility to gain a better understanding of the program, setting, and daily activities. We were able to speak with various camp and Cal-Fire staff, plus a youth, who provided extra insight into the program. This young man is also doing well in community college and is in his last semester where after finishing a full workload will have completed his associate of arts degrees.

Comments:

Dr. Mona Davies asked if the youth will be there long enough to receive credentials.

Daniel Castaneda mentioned they will be receiving enough training necessary to get certificates. The goal is once youth complete the program; their skills will land them in the fire fighting industry.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned one of the requirements of the certificate program is completing a certain number of confinement time.

5. Upcoming Pathways to Success Educational and Vocational Expansion

Chief Deputy Daniel Castaneda shared a brief update. PTS is situated on the Alan M. Crogan Youth Treatment and Education Center site. The 61000 square feet of space provides shared programming space for Pathways and YTEC youth. With the funding opportunity provided by Senate Bill 81 Round 2, Riverside Probation is nearing the point where we will be able to break ground and begin construction on a new education and vocation addition behind YTEC. This space will provide classrooms, vocational space including automotive and a welding lab, and other programming space. The architect provided a short video that will give everyone an idea on what it will look like when completed. The video was presented and viewed by all members present: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vs_KeREyj4I

Comments:

Dr. Deanna McCarty asked if Probation will be working on the instructional pieces for the welding unit.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned part of the planning was requesting programs to fill the role of advisement and instruction.

Dr. Deanna McCarty mentioned RCOE has welding units in schools and learned from the logistical issues encountered during planning and can help Probation with that knowledge along with some grant options that could be beneficial.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned they are working well with the architect and will accept any insights RCOE can offer.

Alejandra Gutierrez asked if this will be available for all youth or just Pathways youth and if covered by the SB 823 budget.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned all youth will be eligible if they meet the criteria. Funding comes from Round 2 and county funds.

Dr. Mona Davies mentioned Spartan College in Riverside has numerous programs and could potentially be a landing spot for youth coming out of Pathways.

Dr. Deanna McCarty mentioned internships offered at CryoQuip in Temecula work with justice impacted youth. They currently work with our David Long Regional Center.

6. Transforming Juvenile Justice Update

Chief Deputy Daniel Castaneda mentioned Probation and CDPO Elisa Judy has worked tirelessly to gather support for applying on behalf of Riverside County to participate in the certificate program at Georgetown University in Washington DC over the summer. This collaborative effort allows for a county to send a team of 10 individuals to participate including representatives from Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, Courts, Community, and a justice-involved youth. With so many steps needed for completion in short order, the application was submitted, and Riverside was selected for an interview. As expected, the interview went very well. Riverside County was selected, and we are extremely proud of the opportunity! There is an orientation meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2024, and all members will be attending.

Comments:

Chris Wright mentioned we are currently trying to include our county DEIA Officer Barry Knight as well. Thank you to Scott MacDonald and Office and Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) for bringing the initial idea to us and thought Riverside Probation and our county would like to participate in this program. We are very excited about this amazing opportunity!

Dr. Mona Davies mentioned the Annie E. Casey Foundation is famous and it is great that your organization gets to work with one of their leaders.

7. JJCC Subcommittee Update

Chief Deputy Daniel Castaneda Division mentioned we have four subcommittees that have been established and have each meet this year in both January and February. These committees are focused on transitional housing and services, parenting resources, vocational, employment, and life skills, and program fidelity and performance metrics. We appreciate everyone's work on these teams and look forward to continued progress.

Division Director Rachel Ligtenberg thanked everyone for their involvement and work that you have done. Updates included: received a grant from OYCR for less-restrictive programming; teams conducted year-in-reviews and laid out future goals; gap analysis was done to look for opportunities in the new year.

Comments:

Dr. Mona Davies mentioned is there a time frame when transitional housing will be used in Riverside County.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned this is one of the objectives we are working on creating that structure. A request will be going to the Board of Supervisors soon to accept less restrictive options.

Alejandra Gutierrez mentioned what does OYCR grant look like and noticed the plan includes less restrictive programming for one of the PTS units would there be an opportunity for CBOs in this space.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned the funding is service based, housing based, income based and allow for a broad enough area to fit the population we serve. There is a transitional unit allowing more opportunities to progress and work on stepping them down even further into the community.

Liz Reid asked if the transitional housing would come with services.

Dr. Mona Davies mentioned services are available at Emmanuel House, Starting Over Inc, Xavier House in San Jacinto, and the Happier Life Project.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned we want our clients to receive the full scope of services, most amount of help and oversight from our CBOs for that transition looking forward to those partnerships.

Liz Reid mentioned will this include substance abuse and anger management programs.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned an assessment is done prior to youth leaving to measure what is left that may be needed.

Liz Reid asked what the assessment entails.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned Probation utilizes the Ohio Youth Assessment System.

Joelle Moore mentioned while waiting for the OYCR grant funds to be released are funds available for youth ready to transition into reentry now.

In response to Joelle Moore's question regarding the availability of unspent funds, Cherilyn Williams mentioned there are funds available for specific purposes that may still be in the planning process that can be used in the interim as one-time funding until those contracts are finalized.

Dr. Mona Davies mentioned Boys Republic may be an alternative available for youth placement.

8. AB 505 Legislation Updates

Chief Deputy Daniel Castaneda mentioned another recent change has come with the passage of Assembly Bill 505. The legislation has had many impacts including expansion of the role of the OYCR Ombudsperson who will help review and resolve complaints about violations of youth rights and harmful conditions or practices within facilities. It clearly defines the access OYCR will have to youth, witnesses, records, and facilities. AB 505 also developed the youth bill of rights informing youth of what they can expect and requires annual site visits. Regarding the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant, updates were provided, and the most notable changes include the subcommittee shall convene no less frequently than twice per year to consider and review the local plan. The subcommittee may also decide to have a co-chair in addition to the Probation Chief, where the selection process is determined by the subcommittee. Also, the local plan must be developed with the review and participation of subcommittee community members.

Comments:

Dr. Mona Davies mentioned on page 37 of the report will surveys be used for qualitative data where youth tell their stories.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned the change model currently exists and Dwayne George from RUHS Mental Health may be able to further elaborate on data pieces.

Dwayne George mentioned there is an element of the change model providing information about youth life stories from beginning to end.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned this would be a good opportunity for Dr. Mona Davies being on the metrics committee could allow for recommendations to be brought forth.

Alejandra Gutierrez mentioned is there any data of outcomes.

Rachel Ligtenberg mentioned the subcommittee is working to identify outcome metrics.

9. Juvenile Justice Realignment Annual Local Plan Approval

Chief Deputy Daniel Castaneda gave a brief presentation (handout). In addition to sharing many of the advancements being made for our PTS youth, we do need to review, approve, and submit our Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan, also referred to as the Local Plan, prior to May 1, 2024. Highlights included are a summary of how we got to this point, youth demographics, programming offered, counseling services, education and employment services, and community involvement, and next steps for FY 24/25.

Comments:

Alejandra Gutierrez asked if we are approving the budget portion and asked about funding information appears to be missing and asked if we will be able to view it.

Cherilyn Williams confirmed that there was missing information and acknowledge that the missing information was related to salaries and benefits. Cherilyn Williams and Jessica Holstien provided printouts of the missing budget piece for everyone to review.

Joelle Moore mentioned a correction on page 10 under the list of 707 (b) offenses: 288 (a) is listed and is not under the code this should be removed.

Alejandra Gutierrez mentioned investing in reentry for youth and removing barriers. Consider for the following year's budget we are intentional about placing the funding where it needs to go.

Alejandra Gutierrez asked if a shift in funding can be made mid-year to somewhere else or wait until next year after it is rolled over.

Cherilyn Williams explained funding can be diverted if necessary for one-time costs and be part of the plan moving forward.

Chris Wright made a motion to approve the Juvenile Justice Realignment Annual Local Plan as modified on page 10 removing 288(a) and the additions of the budget. Dr. Mona Davies seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Oppositions: None

10. Future Meeting September 10, 2024

Marcus Walls mentioned he is not available for the September 10 date.

Chris Wright proposed a new date of September 17, 2024, at 2pm. Everyone agreed.

Chris Wright made a motion to approve the next Subcommittee meeting on September 17, 2024, at 2pm. Dr. Deanna McCarty seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Oppositions: None

11. JJCC Subcommittee Comments

No further comments.

12. Public Comments

No further comments.

13. Adjournment

Next JJCC Subcommittee Meeting:

Date/Time: September 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

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

Meeting Minutes submitted by Probation Executive Secretary Bryon Hansen