



JJDC Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2024

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

In Attendance: Chris Collopy, Laurel Cook, Mike Belknapp, Patricia Watson, Cynthia Magill, Shannon Crosby, Dana Young, Bruce Fordon, Rebecca Cloyd, Sofia Alvarenga, Michael Griggs, Kathleen Rodriguez, Ernest Rodriguez, Genesi Ramirez, Julian Elliott, Trinidad Flores, Leslie Cordero

Unexcused / Excused Absence: Paul Parker (excused), Pam Torres (excused), Amanda Wade (excused)

Applicants: Georgia Hussein, Joshua Angell

1. Call to Order

- a. With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. The pledge of allegiance was led by commissioner Belknapp.

3. Roll Call / Welcome / Introductions

- a. Welcome:
 - i. Chair Collopy welcomed everyone and noted the presence of several guests. Each attendee introduced themselves and their affiliations.

4. Public Comment

- a. Chair Collopy invited any public comments. There were no public comments made.

5. Motion to Approve Agenda

- a. Commissioner Watson moved to approve the agenda, which was seconded by commissioner Cook. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes (April 11, 2024)

- a. Commissioner Watson motioned to accept the minutes for the monthly meeting held on April 11, 2024. Commissioner Belknapp seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

7. County Counsel Report

- a. Updates:
 - i. Bruce Fordon reported no new developments from the County Counsel's office.

8a. Riverside County Probation (Institutional Services) Rebecca Cloyd, Division Director for Southwest Juvenile Hall

- a. Updates / Current Population:
 - i. Division Director Cloyd reported Chief deputies have been divided between detention and treatment facilities. Chief Deputy Joe Doty: Appointed to oversee the AMC - YTEC and the Pathways to Success programs. Chief Deputy Daniel Castaneda: Appointed to oversee detention facilities.
- b. Indio Juvenile Hall (Stats):
 - i. Current Population: 55 males - 1 RM youth, 6 youth pending placement, 3 youth pending entry into the Pathways to Success program, 38 youth pending court resolution, 2 jurisdictional transfer cases, and 5 youth assigned to the Pathway to Success program.
 - ii. Incidents in May: 5 fights, 0 escapes or attempted escapes, 0 suicide attempts, 0 COVID cases.
- c. SW juvenile Hall (Stats):
 - i. Current population: 53 (51 males, 2 females) - 4 RM youth, 1 youth pending placement, 1 youth pending entry into the Pathways to Success program, 43 youth pending court resolution, 0 unfit, 3 transfers, 1 courtesy hold, 0 youth in the Pathways to Success program.
 - ii. Incidents in May: 13 fights, 0 escapes or attempted escapes, 0 suicide attempts, 0 COVID cases.
- d. AMC-YTEC / Pathways to Success (Stats):
 - i. Current Population: 44 (38 males, 6 females) - 32 youth in the Pathways to Success program (31 males, 1 female), and 0 detention youth currently at the center.
 - ii. Incidents in May: YTEC program: 0 fights, Pathways to Success program: 3 fights, 0 escapes or attempted escapes for all programs, 0 suicide attempts for all programs, 0 COVID cases for all programs.
- e. Discussion Points:
 - i. Uptick in Fights at Southwest Juvenile Hall:
 - o **Reason:** Increased population and some youth with mental health and coping issues. The conflicts are mostly due to personality clashes rather than gang-related issues.
 - o **Impact of Fights:** No staff injuries or critical incidents. One youth required stitched for minor injury (one stitch).
- f. Questions and Answers:
 - i. Pathways to Success Program:
 - o **Question:** How long is the wait for the program, and is there available space?
 - o **Answer:** Two units are designated for the program, but they are not fully operational due to staffing



shortages. Administration is actively working on hiring more personnel, and a PCO CORE academy is underway to ensure that all programs have the necessary staffing.

- ii. Segregation with Deputies Doty and Castaneda:
 - o **Question:** When did the segregation between Deputy Doty and Deputy Castaneda occur?
 - o **Answer:** The change took place a pay period ago.
- iii. No further question from commissioners were raised, and chair Collopy thanked Rebecca Cloyd for her detailed report.

8b. Riverside County Probation (Special Services Division) Division Director, Shannon Crosby

- a. Statistics and Updates:
 - i. Current Status as of June 1, 2024: 27 youth in STRTPs, 3 dual- status probation lead youth, 1 in a resource family home, 19 youth in extended foster care, 16 dual-status youth with DPSS as the lead agency, currently, there are no youth placed in Riverside County.
- b. Program Statements:
 - i. The program statement review process for STRTP providers, FFA, and THP within the county has been reopened by the department and is currently accepting applications from interested individuals.
 - ii. The department is working actively to review statements with the aim of getting homes operational, leading to an increase in available placement options.
- c. Question and Answers:
 - i. County Incentives:
 - o **Question:** Are there financial incentives for providers to become STRTP qualified?
 - o **Answer:** It was noted that there are no additional financial rewards at the county level, with the added information that the state rate is around \$16,000 per youth.
 - o **Question:** The previous obstacle in the process of conversion is presumed to be attributed to the stringent qualifications required. Do you foresee a more favorable outcome in the upcoming attempt?
 - o **Answer:** There are approximately 40-50 recipients on the email distribution list, and upon notifying them of the reopening, we have already commenced receiving the statements for review.
- d. Timeline for Program Statement Review Process:
 - o Timely and efficient review process is crucial for a quick turnaround time. The ideal scenario involves getting everything perfect, quick reviews, and timely revisions. The process of providers receiving support letters can take approximately 6 to 8 weeks in the best-case scenario.
 - o Additional time required for licensing by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Ideally, this process should span six to eight weeks; however, considering the current backlog faced by the CDSS, the timeline could be significantly extended.
 - o Behavioral health certification is also required, adding to the overall time needed for final approval and implementing operations.
- e. Questions and Answers:
 - i. Efforts to Recruit More Foster Families:
 - o **Question:** Are there ongoing efforts to recruit more foster families?
 - o **Answer:** The probation department plans to speak at the next Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) meeting to educate members on how to apply to become a resource family.
 - o **Aim:** Increase the number of resource families willing to take in probation foster youth
 - ii. Chair Collopy conveyed appreciation to Shannon Crosby for the thorough report.

9. Behavioral Health:

- a. There was no representative from Behavioral Health present.

10. Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) Deputy Director of Public Social Services, Dana Young

- a. Updates / Highlights:
 - i. Dana Young expressed her gratitude on behalf of herself and Allison Donohoe-Beggs for the opportunity to participate in the annual awards ceremony hosted by the commission.
 - ii. May Referrals: 3,697, up from April's 3,472.
 - iii. Dependent Children: Currently over 6000 dependent children.
 - o Over 8,000 youth are currently in out-of-home placement, with an exact total of 3,350 encompassing legal guardianship and IOP placements.
 - o 99 youth in STRTPs, a decrease from previous counts of 105 youth in STRTPs.
 - o Majority of youth in relative care: 1,176.
 - o Resource homes: 1,432 youth.
 - o In-county youth placements: 2,229 youth.
 - o Out-of-county youth placements: 845 youth.



- b. Harmony Haven Campus:
 - i. Current Census: 18 on campus awaiting placement.
 - ii. On June 30th at 10 am, Allison and Dana Young will lead a tour of Harmony Haven for the JJDPC commissioners.
 - iii. Behavioral Health is providing drug prevention services and group therapy sessions on campus Monday to Thursday.
 - iv. DPSS is currently striving to enroll youth into summer school programs.
- c. Staffing: The recruitment process for Social Services Practitioner III personnel is ongoing, and to date, DPSS has successfully conducted five inductions for new staff members.
- d. Collaboration: Ongoing collaboration with probation services.
- e. Questions and Answers:
 - i. Total Number of Dependent Children:
 - o **Question:** Clarification on the total number of dependent children and those in placements.
 - o **Answer:** Over 6000 dependent children, with around 3000 in some form of an in-home placement.
 - ii. Staffing and Caseloads:
 - o **Question:** Number of staff supervising the 6000 dependent children.
 - o **Answer:** Exact number of staff not provided; regions have approximately 100 social workers per office.
 - o **Question:** What is the ratio of clients to staff members?
 - o **Answer:** Caseloads are approximately 35 youth per social worker.
 - iii. Utilization of Father's Heart Ranch:
 - o **Question:** Why is Father's Heart Ranch in Desert Hot Springs not more utilized?
 - o **Answer:** The facility primarily serves boys aged 6 to 12, though they can take boys up to 16. Preference is given to younger children. Current capacity: 16 beds, with 3 available.
 - iv. No further questions from commissioners.
 - v. Chair Collopy expressed gratitude to Dana Young for the detailed report on behalf of Deputy Director Allison Donohoe-Beggs.

11. New Business:

- a. Youth Court:
 - i. Youth Court serves as a diversion program within the juvenile justice system. Chair Collopy noted that Commissioner Wade suggested implementing Youth Court as an alternative for young individuals accused of minor infractions (such as tobacco or vaping use, minor altercations) that do not go through the traditional juvenile justice process.
 - ii. Current Status:
 - o The commission has contacted Judge Petersen, awaiting his response to the proposal.
 - o Suggested reaching out to local police departments to gather information on existing diversion programs, as many had such programs before COVID-19 (e.g., Moreno Valley, Riverside PD).
 - o Discussion on reviving successful programs and possibly integrating them with Youth Court.
- b. Delinquency, Dependency, and Drug Court Hearing Visits:
 - i. The commission is planning visits to court hearings to gain insights into the judicial process.
 - ii. Current Status:
 - o Received positive response from the court; to begin scheduling visits.
 - o Visits will be limited to morning sessions and will involve small groups of commissioners (3-4 at a time).
 - o Proposed Dates: June 28, July 7, July 17, July 22, and July 29.
 - o Approval needed from judges and attorneys for each visit.
 - o Additionally, drug court hearings are currently suspended.
- c. Quarterly and Monthly Meetings:
 - i. Adjustments to the meeting schedule to improve attendance and participation.
 - ii. Changes:
 - o Quarterly meetings moved to the afternoon, starting at 1:30 PM, to increase participation from partner agencies (e.g., Courts, CBO's, Sheriff's Department, Public Defender's Office, DA's Office, County Council, Probation, DPSS).
 - o The next JJDPC quarterly meeting will be on July 11, 2024.
 - o The monthly meetings that coincide with the quarterly meeting will be postponed or have a shortened agenda for the JJDPC's regular Business meeting. The shift will occur beginning at the next scheduled meeting on July 11th.
 - o Emphasis on enhancing communication and collaboration among agencies involved in youth services.
 - o Project Rebound will present at the next quarterly meeting in July.
- d. BSCC Training:
 - i. Discussion on training provided by Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for commissioners.



- ii. Current Status:
 - o This year, the annual statewide CPPCA conference has been canceled, resulting in the cancellation of the BSCC training for commissioners that takes place during the conference.
 - o Plans for in-house training for commissioners, particularly for those new to the inspection process. Shay Molennor a BSCC rep, offered to provide training sometime in September or October.
 - o It was noted that the BSCC umbrella does not encompass the training for group homes: the training is exclusively intended for lockup detention facilities and police holding areas.
 - o Commissioner Cook intends to offer training to commissioners regarding group homes, especially for those who are new and unfamiliar with the inspection process, which is a crucial aspect of their responsibilities.
 - o Commissioner Cook will outline the subsequent actions necessary for carrying out inspections and evaluating forms.
 - o There is also consideration to invite neighboring commissions to participate in the training.
 - e. CPPCA Convention:
 - i. Discussion on the challenges faced by the California Probation, Parole and Correction Association (CPPCA) convention and its future direction.
 - ii. Current Status:
 - o The origination has experienced a decline in members and effectiveness over the years, leading to uncertainty about its future as an organization.
 - o The CPPCA played a crucial role in maintaining cohesion among Commissions by offering statewide support.
 - o The absence of the CPPCA may have resulted in fragmented commissions, but Sonoma County continues to engage in addressing concerns, legislative matters, and seeking letters of support.
 - o Despite the changes, there still exists a network, albeit in a less formal and unofficial capacity.
 - f. 2024 JJDC Awards Event Follow-Up and Feedback:
 - i. Feedback:
 - o Suggestion to change the order of presentations to accommodate foster children and their families better.
 - o Probation presentations to be mixed with community presentations rather than in blocks.
 - g. Election of JJDC Executive Officers:
 - i. Proposal by chair Collopy to reschedule the election to the August meeting to ensure full attendance.
 - ii. Motion to Reschedule:
 - o Motion: Commissioner Cook
 - o Second: Commissioner Belknapp
 - o Vote: Approved unanimously
 - h. Interview of Commissioner Applicant Georgia Hussein:
 - i. Background: Georgia Hussein is a returning commissioner with 34 years of law enforcement experience.
 - ii. Interview: Discussion on her past contributions and experiences.
 - iii. Motion to Approve Ms. Hussein's Reinstatement:
 - o Motion: Commissioner Cook
 - o Second: Commissioner Belknapp
 - o Vote: Approved unanimously
 - o Swearing-in scheduled for July 16, 2024, at 1:30 PM.
 - iv. No further questions or items for discussion.
 - v. Gratitude expressed to all participants for their contributions.
- 12. Correspondence Discussion:**
- a. There was no correspondence received or discussed.
- 13. Activities of the Commission:**
- a. School Violence:
 - i. This item was deferred as Commissioner Amanda Wade was out of town and unable to provide her report.
 - b. Anti-Trafficking:
 - i. The responsibility for anti-trafficking activities needs to be reassigned following Commissioner Malsed's departure.
 - ii. This reassessment will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - c. JJCC Activity:
 - i. There is ongoing activity through the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC).
 - ii. An RFP has been issued for a study to evaluate the effectiveness of CBOs (Community-Based Organizations) across the county.
 - iii. The study aims to determine whether the right CBOs are in the right places and if they are reaching the appropriate audience with the necessary services.
 - iv. The status of the RFP and contract finalization will be updated at the next JJCC meeting.



- v. Commissioners are encouraged to engage with interested CBOs and facilitate their participation in the study and Commission activities.

- a. Youth Court:

- i. This item is on hold until feedback is received from Judge Petersen regarding Youth Court proposal.

14. Old Business

- a. Updates:

- i. There were no items under Old Business for discussion.

15. Commission Member Reports

- a. Updates:

- i. Chair Collopy officially welcomed commissioner Watson as the newest member of the Commission.
 - ii. Commissioner Cook and Commissioner Belknap inspected Father's Heart Ranch. Commissioner Cook mentioned that there are concerns from Father's Heart Ranch about pending legislation decisions regarding rate reductions.
 - iii. Commissioner Cook discussed the commissioners' tour of juvenile probation holding facilities after Patricia's swearing in. They saw a nursery-like area for youth in 300/dependency cases awaiting court. She mentioned SB-823 subcommittees meeting to brainstorm ideas for future discussions. Additionally, she attended a CBO Alliance workshop organized by Ramon, which came from the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council's SB-823 subcommittee.
 - iv. Commissioner Belknap shared his thoughts on the tour of Father's Heart Ranch, raising a question about the facility's underutilization, which was addressed by Ms. Dana Young.
 - v. Further Discussions centered around potential legislative changes impacting the rates for Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) and how this would affect youth services. The commissioners emphasized the importance of staying informed about these changes and their implications. There was also talk of potentially drafting a letter to the legislature to express concerns about the proposed rate changes. Shannon Crosby offered to provide the group with Stephanie Anderson, a Probation Foster Care Specialist at CPOC, for the commission to gather more information on the proposed rate changes.

16. Adjournment:

- a. No further remarks were made by the Commission members or attendees. Chair Collopy proposed to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Watson motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Chair Collopy expressed appreciation to everyone for their participation and concluded the meeting at 2:15pm.

Next Meeting:

Date: July 11, 2024

Time: 1:30 pm

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