

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT
 Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Meeting
 April 20, 2015
 2:00 p.m.

HOST LOCATION: Downtown Law Building, 3960 Orange Street, 5th floor County Counsel Training Room, Riverside, CA 92501

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chief Probation Officer, Mark A. Hake at 2:05p.m.

WELCOME/OPENING COMMITTEE:

Chief Probation Officer Mark A. Hake welcomed and requested introduction of the agencies represented:

Rosario Rull	Assistant Chief Probation Officer	Riverside County Probation
Doug Moreno	Chief Deputy Probation Administrator	Riverside County Probation
Stacy Adams-Metz	Chief Deputy Probation Officer	Riverside County Probation
Walter H. Kubelun	Commissioner	Superior Court of California Riverside County
Beth Stevens	Division Director	Riverside County Probation
Cherilyn Williams	Administrative Service Manager	Riverside County Probation
Gerry Lopez	Deputy District Attorney	County of Riverside District Attorney
Chad Firetag	Assistant Public Defender	County of Riverside Public Defender
Viola Becker	Principal Accountant	Riverside County Probation
Nafeesah Tillman	Supervising Probation Officer	Riverside County Probation
Cari Shepherd	Senior Probation Officer	Riverside County Probation
Jennifer Hastings	Regional Manager	Riverside County Department of Public Social Services
Casey Reid	Youth Court, Police Officer	Riverside Police Department
Chad Milby	Youth Court, Lieutenant	Riverside Police Department
Diana Glenn	Adolescent Counselor	MFI Recovery Inc.
Cynthia Wilhite	Director of Outreach	Wylie Center
Melody Amaral	Chief Executive Officer	Wylie Center
Steve Tibbetts	Professor	California State University San Bernardino
Robert Lippert	Chairperson	Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission
Laurel Cook	Commissioner	Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2015 MEETING:

Chief Hake entertained a motion to approve the February 19, 2015 minutes of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as submitted was made by Chad Firetag, Assistant Public Defender, County of Riverside, seconded by Robert Lippert, Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Oppositions/Abstentions: None.

OVERVIEW OF YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (Handout)

Nafeesah Tillman, Supervising Probation Officer, Riverside County Probation Department, narrated a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of Youth Accountability Team (YAT). She provided background information on the YAT program, and current information on the numbers of youth served, and source of referrals.

SPO Tillman emphasized the program is a collaborative effort to prevent, intervene, and suppress juvenile delinquency. There are 18 collaborative multi-agency teams throughout the county, which consist of a Deputy Probation Officer, Law Enforcement Officer, Deputy District Attorney, and Youth Outreach Counselor. The Community Based Organizations (CBO's) that work with YAT include, My Family Incorporated (MFI), The Boys & Girls Club of Coachella Valley, Family Services Associations, Operation SAFEHOUSE, and Carolyn E. Wylie Center. Nafeesah acknowledged the CBO's and their contributions to the program.

Nafeesah shared that from July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2014 approximately 36,400 referrals have been processed by YAT. In addition, from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, 1,625 referrals were processed by YAT.

SPO Tillman gave a brief overview of the various programming and presentations that the YAT minors are given the opportunity to experience. In addition, the minors participate in community service by feeding the homeless, Jurupa trash clean up, Adopt-a-beach and Riverside Art Museum.

During this reporting year, a Western Youth Strength Academy was conducted in which "The Olympics" was the theme. Many activities during the week involved the minors representing different countries in sport competitions and concluded with the presentation of gold, silver and bronze medals to the winners of the competitions at the closing Torch Ceremony. During the month of September, the Desert YAT organized and held the first "Desert Connections Resource Fair." Over 70 local organizations were represented at the event held at the Indio Fairgrounds and 500 members of the community attended. Families won raffle prizes, backpacks filled with school supplies were given away and free food was provided.

CAL STATE UNIVERSITY SAN BERNARDINO TECHNICAL REPORT

Steve Tibbetts, PhD, California State University San Bernardino, distributed the Riverside County Probation Department Juvenile Crime Prevention Act Program Technical Report.

This technical report is a summary of the continuing evaluation of the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) program of the Riverside County Probation Department. The JJCPA is designed to implement the provisions of California law AB1913, as overseen by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), formerly the Corrections Standards Authority. The JJCPA Program in Riverside County focuses on one area of juvenile intervention, YAT. This technical report provides interim findings on the YAT program.

The target population is pre-delinquent and misdemeanor referrals typically aged between 12 to 17 years, who are at-risk in the areas of substance abuse, truancy, family conflict, mental health, school adjustment, or gang involvement.

As per agreement with the BSCC, success is measured against prior performance standards, or “benchmarks,” stated in terms of rates of arrest, incarceration, and probation completion. Truancy rates are also used to evaluate the effectiveness of the YAT program.

Case Log Data PowerPoint (Handout)

Dr. Tibbetts informed that the Case Log Workbook Data involves the Youth Accountability Teams collecting and recording information on those juveniles they have contacted through the various team locations. These contacts include consequence agreements (i.e., non-contract monitoring), counsel and close, referral to another agency, and youth placed on contract. From July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2014, there were 36,395 referrals. In some instances, YAT had more than one referral for a youth (e.g., the first referral a counsel and close, the second referral a contract).

The majority of these referrals were from law enforcement (76.4%) followed by school staff (17.7%), and parents/guardians (5.4%). More than one-quarter of the youths were referred for property offenses (29.9%) followed by defiance/incorrigibility (20.1), violent offenses (16.2%), and drugs/alcohol (12.7%). The percentage of law enforcement and property crime referrals has increased recently.

Over 50% of these referrals resulted in a contract (64.0%), followed by such actions as rejected/ineligible (21.9%), counsel/close (7.1%), and consequence agreement (6.1%). Of those youths placed on contract with a known disposition 71.6% successfully completed compared to 28.4% unsuccessfully completed.

The percentage of youths placed on contract has increased recently. A consistent 70% success rate is considered extremely well in published scientific evaluations, and especially for a program of this size. The average age of youths placed on contract is 15 years old. The average grade level is 9.2, ranging from 1st grade to a few who have graduated from high school. Almost two-thirds of the youths are males (64.6%). Over half of the youths are Hispanic (62.1%) followed by White (15.9%) and African-American (13.3%). Over one-quarter of the youths were referred to YAT for a property offense (27.6%) followed by a violent offense (20.0%), and drugs and/or alcohol (17.2%).

Dr. Tibbetts examined the BSCC data which shows the percentage of arrests, incarceration, and violations of probation decreased this year as compared to last year. 2013/14 was a successful year for YAT relative to previous years, especially considering high percentage of youths that were placed on contract with the program.

Dr. Tibbetts addressed questions and clarified information on the Technical Report. Commissioner Kubelun, suggested capturing a global snapshot of countywide success rates over a three year period. He stated that the snapshot would be easily accessible prior to the annual meetings. Chief Hake acknowledged Dr. Tibbett for his presentation and the partner agencies for their collaboration toward the success of the program.

BI-ANNUAL JJCC MEETING (MARCH/NOVEMBER)

Chief Hake shared that the JJCC meetings will be conducted bi-annually in the months of March and November.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Chief Hake attributed the success of YAT to the quality of the collaboration between the partners on the teams, i.e., the District Attorney's office developed the Women Wonder Writers, and Real Men Read; Indio Police Department worked closely with Probation to see the Desert Connections Resource Fair come to fruition; and the Riverside Police Department diversion programs are working with probation for the success of YAT. Additionally, YAT's collaboration with the Riverside Art Museum resulted in the department receiving the Security Award from the Riverside Downtown Partnership at its Annual Awards of Distinction Ceremony on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

SDDA Gerry Lopez, shared positive feedback from successful YAT minors participating in the program, and the improvement in their grades, decrease in truancy, and their desire for higher education. SDDA Lopez elaborated that YAT is the best program in the Riverside County Juvenile Justice system which has been a factor in a decrease in caseloads, court filings, and police reports.

NEXT MEETING – November 9, 2015

Meeting Minutes submitted by Gail Moore, Secretary