

**Stanislaus County
Juvenile Justice Commission
February 17, 2022 – Probation Department**

Members Present: Marian Martino, Chair, Sharma Uma, Cpt. Scott Houston, Wanda Bonnell, Chief Fidel Landeros, Dawn Cullum, Steven Ashman

Members Excused: Michael Baldwin, Vice-Chair

Probation Department Present: Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera,

Superior Court: The Honorable Annette Rees and The Honorable Jeff Mangar, Juvenile Court Judges

Call to Order: Chairperson Marian Martino called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Public Comment: No public individuals were present.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION: Wanda Bonnell. SECOND: Dawn Cullum. The minutes from December 9, 2022, meetings were approved.

The Juvenile Justice Commission welcomed Judge Annette Rees and Judge Jeff Mangar, who were attending the Juvenile Justice Meeting for the first time.

Probation Department Report:

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera advised that the Juvenile Institutions' current population is 43 youth, with 4 females and 39 males. Additionally, he provided the following updates:

- 12 youth are in custody for murder or attempted murder, with 5 pending transfer hearings to determine how they will be tried and 3 being tried as adults.
- 5 youth are pending placement.
- The Secure Track count in Juvenile Hall is zero; however, they are prepared to provide the services in accordance with the SB823 Secure Track Plan.
- The current count at DJJ is 12 and is gradually decreasing.
- Programming both in/out-of-custody youth continues; Aggression Replacement Training (ART) for both in/out-of-custody youth; Lets Work and Cognitive Behavior Treatment (CBT) for out-of-custody youth.
- One hundred eighty-seven wards are currently on probation.

CPO Ferriera reported an analysis of booking percentages over the last six years related to firearm possession and use, murder, attempted murder, and 707B offenses. According to the data collected, the overall booking numbers decreased, and the percentage of such offenses increased. CPO Ferriera added that he predicts bookings will continue on a downward trend.

Ms. Cullum asked why Juvenile Hall continues without a Secure Track population. CPO Ferriera noted that, in his opinion, no one is currently eligible for the Secure Track Unit but could change after several cases that have been pending for some time reach resolution. Although the Secure Track Unit is currently unoccupied, service providers are already in place and prepared to administer the services detailed in the SB823 Plan. Youth tried as adults are not eligible for Secure Track and will be transferred to prison upon reaching 18 years of age.

Discussion Related to Increase Usage of the JCF:

Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera provided the JJC with a brief history of the Juvenile Facilities, highlighting the following:

- Juvenile Hall was built in 1978 with 88 beds and remained as such for several years, often dealing with overcrowding; in 2000, Juvenile Hall was expanded, and again in 2003.
- In 2007 SB81 prohibited Juvenile Hall from sending youth to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for all felonies unless adjudicated of 707B offenses or registered sex offenses.
- SB81 funding was granted in State Revenue Lease Bonds to build the Juvenile Commitment Facility for the sole purpose of housing Court Committed Youth in a treatment-like setting. The funding of the JCF is tied to numerous rules that must be followed, and any modifications to the facility use must be approved by the State Public Works Board, CDCR, Board of State Community Corrections, and the Department of Finance. If the rules are not followed, the JCF will be taken back by the State.
- The difference between Juvenile Hall and the JCF is that Juvenile Hall is for housing pre adjudicated youth and the JCF is a commitment facility strictly for housing court committed youth.
- Staffing challenges continue in Juvenile Hall, with a current 50% vacancy rate rising.
- Law Enforcement Agencies and County Agencies are currently experiencing staffing challenges as well.

Steven Ashman asked whether there was any chance of relocating all youth, regardless of status, to the JCF or extending facility utilization by bringing in service providers, making it a one-stop-shop. CPO Ferriera stated that modifying the JCF's use would be a substantial undertaking and would not be conducive to putting high-security youth in a minimum-security facility like the JCF. He also noted that, based on present needs, he believes the JCF is being used effectively and sees no reason to extend its use. Assistant Chief Probation Officer Leticia Ruano indicated that the JCF is a treatment-oriented facility and that housing unadjudicated youth would be disruptive to the purpose for which the JCF is being used.

Chairperson Marian Martino expressed appreciation for the information regarding the Juvenile Facilities and their specific purpose and offered the commission's assistance if needed.

Juvenile Court Report:

Judge Annette Rees and Judge Jeff Mangar introduced themselves to the commission members and expressed excitement about their new assignment. Judge Annette Rees reported the following:

- Judge Annette Rees is the Presiding Juvenile Judge in Department 18 and is in charge of the Dependency Calendar.
- Judge Jeff Mangar is assigned to the Juvenile Justice Court in Department 17.
- Dependency cases have been decreasing.
- The construction of the new downtown courthouse is expected to be completed by December 2024.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting will be on April 14, 2022, at Noon, in the Probation Department Training Room.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.