



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Kalisa Rochester
Chief Probation Officer

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2021

Meeting via ZOOM

Attending

1. Joe Hoffar, Chairperson
2. Kalisa Rochester, Chief Probation Officer
3. Lisa Maples, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
4. Joseph Owens, Program Manager
5. Joel Daffron, Program Manager
6. Kelly Bentz, Commissioner
7. Sandra Stevens, Vice Chairperson
8. Jermaine Paster, Commissioner

Absent

1. Lori Minor, Commissioner
2. Mark Bacciarini, Judge for Merced County

Call to Order

Joe welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. He took a roll call of the members.

Additions to the agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Jermaine added discussion about the Merced Clean Up.
- Kelly added information about the Christmas Bags from the Church.
- Sandra added discussion about Human Trafficking.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on November 18, 2020 were individually reviewed. Kelly moved to approve the minutes. Sandra seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Standing Item SB 823 Update

- Kalisa met with the JJCC committee last week to present a presentation on the plan for the utilizing the funds for 2021-22. The funds are about \$550 thousand for this year. This year will be very cautious in expenditures. The plan is to work with partners to test the youth for services. We will be pumping up our vocation educational piece with a partnership with MCOE. The plan is to hire a full time Career Educator through MCOE. Youth that need additional services in English or Math would be going to a tutoring lab. Kids will also be allowed to attend college. The solar program will be going. The coffee cart is still in play.
- Females and sex offenders will not be served here for the year 2021-22. These youth will be placed in other counties and contracts will be in place to cover expenditures. Fresno County will accept our sex offenders. The female's location is yet to be decided.
- Also, there is some concerns about the high risk youth waiting for transfer to the adult prison. Kings County might be able to help secure these kids and meet their needs.
- The plan is going for a vote on February 3rd. She will update the group on the vote and decisions. Any remaining funds not used will be allocated to a trust to pay for the youth we have to contract out. Kalisa gave some calculations for possible expenses. She explained some of the criteria used to calculate the daily cost. We only have one sex offender currently at DJJ and one in our facility awaiting disposition. There was a round table discussion.
- Kalisa reminded the team the JJCC team will have to come up with a plan annually. Limited funds are restrictive for this first year. Future realignment options will be explored. We always try to service the youth in our facility as long as we can. The restrictions of Title 15 may be an issue with the high-risk youth. Not all youth will be able to successfully program. Separation programs are not ideal and never the goal to separate youth long term.
- The licensed clinician, Lori Lingerfelter, from BHRS will be established at the Facility as part of the partnership with BHRS. There will also be an unlicensed clinician and a mental health worker on the team. This will help as mental health services will be readily available. There was a round table discussion.
- Kalisa has received a request from AFSCME requesting a meet and confer. She will keep the team posted as to the outcomes of this meeting.
- She recapped the DJJ closure in July for intake only. She explained how this process will work. After July, the Courts cannot commit a kid to DJJ. They will have to be kept locally or contracted out to other Counties. Very few Counties want to service females because there are so few and they are a difficult population. Merced only has one female at DJJ. Currently the female options are placement down south or the bay area.
- Kalisa explained that we have six (6) kids there now but we will not be getting any of them back right away. As they have so many programs at DJJ, and we are not ready to receive them, it is not fair to bring them back yet. DJJ has agreed to this so far but that can always

change. We will have to deal with the kids committed after July 1st. Kalisa will send the DJJ power point presentation. There was a round table discussion.

Standing Item Inspection Reports

- Joseph went over the inspection reports from last year. Due to COVID, some of them were late in being completed. The hope this year is to get them all back on a normal time frame. There were no real big findings from any of the inspections. We are looking good.
- Kalisa read the Title 15 Inspection Report into the Court. The disclosure of these inspection reports was requested per the Title 15 Report.

Standing Item Ancillary Services

- Joseph explained what the ancillary services provide. He gave the rundown on the education pieces. The Peer Support Specialists are helping to provide career portfolios and programming services.
- Mental Health services are being provided as needed by the youth.
- Outside dental care is being provided when needed. There was a roundtable discussion regarding transporting the youth. Any youth at the facility more than a year will go to an outside dentist for teeth cleaning.
- Kalisa reminded the team this will be on the agenda as it was required on the Title 15 Report. Round table discussion.

Standing Item Meals/Nutrition

- Lisa reported that from July to December, there were thirteen (13) grievances regarding the food. In reality, there were only two (2) issues. One was changing the sauce and the other being bloody chicken. Lisa has met with the food manager, Joe Owens. He runs a tight ship and the environment was very clean.
- All meals are prepared fresh daily. The meals come from Trinity Food Company. All the food is stored correctly at the proper temperature. They do not serve expired food. Temperature are checked by staff at the facility. They have menus planned for the entire year. If something is served that is not on the menu they correct the list. She shared the menus for two (2) weeks as an example. The temperatures are checked on arrival to the Facility. There was a roundtable discussion.
- Lisa informed the group that we are good to go meal wise. She reminded us the youth also receive snacks and other items they have earned through behavior management program. Staff also supplies extra goodies for special occasions.

Standing Item Behavioral Health

- Joseph shared information about LPS facilities. These are mental health facilities for the stabilization of a youth. We don't use them often. He explained the process if a youth is brought in with mental health issues. There are not many facilities that will accept youth patients as most of them are for adults. The closest facility is in Sacramento. The LPS facility in Merced is Marie Green but they only service Adults.

- The Mental Health Team will really help with the youth and he is excited to get them on board at the facility. There was a roundtable discussion.

South Merced Clean Up-Jermaine

- Jermaine explained that a flyer went out to some of the team for a South Merced Clean-Up on February 6th at Mc Namara Park. It will start at 8:00 and go to 11:30. Lunch will be provided. On the last clean-up they had eighty (80) to one hundred (100) people who showed up to help. He encourages getting the youth out to help. The networking is invaluable. He gave some details and there was a roundtable discussion. There is a lot of involvement from the City. He would also like to see the foster youth participate.
- Kalisa shared that we just finished up an MOU with the City to get our youth to provide some of these services. We will be entering a partnership with the City of Merced, primarily working in the parks. There was a round table discussion.

Church participation Update-Kelly

- She explained why her Church, The United Methodist Church of Merced, could not participate in the gift bags this year. They are currently still conducting their food pantry for those in need of food. Distributions are made weekly. Due to COVID they could not use the inside of the Church so the bags and the giving tree project were not possible.
- She suggested that they do Christmas in July this year instead. She feels this would be a great surprise for the kids. It was agreed that this is a great idea.
- Joseph did share that the bags did happen through his staff and family members so the kids did not go without. There was a roundtable discussion.
- Kalisa reminded the team that this Church does a lot of great things for the community. They allow other groups, such as Girl Scouts, to use their facility. Kelly also shared they host other denominations to worship in their facility. There was a roundtable discussion.

Human Trafficking Partnership-Sandra

- Sandra will be partnering with the Merced DA office to fight human trafficking. It will take the entire community to provide resources to the kids being trafficked. She gave examples of some possibilities for housing. There was a roundtable discussion. Kalisa explained her dealings with the DA concerning this issue as there was some confusion regarding the meeting.
- Orange County has a program going and Merced is trying to mirror this program.
- Jennifer Jones and Shasta Steiner usually attend the MDT Meeting. Joel and Joseph will make sure they send representatives for Probation.
- Sandra explained about the "Cool Aunt" series. It's an on-line stream course. She is going to ask all twelve (12) girls in her group to participate. We currently have two (2) female in the Facility who can participate. There will also be a live event with Rachel as well. There was a roundtable discussion.

Old Business

Title 15 Inspection Report

This was discussed earlier when Kalisa explained she read the report into the Court.

Future Agenda Items

It was decided to leave the following items on as standing items:

- SB 823
- Inspection Reports
- Ancillary Services
- Meals/Nutrition
- Behavioral Health

Kalisa explained that if grievances are received concerning to food, they should be forwarded to the food services manager, Joe Owens. If there is a mental health grievance it should be sent to Jeff Sabean at BHRS for review. Any medical grievance would go to our medical contractor for follow-up.

Closed Session

Sharing Critical Incidents Update

- Joseph reported that a female got out of the housing unit. She was out of the building. Staff responded and restrained her and returned her to the housing unit without injury. There is an investigation to ensure this does not happen again. She was on suicide watch. There was a round table discussion.

Grievances Filed

- Joe went over the grievances. There were only sixteen (16) grievances to review. Several complaints were phone related. Joseph explained the process to have the phones fixed once the youth damage them.
- One grievance was with a temporary situation involving changes of wings. BSCC was notified of the merged populations and approval was given. This move was temporary due to COVID needs and restrictions.
- Kalisa explained we are now off the outbreak list. The kids are being tested if symptomatic. She explained which services are temporarily suspended due to COVID. She explained how our County is short on the vaccines.
- Joe inquired about the grievance regarding boys and girls sitting together. Joseph explained that boys and girls are not allowed to sit at the same table. He explained why this policy is in place. Kalisa reminded the team that healthy conversation is fine. Lisa added that boys and girls do interact outside and in school, just not at the same table.
- Joe asked about the grievance regarding lack of mental health services. Joseph explained it was not true. She has had mental health services on a regular basis. There was a round table discussion.
- Joe asked if the officers could print the grievances as they are sometimes difficult to read. Joseph will follow up with his staff for legibility.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm. The next meeting will be March 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Minutes by Maurina Erickson, Secretary III