



## PROBATION DEPARTMENT



**Kalisa Rochester**  
Chief Probation Officer

### **Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Meeting Minutes (Revised)**

March 24, 2021  
Meeting via ZOOM

#### **Attending**

1. Joe Hoffar, Chairperson
2. Mark Bacciarini, Judge for Merced County
3. Lisa Maples, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
4. Joseph Owens, Program Manager
5. Kelly Bentz, Commissioner
6. Sandra Stevens, Vice Chairperson

#### **Absent**

1. Kalisa Rochester, Chief Probation Officer
2. Joel Daffron, Program Manager
3. Lori Minor, Commissioner
4. Jermaine Paster, Commissioner

#### **Call to Order**

Joe welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. He took a roll call of the members.

#### **Additions to the agenda**

There were no additional items added to the agenda.

#### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting on January 27, 2021 were individually reviewed. Sandra moved to approve the minutes. Kelly seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

### *Updating the Commissioner Application*

Joe previously sent out his proposed revision for the Application for Commissioner. The only change to the form was adding a place to include your County Supervisor and a place for who recommended you to be a Commissioner. There was a roundtable discussion. Kelly moved to approve the revised Commissioner form. Sandra seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### *Standing Item SB 823 Update*

- Lisa gave the update. There is really no new information. The last thing the team received was the DJJ Power Point Presentation. It is still anticipated that DJJ will be shutting down this summer. We are working on updating the plan for the JJCPA grant application. The application is due by May 1<sup>st</sup>. This funding will be for youth (JJCPA-YOBG) transitioning back into the community.
- She went over the new program with the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) Health Team. The youth seem to be really receptive and they are participating in the new services available. This BHRS Team has started some group activities and the kids were engaged and talking. Wonderful things are already happening. We are on top of things and ahead of the game as the plans are moving forward nicely.
- We started the construction classed with MCOE. Mr. Pope is the instructor. He is really enthusiastic and energetic.
- We also had two graduations today. This is exciting and positive for the youth who earned their diplomas. A small reception was held for each of them.
- Joe asked about the females and sex offenders being housed when DJJ closes. Joseph presented an explanation of why we will not house them here. It is mainly due to our low numbers with these populations and the lack of resources available. Lisa explained there is a \$9 million grant available to Counties to help with the expanding infrastructure for these hard to place groups. Our specialty will be the mental health groups as we now have the BHRS Team in place. There was a roundtable discussion and Lisa further explained the logistics.

### *Standing Item Inspection Reports*

- Joseph reported there were no inspections since the last meeting.

### *Standing Item Ancillary Services*

- Joseph explained the teachers are back full time in the class room. There is no more distant learning at this time.
- Our mental health team is now up and running. The BHRS Team is a team of three (3) full time staff members. There is a licensed clinician, an unlicensed clinician and a mental health worker at this time on their team. He reported that there are nine (9) youth receiving mental health services and six (6) youth on psychotropic drugs. There are currently thirty-two (32) youth in custody at this time. There was a roundtable discussion.

### *Standing Item Meals/Nutrition*

- Joseph reported there is really nothing new on this front. They have received grievances but they are directed more towards the quantity of food as opposed to the quality of the food. He assured the group that all State and nutritional guidelines are being met.

### *Standing Item Behavioral Health*

- Joe explained that the Mental Health piece was previously discussed. There was a roundtable discussion.
- Lisa explained that the groups are perceived as non-punitive. They kids must be there because they want to participate not because they have to attend. The youth on psychotropic medication are a little different as some may be Court ordered to participate in treatment. Judge Bacciarini explained how this works and what is required. He reminded the team that a doctor must make the medical determination for the use of psychotropic drugs. The medication can be issued against the will of the child. There was another roundtable discussion.
- There was a discussion about trauma induced ACES Testing Programs. This seems to be a great tool. Lisa explained that we have staff involved in trauma induced care. We work with Dave Lockridge and youth both inside and outside the facility. COVID has stopped a lot of programs but things are opening up more now. Great things and programs are starting to happen again.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

- Joe asked Kelly if her Church was still planning on doing the Christmas in July event. Kelly informed the group that yes, they are. The Church will do no harm which means they are slowly opening up different services. She shared that Easter weekend they will be conducting a drive through vaccination event using the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. As their food pantry is still going strong, the Governor's office called to ask if they would be willing to administer the vaccine when folks pick up their food allotment. Once the County goes into the red tier, the Church will open up more programs and services. Hopefully this will happen in early April. There was a roundtable discussion
- Joe asked Sandra about the Human Trafficking updates. Sandra shared that District Attorney Tyson McCoy has really been a catalyst for this cause. He is really serious about getting a program in place. Arrest have increased. We all need to work cohesively to make this work as a community. We really don't have sufficient services to deal with the human trafficked victims. There needs to be more community involvement with greater commitments. There was a roundtable discussion including questions about males being involved. Males are certainly involved. Transgender youth will traffic themselves because they make more money that a regular job in a shorter amount of time. Joe asked if we have a screening process at the Facility for the youth. The answer was yes, we provide

screening for this issue. Lisa explained about the tools they use to help determine the need for services. The Cool Aunt Program was discussed.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Kelly would like to see fund raising and/or grant writing back on the agenda. We need to support these youth once they leave the Facility. Assisting with reentry programs is a way to help bridge the gap but these programs come at a cost. Some suggestions were:

- Wine tasting event at Joe's house
- Grant writing
- Product sales

Currently, we have no regular funding. There was a round table discussion. Joe explained that the current HUB program in Los Banos ends in August. There are continuing efforts to look for a funding source to extend the program. The search is on for additional resources to help with the funding dilemma.

### **Closed Session**

#### *Sharing Critical Incidents Update*

- Joseph reported one incident on February 16, 2021. It was a mutual combat fight between two (2) youth in the Facility. One youth had a previous injury where he had fractured his orbital bone prior to being in the Hall. He was punched in the eye and had to go to the hospital. He was medically cleared and released from the hospital. There was no permanent damage to his eye sight. Questions were asked and answered. Joseph explained the difference between a serious assault and mutual combat situation. The goal is to keep the discipline at the lowest level and appropriate to the infraction. This was definitely a mutual combat situation.

#### *Grievances Filed*

- Joe went over the grievances. The number one complaint was the food situation. The weekend lunches were the primary complaint on this round of grievances. Joseph clarified some of the complaints and reminded the team that a registered dietician is making sure all the nutrition requirements are being met. Joe reminded them about the Title 15 requirement for three (3) full meals. Joseph guaranteed that the nutritional needs are being met per State standards at every meal. Lisa reminded us that they also receive additional food items through earning points and purchasing them at the "store". They often get treats donated to the youth. Sometimes they are receiving more food than just the required meals served. If there is extra food at meal time, the kids can get second helpings. There is not a lack of food for the youth.
- The next topic was with the Behavioral Management Program (BMP) and the stalking of the "store". Joseph explained that they were in between orders and it was restocked the next week. Lisa also expressed that they never run out of everything in the store but the choices may not be exactly what they want every time. Somethings are more popular than others. There was a roundtable discussion.

- Joe reported there were very few grievances. There were no grievances against staff. There was one STAR submission for SPO Jamie Tillet. Joseph explained how she goes above and beyond to be there for the youth. Joe asked Joseph to make sure that Ms. Tillet receives a thank you from the Commission.

### **Resume Open Session**

- Lisa added that we are available for assistance with the reentry transition grant piece referred to earlier. She explained about the Coffee Cart Program we just started in conjunction with MCOE. They start in custody but transition out and can still be involved in the 10-week program. From there, they transfer to the RISE Program where they will be partnered with MCOE staff (Toula) to gain ROP experience that can assist them in gaining employment. She explained how the programs work. On the Adult side, we have the Phoenix Program. There was a roundtable discussion.
- Joe reminded Lisa that if the commission can help, we are here for them.
- Joe expressed his gratitude to Kelly Turner and her food truck. She is providing great employment opportunities for difficult to place folks. She is doing wonderful job and the food is exquisite. He encourages us all to support her.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next meeting will be May 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Minutes by Maurina Erickson, Secretary III