

Juvenile Justice Commission
Teleconference & GoToMeeting Participation Only
Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order N-29-20
Thursday, October 22, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Steve MacFarland, Chairman
Betty Cunningham
Susan Duncan
Troy Foster
Kaitlynn Hancock
Jennifer Coulter (Richards)
Nikolai Orloff
Joseph Hanna
Cindy Vogt
Barbara Van Dyke

Others Present

Chelsey Chappelle, Probation
Carla Stevens, Probation
Jeremy Kenyon, Probation
Twyla Carpenter, Probation
Tracie Neal, Probation
Erin Bertain, Probation

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. A quorum was present by roll call.

2. Introductions

3. Minutes

Jennifer Coulter moved to approve the meeting minutes for July 23, 2020; Seconded by Betty Cunningham; Motion passed. 9 Ayes, 0 Noes; By roll call.

4. Probation Reports

a. Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility (JRF)

Carla Stevens reported a mental health clinician has been hired and is currently spending 100% of her time with the JRF youth. Carla shared three clinicians from Victor Community Support Services (VCSS) are providing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy groups for all youth in the JRF. She said, in addition, VCSS is providing support to JRF staff in developing special mental health programs for youth struggling with the regular behavior management systems in place. Carla stated the de-escalation room is scheduled to be open mid-November. She shared Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) will offer a training by an Occupational Therapist, for the staff on the de-escalation room.

Carla said the current population includes four out-of-county youth as well as one youth awaiting transfer to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) youth facility. Carla reported Hope City is providing fine arts therapy on each pod every other Sunday.

Carla provided a COVID-19 update. She said the facility is open and all in-person programming is back, including visitation for families, but the visiting room is limited to six families at a time. She said extra visitation times are available to accommodate the social distancing and Skype is available for the out-of-county youth or for families who need to quarantine. Carla stated the teachers are back in the classrooms, and the JRF is accepting all classifications of bookings.

Troy Foster joined the meeting.

Tracie explained when a new JDO is hired, they are required to attend the JCO CORE training. Tracie stated during the last year with COVID-19 restrictions, all CORE training ceased in the state. She reported Probation has been working on a JCO certification program to provide their own CORE training and, with-in the next several months, will be able to provide the Juvenile Corrections Officer CORE training certification.

Tracie stated a consultant has been on site to review the mental health services, with a focus on suicide prevention, and is looking for areas where we can improve. Chesley said the consultant looked at JRF policies and procedures for our youth, walked through the facility, and talked to several staff and youth to ensure that our youth are receiving mental health services in a positive way.

Chelsey reported Carla, along with another staff member, has finished the library within the JRF.

Tracie wanted to give a shout-out to Carla on the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) inspection of the JRF. She said this was a huge undertaking, happens every two years, and involves a lot of hours. She reported Probation passed the inspection.

b. Juvenile Supervision

Jeremy reported there has been some staff movement within the department and hopes the staff will bring some new ideas and perspectives to the division. Jeremy said he has been working on a placement manual, which was finalized and is in use, to ensure consistency in the services provided. Jeremy shared Juvenile Probation developed a color system for placement youth who are waiting placement. He said this has helped, along with a lot of effort from staff, to get youth placed quicker and out of the JRF.

Jeremy reported he has been working with Children Services, SCOE and Far Northern Regional on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for AB2083 which is currently at the state for a review. He explained AB 2083 is legislation for the establishment of a Joint Interagency Resolution Team. It requires each county develop and implement a MOU outlining the roles and responsibilities of the various local entities that serve children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma. Jeremy also mentioned the five-year System Improvement Plan, developed jointly with Children's Services, is finished and was approved by the State.

Jeremy said some of his staff have been assisting with the different natural disasters including helping with evacuations in our county as well as other counties. Jeremy stated he had been reassigned to the local assistance center for the last week and a half.

Jeremy reported operations under COVID-19 have not changed much in the last three months. He said most visits are in the lobby, with some field visits, while maintaining social distancing procedures. Jeremy stated Juvenile Probation is urine testing again but is being selective on who they test.

5. Judge's Comments

None.

6. Reschedule the Inspection of Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility

Twyla announced the inspection of the JRF scheduled for October 15th and 16th, had been canceled. She said new dates will be selected for November. Committee members for the inspection are Jennifer Coulter, Barbara Van Dyke, Betty Cunningham and Kaitlynn Hancock. The Interview committee will be Jennifer Coulter, Susan Duncan, Betty Cunningham and Kaitlynn Hancock. Twyla indicated she will send out emails to coordinate the dates and times.

7. Discussion Items

None.

8. Action Items

None.

9. Commission Member Comments

Betty Cunningham mentioned October 23rd is the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day drop-off event at the Civic Auditorium between 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Jennifer Coulter, Youth Options, mentioned they have been to trainings with other Peer Courts throughout the state on how to hold their own Peer Court hearings in a virtual setting. She said they will be holding a mock trial, to make sure they can comply with privacy and confidentiality requirements. Jennifer shared Nikolai Orloff was involved in the training and will help with the mock trial. Jennifer stated the tobacco prevention, education, and cessation classes will start soon and be held virtually.

Troy Foster reported Remi Vista's STRTP mental health program licensing has been approved. He stated there were two graduations this summer. He said one youth transitioned out and they are providing outpatient services for him and another youth returned to Mendocino County's graduate program and graduated.

Steve MacFarland asked Tracie about the staffing in the JRF and Probation. Tracie responded stating all Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) positions are filled and have been for a year. Tracie said they are consistently recruiting for Juvenile Detention Officers (JDO) positions and, with the opening of River's Edge Academy, eleven positions were added and are in the process of being recruited for. She said we lost one JDO to the Jail and a Supervising Deputy Probation Officer in the JRF is retiring soon. She stated the supervisor has worked for the department for 15 years, is an expert in Use of Force, a trainer, and does all the D-Tac training. Tracie said the classification of JDO III was created this fiscal year and adds to the promotional opportunity for JDO's to create a journey level position. She said staff members were able to apply and were promoted into the position of JDO III's. Carla added it's been a busy year training the new hires and stated there have been approximately 12 new staff hired.

Tracie mentioned they are working on the academy program and changes with Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) youth facilities. Tracie talked about both projects. Tracie also mentioned the Elevate Justice senate bill has been stalled because of COVID-19.

10. Other business

Steve MacFarland stated the next quarterly meeting is **3:00 p.m., on Thursday, January 21**. He said they will look into other meeting places that could accommodate the social distancing.

Meeting adjourned at 3:47

Respectfully submitted,

Twyla Carpenter

APPROVED:

Steve MacFarland, Chairman