



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Kalisa Rochester
Chief Probation Officer

Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2020

Meeting via ZOOM

Attending

1. Joe Hoffar, Chairperson
2. Kalisa Rochester, Chief Probation Officer
3. Mark Bacciarini, Judge for Merced County
4. Lisa Maples, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
5. Joseph Owens, Program Manager
6. Joel Daffron, Program Manager
7. Lori Minor, Commissioner
8. Kelly Bentz, Commissioner
9. Jermaine Paster, Commissioner

Absent

1. Sandra Stevens, Vice Chairperson

Call to Order

Joe welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. He conducted a roll call of the members. Joe informed the Commission that Patti Anguiano has resigned. She is hoping to return at a later date if her schedule stabilizes.

Additions to the agenda

There was nothing to add to the existing agenda

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on July 22, 2020 were individually reviewed. Lori moved to approve the minutes. Kelly seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Events

- Jermaine shared with the team that there will be a clean up in the Loughborough area on October 3rd. It will take place in the open field located at Meadows and Loughborough from 8:00 am to 11:30 am. They are looking for donations of water, gloves, trucks, etc. They will also be serving hotdogs at the event. Some of his “kids” will be helping out as well. There was a roundtable discussion. Joe discussed the possibility of having a table at the cleanup.
- Jermaine shared about the fund raiser for Officer Chris Cowings. This will be a drive through dinner on October 11th from 1:00 to 5:00. The event is happening at the Itlo Lodge located at 1351 W. 18th Street in Merced. He will send the flyer to Kalisa. Kelly asked about pre-sale tickets. There was a roundtable discussion.
- Joe is looking for ideas to get our name out in the community. Jermaine offered to assist with this task. Joe feels it is important to get more involvement.

Old Business

Title 15 Inspection Assignments

- For the Title 15 report so far, Maurina has received something from Lori, Kelly and Jermaine.
- Joe explained that a desk inspection is not ideal but necessary due to COVID.

Atwater Fall Festival-September 26th

- This Fall Festival has been canceled. They may try to have a Spring Festival in March.

Roundtable Discussion

- Lisa shared she was glad to be part of the Commission again.
- Joe reminded the team we need more Commissioners. He has invited the Board of Supervisors to the meeting. Lee Lor was unable to attend tonight. Jermaine may have some contacts for youth members.
- The next meeting will be at Juvenile Service/Administration on Wardrobe in the training room. Zoom will be available for those who wish to attend via media.
- Kalisa shared information about SB 823 and the closure of the DJJ. As of July 1st of 2021, they will stop accepting new admissions. She explained the difficulties of housing young adults up to 25 years of age in our facility. These clients would have to be housed separately due to their ages and/or special needs. There have been conversations to formulate a plan to meet the special needs, the funding issues and all the other issues that will be necessary for housing these clients. There are numerous concerns and changes that will need to take place. There is no verbiage in the State Bill regarding parole contingencies. There are concerns about the litigation by advocacy groups. Kalisa discussed options and programming for these individuals. One option is to contract with another County. This will create other issues regarding family support. Resources are extremely limit to fund these special programs. Not all Counties are the same. The funds

and needs are very different. She will keep the group informed. She has reached out to the Governor and the Legislatures with her concerns. There was a roundtable discussion.

- We currently have 6 youth in the DJJ facility. We now hold the authority to supervise the youth that come out of DJJ. Kalisa painted the picture of how the conversion looks from being in our facility and then to be directly placed at CDCR. There are disastrous problems with the youth and the staff. Jermaine explained things from his point of view.
- Lori stated this is a sad situation for these young people. They will either end up victimized or totally shut down if they go to prison. It's simply not going to work.
- Kalisa explained about options to best suit our youth and our staff. There was a roundtable discussion.
- Fresno is an option. She also said further discussion between the Judge and the CEO still need to happen but they are not ready just yet for those conversations. She is in constant contact with the DA as well. We need to go about this strategically and not adversarial. It's about what is best for these youth as they will eventually be returning to the community.
- It's costing DJJ \$310,000 annually to provide services yet they expect us to provide the same services for less money. Kalisa explained that stipends may be requested by staff as the job duties change. She explained the requirements to report out data and determine the success of the programming.
- There will be an Ombudsman on the State level who will have the ability to investigate our facility. This is in conflict with our JJDP Commission. Peace Officers have rights that have not been factored into any of the decisions being made by the State. She explained that these hearings are a real mess. The unfairness and total lack of planning are major hinderances. There simply is not enough funding to provide adequate services. Conversations will continue on the CPOC level. She explained about the "Elevate Justice" program. Mark reflected on his positive experiences with some of the DJJ youth that have crossed his path. There was a roundtable discussion.

Future Agenda Items

It was suggested to keep SB 823 updates on the agenda.

Closed Session

Sharing Critical Incidents Update

- Joseph reflected on the one attempted suicide by a female. Our staff took immediate action. She is now on an intense mental health plan. BHRS was meeting with her twice a day for more than a month. Currently, she is seeing them once a day. She still has outburst but no further attempts to take her life. Joe asked about the suicide policy and Joseph explained how the procedure works. He explained how the staff checks work. There was a round table discussion. She has assaulted staff. It's been a rough time.
- In person visiting will be starting up soon.

- Kalisa explained about the funding for a Licensed Mental Health Worker II. The Behavioral Health Team will be a Clinician I, Clinician II, Mental Health Worker and Peer Support Specialist. There was a roundtable discussion.
- Kalisa reported there was a significant decline in assaults (except for the one youth mentioned). They believe the ZOOM visitations are helping give the youth peace of mind.

Grievances

- Lori viewed the grievances. There were not very many. She reported that the staff handled them all very well. Lori reported on the issues brought up and the resolves reached. Everything was on point.
- Staff was really good with following procedures in place.
- Kelly asked if anyone ever ask the kids for positive things? Joseph explained about the STARS program where kids can report positive things. Joseph will share some STARS submissions at the next meeting. There was a roundtable discussion.

Open Session

- No action was taken in the Closed Session that needed to be reported back in Open Session.
- Joe's hope to meet in person in the training room. Kalisa reminded the team that each person can have their own table for social distancing. We can also set it up to attend by ZOOM.
- Reminder, the next meeting is November 18th at 5:30 pm due to Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

Lori motioned to adjourn. Jermaine seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm. The next meeting will be November 18, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Minutes by Maurina Erickson, Secretary III