

Tulare County  
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Meeting Minutes – November 29, 2022

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**Place:** Connections Center and Zoom

**Members Present:** Jennie Bautista, Sneha Kumar, Sam Weiser, Bud Darwin, Galen Quenzar

**Members Absent:** Megan Casebeer

**Additional Attendees:** Margarita Luna, Jose Gonzalez, Mike Santos, Leanne Williams, Manny Castro, Judge John Bianco, Carla Calhoun, Jeff Jacobs

- I. **Call to Order:** Bud Darwin called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.
- II. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments made at this meeting.
- III. **New Business:**
  - a. **Juvenile Court Update:** Judge John Bianco said the juvenile courts have seen an increase in the cases they are handling. There are currently three (3) Juvenile Court Judges. Two (2) Judges are in Visalia and one (1) Judge is in Porterville. The Juvenile Court Judges are in the process of working with Probation on the transfer of minors from the Department of Juvenile Justice to the Secured Youth Treatment Facility located at the Juvenile Detention Facility. The Department of Juvenile Justice is scheduled to close July 2023. There are currently six (6) to eight (8) minors in the Secured Youth Treatment Facility with an estimated seven (7) more youth to be transferred in.
  - b. **Probation Update:**
    - i. Division Manager Jose Gonzalez said the officers are transitioning back to visiting schools and families to increase interaction with the public and provide support to the youth and their guardians. Throughout the past three (3) month they have given nine (9) presentations at various schools regarding careers with Probation and the roles of Probation Officers. Additionally, Division Manager Jose Gonzalez said he is connecting with community partners to find community service opportunities for the minors. Lastly, for the past six (6) to eight (8) months, the placement unit has had zero (0) kids in placement.
    - ii. Division Manager Mike Santos also gave an update and said there has been an increase in services offered to the youth. Several youths are enrolled in the Career Technical Education Program learning various trade skills that will help them in the future when obtaining employment. Additionally, provider Phoenix House continues to increase the programs they offer. A new incentives program was rolled out for the youth in custody. The incentive program is receiving positive feedback. Division Manager Mike Santos also said a group of Probation Corrections Officers completed their Core Training in September.
    - iii. Interim Chief Probation Officer Leanne Williams said there would be a site visit on January 17<sup>th</sup> from the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR).
- IV. **Actions Items and Discussion:**
  - a. **Actions Items:**
    - i. Jennie Bautista made a motion to approve the September 27, 2022, meeting minutes. Sneha Kumar seconded the motion.

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**b. Discussion:**

- i. Jennie Bautista provided an update on the applications for new members. Interviews were set up with applicants who were not referred by a member. One applicant was not reachable. Applications were then forwarded to the Judges for review. Applications are still be accepted. The committee is still looking for youth.
- ii. As the committee is in the building phase it was suggested that the Mission and Vision be revisited. Reach out to other counties and see if they are willing to share information on there commission and how they conduct their meetings.
- iii. Interim Chief Probation Officer Leanne Williams said the Probation Department is working on hiring staff. The department is also working on bringing various programs back but transportation for the youth to attend programs has been an issue.
- iv. Jennie Bautista suggested that once new members are sworn in the commission could brainstorm on ideas to help with prevention and intervention. Bud Darwin suggested adding breakout sessions to feature meetings.

**V. Correspondence Received by the Commission:**

- a. Applications for potential commission members.

**VI. Agenda Development for the Next Meeting:**

- a. Mission and Values of the Commission.
- b. Report on Applicants.
- c. Have new members present so they may be sworn in.

**VII. Adjournment:**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.
- b. The Next Scheduled meeting is January 31, 2023.
- c. Minutes prepared by: Jennifer Noel, Staff Services Analyst.