



Tulare County
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
Meeting Minutes – May 30, 2023

Location: Connections Center, 3249 W. Noble Ave, Visalia, 93277 and via Zoom

Members Present: Bud Darwin, Galen Quenzer, Sam Weiser, Sneha Kumar, Carla Calhoun; Manny Castro, Megan Casebeer, Jeff Jacobs, Ernest Gibson, Mario Flores, Timo Pizana, Sylvia Hanna, Frank Escobar

Members Absent: Jennie Bautista

Additional Attendees: Margarita Luna, Eddie Valero

- I. **Call to Order:** Bud Darwin called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.
- II. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments made at this meeting.
- III. **New Business:**
 - a. **Juvenile Court Update:** Judge Sylvia Hanna stated there has been an increase in juveniles charged with death threats, i.e., cases of juveniles threatening to shoot up schools. There has been an estimated 2-4 a week. Judge Hanna also reiterated that commissioners should report any concerns to the court.
 - b. **Probation Update:**
 - i. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Margarita Luna reported on changes in the Probation Department. She said she will now be overseeing the Juvenile Division. Several promotions have taken place. Leanne Williams accepted the position of Assistant Chief. Jose Gonzalez was promoted to Deputy Chief Probation Officer and will be overseeing the Adult Division. Greg Powers was promoted to Division Manager and will be overseeing the Juvenile Detention Facility. Chelsea McCarthy was promoted to Division Manager and will be overseeing Training and Development. Kim Santos was promoted to Division Manager and will be overseeing Human Resources.
 - ii. The DJJ closure is a month away, there will be continued updates over the next several months.
 - iii. There are several Capital Projects taking place or in the works. Landscaping will go out for bidding once the architects have finalized the plans.
 - iv. There are currently 65 juveniles in custody with 61 of them males and 4 females. There are 38 juveniles in programs and the remaining are pre-Disposition. There are currently 10 SYTF juveniles. Fresno County will be the Regional Hub for SYTF juveniles.
- IV. **Actions Items and Discussion:**
 - a. **Actions Items:**
 - i. Galen Quenzer made a motion to approve the March 28, 2023, meeting minutes. Bud Darwin seconded the motion.
 - ii. Bud Darwin made a motion to bring in the new Commissioners. Megan Casebeer seconded the motion. The Commissioners were sworn in by Judge Sylvia Hanna.



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b. Discussion (Roundtable):

- i. Judge Hanna would like to see commissioners go to school sites with Probation and Law Enforcement agencies to speak about the consequences of making threats. Sam Weiser asked if students are aware of the resources available to them. Carla Calhoun said students could be educated on the resources available to them as well as the consequences of making threats. She also said CSET has leadership programs available that include Mental Health topics. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Margarita Luna said a mock situation could be beneficial to the students. Judge Hanna requested that Probation look at the number of PC 422 threats that involve threats toward schools.
- ii. Judge Hanna said it is required by the State that Jails and Substations have separate holding areas for minors. Minors can't be held with adults. She shared that the commissioners could participate in the review by going to each Jail and Substation and verifying there is a separate holding area. The review needs to be completed Biannually. Judge Hanna will provide a list of each location and when the review is due.
- iii. Bud Darwin said Beth Gong from the Board of State and Community Corrections held a training and education class for the Commissioners. Bud stated it would be beneficial to have ongoing training and educational classes. Judge Hanna suggested forming a Sub-Committee. Galen, Carla, Manny, Jeff, and Bud are willing to be on the Sub-Committee. Carla will send an email to the Subcommittee members.
- iv. Galen Quenzer said he still doesn't understand the Judicial System since it is so complex. He appreciates the ongoing training. Carla Calhoun suggested dedicating 30 minutes of each meeting to ongoing training. Judge Sylvia Hanna said she is willing to share training information with the Commission. Galen mentioned he would be willing to meet for training in addition to the bimonthly meeting.
- v. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Margarita Luna said correspondences received are currently going to Probation, however, they should be received by the commission. Going forward the correspondence will be received by the Chair of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. Additionally, someone from Probation is taking the meeting minutes. This could be a conflict of interest. Beth Gong suggested the commission should have a Secretary and Treasurer. The secretary would take the meeting minutes.
- vi. Bud Darwin suggested sending commissioners to conferences or other county meetings.
- vii. Megan Casebeer and Manny Castro suggested reviewing the By-Laws.
- viii. Judge Sylvia Hanna said the public may not know the commission exists and suggested doing some promoting to get the community more involved.

V. Correspondence Received by the Commission:

- a. No correspondence received.



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- VI. Agenda Development for the Next Meeting:**
- a. Ongoing educational topics.
 - b. Follow up discussion on threats made to schools.
- VII. Adjournment:**
- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.
 - b. The next scheduled meeting is August 8, 2023.
 - c. Minutes prepared by Jennifer Noel, Staff Services Analyst.