

SB 823 Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting called by: LeAnne Williams, Interim CPO **Type of meeting:** SB 823 Subcommittee Quarterly

Facilitator: LeAnne Williams, Interim CPO **Note taker:** Gina Rizza

Attendees: LeAnne Williams, Interim Chief Probation Officer, Probation
Hon. John Bianco, Judge, Tulare County Courts
Margarita Luna, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Probation
Mike Santos, Division Manager, Probation
Doug Rodgers, Supervising Attorney, District Attorney
Ron Westphal, Assistant Public Defender, Public Defender
Mireya Anaya, Division Manager, HHS (alternate for Courtney Sallam)
Joseph Hamilton, Mental Health Clinic Administrator, HHS
Galen Quenzer, CEO, Boys & Girls Club of the Sequoias
Hon. Hugo Loza, Judge, Tulare County Courts
Miguel Garcia, Regional Specialist, Office of Youth and Community Restoration
Mary Escarsega-Fechner, Executive Director, Community Services Employment Training
Karishma Fazalbhoy, Supervising Staff Analyst, Probation

Attendees absent: Karon Valdivieso, Court School Principal, Tulare County Office of Education
Adam Peck, Executive Director, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board
Greg Powers, Supervising Probation Officer, Probation

Meeting purpose: SB 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan

Minutes

Agenda item: Approval of Meeting Minutes from 1/4/23 Meeting **Presenter:** LeAnne Williams

Discussion:

Interim CPO Williams asked committee if there were any questions concerning the meeting minutes and asked for a motion for approval of such if not.

Questions:

There were no questions posed.

Action Items:

Motion made by Joseph Hamilton with a second by Galen Quenzer to approve the meeting minutes from the January 4, 2023 meeting.

Agenda item: Approval of DJJ Realignment Annual Plan FY 2022-23 **Presenter:** LeAnne Williams

Discussion:

Interim CPO Williams shared that the plan must be approved to accept grant funds; will be part of the YOBG Block Grant per a subsection of the Welfare and Institution Code and pursuant to SB 823; and will add a section to the YOBG Block Grant requirements.

Interim CPO Williams asked the committee if there were any questions concerning the plan submitted to Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) in May 2022.

Questions:

Mr. Quenzer asked about the research done to ensure that evidence-based practices were considered when developing the services outlined in the plan.

Interim CPO Williams responded by directing the question to Division Manager Santos who shared that considerable research was done to ensure that the provider selected, Phoenix House, is able to provide services to youth. He also said that the program Kern County has with Phoenix House was looked at to ascertain their successes with the program offered by this provider. DM Santos also said that Phoenix House provides 14 components of training; family and individual services; and that the department is utilizing vocational education instructors to teach vocational programs. He further said that the department is looking into other programs like the Kitchen Program to offer that provide youth with life skills and job assistance upon release from secure confinement to aftercare. DM Santos added that having one provider that can provide comprehensive services and programs for youth is big milestone for the department and youth served.

Mr. Quenzer asked if the contract with Phoenix House is already in place at the juvenile facility. DM Santos informed him that Phoenix House is already on board and providing services; has an office at the juvenile facility; and provides five (5) counselors and two (2) administrative personnel. Interim CPO Williams shared that the department has hired program specialists, one supervisor and one staff, who are already providing services to youth at the juvenile facility as well.

Interim CPO Williams also shared that everything needed to add the Kitchen Program is in place; a vocation education instructor that works for Probation has been hired and will start in two weeks; and that the department is working with the Office of Education to provide youth an opportunity to earn their High School Diploma (not General Education Diploma) while housed at the juvenile facility. DM Santos shared that there currently are 63 total youth at the juvenile facility and that nine (9) are SYTF or realigned youth.

Mr. Quenzer also asked if there were outcome data that was being measured to track the success rate of the programs. Interim CPO Williams stated that it was being tracked by our Caseload system, Phoenix House is documenting their own outcomes, and we will provide that data to the group at the next meeting.

Interim CPO Williams informed the committee that the department is working with Capital Projects to procure a contractor to complete the fencing project that is needed to ensure that the necessary protocols are in place to safely transfer Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) youth from the juvenile facility to the vocational education building for programing and that these things take time.

Action Items:

Motion made by Joseph Hamilton with a second by Judge Bianco to approve the plan. Draft plan due May 1, 2023 will be sent out to committee for review before the next meeting scheduled on April 5, 2023.

Agenda item: Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Site Visit **Presenter:** LeAnne Williams

Discussion:

OYCR site visit was initially scheduled on January 17, 2023 but was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Questions:

None.

Action Items:

An invitation will be sent to committee for the site visit that has been rescheduled to Feb. 27, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

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Agenda item: Office of Youth and Community Restoration Presentation **Presenter:** Miguel Garcia

Discussion:

Mr. Garcia provided a PowerPoint presentation that included basic information on the development of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) and their efforts and commitment to ensure realigned youth are treated fairly and equitably and that protocols are in place to provide this population evidence-based practices programs and services and resources in the event of any complaints of mishandling of this population during secure confinement and release. He also shared that OYCR is moving in the direction of reaching the goal of zero female juveniles in confinement and instead receive bolstered aftercare services. He further said that this goal applies to male juveniles in the future. Judge Bianco said that not every county has the facilities that can provide the necessary treatment programs for this population (just like sex offenders).

Questions:

Mr. Rodgers asked Mr. Garcia about the issue of equal protection and possible danger to the community under the zero females in confinement goal. Mr. Garcia replied that Santa Clara has already implemented this and has seen success with it. He further added that a female juvenile who committed a 707 offense would receive jail time. Mr. Rodgers then inquired about OYCR's eventual plans to extend zero juveniles in confinement to the male population; thereby, ending all youth incarceration. Mr. Garcia responded by saying OYCR first plans to test the goal on females and analyze the findings to ascertain success with it before transitioning this goal to the male population. Mr. Rodgers replied by saying that he and his office (DA) are interested in receiving more information about this.

Judge Loza asked DM Santos what plans Tulare County has in place if a female juvenile commits a 707 offense. DM Santos replied that the County is looking for a centralized hub in California. Judge Loza asked what would happen in the interim and DM Santos said the female juvenile would receive services locally until we get a contract with another County.

Action Plan

Next Meeting Date: April 5, 2023 Time: 12:15 pm. The draft of the plan will be sent out prior to the meeting and we can discuss it at the next scheduled meeting.

Next Meeting Date: April 5, 2023

Time: 12:15 p.m.