

Meeting called by: Kelly Vernon, Chief Probation Officer

Type of meeting: SB 823 Subcommittee Meeting

Facilitator: Kelly Vernon, Chief Probation Officer **Note Taker/writer:** Steve Horton, Staff Services Analyst

Attendees: Kelly Vernon, Chief Probation Officer, Probation
Karishma Fazalbhoy, Supervising Staff Services Analyst, Probation
Joseph Andrade, Principal, Probation
Courtney Sallam, Deputy HHS Director, Tulare County HHS Child Welfare Services
Joseph Hamilton, Mental Health Clinic Administrator, Tulare County HHS Mental Health
Mary Escarsega-Fechner, Executive Director, Community Services & Employment Training
Miguel Garcia, Office of Youth and Community Restoration

Absentees: Margarita Luna, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Probation
Honorable Hugo Loza, Judge, Tulare County Superior Court
Honorable Sylvia Hanna, Judge, Tulare County Superior Court
John F. Sliney, Assistant District Attorney, Tulare County District Attorney
Ron Westphal, Assistant Public Defender, Tulare County Public Defender
Galen Quenzer, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sequoias
Karen Valdivieso, Court School Principal, Tulare County Office of Education
Adam Peck, Executive Director, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board
Greg Powers, Division Manager, Probation
Brian Kern, Division Manager, Probation
LeAnne Williams, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation

Meeting Purpose: SB 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan-Program Updates

MINUTES

Agenda Item: Approval of the Meeting Minutes from 4/5/23 Meeting

Presenter: Kelly Vernon

Discussion:

The meeting was called to order by Chief Vernon at 12:19 p.m. A quorum of the committee members was not present. The approval of the 4/5/23 meeting minutes was postponed to the next meeting date (April 3, 2024) due to the need for a quorum. The meeting minutes from today's meeting on 10/4/23 will also be placed on the next Agenda for approval. Joe (Joseph) Andrade introduced himself as the new Principal of the Juvenile Detention Facility School.

Agenda Item: Updates from Probation on Program

Presenter: Kelly Vernon

Discussion: Chief Vernon provided a brief overview of the current program status, materials, equipment, furnishings orders, and the progress of the capital improvements projects underway at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). There are currently (10) SYTF (Secure Youth Treatment Facility) youth at JDF, and

there were (5) youths who returned from DJJ (Department of Juvenile Justice). The capital improvement projects at JDF started in August. The facility is being re-painted, and the de-escalation room furniture has been ordered. The Regional Hub Agreement with Fresno County is being finalized. The Board approved the Phoenix Transitional Housing Plus Agreement to provide transitional residential units for the SYTF youth participating in the Step-Down program and for youth committed to the Local Custodial program.

Questions:

Joseph Hamilton inquired whether it was necessary to have a transitional home at this point instead of subcontracting to a services provider. Joseph Hamilton also inquired about what a de-escalation room is and its purpose at the Juvenile Detention Facility. Chief Vernon stated that the department would like to track the progress of the contract with Phoenix Transitional Housing Plus and determine the success rate for our youth. Also, Chief Vernon mentioned that the purpose of the de-escalation room is to address short-term trauma needs for our youth, and pictures of the room are available in the SB 823 plan on the OYCR's site if anyone is interested in viewing it.

Further Action Items:

The next biannual meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.