



Tulare County
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2024

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

Members Present: Carla Calhoun, Manny Castro, Bud Darwin, Frank Escobar, Jeff Jacobs, Timo Pizana

Members Absent: Jennie Bautista, Dylan Callison, Americus Campos, Megan Casebeer, Mario Flores, Ernest Gibson, Sneha Kumar, Galen Quenzer, Sam Weiser

Additional Attendees: Judge Sylvia Hanna, Mike Santos, Jennifer Hill, Jaslen Felix, Eric Garcia, Andrew Garcia

- I. **Call to Order:** Bud Darwin called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.
- II. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments made at this meeting.
- III. **New Business:**
 - a) **Juvenile Court Update:** Judge Sylvia Hanna shared that Judge John Bianco is in charge of juvenile detention facilities and said that there are between six (6) to eight (8) in Tulare County. She also briefly went over the Court's role in the juvenile justice system. She further said that there are some inconsistent practices with law enforcement agencies with respect to the holding and release of booked juveniles. She also mentioned that there has been an uptick in threats directed at schools, with middle schools being the most problematic, that are made by juveniles using social media as the primary tool to make the threats. Understanding the motivation behind this behavior, enriching education about the consequences of this behavior, ensuring safe practices are in place with social media channels, and augmenting community resources were strategies discussed to possibly help combat this issue. Judge Hanna also mentioned that ABC 30 News recently aired a segment developed by the Tulare County Probation Department that she thought was superb and said that this piece could possibly be used as an education tool to help with decreasing threats directed at schools.
 - b) **Probation Update:**
 - i. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Mike Santos provided an update on the developments in the Probation Department including the addition of Prevention Officers/Preventive Programs that are currently underway. He also mentioned that the department will have a mobile vehicle delivered sometime at the end of this year. This vehicle will essentially function as a "mobile office" because it will have the equipment similar to what an office has, including computers and monitors, which will allow Probation Officers to travel throughout Tulare County and assist their clientele who live in remote areas of the County and cannot travel. The department will also receive 17 new vehicles.
 - ii. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Santos praised the department's Administrative Division personnel for their tireless work in recruiting and completing background checks on prospective candidates. He mentioned that the department has hired 46 Probation Correctional Officers, which has helped lessen critical staffing shortages in this classification.



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- iii. Deputy Chief Probation Officer shared that the Board of State and Community Correction (BSCC) conducted an onsite audit this past July, and no issues were noted on BSCC 's report that the Probation Department needed to address.
- iv. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Santos also provided an update on the fencing project underway at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF), which is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The completion of the fencing project will open recreational and educational opportunities for the Secure Youth and Treatment Facility (SYTF) population because it will provide the enhanced security needed to transport this population from the JDF to auxiliary facilities. He also mentioned that phase 2 of the landscaping project is currently underway at the JDF.

IV. Actions Items and Discussion:

a) Actions Items:

- i. There was no quorum present, so the Minutes from the June 4, 2024, meeting were tabled for the November 26, 2024, meeting.

b) Discussion (Roundtable):

- i. Bud Darwin stated that he needs to step down as Chair because other commitments prohibit him from being able to fully commit the time necessary for it. He asked the commission members to consider taking on said role and offered his assistance during the transition. Mr. Darwin also mentioned that a secretary needs to be appointed to the Commission to be in compliance with the Bylaws and asked that one of the committee members take on this role. Mr. Darwin also mentioned that four (4) applications for commission membership were received and are under review. He suggested a committee be formed for the recruitment and review of future applications.
- ii. The Bylaws and Jeff Jacobs's questions about them were briefly reviewed, and Bud Darwin suggested that an ad hoc committee be established to thoroughly review and/or update them. This subject was tabled to a later meeting.
- iii. Ms. Calhoun reported that the education committee has not met since its last meeting in June. She said that the committee currently has enough topics to discuss, so additional meetings are not warranted at this time.
- iv. Judge Hanna did not share her PowerPoint presentation because there were too few members present at the meeting to merit it. This topic has again been tabled to a later meeting.
- v. Jeff Jacobs has made some changes already and is currently working on enhancing the Commission website.
- vi. Bud Darwin did not have any reports to share with the Commission at the meeting.
- vii. Carla Calhoun mentioned that Community Services and Employment Training (CSET) recently opened its low-barrier Visalia Navigation Center, a temporary shelter for those in need until stable housing can be procured. The first residents are expected to be in early November.



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V. Correspondence Received by the Commission:

- a) There was no correspondence received other than applications for commission membership.

VI. Agenda Development for the Next Meeting:

- a) Approval of Minutes from June 4th and October 8th meetings.
- b) Bylaws
- c) Appointing commission members (chair, secretary)
- d) Time and date of future meetings.
- e) Meeting structure of future meetings.

VII. Adjournment:

- a) Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.
- b) The next scheduled meeting is November 26, 2024.
- c) Minutes prepared by Gina Rizza, Staff Services Analyst.