



# Tulare County

## Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

### Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2024

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

**Members Present:** Jennie Bautista, Carla Calhoun, Manny Castro, Bud Darwin, Frank Escobar, Mario Flores, Jeff Jacobs, Timo Pizana

**Members Absent:** Dylan Callison, Americus Campos, Megan Casebeer, Ernest Gibson, Sneha Kumar, Galen Quenzer, Sam Weiser

**Additional Attendees:** Judge Sylvia Hanna, Mike Santos, Cecilia Arredondo Simmons, OYCR

- I. **Call to Order:** Bud Darwin called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.
- II. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments made at this meeting.
- III. **New Business:**
  - a. **Juvenile Court Update:** Judge Sylvia Hanna said that there is no new information to report but mentioned that there are two (2) full-time and one (1) part-time judges dedicated to the Juvenile Court. She also mentioned that she is available to provide training on various court topics to the commission in the form of a PowerPoint presentation during scheduled meetings.
  - b. **Probation Update:**
    - i. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Mike Santos provided an update on the organizations the department has recently entered into a contract with to provide services to youth, including Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) for vocational education services including the Return 2 Youth (R2Y), a component of RESET and part of the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), a job readiness and return to work program; Porterville College for the Rising Scholar Program; and College of the Sequoias (COS) for post-high school education/credits. The commission was also informed that the County of Tulare has gone with a medical/mental health provider that will be used countywide and that GEO Reentry Services (GEO) replaced Phoenix House California. GEO agreed to provide services from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, which better aligns with the needs of the department and the in-custody youths' school schedule. Jeff Jacobs requested a list of organizations that provide services.
    - ii. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Mike Santos provided an update on the number of youth at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). There are currently 75 juveniles in custody, 65 males and 10 females. Nine (9) of the 75 youth in custody are SYTF, and the average daily population is 68. The average higher number of youth in local programming is an indication that the Probation Department is doing a good job.
    - iii. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Mike Santos also provided an update on the fencing project underway at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF), which was recently approved by the Board of Supervisors. Once completed, the fence will allow SYTF youth access to the vocational education building. The fence consists of materials that are similar to chain-link and are nearly invisible, fostering an appearance as if the fence were not present. The fencing project is expected to



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be completed within six (6) months. Landscaping around JDF is planned after the fencing project is completed.

#### **IV. Actions Items and Discussion:**

##### **a. Actions Items:**

- i. Jeff Jacobs made a motion to approve the January 30, 2024, Minutes. Carla Calhoun seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- ii. Jeff Jacobs made a motion to approve the March 19, 2024, Minutes. Carla Calhoun seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

##### **b. Discussion (Roundtable):**

- i. Jeff Jacobs provided a report on the education subcommittee. Several commission members recommended that subcommittees meet in person and/or remotely between JJDPC meetings. Jeff Jacobs was chosen to lead the website development/updates.
- ii. Bud Darwin discussed the draft report from the JDF inspections and asked the commission if there were any sections that needed attention and/or updates. A recommendation was made to add the JJDPC meeting minutes to it. Mr. Darwin made a motion to accept the draft report template with the recommended modification as the formal report and Frank Escobar seconded the motion. The draft report template was approved unanimously.
- iii. Ms. Calhoun inquired about staffing shortages at JDF. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Santos informed the commission that detention facility shortages are a statewide issue and informed her that the Probation Department has been diligent in recruiting to fill vacancies, resulting in multiple new hires who are actively undergoing pre-employment procedures and/or already in core training. Frank Escobar asked if the department has partnership links with school districts and/or recruits outside Tulare County, including other states. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Santos said the department has participated in recruitment events in neighboring counties.
- iv. Term limits for commission members, which are four (4) years for adult members and two (2) years for juvenile members, were mentioned. The commission composition was fifteen (15) adult and two (2) juvenile members; however, there have been recent resignations including one (1) juvenile member and several adult members. Additionally, Bud Darwin said he is stepping down as Chair but will remain as a member for now. Mr. Darwin mentioned that he would provide the commission with any reports and record-keeping documents he has. Active recruitment to fill vacancies is underway, including replacing the Chair and adding a secretary to take meeting minutes.

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

- a. There was no correspondence received.



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- VI. Agenda Development for the Next Meeting:**
- a. Ongoing educational topics/updates.
  - b. Vote on electing new commission members.
  - c. Presentation by Judge Sylvia Hanna.
  - d. JDF Website development.
  - e. Commission Reports from Chair.
- VII. Adjournment:**
- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.
  - b. The next scheduled meeting is July 23, 2024.
  - c. Minutes prepared by Gina Rizza, Staff Services Analyst.