



Tulare County

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2025

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

Members Present: Jennie Bautista, Carla Calhoun, Manny Castro, Bud Darwin, Jeff Jacobs, Galen Quenzer

Members Absent: Americus Campos, Frank Escobar, Mario Flores, Timo Pizana

Additional Attendees: Judge Sylvia Hanna, Joe Pinheiro, Naomi Campos, Michael Campos, Marty Schein, Jennifer Hill, Andrew Garcia, Jerry Gaytan, Maria Hoover

- I. **Call to Order:** Bud Darwin called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.
- II. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments made at this meeting.
- III. **New Business:**
 - a) **Juvenile Court Update:**
 - i. Judge Sylvia Hanna stated there are no significant juvenile justice updates.
 - ii. Judge Hanna discussed an upcoming event titled "How to Become a Judge: Discussion & Panel." This event will occur on Thursday, March 20, 2025, from 5:00 PM—9:00 PM (in person at El Diamante High School) and 5:30 PM—7 PM (via Zoom for those unable to attend in person). Judges and justices will be present from throughout the state. The event is geared toward youth who may be interested in learning more about how the system works and the process of becoming a judge. A meet-and-greet opportunity will occur after the panel. Judge Hanna also mentioned another opportunity for youth and judges to work together in the classrooms via the Power of Democracy civic learning initiative.
 - b) **Probation Update:**
 - i. Probation Division Manager Joe Pinheiro provided an update on the number of youths at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). There are currently 74 juveniles in custody, with 33 committed to long-, mid-, and short-term local programming. Ten (10) youths are SYTF, with 1 SYTF youth currently housed in Fresno (program-specific). The department is still working on the security upgrade and fence project at JDF. The hope is that by the end of the month, this will allow for an expansion of outdoor and extra activities for in-custody youth. About two weeks ago, Probation had a pre-inspection meeting with BSCC to prepare for next calendar year's inspections. Joe Pinheiro mentioned that Deputy Chief Probation Officer Mike Santos is partnering with the Probation Department and the District Attorney's office to present at the school safety symposium hosted by TCOE. The presentation is scheduled for March 5th. The Probation Mobile Service Center was delayed slightly but should be delivered this Thursday. The Mobile Service Center will be outfitted with radio, internet, and Wi-Fi connections so that outskirt communities can be serviced. One (1) officer has been assigned to work at VUSD per the new campus prevention officer agreements. Probation is currently in the process of promoting additional officers for the other four school districts.



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IV. Actions Items and Discussion:

a) Actions Items:

- i. Approval of previous meeting minutes (January 28, 2025)
 1. Jeff Jacobs made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2025. Carla Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ii. Remove Americus Campos and Mario Flores from the Commission
 1. Bud Darwin stated he spoke to both Americus Campos and Mario Flores; both have decided to step down from the Commission. Jeff Jacobs made a motion to approve the removal of Americus Campos and Mario Flores from the Commission. Manny Castro seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- iii. Appoint and swear in Marty Schein, Naomi Campos, Andrew Garcia, Jerry Gaytan, Maria Hoover
 1. Jennie Bautista made a motion to approve the appointment of Marty Schein, Naomi Campos, Andrew Garcia, Jerry Gaytan, and Maria Hoover. Jeff Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Judge Hanna stated that the members would take the remainder of the previous members' terms. The term for commission members is two (2) years; members can take the oath for another term upon completion of this current term. Judge Hanna reminded everyone of the commitment that is needed by the Commission once sworn in as a member. The new commission members were sworn in by Judge Hanna and the oaths were signed.

V. Discussion (Roundtable):

- i. Review Inspection Report
 1. Bud Darwin stated the Commission recently completed an inspection, and a copy of the inspection report was sent to the membership for their review. Judge Hanna stated she left some comments on the report. This inspection report will be notated as the 2024 facility report; this report is 60 days out of compliance due to unforeseeable issues with the Commission. Bud Darwin stated he would gather feedback from all members who attended the inspection and would compile it into a final inspection report.
- ii. Identify Other Needs from Probation
 1. Bud Darwin stated that some items on the inspection report require some additional information from Probation. These questions will be forwarded to Probation for the department's review and completion.
- iii. Identify Additional Facilities Requiring Inspections
 1. Bud Darwin and Judge Hanna discussed and explained the commission's role in inspecting additional facilities where youth are detained. There is no deadline for these additional inspections. Judge Hanna stated she could provide a list of these facilities for the commission's review. Once



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any additional facility inspections get scheduled with the commission, Bud Darwin will notify the facilities to schedule the date and time. Judge Hanna stated she could provide training before these inspections happen so that the commissioners know what to look for.

iv. Select Future Facility Inspection Date

1. Bud Darwin will email the commissioners with a poll to decide on the next facility inspection date. An estimated time frame is for the inspection to occur sometime in late spring or early summer.

v. Presentation by Judge Hanna

1. Judge Hanna gave a presentation on juvenile justice proceedings, along with an overview of the Welfare and Institutions codes that govern the juvenile courts.

vi. Secretary and Chair vacancies

1. Bud Darwin stated the Commission needs to appoint a new Secretary and Chair. He reiterated that he will be resigning as Chair in the future, so that's something for the Commission to consider. Naomi Campos stated she may be interested in the Secretary role and will consider it.

vii. Recruitment for Youth Commissioners

1. Judge Hanna mentioned it'd be great to recruit and swear in the new youth commissioners before the next facility inspection so that they can be a part of that. Youth would need to be between the ages of 14-21. Jennie Bautista mentioned having a youth commissioner who has been part of a pathway program and another who has been in foster care since they'd be able to provide valuable insight. Bud Darwin stated he reached out to CASA and mentioned this to them. Judge Hanna mentioned the possibility of having a youth who is a dependent of the court and who is on informal probation. Bud Darwin stated that youth commissioner applications will be open until March 25, 2025. Application reviews and interviews will be conducted afterward. Youth commissioners will need to be able to be present at Commission meetings once sworn in.

viii. Roundtable

1. Bud Darwin passed around an informational flyer for the Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off. This will occur on Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Soccer City 1852 (address: 707 W Murray Ave, Visalia, CA). Kids will have the opportunity to enjoy free indoor soccer, and several local organizations will be offering valuable resources for families.
2. Andrew Garcia mentioned he'd be interested in giving a presentation at the next meeting about his organization's work with restorative justice and gang prevention intervention.
3. Jennifer Hill, program manager with GEO Group, stated she could also give a presentation on the work GEO does at the May meeting.
4. Jennie Bautista stated that OYCR provided a PDF document that would be a great resource for future inspections. She will email it to the



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Commission members. Joe Pinheiro mentioned that BSCC's website has Title 15 information that the Commission members could also reference, specifically the juvenile facility section of Title 15

5. Manny Castro mentioned that BSCC released funding for California Violence Intervention Prevention (CalVIP). A CBO can apply and qualify for an up to \$5 million grant. The County and the City could also apply for funding. Any interested party would need to write their own grant and report data on the grant if awarded.

VI. Correspondence Received by the Commission:

- a) There was no correspondence received.

VII. Agenda Development for the Next Meeting:

- a) Review bylaws
- b) County Counsel
- c) Presentation by Andrew Garcia
- d) Vote for a new Secretary
- e) Facility Inspection Date
- f) Probation Strategic Plan for Juveniles
- g) Presentation by Jennifer Hill for GEO Group (May's meeting)

VIII. Adjournment:

- a) Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
- b) The next scheduled meeting is March 25, 2025.
- c) Minutes prepared by Yesenia Magaña-Rocha, Staff Services Analyst.