



Tulare County

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2025

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

Members Present: Carla Calhoun, Naomi Campos, Manny Castro, Bud Darwin, Frank Escobar, Jerry Gaytan, Maria Hoover, Jeff Jacobs, Timo Pizana, Galen Quenzer, Marty Schein

Members Absent: Jennie Bautista, Andrew Garcia

Additional Attendees: Judge Sylvia Hanna, Mike Santos

- I. **Call to Order:** Bud Darwin called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.
- II. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments made at this meeting.
- III. **New Business:**
 - a) **Juvenile Court Update:**
 - i. There were no juvenile justice updates.
 - b) **Probation Update:**
 - i. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Mike Santos participated in the school safety symposium with the DA's office at the beginning of March 2025. They held a presentation for four breakout groups and had a great turnout.
 - ii. There are currently 76 juveniles in custody, with 12 committed to long-term programming, 14 to mid-term programming, and 2 to short-term programming. There are 11 SYTF youth, with 1 additional SYTF youth currently being housed in Fresno for programming. Of the total population, 68 youth are males and 8 are females.
 - iii. Deputy Chief Santos stated there was an error discovered with the fencing project design so there is a small delay while new fire entrance gates are refabricated by a local welder. Juveniles at JDF are still able to access the grass area while this project is getting completed since it is separate from the construction area; the only youth who are restricted are SYTF youth. Construction has not hindered access to the TCOE Voc Ed building and services are still being provided. Phase Two of the project will occur later in the year and will create a new grass space, a potential auditorium, basketball / all-weather courts, and a soccer field. Trees and shade sails will also be added to create shaded areas. Deputy Chief Santos stated that all youth currently get an hour a day of outside time. Per BSCC requirements, there are certain staff to youth ratios that must be met by the facility. Currently staff numbers are in the high 40s; the department is continuing to hire with a goal of getting staff to the mid-60s. This will allow for additional programming and services that the department would like to implement.
 - iv. Frank Escobar gave an update on the probation officer who has started providing services at VUSD. The officer is currently on his third week out at the



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assigned schools. His primary location will be the Creekside Community Day School, but he'll also be providing services at the elementary schools in Ivanhoe, Goshen, and Elbow Creek. Prevention education classes have not started yet since the officer is waiting on some curriculum and additional training, but he has been establishing relationships with school admin and students. The curriculum will be offered on a rotating schedule to the four schools. It is an evidence-based curriculum called Positive Action. Deputy Chief Santos stated the P.O.'s primary role will be prevention at these schools, not enforcement. Promotional interviews were held last week. Four additional probation officers will be assigned to additional districts that will be receiving these services; additional agreements currently exist with Farmersville Unified, Tulare City Unified, Cutler-Orosi, and Monson-Sultana.

- v. Deputy Chief Santos stated the mobile command center has been delivered. It is currently being equipped at Motor Pool and will need to be inspected afterward. Radios and Starlink will also be added to the vehicle. Twelve locations have been identified for the mobile command center. It will go to two locations a day, three times a week (Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays). Three (3) to four (4) officers will be assigned to that vehicle to provide services. Additional departments and/or partners will also be able to provide services out of the vehicle. The commission members can get a tour of the vehicle at a future meeting once it's ready.

IV. Actions Items and Discussion:

a) Actions Items:

- i. Approval of previous meeting minutes (February 25, 2025)
 - 1. Galen Quenzer made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2025. Jeff Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ii. Vote for a new Secretary
 - 1. Naomi Campos stated she'd be interested in being the Commission's new secretary. Frank Escobar made a motion to appoint Naomi Campos as the new secretary. Carla Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- iii. Select Facility Inspection Date
 - 1. Bud Darwin sent Division Manager Joe Pinheiro some questions regarding the last inspection. The completed report will be submitted soon.
 - 2. Bud Darwin suggested Wednesday, June 18th at 9 am as a future facility inspection date. Galen Quenzer requested training on how to complete inspections. An overview of how to conduct an inspection will be discussed at the next meeting. Deputy Chief Santos stated that Probation can provide a copy of any logs or reports that the commission may want



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to inspect and can help set up meetings with specific staff the commissioners may want to speak to for this upcoming inspection. He let the commission know that BSCC's website has Title 15 information for the commissioners to review and emailed the link to the information. Bud Darwin stated OYCR's website would also be a good resource for the commission to review. He stated the commission may need an additional meeting to come up with a plan.

V. Discussion (Roundtable):

- i. Review Bylaws
 - 1. Tabled until next meeting (May 27, 2025). Jennie Bautista has more information on this item.
- ii. County Counsel
 - 1. Tabled until next meeting (May 27, 2025). Judge Hanna was going to reach out to County Counsel for some questions the Commission has on the bylaws.
- iii. Presentation by Andrew Garcia
 - 1. Tabled until next meeting (May 27, 2025)
- iv. Probation Strategic Plan for Juveniles
 - 1. Galen Quenzer asked if there's a plan in place for Probation and for the Juvenile division. Deputy Chief Santos stated that a department-wide strategic plan is in progress and is being developed. Within the Juvenile division, goals and strategic plans are regularly developed and implemented within the team depending on trends observed. An example of this would be the school prevention officers that were implemented this school year due to an observed increase in juvenile crime. Probation releases several annual reports that provide information on funding, vendors, surveys, etc., that are available publicly. Deputy Chief Santos stated he could put together a presentation and present alongside Brian Kern and Joe Pinheiro on the Juvenile Division. Frank Escobar mentioned being interested in a comprehensive presentation with time for Q&A. Carla Calhoun suggested having this presentation at the September meeting since presentations from Andrew Garcia and Jennifer Hill are already scheduled for the next couple of meetings. She requested handouts with the information, if possible.
- v. Roundtable
 - 1. N/A

VI. Correspondence Received by the Commission:

- a) Bud Darwin submitted his official letter of resignation as Chair of the commission. The letter will be emailed to Judge Hanna.



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- b) Bud Darwin stated there have been a few applications received for the commission (a few youth applications and one adult application). Interviews will need to be scheduled.

VII. Agenda Development for the Next Meeting:

- a) Vote for a new Chair
- b) Discuss Facility Inspection
- c) Review Bylaws
- d) County Counsel (questions on bylaws)
- e) Presentation by Andrew Garcia
 - i. Allotted time: 20-minute presentation, plus 10-minute Q&A
- f) Presentation by GEO Group (Jennifer Hill) → July meeting
- g) Presentation by Deputy Chief Santos, Brian Kern, and Joe Pinheiro → September meeting

VIII. Adjournment:

- a) Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.
- b) The next scheduled meeting is May 27, 2025.
- c) Minutes prepared by Yesenia Magaña-Rocha, Staff Services Analyst.