



Tulare County

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes – May 27, 2025

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

Members Present: Jennie Bautista, Naomi Campos, Manny Castro, Andrew Garcia, Jerry Gaytan, Jeff Jacobs, Galen Quenzer

Members Absent: Carla Calhoun, Bud Darwin, Frank Escobar, Maria Hoover, Timo Pizana, Marty Schein

Additional Attendees: Judge Sylvia Hanna, Mike Santos, Jennifer Hill, Jennifer Wilson, John Swenning, Benjamin Hernandez, Jake Harder

- I. **Call to Order:** Jennie Bautista called the meeting to order at 5:39 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 reported there are currently (2) full-time juvenile judges. Judge Hanna is the presiding judge. Judge Bratsch is currently presiding over Department C. Judge Taylor is serving the South County youth.
 - ii. Judge Hanna stated there is currently one youth who is a dependent of the Court and who identifies as LGBTQ+. This youth is currently being housed at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) and is doing well. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Mike Santos stated that all youth who are brought into JDF go through the intake process, and part of the intake process includes the SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) form where youth can identify gender preference, what gender the youth would like to be housed with, and their preference in the gender of the officer who would conduct any pat downs or searches.
 - iii. Judge Hanna asked for any resources for sexually exploited children. Manny Castro mentioned that The Source and Breaking the Chains are good community resources. The Source is a local LGBTQ+ center. Breaking the Chains is located in Fresno and offers resources dealing with human trafficking; they can also potentially provide resources to Tulare County. Manny Castro will reach out to Breaking the Chains to see if they can provide a presentation and/or literature for the Commission.
 - iv. Jeff Jacobs requested information regarding the number of juveniles being transferred to adult court so that the Commission could see any trends. Judge Hanna stated she'll get information from the last 12-18 months.
 - b) **Probation Update:**
 - i. Deputy Chief Santos reported there are currently (93) juveniles in custody; there was a spike in numbers, potentially tied to the end of the school year. Of those, (15) are committed to long-term programming, (18) to mid-term programming, and (5) 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, (80) are males and (13) are females.



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- ii. Deputy Chief Santos reported that the fence project has been 100% completed. SYTF youth are now able to go to the woodshop and be in the outdoor areas located inside the secure fence. A curriculum is already being developed for the summer months for youth to receive vocational education. The yard project is being worked on with an architect to develop a landscape design. The emergency doors located at the youth facility are also being worked on to give outdoor access for the vocational education youth.
- iii. Judge Hanna's transition to presiding judge has been seamless. She and Deputy Chief Santos meet every other week to discuss cases and areas for improvement.
- iv. Deputy Chief Santos reported that the prevention officer contracts have been renewed for the upcoming year. The Probation Department is currently hiring for Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) III and IV positions. Of these, a minimum of three DPO III's will be prevention officers and should be ready to go onto their assigned campuses by the time school starts in August.

IV. Actions Items and Discussion:

a) Actions Items:

- i. Approval of previous meeting minutes (March 25, 2025)
 - 1. Galen Quenzer made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 25, 2025. Manny Castro seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- ii. Vote for a new Chair
 - 1. Marty Schein expressed interest in becoming Chair of the Commission. Jeff Jacobs made a motion to appoint Marty Schein as the new Chair. Galen Quenzer seconded the motion. This would be for a 2-year term. The motion was approved unanimously.
- iii. Facility Inspection
 - 1. N/A. Discussed in "June Inspection" below.

V. Discussion (Roundtable):

- i. Review Bylaws / County Counsel (questions on bylaws)
 - 1. Jennie Bautista mentioned that the bylaws are currently in draft form. Judge Hanna stated she could initiate the conversation between the Commission Chair, the Vice Chair, and County Counsel to discuss any questions the Commission may have.
- ii. June Inspection
 - 1. Jennie Bautista proposed rescheduling the June inspection until September to give the Commission more time to prepare. Deputy Chief Santos was asked if pushing the inspection date back would be acceptable. He stated that'd be okay, but that the 2025 report needs



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completed before the end of the year. A subcommittee will be created to present ideas at the July meeting. Judge Hanna volunteered to be an advisor to the subcommittee. A Zoom link will be emailed to anyone interested in joining the subcommittee.

iii. Presentation by Andrew Garcia

- 1.** Andrew Garcia, alongside John Swenning, Benjamin Hernandez, and Jake Harder, gave a presentation on the Reedley Peace Building Initiative (RPBI) and the effects of restorative justice in the community

iv. Roundtable

- 1.** Deputy Chief Santos raised a concern about the Teams link not working consistently, so Probation would like to move away from using their link. Jennie Bautista stated the commission could set up its own link for future use in case someone needs it.

VI. Correspondence Received by the Commission:

- a)** N/A

VII. Agenda Development for the Next Meeting:

- a)** Facility Inspection Recommendations and Discussion
- b)** Presentation by GEO Group (Jennifer Hill) → July meeting
- c)** Resources for Sexually Exploited Children
- d)** Zoom / Remote Access for Future Meetings
- e)** Restorative Justice Discussion
- f)** Update on Juvenile Justice Commission Webinar
- g)** Presentation by Deputy Chief Santos, Brian Kern, and Joe Pinheiro → September meeting

VIII. Adjournment:

- a)** Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.
- b)** The next scheduled meeting is July 29, 2025.
- c)** Minutes prepared by Yesenia Magaña-Rocha, Staff Services Analyst.