



Tulare County  
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Meeting Minutes – July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

**Members Present:** Bud Darwin, Frank Escobar, Jerry Gaytan, Jeff Jacobs, Galen Quenzer, Jennie Bautista, Andrew Garcia, Marty Schein, Maria Hoover(virtual)

**Members Absent:** Naomi Campos, Manny Castro, Carla Calhoun, Timo Pizana

**Additional Attendees:** Judge Sylvia Hanna, Brian Kern

1. **Call to Order:** Marty Schein called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.
2. **Public Comments:** No public comments were made at this meeting.
3. **New Business:**
  - a. **Juvenile Court Update:**
    - i. Judge Hanna: Submitted the grant proposal to the Judicial Council for funding specialized mental health and CSEC services with the Juvenile Justice court judge.
  - b. **Probation Department Update:**
    - i. Brian Kern provided the Probation report/update and suggested quarterly inspections. He provided statistics on the number of Tulare County youth in group homes and foster homes.
4. **Actions Items:**
  - a. Approval of previous meeting minutes (May 27, 2025)
    - i. Jeff Jacobs made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2024. Galen Quenzer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
  - b. Facility Inspection
    - i. Juvenile Justice Commission Planning: The subcommittee discussed plans for the upcoming inspection of the juvenile detention facility, which will be conducted over two days in September. The inspection was divided into four main areas, with three people assigned to each category. The Commission emphasized that every commissioner should participate, expanding on the learning opportunity and its importance. The commission discussed scheduling interviews with children, ensuring probation is present but not audibly involved. Brian Kern suggested scheduling inspections quarterly, focusing on one category per quarter, to allow for in-depth reports. The group discussed recruiting a youth member for the commission. Jennie mentioned potential candidates with lived experience in the juvenile justice system. The Commission agreed to follow up on this recruitment effort. The group agreed to complete the inspection report before the end of the year and share the information with Deputy Chief Probation Officer Mike Santos to inform staff preparations.



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5. **Discussion Items:**
  - a. **Review Bylaws / County Counsel (questions on bylaws)**
    - i. Jennie Bautista stated the need to contact County Counsel regarding bylaws and staffing support for the Commission, emphasizing the importance of coordinating the right people and seeking advice on potential changes.
  - b. Inspection
    - i. No discussion was necessary.
  - c. Presentation by GEO Group (Jennifer Hill)
    - i. Jennifer Hill presented an overview of the Geo Group's re-entry programming for juveniles in custody, detailing the various curricula and services offered, including anger management, substance abuse treatment, coping skills, and gang intervention. She explained that the programs are conducted in group sessions with a maximum of 10 participants and are tailored to the length of the juvenile's stay. Jennifer also offered to provide Commission members with the opportunity to observe the groups during inspections and to view the curriculum materials during a tour of the facility.
  
6. **Correspondence Received by the Commission:**
  - a. The Probation Staff Child Endangerment Case was discussed, a recent criminal charge against a probation staff member involving child endangerment, with the case scheduled for trial on July 10th. Jennie Bautista and Marty Schein inquired about the Commission's role and historical handling of such situations. The Commission agreed to seek more details about the incident, including the services being offered to the victim.
  
7. **Agenda Development for the Next Meeting:**
  - a. Bud Darwin: Commission member update
  - b. Judge Hanna: Will provide follow-up with County counsel regarding bylaws, Brown Act compliance, and staffing support questions, and County Council to Jennie Bautista and Marty Schein. She will also follow up with a list of inspection locations.
  - c. Judge Hanna: Committed to looking into the annual inspection obligation of other facilities and following up at the next meeting.
  - d. Andrew Garcia's organization will provide a follow-up presentation in December.
  - e. There will be no presentation for October.
  
8. **Adjournment:**
  - a. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.
  - b. The next scheduled meeting is October 7, 2025.
  - c. Minutes prepared by Naomi Campos.