



Tulare County
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2025

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

Members Present: Manny Castro, Frank Escobar, Jerry Gaytan, Jeff Jacobs, Galen Quenzer, Marty Schein, Jennie Bautista, Andrew Garcia, Maria Hoover, Naomi Campos, Manny Castro, Carla Calhoun

Members Absent: Timo Pizana

Additional Attendees: Judge Sylvia Hanna, Mike Santos, Chief Kelly Vernon

- 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:**

Judge Hanna: We are pleased to welcome Judges Reese from Kings County and Taylor from South County, who have recently been reassigned. As we face serious cases ahead, there is also a new voting item on the ballot proposing to remove certain transfers from the court's jurisdiction, with transfer hearings currently in progress. Judge Johnson joins the Juvenile Court, adding valuable seniority alongside Judge Reed, strengthening our Juvenile Judge Team. Every two years, a new presiding judge is elected based on the court's needs, with Judge Hanna holding seniority in the Juvenile Court.
 - b) **Probation Update:**
 - i) Mike Santos reported that inspections for BSCC, OYCR, and the JJDPC have been completed and show full compliance. We expect the JJDPC report to be finalized by year-end, with ongoing support available for any questions. The fence installation is complete, and library progress is on track for our goal of opening by year-end. Additionally, we are working to expand the juvenile prevention program, aiming to establish six prevention officers in response to district needs.
 - ii) Kelly Vernon: There is a criminal case pending, the DA has filed charges, the internal affairs investigation has been completed, and notice of proposed discipline has been served. They are waiting to see if a Skelly Hearing is requested. A Skelly Hearing is part of due process for public employees. The youth have access to all mental health services, and the services have been offered to all youth regardless of whether they were directly involved in the incident or not.
- 4) **Actions Items:**
 - a) Approval of previous meeting minutes for July 29, 2025 postponed due to Secretary Naomi's absence and will be on action items at the Dec 2 meeting.
- 5) **Discussion (Roundtable):**
 - a) Review of the inspection process
 - i) During a recent inspection debrief, Jennie led a discussion on the progress of the inspection report, emphasizing the need to finalize a draft for Marty by year's end. Section 1, regarding the physical plant and facilities, was completed, while Jeff and Naomi detailed their thorough work on Section 2, focusing on health and nutrition, which included reviewing meals and conducting interviews.



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- ii) In Section 3, Andrew, Frank, Jerry, and Manny reported on education and programs, highlighting their support from probation officers and eight successful youth interviews. Marty, Carla, and Galen discussed Section 4, which covered quality of life and safety, indicating they were nearly finished after extensive reviews.
- iii) As the team reflected on the process, they praised their organizational structure and collaboration. They acknowledged some redundancy in the collected information, which improved thoroughness. Jennie noted that inspections enhanced her understanding, while Jeff appreciated the advanced information gathering.
- iv) Marty inquired about recording devices during inspections, confirming they were allowed without photographs. The team discussed challenges with the legibility of grievance forms and the potential use of tablets for submissions. Jeff requested more training from Probation for better insight into grievances.
- v) Jennie raised concerns about communication and role clarity, with Andrew citing tight schedules as a challenge. The team emphasized the need for improved communication with Probation to avoid duplicated efforts and suggested better categorization of inspection elements. Mike concluded that preparing reports in advance could streamline their process, while Manny proposed identification measures for Commissioners to enhance clarity. During a recent inspection debrief, Jennie led a discussion on the progress of the inspection report, emphasizing the need to finalize a draft for Marty by year's end.
- vi) As the team reflected on the process, they praised their organizational structure and collaboration. They acknowledged some redundancy in the collected information, which improved thoroughness. Jennie noted that inspections enhanced her understanding, while Jeff appreciated the advanced information gathering. Galen would like to meet in advance with the inspection team.
- vii) Marty inquired about recording devices during inspections, confirming they were allowed without photographs. The team discussed challenges with the legibility of grievance forms and the potential use of tablets for submissions. Jeff requested more training from Probation for better insight into grievances.
- viii) Jennie raised concerns about communication and role clarity, with Andrew citing tight schedules as a challenge. The team emphasized the need for improved communication with Probation to avoid duplicated efforts and suggested better categorization of inspection elements. Mike concluded that preparing reports in advance could streamline their process, while Manny proposed identification measures for Commissioners to enhance clarity.



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6) **Correspondence Received by the Commission:**

- a) There was no correspondence.

7) **Agenda Development for the Next Meeting:**

- a. Marty: Add agenda items debrief on facility inspection, debrief and brainstorming from Reedley program presentation (Jennie), youth commission member update (Bud), list of inspection location and County Counsel meeting (Judge), and report from discussion with the Chief (Marty). Brian Kern: Email the Geo Group presentation to the commission members.
- c) Marty: Schedule Andrew's organization for a follow-up presentation in December.
- d) Presentation: No presentation for October.

8) **Adjournment:**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.
- b. The next scheduled meeting is Dec 2, 2025.
- c. Minutes prepared by Naomi Campos.