

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Chief Probation Officer Michael Rogers, called to order the regular meeting of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) to order at 9:01 a.m., on March 11, 2021, via in person and through teleconference (Zoom), at the Colusa County Day Reporting Center (DRC) located at 320 5th Street, Colusa, Ca.

List of Council Members Present

Michael Bradwell, *Assistant Sheriff, Colusa County Sheriff's Office**
Lora Ceccon, *Executive Director, Colusa County One Stop*
Josh Fitch, *Police Chief, Colusa Police Department*
Michael Rogers, *Chief Probation Officer, Colusa County Probation Department*
James Saso, *Police Chief, Williams Police Department*
Albert Smith, *Attorney, Colusa County Public Defender*
Wendy Tyler, *County Administrative Officer, Colusa County Administrative Office*
Michael West, *Superintendent, Colusa County Office of Education*

List of Council Members Not Present

Matthew Beauchamp, *District Attorney, Colusa County District Attorney's Office*
Elizabeth Kelly, *Director, Colusa County Department of Health & Human Services*
Terry Rooney, *Director, Colusa County Behavioral Health Department*

Others Present

Mandi Davis, *Therapist, Colusa County Behavioral Health Department*
Donna Dennis, *Program Manager II, Colusa County Department of Health & Human Services*
Anthony Hall, *Therapist, Colusa County Behavioral Health Department*
Brandon Kingsley, *Deputy Probation Officer, Colusa County Probation Department*
Gerry Munoz, *Member of the Public*
Norma Navarro, *Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Colusa County Probation Department*
Sarah Regnani, *Counselor II, Colusa County Probation Department*
Fanny Reynoso, *Fiscal Program Analyst, Colusa County Probation Department*
Jamie Sachs, *Supervising Probation Officer, Colusa County Probation Department*

*Voting Proxy for Council Member

- b. Introductions.
- c. Members reviewed previous committee minutes from September 17, 2020.

d. Action requested to vote on approval of Minutes.

- **VOTE: Josh Fitch motioned to approve the JJCC Minutes of September 17, 2020. James Saso seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed and minutes accepted.**

II. ACTION ITEMS

a. Department updates/progress/concerns.

Colusa County Probation Department

Brandon Kingsley reported on probation's juvenile caseload. They are using and have had a lot success with diversion programming. They do not have a lot of recidivism when using diversion as their first option.

Chief Rogers stated that juvenile formal probation numbers are down, however, informal probation numbers are up. They have 3 juveniles on formal probation and 8 on informal probation.

Colusa County Behavioral Health

Mandi Davis stated that since dealing with Covid-19 restrictions and having to meet with clients via phone or Zoom, they have seen a drop in juvenile behavioral health clients. For most children and the transitional age youth, that is not the best format. They need face-to-face, and a one-on-one connection. However, over the last week and a half, they have slowly transitioned to reopening and have seen an increase in intakes and requests for services. She is also seeing an increase in attendance and participation in her offender population. It has been difficult for clinical staff to manage their clients during Covid-19 and support their clients appropriately.

Colusa County Office of Education

Michael West stated that all the schools have a plan to re-open or to stay open. He and Elizabeth Kelly met with the Colusa Unified School Board on Monday evening. They plan on being open all 5 days, face-to-face, beginning April 12th. Maxwell, Princeton and Pierce schools are in person. Williams will hopefully move that direction next Tuesday, when they anticipate the county moving into the red tier. There is a misconception that allocated funds will solve the issues they have with reopening. It has been over a year now, in dealing with Covid-19 and the issues will not be solved by adding a couple of extra days and summer school. There is a huge gap between the students that are very prepared and motivated, and the students who have a C average or lower. The failure numbers have skyrocketed across the state. There are a lot of issues in behavioral health. They anticipate that after spring break about 20% of the students will continue with distance learning. The Superintendents across the states are asking the Governor, the Department of Education, the State Public Health, Cal OSHA and all other groups, to get out of the way and let them do their jobs. They want to move forward and get children back to school. There will be

summer school in every district this summer. The local County Health Department has been amazing and very helpful.

Mike Rogers asked Mike West if Colusa County has children that are being lost in the mix. Mike West stated unlike Placer and other counties, they have not experienced any children that have been missing.

James Saso stated that in Williams they were getting calls regarding students that were not getting online. They would go to those houses and help. However, they recently received approximately 26 requests to do welfare checks. They were not able to accommodate those calls unless they had information that the student was in danger.

Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services

Donna Dennis reported for Child Welfare. Currently they have 70 youth on their caseload and 47 of those minors are in out-of-home placement. They currently have 1 in a group home. She stated the biggest news is the Family Urgent Response system. The Family Urgent Response System is a statewide system. There is a hotline available for foster youth and probation youth, both current and former. If the youth are in a placement, are having difficulties and need help they can call the State hotline. The staff will triage what is going on in home. If a response is needed they will contact DHSS or an on-call social worker. The idea is that the team will go to the home and evaluate what is going on to reduce the need for law enforcement intervention and/or removal of the minor from current placement, and/or give them the needed mental health treatment. They are also required to respond to calls for youth that are not their dependents but are dependents of other Counties as the host county. They initially utilized their emergency after hours response systems that her department, behavioral health and probation already have in place. When moving forward if they find they have a greater need than anticipated, they may have to change the plan.

Mike West stated a lot of the other County superintendents relayed that the number of CPS referrals have gone down and domestic violence referrals have gone up. He asked if we have seen that in our County. Donna Dennis stated that initially due to Covid-19 they saw a dip in referrals in both CPS and in APS standpoints. They also saw an increase in reports regarding the schools unable to locate children. As far as domestic violence they were still receiving them. They did not see a dip in caseloads. The numbers initially dipped for about 2 months then went right back to normal numbers. Further discussion between members regarding domestic violence and changes in numbers.

Mike West stated importance of resuming the Boys Council and the Girls Circle programs. The in-person face-to-face contact with youth is very important. The Superintends encourage services at the Campuses when they re-open. Sarah Regnani said that they will definitely be out on campuses as of next week. As much as they

reach out on Zoom, it is not as effective. They are ready to be out there and are hoping to be on every campus by April. She knows that they have a huge job ahead of them. Further discussion between members and the services that are needed for students.

Wendy Tyler stated how important the face-to-face contact is with our youth and on behalf of the Board and herself, she thanked the Council members for acknowledging the importance of the face-to-face contact and appreciates the efforts being made to make that happen.

- b. Call for nominations, discussions, and vote to accept for vacant public membership position.
Mike Rogers advised there is a member of the public that would like to become part of the JJCC, Gerry Munoz. Gerry's credentials are impeccable. He has worked in the Probation Department for over 29 years and was the director of juvenile services.

- **VOTE: Mike Rogers motioned to nominate Gerry Munoz to fill the public membership position. Albert Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.**

- c. Sub-groups/committees requested to provide brief updates.

- a. Establish Sub Committee for DJJ realignment plan pursuant to 1995(a) WI.

Mike Rogers stated pursuant to Senate Bill 823 they are to establish a DJJ Realignment Plan pursuant to 1995 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The realignment has been named, Secure Track. Probation is collaborating with the Tri County Juvenile Hall and Sutter and Yuba Counties. They are developing a plan on how to deal with DJJ/Secure Track eligible offenders in our community and how to provide proper services. Part of this bill requires the establishment of a sub-committee through the JJCC to help oversee the development of that plan. There are certain members which are required to be part of that committee such as Probation, the district attorney's office, the public defender's office, the department of health and human services, behavioral health and the court. The members can opt out on their own. The Court has opted because of conflict of interest. There are also 3 community at large positions. Mike recommends the newest member of the JJCC take one of those positions and puts forth the nomination to establish this committee.

- **VOTE: Mike Rogers motioned to establish the sub-committee through JJCC. Mike West seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion to establish the sub-committee passed.**

Brandon Kingsley discussed what they are currently working on with DJJ Realignment. One of the most beneficial parts is they already have quite a bit of programming in place at the Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility. The youth in their camp program are very busy, however, from what they understand, it is going to take much more than what is currently in place. They are discussing how to create more programming such as access to resources in Colusa, Yuba and Sutter Counties, maintaining constancy, and continuing educational and vocational opportunities for

our youth. Consistency is the key. The camp program is only 6-8 months. In Secured Track youth, they are looking at 2-5 plus years. They have to provide consistent continued programming to keep the youth busy and engaged.

Mandi Davis stated the Behavioral Health Department just received approval to add a Children's Unit Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist. This specialist is skilled and trained to provide rehabilitative services to juveniles such as on-site coping skills, rehab skills and life skills that clinicians do not have the time to do.

Further discussion between members regarding DJJ realignment and the intense programming that will have to occur to help the youth transition back into the community. Some programming that will have to be provided will have to be contracted out with other Counties that already provide those services and programming. Mike stated he plans to meet with each member to discuss interests in a one stop type of youth center. They have a blue print for the center.

The DJJ Realignment plan has be completed within one year of DJJ closing. However, the plan will be completed sooner rather than later. The DJJ Intake Unit closes in July. The plan will have 2 parts; the Juvenile Hall and probation.

d. Review/Approval of proposed JJCC comprehensive plan.

A copy of the JJCC Comprehensive plan was provided to the members present. Mike thanked everyone for their input and help in creating the plan.

- **VOTE: Josh Fitch motioned to accept the JJCC Comprehensive plan. Albert Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.**

e. Announcements of any Legislative and/or funding updates/budget/training opportunities.

Mike Rogers stated there are bills on the legislative table this year that will cause a lot of problems at least from a probation standpoint. Senate Bill (SB) 493 removes the probation Chief as the chair of JJCCPA, add the ability to have a co-chair and put a community member as the Chair of the committee. None of the State funding will go to law enforcement, which includes probation. All of the services that are provided will have to be outsourced to a community organization that does not exist in this County. All of our programming such as Girl's Circle and Boy's Council will have to be funded from another source. It also puts requirements on probation to provided data without funding to do so.

Senate Bill, SB503, pushes to put all juvenile probation grants to a maximum of 6 months and that includes serious and violent offenders. In Mike's opinion this would create more adult filings or secured track commitments which ultimately would eliminate probation. Six months is not enough time to rehabilitate or address the needs of serious and violent offenders.

Mike West stated they have coordinated a SARB process where all the districts are doing the same procedure. Their hands are tied when it comes to children that are in 6th grade and over. There is some legislation that fines the parents if their kids are truant. There is concern that they will see a lot of truancy. Not a lot can be done with kids that are truant in grades 7th through 12th. He would like to see the development of a truancy bill.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes submitted by R. Lawson, Colusa County Probation