

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING
January 22, 2024, AT 2:00 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

Host Location: Rustin Conference Center, 2085 Rustin Avenue, Conference Room 1051, Riverside

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chief Probation Officer Christopher H. Wright at 2:05 p.m.

Chris Wright welcomed Robyn Brock, new JJCC council member representing Board of Supervisors Third District Chair Chuck Washington's Office.

Roll call of the members was taken. The following representatives were present:

Chris Wright, Chief Probation Officer, Chairman
Bridgette Hernandez, Department of Public Social Services
Janine Moore, Riverside University Health Systems, Behavioral Health
Chris Collopy, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Committee
Frank Assumma, Riverside Police
Joelle Moore, Deputy Public Defender IV, Public Defender's Office
Michael Cabral, Assistant District Attorney, District Attorney's Office
Robyn Brock, Chief of Staff, Board of Supervisor Chair Chuck Washington's Office
Dr. Mona Davies, Community Outreach Ministry
Kevin Kalman, Desert Recreation District
Zach Bell, California Family Life Center
Jessica Clark, Solid Ground Wellness

In attendance but not present during roll call:
Pete Serbantes, Camino Real Family Services

New members voted in:
Caryn Marsella, Riverside Art Museum (RAM)
Johnie Drawn, Communities for Children

New members voted in not present:
Pamela Clay, Living Advantage

2. Approval of Minutes from the November 13, 2023, Meeting

Chris Wright presented the minutes from the November 13, 2023, JJCC meeting (handout).
Chris Wright made a motion for the JJCC to approve the meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Chris Collopy. Minutes were approved.
Oppositions: None
Abstained: Zach Bell

3. Appointment of new Voting Members

Division Director LaToya Thomas gave a brief overview with the recently vacated seats of Operation Safe House, Wylie Center, and StudentNest Foundation; as such there are three new members to vote in.

As stated in the Bylaws, eligibility requirements dictate these seats must be filled by contracted JJCPA vendors. After the last meeting the following agencies: Caryn Marsella, Riverside Art Museum; Johnie Drawn, Communities for Children; and Pamela Clay, Living Advantage contacted the Probation department and expressed interest to sit on the board.

Chris Wright made a motion to appoint the three contracted CBOs to the board: representative Caryn Marsella, Riverside Art Museum (RAM); representative Johnie Drawn, Communities for Children; and representative Pamela Clay, Living Advantage. Motion was seconded by Dr. Mona Davies. Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

4. Brown Act Overview

County Counsel Bruce Fordon gave a high-level overview of the Brown Act (handout). Highlights included: Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure, Order of Business, Quorum and Voting, Legislative Bodies, Prohibited Serial Meetings, Location – Teleconference, Agenda for Regular Meetings, and Participation.

Summary of Key Points:

- Agenda posted 72 hours before meeting and physically post at location of meeting.
- For agenda items, the public must be given an opportunity to comment before or during the body's consideration of the item.
- A majority of the voting body may not consult on the business of the body outside of a noticed meeting.
- Meetings include any communication among a majority of the voting body to hear, discuss, or deliberate on public business (e-mail, telephone calls, serial meetings, inc.)
- Attendance of quorum at other events not a violation if no business of the JJCC is discussed (conferences & seminars, community meetings, another body of agency, social or ceremonial events).

Comments:

Dr. Mona Davies mentioned if she were stuck in traffic and wanted to call-in would that be allowed.

Bruce Fordon replied this would not be allowed as the rules stipulate notice of location and posting is 72 hours before meeting.

Robyn Brock mentioned their staff in Riverside utilize teleconference for planning/committee meetings that are in the southwest region.

5. RFP Evaluation of Services Update

Division Director LaToya Thomas mentioned the RFP Evaluation of Services process has been completed and target date to send to the Board of Supervisors for awarding a vendor is February 2024.

Another update will be provided at the March meeting.

6. JJCC Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

Chief Deputy Elisa Judy: The goal is to create an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee consisting of three members from community-based organizations, three members from county agencies, and one member from the JJDPC with Probation facilitating the conversation to ensure we have a working body to develop strategic direction and planning for the JJCC board. In conjunction, we wanted to provide community voice to the plan. The Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Advisory Committee will work alongside the vendor chosen from the RFP Evaluation of Services to first develop the 24/25 plan to submit to the Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC) that is due in May and cast a vision for how we want the JJCC to transform over the next 5 years. Elements will focus on:

- Healing Centered Services – Positive Youth Development
- Restorative Services – Culturally Competent
- Trauma-informed – Life Coaching (considering adverse childhood experiences)
- Prevention – System impacted – Placement Reentry
- Marketing

As the Chief says, “Our time is now” and I would like to demonstrate our momentum I would like to ask the Chief to make a motion along with the membership.

Riverside is so fortunate to have such a vested community and agencies who want to pour into our kids. Since our last meeting the CBO Alliance has been formed to unify the CBO base and some criteria for the Ad Hoc Advisory committee was discussed: commit to three years of involvement, meet at least twice a month (once with Ad Hoc Advisory and one with CBO Alliance), forgo possibly accepting funding and they are speaking for the CBO Alliance and community at-large.

I would like to ask the three CBOs that volunteered to please stand: Sonny Von Cleveland with the Von Cleveland Foundation; Ramon Ramos with The Exception; and Dr. Monica Hunter with The Fruit of Our Hands. I would like our three county agency representatives to stand: Louvie Benitez-Taitano with Riverside County Office of Education; Michael Cabral with District Attorney’s Office; Joelle Moore with Public Defender’s Office; and Chris Collopy with the JJDPC. I would like to ask the Chief to make a motion to stand-up an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee with the aforementioned members.

Comments:

Fidel Chagolla with Starting Over Inc., mentioned his organization provides transitional housing in Riverside and asked how folks got the applications to be on the committee.

Elisa Judy mentioned the CBO community came together to discuss and the three candidates volunteered.

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned we need more CBOs representing the community on this committee.

Chris Wright made a motion to stand up the JJCC Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Advisory Committee along with the following members: Sonny Von Cleveland with the Von Cleveland Foundation; Ramon Ramos with The Exception; Dr. Monica Hunter with The Fruit of Our Hands; Louvie Benitez-Taitano with Riverside County Office of Education; Michael Cabral with District Attorney's Office; Joelle Moore with Public Defender's Office; and Chris Collopy with the JJDC. Motion was seconded by Johnie Drawn.

Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

Comments:

Chris Wright mentioned this is great, this is going to be transformative! Now that we have the advisory committee lined up and the contracted vendor almost ready to go, all the pieces are coming together for the JJCC vision to be fulfilled and us to positively impact the youth and families of Riverside County!

7. Fiscal Year 24/25 Program Proposals

a) District Attorney:

Director of Victim Services Melissa Donaldson gave a brief presentation (handout).

Highlights include the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) which was established in 2015. CPU provides services to every community in Riverside County using a multidisciplinary approach. The team is comprised of Deputy District Attorneys, Victim Services Specialists, and personnel from the SAFE Family Justice Centers (a co-located nonprofit). The goal is for youth to stay in school and minimize truancy. Truancy in Riverside County is 3.3 % higher than the State average. The program's infrastructure has been changed to include more staff from Victim Services and from the Family Justice Center. Staff work with youth and their families at Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meetings and School Attendance Review Boards (SARB). The program has been able to identify and provide a much broader scope of services that wrap the entire family's unique challenges. There are positive results: increase in school attendance and family outcomes.

Regional Manager of Victim Services, Katie Gilbertson gave brief overview of programming enhancements and additions. Highlights include delivering more direct services from an intervention and prevention perspective: Increase multi-family disciplinary service delivery; more direct case management; social and emotional learning curriculums and Police-Activities League, a nationally recognized non-profit mentoring system. Focus is on how to keep youth busy, engaged, building rapport to stay in programs, and off the streets. The DA also developed the Gang Awareness Mentorship and Education program (GAME) and Youth Empowerment and Safety (YES) program. GAME provides a parent project curriculum, gang awareness and prevention, and drug awareness presentations. YES teams provide presentations on a large-scale to thousands in the community on serious topics like cyber-bullying and human trafficking. In 2023, presentations were provided to approximately 50,000 people with the majority being youth.

Comments:

Ramon Ramos mentioned if there were any credible messengers talking with the youth or is it people from the DA and Police departments. Do you partner with other CBOs or those with lived experience?

Melissa Donaldson mentioned they use DA staff to talk about trainings and legal authority and use community members with lived experience about system impacts. More CBOs are welcome.

Ismael Davila mentioned he works at University California Riverside and would be interested in working with the DA.

Carolina Ayala with Happier Life Project a recovery community organization mentioned they approached the Family Justice Center in Temecula to inquire about a mentorship program for one of their students with lived experience and were told they already have the program staffed; however, Cal State San Marcos informed the interns are not being clinically supervised.

Melissa Donaldson mentioned the Family Justice Center is a separate nonprofit the DA does not manage their operations. They are a partner of the DA who sends referrals for joint programs. They do not do clinical work it is case management based.

Anton Osborne with ACCI LifeSkills an international evidence-based provider of cognitive life skills courses and programs asked if the DA is willing to add to their curriculum. ACCI has 85 courses that are very prescribed to the offense.

Michelle Irving with A Better You mentioned her organization assists people in making a successful change within themselves dedicating to restoring lives. This is my first meeting and excited to network with everyone to collaborate.

Sonny Von Cleveland mentioned there seems to be resistance to work with ex-convicts and formerly incarcerated. His program has built a wonderful team of individuals with lived experience, and they see the impact it has on youth because of the relatability. We hope agencies will be willing to work with that.

Katie Gilbertson mentioned the DA has a volunteer program to include credible messengers.

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned there are a lot of untapped resources here in the room. She has been attending these meetings since 2016 and super excited about the traction; however, looking at the budget believes there is a lot of duplication and overlap of services. Seeing an amount of \$70,000 allocated to travel mileage and \$10,000 for services is questionable.

Pete Serbantes mentioned how do you make parents accountable and asked what responsibility track means.

Melissa Donaldson mentioned from a truancy standpoint the attorneys work with all the school districts and families of youth that are identified as chronically truant. From those meetings is when other family needs come up that can be met and get support on.

Pete Serbantes mentioned he has been a Parent Project Program provider since 2016 and would like to exchange contacts with the DA for further discussions.

Rebecca Acevedo asked why the board is approving the budget where the DA is asking to fund the nonprofit SAFE Family Justice Center at \$500,000 and the CBOs are capped at \$100,000.

Chris Wright mentioned we are not approving the budget today. The budget approvals will be at the March 18 meeting.

b) Public Defender:

Deputy Public Defender Joelle Moore gave a brief presentation (handout).

The Riverside County Law Offices of the Public Defender seeks continued funding for SPARK: Support, Partnerships, Advocacy and Resources for Kids, an intervention and prevention program designed to benefit middle and high-school aged youth who are represented by the Public Defender's Office and at-promise Transition Age Youth (TAY) throughout Riverside County. SPARK's primary objective is to identify unaddressed academic and mental health needs, as well as other barriers to successful transition into adulthood, and link youth to appropriate resources through coordinated and collaborative community partnerships. Legal consultations, advocacy and referrals are also provided, as well as trainings for partnering agencies, school districts, and community-based organizations.

The Chapman University Restorative Justice Program is a holistic approach to justice designed for youth who have committed WIC 602 offenses involving a true victim. The program focuses on the needs of the youth, victims, and the community. It provides heightened accountability, opportunities to discuss the offense and harm done in a safe setting, and the parties establish an agreement to repair the harm. Upon the voluntary consent of both parties to participate in the program, University staff and students provide mentorship and guidance to help the youth "make amends" with the victim, understand how their actions directly impacted the victim, and give the victim "a voice." Additionally, the youth are provided with conflict resolution and mediation services by neutral parties in a safe environment, as well as resource referrals to support successful completion of the reparative agreements.

Comments:

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned what is the eligibility criteria for the SPARK program.

Joelle Moore mentioned for direct services the individual would need to be a Public Defender client. For at-promise TAY youth, anybody that inquires and has questions will be provided consultation and TAY services. For those that have conflicts, they will be connected to the appropriate contact source for services.

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned is there training provided for public agencies and CBOs. What is the ratio of partner agencies to CBOs. What training are you providing and is there data on that.

Joelle Moore mentioned yes training is provided. We do not have the ratio currently, but we are collecting the data. Training is provided in special education, rights, foster care reentry and record sealing just to name a few.

c) Probation:

Division Director LaToya Thomas gave a brief presentation (handout).

Probation has three major programs for FY 24/25: the Youth Accountability Team (YAT) model which will require four (4) full time positions which include line-level, supervisory, and administrative personnel. Provide mentorship programs designed for individual and family circumstances and participation in pro-social events in the community. A proper assessment of each youth will be completed utilizing an evidence-based assessment tool, and a collaborative

case plan will be developed with input from staff, the youth, their parents, and their attorney. All efforts will be geared toward increasing the likelihood of success at school, in the home, as well as their local communities. An emphasis is placed upon broadening each youth's experiences in the local community and expanding their knowledge base and interest levels in healthy, pro-social activities which are readily available to youth. Gift cards will be utilized to incentivize their participation.

The 654.1 WIC DUI program will require four (4) full time positions which include line-level, supervisory, and administrative personnel. Youth utilizing the program will be provided mentorship and programming designed to meet his/her specific needs. A collaborative case plan will be jointly created by the staff, the youth, their parents, and their attorney. The primary focus of this program and the case plan is to motivate youth to successfully complete a drunk driving program as outlined by law. These youth will also be afforded access to pro-social events in the community.

Successful Short-Term Supervision (SSTS) is geared toward low-level youth who have entered the juvenile justice system via the formal court process. The overall goal of the program is to assist youth and their parents with successful completion of the program by the first court review hearing. Appropriate supervision will be provided to assist the youth with improvement in school attendance and performance, abstinence from substance use, participation in specific counseling outlined by their identified needs, and positive community involvement through community service and/or participation in pro-social activities.

Comments:

Jessica Clark asked what the proper assessment for YAT consists of and if there are any outside referrals made or is it just within Probation.

LaToya Thomas mentioned the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) is an evidence-based tool utilized to determine the program is appropriate for the youth or not. There can be outside referrals made for youth participants, if necessary, but we have a contracted vendor that provides direct services for the youth.

Jessica Clark asked who the contracted vendor is.

LaToya mentioned it is StudentNest.

Lynette Jones co-founder and Executive Director for Kids in Konflikt mentioned we are fortunate to receive referrals from the agencies and asked are other CBOs included on the listing of services from the agencies presenting and how do you include the other CBOs on that list.

LaToya mentioned there is a list of all currently funded CBOs and their services and the list can be made publicly available for everyone.

Lynette Jones mentioned they have encountered CBOs in the Desert asking for a list of services and wants to make sure everyone gets the same information.

Carolina Ayala mentioned about Kids in Konflikt receiving referrals from the agencies and asked if they are funded through Probation how do you select who gets referrals overall.

LaToya Thomas mentioned for YAT we work directly with StudentNest and for DUI work with Tempo - Riverside Behavioral Health. If you are speaking about how other providers are utilized county-wide, there is an RFP process that opens every year and is addressed at these meetings to allow other CBOs to apply and become contracted vendors.

Ismael Davila mentioned he has a grant that specifically addresses the services YAT provides and asked would it be possible for us to be involved.

LaToya Thomas mentioned before she answers that she would like to discuss agenda item #8 Diversion Remodel RFP first that will provide more clarity in the direction we want to take moving forward.

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned it would be beneficial if WestEd could provide the report out for YAT to speak about the effectiveness and efficiency of YAT.

LaToya Thomas mentioned we do not report out on all the aggregate data that other programs would have as the YAT numbers are too low. Should we reach a number that meets the threshold that additional information will be provided.

Rebecca Acevedo asked what the threshold is.

LaToya Thomas mentioned it is 25.

8. Diversion Remodel RFP

Division Director LaToya Thomas gave a brief presentation (handout).

Riverside County aims to create a community-led Juvenile Diversion Program (RCJDP) as a county-wide pre-file diversion option for youth who engage in low-level offenses and are determined eligible pursuant to the Welfare and Institutions Code and the Rules of Court, as an alternative to prosecution. Within these parameters, applicable cases submitted to RCP by law enforcement will be screened for diversion eligibility. Additionally, any cases that fall within the legal discretion of the District Attorney will also be eligible for RCJDP should the DA find it appropriate and/or in the interest of justice.

Through its Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, Riverside County will seek proposals to have a community-based organization(s) meet the individual needs of low-level clients and provide supportive services within the community. Responsive proposals will describe a collaborative approach working with the youth, family, and community to provide a pathway to intervention and supportive services. These services by design will effectively address delinquent behaviors and other risk factors while increasing positive change and reducing re-offense, maximizing diversion success without formal system involvement. Once the community-led Diversion Program is up and running the current YAT model and DUI programs will transition into this new model.

Comments:

Jessica Clark asked when will the RFP will go out.

LaToya Thomas mentioned this board needs to approve the RFP first.

Bridgette Hernandez asked if more than one agency can be involved in providing services.

LaToya clarified looking at one or more umbrella agencies to take the lead whether it is directing or providing the services.

Elisa Judy reminded everyone we cannot go into too much detail with scope of work of the RFP.

Frank Assumma inquired what is the formal system of filing.

LaToya Thomas mentioned appearing before the Court for Judge to give a formal response of adjudication and form of disposition on a case.

Frank Assumma mentioned what would happen if the case did not get adjudicated and the District Attorney did not file would it be like the crime did not happen. The system must bless it first.

LaToya Thomas clarified that all cases go to Probation for review looking at the statutes and rules of court to determine whether there is legal jurisdiction and discretion to handle. Some cases are required to go to the District Attorney's Office for their review. Both Probation and DA can assign and elect diversion options when applicable.

Pete Serbantes mentioned if the RFP will be shared before the vote in March.

LaToya Thomas clarified we are going to vote today to approve to move forward the RFP process. The RFP cannot be shared we have to follow strict County Purchasing guidelines.

Jessica Clark mentioned we are voting to inquire about and start the process of the RFP.

LaToya Thomas mentioned once board approves the whole County RFP process will start. Once the RFP is posted everyone will have access to it and can respond and follow County Purchasing guidelines.

Jessica Clark mentioned are there any exclusions on anybody that can submit a proposal if you are a voting member.

LaToya Thomas mentioned only if you have a personal conflict and would need to look at what the specific issue would be. County Purchasing would make that determination.

Rebecca Acevedo asked if the department could share the definition of community led.

LaToya Thomas mentioned the award winner or CBO will make the determination as to what services the youth needs. Probation will not fill that role.

Lynette Jones asked if the CBO Alliance can be awarded the contract of the RFP.

LaToya Thomas clarified that County Purchasing will make the determination.

Chris Wright made a motion to approve the County to move forward with the Request for Proposal (RFP) to establish a community-led diversion model. Motion was seconded by Pete Serbantes. Motion passed.

Oppositions: None

9. Council Comments

Kevin Kalman requested when acronyms are first listed in agency reports that they be spelled out for clear identification.

10. Public Comments

Dr. Adrienne Grayson, Associate Dean Educational Partnerships at Riverside City College (RCC).

This is my first meeting here and very encouraged to see everyone. We have a rising scholar's program for those individuals that are system impacted. We received a one million dollar grant specifically to support juvenile justice over a five-year period. Higher education is one of the best ways to help individuals achieve a living wage and get out of generational poverty. We are excited to host the 2nd Annual Supporting Successful Reentry Conference on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the University of California, Riverside. This conference is a collaboration between University of California, Riverside; Riverside City College; and California State University, San Bernardino. Our objectives are to bring awareness to the complex barriers that justice-impacted and system-impacted individuals face upon reentry within the Inland Empire region, the educational opportunities that are available to them, and the resources that are designed to support their success and development. Additionally, the conference serves to build partnerships among law enforcement, rehabilitative agencies, institutions of higher education, and community-based organizations that will lead to strengthening network capacity, streamlining services, and promoting higher education. The ultimate goal is to reduce recidivism in the Inland Empire and create a culture of care for those impacted by the justice system.

Ismael Davila, University California Riverside.

I also work with Dr. Grayson. We also have a grant for youth that is specific for incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, currently on probation or were formerly on probation. We are currently working with the Cheech Museum to hold a Post and Art show coming up on March 7 at the community art gallery and will be displayed for three months. Deadline for youth to submit art is this Friday, January 26. I noticed this council has an educational representative through RCOE only and would be very impactful to have additional educational seats at the table perhaps RCC. We do a lot of work in the community in the education department and provide transitional services. We need youth to go into higher education.

Chris Wright mentioned as a friendly reminder if you have not done so already, we will need all voting members to submit in writing names of their designee for the year to JJCC recording Secretary Bryon Hansen. After ten months and two JJCC meetings as Chief I am very excited to see where we are headed from not having any volunteers to today is amazing. I cannot wait to see the great work from the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, RFP, and Diversion program when that gets going. We are on our way and our time is now! I appreciate everyone being here today, thank you.

11. Adjournment

Next JJCC Meeting:

Date/Time: March 18, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Location: 2085 Rustin Ave, Room 1051, Riverside CA

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

An attendance sheet was signed by all present and will be kept on file.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Probation Executive Secretary Bryon Hansen