

SOLANO COUNTY
Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission
AGENDA

November 2nd, 2016

County Administration Center - 675 Texas Street
Conference Room 6003
Fairfield, CA 94533

3:00 p.m. Meeting

MEMBERS

Cynthia Phillips,
Chair

Joanne Carli
Co-Chair

Rhonda Green,
Secretary

Andre Davis Sr.
Commissioner

Rosalind Reid,
Commissioner

Frances Nelson,
Commissioner

Louise McNeill
Commissioner

Julie Hilt
Commissioner

Paul Ligda
Commissioner

Damian Spieckerman
Commissioner

Selena Guerra
Commissioner

Arabella Compton
Commissioner

Josh McClendon
Commissioner

Lawrence Barnes
Commissioner

Anthony McCrary
Commissioner

PURPOSE STATEMENT – Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission

The mission of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) is to inquire into the administration of juvenile justice in Solano County. The overall objective is to reduce the recidivism rate of juvenile offenders in the local criminal justice system.

The Solano County JJJPC was established by the Solano County Board of Supervisors under authority of California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 233. Its predecessor organizations were the Juvenile Justice Commission, mandated by Section 225 of the W&I Code and the Delinquency Prevention Commission authorized by Section 233 of the W&I Code.

The duties and functions of the Commission are stated in Sections: 228, 229, 229.5, 230, 233, and 234 of the Welfare and Institutions Code

The JJJPC is granted access to all publicly administered institutions in Solano County authorized by the Juvenile Court Law. This includes annual inspections of probation-administered institutions, jails, and other lockups detaining juveniles.

This agenda shall be made available upon request in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132) and the Ralph M. Brown Act (Govt. Code, § 54954.2). Persons requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation should contact Tami Robinson, 475 Union Street, Fairfield CA 94533 (707-784-7564) during regular business hours, at least 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

If you wish to address any item listed on the agenda, please limit your comments to 3 minutes. You will be able to address the Commission under item III.

3. Use of Probation Funds:
(Action Item)

The Commission will discuss and vote on the use of Probation Funds.

VII. New Business/Future Agenda

Chair/Co-Chair

1. **(No Action)**

Commissioners may request future agenda items to be discussed, or items that may need action on future agendas.

The next scheduled meeting is **December 7th, 2016** from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at The County Admin Center, 675 Texas Street, Conference Room 6003.

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Working Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2016

Commissioners Present: Andre Davis
Anthony McCrary
Arabella Compton
Cynthia Phillips
Damian Spieckerman
Frances Nelson
Joanne Carli
Lawrence Barnes
Louise McNeill
Paul Ligda
Rhonda Green

Informed Absence: Josh McClendon
Julie Hilt
Rosaline Reid

Uninformed Absence: Selena Guerra

Non-Member Participants Present: Chris Hansen - Chief Probation Officer
Dean Farrah – Superintendent JDF
Nancy Wirt – Solano County Librarian

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Chair; Cynthia Phillips called the meeting to order and welcomed the members.

Approval of Minutes (Sept 7th, 2016): Commissioner Ligda moved to approve the Minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Barnes. 11 in favor, 0 (zero) opposing and 0 (zero) abstention. Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes (Sept 28th, 2016): Commissioner Barnes moved to approve the Minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Davis. 10 in favor, 0 (zero) opposing and 1 (one) abstention. Motion Carried

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Ligda moved to approve the Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Barnes. 11 in favor, 0 (zero) opposing and 0 (zero) abstaining. Motion Carried.

Public Comment: Chief Hansen reported that he attended the Women's Reentry Achievement Program (WRAP) program graduation held at the county jail. He said the program works with adult women with a history of addiction who are trying to get themselves together. He noted that the women in the program predominately have a history of being on juvenile probation, and stated that if we (Probation/Commission) fail to reach the youth of today, they too will have a similar future.

Probation and Juvenile Detention Facility Update:

Chief Hansen: Reported the JCAP program is being revamped to divert more and more status and low offending youth out of the system at the level of first contact. He stated that misdemeanor and first time offenders are referred to the BAR for arbitration. 59 youth have been referred, 38 received services, 25 have completed the program, and 2 were unsuccessful and referred back to Probation. He reported that these youths will be referred back to Probation or the appropriate police agencies for Diversion in an attempt to make it more and more difficult for low offending youth to get into the system. The goal is to reserve detention for those youth who seriously need to be detained.

He reported the detention screening tool being worked on by W. Hayward Burns Institute is in the last phase of removing subjective criteria material that exists in the current release tool. Probation currently governs the release process at intake, but he anticipates that JDF staff will assume responsibility of determining whether or not a youth is released at intake using the new tool in early 2017.

Chief Hansen advised that Probation is pursuing a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention to look at the racial disparity of youth detained in the community. Reportedly all police Chiefs have signed on and are willing to help as needed. The Federal Office of Juvenile Justice Planning Committee (JJPC) has referred the matter to W. Hayward Burns to pursue, and JJPC will serve as technical advisors during the process.

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Superintendent Farrah: Current population at the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) is 74 (65 males/9 females). Of those, 51 are detained pending further court proceedings, 23 are placed in JDF programs (Challenge (12)/New Foundations (11)). The average age is 16.3, the oldest is 18 and the youngest is 13.

Superintendent Farrah reported that JDF has obtained accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and youth can now graduate directly from the program.

Superintendent Farrah reported that 24 mutual combat and/or assault related incidents have occurred during the 3rd quarter (July thru September). 3 youth are reportedly involved in 1/3 of the incidents. Individuals programs, housing changes and additional resources (training/counseling) are utilized to combat and/or reduce occurrences. It is noted that most of the incidents occur during the 3 to 11 shift when youth have the most time out of their rooms and newer staff are concentrated. He also reported that various ways to decrease the number of incidents are being looked into. One proposed attempt is by changing the schedule around to encourage seasoned/veteran staff to select shifts that results in a more even distribution throughout the various shifts versus being concentrated on the 7 to 3 shift as they are now. Superintendent Farrah reported that he is meeting with union representative to work out feasible options. He reported that it is his goal to finalize the new schedule in November so that it's available for bidding in December. He reported that if this plan fails to produce the desired results, other options will be looked into and/or pursued.

Commission McCrary expressed concern about the number of incidents that have occurred during the 3rd quarter and stated that staff are trained to prevent such incidents from occurring.

Superintendent advised that some incidents are not preventable. He further advised that staff must utilize their best judgement to assess a given situation, and that youth can be segregated from communal areas if staff can justify and articulate the risk/danger a given minor poses to others.

Commissioner McCrary replied that as a parent, it concerns him that if one of his children were ever to be detained they would be exposed to an unsafe environment and/or youth that create unsafe conditions.

Superintendent Farrah responded by reporting that Dr. Roush was present in August to work with staff from various levels (line staff to management) to work on a Cognitive Behavior Approach to working with youth. He also stated that a Social Climate Survey is in the process of being done to ascertain whether or not the youth feel safe in JDF. He added that Carol Brooks (national trainer used by Dr. Roush) will continue working with and providing JDF staff with more training (i.e. Adolescent Brain).

Chief Hansen interjected that a recent small scale climate youth survey involving Solano and San Joaquin County indicate that youth see services provided by Solano Probation and our local schools as being positive. Thus the department and community efforts/progress is being noted. Chief Hansen also reiterated that it is the Department's goal to only detain those youths who need to be detained, thus eliminating low offenders from being exposed to potentially hostile environments and/or conditions created by more aggressive/confrontational youth.

Commissioner Nelson stated that the total population in JDF directly reflects the increase in serious crimes occurring in the community. She also expressed that some youth involved in these offenses may be special needs children who have gone undiagnosed. She reported that

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personnel specializing in identifying special needs youth are needed to ensure that such youth get the services they need as she believes such is a factor in the number of in-custody incidents that have occurred.

Commissioner McCrary inquired as to whether or not JDF is housing 18 year-old individuals pursuant to California State Assembly bill SB1004.

Chief Hansen clarified that several counties have volunteered to participate in the program whose goal is to look into ways to get 18-year-old individuals out of jail and connected with programs and/or services rather than further criminalize them by housing them with more sophisticated criminals. He stated Solano County is not a participant in this program. He also stated that the Commission's support is needed when the community is angered and/or gets upset as a result of their perception that the Department and/or police are not responding as they feel they should and/or their lack of understanding of the methods being utilized to target only those youths who truly need or should to be detained.

Commissioner Barnes advised that when reporting the number of JDF incidents, that the number of youth responsible for a significant portion of incidents should also be reported for the Commission to get a better idea of what's really happening in JDF.

Commissioner Ligda inquired as to what motivated these youths to become combative and/or assaultive.

Superintendent Farrah surmised that mental capacity and/or criminal based (gang) behaviors were the primary factors.

Commissioner Barnes inquired as to whether or not the incidents correlated with any given day of the week.

Superintendent Farrah advised the incidents did not correlate with any day of the week, but noted that the inexperience of new staff is a factor that detainees take advantage of along with street conflicts being continued in JDF.

Commissioner Davis reported that he has witnessed detainees taking advantage of inexperienced staff, and stated the even distribution of veteran staff is vital.

Commissioner Phillip inquired as to whether or not a classification such as degrees/levels were applied to incidents.

Superintendent Farrah reported that incidents are classified as "mutual combat" if both parties willingly engage or as "assault" if one individual attacks another without cause or being provoked.

Commissioner Phillip requested that future reports differentiate between assaults and/or mutual combats.

Annual Inspections:

Commissioner McCrary provided a verbal report on Vallejo PD. Said several concerns were noted and documented.

Commissioner Ligda provided a verbal report on Benicia PD. Said no concerns were noted or documented.

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Commissioner Barnes inquired as to when inspection verbal reports are given following an inspection.

Commissioner Phillips advised that verbal reports can be given at the first available JJDPC meeting following a given inspection. However, she clarified that the official report cannot be provided until after it has been submitted to Probation for their review and processing.

By-Laws:

Commissioner Spieckerman moved to ratify the proposed by-laws with the proviso that typographical errors noted be corrected by the Secretary prior to submitting said document to the Board of Supervisors. Motioned seconded by Commissioner Barnes. 11 in favor, 0 (zero) opposing and 0 (zero) abstaining. Motion Carried.

Ad Hoc:

Commissioner Green moved to have the 3rd Ad Hoc Committee be “Services (including aftercare).” Motion seconded by Commissioner Carli. 9 in favor, 1 (zero) opposing and 1 (zero) abstaining. Motion Carried.

1. Education
2. Community Relations
3. Services (including aftercare)

Discussion:

Librarian, Nancy Wirt, reported that she too wants to be involved in the aftercare component of services as the county library offers many services that are beneficial to youth. She said she is trying to find a way to ensure that detainees are released with a library card which connects them to needed services.

Commissioner Phillips reported that each Ad Hoc needs to get together and define exactly what it is their committee will do.

Commissioner Ligda stated that the manner in which the commission is planning to operate the Ad Hocs will violate the Brown Act. He suggested that at the next meeting a list of tasks be given to each committee to carry out in order to remain compliant with the Brown Act.

Commissioner Ligda recommends that a release “exit” survey be generated to ascertain the thoughts and feeling of the youth detained in JDF.

Commissioner Phillips suggested that Commissioner Ligda lead this idea.

Commissioner Davis wants to inform members of a X-mas dinner invitation at the next meeting.

Informed Absence: N/A.

The next meeting will be held November 2, 2016.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.