



**JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL
WORKGROUP
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 20, 2020
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Zoom**

Members in Attendance:

Altavilla, Alex, Santa Barbara Police Department
Benton, Holly, Probation Department
Bertrand, Ethan, 2nd District Representative
Burns, Shana, Department of Behavioral Wellness
Krueger, Amy, Department of Social Services
Linver, Sol, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO)
Nicola, Mag, District Attorney's Office
Villegas, Lea, Public Defender's Office
Wageneck, Frann, Santa Barbara Unified School District
Wales, Alison, Rape Crisis Center

Members Absent/Unrepresented:

Garcia, Adolfo, Child Abuse Listening Mediation (CALM)

Guests Present:

Grossi, Dana, Probation Department
Milligan, Karyn, Probation Department
Swanson, Brian, Probation Department

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 p.m.

**1. Roll Call of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Workgroup (JJCC Workgroup)
Members**

Present

Alex Altavilla
Holly Benton
Ethan, Bertrand
Shana Burns
Amy Krueger
Sol Linver
Mag Nicola
Lea Villegas
Frann Wageneck
Alison Wales

Absent

Adolfo Garcia

2. Public Comment

- None

3. **Approval of Minutes** – All

- A motion was made by Ethan Bertrand and seconded by Mag Nicola to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2020, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Workgroup (JJCCWG) meeting.
 - A roll call vote was taken of the JJCCWG members present.
Ayes: 9
(Alex Altavilla, Ethan Bertrand, Holly Benton, Shana Burns, Mag Nicola, Amy Krueger, Sol Linver, Lea Villegas, Frann Wageneck)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 1 (Alison Wales)

4. **Youth Detention Decisions**– Holly Benton

- A PowerPoint presentation was provided and the group discussed.
- Ethan Bertrand asked how often are youth diverted into treatment for substance abuse. Holly Benton reported community diversion programs are utilized when applicable. Residential programs, when available, deal with a variety of issues and provide substance abuse directly or indirectly through programming, but there are currently no such programs for these youth in Santa Barbara. Brian Swanson indicated that for severe substance abuse, private programs are utilized for families with the resources to provide for them. Shana Burns advised there is not residential treatment for youth within the County, but the ACCESS line can be utilized for a screening and referral to community based treatment.
- Lea Villegas asked with the utilization of the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) if service needs or gaps in services have been identified. Holly Benton stated that there has not been enough time utilizing the PACT to get a full picture, but it does appear that a large percentage of youth do have substance abuse issues to some degree.
- Sol Linver stated there are not options for law enforcement when youth do not meet the juvenile hall booking criteria. Holly Benton stated the Noah's Anchorage contract has been modified to allow them to house youth on probation that are having family issues, as well as youth who are not wards. There are funding and regulation limitations to developing a program for these youth.
- Amy Krueger asked what resources are needed in the community for youth that are not appropriate for booking in the juvenile hall. Holly Benton stated there is a need for short-term options in the north county, that a crisis residential facility in the community could be appropriate for some of these youth, and in south county Noah's Anchorage continued to be utilized, but has limited capacity.

5. **Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusion (REEI)** – Holly Benton

- A PowerPoint presentation was provided and the group discussed.
- Frann Wageneck stated that the Santa Barbara School District has made modifications to their discipline modifying it to student behavior and looking at the root cause, a prevention before intervention. It would be helpful to have Probation and school administration working together to not duplicate approaches with the youth.
- Ethan Bertrand stated that services begin within the community and school, and schools have made great progress over the years helping families and youth.
- Amy Krueger stated funding has been shifted to prevention under the Families First act, to assist families in the community with keeping youth out of the foster care system.
- Families First impact both the foster care system and probation related to how funding for youth programs and services can be used
- Ethan Bertrand stated we need to be aware of how the justice system affects the entire family and are the adult and juvenile systems connected. Holly Benton stated that even within probation, the adult and juvenile probation divisions tend to operate independently of each other, but there is often overlap in system-involved families with adults on probation or parole and young children in foster care, or youth on probation with young children and

older siblings on probation. There is a need for continued work toward making those systemic connections stronger and working with the whole family

6. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Transition – Holly Benton

- The state is going to realign DJJ to the counties. The funding and time of this transition is still under discussion and uncertain.
- The Governor proposed this transition and the Legislature has a counter-proposal which looks different than the Governor's. How this transition will ultimately work is unknown. Probation has developed a workgroup to determine what services will be necessary for the program. There will be review by partner agencies for further program development.
- Mag Nicola asked if the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) have concerns that counties will increase sending youth to DJJ. Holly Benton stated the legislation includes a charge for counties that send youth to DJJ, as well as those sentenced through adult court.

7. Grand Jury 2019-20 Juveniles in Gangs Report – Holly Benton

- The Grand Jury report on Juveniles in Gangs has been released and is available on the Grand Jury website.
- The report left out programs in the community, and it makes recommendations to return to programs and methods that have had adverse effects on populations over time. Work is already being done in the community on these issues. Probation is not always the answer, a community based approach is needed and schools and cities are developing options with community-based organizations. Probation continues to look for promising gang interventions and will implement those as appropriate.
- Ethan Bertrand stated this is a learning experience and an opportunity to inform the Grand Jury of the great work that is being done, as there are other approaches to be utilized to address youth involvement in gangs.

8. Chair Comments – Holly Benton

- Holly Benton encouraged the JJCC Workgroup members to bring topics to these meetings to discuss so this collaborative group can work together to problem-solve.
- A number of Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ) initiatives were put on hold due to COVID-19, but they will be brought back for additional work in October as we are settling into our new normal.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Professional Melanie Davis