

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
MINUTES

June 28, 2023

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

4:00 p.m. –5:00 p.m.

J2 Courtroom

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Committee Present: Gina Johnson, Probation; Judge Innumerable, Juvenile Court; Claudia Bautista; Public Defender; Supervisor Vianey Lopez, 5th District; Kevin Drescher, District Attorney; Todd Inglis, Sheriff; Chrissy Ortega, CEO; Ana Magbitang, Behavioral Health; Melissa Livingston, Human Services Agency, Scott Gilman; Behavioral Health

Absent

Dr. Cesar Morales, VCOE; Betty Ham, City Impact

| Discussion/Conclusions | Recommendations/Actions | Responsible |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| <p>1) Welcome/Announcements Gina called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. Committee members introduced themselves to the group.</p> <p>Gina Johnson, Probation Judge Innumerable, Juvenile Court Claudia Bautista, Public Defender Vianey Lopez, Supervisor 5th District Kevin Drescher (for Erik Nasarenko), District Attorney Todd Inglis (for James Fryhoff), Sheriff Chrissy Ortega (for Dr. Sevet Johnson), CEO Scott Gilman, Behavioral Health Ana Magbitang, Behavioral Health Melissa Livingston, Human Services Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin shared they recently held a graduation with Restorative Justice. They had 10 graduates. Of the 10, 5 showed up. Kevin stated that Restorative Justice has been a great success. • JJDPC held prevention event. They held a community day for youth with community-based organizations at Pacifica High School. | | |
| <p>2) Approval of the JJCC Meeting Minutes Dated March 29, 2023 Motion to approve minutes as submitted. Moved by Scott Gilman and seconded by Chrissy Ortega. 7 in favor; 0 opposed; 3 abstentions (Supervisor Gorell, Claudia Bautista and Scott Gilman). Motion approved.</p> | | |
| <p>3) Public Comments – None received/heard.</p> | | |
| <p>4) Vote to Approve JJCC by-laws Gina explained that her and Scott reviewed the JJCC by-laws. Chrissy stated, after by-laws are approved, they should be sent to the clerk of the board. Gina explained that these by-laws do not need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. Melissa suggested periodic review of the by-laws. Minor changes were made to the draft. Gina will present for final approval at the next JJCC meeting. The group agreed to include review of the by-laws every 2 years.</p> | | |

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| <p>5) JJCC Program Review & Development Subcommittee Update</p> <p>Discuss and vote to approve funding for full time education advocate from United Parents.</p> <p>Michael Rodriguez stated that the JJCC Program Review & Development Subcommittee is recommending having a full-time education advocate.</p> <p>Rosa Padilla explained that only a quarter of our youth have a formalized education plan and that probation has been providing services beyond their expertise/knowledge. United Parents has only 1 educational advocate contracted through HSA's children and family services.</p> <p>Melissa Hannah explained that probation has reached out to HSA identifying there is a need for an additional educational advocate.</p> <p>Marisol explained that she recently did a presentation and identified over 100 youth with IEP's.</p> <p>United Parents has been around 30 years and sole funding is the County of Ventura.</p> <p>They've seen an increased need for educational advocates. Their current contract prioritizes that HSA clients be provided services first.</p> <p>They've been receiving a large influx in community-based referrals.</p> <p>Purpose of the program is to empower the parents/guardians to know their rights.</p> <p>Marisol shared that barriers in the educational system include language and technology.</p> <p>Michael Rodriguez explained that the updated financials for this position is not to exceed \$91,000.</p> <p>Claudia asked if 1 educational advocate is enough if the community-based referrals is exceeding 100 or more.</p> <p>Melissa explained that yes, having more than 1 advocate would be beneficial.</p> <p>The advocate would be embedded at the Williams building.</p> <p>Melissa explained that Marisol always connects families to other services when appropriate.</p> <p>Melissa Livingston agreed with Claudia's feedback. Melissa also suggested implementing a digital literacy program to accompany this advocate.</p> <p>Claudia asked how outcomes would be measured. Gina explained this could be provided to the subcommittee.</p> <p>Melissa Hannah stated that they send out reports monthly with all their programs. And Marisol will send out quarterly statistics.</p> <p>Claudia Bautista motioned to approve; Kevin Drescher seconded. All in favor; motion carried.</p> | | |
| <p>6) Discuss and vote to approve up to 6 months gap funding for LIFT Diversion Program.</p> <p>Michael Rodriguez introduced Interface's LIFT program.</p> <p>Diedre Smith introduced herself and Interface.</p> | | |

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| <p>LIFT is funded by BSCC which started in 2021. Covid had a big impact on implementing services.</p> <p>They are embedded in the wellness centers at various Oxnard schools.</p> <p>Majority of their referrals originate from OXPD.</p> <p>Diedre stated that they are the only pre citation diversion program.</p> <p>They use evidence-based practices, and their goal is to reduce the number of youths entering the justice system.</p> <p>Hannah Estrada explained the tiered system. Tier 1(family dispute, defiant, not wanting to go to school, low level theft) which usually includes advising and then letting go. Tier 2 (Petty theft) is advising but providing a referral. Hannah explained the referral is digital as well. Tier 3 (theft, battery); citation is issued. Prior history, offenses would be taken into account before being referred. If the youth complete the program, Hannah Estrada explained they will dismiss the citation.</p> <p>Diedre shared that LIFT is offered at 5 different Oxnard high schools.</p> <p>LIFT has received over 400 referrals.</p> <p>Tier 1 and tier 2 referrals are voluntary.</p> <p>A needs assessment is provided for everyone who is referred. They provide internal and external referrals depending on their needs.</p> <p>Diedre explained that an exit survey was provided and almost all participants thought the LIFT program was very helpful.</p> <p>Diedre explained their current funding ends this Friday. Current expenses are estimated at \$15,000/month.</p> <p>Interface is requesting funding not to exceed \$88,000 to support the program into the first semester of the school year. They've applied and are awaiting to see if they will be awarded funds from a separate grant they've applied for. If funding is approved, this would cover 6 months of services.</p> <p>Scott Gilman motioned to approve; Melissa Livingston seconded. All in favor; motion carried.</p> | | |
| <p>7) Meeting Adjourned at 5:10pm.</p> <p>Next meeting: September 20, 2023 at 4pm.</p> | | |