

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
MINUTES

April 17, 2024

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

4:00 p.m. –5:00 p.m.

J2 Courtroom

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Committee Present: Gina Johnson, Probation; Cheryl Fox, Behavioral Health; Judge Romero, Juvenile Court; Michael Rodriguez, Public Defender; Cynthia Torres, City Impact; Kevin Drescher, District Attorney; Denise Morehouse, VCLECC; Valerie Salazar, JJDCPC; Supervisor Jeff Gorell, 2nd District

Absent:

James Fryhoff, Sheriff; Dr. Cesar Morales, VCOE; Dr. Sevet Johnson, CEO; Supervisor Vianey Lopez, 5th District; Melissa Livingston, Human Services Agency; Rigoberto Vargas, Public Health

Discussion/Conclusions	Recommendations/Actions
<p>1) Welcome/Announcements Gina called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gina - Subscribing to receive agenda notifications coming soon • Gina - Christian Mach “Be the Match” donor search • Gina - JF 20th Anniversary and Tattoo Removal Program Grand Opening was held on 4/16/24 • Caroline Prijatel-Sutton – Coalition for Family Harmony holding 3rd Annual Denim Day Event on 4/24/24, a fundraiser to support services provided for survivors of sexual assault. 	
<p>2) Roll Call</p>	
<p>3) Approval of the JJCC Meeting Minutes Dated February 21, 2024. Motion to approve minutes as submitted. Moved by Judge Romero; seconded by Denise. All in favor. Motion approved.</p>	
<p>4) Public Comments None.</p>	
<p>5) Vote to Approve JJCC Fiscal Year (FY) 25 Budget Shawna Hunt presented the FY25 Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total expenditures – \$6.1M. • Roughly \$788K over approved budget for FY24. In addition to normal salary increases, as well as the increase in Public Health Memorandum Of Agreement, increase primarily due to maintaining newly approved services during FY24, such as Ventura Evening Reporting Center, Interface Youth Advocates, United Parents contract, and the Partnership for Safe Families contract. • Revenue – state allocation has been stable. • Growth funds are projected to be \$2.1M. • Interest income – increased \$105K. <p>Kevin moved to approve the JJCC FY25 Budget. Seconded by Cheryl. All in favor. Motion approved.</p>	
<p>6) JJCC Program Review & Development Subcommittee Update Chris provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage Family Therapist-Associate for Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP) youth starts 1st week of May. • Finalizing Women Of Substance Men Of Honor contract, providing housing for adult Transition Age Youth (TAY) youth on juvenile probation and Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) youth. <p>Chris introduced Caroline Prijatel-Sutton, Executive Director of Coalition for Family Harmony, to the group. She gave a presentation on the Youth Advocate (YA) role in the ROPP program and Coalition’s proposal for increase in budget.</p>	

Discussion/Conclusions	Recommendations/Actions
<p>YAs provide mentoring, transportation, prosocials, family support, help youth complete probation terms, and more, while building positive rapport with ROPP youth.</p> <p>Caroline explained the importance of recruiting and retaining qualified YAs for at least 2 years, which is difficult at the current pay of only \$20/hr. Funding requested to increase salary of 2 YAs and YA Manager with small salary increases on an annual basis to remain competitive, and flexibility in establishing starting salaries for new YAs. Proposal includes \$5K for out-of-county travel for YAs to purchase meals for the youth.</p> <p>Discussion ensued about the success rate and impact of the ROPP program. Gina stated the Master Plan indicated this is a successful program.</p> <p>Denise moved to approve funding not to exceed \$239,624 for the Coalition’s Youth Advocate Contract (this will be a new contract).</p> <p>Gina called for a vote on the motion.</p> <p>9 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstained. Motion passed.</p>	
<p>7) Planning Subcommittee for Realigned Youth</p> <p>Gina explained this group will meet 2 times/year for recommendations on plans related to SYTF youth to be submitted prior to May 1st.</p> <p>Information on formation and duties of group is in By-laws. Subject to Brown Act and reports to JJCC.</p> <p>Group consists of the Chief Probation Officer (CPO) as Chair or Co-chair, depending on what the group decides, representatives from District Attorney, Public Defender, Human Services Agency, Ventura County Behavioral Health, Ventura County Office of Education, Superior Court, 3 community members, and Co-chair if CPO is Co-chair.</p> <p>Gina asked group to suggest members to represent their agencies. Members volunteered or will have an agency representative attend: Cheryl Fox, Behavioral Health; Judge Romero, Juvenile Court; Michael Rodriguez, Public Defender; and Kevin Drescher, District Attorney.</p>	<p>Gina to contact HSA, VCOE for representatives.</p>
<p>8) Ad Hoc Subcommittee to review and make recommendations as to the selection of representatives of Community Based Organization</p> <p>Gina asked for member volunteers to meet to recommend a Community Based Organization (CBO) representative for JJCC. There could be additional CBO recommendations, but no more than two others.</p> <p>Volunteers: Cheryl Fox, Behavioral Health; Michael Rodriguez, Public Defender; and Kevin Drescher, District Attorney.</p>	
<p>9) Legislative Update</p> <p>Gina gave an update on Senate Bill 1057 possible financial impact to current and future JJCPA funded programs. Provided brief overview on some of the key points of the bill (JJCC make-up change, Request For Proposal process to move away from probation agencies, etc.)</p>	
<p>10) Youth Equity for Success (YES) Update</p>	<p>Carried over to next meeting.</p>
<p>11) Role of the JJCC and Responsibilities of Committee Members</p>	<p>Carried over to next meeting.</p>

Discussion/Conclusions**Recommendations/Actions**

13) Meeting Adjourned at 5:00pm.

Next meeting: June 12, 2024 at 4:00pm.