

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. Chief Probation Officer Michael Rogers called the regular meeting of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) to order at 9:32 a.m., on April 27, 2022, at the Colusa County Day Reporting Center (DRC) located at 320 5th Street, Colusa, Ca. This meeting was conducted via in person and through teleconference (Zoom)/phone-in.

List of Council Members Present

Brendan Farrell, *Chief Deputy District Attorney, Colusa County District Attorney's Office**

Josh Fitch, *Police Chief, Colusa Police Department*

Elizabeth Kelly, *Director, Colusa County Department of Health & Human Services*

James Saso, *Police Chief, Williams Police Department*

Gerry Munoz, *Community Member*

Angie O'Canas, *Interim Director, Colusa County One-Stop*

Noel O'Neill, *Interim Director, Colusa County Behavioral Health Department*

Michael Rogers, *Chief Probation Officer, Colusa County Probation Department*

Albert Smith, *Attorney, Colusa County Public Defender*

Wendy Tyler, *County Administrative Officer, Colusa County Administrative Office*

List of Council Members Not Present

Joe Garofalo, *Sheriff, Colusa County Sheriff's Office*

Michael West, *Superintendent, Colusa County Office of Education*

Others Present

Russ Jones, *Lieutenant, Colusa County Sheriff's Office*

Norma Mendieta, *Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Colusa County Probation Department*

Fanny Reynoso, *Fiscal Program Analyst, Colusa County Probation Department*

Jamie Sachs, *Supervising Probation Officer, Colusa County Probation Department*

*Voting Proxy for Council Member

- b. Introductions.
- c. Members reviewed previous committee minutes from September 29, 2021.
- d. Action requested to vote on approval of Minutes.
 - **VOTE: Wendy Tyler moved to approve the September 29, 2021, JJCC Minutes. Gerry Munoz seconded the motion. All were in favor. Brendan Ferrell abstained. The motion passed and minutes were accepted.**

II. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Department/Subcommittee updates/Progress/Concerns.

Colusa County Probation Department

Jamie Sachs stated the last couple of juvenile bookings have been kids with guns and it is concerning. They currently have 1 secured track youth, 3 youths on formal probation and 1 on informal probation. Their department is sponsoring one of the formal probation youth in a program called Discovery Challenge Academy in Stockton, CA. The program is ran by the National Guard. It is a great program and he is doing very well.

Colusa County One-Stop

Angie O'Canas stated they will be launching their Virtual AJCC plan on Monday. It places participants in various groups, via Zoom, depending on their needs. They can participate in unemployment services and/or veteran services, and are starting mini sessions on communication skills.

Colusa County Behavioral Health

Noel O'Neill advised their Safe Haven program is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is staffed by the county. It is located on Webster Street across from Health and Human Services. They are also launching the Butte Vista Youth Center. They are receiving supplies daily and are hoping to open next month. The center is for youth, ages 12-17, and will be open after school from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Their Path program, which is located across the hall from the DRC, will be supporting adults that are involved in the justice system. Because of supply chain issues, they do not have all their supplies and furnishings, but have enough to get started. Behavioral Health has a new director, Tony Hobson. He will be starting on June 6th.

Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services

Elizabeth Kelly reported on her department. They are still waiting on the vetting process for their housing manager, which will be starting at Safe Haven. They have housing dollars, but are having challenges finding housing facilities. Their transitional housing remains full and they have a couple of individuals on the waiting list. Their caseload for child welfare has declined. In the last month, they have closed out approximately 7 adoption cases. They possibly are seeing a lower caseload because children have not been in school, so there is not a lot of reporting. Regarding Public Health, they are still doing outreach and have clinics for COVID boosters. They are trying to redirect some of the focus to annual immunizations for children and adults.

Noel O'Neill stated that between a collaboration between Health and Human Services, the County Administrative Office and Behavioral Health, the no Place Like Home program is moving forward. They just received a letter from the California Department of Housing and Community Development in Sacramento, stating that the funding was very competitive. Assuming they get that funding from the state it will set them up to apply for federal funding. They hope to have the project completed in June 2024. It will be located on Highway 20, by the church. There will be 49 units, which 34 of those units will be for Section 8 and 15 for special needs. They will have approximately a 3,000

square foot community center, where county entities can provide services to those residents.

Colusa County District Attorney's Office

Brenden Farrell stated that since 2012 and 2015, juvenile referrals have dropped. He also stated everything in his office is going well.

Albert Smith adds that the District Attorney (DA), Public Defender's Office and Probation should have a meeting since there has been more juvenile gun cases. They should have some policies in place. There should also be zero tolerance for handguns in the hands of our youth.

Colusa Public Defender's Office

Albert Smith had nothing to report.

Colusa Police Department

Josh Fitch stated they ran into a kid with a handgun, after hours, at the park. Besides that, juveniles have been status quo. They took a drop-off a few years ago and have not seen a rebound. They are participating in the Every 15 Minutes program at the high school today.

Williams Police Department

James Saso stated that they have recovered ghost guns from young adults. They are also investigating an Instagram account called Williams High School Fights. The school district knew about the account, but did not inform their department. They found out about it during the last school board meeting, when 30 parents showed up wanting answers.

Colusa County Sheriff's Office

Russ Jones had nothing to report.

Colusa County Administrative Office

Wendy Tyler stated they have been busy looking for a new juvenile dependency attorney and working on the budget. She appreciates all the great work the departments are doing.

Community Member

Gerry Munoz stated he has noticed vandalism and gang graffiti at the high school. He also stated that parents are asking for assistance with student attendance.

Josh Fitch added that there has been an uptake in graffiti in the park bathrooms.

James Saso stated he has seen that happening in Williams as well.

b. Review and approve updated JJCC Plan.

A copy of the updated JJCC Plan was provided to the members present. Michael Rogers stated there were no major changes. Most of the updates included who is on the council and their new titles. There will be more added to next year's update.

- **VOTE: Noel O’Neill moved to approve the updated JJCC Plan, James Saso seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed and the plan was accepted.**

c. Discuss on-going truancy issues –

- 1 Explore option of establishing a sub-committee to explore issue and possible solutions to help address it.
 - Brenden Farrell stated he received a letter from Superintendent Shadley from the Maxwell School District regarding truancy issues. A copy of the letter was emailed to the members present. Since then he has met with most of the superintendents in the county to discuss the issue. Basically, with the COVID shutdown and the related distance learning, truancy has gone up. Their District Attendance Review Team (DART) program is in place, but it is not working effectively. The schools are frustrated and looking for a process that will achieve some results. They are looking to the DA’s Office to prosecute parents, whose kids are missing school. However, the DA’s office would like to explore all options before prosecuting parents. A couple of options include the DA’s office sending letters to the parents asking them to attend the DART meeting, or another option is the minor be a ward of the court per Welfare and Institutions Code 601(b). The penal code only applies to students in 8th grade and under, as the welfare and Institutions code applies to 12 years and older. Most truancy issues are students over the age of 12. The school districts are open to discussing ideas.

Discussion between members regarding truancy and the various potential solutions.

- **VOTE: Brendan Farrell moved to approve forming a sub-committee. Motion seconded by Elizabeth Kelly. All were in favor. The motion passed.**

Michael Rogers advised he will reach out to the committee members to see if they have anyone in mind to attend the next meeting. He asked Gerry Munoz if he wanted to be part of it. It is also important that the Colusa County Office of Education and the district superintendents are involved.

d. Announcements of any legislative and/or funding updates/budget/training opportunities.

Michael Rogers stated they received authorization from the board through resolution to accept a grant for the 823 Bill for the Tri-County Juvenile Hall. The grant funding will help tremendously in building the programming and services needed for their Secured Track youth. Part of the funding will be used to make a Secured Track wing to separate those youth from other youth at the Tri-County Juvenile Hall.

Regarding more legislative funding updates, Noel O’Neill added that the Care Court legislation is quickly moving along. It is a very complex issue but behavioral health is tracking it and providing feedback regarding the legislation.

Further discussion amongst members regarding the different proposed legislative changes.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes submitted by R. Lawson, Colusa County Probation