

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT
JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING
March 18, 2024, AT 2:00 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

Host Location: Rustin Conference Center, 2085 Rustin Avenue, Conference Room 1051, Riverside

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chief Probation Officer Christopher H. Wright at 2:02 p.m.

Roll call of the members was taken. The following representatives were present:

Chris Wright, Chief Probation Officer, Chairman
Bridgette Hernandez, Department of Public Social Services
Herman Lopez, Sheriff's Department
Janine Moore, Riverside University Health Systems, Behavioral Health
Chris Collopy, Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Committee
Dr. Deanna McCarty, Riverside County Office of Education
Joelle Moore, Deputy Public Defender IV, Public Defender's Office
Michael Cabral, Assistant District Attorney, District Attorney's Office
Dr. Mona Davies, Community Outreach Ministry
Kevin Kalman, Desert Recreation District
Zach Bell, California Family Life Center
Peter Serbantes, California Real Family Services
Caryn Marsella, Riverside Art Museum

In attendance but not present during roll call:
Pamela Clay, Living Advantage

2. Approval of Minutes from the January 22, 2024, Meeting

Chris Wright presented the minutes from the January 22, 2024, JJCC meeting (handout).
Chris Wright made a motion for the JJCC to approve the meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Dr. Mona Davies. Minutes were approved.
Oppositions: None

3. JJCC Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee Update

Dr. Monica Hunter gave a brief update outlining phase one of the juvenile justice action plan:

- Identify all current programs and services being provided.
- Create a comprehensive evaluation system with qualitative and quantitative data pre-post surveys.
- Identify gaps in services, overlap, and barriers to capacity building.
- Review last year's data reports from WestED and use that as a base line.
- Create a flow chart explaining the process of getting referrals to provide services for probation and how to become a contracted vendor.

Comments:

Rebecca Acevedo asked if there are any details and timelines for phase one.

Elisa Judy mentioned the Ad Hoc committee have met a couple times outlining phase one are the highest priorities the main goal is to get together with the approved vendor to establish timelines.

Rebecca Acevedo asked if the County has already executed the agreement with the vendor.

Chris Wright mentioned this is an agenda item that will be reviewed later in the meeting.

Chris Collopy mentioned it is a pleasure to see how cohesive the group is working together and rapidly assembling great ideas.

Chris Wright thanked the Ad Hoc committee for their dedication and great work so far. We are excited and looking forward to future updates!

4. Technical Report by WestEd

WestEd representatives Arena Lam and Sara Russo shared report highlights (handout).

- In 2023, through JJCPA funding, Riverside County Probation Department, District Attorney’s Office, Law Offices of the Public Defender, and community-based organizations (CBOs) served 5,313 youths as well as 64,621 individuals with meetings or presentations. The CBO programs reached 1,646 families.
- The 2023 evaluation report includes data gathered from multiple sources, such as Riverside County Business Intelligence and Operations Services, the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office, the SAFE Family Justice Centers, the Law Offices of the Public Defender, data 14 CBOs collected using a tool developed in collaboration between WestEd and the CBOs, and data from youth surveys. The report focuses on unique, program-specific outcomes as well as cross-program outcomes.
- Programs offered by County Agencies include De-escalation and Assistance Resource Team (DART); Gang Awareness Mentorship and Education (GAME); Student Attendance Review Board (SARB); Successful Short-Term Supervision (SSTS); Support, Partnerships, Advocacy, and Resources for Kids (SPARK); Youth Accountability Team (YAT); Youth Empowerment and Safety (YES); and 654.1 Welfare Institutions Code (WIC) Program.
 - DART enrolled 15 youths and had 46 meetings with 484 attendees.
 - GAME provided 144 presentations to 16,004 attendees.
 - SARB held 3,207 meetings with 7,385 attendees on truancy prevention efforts. Of the 442 students with outcome data, 55% of students improved their school attendance 30 days after the SARB intervention.
 - SSTS served 455 youths in 2023. By December 31, 45% of the cases were still on going and 55% of the cases were terminated. Of the 55% cases, 83% were successful terminations and 17 percent were unsuccessful terminations. For youth who successfully terminated SSTS had a significantly higher school attendance and higher-grade point average at program exit compared to youths who unsuccessfully terminated SSTS.

- SPARK served 377 new youth in 2023 and hosted 1,426 meetings with 11,012 attendees focused on preventing youths from full entry into the juvenile justice system and reducing recidivism.
- Of the two youths referred to YAT, one youth enrolled and completed the program, and one family or youth did not agree to enroll.
- YES provided 95 presentations on bullying/cyberbullying, healthy relationships/teen dating violence, hate crimes, internet safety, human trafficking, and juveniles and the law to 19,763 attendees.
- The 654.1 WIC program served 18 youths who allegedly have driven under the influence. Of these 18 youths, 15 youths enrolled in the program and 3 had not yet responded to the referral. Of the 15 enrolled youths, 12 youths completed the program by the end of the reporting period.
- CBOs reported serving 3,466 unique youth, providing 72,753 hours of service.
- CBOs reported serving 1,646 unique families, providing 4,143 hours of service.

Comments:

Chris Wright thanked Arena and Sara for their presentations. We look forward to the Ad Hoc committee taking a deeper dive into this report and considering the recommendations and findings.

Ismael Davila mentioned since the YAT lawsuit what has been implemented and changed in the YAT program. Why is the data and report not publicly accessible.

LaToya Thomas mentioned we have not had enough youth participate to provide data in a report.

Ismael Davila mentioned should the changes to the program be reported are there still things listed in the lawsuit occurring.

Chris Wright mentioned all that information is being monitored as part of the settlement agreement.

LaToya Thomas mentioned there is a monitoring agreement annual report which is provided at the November JJCC meetings that discloses settlement compliance.

Dr. Naomi Goldstein introduced herself. She is one of the two monitors assigned to oversee the settlement agreement and list of criteria. She mentioned the monitoring report shows compliance with the requirements of the lawsuit. The report includes exactly what was changed within the YAT program.

Ismael Davila mentioned he could not find the report and does it include funding.

LaToya Thomas mentioned all JJCC information, including such reports, is posted publicly on Probation's website at <https://rivcoprobation.org/juvenile-justice-coordinating-council-meeting-materials>.

Chris Wright mentioned funding is part of today's agenda and will be covered later in the meeting.

Rebecca Acevedo stated in the WestEd report there was information about two funded CBOs that did not serve youth and wanted to know if this was because they had reporting issues. Are any of those organizations here present? Is it possible they could have served youth and WestEd is not aware of it?

Sarah Russo mentioned they are working with a CBO with their standardized data collection system. They are not present today. She believes they have served youth and were not able to report the data.

Rebecca Acevedo asked what is the efficiency of the funding going to the programs?

Arena Lam mentioned Chapman University Restorative Justice was the second program the youth and offender did not elect to participate therefore data was not available.

Sam Lewis asked if there is a programmatic and fiscal audit that is presented to the public to allow transparency of programs and funding? Every program should be audited.

LaToya Thomas mentioned CBOs provide invoices for services rendered. If there are no services being provided the organizations do not get paid.

Chris Wright mentioned there is no audit that exists.

Pamela Clay mentioned her organization submits invoices for services they provide. An audit would cost more than the funds allocated to them.

Lynette Jones mentioned Probation is very detailed with auditing invoices for services her organization provides.

Alejandra Gutierrez mentioned to continue supporting the desert youth with JJCPA funding. Congratulations to all CBOs for their amazing work. Make sure we are looking at how the money is distributed and resourcing the CBOs appropriately.

Jessica Aparicio asked what the auditing process for programs is for the county agencies.

Cherilyn Williams mentioned Probation is the administrator of JJCPA funding. We receive information from the District Attorney and Public Defender outlining their programs and follow same procedures.

Van Houston encouraged the Probation department to look at which organizations are really delivering the programs and services and take a detailed approach.

Chris Wright mentioned this could be a recommendation for the Ad Hoc committee to review.

Cynthia Prewitt encouraged the CBOs to apply to become a vendor with Riverside County to receive funding. The oversight is very extensive.

Deanna McCarty mentioned from the WestEd report what is the process going forward to change or increase survey results.

Arena Lam mentioned working with CBOs on providing a more convenient survey to try and make it easier for clients to complete.

Chris Wright mentioned make sure comments are related to the agenda item. Comments not related to the agenda item can be brought up during Public Comments.
Thank you WestEd for the information and hard work.

5. Evaluation of Services Update

Division Director LaToya Thomas mentioned the RFP Evaluation of Services process has been completed and announcement of the award recipient at the Board of Supervisors meeting will occur sometime in April.

6. Community Led Diversion Update

Division Director LaToya Thomas mentioned the new modified version Community Led Diversion model RFP was approved in the last JJCC meeting in January. We have created the RFP and scope of services which was a collaborative effort between Probation, District Attorney, and the Public Defender. The bid solicitation request was received and processed by County Purchasing and everything is currently pending review from County Counsel. A status update will be provided at the next meeting.

Comments:

Rebecca Acevedo asked if there were any CBOs participating in the scope of work of the Community Led RFP.

LaToya Thomas mentioned CBOs were not invited to participate in the RFP process because we must allow for fair practices for every potential respondent. We wanted to avoid subjecting any CBO to not being able to respond to the RFP themselves.

Rebecca Acevedo asked if the CBOs in the Ad Hoc committee are excluded from applying for this RFP.

Elisa Judy mentioned when the Ad Hoc committee was formed the members knew potentially if they were recommending their programs in designing the scope of work, they would be forfeiting their response to apply for the RFP; however, if something is initiated and there is no knowledge they can apply.

Lynette Jones asked to clarify that any member of the CBO alliance can apply for the RFP.

Elisa Judy mentioned once the RFP is released and if the scope of work matches your organization you can apply.

7. RFP for Community Services

Chief Deputy Elisa Judy mentioned some vendors contracts will be expiring in June and want to make sure there is a continuum of services for youth and want to put forth a motion for the council

to approve to start the RFP for Community Services process. We are looking for CBOs to outline their services and indicate their costs. The RFP will not place a cap on program costs. We are looking for CBOs across the whole county.

We are looking to have a bidders' conference. If you would like more information on how to become a vendor, reach out to Tiki Copeland from Probation.

Comments:

Rebecca Acevedo recommended everyone to review the budget reports and that it would be beneficial for the CBOs to update their information into the 211 system for accuracy.

Doreen Govari mentioned this is great news for the RFP. Does this mean the \$100,000 cap will be lifted or is this separate?

Elisa Judy mentioned the current contracts will remain in place; this is separate.

Chris Wright entertained a motion for the council to approve the RFP for Community Services. Kevin Kalman made the motion. Pete Serbantes seconded the motion. Motion passes.
Oppositions: None.

Chris Wright stated this is great! We have a lot of momentum within the community, and we want to ensure everyone who is interested in applying understands how. Please register as a county vendor to be notified of RFP opportunities and should you have additional questions, please contact Tiki Copeland. Further if there is anybody from the council interested in participating in the bid review, please contact Bryon Hansen. Keep in mind this is a labor-intensive process with tight deadlines, however we encourage the engagement of the council in the selection of contracted service providers.

8. Transforming Juvenile Probation Application

Chief Deputy Elisa Judy gave a brief presentation. The Transforming Juvenile Probation Certificate Program is designed to guide and support teams from state and local jurisdictions, including probation leadership, judges, attorneys, and other key stakeholders to fundamentally transform their system-wide approach to probation. Riverside County's application was accepted by Georgetown University. The team will consist of Probation, Public Defender, District Attorney, Court, one CBO, and one youth. We are excited to announce our interview is scheduled for Thursday, March 21.

The program is a four-day period in June at Georgetown University where participating teams will receive instruction from researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, as well as guidance from Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) and Annie E. Casey Foundation (Casey), to develop and implement a Capstone Project advancing system-wide reform in their jurisdiction.

Comments:

Carolyn Ayala asked which CBO was picked.

Elisa Judy mentioned we received seven responses from CBOs interested in participating. Ramon Ramos from The Exception was selected for his involvement mobilizing the CBO base and by forming the CBO Alliance here in Riverside County.

Bridgette Hernandez asked if a representative from DPSS Child Services and a dual status youth will be able to participate.

Elisa Judy mentioned the team has already been identified.

Chris Wright mentioned we have not been selected yet our interview is scheduled later this week. This is an amazing opportunity for Riverside County!

9. SB 823 Subcommittee Report Out

Chief Deputy Daniel Castaneda gave a brief update and mentioned the Juvenile Justice realignment block grant (local plan) will need to be submitted to the State by May 1. Due to the time constraint, we will be convening a special meeting for the JJCC SB 823 Subcommittee to review and approve the local plan. The special meeting is tentatively scheduled for next week on March 26 at 2pm location will be the District Attorney building at 3960 Orange, Street, Riverside on the 5th floor County Counsel Training Room at 2:00 p.m.

10. Approval of Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget

a) Summary

Administrative Services Manager III Jessica Holstein gave a brief presentation summary of the budget report (handout). Program proposals were presented to the JJCC on January 22, 2024, which identified how each agency's program could reduce delinquency and address juvenile crime within Riverside County. Governor Newsom released the FY 2024-25 proposed state budgets on January 10, 2024, which includes the constitutionally guaranteed base allocation of \$489.9M statewide. Riverside County's estimated allocations is \$6.7M as outlined, although the statewide base amount does not change the county's distribution percentages can change slightly from year-to-year due to changes in known populations statewide as well as within Riverside County.

Based on the state's January proposal growth funding is anticipated for Riverside in the estimated amount of \$6.1M. Growth funds for FY 2023/24 will be received in October of FY 2024/25. Just like the base allocation, the county's distribution percentages are based on current known populations. Unlike the base allocation, the growth funding is not guaranteed.

On November 13, 2023, the JJCC approved a contingency fund balance in the amount of \$17.2M which is held in reserves and is at the discretion of the JJCC. The contingency balances approved by the JJCC are a result of unobligated funds received from the state and rollover balances from prior year allocations.

Many things can change from March until June which includes the Governor's May revised budget but as of today's report out, the estimated FY 2024/25 available funding is \$30.0M.

Agenda #10a page number 2 contains the fully executed contracts approved by the JJCC in prior years, as well as pending executed contracts for FY 2023/24 and new budget requests for FY2024/25. The FY 2024/25 budgeted amounts for current, pending, and new budget request total \$3.2M.

Please note that there are two new RFP requests of \$1M dollars each for additional expansion services to Community Based Organization and the previously presented Community Led Diversion Project, however, the actual contracted amounts are not known at this time and will not be limited to the million dollars as budgeted.

Comments:

Rebecca Acevedo asked if round three contracts are executed because there are two organizations that provided zero services.

Jessica Holstein mentioned they are executed contracts and as previously stated earlier in the meeting contracted CBOs provide invoices for reimbursement of services they rendered.

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned these funds could be reallocated to someone else because if they are not used, they go into the contingency fund.

Jessica Holstein mentioned round three are multi-year contracts that were contractual agreed upon rates and this is the final year of those contracts.

Kevin Kalman asked if there is a review process in place for CBOs that are not providing services for a period like a termination clause in the agreement.

LaToya Thomas mentioned there is a thirty-day termination clause in the agreements. We understand the concern. Probation continues to work with the CBOs to help them establish a data system to report their services. If we determine all efforts have been exhausted, we will look at the termination clause at that time.

Chris Wright stated the following agencies will give a quick high-level recap of their budgets.

b) Probation

Division Director LaToya Thomas mentioned Probation continues providing three youth programs (handout): Youth Accountability Team (YAT), 654.1 WIC and Successful Short-Term Supervision (SSTS). The Community-led Diversion program will be utilized once the program is finalized and ready to fully implement.

Comments:

Rebecca Acevedo asked if anyone has successfully completed the tattoo removal program and why this program keeps getting funded.

Jessica Aparicio asked if there was going to be comments after each agency's budget recap.

LaToya Thomas mentioned yes there will be time for comments.

Chris Wright stated in accordance with the Bylaws, he would like to designate Chris Collopy for the passing of Probation's requested budget as he steps out of the room.

Chris Collopy asked if a committee member would like to make a motion to approve Probation's budget. Pete Serbantes made a motion. Kevin Kalman seconded the motion.

Motion passes.

Oppositions: None.

c) Public Defender

Joelle Moore gave a quick recap of Public Defenders programs (handout): Support Partnerships Advocacy and Resources for Kids (SPARK) and Chapman University Restorative Justice Program.

Comments:

Ismael Davila mentioned why are we calling them community-based organizations when they are not in our community. Why is funding sent to a private university outside of Riverside County?

Joelle Moore mentioned Chapman is a research institute for evidenced based practices and a registered county vendor in Riverside.

Van Houston mentioned seeing issues with credible messengers in all programs and asked what the quality of credible messengers is in the restorative justice programs.

Joelle Moore mentioned the program has trained clinical mediators and faculty that works with the families and victims. They bring in other community-based resources to offer a wraparound of services.

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned it would be beneficial for those organizations that receive funding to be required at the meeting to represent themselves. Asked about her question from the last meeting.

Joelle Moore mentioned she could recall the question was about the ratio of amount of time spent on presentations to CBOs and to county agencies. Our web dashboard does not break it down specifically. In the last week, we have met with several program providers.

Sam Lewis clarified an audit of funding and services should be paid for by Probation and would allow for transparency. Have you thought about having some of the students and credible messengers train with other CBOs and county agencies. I can connect you with organizations that provide training to credible messengers.

Joelle Moore mentioned she is welcome to connect with Sam Lewis after the meeting for more information.

Carolina Ayala mentioned what the best approach to get CBO trainings (two-day workshops) out to the community.

Joelle Moore mentioned to send her information and she will share it.

Chris Wright made a motion to approve the Public Defender's budget. Bridgette Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Oppositions: None

d) District Attorney

Katie Gilbertson gave a quick recap of the District Attorney programs (handout): Truancy Prevention: Student Attendance Review Board (SARB), and Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meetings; SAFE Family Justice Center; Gang Awareness Mentorship and Education Program (GAME) and Youth Empowerment and Safety (YES).

Comments:

Kuba Brown asked how we collaborate with your office.

Katie Gilbertson mentioned give me your cell phone number.

Carolina Ayala asked if people with lived experience worked with the youth at SAFE Family Justice Center.

Adrianna Moreno with SAFE Family Justice Center stated many of the specialists have lived experience and a college degree. They are in the community doing intervention and special training.

Jessica Aparicio mentioned the purpose of the JJCPA funding. Based on the budget reports we are seeing most of the funds are allocated to county agencies and least amounts to CBOs. The WestEd data reported over 5,000 youth were served with over 3,400 by CBOs. This is 65%. Why are Probation and District Attorney programs heavily funded than CBO programs? According to findings by The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in 2022 50% of JJCPA funds were going to Riverside Probation staff for salaries and benefits. Contrary to JJCPA intent, we see funds for voluntary programs like YAT which exacerbates youth contact in the legal system. Since 2020, I have seen YAT continually receive funding although they only reported one client in 2023. I continue to urge council to question where the funds are going and push for a majority of funding to go to where it was originally intended.

Rebecca Acevedo asked the council to review the budget and line items.

Chris Wright made a motion to approve the District Attorney’s budget. Pete Serbantes seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Oppositions: None

Comments:

Van Houston mentioned I encourage the council to review what Jessica Aparicio said in her comments and question the council votes.

Chris Wright made a motion to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 24/25 Budget. Pamela Clay seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Oppositions: None

11. Annual Juvenile Justice Plan Approval

Division Director LaToya Thomas gave a brief presentation (handout).

The Juvenile Justice plan is submitted annually to the State by May 1. This report highlights all the great work that we intend to do, collaboratively from county and community-based agencies, and efforts from the Ad Hoc committee. It outlines funded programs and services; strategies, and system enhancements; identifying and prioritizing focus areas; and the new community led diversion model. This plan outlines our direction going into the new year strengthening our commitment to have the most efficient and appropriate strategic outcomes for youth and families in need of services in our county.

Chris Wright made a motion to approve the Annual Juvenile Justice Plan. Chris Collopy seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Oppositions: None

12. Council Comments

Kevin Kalman stated he respects the voice of the community. Changes are coming and moving forward things are not going unrecognized.

13. Public Comments

Rebecca Acevedo mentioned to compel the council for accountability. We must act and change the way we treat youth in Riverside County.

Chris Wright mentioned we have come a long way since I have been chairing this meeting. Our great work is already changing and momentum moving forward.

14. Adjournment

Next JJCC Meeting:

Regular scheduled JJCC Meeting:

Date/Time: July 15, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

An attendance sheet was signed by all present and will be kept on file.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Probation Executive Secretary Bryon Hansen