



JJPC Quarterly Inter-Agency Meeting
Minutes
October 13, 2022
Location: Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1)
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

IN ATTENDANCE: Christopher Collopy, Laurel Cook, Elisa Judy, Deanna McCarty, Maura Rogers, Micheal Malsed, Norma Biegel, Cynthia Magill, Paul Parker, Charles Trembley, Emily Headlee, Lynette Jones, Chris Wright, John Dean, Hunter Taylor, Natasha Dunlap, Samah Shouka, Tammy Wilson, Christopher Wright,

ABSENT: Tierra Bowen, Pam Torres

GUEST: N/A

Applicants: None

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- a. The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am.

2. Welcome and Introductions

- a. All the participants were welcomed by Chair Commissioner Christopher Collopy, and given the opportunity to introduce themselves (by name and title).
- b. After the Commission's roll call, the following announcements were made:
- John Dean, DPSS - Children's Services, announced he is attending on behalf of the DPSS executive team who are attending a Child Services Conference.
 - Christopher Wright, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, announced Juvenile Field Services will attend future JJPC Quarterly Inter Agency meetings.

3. DPSS – John Dean

- a. Data report revisions will be ready at the next regular JJPC meeting.
- b. The (In-Person) Riverside County Community Partners Forum will be held on November 1, 2022. The Community Partners Forum is an annual gathering of public, private, and nonprofit service providers throughout Riverside County. The event will feature various updates on county improvement plans and projects.
- c. Community Partner Forum Highlights:
- Child and Family Riverside System Improvement Plan
 - Increase community awareness of child maltreatment prevention, parent education, and service availability by strengthening the coordination of the public, private, and community-based organizations within Riverside County.
 - Improve reentry prevention services for at-risk families by developing networks of informal and formal community support through the coordination of efforts.
 - Create a culture of system change through focusing available resources on strengthening families to maintain children safely at home.
 - Increase parent, child, and care provider engagement while preserving and stabilizing families at all stages of involvement in the Child Welfare System.
 - Preserve connections with relatives and support relative placements.
 - The Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI):
 - QPI's aim is to ensure that all children placed in out-of-home care, whether with a relative, or licensed family, receive high-quality parenting that meets their emotional, developmental, cognitive, and social needs. QPI also believes that all stakeholders within jurisdictions can and must work together to achieve this goal through reshaping culture, practice, and policy to encourage active and meaningful communication and partnership among birth families, relative caregivers, foster families, youth, and the child welfare system.
 - It was noted that space has been allotted to the Commission and JJPC meeting participants to attend the forum, and arrangements can be made with DPSS Children's Services Deputy Director, Bridgette Hernandez.



d. Staffing:

- i. Hiring entry level Social Workers to assist with administrative workload of seasoned clinical staff.
- ii. Currently, DPSS has one-hundred Social Workers in a training program.
- iii. Following a brief Q&A, and discussion session, John responded to the questions from Chair Chris Collopy regarding state averages and efforts to set benchmarks and goals to achieve a higher percentage rate, and the conservative efforts being made to improve and stay above state averages.

e. STRTPs of one:

- i. STRTPs of one are needed to handle higher levels of trauma.
- ii. DPSS is currently working with STRTPs to elevate them to the status of STRTPs of one for youth who need a higher-level need.
- iii. Addressing challenges of STRTPs that are unable to handle youth who are in need a higher level of care. There are few solutions. One solution has been to utilize the Riverside County Probation department to provide supervision and resources.
- iv. Norma Biegel, Operation SafeHouse, noted they had received a letter of clearance for a STRTP but, the agency decided the STRTP model was unsafe, and they closed their group home.
- v. Kids in Konflikt also noted that they closed their group home after thirty years due to the challenges experienced with youth that need a higher level of care.
- vi. Currently, there are no STRTPs of one in Riverside County.
- vii. Chair Christopher Collopy requested an updated list of all the STRTPs, including the ones that house Riverside County youth.
- viii. Further conversation ensued on the Juvenile Justice of Sonoma County has brought forth challenges that group homes are experiencing and they are seeking support, input for problem solving to issues dealing with challenges being experienced by serving youth that need a higher level of care and who group homes can call for crisis intervention.
- ix. Resources Provided - Riverside County Office of Education's CAREspace services. CAREspace services can be accessed by calling 951-276-CARE (2273) or by going to www.rcoe.us/carespace, contact information for community Resource List: www.connectie.org and Riverside County's 2-1-1, which provides callers with information on referrals to, health and human services for everyday needs and in times of crisis.
- x. Briefly discussed - Youth who are in the 300 and/or 600 systems, whether Prevention Intervention funds can be used for STRTPs to keep youth in appropriate placement. Youth staying longer than six months in an a STRTP, and youth aging out of foster care.
- xi. Distributing Narcan to group homes - It was noted the STRTPs need to: apply for a waiver, get permission from Community Care Licensing, and have overdose response training to have Narcan on the premises. Additionally, it was noted, RCOE can provide training for the use of Narcan once appropriate permissions has been secured, and Community Care Licensing encourages providers to attend the All-County Provider meetings that provide guidance, resource information and support to community providers.

4. Oak Grove Center – Tammy Wilson

a. Highlights/Success:

- i. There have been no restraints for Riverside dependents, and overall incidents reports are down.
- ii. Staffing continues to be a challenge.
- iii. Dependents that have left under positive circumstances this quarter.
- iv. Challenges - Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Federal funding, California group home waiver has been submitted (waiver or exception to extend capacity for licensed group homes), closing of STRTPs, STRTPs that have elected to reduce capacity.



- v. California Advancing & Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Foster Care model Presumptive Transfer. Presumptive transfer is the prompt transfer of the responsibility for providing and paying for specialty mental health services for children and youth. Riverside has assumed responsibility for all Riverside County youth in terms of their mental services. With the law changing, that means every department will need to contract with an STRTP.
 - vi. The Commission invited Oak Grove to participate on a Zoom call with Sonoma County to speak about some of the issues that was brought up at today's meeting.
- b. Partial Program:
- i. Oak Grove Partial Program - A Mon-Fri program for children and youth that do not need 24-hour care but do require more intensive treatment.
 - ii. Discussion on the increase in suicide attempts. It was noted those attempts did not take place on campus. That was what the partial youth were experiencing at the time of COVID-19. The mental health of young people was significantly impacted by the COVID - 19 crisis. Oak Grove was one of the few facilities that was able to provide Telehealth services for those youth in need.
 - iii. Briefly discussed was Oak Grove's program that provides combined services in Arts and Music to students with autism from elementary school through high school to the age twenty-two (22).

5. District Attorney - Hunter Taylor

- a. Overview/Updates:
- i. October is Bullying Prevention Awareness, and Red Ribbon month. The District Attorney's office offers presentations to the community throughout Riverside County, raising awareness to prevent bullying and educating youth to the dangers of drugs.
 - ii. In conjunction with San Bernadino County, they've started a campaign to educate the public about the dangers of fentanyl. Presentations have been given to students and parents both virtually and in-person across Riverside County.
 - iii. Hunter announced that Chief Deputy DA John Henry, would now be attending the JJDC meetings. It was noted that the Commission and RCOE will continue to collaborate with prosecutor Hunter Taylor on the Anti-Bullying Initiative.

6. Community Care Licensing - Natasha Dunlap

- a. Overview:
- i. Five pending STRTP applications are in various stages of review.
 - ii. The Child Care Licensing (CCL) Program provides oversight and enforcement for licensed Child Care.
- b. Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)
- i. The current number of licensed STRTPs providers was unavailable for today's meeting. CCL will have that information available for the next JJDC meeting.
 - ii. Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) are being implemented in some of the larger STRTPs

7. County Counsel – Emily Headlee

- a. Updates:
- i. Minh Tran has joined as the new head of the Office of County Counsel. Most recently, Mr. Tran was Napa County's CEO for several years and he previously worked as a deputy county counsel in Riverside County.
 - ii. Judge Samah Shouka addressed concerns over limited access to records for youth that are being evaluated out. She asked if it was possible for County Counsel to reevaluate the restrictions on records to Probation so that the courts could have a better understanding of the child's history for decision making. She requested that the roadblocks for agencies sharing information (evaluated out and previous contacts) be added to the next JJDC agenda. Additionally, Judge Shouka announced that today's meeting would be her last, as she will be leaving Juvenile Court.



iii. Emily will share Judge Shouka's concerns with the Child Welfare Division and report back.

8. Operation Safe House, Inc - Norma Biegel

- a. Operation Safe House has two shelters, and they are now being called centers.
- b. The Riverside facility served fifty-one youth for the quarter.
 - i. Twenty-five families received family counseling (three hundred sixty-nine hours).
- c. Thousand Palms facility served thirty youth for the quarter.
 - i. Fifteen families received family counseling (one hundred seventy-six hours).
- d. Staffing Update:
 - i. Staffing remains a top challenge.
 - ii. Adopting innovative ways to become more attractive to potential candidates in a competitive labor market e.g., Changed titles and have offered increases in pay etc.
 - iii. Challenges with background checks are taking so long they run the risk of losing potential candidates, as most candidates end up accepting job offers elsewhere; another challenge is background checks turning up something on a person's record from 45 years prior.
- e. Funding Issues:
 - i. Concerns over funding availability during the months of July, August, and
 - ii. September while contracts go through the approval process.
 - iii. JJCPA contract funding won't probably be available until January 2023, after being signed in November of 2022.
 - iv. November is National Runaway Prevention month and Operation SafeHouse is collaborating with the National Runaway Safe Line in supporting National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM), an annual public awareness campaign designed to "Shine a Light" on youth experiencing homelessness and those who have run away. Join Operation SafeHouse by going green on November 17th, e.g. (wear green, put a green porch light etc.) in support of National Runaway Prevention Month.
 - v. Norma noted that the M on Box Springs Mountain in Moreno Valley would be lit green for
 - vi. National Runaway Prevention Month. Operation SafeHouse will also be doing community presentations and handing out green swag to bring awareness to the cause.
 - vii. Norma provided an open invitation for the group to visit Operation SafeHouse at any time. In addition, to the invite, she provided a story and highly recommended Squishmallows (Soft Plush Toys - Sensory tool) for providing numerous benefits to the youth experiencing challenges.

9. Riverside County Superior Court - Judge Samah Shouka

- a. Updates:
 - i. Judge Shouka reiterated that today's JJDC meeting would be her last. she noted that in Riverside that there are two 600 case court houses and court rooms, and two 300 case court houses, and the 600 case court houses are being collapsed into one.
 - ii. Presiding Judge Petersen of the Juvenile Court for Riverside County will be the remaining 600 Judge and he will be attending the JJDC Quarterly meetings.
 - iii. Riverside has twelve-hundred cases set for trial as of Monday, October 7th, and they have been operating as one of two counties under existing extensions from COVID.
 - iv. Supreme Court Justice had given permission to continue the last days of the trials due to staffing issues the court had, and that has expired as of October 7th.
 - v. At the beginning of the year, the courts will be receiving seven new bench officers.
 - vi. Judge Shouka again, extended an invitation to the JJDC Commission to observe via Zoom or in-person the drug program or a transfer hearing to see an average day. To set up an observation the JJDC can contact Marcus Walls.
 - vii. On behalf of the Commission Chair, Christopher Collopy, thanked Judge Shouka for her active participation and invaluable input.

10. Riverside County Probation – Assistant Chief Probation Officer Christopher Wright

- a. Updates:
 - i. Expressed his thoughts on the impressive changes to the JJDC since he last attended.



- ii. Reiterated that Field Services (Natalie Rivera, Chief Deputy Probation Officer and Chief Deputy Probation Officer Tari Spear) will attend future JJDCP Quarterly meetings.
- b. Announcements:
 - i. Chief Probation Officer Ron Miller is set to retire on December 29, 2023. However, his retirement may ultimately be extended another month while the process of hiring his replacement is complete. Additionally, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Christopher Wright announced he had been notified he would be named interim Chief Probation Officer.
 - ii. Additional staff has been added to the background investigation unit to expedite the background process.
 - iii. Market study for Probation staff resulted in a 4% increase in pay for Probation Officers.
 - iv. Probation plans to continue to find ways to improve recruitment, hiring, and retention practices, and to improve work culture among county employees, e.g., Townhall meetings for all staff.
 - v. Probation invested in the hiring of three new supervisor positions and an Assistant Director to ensure Probation is always following new state of California rules and BSCC inspection regulations. Additionally, Probation is bringing back trainings for department staff.
 - vi. Probation is participating in Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) presentations. Judge Shouka noted she would like to see the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) presentation meetings happen yearly and in person.

11. Public Defender – Maura Rogers

- a. Updates:
 - i. October 25th Training - Foster Youth Independence and Family Implication Program training. Ms. Rogers will provide the training information to the Commission after today's meeting.
 - ii. SPARK Program - Snapshot: SPARK (Support, Partnerships, Advocacy and Resources for Kids). SPARK provides early intervention and prevention services to the juvenile justice system involving youth and Transitional-age Youth in Riverside County. SPARK aids in the areas of: Special Education, School Discipline, Continuing Education, Immigration, Mental Health Resources, and more.
- b. Staffing:
 - i. The Spark team is fully staffed
- c. Referrals:
 - i. Since March 1st, they have had two hundred and eight referrals from clients from the public.
 - ii. Defenders Office for youth and families who need educational services and other types of services.
 - iii. SPARK (Support, Partnerships, Advocacy and Resources for Kids) is embedded in the TAY drop-in centers in partnership with RUHS.
 - iv. A new law passed effective January 1, 2023, requires school districts to notify 602 counsel when 602 juveniles have any type of disciplinary hearing going forward, e.g., suspension, expulsion etc. so the 602 attorneys can be educational advocates for the school district.
- d. Announcements:
 - i. Maura announced her retirement effective December 14th. She noted that it's been an honor and a privilege to be part of this group and praised the JJDCP Commission for their contributions to the community. Furthermore, Maura informed the group that her office is preparing a transition plan for her pending retirement.
 - ii. On behalf of the Commission Chair, Christopher Collopy, thanked Ms. Rogers for her contributions to the Commission and wished her well in her retirement.

12. Kids in Konflikt, Inc. - Lynette Jones

- a. Past Quarter Updates:
 - i. Kids in Konflikt is a small CBO with a staff of five
- b. Referrals:
 - i. Received four-hundred and eight-nine referrals for the last quarter. From those referrals, four-hundred and fifty-eight youth were served.



- c. Program Components (twelve):
 - i. Of the twelve components:
 - Two-hundred and sixteen youth completed their classes,
 - Two-hundred and sixteen completed the program.
 - One-hundred eighty-six youth completed all their given assignments.
 - d. Services:
 - i. Three-hundred ninety-seven service hours were provided.
 - ii. The program's components include, but not limited to: Substance awareness, Victim Awareness, Parenting, Healthy Boundaries / Relationships, Life Skills, Domestic Violence Awareness etc.
 - iii. Services are offered via Zoom and in-person services will resume during the holidays
 - iv. Service areas included Blythe, Corona Temecula, Murrieta, Riverside and out of state youth in New Jersey, Nevada, and Arkansas.
 - e. Challenges:
 - i. Loss of interns.
 - ii. Issues with funding and receiving payment for services.
 - f. Upcoming Events:
 - i. Halloween – Donating candy to various originations.
 - ii. Preparing for annual Thanksgiving event/dinner. Every year five families are adopted.
 - iii. December 17th, Partnering with Adams Motorsport, and the California Highway Patrol for the community's annual toy drive.

13. Riverside County Superintendent of Schools (RCOE) – Deanna McCarty

- a. Reported on:
 - i. Court School Demographics -CALPADS Reporting Day, October 5, 2022.
 - ii. Division of Student Programs and Services Comparative Enrollment Analysis (Current year enrollment as of 10.13.22).
 - iii. Support Partnerships Advocacy and Resources for Kids (SPARK).
 - iv. Interagency Symposium (Registration is open).
 - v. CAREspace
- b. Past Quarter Focus:
 - i. Mental Health (Panorama Screener) assessments
- e. Referrals:
 - i. One hundred sixteen new referrals for the month of September

14. Riverside County Probation – Chief Deputy Probation Officer (CDPO) Elisa Judy

- a. Institution Updates/Highlights:
 - i. SB23 has been designed to have a psychologist on board and they have just hired someone to fill the position.
 - ii. Pathways to Success Releases, approximately four youth have been released from the program.
 - iii. Starting Community Based Organizations (CBOs). The approach was to have the organizations inside the program. Chapman University, Success Stories Program and Chavez Educational Services will be embedded within the program.
 - iv. Youth Treatment Education Center (YTEC) continues to open doors post pandemic.
 - v. Offsite activities are taking place. Ten youths have left the grounds for tattoo removal and have gone to the barbershop.
 - vi. The Department of Rehabilitation has been on site to talk about partnership.
 - vii. Implemented a designated BSCC monitor
 - viii. On September 8th, the girls Youth Treatment Education Center (YTEC) program was moved backed to Riverside.
 - ix. Data for September shows the lowest safety risk in all three facilities, and a decrease in room confinement, lowest fights in the last six-months, and the lowest safety watches, and the youth are showing progress.



- x. The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is closing in June 2023. Those youth will be evaluated to figure out the best reentry plan for them.
- xi. SB81 continues to move forward. Design specs have been received and they are looking good.
- xii. 5.9 million has been received for renovations. Stay tuned for more information.
- b. Demographics of Population:
 - i. Pathways to Success Unit – There are four males that are 20 years of age.
 - ii. Detention - Indio Juvenile Hall (IJH), Ten 18 years old, Southwest Juvenile Hall (SJH) has five 18-year-olds. Of those, there are twenty of them that are in for homicide.
- c. Staffing Update:
 - i. Probation HR is working to bring in at least four people per month, and that goal was hit last month.
- f. Demographic Breakdown:
 - i. The population has gone up this month. Last month it was down to one-hundred eighteen.
 - ii. Detention - 9 girls.
 - iii. Indio Juvenile Hall (IJH) - 37 boys.
 - iv. Southwest Juvenile Hall (SJH) - 35 boys and no girls
 - v. Youth Treatment Education Center (YTEC) - 26 boys and 3 girls
 - vi. Pathways to Success - 24 boys and 1 girl.
 - vii. Currently, all the girls are housed together; there is no detention at YTEC (YTEC is only for processing) if a female is booked into SJH they will be moved to Riverside. CDPO Elisa Judy reiterated there are no girls at SJH or IJH. All the girls are at YTEC; they are housed together, and they do programming separately. Currently, there's a MOU for Pathways youth between Riverside and San Bernardino, if participants are impacting each other's program, or San Bernardino has a program not offered in Riverside there is an avenue for an opportunity to benefit the youth.
 - viii. Following a brief discussion, CDPO Judy responded to questions and concerns regarding YTEC placement females in with the Pathways. She noted they are constantly, evaluating the unique circumstances, and if data starts moving in another direction, they will address the situation.
 - ix. Further conversation ensued on classification issues, e.g., Extension services in California, staffing, lower populations, Cal. Welf. and Inst. Code § 875 and creating more Probation camps and ranches.
 - x. In partnership with RCOE, 42% of the Camp and Secure Youth Track Facility (SYTF) are enrolled in college. CPO Judy also informed the group of the many other skilled trade opportunities, other than college that are offered to the youth. Briefly discussed, were qualifications/requirements for a youth Commissioner for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJPC).

15. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 12:20pm

16. Next Meeting:

Date: January 12, 2022

Time: 9:30 am

Location: Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1)

Room #1056