



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Minutes
February 22, 2023

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS
First District

JOEL ANDERSON
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District

NATHAN FLETCHER
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

Present:

Chief Nelson, Probation*
Nathan Fletcher, County Supervisor*
Nathan Head, SDCOE*
Lisa Weinreb, District Attorney*
Randy Mize, Public Defender*
Kevin Ralph, Sheriff *
Clarrissa Edwards, SDPD*
Martha Gutierrez, Probation
Dr. Octavio Rodriquez Ferreira, SANDAG*
Joy Singleton, Singleton Law Firm*
Holly Porter, PSG
Kathleen Flannery, PSG
Tabatha Wilburn, Probation

Erinn Herberman, Probation
Dana Maier, SD County Council
Brook Smith, The Children's Initiative
Stephanie Heying, The Children's Initiative
Joshua Bohannon, Office of Nathan Fletcher
Victor Mora, SANDAG
Mindy McCartney, SBCS
Maria Pacheco, Probation
Sandy Keaton, SBCS
Judi Park, SDYS
Elizabeth Castellanos, SDYS
Maribel Reyes, COMPACT

*JJCC Members

1. *Opening and Opportunity for Public Comment*

- Chief Tamika Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Brook Smith invited the public to provide comment. No person delivered public comment.
- Chief Tamika Nelson greeted the JJCC.

2. *Welcome and Introductions*

- Brook Smith guided the Coordinating Council through introductions.

3. *Review Minutes (Action)*

- Randy Mize motioned to approve the minutes from October 26, 2022. Lisa Weinreb seconded. All agreed. No one opposed. The minutes from October 26, 2022, were approved.

4. *Achievement Center Update*

- A. Sandy Keaton opened the presentation. The Achievement Centers are located in Central (SBCS), North Inland (COMPACT), and East County (SDYS) with hours from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
- B. Sandy Keaton stated the Achievement Centers are part of the juvenile justice continuum of care. They have expanded their services to not just include youth involved in the probation system but to include youth at-risk of becoming involved in the justice system. Sandy Keaton noted only 2% of the youth twelve months post participation in the Achievement Center receive a sustaining petition.
- C. Mindy McCartney, SBCS, provided an introduction of the unique offerings at the Achievement Centers, including daily transportation. Other offerings include snacks and dinners, prosocial activities and programming such as mentoring, restorative circles, music production and engineering, work readiness and internships, individual and family therapy, groups such as *Seeking*

- Safety, Life Skills and Anger Management*, recreation, field trips, art programs, and more.
- D. Maribel Reyes, COMPACT, provided an overview of the Achievement Center in North Inland located in Escondido. The Achievement Center includes two classrooms with another classroom available depending on the number of youths attending. One of the classrooms can also be used as a recreation area. They provide prosocial outings outside of the Escondido area and a variety of programming opportunities.
 - E. Elizabeth Castellanos, SDYS, provided an overview of the Achievement Center in East County located in Spring Valley at a former elementary school campus that has been converted to a community center. Prosocial outings have included going to a pumpkin patch, attending dinner at the Cheesecake Factory, museums, and other engaging activities.
 - F. Mindy McCartney provided an overview of the Central Achievement Center that is located in downtown San Diego. The Achievement Center has recreation and programming areas and a separate space for therapy. Prosocial outings have included going to San Diego State University with Project Rebound to tour the college, bowling and cleaning the beaches for community service hours.
 - G. Sandy Keaton stated moving forward mental health services will need to be a key component of the Achievement Centers.

Discussion

- A. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher asked if the youth at the Achievement Centers are on MediCal.
- B. Mindy McCartney responded that the majority of the youth are eligible for MediCal. She explained that the Achievement Center currently has a Community Corrections CalVIP grant that they use to enhance services. The grant helped the Central Achievement Center bring in the full-time therapist and pays for the community mentoring, so they are not currently billing MediCal. Those services are free to the youth for being a part of the Achievement Center.
- C. Lisa Weinreb asked if the Achievement Centers receive referrals from different law enforcement agencies since they have their own diversion programs and CAT teams.
- D. Mindy McCartney responded they do receive referrals from law enforcement agencies. They also attend community meetings, and receive community referrals from schools, other programs.
- E. Maribel Reyes stated the Achievement Center in Escondido has a juvenile diversion program with the Escondido Police Department (EPD) who will determine if youth are a good fit for the Achievement Center and refer the youth. They also receive referrals from the alternative to detention programs.
- F. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher asked how close the Achievement Centers are to capacity.
- G. Mindy responded Central stays around 22 so they are close to their capacity of 25. Maribel stated they are hovering around the 20, but tend to stay at 10-15 with a capacity of 25. Elizabeth responded East County has 15 youth and their capacity is 30.
- H. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher asked Chief Nelson how the referrals work through Probation.
- I. Chief Nelson responded if a youth comes before Probation for booking and it is not a mandatory hold, the first question asked is if the youth has been referred to an alternative to detention service. If they have not, then law enforcement needs to refer to an alternative to detention service.
- J. There was a discussion that Achievement Centers were originally open to serve youth on probation and have now expanded to serve community youth.
- K. Chief Nelson noted many of the community-based organizations offering programs in the institutions also provide programming and services in the community which allows youth to stay connected to those programs.
- L. Mindy McCartney stated it is powerful for the kids in custody who are working with the different programs to find a place in the community where they can continue those relationships upon release.
- M. Supervisor Nathan Fletcher stated he and the Board supports the Achievement Centers. Alternatives to detention is the goal and it is important to keep youth close to their communities.

- N. Holly Porter suggested identifying how we can increase referrals to maximize capacity at the Achievement Centers.
- Mindy McCartney noted they attend community collaboratives, other community meetings, and resource fairs and distribute flyers to educate agencies and the community about the Achievement Centers. She noted they do receive a lot of youth from San Diego High School due to the proximity of the school and the Center.
 - Supervisor Nathan Fletcher noted the Achievement Center in Escondido has a relationship with Escondido Police Department and asked if the other Achievement Centers had similar relationships.
 - Mindy McCartney noted case managers from other programs (e.g., CHOICE, JFAST) will bring youth to the Achievement Centers for a tour and most of the time the youth want to start coming to the Achievement Center.
- O. Supervisor Fletcher asked if there is a monthly report on capacity and if so, if that report could be emailed to him. Mindy McCartney responded there is, and they will include him on the distribution.

5. Substance Abuse Services

- A. Octavio Rodriguez and Victor Mora presented the Substance Abuse Services (SAS) Deep Dive preliminary findings based on a subsample of 135 youth; 55% of the total sample.
- B. Victor Mora stated the subsample is looking at exit status (successful, unsuccessful, administratively closed), tracks, probation violations, drug tests, restitution and community service completion.
- C. Victor Mora reviewed exit status and stated 42% of the youth were successful exits.
- D. Victor Mora presented on the outcomes and the time participants are in programming.
- Overall participants in program for 193.2 days (mean)
 - Successful participants were in the program longer - 219.7 days (mean)
 - Unsuccessful were in the program for 185.5 days (mean)
 - Administratively closed participants were in the program for 83.4 days (mean)
 - 21% of successful youth had a probation violation which increases across the exit statuses (unsuccessful, administratively closed)
 - Successful youth have a higher rate of completion of community service and restitution than the other exit statuses.
- E. Victor Mora presented on positive drug tests during programming based on a subsample of 117 participants:
- 62% of participants who were successful had positive drug test during programming.
 - 85% of the unsuccessful participants had a positive drug test during programming.
 - Of the participants who had a positive drug test 90% was for marijuana; 26% alcohol; and 19% other.
- F. Victor Mora reviewed the recidivism outcomes for all SAS participants looking at referrals, bookings, sustained petitions or institutional commitments: (1) during programming; (2) six-months post program exit; and (3) twelve-months post program exit.
- Successful participants had fewer referrals, bookings, sustained petitions and institutional commitment than the unsuccessful participants.
 - Six-months post exit the group of unsuccessful and administratively closed participants start to align compared to during programming where the unsuccessful were higher.
 - Successful youth have low levels of recidivism (4% referral; 1% booking; 1% sustained petition; 0% institutional commitment) at six-months post exit.
 - Twelve-months post exit. The further participants are removed from programming recidivism outcomes for successful participants starts to increase (8% referral; 4% booking; 5% sustained petition; 1% institutional commitment).

- There is also an increase in recidivism rates for unsuccessful and administratively closed youth the further out they are from programming.
- G. Octavio Rodriquez reviewed preliminary takeaways
- Successful youth are less likely to have a probation violation, stay in the program longer and are less likely to have a positive drug test during the program.
 - Unsuccessful youth are more likely to recidivate, and more unsuccessful youth tested positively for substance use.

Discussion

- A. Joy Singleton asked why Oxycontin is included in the other category. Victor explained that was based on prior reports and how categories are grouped. It could also be because the percentage was very small. He noted the report will have the full table with all categories.
- B. There was a discussion about whether Oxycontin would test different from other opioids and whether participants are tested for Fentanyl use. Drug tests can differentiate between drugs.
- C. Supervisor Fletcher asked out of the of the 62% of participants who tested positive, how many tested positive for more than one substance. Victor Mora responded they would get this information.
- D. Erinn Herberman asked if they have a sense of the characteristics of the participants who the program has been successful for versus unsuccessful. Octavio Rodriquez responded they have compiled demographic characteristics for the exit statuses.
- E. Sandy Keaton asked if they were going to do cross analysis by track. Victor Mora responded they are, but it might be difficult with track 3 because the number is low.

6. Updates

Probation SB 823 (DJJ Youth Return Process)

- Martha Gutierrez provided an update on the SB 823 realignment and the Youth Development Academy (YDA). To date, YDA has seven (7) new commitments, and four (4) youth were returned from the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) on February 9th. Probation has been meeting regularly with partners to develop the timeline process to transition youth back from DJJ to San Diego. Youth's transfer hearings are occurring on the same day youth are returned to San Diego from DJJ. Probation has developed an operational plan for YDA where the correctional counselors, behavioral health clinicians, Wellpath staff, and others are available to receive and greet the youth returning from DJJ. The youth will also meet with their reentry officer. The next five (5) youth will be received in the facility tomorrow, February 23.
- Martha Gutierrez stated SBCS has been selected as the contract provider for YDA.
- Martha Gutierrez provided an update on the East Mesa softening and said they have one unit currently under construction with a total of six (6) units that will be softened to provide a more homelike, rehabilitative environment. The unit currently under construction is expected to be completed by July 2023.

Public Defender

- Randy Mize stated 707s seem to be increasing and they are seeing more kids in custody. The Public Defender's Office is bringing on two more alternative dispositional specialists to develop some alternatives to detention.

District Attorney

- Lisa Weinreb stated they have seen a substantial increase in filings, even with their JDI diversion program where they have been diverting up to 30% of the cases they would previously have filed on.
- Lisa Weinreb mentioned there will be eight (8) DAs rotating into the juvenile branch, who will

receive training on juvenile law and other juvenile related issues. Lisa said she plans to bring the eight DAs to EMJDF and the other facilities, as well as have them visit the Achievement Centers.

- Lisa Weinreb noted SANDAG has been conducting an evaluation of the JDI diversion program and she will share the report once it is completed.

SDCOE

- Nathan Head noted that while there has been an increase in detention population SDCOE staffing has not increased. He has reached out and is asking for additional resources.
- Nathan Head stated SDCOE will be offering the YDA population of youth a variety of educational opportunities and career pathways and is working with partners at SBCS.

BHS

No update

Other

No update

7. Kearny Mesa Master Plan – Phase II

- Maria Pacheco provided an update on the Kearny Mesa Master Plan which includes the Youth Transition Campus, Phase II, the Educational Complex and the Youth Development Center, which will replace the Juvenile Probation Center (JPC). There will be three housing units with 72-beds in Phase II of YTC for pre-adjudication youth. The Educational Complex will have six classrooms and a multipurpose room, and the Youth Development Center will be a single-story office building that will house approximately 76 Probation Department staff. The anticipated completion date is December 2023.

9. Future Agenda Items

- Brook Smith stated that future agenda Items would be in relation to:
 - JJCPA Funding 2023-2024
 - YDA Update
 - Kearny Mesa Phase II updates
- Chief Nelson adjourned the meeting at 2:26 pm.

Meeting minutes were submitted by Brook Smith. Please call him at (858) 581-5882 if you have corrections or suggested revisions. He may also be contacted for agenda items or general information. Thank you.