



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

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Minutes
May 11, 2021

Present:

Chairman Nathan Fletcher, Board of Supervisors*
Assistant Chief Ruben Leyva, Probation*
Sandra McBrayer, Children's Initiative
Joel Stranger, Sheriff's Department*
Dr. Cindy Burke, SANDAG*
Nathan Head, SDCOE*
Stephanie Gioia-Beckman, Board of Supervisors
Joy Singleton, Singleton Law Firm*
Yael Koenig, Behavioral Health Services*
Randy Mize, Public Defender*
Lisa Weinreb, District Attorney*
Karl Peralta, Probation
Dorothy Thrush, PSG
Tabatha Wilburn, Probation

Dr. Gabrielle Chapman, Vanderbilt
Lisa Sawin, Probation
Shawn Peck, First Match
Judi Park, SDYS
Jen Winberry, Legal Aid Society
Erinn Herberman, Probation
Charmaine Portacio, Probation
Gloria Cruz, Zoom Username
Steven Jella, SDYS
Marc Regier, Probation
Ariana Federico, Mid-City CAN
Belen Hernandez, BHS
Stephanie Heying, Children's Initiative
Brook Smith, Children's Initiative
Bennett McManus, Children's Initiative

*JJCC members

1. *Opportunity for Public Comment*

- Assistant Chief Leyva asked if there were any public comments and, after some time, stated that there were none.

2. *Welcome and Introductions*

- Assistant Chief Leyva called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. He welcomed the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and thanked Probation's partners. Brook Smith called roll for all JJCC members.

3. *Review Minutes (Action)*

- Lisa Weinreb motioned to approve the minutes from February 17, 2021. Cindy Burke seconded. All agreed. No one opposed. The minutes from February 17, 2021 were approved.

4. *Announcements*

- Chair Nathan Fletcher updated the JJCC on the status of the Chief of Probation search. Supervisors Vargas and Lawson-Remer, who make up the Board subcommittee, along with eight community members have interviewed 10 candidates. 3 candidates were selected who will be interviewed by the full San Diego Board of Supervisors on May 18th.
- Brook Smith shared that the SB823 Subcommittee has been formed. There will be two meetings coming up on May 19th from 3:15-4:15 and June 16th from 3:15-4:15. Sandy McBrayer specified that membership for the committee has been confirmed. Members included representatives from, Probation, HHS, Public Defender, District Attorney, County

Office of Ed, Juvenil Court and three community representatives. The community representatives are D'Andre Brooks, Joy Singleton and Laila Aziz. The subcommittee will be working all summer to develop the plan for the new commitment program for the youth that will no longer be sent to DJJ. The intent is to develop a multi-year track with programming for a youth that could be in the San Diego system for multiple years.

5. Kearny Mesa Master Plan

- Chair Nathan Fletcher updated the JJCC on what the Board of Supervisors is considering with the upcoming budget. It is a personal priority for Chair Fletcher to expedite Phases II of the Kearny Mesa Master Plan. He believes Phase I is an incredible facility and it is the right time to build the next phase for San Diego County youth. There are economies of scale that can be accommodated by doing the next phase now. By waiting, there is an injustice for youth in the old hall who look out and see youth enjoying the new facility. On May 18th, the Board is going to consider the action to amend the agreement with Balfour Beatty, to continue with Phase II as they were the only group to respond to the RFSQ. This means that there will be a seamless transition to Phases II.
- Marc Regier thanked Chair Fletcher for being a champion not only for this project but also in all the transformation that Probation has undertaken.
- Marc summarized that Phase I is 96 beds in 12-bed living units. Each of the housing units include their own mental health clinician offices. There is a stand-alone school with full technical career education, a science lab, and indoor/outdoor recreation. The campus is full of choices: choices on what to wear, where to do recreation, a dining common where youth can eat their meals in a community, etc. Substantial work will be completed November 2021 with the parking lot completed Spring 2022.
- Phase II is a 72-bed facility for youth that are pre-adjudicated. This will be a temporary place for youth to live. This includes the same design as Phase I with the 12 bed living units, mental health clinician offices inside the units. There will be a small admin building onsite so the administration will be located where the youth live; they will be able to experience the site and be able to quickly intervene if something goes wrong. There will also be staffing that gives direct support to Juvenile Court. They are hopeful that most of this Phase will be completed sometime in 2023 or early 2024.
- Marc thanked Sandy McBrayer for all her research and assistance on this project. He also thanked Assistant Chief Leyva and Interim Chief Escuro for their leadership as well as Chair Fletcher, Holly Porter, and Helen Robbins-Meyer for their support through this process.
- Assistant Chief Leyva thanked Marc for being a champion in keeping Probation organized and moving forward in this mission.

6. Achievement Centers – East

- Brook Smith reminded the JJCC that this is the third Achievement Center in San Diego County. He thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support.
- Judi Park presented a 14-slide PowerPoint on the Achievement Center in the East Region of San Diego.
- She shared that youth are referred to the program through the CRD, although San Diego Youth Services can take 10 non-Probationary youth. Youth must be enrolled in high school and be 14-19 years old. The average length of participation shall be between 20-45 days.
- Daily programming includes tutoring, expressive arts, gang diversion, life skills, anger management, career readiness, and more. All programs at this moment are over Zoom, but SD Youth Services is working on starting in-person programming. They are working with SDCOE to secure the Old Reflection Site in East Region at 8376 Hercules St., La Mesa, CA

91942. They are open from 3 PM to 7 PM Monday through Friday. Contractors and programs they are working with include: Project AWARE, Urban Beats, Movement BE, Keep Calm, Financial Literacy, Safe Space, Art Workshop, Positive Thinking, and ILS Workshop. Other services include transportation to and from the facility, a nutritious snack, and dinner every day.

- Staff includes a program manager (Elizabeth Castellanos), two case managers, and two part-time youth support partners. Currently on average, they have about 10 youth enrolled with about 5-7 youth attending daily. Their first two youth successfully completed the program this week.
- Assistant Chief Leyva commented that he is excited they are including the Maya Angelou curriculum. Using Maya Angelou's poems as themes addresses the healing needs of the clients and these themes could spark conversations. He also thanked them for giving the siblings the option to partake in the program.
- Sandy McBrayer added that one of the things learned from their trips to Washington DC and New York's Achievement Centers was that youth would have sporadic attendance unless their sibling or friend could attend. Washington DC ended up including the parents as well.
- Judi added that this program is focusing on youth's education, entrepreneurship, and employment. For example, they are moving towards getting a coffee shop in Spring Valley that youth could be employed at and receive on-the-job programming.

7. DA Diversion

- Lisa Weinreb presented a 14-slide PowerPoint on the San Diego County District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Initiative (JDI). This is to be launched by the end of this month.
- The objective of this program is to reduce the number of youth entering the Juvenile Justice system and, instead, work with these youth in the community.
- Lisa shared and explained the 7 principals for the JDI. She outlined how the eligibility for the JDI includes all cases in or out of custody except the most serious of cases; all cases are subject to being reviewed and can be re-evaluated. Examples of cases that are eligible are felony assaults, felony burglary, grand thefts, and felony vandalism.
- Youth will be referred to the program administration by the DA's Office. Youth will be assessed to identify his/her needs, then will be connected to services in their community. Youth will then participate in restorative circles to repair harm to the victim and community. Upon successful completion, the case will never be filed, and the arrest record sealed.
- The program administrator provider will be the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC). Services include an educational advocate for each youth to make sure youth are successful in school while going through this process.
- The DA's Office is working with SANDAG to ensure that they are looking at the performance of this program. The goal is to have a reduction in recidivism, the number of cases prosecuted, race and social equity, and program efficacy.
- Joy Singleton asked Lisa to explain how the exceptions for youth who are a threat to themselves and/or others. Lisa clarified that because someone has a mental health issue or has a 5150, this does not mean that they will be denied. This exception is out of concern for someone that is making significant threats or is such a threat to themselves or others that this program will not meet their needs. This program of 6 months will not meet the higher levels of care for youth expressing self-harm or harm to others.
- Randy Mize asked if they have revised the 30% reduction in filings projection, which was pre-COVID. Lisa answered that this number has not been revised. They can offer the Diversion to all families, but not all are going to accept. There will be plenty of youth who

want their day in court and these youth will define the Diversion. They hope to reduce it by 30%, but this is if they all accept it.

- Assistant Chief Leyva complimented Lisa and Summer Stephen's team who is doing a great job in stopping the criminalization and stigmatization of San Diego's youth. Lisa thanked Assistant Chief Leyva for his help.

8. JJCPA Budget (Action)

- Brook Smith presented on the Juvenile Justice Crimes and Prevention Act (JJCPA) 2021-22 budget. This year, a base allocation is proposed and a Growth Fund.
- Brook Smith walked the JJCC through the JJCPA 2020-21 budget. There will be no cuts to the following programs:
 - **CAT Program:** it is proposed to allocate \$7,524,139 to this program.
 - **Substance Abuse:** it is proposed to allocate \$604,168 to this program, the same amount as last year.
 - **Juvenile Forensic Assistance for Stabilization and Treatment (JFAST):** it is proposed to have the same as last year at \$808,845.
 - **Alternatives to Detention (ATD):** it is proposed to allocate \$1,938,393, same as last year.
 - **Grand Total:** the base allocation for JJCPA 2021-22 is \$8,742,681. It is proposed to use \$728,463 out of the Growth Fund. The total budget is \$10,875,545.
- Brook Smith shared the Growth Funding for the JJCPA. A few of these programs are expired and will be continued programming.
 - **Support for Youth Engagement (Institutions):** this is expired. It is proposed to allocate \$15,000 each year for the next three years to this program. These are incentives for events that will engage the youth.
 - **Creative Expressions:** it is proposed to allocate \$65,000 each year for the next three years to this program. This is also known as The Beat Within, which is the journaling that youth do in East Mesa. They are looking to continue and even expand this program.
 - **Recreation/Education Institutions:** Also known as Outdoor Outreach. It is proposed to allocate \$100,000 each year for the next three years to this program. This has been operational for 3-4 years and they are looking to continue this for the next three years in both facilities.
 - **Regional Clinicians:** it is proposed to allocate \$656,295 each year for the next three years to this program. They are proposing to fund six regional clinicians, adding two more. The additional two will support RISE and special programs through the court.
 - **Regional Clinicians Flex:** it is proposed to allocate \$51,507 each year for the next three years to this program. This supports the regional clinicians for youth they are working with.
 - **Facility Support Personal Care:** it is proposed to allocate \$30,000 each year for the next three years to this program. This is for personal care of the youth such as a barber.
 - **Art Project – Facilities:** it is proposed to allocate \$60,000 each year for the next three years to this program. This is to support youth in institutions to take part in a hands-on art project that includes facilitators. Sandy McBrayer added that this will be a form of art therapy.
- Joy Singleton asked if the Regional Clinicians have had a recent program evaluation. Brook answered that there has not been a formal evaluation, but we can work with SANDAG to track data for services. This program meant to give Probation support with assessments

and the resources in the warm handoffs for youth. Lisa Sawin commented that the Probations Officers appreciate having the Regional Clinicians available for some assistance to identify what youth needs are. Marc Regier added that they are effective at providing knowledge of services available in the community along with a different perspective.

- Yael Koenig asked if the Regional Clinicians plus the Regional Clinician Flex numbers would support the six clinicians together. Marc answered that he would have to double check, but this is very close to the full amount.
- Chair Fletcher added that investment in mental health services is always welcome, but Probation needs to be sure that this is coordinated with County Behavioral Health. Probation needs to make sure that this program is integrative, coordinated, supportive, and all fits into a bigger system. Assistant Chief Leyva agreed as they have had very similar conversations on how to move forward together.
- Randy Mize motioned to accept the budget proposal. Nathan Head seconded. Cindy Burke and Chair Fletcher abstained. The JJCPA budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 passed with no one opposing.

9. *Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)*

- Marc Regier introduced SPEP to the Task Force by noting that this process is an important part of the Dispositional Matrix. The goal of SPEP is to help each JJCPA program gradually improve service delivery to align with best practices. Probation will be implementing this tool in the next fiscal year.
- Dr. Chapman and Shawn Peck presented a 33-slide PowerPoint titled “SPEP Informed: Understanding Research, Informing Practice”. SPEP is a tool used to measure impact on recidivism. SPEP was developed at Vanderbilt in the early 2000s. This is used to look at what youth are getting at facilities/community centers and match these services to research. SPEP is currently in 14 states.
- Shawn described the Continuum of Confidence, which is what they apply programs to in order to move them from the “harmful” side of the spectrum to the “effective” side. He detailed the SPEP lifecycle, starting with preparation and ending with a cohort data check in calls/prepare for reassessment and cycling through again.
- Shawn then described the SPEP process, starting with preparation, which includes communication and pre-SPEP visit/tours and ending with performance improvement plan development and progress meetings/calls.
- Dr. Chapman walked the JJCC through the meta-analysis of the comprehensive collection of studies of interventions for juvenile offenders. This includes 700+ controlled studies from 1950-2014.
- Dr. Chapman outlined four key findings from the meta-analysis:
 - Philosophy matters: control-oriented philosophy, such as discipline, will get less recidivism rates than a therapeutically-oriented philosophy, such as skill building.
 - Comparable impact: home grown programs reduce recidivism as much as name brand programs.
 - There are four main factors that most strongly relate to recidivism reduction: youth risk level and aggressive/violent history, program philosophy and type, quality of service, and the amount of service.
 - Score is predictive: services that score lower than 50 on SPEP’s 100-point scale reduce recidivism at a lower rate.
- Assistant Chief Leyva stopped the presentation due to time constraints.

10. Legislative Update

- Brook Smith will send out the update through email due to time constraints.

11. Future Agenda Items

- SB823 Subcommittee
- Kearny Mesa Master Plan
- Juvenile Justice Realignment
- Legislative Updates

Distributed:

- May 11, 2021 Agenda
- February 17, 2021 Minutes
- The Achievement Center – East Region PowerPoint
- San Diego County District Attorney Juvenile Diversion Initiative PowerPoint
- JJCPA FY 2021-22 Draft Budget
- JJCPA FY 2019-20 Growth Fund
- SPEP Informed: Understanding Research, Informing Practice PowerPoint

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

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.