

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
AND
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION
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Date: November, 17, 2015

To: Honorable Barry Goode, Presiding Superior Court Judge
Honorable Lois M. Haight, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
Karen Mitchoff, Chairperson, and Members of the CCC Board of Supervisors
Philip Kader, Contra Costa County Chief Probation Officer
Kathy Gallagher, Director of Employment and Human Services Department
David Twa, County Administrator of Contra Costa County
Dr. William B. Walker, Director, Contra Costa County Health Services
Department
Nat Reed, BSCC Field Representative for Contra Costa County Probation Department

From: Karl Livengood and Harvey Samuels, Co-Chairpersons

Subject: Annual Report Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Section 229 of the Welfare and Institutions Code mandates that each county have a Juvenile Justice Commission to inquire into the administration of juvenile court law. The code also allows each county to have a Delinquency Prevention Commission at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors. Contra Costa County has such a Commission with the latter established in 1966.

The Commission has access to all publicly administered institutions authorized by the county. It annually inspects jails, lockups, institutions and bi-annually county group home facilities. Following each inspection, reported findings and recommendations are submitted to the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge and others for review.

The Commission also visits Juvenile Court and may hold hearings on matters concerning juvenile custody care or facilities. Members frequently visit Juvenile Hall and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility ("OAYRF"). The Juvenile Court Judge may issue subpoenas requiring attendance and testimony of witnesses and production of documents at the hearings.

The Commission is concerned with policy matters, advises the Juvenile Court, and is responsible for policy-making recommendations. It makes recommendations for administrative body changes it determines beneficial to juvenile justice, and it ensures that the changes are appropriate, safe and include adequate services.

The Commission may conduct studies including: review of essential services and budgets to ensure relevant and effective probation services; exploration of matters initiated by commissioners or referred by the Juvenile Court Judge, the Probation Department, the Board of Supervisors, or citizen inquiry.

The purpose of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission is to be a public conscience in the best interest of justice for children and youth.

Membership

There are 15 member positions on the commission, all appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. Each commissioner serves a four-year term unless filling the unexpired term of a resigned commissioner. At least two commissioners must be youth members. The Commission attempts to reflect the racial, ethnic diversity and geographic representations of the county.

During FY 2013-14 we had 13 commissioners, however during FY 2014/15 we lost several of our younger members due to attendance at colleges here and abroad. We also had one member move out of state. We were able to recruit at least one more prior to the end of the FY bringing our total to 9 members in the following geographic areas:

Lafayette - 1 Richmond - 3 San Ramon - 2 Walnut Creek - 3

As stated above, the Commission continues to experience problems in recruiting and retaining youth commissioner vacancies that are able to serve more than one year. We are actively pursuing eligible youth and adult persons with a focus on east and west county.

During FY 2014/15, the Commission developed two standing committees (internal and external) that includes several subcommittees. Commissioners are required to participate in at least two standing sub-committees as well as perform inspections and other duties as required.

Meetings

The Commission meets regularly on the third Monday of every month at 5:30 pm. There is no monthly meeting scheduled in August. The January and February meetings are held on the fourth Monday, due to federal holidays. Meetings are normally held in the Second floor conference room of the Probation Department at 50 Douglas Drive, Martinez and are open to the public.

To conduct official business at these monthly meetings, a quorum of members is required. At the monthly meetings, reports are received from representatives of the Juvenile Court and Juvenile Probation. Employment and Human Services Department and Children's Mental Health reports are presented bi-monthly (representation of these two Departments has been infrequent). Reports from other agencies may be requested by the Commission as required.

On June 28, 2014, during our annual retreat, the by-laws and committees structure and types were revised and goals and objectives for FY 2014-15 were developed to streamline processes and become more effective. This includes creating liaisons between the Commission and county departments and/or community based organizations and law enforcement offices throughout the county.

Special Programs

Once a year, the Commission endeavors to recognize individuals, groups and organizations that have contributed to juvenile justice or delinquency prevention in a significant way. The Commission hosts an awards ceremony in May to recognize those individuals and call attention to their outstanding work in helping the County's juvenile population. On May 16, 2015, the JJ/DPC held their 27th annual awards ceremony at IBEW Local 32 Hall in Martinez. Funds for lunch were made available by the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary.

FY 2014-15, recipients of the awards were:

Outstanding Service/Contribution by a Juvenile Probation Officer:

Award Winner: R J Dutra, Deputy Probation Officer
Certificate: La Sha Hill, Deputy Probation Officer

Outstanding Service/Contribution by a County Mental Health Worker:

Award Winner: Amanda Kuzio, Mental Health Worker, Contra Costa County

Outstanding Service/Contribution by a Law Enforcement Officer:

Award Winner: Tamra Roberts, Detective, Concord Police Department

Certificate: Delon Jackson, Detective, Richmond Police Department

Certificate: Ray Hernandez, Officer, Richmond Police Department

Outstanding Service/Contribution by a Community Adult Volunteer:

Award Winner: Brian Clark, Principal, Prospects High School, Antioch

Outstanding Service/Contribution by a Community Youth Volunteer:

Award Winner: Sabrina Santander, Student, St. Ignatius School

Outstanding Service/Contribution by a Non-Profit Organization:

Award Winner: Rotary Club of Moraga

Outstanding Service/Contribution by a Community-Based Organization:

Award Winner: The RYSE Center, Richmond, CA

Certificate: The City of San Pablo Youth Services Division

Juvenile Offender Success Story:

Award Winners: Mark Dizon and Kris Pham

Inspections

Part of the Commission's mandated purpose is to conduct annual inspections of the juvenile facilities within the County. These include lock up facilities as well as group homes and treatment programs. Following each inspection a report is written by the inspection team and submitted to the presiding judge of the juvenile court and others for review. During the first six months of this reporting period, we developed clear protocols for inspecting facilities as well as our core list of those facilities requiring inspection. During FY 2014-15 11 facilities (combination of facilities) were due to be inspected. Of those, 8 inspections were completed. The number of inspections varies considerably from year to year since group homes are inspected every other year.

Guests

The Commission always welcomes guests to their meetings. In FY 2014-15, on October 20, 2015, Michael Bush from Board of State and Community Corrections, provided training on how to conduct thorough and effective inspections and the operations of their department.

Areas of Interest

As stated in past reports, the Commission has been concerned with the lack of in-custody disposition options for juveniles with mental health illness. Orin Allen Ranch administrators, nursing staff and the juvenile hall administration met with County Behavioral Health to develop a plan for implementing dispensing of medications at the ranch. The commissioners were pleased that the County Behavioral Health and the Probation Department developed a pilot program for youth receiving medications who have not previously been able to be placed at Orin Allen. The pilot program officially started on May 12, 2015 with low side effect medications. Juveniles who were on beta blockers or non-psychotropic medications and more serious medications were not included in this pilot program but would be included over time as systems when are successfully put into place. The commission will continue to monitor the implementation of this program since much effort has gone into its planning. By making prescribed medications

available to youth placed at the ranch. now opens the ranch's rehabilitation program to them. Before, they were excluded.

Events of Interest

During FY 2014-15, the following events involving the Commission are worthy of mentioning.

In order for the public to become more familiar with the Commission, we created a Public Relations role. Our goals are to keep the public informed of what the Commissions are charged with and recruit for membership. In an effort to meet this goal, on April 2, 2015, Commissioner Ron Shaw interviewed with KPFA on the Andres Sota show.

We have been bringing our website up to date. This will be another avenue for the public to learn more about the Commission.

On April 30, 2015, the Commission mailed a letter to Senator Leno regarding his proposed legislation SB 124. The Commission supported the position of decreasing solitary confinement for juveniles to a maximum of four hours but expressed concern for modifying membership qualifications; the requirement of two members must have current or past child/ren in the justice system and one member must be licensed therapist. It is challenging for the Commission to retain a diverse membership and we feel that this would limit our ability to meet this goal.

Conclusions

The Commission's mission is to reduce the delinquent population and keep youth out of the juvenile justice system by:

1. Sponsoring and participating in diversion and prevention activities that steer youth away from entering the juvenile justice system.
2. Supporting programs and systems that can assist youth with mental health and substance abuse issues that may eventually lead to involvement or re-involvement in the juvenile justice system.
3. Promoting education and training for the youth who are involved in the Juvenile Justice System so that they might become responsible citizens, leaving their delinquency behind and becoming successful in completion of their probation as they return and live in their communities.

The Commission continues to work closely with the Probation staff, other youth serving agencies and County organizations to advance and promote innovative delinquency prevention programs. The Commission is fortunate to have a positive relationship with the Juvenile Court Judges and the dedicated staff of the Juvenile Probation Department.

During these past years, the Commission has worked diligently to create an opportunity for its' commissioners (new and tenured) to be an asset in juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.