



JJDPC Quarterly Inter-Agency Meeting  
Minutes

January 12, 2023

Location: Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1)  
2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

AB 2449 – Specific Circumstances Hybrid Option (Microsoft Teams Meeting)

**IN ATTENDANCE (In-Person/Virtual):** Christopher Collopy, Laurel Cook, Natasha Dunlap, Charity Douglas, Elisa Judy, Jennifer Kopfler, Charles Newman, Mark Petersen, Cynthia Magill, Janine Moore, Joelle Moore, Melinda Moore, Jessica Munoz, Paul Parker, Charles Trembley, Tierra Trembley, Pam Torres, Emily Headlee, Norma Biegel, Tammy Wilson, Teresa Spears

**ABSENT:** Micheal Malsed

**GUEST:** N/A

**Applicants:** None

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

- a. The meeting was called to order at 9:41 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).

**3. Riverside County Superior Court - Judge Mark Petersen**

- a. There are three six-hundred court rooms, located in Riverside, Southwest and Indio.  
b. Recent closure of department J2. Current Defensive courts are located in Riverside, Southwest, and Indio.  
c. Closure date for all Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities is slated for June 30, 2023.  
d. Youth from Riverside DJJ will be transitioning to Riverside County between now and June 30, 2023. Some will graduate and be released into the community with probation supervision. Others will need to remain in custody to details for youth to complete their programming will be forthcoming.

**4. District Attorney - Melissa Moore**

- a. Overview/Updates:  
i. Center hub has shifted to the Banning office. It's the most central location that allows for needs to be met by the residents who reside in the Indio, Murrieta, Temecula areas as well as the Riverside and mid-county.  
ii. This year's focus is presentations to youth at schools on gang awareness, bullying, internet safety, and drug awareness, especially when it comes to fentanyl. They have reached out to over 11,000 people about the dangers of fentanyl.  
iii. Partnering Agencies:  
• Safe Family Justice Centers - Provides access to social workers to assist youth with resources, and groups if needed.  
• Girls and Boys Council – To work with youth one-on-one  
• K9 Rachel / K9 Auggie – Provides emotional support for youth in crisis  
b. Anti-Bullying Program:  
i. The District Attorney's office continues to offer presentations and resources to raise awareness to prevent bullying in the school district throughout Riverside County.  
ii. A brief question and answer period ensued on Bullying Prevention for Educators and Staff. It was noted a training program has been developed for educators and staff that addresses bullying prevention

**5. Riverside County Probation - Chief Deputy Probation Officer (CDPO) Elisa Judy**

- a. Highlights/Staffing/ Processes /Projects:  
i. Introduction of Chief Deputy Probation Officer Tari Spear, Field Services.  
ii. Representations from both the Institution and Field now be present to provide updates at the Quarterly JJDPC meetings.  
b. Staffing Updates:  
i. Staffing: The workforce is steadily increasing, six new PCOs were welcomed into the department today.



- ii. Resources have been set in place to ensure new staff are adequately trained to ensure a strong workforce.
- iii. Medical Benefit Subsidies, being offered to current staff and new recruits in an effort to retain and recruit employees.
- iv. Chief Ron Miller has submitted his retirement, and no new chief has been named at this point in time.
- c. Processes Updates:
  - i. YTEC enhancements through Pathways e.g., partnering with Public Defender, Community-based organizations (CBOs) programming, Behavioral Health involvement to ensure youth thrive upon exit of YTEC.
  - ii. With the closure of DJJ in June of 2023, community safety is a main goal, efforts to ensure community safety. Plans for stable opportunities are taking place to ensure youth have successful transition back into the Community, including collaboration with the DA and Public Defender Offices regarding housing.
- d. Project Updates:
  - i. Indio Courthouse is still a work in progress.
  - ii. Exploring a transition location in Indio that would provide more of a campus feel.
  - iii. Within the next sixty days, full body scanners will be installed at the juvenile detention facilities, acting as a deterrent to prevent contraband from entering the facility.
  - iv. Exploring Apple / Fit Bit technology that will allow monitoring of vitals, that would alert staff if vitals drop.
- e. Incident Updates:
  - i. Two possible Fentanyl related incidents (April 2022, and December 2022). For both incidents, staff responded immediately, worked with medical personnel, emergency assistance, 911 was called. The use of Narcan was administered for one of the incidents that occurred. Chair, Collopy, requested notifications resume when a critical incident occurs with youth.
  - ii. Additionally, noted all Juvenile Hall staff are all trained in the use of Narcan, all duty officers and seniors have it in their possession, Narcan is strategically placed throughout the institutions, as well as in the medical units.
  - iii. Further conversation ensued on regulations, training, and waiver for Narcan use in Group Homes. It was noted that Deputy District Attorney Mr. August Sage can provide an informative educational presentation to youth, group home facilities, and the community staff about the dangers of fentanyl.

## **6. Public Defender - Joelle Moore, Office of the Public Defender (Attorney)**

- a. Staffing:
  - i. Ms. Moore, is the lead attorney for The Spark juvenile unit, and is also currently taking over as supervisor for Southwest and the Riverside Juvenile units.
- b. Updates:
  - i. Since March 1st, SPARK (Support, Partnerships, Advocacy and Resources for Kids) has had three hundred six; 306 referrals from clients from the public.
  - ii. The SPARK unit provides coordinated services countywide, and works with the school districts, families, and community partners to build collaborative services between agencies to assist in providing appropriate services and promote positive outcomes for youth. Additionally, The SPARK team has been successful
  - iii. School Districts are reaching out to the SPARK teams regarding AB 740 and 602 petitions. Effective January 1, 2023, requires school districts to notify counsel when 602 juveniles have any type of disciplinary hearing going forward, e.g., suspension, expulsion etc.
  - iv. The SPARK team has formed a partnership with Inland County legal services, to assist with representation of those youth when their office is unable to do so.
  - v. SPARK is embedded in the TAY drop-in centers in partnership with RUHS Behavioral Health, throughout Riverside County.
  - vi. The Public Defender's office just assumed oversight of the Chapman University Restorative Justice Program contract. Previously overseen by Probation.



With the new oversight, the Restorative Justice Program can accept referrals from, Probation, Department of Social Services, RUHS Behavioral Health, Riverside County Schools, as well as from the Public Defender's and District Attorney's Offices.

- vii. Resource event - SPARK provides outreach at Resource Fairs and other community events throughout the county, as well as training to agencies and community-based organizations on how to access our services in Riverside County.

## 7. County Counsel – Emily Headlee

- a. Updates:
  - i. No updates

## 8. Department of Public Social Services - Charity Douglas, Director of Public Social Services

- a. Updates:
  - i. Charity Douglas, introduced herself as the new Director of the Department of Public Social Services.
  - ii. Bridgette Hernandez is now the new Assistant Director for the Children's Services Division. Bridgette remains over DPSS, Veteran Services, Office on Aging Child Support, First Five, and Integrated Services.
  - iii. The county is focused on Integrated Services, and working together with partners who have this universal application process for working with children and families, or seniors, to provide Wraparound services to clients and their families. Integrated Services / Wraparound is designed so that a number of organizations can work together, sharing data to provide a program of, supporting individuals and families.
  - iv. Providing Wraparound Services for youth who have the most significant need. DPSS is working with welcoming centers to provide services for youth with higher needs to get them into placement.
- b. Children's Services Division
  - i. Currently, servicing five thousand 5,000 youth. Three thousand seven hundred; 3,700 youth people are in Foster Homes, and reminders are with their families.
- c. Staffing:
  - i. Continuing to build workforce.
  - ii. Pay increased by 11%, securing pay raises and making other benefit adjustments for Riverside County employees.
  - iii. A new training region has been added for new staff, where, after induction, staff will get hands-on training with a mentor, side by side, to support them in the environment they are working in. The first cohort will be in March, 2023.

## 9. Riverside County Office on Education (RCOE) – Dr. Charles Newman

- a. Updates:
  - i. Enrollment - Two hundred twenty-five students; 225 (Community School, Ninety-seven; 97 (Court School).
    - YTEC - Thirty-five; 35 students (Third grade: 6, Eleventh grade: 19, Twelfth grade: 10).
    - L. D. Smith – Twenty-nine; 29 students (Eighth grade: 1, Ninth grade: 4, Tenth grade: 7, Eleventh grade: 15, Twelfth grade: 2).
    - SWJ – Thirty-three; 33 students (Seventh grade: 1, Ninth grade: 2, Tenth grade: 9, Eleventh grade: 12, Twelfth grade: 9).
- b. Training:
  - i. Fentanyl training – All staff members have been trained
  - ii. Dr. Newman, briefly touched on drug prevention programs, and resources RCOE has throughout the county.
- c. Staffing:
  - i. Increase in Mental Health support, Hiring LCSW, and additional interns for support services to students.
  - ii. Improving instructional program. Instruction coaches are coming in to work with teachers to provide the highest level and highest quality of instruction for our students.



**10. RUHS – Behavioral Health – Janine Moore, Deputy Director of Children's Services**

- a. Updates:
  - i. YTEC Aftercare Program – Working collaboratively to develop a new workflow that addresses or assesses transition needs. Ensuring support and services are in place inclusive of housing and substance use and other mental health services.
  - ii. Provider meetings, held quarterly for over thirty; 30 community-based organizations and school districts, and STRTPs to provide and fund specialty mental health services. She noted the Provider meetings could be used as a forum to share the benefits of training staff, and having Narcan available
  - iii. Narcan is in each of the Behavioral Health clinics and programs. The Narcan training used is done through a YouTube video for Behavioral health staff.
  - iv. Behavioral Health, provides Narcan to consumers and family members as they request, as well as to all behavioral health substance-use consumers, and families. Behavioral Health has no restrictions on providing Narcan to behavioral health clients.
- c. TAY Centers:
  - i. There are three (3) TAY drop in centers, one in each region of the county. Anyone, who wishes to tour one of the centers is more than welcome, and if there is any data that you would like to see out of those centers, feel free to reach out and connect with Janine.
- d. Mobile Crisis Units/Teams:
  - i. Expanding the number of crisis response teams throughout the county. Serving, the community, homes, schools, group homes, and STRTPs etc.
  - ii. Behavioral Health, Community Response Evaluation and Support Team (CREST), and Regional Emergency Assessment at Community Hospitals (REACH) teams have been merged into mobile crisis management.
  - iii. Expansion of the mobile crisis units has given the department the ability to respond to crisis, and divert youth out of emergency departments, Inpatient Treatment Facility (ITF), and into more appropriate levels of care. Janine offered, if it was of interest, to provide mobile crisis information and data, at the next meeting. Commissioner Collopy, requested the Mobile data be provided.

**11. Community Care Licensing – Natasha Dunlap, Licensing Program Manager**

- a. Updates:
  - i. A requirement from the Department of Health required that some of the larger STRTP facilities reduce their capacity. So, towards the end of last quarter, the department processed several requests for STRTPs to reduce the capacity of their facilities in order not to become IMD's. Placement, staffing and care provided for the children didn't change.
  - ii. Some larger facilities split their facilities into two or three smaller facilities, and would be under the required capacity of sixteen and under for each.
  - iii. It was noted that the Department of Health Care Services worked closely with each STRTP across the state to do an evaluation to determine if they met the criteria for an IMDs. There were only three (3) in the entire state that were deemed IMDs. In Riverside county there were a few STRTPs that did reduce capacity to avoid that determination. Other STRTPs were able to work with The Department of Health Care Services to figure out how to individualize their cottages so not to have to reduce capacity.

**12. Voices for Children – Jessica Muñoz, Executive Director**

- a. Updates:
  - i. Ms. Muñoz, noted she is the Executive Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. A CASA is a volunteer who is specially trained to advocate for children and youths in the foster care system. CASA, volunteers are appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interests of a neglected or abused child.
  - ii. Voices for Children (VFC), is the nonprofit in Riverside County that recruits, trains and provides ongoing support and supervision to those volunteers, and is now the seventh largest CASA program in the state. Voices for Children (VFC), is also authorized to provide CASA volunteers for children in San Diego county.



- iii. Children served last year was four hundred eighty-six; 486. The number of children served thus far this year is three-hundred eighty-nine; 389.
- iv. VFC currently has two-hundred fifty nine volunteers who are actively serving the youth in the community. All CASAs go through an extensive background check, makes a minimum commitment of at least 18 months, completes thirty-five (35) hours of training; average service is 10-15 hours per month.
- v. Brief discussion on data and stats for volunteers and the youth they serve, the need to recruit more male volunteers, and volunteers in general from all walks of life are needed to serve the community.
- vi. Judge Petersen, noted that he has had the pleasure of attending VFC's graduation ceremonies, and meeting the wonderful people who have volunteered their time. Furthermore, Judge Petersen announced to the group that Ms. Muñoz was named the 2022 Juvenile Law Attorney of the Year by the Riverside County Bar Association.

#### 5. Operation Safe House, Inc - Norma Biegel

- a. Updates/Highlights:
  - i. Operation SafeHouse operates two (2) emergency shelters located in Riverside and Thousands Palms for youth 11 to 17 years of age. Youth staying at either shelter attend school, and receive counseling (family and individual).
  - ii. The Riverside facility served ninety-five youth, from July through December. Number of bed nights for Riverside totaled, eight hundred eighty; 880. The Thousand Palms facility served forty-eight; 48 youth, July through December, with the number of bed nights being, six hundred three; 603.
  - i. January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Operation SafeHouse offers programs to youth who are victims of human trafficking.
  - ii. What's Up SafeHouse is a downloadable mobile phone Text/APP for youth that offers free, anonymous counseling 24 hours per day, 7 days a week by text-communication, from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm.
  - iii. Operation SafeHouse provides Street Outreach throughout Riverside County, and offers several behavioral health programs, e.g., Peer to Peer services, Stress and Your Mood SAYM, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT, and the Seeking Safety Program. And will be participating in the Riverside County Point-in-Time count.
  - iv. Additionally, Operation SafeHouse partners with Safe Place which provides immediate help and supportive resources for youth in need. The program designates schools, fire stations, libraries, and other youth-friendly organizations as Safe Place locations, which display the Safe Place's recognizable yellow and black diamond-shaped logo.
- e. Staffing Update:
  - i. P.T. McEwen has been hired as the new Executive Director for Operation SafeHouse. In addition to the new Executive Director, a new bookkeeper has been hired.
  - ii. Staffing remains a challenge. However, they were recently, able to offer staff a 3% raise.
- f. Funding:
  - i. The Correctional Department provided approximately two-thousand dollars' worth of squish mellow. Squish mellow are used as tool to help youth handle anxiety, stress, and other strong emotions.

#### 13. Oak Grove Center – Tammy Wilson

- a. Updates:
  - i. December 31st was the deadline to become an IMD. Discussion of models, and lengthy conversations between DHCS and Oak Grove was mutually agreed upon, that it was not a feasible option for reconstruction and reformatting to avoid the IMD destination.
  - ii. Oak Grove is now an IMD, and still maintains their STRTP license. Tammy noted that payment for ancillary services e.g., medical, dental, pharmacy benefits will not be impacted by DHC compliance with federal IMD requirements, and is included in the States Medicaid estimated in the 22/23 budget through June 2023.



b. Population:

- i. Oak Grove continues to serve DPSS, managed care, school districts, adoptions, and a couple of refugee minors. All is going relatively well.
- ii. Continuous Operation of Oak Grove's Sanctuary in Palm Springs, which is an THP house program that focuses on the LGBTQ plus population. Oak Grove would now like to start adding some apartments for non-minor dependents in the higher age category. If anyone would like more information, contact Tammy at Oak Grove.
- iii. The partial hospitalization program is at fifteen. Youths that are blended into the nonprofit school on campus that a few dependent students attend, most of the dependents go to public school.
- iv. Ms. Wilson noted she will continue to peruse information on how to obtain the Narcan waiver, and keep everyone posted.

**14. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 11:36am**

**15. Next Meeting:**

Date: April 13, 2023

Time: 9:30 am

Location: Rustin Conference Center (Entrance 1)

Room # 1056