

# DJJ Realignment Subcommittee (SB 823/W&I 1995)

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)

Minutes

August 3, 2021

## 1) CALL TO ORDER:

- a. Chief Probation Officer, Wayne Barley, called the meeting of the DJJ Realignment Subcommittee to order at 9:01 a.m., on August 3, 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted via a Zoom video/phone-in conference.
- b. Introduction of membership.

### List of DJJ Subcommittee Members Present

Wayne Barley – Chief Probation Officer, Butte County Probation Department  
Melissa Romero – Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Butte County Probation Department  
Amy Asher – Program Manager, Butte County Probation Department  
Heather Chavez – Alliance for Workforce Development  
Ron Reed – Attorney, Butte County Public Defender  
Nino Pinocchio – Superintendent, Butte County Juvenile Hall  
Mariah Ruddy - Supervising Counselor, Butte County Juvenile Hall  
Tara Zampa – Supervising Counselor, Butte County Juvenile Hall  
Debbie Morris - Butte Community Based Coalition/Butte County Office of Education  
Michelle Hinkle – Program Analyst, Butte County Department of Employment & Social Services  
Nick Catomerisios – Alternative Education Director and Principal of Table Mountain School, Butte County Office of Education  
Teresa Ward – Butte College  
Rashell Brobst – Boys and Girls Club  
Joe Hejl – Boys and Girls Club  
Amber Bravo – Court Operations Manager, Butte County Superior Court  
Scott Kennelly – Director, Butte County Behavioral Health  
Mike Ramsey – District Attorney, Butte County District Attorney’s Office  
Leonard Goldkind – Deputy District Attorney, Butte County District Attorney’s Office  
Shawnie Hurte – Supervising Administrative Analyst, Butte County Probation Department  
Joaquin Jordan – Contracted Counselor, Butte County Probation and Youth for Change  
Sarah Feingold – Director of Behavioral Health Programs, Youth for Change  
Maria Leon – Northern Valley Catholic Social Services

- c. Review of previous subcommittee minutes from June 1, 2021. No changes were noted.
- d. Wayne Barley noted the composition of this subcommittee is compliant with the criteria and requirements set forth by statute. The subcommittee advises the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, which is the voting body.

## 2) UPDATES/MEETING FOCUS:

- a. BSCC Facilities Grant: Update on Regional Hubs, adjustment to grant award, discussion regarding use of additional funds.
  - i) Amy Asher provided a review and update of the BSCC Facilities Grant. She advised the group that three regional hubs were initially awarded funding under this grant; however, one county subsequently relinquished their award. Fresno and Sonoma Counties will each host a regional hub, and these hubs will both address youth adjudicated for sex offenses. It was initially hoped there would be five regional hubs, and that mentally ill youthful offenders and female youthful offenders would be addressed. At this time, there are no regional hubs for mentally ill youthful offenders or female youth.
    - (1) Given the reduction in the number of regional hubs, Butte County will receive additional funding. Total Butte County funding under this grant is approximately \$167,000.00.
    - (2) Mike Ramsey asked how many sex offenders would be housed at the two regional hubs. Amy Asher and Wayne Barley each indicated there are no exact figures at this time. Wayne Barley noted there might be programs in other counties that are specialized for female or mentally ill youth; however, those programs are not using the regional hub format.
    - (3) The initial BSCC funding of approximately \$47,000.00 was allocated to purchase a gang curriculum, to create a more home-like environment in the CSP pod, and to pay for the Dr. Bruce Perry training. At this time, some ideas for allocation of the additional funds include fully funding enhanced security fencing to create an outdoor recreation area, purchasing a secure transport vehicle for evacuations and medical appointments, and creating a multisensory de-escalation room.
      - (a) Amy Asher showed a brief video of a multisensory de-escalation room created by Sacramento County Probation at the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility.
        - (i) Michelle Hinkle noted she loves the idea of the de-escalation room. She asked how staffing would work and how youth in need of the room will be identified. Amy Asher noted planning is preliminary, but she hopes there would be a pre-assessment of youth entering the facility, including an evaluation of trauma history and triggers. She hopes a referral system could be designed for the space, with opportunities to use the room spontaneously as needed.
        - (ii) Nino Pinocchio indicated staff members could make referrals to the de-escalation room, and the Juvenile Hall Case Manager may be a part of that process. His goal is that any staff members who are selected to supervise a particular youth in the de-escalation room will be identified based upon their history of demonstrating a good rapport with that youth.

(iii) Ron Reed noted there was a “rubber room” at the old Juvenile Hall that was used for de-escalation, and he thinks the current approach is more humane and therapeutic. Amy Asher noted the current planning is trauma-informed and evidence-based, and they hope to give the youth tools to handle their triggers in a healthy way.

b. SB 823 Consortium: Update on SB 823 County Collaboration

i) An SB 823 Consortium is currently under development. The purpose is to provide high quality secure youth programming for any youth who would have previously been committed to DJJ. The Consortium is a joint workgroup with the shared principles of: (1) ensuring secure-track placement options are available when required by the juvenile court judge; (2) ensuring sufficient specialized treatment and programming options exist at the local level for high need youth, and that these programs have the confidence of the judges; and (3) tracking the availability of high-quality programs in different regions that are culturally responsive, trauma-informed, evidence-based, age appropriate, as close to home as possible, centered on youth and family engagement, and based on positive youth development.

(1) Short-term goals of the Consortium are: (1) facilitating the placement of youth outside of their home county, as needed; (2) standardizing MOUs between counties; and (3) establishing pricing guidelines.

(2) Long-term goals of the Consortium include: (1) ensuring appropriate treatment capacity exists across the state; (2) providing training and technical assistance to support implementation efforts; and (3) continuing to assist with clarifying the role of state agencies, including BSCC and OYCR.

(3) Wayne Barley noted Butte County will handle our own traditional offenders, which represent the majority of youth historically committed to DJJ. The Consortium will help facilitate the placement of high needs or female youth in regional hubs, with the goal of keeping those youth as close to their county of origin as possible. The Consortium is supported by the major probation organizations.

c. DJJ Parole/Reentry Partnership: Review recent best practices and collaboration with DJJ regarding the reentry process.

i) DJJ recently released a plan to collaborate with probation agencies to revamp their re-entry program for existing DJJ youth. They have outlined best practices to partner with probation departments as early as possible in the re-entry process, including during initial case reviews, at case conferences, and during re-entry planning. Butte County still has five youth at DJJ who will benefit from these services, and an officer will be assigned to collaborate with DJJ.

d. Update on Juvenile Hall physical upgrades, DJJ Implementation Plan draft, and brief update on Working Teams (Dispositional Track, Restorative Justice)

i) The plan to create a home-like CSP pod at the Juvenile Hall is ongoing. Painting is almost complete, and furniture and rugs have been ordered.

- ii) The gang curriculum was purchased and received.
- iii) An RFP was recently released to contract with a Mental Health Clinician for the CSP program.
- iv) Staff training is ongoing.
- v) Working teams are ongoing with respect to the following topics:
  - (1) Dispositional track following SB 92. This working team includes representatives from the Court.
  - (2) Restorative justice meetings.
    - (a) Mike Ramsey asked if the Victim Assistance Bureau is involved in restorative justice meetings. Amy Asher confirmed Monica O'Neil is involved in the meetings.
  - (3) An internal SB 823 DJJ realignment team at Probation meets as needed. This team's work includes developing evidence-based strategies to address both CSP youth and youth on traditional probation.

### 3) **PRESENTATIONS:**

- a. None.
- b. Wayne Barley noted the overall plan for SB 823 will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in the coming months, prior to the January submission deadline. There will likely be a larger JJCC meeting in September or October.

### 4) **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

- a. Sarah Feingold asked if there has been consideration of a youth joining the group as an advisory member.
  - i) Amy Asher noted there have been discussions within the Probation Department and they were unable to generate interest from youth. A youth who is currently detained at Juvenile Hall provided notes and suggestions.
- b. Sarah Feingold expressed appreciation for the presentation regarding the de-escalation room. She suggested offering de-escalation resources for staff members as well in order to promote overall trauma-informed care. Michelle Hinkle agreed that staff members need the tools to regulate themselves in order to help youth practice regulation. Nino Pinocchio noted staff de-escalation is a priority and he is actively searching for additional training and resources. He is open to ideas from the group.

5) **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- a. None.

6) **NEXT STEPS/HOMEWORK:**

- a. Discussion regarding the next meeting time/meeting frequency.
  - i) Amy Asher suggested meeting every other month. She hopes to have the draft SB 823 plan edited and distributed to the subcommittee prior to October. The subcommittee could meet on October 5, 2021, to review and approve the plan prior to it going to the JJCC for review and vote. There were no concerns raised with respect to the next meeting date.
- b. In-person meeting or continue Zoom format.
  - i) Amy Asher polled the subcommittee regarding transitioning to an in-person/hybrid meeting format versus continuing to meet via Zoom. The majority of the subcommittee expressed a preference for the meetings to continue in a Zoom format.

7) **ADJOURNMENT: 9:44 a.m.**

Minutes submitted by S. Miller of Butte County Probation.