

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
MINUTES

September 27, 2023

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

4:00 p.m. –5:00 p.m.

J2 Courtroom

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Committee Present: Gina Johnson, Probation; Cheryl Fox, Behavioral Health, Judge Romero, Juvenile Court; Judge Inumerable, Juvenile Court; Betty Ham, City Impact; Claudia Bautista; Public Defender; Supervisor Vianey Lopez, 5th District; Consuelo Williams, VCOE; Kevin Drescher, District Attorney; James Importante, CEO; Denise Morehouse, VCLECC; Rigoberto Vargas, Public Health; Melissa Livingston, Human Services Agency.

Absent

James Fryhoff, Sheriff; Supervisor Jeff Gorell, 2nd District; Jennifer Lopardo, JJDCP

Discussion/Conclusions	Recommendations/Actions
<p>1) Welcome/Announcements Gina called the meeting to order at 4:01pm. Committee members and members of the audience introduced themselves to the group.</p>	
<p>2) Approval of the JJCC Meeting Minutes Dated June 28, 2023 Motion to approve minutes as submitted. Moved by Judge Romero. 12 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions. Motion approved.</p>	
<p>3) Public Comments Betty Ham announced that John Garcia replaced Pam Darcy at City Impact. She introduced John to the group. Betty announced that she will be retiring at the end of 2023. She joined the JJCC in 1998.</p>	
<p>4) Vote to Approve JJCC FY24 Budget Mark Howe presented the FY24 budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total expenditures - 5.3M. • Roughly 960k over approved budget for FY23. This is due to a small increase in the DA budget for salaries and benefits and adding in a \$1M project budget, for the JJCC subcommittee to be able to use to fill gaps in services. • Revenue – state allocation has been pretty stable. There might be a dip due to vehicle license fees; however, we haven’t seen the dip yet. We have a 5 year plan for lowering the trust balance and that plan factors in a 15% decrease thinking we’ll see a delayed hit in revenue. • Growth funds are projected to be \$1.9M. • Interest income – increased 85k. <p>Mark noted that the budget does not include recent salary increases for the public health nurses. He recommends we move forward with this budget. It is anticipated that the increase will be covered either with the project budget or by the underspend in other areas of the budget. Trust fund balance – Over the last several years we’ve seen this balance increase significantly. A couple years ago we put together the subcommittee to research and come up with new programs and services to start using this trust fund balance. Discussion regarding whether CBOs should be on subcommittee due to potential conflict of interest. Gina to look into this and bring back information to the group. Melissa moved to approve the FY24 budget. Kevin seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.</p>	<p>Gina to look into whether CBOs should be on the subcommittee due to a potential conflict of interest.</p>
<p>5) JJCC Program Review & Development Subcommittee Update Chris presented the JJCC subcommittee recommendations.</p>	

Discussion/Conclusions	Recommendations/Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris explained that Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) are now supervised in the juvenile division and hopes that this group will agree to allow JJCPA funds to be used for programming for this age group. Chris gave a brief history of JJCPA and explained the regulations around what the funds can be used for. The regulations do not specify what age 'juvenile' refers to. He added that subsequent to SB823, the Juvenile Facilities now houses youth up to age 25, and also allows for people to remain on juvenile probation through age 25. Chris discussed why TAY youth are being handled differently than in the past. Juvenile justice treats youth more leniently due to 1) poor decision making and impulse control; 2) susceptibility to peer influence; and 3) underdeveloped frontal lobe until age 25. SB 823 is reflective of this. Probation's juvenile field unit recently added 2 adult TAY caseloads, and plans to add 2 additional TAY caseloads, resulting in nearly all TAYs being supervised in the juvenile division (approximately 220). Chris added that County Counsel did not say JJCPA funds could <i>not</i> be used for TAY, but noted that there was specific funding for that population (SB 823 funds). BSCC did not provide explicit guidelines either. Melissa and Kevin expressed concerns regarding using JJCPA funds for TAY due to the fact that we do not have official approval to do so. Discussion ensued. There was general support for this idea but the group would like more information before moving forward. Chris to research this further by looking into what other counties are doing. Gina will reach out to CPOC and their legislative analyst. Chris will share information with the group prior to the next meeting. Chris reported that the JJCC previously voted to approve funding for additional youth advocates. The contract was awarded to Interface, and the funding amount resulted in 1.5 youth advocates. There is a need for 2 full time youth advocates, so the subcommittee is recommending increasing the contract from \$128k to \$173k. Melissa moved to approve an additional \$45k to the Interface youth advocate contract. Denise seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. All in favor; motion approved. Chris reported that JJCC subcommittee is recommending increasing funding for One Step a La Vez's youth advisory council budget by \$8k, and increasing funding for the ERC by \$33k. This is for additional staff, field trips, and transportation costs. Rigo moved to approve an additional \$8k to One Step a La Vez's Youth Advisory Council contract (\$28k to \$36k). Betty seconded the motion. All in favor; motion approved. Valerie moved to approve an additional \$33k to One Step a La Vez's Evening Reporting Center Contract (\$145k to \$178k). Kevin seconded the motion. All in favor; motion approved. <p>Gina added that the RRC is having a graduation on November 9th at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura. If anyone is interested in attending, please email Rosa or Gina. This is a heartwarming event.</p>	<p>Chris to research using JJCPA funds for TAY issue further by looking into what other counties are doing.</p> <p>Gina to reach out to CPOC and their legislative analyst.</p> <p>Chris will share information with the group prior to the next meeting.</p>
<p>6) Meeting Adjourned at 4:55pm. Next meeting: December 13, 2023 at 4pm.</p>	