

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
Program Review and Development Subcommittee
MINUTES**

January 13, 2025

NEXT MEETING:

February 10, 2025

3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

JJCC Subcommittee Members Present: Chris Modica, Maureen Byrne, Michael Rodriguez, Veronica Martinez, Dr. Thomas Taylor, Noe Villa

Other meeting attendees: Gabriel Candelario, Jazmin Gavilanes, Marcos Aviles, Felix Gamez, Doheen Pratt, Daniel Ramirez, Dillan Alvarez, Tim Hagel, Kate English, Shawna Hunt

Discussion/Conclusions	Recommendations/Actions	Responsible
<p>1. Call to Order Chris Modica called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.</p>		
<p>2. Announcements None</p>		
<p>3. Public Comments for Items not on the agenda None heard. None received telephonically or via email.</p>		
<p>4. Approval of the November 18, 2024, meeting minutes Maureen moved to approve the November 18, 2024, meeting minutes; Michael seconded the motion. All in favor; minutes approved.</p>		
<p>5. Discuss and vote to recommend to the JJCC, increased funding (currently \$36K) for One Step A La Vez Youth Advisory Council, not to exceed \$73,500 annually. Jazmin Gavilanes and Gabriel Candelario presented an update on successes achieved with the One Step A La Vez Evening Reporting Center (ERC) and Youth Advisory Council (YAC). A request for increased funding for YAC services is based on an increasing number of new referrals which require additional staffing for larger, more frequent meetings. New budget line items were proposed for Events aimed at building relationships between youth and law enforcement and Supplies to foster educational success. Desired outcomes from expansion of the YAC include increased opportunities for youth to participate in youth-focused resource fairs/summits, field trips, and collaboration opportunities throughout Ventura County. Chris noted the funding request is specific to YAC. He also acknowledged the work being done to repair relationships with law enforcement and providing food and a safe place for all youth.</p> <p>Motion to recommend to the JJCC, increased funding (currently \$36K) for One Step A La Vez Youth Advisory Council, not to exceed \$73,500 annually; 5 votes to approve; 1 abstention; motion approved.</p>		
<p>6. Discuss and vote to recommend to the JJCC, funding for the MANDO Strength, Grit, Growth, and Resiliency Program, not to exceed \$199,000 annually. Marcos Aviles, Executive Director of MANDO, along with members of the MANDO Team, gave an overview of the Newbury Park based organization formed specifically to work with youth at risk of being influenced by gangs. The presenters, all former gang members who served time together, spoke of their lived experience in the juvenile justice system and their desire to stop youth from going down the gang path. They are seeing positive results from their youth center, where they provide many services and programs, including athletics, free haircuts, educational opportunities, life skills classes, and more. They volunteer at the JF, mentoring youth to prepare them for successful re-entry into the community, working with community partners to assist with job placement upon release. MANDO sees 40 gang members a week at night-time meetings for which there are speakers, free meals,</p>		

Discussion/Conclusions	Recommendations/Actions	Responsible
<p>and a parent program. They've seen consistent and increasing interest in participation and involvement in the program. Participation and retention are being tracked with plans to increase the scope of data collection if there's funding to help with the cost of personnel and operational needs. Enthusiastic support for MANDO's request for funding was voiced by several community members, including Sgt. Dillan Alvarez, Thousand Oaks PD (TOPD), and Tim Hagel, ret. Chief, TOPD.</p> <p>Comments and questions were taken from the panel members. Referrals come from Canoga Valley Unified School District, Probation, Sheriff, Safe Passage, or any organization with youth. Discussion ensued about long-term plans, including transportation for youth and building capacity. MANDO is moving to a larger location and can operate 24/7 if they want to. After youth turn 18, the long-term thought is to employ them at MANDO and give them flexibility to go to school or pursue other interests. Noe pointed out that relationships heal. Mentors and role model relationships show youth what a good father, brother, etc. looks like.</p> <p>Motion to recommend to the JJCC, funding for the MANDO Strength, Grit, Growth, and Resiliency Program, not to exceed \$199,000 annually; 5 votes to approve; 1 abstention; motion approved.</p>		
<p>6. Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veronica – Parenting Class being held at the end of this month. Will send flyer. • Veronica – Received a \$2M grant for PHNs to work with moms and babies, funding a mobile program called Baby Steps to Wellness. • Noe – Seeing an uptick in runaways, drugs, etc. Trying to realign and keep youth safe by bringing all agencies together. 		
<p>7. Adjourned – Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.</p>		