

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

September 8, 2025

NEXT MEETING:

October 13, 2025

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

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

Other meeting attendees: Shawna Hunt, Sylvia Rodriguez, Curtis Heath, Pat Kennealy, Linda McKenzie

Discussion/Conclusions	Recommendations/ Actions	Responsible
1. Call to Order Chris Modica called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.		
2. Announcements None.		
3. Public Comments for Items not on the agenda None heard. None received telephonically or via email.		
4. Presentations from JJCCPA funded programs on the efficacy of their program/service. ANEW Therapeutic Services: Leesl Herman, presented an overview of ANEW Therapeutic Services which provides treatment and therapy for juveniles and transitional-age youth (TAY) with sexual behavior problems. Services are provided at the Juvenile Facility (JF) and in the community. In addition to treatment and therapy, these include family reunifications, family counseling, and the Responsible Adult program. In the last two years, 34 clients were served. ANEW has three MFTs working with Ventura County youth, one in county and two out of county providing services remotely. California currently doesn't have a certification for treatment of adolescents, only adults, for which all are certified. Guidelines for the treatment of adolescents came out in the last 5 years and are being followed. Juveniles usually meet their treatment goals in under a year and have a lower recidivism rate than adults for sexual offense crimes. Research shows juvenile sex offense recidivism rates are in the single digits. Group therapy is provided for about 90% of clients. Youth in the JF have individual therapy for one hour each week while in custody (virtual only), then transition to treatment in the community. Data collection: ANEW doesn't have access to client court records that would indicate whether the program is effective in preventing recidivism. Measuring success of the program is based on assessments, treatment goals set, reduction in risks, and how clients do in the program. Discussion ensued about possible ways to track clients long-term. Panel would like to see better reporting of basic statistics, such as outcomes, how many youth served, what is being tracked, and what they're delivering. Chris noted challenges faced by ANEW. JF treatments are being provided virtually at the moment. ANEW is looking for a replacement for the person who did in-person therapy. The Responsible Adult program has not been offered to probation youth for almost 1 year. ANEW has not had staff to provide the curriculum which is tailored to each client. ANEW hopes to train someone by the end of the year. ANEW has been flexible in providing treatment and maintaining a good working relationship with probation. Prices have not been increased since the contract began. Current contract amount - \$85,000/annually.	Research on juveniles having lower sex offense recidivism rates will be sent by the end of the week. Information about what is being looked at for reduction in risks will be sent by the end of the week.	Leesl Herman Leesl Herman

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Forever Found: Connie Shelton, Executive Vice President, and Darlene Chandler, Director of Youth Services, presented an overview of Forever Found. Their focus is on trafficking prevention, rescue, and restoration of child trafficking victims, helping them make a different life for themselves. Youth served are between age 12-24, and former participants can come back when they're older to be mentored, give back to the program, and provide peer support. Services provided beyond probation are not billed. Holistic therapy programs such as art, equine, fitness, self-care, and therapy, provide new experiences in safe environments and help youth form healthy friendships. CSEC mentoring is provided to ensure youth don't return to the lifestyle. Becoming Me Mentorship Curriculum, which was created by survivors, is a trauma-informed intervention curriculum all staff will be trained to use. Survivor mentor training starts 9/15/25 for 5 weeks and is a requirement for case management and volunteers to understand trauma informed care. Word on the Street program is a prevention curriculum to empower participants and provide them with tools to prevent them from unknowingly becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation. During Fiscal Year 2024-25, 122 probation youth were served, but these are not unique contacts. This calendar year there have been 9 referrals. Forever Found is on all middle school and high school campuses for safe visits and meeting individually with youth. Some youth are identified through SARB meetings or referred by counselors and school wellness. Property was acquired in Moorpark (The Ranch) with plans to build housing for youth for temporary placement. Will be done in the next 2 years. Forecast 8 girls on premises and up to 8 TAY. There will be equine and holistic therapies on the ranch for youth to go through recovery until they are ready to go back into the community. Current contract amount - \$52,833/annually. Chris submits the annual Data Expenditure Report for YOBG and JJCPA programs with outcome descriptions written by providers. Reports are on the OYCR website.		
5. Approval of the August 11, 2025, meeting minutes Maureen moved to approve the August 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Michael seconded the motion. 5 in favor, 1 abstention; minutes approved.		
6. Roundtable • Veronica – Breakthrough Parenting classes will start 10/21/25, virtual only, bilingual. Any community member can attend; not restricted to SARB families. Will provide flyer. • Chris - LIFT Expansion update: Almost 20 referrals were sent beginning 9/1/25. Open in Oxnard and Ventura.		
7. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.		