



SACRAMENTO COUNTY JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

<http://www.probation.saccounty.net>

Carole D'Elia
Chair

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION SUMMARY OF MINUTES August 20, 2013

Present	Caliph Assagai	Jane Claar	Carole D'Elia
	Dennis Dulay	Hillary Gaines	Carroll Schroeder
	Dr. Daniel Okada	Ty Nguyen	Gwendolyn Jackson Tucker
	Jerry Flynn	Dr. Virginia Maulfair	Brian Lee
	Chief Lee Seale		
Guests:	Francis Guzman, National Center for Youth Law Richard Cohen, Restorative Schools Vision Project		
Absent:	Frederick Mills	Dr. Bill Lane	Heyman Matlock

Action

1. **Call to Order:**

A quorum was present. The meeting convened at 10:36 a.m.

2. **Approval of the Summary of Minutes:** Commissioner Okada motioned to accept the Summary of Minutes from the July meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Assagai and approved by the Commission.

3. **Announcements:** None.

Public Comment

4. Attorney Francis Guzman from the National Center for Youth Law attended the meeting and presented information on his work reducing "direct files" (the practice of prosecuting youth in the adult criminal justice system) in California counties. He is an advocate for alternative sentencing and local treatment for youth charged with serious offenses. In his own experience as a youthful offender in the California Youth Authority (CYA) system, he felt there were very few reentry services. He has identified the top 10 "direct file" counties, which includes Sacramento. Currently he is working with Ventura, to develop alternatives to direct filing and expand intensive services in the community. He has not approached the District Attorney in Sacramento yet. Commissioner Assagai noted he will be reaching out to Supervisor Serna on the subject. Commissioner Flynn asked him to include Supervisor Nottoli. Commissioner Gaines suggested also including Supervisor Yee who serves the South Area.
5. Attorney Richard Cohen from the Restorative Schools Vision Project (RSVP) presented information on the restorative justice model. Mr. Cohen has extensive experience in New Zealand with Family Group Conferencing. He has been an attorney for over 40 years. He trained the first

group of Family Group Conferencing participants and represented the youth in New Zealand. In New Zealand, the groups are facilitated by social workers. In the United States, the process has been focused in schools working toward alternative punishments and reentry. There are videos available online that show a supportive reentry circle from Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY). The impact for youth is made when they see how all players, victims, parents, friends etc. were affected by their behavior. Commissioner Assagai offered to send the commissioners the link to the video. Commissioner Jackson Tucker mentioned there was also a documentary on television recently regarding Restorative Justice in New Zealand. Mr. Cohen stated that Sacramento City Unified is committing to implement RSVP social/emotional learning and it will be included in the common core training. Eduardo Aguilar is partnering with Sacramento City Unified developing after school programs.

Discussion

6. The following research materials were provided: 1) *“Whose Kids Are these?” Juvenile Justice And Education Partnerships Using Restorative Justice To End The “School-To-Prison Pipeline”* by Mara Schiff and Gordon Bazemore, 2) *Neighborhood Accountability Boards: The Strength Of Weak Practices and Prospects For A “Community Building” Restorative Model* by Mara Schiff, Gordon Bazemore, and Martha Brown, 3) *Preventing and Reducing Youth Crime And Violence Using Evidence Based Practices* prepared by Peter Greenwood for the Governor’s Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy, 4) *Beyond Inspections: What commissions Can Do And Have Done*. Commissioner Assagai led the discussion on best practices in delinquency prevention, volunteer/community prevention programs, and what types of activities other Delinquency Prevention Commissions are undertaking throughout the state. He noted the Commission has limited power to “do” so he believes the roll of the Commission is to endorse programs and bring County leaders together to create partnerships and drive the process. He gave the example of looking at in-school discipline practices that can lead to delinquency such as high suspension rates. He suggested the Commission could bring schools and Probation together to look at these types of “push out’ factors and current data. Commissioner Assagai also noted the Commission could promote community based programs such as Neighborhood Accountability Boards and other after school, prevention programs. Commissioner Gaines noted that there would need to be a balanced perspective that does not pit programs against families and a clear picture of how these ideas would intersect with current Probation programs. Brian Lee agreed some cases would be diverted if there were stronger responses at school. He also noted independent study is problematic for probation as there is no expectation for youth to attend school. Youth end up with idle time which can lead to further delinquent behaviors. Commissioner Dulay suggested a presentation about the Cares Program on campuses. Commissioner Claar said Twin Rivers started the Cares Program last year. She will check into bringing statistics to the Commission. She also suggested connecting with the AB922 committee as there are representatives from each district on that committee. Commissioner Dulay thought the victimology course he was involved with when he worked at the CYA was a powerful program. He would like to see more programs that promote victim awareness/empathy from offenders. Commissioner Dulay suggested victimology start in schools with bullying. Commissioner Claar stated that schools have begun the process to address bullying in schools through AB9. All school personnel including bus drivers, kitchen staff, teachers etc. are being trained. There will be a plan in place to address victims, aggressors and by-standers. Commissioner Okada noted that restorative justice is a philosophy, not necessarily a specific program so each jurisdiction may have different strategies. Chair D’Elia agreed with the concept of starting with schools. Due to time limitations, she suggested the conversation continue in October with a discussion of next steps.

Future Agenda Items

The conversation regarding best practices in delinquency prevention, volunteer/community prevention programs, and what types of activities other Delinquency Prevention Commissions are undertaking throughout the state will continue in October.

PLEASE NOTE: The October meeting will be held on Wednesday October 16, 2013.

NEXT MEETING: ~~September 17, 2013~~ Cancelled

Commissioner Dulay motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gaines seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Documents pertaining to agenda items will be made available for public inspection at the Sacramento County Probation Department Administration Office, 9750 Business Park Drive, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95827 or online at <http://www.probation.saccounty.net>