

Multi Agency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council



Minutes of May 26, 2016

Note Taker: Lauren Miranda

Members in Attendance: Bill Damiano, Garry Eagles, Sacha Marini, Kevin Robinson, Stephen Watson, and Bill Daniel

Other Attendees: Jody Green, Joanne Carter, and Megan Gotcher

I. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES:

Bill Damiano called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm and initiated a round of self-introductions.

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:

There were no adjustments made to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for 2/25/16:

No additions, deletions, corrections or revisions were suggested.

Bill Daniel moved to approve the minutes. Capt. Stephen Watson seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the votes were as follows:

Aye: Bill Damiano, Kevin Robinson, Capt. Watson, Bill Daniel, Garry Eagles

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The motion was carried.

V. PROGRAM (10-15minutes):

None.

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Membership Update – *Bill Damiano*

Bill Damiano stated there are some vacancies to fill and that they are looking for a youth perspective in the MAJJCC meetings.

B. Juvenile Hall Construction Update – *Bill Damiano*

Bill Damiano reported that Probation has just received state approval to go out to bid. Probation is hoping to break ground this fall.

C. **Discussion juvenile gang involvement being experienced - All**

Before this meeting, Bill Damiano sent out a questionnaire and asked that people be prepared with responses to the questions.

Discussion:

Joanne Carter reported a dramatic increase in juvenile gang involvement with her clients. She predicted about 75% of their youths/clients are gang involved.

Megan Gotcher stated that there are a lot of concerns on probation's end. Examples included having to keep certain groups separated in Juvenile Hall and not having enough programs in regards to juvenile gang involvement.

Capt Watson reported that EPD has sent two officers to a gang training to become involved with the Gang Task Force. He also stated that his department has seen a surge in gang activity in Humboldt County. Watson reported that there have been two murders in the past year involving juvenile gang affiliates. There has also been a high increase in gang related charges with juveniles including: weapon possession, assaults, drugs, and most importantly, the amount of guns that EPD is getting off of people. Watson said that illegal gun possession is at an all-time high and that almost every single gang member is carrying one.

Bill Damiano discussed that there has been a surge in violence/fights in juvenile hall and that some of the gang involved kids are less receptive to staff efforts to deter violence. There is a problem of both male and female youths actively trying to get booked into Juvenile Hall so they can see their significant others or friends. Furthermore, youths on probation are not always discussing their gang involvement with their POs. It is often difficult to work with these youths once they are already gang involved. Probation can do little to change their attitude or behavior without supportive programming. There is limited information available pertaining to the use of EBPs for gang behaviors. Juvenile POs will continue to utilize EPICS to attempt to impact youths with antisocial attitudes and beliefs.

stated that Probation has officers interested in participating in the Gang Task Force if it is resurrected by law enforcement.

Jennifer Fairbanks reported that there are 200 kids enrolled in continuation schools and about 45 of them (that she knew of) were gang involved. Of those 45, 32 were significantly involved, and 13 of them were on the edge of serious gang involvement. Of these kids comes a huge attendance problem because they are spending all of their time with their gang related friends. Jennifer stated that there seems to be a false perception that these kids are "not really" gangsters and that the public doesn't take it seriously. She reported that she has seen a rise in heroin issues/use but no rise in gun issues on school campus. They do however see kids with guns on social media.

Solutions:

Capt. Watson asked what we can all do to impact immediate results to reduce gang violence and affiliation amongst the youth in this county.

Jennifer Fairbanks suggested that we provide the kids with someone to speak with to create a relationship with who is not involved with law enforcement or probation. Perhaps an ex gang member.

Bill Damiano stated that we need to help these youth develop exit plans to exit out of gangs, as well as help them establish pro-social relationships. He also reported that there are a lot of materials available that can explain "gangs" to the public.

VII. AGENCY REPORTS/ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OPEN TOPIC

Jennifer Fairbanks reported that there is a major truancy problem amongst her school district. She feels the county does not prioritize truancy, especially in regards to kids in community schools. She would like some effort put in by all agencies to try to help this problem.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

If anyone has a future agenda item they would like discusses, please email them to Bill Damiano.

IX. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Date & Time: **August 25, 2016**

Location; Humboldt County Courthouse, Conference Room A

X. ADJOURNMENT: 5:30 pm

[The conference room is wheelchair accessible, and disabled parking is available in the lot on K Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets. If you are a person with a disability, and you need disability-related modifications or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Page Ludtke at (707) 268-3313 or (707) 443-7139 (fax). Requests for such modifications or accommodations must be made at last two full business days before the start of the meeting.]