

**San Bernardino County  
Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)  
Executive Subcommittee on DJJ**

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**Minutes for Thursday, April 20, 2023**

**Executive Committee Members**

Tracy Reece, Chairperson, CPO  
Richard Sterling, Chief Deputy Public Defender  
Amber Carpenter, Program Manager, Department of Behavioral Health  
Tony Collins CiFuentes, Highlanders Boxing Club  
Owen Duckworth, Inland Empire Rebound Reentry Services  
Donald English, Director, Superintendent of Schools  
Robert Brown, Assistant District Attorney  
Morgan Baxter, Deputy Court Executive Officer  
Terrance Stone, Young Visionaries  
Jeany Zepeda, Director, Department of Social Services

**Committee Members**

Dana Smith-Lacy, DCPO  
Khara Garnett-Todd, Division Director II  
Judge Tony Raphael, Superior Courts  
Judge Rasheed Alexander, Superior Courts  
Kristie Armistead, Deputy Director of  
Operations, Juvenile Court  
Sandy Bonilla, Founder, Urban Conservation  
Corps  
Minutes by:  
Jameelah Pezant, Secretary II

**Opening of the Meeting**

Dana Smith-Lacy called the JJCC Executive Subcommittee meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.  
Meeting opened with introductions.  
Motion to approve January 19, 2023, meeting minutes, as written, all in favor  
Motion by Kristie Armistead and seconded by Owen Duckworth

**Roll Call - Attendance Roster on File**

**Absent/Excused:** Tracy Reece, Jennifer Cannady, Donald English, Terrance Stone, Jeany Zepeda, Morgan Baxter, Tony Raphael, Rasheed Alexander

**Guest(s):**

**Probation Update**

Dana Smith-Lacy – As of today there is 70 youth in custody and by this afternoon we will have one more. There has been Management changes within the facility. Probation Officers have been deployed back to the facility. We are actively working on decreasing staffing shortages. Currently the Probation Officers are on a 30-day rotation and tomorrow ends the first rotation. There is no end date in site, it will be indefinite until we find a resolution to the staffing crisis. Our Annual Plan to the State for this program is due on May 1, 2023. The Board of State and Community Corrections who regulates all facilities are working on the revisions and regulations for the Secure Youth Treatment Facility, I was selected to serve on the committee.

Khara Garnett-Todd – All of the youth are provided a plethora of programming (see attachment). An issue we encountered was the youth had the ability to choose not to participate. Administration made the decision to have the youth choose two, that way they are consistently busy. Our goal is rehabilitation, getting them to a step-down program, and ultimately returning to the community. For the youth who are not interested in extended education we'll have vocational training that can lead into job placement upon release. We have learned a lot of youth are just not interested in college, but they do want vocational skills. We are working with San Bernardino Valley College regarding a Job Fair. We are in talks with the CBOs for more programs. We have 13 youth that are schooled to graduate this June.

Shawn Arrington – The Step-Down program, SOAR (Successful Outcome for Achieving Responsibility), is currently under construction, we anticipate that being done by June. An invitation will be sent out to the DA, Public Defender, and the Conflict Panel for a tour prior to it being open.

Sandy Bonilla – We are looking at the application on how these programs are being laid out everywhere and now we are moving into a strength-based approach. We have been doing testing in Los Angeles County Probation with GRID (Gang Reduction). We have been piloting different models with CBOs. We are finding there is a resistance for people to move into a strength-based approach, where the deficit model continues to be the model that people are holding on to. I'd like to recommend looking at training positive youth development and how to train the youth to be interested in programs.

Dana Smith-Lacy – Some of the ideas we had early on is when we had a much smaller population (10-30 youth) but with the 40 youth that came in quick, that required more staff, more groups and we couldn't keep up with it; it also required a lot more safety and security.

Amber Carpenter – Attended a training with Riverside County, it was a joint county training on the change model that DJJ is currently applying. Having a more structured way of tracking programming and orienting the youth and ensuring as they move through the stage model, they are ready to step into the next level. Riverside is starting Stage 1 through Stage 5 while they are in the facility and as they step down into community release, they move into Stage 6 and 7. This is a research-based method. Programming will be more structured to allow the youth to feel safe and ready to move forward.

Khara Garnett-Todd – Discussion on the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan. Briefed the committee on the changes. Upon citing the changes and updates the group agreed to the changes with no other changes.

### **CFS Update**

None

### **Court Update**

Robert Brown – Shared Jennifer Cannady is no longer with the Public Defenders Office.

Reza Dagbandan – Mentioned he received feedback that the newer officers at the detention centers have been verbally rough with the youth, and they would yell at the youth.

Owen Duckworth – Asked the question, are they doing specific training for the staff that are working at ARISE?

- Dana Smith-Lacy – The training will always be the same. As of now we are not doing 6 weeks training, but the training modules will always be in place.

### **Urban Conservation Update**

Sandy Bonilla – We have partnered with San Bernardino Valley College and Urban Forestry. Andrew Goodman was trying to get the trees program started but they put a hold on it.

- Dana Smith-Lacy – Garnett-Todd will reach out to Mr. Goodman. There is a trust fund set up for any earned income the youth receive.

**Roundtable**

Tony Collins CiFuentes – Attended the Health & Wellness community and shared that he liked the Xen Garden that the youth put together as noted in the Annual Plan.

Robert Brown – Shared he sent an email out that there is a vacancy for this committee.

**Public Comments**

None

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by Dana Smith-Lacy at 3:02 p.m.

*The next JJCC Executive Subcommittee meeting will be held on*

*July 18, 2023*

*Probation Administration  
175 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Bernardino, 92415*