

Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission

Mendocino County
100 N. State Street, Room 303
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 463-4664

<https://www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov/jjdp>

MARCH 8, 2024 MEETING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kate Gaston, Chairperson; Noel O’Neill, Libbe Madsen

OTHERS PRESENT: Vanessa Curl, Arbor Youth Resource Center; John Bednar, MCJH Division Manager; Hillary Gayheart, OCYR; Judge Carly Dolan; Kim Turner; Kim Weston

ABSENT: Gary Levonson Palmer, JJDP Commissioner; Izen Locatelli, Chief Probation Officer

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by JJDP Chairperson, Kate Gaston.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - a. Welcome and Introductions
 - b. Additions or Corrections to Agenda
Recognition of former JJDP Commissioner, John Azzarro: Comm. Gaston would like to formalize the plans for the recognition of former member John Azzarro.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**
None.
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 9, 2024 MEETING (ATTACHMENT):** After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to defer approval of the February 9, 2024 meeting minutes to the next meeting.
4. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BYLAWS FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION (JJDP):** After discussion, the Commissioners approved the Bylaws for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission as proposed. The Commissioners would like clarification from County Counsel concerning the Commission’s involvement in the selection process for the Chief Probation Officer. Kim Turner confirmed that the Bylaws can be amended if needed to accommodate this change.

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5. **REVIEW OF RECRUITMENT PROCESS AND ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS ON THE JJDP:** Kim Turner reported that the Court has received five applications as of today. Kim suggested that the Court receive, review, and complete a Mendocino County-only background check on the applicants before recommending the applications to the Commission for appointment. The Commissioners agreed that applicants should not be officially appointed until they have attended at least one meeting to familiarize themselves with the work of the Commission. They also suggested that the applicants be conditionally sworn in after the initial vetting of the application and attendance at the meeting. The Court will initiate the Live Scan process and, assuming no concerns arise from this process, the Court will administer the official oath. The Commissioners would like to hold an orientation and training for new Commissioners. The Commissioners agreed to assist with this orientation. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed with the aforementioned steps and directed the Court to send written receipt of the applications and invitations to the applicants to attend the next meeting of the Commission. The Commissioners suggested that the recruitment and application announcement be sent to the Administration of Justice program at Mendocino College, South Valley High School, UISA, and Leadership Mendocino.
6. **PROBATION REPORT:** John Bednar reported that the Juvenile Probation Division is doing well and that an in-depth report will be made at the next meeting when the Chief Probation Officer is able to attend.
7. **JUVENILE HALL REPORT:** John Bednar reported:
 - a. Currently 9 youth are in Juvenile Hall. All are male. Two youth are on hold for Lake County. Staff are currently reviewing all detainees for any required mental health interventions.
 - b. Programs
 - i. Garden Program: Program will be run with the assistance of Mendocino College. There will be an update on the progress at the next meeting.
 - ii. New Therapy: They are working on adding new programs in art therapy and movement therapy with the assistance of the Mendocino County Youth Project.
 - iii. Dog Program: Continuing to work on a program partnering with the county Animal Services or Humane Society to have the youth in the hall training dogs.

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- iv. Culinary Program: Continuing to search for an organization/individual that is the right fit for the program.
 - v. Existing Programs: They are continuing to work on improving quality of existing programs making sure they best suit the youth.
- c. Staffing: Currently, Juvenile Hall is fully staffed. They are researching training programs for staff, specifically trauma awareness training and trauma informed care.
- d. He attended the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) meeting where he made contacts for assistance with bigger programs. He was able to tour the Sacramento facility which has made good use of training rooms and has instituted a culinary program, a construction program, and other vocational training. This will be a great model for Juvenile Hall as they continue to improve the programming for detainees.
8. **INSPECTION OF JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES:** After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to put this item over to the April meeting and schedule the inspection for a time when new Commissioners have been sworn in and can attend the inspection.
9. **NEW BUSINESS:**
Noel O’Neill Resignation: Noel O’Neill has submitted his resignation and this is his last meeting. Kate thanked Noel for his service.
- John Azzarro Recognition:** After discussion, it was agreed that the Court will assist the Commission in recognition of all the Commissioners once they have all resigned. The Court will work with Probation or the County Executive Office to place this item on a future Board of Supervisors agenda. The Court will also work with Probation on accessing funding to memorialize the retiring Commissioners’ service.
- Chairperson:** It was agreed that Kate Gaston will remain the Chairperson for a few months until new Commissioners are installed.
10. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDA, INCLUDING AGENDA DATE(S) AND PROVIDE DIRECTION:**

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Future Meeting Dates and Locations: After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to adopt a provisional calendar for meetings for 2024 which will be held the second Friday of every month from 12:00 pm to 2:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Courthouse. The Court was directed to publish the provisional schedule and meeting locations on the website. This schedule can be amended by the new Commissioners.

Focus of New Commissioners: After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that the new Commissioners should focus on a project to gather a list of all services offered in the county. Vanessa Curl stated that The Arbor has already compiled this information and is willing to share it with the Commission.

Guest Speakers for Meetings: After discussion, the Commissioners agreed it would be beneficial to arrange for guest speakers at meetings to share their expertise with the new Commissioners.

11. **ADJOURNMENT:** The next JJDPC meeting will be held on April 12, 2024 from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Ukiah courthouse.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:47 p.m.

MINUTES COMPLETE
Submitted by Kim Weston