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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
Juvenile Justice
And
Delinquency Prevention Commission

02/09/2024

In Attendance; Kate Gaston, JJDPC Chairperson; Gary Levonson Palmer, JJDPS Commissioner; John Azzarro, Commissioner; Noel O'Neal, Commissioner; Vanessa Curl, Arbor Youth Resource Center; Martin Martinez Red Road, Christina Wilson, RCS; Dawn Amara, RCS; Izen Locatelli Chief Probation Officer, John Bednar MCJH Division Manager, Carly Dolan Judge, Kim Weston, Court Secretary; Karry Crawford, Probation - here to take notes

Absent; Libbe Madsen

- Welcome, Introductions:
- December Minutes Review/Accepted – Garry Levonson Palmer moved; John Azzarro 2nd all present approved
- Juvenile Hall Report John Bednar
 - Currently 10 youth in hall, 7 males, 3 females – 1 youth on hold for Lake County, 3 sentenced
 - Programs
 - Talks on garden project with a potential provider
 - Looking at bringing in guest speakers – 1 military, potentially fire.
 - Working on improving quality of existing programs making sure they best suit the youth
 - Staffing – New supervisor starts 3/3 and a new Juvenile Corrections Officer starts on 2/18.
 - Teaching life skills courses.
 - Looking at trying to partner with county Animal Services or Humane Society to have the Youth in the hall training dogs.

- Scott Marsh- working harder on connecting with youth in JH to make sure they have the resources they need when they get out.
- Martin Martinez with Red Road mentioned bringing in an Elder to meet with the kids
- Juvenile Probation Report – Izen –
 - Board approved court taking over commission as of next month.
 - Izen briefly spoke about the changes due to court take over
 - 13 Full Time Employees for hall staff, currently have 12 and 1 supervisor but working on new. Is best in 6 years for chief
 - Probation is down a lot of staff.
 - Dog program historically never worked, due to issues, allergies, and requirements of dog care. Maybe can get 4H.
 - Grandmother program died during covid, is working on getting that re started.
 - Izen spoke about issues with getting various volunteer groups in to work with kids in hall mostly due to JH youth constantly changing.
 - John to work with RCS on the Blue Zone initiative.
 - SARB's games, stopped during covid – MCOE took over, no kids have been referred.
 - Izen commented next 6 weeks are in budget process, not looking good and department heads are working hard. Probation is ok and he is expecting to be funded at current level.
- John Azzarro spoke about John Mendoza, co-author of graphic novel. John Mendoza sent him a letter asking if Juvenil Hall would be interested in a program he put together or any of the area groups would be wanting to use it for youth.
- John is resigning and Kate thanked John for his years of service.
- The Arbor
 - Has been very busy. Have a career fair is to all in April 20. Try to figure out what jobs are available and needed in the community. Focusing on vocational work as they know college isn't available to all. Taking youth on monthly trips to different university followed by an activity to promote leadership skills.
 - Also have contest for poster making for career fair on Feb 14th at 1pm –topics are youth concerns and how can The Arbor help them.
 - Interns from south valley – want to clean up the Hike to the "U" above the valley and make it more accessible. John suggested they reach out to the Ukiah Trail group.
 - New Coordinator for Restorative Justice.
 - Program out line – RCS gets referral from Probation and the schools and does intake. The youth meet with advocate and draft plan.

- Also do talking circles with youth to try to work through problems. Pomolita and Redwood Charter School is doing them.
 - Last six months – 8 referred youth, around 20 with the youth advocates
 - Izen stated the money came from probation from the Prop 64 grant and this is the last year for that fund. He is looking for more funding. If new money come available RJYC will need to be more mobile, not Ukiah/Arbor centered. Outlying jurisdictions need to be served.
 - Martin to investigate it as he sits on the board for prop 64
- Dawn Amaral said the housing program for youth 18-24 is successful. Currently have 15 to 20 of kids on probation are engaging. 1 youth on waiting list. RCS is helping for needs such as getting vital docs for youth, helping to make connections. Showing how to self-refer for assistance from RCS.
 - Kate asked about the WIC code – 18 & over, Izen stated no change to WIC code. Still under 18. This commission does not have a mandate for young adults.
- Kate thanked John for his service. Martin – would like to Honor John with plaque and write up in paper.

Questions

Next meeting - 3/8/24 at Ag Building

Adjournment: Gary Levenson-Palmer moved, John Azzarro 2nd motion, all present approved, Adjourned at 1:00 PM