

# Tuolumne County Juvenile Justice Commission

Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2023

Members Present: John Reesman, Chairman; Robert Wight, Vice-Chair; Susanne Vyhmeister, Temporary Secretary; Pat Atkins; Les Keeler; and Florencia Baldwin

Present Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility Staff: Annie Hockett, Asst. Chief Probation Officer

Special Guest: Judge Laura Krieg

Meeting called to order at 4:33 p.m.

1. Judge Laura Krieg covers why she is present and explains how their office was not receiving emails from the JJC. Judge Krieg states that she spoke with retired Judge Donald Segerstrom and that Judge Krieg would like to attend the JJC meetings in the future. She states that the recruitment for new members should begin again instead of attempting contact with people who may have applied two years ago and that the JJC may commence our efforts to recruit new members. She said she would like to come to our meetings and that JJC members are welcome to arrange to attend Juvenile Court. Judge Krieg apologized for her office's failure to respond to the JJC's prior attempts to make contact.

2. Annie Hockett states that MLRJDF's population, as of today, is thirteen. As of October 12, 2023, the MLRJDF was experiencing an uptick in COVID cases. They had, essentially, made it through the pandemic with no challenges but they had three youth who were positive for COVID.

Old Business:

1. Website: Chairman John Reesman states that he and Vice-Chair Robert Wight were addressing the issue of updating the JJC website and were looking at other JJC websites from other counties. Vice-Chair Wight states that he likes the simplicity of San Diego County's JJC website and Chairman John Reesman agrees. Commissioner Pat Atkins suggested that we look into Santa Clara County's JJC website and the followup that Santa Clara offers as well.

2. Judge Krieg gives her response and suggestions regarding the updating of the JJC website. She suggested that the JJC may use a linked button on the Tuolumne County's website. She also suggested that the JJC designate a person whom she might make the introductions with to "Sarah" who is in charge of the Tuolumne County Court website and Tuolumne County IT Department.

3. The Contact Button: Chairman Reesman discusses the "contact" button. The JJC then has a discussion on the contact button which would exist on the JJC website. Chairman Reesman would like to make sure that it was a well structured response in a timely manner.

4. Commissioner Florencia Baldwin states to Judge Krieg how we shared information in the past as the JJC and Commissioner Baldwin states that the JJC has utilized Google Drive to upload documents.

5. The JJC discusses who the point person for contact would be and Chairman Reesman asked for a volunteer to maintain contact with the community via the JJC's website in addition to ideas for how contact with the community would go. Commissioner Les Keeler graciously volunteered to be that point person via the website with the community.

## New Business:

1. Judge Krieg went to Stanislaus County where Judge Krieg toured the Juvenile Justice Hall. It is very large with many different wings providing differing levels of security. A program that Stanislaus County is currently running is "Judge's Honor Roll" which Judge Krieg has brought to the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility and it inspires the young people to maintain good behavior, have goals for themselves, and offers the youth true rehabilitation. If the youth do not lose more than sixteen points than they make the Judge's Honor Roll. The youth will be served treats and special food based on their behavior. If they do not lose points they may receive, in the future, a nice blanket. The youth at MLRJDF are very excited about this new program and the youth are talking about it. Judge Krieg desires to show the youth housed at MLRJDF that she cares. She is attempting to establish a connection with the youth within our county. October 1, 2023 was the roll out of Judge's Honor Roll. The Judge's Brag Roll would go beyond the Judge's Honor Roll and allow Judge Krieg to follow the youth housed at MLRJDF as they hit certain milestones such as jobs, education, and various success. The youth would then get to place a sticker on the wall that Judge Krieg will be dedicating to their progress in her chambers.

2. Commissioner Florencia Baldwin said that she had heard the phrase "secure youth" and asked what it meant? Annie Hockett replied that the Department of Juvenile Justice was shut down and Tuolumne County had to come up with alternatives to the DJJ. Tuolumne County approved beds at MLRJDF that are security treatment beds. In the past, these offenders would have gone to youth prison with certain serious charges. The court has to review these cases every 6 months. The system can keep these kids until over 26. If a sixteen year old is found guilty of murder, the court does not merely release at eighteen. This allows the young people to remain for their sentence. Judge Krieg states that she is, perhaps, looking at fire training for these young people.

3. Vice-Chair Wight opens up the topic of recruitment for new JJC members through the media. Different ideas are brought to the table regarding how to get the word out that the JJC is recruiting. Judge Krieg states that the Probation Department has their own social media and that she, Judge Krieg, has her former campaign Facebook account. Judge Krieg suggests putting the recruitment advertisements on the court website. It is also mentioned to use the local radio station to spread the word. Each JJC member also has their own social media pages that may be utilized. Commissioner Pat Atkins also suggests that she access the Senior Seminar at a local school. Various programs and organizations were suggested to spread the word that the JJC is now, currently, recruiting.

4. Chairman Reesman states that he is going to talk to Annie Hockett about future inspection dates and states that the next meeting will be November 9, 2023. He closes with a reminder to be considering new recruitment strategies.

5. The JJC meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm.