

MINUTES
CITIZENS' LAW ENFORCEMENT REVIEW BOARD MEETING
May 14, 2019

Attachment A

Roll Call

- The meeting was held at the County Administration Center and came to order at 5:30 p.m. All Board members were present except Gary Brown.

Minutes Approval

- The April 2019 meeting minutes were approved by motion by Kim-Thoa Hoang and seconded by James Lasswell no corrections. All present board members approved minutes by unanimous vote.

Training/ Presentation

- “Juvenile Probation Changes”: Chief Probation Officer Adolfo Gonzales
Chief Gonzales talked about the changes taking place in Probation. He stated that several years ago there were over eight hundred juveniles incarcerated; today there are less than three hundred and thirty. Chief Gonzales stated that unlike the past where custodial facilities were for detention only, they will now adapt to a more therapeutic, whole-person type model. He added that for their Juvenile Center they will be following the University of Georgetown Youth Model. San Diego County allowed a Grant 96 recommendation. This allowed them to purchase mattresses that were six inches thick instead of one inch thick. He used as an example one of the returning juveniles thanking them for the thoughtfulness of using a thicker mattress and being able to sleep more comfortably. Chief Gonzales explained that part of the new approach to juveniles, will be the use of many creative incentives and programs. There are now book clubs, running clubs, culinary classes as well as therapeutic dog training courses for all incarcerated youths. Juvenile detainees will now experience a “wrap-around” service. What this means is that detained youth will understand all procedures during their incarceration as well as what to expect when they are released. Chief Gonzales brought up the issue of mental health in detention. In juvenile hall about thirty-nine percent of the kids are on psychotropic medication. Chief Gonzales has plans to add more mental health professionals, including hiring probation officers with degrees in areas of mental health, psychology and child welfare. In the past there were no requirements outside of a high school diploma to become a Probation Officer. Today, a four-year degree is required as well as the ten-week training academy. A Chief advisory group now meets with members of the community to talk about issues concerning youth and probation. The Citizens Academy is now being offered to members in the Law Enforcement community in order to educate people about probation. Grossmont college was mentioned for having new programs for Juveniles trying to re-enter the school and work force area. Chief Gonzales stated that the main purpose of these changes is to break the prison pipeline with young offenders. Crimes have changed for youths; there is now a small percentage of young people who have committed murder. As well as with young offenders, a new strategy has been adopted to keep young adults from the age of eighteen to twenty-five in a juvenile setting and keep them away from regular county jail offenders. He noted that for the first time the Probation team has hired two former juvenile offenders as Probation officers.
Chief Gonzales stated that the most important aspect is to treat people with dignity and respect, especially younger offenders in order to break the prison pipeline and change their lives for the better.
- “In-Custody Deaths”: Captain Erica Frierson

The video presentation began stating that in 2017 there were over four hundred and fifty suicides in detention centers, nationwide. The mental health issue is a multi-faceted problem, and the video presentation spoke of two facets that Captain Erica Frierson and the detention centers in San Diego are concentrating on.

1. The first aspect is by creating a stricter intake screening process with more questions that are intended to effectively identify individuals who pose a greater risk of suicide or self-harm. All officers ask specific questions about any mental health observations to the offender, prior and during the arrest procedure. Part of this effort is to expand mental health service programs and improve service delivery by designing the inmate safety program. This included changes to policies, procedures and practices based on the national commission on correctional healthcare standards. This includes modifications to inmate safety program housing areas. The inmate safety program allows for actively suicidal individuals to be housed in an environment that greatly reduces self-harm risk after consultation with a qualified mental health provider. For those inmates who are not actively suicidal but might only be verbalizing suicide thoughts, the qualified mental health provider can instead direct housing in an enhanced observation housing model where the inmate is supervised and interacted with more frequently. This change has resulted in a significant decrease in the use of Safety Cells.
2. A suicide prevention and focus team were established to further increase efforts on reducing suicidal behavior. This team is comprised of members of several different disciplines that come together once a month to discuss current information related to suicide and suicide prevention with the goal of collaboratively identifying and implementing best practices. There are two recent highlights from this group that are worth mentioning:
 - a. A suicide prevention campaign was established in order to inform inmates, their families and staff of resources available and who to contact with any mental health concerns. This program was partnered with the health and human services agency to expand the County's suicide prevention initiatives into the detention facilities.
 - b. The mental health advocacy hotline which is specifically designed for Criminal Justice partners to use anytime they see a change in the behavior of the person they are working with.

Success in reducing inmate suicide and self-harm events is dependent on good communication and quick action when an inmate is at an elevated risk. The expectation for this initiative, is to produce a free flow of information related to mental health issues in real time. Another important aspect Captain Frierson commented on, was the need to properly train all detention staff, both sworn and professional. They have aligned their suicide training objective with NCC HC Guidelines. Work has also begun to expand services for inmates with severe mental health issues by getting approved funding for an additional fifteen mental health clinicians to work in the jail systems. A Master Staffing Plan will be established to extend coverage at all the facilities to provide round the clock coverage at all three intake facilities. The presentation ended with the idea of an increased delivery of mental health services being critical in the prevention of suicide and suicide attempts.

Executive Officer ■ Introduced Special Investigator, Ellen Bohan and gave a short biography of her personal Report

life as well as her 17-year work history with San Diego County.

- Caseload report for the month of April: 11 new cases were opened, and 10 cases were closed. There are 91 total cases; 83 open and active cases. A case is being presented this month for summary dismissal. There are 32 open deaths investigations; of those we have received documentation to proceed with the investigation in 20 cases and there are only 12 cases pending records. Executive Officer Estrada thanked Sgt. Meleen for his assistance producing the records to help with those cases.
- Discussed an error that had been carried for the last few months: There were a total of 110 cases at the end of 2016 and there was a total of 155 cases at the end of 2018 and not 142 as previously reported.

Overview of Activities of CLERB

- On April 8 Executive Officer Julio Estrada met with the Nadia Binderup, the new Community Relations Director at the Sheriff's Department, and talked about planning joint outreach activities and speak at different communities.
- Special Investigator Lenore Aldridge attended a couple of meetings related to the County Security Initiative. We will benefit with funds to install a new bullet proof window in the new office.
- On April 17, Board Member Gary I. Wilson invited Executive Officer Julio Estrada to attend the Association of Threat Assessment for San Diego County.
- On April 19 the Executive Officer Julio Estrada was invited as a panelist at the Professional Development Academy with the Probation Department.
- Board Member Lourdes Silva and Executive Officer Estrada continue to attend the Probation Department Citizens Academy
- On April 27 Executive Officer Julio Estrada completed a Community Outreach activity in San Marcos and distributed numerous brochures.
- Executive Officer Julio Estrada met with Private Counsel, County Counsel and Sheriff Attorneys to determine that information can be released concerning Senate Bill 14.21.
- On May 2nd the CLERB staff met with Lt. Scott Amos in a meet and greet meeting at the CLERB office.
- Update on Moving to a new office space: We are still waiting for the final word between the County and the Building Manager.
- Executive Officer Estrada talked about a proposal to institute new departmental internal Performance Measures to the time completion of cases within the stipulated year timeframe.
- Still working on an inspection manual of jail facilities based on complaints filed.
- Annual Report should be completely by mid-June.
- In January a policy recommendation was submitted to the Sheriffs Dept Inspection of services. CASE 17-127 Kenyon. A letter dated April 3rd was written to Board Chair Kim-Thoa Hoang with the response to the recommendation.

Board Chair Report

The Chair Kim-Thoa Hoang commented that she sat in on the second interview with Ellen Bohan who is now a special investigator for the Citizens Review Board. Kim-Thoa Hoang commented that she was very impressed with Ellen Bohan and was happy to have her on the CLERB team. Board Chair Kim-Thoa Hoang sent a letter of appreciation to Lt. David Gilmore to thank him for his service with copies to the Sheriff and welcomed Lt. Scott Amos. Sent a letter of gratitude to Sheriff Gore for appearing before the board last month with his remarks and answering questions. Follow up on Chief Adolfo Gonzales for any Board Members to tour any of the facilities to send an email to Julio within the next two weeks to coordinate those tours and ride-along. Acknowledged Shiri Hoffman for all her

hard work she does for the Board and wished her a happy birthday.

New Business

Jordan Gascon resigned as the Vice Chair, which had left the chair vacant. The Chair asked board member James Lasswell to handle an ad hoc nominating committee for a nomination election for a new Vice Chair and a new Secretary. James Lasswell recommended Susan Youngflesh as Vice Chair and P. Darrel Harrison as Secretary.

Kim-Thoa Hoang motioned for the vote. Gary I Wilson seconded. All Board Members accepted the nominations. Susan N. Youngflesh is now Vice Chair and P. Darrel Harrison is now the Secretary. There are now four board vacancies, one effective immediately, and three effective at the end of June.

Executive Officer Julio Estrada and Chair Kim-Thoa Hoang are working on a proposal to hold meetings in different venues throughout the county. Maybe bi-yearly or quarterly. Good idea as community outreach was the input from Gary I Wilson.

James Lasswell and Sandra I. Arkin expressed some reservations because of the low number of visitors to the current board meetings. Delores Chavez-Harmes was unfavorable for the idea due to security concerns. Several opinions expressed both pro and con. Motion to proceed given by Kim-Thao Hoang for Executive Officer Julio Estrada to do research with liaisons and staff to consider logistics. This motion was seconded by Lourdes Silva. One opposition vote by Delores Chavez-Harmes noted.

Unfinished Business

The rules and regulations subcommittee had a meeting to discuss further information from the County Counsel concerning the labor unions. Shiri has reached out to labor relations and will have a teleconference with the DSA attorney and there should be some feedback in the next few weeks. Points discussed were the changing of the findings of the board especially regarding the “action justified” finding to “exonerated”. Delores Chavez-Harmes suggested that we present this issue to the new board members when they come in because the discussion was indecisive. Motion to Table-James Lasswell seconds-and all Board members present agree.

Board member Comments

Lourdes Silva commented that she feels everyone should be a part of the Probation Academy. Robert Spriggs Jr. commented on body worn cameras. James Lasswell added that extra evidence isn’t necessarily a bad thing with more cameras. Gary I Wilson commented about the Threat Assessment Group and he invited the Investigators to attend the meetings. P. Darrel Harrison welcomed his new role as Secretary.

Sheriff/Probation Liaison Query

NA

Public Comments

CLERB Case #19-012: Carlos Mann

Closed Session

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE

Discussion & Consideration of Complaints & Reports: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 to hear complaints or charges brought against Sheriff or Probation Employees by a citizen (unless the employee requests a public session). Notice to Government Code Section 54957 for deliberations regarding consideration of subject Officer discipline recommendation (if applicable).

<u>CASE No.</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>CASE No.</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>
16-108	Woodward	18-078	Boshnsack
17-088	Ochoa-Bautista	18-085	Lingel
17-129	Gillean	18-088	Coulson

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Gina Vega, Administrative Secretary

Julio Estrada
Executive Officer



Susan N. Youngflesh
Secretary of the Board