

## **2017 JUVENILE FACILITY INSPECTION**

### **JJDCP FINDINGS**

The Commission extends its sincere appreciation to the staffs of the Juvenile Facility and Providence Court School for their efforts in assembling this report. The Commissioners are aware that this year's requests for information and the use of a revised format were different from those of past reports. Because of the turnover of Commission members during the past year, however, it was important that we have a complete understanding of the work of the JF and PCS. Commissioners are not trained in how to do the work that the staffs of these agencies do, but as representatives of the community, we are committed to knowing what they do and how well they do it.

This report answered in all respects, that concern. For that reason, the Commission highly commends the leadership and staff of the JF, PCS and the County Office of Education for their dedication and effectiveness in delivering critical services to the youth; in several cases beyond what might be normally expected. We can reassure the BSCC, the Court and the people of Ventura County that they have many people very effectively serving youths in crises.

**Regarding the transition process of a youth back into the community and school** the Commission finds and COMMENDS the work of the Providence staff in seeing to the needs for youth who transition from PCS back into the areas local school districts. The commitment to knowing to which schools' students will attend after release from the JF, contacting personnel at those schools and then following up to monitor the youth's actual enrollment is exemplary.

**Regarding developmental programs for staff** the Commission finds that there are extensive programs offered employees of both the JF and PCS as are attendance expectations. The range of subjects is wide but targeted to addressing the needs of staff for currency with legal requirements as well as issues affecting the youth population.

**Regarding job training programs for youth**, the Commission finds that the JF is offering youth multiple opportunities for participation in activities and training programs that will help prepare them for work after release. In addition, PCS has implemented the "Get Focused, Stay Focused" program that reinforces the importance for youth to understand themselves and how to prepare for the workplace and life. With the support and involvement of community agencies, the efforts to provide support for youth beyond the JF are showing great success and are looking to be expanded.

**Regarding behavioral/health services to youth**, the Commission finds the Behavioral Health Department to be committed to providing thoughtful and dedicated services to the youth at the JF and seeking inventive ways to hire and keep staff. While it is difficult to hire staff for the facility they are utilizing a student program to "raise their own" which is showing success as some students have stayed after graduation. The consistent and long-term staff in the medical department continues to provide excellent care and follow-up for the youth at the facility. Dental services are available with state of the art digital equipment and a dental hygienist is on site 24 hours each month.