

Probation chief lays out vision for juvenile youth center

April 23, 2023



Chief probation officer Lonnie Reyman updated the Board of Supervisors on the impending closing of Juvenile Hall.

Reyman reported the three main challenges facing the closure and how his office is addressing those concerns.

- Personnel
- Programs and operations
- Facilities

Reyman reported:

“Personnel: Primary in this mission is to create an effective team to carry out the mission of the department in meeting the needs of the youth for whom we are responsible. We’re working to finalize this structure of these positions and will be meeting with the union to discuss implications of the new team as well as impacts

to current staff. Part and parcel is to provide as many opportunities as possible for our existing staff as we pivot toward a new operational structure.

Programs and Operations: We are working through a planning process that will involve our staff in creating the schedule and structure to implement our vision of a new reentry team. Utilizing the existing Juvenile Hall as a kind of youth center for both youth on probation and youth at-risk of justice involvement will allow us to step up the tempo of engaging probation youth as well as offering the opportunity of partnership with others serving youth that would qualify for services.

Facilities: We are working simultaneously on how to most effectively utilize the facility for programming for youth. Modifying it to be accessible without being destructive to the existing structure and mechanical systems is a primary goal. Also insuring that we will continue to have a safe and secure portion of the facility for intake of youth who are detained is also a (primary) consideration.”

Reyman pointed out six other juvenile halls across the North State have shuttered, in the last decade. He continued, “cops on the street should not see any change in how they take in and process juvenile crime cases. There seems to be a mistaken belief that because there’s no local Juvenile Hall, youth will not be arrested and detained when it is appropriate to do so-that could not be farther from the truth.”

Supervisor Joey Borges commented after the presentation,

” ...this appears like the hall is restructuring and defining how probation can best serve Del Norte youth,” he said.

Supervisor Valerie Starkey asked how many Del Norte youth are on probation.

Reyman responded with an estimate of mid-20s. Starkey was also told existing MOU agreements with Humboldt and Shasta counties will continue.

Juvenile Hall is targeted to close by June 30.