

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2022  
Via Zoom**

**Commissioners Present:** Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair  
Stephen Betts, Vice Chair  
Carol Rhoads, Secretary  
Darius Parakh  
Diana Traub  
Heather Angove  
Jean Pennypacker  
Lionel Allan  
Lisa Macias  
Lissa Thiele  
Nora Manchester  
Penny Blake  
Ron Hansen  
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay

**Commissioners Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Honorable Franklin Bondonno, Superior Court  
Honorable L. Michael Clark, Superior Court  
Honorable Maureen Folan  
Anjelica Hayden, Superior Court  
Kara Garasky, Superior Court  
Graciela Gonzalez, Behavioral Health  
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health  
Veronica Robles, Behavioral Health  
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health  
Myra Vargas, Behavioral Health  
Mike Simms, Probation Department  
Marc Utsey, Probation Department  
Tyler Maslanka, Probation Department  
Kristin Keller, Probation Department  
Alex Villa, Probation Department  
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department  
Nick Birchard, Probation Department  
Paul Jhin, District Attorney’s Office  
Nisreen Baroudi, Public Defender’s Office  
Damon Silver, Public Defender’s Office  
Barbara Wolfe, Public Defender’s Office  
David Epps, Alternate Defenders Office  
Glen Casados, IDO  
Jessica Bonduris, SCCOE  
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE  
Ruth Maurice, OMOS  
Damon Wright, DFCS  
Vone Kegarice, JPD

Dana Bunnett, Kids in Common  
Matt Cammann, Seneca Family of Agencies  
Dr. Shelley Aggarwal, Juvenile Facilities Medical Clinics  
Lanphuong Le, Valley Medical Center  
Lt. Rob Lang, San Jose Police Department  
Debbie Pell, Bill Wilson Center  
Mandy Bley, University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute  
Allie Hughes, Office of Supervisor Otto Lee  
Audin Leung, Office of Supervisor Susan Ellenberg  
Kristin McCarthy, Pacific Clinics Wraparound Program  
Karishma Goswami, Citizen  
Lester Ezrati, Citizen  
Ryan Sengupta, Citizen

**Call to Order & Introductions:** Chair BurtonBurke called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**Agenda Approval:** The agenda was approved by all Commissioners present.

**Swearing In:** Judge L. Michael Clark administered the oath of office to Commissioner Heather Angove as Juvenile Justice Commissioner in the County of Santa Clara, for a term ending in 2026.

**Public Comments/Oral Petitions:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** March 1, 2022 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

## REPORTS

**Presentation by the Probation Department on the Ranch Program Redesign:** Mandy Bley of the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute reported on the following:

- The project goal for both Juvenile Hall and James Ranch is to align the policies and programming that are in place at both facilities.
  - Plan for James Ranch:
    - Formal program evaluation to redesign and evaluate all programs.
    - Align pods with evidence-based practices.
    - Redesign of multiple areas across all pods and programs.
    - Ongoing intensive monthly work by internal committees within the Ranch.
  - Plan for Juvenile Hall:
    - Focused on programming curricular staff skills for secure track youth.
      - Providing training on programs, Cognitive Behavioral Core Youth Curriculum and Core Correctional Practices training.
- The program started with the Correctional Practice Checklist (CPC).
  1. Program and Leadership Development: looks at the qualifications of program directors, how are they involved with youth, and what is the framework and sustainability for programs?
  2. Staff Characteristics: How are staff selected, what qualifications do they have?
  3. Assessment: Looking at how youth are accessed, looking at specific responsivity needs to make the program more fit for these individuals, are those assessments guiding the programming?
  4. Treatment Characteristics: What are the targets for the treatment programs being provided? Looking for programs and treatment interventions based in cognitive behavior

intervention, social learning theory, and focused on areas that are most highly correlated with recidivism rates.

5. Quality Assurance: What data is being collected in these different areas; is it being utilized to drive how programming is improved?
- Interviews were conducted at the Ranch for staff and youth, programs were evaluated, and a formal report was developed that included recommendations specific to the facility about opportunities to further align a practice or protocol to further reduce recidivism.
    - The recommendations from the Correction Practice Checklist drive the redesign work and shape the work plan to focus the changes within the different committees at the Ranch.
  - Evaluation and continuous quality improvement: Once the framework is in place, we need to determine what kind of data is going to be collected, what is the process for reviewing and analyzing that data, and how can action plans be developed from the data? This will hopefully start towards the end of the redesign work, and will be ongoing into the future.
  - Committee Framework: After the checklist is complete and recommendations have been made, committees are formed to address changes that need to be made.
    - Leadership Committee: Composed of Jill, Mark, Morena, and Polly as well as the chairs of each of the other committees.
      - Subcommittee meets once a month to discuss project timelines, to bring up issues that need support, and to brainstorm new ideas. New ideas are brought to the Leadership Committee for advisement.
  - UCCI Redesign process
    - Development and design: Thinking about how to begin the redesign process and how to make it sustainable.
    - Training: Once intervention programs are selected, formal training is implemented for staff to set them up for success.
    - Implementation coaching: As trained staff step out into their pods and new programs, coaching is needed to continuously support staff.
    - Quality improvement: Checking that policies and procedures are sustainable, checking that data is being collected and used to move programs forward.
  - Progress
    - James Ranch is developing a Behavior management system aligned with Core Correctional Practices (CCP) to reduce recidivism.
    - Components of correctional practice designed to increase therapeutic potential of rehabilitation programs.
    - 53 probation and Behavioral Health staff along with educational partners trained in CCP.
    - 3 staff from the Ranch and 3 staff from the Hall are engaged in coaching to participate in CCP training of trainers.
    - Behavior Management Committee is developing a new behavior management system and intervention system matching CCP skills.
    - Continuous Quality Improvement Committee is developing agency policy and protocols to sustain CCP, determining how staff will be continuously trained to best serve the youth.
    - Using the James Ranch Selective Cognitive Behavioral Interventions Core Youth Curriculum as the foundation that all youth who are placed at the Ranch will be receiving.
      - Addressing risk principle, need, and responsivity.
      - 18 staff were trained in August 2021 and are working on a Ranch wide implementation plan for the future.
      - Curriculum is being piloted in one pod.

- Core Correctional Practice
  - Quality of interpersonal relationships
  - Effective reinforcement
  - Effective disapproval
  - Effective use of authority
  - Effective modeling
  - Cognitive restructuring
  - Structured learning
  - Problem solving
- Goal
  - Internal sustainability for the CCPs.
  - A written plan to implement the Cognitive Behavioral Interventions Core Youth Curriculum across all pods at the Ranch with high fidelity.
  - All youth to begin receiving the curriculum with policy and protocol to sustain that curriculum.
- Commissioner Macias asked, what are your functions on tying in trauma informed care into this curriculum? Mandy answered trauma informed care aligns with some of the CCP but there is no contradiction to staff doing their job in a trauma informed way knowing that there is a high percentage of youth at the Ranch who have experienced trauma.
- Mandy answers a question from the chat, how do you define recidivism? Mandy answered there is not one way to define recidivism out in the field because some people count arrests, others count adjudication on a new offense, but regardless of the studies, a lot of the data that we use are studies of studies. Sometimes in those individual studies, recidivism can be defined as re-arrests or a return to prison. The things we are basing our recommendations on reduced recidivism whether you're looking at re-arrests, re-convictions or a return to prison.
- Commissioner Allan asked, how do we establish a benchmark now so that in a year or two from now we can measure to see if the implementation of these programs have reduced recidivism? Mandy answered that it would be good to have baseline data now from the Probation Department, asking: how does your agency want to count, are we counting re-arrests, probation violations, etc? Pull the data so that there is some baseline data to compare. Once the programs are all implemented and running, recount the re-arrests or re-conviction rates of the youth that are coming out of this program.

**Chair's Report:** Chair BurtonBurke reported on the following:

- The JJC spent a significant amount of time this past month working on the Juvenile Hall Inspection Report which should be approved during the Executive Session following today's meeting.
- The Continuum of Care Committee continues to work with DFCS, meeting twice last month to discuss the issues facing continuum of care.
- The JJC members attended several seminars at the Children's Summit that informed and better prepared us to deal with the issues that justice involved youth face.
- Interviews will begin for positions with the JJC. Interested individuals should visit the JJC website to apply.

**Presiding Judge:** Judge Clark and Judge Bondonno reported on the following:

- Judge Clark reported that after 2 years our Juvenile Justice Emergency COVID-19 Protocol ended on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Most of the emergency courtroom measures under the protocol have dissipated over the last 6 months.
- There are still only 2 courtrooms for Juvenile Justice and 2 courtrooms for Juvenile Dependency that can be in operation at any given time due to court wide shortage of courtroom clerks.

- Face coverings are still required inside the courthouse.
- Remote hearings are still permitted.
- Last week the Superior Court adopted Local General Rule 9.
  - Rule 9 tasks all Judges with discretion to determine when remote hearings should or should not be permitted.
  - Rule 9 also outlines the specifics for remote hearings such as having sufficient internet speed, having a suitable location, limited distractions, and requiring that cameras be turned on.
  - Under both Rule 9 as well as a new statute that went into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, Code of Civil Procedures 367.75, as well as a new rule of court, the definition of a civil case includes both juvenile dependency and juvenile justice cases.
- Judge Bondonno reported that a very successful training took place earlier this month on Competency with Dr. Karen Franklin.
- The Forensic Evaluating Committee meets later this month, and we hope to add 5 more people to our committee.
- The Community Based Organization Training now looks like it will be moved to May.
- Details for Clergy Day May 10 & 11, 2022 can be found here: <https://www.scsccourt.org/clergyday/default.shtml>

**Dependency Court:** No one present to report.

**Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY):** Andrew Cain reported on the following:

- April 1<sup>st</sup> was Jennifer Cloyd's final day at the Law Foundation. Active recruitment to begin shortly to fill the Chief Program officer position, positing to be distributed once it's created.
- LACY's Social Work team Nathan Thomas moving to a newly created position at the Law Foundation to improve our client case management database, and streamline other processes within the Law Foundation.

**Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC):** Preeti Mishra reported on the following:

- In the process of hiring a social worker and a paralegal for our prevention program First Call.
- DAC is in the midst of starting the plan for our Annual Reunification Day to celebrate families that have navigated the system successfully and reunified their families. Exact date to be announced at a later time.

**The Office of Mediation and Ombuds Services:** Ruth Maurice had nothing to report.

**Alternative Schools Department:** Dane Caldwell-Holden reported on the following:

- Dane reported that a summer school session is taking place this summer for North and South County from June 20th – July 19th each day from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the South County Annex.
  - The summer school will offer basic skills building and credit recovery, art and music to community school students and newly released incarcerated students who would like to get a chance to ease back into school before school starts in August.

**Department of Children and Family Service/Children's Receiving Center (DFCS):** Damion Wright presented on the following:

- Daniel Little and Hilary Kerrigan continue to meet regularly with the JJC to go over reports and to make sure that the continuum of care has a clearly outlined process for success.

**Probation Department – Juvenile:** Alex Villa, Mike Simms, and Marc Utsey reported on the following:

- Alex reported that Probation currently has a number of vacancies that they are in the process of filling. Probation also continues to have a number of employees out serving as Disaster Service Workers.
  - On May 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Probation will be holding a Duly Involved Youth Cross Systems Training from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM each session. Registration details to be sent out.
  - Education Services restructuring continues to provide services pre-adjudicated. This is on schedule to begin July 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The Court's Law Day video contest info has been sent out.
  - Commissioner Rhoads asked for a status update on Probation establishing its own GARE Unit. Alex answered that GARE is our race equity work that we do within committees and sub-committees. We continue the process of normalizing race equity within the department. The North Star Newsletter is on its 9<sup>th</sup> edition with information from the entire department.
- Mike updated that he will be leaving Juvenile Probation with Vone Kegarice as acting Deputy Chief for Juvenile Services.
- Marc updated that the Ranch Staff have secured school uniforms for the youth. The youth are able to wear the uniforms and arrive every day dressed for success.
  - The youth will be participating in project based learning or vocational training. Youth are gaining experience with power tools taking apart bleachers and restoring to the Legacy Kitchen.
  - The PBIS program is making its way towards completion, REACH, recognizing everyone's ability to change habits. Project committees are still developing activity space to create some teen center atmosphere for the program.

**Behavioral Health:** Mayra Vargas reported on the following:

- A clinician has been hired and will be coming on board to provide services through Juvenile Hall.

**Medical Services:** Lanphuong Le reported on the following:

- Seasonal flu vaccinations are continuing to be distributed as of yesterday.
- Medical Services continue to reiterate safety infection control measures: social distancing, masking, and environmental hygiene to protect everyone against COVID-19.
- A weekly vaccine clinic for Juvenile Hall and James Ranch is still in place with a rate of 60% of youth vaccinated.

**Law Enforcement Agencies:** No one present to report.

**District Attorney's Office:** Paul Jhin had nothing to report.

**Public Defender's Office:** Nisreen Baroudi and Damon Silver reported on the following:

- Nisreen reported a staffing change, a new team member joined effective Monday; Tayler Davis will be replacing Sandra Sousa.
- Damon reported that the Public Defender's Office continues to work on our race equity plan, partnering with Probation and their trainings when possible.

**Alternate Defender's Office:** David Epps had nothing new to report.

**Independent Defense Office:** Glen Casados had nothing new to report.

**Announcements/Correspondence:**

- Nisreen announced: September 16<sup>th</sup> Joint Beyond the Bench Conference for Juvenile Justice and Dependency. This will be an in-person training.

**Adjourn to Executive Session:** Chair BurtonBurke adjourned to Executive Session at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting will take place on May 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Anjelica Hayden