

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2022
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair
Stephen Betts, Vice Chair
Dev Ghoshal, Secretary
Diana Traub
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay
Marcie Bellicitti
Neha Parthasarathi
Rayan Sengupta

Commissioners Absent: Darius Parakh
Jean Pennypacker
Lissa Thiele
Heather Angove
Neha Parthasarathi

Also Present: Honorable Franklin Bondonno, Superior Court
Honorable L. Michael Clark, Superior Court
Honorable Maureen Folan, Superior Court
Honorable Jose Franco, Superior Court
Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Vanessa Cornejo, BHSD
Veronica Robles, BHSD
Mayra Vargas, BHSD
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Liwei Wei, Probation Department
Marc Utsey, Probation Department
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department
Gladys Tran, Probation Department
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department
Mariel Caballero, Probation Department
Vone Kegarice, Probation Department
Ignacio Carriles, Probation Department
Dolores Morales, Probation Department
Elisa Carias, Probation Department
David Epps, ADO
Lana Kreidie, IDO
Nisreen Baroudi, PDO
Damon Silver, PDO
Paul Jhin, DAO
Alisha Schoen, DAO

Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE
Dr. Jessica Bonduris, SCCOE
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE
Marie Mauboussin, DFCS
Damion Wright, DFCS
Captain Jason Dwyer, SJP
Preeti Mishra, DAC
Delayna Rosas, FLY
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Lanphuong Le, Medical Services
Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Dana Bunnett, Kids in Common
Jenna Sanders, citizen
Patrick Tondreau, citizen

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair BurtonBurke called the meeting to order at 12:17pm.

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

Swearing In: None.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: March 7, 2023 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

Presentation by Alisha Schoen, DAO: CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM PROGRAM

- Truancy is a red flag:
 - Find out why the student is truant, and give them the resources to help.
- Pandemic impact: This year's third graders have never had a "normal" school year.
- Truancy: A certain number of unexcused absences (5 or more unexcused absences in a school year is considered habitually truant).
- Chronic absence: When a student is absent 10% or more of the school days in a year (either excused or unexcused).
- Three big paradigm shifts:
 - Focusing on K-3 and chronic absenteeism.
 - Leveraging our resources upstream to reduce filings.
 - No longer prosecuting students, and no longer prosecuting parents in a traditional criminal court model.
- K-3 focus:
 - 83% of students chronically absent in Kindergarten & 1st grade are unable to read on-level by 3rd grade.
 - Students who cannot read on-level in 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.
- Over 75% of chronically absent students are low-income.
- DAO work to abate truancy without prosecution:
 - Back to school nights
 - Attendance awareness video contest

- County attendance collaborative with COE
- Various trainings
- New DFCS partnership
- Consulting with schools/districts
- School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meetings
- DA mediation
- Before a case goes to court:
 - Multiple attempts to call/email/text parents.
 - 3 truancy notification letters
 - School-site meetings with parents
 - Attendance contract including: changes to schedule, check-in/check-out, referral to community resources, etc.
 - Home visits
 - IEP amendment meeting if applicable
- Until 2020, truancy cases were heard on a misdemeanor shared calendar in regular criminal court.
- Court for Achieving Reengagement with Education (CARE)
 - First collaborative truancy court in California.
 - All cases charged as infractions.
 - Dismissal offer for all cases.
 - Purpose: To divert parents charged with crime of truancy from the general adult misdemeanor criminal court docket onto a collaborative court docket.
 - Emphasis: Problem solving with a trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, strength-based approach.
 - Focus: Shifted focus from punishment to encouragement and support.
 - Current CARE court judge: Honorable Erica Yew.
 - Educators, Behavioral Health liaison, Public Health Nurse, Family Navigator all present in court.
 - Offer parent project
- CARE outcomes:
 - 11% increase in successful graduations, despite Covid.
- Juvenile Attendance Improvement Diversion (JAID) Hearings:
 - Who: Freshmen/sophomore, parents, school personnel, district personnel, DDA
 - Where: DAO
 - When: 3-12 months
 - How: Restorative practices
 - 72% turnaround rate
- Challenges:
 - Case management
 - Increased needs as a result of the pandemic.
 - Limited family-focused resources rather than student-focused resources.
- Chair BurtonBurke asked: Offline, can we have a discussion about your relations with DFCS?
 - Alisha: Most of the relationship with DFCS is knowing who to contact at each office if a student is already involved with DFCS.
- Commissioner Ghoshal asked: Can you give a sense of how many kids per year go through truancy court? Is there any link between truancy and expulsion?
 - Alisha: Not sure about the link between truancy and expulsion. We have about 120 families in CARE court at one time.
- Commissioner Sirkay asked: Do you continue to follow the K-3 kids after they complete court?
 - Alisha: This is challenging because I don't have access to their records unless I'm investigating a crime.

- Commissioner Sirkay: Can you collaborate with the school districts?
- Alisha: The districts can only share that information with me if the education rights holder agrees.
- Judge Folan reported: Some of the judges came up with a concept that when a child is enrolled in school and are having truancy issues, the parents can agree to be contacted by someone to provide resources. The goal is to have a credible messenger in the community contact families, instead of a government entity.

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

- Juvenile Hall inspection team is down to final editing; hopefully distribute the report in May.
- Secure Youth Treatment Facility inspection has it's kick-off meeting; hope to have that report ready for approval in June.
- Continuum of Care Committee is near completion of a report on DFCS scattered sites.
- Newly formed Outcomes Committee met with Probation regarding data tracking.
- JJC is included in discussions with partners on how best to serve the youth who come into contact with both systems.
- JJC members have participated with other statewide JJC's to potentially unify responses to statewide legislatures to correct identified problems that have arisen as a result of Continuum of Care Reform.
- Commissioners attended trainings and presented trainings to newer commissioners.

Presiding Judge: Honorable L. Michael Clark reported on the following:

- April 17th: Judge Clark and Judge Franco will conduct mandatory judicial inspection of Juvenile Hall.
- April 12th from 12-2pm: Juvenile Justice quarterly training on Programs and Services for Secure Track Youth.
- May 11th from 1:30-3pm: Understanding the Impact of ACES on Youth Development, Behavior, and Treatment in Juvenile Justice Court.
- June 21st from 12:15-1:15pm: Transitioning Youth Back to School

Dependency Court: No one present to report.

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

Independent Defense Office: Lana Kreidie had nothing new to report.

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): Andrew Cain had nothing to report.

Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC): Preeti Mishra had nothing new to report.

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

Alternative Schools Department: Jessica Bonduris reported on the following:

- Currently writing LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) using data collected on students growth and academic success.

Mark Camilleri reported on the following:

- Blue Ridge tests students every 45 days on math and reading.

- On average, students at Blue Ridge have shown a one year and 3 months grade level increase in reading, and 2 year and 5 months grade level increase in math.
- Pre-apprentice program ended last week, and the students who participated earned overall 108 industry recognized certificates.

Dane Caldwell-Holden reported on the following:

- Alternative Education Department participated in 3 different initiatives this year: environmental literacy, civic engagement, and ethnic studies.
- Sent teachers out to various museums.

Department of Children and Family Service (DFCS): Damion Wright reported on the following:

- Appreciate everyone's support and conversation regarding reduction of 300 petitions.
- Congrats to Dan, new SSA Director, effective in May.

Probation Department:

Trina Gauthier reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- 8 staff graduated from JCO Core last week.
- Welcomed back PREA inspector.
- Three youth working on a mural in the family area.

Marc Utsey reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Pre-inspection audit this month.
- 3 vacancies to be filled.
- Hosting a tour from COE.
- Starting tattoo removal program (up to 25 years old).
- Coordinating with the Library to implement reading programs at the Ranch.

Elisa Carias reported on the following for JPD services:

- Web page has been updated to include a page for relative placement of youth.
- Recently held DIY collaborative two day retreat to look at streamlining processes and determine best ways to have this work be included in larger initiatives.
- Working on annual DIY report; youth surveys were completed.
- Working with County Com to develop call sign uniformity as part of radio procedures when out in the field.
- Participated in Caesar Chavez march and Young Women's Power Lunch.

Dolores Morales reported on the following:

- 2 young men graduated from the National Society of Leadership and Success.
- One youth will be graduating and earning 3 AAs in August.
- Several new providers coming into Juvenile Hall as of July 1st.

Behavioral Health: Mayra Vargas reported on the following:

- Facilitating 2 groups in April at Juvenile Hall (Seeking Safety group and a 5 week process group).

Medical Services: Lanphuong Le had nothing new to report.

Law Enforcement Agencies: Captain Jason Dwyer had nothing new to report.

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

Public Defender's Office: Nisreen Baroudi reported on the following:

- Jeff Medoza taking over for Taylor Davis, effective April 10th.
- Meeting with Deputy Chief Alex Villa to discuss the grievance filed by Secure Track youth girls.
- PDO presented to stakeholders about concerns regarding new practice trends with respect to DFCS and fewer 300 petitions being filed.

Announcements/Correspondence: None

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair BurtonBurke adjourned to Executive Session at 1:11p.m. The next meeting will take place on May 2, 2022 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Garasky