

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – August 1, 2023
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Stephen Betts, Chair
Dev Ghoshal, Vice Chair
Marcie Bellicitti, Secretary
Victoria BurtonBurke
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay
Jean Pennypacker
Lissa Thiele
Heather Angove
Neha Parthasarathi
Diana Sanchez Bentz

Commissioners Absent: Diana Traub
Rayan Sengupta
Darius Parakh

Also Present: Honorable Franklin Bondonno, Superior Court
Honorable Maureen Folan
Honorable Jose Franco, Superior Court
Honorable Shawna Schwarz
Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Liwei Wei, Probation Department
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department
Elsa Jennings, Probation Department
Melisa Garcia, Probation Department
Ignacio Carilles, Probation Department
Nisreen Baroudi, PDO
Damon Silver, PDO
David Epps, ADO
Lana Kreidie, IDO
Dr. Jessica Bonduris, SCCOE
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE
Eugene Santillan, SCCOE
Damion Wright, DFCS
Captain Jason Dwyer, SJP
Preeti Mishra, DAC
Delayna Rosas, FLY
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Matt Cammann, Seneca

Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Dana Bunnett, Kids in Common
Josh Selo, Bill Wilson Center
Joy Hernandez, Justice Ed
Ray Blockie, Citizen
Karen Guldan

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Betts called the meeting to order at 12:16pm

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

Swearing In: None.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: June 6, 2023 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

PRESENTATION: National Center for Youth Law (Joy Hernandez)

- Justice Ed Initiative
 - Developed in partnership with SCC Juvenile Probation, Courts, and school districts.
 - Goal is improving education outcomes for JJ involved students.
 - The Santa Clara pilot: staffed by one program manager and four ed liaisons, and serves youth referred through Probation.
- Education Liaisons provide education case management, coaching, and advocacy.
 - 3 areas of focus: student centered focus, caregiver engagement & capacity building, coordination and engagement of ed teams.
- Student Centered Planning:
 - Bi-weekly student contact or meetings.
 - Establishing student chosen education goals.
 - Ongoing coaching (study skills or emotionally focused)
 - Progress monitoring.
- Caregiver Capacity Building:
 - Monthly parent communication.
 - Engagement of parent in progress monitoring.
 - Parent coaching (IEP meetings and education on student's ed rights).
 - Advocacy support (enrollment, attending school meetings).
- Coordination and Engagement of Ed Teams:
 - Regular check-ins with school site staff.
 - Collaborating with counselors on students' grad plans.
 - Connecting with support services to align efforts.
- Year 4 Evaluation
 - Cumulative look at 4 years (2018-2022).
 - Combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis.
 - Academic analysis conducted by the Santa Clara County Office of Ed.
 - Qualitative analysis—San Jose State University and RTI International.
- Student Profile: 154 youth
 - Either on Probation or DEJ
 - 25% with IEPs or 504s

- o 80% male, 20% female
 - o Predominately Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American
 - o Majority 11th and 12th grade, 16-18 years old
 - o Most enrolled in alternative schools
- Program Outcomes:
 - o Decline in attendance over 4 years (due to Pandemic).
 - o Suspensions and expulsions remained about the same.
 - o Significant improvement in credit completion.
- 88% of students are not on track to graduate at program entry.
- 68% of students experienced 7 or more enrollments throughout high school.
- Additional Outcomes:
 - o 84% of students identified goals with the Ed Liaison.
 - o Students complete an average of 2.5 goals.
 - o Increased confidence in achieving goals.
 - o Increased comfort reaching out to school staff with questions or problems.
- Looking Forward:
 - o Working on program refinements (to be implemented in 2023-2024 school year).
 - o Recidivism study (in partnership with SJSU).
 - o Sustainability planning.
- Chair Betts asked: Can you explain the reasons students change schools so many times?
 - o Joy responded: A lot of it has to do with when a juvenile is taken into custody at Juvenile Hall. If they go into custody, they remain enrolled in their district for up to 30 days. This has been minimizing the amount of times youth change schools.
 - o Chair Betts asked: So the number of enrollments could be due to a student being disenrolled, and then reenrolling in the school they came from? Instead of actually enrolling in a new school each time.
 - o Joy: Yes, those are unique enrollments.
- Commissioner Bellicitti asked: What is a 504 plan?
 - o Joy responded: It's similar to an IEP. IEPs are designed for students with disabilities; 504 plans can address lighter issues without having to go through the special education system.
- Judge Bondonno asked: How many kids are you working with every year?
 - o Joy responded: Currently we are serving 100 students at a time.
- Commissioner Ghoshal asked: Are you looking at helping younger kids (i.e. middle school) to change their trajectory earlier?
 - o Joy responded: Not right now. We are focused on youth involved in the Juvenile Justice system (where we don't see a lot of middle school students).
- Andrew Cain asked: Do you have a sense of how your numbers compare to Probation numbers across the board? And do you have specific reasons your program is successful in what you're doing?
 - o Joy responded: We don't have information on Probation youth. Probation youth aren't tracked in the education system. We might have some comparison information next year. The communication and partnership at the school site level is contributing to the success, as well as holding students accountable.

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

- New JJC executive committee:
 - o Stephen Betts – Chair
 - o Dev Ghoshal – Vice Chair
 - o Marcie Bellicitti – Secretary
- Working on SYFT unit inspection.

- Working on Welcoming Center and Satellite Site reports.
- James Ranch inspection beginning soon.
- Hoping to begin in person meetings soon (with hybrid option).

Presiding Judge: Honorable Maureen Folan reported on the following:

- Now have step-down option for Secure Track youth to be at the Ranch.

Dependency Court: Honorable Shawna Schwarz reported on the following:

- Dependency numbers continue to be low.

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 new to report.

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

The Office of Mediation and Ombuds Services: Ruth Maurice reported on the following:

Alternative Schools Department:

Mark Camilleri reported on the following:

- Mixing boys and girls for Horticulture class for the first time.
- Current 12 week program offering fork lift certification.
- Hiring full-time art teacher for next year.
- Hosting staff vs students volleyball game.

Eugene Santillan reported on the following:

- Alternative Education department able to offer summer school this year.
- Opened up Independent Studies program for students transitioning out of the Court school's during the summer.
- Had 2 students graduate from IS program this summer.
- Students were able to participate in summer reading program in collaboration with the Public Library.
- Partnered with Foothill Community College to bring Horticulture course to Osborne and Blue Ridge.

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

- DFCS would like to report out on system improvement plan at the next JJC meeting.

Probation Department: Ignacio Carriles reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Onboarded 8 new staff members.
- Ed services unit is planning a spirit week this month.
- Kudos to Probation Officer Adrian Castillo- administered Narcan to save a client's life.

Elsa Jennings reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Current population: 26
- 3 young adults at the Ranch for STYF program.

- Concluded staff bidding last week.
- Filled 8 new full-time positions.
- Just finished building & fire inspection, scheduling JJC inspection.
- Commissioner Pennypacker asked: How does the programming for the SYTF kids differ from the programming for the rest of the kids?
 - Elsa responded: The SYTF kids are not sentenced to the same time commitment as the Ranch kids, and they don't get graded on a weekly basis like the other kids do. SYTF kids are not part of certain things, but are programmed for more specific needs. For example: SYTF youth would not be part of a Planned Parenthood program for the Ranch youth, but would have their own similar program geared towards what they're working on.

Ashanti Hayes reported on the following for Institutions:

- Visiting area in Juvenile Hall is now open.
- Concluded staff bidding last month.
- Concluded Group Counselor 1 interviews (currently 15 vacancies).

Behavioral Health: No one present to report.

Medical Services: No one present to report.

Law Enforcement Agencies: Captain Jason Dwyer reported on the following:

- Retired Captain Randy Schriefer was involved in a fatal car accident over the weekend. Many condolences to his family and friends.

District Attorney's Office: No one present to report.

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

- Staffing change: Demiana (Demi) Khoury joining Juvenile team 8/28.
- Retired Captain Randy Schriefer passed away over the weekend in a head-on collision. Condolences to everyone.

Announcements/Correspondence:

- Commissioner Lissa Thiele announced that she will be resigning from the JJC.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Betts adjourned to Executive Session at 1:15p.m. The next meeting will take place on September 5, 2023 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Garasky