

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes - December 1, 2020  
Via Zoom**

**Commissioners Present:** Ron Hansen, Chair Penny Blake  
Victoria BurtonBurke, Vice Chair Lissa Thiele  
Jean Pennypacker, Past Chair Lisa Macias  
Stephen Betts, Secretary Lon Allan  
Darius Parakh Nora Manchester  
Diana Traub [Carol Rhoads](#)  
Heather Angove

**Commissioners Absent:** [Carol Rhoads](#)  
Paula Escobar  
Vaishali "Shali" Sirkay

**Also Present:** Honorable Katherine Lucero, Superior Court  
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court  
Shannon Hanna, Superior Court  
Audrey Nakamoto, Superior Court  
Zelia Faria Costa, Behavioral Health  
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health  
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health  
Alex Villalobos, Behavioral Health  
Veronica Robles, Behavioral Health  
Nick Birchard, Probation Department  
Sean Rooney, Probation Department  
Carl Tademaru, Probation Department  
Alex Villa, Probation Department  
Morena Cruz, Probation Department  
Brittney Carnahan, Probation Department  
Vone Kegarice, Probation Department  
Jamila Hankins, Department of Family and Children Services  
Marie Mauboussin, Department of Family and Children Services  
Ann Huntley, District Attorney's Office  
Nisreen Younis, Public Defender's Office  
Damon Silver, Public Defender's Office  
David Epps, Alternate Defender's Office  
Karen Steiber, Independent Defender's Office  
Ravi Rajendra, County Counsel  
Annalisa Chung, Dependency Advocacy Center  
Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley (LACY)  
Shelley Aggarwal, Valley Medical Center  
Chia-Chen Lee, Valley Medical Center  
Debbie Pell, Bill Wilson Center  
Christian Bijoux, DIY  
Joanna Lowry, W Haywood Burns Institute  
David Mitnick, Probation Department  
Desiree Victor, Young Women's Freedom Center  
Jocelyn Aguilar, Young Women's Freedom Center  
Matt Cammann, SENECA

Rafael Cervantes, Fresh Lifelines for Youth  
Ruth Maurice, OMOS

**Also Present Cont'd:** Pat Tondreau, Citizen (Ret. Judge)  
Rob Lang  
Yvonne Jimenez

**Call to Order & Introductions:** Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. Due to time constraints there were no formal introductions.

**Agenda Approval:** The agenda was approved by twelve (12) Commissioners.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Commissioner Allan and seconded by Commissioner Manchester to approve the November 3, 2020 Minutes was approved unanimously.

**Presentation:** "School Push-Out and Racial Inequality" presented by Joanna Lowry (W. Haywood Burns Institute) and Darya Larizadeh (National Center for Youth Law).

- This presentation focuses on reexamining School Resource Officers (SRO) in school campuses and the impact of policing in schools.
- Youths who are suspended or expelled are more likely to end up in the system according to national research. Latinx and Black students, and students of color who have disabilities, are disproportionately suspended in schools according to data from 2018-2019.
- Historical context: 70% of schools currently have SRO's on campus. The US Department of Justice initiated the COPS in Schools grant program in 1999, the same year as the Columbine High School mass shooting. Fear of rise in violence, particularly violence rooted in racism, caused this push in school policing.
- By 2000, rate of youth violent crime was lower than it had been in the past 20 years. There is no correlation between the harsher punishments and the lowering of violent crime rates.
- There is no clear evidence of SRO's having a positive impact on school campuses regarding preventing school shootings or creating a safer environment. There is, however, evidence that students of color feel overpoliced and more unsafe when SRO's are present, and SRO's do enforce the School to Prison Pipeline.
- Local efforts by school districts include removing SRO's from school campuses, youth and community organizing, and data collection.
- Jocelyn Aguilar (Young Women's Freedom Center) presented a spoken word presentation regarding youths' perspectives on the overpolicing of students of color on campuses.

## REPORTS

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

- Commission has approved and distributed the Continuum of Care Report, which is now posted on the Juvenile Justice Commission webpage. The report looks at the history of RAIC and the impact of COVID on RAIC. The main issue is that there are not enough homes to place youths in.

**Juvenile Justice Court:** Judge Lucero reported on the following:

- Judge Edwards is pushing legislation to mandate Family Find. Judge Tondreau and Judge Lucero received permission from a Senator to carry this out at state-level.
- Placements have always been an issue, but efforts need to be made to find relatives to place youths with.
- The Family First Services Prevention Act is re-envisioning child welfare financing to support placing youths with family members.
- The Courts will have a 2-week furlough; only detention hearings and time not waived matters will be held.
- A new Courthouse Order has been issued by Judge Ryan regarding Santa Clara county being in purple-tier regarding COVID; remote appearances at hearings are encouraged to reduce foot traffic.

**Dependency Court:** Judge Chung reported that only detention hearings will be heard during the 2-week furlough in Dependency Court.

**Alternative Schools Department, COE:** No one was available to report.

**The Office of Mediation and Ombuds Services:** Ruth Maurice reports that OMOS will be doing a presentation for Juvenile Court attorneys on 12/08/20; supervisors have sent the attorneys an invitation to the presentation.

**Probation Department Juvenile Program:** Maureen Wheatley and Nick Birchard report on the following:

- Many families appreciated the meals that were donated to clients in need.
- Some updates regarding the COVID-19 crisis include the following:
- The Juvenile Hall currently houses 38 youths, and James Ranch houses 37 youths.
- In the past week, James Ranch has had one staff member test positive for COVID; all Juveniles in the pod were moved to Juvenile Hall and tested. All of the youths tested negative and will be tested again.
- One youth at James Ranch displayed symptoms and was brought to Juvenile Hall where they tested positive for COVID. All youths in the pod were also brought in for testing; 3 additional youth tested positive, and 3 tested negative.
- Two units from James Ranch are housed in Juvenile Hall currently.

- Another youth at James Ranch tested positive; all other youths in the pod are awaiting their test results.
- Penny Blake asked if the youths arrived with the virus. Nick Birchard answered that the new cases were most likely brought in by staff, not by youths or visiting parties.
- Teachers are still continuing to visit James Ranch and Juvenile Hall.
- Carol Rhoads asked about the Community Probation Unit being eliminated. Mike Simms stated that, due to budget cuts, this unit had to be eliminated as it was not deemed a core function.
- Jean Pennypacker asked about the Community Probation Unit's function. Mike Simms answered that it served as a liaison between law enforcement and the community youths. The unit also held food and clothing drives to help with community needs.

**Department of Children and Family Service/Children's Receiving Center (DFCS):** Jamila Hankins did not have anything new to report.

**Behavioral Health - Mental Health Services and Alcohol and Drug Services:** Rachel Talamantez and Alex Villalobos reported the following:

- Starlight is working with the youth who have been transferred during this time due to COVID. Staff are mainly assisting virtually as needed; however, they do have PPE so that they can go in to help in person if necessary. Starlight staff are checking in with youths by telephone regularly.
- 4 Starlight staff are isolating while awaiting COVID test results. 4 staff members are still available.
- The "Fentanyl Takes Friends" Program is a campaign dedicated to discussing the dangers of Fentanyl and how to handle overdoses. Fentanyl overdoses have nearly doubled since 2019.

**Medical Services:** Shelley Aggarwal, MD reported on the following:

- One youth at the Juvenile Hall is currently being monitored at Valley Medical. Staff are getting tested for COVID every two weeks.
- General medical services are still being provided.
- One LVN and one unit clerk have tested positive for COVID.

**Law Enforcement:** None.

**District Attorney's Office:** None.

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

- The office is still planning to deliver pizza to the youths for Christmas. They are also looking for other creative ways to lift the youths' spirits.
- FLY is hosting a Showcase Breakfast on Friday 12/04/20 at 8:00 am.

**Alternate Defender's Office:** David Epps noted his appreciation for the Probation department's communication and efforts during this difficult time.

**Independent Defender's Office:** Karen Steiber did not have anything new to report.

**Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY):** Andrew Cain reported that LACY currently has two Social Worker positions available for Juvenile Dependency and Medical Legal Partnership with Valley Medical.

**Dependency Advocacy Center:** AnnaLisa Chung reported that DAC is continuing to struggle to provide support for families who are trying to access family strengthening resources due to COVID restrictions.

**Announcements/Correspondence:** None.

**Adjourn to Executive Session:** Chair Hansen adjourned to Executive Session at 1:21 p.m. The next meeting will take place on January 5, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Nakamoto