

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes - February 2, 2021
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
	Vaishali "Shali" Sirkay	Darius Parakh
	Diana Traub	Carol Rhoads
	Heather Angove	Paula Escobar

Commissioners Absent: Nora Manchester

Also Present: Honorable Katherine Lucero, Superior Court
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court
Audrey Nakamoto, Superior Court
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health
Margaret Ledesma, Behavioral Health
Marie Mauboussin, Department of Family and Children's Services
Jill Ugalde, Probation Division Manager- Institutional Services Division
Nick Birchard, Probation Department
Alex Villa, Probation Department
Maureen Wheatley, Probation Department
Carl Tademaru, Probation Department
Kris Leisten, Probation Department
Dr. Katherine Everett, Alternative Schools
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
Debbie Pell, Bill Wilson Center
Matt Cammann, SENECA
Stephen Ajani, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Steve Olmos, Assistant Superintendent- Santa Clara County Office of Education

Also Present Cont'd: Pat Tondreau, Citizen (Ret. Judge)

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Judge Lucero administered the oath to Commissioner Penelope Blake.

Agenda Approval: One agenda modification was proposed to reschedule the presentation for March. The agenda was approved by fourteen (14) Commissioners.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: January 5, 2021 Minutes approved by all.

REPORTS

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

- Commission is continuing the annual Juvenile Hall inspection. Hopefully, the report will be completed by April.

Juvenile Justice Court: Judge Lucero reported on the following:

- Judge Folan has joined Juvenile Justice from Civil and Drug Court. She is delighted to be here and looks forward to learning more from fellow Juvenile Justice judges.
- Tomorrow is the annual "Legal Updates" training presented by District Attorney and Public Defender, Ann Huntley and Nisreen Younis.
- July 1, 2021 is when youths will stop being taken to DJJ. DJJ has a lot of work going on behind the scenes, and the whole state is working on this.

Dependency Court: Judge Chung reported, in reference to the infographic that was sent out to the group regarding the statistics from 2020 RE: Section 300 petitions filed, that the number of petitions are down compared to 2019. In 2018, 531 petitions were filed. In 2019, 626 petitions were filed. In 2020, 467 petitions were filed. However, there may be many factors that contributed to the reduced number, including the impact of COVID.

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

- The Council continues to meet throughout Shelter-in-Place; there will be a public panel presentation from Dependency Court stakeholders on March 12, 2021 at 7:30 am to discuss how COVID has impacted the Dependency system. The panel will include representatives from the Court, DFCS, LACY, Dependency Advocacy Center, County Counsel, and Child Advocates.
- Shali Sirkay asked how those who wish to attend the panel will receive an invitation. Andrew answered that he can arrange that, and a link may be available on the County Commissions and Board webpage.

Dependency Advocacy Center: AnnaLisa Chung reported that she will be on the panel mentioned above. DAC is also hiring for 4 new positions- 1 attorney, 1 social worker, and 2 mentor parents. These positions are for a prevention focused pilot program which will offer legal advice and interdisciplinary support for families at risk for entering the system. This program is working in partnership with First 5 and DFCS.

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

Alternative Schools Department, COE: Steve Olmos reported on the following:

- Schools are not back to in-person learning yet as there are conflicting guidelines from the state regarding whether or not reopening is possible.
- Middle and high schools do not have as much of a push to reopen as elementary schools do.
- The target is to reopen schools in March 2021.

- Ron Hansen asked if the March 1 target to reopen is still applicable. Steve answered that current guidelines say that high schools cannot reopen until the county is in red tier.

Probation Department Juvenile Program: Nick Birchard, Maureen Wheatley, Carl Tademaru, and Alex Villa reported on the following:

- There are many staffing fluctuations due to the voluntary separation incentives program and disaster services worker assignments.
- CITA has received a grant related to coaching professionals associated with the program.
- Probation is still waiting regarding education plans, especially in regards to the upcoming year for high school students.
- The CA Department of Social Services decertified out of state placements; out of state placements will no longer be allowed. Only one youth was affected by this, but she is not in placement anymore.
- Juvenile Hall currently has no COVID positive cases, but there is 1 unit under post-exposure due to one employee contracting COVID. There is still a unit from James Ranch at Juvenile Hall which is scheduled to return to the ranch on February 5, 2021.
- 1/3 of staff have taken advantage of the COVID vaccines. Juvenile Hall is looking at reopening Wednesday afternoon visits in the gym.
- Probation is currently working on DJJ alternative programs as Judge Lucero mentioned.
- Judge Bondonno asked if any of the young people going back to the ranch are female. Carl answered no, the pod is male only.
- Nisreen asked about Wednesday afternoon visitations and whether those visitations may take place on the weekend to accommodate parents' schedules. Nick answered that there is currently a concern with security as there are no sheriffs available to monitor the metal detectors on the weekend; however the hope would be to expand the visitation hours in the future.
- Nisreen asked if there is an effort to look into more in-state placements, and why were out of state placements decertified? Maureen answered that the out of state programs did not meet standards that CA has for placements. Recertification of out of state placements may be possible in the future, but this county has a practice of not placing youth in a program unless it has personally visited and seen the program. Probation does look into other placements, particularly for the sex offender population. Probation is part of a coalition of state-wide probation departments, both in the placement realm and with chief probation officers, so they are always talking to other counties and looking for placement options.

James Ranch: Jill Ugalde reported the following:

- Visitations are resuming this weekend (Saturday and Sunday); visitations will be pod-specific, so one pod will have visitation at a time. These visitations will be hosted in the Recreational Hall, which the Public Health Department has checked out and approved. Guidelines are published and will be enforced.
- The population has been around low to mid 30's. One group is quarantined in Juvenile Hall, but everyone has tested negative for COVID.
- There is currently one female youth in James Ranch.
- James Ranch has begun working with the University of Cincinnati through their JAG Grant to redefine the program and make a model that works for their current population. For example, they are working on the PBIS model.
- Victoria BurtonBurke asked when did the University of Cincinnati start? Jill answered that the kick off meeting was around 2-2.5 weeks ago, and the University of Cincinnati is currently

reviewing all of their files, resources, and literature. The University of Cincinnati is also sitting in on groups to observe and will be conducting a hands on inspection on the week of the 16th.

Holiday Recognition: Carol Rhoads presented Dr. Judith Crates and her students Liam, Harris, and Dia at E3 Youth Philanthropy Program of Los Altos Community Foundation and Bring Me a Book with a certificate of recognition from the Juvenile Justice Commission. Dr. Crates, the students, and everyone involved delivered hand-made cards, books, gifts, and treat bags to youth in custody.

Department of Children and Family Service/Children's Receiving Center (DFCS): Jamila Hankins reported that they are still waiting on licensure for the welcoming center. Ron asked whether or not they have an idea of when that might occur, and Jamila answered no, they are still awaiting information.

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

- Behavioral Health is working closely with Probation on building supports as part of a DJJ alternative program, and the collaboration is going well.
- AB2083 Foster Youth Trauma Informed System of Care has begun; the technical work group has started with that effort, and Margaret Ledesma can provide more information regarding this particular topic.
- Jean Pennypacker asked if Rachel could explain what AB2083 is, and Rachel answered that it is an assembly bill related to foster youth and developing a trauma informed system of care, services, and supports. Rachel asked if Judge Lucero is a cochair to which Judge Lucero responded that she is not a cochair; however, she is on the technical implementation team and is hopeful about this project and believes it will make a positive change.
- Carol Rhoads asked for an update on the extent to and mediums through which youth in scattered site and transitional placements are receiving services. Rachel answered that all youth in satellite sites are connected with Behavioral Health services through WRAP services and existing Behavioral Health services. WRAP teams are providing services in person primarily, and some services are available through virtual platforms.
- Penny Blake asked how youth who do not have existing services and are just entering into care for the first time are being assessed and accessing services. Rachel answered that Behavioral Health screenings happen within the first 24 hours of entering the system, and referrals and references are made. There are also placement stabilization services that are available.

Medical Services: Dr. Shelley Aggarwal reported on the following:

- There are no significant updates other than the work toward offering vaccines to youth when they become available and approved. There is no exact timeframe yet, but that is the next step that medical services is working toward.
- Currently, the Pfizer vaccine is for youths 16 years and up. The Moderna vaccine is for adults 18 years and up. The vaccines are being examined for safety for use on youth 12 years and up.
- Medical services is currently working on obtaining consent from youths' parents. There is more hesitance about vaccinations than anticipated.
- Carol Rhoads asked what priority group the youth in custody fall under. Dr. Aggarwal answered that they fall under phase 2 (there are currently phases 1a, 1b, and 2). Youth in custody will become eligible before their community peers. Eligibility differs between age groups.
- Medical services is also working with pharmacy partners to get doses and administer those doses so that there will be no need for specialized storage. They are currently working on longer-term solutions to vaccine storage in the future.

Law Enforcement: None.

District Attorney's Office: Ann Huntley had nothing new to report.

Public Defender's Office: Nisreen Younis had nothing new to report.

Carol Rhoads asked if the District Attorney's Office and/or the Public Defender's Office have noticed any concerning trends or patterns. Ann answered that, given COVID and 2020 being an unusual year, there seems to be a drastic reduction in residential burglaries, likely because most people are staying at home. However, there is an increase in robberies, violent crimes involving guns and other weapons, and car jackings. Nisreen answered that there is the usual issue of housing instability, and many young females are running away from home due to family conflict, which is inadvertently leading them to be in vulnerable positions to human trafficking.

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

Announcements/Correspondence: None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Hansen adjourned to Executive Session at 1:17 p.m. The next meeting will take place on March 2, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Nakamoto