

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2022
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair
Stephen Betts, Vice Chair
Carol Rhoads, Secretary
Jean Pennypacker
Lionel Allan
Lisa Macias
Lissa Thiele
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Ron Hansen
Darius Parakh

Commissioners Absent: Diana Traub
Heather Angove
Vaishali Sirkay
Paula Escobar

Also Present: Honorable Maureen Folan, Superior Court
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court
Honorable Franklin Bondonno, Superior Court
Honorable L. Michael Clark, Superior Court
Anjelica Hayden, Superior Court
Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Myra Vargas, Behavioral Health
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health
Veronica Robles, Behavioral Health
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health
Morena Cruz, Probation Department
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Mike Simms, Probation Department
Victoria ContrerasWolfe, Probation Department
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department
Carl Tademaru, Probation Department
Nick Birchard, Probation Department
Marc Utsey, Probation Department
Mark Camilleri, Santa Clara County of Education
Nisreen Baroudi, Public Defender's Office
Barbara Wolfe, Public Defender's Office
Paul Jhin, Public Defenders Office
Stacey Capps, Office of the District Attorney
Glen Casados, Independent Defender's Office
Ravi Rajendra, Office of the County Council
Shelley Aggarwal, Valley Medical Center
Lanphuong Le, Valley Medical Center
Damon Silver, Public Defender's Office
David Epps, Alternate Defenders Office

AnnaLisa Chung, Dependency Advocacy Center
Patrick Tondreau, Dependency Advocacy Center
Matt Cammann, Seneca Family of Agencies
Dana Bunnett, Kids in Common
Jessica Bonduris, SCCOE
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE
Eugene Santillan, SCCOE
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Destiny Aguayo, FLY
Manny Cardenas, FLY
Vianni Garcia, FLY
Taylor Phan, FLY
Vone Kegarice, JPD
Jennifer Kelleher Cloyd, LACY
Angelica Ramos-Allen, Office of the Board VP Susan Ellenberg
Jim Elliott, San Andreas Regional Center
Kiana Simmons , Bill Wilson Center Policy Aide
Marcie Bellicitti, 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.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: January 4, 2022 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

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

- In January the JJC met in its regular standing committees, talked to county government personnel regarding important issues to continue our work to see that the youth are best served in the Dependency and Justice System.
- The inspection of Juvenile Hall has completed the information gathering section and is moving on to getting the report prepared.
- Members of the JJC have attended trainings and written letters important to the issues of equity and justice.
- Commissioner BurtonBurke urges each department speaker to answer the question of the day: Please comment in the reports on your agency's upstream efforts to reduce disproportionality among children entering the dependency and justice systems.

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

- Judge Clark thanks the Commission for their commitment to the youth and families in the community. The difficult work that all of the Commission does for the community does not go unnoticed.
- The temporary COVID-19 restrictions that went into effect on January 12, 2022 were lifted January 31, 2022. The Courthouse is now fully accessible to the public.
- Juvenile Justice continues to conduct hearings utilizing a hybrid approach. Youth, families, and Justice Partners can either come into the court room or appear remotely.

- In 2022 we continue to have three judges assigned to Juvenile Justice and three judges assigned to Juvenile Dependency.
 - Only 2 clerks have been assigned to those three judges in Juvenile Justice and 2 clerks to Juvenile Dependency. Due to budget cuts over the last several years, we have fewer clerks than we do judges; this will continue for the foreseeable future.
 - Only two courtrooms can be open at a time for Juvenile Justice or Juvenile Dependency.
- Judge Bondonno reports that Judge Clark will be completing the Judge's inspection of Juvenile Hall on February 7th.
- There will be a training on Juvenile Competency for evaluators to be conducted by Dr. Karen Franklin on March 8th from 9:30-11:30. This will be a virtual training.

Juvenile Justice Court: Judge Folan reported on the following:

- The Secure Track System is doing well, youth that have been reviewed are excelling and engaged in all sorts of programing. It is a very promising beginning.
- Judge Folan thanks everyone for their hard work in making this program a success.

Dependency Court: Judge Chung reported on the following:

- Judge Lucero had previously reported that Judge Sivilla-Jones would be coming into Dependency to take over Department 67 from Judge Rosen, but Judge Sivilla-Jones will be on a leave of absence until May. In the meantime, Department 67's cases will be heard in Department 68 or Department 69 depending on the day of the week.
- As a result of the Omicron wave, Dependency has suspended in person morning calendars in early January and went remote.
 - We originally planned to resume in person hearings this week in conjunction with the reopening with the courthouse, but we have extended remote hearings for one more week. We will re-open with in person morning calendars on February 7th.
- The Morgan Hill Courthouse will be re-opening for Juvenile Dependency cases starting February 18th holding hearings 2 Fridays per month.
 - This will be helpful for South County families who had good attendance in Morgan Hill pre-pandemic.

Alternative Schools Department: Dane Caldwell-Holden, Eugene Santillan, Mark Camilleri, and Jessica Bonduris, reported on the following:

- To answer the question of the day, Dane commented: From a systems standpoint we have been using upstream thinking this year to work with our district representatives to have them better understand how to use expulsion and when not to use expulsion, what Ed-Code means, what our students' legal due process rights are, and to try to help district representatives make better decisions before they send students up for discipline.
 - Now that we have a Transition Navigator, we are working with our districts to make sure that when youth come out of incarceration, they go smoothly right back into their home districts.
- Eugene reported: The Transition Navigators are going to be connecting with our community partners and act as a conduit between our school and all of our feeder districts to help build those positive relationships and analyze what school is the best fit for youth, so we don't send students back to the same circumstances they were in before.
 - It encourages us to anticipate our students' needs and challenges when they transition out of incarceration and into the community. Some of these conversations have led to signing up more students for community college work, and linking youth with the appropriate re-entry services showing them they can be successful.

- Another huge thing for us has been developing new positions to deliver services in ways that weren't delivered before. The Justice Family Education Coordinator listens to our partners in Probation and the Office of Re-entry and we identify this gap in service to the community where now we have someone in place that is able to work with families and children and make sure that they're being linked to educational planning and they have an advocate at their side in the community.
- We have been working with our Continuous Improvement Department, they call themselves the CIA of The County Office of Education. This is a department that is helping us analyze to see how well we are providing the services and what are ways we can improve the way that we are engaging with our community.
- Mark reported: With upstream we are focusing on getting to know the students and how to improve educational success for all of them. It is important we continue working as a team, listening to the students, reflecting how to best serve the data points after students take these assessments so we can talk about gaps in education.
- Jessica reported: We are now in a data driven culture and so we are really analyzing what we are doing and how it is working, and with that, what will we abandon, what we will modify in our approach in the future. Our vision that we redid this year that we revamped: To treat the needs of the whole youth ensuring that they grow in our programs with the enhanced academic and social skills set and believe that their ability to succeed and the knowledge that they have a team to support them.

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

- DFCS was asked to report specifically on how we're looking at disparity and disproportionality and the impacts it has on child welfare. We are focusing on prevention efforts and how we support particular communities that are in our system disproportionately and making sure that there is engagement with those communities. We have a prevention bureau that supports these communities and there are also opportunities and formalized services that we have with educational support services working with schools and targeting areas that have high referral rates.
- We are also looking at how DFCS functions and engages the child welfare system and how we support the families that come into our system, making sure there are opportunities to recognize cultural bias as well as opportunities to work with families with cultural brokers. These brokers represent the community and advocate for children and families that come into our system at the referral stage.
- The last piece is looking at our integrated core practice model. This is what governs all of California in terms of child welfare practices. The practice model is built to address disparity and disproportionality, but the most important piece in that is family engagement. Making sure that we are involved in our family's life from referral to case to closure. Making sure that there is specific work to engage the family, to understand their story, understand what is going on, how to keep the children safe and working with those families to do so. These are just three of the efforts that we are working on to drive our family protection system to a family wellbeing system.

Probation Department – Juvenile Services: Victoria Contreras, Mike Simms, and Nick Birchard reported on the following:

- The Juvenile Probation Quality Systems Team recently completed two sessions of a Judicial Transfer Report Training which is provided to supervisors and managers. This is the first training of its kind as it's created by Probation for Probation.
 - The training provides historical context, breaks down criteria, and explains the Court process to staff.

- This training was certified by SDC in October of 2021. It will be presented to our probation officers next.
- To answer the question of the day, Mike reported that in terms of race and equity work, Probation has worked with the County, and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, and looking to have a position they will be filling very shortly that will be overseeing the race and equity work for Probation.
 - Probation is looking into youth that come into the system, what their support systems are, and what it means to assist youth.
 - The department is looking to revamp their education system, having dedicated probation officers that will connect youth back to the schools.
- Nick reported that Probation is working with Public Health to see when youth will return to the Ranch and Hall. No positive cases have come from either facility.
- Marc Utsey reported that during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Ranch population has been accommodated by Juvenile Hall. Mark thanks the Juvenile staff and COE for being able to dynamically accommodate all the youth during this time. The Ranch has begun new COVID-19 self-testing procedures every day. Testing will be conducted by the staff.
 - When JJC came by for a site visit, it was concluded that the weight room needs to be updated. The Ranch collaborated with COE and SVCcreates to paint and update the weight room to benefit the youth.
 - The Ranch is beginning its RC Cars Program. The youth will have the opportunity to engage in competition through practice and discipline. Youth will assist in constructing the track, the drivers stand and creating the rules.
- Commissioner BurtonBurke asked: How many youth are at the Ranch Right now? Marc answered 20 youth.
- Ashanti Hayes reported the Juvenile Hall will be continuing COVID-19 testing for everyone.
 - The Hall has had no positive cases for staff within 4-5 days.
 - It has been 2-3 weeks since the last in person visit due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Zoom had replaced the in-person visits during this time. Youth will be able to resume in person visiting this Wednesday.
 - We are preparing for the JJC in person inspection.
 - We have been working with the Commissioner Pennypacker to answer all question before the visit.

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

Behavioral Health Services: Mayra Vargas reported on the following:

- Behavioral Health is still in the recruitment process for clinical staff. Our lead clinician Carol Guerrero will be retiring after 30 years at the end of this month.
 - Judge Bondonno asked: Who will take Carol's place after retirement? Mayra answers, Aaron Morgan will be replacing Carol.
- Clinicians are actively participating in different trainings to further enhance their training to be able to enhance our clinical program and to provide the best services for youth.
- To answer the question of the day, prevention efforts are still continuing to grow across our department including our partnerships with different stakeholders, Courts, and with our services through schools as well as our partnership with First 5 and Early Child and Mental Health to be able to provide services to youth at a young age when the youth is in need.

Medical Services: Shelley Aggarwal reported on the following:

- In reference to the recent surge with Omicron, we have modified our testing strategies and have increased testing so that we could identify potential risks and infections as early as possible.

- This process will begin to dial that down in the next couple weeks.
- Vaccination clinics will continue.
 - There is a steady trend of 60% of our youth being vaccinated.
 - 30% of youth are not vaccinated.
 - Many youth who are no longer admitted do leave partially or fully vaccinated.
 - Seasonal flu vaccinations are continuing to be administered.
- To answer the question of the day, one of the trends that we see with justice involved populations including youth is more utilization of acute care environments for medical services such as emergency rooms. We are working on improving our continuum of care and transitions to primary care services ideally help youth and families identify medical homes.

Law Enforcement Agencies: No one present to report.

District Attorney's Office: Paul Jhin reported on the following:

- The Juvenile Justice team has added 3 new Deputy District Attorneys as three other Deputy District Attorneys have moved on.
- To answer the question of the day, we have 6 community prosecutors who have been working throughout the county. They are working on a new Parent Project class, truancy prevention throughout the county, and working hard on the human trafficking issue happening near Monterey Highway area.
 - In South County we have the South County Restorative Justice Youth Diversion Program which has an engagement truancy aspect that focuses on removing barriers to attendance and providing support to students and families.
 - Also in South County we have the South County Youth Task Force that we are involved in and support.
- Commissioner Pennypacker commented, it has been a long time since we talked about what your Community Prosecutors do, but can you give us an overview of what they do in the community? Paul answered, Community Prosecutors are trying to work with the community to educate the public on the criminal justice system process. For the Juvenile aspect in particular we are working on truancy abatement, human trafficking issues, and reaching out to try to get the community educated to try to prevent youth from entering the system.
- Commissioner Pennypacker asked: Do you go out and have forums, do you have groups? How do you get the message across? Paul answers, we do both of those things and attend community meetings. Community Prosecutors go out into schools and have meetings at schools with community groups to educate the community.

Public Defender's Office: Nisreen Baroudi, Damon Silver, and Barbara Wolfe reported on the following:

- Nisreen thanks the courts for limiting cases on the 21st of January so that our attorneys could attend the Juvenile Justice Seminar.
- At DJJ things are not going very well, we should anticipate attorneys potentially filing 779 motions to bring our clients back from DJJ.
 - Morale is low at DJJ due to the fact that it is closing, and a lot of staff are moving on and seeking new job opportunities, the COVID-19 spread amongst the clients and staff, and that staff are forced to work overtime.
 - If our clients have completed a majority of their program, we will seek to have them returned to our county for continued supervision.
- To answer the question of the day, Damon was able to participate in Race Equity Academy Leadership Program a year ago as a member of the re-entry cohort and was able to establish relationships with leadership, Anna Lily Garcia, who has moved positions to lead this program

throughout the County. She has been working with the Public Defender's Office for the last year hosting several sessions with our leadership team. We are now moving to a phase 2, being able to expand the race equity framework, applying it both to our service of our clientele and the internal culture of our office which certainly relates to disproportionality of our juvenile clients.

- Barbara introduced herself as the new Community Outreach Attorney at the Public Defender's Office. Recently she has continued the connection our office has made with Overfelt High School, having office hours there and connecting with the students and staff. She also plans to do similar work at Andrew Hill High School in the coming months.

Alternate Defender's Office: David Epps reported on the following:

- David echoes Damon's comments in terms of what the Alternate Defenders Office is doing in terms of race equity and addressing disproportionality.

Independent Defense Office: Glenn Casados reported on the following:

- We have John Winchester joining us, he will be coming from County Council to fill the gap that Karen Stieber left when she moved on from our office.
- To pass along the words of our director in terms of addressing disproportionality:
 - The key to eliminating the disparity with youth of color is to keep them out of the system in the first place, and to provide effective council to assist these minors in a very holistic approach.
 - At IDO we accept cases that PDO or ADO cannot take, so once we have those clients, we are very sensitive to their issues.

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): Jennifer Kelleher Cloyd reported on the following:

- To answer the question of the day, LACY works with the youth once they enter the system, we are their court appointed counsel on the Juvenile Dependency side, but we represent a lot of youth that are not a part of that system and ideally find them an alternate arrangement that skirts the system but still gives them the resources that the system offers.
- We have also been doing expanded work in the immigration realm. If the youth are able to connect to getting legal status in this country, we can avoid them unnecessarily entering the system when they have caregivers willing to sponsor and support them move through the immigration process.

Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC): AnnaLisa Chung reported on the following:

- To answer the question of the day, we have been putting a lot of our energy to our upstream work at DAC, Court order First Call for Families and Prevention are really where we're likely to have the most impact in addressing disproportionality on children entering the dependency system.
 - In our Pilot Phase, the First Call program prioritizes families at risk of system entry who live in East San Jose and East Gilroy, focusing on those zip codes that are likely to bring in youth of color into the system.
 - We are currently doing Know Your Rights Presentations about child welfare involvement to families and providers in those communities.
 - Members of our interdisciplinary staff are located at the Educate Families Resource Center to better be able to access families, provide resources and provide individualized support.

Announcements/Correspondence:

- Commissioner Blake thanks those who presented today. The meeting was very valuable because of the information that was shared.

- Eugene Santillan mentioned that the construction program in partnership with the Laborers International Program just started yesterday at Osbourne School at Juvenile Hall. He thanks Mark for the links to that program and thanks all involved at Juvenile Hall who were involved in assisting with this program for the youth.
- Mark Camilleri thanks Osbourne, COE, and Probation staff for supporting all the youth through this project-based learning program.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair BurtonBurke adjourned to Executive Session at 1:14 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Zoom on March 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Anjelica Hayden