

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2024
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Stephen Betts, Chair
Dev Ghoshal, Vice Chair
Marcie Bellicitti, Secretary
Victoria BurtonBurke
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Jean Pennypacker
Heather Angove
Darius Parakh
Karen Guldan
Rayan Sengupta

Commissioners Absent: Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay
Diana Traub
Neha Parthasarathi

Also Present: Honorable Jose Franco, Superior Court
Honorable Sunil Kulkarni, Superior Court
Honorable Andrea Flint, Superior Court
Honorable Shawna Schwarz, Superior Court
Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Britney Huelbig, Superior Court
Rachel Talamantez, BHSD
Vanessa Cornejo, BHSD
Grace Gonzalez, BHSD
Michelle Hauck, BHSD
Veronica Robles, BHSD
Violeta Garcia, BHSD
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Elsa Jennings, Probation Department
Marc Utsey, Probation Department
Ngan Ho, Probation Department
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department
Ignacio Carriles, Probation Department
Elisa Carias, Probation Department
Kristin Keller, Probation Department
Damon Silver, PDO
Jonathan Mosby, PDO
Paul Jhin, DAO
David Epps, ADO
Lana Kreidie, IDO
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE

Lissa Thiele, SCCOE
Maria Yakoub, SCCOE
Amanda Kennedy, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Marie Mauboussin, DFCS
Katie Joh, DAC
Vianni Garcia, FLY
Josh Selo, BWC
Phillip Rodriguez, New Hope for Youth
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Sarah Duffy, OCFP
Ashley Dargert, Office of County Supervisor Otto Lee
Tonya Robnett-Robertson, Office of the Independent Police Auditor
Matt Cammann, Seneca
Susan Bates, citizen
Ray Blockie, citizen

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Betts called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

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

Swearing In: Honorable Jose Franco administered the oath of office to Howard Pomerantz as Juvenile Justice Commissioner in the County of Santa Clara, for a term ending in 2028.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: January 2, 2024 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

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

- JJC is now meeting in person.
 - Public meetings will be hybrid (virtual & in person).
 - If you want to attend in person: Independence Room at 353 West Julian Street
- Working on reports for Juvenile Hall and the Ranch.
- JJC will be having executive planning session to review goals.

Presiding Judge: Honorable Jose Franco reported on the following:

- Welcome to Judge Flint and Judge Kulkarni.
- Meeting with many justice partners to plan for the next year.

Dependency Court: Judge Schwarz reported on the following:

- Increased petitions filed in Dependency Court.
 - Jan-Oct 2023 has an average of 8 petitions per month
 - Nov 2023 had 36 petitions, Dec 2023 had 37 petitions
 - Jan 2024 had 29 petitions

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

Independent Defender's Office: Lana Kreidie had nothing new to report.

- Welcome Judge Flint and Judge Kulkarni.
- New panel attorney joining team – Jessica Burt-Smith.
- Transitioned out of “attorney of the day” model.

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): Amanda Kennedy had nothing new to report.

Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC): Katie Joh reported on the following:

- Katie Joh is the new CEO of DAC (taking over for Preeti Mishra).
- Increase in filings in Dependency Court.
- Experiencing shortage of mental health assessors to assist clients in Court.

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

Alternative Schools Department: Dane Caldwell-Holden reported on the following:

- We have a zero percent suspension rate in our Court schools.
- New Family Resource Coordinator—Maria Yakoub.

Department of Family and Children's Service (DFCS): No one present to report.

Probation Department:

Ashanti Hayes reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Welcomed new program “A Brighter Day”.
 - 13 week program for SYTF youth to help with interview preparation/job coaching.
- Had an unplanned evacuation due to smoke in the building, where staff collaborated well and everyone got out safely.

Elsa Jennings reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Current population: 34 young adults/youth in custody
 - 24 at the Ranch (20 boys, 4 girls)
 - 10 at SYTF (7 boys, 3 girls)
- Had a few successful high school graduations last month.
- 7 Ranch youth participating in the construction program.
- All but one SYTF youth engaged in college courses.
 - One youth is exploring employment options.
- Hoping to transfer SYTF Probation internship to a woman for equal opportunity.
- New program – A Brighter Day.

Ignacio Carriles reported on the following for services:

- Officer in South County will be continuing her weekly groups at various schools.
- Officers recently gave a presentation to the Mountain View Police Department.
- Education services unit participated in career day at Sunrise Middle School.

Behavioral Health: Veronica Robles reported on the following:

- Welcome to Judge Flint and Judge Kulkarni.
- Onboarded a Spanish-speaking clinician.
- Onboarding a new therapist for Juvenile Hall clinical team.
- Working on filling 3 vacancies for SYTF program.

- Commissioner Pennypacker asked: I thought those vacancies were filled? Or are they new vacancies?
 - Veronica responded: The SYFT program positions are new.

Medical Services: No one present to report.

Law Enforcement Agencies: No one present to report.

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

- Emily Lessard moved to the felony team.
- Added 2 new attorneys to juvenile team.

Public Defender's Office: Jonathan Mosby had nothing new to report.

Announcements/Correspondence:

- Britney Huelbig announced that the County is looking for applicants to serve on the 2024-2025 Civil Grand Jury. Britney asked if anyone can share information regarding the Civil Grand Jury recruitment throughout their agencies.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Betts adjourned to Executive Session at 12:47p.m. The next meeting will take place on March 5, 2023 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Garasky