

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes - January 5, 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
	Vaishali "Shali" Sirkay	Nora Manchester
	Diana Traub	Carol Rhoads
	Heather Angove	Paula Escobar

Commissioners Absent: Darius Parakh

Also Present:

Honorable Katherine Lucero, Superior Court
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court
Audrey Nakamoto, Superior Court
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health
Miriam Orlando, Behavioral Health
Nick Birchard, Probation Department
Alex Villa, Probation Department
Morena Cruz, Probation Department
Brittney Carnahan, Probation Department
Vone Kegarice, Probation Department
Elisa Carias, Probation Department
Maureen Wheatley, Probation Department
David Mitnick, 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
Chia-Chen Lee, Valley Medical Center
Debbie Pell, Bill Wilson Center
Christian Bijoux, DIY
Matt Cammann, SENECA
Vianni Garcia, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Joy Hernandez, JusticeEd Initiative -National Center for Youth Law (NCYL)
Dr. Reggie Daniels, The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF)

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. Due to time constraints there were no formal introductions.

Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved by fourteen (14) Commissioners.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Chair Hansen and seconded by Commissioner Victoria BurtonBurke to approve the December 1, 2020 Minutes was approved after the following changes were made: Commissioner Carol Rhoads was present at the December 1, 2020 meeting, and the Presentation bullet point #4 year has been changed from "2000" to "2020".

Presentation: "JusticeEd Initiative" presented by Joy Hernandez (National Center for Youth Law).

- This presentation focuses on the JusticeEd Initiative, a pilot education support program for probation-involved students.
- JusticeEd focuses on the following areas: student centered planning (planning around youths' aspirations for themselves), education team coordination (working closely with all of the youths' service providers to support education), and caregiver capacity building (partnering with the youths' caregivers to help support their education).
- The goal is to have an annual evaluation to show that the program is effective and to turn this pilot program into a permanent program. The evaluation will also provide feedback on what works in the program and what can be improved.
- JusticeEd is currently integrated into Probation Ed Services intake process; students are referred within 30 days of adjudication.
- JusticeEd has also partnered with major HS serving districts which allows for information/data sharing and supports data-informed coaching.
- Year 1 (2018-2019) Progress Report: JusticeEd has 3 major partners including
 - Educational Results Partnership (ERP)- Academic data
 - RTI International- Social-Emotional survey and Student Experience Survey data (conducted every 6 months)
 - San Jose State University- Parent focus groups and interviews.
- Current student profile is 58 students served across county- 48% had alternative school involvement during program year. 26% had an Individualized Education Plan or 504 plan.
- Changing schools is strongly related to academic data; every move costs the youth approximately 6 months of education. Participants in this program have the lowest attendance rates at 67%.
- There were no expulsion recommendations for any participants during program year. Suspension rate is between 0-9%, most likely erring on the lower side, which is a significant decrease from 2017-2018 when there was a 20-30% suspension rate.
- Social-Emotional Learning data collected through a survey shows measurable increases in future success orientation, discussion with adults, encouragement from adults, and knowledge of future education steps/supports.
- The program status as of 12.20.20 includes 214 students referred, 114 students served, and 14 current recruitments.
- The program is currently working on overcoming obstacles presented by the unprecedented circumstances of COVID-10, including troubleshooting tech/access issues, coaching students and families on navigating platforms, providing tutoring and assignment support, bridging communication with school sites, and monitoring through SIS systems.
- JusticeEd is currently working on their Year 2 Report.

- Judge Lucero expressed her appreciation for how much education is related to youths' progress, and she supports this program becoming a permanent program.
- Chair Hansen asked what is the potential of continuing the program. Joy Hernandez answered that the program is still searching for funding options and is open to ideas.
- Chair Hansen asked what the capacity of the program is. Joy Hernandez answered that there are about 9-10 students on the waitlist, and the program hopes to have 4-5 liaisons to serve youths in need. JusticeEd is currently working with other programs and organizations to build capacity outside of the program.

REPORTS

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

- JJC will continue to hold meetings through Zoom indefinitely. Five new commissioners have been appointed since lockdown began.
- The annual Juvenile Hall inspection is coming up at the end of the month. The main concern is regarding COVID-19 and moving youths between facilities.
- During December 2020, the Commission approved and released the report, "School Policing and School Resource Officers: Considerations and Recommendations". This was distributed to community leaders, educators, and police chiefs throughout the county.
- Carol Rhoads summarized the report that suggests that routine police presence on school campuses can cause short and long-term harm. Therefore, it should be minimized, and districts should work toward ending SRO's on campuses. Hopefully, resources can go toward increasing mental health and educational services, and the JJC hopes this report will inform constructive discussions among community, schools, and law enforcement.

Juvenile Justice Court: Judge Lucero reported on the following:

- Judge Lucero will be taking over the DIY Calendar at policy and Court level.
- 2021 will focus on specialty Courts and developing them while judges are rotating in the courtrooms.
- Training scheduled for February 3, 2021- "Legal Updates for Juvenile Justice". If anyone would like to attend but does not receive an invitation, please email Judge Lucero directly.
- Hearings are still being held remotely during the most recent COVID surge; Juvenile Hall is also holding virtual court. Participants can also call in. 1 courtroom is running in the morning, and trials are set in the morning as well.
- Thanks to colleagues and judges for their work during this time with so many restrictions.

Dependency Court: Judge Chung had nothing new to report.

Dependency Advocacy Center: AnnaLisa Chung reported that COVID is still negatively impacting families affected by the child welfare system, especially regarding visitations. Hopefully staff will be prioritized as frontline workers to receive vaccinations as there is short staffing due to COVID exposure.

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

Alternative Schools Department, COE: Dr. Katherine Everett reported on the following:

- Staff are currently in distance-learning mode and have been pulling back on in-person learning since November 2020. The hope is to resume in-person learning by the end of the month, but that is subject to change.
- There was recently an internal clock lockout which shut down all of the computers, but all teachers should be back on Zoom by the end of the week.
- Chair Hansen asked if the Zoom meetings are one-on-one with individuals or in a group setting. Dr. Katherine Everett answered that they are usually in a group model, but students do come on one by one. Currently, most students' needs are addressed individually.

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

- December 2020 was challenging because of COVID; thankfully, they were able to help some families with food, furniture items, and more.
- Although students are not returning to school in person yet, Probation is raising challenges for students who will be returning to in-person attendance, including considerations regarding how to motivate students to attend school once in-person attendance begins again.
- Probation is also working on finishing sealing expansion and transition policy. The sealing expansion is in reference to sealing records after a juvenile's successful completion of a diversion or supervision program. The transition policy is in reference to the processes to help a youth transition back into the education system after being detained.

James Ranch: Chair Hansen stated that Dolores Morales wished to share a video of appreciation made by the youths at James Ranch. The youths were able to have a pizza party to celebrate the holidays thanks to NCYL. Carol Rhoads thanked Dolores and Probation for making everything happen.

Department of Children and Family Service/Children's Receiving Center (DFCS): Jamila Hankins reported that Seneca was still awaiting the license to open the Welcoming Center. It's uncertain when the license will be received..

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

- Zelia Faria is the new division director of County Clinical Services; Rachel will be serving as interim division director for Cross Systems Division until the position is officially filled.
- Juvenile Hall Behavioral Health has worked closely with Starlight regarding clinical care for youths at James Ranch who are currently at Juvenile Hall.
- A new effort as of December 9, 2020 has lead clinicians and manager, Veronica Robles, providing support through MSTeams.
- Daniel Garcia is the new rehab counselor in charge of transition of behavioral health care. He will ensure that youths are connected with resources and programs once they leave the program. The hope is that his role will streamline the youths' system of care.
- Jean Pennypacker asked if she could tell us any information about what is happening over on the dependency side. Rachel answered that she is not working closely with Dependency, so she can connect her with Margaret in Dependency for more information.
- Everyone in attendance agreed that they would like Margaret to attend these hearings in the future to provide information for Dependency.

Medical Services: Chia-Chen Lee reported on the following:

- COVID Update: 1 case is asymptomatic. Most medical staff are vaccinated, so the next phase will be planning for the youths to be vaccinated due to their high risk. Staff are currently working to obtain consent from guardians to vaccinate the youths.
- Pfizer has a vaccine that is administered in two doses for youths 16 years and older. Moderna has a vaccine for youths 18 and older.
- Staff are also currently working with hospitals to obtain a freezer for the vaccines. They are also educating youths and parents about the vaccines.
- Chair Hansen asked if staff are anticipating that most parents will allow the vaccines. Chia-Chen answered that they do not know yet.

Law Enforcement: None.

District Attorney's Office: None.

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

- Thanks to Dolores for helping facilitate the pizza party. About \$5000 was raised, and \$30 gift cards were given to the youths.
- Thanks to LACY staff who also distributed the items.
- Judge Lucero is taking over the 241.1 Court, which will be good for the girls who usually end up on that calendar.
- 827's have been processed in a timely manner thanks to Judge Lucero.
- 79 youths are in custody- 68 are Latino, 7 are Black, 2 are White, 1 is Asian, and 1 identifies as "Other". Hopefully, 2021 will be a year of radical change to address this.
- Damon Silver echoed Nisreen's sentiments.

Alternate Defender's Office: David Epps also echoed Nisreen's comments about making a radical change. Nothing new was reported.

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

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

- Adding to AnnaLisa's comments regarding family visitation issues due to COVID restrictions, visits are not only with parents but with other family members as well. The holidays were a difficult time for the youths.
- There continues to be a lot of advocacy on the issue of SRO's in schools. If anyone would like to learn more about the advocacy that is happening, please reach out to Andrew or Nisreen.
- LACY is currently designing a client advisory board. One of the initial stages is holding a focus group starting in February 2021 with youths who can give first-hand feedback on what would be effective.
- LACY is still hiring for the 2 social worker positions as mentioned in the December 2020 meeting.

Announcements/Correspondence: None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Hansen adjourned to Executive Session at 1:25 p.m. The next meeting will take place on February 2, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Nakamoto

