

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – January 2, 2024
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Stephen Betts, Chair
Marcie Bellicitti, Secretary
Victoria BurtonBurke
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay
Diana Traub
Jean Pennypacker
Neha Parthasarathi
Darius Parakh
Karen Guldan

Commissioners Absent: Dev Ghoshal, Vice Chair
Heather Angove
Rayan Sengupta
Diana Sanchez Bentz

Also Present: Honorable Jose Franco, Superior Court
Honorable Franklin Bondonno
Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Rachel Talamantez, BHSD
Vanessa Cornejo, BHSD
Grace Gonzalez, BHSD
Dustin Eng, Probation Department
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department
Gladys Tran, Probation Department
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department
Elsa Jennings, Probation Department
Marc Utsey, Probation Department
Damon Silver, PDO
Jonathan Mosby, PDO
Allyson Ortega, DAO
David Epps, ADO
Lana Kreidie, IDO
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE
Amanda Kennedy, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Marie Mauboussin, DFCS
Preeti Mishra, DAC
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Ashley Dargert, Office of County Supervisor Otto Lee
Catherine McBain, Office of the Independent Police Auditor
Matt Cammann, Seneca

Karen Michael, 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: None.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: December 5, 2023 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

PRESENTATION: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (Rachel Talamantez & Vanessa Cornejo)

- Shared concern on growing impact of substance use among SCC youth.
- Recognition of complexity of these challenges and the need to strengthen our collective, systematic response.
- Opportunity to elicit different perspectives to what youth/family serving entities are experiencing.
- Identification of resources/supports/strengths/gaps.
- Stages of change:
 - Pre-contemplation
 - Contemplation
 - Preparation
 - Action
 - Maintenance, lapse, relapse, back to pre-contemplation
- Discussion questions:
 - From your vantage point, what are youth substance trends you are seeing?
 - What ideas or strategies have you found to help youth consider the impact of their substance use and accept support?
 - Are you finding that youth are willing to get help? Engage in treatment?
 - What other thoughts come to mind to share?

****Attendees divided into breakout groups to discuss questions****

- Trends: vaping and widespread use of marijuana
 - Youth think it's okay to use marijuana because it's legal
- Trends: use of fentanyl
- Needs: Many youth experience trauma, and we don't have the necessary resources to meet their level of need
- Trends: use of prescription medication
- Trends: increase in marijuana edibles; youth sneaking in clear alcohol to school
- Youth seem relatively open to treatment

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

- Started Juvenile Hall inspection.
- JJC visited less restrictive housing program at the Ranch.
- JJC received request from San Diego County JJC to share our policy regarding the use of pepper spray in youth facilities.

Presiding Judge: Honorable Jose Franco reported on the following:

- Judge Flint and Judge Kulkarni starting this month.
- Judge Franco will handle DIY calendar.
- Judge Kulkarni will handle 827 petitions on Mondays, and specialized court (CITA).
- Judge Franco is discussing the possibility of a specialized DV calendar.

Dependency Court: No one present to report.

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

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

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): Amanda Kennedy reported on the following:

- LACY has hired a Directing Attorney—Alexis Moody.

Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC): Preeti Mishra had nothing new to report.

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

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

- Schools are on vacation for one more week.
- Looking forward to expanding programs this year.

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

Probation Department: Marc Utsey reported on the following:

- Youth were excited about the gift donations.
- Thanks to PDO for the Christmas pizza delivery.

Ashanti Hayes reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Gratitude expressed for all the gift donations for the youth.

Victoria Contreras-Wolfe reported on the following for JPD:

- Active cases at the end of 2023: 1,073
- Numbers have increased in the past 6 months.

Behavioral Health: Rachel Talamantez had nothing new to report.

Medical Services: No one present to report.

Law Enforcement Agencies: No one present to report.

District Attorney's Office: Allyson Ortega reported on the following:

- Emily Lessard will be leaving.
- Two new people will be starting this month.

Public Defender's Office: Jonathan Mosby reported on the following:

- Nisreen Baroudi will be leaving this month.
- New laws training on Jan 10th, open to everyone.

Announcements/Correspondence:

- None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Betts adjourned to Executive Session at 12:58p.m. The next meeting will take place on February 6, 2023 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Garasky