

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes - June 1, 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
	Darius Parakh	Carol Rhoads
	Paula Escobar	Nora Manchester
	Heather Angove	Diana Traub
	Vaishali "Shali" Sirkay	

Commissioners Absent:

Also Present:

Honorable Franklin Bondonno, Superior Court
Honorable Katherine Lucero, Superior Court
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court
Honorable Maureen Folan, Superior Court
Audrey Nakamoto, Superior Court
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health
Veronica Robles, Behavioral Health
Kelly Cavolo, Department of Family and Children's Services
Daniel Little, Department of Family and Children's Services
Ravi Rajendra, Deputy County Counsel
Ann Huntley, District Attorney's Office
Rob Lang, San Jose Police Department
Alex Villa, Probation Department
Carl Tademaru, Probation Department
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department
Kris Leisten, Probation Department
David Mitnick, Probation Department
Dolores Morales, Probation Department
Morena Cruz, Probation Department
Vone Kegarice, 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
Preeti Mishra, Dependency Advocacy Center
Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley (LACY)
Lanphuong Le, Valley Medical Center
Matt Cammann, SENECA
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Jeff Arnett, SCCOE

Also Present Cont'd:

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Hansen 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: May 4, 2021 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

Presentation: LGBTQ Services and Support at DFCS presented by Kelly Cavolo (Social Worker III; Kelly.cavolo@ssa.sccgov.org, 408-501-6889)

- 3 main types of services and supports: LGBTQ Social Worker, Youth Acceptance Project, and SOGIE/LGBTQ Training and Education.
- Social Worker- dedicated position in Independent Living Program unit who provides training and education to DFCS staff, resource families and outside service providers as requested. Case consultation for staff inside and outside of DFCS. Referrals for clients to LGBTQ resources in the community (LGBTQ Youth Space, Office of LGBTQ Affairs, and Behavioral Health's Q Corner). Direct services and advocacy for clients as needed.
- Youth Acceptance Project- program for LGBTQ foster youth and youth at risk of being in foster care; enhances safety and permanency by providing direct services to LGBTQ youth and their parents/caregivers to promote accepting and affirming behaviors at home. Direct services include one-on-one psychoeducation, clinical support, and light case management. Funded through contract between DFCS and Family Builders (foster care/adoption agency located in Oakland). This program has been available in Santa Clara county for about 3 years. It currently has 14 open cases and 9 referrals received in this fiscal year as of April 2021. The goal is to focus on the strength of the family, including religion and culture, to promote affirming behaviors for the youth. Many referrals are from emergency response workers; this is a lot of prevention work to prevent youth from entering the system.
- SOGIE (Sexual Orientation Gender Identity Expression)/LGBTQ Training and Education- LGBTQ Social Worker and one member of staff development have been trained in the LA LGBTQ Center's RISE Curriculum (specific to those working with LGBTQ system-involved youth). All newly hired social workers receive a mandatory 4 hour training. All prospective resource families receive mandatory education on SOGIE/LGBTQ identity and rights of LGBTQ foster youth; this is currently being updated. Occasional ongoing non-mandatory trainings for current staff and resource families.
- Someone asked, are most of the youth that LGBTQ Services and Support at DCFS work with in the independent living program unit? What is the breakdown? Kelly Cavolo answered, most of the youth that they are working with are in that age range, but the independent living program really serves youths between 16-21 years old. The majority of youth that she works with are between 12-16 years old.
- Commissioner BurtonBurke asked, since we do have kids in Probation and Dependency, are the same services provided for youth who are at risk for coming into the Probation system? Kelly Cavolo answered, it depends- she is always available for consultations, resource referrals, and trainings. If this is a foster youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement, absolutely. She works with youth who are dually involved.
- Nisreen Younis asked if Kelly could clarify if youth up to age 24 qualify? Or age 21 because of ILP? If not after 21, who can we refer youths ages 21-24 to? Kelly Cavolo answered, they can work with youth from ages 0-25 because they provide services for youth up to age 25 through The Hub. The Youth Acceptance Project is up to age 21.

- Commissioner Rhoads asked, how do you see the environment or climate changing for these kids? Kelly Cavolo answered, there was a big change when there was a change in administration in 2016-2017. There were many more young people in crisis, and more referrals were being made then. There were more reports from hospitals regarding youth being hospitalized. Another shift happened when the administration changed again around the beginning of this last year; there appeared to be a lot of youth coming out to their families. There seems to be many more youth in crisis when there's a lot of anti-LGBTQ events in the news.
- Judge Bondonno asked if there is a reason that the numbers aren't being kept. Kelly Cavolo answered, yes, a law passed in California that several departments and agencies have to start collecting SOGIE information. Social Services is one of those agencies, so they can collect that information, but it hasn't been implemented yet partly because staff feel like they need more training on it. The numbers aren't solidly being collected, but the hope is that that will start to happen over the next few years.
- Commissioner BurtonBurke asked if there is any intersection between their unit and CSEC. Kelly Cavolo answered, yes, there is. That's mostly because the person in charge of the Transformation Team at DFCS reached out to work together due to a large overlap between the two communities. Trans youth in foster care are disproportionately impacted by sexual exploitation. There have been trainings offered specifically on the intersection of LGBTQ identity and CSEC, working with male and LGBTQ CSEC victim survivors, etc.

REPORTS

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

- The Juvenile Hall inspection report has been approved by the Commission, and it has been published and distributed. The report may be accessed on the Commission's page on the Superior Court website. There will be a review regarding the recommendations in that report.
- The results of the survey for the Commission will be considered and shared.
- The Commission will be selecting its officers for the upcoming year. Thanks to those who have served on the Commission this past year.
- Free streaming of documentary about Café Momentum is taking place today at 5 pm. Please reach out for a contact link if anyone is interested.
- The Commission will be meeting in July to plot its course for the upcoming year; there will not be a public JJC meeting in July. The next meeting will be on 8/03/21- whether it is virtual or in person is TBD.

Juvenile Justice Court: Judge Lucero reported on the following:

- On 6/16/21, there will be a training on DJJ Realignment by Probation.
- The inspection report was excellent. The judges did an inspection in May as well; that report has also been published on the website.
- On 6/29/21, there is an upcoming Regional Summit Meeting regarding Zero Incarceration of Girls. We are inviting parties from 15 other counties in California to discuss regional and overlapping issues.
- Judge Bondonno will be acting supervising judge in July as Judge Lucero will be out.
- Judge Bondonno added a thank you to Chair Hansen for all of his hard work! Judge Folan echoes that sentiment.

Dependency Court: Judge Chung had nothing new to report. Thank you to Chair Hansen! No concrete update except that dependency is trying to work out a plan for in-person hearings as soon as possible. Hopefully, they will be able to do so in early July.

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

Public Defender's Office: Nisreen Younis thanked Ron again. She also stated that this is the first time our county has Juneteenth as a holiday, which is great. And happy pride month!

Alternate Defenders Office: David Epps thanked Ron as well. He had nothing new to report.

Independent Defender's Office (IDO): Karen Steiber had nothing new to report.

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

Dependency Advocacy Center: Preeti Mishra reported that she will be acting CEO while AnnaLisa Chung is out on medical leave.

Jean Pennypacker asked LACY and DAC about funding for this year. Andrew Cain answered that it is looking optimistic in Sacramento- they have been advocating for funding, and they've just heard that the assembly is going to recommend that there be an additional \$40 million in FY22 for this service, which would bring them to nearly full funding. Thanks to all of the partners who have worked together toward this goal.

Chair Hansen asked if there has been any change regarding funding for the courts. Judge Lucero answered that a few positions would be added back to divisions that are even more impacted than Juvenile Justice. 6/15/21 will be a turning point because we currently cannot even get jurors in with the social distancing regulations. Family court has been working at very low capacity, and Civil court has been operating with no extra staff. Full capacity will not likely happen for Juvenile Justice until 2023. There are some similar challenges with Dependency court; they are trying to go back to in-person instead of remote. Judge Bondonno added that about 10 of the 50-something staff members who were let go will be coming back.

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

Alternative Schools Department, COE: Dr. Katherine Everett had nothing new to report.

Probation Department Juvenile Program: Nick Birchard, Jill Ugalde and Vone Kegarice reported on the following:

- Vone stated that Disaster workers have been returning from disaster work in the past few weeks. This morning, 20 CORE graduated.
- A couple of weeks ago, the department put out job listings for Maureen Wheatley and Sean Rooney's vacancies. Hopefully, they will start interviewing for these positions soon.
- Chair Hansen asked if visitation has been restored to in-person or if it is still virtual. Nick Birchard answered that there are visitations 3-4 days a week including a weekend day for parents who cannot visit on weekdays. Visitations will be increasing slowly. They are still held outdoors or in the gymnasium in-person.
- The Juvenile Hall monthly census states that the average number of youth in the month of May is 55 youth. Pre-COVID, the average usually ranged between 130-170 youth. It will be interesting to see how the changes this year affect the number of youth. There will likely be an increase in numbers.
- Jill Ugalde added that James Ranch recently had a 2-week pilot program for culinary arts. Dr. Everett and her team were essential to putting this on. Tents were set up outside of the kitchen with prep stations to make crepes, French toast, omelettes, and more. The program was very well-received.

- The Ranch is currently engaged in training through the University of Cincinnati. There are two cohorts of trainings for up to 25 staff members. They are hoping to add more cohorts so that this can be executed throughout the entire Ranch.
- The Ranch is starting committee work beginning with 4 different committees including CQI group for quality assurance, programming and programming review, PBIS (Behavior and Modification), and Assessments.
- The Ranch is starting a new celebration of birthdays by allowing youths to bake personalized cakes for each other's birthdays.
- Nick added that, as part of the services during this difficult year, the Ranch has begun a process for a Youth Advisory Council. There have been some meetings and discussions, so they are looking forward to implementing this and hearing the kids' input and voices.
- Commissioner BurtonBurke asked, was some of the increase in population driven by young people being sent back from county jail? Nick Birchard answered that there were a handful, or about 3-4 kids, who were brought back from county jail pending their court process.
- Judge Bondonno asked if they have decided where the kids that would go to DJJ would be housed after July 1. Nick Birchard answered that they will initially start at Juvenile Hall. Then, the process will depend on the legislation.
- Judge Bondonno asked if there has been any statistical analysis regarding the past year and not having reviews. Nick Birchard answered that there will need to be a discussion about this. The Ranch appears to be doing better with minimalized and/or virtual reviews due to accessibility.
- Commissioner Rhoads asked about vaccination rates for probation officers and counselors. Nick Birchard answered that once the XSC vaccination site that accommodated law enforcement at the Fairgrounds closed, there was no way of knowing who has been vaccinated and who hasn't. Youth continue to be vaccinated. The county has adopted their process about sending out an email gathering data on vaccinations. About 72% of probation officers were vaccinated when the site closed down. The good news is that there have not been new cases of COVID at the facilities recently.
- Commissioner Blake commented that the city has already sent out emails to all of its commissioners asking them to fill out the vaccination data form, so we may be receiving that shortly.
- Commissioner Blake asked if there will be some systemic review of the programs and how they're doing. She also asked what the outcomes of the changes are. Nick Birchard answered, yes, that is currently happening- UCCI is doing their evaluation and will be making recommendations for where and how they think improvements can be made.

Department of Children and Family Service/Children's Receiving Center (DFCS): Daniel Little reported that DFCS has hired Damion Wright as the new director. The Welcome Center officially opened on 5/17/21, and a new foster parents support model or pilot program called Mockingbird is in the works. There will be more word to come on that.

Behavioral Health - Mental Health Services and Alcohol and Drug Services: Veronica Robles had nothing new to report aside from Behavioral Health continuing to support Probation and partners.

Medical Services: Dr. Shelley Aggarwal and Lanphuong Le reported on the following:

- Lanphuong Le stated that weekly vaccination clinic will be taking place; they have started to vaccinate youth ages 12 and up.
- 43% of youth have been fully vaccinated. 13% have been partially vaccinated. Testing is done every other week, and staff are 100% compliant with the testing.
- Dr. Aggarwal added that the Stanford Team Health Van will come out to Juvenile Hall to do a mobile vaccine clinic ideally for youth and families (12 years and up). They will go next Tuesday,

6/08/21 from 9:30 am-3:30 pm, and they will be able to accommodate 150 people.

Law Enforcement: Rob Lang had nothing new to report. Judge Bondonno thanked Rob for his efforts in looking into options to improve communication between law enforcement and Probation here in Santa Clara county.

Announcements/Correspondence: None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Hansen adjourned to Executive Session at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting will take place on August 3, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Nakamoto