

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes - March 2, 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  
Diana Traub Paula Escobar  
Heather Angove

**Commissioners Absent:** Nora Manchester  
Vaishali "Shali" Sirkay

**Also Present:** Honorable Katherine Lucero, Superior Court  
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court  
Audrey Nakamoto, Superior Court  
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health  
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health  
Ann Huntley, District Attorney's Office  
James Gibbons-Shapiro, District Attorney's Office  
Chris Arriola, District Attorney's Office  
Marie Mauboussin, Department of Family and Children's Services  
Rob Lang, San Jose Police Department  
Jill Ugalde, Probation Division Manager- Institutional Services Division  
Alex Villa, Probation Department  
Vone Kegarice, Probation Department  
Marc Utsey, Probation Department  
Morena Cruz, 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  
Ravi Rajendra, County Counsel  
Annalisa Chung, Dependency Advocacy Center  
Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley (LACY)  
Shelley Aggarwal, Valley Medical Center  
Matt Cammann, SENECA  
Ruth Maurice, OMOS  
Francisco Hernandez, OMOS  
Chia Lee, Private Citizen  
Marcie Bellicitti, Private Citizen  
Melissa Wilson, San Mateo JJDPC  
Dana Bunnnett, Kids in Common

**Also Present Cont'd:** Pat Tondreau, Citizen (Ret. Judge)

**Call to Order & Introductions:** Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

**Agenda Approval:** The agenda was approved by thirteen (13) Commissioners.

**Public Comments/Oral Petitions:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** February 2, 2021 Minutes approved by all.

Special recognition and thanks to Dr. Chia Chen Lee for her service in the community and in Juvenile Justice.

**Presentation:** Children's Advocacy Center (455 O'Connor Drive) presented by James Gibbons-Shapiro, DA's Office.

- The Children's Advocacy Center, which has been in development for many years, is finally almost ready to open.
- The location will include Child Forensic Medical Examinations (SART and Physical Abuse and Neglect), Child Multi-Disciplinary Interviewing and Law Enforcement Follow Up, Confidential and DA Victim Services for child victims of abuse, and California Victim Compensation Program.
- Partners of the Center include the DA's Office, San Jose Police Department, Sheriff's Office, other law enforcement agencies in the county, DFCS, Valley Medical Center Physical Abuse and Neglect Forensic Exams, YWCA, Community Solutions, and Office of OMBUDS Services.
- Funding came from multiple sources, including the County and grants that were awarded to the DA's Office.
- This Center will be run in a Co-Op Model, which means that while there is a program manager from the DA's Office coordinating the different agencies, each agency will be in charge of doing its own work.
- The goal is to have the Center completed between March 19-26, 2021. Hopefully, the facility will be open to kids on March 29, 2021.
- Steps will be taken to move SART and Child Interviewing Operations to the Children's Advocacy Center. It will take approximately 12 months to obtain National Accreditation.
- Nisreen Younis asked if all interviews will be done at the Children's Advocacy Center or if they will be done at other agencies. James answered that the hope is that the Children's Advocacy Center will be utilized as much as possible, but it will not be required. The facility will have top-of-the-line equipment for interviews.
- Penny Blake asked if there will be a trained interviewer available at the Children's Advocacy Center. James answered, yes, there will be. The DA's Office is funding a contract position for a professional interviewer. Not everyone will be required to use the interviewer, but they will be available. Hopefully, another position will be added in the future.
- Ron Hansen asked if they have any sense of the client load. James answered, for child interviewing, there were 400 child interviews done at the facility and more that weren't at the facility. Generally, in other counties, there is an increase in interviewing and examinations when the facilities are built, so they are expecting to see an increase as well.
- Ann Huntley asked if they know who the DA program manager will be. James answered, yes, the position will be held by Jennifer Puthoff. This position is a grant funded position.
- Melissa Wilson asked which non-profits will be located at the Children's Advocacy Center. James answered that Community Solutions and YWCA are the two non-profits that will be at the center when it opens. This is because these two non-profits do in-person victim advocacy for child forensic medical examinations right now. The Center will look into expansion after the first 90 days.

## REPORTS

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

- Commission is continuing the annual Juvenile Hall inspection. Hopefully, the report will be completed by April.
- The Committee has created a new subcommittee which will be dedicated to looking at new and pending legislation, both local and state, to promote advocacy for Juvenile Justice.

**Juvenile Justice Court:** Judge Lucero reported on the following:

- Juvenile Justice Court continues to be in "long-haul recovery mode" with daily calendars. The numbers continue to be low.
- There are currently 2 girls in Juvenile Hall; the goal is to achieve 0 incarceration of girls in Santa Clara County.
- Legal Updates Training had 2 sessions. In the future, there will be a Zoom platform that will allow more than 100 attendees at a time. Special thanks for Ann and Nisreen for presenting!
- Trainings are every other month. The next upcoming training will be from Probation.

**Dependency Court:** Judge Chung 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 reported that Julia Souza begins maternity leave on March 15, 2021. Andrew will be the point of contact regarding all education issues in her absence.

**Dependency Advocacy Center:** AnnaLisa Chung had nothing new to report. However, some including things in the works include implementing the Family First Prevention Act, which may improve outcomes for families in the system.

**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:

- The Apprenticeship Program has begun; there are currently 2 cohorts with 5 students each. The program is held 5 days a week.
- The hope is that teachers can go back to in-person by the end of the month.
- Ron Hansen asked if the target date will be the beginning of April. Dr. Everett answered, yes.
- Carol Rhoads asked if Zoom is available at the Ranch for live instruction. Dr. Everett answered, yes- the Ranch is doing well with the Zoom platform. There is a backup system in case one fails; the down time is significantly reduced by this system. Staff are able to work one-on-one with students as well as in groups.

**Probation Department Juvenile Program:** Vone Kegarice reported on the following:

- This past Friday, Maureen Wheatley (Probation Division Manager), has retired from the department. In the interim, Jay Suekawa will be working out of class for Court Services.
- In the last few weeks, with more people being vaccinated, many employees have been deployed as disaster workers.

**James Ranch:** Jill Ugalde reported the following:

- Ron asked about visitations and the status of visitations. Jill answered that the Ranch has opened to visitations since the end of February. Due to good weather, the visits have been held outdoors.
- Ron asked about visitations at Juvenile Hall, specifically. Jill answered that she does not know all of the details, but Juvenile Hall has also opened up to visitations again in the afternoons and evenings through a scheduling system. Supposedly, those visitations are going well.

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

- Behavioral Health is currently working on expanding medical treatments to include adolescents in addition to adults. The program is to help those who are recovering from moderate to severe opioid use. They are in the implementation phase and are taking referrals by substance use providers.
- Dr. Bashiri is the child and adolescent psychiatrist who is overseeing this effort.
- The Welcome Center is not yet open. Ron asked if there are any updates on the licensure for the Welcome Center. Margaret answered that Seneca is frequently in contact with the state each week; however, there is still no opening date available.

**Department of Children and Family Service/Children's Receiving Center (DFCS):** Jamila Hankins reported the following:

- The Welcome Center is being toured; however, as mentioned before, there is no opening date or news of licensure.
- Uplift and Seneca are still working on building capacity within placements. Transitional Foster Care and Intensive Transitional Foster Care Services are available. Seneca currently has 2 Transitional Foster homes, 2 Intensive Transitional Foster Homes, and 3 homes in progress. Uplift has 5 Intensive Services Foster Placements currently, and 3 upcoming placements.
- Jean Pennypacker asked if there is anything that the Juvenile Justice Commission can do to facilitate the licensure process. Jamila answered that they could reach out to Matt to see if there is anything that Seneca needs; however, it is still a waiting game. The facility is ready to receive children, but they are still waiting on the paperwork.
- Carol Rhoads asked for an update on scattered sites. Jamila answered that there are 7 youth in Keiki and scattered sites.

**Medical Services:** Dr. Shelley Aggarwal reported on the following:

- A big update is that COVID vaccines are now being offered and administered to youth 18 and older. Hopefully, this will commence later this week in phases.
- Medical Services is still working on obtaining parental consent for youth under 18 years old.
- Ron Hansen asked about those who have agreed and disagreed to get the vaccine. Dr. Aggarwal answered that everyone who is 18 years and older has agreed to the vaccine. Medical Services has worked on speaking individually to youths to educate them on the vaccines.
- Carol Rhoads asked who the successor for Chia Chen Lee is. Dr. Aggarwal answered that they are currently waiting for the individual to transition in. Right now, many resources are stretched thin, but they are hoping that it will happen soon.
- Darius Parakh asked whether there will be instances of youth getting their first round of vaccines and then leaving before they get the second round. He also asked if those youths will be able to get the second vaccines elsewhere. Dr. Aggarwal answered, yes, that will occur. Medical Services is currently working on not delaying vaccinations, and they have compiled information for youth

so that they will be able to get their second dose at other locations in this situation. The County has opened up vaccines for essential workers 16 years and older.

**Law Enforcement:** Rob Lang had nothing new to report.

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

**Public Defender's Office:** Nisreen Younis and Mike Simms reported on the following:

- Sandra Sosa is joining the staff effective April 5, 2021.
- The Public Defender's Office will have 4 attorneys for the month of March before Sandra joins the team.
- Public Defenders are now classified as 1B; everyone has received their first dose of COVID vaccines and are waiting for their second dose. This is great for attorneys who have been physically appearing in Court.
- California Supreme Court has ruled on SB-1391 finding that is constitutional, so 14-15 year olds cannot be transferred to adult court. The numbers of these cases will likely change accordingly.
- The DA and Public Defenders are very involved in the DJJ Realignment process that is taking place.
- Ron Hansen asked if the committee that Nisreen is referring to is the subcommittee that has been recently established by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Counsel. Nisreen answered that this is a separate group. This is a group set up by Probation, some of which are led by Behavioral Health.
- Mike Simms added that the subcommittees work on different aspects of the DJJ Program. The committee that Nisreen is referring to is the group that is focusing on Court Commitment.

**Alternate Defenders Office:** David Epps had nothing new to report.

**Announcements/Correspondence:** None.

**Adjourn to Executive Session:** Chair Hansen adjourned to Executive Session at 1:10 p.m. The next meeting will take place on April 6, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Nakamoto