

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2022
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair
Stephen Betts, Vice Chair
Carol Rhoads, Secretary
Heather Angove
Jean Pennypacker
Lionel Allan
Lisa Macias
Lissa Thiele
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Ron Hansen
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay
Darius Parakh

Commissioners Absent: Paula Escobar
Diana Traub

Also Present: Honorable Franklin Bondonno, Superior Court
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court
Anjelica Hayden, Superior Court
Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Graciela Gonzalez, Behavioral Health
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health
Margaret Ledesma, Behavioral Health
Veronica Robles, Behavioral Health
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health
Myra Vargas, Behavioral Health
Mike Simms, Probation Department
Marc Utsey, Probation Department
Morena Cruz, Probation Department
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Alex Villa, Probation Department
Carl Tademaru, Probation Department
Dolores Morales, Probation Department
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department
Holly Child, Probation Department
Paul Jhin, District Attorney’s Office
Nisreen Baroudi, Public Defender’s Office
Damon Silver, Public Defender’s Office
Barbara Wolfe, Public Defender’s Office
David Epps, Alternate Defenders Office
Glen Casados, IDO
Joann Vaars, SCCOE
Jessica Bonduris, SCCOE
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE
Ruth Maurice, OMOS

Marie Mauboussin, DFCS
Julia Souza, LACY
Dana Bunnett, Kids in Common
Manny Cardenas, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Vianni Garcia, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
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Shelley Aggarwal, Juvenile Facilities Medical Clinics
Lt. Rob Lang, San Jose Police Department
Captain Jason Dwyer, San Jose Police Department
Jim Elliott, San Andreas Regional Center
Patrick Tondreau, Chair of Dependency Advocacy
AnnaLisa Chung, DAC
Desiree Victor, Young Women's Freedom Center
Analisa Ruiz, Young Women's Freedom Center
Kiana Simmons, Bill Wilson Center
Debbie Pell, Bill Wilson Center
Jim Elliott, San Andreas Regional Center
Marcie Bellicitti, Citizen

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair BurtonBurke called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

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

Swearing In: Judge Bondonno administered the oath of office to Commissioner Betts and Commissioner BurtonBurke as Juvenile Justice Commissioners in the County of Santa Clara, terms ending in 2026.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions:

- Commissioner Thiele commented that as we go about our business and personal lives today, that we reflect on the fact that a childhood interrupted by war or genocide is no childhood at all. She wants everyone to think about what happens to juvenile youth who are locked up in places where war is happening and also notes that Ukraine has set some noteworthy standards in restorative juvenile justice and have programs that have prevented or lowered recidivism by 63%.
- Dana Bunnett invites the JJC to the 15th annual Santa Clara County Children's Summit on March 18th. Kidsincommon.org to register.

Approval of Minutes: February 1, 2022 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

Presentation by the Young Women's Freedom Center: Desiree Victor and Analisa Ruiz reported on the following:

- Desiree reported that the YWFC is currently serving the community out of Conxion in San Jose. The YWFC aims to empower and inspire young women girls and gender expansive youth who have been involved with the juvenile justice system and/or the underground street economy to create positive change in their lives and in the community.
- Guiding Principles:
 - Young women are fierce and powerful experts, leaders, and partners in all our work. The center looks to hire women with specific lived experience to lead and guide this work.
 - Fighting Oppression is central to a process of healing.

- Grounding in cultural and spiritual beliefs and traditions is essential to achieving a sense of self determination.
 - Every young woman has the right to support access and opportunities needed to achieve her potential.
- Organizational Strategies:
 - Leadership Development
 - Meeting young women where they are at and working with them over time to step into their leadership to have agency over their lives and become leaders in their community.
 - Movement Building
 - Leading movements that are centered in the experiences and power of system-involved young women.
 - Shifting the Narrative
 - Telling the story of system-involved young women and girls to shift social norms and to transform systems, policies, and practices to stop the criminalization of young women and girls.
- The Center believes that their practices increase leadership, economic opportunities and connections to the community in order to reduce reliance on probation, court orders, and intensive supervision and increase self-determination, self-sufficiency, and positive engagements, reducing system involvement in young women and girls.
- In 2020 we successfully decreased the Juvenile Hall population to 0 on the young women's side. James Ranch has had 0 young women in custody since July 2021.
- Analisa reported: The YWFC provides program support for reentry, peer and self-determination advocacy support, court advocacy, and system navigation training.
 - The center educates youth so they understand who is in the courtroom, how to communicate their needs, and strengthens them overall to speak for themselves in court.
 - For youth who are ready to move forward, the YWFC offers a paid internship and fellowship which includes 300 hours to 12 months of empowerment, leadership, advocacy training and guidance.
- When a young person is first introduced to this program they are offered the opportunity to join Freedom Circles which are run every week at Juvenile Hall.
 - The goals of the Freedom Circles are to deepen understanding of self, decriminalize self, aide in system navigation, increase self-determination, aid in personal and community healing, and provide access to resources and opportunities, and peer based safe spaces.
 - The point of Freedom Circles is to expand the connections the youth might have beyond the help of a personal advocate. If a youth is seeking support, they have someone at the center to help them.
- The YWFC is still looking to create MOU's, to establish relationships with attorneys and local law enforcement, and to develop and create a pre-diversion system for youth.
- Commissioner Hansen asked: What are the sources of financial support for the YWFC? Desiree answered Office of Women's Policy has been a huge supporter, funding is also received from the office of LGBTQ Affairs, funding our Pride Project Fellowship. Funding also comes from the Youth Reinvestment Grant which is through the FCC.
- Judge Bondonno, Commissioner BurtonBurke and Nisreen commented: The YWFC is a terrific resource and is grateful for the work that they do. YWFC is instrumental at detention hearings, attorneys are able to review information the night before court and are able to prepare for the next day in court.
 - Nisreen especially underlined the importance of a protocol for in-custody youth to ensure that youth are cared for not just kept in custody.

- Commissioner Blake thanks the YWFC for their presentation; this pairs nicely with Women's History Month.
- Commissioner Hansen commented that he is glad to see the Center will be working on MOU's with law enforcement. Commissioner Hansen credits the reduced number of young women entering Juvenile Hall to the work that the YWFC does throughout the County. Commissioner Hansen asked, how might this program be expanded to serve the young men in custody and in the community? Desiree clarified that there currently are no MOU's with local law enforcement but it is being worked on. Desiree also commented that approaching youth as peers with shared experiences and giving youth community groups has also been one of their secrets to success.

Behavioral Health: Veronica Robles and Margaret Ledesma reported on the following:

- Veronica provided a staffing update: New Clinical Lead Supervisor for the CITA and Competency Program, Aaron Morgan.
 - Three vacancies for clinicians are currently open and taking applicants.
- Margaret is joining the meeting to take any questions about the temporary closure of Advent.
- Judge Bondonno commented that from the Judge's point of view they are struggling with capacity. Even when Advent is open, we still don't have enough capacity. What efforts are being made to find additional capacity? In touring the facility Judge Bondonno notes that they may have 6 beds but can only use 4 at a given time. Margaret answered that Santa Clara County has a contract with Advent for 5 dedicated beds, and not all of them are being used so she would like some more information about youth not being able to take advantage of these services due to capacity.
- Nisreen asked, who was supposed to know that Advent's license was expiring? Nisreen also commented that from the Public Defender's point of view, we have seen more youth ask for residential treatment than in the past. This feels like the worst time for a residential treatment program to be shutting down. Margaret answered in regards to timely access, the Behavioral Health Department has contracted for 30 days of residential services. Advent was applying for an STRTP license for a remainder of the beds. It was Advent's responsibility to track what was needed to get those requirements in place. At this time Advent estimates a 90-day closure.

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

- The Commission continued to have individual subcommittee meetings through the month of February. The Commission also conducted visits with Ash Kalra, Mark Berman, and State Senator Dave Cortese's aides, addressing issues that affect Santa Clara County youth from a state level.
- The Commission also had discussions with field representatives from the Board of State and Community Corrections.
- The Commission continues to monitor statistics from Juvenile Hall and James Ranch and the Department of Family and Children's Services regarding youth being taken into custody or the Welcoming Center for DFCS.
- Several members of the JJC attended training last week through DFCS, and one Commissioner gave a seminar to the University of San Francisco Students.
- Question of the day: Please share a specific example of data that was meaningful and impactful – and how your agency applied it to improve an outcome for the youth your organization serves.

Presiding Judge: Judge Bondonno reported on the following:

- March 8, from 1:30-3:30 PM there will be a renewed competency training for Evaluators, Attorneys, Probation, and anyone who wants to join. Continuing education credits will be offered. Please contact Lydia Sepulveda for details on registering for this training.

- We are working on a training for community-based organizations. Probation has been doing a lot of the planning along with Barbara Wolfe. This training is expected to happen in early April.
- Judge Bondonno met with the PJ and APJ and is now working on a pro-term sheet with Stanford Hospital. The idea is to employ 2 of the psychiatric post graduate residency program psychiatrists who will come and perform evaluations for both adults and juveniles. One psychiatrist will be employed for the first 6 months in juvenile, and then switch over to the adults so that the residents will have experience doing forensic work in both areas. Judge Bondonno would like this program to start July 1st.
- Commissioner Pennypacker asked, the second training with the community-based organizations, is that a basic training about the system and courts? Judge Bondonno answered, yes, this training will show the basics of how court operates and how CBO's fit into that.

Dependency Court: Judge Chung had nothing new to report.

Dependency Advocacy Center: AnnaLisa Chung reported on the following:

- AnnaLisa reported some staffing vacancies, DAC is hiring for a staff attorney, a paralegal, and a part time clinical supervisor for the mentor parent program.
- To answer the question of the day, an informational memorandum came out in 2018 from the US Department of Health and Human Services. In that memo, there was an abundance of data that was collected from jurisdictions across the nations about the need for prevention focused services. The subject of that memo was reshaping child welfare in the US to focus on strengthening families through primary prevention of child maltreatment and the unnecessary parent child separation. For DAC that was very impactful data because we are already trying to move in the direction of preventative services, providing legal advocacy for families before they have to go deep into the child welfare system. This information was used to guide conversations with stakeholders and push along the First Call for Families Program.

The Office of Mediation and Ombuds Services: Ruth Maurice reported on the following:

- The office of Mediation is starting a new project across all subprograms related to our data collection. This new project will shift the focus, less focused on capturing data statistics and more focused on capturing the outcomes of transformative change for parties.

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

- To answer the question of the day, Jessica reported that Alternative schools have been working a lot around data. Alternative Schools has partnered with the Carnegie Foundation, going through cycles of inquiry with the overall goal of increasing student achievement. Testing assessment brings data to our teachers and their lesson planning.
- Dane reported that we have decreased the academic assessment cycle from 90 days to 45 days. After three cycles, reading scores have increased by 2.1 grade levels. Teachers are enjoying receiving this data, and understanding how their instruction impacts their students.

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

Probation Department – Juvenile: Alex Villa, Ashanti Hayes, Jill Ugalde reported on the following:

- To answer the question of the day, Alex noted that a number of years ago Probation was working with the Juvenile Court Education partnership in collaboration with the Ed Champions Project and the data that we gained out of the collaboration was learning that the students that we come across can be 3-8 years behind academically. That information helped inspire the pilot that

eventually became Justice Ed, scaled up Project Yay for special education supports, and to change the culture in the department relating to education, suspensions, expulsions and the support that we try to immediately get in place as soon as we hear that occurring. That data that we learned about our students that are coming to us prompted a lot of our evolution and how we support education as a department.

- The Cross Systems Trainings will be in May in a virtual format. More information to be announced.
- Ed Services Program is going through a restructuring that will be live in July. The focus of that is to provide education supports regardless of their adjudicated status.
- Alex highlights the weekly newsletter that went out most recently that had wonderful article about understanding gender identity and expression.
- Alex will now be responsible for the screening unit as of February.
- Commissioner Pennypacker asked if it would be possible to view the newsletter? Alex will be sending it out.
- To answer the question of the day, Ashanti reported that Juvenile Hall recently conducted a client experience survey.
 - In the survey it was asked, “Do you feel that you have the ability to ask questions?” That increased from 81% in 2020 to 89% in 2021.
 - In the survey it was asked, “Do you feel safe?” That increased from 81% in 2020 to 92% in 2021.
 - In the survey it was asked, “Do you feel they are receiving the proper support from group counselor?” That increased from 81% in 2020 to 94% in 2021.
- Juvenile Hall had a staff appreciation event where management was able to provide lunch to all staff members.
- Black History decorating contest results can be seen online on the Juvenile Hall Twitter page.
- On February 24th we had supervisor Lee come to Juvenile Hall and staff were able to give him a tour of the facility.
- On February 7th we had the Judge’s tour and looking forward to the JJC tour that will be occurring on March 11th.
- Jill reported: James Ranch also conducted a client satisfaction survey as well. This survey is given out every 2 months.
 - When youth are transitioned from the Hall to the Ranch, they usually receive a verbal overview of the Ranch and some of the information was not being retained by youth.
 - A video has now been created for youth that are transitioned from Juvenile Hall to the Ranch. The video was created to aid youth in to understanding the differences between the facilities, understand the program that they are coming into, and to understand their rights at this new facility.
 - The percentage of youth who understood their rights before coming to the Ranch increased from 74% to 94%.
 - The reports that were generated from that survey were given to our quality systems team. They were able to put together a presentation to share with our supervisors and leaders at the Ranch to help improve outcomes for the youth.
- For Black History Month, the youth listened to Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have Dream” speech and wrote essays about their own interpretation of what the speech meant to them in their lives.
- The new Ranch Kitchen will be open on March 7th after being closed for 2 years.

Medical Services: No one present to report.

Law Enforcement Agencies: Lt. Rob Lang and Captain Jason Dwyer had nothing new to report.

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

- To answer the question of the day, The DA's Office remains committed to only seeking transfer in cases where serious felonies are committed.
 - Over the last five years, The DA's Office filed or sought transfer 23 times, 13 of those went to contest out of 8,657 arrests and citations during that time period which comes out to .27% of those cases.
 - In 2021 there were 1,508 arrests or citations and there were transfers of 5 cases against 10 minors, or 0.59% of juvenile filings.

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

- To answer the question of the day, Nisreen reported that while on the EMP subcommittee, they learned that 80% of the youth had successfully completed pre-court EMP, so we shifted our advocacy to argue if it was really necessary. That kind of data was really helpful in our day-to-day practice network.

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

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): Julia Souza reported on the following:

- Andrew Cain has returned after being away last month.

Independent Defense Office: Glen Casados had nothing new to report.

Announcements/Correspondence: None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair BurtonBurke adjourned to Executive Session at 1:28 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Zoom on April 5, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Anjelica Hayden