

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes - November 3, 2020
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Ron Hansen, Chair Penny Blake
Victoria BurtonBurke, Vice Chair Lissa Thiele
Jean Pennypacker, Past Chair Nora Manchester
Stephen Betts, Secretary Lon Allan
Darius Parakh Lisa Macias
Diana Traub Vaishali "Shali" Sirkay
Heather Angove
Paula Escobar

Commissioners Absent: Carol Rhoads

Also Present: Honorable Katherine Lucero, Superior Court
Honorable Julia Alloggiamento, Superior Court
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court
Shannon Hanna, Superior Court
Zelia Faria Costa, Behavioral Health
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health
Nick Birchard, Probation Department
Sean Rooney, Probation Department
Carl Tademaru, Probation Department
Dolores Morales, Probation Department
Alex Villa, Probation Department
Morena Cruz, Probation Department
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department
Brittney Carnahan, Probation Department
Katherine Everett, Santa Clara County Office of Education
Bettina Martinez, Santa Clara County Office of Education
Steve Olmos, Santa Clara County Office of Education
Jamila Hankins, Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
Ann Huntley, District Attorney's Office
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)
Chia-Chen Lee, Valley Medical Center
Francisco Hernandez, OMOS
Vianni Garcia, FLY
Debbie Pell, Bill Wilson Center
Christian Bijoux, DIY

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

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 12:16 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 Vice Chair BurtonBurke and seconded by Commissioner Allan to approve the October 6, 2020 Minutes was approved unanimously.

Presentation: Debbie Pell from the Bill Wilson Center presents on the Bill Wilson Center's Safety Net Shelter.

-Vice Chair BurtonBurke asked if the youth at the Bill Wilson Center are engaging in distance learning and if they have been in touch with their teachers and school district. Ms. Pell said all youth are distance learning via their home school districts.

-Commissioner Blake asked what the Covid protocol currently is at the Bill Wilson Center. Ms. Pell said they are not tested immediately upon entry to BWC. They provide screening questions, temperature checks and their clothes are immediately cleaned. BWC does have isolation rooms for youth who have been exposed or who are symptomatic. Their unauthorized absences have decreased significantly. To date, there have been no Covid cases at the BWC.

-Chair Hansen asked if during the pandemic, the number of referrals from law enforcement has increased or remained the same. Ms. Pell said the referrals from law enforcement has remained steady. They also work really closely with the screening unit at Juvenile Hall in order to better serve the youth.

-Judge Lucero asked if the Bill Wilson Center was keeping SOGIE data. Ms. Pell said they are keeping the data.

REPORTS

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

- At the October Executive session, the commission approved two reports. The first report was the annual James Ranch Inspection Report. The second was the annual Law Enforcement Agency Inspection Report. Both have been distributed to the state and all appropriate local recipients. In addition, both reports were posted to the JJC webpage on the Superior Court website.

Juvenile Justice Court: Judge Lucero reported on the following:

- Judge Lucero asked that Bill Wilson Center share the SOGIE data with everyone.
- Judge Lucero thanked the commission for both the James Ranch Inspection Report and the Law Enforcement Agency Inspection Report.
- JusticeEd has published a report through Nickel and it is being disseminated throughout the nation as a best practice model.
- The Vera Institute has also released a report about the Covid pandemic and how to end the incarceration of girls.
- Nickel also published an impact report about the work it has done with the county over the last three years.
- Chair Hansen also published a report comparing the arrest trends and the reduction of juvenile hall youth trends which has been reduced by almost sixty percent.
- There will be a Court Systems Training on November 18, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 pm about how to approach high needs girls in the juvenile justice system.

Chair Hansen clarified that the report he published was based on his own findings and was not published on behalf of the commission.

Dependency Court: Judge Chung has nothing new to report.

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

- The current total enrollment in all alternative schools is sixty-four youth.
- They are moving closer to in-person learning for students. At Blue Ridge, there are four teachers who are in-person, twice a week. There is one teacher who is teaching in person, five times a week. There are three teachers who are teaching virtually via Zoom until the end of the semester. One teacher, the chef, will be strictly distance learning until his area is up and running in the Legacy dining area. Their college liaison is working through distance learning with the youth.
- Osborne has six in-person teachers who are currently teaching two times a week. One teacher remains teaching virtual. The college liaison at Osborne is in-person, three times a week.
- The assessment schedule is as follows: all students at Osborne have been assessed with their reading and math levels. They are currently working with the staff at Blue Ridge to have the capacity to do that as well. They are about half way through the assessments at Blue Ridge and expect to be done this week.
- The curriculum continues to be provided through Edgenuity. It meets the needs of students virtually in that they can communicate with the teachers through email and that it is a consistent, blended learning program. The youth can see their assessments and the progress they are making. It also allows for Renaissance Star to update the scores with the reading and math levels in Edgenuity. Assessments are done every ninety days.
- Spring updates for College and Career programs: four students were enrolled at Osborne. Three students were dropped in April due to Covid. One student did complete the course, post-release. At Blue Ridge, fourteen students received certificates and six food handler certificates were awarded.
- Currently, five students at Osborne are enrolled in a course at San Jose City College. These students are doing really well in the course and should finish in December. At Blue Ridge, there are post-graduates currently enrolled in CTE classes. They are looking at winter intersession and spring college courses for students to enroll.
- They are working closely with the Probation Department to design a MOU for transition services. They are also working closely with Eastside Union School District regarding re-enrollment services.

Judge Lucero asked about whether they are also looking at creating MOU's with San Jose Unified and ultimately other districts. Ms. Everett said they are starting with Eastside Union to figure out how to structure the process and then will be pulling in other districts.

Probation Department Juvenile Program: Alex Villa reported on the following:

- Probation Department is working closely with SCCOE on a MOU regarding transitions.
- Project YEA has been scaled up and there are now five probation officers who work on special education cases throughout the department.
- Probation Department has a cohort who is participating in the government alliance on race equity. Four sessions have been completed thus far.
- On November 16, 2020 there will be restructuring within the Probation Department due to budget constraints. The community-based probation unit will be decommissioned.

- Sean Rooney reported that family visits began last Wednesday. Ten parents were able to visit with their children. The other half of the visits will take place tomorrow. They are doing forty-five minute sessions for now and would eventually like to expand visits.
- Free Covid testing will be held for any and all community members in front of the Juvenile Probation Department building next Tuesday from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. The last Covid testing event had an excellent turnout with 185 people showing up for the testing.
- Carl Tademaru reported that the Juvenile Hall units had their annual Halloween decoration contest.
- Jill Ugalde reported that family visits at James Ranch began last weekend. The visits were very systematic and were conducted in the outdoor visiting area. The visits were very successful.
- James Ranch staff made accommodations available to youth who were eligible to vote. For Halloween, the staff arranged for a pumpkin decorating contest.
- James Ranch youth have been very interested in reading books. The staff reached out to the JJC and several donations were made. The staff created a book cart that they circulate for the youth to pick from.

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

- The Department is still working with SENECA towards a November 30, 2020 start date for their Welcome Center. SENECA has identified a location and are in negotiations with the landlord of the property.

Behavioral Health - Mental Health Services and Alcohol and Drug Services: Zelia Faria Costa has nothing new to report.

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

- No Covid cases were reported for the month of October.
- Routine Covid testing will begin for those youth who are participating in the family visits.
- Public Health Officer from the county visited in-person with the facility and was presented an overview of how the family visits would be conducted. The plan was approved.
- If any youth has physical contact with their parent then they will be placed in fourteen day observation. Prior to the visits, all families are made aware not to be in physical contact with the youth.
- The eye clinic opened last month and it is receiving great feedback from the youth. After the initial visit with the optometrist, it is taking about 1-2 weeks for the youth to receive their eyeglasses.

Law Enforcement: None.

District Attorney’s Office: Ann Huntley has nothing new to report.

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

- Effective November 30, 2020, one new attorney will join the Juvenile team: Ariel Toran. He will be replacing Erin Callahan.
- Ms. Younis thanks the Probation Department for putting together the free Covid testing event.
- Damon Silver reports that he was also fortunate enough to participate in the Real Academy that Probation Officer Villa was speaking about earlier and is looking forward to rolling out the race equity work in their office in the months to come.

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

Independent Defender's Office: None.

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

Dependency Advocacy Center: AnnaLisa Chung has nothing new to report.

Office of Mediation and Ombuds Services: Francisco Hernandez has nothing new to report.

Announcements/Correspondence: None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Hansen adjourned to Executive Session at 1:29 p.m. The next meeting will take place on December 1, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Hanna