

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2021
Via Zoom**

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

Commissioners Absent: Paula Escobar
Diana Traub

Also Present: Honorable Katherine Lucero, Superior Court
Honorable Franklin Bondonno, Superior Court
Honorable Maureen Folan, Superior Court
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court
Anjelica Hayden, Superior Court
Graciela Gonzalez, Behavioral Health Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health
Veronica Robles, Behavioral Health
Nick Birchard, Probation Department
Marc Utsey, Probation Department
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department
Dolores Morales, Probation Department
Carl Tademaru, Probation Department
Paul Jhin, District Attorney’s Office
Nisreen Baroudi, Public Defender’s Office
Damon Silver, Public Defender’s Office
David Epps, Alternate Defenders Office
Preeti Mishra, Dependency Advocacy Center
Joann Vaars, SCCOE
Jessica Bonduris, SCCOE
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE
Lanphuong Le, Valley Medical Center
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Bertha Reyna, Social Services MA for Cultural Programs and Differential Response
Wendy Kinnear-Rausch, DFCS Assistant Director
Alex Villa, JPD
Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Damon Wright, DFCS
Francisco Hernandez, OMOS

Dana Bunnett, Kids in Common
Manny Cardenas, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Vianni Garcia, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Matt Cammann, Seneca Family of Agencies
Ravi Rajendra, Office of the County Counsel
Shelley Aggarwal, Juvenile Facilities Medical Clinics
Vanessa Cornejo, BHSD
Vone Kegarice, JPD

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

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

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: September 14, 2021 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

- Additions: Commissioner Rhoads notes that Rachel Talamentez has an update to the last page of the minutes. The “Allcove Centers” should read: allcove centers.

REPORTS

Presentation: Cultural Broker Program presented by Bertha Reyna and Wendy Kinnear-Rausch

- The program was launched in Santa Clara County in December of 2016. Cultural brokers serve as liaisons or catalysts to help bridge the gap between government institutions (child welfare, juvenile probation, etc.) to help facilitate communication and cultural understanding.
- The program aims to:
 - Address the racial disproportionality and disparity in child welfare.
 - Increase family involvement in the decision making process.
 - Facilitate communication to have conversations about family needs.
 - Support families through cultural understanding, help highlight cultural “misses”.
- In Santa Clara County there are certain ethnic categories that are disproportionately represented within the child welfare system.
 - The African ancestry population makes up 2% of Santa Clara County and represent almost 6% of youth being referred to the child welfare system.
 - The Latino population represents 36% of Santa Clara County and represent almost 60% of the referrals within child welfare.
 - The Asian and Pacific Island population make up 30% of the population in Santa Clara County and make up about 16% of the referrals received in child welfare.
- The Program is focused on:
 - Tailoring their services around the needs of each family. Families are the experts of their own family, the broker helps communicate with families to be able to address their specific issues to service providers.
 - Connecting families to a broker to help understand the context behind the child abuse allegation or probation allegation or concern. Brokers assigned to the family come with cultural knowledge and understanding and serve families as a member of their own community. Having someone on their side encourages family engagement and willingness to work with the court and/or service providers.

- Identify issues that can be affecting the family or youth: systemic, cultural, trauma, etc. The brokers can work with families to identify resources within their community and help connect the two.
 - Supporting families through providing cultural understanding, assisting in a possible language barrier, supporting the family as a member of their own community, acting as a safe contact point due to possible immigration status, power differential, stigma, etc.
- Since beginning in 2016, the Cultural Broker Program was offered towards the front end of child welfare services. Most clients served in the last 5 years have come from safety assessments and social workers. The social worker will work with the families to assess safety and establish what factors are impacting the youth, and how to address the needs of that family. Social workers and probation officers refer families to cultural brokers.
- In July 2021 The Cultural Broker Program partnered with the Probation Department to be able to offer cultural brokers to more families. Families within DFCS have the opportunity to continue to receive services from the cultural broker.
- Since partnering with Probation, the Cultural Broker Program has been able to increase their budget to be able to assist and reach out to more families. Expanding their budget has allowed for the increased number of providers, expanding broker services to voluntary programs, opening new slots for families, and embed evaluation measures into the program to be able to gather data to determine future needs.
- Starting in July, DFCS has opened services up to families who are receiving voluntary services which includes families involved in voluntary reunification, voluntary family maintenance services, and informal supervision services. Other departments are currently reaching out in need of cultural brokers, so the program is looking to leave some open slots to be filled as needed. The program is currently working to open services to youth involved in prevention and early intervention at Juvenile Probation as well as DIY individuals.
- The Cultural Broker Program will be working with the following providers:
 1. Alum Rock Counseling Centers: serving Vietnamese and Latino population
 2. I Can – International Children’s Assistance Network: serving Vietnamese and other Asian and Pacific Islanders categories
 3. Culturally Coordinated Services: serving African ancestry population
 4. ConXion: serving Latino and Native American population
 5. Gardner Health Services: serving Latino and Vietnamese population
- Commissioner Blake notes that some useful items were entered into the chat by Dana Bunnett:
 - These numbers for 2019 were: 6.3 per 1000 black children entered, 2.8 Latinx children per 1000, 0.7 white
- Commissioner Macias thanks Bertha for the presentation and asks what program measurements have started, what kind of data is being gathered and what outcomes are you seeing come from that? Bertha answered that the program is in the beginning stages of building an online database to track services and outcomes. In the interim we have been able to capture the services we are providing and how long it takes families to connect with resources and what resources families are being connected to. From there they are able to track if families are being re-referred, are they being routed to services that serve them and are able to compare groups of families, seeing who receives services and who did not. Program is also working with the Probation Department to do an overall evaluation of the program.
- Commissioner Blake asks, are you doing randomized assignment of families to receive services? Or is it just a comparison between who got the service and who didn’t? Bertha answers, one day they are looking to get close to an evidence-based practice, but they are not there quite yet. They are still working on establishing a procedure for data collection for families that participated and those that did not.

- Commissioner BurtonBurke asks probation, how involved are you in providing these services? Nick Birchard answers that they don't provide services, they refer for services for the 5 contractors. They are fully integrated and work as a collective effort.

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

- LEA inspection is complete, this will be on the website shortly.
- James Ranch inspection report is near completion.
- Commission has attended meetings with the head of the department of Family and Children's services and monitors the daily intake reports from the Welcoming Center.
- The Education Committee is monitoring options for in custody youth and appreciates the openness of the new AED administration.
- Commissioners are working with interested partners to create the best program and the best space for youth who will be under the County's jurisdiction under SB823.

Juvenile Justice Court: Judge Lucero reported on the following:

- DIY Court Systems training will occur on October 13th from 12-2PM. Panel will talk about the initiative in Santa Clara County. Registration is required, registration can be found here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtcumqzggGtJAEZ8kz-vR2rxTtCDbMa2S>
 - Planning a part 1 & part 2 of the DIY training, possibly in November with legal updates in January 2022 to be given by the Public Defender's office, the District Attorney's office and the County Council's Office.
- Continuing to struggle with some resource issues, the court is losing another probation officer. Judge Lucero is concerned about the potential ripple effect, bringing it to the attention of the Probation Department requesting solutions without offering less solutions to youth.
- Continuing to work on DJJ re-alignment
- Judge Bondonno adds that Juvenile Justice Court is losing a couple of evaluators but two additional evaluators are lined up to join the panel. Judge Bondonno thanks Judge Folan, as an additional 4 individuals are in the works as well.

Dependency Court: Judge Chung reported on the following:

- In consultation with justice partners, the Dependency Court Judges have formulated a COVID-19 vaccination policy for our court in anticipation of opening up in November. The policy will go into effect immediately.
 - Attorneys, Social Workers, and Court staff are all required to be vaccinated or to show weekly negative COVID tests.
 - The Court recognize that parties entitled to come to court cannot be forced to be vaccinated, but only parties that show proof of vaccination status are going to be able to sit at the council table in the court room. Parties who are not able to show proof will be permitted to sit in the back of the courtroom.
- Commissioner BurtonBurke asks, has Dependency Court put off in-person hearings until November? Judge Chung answers, the plan is still to open for in-person meetings on November 1st, but in-person contested hearings have been ongoing since the beginning of July.

Behavioral Health: Veronica Robles, Vanessa Cornejo, and Grace Gonzalez reported on the following:

- Announcement: Graciela Gonzales is our Program Manager 1 who will be providing support and oversight to the Secure Track youth from the Behavioral Health side.
- Behavioral Health is launching a new Prevention Campaign to bring public awareness about FASD
 - Link can be found here: www.noteven1.org to the FASD campaign
- Behavioral Health Staff have begun training in the neurosequential model in therapeutics last month. The model is developed by Dr. Bruce Perry and focuses on considerations related to the impact of trauma and neurodevelopment. This training guides clinicians in selecting the most effective clinical intervention. The work will be integrated into the Secure Track Program.
- Staff will begin cognitive behavioral intervention groups today with Secure Track youth. The curriculum relies on the cognitive behavioral approach so that the youth are taught strategies for identifying and managing risk factors. This training places a high emphasis on skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, and emotional coping skill development. These groups will meet twice a week.
- When a youth enters the secure treatment facility the transitions have been smooth, with the additions of 2 CFT team meetings per child and family. The first meeting taking place the youth enters the facility, the second meeting takes place within the first 15 days of the youth entering the facility. This meeting contains members from the school, Probation Department, the family, group counselor, reentry support counselor, psychiatry, and medical staff.
- The collaboration between Behavioral Health and Probation has been positive from the beginning.
- Jean Pennypacker asks, in reading the materials for the proposal for the secure treatment section, what do you do if families don't want to participate? Grace answers, when the youth don't have a support group/willing participants, the focus is on pulling in any other natural supports such as CBO's, or individuals who the youth have worked with in the past within the facility. The main focus for the youth is to develop a support network for them so the youth can have individuals to rely on.

Medical Services: Lanphuong Le reported on the following:

- Medical Services is continuing to ensure safety measures for staff and weekly testing at this time.
- Flu vaccines have started being administered last week
- Vaccine clinic is continuing weekly, every Wednesday at Juvenile Hall. Youth located at the Ranch will be transported to the Hall if in need of a COVID vaccine.
- 92.3% of medical?? staff has been vaccinated at the Ranch
- 73.3% of the youth population at the Ranch has been vaccinated
- 26.6% declined vaccination
- 7.7% unable to ask
- Shelly Aggarwal adds that the emergency use authorization for booster shots is currently for the Pfizer vaccine for those aged 18 and up. Medical Services will be offering the booster shots to youth who are eligible.
- Commissioner Rhoads asked, of the 26% of youth who declined, what are the reasons given and what are your efforts to overcome that? Lanphuong responded: Most individuals who decline say that they do not believe in the vaccine and they believe that they do not need the vaccine. The current policy allows Medical Services to offer the vaccine to the youth three times, however we continue to provide those individuals with educational materials to make sure they understand the benefits of vaccination.

- Commissioner Hansen comments, can the Youth Advisory Council become involved in peer counseling or suggestion about vaccination usefulness? Shelley answers, peer education for health information is something that we're actively talking about. Mr. Utsey and I are meeting to discuss peer opportunities related to health information.

Announcement: Lissa Thiele reported on the following:

- The Association of Justice Involved Females and organizations is having their conference on October 26th-28th. This conference takes place every other year. This year the meeting will be virtual, focusing on topics related to justice involved women and girls and gender specific needs.

Law Enforcement Agencies: None present to report.

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

- The DA's office has noticed an increase in school place violence.
- They are currently working with various school districts to help alleviate this problem. The DA's office is seeking help from schools and school districts in regards to recording any incidents regarding violence in their schools. The DA's office is working with schools affected to rectify this situation.
- Commissioner BurtonBurke asked, are there any changes in the DA's office besides you? Paul answers that there are no other changes in the DA's office in the Juvenile Justice team besides himself.

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

- Staffing change: Deputy PD Mahira Mir – replacing Elliott Samuels effective 10/12/2021
- In attending policy meetings in South County, Nisreen notes that the Gilroy School District reports that there have been 40 fights. The School District is expecting some suspensions and expulsions as a result.
- When inquiring about the South County Diversion Program (to avoid probation), they were told that youth involved in misdemeanor assaults and fights would be eligible for the Diversion Program.

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

Independent Defense Office: None present to report.

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): Andrew Cain reported on the following:

- Student discipline is something LACY is keeping a close eye on as the students return to campus.
- Their office has accepted 5 new expulsion defense cases in the last week. Andrew notes that even pre-COVID this is a very high number.

Dependency Advocacy Center: Preeti Mishra reported on the following:

- They are 3 months in to their new prevention based pre-petition program, First Call for Families. Clients are being referred, program is growing, which is good considering the sharp decline in court petitions being filed in dependency courts.

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

Alternative schools department: Dane Caldwell-Holden and Jessica Bonduris reported on the following:

- Jessica notes that exciting work is taking place, they are always looking for new ways for youth to grow both academically and socially.
- Team is looking into CTE programs and how youth can get into cleaner pathways so that when they leave they have certificates that will allow them to go straight into industry should they want to.
- Dane notes that they are able to see some positive results in standardized test scores through use of incentives. In the last 45 day period they were able to see point and a half come up. Youth are very capable when they are motivated.
- District representative meetings have changed in format this year, they are going to be much more collaborative and much more problem solving driven. In the upcoming meeting next week the district representatives will be speaking about Ed Code, section 48900, suspension and expulsion. They will also be doing a case study about how they should treat a student with special needs who could be expelled. They are hoping to do this every single month to continue to problem solve.

Probation Department Juvenile Program: Alex Villa, Vone Kegarice, Carl Tademaru, and Jill Ugalde reported on the following:

- Alex reports that their department continues to support the County's efforts related to COVID 19.
- Disaster service workers assignments are being assigned on a regular basis. Those efforts are to support the booster efforts and hopefully younger children being vaccinated in the future. They are working through the challenge of staffing issues, moving resources where they need to, and supporting the community as a whole deal with the COVID 19 response.
- Program manager code is being filled specifically working with the race equity work that the entire department is doing. This new PM (coming on in the near future) will be tasked with working with race equity efforts, juvenile, adults, and institutions. They will be working with government alliance on race equity work that we are doing.
- 2020 Annual Report is on our website as well as record sorting for PEI cases and PIOS cases are coming on this month.
- Vone adds that the Supervising Probation Officer promotional job announcement closed on October 1st. We have 7-9 vacancies between APD and JPD, we hope to do interviews in November and fill these vacancies that have been left vacant due to retirement.
- **Juvenile Hall:** Carl Tademaru reported on the following:
 - Secure Track program has 4 youth currently in the program.
 - Laptop computers have been ordered for this program, but the order is backlogged for 6 months. In the interim, tabletops computers are being set up in the classroom. They are working with the County Office of Education to get the materials set up.
 - Consultants have come in to look at the A3 unit which will be the home of the Secure Track population as well as the remodel of the alpha visiting wing to create a family visiting area. Preliminary observation has been completed of the area and the consultant will return with a report in a month of what their ideas are in terms of a remodel.

- Population in Juvenile Hall remains right under 50 youth. One female youth was determined to be positive for COVID, and relocated to the infirmary for treatment.
- Commissioner BurtonBurke asks, you noted that there are 4 youth in the Secure Track Program but Sunday's stats sheet shows 1 Secure Track Youth. Carl answers that he is unsure why there is a discrepancy but will look into it.
- Commissioner Hansen clarifies that the report is separated into transfer hearing and non-transfer hearing, with 3 in the first, and 1 in the second..
- Judge Bondono asks if the consultants being used are from the Cincinnati University Corrections Institute? Carl answers that UCCI are here for the therapeutic component for CCP and CBI. Consultants are more of interior decorators here to spruce up and soften the facility. These are the same consultants who worked on the new Ranch facility.
- **James Ranch:** Mark Utsey reported on the following:
 - Staff is currently being trained to begin work on their new program re-design. Pilot is scheduled to begin in one of the pods. Staff is also going to be trained to train the trainers to maintain sustainability.
 - Youth are excited to become peer educators to their own peers, the youth have a lot of questions about what they are able to discuss.
 - Commissioner BurtonBurke asked, the new program that you are piloting in one of the pods, is it entirely Ranch created or is it result of University of Cincinnati work? Mark answers that it is a little bit of both, it is UCCI guided and Ranch created. Commissioner BurtonBurke asked, how long is the pilot? Mark answered, the pilot will run from November to January and then go into an assessment to identify successes and challenges.
 - Commissioner Pennypacker asks, could you tell us what the redesign is? What are you changing? Mark answers, the entire program is being altered to the core correctional model. The staff notes that this new program enhances what they were teaching before, teaching for social skills.
- Nick adds, that they have a youth Anouk Yeh who is the Santa Clara Youth Poet Laureate who is providing a 6 week poetry workshop at Juvenile Hall. Juvenile Hall is currently in the 3rd week of the program, and the youth are enjoying it.
- Judge Bondonno asks, are you looking to re-inaugurate the animal training program at some point? Nick answers, yes but a timeline is still to be determined.
- Carl adds, Ashanti Hayes who oversees the MAC program is in discussions and coming up with plans to at least bring one-on-one's back. They are looking to have the community based organizations come in and have one-on-one's with youth. Juvenile Hall is still leery of allowing group activities at this time, so group work will continue online.
- Nisreen adds, in looking at the population report, out of the three girls currently in custody, 100% are girls of color. One being Black and two Latinx. In terms of our Ranch population, 22/23 of our Ranch kids are Black or Latino. In terms of Juvenile Hall population, 86% are kids of color. It is important to bring attention to this fact and keep talking about it, but these numbers are disturbing.
- Judge Bondonno urges the Commission to invite law enforcement to be present. All those numbers come through the judges and those cases come through police.

Department of Children and Family Service/Children's Receiving Center (DFCS): Damion Wright reported on the following:

- The department is working with JJC to make sure that data is being shared appropriately for the scattered sites.
- In regards to the Welcoming Center, work is going well there. They are able to reduce the number of youth coming into care, shifting the focus to streamlining processes.
- DFCS is looking to partner with Probation and Behavioral Health
- Commissioner Rhoads adds, going back to when Andrew (LACY) was speaking about kids going back to school, the Equity and Justice Committee is concerned about getting SRO's off of our school campuses. The other half of the equation is having supports like mental health supports and other supports for students and education and restorative justice practices. We are not seeing that half of the equation happen. With the return to school and increase in fights and suspensions and expulsions, we are concerned that there is going to be a backlash and a movement to push SRO's back into school. Is anyone aware of good resources that could help our school boards work more appropriately through those issues?
- Judge Lucero adds that Juvenile Court is working on long term plans that involve creating a toolkit for teachers and school based providers to understand resources that are available when we have our youth involved in negative activity on campus. Dane Caldwell Holden is the new lead on this, and COE is committed to having a variety of presentations on this in the district representative meetings on a quarterly basis to inform the district representatives of the many tools that are available and the rights of our core involved youth. Judge Lucero noted that the court has an Educators' Day that is very well attended and we also need to keep in mind that Justice Ed needs to be part of the infrastructure.
- Commissioner Rhoads adds that it might also be a fruitful conversation with the School Boards Association.
- Andrew adds, a few weeks ago Nisreen sent around an email with an announcement about a Webinar that the ACLU is hosting tomorrow that is on the relationship between data and how data can be used to support efforts in schools.
 - Link to register:
http://aclu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XyouunOHRlu_m02pbzeA4w
- Nisreen adds, one of the interesting things that's come up for example is Cupertino School District is hiring two mental health counselors and two behavior interventionists. The community has been very vocal about other districts hiring similar employees to assist. There needs to be an effort to empower the school districts to utilize the resources available to them to assess these issues and ask law enforcement for data pertaining to the fights on school campuses.
- Judge Lucero adds that there is an effort to get a South County Police Diversion Program up and running. She thinks that JJC needs to champion the San Jose Police Diversion program, or we will go back to old methods, which is to arrest.
- Shali thanks Nisreen and Judge Lucero for their comments. She adds as a school board member this is a difficult problem that needs a multiple-pronged approach. Lots of school districts are smaller and have different relationship with our local police departments than maybe larger school districts do. The approach to school board members isn't just to educate them on the impact of SRO's and why we should curb that

program, but what we should offer in return; that half of the conversation doesn't really come up. She thinks we also need to focus the conversations on overall campus safety; lots of members who don't want to remove the SRO's on campus are hesitant to speak to the others who are on the other side of this issue.

- Dana notes that there is funding coming from the State to support emotional wellness in the schools and we should be paying attention to that and going to your own local school board and making sure those allocated dollars are going that way. The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force is beginning their strategy process and they're taking a look at violence prevention looking at what they want to build as opposed to what they want to prevent. That might be a good place to engage.

Announcements/Correspondence: None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair BurtonBurke adjourned to Executive Session at 1:41 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Zoom on November 2, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Anjelica Hayden