

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2022  
Via Zoom**

**Commissioners Present:** Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair  
Stephen Betts, Vice Chair  
Jean Pennypacker  
Lissa Thiele  
Nora Manchester  
Penny Blake  
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay  
Dev Ghoshal  
Neha Parthasarathi  
Darius Parakh  
Heather Angove

**Commissioners Not Present:** Lionel “Lon” Allan, Secretary  
Diana Traub

**Also Present:** Honorable L. Michael Clark, Superior Court  
Honorable Shawna Schwarz, Superior Court  
Honorable Maureen Folan, Superior Court  
Honorable Rafael Sivilla-Jones, Superior Court  
Shannon Hanna, Superior Court  
Grace Gonzalez, Behavioral Health  
Mayra Vargas, Behavioral Health  
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health  
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health  
Veronica Robles, Behavioral Health  
Alex Villa, Probation Department  
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department  
Dolores Morales, Probation Department  
Elisa Carias, Probation Department  
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department  
Kristin Keller, Probation Department  
Marc Utsey, Probation Department  
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department  
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department  
Marie Mauboussin, DFCS  
Damion Wright, DFCS  
Paul Jhin, District Attorney’s Office  
Stacey Capps, District Attorney’s Office  
Damon Silver, Public Defender’s Office  
Nisreen Baroudi, Public Defender’s Office  
David Epps, Alternate Defender’s Office  
Glen Casados, IDO  
Ravi Rajendra, County Counsel  
Dane Caldwell Holden, SCCOE  
Jessica Bonduris, SCCOE

Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Preeti Mishra, Dependency Advocacy Center  
Ruth Maurice, OMOS  
Lanphuong Le, Valley Medical Center  
Dr. Shelley Aggarwal, Juvenile Facilities Medical Clinics  
Matt Cammann, Seneca Family of Agencies  
Kelsey Reedy, Humboldt JJDPC  
Meredith McGrath, FLY  
Alexandria Cooley, FLY  
Delayna Rosas, FLY  
Susie Rivera, FLY  
Patrick Tondreau, Citizen  
Ron Hansen, Citizen  
Lydia Harris, Citizen  
Lester Ezrati, Citizen

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

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

**Swearing In:** Commissioner Vishali Sirkay and Commissioner Darius Parakh were sworn in by the Honorable L. Michael Clark.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** September 6, 2022 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

**Presentation by Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY)** by Susie Rivera, Kristopher Scott, Alexandria Cooley and Meredith McGrath:

- The program unveils newly revised mission statement.
- FLY has a large range of programs and they want to make sure the community is aware of the diverse portfolio of offerings they have available for youth.
- Updated comprehensive flier is now available with all offered programs and contact information for FLY representatives.
- Youth Voice Initiative is an integral part of the work being done at FLY. Youth are sitting on committees throughout the county in order to support and lend a voice to decisions being made for justice-involved youth.
- Credible Messenger Mentor program is an extension of Youth Voice Initiative which allows for youth with lived experience to come back and mentor peers.
- Annual FLY Showcase is forthcoming and will feature youth speaking about their experiences with FLY. The team will follow up with ways to register for the event.
- Two FLY youth representatives were selected to be part of the Santa Clara County Office of Education Board and will be attending future board meetings to assist decision-making for education in this county.
- Age range for youth served by FLY is from middle school to transitional age. Mentor volunteer opportunities and applications can be accessed on the FLY website.

The Juvenile Justice Commission presents Certificate of Appreciation to Susie Rivera, CEO of Fresh Lifelines for Youth.

## REPORTS

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

- September highlight for the Commissioners was the opportunity to attend the combined Justice and Dependency Beyond the Bench.
- One Commissioner had the opportunity to attend a training in Southern California with other Juvenile Justice Commission representatives across the state.
- At the September Executive Session, two south county police chiefs were in attendance and speaking to services offered to youth and their families in the Gilroy and Morgan Hill areas.
- Commissioners met with Dan Little and his team regarding services offered by DFCS.
- The James Ranch and Law Enforcement Agency inspections are in process.
- Commissioners are also focusing on becoming more tech savvy in order to meet the needs of the commission and take better advantage of interaction with community partners.

**Presiding Judge:** Honorable L. Michael Clark reported on the following:

- Judge Beth McGowen was elected as the new presiding judge, taking office on January 1, 2023. She has previous experience as a Juvenile Justice Judge.
- Judge Julie Emede will be the new assistant presiding judge, taking office on January 1, 2023.
- Superior Court has lifted its indoor mask mandate. In Juvenile Justice, patrons will continue to be bound by the indoor masking requirement due to proximity to Juvenile Hall and staff and youth still testing positive for COVID-19.
- Judge Folan, Judge Valencia, Judge Yew and Judge Clark all attended the High Promise Families Conference at San Jose City College.

**Dependency Court:** Honorable Shawna Schwarz reported on the following:

- Dependency Court polled Justice Partners regarding the indoor mask mandate and the preference was to not have a mask mandate, but instead, have masks available and encourage mask wearing if patrons so choose.
- Number of dependency petitions has dropped significantly. Judge Schwarz and Judge Clark meet with DFCS quarterly to gather information about services offered.

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

- Public Defender's Office would like to flag the issue that petition numbers seem to be up, and if the numbers are accurate, then adjustments would need to be made regarding opening another courtroom in order to add additional staff to the team.

**Alternate Defender's Office:** David Epps reported on the following:

- Michelle Todus has joined the Juvenile Justice team of attorneys. Al Lopez has moved to a felony trial assignment. Ms. Todus has prior Juvenile Justice experience.

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

- LACY is hiring for attorney positions.
- The LACY Honors event will be back in-person on November 4<sup>th</sup> and is a lunchtime event that will be held in Palo Alto. Public Defender, Nisreen Baroudi, is one of this year's honorees.

**Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC):** Preeti Mishra reported on the following:

- Ms. Mishra is currently serving as interim CEO, as DAC is in the process of searching for someone to fill the role.
- DAC has expanded their prevention programs so they can continue to work with families whether a petition has been filed or not.

- DAC is also adding to their peer mentor staff as part of the advocacy team.

**Independent Defender's Office:** Glenn Casados had nothing new to report.

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

**Alternative Schools Department:** Dane Caldwell Holden reported on the following:

- Libraries at both Blue Ridge and Osborne are now fully functioning, full book carts are now available in all units.
- The literacy library is now offering library literacy skill lessons to both school locations starting this week.
- Due to COVID-19 related issues, some of the pods from James Ranch were moved to Osborne in the last month and the transition from in-person to zoom learning has been incredibly smooth.

Jessica Bonduris reported on the following:

- Last month the SCCOE Board was presented with their first student board member and alternate student board member, both of whom attend Blue Ridge.

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

- DFCS is focused on building out the continuum of care, specifically around children's crisis continuum, which is focused on supporting their high acuity youth.

**Probation Department:** Jill Ugalde reported on the following:

- Meet and Greet has been planned for October 17<sup>th</sup> in the form of a Resource Fair. There will be 30-50 providers who will meet with newly hired probation officers. This will take place outside of Juvenile Hall and is open to all justice partners.

Victoria Contreras-Wolfe reported on the following for the Services Division:

- Services is working closely with SJPD to pilot an electronic in-custody reporting system through the records room. If this is successful, the department will move forward with having all reports delivered electronically.
- In 2023, the Services Division will be celebrating 25 years of providing education services to students and families. Updates on celebratory events will be forthcoming.
- Deputy probation officer, Rosalva Pando, from the education services unit, in partnership with the South County Youth Task Force, will be providing a campus tour of San Jose State University to 20 young women.
- This month, the Services Division will be hosting a virtual town hall for staff.
- Juvenile Probation was represented at the High Promise Families Conference. 7 families were recruited to attend the conference, 4 of which attended.

Marc Utsey reported on the following for the James Ranch:

- Peer Health education, a collaboration with Stanford Pediatrics and Public Health, will train members of the Youth Advisory Council to participate in peer-to-peer mentorship on health related topics.

Ashanti Hayes reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- The Juvenile Hall Olympics was held this year, after a long hiatus. Youth were very excited to participate in the competition.

- The Halloween decorating contest will take place this year on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Community partners will be donating pumpkins.
- Next week, interviews will be conducted in order to hire new staff for Juvenile Hall.

Jill Ugalde reported on the following for Institutions:

- With respect to SB823 legislation, Juvenile Probation has been in touch with the state regarding the transition of youth who are currently at DJJ. A meeting was held with all system partners to further discuss what the transition will look like.
- The Reentry unit is working with all counsel, to setup transition meetings and administer all information regarding programming, status of youth, etc., prior to youth coming back in order to make the process seamless.
- Juvenile Hall is continuing work on making improvements to the units that will be utilized.

Commissioner Thiele asked if there will be secure track programming available specific to the young women coming back. Jill Ugalde stated Juvenile Probation is working diligently to find gender-specific programming and services to serve that population, as well as the gender expansive youth population.

Dolores Morales reported on the following for Secure Track:

- Juvenile Probation has been exploring different types of programming for quite some time.
- In-person instruction through San Jose City College will be available to young women on secure track. They will also have the ability to participate in online courses with any community college in Santa Clara County.
- All programs currently available, are and will be open to any young woman that wants to participate. Probation is also in the middle of a Request for Proposal process for gender specific programs.

Nisreen Baroudi asked if, based upon SB1008, will free phone calls be provided to the youth making calls from Juvenile Hall. Ashanti Hayes answered that all phone calls are for free.

**Behavioral Health:** Veronica Robles introduced her team:

Grace Gonzalez reported on the following:

- In regards to the secure track program, the psycho-social occupational therapists officially joined the behavioral health team last month. Due to the unit being on post-exposure, they were unable to meet with the youth for the first couple of weeks, but since then they have been working with the youth.

Mayra Vargas reported on the following:

- Behavioral Health Department is currently hiring for positions to serve both Juvenile Hall and the James Ranch custody treatment teams.
- A new clinician was hired and has started work with the in custody treatment team.
- These clinicians will follow youth between Juvenile Hall and James Ranch, so that youth can have continuity in their care through access with the same clinician.

Vanessa Cornejo reported on the following:

- On behalf of the substance use prevention team, they have been working on a new initiative called alternative to suspension programming which will be introduced to school districts throughout the county.

**Medical Services:** Lanphuong Le reported on the following:

- There is currently one positive COVID-19 case onsite. The youth was from James Ranch and is currently being housed at the infirmary at Juvenile Hall for 10 days.

- Flu vaccines are now being offered to all youth at the James Ranch and Juvenile Hall.
- They are continuing to provide a weekly COVID vaccination clinic.

Dr. Shelley Aggarwal reported on the following:

- Peer Health Education program with the Youth Advisory Council will be beneficial in learning from youth about what will assist in health communication and information practices.

**Law Enforcement Agencies:** No one present to report.

**District Attorney's Office:** Paul Jhin had nothing new to report.

**Announcements/Correspondence:** None.

**Adjourn to Executive Session:** Chair BurtonBurke adjourned to Executive Session at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting will take place on November 1, 2022 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Hanna