

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2023
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Stephen Betts, Chair
Dev Ghoshal, Vice Chair
Marcie Bellicitti, Secretary
Victoria BurtonBurke
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay
Diana Traub
Jean Pennypacker
Heather Angove
Neha Parthasarathi
Darius Parakh
Karen Guldan
Diana Sanchez Bentz

Commissioners Absent: Rayan Sengupta

Also Present: Honorable L. Michael Clark, Superior Court
Honorable Maureen Folan, Superior Court
Honorable Franklin Bondonno
Honorable Jose Franco
Shawn Parker, Superior Court
Grace Gonzalez, BHSD
Veronica Robles, BHSD
Vanessa Cornejo. BHSD
Liwei Wei, Probation Department
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department
Elsa Jennings, Probation Department
Melisa Garcia, Probation Department
Alex Villa, Probation Department
Elisa Carias, Probation Department
Ignacio Carriles, Probation Department
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Dustin Eng, Probation Department
Marc Utsey, Probation Department
Vone Kegarice, Probation Department
Damon Silver, PDO
Nisreen Baroudi, PDO
Paul Jhin, DAO
David Epps, ADO
Lana Kreidie, IDO

Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE
Lissa Thiele, SCCOE
Damion Wright, DFCS
Gilbert Murillo, DFCS
Don Long, DFCS
Naveen Sangwan, DFCS
Maria Galeana Castillo, DFCS
Amanda Kennedy, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Captain Jason Dwyer, SJP
Preeti Mishra, DAC
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Matt Cammann, Seneca
Lanphuong Le, Medical Services
Josh Selo, Bill Wilson Center
Allyn Kula
Arcel Blume
Roxana Martinez

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Betts called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

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

Swearing In: Honorable L. Michael Clark administered the oath of office to Diana Traub as Juvenile Justice Commissioner in the County of Santa Clara, for a term ending in 2027.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: September 5, 2023 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

PRESENTATION: DFCS System Improvement Plan (SIP) (Damion Wright, Naveen Sangwan, Don Long, Maria Galeana Castillo, Gilbert Murillo)

- County Self Assessment (CSA) and System Improvement Plan (SIP)
 - Improved safety, permanency, and well-being
 - Discover/assessment, create/planning, act/implement
- CSA Quantitative Analysis
 - Reviewed 7 federal outcome measures (2 for safety, 5 for permanency)
- CSA Qualitative Analysis
 - Stakeholder meetings and focus groups, 27 cases reviewed, 9 counties, peer review
- Peer Review: Strengths
 - Low caseloads allowed for youth and family engagements
 - Children initially placed with siblings
 - Regular use of CFTs and warm hand-offs
 - Extensive worker experience in Child Welfare (5-20 yr)
 - Increased number of specialized placements
 - Increased number of services for Spanish-speaking families
 - Trainings integrated into practice
- Peer Review: Opportunities

- o Matching placements with needs of children
 - o Continuing obstacles to maintain connections between family due to lack of transportation
 - o Challenges with homelessness and connecting unhoused families with services through stable shelter
 - o Gaps in service include: absence of substance abuse treatment for youth and services for developmentally delayed clients, inaccessible WRAP and therapy services, and too few Spanish speaking providers.
- SIP Goals: decrease in recurrence of child maltreatment, increase in permanency for children in care 12-24 months, and decreased re-entry into foster care.
- SIP Strategies:
 - o Increase linkage to Differential Response Diversion and Aftercare Services to prevent recurrence of maltreatment and re-entry into foster care.
 - o Build natural support networks for stability throughout the life of the case as well as post reunification.
 - o Improve the use, consistency and effectiveness of Structured Decision Making (SDM) – Safety, Risk, and Reunification reassessment tools.
 - o Improve integration of Safety Organized Practice into DFCS practice.
- Judge Bondonno asked: Many kids we encounter in Juvenile Justice have 10 or 20 CPS reports, so what is being done to look at the safety issue?
 - o Damion responded: DFCS can reassess what and how we are messaging. There is a very specific assessment that occurs for the family at a certain point in time. There is also a consideration that has to happen in regards to the current and ongoing safety of the child. Previous referrals are taken into consideration when considering intervention.
- SIP Goals & Strategies – Probation
 - o Goal: Permanency within 12 months of entering foster care.
 - o Strategies: Expand family finding efforts to engage the family with support and locate potential placements in the community.
 - o Expand the use of CFTs throughout each case to emphasize the importance of natural supports and family participation in decision making.
- Commissioner Blake asked: When will the Welcoming Center be shifting over?
 - o Damion responded: The Welcoming Center shift is still in conversation to obtain a licensure before anything can happen. It could take some time.

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

- JJC visited the Ranch and was impressed by the program.
- JJC is working on several reports: Welcoming Center & Scattered Sites, and LEA.
- Still working on making a hybrid meeting option.

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

- As of Sept 30th, JPD has 1,360 open cases—this has remained fairly steady over the past few months.
- Juvenile Hall population: 52 boys, 6 girls
 - o SYTF: 24 boys, 0 girls
- This has been the largest daily average of girls in Juvenile Hall in the last 4 years.
- Historically low numbers at the Ranch (20 boys, 4 girls).
- October 11th from 12-2pm: Juvenile Justice Quarterly Training on burnout/secondary trauma.
- November 2nd from 12-2pm: repeat training on 827 Petitions for Disclosure of Juvenile Records.
- Effective Jan 2024, Judge Jose Franco will assume responsibility as Juvenile Presiding Judge.
- Judge Maureen Folan will be rotating out of the Juvenile division after this year.
- Judge L. Michael Clark will return to the criminal division for his last year on the bench.

- Judicial assignments for 2024 will be announced at the end of October.

Dependency Court: No one present to report.

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

Independent Defense Office: Lana Kreidie had nothing new to report.

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): Amanda Kennedy reported on the following:

- Andrew Cain is leaving the Law Foundation; no hiring updates for his position.

Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC): Preeti Mishra 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:

- Many programs beginning to wrap up.
- The Garden at Osborne is very impressive.

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

- Gilbert Murillo will be the acting Assistant Director.
- DFCS Comprehensive Prevention Plan was approved.

Probation Department: Alex Villa reported on the following:

- Thank you to all the folks transitioning to new roles.

Elisa Carias reported on the following for services:

- Another group of new Probation officers completed their training programs.
- Educational Services unit is working with the Office of Ed to transition youth from in-custody status to schools upon release.
- Did a lot of prevention work in the community this month.

Ashanti Hayes reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Acknowledge staff and supervisors for the level of empathy they show youth coming into custody.

Elsa Jennings reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Thank you to commissioners who have been part of the JJC inspection.
- SYTF men have been fully engaged in the program and enrolled in college.
 - Has very first youth to have a paid internship with Santa Clara County.
- Started fork lift and cement pouring program.
- Resource Center staff hosted clothing drive at the Ranch, as well as a learning opportunity for Mexican Independence Day and Indigenous Peoples Day.

Behavioral Health: Grace Gonzalez reported on the following:

- Began Seeking Safety group at the Ranch.
- SYTF has 3 CDI cohorts.
- Made some changes to Individual Rehabilitation Plan (IRP) that has been presented to the court committee.
- Continue to work with Ranch management for the least restrictive program at the Ranch.

- Filled a Clinician code at Juvenile Hall, and have 2 currently vacant.

Medical Services: Lanphuong Le reported on the following:

- Flu season has started.
- Offering flu shot and Covid booster to youth at the Hall and the Ranch.

Law Enforcement Agencies: Captain Jason Dwyer had nothing new to report.

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

- Dan Fehderau has retired, and DDA Neil Leighton will be taking his spot.

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

- Nisreen Baroudi will be rotating out of the Juvenile team, and joining the Community Outreach team.
- Johnathan Moseby will be the new Juvenile supervisor.

Announcements/Correspondence:

- None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Betts adjourned to Executive Session at 1:26p.m. The next meeting will take place on November 7, 2023 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Garasky