

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes - September 1, 2020
Via Zoom**

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

Commissioners Absent: Vaishali "Shali" Sirkay

Also Present: Honorable Katherine Lucero, Superior Court
Honorable Franklin Bondonno, Superior Court
Honorable Julia Alloggiamento, Superior Court
Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court
Shannon Hanna, Superior Court
Britney Huelbig, Superior Court
Zelia Faria-Costa, Behavioral Health
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department
Carl Tademaru, Probation Department
Nick Birchard, Probation Department
Marc Utsey, Probation Department
Dolores Morales, Probation Department
Maureen Wheatley, Probation Department
Elena Pantoja, Probation Department
Elisa Carias, Probation Department
Morena Cruz, Probation Department
Jamila Hankins, Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
Stacey Capps, District Attorney's Office
Nisreen Younis, Public Defender's Office
Damon Silver, Public Defender's Office
David Epps, Alternate Defender's Office
Michelle Todus, Alternate Defender's Office
Karen Steiber, Independent Defender's Office
Ravi Rajendra, County Counsel
Annalisa Chung, Dependency Advocacy Center
Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley (LACY)
Shelley Aggarwal, Valley Medical Center
Chia-Chen Lee, Valley Medical Center
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Francisco Hernandez, OMOS
Arcel Blume, Office of Cultural Competency
Vianni Garcia, FLY
Rafael Cervantes, Jr. - FLY
Matt Cammann, SENECA
Debbie Pell, Bill Wilson Center
Christian Bijoux, DIY Initiative

Dana Bunnett, Kids in Common
Hannah Green, Vera Institute
Maja Marjanovic, County of Santa Clara

Also Present Cont'd: Christina Doane, Citizen
Paula Escobar, Citizen
Ritu Sen, Citizen

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Due to time constraints there were no formal introductions.

Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved by thirteen (13) Commissioners.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Commissioner Allan and seconded by Commissioner Blake to approve the August 4, 2020 Minutes was approved unanimously.

Presentation: Hannah Green from the Vera Institute of Justice begins presentation on the Institute's partnership with Santa Clara County to continue work on the Institute's Initiative to End Girls Incarceration.

-Commissioner Thiele asked Ms. Green, in her opinion, how many students do not self-report/self-identify and does the Vera Institute think of solutions to help students become more comfortable in self-reporting. Ms. Green stated the Institute has not gone deeply into solutions for the reporting side of things, but will continue to think of solutions that are able to cater to gender expansive youth.

-Shelley Aggarwal asked if there are family or community factors that are protective for those youth who do enter the system but have minimal involvement subsequently and are there things we can learn from successful models. Ms. Green stated they know that some protective factors are important; specifically, having a caring adult in the youth's life, school and an advocacy-based approach.

-Arcel Blume asked if the institute, with respect to child welfare, has done an analysis on when first referrals come in. Also, with respect to housing and security, was that due to the family being homeless, or, were the girls homeless independent from their families. Ms. Green stated that, with child welfare, she would have to go back to see if that was something that was looked at and consult with her research colleagues. With respect to housing instability, Ms. Green stated that the different categories were separated out and that the trend seemed to be minors having to move frequently with their families.

REPORTS

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

- Since the last commission meeting in August, youth commissioner, Mila Eliashberg, has ended her term. The JJC has interviewed other candidates and it is expected another commissioner will be appointed by the next meeting.

Juvenile Justice Court: Judge Lucero reported on the following:

- Superior Court will have a Court Systems Training on September 9, 2020 on Advancing Racial Equity and Diversity: Going Beyond Words presented by Christian Bijoux.
- DJJ is closing as of July 2021, so there will be time to strategize on what that means and Chief Garnette will be reaching out to form a leadership team.
- Superior Court would like everyone to be supportive of The Young Woman's Freedom Center's attempt at acquiring building space. The vision is that housing would be attached for respite care or emergency situations instead of putting girls in custody.
- Superior Court thanks all judges and Covid-19 stakeholder team for all of their hard work.
- Judge Bondonno reports that another doctor will be joining the competency evaluation team.

Dependency Court: Judge Chung has nothing new to report.

Alternative Schools Department, COE: None.

Probation Department Juvenile Program: Carl Tademaru reported on the following:

- Due to the wildfires, a request for mutual aid was sent from Santa Cruz County Probation. The air quality was a risk to the youth that was housed at their Juvenile Hall. The Santa Cruz county youth were transported to Santa Clara County's Juvenile Hall for housing in their alpha wing.
- James Ranch population also had to evacuate due to the poor air quality as a result of the wildfires. All units at Juvenile Hall are being utilized. Valley Medical Center and Santa Clara County Behavioral Health teams have been a tremendous help in coordinating services between the counties.
- DJJ will be shutting down, effective July 2021. Juvenile Probation is already discussing pre-planning as to where DJJ youth will be housed and what programming will look like. Committees will be formed to gather input regarding the change.

Commissioner Parakh asked if there were any Covid-19 concerns due to the increased population in Juvenile Hall as a result of the wildfires and how Probation has been handling this. Carl Tademaru stated Juvenile Probation has come up with a prevention plan. Every new admit is put under seventy-two (72) hour quarantine and during that quarantine a Covid-19 test is administered. If it is negative, they are slowly transitioned into the population via intake units. Three (3) youth did test positive who were asymptomatic, but the youth were isolated in order to mitigate spread. Also, Santa Cruz County had their own protocol regarding Covid-19 as the youth were transferred over.

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

- Five (5) youth are currently in their care at their scattered sites and they are still working on operations with respect to the Welcome Center.

Behavioral Health - Mental Health Services and Alcohol and Drug Services: Zelia Costa-Faria reported on the following:

- Regarding youth in Juvenile Hall, their team has worked closely with Juvenile Probation regarding the transfer of Santa Cruz County youth into Juvenile Hall.
- Three (3) members of their Juvenile Hall staff were assisting in Santa Cruz County as part of their emergency disaster response.
- Today was the launch of their new EHR, MyAvatar, so staff have been training and working on having the application up and running for youth in Juvenile Hall.

- The youth SUTS team are starting to provide psycho-education through virtual workshops for parents and have partnered with SLS providers to do this through schools.
- Ms. Costa-Faria acknowledges Veronica Robles, their manager at Juvenile Hall, for receiving the Employee Excellence Award for the month of August.

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

- Medical staff is starting training on MyAvatar, but the function is still view-only. Psychiatrists will continue to use HealthLink to give psychotropic medication orders.
- There are no positive Covid-19 cases currently at Juvenile Hall. They have only had three (3) positive cases since the pandemic started. Santa Cruz County has a different protocol for Covid-19 screening of their youth. So, when the youth were transferred to this county's Juvenile Hall, a two-point screening was conducted for each youth that was transferred to ensure infection control.
- With flu season approaching, they would like to make sure that educational programs regarding flu vaccinations are being provided to the youth in order to get the compliance rate as high as possible.
- A PowerPoint presentation was sent to Chair Hansen to share with everyone. VMC has put together a 2019 report regarding the medical outreach program for courts to improve youth medical adherence rates to ensure they continue using medication.

Chair Hansen will forward the PowerPoint presentation to all participants for their review.

Law Enforcement: None.

District Attorney's Office: None.

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

- There will be a staffing change on September 18, 2020, as attorney Jung Le will be out on maternity leave.
- PD's office has initiated a presentation on September 18, 2020 by Tyson Amir, a San Jose-based educator, along with COE and Probation staff to discuss possibly adopting Mr. Amir's curriculum as part of the ethnic studies curriculum requirement.

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

Independent Defender's Office: Karen Steiber has nothing new to report.

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

Dependency Advocacy Center: AnnaLisa Chung reported on the following:

- Ms. Chung introduces herself as the CEO and co-founder of Dependency Advocacy Center, a non-profit inter-disciplinary legal services organization. They have a contract with the state to provide court-appointed counsel to parents and conflict children that LACY cannot represent. They also have multiple contracts with the county that support the mentor parent program, as well as, prevention-focused program collaboration with the Probation Department. She is happy to join the JJC agenda and have a place to report.

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

Announcements/Correspondence: Britney Huelbig from the Superior Court announces that the Superior Court is currently recruiting for the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury. They will need nineteen (19) citizens to participate in the program and applications are due on September 25, 2020.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Hansen adjourned to Executive Session at 1:21 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next public meeting will be held on October 6, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Hanna