

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2022  
Via Zoom**

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

**Also Present:** Honorable Franklin Bondonno, Superior Court  
Honorable L. Michael Clark, Superior Court  
Honorable Shawna Schwarz, Superior Court  
Kara Garasky, Superior Court  
Morena Cruz, Behavioral Health  
Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health  
Veronica Robles, Behavioral Health  
Mayra Vargas, Behavioral Health  
Rachel Talamantez, Behavioral Health  
Marc Utsey, Probation Department  
Kristin Keller, Probation Department  
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department  
Elisa Carias, Probation Department  
Dolores Morales, Probation Department  
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department  
Tyler Maslanka, Probation Department  
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department  
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department  
Nick Birchard, Probation Department  
Mariel Caballero, Probation Department  
Kermit Wong, Probation Department  
Julie Posadas Guzman, Probation Department  
Paul Jhin, District Attorney’s Office  
Stacey Capps, District Attorney’s Office  
Glen Casados, IDO  
Jessica Bonduris, SCCOE  
Eugene D. Santillan, SCCOE  
Michelle DeCaro, SCCOE  
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE  
AnnaLisa Chung, Dependency Advocacy Center

Ruth Maurice, OMOS  
Damion Wright, DFCS  
Marie Maubossin, DFCS  
Captain Jason Dwyer, SJP  
Lanphuong Le, Valley Medical Center  
Dr. Shelley Aggarwal, Juvenile Facilities Medical Clinics  
Matt Cammann, Seneca Family of Agencies  
Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Phillip Rodriguez, New Hope for Youth  
Patrick Tondreau, Citizen  
Ray Blockie, Citizen  
Ron Hansen, Citizen  
Marcie Bellicitti, Citizen  
Lydia Harris, Citizen

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

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

- Amended to include presentation of certificate for Annalisa Chung.

**Swearing In:** None.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** August 2, 2022 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

Commissioner Penelope Blake presented a certificate of appreciation to Annalisa Chung on behalf of the JJC for her years of advocating for families with DAC.

## **REPORTS**

### **Presentation by Commissioner Stephen Betts: Secure Track Inspection**

- Secure Track program is still a work in progress, but the JJC is overall impressed.
  - Specifically impressed by the partnership between the Probation Department, Behavioral Health Services, and the County Office of Education.
- Excellent educational and vocational programs.
- JJC had an opportunity to meet with and interview Secure Track youth.
  - Youth had positive comments about the program.
  - Youth felt respected by the staff and felt like they were making progress toward their goals.
- JJC wants to see what will happen in terms of the Step Down.
  - Hoping to move the program out of Juvenile Hall and into another facility.
- JJC hopes for the opportunity to partner with other programs in the county.

### **Presentation by Commissioner Penelope Blake: Welcoming Center Inspection**

- Continuum of Care committee conducted the inspection on the Welcoming Center.

- Focused on the Welcoming Center and other scattered sites (which are controlled and run by the county).
- The Welcoming Center houses youth who have been removed from their parents for 24 hours, before they are moved to another placement.
- Main focus of the report is youth with high needs.
- JJC's recommendation is that we need to focus on this service for youth with high needs.
- The report is published on the Court website under the Juvenile Justice page.
  - Lydia Harris asked: On the website do I look under JJC for the reports?
  - Chair BurtonBurke will send out the reports to everyone on the mailing list.
  - Commissioner Blake explains how to find reports online: On the Santa Clara County Superior Court website, under the Dependency Court tab, there's a tab for Juvenile Justice Commission.

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

- JJC is currently interviewing for openings in the JJC. Applications can be found on the JJC website, or interested parties can contact a member of the JJC.
- Over the past month, JJC held trainings for continuing and new members on the issues involved in Juvenile Justice and Dependency work.
- JJC had a quarterly meeting with DFCS, and attended their quarterly forum, the Juvenile Justice System's collaborative meeting, and the CBO training
- JJC participated with members of the San Mateo JJC on an up-to-date overview of their county's Secure Track program.
- JJC has meaningful discussions with DFCS to keep updated on the issues of providing services to at-risk families and youth.
- Inspection with law enforcement agencies is in progress.
- Ask presenters to note in your report today: Explain your program's current and soon to be implemented services for prevention and early intervention to keep children and youth from involvement in the Dependency and Justice systems.

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

- Juvenile Justice Court continues to utilize hybrid approach (virtual & in person).
- Juvenile Justice Court continues to function with severe staffing limitations (only 2 courtrooms open at a time).
  - Hope to open all 3 courtrooms by the beginning of the year.
- Juvenile Justice sponsored 3 trainings in August
  - CBO training by Judge Bondonno,
  - drug treatment services for youth training by Mayra Vargas and Vanessa Cornejo
  - (BHSD), victim services training by Ruth Maurice, Carla Arango, and Johnathan Dio.
- Beyond the Bench conference is set for Friday 9/16.
- On behalf on Britney Huelbig: The Superior Court is seeking applicants for Civil Grand Jury. Applications will be accepted through 9/16. The term for the panel is one year, beginning 1/23/23.

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

- Dependency Court is experiencing staffing issues (only 2 courtrooms open).
- Grateful for Annalisa Chung and all the work she has done.

**Alternate Defender's Office:** No one present to report.

**Independent Defense Office:** Glenn Casados had nothing new to report.

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

- Grateful for Annalisa Chung's work with DAC.
- In response to the question posed in the agenda:
  - LACY works with the probate guardianship division and serves 100 youth per year going through probate court.
  - Addressing problems in school can be a powerful tool to keep youth out of the system.
- Resuming annual tradition of hosting LACY honors event this fall.
  - Honorees will be the Gardner Health Center (organizational honoree), and Nisreen Baroudi, Public Defender's Office (individual honoree).
  - Event will be held in Palo Alto on November 4<sup>th</sup> during lunch hour. No registration is available yet.

**Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC):** Annalisa Chung reported on the following:

- Preethi Misha will step in as acting CEO on 9/15.
- Family Reunification day 9/21 at 1:00pm. Limited in-person attendance. Event will be streamed online as well.

**The Office of Mediation and Ombuds Services:** Ruth Maurice reported on the following:

- Regarding PEI question: Victim Offender Mediation program can be used for restitution issues.

**Alternative Schools Department:** Jessica Bonduris reported on the following:

- In regards to the question posed in agenda: Director of Alternative Education attends monthly district meetings where they discuss PBIS (Positive Behavior and Intervention System).
  - Prepare students to transition out,of in custody schools and provide counseling for youth.

Mark Camilleri reported on the following for Blue Ridge:

- Provide opportunity for students to be successful
- Blue Ridge currently has 2 CTE teachers (culinary arts and welding).
- As of 9/1, every youth at Blue Ridge has earned a food handler certificate.
- Students who complete construction and trade program are provided with a binder with contacts & certificates to support transition out of facility.
- Lydia Harris asked: Do you have any tie in with the community college Hospitality Management programs?
  - Mark responded: Not currently, but we do have teachers with hospitality certificate and experience.

- Lydia Harris asked: Do you have any thoughts of working with community college programs (West Valley or Mission College)?
- Jessica responded: Currently have 2 college liaisons to support students dually enrolled in college courses, but can look for more partnerships.
- Mark responded: One teacher already toured Mission College for potential collaboration.
- Shout out to Osborne for providing the same certificate opportunities as Blue Ridge.

Eugene Santillan reported on the following:

Two big initiatives recently: establishing a transition navigator at Osborne to monitor every student, and establishing a justice involved family education coordinator.

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

- In regard to the question posed in the agenda: FFPSA (Families First Preventative Services Act) is driving prevention work.
  - Having conversations in AB2083 workgroup as to how to design a clear structure for preventative services for youth.
  - Also looking at services that are evidence based to roll out in January.

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

- Expanded education services to include all youth (including pre-adjudicated).

Ashanti Hayes reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Preparing for a PREA audit on 9/9 - 9/11.
- Remodeling continues on unit A3 and beta wing, as well as in the visiting area.
- Hosted San Mateo JJC and Santa Clara County JCC to discuss Secure Track program.

Dolores Morales reported on the following for the Secure Track program:

- 10 young men in the program now.
- Doing a lot of facility improvements.
- 9/13 start in person college courses with SJCC.
- Trades program will be building solar powered vehicle.
- Youth will be working on a podcast.
- Will be having a follow up visit with San Mateo County judges, public defenders, and district attorney.
- Will be receiving a visit from OYCR.
- Started victim awareness classes last week.
- Judge Bondonno asked: Can you focus on the fact that we will have a few females joining Secure Track next month?
  - Dolores responded: They've started amending contracts and started partnering with a cosmetology program in preparation of female Secure Track participants.
  - UC Santa Cruz math and science division professors will be coming in to provide tutoring and mentoring to young men & women in Secure Track.
- Commissioner Pennypacker asked: Will girls will be allowed to participate in construction or culinary if they want?
  - Dolores responded: Yes. Everything offered to young men will be offered to young ladies as well.
- Lydia Harris: Bravo for tying in with community colleges.

- Commissioner Flagsberg asked: Is there any kind of program with any of the community colleges that focuses on driving?
  - Lydia responded: De Anza College has a version of that program.
  - Dolores responded: They do work with the labor council., and are focusing on the areas youth are currently interested in. They are open to exploring it.
- Will have a resource fair on 10/19 from 10:00am – 12:00pm at the Juvenile Hall gym.

Marc Utsey reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Applaud youth for obtaining food handler certificate.
- Finished UCCI training.
  - Starting a pilot next month.
- Grand opening for weight room for youth.
- 2 youth graduated with high school diplomas and completed/passed their first college class.

Elisa Carias reported on the following for services:

- Continuing to work on family finding project pilot.
- Onboarding 13 new Deputy Probation Officers.
- Will be participating in National Night Out in Gilroy on 10/4.
- Encouraging families to attend High Promise Families conference on 10/1 at SJCC.
- This month launched a survey for staff & youth to gauge if they are receiving the services, they need from the Probation Department.
- Judge Bondonno asked: Which unit should I be calling for family services support?
  - Elisa responded: Placement unit.

**Behavioral Health:** Rachel Talamantez reported on the following:

- In regard to the question posed in the agenda: BH has a robust list of programs related to prevention and early intervention services—school linked services, school based programs, workshops and supports for parents, probation partnership programs, CARE court, support services through partnership with DFCS, REACH (Raising Early Awareness and Creating Hope) program, community wellness centers (Allcove)
  - New Downtown Youth Wellness Center program (725 E. Santa Clara St.)
  - Exploring potential site for a new Allcove location in San Jose.

Grace Gonzalez reported on the following:

- 2 psychosocial occupational therapists starting this week with Secure Track team.

Mayra Vargas reported on the following:

- Expanding services to include Ranch youth.
  - Expansion includes 3 programs that have been developed to provide support: Guadalupe team (operational Juvenile Hall needs), James Ranch team (operational needs at the Ranch), Custody Treatment Team (individual and family treatment).
  - Recruiting for 9 additional positions.
- Rachel added: Custody Treatment team will provide services at both facilities, so the same therapist will follow youth to the Ranch.
  - On target for a specialized recruitment (psychiatric social worker) for Juvenile Justice treatment programs.
- Nick added: Thank you BH for implementing a program so justice involved youth can receive continuity of care.
- Commissioner Pennypacker asked: What is Allcove?

- Rachel responded: Allcove is an integrated wellness center that consists of BH support short-term, peer support, education and employment support, and medical services. Youth are invited to this early intervention and prevention program to receive any support/services they need.
- Commissioner Pennypacker asked: Is BH still doing services at the Ranch by contract?
  - Rachel responded: BH with county staff is taking over those responsibilities.
  - Judge Bondonno asked: Are you going to create an Allcove location for South County youth?
    - Rachel responded: We are discussing it currently, but nothing set as of now.
  - Commissioner Sirkay asked: How is BH working with school districts on prevention services?
    - Rachel responded: The Division Manager knows more. Possibly exploring a school wellness center.
  - Commissioner Sirkay asked: Is there a seamless way it's all connected?
    - Rachel responded: We are open to hearing anyone's ideas to strengthen referral and service linkage connections.

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

- Weekly Covid vaccine clinic every Wednesday
- Currently 3 possible Covid cases in Juvenile Hall.

Dr. Shelley Aggarwal reported on the following:

- Continuing to develop MPX initiative (will be offering M-pox vaccine to youth as appropriate).
- Flu vaccine initiative beginning soon.
- In regard to the question posed in the agenda: Emphasizing how to support a continuum of care.
- Approved for Medical Social Worker position.

**Law Enforcement Agencies:** No one had any report.

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

- Continuing to work on the creation of a juvenile restitution fund.

**Public Defender's Office:** No one present to report.

**Announcements/Correspondence:** None.

**Adjourn to Executive Session:** Chair BurtonBurke adjourned to Executive Session at 1:27 p.m. The next meeting will take place on October 4, 2022 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Garasky