

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – September 5, 2023  
Via Zoom**

**Commissioners Present:** Stephen Betts, Chair  
Marcie Bellicitti, Secretary  
Victoria BurtonBurke  
Nora Manchester  
Penny Blake  
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay  
Diana Traub  
Jean Pennypacker  
Heather Angove  
Rayan Sengupta  
Karen Guldan

**Commissioners Absent:** Dev Ghoshal, Vice Chair  
Neha Parthasarathi  
Darius Parakh  
Diana Sanchez Bentz

**Also Present:** Honorable L. Michael Clark, Superior Court  
Honorable Maureen Folan, Superior Court  
Kara Garasky, Superior Court  
Shawn Parker, Superior Court  
Mayra Vargas, BHSD  
Liwei Wei, Probation Department  
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department  
Elsa Jennings, Probation Department  
Melisa Garcia, Probation Department  
Mariel Caballero, Probation Department  
Gladys Tran, Probation Department  
Dolores Morales, Probation Department  
Alex Villa, Probation Department  
Damon Silver, PDO  
Stacey Capps, DAO  
David Epps, ADO  
Lana Kreidie, IDO  
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE  
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE  
Teresa Shipp, SCCOE  
Lissa Thiele, SCCOE  
Damion Wright, DFCS  
Preeti Mishra, DAC  
Delayna Rosas, FLY  
Ruth Maurice, OMOS

Ines Zapiola, OMOS  
Matt Cammann, Seneca  
Dr. Shelley Aggarwal, Medical Services  
Andrew Cain, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Josh Selo, Bill Wilson Center  
Catherine McBain, IPA Office  
Patrick Tondreau, Citizen  
Susan Bates, Citizen

**Call to Order & Introductions:** Chair Betts called the meeting to order at 12:19pm.

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

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** August 1, 2023 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

## REPORTS

**PRESENTATION: Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Report Summary (Commissioner Traub)**

- Commendations to SYTF staff and COE Alternative Schools Department.
- Youth appear excited about their futures and what they have done so far.
- Recommendations from JJC:
  - Evaluation of the efficacy of the SYTF programs on an annual basis.
  - Review and update the policies and procedures as appropriate that are unique to SYTF.
  - Prioritize the effort to identify and develop a secure facility for the SYTF that's not within Juvenile Hall.
- JJC was very impressed with the facility.

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

- JJC completed inspection of SYTF.
- Wrapping up LEA inspections.
- Just started the Ranch inspection.
- Also working on the Welcoming Center inspection.
- Trying to organize a hybrid public meeting (in person & virtual).

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

- Total number of active cases dropped from 1,100 in June, to 982 as of September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Wed 9/20 from 12-2pm: Training on Access to Juvenile Court Records.
- Wed 9/27 from 12:15-1:15pm: Presentation on the Grizzly Youth Academy.

**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):** Andrew Cain reported on the following:

- 9/29 annual LACY honors event (info available on website)
  - Will be honoring one outstanding individual (Nancy Marshall) and one community organization (Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto).

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

- Katie Joe will be taking over as CEO of DAC.

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

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

- Dr. Teresa Shipp replacing Dr. Jessica Bonduris.

Mark Camilleri reported on the following:

- Students had the opportunity to earn high school credits during summer school.
- Students had the opportunity to take a class and become fork lift certified (everyone passed!)
- Students are starting art & music classes in Sept.

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

- Will be presenting at the next JJC public meeting on their prevention plan.
- Damion Wright is the new DFCS Director.

**Probation Department:** Victoria Contreras-Wolfe reported on the following for services:

- Participated in the Shop with a Cop operation backpack event.
- Education Services unit had a celebration of the Probation Department's 25 years of collaboration with project YEA (Youth Education Advocates).
- Took students to a Giant's baseball game.
- DPO development and hiring is in full swing.

Alex Villa reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Condolences to everyone for the passing of Group Counselor.
- Many new staff started at the end of August.
- Made some Covid changes in the Hall recently.
- Positive event: Supported one young man in being present at his child's first day of school.

Marc Utsey reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Students completed 40 hour fork lift course.
- Several audits occurring.
- First SYFT student was dropped off at college.

**Behavioral Health:** Mayra Vargas had nothing new to report.

**Medical Services:** Dr. Aggarwal reported on the following:

- Seeing an increase in Covid.
- Voluntary blood lead level monitoring program concluded that a regular screening process is not needed.
- Working on educational interventions for justice involved youth.

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

**District Attorney's Office:** Stacey Capps had nothing new to report.

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

- Staffing change: Demiana Khoury joined Juvenile team.

**Announcements/Correspondence:**

- None.

**Adjourn to Executive Session:** Chair Betts adjourned to Executive Session at 12:47p.m. The next meeting will take place on October 3, 2023 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Garasky