

**JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2006-2007**

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) of Santa Clara County is a state-mandated, court-appointed authority. The general purpose of the Commission is to inquire into the administration of the juvenile law in this County. The Commission is dedicated to the promotion of an effective juvenile justice system operated in an environment of credibility, dignity, fairness, and respect for the youth of Santa Clara County.

The Commission's responsibilities include:

- Inspecting juvenile facilities including shelters, detention facilities and group homes used for the placement of any minor in Santa Clara County
- Conducting public or closed hearings on matters relating to juvenile law in the County
- Advocating for needed services for youth in the justice system

COMMISSIONERS

Betty Benson
Martha Craycroft Biegun (appointed May 2007)
Robert W. Campbell
Ernest C. Dossa, Jr. (appointed May 2007)
Charles Fikes
Patricia Khan
Arthur E. Knopf
Nora Manchester
Vilma K. Palette
Carol Petersen (resigned May 2007)
Stephen L. Rice
William J. Scilacci, Chairperson
Pamela N. Serrano (appointed September 2006)
Michael A. Smith
Susan Sullivan (retired September 2006)
Paddy Wray (retired March 2007)

**JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
2006-07 COMMITTEE ROSTER**

Executive Committee

Bill Scilacci, Chair
Pat Khan, Vice Chair
Nora Manchester, Past Chair
Betty Benson, Secretary

Juvenile Hall Inspection Committee

Bob Campbell, Chair
Carol Petersen, Vice Chair
Chuck Fikes
Pat Khan
Pam Serrano

Membership Committee

Pat Khan, Chair
Nora Manchester

James Ranch Inspection Committee

Mike Smith, Chair
Nora Manchester, Vice Chair
Betty Benson
Pam Serrano
Pat Khan
Art Knopf

Nominating Committee

Nora Manchester, Chair
Vilma Palette
Mike Smith

Wright Center Inspection Committee

Vilma Palette, Chair
Pat Khan, Vice Chair
Chuck Fikes
Carol Petersen
Paddy Wray

Education Committee

Carol Petersen, Chair
Bob Campbell

Commendations

Paddy Wray, Chair

Children's Shelter Inspection Committee

Nora Manchester, Chair
Paddy Wray, Vice Chair
Pam Serrano
Art Knopf
Stephen Rice

By-laws & Procedures Committee

Mike Smith, Chair
Carol Petersen
Nora Manchester

Police Facilities Inspection Committee

Art Knopf, Chair
Chuck Fikes
Mike Smith
Bob Campbell

Juvenile Detention Reform

Nora Manchester, Chair
Art Knopf
Carol Petersen

Ad Hoc Committee

Bill Scilacci, Chair
All Commissioners

Group Homes Inspection Committee

Pam Serrano, Chair
Mike Smith
Betty Benson

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2006-2007

Activities toward achievement of goals in italics

The Juvenile Justice Commission approved the following Goals and Objectives at the August 1, 2006 meeting:

1. Conduct mandated inspections and, within two months of the inspections, submit written reports for Commission approval.

Activities: All mandated inspections were completed by the end of the fiscal year. The approved reports include:

- *Juvenile Hall - Six visits were made: one in October 2006, three in November 2006, and two in December 2006. The report was approved at the February 6, 2007 meeting.*
- *James Ranch - Four visits were made in February 2007. The report was approved at the May 1, 2007 meeting.*
- *Wright Center - Three visits were made: two in March 2007 and one in April 2007. The report was approved at the June 5, 2007 meeting.*
- *Children's Shelter – Two visits were made: one in April 2007 and one in May 2007. The report was approved at the June 5, 2007 meeting.*
- *Police Facilities – Law enforcement agencies in Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Milpitas, Santa Clara and San Jose and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department were visited in March and April 2007. The report was approved at the June 5, 2007 meeting.*
- *Group Home – Three visits were made to the Justin House Adolescent Group Home: two in April 2007 and one in May 2007. The report was approved at the June 5, 2007 meeting.*

2. Monitor the educational and transitional services provided to minors who are under court supervision.

Activities: Special attention was given to the students, teachers, classes and educational programs during each of the four facility inspections. Recommendations were made concerning maximum class size, Special Education services, General Educational Development (GED) test preparation, English as a Second Language (ESL) and remedial programs.

The Chairperson, appearing as a private citizen but drawing upon his experience as a member of the Juvenile Justice Commission, addressed the Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Justice Committee on March 23,

2007. The topic under discussion was the feasibility of a charter school model within the Juvenile Justice System.

One or more Commissioners attend monthly meetings of the Juvenile Court's Special Committee for Education and the Juvenile Court Education Task Force (JET).

3. Continue to focus on Juvenile Detention Reform by active membership on task forces, including monitoring of the Roush Report Recommendations.

Activities: Commissioners continue their participation in the Juvenile Detention Reform (JDR) movement as members of work groups and the JDR Oversight and Steering Committees.

Commissioners actively participate in monthly Juvenile Court Systems meetings and quarterly Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and Children's Shelter Multi-Agency Team meetings.

The Chairperson, or one of the Chairperson's designees, attends the monthly Juvenile Hall Advisory Board and Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Justice Committee meetings.

There was no monitoring of the Roush Report recommendations due to a pending lawsuit.

4. Maintain a full membership. Increase minority representation.

A 27-year Commissioner resigned in September 2006 and a 15-year Commissioner resigned in March 2007.

Two new Commissioners were appointed in May 2007, including a female who was born in Mexico City.

5. Monitor recommendations of the 2005-2006 Inspection Reports.

Activity: The agencies to which recommendations are directed, (Probation Department, County Office of Education, Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System and Social Services Agency) provide written responses to the recommendations contained in the Inspection Reports. Additionally, the inspection report for each facility addresses the action(s) taken on each of the recommendations for that facility from the prior year.

The Chief Probation Officer responds to the recommendations directed to the Probation Department. The Juvenile Hall Advisory Board, the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Justice Committee and the Board of Supervisors must approve the Chief Probation Officer's responses.

Written responses were received from all of the agencies to which recommendations were directed in the 2005-2006 Inspection Reports.

6. Re-affirm the Mission Statement.

Activity: The Juvenile Justice Commission reaffirmed the Mission Statement at the September 5, 2006 meeting.

7. Revise and update the Procedures Manual.

Activity: The By-Laws and Procedures Committee was activated, and has initiated a review of both the Bylaws and the Procedures Manual.

8. Pursue a Commissioner's expense reimbursement policy.

Activity: The Juvenile Justice Commission approved the Juvenile Justice Commission Expense Reimbursement Policy at the May 2, 2006 meeting. The purpose of the policy is to establish a procedure by which Commissioners, who volunteer their time and resources but receive no compensation, could be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The proposed budget of \$3405 was approved by the Board of Supervisors in January 2007.

9. Schedule occasional speakers for monthly Commission meetings.

Activities: Barbara Attard, Independent Police Auditor for the City of San Jose, spoke at the August 1, 2006 meeting. The Independent Police Auditor's mission is to provide an independent review and to promote public awareness of the citizen complaint process; thereby, increasing greater police accountability by the San Jose Police Department.

Georgette Brooker, Santa Clara County Office of Education, Alternative Schools Department, addressed the Commission at the December 6, 2006 meeting. She gave a brief orientation on the history, purpose and success of the Alternative Placement Academy, a partnership with Probation, the National Guard, and Drug & Alcohol Services.

10. Recognize the efforts and contributions of various leaders.

Activities: At the November 7, 2006 meeting, the Commission presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Sue Sullivan for her 27 years of dedicated service to the Juvenile Justice Commission.

At the January 2, 2007 meeting, Presiding Judge Catherine Gallagher and Judge Kurt Kumli introduced outgoing District Attorney George Kennedy and

described his accomplishments during a 34-year career with the District Attorney's Office. Commissioner Fikes presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Kennedy.

11. Monitor the implementation of the new Enhanced Ranch Program at the Wright Center and James Ranch.

Activities: The Enhanced Ranch Program started August 28, 2006. The Chief Probation Officer reported at each Juvenile Justice Commission meeting on the number of youth waiting to enter the program. The increase in the time of confinement under the new program and the reduction in available space at James Ranch and Wright Center caused a backlog of youth in Juvenile Hall awaiting placement. The Chief Probation Officer reported in December that there were nine youth waiting to enter James Ranch and four youth waiting to enter Wright Center. In March, 34 youth were waiting to enter James Ranch and five youth were waiting to enter Wright Center. The Chief Probation Officer's April report indicated that 41 youth were waiting for openings at James Ranch and ten youth were waiting for openings at Wright Center. A Ranch Readiness Unit was opened in Juvenile Hall on March 5, 2007 to accommodate the backlog.

The Commission's James Ranch Inspection Team visited the facility four times during February 2007. A detailed description and discussion of the status of the Enhanced Ranch Program is provided in the James Ranch Inspection Report approved by the Commission on May 1, 2007.

The Commission's Wright Center Inspection Team visited the facility three times in March 2007 and one time in April 2007. A discussion of the status of the Enhanced Ranch Program is provided in the Wright Center Inspection Report approved by the Commission on June 5, 2007.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Four Commissioners attended the training session for "Improving the Service to Dual Status Children in Santa Clara County" on August 15, 2006.

Commissioners Petersen and Manchester attended the opening of the new Evening Reporting Center (ERC) in September 2006, and seven Commissioners attended the ERC Open House in November 2006.

Four Commissioners attended the Juvenile Court Education Task Force kickoff meeting in November 2006.

In December, Commissioners Scilacci, Fikes and Serrano attended the Juvenile Hall Holiday decorating contest and Commissioners Petersen and Benson attended the Muriel Wright Center holiday program.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Commission sent letters regarding pertinent issues to the following individuals or organizations:

- To Hon. Kurt Kumli in appreciation for serving as keynote speaker at the event recognizing outgoing District Attorney George Kennedy
- To the Civil Grand Jury Foreperson requesting permission to address the Civil Grand Jury seeking Juvenile Justice Commission applicants
- To the Board of Supervisors noting the lack of handicapped parking in the vicinity of Juvenile Hall
- To Will Lightbourne, Director of the Social Services Agency, requesting his assistance with a planned group home inspection
- To Susan Swain, County Counsel's Office, listing documents considered in evaluating the Juvenile Justice Commission's statutory duties and authority

OTHER EVENTS

Hon. Richard J. Loftus, Jr., Supervising Juvenile Court Judge, convened the Juvenile Justice Commission in Executive Session on March 6, 2007 to address two issues: (1) the scope of the Commission's authority; and (2) the responsibility for providing legal advice to the Commission.

Nancy Clarke, representing the County Council's Office, met with the Juvenile Justice Commission in Executive Session on April 6, 2007. She said the Office would be providing the Commission with legal representation in the future. Robert Campbell, also representing the County Council's Office, met with the Commission on May 1, 2007. Mr. Campbell said he would be attending future Commission meetings.

The Juvenile Justice Commission, in collaboration with the County Counsel's Office and Supervising Juvenile Court Judge, developed a Statutory Duties and Authority policy. The policy was formally adopted at the June 5, 2007 meeting. The general purpose of the Juvenile Justice Commission is "to inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the county," and the policy outlines the Commission's specific statutory duties and authority within this broad scope.

Four members of the Juvenile Justice Commission appeared before the Board of Supervisors at the May 15, 2007 budget hearing. The prepared statement, delivered by Commissioners Petersen and Serrano, said the Commission was advocating for all of the minors in the County's Juvenile Justice System. The Commission was concerned about the proposed budget cuts, which would drastically reduce, and in some cases eliminate, mental health services and alcohol and drug services for minors.

On June 5, 2007, the Board of Supervisors recognized five Commissioners who had served a total of 89 years of volunteer service with the Juvenile Justice Commission. The five individuals and their years of service were as follows: Charles Fikes, 33 years; Sue Sullivan, 27 years; Paddy Wray, 15 years; Nancy Freeman, eight years; and Nancy Greene, six years. The event was held in the Board of Supervisors' chambers, and each of the individuals received a Certificate of Achievement for their dedicated service along with a commemorative Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission medallion.

SERVICE

Commissioners, all of whom are community volunteers, freely give of their time in fulfilling the mission of the Juvenile Justice Commission. The total volunteer time contributed by Commissioners during the 2006-2007 year was approximately 2000 hours.

The monthly Juvenile Justice Commission meetings include reports from the following agencies: Juvenile Court, Probation Department, Children's Shelter, County Office of Education, District Attorney, Public Defender, Mental Health Services, Medical Services, and San Jose Police Department. These reports provide an interagency networking function. During the past year, follow-up actions by the District Attorney, San Jose Police Department and Children's Shelter resulted from issues raised during the monthly meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC

The Commission continues to receive communications from the public and others through a secure telephone line. The Chairperson retrieves the phone messages daily. The messages received include inquiries, complaints, and requests for information or help. The appropriate referral telephone number is provided if the Chairperson is unable to resolve the caller's concern.

The Commission is pleased to report a marked decline in complaints or requests for assistance. There were 24 calls received on the secure telephone line from January 1 through June 30, 2006, while nine calls were received during the same period in 2007.

Descriptive information is provided on the Superior Court website regarding the Juvenile Justice Commission and its mission, responsibilities, membership, meetings, and contacts. Copies of Inspection Reports for 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07 appear on the

website, along with Annual Reports for 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Youth and adult applications for membership are also available. This information can be accessed at www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/juvenile/jcc.htm

Approved by the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission on August 7, 2007.