

# **SANTA CLARA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION 2010 – 2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County is a state-mandated, court-appointed authority. The broad purpose of the Commission is to inquire into the administration of the juvenile justice system in the 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.

## **COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP**

### **Commissioners:**

Pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 225, the County's Commission shall consist of 15 volunteer citizens, two of which shall be youth Commissioners or persons between 14 and 21 years of age. Commissioners must also be residents of Santa Clara County. At the end of fiscal year 2010 – 2011, the Commission was composed of the following Commissioners:

Pamela Serrano, Chair  
Raymond Blockie, Vice Chair (reappointed January 5, 2010)  
Penelope Blake, Secretary  
Patricia Khan, Past Chair  
Dana Bunnett  
Raul Colunga (appointed 11/2/2010)  
Stephanie Dong, Youth Commissioner  
Nora Manchester  
Calixto Manriquez  
Vinod Mehta  
Robert Nunez (appointed 9/7/2010)  
Mary Ryan  
Anita Sunseri

Commissioners are sworn to four-year terms, except for youth Commissioners who are sworn to two-year terms. Over the past fiscal year one Commissioner resigned: Rada Ford, effective 6/7/2011.

The membership of the Commission should be representative of the community and should include representation from the different geographical areas of the County. In an effort to achieve such diversity, Commissioners routinely recruited new applicants to

the Commission. Over the last fiscal year, a presentation was made before the outgoing Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury and Commissioners regularly attended La Raza Roundtable in an effort to solicit membership. In order to include victim service providers as participants in Commission monthly public meetings, the Victim Witness Assistance Center and the YWCA Rape Crisis Center were added to the agency reporting agenda.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTIONS**

The Commission conducts annual inspections of the County's juvenile detention facilities and at least one group home. All Commissioners are required to participate in these inspections and to document their findings in written reports, which are forwarded to the facility manager and to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Chairperson assigns Commissioners to inspection committees and other standing committees. The final 2010 – 2011 Commissioner Committee Roster, scheduled inspection dates, and status of each facility inspection are as follows:

### **Executive Committee**

Pamela Serrano, Chair  
Ray Blockie, Vice Chair  
Penny Blake, Secretary  
Patricia Khan, Past Chair

### **Membership Committee**

Ray Blockie, Vice Chair  
Dana Bunnett  
Nora Manchester

### **Nominating Committee**

Patricia Khan, Past Chair  
Vinod Mehta  
Mary Ryan

### **Group Home Inspection**

Vinod Mehta, Comm. Chair  
Mary Ryan, Past Comm. Chair  
Nora Manchester

### **Law Enforcement Facilities Inspection**

Calixto Manriquez, Comm. Chair  
Dana Bunnett, Past Comm. Chair

### **Juvenile Hall Inspection**

Ray Blockie, Comm. Chair  
Nora Manchester, Past Comm. Chair  
Calixto Manriquez  
Rada Ford  
Stephanie Dong  
Anita Sunseri  
Penny Blake  
Dana Bunnett

### **Muriel Wright Inspection**

Mary Ryan, Comm. Chair  
Vinod Mehta, Past Comm. Chair  
Rada Ford  
Anita Sunseri  
Stephanie Dong  
Dana Bunnett

### **James Ranch Inspection**

Dana Bunnett, Comm. Chair  
Patricia Khan, Past Comm. Chair  
Calixto Manriquez  
Mary Ryan  
Anita Sunseri  
Penny Blake

**Children’s Receiving Center**

Penny Blake, Comm. Chair  
Anita Sunseri  
Calixto Manriquez

**Ad Hoc Committee**

As assigned by the Chair

**Facilities Master Inspection Schedule:**

November, 2010	Juvenile Hall
January, 2011	Wright Center
Mid Feb – Early March, 2011	James Ranch
April, 2011	Group Home
April, 2011	Law Enforcement Facilities
September, 2011	Children’s Receiving Center

(As a result of Commissioner resignation and availability, committee assignments and facilities inspection dates were modified during the fiscal year.)

**Facilities Inspection Report Status:**

The Juvenile Hall Inspection Committee began its inspection in November of 2010, and the Commission approved its final report, dated January 2011, on March 9, 2011.

The James Ranch Inspection Committee began its inspection in April of 2011, and the Commission approved its final report on July 11, 2011.

The Wright Center Inspection Committee began its inspection on January 10, 2011, and the Commission approved its final report, dated March of 2011, on April 5, 2011.

The Group Home Inspection Committee began an inspection of the Summit House Group Home on April 21, 2011, and the Commission approved its final report in June of 2011.

The Commission did not inspect the Receiving Center before September of 2011, as there were no minors kept at that facility, as there were no minors kept at that facility for 24 or more hours.

The Law Enforcement Facilities Inspection Committee is pending until receipt of a report from the California Standard Authority regarding any minors detained 24 hours or more.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The following is a list of the goals and objectives prepared and approved by the Commission for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year. The status of these goals and objectives is noted in italics.

1. Complete all scheduled inspections by June 30, 2011

*(All inspections have been completed, except the Law Enforcement Facilities, which will be scheduled after receipt of a report from the California Standard Authority regarding any minors detained 24 hours or more.)*

2. Publish a status report on all inspection recommendations no later than 180 days from report publication

*(This goal was not accomplished during the 2010- 2011 Fiscal Year).*

3. Conduct orientation for new Commissioners within 60 days of appointment

*(This goal has been accomplished).*

4. Review incident reports for detention facilities and present results to the Commission quarterly

*(This goal has been accomplished).*

5. Institute monthly visits with minors in Juvenile Hall during which minors will be informed about the Commission and its role as advocates for minors within the juvenile justice system

*(This goal has been accomplished).*

6. Revise and distribute the Commission brochure in English, Spanish and Vietnamese by October 1, 2010

*(This goal has been accomplished).*

## **COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC**

In a continuing effort to make the Commission accessible to juvenile justice partners, the general public, minors served within the juvenile justice system, and the parents and relatives of those minors, the Commission has established several means to

communicate with the public and disseminate information. The Commission can be contacted in the following ways:

1. Superior Court website at [http://www.sccourt.org/court\\_divisions/juvenile/jjc/jjc\\_home.shtml](http://www.sccourt.org/court_divisions/juvenile/jjc/jjc_home.shtml);  
(Information on this site includes the responsibilities and duties of the Commission, public meeting details and archived facilities inspection reports. Adult and youth commissioner applications and special reports are also available on this site.);
2. email at [sccjjc@gmail.com](mailto:sccjjc@gmail.com);
3. phone number 408-278-5993 (a confidential voicemail accessed only by the Commission Chair or a designee);
4. in person at the monthly public meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 12:15 pm in the Santa Clara County Crime Lab first floor conference, 250 W. Hedding St., San Jose, CA).
5. U.S. mail at Juvenile Justice Commission, 840 Guadalupe Parkway, San Jose, CA 95110.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### **Standing Committee Meetings:**

The Commission regularly attends standing committee meetings within the juvenile justice system. During Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011, the Commission was represented at each of the following regularly scheduled juvenile justice system meetings:

Juvenile Court Systems (monthly)

Dependency Court Systems (monthly)

Child Abuse Council Interagency Collaborative Committee (monthly)

Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Justice Committee (monthly)

Board of Supervisors Children, Family and Seniors Committee (monthly)

Silicon Valley Council of Non Profits (monthly)

Commissioners also periodically attend the monthly San Jose Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and La Raza Roundtable meetings.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Commission became a member of the Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative (quarterly meetings) and the Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative Case Systems and Processes Work Group (monthly meetings).

### **Special Committee Work Groups:**

In addition to the aforementioned standing committee meetings, the Commission was an active participant in the following special committee workgroups during Fiscal Year 2009 - 2010:

Educational Rights Committee (Chaired by Judge Patrick Tondreau)

Disproportionate Minority Contacts Committee (Chaired by Probation Chief Sheila Mitchell)

Psychotropic Medication Committee (Chaired by Judge Patrick Tondreau)

Reproductive Health Education Committee (Chaired by Judges Patrick Tondreau and Katherine Lucero)

## **TRAINING**

All newly appointed Commissioners attended a four-hour orientation and training session. The Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and the Commission's Counsel attended this meeting and provided an overview and description of their respective role with the Commission. All Commissioners were offered training sessions organized by the Commission throughout the fiscal year.

Additionally, Commissioners attended the following training sessions:

Disproportionate Minorities Contacts training presented by Dr. Wedding of Sacramento State University

Vietnamese Family Violence Workshop presented by Judge Jacqueline Duong

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Commission strives to be an active participant in the programs and projects made available to the minors in the juvenile justice system. During the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year, Commissioners attended the following special events:

Juvenile Hall Holiday Season Living Units Decorating Contest

Juvenile Hall Mother's Day Flower Arranging

Juvenile Hall Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Juvenile Hall Hot August Nights Celebration

## **COMMISSION SPECIAL PROJECTS**

In addition to those duties and responsibilities assigned to the Commission by the Welfare and Institutions Code, the Commission has initiated and/or completed numerous other special projects over the past fiscal year. Those projects include the following:

### **Detention of 12-Year-Olds and Younger Minors in Juvenile Hall:**

The Commission continues to monitor the detention of minors 12 years old and younger in Juvenile Hall. To ensure that the Board of Supervisors' policy regarding the detention of this young population is being followed, the Commission regularly receives Juvenile Hall population reports. The Commission has and will continue to make inquiries when a minor 12 years old or younger is detained in Juvenile Hall for an extended period of time.

### **Commission Report Regarding the Separation of Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments:**

The Commission published a report regarding the separation of the Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments. This report can be accessed on the Santa Clara County Superior Court website. Additionally, the Commission coauthored a letter published in the San Jose Mercury News. Commissioners met with Board of Supervisors President Dave Cortese for discussion prior to the publication of this letter. Juvenile Probation Department probation officers attended a Commission public meeting and gave a verbal response to that report. The Commission then met with the probation officer's Union representatives. The Commission will continue to pursue this recommendation by working with the appropriate county agencies and the Board of Supervisors.

### **Group Home 24-Hour Notice Visits:**

After giving 24-hour notice, Commissioners visited two youth group homes. This visit is not part of the annual group home inspection conducted by the Commission. The Commission will continue these visits and a report regarding the visit will be posted on the Commission website.

### **Physical move of Juvenile Court Department 79A to the Hall of Justice:**

The Commission met with the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court and the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court regarding the physical move of Department 79A to the Hall of Justice, the adult criminal court. The Commission conferred with the California Standard Authorities representative assigned to Santa Clara County and also forwarded a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding this move. The Commission attended several tours of the new courtroom, which also included the intended path for movement of minors from Juvenile Hall to the Hall of Justice. The Commission Chair observed hearings in the new courtroom and met with the Department 79A Judge after the move was completed. The Commission continues to communicate with the Court and receives ongoing updates regarding the intended move of this courtroom back to 840 Guadalupe Parkway.

### **Visits with Minors in Juvenile Hall:**

Commissioners continue to conduct routine monthly visits with minors detained in Juvenile Hall. Visits are typically scheduled during the evening hours and visit with minors one-on-one or in groups. On some occasions, Commissioners have an opportunity to observe minors during various scheduled program or leisure activities, such as a girls' poem writing contest and boys' basketball three-on-three tournament.

### **Meeting with Supervisor Mike Wasserman:**

Commissioners met with Supervisor Wasserman. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the mandated duties of the Commission, its role and function within the juvenile justice system and the relevant issues regarding minors in this system.

### **Commission Organizational Chart:**

The Commission continues to use the organizational chart developed the last fiscal year, which lists all duties, meetings and projects of the Commission. This chart has been a successful tool in organizing and prioritizing the Commission workload. The Commission will continue to utilize this chart during the next fiscal year.

### **Commission Procedures Manual:**

The Executive Committee spent extensive hours writing, revising and finalizing its procedures manual over the last fiscal year. The manual has been approved by the Commission and is now in electronic format. It is expected to be an invaluable tool for all Commissioners, particularly for newly sworn Commissioners during their orientation process.



## **PUBLIC MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS**

A presentation was given by Dr. Charles Weis, Superintendent, Santa Clara County Office of Education regarding the changes in the County's alternative schools.

A presentation was given by Dependency Court Judge Katherine Lucero regarding reproductive health concerns for minors in the juvenile justice system.

A presentation was given by Larry Soto of the Hospital and Health Systems Department regarding the Juvenile Competency Restoration Project (Virginia Model) and Santa Clara County's Collaborative Effort to establish an Evidence-Based Juvenile Restoration Program.

## **COMMISSION RECOGNITIONS**

The Commission recognized Judge Paul Bernal, Deputy Public Defender Andrea Flint, Retired Deputy Chief Probation Officer Kathy Duque and Juvenile Hall Dr. Sepulveda during Fiscal Year for their dedication and contributions to the minors served in the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice System:

**Approved by the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice**

**Commission on \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.**

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**Pamela Serrano, Chairperson**