

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
FY 2013-2014 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 court law 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

Pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code 225, the Juvenile Justice Commission shall consist of up to 15 volunteer citizens, at least two of which shall be youth Commissioners; who are persons between 14 and 21 years of age. Commissioners must be residents of Santa Clara County. At the end of the fiscal year 2013-2014, the Commission was composed of the following Commissioners:

Penny Blake, Chair
Ray Blockie, Past Chair
Raul Colunga, Vice Chair
Stephen Betts, Secretary
Dana Bunnett
Victoria BurtonBurke
Bonnie Charvez
Kim Dong, Youth Commissioner
Ronald Hansen
Tracy Lauth
Nora Manchester
Jean Pennypacker
Pamela Serrano
Vincent Tarpey

Commissioners are sworn to four-year terms, except for youth Commissioners who are sworn to two-year terms. Over the past year, two Commissioners, Anita Sunseri and Calixto Manriquez, resigned. One youth Commission, Gabriella Navarrete also resigned at the end of her term. The Commission is actively seeking another youth member.

The membership of the Commission should be representative of the community and should include representation from different geographical areas of the County. In order to achieve such diversity, the Commission has reached out to various organizations throughout the county and has promoted the Commission at public forums.

Executive Committee

Penny Blake, Chair
Raul Colunga, Vice Chair
Stephen Betts, Secretary
Ray Blockie, Past Chair
Pamela Serrano

Membership Committee

Raul Colunga, Chair
Pam Serrano
Stephen Betts

Nominating Committee

Ray Blockie, Chair
Nora Manchester
Bonnie Charvez

Group Home Committee/Inspection

Vince Tarpey, Chair
Pamela Serrano, Past Chair
Kimberly Dong
Jean Pennypacker

**Law Enforcement Facilities
Inspection**

Calixto Manriquez, Chair
Nora Manchester, Past Chair
Kimberly Dong
Anita Sunseri
Jean Pennypacker
Vince Tarpey
Tracy Lauth
Dana Bunnett

**Children's Receiving Center &
Dependency**

Ray Blockie, Chair
Penny Blake, Past Chair
Pam Serrano
Raul Colunga
Stephen Betts

Juvenile Hall Inspection

Anita Sunseri, Chair
Pam Serrano, Past Co-Chair
Tracy Lauth
Nora Manchester
Jean Pennypacker
Calixto Manriquez
Stephen Betts
Vacant (Youth Commissioner)

James Ranch

Tracy Lauth, Chair
Raul Colunga, Past Chair
Dana Bunnett
Bonnie Charvez
Vacant (Youth Commissioner)
Vince Tarpey
Penny Blake

Model Court/Court Users' Project

Ray Blockie, Chair
Penny Blake
Raul Colunga
Stephen Betts
Pamela Serrano

Facilities Master Inspection Schedule:

- July, 2013 – Competency Project in progress at start of year.
- July, 2013 – Court Users Project. – Begin with Juvenile Justice Court.
- October, 2013 – Begin Juvenile Hall Inspection.
- November, 2013 – Begin RAIC Inspection.
- February, 2014 – Begin James Ranch Insp.
- April, 2014 – Begin Group Home Inspection
- LEA 2014 – Once notice from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is received, indicating which agencies housed youth for any length of time in 2013, we will begin an inspection of those agencies before the end of the fiscal year.

As a result of Commissioner turn-over, availability, or issues that required immediate attention, committee assignments and facilities inspection dates were modified during the fiscal year.

Facilities Inspection Report Status:

The Competency Project report, which was in progress at the beginning of the fiscal year was published in October 2013.

The Juvenile Hall report was begun in November, 2013 and published in March 2014.

Due to competing priorities, the Court Users' project was put on hold in the spring, but after a special planning meeting in May to set priorities for the year, it was determined that the team should be reformed and resume working on the Survey. That project is currently in progress, and we hope to have at least an initial report done by the end of the next fiscal year.

The RAIC inspection was delayed until March, but was published in June, 2014.

When we contacted the Probation Department about the Ranch report, they were undergoing two other inspections. At their request we delayed our inspection, which was begun in early June, 2014. Last year's report however, was published in July, 2013 in this fiscal year.

We did a Group Home visit in early 2014 and decided to inspect another home in the same organization. This inspection will be begun in July, 2014.

This was the first year that we inspected all the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) that detained minors for any length of time. This resulted in the inspection of eight LEA. The report was published in June, 2014.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2013-2014

The Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission established the following Goals and Objectives for 2013-2014:

1. Complete all scheduled inspections by June 30, 2014

The Juvenile Hall, RAIC and LEA inspections were all completed in the fiscal year. The Competency project review was also completed. The Ranch inspection was delayed at the request of the Probation Department and is in progress. The Group home inspection was delayed due to a change in the team chair, and is in progress. Finally, the Court user's survey is an ongoing project and not a yearly inspection.

2. Review the status of responses to our recommendations on all inspections not later than 180 days from report publication.

While the various inspection team chairs reported back to the Commission in Executive session on recommendations, we have no formal process for this and will modify this Goal in the coming year.

3. Conduct training for all new Commissioners within 60 days of appointment.

This was accomplished. We have also posted a binder of our training materials and documents to our Commissioner website, and new Commissioners have been able to familiarize themselves with the work of the Commission through this means.

4. Monitor monthly and report to the Juvenile Justice Commission on Incident Reports (IRs) filed at all detention facilities inspected during the year.

While we have had regular reports on IRs, we are doing this on a more quarterly basis and our Goal will be reviewed for next year.

5. Conduct visits with minors in Juvenile Hall a minimum of 4 times a year, during which minors will be informed about the Juvenile Justice Commission and its role as advocates for minors within the juvenile justice system.

While we have visited with youth in both the Juvenile Hall and the Ranch, we have not done this on a routine basis.

6. Begin Model Courts surveys by August 2013.

This survey was begun, temporarily halted due to the press of other business and resumed again in June, 2014. It is presently in progress.

7. Publish a report about the Competency Project by September, 2013.

This was done.

8. Schedule regular meetings with the Board of Supervisors president to review Commission activities.

We have been in contact with several members of the Board, but have not had a meeting with the President of the Board. We have, however, presented on our inspections and

other issues to the Children, Seniors and Families, and the Public Safety and Justice committees of the Board on several occasions.

9. Schedule presentations to the Commission on juvenile justice issues.

We have had six presentations by various stakeholders to the Council during this fiscal year.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC

In a continuing effort to make the Commission accessible to juvenile justice partners, the general public, youth 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 about the Commission's work.

1. **Santa Clara County Superior website at:**
http://www.scscourt.org/court_divisions/juvenile/jjc/jjc_home.shtml Information on this web site includes the responsibilities and duties of the Commission. Public meeting details and archived facilities inspection reports, Commission membership applications for both adult and youth are also available;
2. **Email the Commission at sccjjc@gmail.com;**
3. **In person at monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month at 12:15 in the Santa Clara County Crime Lab in the first floor conference room located at 250.W Hedding St., San Jose, CA;**
4. **Phone the Commission at its confidential phone number 1-408-278-5993;**
5. **U.S. mail to the Juvenile Justice Commission, 840 Guadalupe Parkway, San Jose, CA 95110.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commission regularly attends standing committee meetings within the juvenile justice system. During fiscal year 2013-2014, the Commission was represented at each of the following meetings:

1. Juvenile Court Systems (monthly)
2. Dependency Systems (monthly)
3. Child Abuse Council Interagency Collaborative Committee (monthly)
4. Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Justice Committee (when appropriate)
5. Board of Supervisors Children, Seniors and Families Committee Meeting (when appropriate)

6. Case Systems and Processes Committee (monthly)
7. Programs and Preventions Works Group Committee (monthly)
8. Juvenile Justice Systems Collaborative Committee (quarterly)
9. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (quarterly)
10. RAIC Core team meeting (when scheduled)
11. RAIC stakeholder's meetings (originally bi-monthly, now quarterly)
12. Dually Involved Youth, Legal & Policy subcommittee (monthly)
13. Equity Project (monthly)
14. Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (when appropriate)
15. Disproportionate Minority Program (DMC) Leadership Team (monthly)
16. Overfelt High School 95122 DMC Project (monthly)
17. Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) Evaluation Committee (when scheduled)
18. Violation of Probation (VOP) Committee (when scheduled)
19. Deferred Entry of Judgment Committee (when scheduled)
20. 707(B) and Direct File Committee (monthly)

It should be noted that the Juvenile Justice Commission was an active participant in the Equity Project, listed above. This project was designed to create systemic change that provides greater dignity and fairness to LGBTQ youth in the juvenile justice system. The Equity Project resulted in a change to Probation Department policies and practices dealing with LGBTQ youth in their housing, treatment and processing at County facilities. Over 700 County staff members along with community-based organizations have been trained in this program. In May, Supervisor Ken Yeager and the Board of Supervisors presented the project team with one of the 2014 County Human Relations Awards.

The Juvenile Justice Commission was also pleased to participate in the interview process which resulted in the choice of a new Chief Probation Officer.

TRAINING

All newly appointed Commissioners attended a three-hour orientation and training session. The Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and the Commission's County Counsel attend this meeting and provide an overview and description of the Commission's responsibilities. Members of the executive team reviewed the Commission's procedures in a separate training session with Commission members. New members can also review training material on the commission's document site, and past Commission reports on the Commission's website.

Commission members also attended Court sponsored training sessions throughout the year.

PUBLIC MEETING GUESTS SPEAKERS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Chris Arriola, Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office made two presentations; Direct Filing to Adult Court and the Juvenile Justice Court annual report.
2. Mike Simms, Santa Clara County Juvenile Probation Department on Probation programs

3. Baljit Nagi Onsite & Aftercare director for Pathways (Substance abuse treatment program at the Ranch)
4. Alvaro Viramontes YMCA Rape Crises
5. Jessica Bilo and Dr. Suh Wen-Yang Juvenile Hall Mental Health
6. Chief Sheila Mitchell Recognition Award

Approved by the Juvenile Justice Commission on August 5, 2014

**Penelope Blake,
Chair**