

Juvenile Justice Commission

County of Santa Clara

840 Guadalupe Parkway
San Jose, California 95110

(408) 278-5993 Email: sccjjc@gmail.com



SANTA CLARA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION FY 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County (JJC) is a state-mandated, court-appointed authority.¹ The broad purpose of the JJC is to inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the County.² The JJC 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

The Juvenile Justice Commission in Santa Clara County is comprised of 15 volunteer citizens, two of whom are youth commissioners between the ages of 14 and 21.³ All commissioners are residents of the county. At the end of the fiscal year 2017-2018, the JJC was composed of the following Commissioners:

Jean Pennypacker, Chair
Ronald Hansen, Vice Chair
Victoria BurtonBurke, Secretary
Penny Blake, Past Chair
Ray Blockie
Dana Bunnett
Gustavo Gonzalez
Manasa Kumarappan
Courtney Macavinta
Nora Manchester
Carmen Montano
Carol Rhoads
Dante Steen
Vincent Tarpey
Lissa Thiele

The adult commissioners are sworn to four-year terms, and the youth commissioners for two-

¹ Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 225

² WIC 229

³ WIC 225

year terms. Over the past year, two Adult Commissioners (Bonnie Charvez and Raul Colunga) and two Youth Commissioners (Anusha Agarwal and Britney Dong) resigned.

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

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2017-2018

In July 2017, the JJC established goals and objectives for fiscal year 2017-2018. These goals and objectives were crafted with the intent to collaborate with juvenile justice and dependency system partners to influence system improvements at both the county and statewide level. The following identifies the goals and objective, and the actions the JJC took to achieve these goals:

1. Complete all scheduled inspections by June 30, 2018. The Chair of each inspection committee reports in Executive Session the status of all inspection recommendations within 180 days from report publication.

- Receiving, Assessment and Intake Center (RAIC) Inspection Report was published on January 9, 2018. The Chair was Penny Blake. The Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) provided an update on the recommendations in May 2018.
- Group Home Report was published on February 6, 2018. The Chair was Carol Rhoads. This year the Committee focused on 1) conditions in congregate care facilities serving wards and dependents and 2) the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform Act (CCR). The Committee visited five group homes including a developmentally disabled home where wards/dependents were placed and a Transitional Housing Placement home.
- LEA Temporary Detention Facilities Inspection Report was published on February 22, 2018. The Chair was Victoria BurtonBurke.
- Juvenile Hall Inspection Report was published on April 4, 2018. The Chair was Courtney Macavinta. This year, the Committee added a group meeting with Juvenile Hall staff and the results of a satisfaction survey completed by detained youth.
- James Ranch Inspection Report is pending completion. The Chair is Victoria BurtonBurke.
- The JJC monitored the 180 - day timeline for the status of recommendations in the inspection reports.

2. Monitor and report monthly to the Juvenile Justice Commission all Incident Reports (IR's) filed in Juvenile Hall and the James Ranch.

- Commissioners continued to monitor Incident Reports and informed the JJC of any findings that require additional attention.

3. Establish a working group to examine education in the Juvenile Justice System.

- The working group under the leadership of Ron Hansen spent the year fact-finding about the institution schools. The working group met with the Court, the County Office of Education (COE) and Juvenile Probation. They also sought information about post high school opportunities for youth in Juvenile Hall and the James Ranch. This working group will continue into the next year.

4. Continue improving internal administrative functions and use of technology.

- The JJC through the work of the Operations Committee generated the following:
 - An information sheet, “How to Tips”, on navigating the JJC Google Drive.
 - Fine-tuned the process for bringing aboard new commissioners.
 - Reviewed and revised By-Laws and policies and procedures.
- The JJC introduced new agenda items:
 - At the Executive Session, Commissioners are asked to report to the JJC any interesting information received from meetings they attended during the month.
 - At the JJC Public meeting the inspection committee chairs presented commendations and recommendation included in the most recent inspection reports.

5. Develop and execute a recruitment system for new commissioners

- A PowerPoint presentation was created for use in recruiting commissioners.
- The JJC has identified and contacted organizations to schedule agenda time to encourage candidates.

6. Conduct training and appoint a mentor for all new Commissioners within 60 days of appointment.

- Procedures were developed that provides a step-by-step process for onboarding new members.
- All new members were assigned a mentor whose responsibilities are to train the new members on By-Laws, and policies and procedure; provide a tour of Juvenile Hall, James Ranch and RAIC; schedule a time to view Court hearings; and to be available to answer questions.
- Time was scheduled at the Executive Session to present By-Laws and policies and procedures and to discuss the role of the JJC.

7. Schedule regular meetings with the Board of Supervisors President to review Commission activities and discuss current juvenile justice and child welfare issues.

- Commissioners met with the Board President on December 14, 2017 to discuss the relocation plans for the RAIC, the implementation of CCR and the detention of youth age 13 and under.
- Commissioners met with the Chair of the Children, Seniors and Families Committee

(CSFC) of the Board, on February 5, 2018 to present concerns about the relocation of the RAIC.

8. Schedule 3 presentations to the Commission on juvenile justice issues.

- The JJC scheduled seven presentations for the Commission at its public meeting.
 - New Juvenile Hall Behavior Modification Program: ABC's (Juvenile Probation) – 9/5/17
 - 2016 Annual Data Report (Juvenile Probation) – 10/3/17
 - Data Zone and Foster Vision (COE) – 12/5/17
 - Burglary Trends in Santa Clara County (District Attorney's Office) – 2/6/18
 - Probation's Analysis on Recent Trends – 3/6/18
 - Gender Responsiveness Task Force (Santa Clara County Gender Responsiveness Task Force) – 5/1/18
 - Parent Orientation Program at Juvenile Hall (Juvenile Probation) – 6/5/18
- During this reporting fiscal year, the JJC held three presentations/conversations with agency representatives during its Executive Session
 - Nick Birchard, Deputy Chief Probation Officer: Update on Transitional Age Youth, 18-14 (SB 1004 pilot program) – 8/1/17
 - Edgardo Garcia, Chief of Police, San Jose: Youth Crime Trends – 2/6/18
 - Laura Garnette, Chief Probation Officer: wide range of topics - 3/6/18

9. Explore closer collaboration with other Juvenile Justice Commissions in the state.

- Several Commissioners attended the second annual workshop for county JJC's in Sonoma County on November 4, 2017
- Since the workshop, the JJC has participated in on-line discussions on several issues of interest to all other county JJC's including the implementation of CCR and the elimination of certain fees in the Juvenile Justice Court.

ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS MAJOR SYSTEM ISSUES

During fiscal year 2017-2018, the JJC concentrated a significant amount of time and effort on major issues faced by juvenile justice and dependency systems.

1. Relocation of the RAIC. With the RAIC lease expiring in December 2018 and no new temporary or permanent location identified, the JJC has been active in following this issue and persistent in pursuing a resolution that meets the service needs of the youth placed in the RAIC and also provides sufficient space for youth and staff. The JJC:

- Met with DFCS Director to learn about the relocation plans, 12/2017.
- Wrote a letter to the Board of Supervisors stating the JJC's concerns about the RAIC and asking for an update on the relocation plans, 2/5/17.
- Met with the Board President to reinforce the JJC concerns, 12/14/17.
- Met with CSFC Chair on 2/5/18. The JJC invited representatives from the Social

Services Advisory Commission, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Legal Advocates of Children and Youth and Dr. Marlene Sturm, Director of the SPARK Medical Clinic to attend the meeting.

- Joined a coalition consisting of all interested parties who attended the meeting with the CSFC Chair which drafted a proposal for the relocation of the RAIC and presented it to the CSFC Chair on 2/13/18. The key features of the proposal were the new site must be:
 - Co-located with the SPARK Medical Clinic, and Behavioral Health.
 - Expanded to have sufficient space for the number of youth and staff.
 - Compliant with State licensure requirements for a 72 hour stay.
- Met as part of the coalition with County representatives on 3/18/18 to discuss relocation options.
- Addressed the CSFC concerning the urgency of finalizing relocation plans and the needs of the RAIC.

2. Implementation of the CCR. January 1, 2018 was the date the CCR was to be fully operational in the State. The entire process for implementation has been difficult for the State and the counties. The JJC has been present for and participated in discussions on Santa Clara County's plans. The JJC has:

- Requested DFCS to provide continuous updates on the implementation in one-on-one meetings and at the JJC public meetings
- Met with Board President on 12/14/17 to express the JJC's concerns.
- Attended monthly meetings (First Friday and Continuum of Care) held by DFCS with affected service providers where implementation updates were announced and providers provided feedback.

3. Rise in San Jose Juvenile Crime in 2017. This issue was introduced at the November 11, 2017 public meeting by the representative from the District Attorney's Office who reported a significant the rise in residential burglaries, auto thefts, robberies and car jacking by youth, many of whom were under age 14. Of particular note was the youth were not part of a traditional organized gang and were armed. At the December 5, 2017 JJC public meeting, the District Attorney addressed the JJC to add that his Office anticipates the number of filings would double in 2017 as compared to 2016. He noted also that many of these youth reoffend once released from detention. He called on the Juvenile Probation Office to take steps to hold these youth longer. As a result of these statements, the JJC:

- Requested the District Attorney's Office to provide a data-based presentation at its February meeting to illustrate the extent of the problem. The data was presented at the 2/6/18 JJC public meeting.
- Met with the Probation Chief to discuss this phenomenon from the Juvenile Probation perspective, 12/17/17.
- Met with San Jose Police Chief Garcia and his management staff at the JJC Executive

Session on 2/6/18 to learn more about the police experience with this uptick in juvenile crime.

- Sent a letter 2/22/18 to the President of Santa Clara County Police Chiefs' Association encouraging a data driven collaborative approach in responding to the uptick in juvenile crime. The Association did not respond to this letter.
- Scheduled a presentation by Juvenile Probation on the research findings about youth detained in their system.
- Attended a meeting with the Probation Chief scheduled by the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits to discuss this topic.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 1. Working Group Formed on Detained Youth under 14.** With the increase in the detention of children under 14, the JJC formed a working group to learn more about these children, report to the JJC and justice partners on their findings, and propose recommendations in the management of this population. The JJC published a major report on this population in January 2010 that led to changes in managing this youth population. The current workgroup was tasked to consider this report in their examination. The working group has completed a review of the files of children detained since the beginning of the year and has engaged key system partners to explore and address underlying issues.
- 2. Support of Changes to the California Title 15 and 24 Regulations for institutions housing juvenile justice youth.** The JJC submitted supporting comments to the Revision Committee's proposed changes to the regulations that would
 - Ban the use of chemical sprays.
 - Eliminate the use of restraints while transporting youth except in circumstance when a risk for flight or harm to self/others is present.
 - Require new, non-disposable underwear.
 - Ensure juvenile facilities are more home-like, non-penal and updated.
- 3. Support for Pending legislation.** The JJC sent letters of support for
 - AB 2010 (Prohibition of the use of chemical sprays in juvenile institutions). The JJC took a position three years ago opposing the use of chemical sprays in Juvenile Hall.
 - AB 2043 (The creation of a 24/7 hotline for foster youth and caregivers to provide immediate assistance in the de-escalation of conflict).
- 4. Meeting with Supervising Judges in Juvenile Justice and Dependency Divisions.** The Executive Committee met with the Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Court, 8/4/17, the Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Justice Division, 9/27/17 and the Supervising Judge of the Dependency Division to provide updates on ongoing and future JJC projects, to relay any concerns and to discuss any topics of interest to the judges.

5. **Letter to School Districts to Join Foster Vision.** The JJC sent letters on 3/14/18 to 11 School Districts in Santa Clara County to encourage participation in Foster Vision, which is a database shared with schools, Juvenile Probation and DFCS. This database provides information about children and youth in the two systems and their progress in school.
6. **Participation in Special Ad-Hoc Committees to address specific issues.** JJC commissioners participated as members in the follow committees:
 - **Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Alternatives.** Juvenile Probation chaired this committee and with system partners explored alternatives to youth commitments to the State DDJ Institution.
 - **Juvenile Court Aligned Action Network.** Early in 2018 the JJC joined the Juvenile Justice Education Partnership which was collaboration working on improving educational outcomes for system involved youth. This collaboration has expanded the number of members and changed its name to the one noted above. One of its accomplishments was seeking and initiating a partnership with the National Center of Youth Law to assist in the establishment of the FosterEd Champion Project for juvenile justice youth in Santa Clara County. This program will provide a champion to aid parents and youth navigate the educational system.
 - **Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Workgroup.** The JJC participated in a project funded by the Youth Law Center and led by the SCC Probation Department to identify and address special challenges affecting probation-supervised youth ages 16 to 19.
7. **Data Analysis of Population Trends for Juvenile Hall Detainees.** The JJC has been monitoring the daily Juvenile Hall population numbers for years. One commissioner has been reviewing and analyzing the data to determine trends and submits periodic reports to the JJC for discussion.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS – FY 2017-2018

The following lists the committees within the juvenile justice and dependency systems a JJC representative regularly attended excluding the committees highlighted in the above narrative.

- Juvenile Justice System Collaborative (JJSC)
- Race Equity in Justice Systems Workgroup (formerly Case Systems & Process Committee.)
 - Prevention Early Intervention (PEI) Workgroup (ad hoc)
 - Length of Probation Workgroup (ad hoc)
 - Electronic Monitoring Program Workgroup (ad hoc)
- Racial Equity through Prevention Workgroup (formerly Programs & Preventions Committee)
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- Board of Supervisors – Public Safety & Justice Committee
- Board of Supervisors – Children, Seniors & Family Committee
- Disproportionate Minority Program Leadership Team

- Juvenile Court Systems
- Dependency Systems
- Dependency Permanency Planning
- Cultural Competency Advisory Council
 - Cultural Responsivity Workgroup
- Social Services Advisory Commission
- Beyond the Bench Committee
- Equity Project Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
- Gender Responsive Taskforce
- Children's Agenda Network
- Community Corrections Partnership
- Transitional Age Youth Task Force
- SCYTF Policy Team
- Child Abuse Prevention Council
 - Inter-Agency Collaborative Committee of CAPC

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Executive Committee

Jean Pennypacker, Chair
 Ron Hansen, Vice Chair
 Victoria BurtonBurke, Secretary
 Penny Blake, Past Chair

Membership Committee

Ron Hansen, Chair
 Penny Blake
 Victoria BurtonBurke

Nominating Committee

Penny Blake, Chair
 Nora Manchester
 Ray Blockie

Group Home Committee/Inspection

Carol Rhoads, Chair
 Dante Steen
 Carmen Montano
 Dana Bunnett
 Gustavo Gonzalez
 Vince Tarpey
 Victoria BurtonBurke

Juvenile Hall Inspection

Courtney Macavinta, Chair
 Ron Hansen, Past Chair
 Nora Manchester
 Dante Steen
 Lissa Thiele
 Manasa Kumarappan
 Victoria BurtonBurke
 Penny Blake
 Dana Bunnett
 Jean Pennypacker

James Ranch

Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair
 Carol Rhoads, Past Chair
 Carmen Montano
 Vince Tarpey
 Dana Bunnett
 Gustavo Gonzalez
 Dante Steen
 Lissa Thiele
 Ray Blockie
 Manasa Kumarappan

Operational Improvements

Jean Pennypacker, Chair
 Penny Blake
 Victoria BurtonBurke

Law Enforcement Facilities

Inspection

Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair
Ray Blockie
Nora Manchester
Carmen Montano
Gustavo Gonzalez
Jean Pennypacker
Manasa Kumarappan
Lissa Thiele

Children's Receiving Center & Dependency

Penny Blake, Chair
Nora Manchester
Manasa Kumarappan
Carol Rhoads
Victoria BurtonBurke
Vince Tarpey


Juvenile Justice Education

Ron Hansen, Chair
Dana Bunnett
Victoria BurtonBurke
Courtney Macavinta
Lissa Theile
Ray Blockie
Carmen Montano

Recruitment

Jean Pennypacker, Chair
Carol Rhoads
Ron Hansen

Approved by the Juvenile Justice Commission on July 10, 2018.


**Jean Pennypacker,
Chair, Juvenile Justice Commission**