

Juvenile Justice Commission County of Santa Clara

840 Guadalupe Parkway
San Jose, California 95110
(408) 278-5993 Email: sccjcc@gmail.com



SANTA CLARA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION FY 2018-2019 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 and families 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 The adult commissioners are sworn to four-year terms, and the youth commissioners for two-year terms. All commissioners are residents of the county. The following are the names of the Commissioners currently serving on the JJC:

Jean Pennypacker, Chair
Ronald Hansen, Vice Chair
Victoria BurtonBurke, Secretary
Penny Blake, Past Chair
Stephen Betts
Ray Blockie
Manasa Kumarappan, Youth
Nora Manchester
Carmen Montano
Darius Parakh, Youth
Carol Rhoads
Dante Steen
Vincent Tarpey
Lissa Thiele
Brian Walton

¹ Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 225

² WIC 229

³ WIC 225

Over the past year, three Adult Commissioners (Dana Bunnett, Gustavo Gonzalez and Courtney Macavinta) left the JJC. Dante Steen became an Adult Commissioner, and Stephen Betts and Brian Walton were appointed to the remaining two Adult Commissioner vacancies. Darius Parakh was appointed as the second Youth Commissioner.

The membership of the JJC strives to be representative of the community. In order to achieve such diversity, the JJC reached out to various organizations throughout the county and promoted the JJC at public forums.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2018-19

In July 2018, the JJC established goals and objectives for fiscal year 2018-19. These goals and objectives were crafted with the intent to collaborate with juvenile justice and dependency systems partners to influence system improvements at both the county and statewide level. The following identifies the goals and objectives, and the actions the JJC took to achieve these goals:

1. **Complete all scheduled inspections by June 30, 2019. The Chair of each inspection committee reports in Executive Session the status of all inspection recommendations within 180 days from report publication.**
- **RAIC (Receiving, Assessment and Intake Center):** With the uncertainty of the location of the RAIC and the licensing application, the RAIC Committee decided to generate an interim report until these issues were settled. The Inspection Interim Report was published on January 8, 2018. Penny Blake chaired the RAIC Committee. Other than the finalization of the RAIC site with co-location of services and the facility license, the interim report focused on the amount of overstays, the inappropriate mixing of youth by age and status - dependents and non-dependents - and the implementation of policies and procedures. The Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) provided a response to the recommendations in May 2018. The Committee continued to monitor the RAIC throughout the year and provided the Commission with monthly updates.
- **Group Homes:** The focus of the Group Homes Committee, chaired by Carol Rhoads, continued to be on the transition from congregate care to therapeutic services, family finding, and resource family placement, driven by California's Continuum of Care Reform legislation. While the goal of a family placement for every child is laudable, challenges to implementation abound, and group home licenses continue to be extended to accommodate the challenges.

At the end of the fiscal year, 30 children remained in group home placements (not including the six placed through the San Andreas Regional Center). Five Santa Clara County group homes remained for this cohort, after numerous closures and transitions. Thirteen dependent youth were in group homes outside of Santa Clara County.

The number of youth 16 to 18 years of age in THPPs (Transitional Housing Placement Program) had increased by about half, to 31 youth. Of two licensed STRTPs (Short Term Residential Treatment Program) contracted by the County, only one, RCS (Rebekah Children's Services), will remain, with a capacity of five beds for boys only. As of May 28, 2019, eight youth were in STRTPs in SCC and eight out of county.

Commissioners visited both newly licensed STRTPs, a group home, and a THPP. The facilities and programs were found to be well-run and in good compliance, and none was selected for a full inspection at present.

- **LEA Temporary Detention Facilities Inspection:** The fiscal year 2017-18 report was published on September 4, 2018. The 2018-19 inspection report will be completed by July 2019. Victoria BurtonBurke chaired both inspections.
- **Juvenile Hall:** The inspection report for this fiscal year was published on April 1, 2019. Ron Hansen was the Chair of the Juvenile Hall Inspection Committee. Probation has not provided a response to the JJC's recommendations, but at the writing of this report still is within the response deadline of 90 days.
- **James Ranch:** The 2017-18 inspection report was published September 4, 2018. The Chair was Victoria BurtonBurke. The Probation Department provided a response to the JJC recommendations.

As the result of a significant building project at the James Ranch, which is scheduled to be completed this summer and fall, the fiscal year 2018-19 James Ranch Inspection Report, chaired by Ray Blockie and Victoria BurtonBurke, has been bifurcated. Phase One will concentrate on the administrative, health, treatment, ReEntry and educational services. This phase of the report is expected to be completed by July 2019. All other areas of the Ranch will be covered in Phase Two when the new buildings are occupied and operational.

2. Monitor and report bi-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, due process forms, and grievances and informed the JJC of any findings that required additional attention.

3. Examine education in the Juvenile Justice System.

- Over a two-year period, the work-group under the leadership of Ron Hansen met with judicial officers assigned to the Juvenile Justice Division of the Superior Court, members of the Probation Department, administrators and teacher in the County Office of Education (COE), administrators of local school districts and representatives from programs in other counties. The report on education for probation youth was published May 7, 2019.

The committee met with the Superintendent of the COE and members of her management staff on 6/7/19 to discuss the findings and recommendations. The JJC expects the County Office of Education to respond to the recommendations in the report in the coming months.

4. Lead and engage other stakeholders to ensure that the RAIC is safe, effective and child-focused, and provides healing and informed services.

The RAIC continued to be a major focus for the JJC this year. The JJC remained persistent in pursuing stability and safety for the children served in the facility.

- The RAIC location still is unresolved at the writing of this report. The long-term lease expired at the end of 2018 without either a firm temporary or permanent plan. In 2019, the RAIC remained at its current location under a month-to-month or short-term lease.

- The JJC appeared on numerous occasions before the Children, Seniors and Family Committee of the Board of Supervisors to express the urgency of a resolution and the need for stability (11/14/18, 1/16/19 and 3/20/19).
 - Commissioners met with individual members of and aides to the Board of Supervisors to discuss this issue (10/9/18, 11/7/18 and 3/26/19).
 - This topic was included in meetings with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and the Supervising Judge of the Dependency Court.
 - The JJC requested updates from the DFCS Director during scheduled meetings and at the monthly public meetings of the Commission.
- Besides the annual inspection, the JJC, through the RAIC Committee, increased the number of visits to the RAIC to remain informed about the facility and DFCS services.

5. Monitor the implementation of Continuum of Care Reform Act (CCRA) and the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

Although the date for the closure of group homes was set at the end of 2017, the State continues to delay the closure of all homes. At this time, the State has provided extensions to the end of 2019 to group homes that meet specific criteria.

- Commissioners attend the monthly meeting of the Continuum of Care Committee chaired by DFCS. These meetings provide opportunities to learn more about the status of CCRA and the challenges of moving youth from group homes to other placements, plus the efforts at the State level to respond to the complications in the implementation of CCRA. In addition, representatives from group homes and STRTPs and resource family agencies attend and offer their perspective on the transition.
- The Group Homes Committee has requested and received monthly statistics tracking the number of youth in group homes within and outside the county and in Short-Term Residential Treatment Placements.
- In scheduled meetings with the DFCS Director and at the monthly JJC public meeting, the JJC requests updates.
- This issue is on the agenda when discussing issues with judicial leadership and Board of Supervisor members.
- The JJC is monitoring the implementation FFPSA. The deadline for implementation is October 2019. Each state has an option to request a 2-year waiver/extension. At this time, California has not indicated whether it plans to request a waiver or extension.

6. Respond to emerging needs and issues through ad hoc committees.

- As was stated in last year's annual report, a JJC work-group was formed in response to the increase in the detention of children under 14. This work group was tasked to learn more about this population, review the JJC report on this population published in January 2010 and report back to the JJC and its justice partners on its findings. The findings and

recommendations were published in an interim report entitled Juveniles 12 and Under, dated 9/18/18.

JJC members of this work-group now participate on a subcommittee (Youth 14 and Under) of the Dually Involved Youth Committee, a system-wide partnership to address this issue and also to develop the county-wide protocol for the implementation of the requirements of AB 439. This bill sets the minimum age of 12 for involvement in the juvenile justice system, except in the commission of certain serious crimes.

- As was mentioned above, the education work-group which was formed in response to concerns raised during past inspections of Juvenile Hall and James Ranch, completed its initial charge with the release of the report, Education for Probation Youth, on 5/7/19. The JJC at its planning meeting in July will determine whether the work group will continue this focus.

7. Conduct a planning meeting at the beginning of the fiscal year to establish goals and objectives, review By-Laws and Policies and Procedure and meet with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court to discuss the purpose of the JJC and report on issues of interest.

- The JJC held its planning meeting on July 10, 2018.

8. 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 aides to the Board President on October 9, 2018 to discuss the relocation plans for the RAIC and the implementation of CCR.
- Commissioners met with the aide of the Chair of the Children, Seniors and Families Committee (CSFC) of the Board, on November 7, 2018 to present concerns about the relocation of the RAIC and implementation of CCR.
- Commissioners met with the newest Board member and her aides to introduce the JJC and to review issues of interest and concerns including the relocation of the RAIC and implementation of CCR.

9. Inform the Juvenile Justice Commission and partners on juvenile justice and child welfare issues through presentations by partners and experts in order to promote collaborative solutions.

- The JJC arranged six presentations for its public meeting.
 - Alternative Schools (David Putney) – 8/7/18
 - Juvenile Justice Annual Report (Morena Cruz) – 10/2/18
 - Capstone Project (Maribel Martinez) – 12/4/18
 - Dually Involved Youth (Christian Bijouz) – 2/5/19
 - Video created by detained youth honoring Martin Luther King – 4/2/19
 - Juvenile Crime in Santa Clara County, Comparative Statistical Report (Marisa McKeown, DDA) – 5/7/19
- During this reporting fiscal year, the JJC held four presentations/conversations at its Executive Session
 - Conversation with Francesca La Rue, Director DFCS – 10/2/18
 - Use of Service Dog Policy (Deputy Chief Shawny Williams, SJPD) – 11/6/18

- National Center for Youth Law – Initiatives in Santa Clara County (Darya Larizadeh, Reymundo Armendariz) – 1/8/19
- Five Year Juvenile Crime Trend Report (Deputy Chief Tindall, SJPD) – 6/4/19

10. Improve internal administrative functions and use of technology

- A work group reviewed all of the JJC Policies and Procedures and By-Laws and submitted proposed revisions to the JJC, which were approved.

11. Execute a recruitment system for new commissioners.

- A PowerPoint presentation was created in 2018 to be used when recruiting applicants. JJC Commissioners made recruitment presentations to the following groups this last year:
 - Youth Advisory Council (9/3/18)
 - Civil Grand Jury (5/1/19)
 - Mountain View Challenge Team (6/13/19)
- The JJC also connected and solicited applications from La Raza Roundtable and participants from Teen Court.
- The JJC continues to reach out to organizations in the County to request time on their agendas to introduce the Commission and encourage interested parties to apply.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Special Meetings to Discuss Topics of Interest

- Catholic Charities (8/9/18): Commissioners met with Catholic Charities to gather information about their placement services for documented and undocumented children in Santa Clara County, specifically for undocumented children removed from their families at the border between Mexico and the United States during 2018.
- Newly assigned Supervising Deputy District Attorney for Juvenile Justice (11/20/18): The JJC executive team scheduled an introductory meeting to describe the work of the JJC and areas of interest and to learn more about her.
- Los Altos and Los Gatos Police Departments (10/18/18): Two Commissioners specifically visited these two law enforcement agencies to review the regulations for the temporary detention of youth.
- Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Institution Services, and Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Services (1/3/19): Commissioners met to discuss the need for ongoing outcome reports from the new Probation data management system and to ask for additional information on the Salient Features Report. As a result of this meeting, the JJC submitted a written request for data reports.
- Bureau of State and Community Corrections - BSCC (3/1/19 and 5/31/19): The JJC participated with other county JJC's to discuss common interests and review the BSCC handbook for JJC inspections of local juvenile institutions.
- Superintendent of the Santa Clara County Office of Education (6/6/19): The Education

Work Group met with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Alternative Schools to discuss the findings and recommendations of the JJC Education for Probation Youth Report.

- Director, DFCS (3/17/19 and 6/6/19): A quarterly meeting schedule was established to provide an opportunity for the JJC to share concerns and learn more about DFCS initiatives.
- 2. Legislative Advocacy.** This fiscal year the JJC sent letters to State Legislators and the Board of Supervisors or appeared before the Board on the following issues:
- Letters:
 - Support:
 - AB 1321 (Report of the use of chemical spray in youth institutions) – 4/1/19.
 - SB 716 (Would require county probation departments and the State Division of Juvenile Facilities to collaborate with higher education institutions to provide academic and technical training to youth who have received a high school diploma or GED) - 4/18/19.
 - AB 439 (Designation of the minimum age to enter the juvenile justice system at 12) – 9/12/18. This was a request for the Governor to sign the passed legislation.
 - Funding a Senior Research and Evaluation Specialist position in the Probation Department (4/4/19).
 - Funding the Juvenile Justice Collaborative Court Coordinator in the Juvenile Justice Division of the Superior Court (6/10/19)
 - Agreement to participate on the steering committee for the oversight of potential JAG grant for the Juvenile Probation Department – 4/18/19.
 - Opposition:
 - AB 696 (Study the use of chemical spray in juvenile institutions) – 4/16/19
 - Comments before Board of Supervisors:
 - Appearances before the Board concerning the location of the RAIC have already been identified
 - In support of the exploration and planning of a youth psychiatric in- and out-patient services at Valley Medical Center (2/19)
- 3. Meeting with Supervising Judges in Juvenile Justice and Dependency Divisions.** The Executive Committee and Commissioners met with the Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Court, 2/6/19 and the Supervising Judge of the Dependency Division, 3/11/19 to provide updates on ongoing and future JJC projects, to relay any concerns and to discuss any topics of interest to the judges.
- 4. Participation in Special Ad-Hoc Committees to address specific issues.** JJC commissioners

participated as members in the follow committees:

- **Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Alternatives.** Juvenile Probation chaired this committee and with system partners explored alternatives to youth commitments to the State DJJ institution.
 - **RAIC Coalition.** The coalition of interested parties focused on the resolution of the RAIC location and the co-location of support service continued its efforts to move towards a solution. At this point, the intermediate and long-term plan for the RAIC has not been resolved.
 - **Child Advocacy Center – CAC.** The JJC joined other system partners and medical professionals in May 2019 to explore the opening of a Santa Clara County CAC. This group has visited two possible locations for a CAC. Discussions are continuing.
5. **Data Analysis of Population Trends for Juvenile Hall Detainees.** The JJC has been monitoring the daily Juvenile Hall population numbers for years. One commissioner continues to review and analyze the data to determine trends and submits periodic reports to the JJC for discussion.
6. **Trainings Sessions.** JJC Commissioners attended the following training sessions offered this fiscal year:
- Continuum of Care Reform (Uplift) – 10/29/18
 - Multi System Therapy (JPD and Seneca) – 12/11/18
 - Juvenile Justice Legislative & Case Law Update (Juvenile Justice Training) – 1/9/19
 - Probation Re-Entry Program (Probation) – 1/10/19
 - Juvenile Competency (Independent Defense Counsel) – 1/30/19
 - Children’s Summit (Kids in Common) – 3/8/19
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Juvenile Justice Training) – 3/13/19
 - Probation Resource Fair (Probation) – 3/20/19
 - Adolescent Brain Development (Juvenile Justice Training) 4/26/19
 - Family Finding (Dept. of Family and Children Services) – 6/18/19

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DEPENDENCY COMMITTEE MEETINGS – FY 2018-19

The following lists the committees within the juvenile justice and dependency systems that one or more JJC Commissioner regularly attended or served as a member.

- Behavioral Health Board Adolescents’ and Children’s Committee
- Beyond the Bench Committee
- Board of Supervisors - when a topic of interest is on the agenda
- Board of Supervisors, Children, Seniors & Family Committee - when a topic of interest is on the agenda
- Board of Supervisors, Public Safety & Justice Committee - when a topic of interest is on the agenda
- Child Abuse Prevention Council
 - Inter-Agency Collaborative
- Child Advocacy Center – ad hoc
- Children’s Agenda Network

- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Committee
- Community Corrections Partnership
- Cultural Competency Advisory Council Countywide
 - Cultural Competency Framework – on hiatus
- Dependency Permanency Planning
- Dependency Systems
- DJJ Alternative – ad hoc
- Dually Involved Youth Steering Committee
 - Legal Subcommittee
 - Youth Under 14
- Gender Responsive Taskforce
- Juvenile Court Aligned Action Network (education focus)
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- Juvenile Justice System Collaborative (JJSC)
 - Race Equity in Justice Systems Workgroup
 - Electronic Monitoring Program Workgroup
 - High Risk Youth – new committee
 - Length of Probation Workgroup – completed its work this fiscal year
 - Prevention Early Intervention (PEI) Workgroup – completed its work this fiscal year
 - Racial Equity through Prevention Workgroup
- Juvenile Justice Systems – recently abolished
- Santa Clara County Youth Task Force Policy Team
- Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
- Social Services Advisory Commission
- Transitional Age Youth Task Force

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

Group Home Committee/Inspection

Carol Rhoads, Chair
 Dante Steen
 Carmen Montano
 Stephen Betts
 Vince Tarpey
 Victoria BurtonBurke

Juvenile Hall Inspection

Ron Hansen, Chair
 Nora Manchester
 Dante Steen
 Lissa Thiele
 Manasa Kumarappan
 Penny Blake
 Stephen Betts
 Ray Blockie

James Ranch

Ray Blockie, Chair
 Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair
 Jean Pennypacker
 Brian Walton
 Manasa Kumarappan
 Darius Parakh
 Stephen Betts
 Carol Rhoads

Nominating Committee

Nora Manchester, Chair
Penny Blake
Ray Blockie

Law Enforcement Facilities

Inspection

Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair
Ray Blockie
Nora Manchester
Carmen Montano
Stephen Betts
Jean Pennypacker
Manasa Kumarappan
Lissa Thiele
Vince Tarpey

Children's Receiving Center & Dependency

Penny Blake, Chair
Nora Manchester
Manasa Kumarappan
Carol Rhoads
Ray Blockie
Victoria BurtonBurke
Stephen Betts
Darius Parakh

Incident Reports

Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair
Brian Walton

Operational Improvements

Jean Pennypacker, Chair
Penny Blake
Victoria BurtonBurke

Juvenile Justice Education

Ron Hansen, Chair
Victoria BurtonBurke
Lissa Thiele
Ray Blockie
Carmen Montano

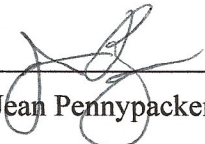
Recruitment

Jean Pennypacker, Chair
Ron Hansen
Victoria BurtonBurke

14 and Under

Carol Rhoads, Chair
Penny Blake
Nora Manchester
Ray Blockie

Submitted by:



Jean Pennypacker, Chair (2018-2019)

Date: 7/17/19