

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2025  
Via Zoom**

**Commissioners Present:** Stephen Betts, Chair  
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay, Vice Chair (*virtual*)  
Howard Pomerantz, Secretary  
Victoria Burton Burke  
Nora Manchester  
Penny Blake  
Diana Traub (*virtual*)  
Karen Guldan  
Marcie Bellicitti  
Patrick Lopez-Aguado  
Michelle Wu

**Commissioners Absent:** Dev Ghoshal  
Neha Parthasarathi

**Also Present:** Kara Garasky, Superior Court  
Honorable Jose Franco, Superior Court  
Honorable Andrea Flint, Superior Court  
Britney Huelbig, Superior Court  
Veronica Robles, BHSD  
Michelle Hauck, BHSD  
Violeta Garcia, BHSD  
Liwei Wei, Probation Department  
Dolores Morales, Probation Department  
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department  
Marc Utsey, Probation Department  
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department  
Vone Kegarice, Probation Department  
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department  
Ngan Kim Ho, Probation Department  
Lana Kreidie, IDO  
Paul Jhin, DAO  
Alex Adams, DAO  
Eugene Santillan, SCCOE  
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE  
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE  
Lanphuong, Le, Medical Services  
Ruth Maurice, CRS  
Matt Cammann, Seneca  
Chelsea Ramirez, FLY  
Vianni Garcia, FLY

Darius Parakh, OYCR  
Alexis Roman, YWFC  
Joy Hernandez, NCYL  
Ashley Dargert, Office of County Supervisor Otto Lee  
Patrick Tondreau, citizen

**Call to Order & Introductions:** Chair Betts called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

**Agenda Approval:** The agenda was approved by all Commissioners present.

**Swearing In:** None.

**Public Comments/Oral Petitions:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** December 3, 2024 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

## REPORTS

### **SCCOE: COURT SCHOOL OVERVIEW (Dane Caldwell-Holden, Mark Camilleri, Eugene Santillan)**

- Blue Ridge & Osborne
- SCCOE partners with Probation for the court schools.
- A day at the court schools is structured like regular schools (1<sup>st</sup> period, 2<sup>nd</sup> period, etc.)
  - SEL is embedded
  - Library weekly
  - Music & art weekly
- Courses taught by teachers: College Liaison, Math, English/ELD, Construction/Welding, Culinary Arts, History, Science, Wellness Specialist, Music, Art.
- Wellness Center: daily access, intervention and support, social emotional learning.
- College Liaison Program: access to college courses, access to college trade courses, access to college-related workshops (FAFSA, job search, etc.), one-on-one support for each course, dually enrolled students are able to earn both college credits and high school credits.
- Library: remodeled and evolving library with a culturally responsive, high interest collection; collaboration between SCCOE, Santa Clara County, and Probation.
  - School librarian teaches information literacy skills.
  - Projects to encourage recreational reading, career exploration, and STEAM experiences.
- Transitions to Districts and Beyond
  - Court schools collaborate with SCC districts through the court transition team/process.
  - The transition team includes: educational navigator, foster/homeless youth services, SPED program specialist, academic counselor, probation project YEA, education services.
  - The transition team meets daily to discuss current students' status on school placement
- Celebrations and Innovations: highlighted many achievements.

**Chair's Report:** Chair Betts reported on the following:

- JJC is working on LEA inspection.
- Finishing James Ranch inspection.

- Beginning Juvenile Hall inspection soon.
- JJC hoping to have an open house sometime in the next few months.

**Presiding Judge:** Judge Franco had nothing new to report.

**Dependency Court:** No one present to report.

**Alternate Defender's Office:** No one present to report.

**Independent Defender's Office:** Lana Kreidie reported on the following:

- Staffing changes in January.

**Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY):** No one present to report.

**Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC):** No one present to report.

**Conflict Resolution Services (formerly OMOS):** Ruth Maurice had nothing new to report.

**Alternative Schools Department:** Dane Caldwell-Holden had nothing new to report.

**Department of Family and Children's Service (DFCS):** Jackie Howe reported on the following:

- Damion Wright will be leaving Jan 17, new acting director will be taking over.

**Probation Department:**

Marc Utsey reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Had holiday decorating competition.
- Had a holiday concert with the Chaplain.
- SYTF youth helped CBOs pass out gifts in the community.
- Elsa Jennings retired; two new managers will be coming to the Ranch.
- Marc Utsey will be transferring to adult division.

Trina Gauthier reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- "The Flower Lady" visited Juvenile Hall again and served meals to the youth.
- PDO delivered pizza to Juvenile Hall for the holidays.
- Had annual holiday decorating contest.
- Chaplain arranged two holiday concerts for Juvenile Hall.
- Received many donations of gifts for youth this holiday season.

Victoria Contreras-Wolfe reported on the following for services:

- Elisa Carias will be leaving the unit.
- Will be starting recruitment for various positions.
- Had many holiday activities for youth.

**Behavioral Health:** Veronica Robles reported on the following:

- BH is working with DFCS and JPD on the request for STRTP.
- BH is looking at other STRTP sites to visit (Sonoma and San Mateo).
- The Camp is no longer serving adolescents.
- BH contracted with Evolve as a residential treatment provider.
- Chair Betts asked: Are you visiting other STRTPs to see how they operate?

- Veronica: Yes, to see how they operate, how they are designed, etc.

**Medical Services:** Lanphuong Le reported on the following:

- Reception desk has been renovated to allow more space for nurses to work there.

**Law Enforcement Agencies:** No one present to report.

**District Attorney's Office:** Paul Jhin reported on the following:

- A number of staffing changes in Jan.
  - Alex Adams will be taking over for Paul Jhin.

**Public Defender's Office:** No one present to report.

**Announcements/Correspondence:**

- Brittany Huelbig announced that the Superior Court is currently recruiting members to serve on the Civil Grand Jury.

**Adjourn to Executive Session:** Chair Betts adjourned to Executive Session at 12:56p.m. The next meeting will take place on February 4, 2025 via Zoom. Participants are also welcome to attend in person in the Independence Conference Room on the ground floor of 353 West Julian Street, San Jose.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Garasky