

**JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2004-2005**

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

The Commission's responsibilities include:

- Inspecting juvenile facilities including shelters, detention facilities and group homes used for the placement of any minor in Santa Clara County
- Conducting public or closed hearings on matters relating to juvenile law in the County
- Advocating for needed services for youth in the justice system

COMMISSIONERS

Scott Ewbank (deceased Nov. 2004)

Charles Fikes

Nancy S. Freeman

Nancy B. Greene

Barbara A. Hansen (appointed Oct. 2004)

Patricia A. Khan

Arthur Knopf

Nora Manchester

Carol Petersen

William J. Scilacci

Susan Sullivan

Louis Towner (resigned Aug. 2004)

Paddy Wray

COMMITTEE & INSPECTION PARTICIPATION

Executive Committee

Nancy S. Freeman, Chair
William J Scilacci, Secretary
Nora Manchester, Past Chair

Membership Committee

Chuck Fikes
Nancy S. Freeman

Nominating Committee

Nora Manchester, Chair
Arthur Knopf
Carol Petersen

Education Committee

Carol Petersen, Chair
Barbara Hansen

Ad Hoc Web Pages

Nancy S. Freeman, Chair
All Commissioners

Commendations

Paddy Wray, Chair

Juvenile Detention Reform

Nancy S. Freeman
Arthur Knopf
Nora Manchester
Carol Petersen

Police Facilities Inspection

Arthur Knopf, Chair
Charles Fikes
William J. Scilacci

Group Homes

Susan Sullivan, Chair
Chuck Fikes
Pat Khan
Paddy Wray

Juvenile Hall Inspection

Nora Manchester, Chair
Charles Fikes, Chair Emeritus
Nancy S. Freeman
Barbara Hansen
Arthur Knopf
Carol Petersen
William J. Scilacci
Susan Sullivan

William F. James Boys' Ranch Inspection

Patricia A. Khan, Chair
Charles Fikes
Nancy S. Freeman
Nancy B. Greene
Carol Petersen

Muriel Wright Residential Center Inspection

William J. Scilacci, Chair
Charles Fikes
Nancy S. Freeman
Carol Petersen
Susan Sullivan

Children's Shelter Inspection

Paddy Wray, Chair
Nora Manchester
Carol Petersen
William J. Scilacci

IN MEMORIUM

On November 6, 2004 Commissioner Scott Ewbank died very suddenly. First appointed to the Commission on June 6, 1988, he served as Secretary and Vice-Chairperson during the course of his tenure. Scott, a juvenile defense attorney here in Santa Clara County, always championed the rights of youth. He often explained court and legal processes during meetings. The Commission misses his friendly smile, cogent questions, and optimistic outlook on everything he did.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2004-05

The Juvenile Justice Commission approved the 2004-05 Goals and Objectives on August 3, 2004. The following section addresses and provides the activities accomplished for each one.

ACTIVITIES TOWARD GOAL ACHIEVEMENT

1. Conduct mandated inspections and submit written reports for Commission approval within two months of the inspection.

All mandated inspections and report approvals were completed by the end of the year. The following reports were approved by the Commission:

1. **Law Enforcement Facilities Used for the Temporary Detention of Minors** were inspected during October and November. Included were Gilroy, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Santa Clara and the SCC Sheriff Department. The report was approved on January 4, 2005.

2. **Juvenile Hall** was inspected on seven visits from November, 2004 to January, 2005. The report was approved on March 1, 2005.

3. **Muriel Wright Residential Center** was inspected on two visits during January, 2005. The report was approved on March 1, 2005.

4. One of the **EE's Residential Group Homes, Inc.** facilities was inspected on two visits in February and March of 2005. The report was approved on May 4, 2005.

5. **William F. James Boys' Ranch** was inspected in March, April and May of 2005. The report approved on June 7, 2005.

6. **Santa Clara County Children's Shelter** was inspected on three visits from February to May, 2005. The report was approved on June 7, 2005.

2. Ensure that a quality education, including GED and Vocational Education, is available to minors in facilities inspected by the JJC.

When the JJC inspected each facility, special attention was given to the students, teachers, classes and the educational programs. Emphasis and recommendations were made concerning maximum class size, Special Education services, GED training, ESL, and remedial programs.

In response to the annual report of the Osborne School coupled with observed deficiencies, the Commission initiated meetings with the Santa Clara County Office of Education (COE) Alternative Schools Department to discuss the services provided and work toward improving the needed services. The rights of students still need to be addressed despite budget restraints.

The recommendations of the Alternative Schools Collaborative jointly convened by the COE and PACT were monitored. One or more commissioners

also attended the monthly meetings of the Juvenile Court's Special Committee for Education and occasionally, COE Board of Trustees' meetings.

3. Continue to focus on Juvenile Detention Reform by active membership on task forces, the monitoring of Roush Report Recommendations, and where, appropriate, working with other entities concerned with youth in the juvenile justice system.

Commissioners continue their participation in the Juvenile Detention Reform Movement as members of work groups and the JDR Oversight Committee. In addition the JJC was represented on the following committees by active participation in meetings: Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, monthly Juvenile Delinquency Court Meetings, bi-monthly Children's Shelter Multi-Agency Team Meetings, the panel for the Review of Probation Department Truancy Reduction Services Grant Proposals, and the Oral Examination Panel for the Selection of the Deputy Chief of Probation.

Work toward the completion of the Roush Report Recommendations was followed where possible and the recommendations were kept in the forefront as inspections were conducted. The Juvenile Hall inspection Report contained a section on that topic. Because the Work Plan for the recommendations is a confidential attorney/client document, the progress is not discussed in open meetings by the Probation Department.

Information from Commission Meeting Minutes and Inspection Reports were used in the Huskey and Associates Report, dated May 2, 2005 titled: Evaluation of Memorandum of Understanding for Court School in Santa Clara County, CA completed for the Probation Department. Commissioners were also interviewed for the report and they attended the meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Justice Committee when the report was presented to the public.

4. Monitor recommendations of the 2003-04 JJC Inspection Reports.

During this year's inspections the recommendations from the 2003-04 reports were reviewed. Commissioners used the former reports as a starting point for the current year's work.

Probation Department responses to the William F. James Boys' Ranch Inspection Report recommendations were discussed at the JJC November, 2004 Meeting. The Muriel Wright Residential Center response document was dated April 10, 2004. Those for the Juvenile Hall were dated April 26, 2004.

Responses to the recommendation in the Juvenile Hall Report addressed to the Mental Health Department were dated April 2, 2004.

Commissioners met with representatives of the Sheriff's Office to clarify a point made in the Detention Facilities Inspection Report.

The responses to the Children's Shelter Inspection Report were made by the Shelter Director and dated September 10, 2004.

5. Monitor services supporting youth in the juvenile justice system and alternative community programs.

Many programs are available to help young people turn their lives around and become productive members of society. Programs available for youth in the Hall and the Ranches include: Alcoholics Anonymous, Anger Management, Chemical Dependency Treatment, Domestic Violence Education, Health Realization, Religious Counseling, Sports, Gang Awareness Tattoo Removal and Victim Awareness. Girls do not receive the Health Realization program but are offered Girls Scouts and Sexual Abuse Treatment. The effectiveness of the programs is monitored during the annual facility inspections.

Finding a proper fit for the Alternative School students after leaving the County detention facilities continues to be difficult. The number of options is decreasing. Commissioners monitored the conflict at the Foundry School and the cutbacks in classes and services there and other COE education facilities.

6. Reaffirm the JJC Mission Statement.

The Mission Statement was reaffirmed by the Commission on September 7, 2005.

7. Revise Procedures to ensure that they reflect current practice.

One significant procedure was completed this year. The Commission adopted an Oath of Confidentiality on February 1, 2005. In addition, the process for inspection and report completion continued to be refined.

8. Develop an orientation program for new members.

The member who joined the Commission during the year was provided with background organizational information, previous inspection reports, and recent agendas and minutes. Although the process continues to be refined, she was briefed by at least two Commissioners on policy and procedural matters. The Commission also developed application forms for Adult and Youth Commissioners that were added to the JJC web pages.

9. Schedule speakers occasionally for monthly Commission meetings.

Brohne Lawhorne, J.D. spoke at the February 1, 2005 meeting. He is the Director of Dispute Resolutions and the Ombudsman for the Social Services Agency Department of Family and Children's Services.

10. Recognize, by means of commendation certificates, the efforts and contributions of various leaders.

On February 1, 2005, Kurt Kumli of the District Attorney's Office was given a commendation by the Commission to recognize his long time service on behalf of the youth of the County.

On March 1, 2005, Diana Bishop, a Probation Supervisor at Juvenile Hall, was recognized for her work in the development of the Juvenile Hall Self Enhancement Program.

On June 7, 2005, Commissioners were recognized, thanked, and given a token memento for their service by the Judges of the Juvenile Court.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Four Commissioners attended the Beyond the Bench Conference on November 18, 2004. A Roundtable Discussion for Juvenile Justice Commissions, hosted by the SCC JJC, was attended by representatives from Alameda, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Clara Counties. The session resulted in useful information and procedure sharing.

A video of restraint technique demonstrations was viewed by Commissioners as part of an ongoing monitoring of Roush Report Recommendations. A short discussion was then facilitated by a Probation Manager.

A Commissioner participated in the contingent from Santa Clara County who traveled to Missouri representing the Juvenile Detention Reform Project to get a first-hand view of the programs in that state for juvenile offenders. She also attended pre and post trip meetings.

During June a Commissioner attended the JCCASAS Conference in Sacramento. Both of these were attended at personal expense.

A commissioner participated in the day-long training about gangs cosponsored by the San Jose and Santa Clara County Gang Taskforces and promoted by California Youth Outreach.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Commission sent letters regarding issues and grant submissions to relevant agencies. Among the letters are:

1. Letter to the Governor to support the restoration of the TANF funds for the 2005-06 California State budget.
2. Letters to the Hon. Zoe Lofgren, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Barbara Boxer in support of two grant proposals submitted by the Juvenile Probation Department:
 - a. Juvenile Detention Reform Evening Reporting Center Project
 - b. Wright Center Enhanced Services Pilot Project
3. Letter to the SCCOE Alternative Schools Director regarding the GED Program at the Blue Ridge High School.
4. Letter of support of the Court's application for a SAMHSA Grant for the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court program for young women.

OTHER EVENTS

Commissioners participated in the Annual Juvenile Hall Holiday Party Unit Decoration Competition judging and attended the Foster Grandparent Holiday Party. Commissioners also attended the Holiday Parties at the Muriel Wright Residential Center and the William F. James Boys' Ranch Holiday Party.

During May several Commissioners toured four units in Juvenile Hall, whose reconstruction was recently completed.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

The Commission continued to receive communications from the public and others through the secure land telephone line. Phone messages were retrieved daily by the Commission chairperson. They included inquiries, complaints, and requests for help or

Each caller received information and/or help. In the instances where the Commission could not resolve the caller's concern, appropriate referral phone numbers were provided.

A second printing of the JJC brochure was completed. Copies are available at Juvenile Hall, James Ranch, Wright Center and Children's Shelter.

WEB PAGE

In May the Commission was added to the web site for Superior Court. The information included describes the Commission and its Mission, responsibilities, membership information, meeting information, and contact information. In addition there is access to the two previous Annual Reports and a link to the W & I Code sections pertinent to the JJC. The adult and youth membership applications are available for online completion, printing, and information clearing. The Commission acknowledges the support of the webmaster of the Information Technology Division of the Superior Court for her technical expertise during the process. The site can be accessed on the net with the following address: www.sccsuperiorcourt.org

SERVICE

During the 2004-05 year members, who are all community volunteers, freely gave of their time, expertise, and resources in their diligent commitment to fulfilling the mission of the Commission. This year Commissioners tracked time spent in various areas on behalf of the youth of Santa Clara County.

Hours	Activity
483	Conducting inspections and preparing reports
290	Attending regular monthly JJC meetings
280	Committee related meetings and preparation
179	Tours, JDR, JJCC, Conferences & Holiday events
<u>121</u>	Other meetings & activities
1,353	Total Hours

This is an estimation of the hours spent by Commissioners. It does not include the countless hours and miles driven by members to complete the work of the Commission. At all times the Juvenile Justice Commission members were mindful of the mandates and responsibilities of the provisions of the Welfare and Institutions Code during the completion of their work.

Approved by the Juvenile Justice Commission on August 2, 2005.