

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2024
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present:

Howard Pomerantz, Secretary
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay, Vice Chair
Dev Ghoshal
Victoria Burton Burke
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Jean Pennypacker
Diana Traub
Karen Guldan
Marcie Bellicitti
Neha Parthasarathi (*virtual*)
Michelle Wu

Commissioners Absent:

Stephen Betts, Chair
Diana Traub

Also Present:

Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Honorable Sunil Kulkarni, Superior Court
Honorable Andrea Flint, Superior Court
Honorable Shawna Schwarz
Grace Gonzalez, BHSD
Mayra Vargas, BHSD
Elsa Jennings, Probation Department
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Kristin Keller, Probation Department
Liwei Wei, Probation Department
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department
Gladys Tran, Probation Department
Ignacio Carriles, Probation Department
Lana Kreidie, IDO
Damon Silver, PDO
Paul Jhin, DAO
Eugene Santillan, SCCOE
Lissa Thiele, SCCOE
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE
Lanphuong, Le, Medical Services
Marie Mauboussin, DFCS
Jackie Howe, DFCS
Francisco Hernandez, CRS

Amanda Kennedy, LACY
Sergio Gonzalez, SJ YEA
Ashley Dargert, Office of County Supervisor Otto Lee
Patrick Tondreau, citizen
Patrick Lopez-Aguado

Call to Order & Introductions: Vice Chair Sirkay 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: October 1, 2024 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

SANTA CLARA COUNTY SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT FACILITY (SYTF) INSPECTION REPORT (Commissioner Dev Ghoshal)

- Conducted inspection over 3 months.
- This was the third inspection of SYTF by the JJC.
 - This inspection included the Learning Independence for Tomorrow (LIFT) program as well. The LIFT program serves as a step-down program from Juvenile Hall.
- The JJC found:
 - SYTF and LIFT units were well supervised and thoughtfully managed while maintaining compliance with regulations.
 - SYTF admin continue to add new programs and skills for the youth.
 - Some SYTF youth have already started transitioning to colleges or trades.
 - LIFT program allows youth to make outside visits for family, educational, or employment reasons.
 - Youth provided positive feedback regarding staff enthusiasm and program flexibility.
- The JJC found concerns regarding:
 - Employment options, transportation flexibility, and some policies that need to be finalized.
 - Ensuring sufficient time for creating a re-entry plan for youth.
- Next steps: JJC will review responses received.

Chair's Report: Vice Chair Sirkay reported on the following:

- Chair Betts is attending the OYCR conference.
- Working on inspections of James Ranch & LEA.
- Writing report on scattered sites.

Presiding Judge: Judge Flint had nothing new to report.

Dependency Court: Judge Schwarz had nothing new to report.

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

Independent Defender's Office: Lana Kreidie had nothing new to report.

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): Amanda Kennedy had nothing new to report.

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

Conflict Resolution Services (formerly OMOS): Francisco Hernandez had nothing new to report.

Alternative Schools Department: Lissa Thiele reported on the following:

- SJSU is hosting an event with Parents Helping Parents at the SCCOE on Friday, Nov 8th

Eugene Santillan reported on the following:

- Highlight student school board member who is a student at Osborne.
 - Participated in a student board member symposium in Alameda County.

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

- Will soon be receiving approved Corrective Action Plan from the California Department of Social Services.
- DFCS bureaus are working on creating safety goals.
- Preparing for JJC inspection later this month.

Probation Department:

Elsa Jennings reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Current population: 24
- During October, conducted SYTF/LIFT onboard training for new staff.
- Held SYTF retreat for different organizations.
- Nine youth are enrolled in college courses.
- Two youth are working as interns for the Probation Department.
- Youth are working on developing employment skills.
- LIFT program had many fun activities and field trips.
- The Ranch celebrated Halloween and Dia de los Muertos.
- Hosted multiple inspections in October.

Ashanti Hayes reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Held multiple inspections in October.
- OYCR came for an informal visit.
- Held annual Halloween decorating contest.
- Current population: 71

Ignacio Carriles reported on the following for services:

- Special programs unit created a domestic violence awareness campaign (#everyoneknowssomeone).
- Officers gave presentation to WRAP providers and DFCS on services available from the education services unit.
- Officers gave presentation to Judges on victim services, victim awareness classes, and victim offender mediation.

Behavioral Health: Mayra Vargas had nothing new to report.

Medical Services: Lanphuong Le reported on the following:

- Starting Nov 1, masks are mandated in all patient care areas.
- Held art exhibition event, and have another one coming up on Nov 9 at the San Jose Public Library.

Law Enforcement Agencies: No one present to report.

District Attorney's Office: Paul Jhin had nothing new to report.

Public Defender's Office: Damon Silver reported on the following:

- Staffing changes at the end of November.

Announcements/Correspondence:

- None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Vice Chair Sirkay adjourned to Executive Session at 12:50p.m. The next meeting will take place on December 3, 2024 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