

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2024
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Stephen Betts, Chair
Howard Pomerantz, Secretary (*virtual*)
Dev Ghoshal
Victoria BurtonBurke (*virtual*)
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay
Diana Traub (*virtual*)
Jean Pennypacker
Karen Guldán
Marcie Bellicitti
Michelle Wu

Commissioners Absent: Darius Parakh
Rayan Sengupta
Neha Parthasarathi

Also Present: Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Honorable Sunil Kulkarni
Honorable Jose Franco
Honorable Shawna Schwarz
Veronica Robles, BHSD
Mayra Vargas BHSD
Grace Gonzalez, BHSD
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department
Marc Utsey, Probation Department
Kristin Keller, Probation Department
David Epps, ADO
Lana Kreidie, IDO
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE
Lissa Thiele, SCCOE
Dr. Shelley Aggarwal, Medical Services
Patty Ramirez, DFCS
Jackie Howe, DFCS
Delayna Rosas, FLY
Vianni Garcia, FLY
Ruth Maurice, OMOS
Amanda Kennedy, LACY
Ashley Dargert, Office of County Supervisor Otto Lee
Patrick Lopez-Aguado, Santa Clara University

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Betts called the meeting to order at 12:18pm.

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

Swearing In: None.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: June 4, 2024 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

PROBATION RESPONSE TO INSPECTION REPORT (Marc Utsey)

- JJC recommends that James Ranch division managers work with Probation to identify a set of metrics that are important to the facility (i.e. incident reports, aftercare trends, etc).
 - Management team will continue to review and identify the outcome metrics for the Ranch logic model.
 - When the metrics are identified, supervisors will track the metrics for trends and achievable outcomes.
 - Commissioner Pennypacker asked: It sounds like you already have existing reports being shared with management. Why haven't we seen them?
 - Marc: We don't have formal reports. I have shared with Chair Betts the data we are collecting on aftercare.
- JJC recommends that the Probation Department expand their plan to collect and analyze recidivism data and additional outcome data. JJC recommends adding a process to track housing, education, and employment status updates of outgoing youth while on Probation.
 - Currently, the treatment supervisor over the aftercare program maintains a database with metrics that include housing, education, employment, provider information, new law violations, and other miscellaneous items.
 - This data is only tracked for the 10-week period of the aftercare program. Additional tracking would have to be resumed by the supervising Probation Officer.
- JJC recommends that the policies and procedures continue to be updated based on the input of the continuous quality improvement committee.
 - The QS team updates the policies and procedures throughout the year.
- JJC recommends that ranch management considers a quarterly review of incident report data to understand trends and implement an improvement to capture appeals and grievances of data digitally via direct entry into the system versus using paper form.
 - In October of 2023, for the QS system, management implemented a team to review incident reports on a quarterly basis. QS staff have captured trends for use of force and ensured that they are properly documented.
 - Staff began manually entering grievances into the system in Dec 2023.
 - Ranch staff had to also keep them in paper form to give to youth.
- JJC recommends staff should mandate measure the closure of 100% of the incident reports. Supervisors should investigate an option for a system reminder for staff to complete open IRs.
 - The process is being incorporated into a quarterly incident meeting, and management will also assign a supervisor to track the IR reviews and monitor the database in order to send reminder to close open IRs.
- JJC recommends managers should consider a regular IR review meeting.

- This was answered above.
- JJC recommends Juvenile Hall establish a regular and reliable process to get access to youth school records in a timely manner.
 - When a youth is committed to the Ranch, there is much collaboration and effort to make sure that the youth's educational records follow them.
 - When a youth is getting ready to be released from the Ranch, any educational concerns are addressed at the 30-day MDT.
- Chair Betts asked: How are the weekly meetings with the school districts going?
 - Marc: That happens behind the scenes. I would refer to COE for that answer.
 - Dane Caldwell-Holden: Meetings happen regularly and start once the youth has been inside for 10-15 days. We invite Probation once we get closer to when the youth is going to leave.
 - Chair Betts: Are there problems getting data from the schools when students transfer to Juvenile Hall?
 - Dane: During the school year, no there's no problem. The summer is a little more difficult.

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

- Held annual planning meeting last month.
- Chair Betts remains as Chair.
- Howard Pommerantz is the new Secretary.
- Vice Chair position remains open.
- Working on STYF program inspection, as well as scattered/satellite sites.
- Will start law enforcement agency inspection soon.

Presiding Judge: Judge Franco reported on the following:

- Judges will be meeting in August to make plans for the rest of the year.

Dependency Court: Judge Schwarz reported on the following:

- Seeing a little bit of a lull in petitions during the summer; starting to pick back up.
- July—238 kids had petitions filed (this is similar to pre-Covid numbers).
- Seeing a steep increase in Fentanyl.

Alternate Defender's Office: David Epps had nothing new to report.

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

- Working on expanding IDO social worker team.

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

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

The Office of Mediation and Ombuds Services: Ruth Maurice reported on the following:

- OMOS now falls under the County Counsel's Office, Equal Opportunity division.
- Now called **Conflict Resolution Services (CRS)**.

Alternative Schools Department: Dane Caldwell-Holden reported on the following:

- New culinary arts teacher started.
- Purchased two large pieces of equipment for Blue Ridge programs.

- New Library center opened.
- Held a graduation for Ranch youth.

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

- Reporting to the Board again in August—this report will focus on progress and alignment with the state's System Improvement Plan.
- Scattered sites (transitional shelter care facilities) very close to being licensed

Probation Department:

Trina Gauthier reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Juvenile Hall held staff shift bidding.
- Continues to welcome and provide tours of the facility.
- Completed onboard training for new SYTF staff.
- Juvenile Hall hosted an Olympics event.

Marc Utsey reported on the following for the Ranch:

- The Ranch/Juvenile Hall has hosted a lot of tours in June & July.
- The Ranch held staff bidding.
- Held first annual CBO virtual training.
- Held graduation in July (8 youth graduated).
- New Library Center opened.
- SYTF/LIFT program collaborated with Public Health to start a peer education group.
- SYTF/LIFT program youth visited Alcatraz for a field trip.
- Commissioner Sirkay asked: How did you choose Alcatraz for a field trip?
 - Marc: The units and the staff decide based on group conversations, and the field trips are accompanied by educational discussions and assignments.
- Commissioner BurtonBurke asked: Were the peer educators all LIFT kids?
 - Marc: It was a combination of LIFT and Juvenile Hall kids.
- Chair Betts asked: Is LIFT program only at the Ranch?
 - Marc: LIFT is the Ranch's version of SYTF.
- Lana Kreidie asked: Do you accept book donations to the library?
 - Marc: Yes, we have had many donations.

Behavioral Health: Grace Gonzalez reported on the following:

- Art therapy group beginning this week.
- Completed a round of Seeking Safety.
- Several groups beginning for SYFT this month—Seeking Safety, CBI, Creative Expressions.
- Field Clinician position open.

Mayra Vargas reported on the following:

- Running many groups for Ranch youth.
- One new staff member joined team.

Medical Services: Dr. Shelley Aggarwal reported on the following:

- Covid numbers are high in the community.
- Peer Health Education Intervention program at the Ranch and Juvenile Hall.
- Starting opioid awareness project (Art to Inspire Change).
- National overdose awareness day in August.

- Commissioner Blake asked Judge Schwarz: Is Fentanyl impacting the older youth as well as their parents?
 - Judge responded: Yes, we are seeing it more frequently with youth.
- Commissioner Sirkay asked: Are the two dates you mentioned open to the public?
 - Dr: Yes, it's a county event held by the public health department on August 29th & 31st

Law Enforcement Agencies: No one present to report.

District Attorney's Office: No one present to report.

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

Announcements/Correspondence:

- None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Betts adjourned to Executive Session at 1:00p.m. The next meeting will take place on September 3, 2024 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Garasky