

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – April 1, 2025
Via Zoom**

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

Commissioners Absent: Dev Ghoshal
Michelle Wu

Also Present: Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Honorable Andrea Flint, Superior Court
Honorable Jose Franco, Superior Court
Veronica Robles, BHSD
Violeta Garcia, BHSD
Liwei Wei, Probation Department
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department
Vone Kegarice, Probation Department
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department
Daniel Cortez, Probation Department
Frank Nesci, Probation Department
Alex Adams, DAO
Stacey Capps, DAO
Jonathan Mosby, PDO
Gilda Valeros, PDO
Eugene Santillan, SCCOE
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE
Dane Caldwell-Holden, SCCOE
Maria Yakoub, SCCOE
Melissa Suarez, DFCS
Alexis Moody, LACY
Lanphuong, Le, Medical Services
Captain Jason Dwyer, SJPd
Ruth Maurice, CRS

Phillip Rodriguez, New Hope for Youth
Robb Rodriguez, Gavilan College

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: March 4, 2025 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

NEW HOPE FOR YOUTH (Phillip Rodriguez)

- Started in 2013.
- New Hope offers: re-entry services, case management services, anger management, parenting, financial literacy-- both inside and outside court schools.
- Inside court schools: educational support, family support, safety, activities, life skills.
- Off campus: home visits, engaging with families, liaison between family and school.
- Working with DIY through DFCS.
- Partnership with SCCOE.
- Serve ages 12-20 years old.
- Have multiple contracts with the City of San Jose.
- School contracts are to serve students exhibiting high-risk behavior or living high-risk lifestyles (i.e. homeless, gang involved, CSEC, etc.).
 - 6th to 12th grade

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

- JJC had successful open house event.
- Completed James Ranch inspection report.
- Currently working on LEA inspection report.
- Starting Juvenile Hall inspection.

Presiding Judge: Judge Franco had nothing new to report.

Dependency Court: No one present to report.

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

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): Alexis Moody reported on the following:

- Amanda Kennedy's last day with LACY will be April 7.

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

Alternative Schools Department:

Eugene Santillan reported on the following:

- Enjoy partnering with New Hope in the schools.
- Previous student board member is being presented two awards this month.
- Second art show at Blue Ridge and Osborne—will include jewelry made by students, as well as portrait paintings.

Mark Camilleri reported on the following:

- SYTF student graduated with a certificate of completion in the Ethnic Studies pathway courses from SFSU.
- Graduation at James Ranch last week.
- One student who will be attending Gavilan College was able to tour the campus.
- 95% of students at the Ranch have their food handler's certificate.
- First cohort starting skid steer program.
- Conducting first physical fitness test for LIUNA program.
 - Labor Union will be coming to assess them.

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

- Collaborating with BHSD to construct preliminary workplan for STRTP and IFCS+ project.

Probation Department: Jill Ugalde reported on the following:

- Daily population reports have been modified to include SYTF and LIFT programs.

Frank Nesci reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Current population: 29
- LIFT students had the opportunity to connect with colleges and career support programs throughout the Bay Area.
- Started Maker Nexus program for LIFT youth.
 - 12 week program for digital fabrication, textile arts, and entrepreneurship.
- Youth have started composting on campus.
- 6 youth participated in the college and career fair.

Trina Gauthier reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Current population: 82 (76 male, 6 female)
- Officially started culinary program at Juvenile Hall.
 - Students have the opportunity to obtain food handler's certificate
- Youth were offered another poster contest.
- Catholic Charities held Ash Wednesday celebration at Juvenile Hall for youth who chose to participate.

Behavioral Health: Veronica Robles had nothing new to report.

Medical Services: Lanphuong Le reported on the following:

- Respiratory season has ended, and mask mandate has been lifted.

Law Enforcement Agencies: Captain Dwyer reported on the following:

- Had 6th homicide recently.
 - 4 of the 6 were gang related.
- Working to deal with a large social media group of youth organizing and committing crime.

District Attorney's Office: Alex Adams had nothing new to report.

Public Defender's Office: Jonathan Mosby had nothing new to report.

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

Independent Defenders Office: No one present to report.

Announcements/Correspondence:

- None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Betts adjourned to Executive Session at 1:10p.m. The next meeting will take place on May 6, 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