

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2024
Via Zoom**

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

Commissioners Absent: Jean Pennypacker

Also Present: Kara Garasky, Superior Court
Honorable Jose Franco, Superior Court
Honorable Ralph Sivilla-Jones, Superior Court
Veronica Robles, BHSD
Grace Gonzalez, BHSD
Mayra Vargas, BHSD
Violeta Garcia, BHSD
Michelle Hauck, BHSD
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department
Ngan Ho, Probation Department
Dolores Morales, Probation Department
Kristin Keller, Probation Department
Lana Kreidie, IDO
Damon Silver, PDO
Jonathan Mosby, PDO
Stacey Capps, DAO
Paul Jhin, DAO
Eugene Santillan, SCCOE
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE
Lanphuong, Le, Medical Services
Marie Mauboussin, DFCS
Jackie Howe, DFCS
Tiffany Hayes, FLY

Ruth Maurice, CRS
Tomoko Bergan, LACY
Captain Jason Dwyer, SJP
Matt Cammann, Seneca
Sergio Gonzalez, SJ YEA
Ashley Dargert, Office of County Supervisor Otto Lee
Joy Hernandez, NCYL
Patrick Tondreau, citizen
Shirley Modric
Arcel Blume
Michael Massa

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: September 3, 2024 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW – JusticeEd Initiative (Joy Hernandez)

- JusticeEd Initiative is a direct service pilot program.
- Launched in 2018 in partnership with SCC Juvenile Probation, Courts, and School districts.
- Aimed at improving education outcomes for justice involved students.
- The approach:
 - Develop and pilot regional program based on NCYL core model.
 - Macro and micro level goals
 - Evaluate Impact
 - Transition and sustain site within the community.
- 2024-2025 updates
 - Currently in last year of pilot; program will be shutting down June 2025.
 - Unanticipated changed in sustainability forecast.
 - Phasing down youth services over 24-25 school year.
 - Over the last year, worked with Probation to develop a transition plan.
- Transition Plan
 - Realignment/capacity building with education services.
 - Toolkit and community capacity building.
 - Scale down referrals through fall 2024.
 - Continue searching for options.
- What does this mean for youth?
 - Navigation and advocacy support will sustain (ed services, training, ed rights letter, toolkit).
 - Potential gaps: disconnected youth and reengagement; academic mentoring and coaching.
- Impact: Direct service work
 - 363 students served between 2018-present

- Student improvement in: school discipline rates, credit attainment, school stability, connection to adults, sense of confidence.
- Impact: Systems level work
 - Educational rights letter
 - Data tracking/evaluation
- 88% of students are not on track to graduate at program entry.
- 68% of students experienced 7+ enrollments throughout high school.
- Chair Betts asked: Why do students have so many enrollments?
 - Joy: Some of it trying to find a school that fits them, and some of it is from going back and forth between custody.

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

- New Vice Chair: Shali Sirkay
- Shout out to everyone who has helped reduce the number of youth in custody.
- Currently working on two inspections.

Presiding Judge: Judge Franco reported on the following:

- Bench had annual meeting on Sept 20.
 - Presiding Judge for 2025 will be Judge Emede.
- Juvenile will remain operating two courtrooms in 2025.
- Judge Franco will remain as Juvenile Presiding Judge in 2025.
- Audio/visual upgrade scheduled for Juvenile department at the end of October.
- Judges completed inspection of Juvenile Hall and are working on the report.
- Today there are currently 2 girls in Juvenile Hall.

Dependency Court: Judge Sivilla-Jones reported on the following:

- Still seeing an increase in filings.
- Still operating as one Court—sharing clerks and reporters.
- Morgan Hill court is still open.

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): Tomoko Bergan had nothing new to report.

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

Conflict Resolution Services (formerly OMOS): Ruth Maurice reported on the following:

- Presented to Public Safety and Justice Committee (Board of Supervisors).

Alternative Schools Department: Mark Camilleri reported on the following:

- Starting welding and LIUNA program soon.
- Programs focusing on fostering discipline and focus.

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

- Two transitional sites were licensed.
- DFCS bureau managers are setting safety related goals for key programs.

Probation Department:

Ashanti Hayes reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Recently had BSCC inspection.
 - Areas of emphasis: use of force, grievances, staffing, programs, room confinement, and safety checks.
- Audit occurring this weekend.
- Had staff appreciation in September.
- Current population: 49

Behavioral Health: Grace Gonzalez reported on the following:

- Continue to provide therapy groups for general population units.
- Staff are participating in SYTF work groups.

Mayra Vargas reported on the following:

- The Morgan Hill clinic providing services at the Ranch is fully staffed.
- Finishing musical expression groups, and the seeking safety group will start soon after.

Medical Services: Lanphuong Le reported on the following:

- Received vaccination supply for Flu and Covid, will begin offering them to youth soon.
- Will begin offering youth fentanyl test strip upon release.

Law Enforcement Agencies: Captain Jason Dwyer reported on the following:

- Adjusting how SJPD reports statistics to the Youth Empowerment Alliance (formerly the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force).

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

Public Defender's Office: Jonathan Mosby reported on the following:

- Staffing changes in October.

Announcements/Correspondence:

- None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Betts adjourned to Executive Session at 1:00p.m. The next meeting will take place on November 5, 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