

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2026  
Via Zoom**

**Commissioners Present:** Marcie Bellicitti, Chair  
Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay, Vice Chair  
Howard Pomerantz, Secretary  
Stephen Betts  
Victoria Burton Burke  
Nora Manchester  
Penny Blake  
Andrew Cain  
Deryk Clark (Virtual)  
Kevin Rudich  
Michelle Wu  
Diana Traub

**Commissioners Absent:** Patrick Lopez-Aguado (excused)  
Neha Parthasarathi (excused)

**Also Present:** Jessica Gamez, Superior Court  
Honorable Andrea Flint, Superior Court  
Honorable Sunil Kulkarni, Superior Court  
Maisy Morrison, BHSD  
Veronica Robles, BHSD  
Stephanie MacWhorter, BHSD  
Violeta Garcia, BHSD  
Mayra Vargas, BHSD  
Melissa Preader, BHSD  
Michelle Hauck, BHSD  
Vone Kegarice, Probation Department  
Etelvina Alvarez, Probation Department  
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department  
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department  
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department  
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department  
Kristen Keller, Probation Department  
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department  
Gladys Tran, Probation Department  
Frank Nesci, Probation Department  
Daniel Cortez, Probation Department  
Dolores Morales, Probation Department  
Maria Yakoub, SCCOE  
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE  
Eugene Santillan, SCCOE  
Ana Reyes, SCCOE  
Jonathan Mosby, PDO  
Damon Silver, PDO

Alex Adams, DAO  
Lana Kreidie, IDO  
Gracen Eiland, LACY  
Lanphuong Le, Medical Services  
Ruth Maurice, Victim Offender Mediation  
Matt Cammann, Seneca  
Isabella Espinoza, BOS D3  
Melissa Suarez, DFCS  
Eva Gonzalez, FLY  
Chelsea Ramirez, FLY  
Robb Rodriguez, Gavilan College  
Kim Gutierrez, Community Solutions  
Ines Zapiola, JWOO

**Call to Order & Introductions:** Chair Bellicitti called the meeting to order at 12:20pm.

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

**Swearing In:** None.

**Public Comments/Oral Petitions:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** December 2, 2025 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present with the correction that Shali Sirkay be marked as excused as opposed to absent.

## REPORTS

### **PRESENTATION: Substance Use Treatment Services in Behavioral Health Services Department (Stephanie Macwhorter and Maisie Morrison)**

- Explanation for system of care; access to care and update on newly contracted residential provider
  - SUTS for youth in Santa Clara County
    - Outpatient ACM lvl 1
    - Intensive outpatient ACM lvl 2.1
    - Residential program ages 12-21
  - Outpatient: Starlight, Alexian, HR 360
    - Generally, for Medi-Cal population
    - 312 engaged clients across the system
    - Referrals: call center 800-704-0900 - Which is for 6 hours a week for use
    - Higher level of care requires assessment
    - Youth can consent without parental consent; cannot consent to residential without parental consent
  - Residential: Evolve Youth Treatment Centers
    - Evolve: Began Jan. 2025 - 3 houses in Northern CA
    - Ages 12-17
    - Many services on site; easy to communicate with
    - Focus on holistic care
      - work with family, schools, health providers
    - 1 placement this fiscal yr (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026)

- No drug Medi-Cal providers in Northern CA for residential programs. Drug Medi-Cal organized delivery system is DMCODS; that is the covered entity under Medi-Cal that pays for services.
- Care is generally 30 days, but patient is reassessed every 15 days which may extend time.
  - 1 to be open in San Mateo County to be run by Latino commission
  - 6 beds and only for adolescent males
  - Due to open imminently
  - Opened by SF County at request of DHCS
  - Contacting SF County for possibility of contracting w/ Santa Clara County access to beds
- In next year looking to expand SUTS integration with mental health care.

**Chair's Report:** Chair Bellicitti reported on the following:

- SYTF and James Ranch inspections are underway.
- Scattered Sites inspection in the works

**Presiding Judge:** Judge Flint reported on the following:

- Judge Van Meir is set to begin Jan 20<sup>th</sup>

**Dependency Court:** No one present to report.

**Independent Defenders Office:** Lana Kreidie had nothing new to report.

- ❖ Goals: Develop and support team with resources and training. Focus on supporting courts and partners with changes to laws

**Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY):** Gracen Eiland had nothing new to report.

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

**Alternative Schools Department:**

Mark Camilleri reported on the following:

- James Ranch back 01/06/2026
- Lyon Accord to begin again – new students will have opportunity to earn certificates

Maria Yakoub reporting on the following:

- Osbourne first day back as well
- Starting part 2 of violence prevention program, partnered with Brighter Day

Eugene Santillan reported on the following:

- All staff to participate in brand new state mandated training: PRISM – Providing Relevant Inclusive Support that Matters. PRISM put together by LA County
- CA dashboard updated:
  - Decline in students chronically absent 11.5%
  - Graduation rate 79.2%
- Will visit San Diego County office of Education next week
- Started alumni project

**Victim Offender Mediation:** Ruth Maurice had nothing new to report.

**Probation Department:**

Victoria Contreras-Wolfe reported on the following:

- For December – small committee planned community cheerful activities in tree decorating and ugly sweater contests.

- Sale of wreaths and holiday bake sales raised \$1000 for toys donated to Sacred Heart
- Adult division participated in toy drive.
- There were 3 Retirees in December.

Frank Nesci for James Ranch reported on the following:

- The beekeeper project is upcoming, working with Gilroy Beekeeping group.
- During December the youth participated in decoration contests, pods watched holiday movies, 31-piece choir from Cathedral of Faith performed.
- The Tech 84 body scanner up and running; All staff completed scanner training.

Trina Gauthier for Juvenile Hall reported on the following:

- That the inspection found they were compliant in all areas.
- December filled halls with cheerful spirit as all units took part in decorating contests with theme of cartoon characters – 1<sup>st</sup> place Rugrats.
- 20<sup>th</sup> year of youth and staff pizza on Christmas Eve.
- Body scanner functional, staff training in progress.

**Law Enforcement Agencies:** No one present to report.

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

- As of December, Almaden site has been licensed for a year; 3 licensed homes, Almaden, McKee, Riverview.
- Annual review from CCO and passed with no type A or type B violations.
- Working with union for new job classification.
  - ❖ Goals: Continue to work on continuum of care, ISFC+

**Behavioral Health:** Veronica Robles had nothing new to report.

- ❖ Goals: Focus on the individual needs of youth in custody.

**Medical Services:** Lanphuong Le had nothing new to report.

- ❖ Goals: To fill asst. nurse manager position and continue to optimize services related to the transition of care for the youth.

**District Attorney’s Office:** Alex Adams reported on the following:

- upcoming new laws training

**Public Defender’s Office:** Jonathan Mosby reported on the following:

- Damon Silver is now the Santa Clara County Public Defender; the interim designation has been removed.

**Alternate Defender’s Office:** No one present to report.

**Announcements/Correspondence:**

- None.

**Adjourn to Executive Session:** Chair Bellicitti adjourned to Executive Session at 1:12p.m. The next meeting will take place on February 3, 2026, 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,

Jessica Gamez