

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2026
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Marcie Bellicitti, Chair
Howard Pomerantz, Vice Chair
Heidi Schmittel, Secretary
Kevin Rudich, Past Chair (virtual)
Nora Manchester
Andrew Cain
Deryk Clark
Michelle Wu
Susan Bates
Lisa Macias
Cruzsilla Gutierrez

Commissioners Absent: Diana Traub

Also Present: Jessica Gamez, Superior Court
Honorable Christopher Van Meir, Superior Court
Honorable Sunil Kulkarni, Superior Court
Etelvina Alvarez, Probation Department
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department
Dolores Morales, Probation Department
Ignacio Carriles, Probation Department
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department
Frank Nesci, Probation Department
Daniel Cortez, Probation Department
Mariel Caballero, Probation Department
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE
Dr. Patrick Hefflin, SCCOE
Steve Sanchez, SCCOE
Ana Reyes, SCCOE
Alex Adams, DAO
Lana Kreidle, IDO
Brian Matthews, Alternate Defender
Gracen Eiland, LACY
Melissa Suarez, DFCS
Anastacia Ramirez, CARAS
Eva Gonzalez, FLY
Chelsea Ramirez, FLY
Hilary Kushins, DAC
Edgar Ibarra Gutierrez, National Center for Youth Law
Jamie Marcil, City of San Jose
Kim Henderson, Community Solutions

Lanphuong Le, Medical Services
Tyler Linwill, SJ Youth Empowerment Alliance
Michelle Buckley, Starlight Community Solutions
Vianni Garcia
Daisy Damato
Andrea Altanirano
Makayla Character

Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Bellicitti 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: August 4, 2026 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

PRESENTATION: SYTF – Secure Youth Treatment Facility (Dolores Morales, Program Manager)

- Purpose is to provide a therapeutic, trauma-informed environment where young people feel safe, loved ones are reassured and connected to the youth, and community-based providers are included
- The program is guided by four values that were developed and defined by members of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Realignment Subcommittee and other community stakeholders, including youth
 - Community
 - Integrity
 - Love
 - Respect
- Individual Rehabilitation Plans (WIC875(d))
 - Probation must submit an individual rehabilitation plan to the court
 - Identifying youth's needs in relation to treatment, education, and development ▪ Should be consistent with program principles
 - Includes opinion of youth and family
 - Court must receive, review, modify and approve the plan within 30 judicial days of commitment order; review the plan every 6 months afterwards
- CORE programming domains
 - Health and wellness: cognitive and behavioral development, mental & physical health
 - Education programming: access to high school and college courses
 - Employment and vocational training: career preparation and certification support ○ Accountability and Community Connection: includes victim impact, credible messengers and restorative justice programs
- Services at Juvenile Hall and James Ranch
 - Behavioral health assessments
 - Individual therapy
 - Co-occurring integrated substance use and mental health
 - Family therapy

- Crisis intervention
- Psychiatry services
- Education:
 - County office of Education provides high school support
 - State program, Prison Education Program, that does exploratory courses.
 - 1 – hour, 7 – week introductory with the partnership of various colleges
 - Work with all community colleges in area
 - Online and in- person courses
 - San Jose Community College really works with program due to location
- Enrichment:
 - Art collaboration, culinary, music production with COE
 - CPR/first aid
 - Habitat for Humanity – Financial Literacy
 - Credit union workshop
 - Life Skills: community outreach specialists, New Hope for Youth, Rentry Resources Center
 - Resources: laptops, cell phones, gym memberships
- Employment:
 - Work2future
 - Nova Works
 - Brighter Day
 - SJCC Career education courses
 - Framework design studio
 - County student internship
 - Building trades industry career opportunities
 - Preparation:
 - Career assessments
 - Career coaching
 - Resume building
 - Work readiness skills
- Focus areas in 2026- 2027
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Life skills/financial skills
 - Healthy relationships

Chair's Report: Chair Bellicitti reported on the following: • Dependency systems report has been completed, and should be posted on website soon • Committee will be inspecting Juvenile Hall soon • Hoping to arrange interviews to fill vacancies **Presiding Judge:** Judge Van Meir had nothing new to report.

Dependency Court: Judge Kulkarni had nothing new to report.

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

Behavioral Health: No one present to report.

Medical Services: Lanphoung Le reported on the following: • 3 positive Covid cases; housed in unit A6

Law Enforcement Agencies: No one present to report.

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

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

Alternate Defender's Office: Brian Matthews reported on the following: • Rotating attorneys

Independent Defenders Office: Lana Kreidle had nothing new to report.

Dependency Advocacy Center: Hilary Kushins had nothing to report.

Alternative Schools Department: Mark Camilleri reported on the following: • Students began college through dual enrollment programs • The greenhouse was completed at James Ranch

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

- Re-classing of staff has been a success to support retention and recruitment •
- Partnering with Rising Social Strategies to create more of a consortium • Second assistant director will start next week • Partnering with Fostering Promise for a new app
 - Test pilot county
 - Housing support

Probation Department:

Daniel Cortez reported on the following for Juvenile Hall: • Current population: 59 (56 males, 3 females), 21 SYTF • Recent surge of Covid-19 cases • 6 new hire counselors

Frank Nesci reported on the following for the Ranch: • Current population: 1 female, 8 young adults, 27 older adults, 4 SYTF • Graduation took place for 2 individuals who graduated from the COE program • Building of Greenhouse around aquaponics • Etelvina Alvarez reported on the following for Services: • New promoted supervising probation officer, Miguel Martinez to begin his assignment

09/14 • On 8/24 JPD submitted first batch of 69 cases eligible for retroactive 788 sealing

Announcements/Correspondence: • None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Bellicitti adjourned to Executive Session at 1:14p.m. The next meeting will take place on October 6, 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