

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2026
Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Marcie Bellicitti, Chair
Howard Pomerantz, Secretary
Victoria Burton Burke (virtual)
Nora Manchester
Penny Blake
Diana Traub (virtual)
Andrew Cain
Deryk Clark
Kevin Rudich
Michelle Wu
Susan Bates
Heidi Schmittel
Lisa Macias

Commissioners Absent: Neha Parthasarathi

Also Present: Jessica Gamez, Superior Court
Honorable Andrea Flint, Superior Court
Honorable Christopher Van Meir, Superior Court
Maisy Morrison, BHSD
Veronica Robles, BHSD
Mayra Vargas, 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
Ignacio Carriles, Probation Department
Kimberly D'zatko, Probation Department
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department
Frank Nesci, Probation Department
Gladys Tran, Probation Department
Kristin Keller, Probation Department
Maria Yakoub, SCCOE
Mark Camilleri, SCCOE
Eugene Santillan, SCCOE
Ana Reyes, SCCOE
Lana Kreidie, IDO
Lanphuong Le, Medical Services
Ruth Maurice, Victim Offender Mediation
Catherine McBain, Office of the Independent Police Auditor
Kim Gutierrez, Community Solutions
Robb Rodriguez, Gavilan College

Blanca Ozuna Garcia, Gavilan College
Shelley Aggarwal, VMC
Melissa Suarez, DFCS
Jamie Marcil, City of San Jose
Amanda Bach-Schabert
Cruzsilla Gutierrez

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: March 3, 2026 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present.

REPORTS

PRESENTATION: Office of the Independent Police Auditor by Catherine McBain

- What does the IPA do?
 - Take complaints against sworn SJPD officers – entered in database shared with Internal Affairs
 - Recommend allegations based on complaints
 - Review body worn cam (BWC) footage
 - Attend officer interviews
 - When Internal Affairs completes their investigation, the IPA audits.
 - Was the investigation fair, thorough, complete and objective
 - Ask for further action when the IPA does not agree
 - Does not participate in disciplinary consequences
 - Public outreach and education
 - Educating the public as to their rights and responsibilities when dealing with SJPD
 - Listen to concerns, especially those in historically overpoliced in San Jose
- Public Outreach – Youth Presentations:
 - The complaint process:
 - Once complaint is received IPA has 3 business days to enter database. Internal Affairs then has 1 year to do investigation, after 1 year no disciplinary action can be taken against officer
 - How to file a complaint
 - Policy recommendations
 - Know their rights
 - What to do if contacted by police
 - Detention vs. Arrest
 - Warrants:
 - Public is unaware that SJPD policy does not require to show warrant prior to entering premises
 - Consensual contacts

- Pat Search:
 - Limited and must stay outside and only for weapons
- Miranda Rights
- Traffic stops
- Rights at school
- What you can do

➤ **Juvenile Contacts**

- Training received by SJPD under duty manual L3000 (a few examples that are covered in presentations)
 - L3003: Followed frequently to cite and release
 - L3006: Followed less frequently – officer responsible to notify minor’s parent or guardian; sometimes minor released without adult
 - L3007: Uniformed officers should not interrogate minors at school to avoid possible embarrassment
 - L3011.5: Juveniles under 12 should not be handcuffed
- When there is any kind of enforcement action that happens with a minor, a Juvenile Contact Report (JCR) is made
- What is not covered in duty manual
 - SJPD does not provide training on interacting with youth
 - No education on trauma or developmentally appropriate interactions with youth
- NACOLE (National Association of Civilian Oversight and Law Enforcement) offers a webinar put on by Strategies for Youth and offers the trainings to police departments

Chair’s Report: Chair Bellicitti reported on the following:

- 3 new candidates present and sworn in as commissioners prior to start of meeting.

Presiding Judge: Judge Flint had nothing new to report

Dependency Court: Judge Van Meir had nothing new to report.

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

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): No one present to report.

Victim Offender Mediation: Ruth Maurice had nothing new to report. Unsure at this time of how budget will impact department.

Alternative Schools Department:

Eugene reported on the following:

- Received annual report of the CA Healthy Kids Survey – helps gauge students experiences
 - Strong growth at community schools
 - Positives include feeling of school is a safe space and strong relationships with at least 1 adult
 - Areas of concern are substance use and mental health challenges

Maria Yakoub reporting on the following:

- One recent graduate named the County Office of Education Student of the Year
- Partnership with Envision Your Pathway thriving; one group finished five-week entrepreneurship workshops
- Testing season

Mark Camilleri reported on the following:

- Testing season is underway
- Blue Ridge students are engaged with pre-apprentice construction program
- Students have begun developing aquaponics in the library
- At the Hall and the Ranch, students provided enrichments: Bee Program, culinary arts, music

Department of Family and Children's Service (DFCS): Melissa Suarez has nothing new to report.

Probation Department:

Ashanti reported on the following for Juvenile Hall:

- Current population: 62 with 21 SYTF and 1 female
- Youth prepared timeline acknowledging contributions of farm workers
- Continue to recruit extra help counselors; participated in two job fairs

Frank reported on the following for the Ranch:

- Current population: 18 with 2 in SYTF and 0 females
- Beekeeper program is going extremely well. Youth were able to bottle honey
- St. Patrick's Day documentary was shown giving historical content to youth
- 9-week life skills module where each week sessions cover laundry, ironing, healthy lifestyles, cleaning house, etc.

Etelvina Alvarez reported on the following for Services:

- DPO Natukara, probation officer from DIY unit, received County's Employee Excellence Award in March
- Dually involved unit has moved from Family Resource Center on King Road to building with social services on Julian
- DPO Anito is Probation Department's 2026 Unsung Hero

Behavioral Health: Veronica Robles reported on the following:

- Continuing to support youth
- Current budget proposals focus on streamlining services, enhancing efficiency and prioritizing high-need clients

Medical Services: Shelley Aggarwal reported on the following:

- Out of respiratory season as of end of March
- There has been an increased vaccine hesitancy since the pandemic. Measles cases are at a historic high nationally

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.

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

Independent Defenders Office: Lana Kreidie reported on the following:

- Two new lawyers are joining the team: Jamelle Wright and Ruben Souza-Marquez

Announcements/Correspondence:

- None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Bellicitti adjourned to Executive Session at 1:13p.m. The next meeting will take place on May 5, 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