

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2026
Via Zoom**

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

Commissioners Absent: Neha Parthasarathi
Michelle Wu
Heidi Schmittel

Also Present: Jessica Gamez, Superior Court
Honorable Andrea Flint, Superior Court
Honorable Sunil R. Kulkarni, Superior Court
Boliavone Kegarice, Probation Department
Etelvina Alvarez, Probation Department
Victoria Contreras-Wolfe, Probation Department
Ashanti Hayes, Probation Department
Ignacio Carriles, Probation Department
Kristin Keller, Probation Department
Trina Gauthier, Probation Department
Melissa Garcia, Probation Department
Jill Ugalde, Probation Department
Maria Yakoub, SCCOE
Ana Reyes, SCCOE
Brian Matthews, Alternate Defender's Office
Jonathan Mosby, PDO
Damon Silver, PDO
Alex Adams, DAO
Lana Kreidie, IDO
Gracen Eiland, LACY
Lanphuong Le, Medical Services
Cruzsilla Gutierrez, citizen
Nicole Arriaga, FLY
Vianni Garcia, FLY
Eva Gonzalez, FLY
Gabriel Lomas, BOS D3

Kim Gutierrez, Community Solutions
Matt Cammann, Seneca
Melissa Suarez, DFCS
Tomoko Bergan, LACY
David Mineta, Alum Rock Counseling Center
Michelle Buckley, Starlight Community Services
Susan Greenberg-Englander
Heidi Emberling, Office of Children and Families Policy at Social Services
Tyler, Youth Intervention Services

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: April 7, 2026 Minutes approved by all Commissioners present

REPORTS

PRESENTATION: Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) presented by Nicole Arriaga, Director of Santa Clara FLY and Vianni Garcia, Associate Director of Santa Clara FLY

- Founded in 2000
- FLY's mission: To partner with youth to unlock their potential, disrupt the pipeline to prison, and advance justice in California and beyond.
- Vision for future: FLY envisions a country where all kids grow up valued and supported, and the pipeline to prison is replaced with meaningful opportunities for kids to live healthy, free and productive lives that make stronger, safer, and more vibrant communities for us all.
- FLY is currently in multiple counties and piloting in San Francisco.
- Programs & Services:
 - Law Program
 - Leadership Training Program
 - Middle School Program
 - STAY FLY Program
 - Career Pathway Navigator
- ▶ Law Program:
 - One of longest standing program, began at Yerba Buena High School
 - 12-week program, partnering with schools to teach youth about the laws while building skills to navigate their lives.
 - Held at schools, community centers, juvenile justice facilities
 - Youth are referred to by probation officers, principals, teachers and counselors
 - Program is 2-hour weekly classes
 - Includes field trip halfway through semester and participate in a mock trial
 - Recognition ceremony held at end of semester
 - On average 75% of youth in program increase their knowledge of the law and one's rights

- ▶ Leadership Training Program:
 - Ten-month program for youth interested in becoming changemakers in their community
 - Ages 14-18
 - Begins with 2-day wilderness retreat in Santa Cruz
 - Usually around 30 youth
 - Monthly events occur
 - Leadership coaching – one on one, at least 4 hours a month
 - Outcomes:
 - Decreased justice system involvement
 - Increase educational attainment
 - Increase social emotional learning
- ▶ Middle School Program
 - Engages with youth by teaching them about laws while developing interpersonal skills in a fun and educational setting
 - Law education component: visiting schools, weekly law related workshops
 - One on one case management component (6 - month program)
- ▶ STAY FLY:
 - Transitional age youth, 18-25 system impacted
 - 8 – week curriculum: 1.5-hour weekly workshops
 - Case management: 9 months and can be extended to 12 months focusing on social and emotional skills
 - A lot of court advocacy in this program
 - Pro socials: Youth meet to support each other in group setting; events and activities are youth – designed. Activities meant to be fun and engaging
- ▶ Career Pathway Navigator
 - Focuses on connecting young people to career or educational resources
 - Monthly one on ones with case managers
 - Monthly events/workshops
 - Monthly newsletters
 - Referrals for program made by FLY staff as youth must be participating in case management services with FLY
- During last fiscal year, FLY served 791 youth
 - 80% achieved educational goals
 - 88% did not sustain a new charge
 - 89% have hope for their futures

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

- 3 new commissioners on board, anticipating 1 more
- End of inspection reports for SYTF, welcoming center scattered sites and for law enforcement agencies and Juvenile Hall upcoming

Presiding Judge: Judge Flint had nothing new to report.

Dependency Court: Judge Kulkarni had nothing new to report.

Dependency Advocacy Center (DAC): Chair Bellicitti reported that DAC is dissolving and no longer will be present at this meeting.

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

Victim Offender Mediation: No one present to report.

Alternative Schools Department:

Maria Yakoub reporting on the following:

- At the Ranch, the Welding program is currently in second week of intensive instruction
- Blue Ridge has had 13 graduates this year
- At Osbourne, students met Bailey support dog through Operation Freedom Paws
- Osbourne has had 8 graduates so far and expecting 8 more
 - Completed cap & gown photos
- 4 students were nominated for the Santa Clara County Alliance of Black Educators Award.
 - All won awards for leadership, civic engagement and academic improvements
 - 1 student was from the Ranch
 - 3 students from Juvenile Hall

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

- Entire SSA budget reduction is 20 million.
- All sites are completely full
 - Riverview overflow site has been open since January and full since then

Probation Department:

Victoria Contreras-Wolfe reported on the following:

- JPD held a fruit snack fundraiser for victim services
- Placement unit maintains 100% contact compliance with clients, exceeding national standard

Boliavone Kegarice reported on the following:

- 18.5 million budget deficit
- Budget workshop begins next week then visits the board May 12th

Trina Gauthier reported on the following:

- At Juvenile Hall youth celebrated Easter and wrote Easter Stories.
 - Created paper mache cakes
- Recruitment has started to hire 6 group counselors
- Population: 70 total – 62 males, 8 females. 23 SYTF

Jill Ugalde reported on the following:

- 14-week young fathers' group was completed.
- Spring art contest with over 20 youth participates
- Pickle ball tournament
- Had 3 graduations

Behavioral Health: No one present to report.

Medical Services: Lanphuong Le had nothing new to report.

Law Enforcement Agencies: No one present to report.

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

- Noted that proposed budget as of May 1st includes 42 position cuts

Public Defender's Office: Damon Silver had nothing new to report.

- Noted 10-person reduction at mid-year due to budget. Reduced Juvenile team by 1

Alternate Defender's Office: Brian Matthews had nothing new to report.

- Noted same budge pool as PDO's office

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

Announcements/Correspondence:

- None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Bellicitti adjourned to Executive Session at 1:20p.m. The next meeting will take place on June 2, 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