

**Juvenile Justice Commission
County of Santa Clara**

191 North First Street
Jose, California 95113
(408) 278-5993
Email: sccjjc@gmail.com



**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
FY 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT
June 30, 2022**

The Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County (JJC) is a state-mandated, court-appointed authority.¹ The broad purpose of the JJC is to inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the County.² The JJC is dedicated to the promotion of an effective juvenile justice system operated in an environment of credibility, dignity, equity, and respect for the youth of Santa Clara County.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

COVID-19 continues to affect the Commission's activities. As all official county meetings continue to be on a virtual platform, so have almost all activities of the Commission. Since Covid vaccinations and boosters are available the Commissioners have had limited interaction with partners and each other. The fact that participation in our public meetings has exceeded pre-pandemic participation, the Commission is exploring the possibility of hybrid meetings in the future.

Because the County's March 2020 Shelter-in-Place order prevented our monthly public meetings, facility inspections, agency reviews, and various JJC committee meetings from continuing in-person, the Commission transitioned to on-line formats for almost all activities. Limited in-person inspections have taken place at Juvenile Hall, James Ranch and The Welcoming Center, and all inspections of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) in which youth

¹ Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 225 2 WIC 229

² WIC 225

were held in secure detention were in person, though any meeting that could be facilitated virtually took place in that manner. All committees of the JJC have continued to be online. Fortunately, due to vaccines and recently relaxed social distancing restrictions, the full Commission has just recently been able to see one another in person rather than via a computer screen. In all, the JJC has continued to meet, deliberate, and move forward with its goals and objectives.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County is comprised of 15 volunteers, two of whom are youth commissioners between the ages of 14 and 21. The adult commissioners are sworn to four-year terms, and the youth commissioners to two-year terms. All commissioners are residents of the County. The following are the names of the Commissioners who served on the JJC in the 2021-2022:

Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair
Stephen Betts, Vice Chair
Carol Rhoads, Secretary
Ronald Hansen, Past Chair
Lionel (Lon) Allan
Heather Angove
Penny Blake
Paula Escobar, Youth
Lisa Macias
Nora Manchester
Darius Parakh, Youth
Jean Pennypacker
Vaishali Sirkay
Lissa Thiele
Diana Traub

Youth Commissioner Paul Escobar was replaced by the appointment of Neha Parthasarathi in June of 2022. Commissioners Rhoads and Macias resigned at the conclusion of June 2022, and Commissioner Hansen allowed his appointment to expire.³

The JJC strives to be representative of the community. To achieve this, Commissioners have been involved in community organizations and public forums available online and hope to resume in-person participation in the future.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2021-2022

The JJC established goals and objectives for fiscal year. These goals and objectives were crafted with the intent to collaborate with juvenile justice and dependency systems partners to influence system improvements at both the county, statewide and even the national level. The following identifies the combined goals and objectives, and the actions the JJC took to achieve these goals:

³ Karla Fukushima, Dev Ghoshal and Seth Flaggberg were sworn in as Commissioners on June 30, 2022.

1. *Ensure that the JJC views all its work through an equity and justice lens, thereby promoting healthier families, communities, and school environments striving to disrupt the pathways to system involvement.*

Through the year the Commission's Equity and Justice Committee has sought to inform and motivate discussion on the issue of School Resource Officers. Commission inspections have proceeded with a focus on equity and justice issues.⁴ Commissioners also attended a Court Systems training on Race, Equity and Justice.

2. *Engage with other stakeholders to ensure that the Welcoming Center and satellite sites are safe and child-focused and provide healing and trauma-informed services.*

The Continuum of Care Committee has met frequently, analyzed the data provided and kept in touch with all providers of information and services as it relates to the potential assignment of services to children and families at risk of, or are entering into, the dependency system.

3. *Inform the Commission and partners on juvenile justice and child welfare issues through presentations by partners and experts (see list elsewhere in this report) to promote collaborative solutions.*

This has been done by having presentations at our monthly public JJC meetings.⁵

4. *Complete all scheduled inspections (see list elsewhere in this report)* by June 30, 2022. The Chair of each inspection committee shall report in Executive Session the status of all inspection recommendations within 180 days from report publication.*

5. *Monitor and report to the full JJC all Incident Reports (IRs) filed in Juvenile Hall and James /ranch (bi-monthly) and The Welcoming Center (quarterly).*

This is an ongoing process that is hampered by Covid restrictions but is in occurring.

6. *Respond to emerging needs and issues through ad hoc committees.*

The Resource Catalyst Committee was formed to assist in making Covid hampered holidays still meaningful for in custody youth, and to forward information on other meaningful projects. It has now sunsetted.

An ad hoc committee also explored system issues raised by a complaint lodged with the Commission.

7. *Assess changes in the use of Juvenile Justice and Dependency Courts and assess whether there should be a follow up to the Court User Report in 2021-2022.*

The court accessibility issues imposed by Covid have delayed or negated the need for a follow-up by permitting many court appearances to be virtual or handled by Application and Order.

8. *Individual Committees should evaluate their goals for the long term and for the year 2021- 2022 and draft a Mission Statement. Each committee should recommend to the Executive Session in May their chair for the next year.*

This will be an issue potentially addressed in 2022-2023 JJC year.

9. *Conduct periodic reviews of Commission By-Laws and Policies and Procedures.*

The Operations (Ops) committee has been active throughout the year and has presented modifications adopted by the Commission.

⁴ See all JJC Inspection Reports at <http://www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/juvenile/jjc.htm>.

⁵ See the list of presentation on the next page.

10. *Meet regularly with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, County Supervisors, Chief of Probation, and the DSCF Director to discuss and report on juvenile justice and child welfare issues.*

This has been an ongoing activity for the Commission and it has met with members of the Board of Supervisors and their aides, met quarterly with the Director of DFCS and his assistants, and the Judges of the Justice and Dependency Courts.

Inspections*:

The Welcoming Center/Scattered Sites: (Suggested dates Oct.-Feb (Responsibility for inspection of the Welcoming Center resides with the Continuum of Care Committee.))

The Continuum of Care Committee meets bi-monthly and is in the process of drafting of this inspection report. An inquiry regarding the facilities used for the treatment of youth with addictions took place without an actual inspection, and the Commission has monitored the temporary closing of the treatment program.

Juvenile Hall:

The Juvenile Hall Inspection Report was adopted and published in April 2022. Jean Pennypacker was Chair of the Juvenile Hall Inspection report and Probation Responses have been received.

James Ranch:

The James Ranch Inspection Report was published in November 2021 and was chaired by Carol Rhoads.

Law Enforcement Agencies:

The LEA Inspection report was published in September 2021 (for the calendar year 2020) and was chaired by Nora Manchester. These inspections were held in person despite the Covid restrictions.

DJJ Alternative: ongoing monitoring, Inspection when appropriate

The Secure Track (ST) Inspection is approved and published in June 2022. It was chaired by Ron Hansen.

PRESENTATIONS

In fulfilling their commitment to share pertinent information with its partners the Commission hosted seven presentations at our public session:

- First Place for Youth: presented by Michaela Austin and Rachel Carlos (9/14/2021)
- DFCS's Cultural Brokers Program: presented by Bertha Reyna and Wendy Kinnear-Rausch (10/5/2021)
- Juvenile Justice Annual Report 2020: presented by Morena Cruz, RaD, Probation Dept. (11/2/2021)
- The JJC Looks at Data: presented by Commissioner Ron Hansen (12/7/2021)
- Young Women's Freedom Center: presented by Desiree Victor and Analisa Ruiz (3/1/2022)
- Probation Department Presentation on the Ranch Program Redesign: presented by Mandy Bley of the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (4/5/2022)

- Adolescent Substance Use Treatment Services (SUTS): presented by Peter Antons and Vanessa Cornejo of BHSD (5/3/2022)

Upon the completion of the Commission’s inspections, the respective Inspection Chair gave a verbal summary of the report’s findings.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Meetings to Discuss Topics of Interest all occurred virtually. The JJC met informally in Executive Session with several agency leaders to frankly discuss new developments or concerns and have had presentations by partners to keep up on their operations and trends.
2. Meetings with representatives of other statewide Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commissions to discuss topics of mutual interest.
3. Meeting with Supervising Judges in Juvenile Justice and Dependency Divisions, County Supervisors and State Representatives, a State Senator, and the County Executive, especially to address issues as it relates to housing and programing for SB 823, Secure Track youth, and issues of support for youth in need of Short Term Residential Treatment/Quality Residential Treatment, STRTP/QTRTP facilities and other children and youth in need of placement. Individual Commissioners sent letters of support to the federal government officials on issues of interest for the well-being of youth. And the JJC has written letters supporting positions of concern to the JJC.⁶
3. Participation in Special Ad-Hoc Committees to address specific issues. JJC commissioners participated as members in the committees listed below:
4. Data Analysis of Population Trends for Juvenile Hall Detainees. The JJC continues to monitor the daily Juvenile Hall and James Ranch population numbers. One commissioner has continued to review and analyze the data to determine trends and submits periodic reports to the JJC for discussion and possible inquiry.
5. Extensive work was done throughout the year by the Equity and Justice Committee to follow up on their 2020 School Policing and Resource Officers Report.
6. Training Sessions: JJC Commissioners attended various local and regional training sessions offered through the Court, County agencies, and other Community-based Organizations including Silicon Valley Center for Nonprofits’ seminar on Racial Justice, Fresh Lifelines for Youth training on SB 823, Dependency Courts’ training regarding youth in STRTP/QTRTP Programs, training on the Dually Involved Youth Program, New Laws and Statutes training and attendance at the Association for Justice-involved Females and Organizations (AFJO) Conference at which one session was presented by a Commissioner.

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DEPENDENCY COMMITTEE MEETING PARTICIPATION

One or more JJC Commissioners regularly attend or was a member of the following committees within the juvenile justice and dependency systems. While some of these committee meetings were suspended due to COVID-19, some continued to meet virtually.

⁶ Federal Legislation on “Counselors not Criminalization.”

- Behavioral Health Board Adolescent’s and Children’s Committee
- Beyond the Bench Planning Committee
- Board of Supervisors - when a topic of interest is on the agenda.
- Board of Supervisors, Children, Seniors & Family Committee - when a topic of interest is on the agenda
- Board of Supervisors, Public Safety & Justice Committee - when a topic of interest is on the agenda
- Community Based Organizations & Juvenile Justice Stakeholder Meeting (NCYL)
- Child Abuse Prevention Council
 - Inter-Agency Collaborative Committee
- Community Care Licensing
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Committee
- Continuum of Care Planning Committee
- Community Corrections Partnership
- County Office of Education District Reps and Joint Meeting
- Cultural Competency Advisory Council Countywide
- Dependency Court Systems Trainings
- Dependency Permanency Planning
- Dependency Process Committee
- Judicial Advisory Committee
- Juvenile Court Aligned Action Network
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- Juvenile Justice Gender Responsive Task Force
 - JJGRTF Planning Subcommittee,
- Juvenile Justice System Collaborative (JJSC)⁷
- Office of Youth and Community Restoration
- South County Youth Task Force
- Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits
- Social Services Advisory Commission
- Transition Age Youth Task Force

COMMITTEES OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

Standing Committees

Juvenile Hall Inspection.

Jean Pennypacker, Chair
 Stephen Betts, Vice Chair
 Heather Angove
 Paula Escobar
 Ron Hansen

James Ranch Inspection

Carol Rhoads, Chair
 Victoria BurtonBurke, Vice Chair
 Heather Angove
 Stephen Betts
 Paula Escobar

⁷ Subcommittees of the JJSC that are on hiatus during Covid but frequently requested of parties to continue the work: Race Equity in Justice Systems Workgroup and Racial Equity through Prevention Workgroup

Darius Parakh
Lisa Macias
Nora Manchester
Lissa Thiele

DJJ Alternative/Secure Track

Ron Hansen, Chair
Stephen Betts
Penny Blake
Victoria BurtonBurke
Lisa Macias
Diana Traub

Continuum of Care

Penny Blake, Chair
Stephen Betts
Victoria BurtonBurke
Lisa Macias
Nora Manchester
Jean Pennypacker
Shali Sirkay

Education

Ron Hansen, Chair
Heather Angove
Victoria BurtonBurke
Lisa Macias
Darius Parakh
Shali Sirkay

Executive Committee

Victoria BurtonBurke
Stephen Betts
Carol Rhoads, Secretary
Ron Hansen, Past Chair

Darius Parakh
Lisa Macias
Shali Sirkay
Lisa Thiele
Diana Traub

Law Enforcement Detention Inspection

Nora Manchester, Chair
Heather Angove, Vice Chair
All Commissioners

IR/Grievance Review

Lon Allen
Lissa Thiele

Equity and Justice

Shali Sirkay and Lisa Macias CoChairs
Penny Blake
Paula Escobar
Darius Parakh
Carol Rhoads

Legislative

Lon Allen, Chair
Heather Angove
Paula Escobar
Ron Hansen
Jean Pennypacker
Carol Rhoads
Diana Traub

Membership

Stephen Betts, Chair
Penny Blake
Ron Hansen

Nominating

Ron Hansen, Chair
Penny Blake
Nora Manchester

Phone and Email

Penny Blake
Nora Manchester

Ad Hoc Committees

Court User

Jean Pennypacker, Chair
Heather Angove
Victoria BurtonBurke
Ron Hansen
Lisa Macias

Ops

Heather Angove
Penny Blake
Jean Pennypacker

Resource Catalyst

Diana Traub, Chair
Heather Angove
Victoria BurtonBurke
Ron Hansen

The Juvenile Justice Commission has been proud to serve Santa Clara County in its duty to assure the best outcomes possible for youth in the Juvenile Justice System and the Dependency System and its mission to help see that all county youth are successful in their communities.

Respectfully submitted by:



Victoria BurtonBurke

Date: July 12, 2022