

Juvenile Justice Commission, County of Santa Clara
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**SANTA CLARA COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
FY 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT
October 2, 2024**

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 juvenile court law in the County.² The JJC is dedicated to the promotion of the effective administration of the juvenile justice system and juvenile dependency system with the goal that they produce an environment of credibility, dignity, equity, and respect for the children and youth of Santa Clara County.

The JJC is required by statute to inspect local institutions and facilities that house juveniles, including police departments, county facilities, group homes, and youth correctional schools. Inspections can be announced or unannounced and must be conducted at least once a year. The JJC also monitors medical, mental health programs and training and educational programs. The JJC achieves this through a set of annual inspections across facilities as well as through several JJC committees such as the CCC Continuum of Care Committee, focused on Dependency and the Outcomes Committee, focused on ensuring more visibility of outcomes across systems.

INSPECTIONS

During the course of the year (July 2023 to June 2024), the JJC completed on-site inspections and worked with juvenile justice partners in Santa Clara County. After each inspection, the JJC completed a report of their findings and sends it to the facility's supervisors, the state and Presiding Judge.

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

² WIC 225

A comprehensive report exists for each site inspection, which is available on the JJC's webpage. <https://santaclara.courts.ca.gov/divisions/juvenile-division/juvenile-justice-commission>

This report presents a summary analysis of the Commission's recent findings and observations while working in collaboration with the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS), the Probation Department, and law enforcement agencies. The primary focus is on evaluating the effectiveness, challenges, and areas for improvement in the coordination and delivery of services aimed at supporting the children and youth involved in the justice system.

Santa Clara County faces challenges in addressing the needs of juveniles within the juvenile justice system. These challenges range from ensuring the availability of appropriate and rehabilitative programs to safeguarding the rights and well-being of these young individuals. The Commission's role in overseeing these efforts is crucial for maintaining accountability and promoting positive outcomes for the youth.

The following are highlights from these interactions and areas of strength and areas for improvement.

Juvenile Hall

The annual inspection found that the Probation Department continues to maintain an orderly and safe custodial placement for youth awaiting court, serving court-ordered Juvenile Hall time, or awaiting transition to placement, while bringing together services for the youth and their families during and after incarceration.

The inspection team made the following recommendations:

Probation Department:

Repeated recommendations from previous reports:

- Identify and report Native American youth in detention as a distinct group rather than grouping in the "Other" category.
- Make available culturally specific programming for Native American youth and assign Probation staff who identify as Native American.
- Continue evaluating issues specific for Santa Clara County in the Policies and Procedures.
- As recommended in 2020, 2021, and 2022, reach out to other Bay Area Counties to develop Mutual Aid Agreements so that assistance can be rendered in the event that an emergency necessitates moving Santa Clara County youth to another facility. This is preferable to moving youth to the County Jail as is the current alternative.
- Continue to develop alternative menus and snacks that provide additional food and that still meet nutritional guidelines and are culturally appropriate.
- Convene with Juvenile Justice partners to address the disparity of black and brown youth being arrested and detained in Juvenile Hall.

New Recommendations:

Probation Department:

1. Evaluate the efficacy of the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) and/or incorporating

the factors that generate the override in the initial scoring.

2. The Multi-Agency Assessment Center (MAAC) provide the JJC with the monthly data regarding the effectiveness of the programming.
3. Develop or adopt a more efficient way to track the status of each program in use by the MAAC program in order to streamline the monitoring programs including Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and to make the results available to both probation and its partners.
4. If not already in effect, return the youth's dining to the cafeteria.
5. Return the intramural sports for JH youth.

County Office of Education (COE):

1. To strenuously seek to add the need qualified substitute teachers
2. To publish to education partners the results and data upon which measure budget effectiveness via the mid-year Local Control and Accountability Monitoring.
3. To follow through with the use of a Student Exit Survey, and monitor and publish the results of the survey to the JJC and other interested parties.

Santa Clara County Department of Health Services:

1. To add additional dedicated staff to provide complete wraparound youth and families.

Santa Clara County Department of Behavioral Health Services and Santa Clara Board of Supervisors:

1. Develop and fund crisis centers that specifically treat adolescents, add more beds and tailored services for youth and children at Emergency Psychiatric Services (EPS),
2. Develop and fund a residential treatment program for teenagers
3. Fund additional dedicated staff to fully wraparound youth and families in a meaningful way and to address health inequities and the subsequent consequences.

Facilities and Fleets:

Maintain the JH grass and fields areas and fight the infestation of rodents

James Ranch

The inspection team found the Ranch to be well-run with exceptional vocational and post-secondary programs for youth. There are collegial relationships among the partners and a relaxed, positive atmosphere with youth appearing comfortable at the Ranch and appearing to benefit from the many opportunities afforded them.

The inspection team made the following recommendations:

1. JR divisional managers work with Probation management to identify a set of metrics that are important to the facility (e.g., incident reports and trends, Aftercare success and trends, etc.) Division managers should track and understand such metrics along with their regular work of planning, scheduling and resolving day to day issues.
2. The Probation Department expand on their plan to collect and analyze recidivism data to add additional outcomes data, to provide information on how Probation can best address recidivism and proactively address issues that adversely affect recidivism. The JJC recommends adding a process to track the housing, education, and employment status of their outgoing youth, while on probation. This can be captured by the Probation

Counselors monitoring these youth and tracked systematically as an indicator of future success or risk.

3. That the Policies and Procedures continue to be updated based on the input of the Continuous Quality Improvement committee.

4. That the JR management consider a quarterly review of Incident Reports (IR) data to understand trends and improvements committee to capture appeals and grievance data digitally via direct entry into the system vs. using paper forms.

5. Regarding IRs, JR staff should mandate the closure of 100% of the IRs. There are opportunities to periodically clean up this data and improve the IT systems notifications to ensure timely closure of the IRs. Supervisors should investigate an option for system reminders to staff to complete open IRs.

6. Management should consider a regular IR Review meeting to discuss current issues and identify opportunities for improvement and training.

7. JR establish a regular and reliable process to get access to the youth's school records in a timely manner. This information is often delayed and makes classification of the youth difficult.

Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)

At the time of its inspection the SYTF program was housed within Juvenile Hall and a stepdown program had not yet been created. The JJC found the SYTF program to be well-supervised and thoughtfully managed in compliance with Titles 15 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations. The presence of COVID continued to have an impact on the facility operations.

The inspection team made the following recommendations:

1. Evaluate the efficacy of SYTF programs on an annual basis.
2. Review and update Policies and Procedures, as appropriate, that are unique to the SYTF program.
3. Prioritize the effort to identify and develop a secure facility for SYTF that is not within the Juvenile Hall.
4. Prioritize the effort to develop meaningful step-down opportunities for SYTF young adults as they progress through the program.
5. Assure that the girls have equal access to programming and mirror facilities.

Law Enforcement Agencies

The JJC completed inspections of five police departments. Overall, the JJC found that all facilities were clean, well-organized, professional, and had written policies relating to the detention of juveniles that are consistent with the Facilities Standards issued by the Board of State and Community Corrections.

The Inspection Team made the following recommendations:

1. As with the 2021 calendar-year-report, that the Milpitas Police Department comply with BSCC regulations regarding the detention of a youth greater than six hours. If the Department is faced with the possibility that a youth will be held longer than six hours, the Department must obtain approval from BSCC.

2. As with the 2021 calendar-year-report, the Milpitas Police Department explore alternative methods of restraining youth in case of overflow that satisfy W&I Code § 207.1(b).
3. The San Jose Police Department comply with 15 C.C.R. § 1150 by keeping and enforcing accurate detention logs detailing the time of entry and release for detained youth.
4. As with the 2021 calendar-year-report, the San Jose Police Department post signage detailing a youth's rights while detained in language representative of San Jose's population.

FINDINGS:

The Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission's review highlights the strengths of Juvenile Hall and James Ranch, particularly in terms of facility conditions and the commitment of staff. However, it also underscores the need for improvements in vocational training, extracurricular activities, and mental health services. The SYTF program was in its second year of operation. The program grew out of the closing of the California Youth Authority prisons. Each county was then directed to develop its own SYTF program. It has been challenging for both management and staff. New vocational programs, college courses and character-building programs have been emphasized. One issue is that instead of developing SYTF housing in new sites, they have just enlarged the Juvenile Hall and Ranch sites to accommodate both the regular and the step-down programs for these youth.

COLLABORATION WITH DFCS

The JJC values its partnership with DFCS. This year the JJC Continuum of Care Committee, a subcommittee of the JJC engaged in the following activities:

- Monitored the provision of services to children in the child welfare system
- Visited The Welcoming Center (TWC) and Scattered Sites (SS) throughout the year
- Met with DFCS leadership and stakeholders about issues of concern in the child welfare system
- Collaborated with other JJC's and JJDPC's throughout the state resulting in the development of a letter to local state legislators concerning service and placement problems faced by youth with high acuity issues (destructive behaviors, mental health difficulties and drug usage)
- Observed the Board of Supervisors; Children, Seniors and Family Committee; and Public Safety and Justice Committee meetings throughout the year when DFCS topics were agendaized.
- Testified before the Board of Supervisor concerning the proposed changes to DFCS operations.
- Scheduled presentations before the whole Commission on this county's System Improvement Plan (SIP) and the Families First Service Plan.

All of these activities have been driven by areas of interest, as identified in CCC goals, which are listed as follows:

- How is DFCS monitoring and measuring the progress for families placed in

- Differential Response and receiving voluntary services?
- How is DFCS managing to decrease the high number of overstays at TWC and SS and increase the number of placements for high acuity youth?
 - What metrics has or will be developed by DFCS to measure and evaluate their efforts to serve and place high acuity youth?
 - Licensing of Scattered Sites (SS)

As background, over the last several years DFCS has undergone several significant changes in policies and practices based on federal and local legislation. The federal Families First Preventions Services Act (FFPSA) placed the focus on family preservation and prevention services to forestall further penetration into the child welfare system. The California Continuum of Care Reform Act (CCRA) included the closure of group homes and required local agencies to find placement in a resource family home - all youth should have a family. It must be stated that for both legislations, the State has not provided significant guidance to the individual counties prior and during the implementation of the laws.

In response to FFPSA, DFCS shifted efforts to keep a child in the home and provide services upfront when a family has been identified with actions that put their children at risk of harm or neglect. Consequently, the number of petitions decreased dramatically in 2023 and the beginning of 2024. However, it became evident to the JJC that the agency was having difficulty in tracking these families receiving Differential Response and voluntary services to determine their success rate in completing services. Since this change, the concerns that the JJC had in this approach was realized with the death of Baby Phoenix when the father was on voluntary supervision and the baby was exposed to fentanyl. Since that event, the Board of Supervisors has intervened and required DFCS to make substantial changes in the policies and process. A result of this intervention was an increase in the number of petitions filed.

While the intent of the CCRA was admirable, the after-effects of the end of group homes had unintended consequences. Throughout the nation and the state, the lack of adequate numbers of placements has been chronic. This especially has been a problem for older youth and youth with high acuity needs, which group homes formerly served. To address the CCRA requirements, DFCS devised several programs to create specialized homes with resource parents trained to meet the challenges associated with high acuity youth, However, DFCS still has not been able to fill the placement need. To complicate this situation, youth have been able to decline placements. Consequently, high acuity youth significantly overstayed the time restrictions of TWC and have been placed in unlicensed SS, where they have stayed many months before a placement is found. At times, TWC had to turn away children when the behavior of the high acuity youth in residence posed a safety issue to others.

The JJC met with DFCS leadership on a regular basis about the Commission's concern of leaving children with struggling parents without a clear plan and measurement of success. The JJC has posed questions on how DFCS would track these families at risk and encouraged the agency of the need to do so and exigency of measuring outcomes. These meeting also covered what activities DFCS has done to find placements for the high acuity youth as well as the status of the licensing of the SS.

To obtain a fuller picture of what is occurring at DFCS, the JJC conducted several site visits throughout the year to TWC and SS to review the operations of all locations. The JJC also attended the monthly meeting between DFCS managers and stakeholders concerning current issues. At the JJC's request, DFCS added information on their TWC and SS dashboard that enabled the JJC better track the population at these sites.

During this last year all interested JJC and JJDPC in the state met to discuss concerns in common. Placement and services issues for high acuity youth were identified as a difficulty faced in all of their counties. As result, a subcommittee was formed that developed a strategy by drafting a letter to share with each county's state legislators that also included a request for a meeting. This JJC then met with DFCS leadership to solicit actions if taken would improve the outcomes of high acuity youth. After the JJC identified those state legislators and supervisors who have an interest in children's issues, letters were sent and requests for meetings began. The Commission has already met with one such legislator to express our concerns.

As has been stated above, during the year a baby's death in 2022 was discovered to be from an overdose of fentanyl while under the care of the father. This devastated all involved in the child welfare system and resulted in the Board of Supervisors demanding changes to DFCS practices. Consequently, DFCS must provide reports and presentations to the Board on a regular basis concerning the modifications made to improve the safety of children at risk who are known to the child welfare system. The JJC attended these Board meetings and has provided testimony concerning this issue.

Outcomes of activities for FY 2023-2024:

- Developed a closer connection with the DFCS leaders and managers which improved communication between the agency and the JJC.
- Gained deeper knowledge of what is occurring in the child welfare system.
- Increased collaboration with stakeholders
- Improved collaboration with other JJC and JJDPC in the state which concluded in a shared strategy to urge state and local legislators to improve the outcome for high acuity youth.

COLLABORATION WITH THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

JJC has met regularly with the Probation Department's executive management and has had ready access to the department's juvenile facilities, to the policies and procedures database and to incident reports and grievances.

FOCUS ON OUTCOMES The JJC believes in the importance of tracking outcomes to measure, to identify opportunities for improvement and to demonstrate impactful use of taxpayer funds. This has been an on-going concern of the commission, which led to the creation of the JJC's outcomes committee. The outcomes committee has engaged in discussions with the leadership of DFCS and their Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE), also, with the leadership of the Probation Department and their Research and Development (RAD) team in order to create meaningful data.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2022-2023

The JJC established goals and objectives for fiscal year 2023-24. 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.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY GOALS 2023-24

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.

Critical Inspections

Complete all scheduled inspections by June 30, 2024. The Chair of each inspection committee shall report in executive Session the status of all inspection recommendations within 180 days from report publication.

Committee Activities

- Monitor and report to the Commission all incident Reports (IR's) filed in juvenile Hall and James Ranch (bi-monthly) and the Welcoming center (quarterly)
- Respond to emerging needs and issues through ad hoc committees.
- Individual committees should prepare and post minutes of each meeting on the shared drive and report out to the entire Commission during the executive session monthly, yearly evaluate their goals for the long term and for the year and develop a mission statement Goals for the subsequent year should be available to the Commission at the June executive session.
- Conduct periodic reviews of Commission by-laws and policies and procedures.
- Recruit prospective candidates.
- Track pending legislation and new laws and regulations impacting the dependency and juvenile justice systems.

Collaboration with Others

- Inform the commission and its partners on juvenile justice and child welfare issues thorough presentations by partners and experts to promote collaborative solutions.
- Monitor the changes in the dependency and juvenile justice systems that result from the imposition of practices dictated by the Families First Prevention Services Act
- Monitor the continued development of Santa Clara county's STYF program, its creation of required step downs, and its development of programming for

females. Monitor the development of STYF for youth who have returned from DJJ.

- Meet regularly with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, Chief of Probation, and the DFCS Director to discuss and report on juvenile justice and child welfare issues.
- Continue working with OYCR and statewide JJC's to improve outcomes for all California Justice and Dependency youth.
- Include presentations, every other month, in public and executive sessions.
- Meet with the new County Executive, James Williams. And new County Supervisors to introduce them to the purpose and activities of the commission.
- Host an informal in-person "get-together" of stakeholders.
- Chair and Vice Chair to serve on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and its subcommittees.
- Participate in other meetings and committees that are relevant to the work of the commission.

Inspections:

The Welcoming Center/Scattered Sites:

The Continuum of Care Inspection Committee meets bi-monthly. Due to a change in the administration of the Welcoming Center and scattered sites, and delays in the licensing process, inspections of the Welcoming Center and scattered sites were postponed but are currently proceeding at the writing of this report.

The Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) is a program which was developed as a result of SB 823 that closed the California Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Justice. SB 823 mandated that counties house youth formerly housed by the Division of Juvenile Justice and develop programming as an alternative to the state program. This inspection was chaired by Diana Traub and the report approved by the Commission on July 18, 2023

Law Enforcement Agencies. The inspection was chaired by Darius Parekh and approved by the Commission on December 5, 2023

James Ranch

The James Ranch Inspection was chaired by Marcie Bellicitti. The inspection report was approved by the Commission on April 2, 2024.

Juvenile Hall:

The Juvenile Hall Inspection was chaired by Victoria BurtonBurke. The inspection report was approved May 7, 2024

PRESENTATIONS

In fulfilling the Commission's commitment to share pertinent information with its partners the Commission hosted six presentations in the Commission's public session:

- August 1, 2023. National Center for Youth Law presented by Joy Hernandez.

- October 3. DFCS System Improvement Plan (SIP) presented by Damion Wright, Naveen Sangwan, Don Long, Maria Galeana Castillo, and Gilbert Murillo
- December 5 Bill Wilson Center presented by Josh Selo
- January 2, 2024. Behavioral Health Services presented by Rachel Talamantez & Vanessa Cornejo
- April 2, 2024. Adolescent Residential Substance Treatment presented by Rachel Talamantez; Vanessa Cornejo and Eric Forestal, Camp Recovery Services
- May 7, 2024. DFCS - Families First Prevention Services Plan presented by Rocio Abundis, Patty Ramirez and Naveen Sangwan

Upon the completion of the Commission's inspections, the respective Inspection Chairs 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 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 and backing of legislation and to urge greater mutually beneficial connections.
3. Met with representatives and the Director of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration
4. Met with Supervising Judges in Juvenile Justice and Dependency Divisions.
5. Met members of the Board of Supervisors to discuss various issues, most notably the challenges associated with finding long-term permanent housing for youth cycling through the Welcoming Center and scattered sites.
6. The JJC has written letters supporting positions of concern to the JJC at the state and local level.
7. Data Analysis of Population Trends for Juvenile Hall Detainees and the population of The Welcome Center: The JJC continues to monitor the daily Juvenile Hall and James Ranch population numbers and regularly tracks and analyzes the data from TWC and Scattered Sites.
8. Attended the Children's Summit and graduation ceremonies for youth in Community and Court Schools
10. Attended holiday events at Juvenile Hall and James Ranch.
11. Training Sessions: JJC Commissioners attended various local and regional training sessions offered through the Court, County agencies and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) including review of the new laws and cases that relate to youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts or those that might be at risk to come under Welfare and Institution Codes Sections 602 and 300. Included were programs on Residential Placement and Re-Entry, DFCS's forum on Self-Assessment, the Family First Services Prevention Act, the combined Dependency and Juvenile Justice Beyond the Bench.

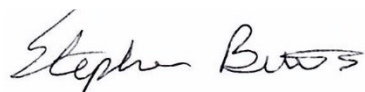
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DEPENDENCY SYSTEM COMMITTEE MEETING PARTICIPATION

One or more JJC Commissioners regularly attended or was a member of the following committees within the juvenile justice and dependency systems.

- 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
- Child Abuse Prevention Council, Interagency Collaborative Committee
- County Office of Education District Reps and Joint Meeting
- Dependency Court Systems Meetings and Trainings
- Judicial Advisory Committee
- Juvenile Court Aligned Action Network
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- Juvenile Justice Gender Responsive Task Force/Collaboration
- JJGRTF Planning Subcommittee,
- Juvenile Justice System Collaborative (JJSC) Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) ○ Race Equity through Prevention Workgroup ○ Race Equity in the Justice Systems Workgroup
- Office of Youth and Community Restoration
- South County Youth Task Force
- Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

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:



Stephen Betts, Chair

Date: October 2, 2024

APPENDICES

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County comprises 15 volunteers, two of whom are youth commissioners between the ages of 14 and 21. The adult commissioners are sworn in for 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 at the beginning of the year (July 2023- June 30, 2024.)

Stephen Betts, Chair
Dev Ghoshal, Vice Chair
Marcie Bellicitti, Secretary
Victoria BurtonBurke, Past Chair
Heather Angove
Penny Blake
Diana Sanchez Bentz
Nora Manchester
Darius Parakh
Neha Parthasarathi (Youth Commissioner)
Jean Pennypacker
Lissa Thiele
Vaishali "Shali" Sirkay
Rayan Sengupta (Youth Commissioner)
Diana Traub

During this year Diana Sanchez Bentz let her term expire and Lissa Thiele resigned. Karen Guldán and Howard Pomerantz were sworn in as commissioners.

2023-2024 COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

JUVENILE HALL INSPECTION

Chair: Victoria BurtonBurke

Nora Manchester

Neha Parthasarathi

Lissa Thiele

Heather Angove

Rayan Sengupta

Diana Sanchez Bentz

Jean Pennypacker

Karen Guldán

JAMES RANCH INSPECTION

Chair: Marcie Belliciti Vice Chair: Stephen Betts

Neha Parthasarathi

Heather Angove

Rayan Sengupta

Darius Parakh

Lissa Thiele

Diana Sanchez Bentz

Diana Traub

Dev Ghoshal

Karen Guldán

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES INSPECTION

Chair: Darius Parakh Vicechair: Victoria BurtonBurke

All Commissioners

CONTINUUM OF CARE INSPECTION

Welcome Center and Satellite Sites.

Chair: Penny Blake

Dev Ghoshal

Stephen Betts

Victoria BurtonBurke

Nora Manchester

Shali Sirkay

Marcie Bellicitti

Karen Guldán

SHORT TERM YOUTH TREATMENT FACILITY INSPECTION (SYTF)

Co-Chairs: Diana Traub, Dev Ghoshal

Stephen Betts

Victoria BurtonBurke

Penny Blake

Shali Sirkay

Rayan Sengupta

OUTCOMES (Examines outcomes data and explores gaps in programs' tracking of data)

Chair: De Ghoshal

Stephen Betts

Karen Guldán

Jean Pennypacker

Shali Sirkay

Victoria BurtonBurke

Penny Blake

INCIDENT REPORTS AND GRIEVANCES REVIEW (Juvenile Hall, James Ranch, SYTF)

Victoria BurtonBurke

Shali Sirkay (corrected last name)

LEGISLATIVE (Tracks legislative changes that impact the Child Dependency and Juvenile Justice systems, engages in outreach to legislators)

Chair: Heather Angove

Dina Traub

Marcie Bellicitti

Lissa Thiele

Jean Pennypacker

Dev Ghoshal

MEMBERSHIP (Screens, interviews and makes recommendations for Commission membership)

Dev Ghoshal, Chair

Penny Blake

Shali Sirkay

NOMINATING (Nominates commission members for Executive Team membership)

Victoria BurtonBurke, Chair

Nora Manchester

Penny Blake

RECRUITMENT (Engages in outreach to create a pool of prospective Commission members)

Dev Ghoshal, Chair

Diana Traub

Jean Pennypacker

PHONE, CALENDAR, MAIL AND EMAIL

Nora Manchester (Checks for phone message. We have since dropped our phone line, due to its lack of use)

Penny Blake (Maintains the Commission's calendar and monitors the Commission's email account)

Stephen Betts (Checks the Commission's mailbox)

AD HOC COMMITTEE

OPERATIONS (Revises policies and procedures and by-laws as needed. Changes to by-laws are vetted by County Counsel).

Jean Pennypacker

Penny Blake

Heather Angove

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Stephen Betts, Chair

Dev Ghoshal, Vice Chair

Marcie Bellicitti, Secretary

Victoria BurtonBurke, Past Chair

The executive team (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Past Chair) meet once a month in person, with an open invitation for any other commissioners to join. Other meetings, such as committee meetings, have continued to be held remotely, since they have been found to be more convenient, saving members travel time and parking challenges. Inspections have been held in person, with some associated meetings held remotely.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Due to the restrictions placed on in-person meetings as a result of the covid pandemic, the Commission began holding its meetings remotely via Zoom in 2020. This resulted in almost double the attendance at the Commission's public meetings compared to before the restrictions. This led to the Commission recognizing that remote access provided greater convenience for many participants, especially for those having to travel greater distances to join meetings in-person. This resulted in the Commission exploring options for holding hybrid meetings, which would enable some people to participate in person while others could join remotely. The challenge was finding a County facility with a large enough conference room to allow people to meet in person while having the equipment to permit others to join via Zoom. This proved to be quite a challenge, but ultimately the Commission found a room suitable for its purpose and after tackling some technical challenges, the JJC began holding hybrid meetings in January 2024. They are held in the Independence Room on the ground floor of 353 West Julian Street. Most attendees have opted to join the meeting remotely, while most commissioners have participated in person.

The Commission recognized that some of the collegiality of meeting in person had been lost since the disruption caused by the pandemic. This resulted in the Commission holding an open house for stakeholders on May 10th, 2024. This provided an opportunity to catch up with long-standing colleagues and to meet others in-person for the first time. The event was well attended and by all accounts it was a great success. The Commission will repeat the event in the 2024-2025 year.