

# Juvenile Justice Commission County of Santa Clara

840 Guadalupe Parkway  
San Jose, California 95110  
(408) 278-5993 FX (408) 294-6879



## Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission Receiving Center Site Visit Report January 2013

### I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 229, the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) conducted a site visit on January 17, 2013, of the Santa Clara County's Receiving, Assessment and Intake Center (RAIC) at its new facility, the MediPlex. The site visit was prompted by concerns received by the JJC about the adequacy/appropriateness of the layout and location of the new facility and the fact that minors were staying 24 hours or more, longer than the time permitted by State law.

At the time of the visit there were five minors staying at the RAIC. One of these minors had been staying at the RAIC since December 27, 2012. As the RAIC is not a State licensed facility, minors should not be staying at the RAIC for 24 hours or more. Prior to our site visit, the JJC was informed by the San Jose Community Care Licensing Office of the State of California Department of Social Service Licensing, Children's Residential Care Division that the RAIC had been cited at least three (3) times for holding minors for 24 hours or more in the past, at the RAIC located on Union Avenue. As a governmental entity, the RAIC may be cited without receiving a monetary fine.

### II. FACILITY

The new RAIC facility is located within the San Jose Medical Plaza (MediPlex) located at 725 E. Santa Clara St. and is co-located with satellite offices of the Gardner Health Clinic; Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic, a Pediatric Outreach Clinic operated by the Valley Medical Center through Health and Hospital Systems and a Santa Clara County Mental Health Clinic. The Gardner Health Clinic and WIC will provide services to the general public, while the County Mental Health staff and the Medical Clinic will serve RAIC minors and Foster Care youth.

### III. FINDINGS

A tour of the building exterior identified a number of concerns; specifically, a large dumpster containing large shards of broken glass; large pieces of sharp edged scrap metal and medical equipment was observed on the side of the building. There were scrap and waste materials still on site in an unsecured area where there is substantial standing water. Security systems were not yet set up, and lighting and cameras were not in place. Empty beer bottles were also noted along the facility's perimeter cyclone fence. This debris represents a major hazard for the youth being "housed" at the RAIC.

A large unoccupied building is located on the south side of the MediPlex facility. Commissioners were told the owner, caretaker, contents and security of the building is unknown. Commissioners are concerned that the building can possibly become a haven for substance abusers and drug transactions, the homeless population in the immediate area, and runaway minors. (Note: A Commissioner who drove by the MediPlex facility on a previous early morning noted six homeless persons on the E. Santa Clara St. block on which the MediPlex is located (please see Attachment I from San Jose Police Department.))

Commissioners were told the pooled water area around the dumpster will become a playground for the minors at the RAIC, but for now the minors must remain inside the building until they are released. There is very little room for any activity other than sitting and watching TV within the RAIC. Commissioners were informed that the construction of the playground area should begin in the spring of 2013; however, a cleanup date for the surrounding area was not known (Please see photos on Attachment II).

Additionally, the JJC received a copy of a RAIC "punch list" containing items pending completion. Unfortunately, these items had not been prioritized nor had specific completion dates been established for same.

This new facility is very cramped for the functions of the RAIC, and while minors are not supposed to remain for 24 hours or more, this is occurring on a distressingly routine basis. It is unclear from a report provided by the Department of Family and Children Services if the numbers contained in the attached report are monthly statistics or aggregate statistics for the calendar year (Please see Attachment III). This repurposed old medical building does not lend itself to a homelike environment for minors.

The RAIC entrance is on the building's lower level and is shared with the Gardner Health Clinic. One walks down steep stairs to a door which leads into a dark hallway, Gardner Health Clinic entrance is on the right. A security guard station will be located across from the elevator and immediately in front of the interior entrance and the door to the RAIC.

Upon entering the RAIC, one is in a small area, with a receptionist, who will be behind a Plexiglas shield. Parents and foster parents will wait here to pick up and visit minors. The reception area is through a locked door. This room while not large is child friendly, with decorations and toys. Here the minors will be interviewed by the social worker and the custody medical personnel. If the child needs further medical evaluation, it will occur in the facility at the tele-nursing station, or a nurse from Juvenile Hall will respond to the Center. These procedures are all similar to those of the former Center.



Once the intake is complete, if the minors are not immediately placed, they will be admitted into the Center through a door on the right. From here, the youth will pass by the assessment social work staff and medical staff cubicles. The hall is narrow with windows on the left that let in light, but are being covered with a translucent frosted cover, so people cannot see in from the outside nor can anyone see out of the windows. Once past the cubicles, one enters a large room, which is the living area for the minors for as long as they are at the Center.

The living area seems to be inadequate. As one of the staff members pointed out, "The children don't even get to see the world outside, not even a tree, nothing." It would have been nice to see an eating area, where staff and kids could sit down and share a family-style meal.

The current arrangements for feeding the minors are woefully inadequate. The kitchenette area was found to only have processed food: donut holes, cupcakes, frozen pizza, and frozen corn dogs. At the very minimum, fresh fruit should be available to children and youth, not the syrupy fruit salads that were in the cupboards. Ideally proper, healthy meals should be offered to the kids. It is recognized that many youth will not have had healthy diets and good nutrition, but it should at least be available, possibly with some less healthy choices as a back-up (but not as the only option).

The social workers' area is very cramped, which is unfortunate for them, but minimally impactful on minors. Down the hall on the right is a well thought out bathroom and a shower room. The bedrooms line the narrow hall on the left. One is fitted with cribs for babies and toddlers. The others had three to four beds and not much else. The rooms are very Spartan and unwelcoming, some art work and color would cheer them up and ease the institutional feel. It is very troubling to see so many beds squeezed into each room (again, adding to the institutional feel).

The bedrooms are inadequate for minors with special needs, especially those in a wheelchair or requiring other equipment and additional space to maneuver. The rooms are also inadequate for traumatized, disturbed youth who require separation from the others.

#### **IV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **The JJC recommends:**

1. In light of the temporary nature of the current RAIC, the Commission recommends that SSA initiate an immediate and thorough planning process to secure a new facility, in a central and safe location, that is child-friendly and custom-designed to meet all the needs of a state-of-the-art Receiving, Assessment and Intake Center with a full complement of appropriate services co-located within the RAIC. The move to another new facility should be set as a priority that should occur well in advance of the need to vacate the current MediPlex location, in order to better meet the needs of minors served by the RAIC. The recommendations that follow are interim and it should not be construed that if these improvements are made that the concerns expressed by the JJC to have been fully satisfied;
2. That the RAIC without exception, no longer hold any child at the Center for 24 hours or more;
3. That the RAIC ensure that minors held at the RAIC have no interactions with other persons receiving services from the other agencies co-located at the MediPlex in order to ensure security and preserve the minors' confidentiality;

4. That the unlocked dumpster be removed from the site or securely locked to ensure minors have no access to the potentially harmful and dangerous items inside;
5. That the medical equipment be removed from the site or stored in a locked container or area to which minors will have no access;
6. That the standing water be siphoned and the area be cleaned to eliminate potential health hazards;
7. That the security system, lighting and cameras be installed and be made to properly function;
8. That all debris, e.g. beer bottles, be cleaned from the perimeter and entire grounds of the Center;
9. That inquiry be made regarding the unoccupied building adjacent to the Center and that the necessary steps be taken to eliminate its possible use by others for improper purposes;
10. That a target date be identified and adhered to for the construction of a contained outdoor playground for minors;
11. That a review of the of the MediPlex floor plan be performed to allow for greater use of the facility space by the RAIC, e.g. utilization of vacant space within the MediPlex be explored for possible expansion;
12. That priorities and time certain timelines be established for completion of all items contained on the "punch list";
13. That the interior space of the RAIC, particularly the minors' bedrooms, meets the legally required standards for children with disabilities and special needs;
14. That a more homelike area be identified for meals and that food meet current FDA standards; that there are less frozen, fast foods and more fresh and healthful food choices.

**Approved by the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission on:**

---

Ray Blockie, JJC Chairperson

Date



CAD SUMMARY REPORT  
CALLS FOR SERVICE WITHIN 1320FT OF 725 E SANTA CLARA ST  
JANUARY 16, 2012 - JANUARY 16, 2013

COUNT	CALL CODE	DESCRIPTION
158	415	DISTURBANCE
154	1095	PEDESTRIAN STOP
116	CPF	COMMUNITY POLICING-FOOT PATROL
91	1195	VEHICLE STOP
60	WELCK	WELFARE CHECK
57	22500	PARKING VIOLATION
47	415F	DISTURBANCE, FAMILY
41	415M	DISTURBANCE, MUSIC
40	1033A	ALARM, AUDIBLE
39	1154	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE
34	FD	CITIZEN FLAGDOWN
32	1066	SUSPICIOUS PERSON
32	MUNI	MUNICIPAL CODE VIOLATION
29	SEU	SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT
28	SUSCIR	SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
27	10851	STOLEN VEHICLE
23	PRMCK	PREMISE CHECK
20	1182	VEH ACCIDENT, PROPERTY DAMAGE
19	1065MH	MISSING PERS, MENTAL HANDICAP
18	5150	MENTALLY DISTURBED PERSON
17	594	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF
16	7FU	OUT OF SERVICE, FOLLOW-UP
16	CSB	CIVIL STANDBY
16	PATCK	PATROL CHECK
15	415UNK	DISTURBANCE, UNKNOWN
14	1062	MEET THE CITIZEN
14	10851R	RECOVERED VEHICLE
14	415A	DISTURBANCE, FIGHT
14	INFO	INFORMATION ONLY EVENT
12	6M	MISDEMEANOR WANT
11	459R	BURGLARY REPORT (460)
10	1053	PERSON DOWN
10	415FC	DISTURBANCE, FIRECRACKERS
10	ATL	ATTEMPT TO LOCATE
9	20002	MISDEMEANOR HIT AND RUN
9	23103	RECKLESS DRIVING
9	911CELL	UNK TYPE 911 CALL FROM CELL
8	1095G	NA
8	1181	VEH ACCIDENT, MINOR INJURIES
8	1195X	VEHICLE STOP ON FEMALE
8	242	BATTERY
8	415W	DISTURBANCE, WEAPON
8	ATC	ATTEMPT TO CONTACT
8	C5	STAKEOUT



<u>COUNT</u>	<u>CALL CODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
7	484	THEFT
6	1095X	PEDESTRIAN STOP ON FEMALE
6	1125	TRAFFIC HAZARD
6	11300	NARCOTICS
6	11357	POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
6	WELCKEMS	NA
5	1065F	FOUND, MISSING PERSON
5	10852	TAMPERING WITH A VEHICLE
5	11377	POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS
5	23152	MISDEMEANOR DUI
5	415N	DISTURBANCE, NEIGHBOR
5	484BOL	PETTY THEFT (BROADCAST ONLY)
5	601T	TRUANT (TABS)
5	AID	PUBLIC SAFETY ASSISTANCE
5	CSX	CAR STOP, FEMALE
5	FNDPRP	FOUND PROPERTY
4	1057	FIREARMS DISCHARGED
4	12020G	ILLEGAL WEAPONS, GANG RELATED
4	245	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON
4	273.5	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
4	422	CRIMINAL THREATS
4	459	BURGLARY (460)
4	602PC	TRESPASSING
4	6F	FELONY WANT
4	6MG	NA
4	CODE5	STAKEOUT
4	FLGDWN	FLAG DOWN
3	1033S	ALARM, SILENT
3	1055	CORONERS CASE
3	1065	MISSING PERSON
3	1065X	MISSING FEMALE
3	11550	USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE
3	1179	VEH ACCIDENT, AMB DISPATCHED
3	12020	ILLEGAL WEAPONS
3	14601	DRIVING W/ SUSPENDED LICENSE
3	211A	ARMED ROBBERY
3	211SA	STRONG ARM ROBBERY
3	242EMS	NA
3	647F	DRUNK IN PUBLIC
3	911BUSN	UNK TYPE 911 CALL FROM BUSN
3	911VOIP	NA
3	CPB	COMMUNITY POLICING-BIKE PATROL
3	DVRO	VIOLATION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER
3	FDAID	FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PD
3	STRAND	STRANDED MOTORIST
2	1056A	ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
2	1066P	SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE
2	1067X	FEMALE CALLING FOR HELP

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>CALL CODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
2	1070	PROWLER
2	11357G	NA
2	1183	VEH ACCIDENT, UNKNOWN INJURIES
2	1195G	NA
2	148	RESISTING ARREST
2	23110	THROWING SUBSTANCES AT VEH
2	261	RAPE
2	290	REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS
2	3056	PAROLE VIOLATION
2	415AEMS	NA
2	415J	DISTURBANCE, JUVENILE
2	415WEMS	NA
2	459VEH	VEHICLE BURGLARY
2	470	FORGERY
2	5150X	MENTALLY DISTURBED FEMALE
2	647.6	MOLEST/ANNOY UNDER 18YRS
2	7PC	OUT OF SERVICE, PREMISE CHECK
2	911RESD	UNK TYPE 911 CALL FROM RESD
2	911UNK	UNK TYPE 911 CALL
2	CIVIL	CIVIL MATTER
2	CPM	COMMUNITY POLICING-MEETING
2	FOOT	OUT OF SERVICE, FOOT PATROL
1	1014	ESCORT
1	1034	OPEN DOOR
1	1045	INJURED PERSON
1	1046	SICK PERSON
1	1065J	MISSING JUVENILE
1	1066G	SUSPICIOUS PERSON (GANG)
1	1066W	SUSPICIOUS PERSON W/ WEAPON
1	1066X	SUSPICIOUS FEMALE
1	1072	PERSON STABBED
1	10851G	STOLEN VEHICLE, GANG RELATED
1	1091	ANIMAL COMPLAINT
1	1091A	VICIOUS ANIMAL
1	1124	ABANDONED VEHICLE
1	11350	POSSESSION CONTROLLED SUBSTANC
1	11377G	POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS, GANG
1	1184	TRAFFIC CONTROL
1	12500	UNLICENSED DRIVER
1	20001	FELONY HIT AND RUN
1	22500G	NA
1	22507	HANDICAPPED PARKING VIOLATION
1	23109	SPEED CONTEST
1	240/242	ASSAULT AND BATTERY
1	245G	ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WPN, GANG
1	246	SHOOTNG INTO OCCP VEH OR DWELL
1	25662	MINOR IN POSSESSION ALCOHOL
1	3056G	NA

*ATTACHMENT I*

*ATTACHMENT I*

<u>COUNT</u>	<u>CALL CODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	314	INDECENT EXPOSURE
1	368	ELDER/DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE
1	4000A	EXPIRED REGISTRATION
1	415EMS	NA
1	484R	THEFT OF RECYCLABLES
1	487	GRAND THEFT
1	488	PETTY THEFT
1	647B	SOLICITING FOR PROSTITUTION
1	7SA	OOS, SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT
1	PS	PEDESTRIAN STOP

---

TOTAL CALLS: 1,608



















**Santa Clara County Receiving Center  
Monthly Statistical Summary  
December 2012**

Total Non-Dependent Intakes—Dec 2012 Non-Dependent children who have been removed from their caregiver and went to the RAIC

Dec2012	Nov2012	Oct2012	Sept2012	Aug2012	July2012	June2012	May2012	Apr2012	Mar2012	Feb2012	Jan2012	Dec2011
52	53	50	46	54	27	32	51	47	31	35	25	34

Non-Dependent - Ethnicity

African Ancestry	17	33%
Asian	7	13%
Caucasian	1	2%
Latino	27	52%
Other	0	0%

Non-Dependent Intake Age Breakdown

<1 yr	4	8%
1-2 yrs	7	13%
3-5 yrs	8	15%
6-10 yrs	12	23%

11-15 yrs	20	38%
16-17 yrs	1	2%
18-20 yrs	0	0%

Non-Dependent Intake - Sibling Groups

2 sibs	6	5 sibs	1	8 sibs	0	
3 sibs	3	6 sibs	0	9 sibs	0	
4 sibs	1	7 sibs	0	10 sibs	0	
					Total # children in sibling groups	30

Total Dependent Intakes—Dec 2012 Dependent children who have been removed from their caregiver and went to the RAIC

Dec2012	Nov2012	Oct2012	Sept2012	Aug2012	July2012	June2012	May2012	Apr2012	Mar2012	Feb2012	Jan2012	Dec2011
16	19	17	11	13	8	7	10	6	12	3	10	2

Dependent - Ethnicity

African Ancestry	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Caucasian	3	19%
Latino	13	81%
Other	0	0%

Dependent Intake Age Breakdown

<1 yr	0	0%
1-2 yrs	1	6%
3-5 yrs	1	6%
6-10 yrs	2	13%

11-15 yrs	6	38%
16-17 yrs	6	38%
18-20 yrs	0	0%

Dependent Intake - Sibling Groups

2 sibs	0	5 sibs	0	8 sibs	0	
3 sibs	0	6 sibs	0	9 sibs	0	
4 sibs	1	7 sibs	0	10 sibs	0	
					Total # children in sibling groups	4

**Total # of Intakes 68**

Total Temporary Custodies- Dec 2012 - Temp Custody covers all children who have been removed from their caregiver but did not go to the RAIC

Dec2012	Nov2012	Oct2012	Sept2012	Aug2012	July2012	June2012	May2012	Apr.2012	Mar.2012	Feb. 2012	Jan. 2012	Dec 2011
30	25	42	18	25	36	38	28	26	30	14	19	26

Temporary Custodies - Ethnicity

African Ancestry	4	13%
Asian	3	10%
Caucasian	2	7%
Latino	21	70%
Other	0	0%

Temporary Custodies - Age Breakdown

<1 yr	9	30%
1-2 yrs	0	0%
3-5 yrs	6	20%
6-10 yrs	4	13%

11-15 yrs	7	23%
16-17 yrs	4	13%
18-20 yrs	0	0%

Temporary Custodies - Sibling Groups

2 sibs	2	5 sibs	0	8 sibs	0	
3 sibs	2	6 sibs	0	9 sibs	0	
4 sibs	0	7 sibs	0	10 sibs	0	
					Total # children in sibling groups	10

Number of Daily Intakes for the month of December 2012

**Total # of Intakes & Temporary Custodies 98**

Su	M	Tu	W	Thur	Fri	Sat
						2
0	5	2	8	2	12	1
2	5	4	4	5	2	1
1	3	5	6	7	4	2
1	0	0	5	3	6	0
0	0					

(in calendar format)

Average Daily Intakes & TC's for the Receiving Center	Dec 2012	Nov 2012	Oct 2012	Sept 2012	Aug 2012	July 2012	June 2012	May 2012	Apr. 2012	Mar. 2012	Feb. 2012	Jan. 2012	Dec. 2011	Nov 2011	Oct 2011	Sep 2011
	3.16	3.2	3.5	2.5	4.8	2.3	2.5	2.9	2.6	2.35	1.97	1.25	2.0	2.0	3.1	2.2

Total Sibling Groups Separated—December

2 sibs	3 sibs	4 sibs	5 sibs	6 sibs	7 sibs	8 sibs	9 sibs	10 sibs	Total # children Separated
3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	21

Number of children who stayed over 24 hours

<1 yr	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	16-17 yrs	18-20 yrs	Total # children
0	1	2	4	3	1	0	11

Placement for Intakes & Temporary Custody

ESH-CFH	ESH-FFA	ESH-GH	Relative NREFM	Runaway	Parents	Hospital	PR Other County	Juv Hall	NYP	SILP	Other
22	17	20	7	1	10	10	1	0	10	0	0