

SAN MATEO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION 222 Paul Scannell Drive • San Mateo, CA 94402

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Contents

Executive Summary	1
JJDPC Authority	2
Mission and Aspirations	2
Diversion Programs	3
The Youth Services Center	4
Other Accomplishments	7
Looking forward to 2023	9
Appendix: Commission Membership	10

Executive Summary

In 2022, the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDPC) focused most of its efforts on two priorities: diverting youth in underserved communities from entering the juvenile justice system and from being transferred to adult court; and improving living conditions for youth who are detained at the juvenile hall in the Youth Services Center (YSC). Most, but not all, of the JJDPC's accomplishments in 2022 were in service of those two priorities.

Major accomplishments in 2022 included:

- launching Peer Point, a new diversion program for cities and schools that do not currently have diversion programs for justice-involved youth, with the support of \$680,000 in new grant funding;
- publishing a detailed report on diversion programs that do exist in San Mateo County and on the inequities in availability of programs across the Cunty;
- passing a resolution opposing the practice of trying youths as adults and advocating for a moratorium on transferring juvenile criminal cases to adult court;
- advising local school boards and non-profits on getting the most out of generous new state funding for after-school care programming;
- improving the living conditions at the juvenile hall by advocating for each youth to receive a pillow and drinking cup upon admission and policy changes to allow youth to post pictures and artwork on the walls of their cells;
- conducting annual inspections of the juvenile hall and other facilities, such as Camp Kemp, that detain youth, and producing another set of detailed recommendations for future improvements; and
- moving forward the work of the Reimagine Juvenile Hall Committee which was created in late 2021 by the Board of Supervisors at the request of the JJDPC.
- Identified and approved a 9-Point Secure Programming recommendation for Secure Track youth housed in our juvenile hall.

The list above does not capture all of the JJDPC's activities in 2022 but does represent some of its most important work. In addition, the Commission continues to meet monthly and provide a forum for the public to be updated by San Mateo County's departments and agencies that are primarily involved in juvenile justice, and to discuss the current state of the County's juvenile justice system. On the last Tuesday of each month at 5:15pm, the JJDPC hears updates and statistics regularly from the Juvenile Court, Probation, the Private Defender Program, the District Attorney, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Court & Community Schools, and Children and Family Services.

JJDPC Authority

San Mateo County's JJDPC is a combination of a state-mandated, court-appointed Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) and a Board of Supervisors-appointed Delinquency Prevention Commission. Resolution No. 070307 of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors established the combined JJDPC as of August 4, 2009.

California Welfare and Institutions Code (CWIC) Sections 225-232 mandate that each California County shall have a JJC. The duty of the JJC is to inquire into the administration of justice in the juvenile courts of the county or region in which the commission serves. The JJC inspects any publicly administered institutions in the county at which juveniles are held. It also inspects any County jail or lockup that has confined any minor for more than 24 hours in the previous calendar year, and may inspect any group home located in the county that serves county wards.

CWIC Sections 233-236 authorizes a county's board of supervisors to establish, support, and maintain a Delinquency Prevention Commission, of not fewer than seven citizens, to coordinate on a countywide basis the work of governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) engaged in activities designed to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Mission and Aspirations

The JJDPC began a multi-year Strategic Plan in May 2020 and revised its Mission and Aspirations at the beginning of 2022. The Aspirations help the JJDPC to focus its efforts and to choose initiatives that will help move San Mateo County closer to fulfilling its ideals.

The Mission of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is to be a public conscience in the best interest of young people. The Commission advocates for programs and services that prevent youth entry into the juvenile justice system, and that provide tools young people need to thrive and succeed in life. The Commission seeks to promote respect for the human dignity of all young people who do enter the juvenile justice system and seeks to preserve their youth.

The JJDPC's Aspirations for our Community are that:

- 1. The voices of communities most likely to be affected by the juvenile justice system, and the organizations that serve them, are heard regularly by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and other appointed and elected officials in the County.
- 2. All youth in San Mateo County, and their families, have convenient, affordable access to high-quality mental health, substance abuse, restorative, and other programs and services they need to promote their health and success.

- 3. All youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system in San Mateo County are provided, from the time they enter the juvenile justice system, with the support they and their families need to thrive and succeed when they transition from the juvenile justice system.
- 4. All schools in San Mateo County apply restorative justice principles and practices comprehensively in classrooms, curricula and policies, and provide students and their families with convenient, affordable access to high-quality programs and resources that strengthen student and parent engagement to ensure every student stays in school and graduates.
- 5. All elementary and middle school children in San Mateo County, especially those in underserved areas, have convenient, affordable access to high-quality programs that engage and support them after school and that provide services to address early childhood trauma as needed.

Diversion Programs

A major focus of the Commission in 2022 was the diversion of justice-involved youth from the usual path of juvenile justice into alternative paths that have proven to be successful at rehabilitating youth while also inflicting less trauma and treating youth more equitably.

At the beginning of 2022, the JJDPC updated its Mission statement to include the phrase "preserve their youth." It is the Commission's belief that any time spent in a locked detention facility, particularly one with locked prison cells like juvenile hall, inflicts trauma on youth and puts the preservation of their youth at risk, even if the time is as short as 24 hours. That trauma is significantly magnified if youth who have committed more serious offenses are transferred to adult court and adult detention facilities. To that latter end, the Commission voted in January 2022 to endorse efforts to keep all youth under 18 in juvenile court and juvenile detention facilities and not to transfer any to adult court or adult facilities.

The "usual" path for justice-involved juveniles in San Mateo County is to be arrested by a city's police department or the county Sheriff's Department, briefly detained by the arresting officers, and assessed as to whether institutional detention is necessary. In most cases, detention is not necessary and a citation is all that is required, but in other cases, a youth will be transferred to the juvenile hall for 24 to 72 hours while they await a hearing to determine whether to be detained further until trial or released pending trial. Once an arresting agency decides a youth needs to be detained and not cited and released, the youth will be locked in a sterile cell for at least one to three days, and a record for the youth will be created in the juvenile justice system.

Diversion programs managed by cities, the Sheriff's Department, or the Probation Department deliberately divert youth from that path by instead offering them an opportunity to make amends for their transgression through restorative practices designed to prevent them from re-offending and promote their future success. Youth in those programs are diverted from detention facilities and court and avoid being

taken out of their home and school community even if only for a brief time. In the case of the cities' and Sheriff's programs, they also avoid the disruption of having a juvenile record. As the <u>March 2022 JJDPC Report on Diversion Programs</u> outlines, "diversion programs are an effective intervention for interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline."

What the JJDPC's report also found, however, is that the accessibility of diversion programs in San Mateo County is uneven and inequitable. San Mateo and Redwood City have diversion programs, and youth arrested by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department in unincorporated areas or cities that contract with the Sheriff for police services are also eligible for the Sheriff's diversion program. However, certain areas of high juvenile justice-involvement, such as East Palo Alto and north county cities such as Daly City and South San Francisco, do not have diversion programs.

Peer Point

In order to address the inequities in availability of diversion programs in the County and disrupt our County's school-to-prison pipeline, and also with the JJDPC's fourth Aspiration in mind of applying restorative justice principles in schools and in juvenile justice programs, the Commission officially designated Peer Point as a project in April 2021. By 2022, Peer Point had gained significant momentum.

Several commissioners on the IIDPC worked on Peer Point, but it began well before 2022, spearheaded by Commissioner Austin Willis, who was also the Chair of the County's Youth Commission. The project initially aimed to establish a "peer court" program that would implement the restorative practices of the Marin County Youth Transforming Justice model, and hoped to secure County funding for that effort. Ultimately, the team designed a broader diversion program, in lieu of County funding they secured \$680,000 of grant funding anchored by a \$500,000 grant from the Gilead Foundation, and they secured the commitment of Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) to operate the program. In collaboration with a large youth team, other Youth Commissioners, and ultimately with FLY, project participants led by Commissioner Melissa Wilson brough Peer Point to life in 2022. In January 2023, Peer Point began running community circles to train youth for restorative circles at Menlo-Atherton High School. In order to realize the vision of diverting all County youth from communities that lack diversion programs and that are historically disadvantaged due to racism, the Commission hopes the County, either through Probation or through a set-aside, will provide future funding.

The Youth Services Center

In 2022, another significant priority for the JJDPC were the living conditions for youth detained at the juvenile hall in the Youth Services Center. One of the primary ways the Commission advocates for improved conditions is through statutorily mandated annual inspections of juvenile detention facilities. In 2022, the Commission followed up on the information and recommendations contained in its 2021 inspection

reports to advocate directly with Probation staff, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services staff, and the Board of Supervisors, including the Reimagine Juvenile Hall Committee which was created by the Board of Supervisors in late 2021 at the request of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission.

The juvenile hall at the Youth Services Center is a 180-bed facility that opened in December of 2006, after a period of rising juvenile crime rates and significant national concern about juvenile crime in the 1990s. It was designed as a prison, with locked jail cells and institutional furnishings. At the time, the San Mateo County Probation Department had also been operating since the 1960s a camp-style facility for boys in La Honda called Camp Glenwood, with less security and more home-like conditions. Soon after the juvenile hall opened, Camp Kemp for girls also opened. Unfortunately, for budget reasons, Camp Glenwood was closed in 2019, and so currently, the only detention option for boys is the juvenile hall. After peaking at an average daily population at all facilities of over 220 youth detained in 2005, the population of the facilities declined steadily over the next 15 years. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reduced these numbers even further. In 2022, the average population was 18.

A particular focus of the inspection of the juvenile hall in 2021, led by Commissioners Johanna Rasmussen and Paul Bocanegra, were conditions in the youth's cells. In interviews with youth and medical staff, the inspection team learned that a persistent medical issue for youth was back pain due to sleeping without pillows on thin mattresses on metal beds with no springs. The team advocated strongly in 2022 for improved conditions in the cells, and specifically asked for thicker, higher quality or double mattresses, the purchase of pillows, providing cups for getting drinking water out of the cells' sinks during periods of locked confinement and policy changes allowing youth to post pictures and artwork on the cells' bare white walls. All of these recommendations were implemented in 2022 in close collaboration with Probation staff.

Another venue for advocating for improvements at the juvenile hall in 2022 was the Reimagine Juvenile Hall Committee which was created in October 2021 by the Board of Supervisors at the request of the JJDPC. The resolution creating the Committee states that its "purpose is to create a plan to modify the current institutional setting at the YSC, so it conveys a more supportive environment for detained juveniles." Commissioner Bocanegra and Chair Monroe Labouisse serve on the Committee along with Mike Callagy, the County Executive; Steve Wagstaffe, the District Attorney; The Honorable Susan Etezadi, the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court; John Keene, the Chief Probation Officer; Ron Rayes, the Managing Attorney in the Juvenile Office of the Private Defender Program; John Fong, Director of Children & Family Services; and Ziomara Ochoa, Deputy Director of the Youth Services Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS).

The Reimagine Juvenile Hall Committee met monthly throughout 2022, and for most of the spring and summer was primarily focused on following the progress of Chief

of Probation, John Keene's discussions in Sacramento on the state budget. Conversations also centered around the newly formed Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR). The OYCR was created in 2021 after the legislature and governor announced the closure of Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities in July 2023, returning youth to their home counties. New funding and additional guidance from the state were anticipated to impact what changes could be implemented at the juvenile hall.

In the final state budget passed in Sacramento, a total of \$100 million was allocated to California's 58 counties for the purpose of updating and renovating their juvenile halls. Approximately \$1.4 million was allocated to San Mateo County. At the end of 2022, Chair Labouisse submitted a memo to the Committee summarizing the JJDPC's recommendations based on the Commission's 2022 inspections. The specific physical changes to the facility recommended in that memo are intended to serve three broader purposes:

- 1. to do more to support the mental health needs of youth in the facility, and to improve their living conditions on the residential units;
- 2. to end the current outsourced food program and develop an on-site food program that can also provide opportunities for youth to gain vocational skills and certificates in food handling and culinary arts; and
- 3. to enable the County to offer regular vocational and fine arts classes over and above what is offered today at Hillcrest High School.

The next steps for the Committee will be to decide how the \$1.4 million is spent in 2023.

During 2022, JJDPC teams consisting of two to four commissioners conducted California state-mandated inspections of San Mateo County's juvenile hall at the YSC, Camp Kemp, as well as Canyon Oaks Youth Center. Separately, a team also inspected the Hillcrest and Camp Kemp school sites. All <u>detailed inspection reports</u> were submitted by Inspection Coordinator Commissioner Rasmussen to the Court and Board of Supervisors in January 2023.

Overall, the three facilities received mostly positive, but somewhat mixed, reviews. The facilities again, as in 2021, received positive reviews for professional and dedicated staff and efforts to provide trauma-informed services designed to provide youth with support, guidance, and structure. The Commission again commended the staff for keeping youth safeguarded against Covid-19 and managing vaccination and testing programs. However, as in prior years, the Commission continues to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the inspection reports such as:

1. Providing dedicated spaces therapeutically designed for youth to receive mental health services from BHRS and other behavioral health professionals.

- 2. Replacing the sub-standard food provided by the Sheriff's Department to the juvenile hall and Camp Kemp facilities, which has resulted in numerous grievances and distress among the youth;
- 3. Reducing sensory deprivation in the cells, improving living conditions in the common areas; and implementing vocational training especially for Secure Track youth who can be held at the juvenile hall until they are 25, and after graduation from high school.

A final comment about the juvenile hall concerns youth who will now be held there for years-long sentences because of the closure of DJJ. There are now youth at the YSC who were committed in 2022 and would have otherwise been transferred to DJJ but were not, and so they will now be spending sentences of multiple years in the juvenile hall at the YSC. This is a new development which the facility and staff will need to accommodate in the future. Comprehensive services to meet these youths' needs are not yet in place. For that reason, in the fall of 2022, the Commission identified and approved a 9-Point Secure Programming recommendation for Secure Track youth housed in our juvenile hall.

Other Accomplishments

In addition to the two major focus areas of diversion and juvenile hall, the Commission also continued important work from previous years and initiated new projects in 2022. Some of the Commission's work included advocating for after-school care programs, continuing to grow the Commission's reach on social media, and lobbying SamTrans to reinstate a bus line to the YSC. Other projects that are expected to continue into 2023 are an investigation into the impact of juvenile gangs in San Mateo County, coordination with other juvenile justice commissions in the state on continuum of care reform, an annual awards program, and pursuit of grant funding for arts programming in juvenile hall.

In 2021, the JJDPC published a report analyzing current after school programs for elementary and middle school children in San Mateo County. Using that report, the project team, led by Commissioner Huber-Levy, advised and consulted with school districts, cities and non-profit organizations in the County in order to encourage them to put to good use the substantial funds approved by the state legislature in 2021. California allocated an additional budget of \$1.75 billion for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) in the fiscal year 2021-2022 along with a one time lump sum funding of \$4.8B that year. The ongoing budget item rose to \$4.3B for 2022-23, and is intended to rise to \$5B in ongoing funding by 2025. The JJDPC's report provided a needed analysis of where there are gaps in programs in the County. It is now up to school districts, cities and non-profits to apply for those funds and create the programming mandated by the State in the ELO-P.

In 2020, the JJDPC completed a Marketing and Communication Strategy to broaden awareness of the Commission in San Mateo County. In 2021, the Commission

appointed Commissioner Rasmussen as Marketing Coordinator. She worked with the County on the development of social media work plans and adopting social media guidelines for Commission usage and then launched JJDPC accounts on Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. In 2022, the Commission continued to grow its reach and engagement on Instagram and Twitter. Recordings of monthly meetings are uploaded onto the County's YouTube channel. Interest in and attendance at JJDPC monthly meetings has also grown over the last two years with the inclusion of remote participants through Zoom. In addition to regular attendance by Commissioners and the approximately ten participants from key agencies named on page 1 of this report, the Commission enjoys the regular attendance of another 15-20 members of the public and other appointed and elected officials in the County.

Commissioners continue to do outreach in underserved neighborhoods and communities by meeting with families, community leaders, civic groups, and elected officials. Commissioners have also been invited and have made appearances at the meetings of other bodies and organizations, including the Board of Directors of SamTrans, the County Board of Education, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), the Social Justice class at Aragon High School, the San Mateo County Childcare Partnership Council, Thrive the Alliance of Nonprofits for San Mateo County, and by making public comment at Board of Supervisors meetings.

To highlight one issue specifically, in November 2022 the JJDPC approved a letter that was sent to the Board of SamTrans advocating for reinstating a bus line to the Youth Services Center that had been discontinued. Through advocacy with families at Juvenile Court, the Commission's court liaison reported that the bus line had been discontinued over the objections of the community and riders surveyed during SamTrans's route evaluation. Commissioners drafted a letter protesting the change, sent it to the SamTrans Board, and made public comment at a SamTrans Board meeting. Since that time, the County Office of Education joined the Commission's efforts to restore the bus service and Commissioners continue in 2023 to meet with representatives from SamTrans.

Looking forward to 2023

The Commission's 2023 priorities will be discussed by Commissioners at their January 2023 and February 2023 meetings, on the last Tuesday of each month. The following ideas are prospects for JJDPC priorities in the coming year.

In 2023, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is likely to continue to advocate for improvements in living conditions for youth detained in juvenile facilities. The Commission believes that there are a number of opportunities left to improve the lives of incarcerated youth, as outlined in the 2022 inspection reports on the juvenile hall, Camp Kemp and the Canyon Oaks Youth Center.

Diversion programs and after-school care programs may be less of a focus in 2023 as the JJDPC has delivered their reports on both topics and has helped deliver and advise on funding for both.

In addition to ongoing work on other projects already named earlier in this report, the Commission may turn its attention to other priorities outlined in the Commission's <u>Aspirations for our Community</u>. For example, a much larger number of children are on probation in San Mateo County than are in detention, and so the Commission may focus attention also on those children, to consider their experience re-entering their schools and communities after detention or their experience on probation if they were never detained or only briefly detained.

Finally, the JJDPC will continue to reach out to individuals and communities in San Mateo County to learn more and stay abreast of developments in the juvenile justice system. Monthly meetings will return to being held in person on the last Tuesday of every month at 5:15pm in the College Heights room in Building 10 at the College of San Mateo, which is located near the Youth Services Center.

Appendix: Commission Membership

The JJDPC is required to consist of at least seven and no more than fifteen members. Two seats are to be occupied by individuals between 14 and 21 years of age, if such individuals are available. As of December 31, 2022, the Commission was composed of the following 12 Commissioners:

- Monroe Labouisse, Chair, was re-elected Chair for 2023. He is a former Silicon Valley executive who is now dedicated to civic and political projects. His tech company jobs included running Customer Service and Trust & Safety for Airbnb, and Consumer Protection for eBay and PayPal. He is now a Mentor to young men on probation through CASA of San Mateo, where he is also a Peer Supervisor, and he is a Mentor through Peninsula Bridge, which supports underserved teens aspiring to go to and complete college.
- Karin Huber-Levy became Vice-Chair, Membership, in addition to Vice-Chair, Administration, when Commissioner Rocsana Enriquez resigned in the fall of 2022. Karin will continue as Vice-Chair, Membership, in 2023. She has a background in corporate law, with experience working in both in-house and private practice, including acting as General Counsel and Corporate Secretary to a major pharmaceutical corporation. She has lived and worked in Canada, the UK, US, and Germany, and has a deep respect and affinity for working with diverse groups and cultures. As a volunteer, she has focused on working with students and is committed to supporting access to education and development opportunities for all youth.
- Wesley Liu, Co-Vice-Chair, Administration is a student at Pacific Bay Christian School in Pacifica. He currently volunteers with the Marin County Peer Court as a youth advocate. He also serves as a Youth Advisory Board member of the California Association of Youth Courts, and he serves as a youth leader at Peer Point. Wesley is also a Commissioner on the county's Youth Commission. He will continue to advocate for restorative justice principles and work to prevent youth entry into the criminal justice system. At school, he is the captain of the Speech and Debate Team.
- Ameya Nori, Co-Vice-Chair, Administration is a student at Menlo-Atherton high school and also a member of the county's Youth Commission where he is the Chair of the Restorative Justice Subcommittee. As a commissioner, he hopes to continue to advocate for community intervention programs that support youth development and divert them from the school-to-prison pipeline.
- **Paul Bocanegra**, is the cofounder of Reevolution Group, a human rights watch officer for the Children's Division of Human Rights Watch, and a certified drug and alcohol counselor. Paul was sentenced to life without parole when he was 16 years old and served more than 25 years in adult prison. He describes himself as a survivor of Juvenile LWOP and the California prison system. Today Paul works to

reform the juvenile criminal justice system by sharing his experiences and struggles within the juvenile and adult systems and institutions.

- Allen Bustos is a second generation Filipinx American born and raised in the Bay Area particularly in Daly City. As a son of immigrant parents he is a first generation college student who has achieved an associates degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and is a Public Health major at San Francisco State University with plans to pursue graduate studies in the Ed.D Educational Leadership program. As a formerly incarcerated individual his efforts are to help bring forth change as a critical educator, restorative justice practitioner, activist, community organizer, and artist, so that there is a pathway to higher education for marginalized populations that is culturally and community responsive.
- Rebecca Flores (on leave from the JJDPC in 2023) is a Human Resources professional at Stanford University. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, Community and Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Public Administration. While in grad school she wrote a policy recommendation for San Mateo County's Sheriff's Office on how to implement evidence-based programs in jails to reduce recidivism rates. Since then she has been very involved in finding resources to support her recommendation. She started her work by joining the San Mateo County Youth Commission, then joined the Commission on the Status of Women. She is committed to serving and educating her community, advocating for underrepresented youth, and providing rehabilitative resources that will support the youth in our juvenile justice system.
- **Sathvik Nori** is a student at Stanford University, and in November 2022 he was elected as a Trustee on the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees. He joined the JJDPC after witnessing as a student at Menlo-Atherton High School the injustice in school discipline that results in the school to prison pipeline. He is interested in issues surrounding education, especially in Juvenile Hall.
- **Johanna Rasmussen** has been advocating for youth and families in San Mateo County for over thirty years. Her advocacy work in the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice System began when her own daughter entered the system at the age of 13. Johanna has worked both locally and on the state level to increase funding for community based mental health, substance abuse, and dual diagnosis programs and services for youth and adults. In addition to her criminal justice reform work, Johanna advocates for underserved community members and families on issues relating to housing, special education, disability, employment and seeks to increase equity and improve transparency at all government levels. Johanna is Chairwoman of the Farm Hill Neighborhood Association in Redwood City and coordinates the Confirmation Program at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.
- Susan Swope retired as Deputy Director, International Information Integrity Institute at SRI Consulting. A JJDPC Commissioner since 2009, Susan has been an active volunteer committed to social justice for over 30 years. As a Lay Chaplain

for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, she has led communion services at the Youth Services Center since 1990. She is a mediator for both the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center and San Mateo Superior Court's Juvenile Offender Mediation programs (since 2010). She served on the board and co-chaired the Restorative Justice Committee for the Society of St Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County. Susan has also facilitated Alternatives to Violence and Conflict Transformation Workshops for the incarcerated, as well as the general community. She is committed to helping youth meet and overcome their challenges, thus enabling them to lead successful, productive lives.

- Appollonia Uhila is founder of Anamatangi Polynesian Voices (APV), a grassroots nonprofit that has been serving the East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks communities since the early 1990s. APV advocates for Pacific Islanders through cultural enrichment, influencing local policies that promote equity and increasing related opportunities throughout the community. Mama Dee also founded Pacific Islander Outreach & Home Study Groups which provided tutoring and after-school activities.
- Melissa Wilson is a former high school teacher, interior designer, and has been volunteering with at-risk youth for the last 17 years through programs at the Youth Service Center and in the community. Her interest in juvenile justice started as a high school student. She served on the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission and saw the limitations in opportunity for court-dependent youth. Her interests are in ensuring that a "system" will support the well-being of youth individually. She is committed to providing youth and their families with resources and information to empower them in what can be a very discouraging experience.

During 2022, the following JJDPC Commissioners resigned in order to pursue other professional or academic opportunities: Steve Duddy, Rocsana Enriquez, Armaan Khare-Arora, Sasha Newton and Austin Willis. In addition, at the beginning of 2022, former Co-Chairs of the JJDPC from 2020-2021 stepped down from the JJDPC.

In addition, the JJDPC welcomed regular attendance at monthly meetings by new representatives from key partner agencies and bodies. The Honorable Chinhayi Cadet was appointed to and joined the Juvenile Court as a Judge. Deputy District Attorney Sharon Cho was elected as a Judge on the Superior Court of San Mateo County and was replaced at JJDPC meetings by Deputy District Attorney Nadia Hahn.

Finally, Zahara Agarwal and Alex Parikh-Briggs are the current JJDPC liaisons from the Youth Commission.