



**SAN MATEO COUNTY**  
**JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION**  
**222 PAUL SCANNELL DRIVE • SAN MATEO, CA 94402**

# **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

**JANUARY, 2024**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**  
**BY**  
**COMMISSIONER MONROE LABOUISE**

## Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>JJDPC Authority</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mission and Aspirations</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sexual Abuse Prevention</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Youth in Detention</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Education and Transition</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Other Accomplishments</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Looking forward to 2024</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Appendix: 9 Point Plan for Secure Track Youth</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Appendix: Commission Membership</b>	<b>12</b>

## Executive Summary

In 2023, the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) focused most of its efforts on two priorities: investigating the policies and procedures of the Probation Department that prevent the sexual abuse of youth in their care; and improving living conditions for youth who are detained at secure facilities in the county, including Camp Kemp and the Juvenile Hall in the Youth Services Center (YSC). Most, but not all, of the JJJPC's accomplishments in 2023 were in service of those two priorities.

Major accomplishments in 2023 included:

- investigating current policies and procedures of the San Mateo County Probation Department to prevent the sexual abuse of youth in their care by the JJJPC's newly-formed Sexual Abuse Prevention Committee, which will be issuing a formal report in 2024;
- investigating how the food at Camp Kemp and the Juvenile Hall is produced and delivered, and why and at what cost, since the quality of the food for youth in detention has been for years the biggest complaint of those youth and the Commission also knows that the cost allocated by the county to food in the Hall is very high;
- producing a detailed initial report on the educational progress of youth in detention by obtaining and thoroughly analyzing a database of MAP test results for children attending Hillcrest School at the Juvenile Hall;
- advocating with the Board of Supervisors for a camp for boys, that would be equivalent to the often-praised Camp Kemp for girls, because there is no camp alternative for boys in detention in San Mateo County despite the fact that more home-like camp programs have been proven to be better ways to prepare youth for a return to their communities;
- beginning an investigation into the success of the transitions of youth back to their communities after detention, by obtaining permission for and reviewing individual transition plans for youth detained in San Mateo County;
- continuing to stay in close touch with staff and residents of Juvenile Hall through regular visits, helping to understand current living conditions at the Hall, and making incremental improvements to the experience of youth in detention there by, amongst other things, delivering care packages of culturally-appropriate hygiene products and celebrating youth's birthdays; and
- conducting annual inspections of the juvenile hall and other facilities, such as Camp Kemp and Canyon Oaks, that detain youth, and producing at the end of the year another set of detailed recommendations for future improvements, to be further investigated and advocated for in 2024 and beyond.

The list above does not capture all of the JJJPC's activities in 2023 but does represent some of its most important work. In addition, the Commission continues to engage with the public, with San Mateo County's departments and agencies that are primarily involved in juvenile justice, and with other outside organizations, at its

monthly meetings. Those meetings returned in 2023 to an in-person format, at a new location on the campus of the College of San Mateo, after nearly three years of meeting on Zoom due to the pandemic. It was a joy to see people in person again! However, the JJDPC does still also continue to broadcast its meetings on Zoom and to make recordings available for the public on YouTube. 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 Mission and Aspirations remained the same in 2023.

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 help the JJDPC to focus its efforts and to choose initiatives that will help move San Mateo County closer to fulfilling its ideals. They 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.

## Sexual Abuse Prevention

A major focus of the Commission at the start of 2023 was the prevention of sexual abuse of youth in detention and on probation in the county. At the end of 2022 and the start of 2023, in order to meet a statute of limitations deadline, a few local attorneys filed civil cases accusing San Mateo County and several of its leaders of negligence in not preventing sexual abuse of youth in detention and on probation in previous years. While the sexual abuse incidents had taken place prior to the tenure of the current leadership of the Probation Department and no confirmed case of sexual abuse by staff had been reported for years, the Commission believed it was necessary, given the public disclosure and press attention on the legal cases, to address the topic of sexual abuse of youth in custody and on probation on behalf of the public.

To that end, the Commission formed a Sexual Abuse Prevention Committee to investigate the current policies and procedures of the Probation Department for preventing the sexual abuse of youth in detention and on probation. The Commission also issued a public statement assuring the public that it regarded the matter as extremely important and announcing the formation of the Committee. A number of members of the public attended Commission meetings to comment on the allegations of negligence.

Over the course of the first few months of 2023, the Sexual Abuse Prevention Committee requested and obtained a number of documents from the Probation Department in order to better understand current policies, procedures and training. The Committee also conducted interviews with command staff, including Chief John Keene. Chief Keene also attended a JJDPJ monthly meeting at the request of the Commission in order to respond to questions from the Commission, on this topic and others.

The Committee agreed to wait to issue a report on its findings until after annual inspections which might produce further information for its investigation. More information will be forthcoming in 2024.

## Youth in Detention

In 2023, as in previous years, another significant priority for the JJDPC were the living conditions for youth detained in secure facilities in the county, such as the Juvenile Hall in the Youth Services Center and Camp Kemp. One of the primary ways the Commission advocates for improved conditions is through statutorily mandated annual inspections of juvenile detention facilities, but also the Commission follows up through the year on the recommendations in prior years' inspection reports.

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 with locked 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 with less security and more home-like conditions, was 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, from which point the population has increased slightly. In 2023, the average population was 21, up from 18 in 2022.

For many years, the top complaint of youth in detention in the county has been that the quality of the food is not good. This concern has especially risen to the Commission's attention since the population of Juvenile Hall and Camp Kemp has fallen to such a degree that the County made the decision not to produce the residents' food any longer at the Juvenile Hall. For years now, the food served at meals at Juvenile Hall and Camp Kemp is produced at the Maple Street Jail and then delivered to, stored at and heated up at Juvenile Hall.

In 2023, the JJDPC decided to spend more time investigating how and why the food at the Hall and Kemp is produced. In addition to conducting interviews with Probation staff, a group of Commissioners led by Commissioner Wilson toured the Maple Street Jail and had conversations with the director of food services. He explained that there are a great many statutory requirements for what food and how much food can be served to youth in detention. Furthermore, the JJDPC sought to understand why so much money is allocated by the County to food services for youth in detention. On a per capita basis, the cost allocation makes the food served extremely expensive. To better understand the cost, as part of the annual inspection of Juvenile Hall, the YSC inspection team obtained from Probation staff cost allocations in the budget. Further inquiry is needed to better understand both the quality of the food and its cost.

Another issue for the Commission regarding youth detention is the lack of a boys camp in the county. This concern was raised in 2022 by JJDPC representatives on 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 stated 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 Labouisse served 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 did not meet as frequently during 2023 as it did during 2022 because money had been allocated in the previous year’s budget for counties around the state to make improvements to their juvenile halls, and the Probation Department spent the early part of 2023 developing its plans for how to spend that money, in consultation with the Reimagine Committee. San Mateo County had been allocated \$1.4 million. Once those plans were developed and underway, the Committee decided to wrap up its work and present the results of their previous year and a half of discussion to the Board of Supervisors in July.

At the July presentation to the Board of Supervisors, Chief John Keene and Commissioner Sathvik Nori, appearing in Chair Labouisse’s stead, laid out plans for changes at Juvenile Hall, but Commissioner Nori, on behalf of the JJDPC, also advocated for the creation of a boys camp in the county. Arguing for the benefits of a home-like environment at a camp, and pointing to the proven success of Camp Kemp for girls, Commissioner Nori asked the Board to take up consideration of creating a camp for boys. Supervisors Corzo and Mueller agreed at the meeting to form a committee to investigate.

In 2023, Commissioners Johanna Rasmussen and Paul Bocanegra continued to lead on efforts to understand ongoing conditions at Juvenile Hall by conducting regular visits with youth there throughout the year. In addition to the aforementioned birthday celebrations and delivery of hygiene products care packages, amongst other incremental improvements they endeavored to provide, they also arranged for a tattoo removal service used by the Redwood City Police Activities League to visit the Hall and provide tattoo removals to youth who wanted it.

Commissioner Rasmussen also led the JJDPC’s inspection process again in 2023, and during the second half of the year, 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 [detailed inspection reports](#) were submitted by Inspection Coordinator Commissioner Rasmussen to the Court and Board of Supervisors at the end of 2023.

Overall, the three facilities received mostly positive, but somewhat mixed, reviews. The facilities again, as in 2022, received positive reviews for professional and dedicated staff and efforts to provide trauma-informed services designed to provide youth with support, guidance, and structure. Canyon Oaks continues to be a model facility for the treatment of youth with significant mental health issues. Camp Kemp, despite being somewhat compromised by its dwindling numbers of residents, staff and therefore resources, continues to be a model program for the rehabilitation of girls. However, as in prior years, the Commission continues to advocate for improvement for residents of Juvenile Hall, and for the implementation of recommendations outlined in the YSC 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. implementing long-term services, for example vocational training and other developmental programs especially for the few, at this point, Secure Track youth most of whom will be held at the juvenile hall until they are 25; and
3. improving the living spaces for youth in the Juvenile Hall units to make them more home-like and therapeutic, as well as improving the food as much as possible -- teenagers need nothing if not good food and comfortable living spaces in order to grow and thrive.

In conclusion, the JJDPCC continues to advocate for improving conditions, and programs and services, for all youth in detention at the Juvenile Hall, but wants to bring particular attention to Secure Track youth. While the average length of stay for youth at the Hall was only 25 days in 2023, an average can be a deceiving way to understand how long youth may stay in our Juvenile Hall. Many youth stay in the Hall for only a few days before being released back to their families on probation. A smaller but significant number of youth stay for much longer, either for months at a time, or in the case of Secure Track youth, for years.

Secure Track youth deserve our particular attention because they will now spend years-long sentences in the Hall due to the closure of the state-run DJJ. In order to thrive and to be ready for a productive life after being released, they will need particular support that San Mateo County is not yet fully prepared to provide. The closure of DJJ is still a relatively new development which the facility and staff are still adjusting to. 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. The JJDPCC still stands behind those recommendations.

## Education and Transition

Inside Juvenile Hall, in addition to living conditions and programs and services administered by the Probation Department, the San Mateo County Office of Education also runs Hillcrest School. Every youth is required by law to receive ongoing education while in detention. After many years of conducting annual inspections of the schools in all facilities in the county that detain youth, Commissioner Melissa Wilson wanted in 2023 also to ask the question: what evidence do we have of how well the schools are educating youth in detention?

In order to provide a data-driven answer to that question, Commissioner Wilson led an effort first to get access to, and then to analyze without exposing any confidential information about the youth in detention, testing data that is regularly collected by the County Office of Education. Specifically, a state-mandated test called MAP is given on a regular basis to all students in public school districts, and students at Hillcrest are not excepted. Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Ameya Nori were able to collect into a database MAP test results over a period of time and to draw some preliminary conclusions.

Based on the information they had and the preliminary analysis they alone were able to perform, the Commissioners have some significant concerns about how much progress students at Hillcrest are making. Acknowledging that there are significant challenges in educating youth with trauma who may be emotionally and psychologically challenged, and also acknowledging that many youth stay at Hillcrest for only a short period of time, nonetheless, they had reasons to be concerned about what progress is being made, and called for further analysis and attention in 2024 by the County to tracking the progress of students at Hillcrest. Their detailed report, delivered in November 2023, can be found on the JJDPC's website.

Further to the JJDPC's Mission, which is in part to provide young people in the system the "tools [they] need to thrive and succeed in life", Commissioner Wilson also led an effort to understand the plans, and the follow through on the plans that are developed, for youth in detention who transition back to their communities. That transition period can be a significant challenge for youth and their families, and their ongoing success is in part dependent on the plan and the support that youth receive for that transition. Like the educational progress project, conducting this investigation required getting approvals for access to sensitive information which needed to be provided without compromising the identity and privacy of youth whose transition plans would be studied. Obtaining that information took some time, and while the team did receive some transition plans to review, they have not yet been able to draw any conclusions. Transition will likely continue to be a focus for the JJDPC going forward, especially in light of potential new uses for Camp Kemp (see "Looking Forward to 2024").

## Other Accomplishments

In addition to the two major focus areas of sexual abuse prevention and youth in detention, the Commission also continued important work from previous years and initiated other new projects in 2023. Some of the Commission's important work included continuing to grow the Commission's reach on social media, participating in a coordinated effort with other juvenile justice commissions in the state to lobby state legislators on continuum of care reform, and lobbying SamTrans to reinstate a bus line to the YSC. In good news regarding that last item, local non-profit the ReEvolution Group, founded by Commissioner Bocanegra, was granted funds by the Board of Supervisors through Measure K to support parents of youth in detention by providing them vouchers for ride sharing services. In addition, ReEvolution also organized parent support groups for the parents of youth in detention.

The JJDPC continues also to serve as a monthly forum for engagement not only with the public and county departments that serve the juvenile justice system, but also with local non-profits and other relevant organizations. Towards that end, in 2023, the Commission added Spanish translation to its meetings. Also, the Commission created a new annual award which it awarded for the first time in 2023 to retiring Institutional Services Manager Chadie Galera from Probation for her career of exceptional service to youth. Finally, in 2023, the Commission returned to welcoming outside organizations for presentations and discussion at its meetings. In addition to welcoming Chief John Keene in April for Q&A, the Commission invited one organization per month to join its meetings until its own work on inspections picked up steam. From May to August, the Commission welcomed Redwood City Together, ReEvolution, the state Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), and local juvenile justice advocacy group In Our Care to present to the Commission and take questions from Commissioners and the public.

Finally, 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 League of Women Voters, the County Board of Education, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), local high schools, and by making public comment at Board of Supervisors meetings.

## Looking forward to 2024

The Commission's 2024 priorities will be discussed by Commissioners at their January 2024 meeting. Final plans for the Commission will be set by Commissioners under the new leadership of Chair Johanna Rasmussen and Vice Chairs Karin Huber-Levy and Ruchi Mangtani.

One concern the Commission had at the end of 2023 which will likely deserve further attention in 2024 is the future of Camp Kemp. Because of a very low population at Camp Kemp, its services were discontinued at the end of 2023, no new girls are being admitted to Kemp, and any girls in detention now reside at the Juvenile Hall. In one of the last JJDPC meetings of the year in 2023, Chief John Keene visited and outlined some possible new uses for Camp Kemp, specifically turning it into an educational space for youth transitioning back to their communities from detention.

As in 2023 and previous years, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is also likely to continue to advocate for improvements in living conditions for youth detained in juvenile facilities, especially Juvenile Hall. As outlined in its inspection reports completed at the end of 2023, there are still many opportunities to improve the lives of youth in detention in San Mateo County.

Finally, as always, 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 continue 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: 9 Point Plan for Secure Track Youth

Since the Resolution opposing Trying Youths as Adults in San Mateo County was passed by the JJDC in January 2022, Commissioners worked to identify evidence-based treatment programming for San Mateo's Secure Track program.

These efforts included:

- Consulted DJJ Expert / Expert Witness (worked DJJ for 25 years ) to identify the programming that has been successful at DJJ and obtain recommendations for implementing them in San Mateo County.
- Toured the Santa Clara County Secure Track facility.
- Met with Ron Reyes and Scott Sherman Private Public Defenders Office.
- Met with the San Mateo County District Attorney, Steve Wagstaffe.
- Met with District Attorneys, Private Defenders, Probation, and JJDC Commissioners in surrounding counties.
- Met with the National Youth Law Center, the organization that was instrumental in implementing Secure Track programming in Santa Clara County.
- Met with system impacted youth and families
- Identified core programming being offered by our statewide counterparts.
- Met with Elected Officials, Community Leaders, Community Members, Organizations, and local Non-Profits to gain their support (hundreds have now signed on to the Resolution).

Through these efforts, we have identified 9 essential core treatment programs we believe should be provided to youth in our Secure Track Program. The evidence based programming we identified includes:

1. Victim Impact
2. Intensive Mental Health Care\*
3. Substance Abuse Treatment
4. Anger Management
5. Restorative Justice
6. Vocations
7. Life Skills
8. Mentorship
9. Parenting Classes

\*provided in designated room(s) that are therapeutically designed for youth receiving intensive mental health treatment and services.

The JJDC believes these programs are vital to both public safety and the successful reentry of our youth back into our community.

## Appendix: Commission Membership

The JJDPC is required to consist of at least seven and no more than fifteen members. At least two seats are to be occupied by individuals between 14 and 21 years of age, if such individuals are available, and the San Mateo County JJDPC has consistently and successfully recruited far more than two.

As of December 31, 2023, the Commission was composed of the following 14 Commissioners:

- **Monroe Labouisse** was re-elected **Chair** in 2023, but he will be stepping down from the Commission after the January 2024 meeting. Leadership of the Commission has been passed to new Chair Johanna Rasmussen for 2024. Monroe 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 young people aspiring to go to and complete college.
- **Karin Huber-Levy** served during 2023 as **Vice-Chair, Membership**. Karin will for 2024 serve as Vice-Chair, Administration, repeating the role that she served in during 2022. 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**, who served during 2023 as **Co-Vice-Chair, Administration**, is a senior in the spring of 2024 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**, who also served during 2023 as **Co-Vice-Chair, Administration**, is a student at Menlo-Atherton high school and also a member of the county's Youth Commission where he was during part of 2023 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.

- **Zahara Agarwal**, is a senior during the spring of 2024 at Menlo Atherton High School and is a member of the San Mateo County Youth Commission where she is currently Vice Chair. Zahara was appointed to the JJDPC in 2023. Prior to then, Zahara worked as a volunteer on the JJDPC Peer Point youth restorative justice-based diversion project, and she is currently active on the Peer Point Executive Board. Zahara has also helped Judge Susan Breall of the SF City and County Superior Court vet applicants to the Civil Grand Jury, and was a member of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's Student Advisory Board, Communications & Technology Subcommittee.
- **Paul Bocanegra**, is the cofounder of Reevolution Group, a human rights watch officer for the Children's Division of Human Rights Watch, a certified drug and alcohol counselor, and currently a candidate for Board of Supervisors from District 4. 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.
- **Whitney Genevro** is a native of San Mateo County and resides in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park. She was elected to the JJDPC in 2023. Whitney graduated with a BA from California State University East Bay and a JD from Golden Gate University School of Law. Whitney currently works as a conflicts attorney for Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto. Prior to attending law school, she worked as a program manager and grant writer for Second Harvest of Silicon Valley for 10 years. A core value of Whitney's is to be supportive of her community – she grew up with a strong volunteer ethic and became a youth leader at 17. She currently volunteers her time as a youth leader at her church, with Project WeHOPE, Bayshore Christian Ministries, is working on a community garden project at Aspire East Palo Alto Charter School and continues to support Second Harvest as a food sort volunteer. She is also a Law Program facilitator with Fresh Lifelines for Youth in Santa Clara County.
- **Steve Grieb** is a retired attorney who recently moved from Kansas to San Mateo. In Kansas, Steve was an advocate for children and for reform in the juvenile justice system. He earned his law degree after retiring from a career in other professions, and in his new career eventually became chief counsel to the Kansas State Supreme Court. Steve was appointed to the JJDPC at the end of 2023 and looks forward to serving his new community as a Commissioner in 2024.
- **Tiffany Uhila Hautau** is the Executive Director 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. Tiffany was elected to the JJDPC in 2023. APV advocates for Pacific Islanders through cultural

enrichment, influencing local policies that promote equity and increasing related opportunities throughout the community.

- **Ruchi Mangtani** is a junior at Menlo School and a passionate student and advocate for criminal justice reform. Ruchi has conducted her own research on juvenile justice and educational systems throughout the United States and has also participated in a government-sponsored visit to adult prisons in Norway which she believes have valuable lessons for how we can reform our prison system in California, San Mateo County and the United States. Ruchi was also appointed to the JJDC at the end of 2023 and she looks forward to serving as a Commissioner in 2024.
- **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 JJDC 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. At the end of 2023, Johanna was elected by the JJDC to be its new Chair for 2024. 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 also Chairwoman of the Farm Hill Neighborhood Association in Redwood City and coordinates the Confirmation Program at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.
- **Ruth Singh** is a long-time resident of San Mateo County and currently resides in San Bruno. Ruth had been volunteering with the Commission prior to her election to the JJDC in 2023 and is committed to applying her first-hand lived experience of the challenges within the Juvenile Justice system to effect positive change for youth in detention in our County. Her experiences over the past year with her daughter, who has been at Camp Kemp, have provided her with unique insight into both the positive benefits and the challenges within the juvenile justice system in our county. Ruth has many years of professional career experience in process improvement and program management. She values working cross-functionally and believes that relationship building is a key factor to effecting change.
- **Susan Swope** retired as Deputy Director, International Information Integrity Institute at SRI Consulting. A JJDC 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.

In addition to the voting Commissioners above, as of November 2023, Tara Sardana and Rikhav Shah will serve the Commission as the new JJDPCLiaisons from the Youth Commission.

During 2023, the following JJDPCLiaisons resigned in order to pursue other professional or academic opportunities: Allen Bustos, Rebecca Flores, Appollonia "Mama Dee" Uhila, and Melissa Wilson.

In conclusion, and in recognition of extraordinary work, a special mention regarding retiring commissioners goes to Melissa Wilson. Commissioner Wilson served the Commission for many years energetically and accomplished a great deal, including leading thorough education inspections annually, completing the analysis of educational progress at Hillcrest described earlier in this report, and being a crucial leader in getting [Peer Point](#), a new diversion program for the county, off the ground in 2022 (see last year's Annual Report). Melissa is a former high school teacher and has been volunteering with at-risk youth for at least 20 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. Despite stepping down from the Commission, Melissa plans to continue volunteering to support the JJDPCLiaisons' projects and to be active in Santa Clara County where she now resides.