



**Juvenile Justice Commission and
Delinquency Prevention Commission
MINUTES of Joint Meeting
January 28, 2025 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.**

I. Preliminary Business

- a. Call to Order: Chair Johanna Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m.
- b. Sukhmani Purewal, County Clerk, gave Instructions for Spanish translation services.
- c. **Commissioners Present:** Chair Johanna Rasmussen, Vice Chair Administration, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice Chair Membership Ruchi Mangtani, Shakeel Ali, Jennifer Blanco, Paul Bocanegra, Whitney Genevro, Ameya Nori, and Kenneth Williams (arr. 5:35pm). Commissioner Klemmer participated online due to illness. A quorum was established.

Commissioners Absent: Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

Staff Present: Sukhmani S. Purewal, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Juvenile Court: Hon. Sharon Cho, Juvenile Court Judge

System Partners Present: Ron Rayes, Private Defender's Office, Darius Parakh, OYCR, John Keene¹, Chief of Probation, Regina Moreno, BHRS, Sarah Notch, County Office of Education, Bill Silverfarb, Legislative Aide to Supervisor David Canepa, Maria Delgado Cruz, FLY, Chrisbet Cortez, FLY, and Jehan Clark, Probation (on Zoom)

System Partners Absent: Sanam Aram, Institutions, Nora Cullen, Probation Services

- d. Commissioner Niklas Klemmer was sworn in by Judge Cho.
- e. Commissioners Huber-Levy, Genevro and Williams were reappointed to the Commission and sworn in by Judge Cho, who administered the Oath of Confidentiality to the Commissioners.

¹ John Keene joined the meeting during the SYTF inspection presentation.



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f. Meeting Agenda and Minutes

- a. **M:** Huber-Levy, **S:** Bocanegra, to approve the Agenda for January 28, 2025. Passed unanimously.
- b. **M:** Huber Levy, **S:** Bocanegra, to approve the November 19, 2024 Meeting and December 10, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes. Passed unanimously.

II. Oral Communications:

(1) Former SMC JJPC Commissioner Melissa Wilson related her concern with feedback from probation officers at a Multi-Disciplinary Meeting for the Secure Track youth she works with in juvenile hall, namely, that all discussion of ‘step-down’ programs are on hold across the board for all youth. Ms. Wilson hopes the juvenile judges and all attending this meeting will take this issue forward.

(2) Jim Lawrence, community member and Board Chair of Fixin’ San Mateo County, commented on the apparent increase in recidivism amongst youth in our county. He questioned whether plans are in place to address these trends, and whether resources in juvenile hall are properly utilized.

III. Updates From System Partners

a. **Private Defender**—two reports:

Nov 19-Dec 24:

- s.602 assignments - 39 cases assigned: 9 detentions, 7 with 707(b)² allegations
- out of custody arraignments - 25 cases: 6 were 707(b) allegations*
- record sealing - 1
- Youth Miranda Rights Hotline - 16 calls received, 16 consultations: 8 youth between 16-17 yrs/ 8 under 15 yrs, 15 youth invoked right to remain silent

² 707(b) Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC): considered serious offences in the criminal justice system.



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Dec 25-Jan 27:

- s.602 assignments - 32 cases assigned: 5 detentions, 2 with 707(b) allegations
-
- out of custody arraignments - 21 cases: 3 were 707(b) allegations
- record sealing - 3
- Youth Miranda Rights Hotline - 13 calls, 13 consultations: 5 youth between 16-17 yrs/ 8 under 15 yrs, 12 youth invoked right to remain silent

b. Probation—

The following reports were provided by email prior to the meeting:

Probation:

- 175 youth on diversion; 189 on supervision (364 in total)
- 25 youth in YSC: 23 male/1 female; two out of county (Sacramento and Santa Clara).
- 9 youth on EMD (electronic monitoring devices): 8 male/1 female, all SMC.

Institutions:

- Total population: 25 youth, 23 male / 2 female
 - 5 male SYTF youth
 - 2 out-of-county youth (1 Santa Clara; 1 Sacramento)
- Racial composition: 18 Hispanic youth/ 5 African American/ 1 Pacific Islander/ 1 Mixed race
- 9 youth on Electronic Monitoring: 1 female/ 8 male (all in county)

Staff:

Ms. Jehan Clarke, Deputy Chief overseeing Juvenile Services, updated the Commission that Mr. Moniy Wade is now the Deputy Chief over Institutions.

Commissioner Rasmussen noted that 3 units are currently operating in juvenile hall: Forest 2, Forest 3, and Pine 4. Also, the Court Clothing Program is continuing, with no concerns forthcoming from the Sheriff's office as had been prior reported.



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- c. **BHRS**— Regina Moreno reported that BHRS now has 2 full-time bilingual, bicultural clinicians working with YSC residents. One clinician left for a position in another agency, and they are hiring for this position. Probation is funding another AOD position for a case manager in juvenile hall providing case management services, discharge planning and resources in the community; once the MOU is completed, the position will be posted.

Regarding the **Justice-Involved Re-entry CalAIM Initiative*** BHRS is working closely with Probation and Correctional Health on pre- and post-release care planning as well as case management within juvenile hall - there will be more to come on this.

***NOTE re CalAIM Initiatives:** On January 26, 2023, California became the **first state in the nation approved to offer a targeted set of Medicaid services to youth and eligible adults in state prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities** for up to 90 days prior to release. Through this Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative, California is taking significant steps to address poor health outcomes in this population by establishing pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment strategies to ensure individuals have **continuity of coverage** upon their release, as well as **access to key services** to help them successfully return to their communities.

- d. **County Office of Education**—Sarah Notch reported that the onsite CTE culinary skills program (three-week master class to confer 1 semester credit (elective) and CA food handler's licence) has finished and was a great success. They are entering the curriculum adoption process; next week they will present the LCAP mid-year update. Also, Ms Notch noted that discussions are underway between COE and probation on how to launch the Paxton Patterson CTE lab modules; Kris Shouse (Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, is managing this for CoE.

- e. **HSA** – Not Present - No report.



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- f. **FLY** – Maria Delgado Cruz reported:
- **Statewide Program:** all youth required to complete community service as conditions of probation are on track to complete by deadline; one has successfully completed probation.
 - **Secure Track:** case manager working with youth inside juvenile hall to support their goals - one receiving personal training certificate; one completed all courses for AA³ degree.
 - **Reentry Services:** Chrisbeth Cortes-Lopez (Re-Entry Case Manager) reported that 4 youth are currently employed; one is at CSM and on track for AA degree in Spring; one youth is doing a policy fellowship with FLY and looking forward to advocating for youth justice (and interested in getting involved with JJDC)

IV. 2025 Officer Elections

Status of Nominations received to date:

- Chair: Johanna Rasmussen
- Vice Chair, Administration: Karin Huber-Levy (Commissioner Blanco's nomination was withdrawn)
- Vice Chair, Membership: Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

Commissioner Uhilo-Hautau was not able to attend this meeting due to illness. The appointment of Vice-Chair, Membership will take place when the nominee is present in person.

M: Bocanegra, **S:** Genevro, to appoint Johanna Rasmussen to Chair, and appoint Karin Huber-Levy to Vice-Chair, Administration for 2025. Passed unanimously.

³ **AA Degree:** An AA, or Associate of Arts, is a two-year undergraduate degree that provides a foundation of general education and career skills; it is a general studies degree that can prepare students for the workforce or transfer to a four-year university.



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V. 2023-2024 Facility Inspection Reports

A. Camp Kemp:

Commissioner Rasmussen reported on behalf of the inspection committee team (herself, Commissioner Williams, and former Commissioner Jackson) on the inspection conducted August 6, 2024. No youths were present at the time of the inspection visit; the last residential program participant phased out in October 2023. The facility remains vacant at a cost to the County of over \$1.8M annually.

The concern is to ensure the facility is maintained while vacant so as not to decline and become unusable. The Commission recommends that a feasibility study be conducted to consider other uses, such as a SYTF, Less Restrictive Placement program, in-patient substance abuse treatment program, transitional age youth shelter or housing program for unhoused dual status or probation youth aged 16-24 years.

The team will reach out to Supervisor Canepa to bring this to the Board of Supervisors' attention as soon as possible. Commissioner Bocanegra noted that Camp Kemp has the capacity to house 30 youth, and it is unacceptable to not consider an alternative use for this facility.

Public Comment: Arnold Morales, community member, inquired why the annual cost of the facility is so high while not operational (debt-service payments). Becca Kieler, community member, noted how wonderful these facilities are and that it would be a crime and unconscionable from a taxpayer perspective to let them decline and not use them when there is so much need.

Reymundo Armendariz, NCYL, noted that SB 823 requires there to be Less Restrictive Placement options, and this facility should be used as a local opportunity for this purpose.

Ron Rayes, Private Defender Office, noted that the concept of using this facility as an option for less restrictive placements has been discussed with Probation for quite some time. Using Camp Kemp as a step-down facility is the only logical way to move forward and we should work in a coordinated manner to ensure this happens.



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Nancy Goodban, community member from Redwood City, thanked the Commission for the reports and noted it is unacceptable to spend taxpayer money on an empty facility while there is so much need for services for youth. Also why has there been no action on outstanding recommendations for youth in juvenile hall from prior years, and no agreement to permit youth to go to Pine Grove; why not invest in treatment and rehab services for youth to prevent problems arising in the hall.

Pat Willard, Peninsula Anti-Racism Coalition, noted that in order to seek public support there should be more precise recommendations for alternative uses of the facility for youth in the community.

Darius Parakh, Bay Area Liaison for the Office of Youth and Community Restoration offered his assistance and support to the Commission.

M: Huber-Levy, **S:** Bocanegra, to approve the Camp Kemp Inspection Report, with the addition of date programs ceased. Passed unanimously.

B. Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF): This is the first year for a report on the facilities and programming for Secure Track youth within the Youth Services Center. The Secure Youth Treatment Facility in juvenile hall was created in response to SB 823 (closed California's youth prisons as of July 1, 2021, shifting responsibility for rehabilitating serious youth offenders to counties). Our Secure Track youth population increased from 1 last year, to 5 youths in 2024, meriting a distinct report. We expect an increase of 3-4 additional youth in 2025. The average length of stay for Secure Track youth is 3.7 years.

The SOARR (Success and Opportunities Aspiring Readiness for Reentry) program was created in 2021 to support the SYTF and operates in the Pine 4 housing unit within juvenile hall. Pine 4 also houses other juvenile hall youths; the differing needs make it difficult to provide appropriate focus and programming for SOARR youth while housed with other youth.

One of the key recommendations in this report is to open a separate unit specifically for Secure Track youth.



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Other recommendations include:

- create a SOARR handbook for youth and their families;
- provide a clear statement of the rules and expectations of the program;
- provide a clear understanding of less restrictive placement options and process;
- organize Family Nights on a monthly basis; and
- resume in-person visits by approved visitors.

The requirements of the Youth Bill of Rights was reviewed, and further recommendations made to unhold its intent and purpose.

Public Comment: Chief John Keene, Probation (calling in from medical leave) commented that probation's goal is to provide a safe, secure restorative process for youth in detention; they try to work with transparency and provide accurate information. Putting an MOU in place for Pine Grove fire camp is not an issue, however first the court must propose someone for the program, and it will have his full support. He looks forward to working together to resolve any perceived lapses on a case-by-case basis.

Niklas Klemmer, new Commissioner and current student at Menlo-Atherton high school, commented that dozens of students returning to MA from court schools are very disadvantaged and without the resources needed to thrive. He questioned what is being done to ensure education while incarcerated is adequate to prepare them for reentry to home school.

Arnold Morales, parent of a youth recently released from juvenile hall, commented that further reentry support is needed and preemptive step-down programs are critical to ensure reentry will be successful.

Becca Kieler commented on her concern that recommendations from past reports are not being followed up on. Beth von Emster submitted a written comment regarding her concerns with conditions in juvenile hall.

Former Commissioner Melissa Wilson commented on her direct experience with youth in the hall citing several issues which contravene the Youth Bill of Rights, and voiced the need for critical changes in response to these issues.



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M: Bocanegra **S:** Huber-Levy, to approve the SYTF Inspection Report. Passed unanimously.

VI. 2024 Annual Report

The Annual Report of the Commission for 2024 was provided for review in the agenda packet.

M: Klemmer **S:** Bocanegra, to approve the 2024 Annual Report of the Commission, with revisions for minor corrections. Passed unanimously.

VII. Operating Policies

M: Bocanegra **S:** Huber-Levy, to move review and approval of Operating Policies to February meeting. Passed unanimously.

VIII. Announcements

- Commissioner Blanco informed Commissioners of two upcoming events of interest:
 - The OYE Latinx Youth Conference 2024 on March 22 from 8:30am-2pm at Canada College
 - United for Youth Summit for Partnerships in Education: U4Y - Harnessing Cultural Wealth for Youth Behavioral Health & Healing on February 13.

Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm.