



Juvenile Justice Commission  
Delinquency Prevention Commission

**Joint Meeting**  
July 29, 2025  
5:15 p.m.

Location and Public participation instructions attached

**AGENDA**

Note: Commissioner Johanna Rasmussen will participate via teleconference from 10301 Field Lane, Forrestville, Ca. 95436

*Public comment will be accommodated under Item II for items not on the agenda. The Commission requests that members of the public, who wish to comment on items on the agenda, submit a request to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting or raise their hand to speak, so that they may be recognized at the appropriate time.*

**I. Preliminary Business**

- a. Call to Order
- b. Translation Services for JJDPC meetings
- c. Roll Call and Establish Quorum
- d. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - May 27, 2025
  - June 25, 2025
- e. Agenda Review and Approval

**II. Oral Communications - Public Comment**

*This item provides an opportunity for public comment on items not on the agenda (Time limit – three (3) minutes per person. There will be opportunity for public comment on agenda items as they are considered.*

**III. Updates from System Partners**

- a. Private Defender Program – Ron Rayes
- b. District Attorney – Nadia Hahn
- c. Probation Department – Ivonne Bustos & Becky Powers
- d. County Office of Education – Sarah Notch
- e. Behavioral Health & Recovery Services-Rahena Moreno
- f. Fresh Lifelines for Youth: Tati Castenada Chisbet Cortez
- g. HSA–Children & Family Services – John Fong

Hon. Susan Etezadi  
Presiding Judge  
Juvenile Court

David Canepa  
Board of Supervisors  
District 5

Judith Holiber  
Deputy County Counsel

Commissioners

Johanna Rasmussen  
Chair

Karin Huber-Levy  
Vice Chair  
Administration

Whitney Genevro  
Vice Chair  
Membership

Shakeel Ali

Jennifer Blanco

Paul Bocanegra

Niklas Klemmer

Asteris Ling

Ameya Nori

Trena Patton

Jiya Venkatesh



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Jiya Venkatesh

**IV. Presentation: Fortitude Careers - Nicole Davis**

**V. 2025 Canyon Oaks Youth Center Inspection Report**

- a. Report Presentation
- b. Commission Discussion
- c. Action: Vote to Approve

**VI. 2025 Inspection Updates**

- a. Juvenile Hall / Secure Youth Treatment Facility: Rasmussen
- b. Elysian/ San Mateo County Receiving Home: Genevro
- c. Education: Court and Community Schools: Huber-Levy

**VII. Project Updates**

- a. MultiMedia Project: Newsletter, Podcast, and Blog: Ling

**VIII. Matters of Commissioner Interest**

**IX. Announcements**

- a. August Meeting Location
- b. Annual Retreat

**X. Adjournment**



Juvenile Justice Commission  
Delinquency Prevention Commission

**Joint Meeting**

July 29, 2025

5:15 p.m.

**Public Participation Instructions**

**Join In Person**

**Meeting Location**

Manzanita Hall  
500 County Center, 1st Floor  
Redwood City, Ca. 94063

The only entrance to Manzanita Hall is located outside of the building, on the side of the building facing Marshall Street.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/93597883906>

**Webinar ID: 935 9788 3906**

**Spanish translation services are available via Zoom videoconference**

If you wish to speak to the Commission during public comment, you may raise your hand using Zoom with the Reactions button at the bottom of your screen, or indicate that you would like to speak if you are attending in person. If you have any materials that you wish distributed to the Commission and included in the official record, please send them via email to [sanmateojdpc@gmail.com](mailto:sanmateojdpc@gmail.com), prior to the meeting and attach the materials.

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 5:15 p.m.**

**Location To Be Announced**

Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact Connie Juarez-Diroll [cjuarez-diroll@smcgov.org](mailto:cjuarez-diroll@smcgov.org) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable the county to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and the materials related to it. attendees to this meeting are reminded that other attendees.

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Presiding Judge  
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Asteris Ling

Ameya Nori

Trena Patton

Jiya Venkatesh



**Juvenile Justice Commission and  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
MINUTES of Joint Meeting  
May 27, 2025 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.**

**I. Preliminary Business**

- a. Call to Order: Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.
- 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, Whitney Genevro (participating by Zoom), Shakeel Ali, Jennifer Blanco, Paul Bocanegra, Niklas Klemmer, Asteris Ling, Ameya Nori, and Jiya Venkatesh

**Commissioners Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Sukhmani Purewal, County of San Mateo, Clerk's Office

**Juvenile Court:** Judge Sharon Cho

**System Partners Present:**

Private Defender's Office - Ron Rayes  
District Attorney's Office - Nadia Hahn  
Probation - Chief John Keene, Ivonne Bustos, Becky Power  
OYCR (Office of Youth and Community Restoration) - [absent]  
BHRS (Behavioral Health & Recovery Services) - [absent]  
County Office of Education - Sarah Notch  
FLY (Fresh Lifelines for Youth) - Melissa Poling  
Children & Family Services - [absent]  
Youth Liaison - [absent]

**d. Meeting Agenda and Minutes**

- a. **M:** Bocanegra **S:** Klemmer, to approve the Agenda for May 27, 2025. Passed unanimously.
- b. **M:** Huber-Levy **S:** Ling, to approve the April 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Passed, J. Blanco dissenting.

**e. Vote on the Candidacy of Trena Patton**

**M:** Genevro, to approve the candidacy of Trena Patton for Commissioner. Passed unanimously.

**II. Oral Communications-Public Comment:** none



**Juvenile Justice Commission and  
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**III. Updates From System Partners - reports for April:**

- a. Private Defender - Ron Rayes:**
- s.602 assignments - 33 cases assigned: 6 detentions, 4 with 707(b)<sup>1</sup> allegations
  - out of custody arraignments - 22 cases: 6 with 707(b) allegations
  - record sealings - assisted with 3 cases (after probation terms completed, youth qualified to have records sealed under WIC 786 or 781)
  - Youth Miranda Rights Hotline - 17 calls from arresting law enforcement agencies, 17 consultations:
    - 8 youth aged 16-17 yrs/ 9 under 16 yrs;
    - all 17 minor youth elected to remain silent
- b. District Attorney - Nadia Hahn, for the period April 30-May 27:**
- 29 filings: 18 felony; 10 misdemeanor; 1 infraction; 3 cases rejected
  - **Staffing update:** Jasmin Tabi has joined as new DA in juvenile division, taking over the caseload of Aaron Fitzgerald who has moved to a different unit
- c. Probation**— Ivonne Bustos, Becky Power provided updates as of last day of month:
- (I) Juvenile Services - 360 total youth on Probation:**
- 7 Probation Officers
  - Supervision: 190
  - At Court: 124
  - Diversion: 46
  - Gang orders:12
  - 1 placement

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<sup>1</sup> 707(b) Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC): considered serious offences in the criminal justice system (robbery, murder, attempted murder).



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- Demographics:
  - Ethnicity: 21 Asian/31 Black/194 Hispanic-Latino/ 15 Pacific Islander-Hawaiian/35 White/ 64 Other-Unknown
  - Gender: 274 male/ 85 female/ 1 transgender
  - 4 cities overrepresented:
    - Redwood City: 62
    - San Mateo: 56
    - East Palo Alto: 46
    - Daly City: 33
    - Out of County: 47

**(II) Institutions:**

- Juvenile Hall: 33 youth - 30 male/3 female (three housing units)
  - Felony charges: 27 male/ 2 female
  - Misdemeanor charges: 3 male/ 1 female
  - 4 out-of-county (2 Santa Clara; 2 San Francisco)
  - Ethnicity: 26 Hispanic/Latino/3 African American/2 Pacific Islander, Hawaiian/2 Other
  - Avg daily population - 30 pre-disposition/3 post-disposition males & 3 pre-disposition females
  - Avg length of stay: 28 days
  - For month: 11 bookings (3 out of county); 16 releases
- Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF): 4 male youth on post-disposition felony charges
- EMP (electronic monitoring program): 13 youth
  - 12 male/1 female
  - Felony offences: 6 male
  - Misdemeanor offences: 4 male/ 3 female
  - Pre-disposition: 6 male/ 1 female
  - Post-disposition: 4 male/1 female
  - 9 in county referrals/ 0 out of county referrals
  - Avg daily # youth - 12: pre-dispo: 6 male/1 female; post-dispo: 4 males/1 female
  - Avg length on EMP: 54 days
  - Ethnicity: 12 Hispanic/Latino; 1 Other



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- 10 successful completions on EMP

**d. County Office of Education - Sarah Notch:**

- Hillcrest School graduation is taking place tomorrow (May 28th) from 2-3:30pm, and for the first time there will be students graduating from both high school as well as community college associate's degree programs.
- School configuration: three sections are currently running at Hillcrest School:
  1. Group A: 9 students - 3 x 9th, 3 x 10th, 3 x 11th
  2. Group B: 9 students - 1 x 8th, 4 x 10th, 3 x 11th, 1 x 12th
  3. CARE Class: 6 students - 1 x 8th, 1 x 9th, 3 x 10th, 1 x 11th

Students are placed in the CARE Class if they have non-association orders or safety concerns with students in the other groups, or if they require a smaller learning environment to meet their needs.

The incoming Principal for Court & Community Schools, Freedom Siam, has 25 years of experience. There will also be an Assistant Principal hired for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Notch confirmed that she will continue to be the contact person for scheduling the JJC school assessment visits in September.

Commissioner Blanco raised the issue that, to her knowledge, Project Change is not planning to provide an ethnic studies course option for Hillcrest in the Fall term. Ms. Notch stated that she will follow up with Project Change and ensure it will be covered. She noted that it was her understanding that the ethnic studies course was to be provided as a dual enrollment option.

- e. FLY (Fresh Lifelines for Youth):** Melissa Poling presented an update on case management - there are currently 11 youth in their caseload, 1 female and 10 males. Three are charged with s707(b) offenses, and 8 are committed to SYTF; the case manager is on the unit with them for three days per week; they are working on a workshop series for newer youth on SYTF, and building out their credible messenger program. For the Re-Entry program, the third case manager has now started. They held a job readiness program last week with 6



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Re-Entry youth attending, and will be attending an event with Brian Stephenson (Equal Justice Initiative) next week in San Francisco.

**Public Comment:** Judge Cho announced this will be her final JJDPCC meeting as she is moving into a different assignment out of Juvenile Court. Judge Cho commended the Commission for their work exemplifying the heart and spirit of the work we all do, that is aiming to address issues and causes collaboratively and in partnership with one another, answering and in service to the public. She wished all of the Commissioners the best.

**IV. Presentation on “Today’s Future Sound” - rescheduled to September 2025.**

**V. Project Updates**

- a. **Handbook, “How to Help your Child After an Arrest”:** Chair Rasmussen asked for volunteers to update and revise this publication. Funds are to be provided by Supervisor Canepa to cover costs of republishing. Commissioners Klemmer, Nori, Bocanegra and Huber-Levy volunteered to assist with this.
- b. **Brochure, “When you Turn 18 - A Legal Survival Guide”:** This was published by the state bar years ago. Chair Rasmussen requested volunteers to help revise this publication to update it and make it relevant. Commissioners Venkatesh, Bocanegra and Ling volunteered to assist with this. Commissioner Nori noted that it would be useful to also provide translation to other languages like Tagalog, Polynesian languages.
- c. **Commission Newsletter:** Commissioners Venkatesh, Klemmer and Ling are interested in working on a multi-media newsletter project to update the community on Commission work, provide relevant information to families and justice-impacted youth, and to inform the community of relevant issues and updates in the juvenile justice space. Commissioners Huber-Levy and Genevro also offered to assist.

**VI. 2025 Inspections Updates**

Chair Rasmussen announced the Inspection Teams for this inspection cycle. Juvenile Hall inspection days are scheduled for July.



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**VII. Liaison Updates**

- a. **JJCC:** Chair Rasmussen sits on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, and provided an update on the Local Action Plan for Youth (2025-2030), and the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Plan. Highlights: the plan now includes attending college and living in dorms as a least restrictive option for detained youth, and credible messengers. Chair Rasmussen shared that this plan was the best she had seen to date: the plan has been improving each year and this represents the most comprehensive plan yet. The plan is included in the agenda packet, along with the most recent LAP data.
- b. **Education:** Commissioner Blanco reported that the Commission Education Committee (Commissioners Blanco, Klemmer, Ali, Huber-Levy) has met to discuss issues. She also met with OYCR representatives to discuss the reports presented to the JJCC, and requested a special study session for the Commission to create a more robust dialogue with the JJCC. Chair Rasmussen suggested scheduling this for next January/February to align with the timing of the JJCC process regarding the LAP review and Realignment Block Grant Plan approval (refers to SYTF youth).

For Education planning, Commissioner Blanco suggested appointing school district liaisons (North/Central/South areas) within the Commission as a whole to promote closer interactions with each of the 23 school districts in our county. She also would like to continue planning to host a county-wide youth justice conference next year as a project. Chair Rasmussen noted that the Commissioners with specific education knowledge and experience will be in the best position to act as liaisons with school districts.

**VIII. Announcements**

Commissioners provided information on timing and location of numerous relevant events and webinars happening over the next month in our county.

Chair Rasmussen also announced that SamTrans is launching a \$40 youth summer transit pass for unlimited transit rides throughout the summer.

Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.

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Submitted: 6/27/25, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice-Chair, Administration



**Juvenile Justice Commission and  
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June 24, 2025 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.**

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Johanna Rasmussen, Vice Chair Administration, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice Chair Membership, Whitney Genevro, Shakeel Ali, Jennifer Blanco (joined 5:25pm), Paul Bocanegra, Niklas Klemmer, Asteris Ling, Trena Patton, and Jiya Venkatesh

**Commissioners Absent:** Ameya Nori

**Staff Present:** Sukhmani Purewal, County of San Mateo, Clerk's Office

**Juvenile Court:** Hon. Susan Etezadi, Presiding Judge Juvenile Court

**System Partners Present:**

Private Defender's Office - Ron Rayes

District Attorney's Office - Nadia Hahn

Probation - Moniae Wade, Becky Power

OYCR (Office of Youth and Community Restoration) - [absent]

BHRS (Behavioral Health & Recovery Services) - Regina Moreno

County Office of Education - Sarah Notch provided email report

FLY (Fresh Lifelines for Youth) - Melissa Poling, Luc Gnamien

Children & Family Services - [absent]

**I. Preliminary Business:**

- a. **Call to Order:** Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm.
- b. **Translation Services:** Sukhmani Purewal, County Clerk, gave instructions for Spanish translation services.
- c. **Swearing In of New Commissioner:** Trena Patton was sworn in as JJDPCC Commissioner by Judge Etezadi.
- d. **Agenda Review and Approval:**  
**M:** Bocanegra **S:** Huber-Levy, to approve the Agenda for June 24, 2025.  
Passed unanimously.

**II. Oral Communications-Public Comment:**

Rocsana Enriquez, former SMC JJDPCC Commissioner, commented regarding the need for accessible mental health services for youth in crisis, and described her personal experience with her son, noting that no in-county services were available for them and outdated provider information was given to them. Ms Enriquez advocated for early mental health intervention that is accessible and timely to support youth in crisis.



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**III. Updates From System Partners - reports for May:**

**A. Private Defender - Ron Rayes:**

- s.602 assignments - 38 cases assigned: 15 detentions, 6 with 707(b)<sup>1</sup> allegations
- out of custody arraignments - 20 cases: 2 with 707(b) allegations
- record sealings - assisted with 7 cases (after probation terms completed, youth qualified to have records sealed under WIC 786 or 781)
- Youth Miranda Rights Hotline - 18 calls from arresting law enforcement agencies, 17 consultations:
  - 12 youth aged 16-17 yrs/ 6 youth 15yrs and under - **NOTE: next month, data to be provided for youth under 14 yrs old**
  - all youth elected to remain silent

**Court update:** a decision was taken by the County, without the agreement of the juvenile court or system partners, to reduce court resources. Judge Cho has been reassigned to adult court. There will now be only one full-time juvenile court judge (Judge Etezadi) and one part-time (2 days per week) judge (Judge Jakubowski, a former juvenile court judge).

The impact of this will likely be felt in longer wait times for hearings, trials being reassigned to Redwood City Courthouse, and cases taking longer to complete as attorneys will need to be present in court in two locations. System partners were not asked for input into this decision and are not happy about this reduction in court resources.

**B. District Attorney - Nadia Hahn, for the period May 28-June 24:**

- 39 filings: 23 felonies/misdemeanors; 15 misdemeanor/infractions; 1 infraction.

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**c. Probation**— Becky Powers, Moniae Wade provided updates as of May 30:

**(I) Juvenile Services:**

- 358 youth on Probation (9 Probation Officers)
  - On Supervision: 196
  - At Court: 126
  - On Diversion: 36
  - 12 Gang orders
  - 1 placement
- Demographics:
  - Ethnicity: 99 Black/197 Hispanic-Latino/62 Other-Unknown
  - Gender: 269 male/ 88 female/ 1 transgender
  - cities overrepresented:
    - Redwood City: 64
    - San Mateo: 57
    - Out of County: 47

**(II) Institutions:**

- Juvenile Hall: (three housing units)
  - 29 youth as of May 30 - 28 male/1 female
  - 37 youth as of today - 34 male/ 3 female
    - Felony charges: 27 male
    - Misdemeanor charges: 1 male/ 1 female
    - 4 out-of-county (2 Santa Clara; 2 San Francisco)
    - **Ethnicity**: 21 Hispanic/Latino/ 3 African American/ 1 Pacific Islander-Hawaiian/ 2 White/ 2 Other
    - **Avg daily population**: 29 - 23 pre-disposition/4 post-disposition males & 1 pre-disposition female/ 1 post-disposition female
    - **Avg length of stay**: 74 days
    - For May: 23 bookings - 17 in county, 6 out of county; 21 releases
- Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF): 8 youth
  - 7 male/ 1 female



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- EMP (electronic monitoring program): 9 youth as of May 30; 11 youth as of today:
  - Felony offences: 1 male
  - Misdemeanor offences: 5 male/ 3 female
  - 5 in-county referrals (no out-of-county referrals)
  - 7 successful EMP completions
  - **Avg daily # youth** - 12: pre-dispo: 6 male/1 female; post-dispo: 4 males/1 female
  - **Avg length on EMP**: 35 days
  - Ethnicity: 9 Hispanic/Latino

**d. County Office of Education** - Sarah Notch was unable to attend due to a family emergency, but provided an email report:

- School is currently on break between summer sessions, and there is not too much to update.
- Further to Commissioner Blanco's question from the last meeting regarding an ethnic studies course to be offered to Hillcrest students through Project Change in Fall '25, Ms Notch confirmed that per the Project Change Internal Operations meeting notes and her confirmation with Aaron McVean, the ethnic studies course option for Hillcrest students will definitely be provided through Project Change next year.
  - Commissioner Blanco has heard that the dedicated teacher for this course is no longer available and agreed to follow up with Ms. Notch directly to confirm the status.
- Additionally, COE are gearing up for the second summer session at Hillcrest and will be running an Exploring Careers CTE program in addition to the traditional summer schedule.

**e. BHRS (Behavioral Health and Recovery Services):** Regina Moreno announced that Ornit Shohan is stepping away from her position for personal reasons and they are actively recruiting to fill this position. Also, BHRS has hired a new clinician, starting 7/21/25 in the hall. Commissioner Rasmussen asked about the status of hiring the AOD clinician funded by Probation; Ms Moreno is also actively recruiting for this position.



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**F. FLY (Fresh Lifelines for Youth):**

Melissa Poling presented an update on the Re-Entry Program: 26 youth are currently in the program and they are trying to enroll 5-10 more youth by cycling them in off of the waitlist. Two events were held in the final two weeks of this fiscal year: 4 youth attended an Alcatraz tour, and they had a Korean BBQ evening.

For SYTF case management: there are currently 11 youth in the (full) caseload, 1 female and 10 males. Students are creating a project in collaboration with a UC class on Odysseus, facilitated with a college professor teaching on Zoom.

Commissioner Ali asked if Commissioners could attend the students' presentations planned for the second week in July, and Ms Poling agreed to follow up on this. Commissioner Rasmussen inquired as to the successful implementation of computer access which was confirmed by Ms Poling to have gone smoothly.

**Public Comment:** Melissa Wilson, former JJDPC Commissioner, commented that she would like to hear from BHRS on their thoughts regarding Rocsana Enriquez' comments on accessing mental health services. Ms Regina Moreno of BHRS advised that she would be following up with Chair Rasmussen.

**IV. Presentation: Peer Point Diversion Program (Fresh Lifelines for Youth):**

Melissa Poling, Director for SMC FLY, and Luc Gnamien, Peer Point Program Manager, presented an overview of the Peer Point program in San Mateo County.

Peer Point is a restorative justice-based diversion program currently operating as a pilot program in high schools, seeking to divert youth from the juvenile justice system. The objective of the program is to provide alternatives to school suspension and arrest, and incorporates training youth to understand restorative justice practices, including taking accountability, healing and personal growth.

A recording of the presentation may be viewed here: [JJDPC Video - June 24, 2025](#). A copy of the presentation is also attached to these minutes.



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**V. 2025 Inspections Updates**

Chair Rasmussen announced that the dates for the Youth Services Center/ Juvenile Hall/SYTF inspections are scheduled for July 21st through 23rd.

The Educational Evaluations will be take place in September, when Canyon Oaks School and Hillcrest School are back in session.

**VI. Liaison Updates:**

- a. **Therapy Dog Program:** Commissioner Klemmer is progressing discussions to support a proposal for a therapy dog program in Juvenile Hall.
- b. **JJDPC Newsletter:** Commissioners Klemmer, Venkatesh & Ling discussed the team's progress to date working on a multi-media plan to incorporate email updates, blogs, podcasts and social media. A stated objective of this project is to promote a culture of compassion. All Commissioners are invited to contribute.
- c. **SF Juvenile Probation Commission:** Chair Rasmussen presented the resolution opposing the transfer of any youth to adult criminal court to this Commission, and the resolution passed unanimously. The DA in SF has filed 5 transfer requests in the past 10 months.
- d. **SF Juvenile Justice Commission:** Chair Rasmussen and Commissioner Bocanegra attended the Commission meeting with Mr. Arnold Morales, parent of a justice-involved youth, to present the resolution opposing the transfer of any youth to adult criminal court. As the Commission did not have a quorum that evening, the matter was referred to the next month's meeting for a vote.

**VII. San Mateo County Budget Update:**

A copy of the relevant sections of the County's Public Safety Budget was appended to the meeting agenda package for review. Chair Rasmussen noted that the budget included a kiosk at the Youth Services Center for ease of paying fines, however she noted that this location is not easily accessed by many families.



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**Public Comment:** Celina, a rising junior at Menlo School inquired as the progress made in preventing youth charged with crimes from being tried in adult criminal court. Chair Rasmussen provided an overview of the considerations and progress made to date and Commissioner Huber-Levy offered to share a paper detailing the changes in legislation which have supported the current status of requiring robust transfer hearings where the DA must prove that a youth is not capable of rehabilitation in the juvenile justice system before a judge will grant the order to require a transfer to adult court.

**VIII. Annual Retreat Planning Session**

Due to several conflicts with the August 9th date, a new date for the retreat needs to be set - a survey will be sent to Commissioners to find a date in September for the annual one day retreat.

**IX. Matters of Commissioner Interest**

- Chair Rasmussen shared that the OYCR website includes two new reports:
  - Please Don't Give Up on Us: Stories from Children & Youth Incarcerated in California ([https://oycr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/346/2025/06/OYCR-Report\\_Part\\_1-3\\_Accessible\\_6\\_16\\_25.pdf](https://oycr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/346/2025/06/OYCR-Report_Part_1-3_Accessible_6_16_25.pdf)); and
  - SYTF dashboard to track the number of youth in SYTF programs across the state ([California Youth Committed to a SYTF - OYCR](#))

These materials may be found at <https://oycr.ca.gov>.

- Commissioner Blanco noted she attended the OYCR webinar regarding the Juvenile Justice Toolkit, which is also available on the OYCR website. She also noted that the LA COE has a robust ethnic studies program within the juvenile detention facility and offered to organize a presentation for our Commission on this.

Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.

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Minutes Prepared and Submitted: 7/10/25, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice-Chair, Administration

A large group of diverse young people are gathered in a circle, with their hands stacked in the center. They are all looking towards the center with various expressions of interest and engagement. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

# FLY Programs



**FLY's mission is to partner with youth to unlock their potential, disrupt the pipeline to prison, and advance justice in California and beyond.**



# Peer Point Program

A diversion program offered at schools and through police departments that offers alternatives to suspension and arrest by:

- Providing restorative circles led by trained peer advocates
- Promoting accountability, healing, and growth
- Provides 5 months of coaching surrounding a restorative plan



# 4 Pillars of Restorative Planning



**Academic  
Achievement**



**Restorative  
Action**



**Personal  
Development**



**Community  
Engagement**



# Program Process

**1**

- Stakeholders refers youth through referral form or email
- Peer Point staff attempt to pitch the program to youth and their family in person or over the phone.

**2**

- Youth completes 60 question intake assessment
- RJ circle prep meeting is scheduled to prepare youth for peer RJ circle

**3**

Youth is officially enrolled in Peer Point

- Youth participates in Rj circle with trained peer advocates.
- The team of youth develop a “Restorative Plan” that the Peer Point coach assists in fulfilling

**4**

- FLY staff meet with youth to discuss RJ plan implementation
- FLY Staff and youth check-in at least once a week to make progress towards RJ plan
- Youth is encouraged to become peer advocate

# Peer Point Journey Map



Agency Referral



Pitch & Youth Consent



Intake & Assessment



Circle Prep



Restorative Circle & Plan Creation



Plan Implementation



Youth Successfully Diverted & Joins as Peer Advocate



Plan Completion



Youth Successfully Diverted



Legend:

- Referred Youth (Teal circle)
- Peer Advocates (Grey circle)
- FLY Staff (Orange circle)
- Restorative Plan (Document icon)

# Partnerships

- MENLO ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL
- SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL
- SAN BRUNO POLICE DEPARTMENT
- SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
- WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL (NEXT YEAR)



# Challenges

- Sustainable funding
- Systems change work
- Integration into schools





# IMPACT

**100**

PEER ADVOCATES  
TRAINED IN RESTORATIVE  
JUSTICE PRACTICES

**21**

YOUTH COMPLETED  
RESTORATIVE COACHING

**2**

RESTORATIVE APPROACH  
TRAININGS FOR DISTRICT  
STAFF



# IMPACT

**93%**

OF YOUTH THINK  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
CIRCLES WILL BENEFIT  
YOUTH

**97%**

OF YOUTH THINK MORE  
RESTORATIVE APPROACHES  
(VS SUSPENSIONS ) WILL  
BENEFIT THEIR SCHOOLS

**27%**

REDUCTION IN  
SUSPENSIONS AT MENLO  
ATHERTON HS

# REPS Program

## **Rehabilitation, Education & Planning for Success**

REPS Coach offers in-custody 1:1 case management to each youth with a focus on social emotional learning & life skills as well as their individualized rehabilitation plans.

REPS Manager offers weekly career readiness workshops that include a monthly W.I.L. (What it's Like) Talk, where industry professionals are interviewed by the youth.

REPS serves all secure track youth and will also provide services to youth with 707b offenses.

Credible messenger mentoring services are being built out by the team at this time.



# Law Program

A 12 week curriculum facilitated in locked facilities or in community schools that:

- Teaches young people about their rights and the laws
- Builds social emotional learning skills
- Activates youth voice as a part of systems change



# Law Program

- Target population
  - High school aged youth 9th-12th
  - Community schools and YSC
- Referrals are usually from the schools directly but if there is enough need we can hold an after school program to accommodate probation or diversion referrals.



# Reentry Program

Our program is for youth that have spent time in the juvenile hall and are on probation, typically ages 12-18.

The program is 9-12 months long. In the program they:

- Get assigned a case manager that provides 1:1 support with their transition back into the community
- Attend quarterly prosocial activities to build community (usually 2-4 youth per event)
  - Ex: Bowling, Lasertag, hikes, holiday activities
- Workshops with Career Pathways Navigator



fly

# Development Plan Goals

The youth and CM create development plan goals that will be worked on throughout program which includes:

- An educational goal
  - Re-enrolling back into their community school
  - IEP/disciplinary meeting advocacy
- Legal goal
  - Decrease system involvement
  - Probation/Court Advocacy
- Social Emotional Learning Enhancement
  - 70% increase in SEL skills and average number of SEL increase per youth is 2.35
- Personal youth led goal
  - Driver's License and ID
  - Job Readiness and job applications





# Program Process

**1**

- Stakeholders refers youth through interest form or email
- CM's check in with youth 1:1 at the juvenile hall and youth opt into the program

**2**

Once the youth is released a meeting with the and youth family and youth to do enrollment paperwork is set up

**3**

Youth is officially enrolled in Reentry FLY

- CM's work on development plan goals and move through the CTI phases

Program Phases (9-12 months)

- First phase (4 hrs a month minimum)
- Second phase (3 hrs a month)
- Third Phase (2 hrs a month)

**4**

Recidivism (VOP or new charges)

- Case manager visits them at the juvenile hall focusing on SEL goals and reevaluating goals
- Attend court hearings
  - Highlight youth's progress in FLY

# STAY FLY

Our program is for transitional aged young adults that are system impacted, ages 18-25. The program is 9 months long. In the program they:

- Get assigned a case manager that provides 1:1 support with their transition back into the community
  - Social Emotional Learning, Job/Educational Attainment, Court/Probation Advocacy
- Attend quarterly prosocial activities to build community (usually 2-4 youth per event)
  - Ex: Bowling, Top Golf,
- 100% said they were given tools to make healthier choices





Juvenile Justice Commission  
2025 Annual Group Home Inspection

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**Facility Name:** Canyon Oaks Youth Center

**Facility Capacity:** 12

**Address:** 400 Edmonds Road  
Redwood City, Ca. 94062

**Phone Number:** (650) 839-1810

**Date of Inspection:** July 14, 2025

**Date of Last Inspection:** August 12, 2024

**Annual Population:** Average 9-10

**Population at time of Inspection:** 4

**Contact Person:** Victoria Valencia, Head of Service, Clinical Services Manager

**Facility Commission Inspection Team:** Ameya Nori, Jennifer Blanco, Niklas Klemmer

**School Commission Inspection Team:** Karin Huber-Levy, Shakeel Ali, Niklas Klemmer, Jiya Venkatesh

**Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:** Hon. Susan Irene Etezadi

**Facility Overview**

Canyon Oaks Youth Center (COYC) opened in August 2003 as a Level 14 group home. To comply with the policy changes of AB403 (Continuum of Care Reform, 2015), COYC converted to a Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) facility, receiving their permanent STRTP license on June 1, 2019. COYC is a co-ed facility with 12 beds, located at the Cordilleras site in Redwood City, and operated by the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) Division of San Mateo County Health. The program serves seriously mentally ill and emotionally disturbed boys and girls, ages 12-18. Serving as an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization for youth in crisis, the program's "crisis beds" are used to stabilize out-of-control, dangerous behaviors so that youth can be returned to the community as quickly as possible. The program also serves the most challenging youth that require out-of-home treatment for a longer period of time. Intensive individualized services are provided to these youth, engaging families as working partners in the treatment process. Youth in COYC can also be AB12 youth (extended foster care). The program is designed to work closely with all levels of service providers within BHRS and the referring

agencies of Children and Family Services, Juvenile Probation, and local Special Education Departments, to provide effective and well-integrated services.

Before placement, residents are certified by the County's Interagency Placement Review Committee as youth who require residential treatment services at an STRTP that provides intensive mental health services. The objective of the program is to help youth reduce symptoms, gain stability, and transition into the least restrictive setting in which they can succeed. The typical resident spends one year at Canyon Oaks.

COYC is guided by a program philosophy that provides placement for youth who face serious emotional and behavioral challenges: they strive to ensure that youth are not discharged as a result of their prior or current challenging behaviors. This is referred to as a 'no eject, no reject' philosophy. If the treatment team is unable to meet a youth's needs safely or adequately, a treatment plan is made for the youth to be transferred to a facility that can better meet their needs. A plan is made for a youth to return to COYC once they have been stabilized. The ultimate goal is always to return the youth, in the least amount of time possible, to the least restrictive setting in which they can succeed.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Commendations**

We visited the Canyon Oaks Youth Center on July 14, 2025, interviewing two staff members: Supervising Mental Health Clinician Victoria Valencia, and Residential Counselor (RC) III Thomas Kilgore. Ms. Valencia has been at COYC for over 20 years, and this Mr. Kilgore has been at COYC for six years.

The facility itself is run by a group of staff members who are very dedicated to the youth they serve. Staff do everything possible to provide a space that is healing and therapeutic to the youth they serve.

COYC boasts an impressive lineup of programming, including partnerships with Square Pegs ranch for equine therapy, and the Riekes Center for general programming.

We would like to especially commend the work of former teacher George Rehmet. Mr. Rehmet was a very valuable asset for COYC, and the youth and staff at COYC continuously praised him. Mr. Rehmet left Canyon Oaks at the end of the last school year, and as of the date of inspection, there has been no appointment of a new teacher.

## Concerns & Recommendations

Our inspection team had very few concerns about COYC. The facility has a fully functional commercial kitchen, and a chef on staff, however they contract with San Mateo County Medical Center, to receive their food. We recommend that the COYC fully utilize their kitchen and chef, and ensure all food for youth is cooked on-site.

## Access to Youth

JJPC Commissioners are permitted to interview and view the records of youth who have been placed at COYC by Juvenile Probation/court. COYC confirmed that all youth placed at COYC since the date of the 2024 inspection have been referred by their school district. Accordingly, the 2025 inspection team did not have access to youth records or conduct any interviews with youth during this inspection.

## REPORTS

**Fire Inspection Report:**       Yes  No      Date: 4/8/2025

Comments: satisfactory, no violations

**Resident's Handbook:**       Yes  No      Date: 7/14/2025

Comments: No major changes since prior inspection cycle

**Licensing Inspection:**       Yes  No      Date: 5/25/2024

Comments:      Rating: No deficiencies, carf-accredited STRTP

## AREAS REVIEWED

### Quality of Life

- Physical Buildings
- Meals/Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Physical/Dental Health
- Religious Services
- Programming
- Visiting
- Sexual Abuse Prevention
- Personal Rights
- Grievance Logs

### Programming

- Education
- Vocational/Employability
- Community Service
- Individual/Group Counseling
- Substance Abuse
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Persons Interviewed

- Youth
- Director
- Youth Supervisor/Staff
- Food Services Staff
- BHRS
- Other: Sarah Notch, SMC  
Office of Education

✓ Ombudsman information

## **YOUTH GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Target population of youth:** Canyon Oaks Youth Center primarily serves emotionally disturbed youth aged 12-18 years old. It has a maximum population size of 12 youth. Youth can be referred to Canyon Oaks via three pathways: 1) Juvenile Probation, 2) Children and Family Services, 3) School Districts in conjunction with the IEP process. Over the last few years, the number of youth referred to COYC via Juvenile Probation has decreased to zero. Past inspection reports showed that there have been zero referrals by Juvenile Probation for at least the last 4 years.

Prior to arriving at Canyon Oaks, each youth served will have been certified by the County's IPRC (Interagency Placement Review Committee) as requiring residential treatment services at an STRTP facility providing intensive mental health services. Canyon Oaks takes youth whose challenges are appropriate for the type of therapy they provide, which is dialectical behavior therapy. For example, they do not take on youth with intellectual disabilities. Youth need to have at least a 5th grade level reading ability.

**Age range of youth: 14-16**

**Ethnicity of youth:**

3 - Latinx

1 - Filipino

**Youths' home counties & number of youth per county:**

4 - San Mateo County

## **STAFFING**

**Describe staff including numbers, background, ethnicity, language:**

Staff include a Supervising Mental Health Clinician (1), Mental Health Program Specialist (1), Psychiatric Social Workers/Marriage and Family Therapists (2.5), Creative Arts Therapist (1), Occupational Therapist (1), Psychiatrist (.25), Residential Counselors (19 plus per diem relief staff) and a Medical Office Specialist (1). The 19 full-time Residential Counselors (RCs) provide care and coaching for residents and provide for their safety. Residential Counselors are the primary caregivers for residents and are on-site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Canyon Oaks also has 13 'relief' RCs who are called on when full-time RCs need to take time off. Canyon Oaks currently has a full-time bilingual (Spanish-speaking) therapist on staff.

**Educational requirements for staff:** All clinicians have at least a Master's degree. RCs are required to have at least a Bachelor's degree, and several have Master's degrees as well.

**Training provided for staff:** All staff receive a minimum of 40 hours of training every year, including the year they're hired, as required for STRTPs. At onboarding, RCs and clinicians receive direct training from more senior staff, e.g., 8 hours of shadowing, in addition to using the Relias online training system (a state-approved system for STRTPs) for start-up training. Ongoing training includes trauma-informed, cultural, suicide prevention, and County-required training. There is also a separate 40 hours (2 ½ days) training (similar structure) for clinicians. Clinicians also have required training of 36 hours every two years to maintain their license. Proact Advantage training for hands-on situations includes trauma-informed care, cultural competence, and psychotropic medications, however the facility became hands-off (staff are not allowed to touch youth unless in a life or death situation) many years ago.

**Staff to Youth Ratio:**

**Awake:** RCs are on duty seven days per week: four for the morning shift, and six for the afternoon shift (10am to 6pm). In addition, during weekday work hours, the four staff clinicians/therapists are on site, plus the Head of Services and Supervisor for Direct Care.

On average, given the current population of 4, there is a 5:4 ratio of staff:youth.

**Sleeping:**

3 RCs are always awake and on-duty for the overnight shift, making it a 3:4 ratio for staff:youth.

**How is staff backup handled during graveyard shift?**

The 'relief' RCs are available to backup staff during the grave-yard shift. Several relief RCs prefer working grave-yard shifts. Normally, three RCs are staffed overnight, and even if the facility was at capacity with 12 youth and only two RCs were able to work, the facility would still be in compliance. Clinicians are onsite Monday through Friday. In addition to RCs, either the Head of Service or Supervisor for Direct Care, both clinicians, are always on call 24/7, including during grave-yard shifts and on weekends to respond in the event that law enforcement must be called on site, e.g., for a 5150 call when a youth is a danger to themselves or others. Only the Head of Service or Supervisor for Direct Care are authorized to call law enforcement.

**Describe staff turnover, including frequency and reason:**

Staff turnover is not an issue for Canyon Oaks. Most staff have been at COYC for 15-20 years, and most supervisors, around 20+ years. Staff clinicians turn over more frequently, which the Director described as typical when serving youth like the residents of Canyon Oaks. Staff clinicians tend

to be clinicians early in their career who are still working on their licensing, and after a few years at Canyon Oaks, once they are licensed, most move on to other types of clinical work.

**Describe general staff and youth interactions:**

We were unable to meaningfully observe staff and youth interactions because of the restrictions on access to youth.

**CONDITIONS OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

**Give a general description of the property:**

The building is a one-story structure on the edge of a wooded area on three sides and a fire station and mental health hospital on the road leading up to it. There is a walled court inside the entrance. The building looks neat and maintained from the outside. The interior courtyard contains an area of artificial turf (installed last year), benches and tables, a freshly resurfaced basketball court, and planting boxes. Generally the recreation area looks more inviting than at our visit last year. There are several small vegetable/flower beds that have been planted and are tended by the residents. Up the hill on the property are storage sheds and a garden in development. The building and property are relatively small, however this is not unreasonable given the small number of youth in residence.

**Give a general description of the main facility including housekeeping and sanitation:**

There is a wing that has a lobby, two classrooms and a therapy room. There is a dining room with a connected kitchen and a pass through window at which food is served for pick up by the residents. There is a hall with bedrooms on either side that leads to a living room area furnished with armchairs and bean bag sofas, exercise equipment, a bookcase, large screen TV, and a chalkboard wall. The area with the large screen TV, chalkboard wall, and bean bag sofas includes a memorial area designed by residents to honor a long-time and beloved RC who passed away last year. On the other side of the living room, there is another hall with bedrooms on either side. At the end of that hall is an office for the therapists, a laundry room, a safety room, and a therapy room. A janitor comes in every day Monday through Friday. The facility looked clean and well organized. A generator for power outages has been installed.

**Lawns:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable: Artificial turf is new.

**Playing Fields:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable.

**Blacktop:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Paint:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Roof:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Drains and Gutters:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Appearance:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition of Interior of Building**

**Walls:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Windows & Window Coverings:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Paint:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Floors:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ceilings:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Restrooms/Showers:**

**Plumbing Fixtures:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: One bathroom was out of service, however it was set to be repaired soon after our visit. The other bathroom with the shower was still operational.

**Drains:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Air Vents/Heating/Windows:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Smoke Alarms:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Storage of Cleaning Fluids/Chemicals:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recreation/Sports Equipment:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Hallways Clear/Doors Propped Open:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sleeping Rooms:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Beds:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Storage: Graffiti Present:**  Yes  No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Art, Books, Personal Items Allowed in Rooms:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ample Blankets:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Study Area:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adequate Lighting:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Temperature:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Graffiti Present:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF YOUTH

*Note: We based these ratings on the glances we got of youth as we passed them in common areas. We were unable to get a good look at the personal appearance of youth, however they all seemed fine, clean, and well hygenic.*

**Appearance:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Showers:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:

**Condition of clothing (clean, fit, etc.):**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clothing appropriate to current weather:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUTH ORIENTATION

#### What is the intake process for the facility?

The Interagency Placement Review Committee notifies the Head of Service when they have a youth to recommend for admission. The youth's social worker or school guidance counselor provides information about the youth. The Head of Service interviews the youth wherever they are at the time (hospital, YSC, home, school) to get a sense of the child; typically this takes place outside of Canyon Oaks for a first visit. The child would then be brought to Canyon Oaks by the parent, guardian, school counselor, social worker, or probation officer.

#### Are youth oriented to the house rules and procedures? Yes No Explain:

Yes, youth are given a copy of the handbook, and usually assigned a staff member to assist them with transitioning into the facility. In some cases, other youth may act as mentors for new youth in the intake process.

**Are house rules and grievance procedures posted?**  Yes  No **Explain:** These are posted in the hall.

**What is in place to ensure that these rules and procedures are understood by youth?**

Youth Bill of Rights is pinned in large poster form in a hallway,

**Are clothing and possessions inventoried on arrival and departure? How are youth's clothing and possessions protected or stored?**

Clothing and possessions are inventoried on arrival. This provides an opportunity for staff to screen what youth bring into the facility. Drugs, gang colors, and inappropriate/revealing clothing are examples of items confiscated by staff.

**Natural Disaster Drills: Fire:**  Yes  No **Date of Last Drill:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Earthquake:**  Yes  No **Date of Last Drill:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewed Youth:**  Yes  No - explained in "Access to Youth"

**Evacuation Plan(s):**  Yes  No

## MEALS/NUTRITION

**Kitchen:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:

**Do the youth share in preparation of meals?**  Yes  No: Occasionally, during "Chef's Choice", youth have the opportunity to prepare meals, however for the most part, food comes from San Mateo Medical Center.

**Are meals served family style?**  Yes  No:

**Are youth permitted to converse during meals?**  Yes  No:

**Are staff present and supervising during meals?**  Yes  No:

**Are weekly menus posted?**  Yes  No:

**Are servings ample, nutritious, appetizing?**  Yes  No:

**Weaker youth protected from having food taken from them?**  Yes  No: Not an issue at COYC.

**Are snacks and beverages available?**  Yes  No:

**How does the facility meet special nutritional needs?**

When a special need is identified, e.g., diabetic, vegan, appropriate meals are prepared as needed. Additionally, youth that dislike the day’s menu are often accommodated by the on-site chef, and they may receive a sandwich/something else they like.

**Length of time allowed to eat?**

**Mealtimes:**

**Breakfast:** 9-10:30 am summer/ 7:30-8:45 school year **Lunch:** 12:10 - 2:30 pm summer/12:20 PM school year **Dinner:** 5 pm all year (unless they are off-site)

**MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH**

**Access to Medical and Dental Services:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:

Each youth has a physical within 30 days of admission. They can choose to go to their own primary care physician if they have one. Otherwise they are taken to the teen medical clinic in San Mateo.

**Access to Mental Health Services:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:

The most common mental conditions of the residents are depression, anxiety, PTSD, and trauma. Some have bipolar, other psychotic disorders. Clinicians check in with them all the time. They have meals with them. They check in with the school teachers every other week to see how they are doing academically. Individual and family therapy are provided.

**Individual Counseling:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:

The trauma-informed psychosocial skills-based/therapeutic attachment model focuses on increasing each resident’s ability to form and sustain more gratifying and supportive relationships within the program, their family, and the greater community. Through the development of an individualized, strength-based, family-centered Needs Appraisal and Service Plan, the program facilitates acquiring skills necessary for youth to reunite with their family or move to a less restrictive setting/lower level of care. Each youth is provided with a minimum of one hour of individual psychotherapy per week and one hour of family therapy per week. Additional psychotherapy sessions are offered as needed depending on emergent needs and phase of

treatment, reflective of the youth's needs as indicated in their Needs Appraisal and Services Plan and their BHRS treatment plan.

**Group Counseling:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable:

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy groups are offered 3 days/week, focusing on the acquisition and generalization of dialectical behavioral skills to improve functioning in areas of mindfulness, emotional regulation, distress tolerance and interpersonal effectiveness. The goal is to learn to reduce self-harmful behavior, interpersonal conflicts, emotional lability, impulsivity and aggression. They have two groups by age: one for 12- to 14-year olds, the other for 15- to 18-year olds. Groups meet twice a week for 90 minutes. They have art therapy twice a week for 45 minutes and occupational therapy three times a week for 45 minutes.

**Substance Abuse Counseling:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable:

The AOD Counselor provides counseling from Monday through Thursday at 4pm-8pm and Friday at 9am to 1pm. AOD counseling is also integrated with individual counseling therapy. If youth in residence are in need of it, AA groups are brought onsite, or youth may attend sessions with an outside group. AOD counselor takes youth out on hikes and trails in surrounding wilderness and connects with the entire group, regardless of substance abuse history.

## **PROGRAMS**

**Recreation (type, amount, etc.):** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable:

There is a weekly trip to Square Pegs, a local ranch in Half Moon Bay, for equine therapy (two sessions: a.m. for up to two residents; p.m for up to 4 residents). There are therapeutic walks. The facility has completed a contract to provide access to programs at the Riekes Center for Human Advancement in Menlo Park. Residents also go to museums, parks, and movies. Youth are also permitted to go home whenever they choose; some return home for visits several times per week.

**Exercise (daily schedule, amount, etc.):** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable:

Despite the youth not having a PE teacher, RCs and other staff compensate with plenty of opportunities for the youth to exercise, including hikes in the trails surrounding Canyon Oaks.

**Access to Religious Services:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable:

**Victim Awareness Classes:**  Yes ✓ No: This is not relevant to this population. Youth at COYC who are at risk for trafficking are identified for Rape/Trauma Services and will have a team

assigned to work with them through a non-profit organization who also provide trainings for COYC staff. They have used them a lot this year.

**Gang Awareness Classes:**  Yes  No: COYC mostly does not house aggressive/abusive youth due to many of the other youth facing assault/sexual trauma in their past, however RCs and therapists are able to offer this service if it comes up.

**Sexual Harassment Classes:**  Yes  No: Same as above.

**Parenting Classes:**  Yes  No: However, if a youth is pregnant or has a child, staff would arrange appropriate classes for them.

**Vocational Classes:**  Yes  No: The occupational therapist tailors classes for youth as needed with the goal that all youth be employable in a vocational pathway in the future.

**Work Program:**  Yes  No: Some residents may have jobs that pay (either on facility or off-site)

**Internet Access and Use of Technology:**

Youth do not have access to their cellphones unless they are above 18. They are provided with laptops for school and other technology with supervision.

**YOUTH DISCIPLINE**

**Describe the discipline process of youth:**

COYC no longer uses the Color System. The staff cannot force any intervention on the youth even if they are carrying drugs.

COYC utilizes a phase system which is detailed in the Resident Handbook. Each phase has a set of criteria that measures the client's engagement in treatment. The Handbook also sets out specific disciplinary procedures along with the therapeutic interventions, and limit-setting techniques employed by staff. A list of strategies and techniques developed to aid staff in planning interventions is also detailed in the Handbook.

**Describe incident reports:**

We were unable to review incident reports because of restrictions on access to youth records described above, however staff told us there were minimal, usually only for law enforcement calls, fights/aggression, etc.

**Describe interactions with law enforcement:**

We were not able to access the details, but were informed by the Director that there were contacts with law enforcement in the past year, as is typical at Canyon Oaks and required by law for reporting of 5150s (risk of harm to self or others) and runaway youth (it is not a locked facility; youth under 18 years of age who leave without consent are considered runaway and missing persons reports are filed).

## **GRIEVANCES**

**Grievance Process:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:

The San Mateo County BHRS grievance process is set out in the Resident Handbook. Upon admission to COYC, all youth and their parents/caregivers or authorized representatives are given written information about the grievance processes. Staff reviews the written material with them and a copy of the State-mandated Clients Rights is visibly posted in the lobby area, with contact information for BHRS - Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) and Community Care Licensing (CCL). BHRS Problem Resolution Request Forms are also openly available in the lobby area. Youth, caregivers, or authorized representatives may file grievances with BHRS-OCA, or they may report them directly to the Head of Service or Supervisor for Direct Care. Any grievances received in person or by telephone that are resolved by close of business the next day following receipt are exempt from the requirement to send a written acknowledgement and resolution letter, however they still are logged and included in reports to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). If the youth is not satisfied, they can report their grievance to the Office of Consumer Affairs and OCA will investigate. Youth can also call Community Care Licensing at any time. In addition to grievances filed, OCA also sends out a satisfaction survey to youth and their families twice a year.

**Number of grievances this year:**

9 - Mostly staff complaints, mainly about the same staff member who has been further counseled/trained.

## **COMMUNICATION**

**Access US Mail?**  Yes  No:

**Postage Free?**  Yes  No

**Incoming/Outgoing Mail (screened? Confidential?):**  Yes  No:

Someone who is authorized for contact with the youth will open mail to check for contraband. They do not read the message.

**Access to Telephone?**  Yes  No: They can only call people on their approved contact list.

**Visiting Schedule:** Flexible, based on the needs of the youth and their families. Usually week to week and parents arrange their visits with the youth's therapist.

**Do all youth have access to visitations?**  Yes  No:

**Under what circumstances would visitation be restricted?**

The court may restrict visits. The youth can say if they don't want to see a person, including a parent.

**Are visitation logs kept?**  Yes  No: Visitation schedules are only kept for one week. There is no long-term tracking of visits.

**Adequate Space:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Numerous spaces in the facility for visitations, visitors may not enter dormitories.

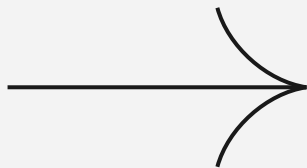
**Staff Supervision:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:

Canyon Oaks staff do not supervise visits. The youth's social worker may.

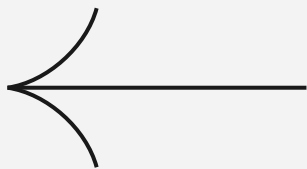
**Privacy Provided:**  Yes  No:

**Games or Activities Provided:**  Yes  No:

**Outings & Recreation:**  Yes  No: Numerous surrounding trails for hikes, oftentimes to celebrate milestones (ie sobriety), staff can take youth on outings based on youth choice (one youth chose Santa Cruz Boardwalk).




# JJDPC Multimedia Proposal





# Objectives




Increase public awareness of the JJDCP's work and achievements

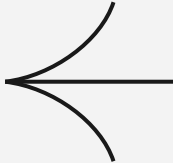
Improve access to support resources for affected youth and families

Educate the public on juvenile justice policies, programs, and reforms

Facilitate open discussion and uplift community voices



Promote restorative justice and a culture of compassion



# Formats

## Newsletters

- Juvenile Justice Updates
- Community Resources, Programs, and events
- Monthly

## Podcasts

- Interviews with System Partners and CBO's
- Juvenile Justice News & Legislation
- Monthly

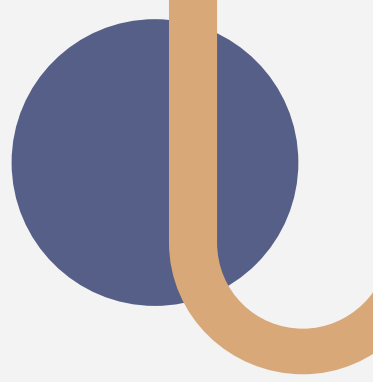
## Blogs

- Deep-dive content
- Professional insights
- Opinion pieces
- Monthly





# Roles



# Newsletter Team

## Article Lead

- Select the short article topics
- Background research
- Collaborate with the team
- Write articles

## Editor

- Review and edit all content
- Submit content to Social Media Manager for approval
- Coordinate with Article Lead and team to meet deadlines

## Marketing

- Plan and design social media materials
- Align outreach with newsletter content and podcast themes
- Coordinate with multimedia team

# Podcast Team

## Episode Lead

- Identify topics
- Plan interviews  
prepare questions
- Conduct research
- Oversee and assist  
with episode  
recordings
- Host or Co-Host  
Episodes

## Editor

- Refine and edit  
recordings
- Ensure audio  
quality and flow
- Work with  
Episode Lead and  
team to create  
and finalize  
episodes

## Marketing

- Plan and create  
social media  
content
- Align outreach with  
episode themes
- Support podcast  
promotion and  
audience  
engagement

# Blog Team

## Writing Lead

- Select blog topics
- Consider diverse perspectives
- Background research
- Collaborate with team
- Write articles

## Editor

- Read and edit articles
- Working with Writing Lead and others in the group to ensure that blogs meet scheduled dates

## Marketing

- Plan and create social media outreach materials
- Align outreach with newsletter and podcast themes.



# Project timeline






# Accessibility

Ensure accessibility of multimedia formats to all community members such as those with language barriers or those that may be differently abled (as some examples)





# Expanding Topic Ideas

- Developing a Topic Idea Form for Commissioners to submit suggestions
  - Add a public-facing submission tab on JJDPCC website to gather ideas from the community
  - Solicit topic ideas across all multimedia platforms to solicit topic ideas that reflect and engage the community
  - Highlight selected topics in newsletters, podcasts, and social media
- 



# Discussion Questions

