

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
AND
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2025**

Submitted By
Johanna Rasmussen, Chair



Executive Summary

In 2025, the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDP) strengthened its statutory oversight responsibilities while expanding its leadership role in regional and statewide juvenile justice reform. The Commission conducted required facility inspections and educational evaluations to ensure compliance, accountability, and the protection of youth rights across county-operated and contracted programs. Through consistent monitoring, public meetings, and direct engagement with youth in custody, the Commission reinforced transparency and upheld its responsibility to safeguard the dignity and wellbeing of system-impacted youth.

The Commission advanced public education and policy advocacy through formal presentations to key partners, including the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission, the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Commission, the Jefferson Elementary School District, and the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. These engagements strengthened cross-jurisdiction collaboration, supported prevention-focused reforms, and reinforced alignment between local, regional, and County leadership. In December 2025, the Board of Supervisors further recognized the Commission’s leadership through the adoption of a County Resolution honoring Chair Johanna Rasmussen for her service to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and her contributions to oversight, prevention, youth voice, and equity.

At the statewide level, the Commission launched the California Juvenile Justice Commissioners Collaborative (CJJCC), establishing the first coordinated network connecting commissioners from all 58 California counties. This initiative advanced alignment around Title 15 and Title 24 implementation, inspection standards, and oversight best practices. Commission leadership also actively participated in the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Policy and Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee (SACJJDP), ensuring that San Mateo County’s inspection findings and implementation experience informed statewide policy development and reform efforts.

Locally, the Commission made history by co-hosting the First Annual Prevention in Action: Schools, Communities, and Youth Voices Conference with the College of San Mateo and Project Change. The conference convened more than 200 participants and over 30 community-based organizations and public agencies, elevated youth voice through a youth-led panel, and strengthened cross-sector prevention collaboration. Together, these accomplishments reflect the Commission’s continued commitment to rigorous oversight, public education, prevention leadership, and the advancement of equitable outcomes for young people in San Mateo County.



Authority

San Mateo County's JJDP 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 JJDP as of August 4, 2009.

California Welfare and Institutions Code (CWIC) Sections 225-232 mandate that each California County shall have 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

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.

Aspirations

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission's Aspirations for our Community help 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.

Inspections

The Juvenile Justice Commission was responsible for conducting the following state-mandated inspections and educational evaluations:

Facility Inspections

- Juvenile Hall
- Secure Youth Treatment Facility – SYTF
- Maguire Correctional Facility – San Mateo County Jail
- Canyon Oaks Youth Center (STRTP)
- Elysian (STRTP)
- San Mateo County Receiving Home (TSCF)

Educational Evaluations

- Hillcrest Schools
- Secure Youth Treatment facility –SYTF
- Canyon Oaks Youth Center

Closed Facilities

The Commission also issued updated reports for the Camp Glenwood and Camp Kemp juvenile detention facilities, which did not serve youth in 2025.



Law Enforcement Holding Facilities

Due to the transition in reporting responsibilities from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), the Commission experienced a delay in receiving its annual list of law enforcement juvenile holding facilities. As a result, the following law enforcement holding facilities are scheduled to be completed by February 24, 2026.

- Belmont Police Department
- Burlingame Police Department
- Daly City Police Department
- East Palo Alto Police Department
- Menlo Park Police Department
- Redwood City Police Department
- San Bruno Police Department
- San Mateo Police Department
- San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
- South San Francisco Police Department

Monthly Meetings and Annual Retreat

In 2025, the Commission held a total of 11 joint monthly meetings and convened its Annual Retreat to strengthen internal capacity, elevate youth voice, and advance strategic planning priorities. Highlights from the retreat included Commissioner training on statutory responsibilities, governance protocols, and oversight roles; legislative and policy updates, a listening session with youth incarcerated in our Secure Youth Treatment Facility and reflection and planning sessions focused on lessons learned and priority areas for 2026.

Statewide Leadership and Policy Engagement

California Juvenile Justice Commissioners Collaborative (CJJCC)

In 2025, the Commission created and launched the California Juvenile Justice Commissioners Collaborative (CJJCC), establishing a statewide monthly coordination network connecting Juvenile Justice Commissioners from all 58 California counties. This initiative was designed to strengthen cross-county collaboration, standardize oversight practices, and create a consistent forum for sharing implementation strategies related to Title 15 and Title 24 compliance, Office of Youth and Community Restoration guidance, and emerging juvenile justice policy changes.



California's State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP)

In 2025, Commissioner Rasmussen was invited to join the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice Policy and Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee (SACJJDP), strengthening San Mateo County's representation in statewide juvenile justice policy development. Through this role, the Commission contributed to legislative analysis, policy recommendations, and advocacy efforts impacting youth justice systems across California. This participation ensured that local oversight perspectives, facility inspection experiences, and implementation challenges from San Mateo County were elevated at the state level. In addition, Commission leadership engaged in Office of Youth and Community Restoration working groups to support system alignment, compliance monitoring, and coordinated implementation of statewide juvenile justice reforms. Together, these efforts positioned San Mateo County as a leader in advancing youth-centered juvenile justice oversight and reform across California.

Commission Projects

Outreach to System Impacted Youth and Families

This project reaches out to youth and families in underserved communities throughout San Mateo County to better understand their needs and concerns. Outreach opportunities include facilitating a parent support group, holding listening sessions, attending parent, school, and community meetings, and tabling local community events. In addition, Commissioner Bocanegra and Chair Johanna Rasmussen continued their bi-monthly visits with youth at Hillcrest Juvenile Hall and the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) as part of this ongoing outreach effort.

Year End Status: Completed

First Annual Prevention in Action Schools, Communities, and Youth Voices Conference:

In 2025, the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission made history by partnering with the College of San Mateo and Project Change to host the First Annual Prevention in Action: Schools, Communities, and Youth Voices Conference. Under the leadership of Commissioner Blanco, the conference was a major success, bringing together educators from every school district in the county, along with mental health professionals, law enforcement, legal advocates, policymakers, and youth leaders to advance prevention strategies, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and improve outcomes for the county's most vulnerable students. The event featured the Youth Voices Panel, a powerful, youth-led session facilitated by Commissioners Rasmussen and Bocanegra, in which system-impacted young people shared their lived experiences, challenges, and pathways to success. The panel deeply resonated with attendees and left participants across sectors even more committed to taking action to improve policies, practices, and supports for youth.



With support from major sponsors including the Sobrato Family Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the National Center for Youth Law, SamTrans, and additional community partners, the Commission welcomed more than 200 participants who engaged in workshops led by local, state, and national leaders and accessed information and resources from more than 30 community-based organizations and county and state agencies. The conference received statewide recognition and media coverage from the Redwood City Pulse, with conference materials, resources, and the full event video publicly available on the Commission’s website at smcjjdpc.com. This conference marked the first event of its kind in San Mateo County and represented a historic milestone in countywide cross-sector prevention collaboration, with planning already underway for the second annual conference.

Year End Status: Established and Ongoing

Commission Presentations

San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission

June 11, 2025, Commissioner Rasmussen presented to the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission with University of San Francisco researchers and formerly incarcerated individuals who had been tried as adults as teens. The presentation underscored the long-term consequences of youth transfers to adult court and reinforced the need for reform. The Commission’s resolution opposing youth transfers was formally introduced and approved unanimously.

San Francisco Juvenile Justice Commission

On June 17, 2025, Commissioner Rasmussen and Commissioner Bocanegra delivered a comprehensive presentation on the harmful practice of trying youth as adults, including an overview of juvenile transfer practices and presentation of the Commission’s resolution opposing youth transfer to adult criminal court.

Jefferson Elementary School District

On November 12, 2025, Commissioner Blanco delivered a presentation to the Jefferson Elementary School District focused on the intersection of education systems and juvenile justice involvement. The presentation highlighted prevention strategies, early intervention approaches, and the importance of cross-sector collaboration between schools and youth-serving agencies. This engagement strengthened partnerships with educational leaders and reinforced the critical role of schools in supporting youth stability, prevention, and long-term success.



San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

On December 9, 2025, Commissioner Rasmussen presented to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to provide updates on Commission oversight activities, facility inspections, prevention initiatives, and statewide leadership efforts. The presentation reinforced the Commission's statutory role, highlighted emerging system needs, and strengthened coordination between the Commission and County leadership.

Other Accomplishments

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Recognition: In December 2025, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors formally recognized Chair Johanna Rasmussen through the adoption of a County Resolution honoring her leadership and service to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. The resolution acknowledged her commitment to strengthening oversight, advancing prevention strategies, elevating youth voice, and promoting equity and transparency across County systems. This recognition reflects the Board's appreciation for the Commission's work and reinforces the importance of sustained collaboration between County leadership and independent juvenile justice oversight.

Commissioner Funded Youth Programs

Commissioners funded the following youth programs in 2025:

- **Unlocked Potential: College Laptop Initiative:** Commissioners Rasmussen and Bocanegra provide laptop computers for justice involved college students both in the juvenile hall & SYTF and in the community. A total of 14 laptops were provided in 2024.
- **Annual Holiday Gift Bags:** Each year the commission partners with community groups to provide youths at the juvenile hall with Holiday gift bags that contain \$125 worth of ethnically appropriate hygiene items. New board games for the visiting rooms are also provided.
- **Suited for Success: A Court Clothing Program,** founded in 2021 by Commissioners Rasmussen and Bocanegra, has evolved into a comprehensive initiative that provides more than just court attire. Participants receive a full set of formal wear, including a suit, dress shirt, and tie, free of charge. The program's impact extends beyond clothing, as it instills confidence and creates opportunities for youth upon their release. By providing attire for crucial events like job interviews, school, and community functions, the program empowers participants to approach these situations with dignity and self assurance. During this reporting period, the program received substantial support through a generous donation from the family of former San Mateo County Sheriff and Supervisor, Don Horsley. The program also covers the cost of dry cleaning.



Commission Membership

The Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission is required to have a minimum of seven members and no more than 15 members. Two seats must be occupied by individuals between the ages 14 and 21 years old, if such individuals are available.

As of December 31, 2025, the Commission was composed of the following 11 Commissioners:

- **Paul Bocanegra:** Commissioner Bocanegra is the cofounder of Unlocked Futures, a human rights watch officer for the Children's Division of Human Rights Watch, and a certified drug and alcohol counselor. Paul was sentenced to life without parole when he was 16 years old and served more than 25 years in adult prison. He describes himself as a survivor of Juvenile LWOP and the California prison system. Today Paul works to reform the juvenile criminal justice system by sharing his experiences and struggles within the juvenile and adult systems and institutions.
- **Johanna Rasmussen:** Commissioner Rasmussen is a fourth generation San Franciscan who has been advocating for youth and families in the Bay Area for over thirty years. Her advocacy in the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice System began when her own daughter entered the system at the age of 13. Johanna has worked both locally and on the state level to increase funding community based mental health, substance abuse, restorative justice program designed to interrupt the school-to-prison-pipeline. In addition her criminal justice reform efforts, Johanna advocates for underserved youth and families on issues relating to housing, special education, and seeks to increase equity and improve transparency at all levels of government.
- **Whitney Genevro:** Commissioner Genevro is a native of San Mateo County and resides in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park. She was elected to the JJDP 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.



- Jennifer Blanco is a first generation individual of Cuban and Salvadoran descent who has served the San Bruno community for more than three decades. She served as a Trustee of the San Bruno Park Elementary School District for 17 years, where she was instrumental in bringing the national Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros annual celebration to San Bruno in 2009, emphasizing the importance of literacy for children from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Jennifer’s unwavering dedication to supporting all students has earned her the title of an equity warrior.
- Shakeel Ali: Commissioner Ali is a lifelong resident of San Mateo County. He grew up in Midway Village and has lived in Daly City for over 45 years. He currently serves as the Governing Board President of the Jefferson Elementary School District and has been a Trustee for more than 15 years. Shakeel holds a master’s degree in special education and is currently teaching at El Camino High School in South San Francisco. Shakeel is a founding advisor for YEEE (Youth Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, and Employment) and a Community Health Advisor at the Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council.
- Niklas Klemmer: Commissioner Klemmer is a Menlo Park resident and student at Menlo-Atherton High School with a strong commitment to law, public service, and policy advocacy. He brings research and legislative experience through internships with Senator Josh Becker and Stanford’s Deliberative Democracy Lab, where he contributes to work on policymaking and civic engagement. Niklas is an active member of the National Honor Society and participates in debate and Model United Nations.
- Asteris Ling is a dedicated youth advocate with lived experience and a strong commitment to equity, civic engagement, and community empowerment. As an member of the Redwood City Teen Advisory Board, he has led and supported initiatives that elevate youth voices, including the Youth Police Department Town Hall held in collaboration with the Redwood City Police Advisory Committee. He has also played a key role in projects like the Racial Equity Mural and “Teen Talks” forums, ensuring youth have a seat at the table where decisions are made.
- Jiya Venkatesh: Commissioner Venkatesh is a Belmont resident and sophomore at Carlmont High School whose global perspective, shaped by living in South Africa for 12 years before relocating to California in 2024, informs her strong interest in law and public policy. As a student journalist for the Scot Scoop, she reports on critical local issues including affordable housing, homelessness, and criminal justice, and her investigative reporting on a juvenile manslaughter case earned her a journalism award. Jiya also serves on the Belmont Youth Advisory Committee and as a Youth Commissioner on the Belmont Parks and Recreation Commission, where she advocates for inclusive programming and community outreach.



- Trena Patton: Commissioner Patton brings extensive public service and social work experience that closely aligns with the mission of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. With decades of professional service, she has supported vulnerable and underserved populations through roles as a Social Worker for foster youth in Alameda County, Executive Director of the Iris Center, an outpatient substance abuse treatment program focused on women and HIV/AIDS education, and Deputy Public Guardian serving at-risk individuals across the San Francisco Bay Area. Trena holds a BA in General Psychology from CSU Long Beach and an MA in Clinical Psychology, strengthening her expertise in trauma, mental health, and behavioral development. Her long-standing civic engagement, including tutoring incarcerated youth at the Southern Reception Center and Clinic, reflects her sustained commitment to youth advocacy, rehabilitation, and social equity.
- Celina Chen: Commissioner Chen is an accomplished student at Menlo School with a strong focus on criminal justice, civic engagement, and public policy. She brings legislative and policy experience from internships with Margaret Abe-Koga and Assemblymember Evan Low, where she supported research and event planning, as well as from her work submitting legislation to Senator Josh Becker and serving as a fellow at the Los Altos Institute, where she has published papers in political science and international relations. At Menlo School, Celina has demonstrated leadership through continuous service on Student Council and as President of the Students in Politics Club, and she brings seven years of experience in debate and mock trial as a skilled advocate and public speaker. She also volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club and is fluent in Mandarin, strengthening her ability to engage diverse communities.
- Enya Yuan: Commissioner Yuan is a high-achieving student at the University of California, Berkeley, pursuing a double major in Political Science and Economics, with strong training in statistics, quantitative analysis, and political theory that supports the analytical work of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. She brings hands-on experience from internships with the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, the San Mateo County Juvenile Courts, the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, and the Office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier, where she worked on legal processes, policy research, and issues impacting system-involved youth and families. Enya also serves as Project Coordinator for Undergraduate Research at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business and Head Chair of Berkeley Model United Nations, and was selected to participate in Girls Nation.



Commissioners Sworn in During 2025

The commission welcomed the following commissioners in 2025:

- Niklas Klemmer
- Jiva Vankatash
- Asteris Ling
- Trena Patton
- Celina Chen
- Enya Yuan

Commissioner Resignations in 2025

The following Commissioners resigned in order to pursue other professional or academic opportunities:

- Kenneth Williams
- Ruchi Mangtani
- Ameya Nori
- Tiffany Uhila-Hautau
- Karin Huber-Levy.

2025 Commission Leadership, Committees, and Roles

Commission Officers

Chair: Johanna Rasmussen

Vice Chair of Administration: Commissioner Karin Huber-Levy

Vice Chair of Membership: Commissioner Whitney Genevro

Councils and Commissions

- Local and Statewide Councils and Commissions
- California Juvenile Justice Commissioners Collaborative
- California State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP): Policy and Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee
- San Mateo County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council

Standing Committees

- Executive Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Sexual Abuse Prevention
- Prevention in Action Conference Planning Committee
- Multi-Media Committee



Coordinator Roles

- Marketing and Social Media
- Inspection Coordinator
- Legislative Coordinator

Liaison Roles

- San Mateo County Juvenile Court
- System-Impacted Youth and Families
- Private Public Defender Program
- Education: Elementary, High School, and College Districts
- Probation Department
- Law Enforcement
- Children and Family Services
- Community-Based Organizations