



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
222 Paul Scannell Drive • San Mateo, CA 94402

Minutes of the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission

June 30, 2020
5: 15-7:15 pm
Remote Meeting

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Co-Chair, Toni Barrack; Co-Chair, Debora Telleria; Co-Vice Chair, Rebecca Flores; Co-Vice Chair, Sonoo Thadaney; Paul Bocanegra; Valerie Gibbs; Michele Gustafson; Monroe Labouisse; Sathvik Nori; Susan Swope; Melissa Wilson; Douglas Winter

Commissioners Absent: none

Additional Attendees:

Judge Susan Etezadi – Juvenile Court
Ron Rayes – Private Defender Program
Ligia Zun – Commission on Disabilities

Ally Hoppis – Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Aurora Pena – Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Kate Heister – Fresh Lifelines for Youth

I. Administrative Business:

- a. **Call to Order:** Co Chair Barrack called meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
- b. **Roll Call and Establish Quorum:** A quorum was established at 5:17 p.m.
- c. **Welcome and Introductions**
- d. **Agenda Review: Approved** as distributed.
- e. **Approval of Minutes** of May 26, 2020: **Approved** as amended.

II. Oral Communication: *None*

III. Department Updates:

- a. **Private Defender Program** (Rayes): The San Mateo Courts have started doing contested hearings in person. The Private Defender Program is still taking on new clients and attorneys are following up to make sure their clients are getting the support they need. Since shelter in place has been lifted, probation has changed their booking requirements, leading to an increase in detention. The Court has been releasing minors that qualify and has reinstated Electronic Monitoring. In-person visitations have also started up again.
- b. **Behavioral Health & Recovery Services** (Pena): Services and programs are being provided remotely. There has been no reported crisis so far and school has started with kids physically going to the building. The youth are still not allowed to have any



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- contact sports, but can participate in individual sports, such as shooting a basketball by themselves. The recent Black Lives Matter movement has been something the youth can relate to and are openly sharing their experiences. Caseloads are low right now in the YSC and a cut in commute time for clinicians, because of more video meetings, has allowed them to provide more services with their extra time.
- c. **Probation Report (Barrack):** Due to easing of the shelter-in-place order, bookings have increased. YSC is now accepting new felony violations and violent misdemeanor charges rather than only 707(b) offences. There are 16 youth in YSC and 3 at Camp Kemp. Staff is talking about racial and social equity issues with the youth in both facilities. Face to face visits are starting up for family and professional meetings with social distancing protocol being followed. Electronic monitoring has also resumed along with a community care program for out-of-custody youth.

IV. **StarVista--Overview of Programs for Youth**

Peter Ehrhorn, Director for the Youth Empowerment Services Department reported on the many services that StarVista offers youth in the county.

Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Center

Provides education and crisis intervention services for schools, 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, online teen support and chatroom, alcohol and drug helpline, and parent support hotline. They partner with Wilson center in Santa Clara County, so if one site goes down, the lines will be forwarded to the other center. Staff clinicians go out to sites to counsel high-risk situations. The program also provides services in schools to provide post suicide counseling services. Onyourmind.net is a teen chat site on mobile devices. Teen volunteers staff the site with adult supervision.

Your House South Homeless Youth Prevention Program

24-hour emergency and temporary housing for runaway and homeless youth. Youth participate in a structured program that includes individual, family, and group counseling, with the goal of reuniting them with their families. It is a licensed six bed group home for youth 13-17 located in Redwood City. If youth turn 18 while in the program and is also going to school, they are allowed to stay. It is the only youth shelter in the county for unaccompanied minors. Youth are eligible for the program if they are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and if they run away or are at risk of running away. They do accept youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. No referral needed for youth to enroll. Youth can stay for 21 days, but can re-enroll for another 21 days if necessary. The goal is to bring families back together. Over 80% of youth are reunified with their families. Staff provides three months of follow-up case management once the youth leaves Your House South. The program is open 24/7.



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Daybreak Transitional Housing Program

A transitional housing program that provides independent living skills training and mental health support for homeless teens aged 16-21. This is a 10-bed facility located in Redwood City. It is funded by the County Center on Homelessness, so referrals have to go through their coordinated entry system. The goal of this program is self-sufficiency and permanent housing. There is a new Daybreak Rapid Rehousing for youth program. It doesn't have an actual physical site. Entry is through the County's coordinated entry system. The program offers 12-16 months of financial assistance, which includes rental assistance up to \$1,600/month. The program steps down the subsidy amount every four to six months until the youth has reached financial independence. StarVista partners closely with Fair Oaks Community Center, which is a coordinated entry site located a block away from the Daybreak facility.

The Mindfulness Project

The foundation for the current program was born at Camp Glenwood. Years ago, while working for StarVista, Dr. Sam Himmelstein, ran mindfulness groups at Camp Glenwood to address substance use challenges and support the youths' coping strategies. He later wrote an evidence-based curriculum, called *Mindfulness-Based Substance Abuse Treatment for Adolescents: A 12-Session Curriculum*. StarVista piloted Dr. Himmelstein's new curriculum last year and will now roll it out into the community this year for 15 to 25-year-old youth. It consists of groups practicing mindfulness with clinicians that were trained by Dr. Himmelstein. The groups are free of charge and are split based on the age of the participants. The program is also being installed in a few school districts next year.

Girls/ Camp Kemp

Intensive court-mandated program provides assessment, counseling, and case management services for incarcerated girls aged 13-18. The goal is to improve these young women's psychological well-being, physical health, emotional stability, family/social interactions, occupational readiness, and intellectual growth. This program is a partnership between StarVista and BHRS. It is available at Camp Kemp and the Youth Services Center. Clinicians provide mental health and substance abuse treatment counseling. The program at Camp Kemp is funded through the Mental Health Services Act (BHRS), and services at the YSC are funded through Youth Offender Block grant funding from Probation.

Insights Mental Health/Substance Use Program

This is an outpatient drug and alcohol recovery program that empowers youth to take responsibility and facilitate positive, lasting change for themselves and their families. Through case management and individual, group, and family counseling, participants learn about anger management, relationships, mental health, communicating with parents, and more. This is a 12-week program designed for youth with co-occurring mental health and



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substance abuse problems. The program is individualized for each participant. Youth go twice a week, once for an individual session and once for a group session. Sometimes the treatment goes a little bit longer. The program ends when a youth has had a clean drug test for six weeks. StarVista partners closely with Probation for this project. There is a location in Daly City and one in Redwood City. They promote a youth-friendly model. They accept referrals from anywhere, however most of the referrals come from Probation. The program is primarily funded by JJCPA, as well as AOD funding, which is transitioning to Drug Medical. They are also a certified Medical site.

Transitional Youth Services (THP-Plus)

Housing or rental assistance and comprehensive supportive case management services for qualified former foster care and probation youth aged 18-24. Youth participating in this program are required to work and/or go to school while learning independent living skills. If a youth is a dependent of the court when they turn 18, they are eligible for this program. The purpose of this project is self-sufficiency and independence. The program provides financial assistance up to \$1,220/month for housing, plus \$540/month for living expenses. This is a 24-month program. If the youth is attending post-secondary school, they can stay in the program for 36 months. Most youth who age out of foster care will utilize AB12 funding until they turn 21. They can then use THP-Plus services until the age of 24.

San Mateo County Pride Center

Intensive support services for individuals and families in the LGBTQ+ community. The Center is a program of StarVista in partnership with Peninsula Family Service and Outlet of Adolescent Counseling Services, and in collaboration with San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. It provides education, counseling, advocacy, and support for the LGBTQ+ community. It is located on El Camino in San Mateo. It provides drop-in support, clinical services and community engagement.

V. 2021 Vision for Commission Structure

Co-Chairs Telleria and Barrack presented their vision for the structure of the Commission in 2021. The structure should improve focus and effectiveness, better define roles, allow for a more equitable distribution of work, and add clarity to external communications. The Co-Vice Chair roles would focus on membership and administration. Other roles include different liaisons, Inspection Coordinator, Legislative Coordinator, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Project Leads, and Community Ambassadors. Commissioner Gustafson suggested adding a rapid response committee/team for those with the bandwidth to do additional work. She also suggested that the Commission make the roles formal but not codify the opportunities page. Commissioner Thadane suggested adding a Coast Side Liaison because the Coast is usually left out of when it comes to



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services. She suggested this role be filled by Commissioner Winter who currently resides on the Coast. Co-Chair Barrack said that they would take the ideas of the Commission and work on changes to the operating policies for approval at the next meeting.

VI. Strategic Project Plan Review and Approval

The after-school resources project will be put on hold and revisited in the Fall. Commissioner Winter and Co-Vice Chair Thadaney discussed the Digital Divide project. They talked about the breadth of the issues and the national reach. They suggested spending time researching the problem to determine the scope of the issue. Commissioner Gustafson pointed out that since the digital divide is such a large issue there might not be time to do thorough research on the issue before the problem gets much worse. She suggested addressing a specific part of the problem where the Commission can make the greatest impact. Commissioner Swope pointed out that it would be hard to collect data right now as school districts are not gathering such data. At the next meeting, Commissioners Winter and Thadaney will report if an appropriate focused project with an end product and timeline can be scoped out.

VII. Strategic Project Milestone Reviews

- a. **Marketing Strategy** (Gustafson, Barrack, Nori): Commissioner Gustafson presented the “elevator pitch” that the group created to describe the current role of the commission. This is designed to increase awareness of the JJDPC and its work. Gustafson also described the bios that she encouraged each commissioner to create. Commissioner Nori presented his sample bio stating that he chose to include information about why he was passionate about Juvenile Justice reform. These bios would be on the JJDPC web page, go to elected officials and be available to the public.
- b. **Describe Existing Transition Programs** (Labouisse, Telleria): Co-chair Telleria presented the list of substance abuse, mental health, and transition program resources that she and Commissioner Labouisse had put together. They are focusing on identifying what gaps exist in the current system of resources and how they can be addressed.
- c. **Truancy Project** (Swope, Gibbs): Commissioner Swope reported that she had recruited Jenee Littrell, Katie Bliss, Carry Du Boise, and Tara Ford about forming a task force related to attendance and truancy in school districts and reinstating SARB (school attendance review boards). Currently, many districts are not taking attendance and it remains to be seen what many will do about their Fall school schedule.



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- d. **Elected Officials** (Bocanegra, Labouisse): Commissioner Labouisse presented their plan to do introductions with elected officials and presented a script that they would follow. He talked about the importance of establishing a rapport with city officials and his goal of setting up meetings soon. The next step will be to collaborate with the marketing team on messaging.

VIII. 2019/2020 Project Reviews

- a. **Youth Court** (Winter): Temporarily on hold due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Commissioner Winter will produce a paragraph report summing up the work to date on Youth Court for the next meeting.
- b. **Parent Guidebook** (Swope): Commissioner Swope announced that the Board of Supervisors had approved the \$10,00 funding for the Parent Guidebook and Probation will manage the budget and work with the JJJPC to design and print it.

IX. **Youth Commission** (Nori): There was no update from the Youth Commission as they are off for the Summer and will resume meetings in the Fall. Commissioner Nori will be the chair of the Youth Commission next year.

X. **Announcements:** *None.*

Meeting adjourned 7:18 p.m.