



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

January 26, 2020 | 5:15-7:15 pm  
Remote Meeting

### MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Toni Barrack, Co-Chair; Debora Telleria, Co-Chair; Rebecca Flores, Administrative Vice-Chair; Melissa Wilson, Membership Vice Chair; Paul Bocanegra; Monroe Labouisse; Sathvik Nori; Susan Swope; Douglas Winter

**Commissioners Absent:** Sonoo Thadaney (leave of absence)

**Additional Attendees:**

Judge Susan Etezadi – Juvenile Court  
Ron Rayes – Private Defender Program  
Jehan Clark – Probation  
Melanie Stauffer – Probation  
Ameya Nori – Youth Commission Liaison  
Austin Willis – Youth Commission Liaison  
Jamila McCallum – Edgewood  
Kate Hiester – Fresh Lifelines for Youth  
Janet Borgens – Potential Commissioner  
Steve Duddy – Potential Commissioner  
Brian Evans – Potential Commissioner  
Karin Huber-Levy – Potential Commissioner  
Victor Lecha III – Potential Commissioner

Rebecca Baum – District Attorney’s Office  
Sharon Cho – District Attorney’s Office  
Ally Hoppis – Behavioral Health & Recovery Services  
Aurora Pena – Behavioral Health & Recovery Services  
Jenee' Littrell – County Office of Education  
Tom Leung – Community Member  
Johanna Rasmussen – New Commissioner  
Angie Angelini – Rasmussen Guest  
Susan Grimsrud – Rasmussen Guest  
Kara Heryford – Rasmussen Guest  
Steve Heryford – Rasmussen Guest  
Mia Manamea – Rasmussen Guest  
Chris Rasmussen – Rasmussen Guest

#### 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 5:15 p.m.
- c. **Welcome and Introductions**
- d. **Agenda Review:** Approved as distributed.
- e. **Approval of Minutes:** Approved as distributed.
- f. **Swearing in New Commissioners:** Rasmussen, Willis
- g. **Swearing in/Reappointment of Commissioners:** Barrack, Labouisse, Swope, Wilson



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**II. Oral Communication:** *None*

**III. Updates and Trends**

**a. Juvenile Court (Judge Etezadi)**

- Dependency cases are taking up most of their time. Dependency cases are when they remove children for abuse, neglect and abandonment.
- Juvenile justice cases have plummeted. There are currently ten youth at the Youth Services Center (YSC), which has a capacity of 180. Probation is doing a fabulous job to make sure youth remain safe from COVID.
- All of the agencies are making sure that they do not detain youth unless they have committed a serious offence, which is why numbers have plummeted.
- The Juvenile Court conducts 95% of all hearings remotely. The Juvenile Court is working full time and remains open. They have not reduced their services because they are able to continue to provide services on a remote platform.

**b. Private Defender Program (Rayes)**

- Juvenile arrests have declined by 80% and the daily population in juvenile hall has declined by 60% in the past 10 years in California and has plummeted even more since COVID. In 2010 there were 2,500 youth in foster care and as of 2020 there are 615 in foster care in California. The transfer of youth to adult court in California has also declined from 1,200 in 2010 to 64 cases in 2020.

**c. District Attorney Office (Baum)**

- Petition requests from Probation regarding filing have gone down. This could be attributed in part to schools being closed. There is an increasing trend of more serious offences, gang violence offenses, and guns in the hands of our youth. Substance abuse and mental health issues continue to be an issue and the pandemic has exacerbated that. On the flip side, extra family time for some youth has been a good thing.
- Personnel change, Sharon Chow will be taking over Rebecca Baum's position.

**d. Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (Pena)**

- The number of youth at the YSC has gone down and so have their number of cases. BHRS continues to provide services to the youth that are in the hall, on probation or in the community via Telehealth or telephone.
- There have been more reports of increased anxiety given COVID and youth being out of school and not having pro social activities.



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- There has been an increase in drug use; some clients are really struggling and are not attending school so they turn to drug use.

**e. County Office of Education (Litrell)**

- The population in court and community schools continues to decline. Gateway specifically has significantly declined in enrollment. However, they are one of the very few programs that are educating students in person. Currently pursuing a significant grant called the Community Schools grant. If awarded they will revamp Gateway into a more restorative model (rehabilitative and restorative approach), with a lot more intensive mental health support. They will also be able to expand their services from six to 60 students.
- Across the county they are seeing more and more students that would benefit from some social, emotional, mental health and behavioral support. They continue to work with districts to help them develop an array of services and rethink their policies and practices.
- Offering a webinar training series to help high school leaders rethink what high school should look like. With the distance learning challenges of adults not having eyes on students, it makes it difficult to make child welfare reports. There are food security challenges, homelessness and mental health challenges. Ultimate goal is to get students back into the classroom and connected so that all social and emotional needs are met.

**f. Probation (Clark & Stauffer)**

- There are currently 10 youth at YSC and four at Camp Kemp.
- Medical staff are testing all youth upon intake prior to entering the facility and tested again at day 12 before going over to general population.
- Youth just went back to in person school and started Project Change.
- All programming is offered virtually along with visits. Will continue to offer these services virtually. Staff are surveying the youth to see if they are benefiting from virtual programs and to see how they can make it better for them. With the new vaccine rolling out hopefully in person programming could come back.
- With SB823, which entails the closure of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the age increase of housing juveniles up to age 24, the YSC will focus their attention on expanding the girls' program by providing services to the neighboring counties.
- Juvenile Services has made a conscious effort to make sure they are not booking a lot of youth into the facility unless they have committed a serious violent offence.



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Unless there is a safety risk to the community, they are asking to release these youth. Unless there is a reason for them to remain detained, they are utilizing the electronic monitoring program and community care program.

- In terms of supervision, they are making sure counseling services, counseling service for parents and other supportive services are in place.

#### **IV. Inspections**

- Inspection reports are complete for 2020 and are now posted on the Probation website and letters have been sent to the appropriate parties along with a copy of the report.

#### **V. Annual Report**

- Commissioner Swope moved to approve the 2020 annual report. Seconded by Commissioner Labouisse.
- No discussion, approved unanimously.

#### **VI. Strategic Plan Update (Labouisse)**

- The mission statement and aspirations remain the same except for a small change to the language in the third aspiration, adding middle school children.
- Projects are organized according to the aspirations. New projects have been defined and Commissioners will vote on the priority of projects and sign up for 2021 projects via a survey later this week.
- Commissioner Wilson moved to adopt the update strategic plan as written. Seconded by Co-Chair Barrack. No discussion. Updated strategic plan was passed and approved unanimously.

#### **VII. Strategic Project Milestone Reviews**

##### **a. Develop Truancy Strategy (Swope)**

- Still in the information gathering phase.
- Some members of the committee would like to eliminate SARB's completely.

##### **b. Elected Officials (Bocanegra, Labouisse)**

- Have not had more meetings with elected officials since 2020.
- Had a follow up meeting coordinated by Supervisor Canepa with the Peninsula Solidarity Cohort. They were very interested in hearing about the Commission's strategy and work. Our comments were very well received and as a result the



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Pastor of the San Mateo County Congregational Church has asked Commissioners Labouisse and Bocanegra to give the presentation to their congregation via Zoom.

**VIII. Community Ambassador and Coordinator Reports**

- a. The AOD Collaboration has announced a webinar given on Thursday morning at 10AM on the topic of Adolescence Substance Abuse 101. Current Trends and the Impact of COVID will be presented by the National Counsel of Behavior Health.
- b. San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council talked about how they handle child abuse response and protocols. They talked about using trauma informed approaches with commercially exploited children along with a multidisciplinary team who only interview the child once to avoid repeated trauma.
- c. Domestic Violence Counsel talked about a new law called SB1141, which redefines the law to include corrosive control.
- d. Mental Health Commission discussed mental health professionals going into situations with the police or having mental health professionals arriving on site instead of a police officer depending on the danger of the situation.

**IX. Youth Commission (Nori and Willis)**

- Youth Commission subcommittee advocated for the adoption of an ethnic studies task force for students and faculties in different school districts, which was approved.

**X. Announcements: *None***

Meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2021**