



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

222 Paul Scannell Drive • San Mateo, CA 94402 • (650) 363-4641

Minutes of the Regular Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission Meeting Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 5:00 p.m. 455 County Center, Room 402, Redwood City

Commissioners Present:

Susan Swope – Chair

Rebecca Ross – Vice Chair

Mieke Bloomfield

Pat Bresee

Marianna Klebanov

Irv Rollins

Al Serrato

Commissioners Excused: Bonnie Miller

Staff Present:

Cal Remington, Interim Chief Probation Officer

Warren Slocum, Board Member (District 4)

Marci Dragun, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Slocum

Additional Attendees:

Richard Boitano, Commissioner Emeritus

Milton Reynolds, Commissioner Emeritus

Sandra Gomez, Human Services Agency

Eileen Manning-Villar

Gurjeet Chahal, YUCA

Moneisa Carson

Adam Ely, Private Defender Program

Margot Rawlins

David Cattivera, FLY

Andrew Niklaus, FLY

Rick Halpern, Private Defender Program

Tara Schmidt, FLY

Seren Pendleton-Knoll, Star Vista

I. Administrative Business:

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m.
- Supervisor Warren Slocum administered the Oath of Office to Mieke Bloomfield and Rebecca Ross—both were reappointed to second terms as commissioners through December 31, 2016.
- Roll Call and Establish Quorum: A quorum was established
- Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes:

M: Ross/S: Rollins to approve the minutes of January 29, 2013, meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted with 1 abstention (Bloomfield).

II. Oral Communications:

Eileen Manning-Villar introduced herself.

III. Presentation on the Private Defender Program—Rick Halpern, Managing Attorney for Juvenile Services

Vice Chairperson Ross introduced Rick Halpern, Managing Attorney for Juvenile Services for the Private Defender Program (PDP). Mr. Halpern stated that he has been in his current role since January 2012, but has spent over 4 decades in the Private Defender Program.

- His office handles dependency and delinquency cases
- Mr. Halpern reviews all cases as they come in and assigns them to the appropriate attorney—there are approximately 30 attorneys on the Private Defender panel
- The Private Defender Program panel is staffed by private attorneys administered by the program
- Mr. Halpern meets monthly with the Presiding Juvenile Judge and the Deputy Chief of Probation to discuss issues of concern

Commissioner Serrato arrived at 5:25 p.m.

Commissioner Klebanov arrived at 5:27 p.m.

- Mr. Halpern emphasized some areas of interest/concern are:
 - Direct Files (Proposition 21) cases that are filed by the District Attorney (DA) directly in the adult court without a fitness hearing
 - Disproportionate percentage of Hispanic youth detained in San Mateo County
 - More Specialty Courts (i.e., drug, mental health, education court) would address some of the fiscal challenges of the Courts

In response to a question from Vice Chairperson Ross, Chief Remington commented that the San Mateo County immigration policy is in the process of being rewritten to address ICE reporting protocol. He estimated the new policy, which must be vetted by the Courts, should be completed in about 6 weeks.

In response to a question from Supervisor Slocum, Chief Remington indicated that he is receptive to the idea of bringing the immigration policy before the JJDPC when completed. He mentioned that Supervisors Pine and Groom are very interested in the policy as well.

IV. Probation Remarks – Cal Remington, Interim Chief Probation Officer

- Chief Remington stated that the Probation Department will reorganize and go back to separate Juvenile and Adult divisions—this structure fits current research as it relates to evidence-based practices.
- Vice Chairperson Ross commented that she and Commissioner Miller will be responsible for having ongoing monthly meetings with YSC staff to follow up on issues with the inspections (e.g. nutrition, football field, perimeter road, etc.)
- Chief Remington will look into available grant money through [The W. Haywood] Burns Institute to fund YSC projects.

V. Court Remarks

None

VI. Consideration of Commission Meeting Place and Time

- Chairperson Swope asked the commission to consider changing location and/or time for JJDPc monthly meetings in order to be more accessible to the general public.
- Vice Chairperson Ross suggested that if the commission is considering moving the meetings back to the YSC, that the commission get the exact details of how public access would be provided from Deputy Chief Brasil and propose a vote at the next meeting. The commission will also look into public transportation availability to the YSC.
- Commission Serrato stated that the concern with the YSC is the Brown Act—to make sure there was not a roadblock to public participation as a result of the security screening process.
- On commission consensus, the issue of changing location and/or time of monthly meeting will be placed on the March agenda.

VII. Review of Current Activities/Projects

Education Advocacy (Rollins)

- Commissioner Rollins invited members of the commission and the general public to attend a meeting sponsored by San Mateo County Office of Education at the Sobrato Center in Redwood Shores on April 9 from 9:00 a.m. until noon—the emphasis will be on the issue of discipline and disproportionate suspensions and expulsions of Hispanic youth and youth of color.
- Commissioner Reynolds announced that the County Office of Education is also sponsoring the Zap the Gap conference at the Sobrato Center on March 11 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Nominations (Miller)

- Chairperson Swope reported that she is in the process of setting up interviews for prospective commissioners, and she anticipates bringing them before the commission for consideration at the next meeting.

Legislative (Klebanov)

- Commissioner Bresee provided information on upcoming bills in Sacramento. She commented that one of the bills of interest to her deals with setting up qualifications and training for attorneys representing youth in delinquency court.

Inspections (Bloomfield)

- Commissioner Bloomfield suggested starting the annual inspection schedule earlier rather than waiting until April or May to receive the list of police stations from the Board of State and Corrections (formerly CSA). She recommended starting with the group homes.
- Commissioner Klebanov commented that the commission should allow at least 12 months between inspections for each facility.

VIII. Brainstorming: Ideas for 2013 and Beyond

- Commissioner Bloomfield suggested that the commission document a glossary of terms as well as some of its administrative processes (such as inspections) for future commissioners.
- Chairperson Swope will distribute “What Commissions Can Do/Have Done” from the handbook at the next meeting. The documents offers ideas on what commissioners can do in the community.
- Commissioner Boitano stated that he can arrange commissioner visits at a high school; there are four schools and a continuation school. He stated that spending a day at a high school can be enlightening.
- Commissioner Reynolds commented that since Supervisor Slocum is interested in following up on the conversation with the Burns Institute on the disproportional discipline in schools, that it might be interesting to host some our surrounding counties to speak on their experiences with the Institute.
- Ask Steve Kaplan to talk about juvenile mental health issues and the services available to them, including those in group homes.
- Presentation on the EPA Youth Court.

IX. Commissioner Representative Reports

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council:

Chairperson Swope reported that the JJCC cancelled its February meeting.

Youth Commission:

Gurjeet Chahal reported that the Youth Commission’s Immigrant Youth Committee is accepting applications through April 1 for the Immigrant Youth Award (grades 11, 12 and college). There will be an eco-friendly fair on April 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the County Center. The Youth Forum on human trafficking of minors will be held on April 18 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Silicon Valley Foundation in San Mateo

X. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

None

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

**Tuesday, March 26, 2013, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: 455 County Center, Room 402, Redwood City, CA**