



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

**Minutes of the Regular Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 5:15 p.m.  
455 County Center, Room 402, Redwood City**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Susan Swope – Chair, Al Serrato, Lara Montoya, Mieke Barrows, Marianna Klebanov, Margot Rawlins,

**Commissioners Excused:** Richard Boitano (Emeritus), Bonnie Miller, and Irv Rollins

**Unexcused:** Michael Stark

**Staff Present:**

Christine Villanis, Deputy Chief (Juvenile Services)

Larry Silver, Deputy Chief (Institutions)

**Additional Attendees:**

Valerie Gibbs

Lizzie Ford

Loriann Villanis

Joan Rosas

Katie Bliss

Thomas Mohr

Antonia Servel

**I. Administrative Business:**

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.
- Roll Call and Establish Quorum: A quorum was established.
- Agenda Review: The agenda stands approved as distributed by consensus.
- Approval of Minutes: Correction: Margot Rawlins's name was left off the list of commissioners present at the meeting. With this correction, the minutes were approved as distributed.

**II. Oral Communications:** No oral communication.

**III. Swearing-In of New Commissioner:** Valerie Gibbs was sworn in by Deputy Chief Silver in Judge Cretan's absence.

**IV. Joint Projects for Post-Secondary Opportunities at Juvenile Hall – Tom Mohr and Katie Bliss**

Mr. Mohr introduced himself and Katie Bliss who is the Director of Project Change. Mr. Mohr noted that he served on the JJDC for 12 years in the 1970s and 1980s when he was principal of Westmoor High School. Mr. Mohr has always had a strong feeling that the community colleges need to reach out in a significant way to incarcerated youth. He said this program has great support from the Chancellor.

Ms. Bliss shared that Project Change is a collaborative effort of the College of San Mateo, Probation, and the County Office of Education. The program began about a year and a half

ago, serving about 10 students, who were referred by Probation and the Court and Community Schools. The purpose was to provide a 1-year transition program on the CSM campus specifically designed for court-involved youth. Every youth received a mentor, a CSM staff member, who met with them on a biweekly basis to develop study skills and determine what classes they would take. The youth were given priority enrollment, enabling them to sign up for classes before the majority of other students on campus. Their mentors walked them through the enrollment process. The program paid for their books and arranged financial aid. None of the more than 60 students so far has had to pay for anything.

Currently, Project Change serves the Court and Community Schools, Camp Kemp, Camp Glenwood, and the Youth Services Center, providing an orientation at the beginning of each month. During orientation, they talk with students about the opportunities available at CSM. During the summer they can attend the Summer Bridge Program, which is a class for college readiness. It has no pre-requisites and students receive college credits for attending. This summer, on-line courses will also include math, English, career and technical courses. At this point the program is funded by the college district. At some point, there may be an opportunity for various types of grants.

The Commissioners were enthusiastic about the program and asked how they could support it. Mr. Mohr suggested it would be helpful to write to the Chancellor of the College of San Mateo supporting the program. **M:/Rawlins, S:/Serrato** that Commissioner Swope write a letter to the Chancellor of the College of San Mateo on behalf of the Commission in support of Project Change, with copies to the Board of Trustees. **Approved:** unanimously.

**V. Probation Remarks:**

Deputy Chief Silver introduced Sheree Calhoun the Acting Director of the Youth Services Center. He noted that Jeff Morino is now Director of both camps as well as Juvenile Services. Deputy Chief Villanis advised of additional staffing changes. Michelle Kozul is now supervisor for the Camps and EMP. The previous supervisor, John Defelice, has moved to Intensive Supervision, South County.

**VI. Court Remarks :** There were no Court Remarks.

**VII. Vision for 2015 Discussion:**

Rick Boitano, who was unable to attend this evening, asked Commissioner Swope to share information he got from Paul Sorbo, the Deputy Director of San Mateo County Behavioral Health Services, regarding Mental Health Services at Camp Glenwood. Mr. Sorbo is aware of our concerns and those of the Chief and other interested parties and he fully agrees with those concerns. The reason we do not have a full-time therapist assigned to the camp is finances. Camp Kemp was able to secure funding for additional Mental Health Services from a source specific to the details of that program.

Discussion followed as to how the Commission could assist in obtaining more funding for mental health services. Commissioner Swope commented that we need more details about what services are needed before proceeding. She has asked for that information but hasn't heard back. Once we know what is needed, we can talk with Supervisor Slocum and Duputy County Manager Callagy about next steps.

Commissioner Rawlins asked if non-profits such as Star Vista or Edgewood could provide services on a contract basis. Deputy Chief Silver said that they do provide some of those services at Camp Kemp, but it can create issues, BHRS is responsible for supervising any contracted services.

Deputy Chief Silver said that Probation makes an assessment before they recommend a youth be sent to Camp Glenwood. Sometimes a youth who Probation doesn't think belongs there, ends up at Camp. When this happens, and the services the youth needs are not available at the Camp, they have to ensure the minor's needs met by taking him to Youth Services Center, which creates its own set of problems.

Deputy Chief Villanis said a Probation team looked at the possibility of applying for a grant. However, with time constraints and the complexity of the grant submission process, they decided not to apply for it. Instead, the team is looking at ways to meet our needs with current resources. They even talked with a family about what has worked and how well Probation has met their needs, as well as where the gaps are and how Probation can help. They will continue to work on how they can best provide needed services for Glenwood (and other youth) and will report back to the Commission. She also commented on the importance of support once the youth is released to return home and needs continuing counseling in the home.

Commissioner Swope said she would be happy to invite Paul Sorbo or Steve Kaplan to the next meeting, along with Toni DeMarco. She will also speak with Supervisor Slocum and Mr. Callagy about the need for more Mental Health funding and would welcome having another Commissioner join her. Commissioner Gibbs volunteered.

Commissioner Rawlins reminded the Commission that we agreed to choose a few topics where the Commission could assist Probation and focus on them. She wanted to confirm that those two main topics are Mental Health and Education. Commissioner Swope said Mental Health is definitely one of the topics. In terms of Education, we have stated in our inspections that we wanted youth with their GED or high school diploma to have access to post-secondary education, and it appears that is being addressed through Project Change. We also have an Ad hoc committee following education issues on a continuing basis.

Deputy Chief Silver said one of his priorities for the facility is always safety and security. They are currently in the process of updating our security/camera systems.

Antonia Serval from the bureau of the YMCA, commented that they have been around since the 1960s. Initially, their focus was on at-risk youth and preventing their becoming involved with law enforcement and probation. Today, they are in 50 schools all over the County. Most people are familiar with the School Safety Advocate Program, which manages crises on campus. They work closely with probation officers as well. They have other programs, such as Juvenile Sexual Responsibility, as well as three clinics where they provide outpatient counseling. They also work with the Food Pantry and provide rental assistance or shelter for minors and their families. They function somewhat similar to Star Vista. There are lots of ways they would be happy to support the youth at Camp Glenwood.

## **VIII. Liaison/Study Group Reports:**

### **a. Inspections Liaison (Rawlins)**

Commissioner Rawlins noted that sometimes we write things up in our inspections, but nothing happens and we don't have a mechanism to follow up. Commissioners Barrows, Gustafson and Rawlins met to discuss how they thought we might change the work focus to make it easier and provide continuity. They also discussed the possibility of making some changes to the inspection process. By law, we have the three detention facilities as well as the police departments to inspect. They studied the Annie E. Casey *Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative*, which has been around for a long time. Santa Cruz County uses this approach, but it is very complex. One possibility is to set up 4 subject matter teams, e.g., Mental Health/Medical, Environments/Procedures (which would look at access, intake and discipline, training and safety in the environment), Education/Programing, and Youth/Involvement (how to work well with the youth and bring them more into the process).

Commissioner Serrato asked if the sense was, that the process we've been using hasn't worked and if we need to do something different. The inspections serve the purpose of a check-in, and essentially, have worked well in his 20 plus years of experience. Commissioner Barrows said that at the very least, we have some forms that need revamping.

Commissioner Swope reported that she sent an e-mail to CSCC and asked if our inspections are sufficient or if there are ways we should be improving them. She has not heard back. Deputy Chief Villanis stated that she feels that the Commission does a great job following up. Deputy Chief Silver has addressed the concerns that the Commission has brought to his attention.

Commissioner Swope thought it would be helpful to survey the other Bay Area Commissions about what they are doing generally and with respect to inspections. She has prepared a draft survey and asked the other Commissioners to look at her draft, and give her feedback, so she can get it finalized and sent out. Kathryn Meola said that if more than half the Commissioners comment, the survey would need to be on the agenda for the next meeting before it is sent out.

## **IX. Commissioner Comments/Announcements:**

Rebecca Ross is moving out of the County and has resigned from the commission. We will need a new co-chair. Youth Commissioner, Michael Stark, has also effectively resigned.

Youth Commissioner Ford reported on the Youth Commission's Youth Conference last month. It is held every year at the College of San Mateo. This year's conference went very well. Brook Costello, the Youth Commission coordinator, will be leaving this year so they are looking for someone to take her place.

## **X. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

**The Next JJDPC Meeting:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015  
**Location:** 455 County Center, Room 402, Redwood City, CA.