



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**  
**Tuesday, September 29, 5:15 p.m.**  
**455 County Center, Room 402, Redwood City**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Susan Swope – Chair, Lara Montoya, Mieke Barrows, Marianna Klebanov, Irv Rollins, Michele Gustafson, Bonnie Miller, Valerie Gibbs, Al Serrato, Nick Jasso, and Richard Boitano (Emeritus)

**Youth Commission Liaisons Present:** Clara MacAvoy, Natasha Palestino, Rodney Martinez

**Staff Present:**

Christine Villanis, Deputy Chief (Juvenile Services)  
Larry Silver, Assistant Chief (Probation)

**Additional Attendees:**

Nancy Magee, SMCOE	Ali Knight, Fresh Life Lines for Youth
Loriann Villanis, SMCOE	Ana Avendaño, StarVista
Jan Ellard, County Counsel	Michael Nedelman, Stanford Medical Student

**I. Administrative Business:**

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.
- Roll Call and Establish Quorum: A quorum was established.
- Agenda Review: **M:**/Gustafson, **S:**/Barrows to approve the agenda as distributed.  
**Approved** unanimously
- Approval of Minutes: **M:**/Gustafson, **S:**/Montoya to approve the August 25, 2015 Minutes with a correction on page 4—substitute “BSCC bi-annual report” for “comments section in the log from”. **Approved** as corrected.

Commissioner Swope asked the Youth Commissioners who volunteered to be liaisons to the JJDP to introduce themselves. Rodney Martinez is 16-years-old, currently a junior at Archbishop Riordan High School. Clara MacAvoy is 15-years-old and attends Sequoia High School. Natasha Palestino is a senior at Sequoia High School in Redwood City.

**M:**/Klebanov, **S:**/Gibbs to welcome the youth from the San Mateo County Youth Commission as liaisons to the JJDP. **Approved** unanimously.

**II. Oral Communications:** None.

**III. Court Remarks**

- a. Swearing in.** Commissioner Nick Jasso was sworn in by Deputy Chief, Christine Villanis. Commissioner Jasso requested a 10-month Leave of Absence because he has been offered an assignment with AmeriCorps. **M:**/Gustafson, **S:**/Miller to grant

Commissioner Jasso a 10-month leave of absence with the understanding that if he finds he will not be coming back, he will resign.

**b. Potential Meeting with Judge to Discuss Splitting the Commission – (Commissioner Gustafson)**

Commissioner Gustafson led a discussion on the pros and cons of splitting the Commission into a two separate commissions: a Juvenile Justice Commission reporting to the Court and a Delinquency Prevention Commission reporting to the Board of Supervisors. (Refer to the attachment for more information on the pros and cons.)

Currently the Commission cannot hold closed-door meetings to discuss any incidents involving youth in custody because of the Brown Act. The Commission is looking into whether splitting into two commissions would enable closed door sessions to preserve youth confidentiality. Jan Ellard will research whether this premise is correct and report back. There was also discussion on what the Juvenile Court Judge expects from the commission and that the Commission should get clarity on this issue.

There being no objection, Commissioner Swope moved agenda item V.a.h., Sensitive Events Reporting, up for discussion. She reported that there was a sexual assault in Juvenile Hall in January. Probation could not discuss it because of confidentiality issues. On 9/1, a committee of four commissioners met with Chief Keene and developed a memorandum of understanding on how the Commission will be informed of sensitive issues (See attachment).

Commissioner Gustafson suggested the JJDCP repurpose the focus of the sensitive events group to a steering committee to have conversations with the Judge.

**M:/Gustafson** and **S:/Miller** to repurpose the sensitive issues ad hoc committee to speak with the Judges and the Board of Supervisors about the possibility of splitting the Commission and what their expectations are of the Commission. **Approved** unanimously.

**IV. Probation Remarks:**

**a. Camp Glenwood Re-Design Update**

Assistant Chief Silver reported there have been eight committee meetings about the redesign. Last week's was at James Ranch Santa Clara County's boys' ranch, which operates on a modified Missouri model, with a very low staff/youth ratio of 2:6. They have a small cohort philosophy in which each cohort of 12 youth work the program together. They have a very strong vocational program, including a welding program that offers a certification. Their population consists of much higher needs youth than Camp Glenwood and they have 2-3 full-time therapists, plus interns.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss Family Involvement and Assessment. Three sub-committees are being formed—for Education, Gang Member Programming, and Re-entry/Aftercare. There will need to be lots of training for Probation staff when the core program is established.

There was discussion about funding for Santa Clara's camp and Camp Glenwood. Chief Villanis said that the County will likely pay for most (if not all) of what Probation can articulate as the need, citing evidence and data. They will not accept anecdotal information. They are working on gathering this information and data.

Probation is in the process of adding another Probation Officer to the Aftercare program.

b. **SWAG** (Deputy Chief Villanis)

SWAG is run by a non-profit called Live in Peace and currently serves youth in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. They have targeted interventions with high school seniors who don't have enough credits to graduate, as well as students who are going from middle school to high school. Their goal is to serve 80 youth a year with four case workers who average 20 youth each. Probation has provided them with a full-time Probation Officer as liaison between the Probation Department and SWAG. It's currently funded for three years.

Christine Villanis provided a handout showing the programs funded by the Probation Department with the money from the State. San Mateo County puts over \$1 million into community-based organizations for prevention and early intervention programs, mostly in the County's schools. This year they added a program dealing with immigration issues. They focus on housing, employment and a variety of social issues. They are also trying to identify gaps in services. Probation brought on a new assessment tool, which tells the department what youths' needs and risk for re-offending are.

As of October 11<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Chief Larry Silver will be promoted to Assistant Chief. Deputy Chief Christine Villanis will move to Institutions and Deputy Chief Roy Brasil will move to Juvenile Services.

**V. Liaison/Study Group Reports**

a. **Inspection Status (Gustafson)**

1. Burlingame inspection report (Al Serrato)

Commissioners Serrato and Montoya conducted the Burlingame PD inspection, which turned out to be unnecessary because corrected data showed that they had not held youth in secure detention

From the form it looks like the Department is not informing youth of the length of time the secure detention is expected to last and the six-hour limit. Commissioner Serrato said Burlingame Police Department is requesting guidance on how to answer these questions because they have never experienced that situation. Commissioner Gustafson noted that the San Mateo Police Department has a script for what they tell the youth. We could offer that as guidance. Commissioner Barrows suggested this be added in the recommendations.

**M:/Serrato S:/not necessary. Approved** unanimously.

2. Camp Glenwood Inspection (Barrows)

Commissioners Barrows, Serrato and Klebanov completed the Camp Glenwood inspection in August 2015. Overall, the program was impressive. It was clear the staff

care about the youth. Currently, Glenwood has only 15-20 youth, so it feels more like a group home than a camp. Several youth felt they weren't being challenged enough at school. There were some staff concerns about consistency in aftercare and follow-up. More details can be found in the report.

Youth Commissioner MacAvoy asked if youth of different religious faiths were allowed to observe their day of rest if it was other than Sunday. Deputy Chief Silver will need to find out answer and report back to Commission. Silver added that if a youth asked, he would be accommodated.

Commissioner Rollins reported on the education inspection and stated he had a strongly positive opinion of SMCOE and the educational program they currently offer at the facilities. On the flipside, the students are correct when they say that the rigor is greater in their neighborhood schools than it is at Camp Glenwood or at Juvenile Hall. One of the things Commissioner Rollins recommends is that attention be paid to the actual instructional levels and performance levels of students. As a teacher, Commissioner Rollins recommends considering a document to include instructional levels of the student. He recommends looking at issues of rigor and looking at issues of relationship. He was impressed with the programs offered in the court schools – accreditation activity, partnership with College of San Mateo Community College and hopeful for completion of the Internet throughout the system.

Commissioner Swope added that meals are served family style, not cafeteria style (page 6 of the inspection report). Additionally, on page 11, it states children are seldom to never confined to school. It should say to rooms, not school.

**M:/Barrows S:/Gibb** to approve Camp Glenwood inspection report with corrections. **Approved** unanimously.

Commissioner Gustafson had a question regarding the YSC weekend program. Youth who commit a probation violation or other violation may be sent to the hall for the weekend. Sometimes, if youth are acting out in community school, or somehow being disruptive, they can be sent to Juvenile Hall for a day or two. Commissioner Gustafson was concerned about reports from youth that they are given the required amount of Large Muscle Activity (LMA), but no programming, and they are often confined to their rooms.

Commissioner Nick Jasso talked about his experience with the weekend program. He would turn himself in Friday at 6pm and be released 6pm Sunday. During the first day, he had no interaction with other people. He would be in his room the entire time with no LMA, until Sunday, when he left at 6pm. He had no program. He experienced this for multiple weekends. He said he, and other youth he knows, would come in intoxicated or sneak in drugs under their tongues. Commissioner Gustafson would like the Commission to have a discussion at the next meeting about the weekend program and its usefulness.

Deputy Chief Villanis noted that some youth are committed for a weekend if they are on probation. It is a probation violation if a youth does not attend school regularly.

It's a way to try and get the youth's attention—if you're not going to go to school, then you will also not have a weekend.

- b. **Educational Study Group (Rollins):** No report.
- c. **Legislative Liaison (Klebanov):** No report
- d. **Regional JJDPC Survey Liaison (Swope):** The draft report of the Regional Survey is out for review by the commissions surveyed.
- e. **Community Schools Advisory Committee (Gibbs):** No report. The next meeting is Thursday, October 1, 2015.
- f. **Nomination Committee (Swope):** Commissioner Gustafson has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Chair Swope agreed to serve as Chair for one more year with the understanding that this will be her last term.
- g. **Court Liaison (Miller):** No Report
- h. **Sensitive Events Reporting (Swope):** Reviewed earlier in report

**VI. Consideration of Possible Delinquency Prevention Activity (Swope):**

Moved to October JJDPC meeting. Possibly youth liaison would decide to take on a project that specifically deals with delinquency prevention.

**VII. Commissioner Comments/Announcements**

Commissioner Chair Swope promoted voting for The Big Lift. It has qualified as one of 10 finalists in the Google grant competition and will receive \$250,000. It now goes to a public vote. If they are among the top 4 in the public vote, which closes October 21, they will receive another \$250,000 for a total of \$500,000.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned 7:19pm**

**The Next JJDPC Meeting:** Tuesday, October 27, 2015  
**Location:** 455 County Centers, Room 402, Redwood City, CA.