



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, January 26, 2016
455 County Center, Room 402, Redwood City**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Susan Swope – Chair, Michele Gustafson – Vice Chair, Mieke Barrows, Valerie Gibbs, Al Serrato, Sonoo Thadaney, Rick Boitano, (Emeritus)

Youth Commission Liaisons: Clara MacAvoy and Rodney Martinez

Commissioners Excused: Lara Montoya, Nick Jasso

Commissioners Unexcused: Marianna Klebanov, Irv Rollins

Staff Present:

Christine Villanis, Deputy Chief (Institutions Services)

Additional Attendees:

Nancy Magee - SMCOE

Jan Ellard - County Counsel

Loriann Villanis - SMCOE

Rebecca Flores – Stanford University/FLY

Jeff Bautista – Community Member

I. Administrative Business:

- a. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.
- b. Roll Call and Establish Quorum: A quorum was established.
- c. Agenda Review: approved as distributed
- d. Approval of Minutes: **M:**/Gustafson, **S:**/Barrows to approve September 29, 2015 minutes with the correction of the spelling of Youth Commissioner Clara MacAvoy's name. **Approved** unanimously. **M:**/Gustafson, **S:**/Barrows to approve October 27, 2015 minutes as distributed. **Approved** unanimously. **M:**/Gustafson, **S:**/Barrows to approve December 8, 2015 Special Meeting minutes with the spelling correction of Alex Shoor from Fresh Lifelines. **Approved** unanimously.

II. Oral Communications: None.

III. Redwood City's Juvenile Diversion Program – Manuel Velarde, Redwood City Police Department (RWCPD)

Manuel Velarde runs the Juvenile Diversion Program for the RWCPD, which was recently recognized by Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) as a model for all law enforcement agencies in the United States with cities that have fewer than 1 million residents.

The diversion program offers first time offenders with minor crimes a second chance before sending them to the criminal justice system. The program has several levels: prevention (no

crime committed such as running away from home); early intervention (youth who are refusing to do homework at school or misbehaving); and diversion (working with minor crimes that are not considered serious felonies). The program will divert cases based on the circumstances of each case they receive. Services include counseling and students may be required to perform community service. The diversion program works closely with the school and community based organizations in Redwood City. They had approximately 150 cases last year. There is no additional funding for this program through the RWCPD. Every police officer has adopted a school and visit with parents, staff and youth. They go to the school prior to their beat every day to build a rapport with the families at their school.

IV. Re-adoption of Commission Operating Policies (Swope):

Every year, the Commission needs to readopt the operating policies. Commission Chair Swope also suggested that we change the title of the policies from By-Laws to Operating Policies to be in line with other county commissions.

Al Serrato and Irv Rollins terms expired on 12/31/15. They would like to be reappointed. There is no procedure in the current policy about reappointments. Jan Ellard will look into it and propose a policy to the JJDPC at the next meeting. Commission Chair Swope will re-agendize the Operating Policy to consider those changes at the next JJDPC meeting.

M:/Barrows, S:/Gustafson to approve the renewal of the Operating Policies for 2016 changing the document name to 'Operating Policies'. **Approved** unanimously.

a. Renewal of Commissioner Emeritus Status

Commission Chair Swope stated that Richard Boitano (Emeritus) would like to continue to advise the Commission. The Commission will look into whether there is a possibility of making him a voting member again. **M:/Gustafson, S:/Serrato** for the Commission to renew Richard Boitano's Emeritus status. **Approved** unanimously.

V. Update on Reconfiguring the JJDPC and/or changing the meeting time and day

Commission Vice Chair Gustafson asked whether the JJDPC should add a November and December meeting. The proposal is to set-up a meeting that doesn't conflict with Thanksgiving or Christmas. Youth Commissioner MacAvoy said finals are generally during the 1st or 2nd week of December, which would affect their attendance at the JJDPC meeting. County Council, Jan Ellard, stated that a Special Meeting date can be established for November and December and does not need to be the last Tuesday of the month. Discussion will be deferred to a meeting later in the year.

Jan Ellard spoke with Chief Keene regarding the possibility of changing the meeting date/time so the Judges are able to attend and also change the venue to the Youth Services Center. Chief Keene said he would work with the JJDPC with those changes.

Commissioner Barrows reported the reason why the JJDPC meeting is not held at Youth Services Center was due to the difficulty of public access after 5 pm, as well as public transport. Commissioner Gustafson suggested reestablishing a relationship with the Court before making the decision to change the venue/time of the meeting.

VI. Probation Remarks

Deputy Chief Christine Villanis reported that Probation Department staffing continues to be a challenge. The department hired 3 new staff; however, they lost 3 staff before the new hires came onboard. Staff is keeping the youth in the classrooms (instead of the units) as much as possible when it rains. Deputy Chief Villanis ordered more carpets to cover more of the floor at the school to address slipping concerns. Staff is concerned about the need to run down to the school from the housing units if a fight occurs. They report that it is slippery even on the concrete. Raincoats have also been ordered, but there is no guarantee they will be received by the end of the rainy season. New uniforms in navy blue have been ordered for staff. They should arrive mid/late March.

Deputy Chief Villanis reported there are currently some challenging youth in Juvenile Hall. Some lead staff believe some youth who are in custody are not criminally-minded, but rather have mental health issues. She has spoken with BHRS about training Probation staff on strategies to de-escalate situations when BHRS staff are not present to assist.

Deputy Chief Villanis, discussed the Glenwood Re-design. On Thursday, February, 21, 2106, the committee submitted the proposal to Chief Keene. The committee is waiting for Chief Keene's response to the proposal to determine its next steps. The sub-committees are still meeting because the Chief has asked to have sense of cost for some of the things that are being proposed and they are seeing what's feasible.

VII. San Mateo County Office of Education Remarks:

Nancy Magee from SMCOE reported they finished their WASC report and submitted it in early January. The visiting committee is coming for the final review during the third week of February. SMCOE met with the WASC committee chair, partly about accreditation - for students who might graduate from court and community school and be eligible for CSU/UC. The rest of it was more course alignment with their partner schools, etc.

She also stated that a monitoring software program has been purchased for the computers and installed in the court school computer lab. The next step is to train school and Probation staff on the program and develop a set of rules and requirements for the youth and teachers. They plan to expand the Compass program, an online curriculum that students can use for credit recovery.

SMCOE is also working on a program to engage youth who already have diplomas or their GEDs to keep them engaged in education.

Deputy Chief, Christine Villanis, mentioned that SMCOE is contracted with Calvin Smith who conducts a customer service training 2 hours a week for 5 weeks at Youth Services Center. If a youth completes the training, when they are released from custody, they can apply to Safeway for employment and are likely to get in fairly quickly. He also continues to mentor the youth and offers support while they are employed by Safeway.

VIII. Court Remarks: No report

IX. Liaison/Study Group Reports and Review of JJDPC 2015 Activities

a. **Educational Advocacy Committee (Rollins):** No report

b. **Inspections Committee (Gustafson):**

Commission Vice Chair Gustafson proposed to start the inspections earlier in the year with respect to the schools. At the next meeting, she will get the ball rolling to sign Commissioners up for inspections. Everyone is eligible to participate in the police station inspections. Commissioners under 18 cannot participate in the facility inspections.

c. **YSC Liaison Committee (Gustafson):**

Commission Vice Chair Gustafson noted that the Court has invited the Commissioners to attend the Glenwood and Kemp reviews. The sessions are confidential hearings, closed to the public. They are held every other Wednesday.

d. **Legislative Committee (Swope):**

Commission Chair Swope told the Commission about the Supreme Court's Miller vs. Alabama decision, which makes the prohibition on juvenile life without parole retroactive. This means any youth who has been convicted and sentenced to life without parole, can ask for a new sentencing or new adjudication.

Commission Vice Chair Gustafson stated that President Obama just announced a ban on solitary confinement in federal prisons.

e. **Regional JJDPC Meeting Committee (Swope):**

Commission Chair Swope informed the Commission that BSCC liked what she did on the survey of 9 Bay Area commissions and is considering of doing the survey state-wide.

f. **Community Schools Advisory Committee (Gibbs):** No report.

g. **Youth Commissioner Committee (MacAvoy):**

Youth Commissioner MacAvoy announced that the Youth Commission will hold its annual Youth Conference on March 19, 2016 at College of San Mateo from 10:00am-5:00pm. The conference is put on entirely by youth, including the presenters. The theme this year is "Change Starts with Us." The conference is looking for sponsors to help raise \$10,000 to cover the costs of the conference.

X. Proposed Vision for 2016 Discussion (All):

Commission Vice Chair Gustafson proposed a list of projects for the JJDPC to consider for 2016. The idea is to propose ideas and have the Commission vote on a few projects that they would like to pursue for 2016. On a periodic basis throughout the year, each project sub-group would present their progress. The Commission agreed they would like to see more activity in the following:

Probation Violations: Create a group that looks into the differences in treatment regarding probation violations in different counties, i.e., Santa Clara County vs. San Mateo County. We would try to set-up dialogue with youth in the communities and law enforcement to determine: Is there a measurable difference? Does it change recidivism? Is it having any other types of impact on the youth?

Public Health, including, but not limited to, Mental Health: Commissioner Thadaney suggested looking into health and creating a partnership using the prevention perspective and community/public health perspective. The group can collaborate with Public Health and see how health correlates directly with mental health, juvenile delinquency and see where the JJDPC could help. She also mentioned QPR training for teachers and staff and the role of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in Delinquency/Correction.

Youth Commissioner MacAvoy suggested looking further into mental health especially in the schools. She suggested working with teachers on mental health training.

Education: Commissioner Chair Swope is interested in a follow-up on the Respect 24/7 conference on Suspensions/Expulsions in schools in San Mateo County. How many schools have implemented PBIS or restorative justice programs? What have been the results for schools that have, vs. those who have not?

Group Homes/Dependency: Commissioner Barrows is interested in Group Homes and where we place dependent youths as group homes are being phased out.

Youth with Differences: Commissioner Thadaney is interested in LGBTQI youth with disabilities, youth who are un-housed and income inequality as it impacts youth.

Credit Catch-up/Credit Recovery Effectiveness: Commissioner Gustafson brought up the topic of the efficacy of credit catch-up in high school.

Evidence Based Programs: Rebecca Flores, from Stanford University/FLY, suggested connecting youth to evidenced-based programs upon their release to reduce recidivism.

XI. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Commission Chair Swope announced the Big Lift's next meetings will be held at SMCOE on 2/16/16, 4/27/16 and 7/26/16 from 3:30-5:30pm. She also attended the Child Abuse Prevention Council, previously known as CCAT, and let them know that the JJDPC is looking for Commissioners particularly from North County and the Coast.

XII. Meeting Adjourned 7:10pm

The Next JJDPC Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Location: 455 County Centers, Room 402, Redwood City, CA.