



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

Sep. 26, 2017

5:15-7:15pm

455 County Center, 4th Floor, Room 402, Redwood City

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Co-Chair Susan Swope; Co-Chair Michele Gustafson; Co-Vice Chair Sonoo Thadaney; Co-Vice Chair Rebecca Flores; Melissa Wilson; Irv Rollins; Nick Jasso; Toni Barrack and Mary Oleksy.

Commissioners Excused: Valerie Gibbs & Al Serrato

Staff Present:

Roy Brasil, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Services

Additional Attendees:

Katie Bliss – College of San Mateo, Project Change Director

Clara MacAvoy – San Mateo County Youth Commission

Daniel Casillas – Project Change

Sophia Vahanvaty – San Mateo County Youth Commission

Catherine Sirois – Doctoral Student, Stanford University, Department of Sociology

Hon. Elizabeth K. Lee – Superior Court Juvenile Supervising Judge

Jan Ellard – Deputy County Counsel

Kody Lizana – FLY Program

Tara Ford – Stanford University, Youth and Education Law Project

Nafeesah Mustafa – Assistant Principal, Court Schools Program

I. Administrative Business:

- a. Call to Order: Co-Chair Michele Gustafson called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
- b. Roll Call and Establish Quorum: A quorum was established.
- c. Introductions
- d. Agenda Review: Approved as distributed with Probation Services Manager I Coralia Molina's presentation on "Placement of Delinquent Youth" deferred to a future meeting and the Private Defender Program report cancelled due to a schedule conflict.
- e. Approval of Minutes: Aug. 29, 2017: **Approved unanimously** as distributed.
- f. Co-Chair Gustafson announced the Commission will be changing rooms to Room 405 starting with the Oct. 24 meeting.

II. Oral Communications:

None.

III. Swearing In of New Commissioner

- a. Toni Barrack was sworn into office by Judge Elizabeth K. Lee.
- b. Consideration of Daniel Casillas's application to join the Commission. M:/S. Swope, S:/I. Rollins to recommend approval of Mr. Casillas's application to Juvenile Supervising Judge Elizabeth K. Lee. **Approved unanimously.**

IV. Court Remarks and Discussion (Judge Elizabeth K. Lee)

- a. Judge Lee asked if the Commission would be interested in working on a project that would involve the identification and collection of community resources serving youth and families. It has come to her attention that in other counties families coming to juvenile court often can access pamphlets and brochures for an array of services offered by community-based organizations. These services can supplement what the court can offer and help to better serve families. Areas she thought would be good to look into include: CSEC, education, afterschool programs, family resource centers, organizations that work with youth, services for homeless youth, programs for incarcerated parents, housing, mentorship programs, tutoring and philanthropic groups that provide funding for medical and dental expenses.

Co-Chair Swope mentioned that the HSA publishes a yearly Community Information Handbook as a resource guide for San Mateo County residents. Co-Chair Gustafson suggested the Commission could use the handbook as a starting point, calling to see which ones serve youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system. This could help create a more targeted list of services.

Judge Lee said she thinks the handbook is a wonderful resource but doubted that many families coming into her courtroom would be able to dig through it to find the services they need. She said it would be more helpful to identify those services and provide pamphlets and brochures to families coming to juvenile court.

Commissioner Rollins suggested developing ways to help families navigate the different networks of community services, perhaps through “ombudsmen” or public advocates. Commissioner Flores agreed, adding that families may need help getting referrals to access services.

Co-Vice Chair Thadaney asked Judge Lee what types of services would be in highest demand. Judge Lee responded that there is great need for housing services and “parent partner” programs that help parents navigate universe of social services.

Deputy Chief Roy Brasil suggested juvenile probation officers could do more to advocate for their clients, giving them the same type of “hand holding” that the adult post-release community supervision (PRCS) population gets, in terms of connecting them with services like Service Connect to help them reach successful outcomes.

Co-Chair Gustafson proposed forming a working group to develop a plan to address Judge Lee’s request. Commissioners Jasso and Flores, and Commission applicant Daniel Casillas, agreed to be in the working group.

- b. Judge Lee asked if there was any interest in moving future meetings to the Youth Services Center in San Mateo and to another time/date slot. The Commission tabled the item.

V. Community Updates

- a. Russell Brunson, administrative services manager with Half Moon Bay, said he plans to provide reports at future Commission meetings on issues affecting coastal youth and families. He continues to work to recruit members to represent the coast.
- b. Katie Bliss, director of Project Change at College of San Mateo, reported that Project Change and the Youth Law Center will co-host a one-day conference on incarcerated youth and higher education on Jan. 26 in Sacramento. Official invitations with registration details are still to come.

Bliss also offered a breakdown of the college courses offered at the Youth Services Center – psychology, college readiness, sociology, composition and creative writing, college readiness workshops – and student completion rates for Project Change classes. She stated that students in Project Change have a 75% course completion rate while the average CSM student course completion rate is 69%.

Commissioner Flores asked if Project Change is working on adding science and math courses. Bliss responded that the program is still growing and she welcomes input from the Commission.

Assistant Principal Nafeesah Mustafa and Commissioner Rollins both commented that they strongly support the program.

Co-Chair Gustafson said the Commission looks forward to further supporting the program and the possible expansion of similar programs throughout the state through Title 15 regulations. She will announce the Jan. 26 Sacramento Conference at the upcoming JJC/JJDPC Workshop, November 4 in Sebastopol.

VI. Presentation by Probation Services Manager I Coralia Molina: Placement of Delinquent Youth into Foster Care. Postponed to future meeting.

VII. Private Defender Program Report. Postponed to future meeting.

VIII. Probation Updates (Brasil)

- a. Deputy Chief Brasil had no updates on the most recent grand jury reports.
- b. As of Sep. 26, 2017, the juvenile hall population was 70 (55 boys, 15 girls); Camp Glenwood population was 11 boys, all of whom are part of the new comprehensive camp program; Camp Kemp population was 5 girls in residence plus 6 girls in the Girls Empowerment Program.

IX. Liaison/Study Group Reports

- a. Inspections Committee Update
 1. Camp Kemp and Canyon Oaks inspection reports:

Camp Kemp

Commissioner Flores reported that Camp Kemp was inspected on July 17, 2017.

She said the girls in the camp reported feeling supported by the staff. They also liked the Project Change and the CASA programs. Concerns included a lack of parking at the facility and lack of medical services for non-emergencies. **Vote to approve report postponed awaiting further input to Education section.**

Canyon Oaks

Co-Chair Swope reported that Canyon Oaks Youth Center was inspected on Aug. 13, 2017. She said the facility is well run. The inspection team interviewed five of the nine youths at the facility. The inspection team recommended improving access to grievance forms, and making the outdoor space more attractive and utilizable. Commissioner Rollins added that he was impressed with the skill and devotion of the teachers in the Canyon Oaks school program.

M:/Swope to approve the report with the following change: On page 12, at the bottom, uncheck the “Yes” box and remove “Students prepare and take the HiSet” and replace with “n/a.” **Approved unanimously.**

2. Re-review YSC

M:/Gustafson to approve YSC inspection report with the following change: On page 1, change response to “Other Population” question from “No” to “Yes.” **Approved unanimously.**

3. Co-Chair Gustafson reported that she and Commissioner Wilson attended the JJC/JJDPC training in Long Beach on Sept. 14 despite being denied county funding to go. She will follow up with the Probation Department on the availability/possibility of funding for future commission activities.

Gustafson and Wilson reported that BSCC officials at the training emphasized that JJC/JJDPCs should look beyond Title 15 criteria in inspecting juvenile detention facilities in their home counties. JJC/JJDPC inspections can be nuanced and subjective. JJC/JJDPC inspection reports can supplement BSCC inspections by following up on issues cited in state inspection reports. JJC/JJDPCs also have freedom to format their reports in different ways, including doing narrative evaluations rather than checkbox reports.

Wilson reported that BSCC officials recommended that JJC/JJDPCs follow these steps in creating their inspection reports: 1) Review the latest BSCC report on the facility; 2) Highlight items from the BSCC report to follow up on; 3) Before publishing and approving final inspection report, meet with facility representatives to give them an opportunity to address any concerns. Wilson said BSCC officials advised that JJC/JJDPCs can serve as local watchdog committees to influence boards of supervisors, the courts and BSCC officials on juvenile justice practices.

4. Discussion regarding role of JJDPC: Inspection and/or evaluation

Commissioner Rollins is concerned that the Commission is not qualified to “evaluate” school programs. He pointed out that the San Mateo County Office of Education, which oversees the Court Schools Program, is subject to a number of regulatory evaluations that include community input potentially rendering the JJDPC’s input on behalf of the community unnecessary. Nafeesah Mustafa,

assistant principal of the Court Schools Program, agreed that SMCOE is subject to various regulatory evaluations. Rollins believes that the JJDPC should make observations and raise questions, but should not evaluate the quality of school programs.

The Commission acknowledged there is ambiguity with respect to what it means to “evaluate.” Commissioner Wilson said the JJDPC’s role in inspecting the Court Schools Program is important because unlike conventional schools there is no PTA to serve as a watchdog as parents might otherwise do. Co-Chair Swope, Commissioner Flores, and Youth Commissioner MacAvoy emphasized the importance of seeking feedback from incarcerated youth on their education programs because the JJDPC’s mission is to give those youth a voice. The Commission will continue the conversation about the appropriate content of its reports.

X. Projects and Project Updates

No report.

XI. Commissioner Comments/Announcements (Gustafson)

- a. Commissioners Oleksy and Gustafson attended the Youth Commission Mixer and received expressions of interest from 6 Youth Commission members. The Commission will need Adult Allies for these Youth Commissioners.
- b. The Commission will send representatives to the JJC/JJDPC Workshop, November 4, 2017 in Sebastopol. The Commission has been asked to present the top two issues facing the Commission, the top successes in 2017, and areas where it could use help.
- c. National Conference for Higher Education in Prison: Building Community, Promoting Excellence, November 2-5, Dallas.
- d. Alameda County Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (ACCIPP) Conference, will be held Nov. 29 in Oakland. ACCIPP is looking for youth to participate in planning a youth session. Contact Co-Chair Gustafson or Commissioner Thadaney for further information.

Meeting Adjourned 7:25 p.m.