



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

**Minutes of the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission**  
**Nov. 28, 2017**  
**5:15-7:15pm**  
**455 County Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 405, Redwood City**

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Co-Chair Michele Gustafson; Co-Chair Susan Swope; Co-Vice Chair Sonoo Thadaney; Co-Vice Chair Rebecca Flores; Toni Barrack; Melissa Wilson; Al Serrato; Valerie Gibbs; Daniel Casillas.

**Commissioners Excused:** Mary Oleksy; Nick Jasso.

**Staff Present:** None from Probation Department.

**Additional Attendees:**

Clara MacAvoy – San Mateo County Youth Commission

Ghada Ahmed – Parent

Ashraf Shah – Parent

Tara Ford – Stanford Youth and Education Law Program

Russell Brunson – City of Half Moon Bay

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

Judith Holiber – Deputy County Counsel

Doug Winter

Nancy Magee – San Mateo County Office of Education

**I. Administrative Business:**

- a. Call to Order: Co-Chair Gustafson called 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.
- e. Approval of Minutes: Oct. 24, 2017: **Approved** as distributed.
- f. Co-Chair Michele Gustafson announced she has set up a permanent email account for the commission: [sanmateojjdp@gmail.com](mailto:sanmateojjdp@gmail.com).

**II. Oral Communications:**

- a. Ghada Ahmed of Foster City talked about the financial hardship of juvenile hall fees on parents like her.
- b. Ashraf Shah of Foster City expressed his opinion that parents should be involved in Interagency Placement Review Committee (IPRC) meetings.

**III. New Commissioners**

Judge Lee swore in commissioner Daniel Casillas.

**IV. Court Remarks & Discussion (Judge Lee)**

- 1) Judge Lee reported she met with Nancy Magee of the San Mateo County Office of Education to discuss education issues raised by the community. BHRS, county counsel's office and Probation Department also participated in the meeting. The court

was briefed on new initiatives such as the personalized learning model currently being piloted in the Court Schools Program.

- 2) Judge Lee discussed how the county's group homes will be replaced by Short Term Residential Treatment Programs under the Continuum of Care Reform. Due to licensing requirements and cost considerations, larger group homes are partnering with smaller ones. Advent has taken over The Nest, located in Campbell, which serves commercially sexually exploited children. Still awaiting information regarding whether group homes in the county will get certification to become STRTPs, which will be required to provide onsite education services and intensive therapeutic treatment to prepare kids to step down into less intensive treatment within six months. There are still a lot of questions as to how the model will work.
- 3) Judge Lee said she would like to work with the Commission to develop/provide additional resources to improve reentry outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system.

Ashraf Shah and Ghada Ahmed of Foster City said San Mateo County needs to do a better job of providing resources to parents and developing evidence-based education programs – including more vocational and apprenticeship programs.

**V. San Mateo County Office of Education** (Nancy Magee, Associate Superintendent, Student Services Division)

- 1) The Court Schools Program is currently fully staffed after starting the year with some vacancies. A new English teacher started at Hillcrest on Nov. 6; a new math and science teacher started the week before Thanksgiving at Camp Glenwood.
- 2) The Hillcrest 3-day orientation program for new students has been going well.
- 3) Directed Studies program has been changed to allow students to receive instruction together in a classroom setting instead of individually on their units.
- 4) The Court Schools Program currently is recruiting a PE teacher after starting the school year without a permanent one. A substitute has been in place since November.
- 5) A second cohort of teachers is piloting the Summit personalized learning model their classrooms. The first cohort implemented the instructional model last school year.

Commissioner Wilson asked how student performance was being tracked. Nancy Magee said teachers use the MAP testing tool to assess growth through the school year in conjunction with the personalized learning model.

Commissioner Wilson asked about the status of the academic counselor position. Nancy Magee said the previous counselor resigned but an educational liaison who has been providing services to foster youth has filled that role.

Co-Chair Gustafson asked how the implementation of the personalized learning model was going. Nancy Magee said Canyon Oaks has fully implemented it and Camp Kemp and Camp Glenwood are using it for some subjects. It has been piloted in small doses at Hillcrest and has been used effectively for credit recovery. Students' reactions to the model have been mixed. The model puts more of an onus on students to become active learners rather than passive receivers of information.

**VI. Community Updates**

- 1) Coastal Report (Russell Brunson, City of Half Moon Bay)

- a) Half Moon bay will host a youth summit on May 28, 2018 and is looking for experts in substance abuse and mental health to participate.
  - b) Half Moon Bay is looking for young people in grades 8-12 to participate in its leadership awards. Applications due in March.
  - c) Half Moon Bay is partnering with county library staff to provide afterschool tutoring and computer access from 3 to 5 p.m. on weekdays.
- 2) Project Change (Daniel Casillas)
- a) Casillas talked about attending the Seventh Annual National Conference on Higher Education in Prison on Nov. 2-5, 2017, in Dallas, TX.

**VII. Probation Update (Co-Chair Michele Gustafson)**

- 1) Probation Department organizational changes: Roy Brasil is now Deputy Chief of Institutions and Jeff Morino is Deputy Chief of Juvenile Services. Richard Hori is replacing Jeff Morino as the camps director.
- 2) Current Juvenile Hall population is 64 – 50 boys and 14 girls. There are 8 girls in residence at Camp Kemp and 10 in the out-of-custody program. There are 10 boys at Camp Glenwood.
- 3) Juvenile Services Division will send a representative to an upcoming meeting to give a presentation on placement services.

**VIII. Inspection Report Finalization (Vice-Chair Sonoo Thadaney)**

- 1) Co-Vice Chair Thadaney confirmed that the Commission’s 2017 annual inspection reports are complete and ready to be submitted to the Board of State and Community Corrections and other stakeholders.
- 2) Co-Chair Gustafson said BSCC reviews the annual JJC/JJDPC inspection reports to identify areas where it needs to look more deeply in its biannual juvenile hall inspections. The BSCC does not provide feedback on JJC/JJDPC reports; however, they have indicated they prefer formats that are more narrative.
- 3) Commissioner Wilson asked if the Commission should include interviews with parents in the reports. Gustafson said that’s a question the Commission can consider in reviewing its inspection process moving forward.

**IX. Court Fines and Fees (Co-Chair Susan Swope)**

Co-Chair Swope talked about SB 190, a law taking effect Jan. 1, 2018 that will end the practice of charging administrative fees to families with youth in the juvenile justice system. Alameda, Santa Clara and Contra Costa counties suspended their fees in 2016. San Francisco County has never charged fees.

Judge Lee said San Mateo County Board of Supervisors may face a question over whether to waive fees incurred before Jan. 1, 2018.

Co-Chair Gustafson suggested agendizing a discussion of whether to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors urging them to forgive back fees.

Ashraf Shah of Foster City said he and his wife incurred roughly \$8,000 in fees as a result of their son staying at the juvenile hall for eight months, pointing out that San Francisco does not charge administrative fees.

Commissioner Daniel Casillas added his family was charged about \$40,000 for his involvement in the juvenile system. He's paid off about \$20,000 so far. He said the debt has complicated his financial planning for college.

Co-Vice Chair Thadaney recommended studying what other counties have done and urging the Board of Supervisors to do the same.

Judge Lee said the Commission could also considering contacting other stakeholders in the community to encourage them to write similar letters to the Board of Supervisors.

Co-Chair Gustafson said she would be willing to draft the Commission's letter to the Board of Supervisors. Co-Chair Swope offered to compile and distribute a survey to other county JJs.

#### **X. Liaison/Study Group Reports**

- 1) Court and Probation Liaison (Wilson): No report.
- 2) Youth Commission Update (MacAvoy): The Youth Commission recently had a presentation on the legalization of marijuana in California.
- 3) Community Schools Advisory Committee (Gibbs): No report.
- 4) Call for Recruiting (Gustafson): Co-Chair Gustafson reminded everyone to help spread the word about serving on the Commission. Gustafson also said she'd like to get clarification from County Counsel on whether members must be residents of San Mateo County to serve on the Commission.

#### **XI. Project Updates**

- 1) Community Resources Project (Co-Vice Chair Flores): Commissioner Flores said she and Co-Chair Gustafson are continuing to work on identifying community resources not listed in the HSA's Community Information Handbook to see which ones serve youth and families in the justice system. They are looking for youth to help out in the project. Gustafson said she'd like to recruit Youth Commission members to help out. MacAvoy said she could agendize a JJDP presentation on the project at the January or February Youth Commission meeting.
- 2) Wayfinding Update (Wilson): Commissioner Wilson said she met with Deputy Chief Roy Brasil last month to discuss the project. She still has questions about which wayfinding techniques may work the best. Gustafson suggested researching what other counties have done in order to make some recommendations.

#### **XII. Report on JJC/JJDP Workshop in Sebastopol on Nov. 4 (Gustafson, Flores, Oleksy)**

Commissioner Gustafson attended the workshop with Commissioners Flores and Oleksy. Commissions from seventeen counties were represented. The keynote speaker was Linda Evans, a key proponent of the "Ban the Box" campaign aimed at getting employers to remove from their hiring applications the check box that asks applicants if they have a criminal record. Evans provided an analysis of AB 403 that she prepared for the Sonoma County Juvenile Justice Commission, which is interested in looking at ways to amend the bill. Attendees also broke into subgroups to discuss facility inspections, mental health, communication and collaboration, education, restorative justice, funding and recruiting.

Flores said she'd like the Commission to push for county funding to cover training and other costs.

Gustafson shared information from the workshop about a Marin County youth court program. Judge Lee said East Palo Alto used to have a youth court. It was a diversionary program where juveniles charged with low level offenses could make amends and avoid criminal records. Gustafson said the Commission should do some research on the program and consider ways to support it.

**XIII. Projects for 2018:** *Continued Jan. 30, 2018 meeting*

**XIV. Commissioner Comments/Announcements:** None

**XV. Adjournment**

**Meeting Adjourned 7:20 p.m.**