



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
March 26, 2019
5:15-7:15 pm
455 County Center, 4th Floor, Room 405, Redwood City

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Michele Gustafson; Co-Vice Chair Rebecca Flores; Susan Swope; Doug Winter; Christine Ford; Deborah Telleria; Melissa Wilson; Toni Barrack; Valerie Gibbs; Daniel Casillas

Commissioners Absent: Sonoo Thadaney

Probation Staff Present: Deputy Chief Probation Officer Rich Hori; Institution Services Director Jody DiMauro; Administrative Secretary Tony Burchyns

Additional Attendees:

Judge Susan Jakubowski – Juvenile Court
Joey Gallo – Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Paul Bocanegra – JJDPC Applicant

Monroe Labouisse – CASA volunteer
Jeneé Littrell – County Office of Education
Marlin Brown – Group Supervisor III, retired

I. Administrative Business:

- a. Call to Order: Chair Gustafson called meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
- b. Roll Call and Establish Quorum: A quorum was established at 5:15 pm.
- c. Introductions
- d. Agenda Review: **Approved** as distributed.
- e. Approval of Minutes of Feb. 23, 2019 (Special Session): M:/Barrack, S:/Flores: **Approved unanimously** as modified (attendance was changed to reflect Commissioner Swope's absence).
- f. Approval of Minutes of Feb. 26, 2019: **Approved** as distributed.
- f. Membership Update – Commissioners Wilson and Casillas volunteered to interview prospective JJDPC member Paul Bocanegra.
- g. Annual Report 2018: **Approved** as distributed. Chair Gustafson will distribute the report to the Board of Supervisors and Chief Probation Officer John Keene.
- h. Associate Professor David Ball, Santa Clara University School of Law: Gustafson asked if the Commission would be interested having Professor Ball come speak about criminal justice reform. The Commission gave its approval.

II. Oral Communications:

None

III. Consideration of Paul Bocanegra's JJDPC Application

Commissioners Casillas and Wilson said they interviewed Paul Bocanegra and support his application to join the Commission. Casillas and Wilson cited his recent history working for

Human Rights Watch as an important factor. They also reported that Mr. Bocanegra is currently on parole in San Mateo County.

Gustafson said Mr. Bocanegra served many years in prison after being sentenced to life without parole for a crime he committed as a juvenile. However, he was resentenced and eventually granted parole under juvenile justice reform laws in California that give a second chance to some people who were under 18 at the time of their crime and were sentenced to life without parole. Gustafson said she agrees with Casillas and Wilson that Mr. Bocanegra's experience in the justice system and current outreach work with at-risk youth would be of value to the Commission.

Commissioner Ford expressed concerns about Mr. Bocanegra's application. She requested more time to consider the matter and asked that the Commission receive further information about the specific offenses Mr. Bocanegra was convicted of, his parole period and parole conditions, and whether his parole status would restrict him from entering San Mateo County's juvenile detention facilities as a commissioner.

Juvenile Hall Director Jody DiMauro said Mr. Bocanegra would not be allowed to enter the Juvenile Hall without Chief Probation Officer John Keene's explicit permission.

Mr. Bocanegra stated to the Commission he currently visits state prisons in his work with Human Rights Watch, but he has not been into a Juvenile Hall.

Gustafson asked Mr. Bocanegra if he would object to Chief Keene possibly interviewing him or his parole officer to determine if he could enter the Juvenile Hall. Mr. Bocanegra indicated he would not object.

The Commission deferred action on Mr. Bocanegra's application until the April 30, 2019 meeting to allow time to get more information about the offense(s) he was convicted of, his parole period and parole conditions, and his parole officer's name.

Mr. Bocanegra told the Commission he was convicted to a first-degree, gang-related homicide at the age of 17. He said he was sentenced to life without parole but later resentenced under changes to the penal code.

IV. Recognition of Group Supervisor III Marlin Brown

The Commission presented a certificate of appreciation to Group Supervisor III Marlin Brown, who retired on March 26, 2019 after working in Juvenile Hall for more than 20 years.

V. Update on Camp Glenwood/Phoenix Reentry Program

DiMauro said there were only two Glenwood commits remaining in custody. After those youth are released, she said the Probation Department will develop the new Phoenix Reentry Program (a.k.a. PREP) using Glenwood Elm Program framework as a jumping off point. She said the overarching goal is to provide more reentry services to more youth in the facility.

Deputy Chief Probation officer Rich Hori added Juvenile Probation Officers will work within the reentry program, coordinating with the courts, Juvenile Hall staff, and service providers to help develop and evaluate reentry plans for each youth.

Judge Jakubowski said the reentry approach reflects where Juvenile Justice is headed.

Jeneé Littrell, Associate Superintendent of Student Services for the County Office of Education, said Gateway Community School will remain an option for students transitioning from custody to their home districts. She said youth being released from the reentry program may finish out their semester at Gateway to ensure a smoother transition back to their home district. She also said the Office of Education is engaging with local school districts to get them more involved in the reentry process.

DiMauro said youth in the PREP program may be able to earn home passes for good behavior. She also said the youth may be able to go out in the community for job interviews, et cetera, at the direction of the court.

DiMauro said the length of the PREP program may be individualized for each youth depending on his/her needs. She said she may have more information to share about the program's structure at the next JJDC meeting.

VI. County Office of Education

Littrell gave a presentation on the Court and Community Schools Program's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) – a yearly strategic plan with instructional goals tied to school spending. The County Office is in the process of updating the Court and Community Schools Program's LCAP, and Littrell sought feedback from the Commission in three areas: Instruction, Parent family engagement, and services for foster youth. She circulated sheets with questions seeking the Commission's input. The questions were:

- What does a healthy and successful student look like when he or she transitions to his or her future?
- What practical skills should a student have when he or she moves on from the Court and Community school program?
- What academic skills, experiences or concepts should a student have when he or she is in the Court and Community School Program?

Commissioner Swope asked if Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) was being used across the Court and Community Schools Program. PBIS training was one of last year's LCAP goals and was meant to develop common language and behavior expectations in classrooms. Littrell said PBIS has been implemented at Gateway Community School but is still being developed in Court Schools program. However, she added the school staff has seen a drop in bad behavior due to the creation of the C.A.R.E. program last school year.

Littrell spoke about the importance of improving student attendance in all schools to avoid the costs of chronic absenteeism. By code, she said the County Office authorizes and trains child welfare and attendance officials in each district. The County Office also tracks key performance indicators in each district related to academics, school climate and attendance. Based on these measures, she said several districts need added supports to improve attendance. One challenge is that San Mateo County lacks a robust student attendance enforcement program to hold families accountable. The County Office has a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) which meets once a month to review a limited number of

cases. Littrell said it would be great to have Commission support to expand the program to provide more support to the districts.

Littrell said the County Office of Education has strengthened its supports to school districts to ensure students at Gateway and Canyon Oaks receive proper special education services if found eligible.

VII. Private Defender Program Remarks and Discussion

No report.

VIII. Court Remarks and Discussion

Judge Jakubowski said there has been discussion between the Courts and the County Office of Education about having liaisons from each school district to help students transition from court schools back to public schools in their communities.

IX. Youth Commission Update

No Report.

X. Probation Update

Director Jody DiMauro reported the following juvenile detention populations:

- Juvenile Hall: 63 boys, 7 girls
- Weekenders: 1
- Camp Kemp: 4 girls, including 1 girl from Sonoma County
- Girl Empowerment Program: 8 girls
- Camp Glenwood: 1 boy (housed at the Juvenile Hall)

Deputy Chief Rich Hori reported there are 14 youth in Placement, all in California.

Commissioner Casillas asked if the Probation Department could provide age and race data for juveniles in custody. DiMauro said she would check to see if the Department can provide that information at future JJDPC meetings.

DiMauro said the Juvenile Hall is in the process of hiring more Group Supervisors. She also said she is looking to fill at least two first line manager jobs that are vacant. She will also be working with the Court and Community Schools staff to appoint a permanent Group Supervisor to Gateway Community School.

Commissioner Casillas asked Deputy Chief Hori approximately how many youth are on probation in the County. Hori said as of last month, there were about 290.

Commissioner Casillas asked how many probation officers the Department has. Hori said the Juvenile Division has about 40. Hori pointed out probation officers perform several duties and not all of them supervise caseloads.

Commissioner Wilson asked how many cases a typical juvenile probation officer might handle. Hori said it could be about 40 to 45 cases. He said he could provide exact numbers at the next meeting if requested.

Chair Gustafson stated the Commission would like to see data on the age/race distribution of juveniles on probation as well as in custody.

The Commission also requested information on how many youths are on electronic monitoring.

XI. 2019 Inspections

The Commission discussed focusing its state mandated inspections of juvenile detention facilities on compliance with recent revisions to the state's Title 15 Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities. Commissioners also discussed how to highlight the Juvenile Hall's new Phoenix Reentry Program in its inspections. The Commission will further discuss the upcoming inspections cycle at a special meeting set for April 6, 1 to 3 p.m., at the San Carlos Library.

XII. 2019 Projects: Reports and Discussion

Deferred to future meeting

XIII. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Chair Gustafson said the next BSCC statewide conference call for JJDPC commissioners will be on May 31, 2019, from 10am to noon.

Chair Gustafson announced a CCPCA Conference & Training set for Aug. 27-30, 2019, in South Lake Tahoe. One of those dates will include a JJDPC training. She and Commissioner Wilson have attended this event in the past and found it helpful.

Commissioner Casillas gave a report on the Beyond the Bars Conference of the Center for Justice at Columbia University from March 7 to March 10.

Commissioner Casillas and Chair Gustafson gave a report on the Future IDs art exhibit at Alcatraz, which features artworks created by individuals who have conviction histories.

Commissioner Swope said April is Child Abuse Prevention month, and the Child Abuse Prevention Council is holding an event entitled It Starts with Us on April 18th at the Sobrato Center, 330 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City.

Chair Gustafson announced the San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission is hosting a free community event entitled LGBTQ Community Conversation, from 4 to 6 p.m. on April 4 at College Track in East Palo Alto.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 p.m.