



**Juvenile Justice Commission
and
Delinquency Prevention Commission
Joint Meeting**

May 28, 2024

5:15 - 7:15 pm

Location and public participation instructions are attached

AGENDA

Public comment will be accommodated under Item II for items not on the agenda. The Commission requests that members of the public, who wish to comment on items on the agenda, submit a request to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting or raise their hand to speak, so that they may be recognized at the appropriate time.

I. Preliminary Business

- a. Call to Order
- b. Translation Services for JJDPC meetings
- c. Roll Call and Establish Quorum

II. Oral Communications - Public Comment

This item provides an opportunity for public comment on items not on agenda (Time limit – three (3) minutes per person. There will be opportunity for public comment on agenda items as they are considered.

III. Meeting Agenda and Minutes

- a. Action to Set Agenda
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 30, 2024

IV. Updates from System Partners

- a. Private Defender Program – Ron Rayes
- b. Probation Department – Sanam Aram & Nora Cullen
- c. Behavioral Health & Recovery Services – Ornit Shoham
- d. County Office of Education – Sarah Notch
- e. Children & Family Services – John Fong

Hon. Susan Etezadi
Presiding Judge
Juvenile Court

David Canepa
Board of Supervisors
District 5

Judith Holiber
Deputy County Counsel

Commissioners

Johanna Rasmussen
Chair

Karin Huber-Levy
Vice Chair
Administration

Ruchi Mangtani
Vice Chair
Membership

Jennifer Blanco

Paul Bocanegra

Whitney Genevro

Steve Grieb

Eugene Jackson

Wesley Liu

Ameya Nori

Sathvik Nori

Susan Swope

Tiffany Uhila-Hautau



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Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

V. Presentation: Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp (Rasmussen)

**VI. Presentation: Mindfulness Based Substance Abuse Training
Joaquin Jordan, Continuity Consulting**

VII. 2024 Inspection Update

- Elysian (STRTP) & SMC Receiving Home (TSCF)
- Inspection Teams

VIII. Project Updates

- Countywide Educational Summit (Blanco)
- Foster Care (Genevro)
- Substance Abuse Treatment (Rasmussen & Jackson)

IX. Announcements

XI. Adjournment of Joint Meeting



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Public Participation Instructions

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Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

Join In Person

Meeting Location

The College of San Mateo

1700 W. Hillsdale Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94402

College Heights Conference Room

Building 10 4th Floor, Room 468

Free parking is available near the entrance to Building 10.

[Campus Map](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/82165875534>

Webinar ID: 821 6587 5534

Spanish Translation services are available via Zoom videoconference

If you wish to speak to the Commission during public comment, you may raise your hand using Zoom with the Reactions button at the bottom of your screen, or indicate that you would like to speak if you are attending in person. If you have any materials that you wish distributed to the Commission and included in the official record, please send them via email to sanmateojjdp@gmail.com, prior to the meeting and attach the materials.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.

Monthly meetings are held in the same location each month

Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact Connie Juarez-Diroll cjuarez-diroll@smcgov.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable the county to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and the materials related to it. Attendees to this meeting are reminded that other attendees.



**Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
Commissions**

April 30, 2024, 5:15 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Preliminary Business

- a) Call to Order: Chair Johanna Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.
- b) Sukhmani Purewal, Clerk, and Kennia Cobos, Spanish Interpreter, gave Instructions for Spanish translation services.
- c) Judge Cho administered the oath of office and the oath of privacy, installing new commissioners Eugene Jackson and Jennifer Blanco.
- d) **Commissioners Present:** Chair Johanna Rasmussen, Vice Chair Administration Karin Huber-Levy, Jennifer Blanco, Paul Bocanegra (arr. 5:32), Whitney Genevro, Eugene Jackson, Wesley Liu (arr. 5:24), Ameya Nori, Sathvik Nori (arr. 5:24), Susan Swope, and Tiffany Uhila-Hautau (online¹).

Commissioners Absent

Ruchi Mangtani, Steve Grieb

Staff Present

Sukhmani S. Purewal, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors;

System Partners Present

Sanam Aram, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Services; Nora Cullen, Assistant Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Services; Nadia Hahn, District Attorney's Office, Ron Reyes, Private Defender Program, Sara Notch, County Office of Education, Ornit Shoham, BHRS

¹ Commissioners must be physically present to be counted in a quorum or vote on any matter.



**Juvenile Justice and
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April 30, 2024, 5:15 p.m.

MINUTES

II. Oral Communications

Diego Ochoa, Superintendent of the San Mateo-Foster City School District made comment to congratulate the two newest Commissioners, Eugene Jackson and Jennifer Blanco, and to acknowledge the importance of the Commissions' work.

III. Meeting Agenda and Minutes

- a. M: Swope, S: Huber-Levy to approve the Agenda as distributed. Passed unanimously.

- b. M: Liu, S: A. Nori to approve the Meeting Minutes for November 28 and December 5, 2023, and January 30, February 27, and March 26, 2024. Commissioner Swope moved the following corrections to the minutes:
 1. November 2023: I.f. insert "Staff."
 2. January 2024 should be "Minutes," rather than "Meetings" in the heading.
 3. January 2024, on I.c. delete "Commissioners attending on Zoom." Note that A. Nori was attending online.
 4. March 2024: Correct spelling of Sanam Aram's name in I.c. and III.c.

Accepted as corrected. Commissioners Blanco and Jackson abstained.

IV. Membership

- a) Chair Rasmussen reported that Commissioner Agarwal leaving for college and has resigned effective immediately.

- b) Membership Vice Chair Huber-Levy presented the application for JJDPC from Kenneth Williams and moved that he be recommended to the Court and Board of Supervisors for appointment to the Commission. Approved unanimously.



**Juvenile Justice and
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April 30, 2024, 5:15 p.m.

MINUTES

V. Updates from System Partners

- a. **County Supervisor** David Canepa did not to attend.
- b. **Private Defender**—Ron Reyes reported 29 new cases assigned, of which 3 were alleged 707(b) offenses. They had 12 sealing requests and 21 calls on the Miranda hot line.
- c. **Probation**—Senam Aram reported there are two units open with 29 youth in custody at YSC: 24 males and 5 females. Three are out-of-county residents (1 Alameda, 1 Santa Clara and 1 San Francisco). Nora Cullen reported 18 youth on EMP, and 139 on supervision. There will be a Cinco de Mayo celebration at YSC this Sunday from 9 am - 1 pm with a car show and food. Commissioner Uhila-Hautau inquired regarding the status of a Pacific Islander cultural festival. One is planned for later in May.

ACTION: Commissioner Uhila-Hautau to follow up with Probation to support and assist with the Pacific Islander cultural festival in the Youth Services Center.

- d. **Behavioral Sciences and Recovery Services**--No report
- e. **County Office of Education**—Sara Notch reported that they offered a 15-day, career technical education (CTE) program at Hillcrest School in February (entrepreneurship and exploring careers) and are planning a further program in the summer session. They are in the final stages of preparing their LCAP.

ACTION: Commissioner Blanco inquired whether career assessments were provided to students. Sara Notch agreed to follow up with the academic counselor, Lauren Sneed, on plans to provide such assessments.

- f. **HSA: Children and Family Services**—no report.



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- VI. Lost Childhood Art Exhibit**—Monroe Labouisse reported that CASA and the Foster Youth Museum are seeking foster youth participation in their Pop UP Art Museum, June 21-23, 2024, and/or their Advisory Board for the 2024-25 FY. Participation in each offers a \$500 stipend for youth who are 18 years old or older and are currently or were formerly in foster care.
- VII. Action Items from March 26, 2024 Meeting**
- New Juvenile Hall Visiting Policy—Probation provided the Commission with a copy of the new policy as requested.
 - Communication Protocols—Chief Keene and Chair Rasmussen revised the Communications Protocol and provided a copy to the Commission for review
 - Project Cornerstone—no action
- VIII. Action to Adopt Communication Protocol: M: Swope, S: Huber-Levy to accept the Communications protocol as amended, adding “efficient and effective communications” at the end of the Goal after “geared to.”** Passed unanimously.
- IX. Peer Point Project Update:** Commissioner Ameya Nori and Kate Hiester (formerly of FLY), gave a one-year update on the Peer Point diversion project. Peer Point is currently being piloted by FLY at Menlo-Atherton High School. They run community-building circles to attract and train peers for the restorative justice sentencing circles. The Community Circles meet weekly. To date, about 150 students have been trained, and 25-30 youth participated in the first year. They had their first RJ case in April 2023. Each case takes about 3-4 months. Thus far they have developed 70 diversion plans that provide wraparound services for each client. Last year M-A had 88 suspensions. This year they have had 43. They hope to expand to the South San Francisco Police Department and are developing an MOU with them. They are also looking for a third case manager.

ACTION: The suggestion was made to invite FLY to attend a future meeting to present further updates on the Peer Point Program, including specific data and future plans.



**Juvenile Justice and
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**April 30, 2024, 5:15 p.m.
MINUTES**

X. DJJ Realignment Subcommittee Meeting – Approval of 2024 Block Grant Plan.

Commissioner Rasmussen reported that the Plan has been approved and that it is her belief, from speaking to youth in the Secure Track/SOARR program, that all the programs in the plan are either present or contracted—which was not the case in the prior plans. Superintendent Sanam Aram noted that they are also working on a dog therapy program to offer in YSC, and that most programs are offered not exclusively to Secure Track youth, but to all eligible youth at YSC. There is still no step-down program available to long-term and Secure Track youth which is of great concern.

XI. Reimagine Juvenile Hall Update – Commissioner Rasmussen and Commissioner Bocanegra attended a recent committee meeting and reported on the status of initiatives to soften the environment at the YSC, i.e. pillows, plants, storage, paint, furniture, etc. have not yet been implemented. The commission’s resolution that led to the creation of this subcommittee never intended for programming to be included in the scope of their work.

XII. Liaison Updates

- OYCR: a list of Least Restrictive Placements was provided, and there are none in San Mateo County.
- BSCC is updating Title 15 (requirements for juvenile facilities) and Title 24 (physical facility design).

ACTION: Follow up with Chief Keene and/or the SMC Board of Supervisors to understand why San Mateo County does not have any plan to provide options for transition and step-down for youth to move to a least restrictive placement alternative. For instance, Pine Grove could be a viable option to consider.

XIII. Announcement

Commissioners who have not yet signed up for an inspection team are requested to please do so on the Google docs schedule at their earliest opportunity.



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**April 30, 2024, 5:15 p.m.
MINUTES**

XIV. Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions

2024 Project Proposal

Substance Abuse Treatment and Services

Proposed By: Commissioners Rasmussen & Commissioner Jackson

This project proposal aims to address the pressing issue of substance abuse among youth in San Mateo County. By studying the rates of substance abuse and evaluating the availability of treatment, programs, and services, we can make informed decisions and take targeted actions to reduce substance abuse and improve the overall well-being of youth in the county. The outcomes of this project will provide valuable insights and recommendations for policymakers, healthcare providers, educators, and community stakeholders to work together in creating a healthier and safer environment for our youth.

Population Served: San Mateo County Youth

Level of Need: Critical

Introduction

Substance abuse among youth is a significant public health concern that requires immediate attention. This project proposal aims to investigate the rates of substance abuse among youth in San Mateo County and evaluate the availability of treatment, programs, and services to address this issue. By understanding the extent of the problem and assessing the existing resources, we can develop targeted interventions and strategies to reduce substance abuse and improve the overall well-being of youth in the county.



Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions

2024 Project Proposal

Substance Abuse Treatment and Services

Objectives

- Determine the prevalence and patterns of substance abuse among youth in San Mateo County.
- Identify the risk factors and underlying causes contributing to substance abuse in this population.
- Assess the current availability and accessibility of treatment, programs, and services for youth struggling with substance abuse.
- Identify gaps and barriers in the existing system and propose recommendations for improvement.
- Raise awareness about the issue of substance abuse among youth and advocate for increased support and resources.

Methodology

A. Data Collection:

- Conduct a comprehensive literature review to gather existing information on substance abuse rates, risk factors, and available interventions.
- Collect primary data through interviews with youth, parents, educators, service providers, law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and community stakeholders.
- Collaborate with local organizations, schools, and healthcare providers to access relevant data and insights.



Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions

2024 Project Proposal

Substance Abuse Treatment and Services

B. Data Analysis

- Analyze the collected data
- Identify trends, patterns, and correlations between substance abuse rates, risk factors, and treatment availability.
- Generate a comprehensive report outlining the findings and recommendations.

Expected Outcomes

- A detailed report providing an overview of substance abuse rates, risk factors, and treatment availability among youth in San Mateo County.
- Recommendations for enhancing existing treatment programs, services, and prevention strategies.
- Increased awareness among stakeholders, policymakers, and the general public about the urgency and importance of addressing youth substance abuse.
- Improved collaboration among relevant organizations and agencies to develop a coordinated response to the issue.

Related Aspirations

Aspiration Number 2: "All youth in San Mateo County, and their families, have convenient, affordable access to high-quality mental health, substance abuse, restorative, and other programs and services they need to promote their health and success".

Length of Project: 6-9 Months

Number of Commissioners Needed: 2-3

Proposed By: Commissioner Geneviro

Project Proposal: Assessing the Scope of Authority of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission Regarding Foster Youth in San Mateo County

Objective: To assess the scope of authority of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) related to Foster Youth, determine if there are any additional facilities in the county the JJJPC is authorized to inquire into and determine if there are any entities authorized for inquiry for any non-authorized facility.

Introduction:

The JJJPC has been given the authority to inquire into the operation of group homes which house wards and dependents of the court. In San Mateo County, there are a limited number of group homes or facilities that service foster youth. Additionally, the group homes in this county are categorically specific (i.e. behavioral health, teen parent/child, drug rehabilitation center, etc.). Because of the legal definition of group homes (mentioned below), there are additional factors that may disallow the JJJPC from inquiring into their operations. This leaves a gap in authority concerning foster youth and also excludes several foster youth from entering into a group home. As a result, the JJJPC should review our currently given authority and determine if we can also inquire into the operations of any facility in which a dependent or ward of the court is placed, and determine if there are entities to inquire into the operations of any non-authorized entities for the JJJPC.

We will determine (*but not limited to*) the following:

1. In application, what is the SMC JJJPC currently authorized to do with foster youth, i.e. what facilities can we currently inquire about?
2. Does the California Health and Safety Code prevent us from inquiring into any facilities that do not fall under the definition of a group home?
3. Not all foster youth fall into the categories of specialized programs in SMC. Where do the other youth go?
4. If our foster youth are not in a facility that the JJJPC is authorized to inquire into, what other entity is inquiring and advocating for our youth?

Data Used to Determine Need:

The JJJPC is authorized according to the *California Welfare and Institutions Code section 229.5(a)* to the following: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a juvenile justice commission may inquire into the operation of any **group home** that serves **wards or dependent children of the juvenile court** and is located in the county or region the commission serves. The commission may review the safety and well-being of wards or dependent children placed in the group home and the program and services provided in relation to the home's published program statement.

According to the *California Welfare and Institutions Code section 725(b)*, a **ward of the juvenile court** means that the court *assumes primary responsibility* for the control and treatment of a minor who has *violated any law other than a curfew*. This means the court can limit the control

of the minor by the parents, and in some cases, the minor can even be taken from the physical custody of a parent.

A child can become a **dependent of the court**, according to the *California Welfare and Institutions Code 300*, if: The child has *suffered or is at risk of substantial physical harm*, which *was inflicted non-accidentally* (you committed the act voluntarily, with or without the intention to harm the child).

The *California Health and Safety Code section 1502(a)(13)* states that a **Group home** means a residential facility that provides 24-hour care and supervision to children, delivered at least in part by staff employed by the licensee in a structured environment. The care and supervision provided by a group home shall be nonmedical, except as otherwise permitted by law.

Methodology:

We will review existing literature on the JJDC's authority and its scope regarding foster care youth. We will also conduct interviews with key stakeholders such as the Human Services Agency (San Mateo County), Youth Services Center, JJDC members in San Mateo County and surrounding counties, foster care youth who fall under the JJDC authority, and representatives from group homes. Additionally, we will analyze data on the closure of group homes in San Mateo County and identify the reasons behind it. Based on the findings, we will propose recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the JJDC's authority.

Length of Project: months

Total Number of Commissioners Needed: 2-3