



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

May 31, 2022 | 5:15-7:15 pm
Remote Meeting

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Monroe Labouisse, Chair; Karin Huber-Levy, Vice Chair Administration; Rocsana Enriquez, Vice Chair Membership; Paul Bocanegra; Armaan Khare-Arora; Sasha Newton; Sathvik Nori; Johanna Rasmussen; Austin Willis (joined 6:13pm); Melissa Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Rebecca Flores, Susan Swope

Additional Attendees:

Judge Chinhayi Cadet – Juvenile Court
Melanie Stauffer - SMC Probation
Jehan Clark – SMC Probation
Wesley Liu – Prospective Commissioner
Ameya Nori – Youth Commission Liaison
Kate Hiester – Fresh Lifelines for Youth
Jennifer Martinez – Juvenile & Family
Specialist, Redwood City PD
Wendy Gwyn – The Art of Yoga Project
Zach Kirk – Silicon Valley De-Bug
Robin Rodricks – Executive Director,
County Office of Arts & Culture

Aurora Pena – Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
Sharon Cho, District Attorney’s Office
Jeneé Littrell – SMC Office of Education
John Fong – HSA, Children & Family Services
Ligia Andrade Zúñiga– SMUHSD Board of Trustees,
Liaison- SMC Commission on Disabilities
Chelsea Bonini – Liaison- SMC Commission on
Disabilities
Julian Garcia – Community Member, East Palo Alto
David Pasternak – Community Member
Allen Bustos – Daly City resident, SFSU
Student (Health Education Major)

I. Administrative Business

- a. **Call to Order:** Chair Labouisse called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.
- b. **Roll Call and Establish Quorum:** A quorum was established at 5:18 p.m.
- c. **Action to Adopt Resolution:** Meeting Location Change - Brown Act Compliance (AB361).

MOTION: Huber-Levy /SECOND: Bocanegra

AYES (VOICE VOTE): All present

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION PASSED.

- d. **Action for Approval of April 2022 Minutes:** Chair Labouisse invited a motion to adopt the April minutes as circulated with the agenda.

MOTION: Huber-Levy /SECOND: Newton

AYES (VOICE VOTE): All present

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

MOTION PASSED.



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e. **Action to Set Agenda for May 31, 2022:**

MOTION: Labouisse/SECOND: Wilson
AYES (ROLL CALL VOTE): All present
NOES: none
ABSTAIN: none
MOTION PASSED.

f. **Consideration of Applicants for Commissioner Positions:**

The Membership Interview Committee presented the applications of Ameya Nori and Wesley Liu and recommended their candidacy for the open positions on the Commission.

A vote on the candidacy of Ameya Nori for Commissioner was held:

MOTION: Labouisse
AYES (ROLL CALL VOTE): All present; one abstention
NOES: none
ABSTAIN: Nori
MOTION PASSED.

A vote on the candidacy of Wesley Liu for Commissioner was held:

MOTION: Labouisse
AYES (ROLL CALL VOTE): All present
NOES: none
ABSTAIN: none
MOTION PASSED.

Chair Labouisse and Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the volunteer work that both prospective Commissioners have already been doing for the Commission and welcomed them as prospective Commissioners. Their applications will now be sent to the Board of Supervisors for approval at an upcoming meeting.

II. Oral Communications: No written or oral public comments were provided for items not on the agenda.

IV. System Updates and Trends:

a. Probation (Stauffer) – currently there are 16 deputy probation officers in juvenile division:

Status of Youth on Probation:

- Intake Unit (Assessment for Diversion/Investigations): 155 – with 32 new referrals in April:
 - 10 youth assessed for diversion or contract (letter of reprimand, victim impact awareness program; assessment with BHRS clinician for eligibility for 3/6 mo. contract; petty theft program)
 - 7 youth referred to either traffic unit or out of County
 - 15 youth referred to DA's office (mandatory or ASCEND – prior probation, terminated and new offense)



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- Supervised Probation: 114 (formal & informal)
 - Placement: 0
 - With Gang Conditions: 10 (intensive probation)
 - Non-Minor Dependent Status: 5 (previously in placement, now receiving extended foster care with funding and services)
- Informal Diversion Contracts: 10
 - 90 day contracts: 4
 - 6 month contracts: 6
- Electronic Monitoring (EMP): 34 (on probation or pending hearing in intake/assessment)
- DJJ: 2 (one is likely to return to SMC next month); note that already have had 3 youth return from DJJ and in supervised probation
- 59% Hispanic/Latino; 16% Black/African American; 10% White; 6% Other; 5% Hawaiian/PI; 3% Asian; 1% Unknown

Ms Stauffer invited all present to attend a focus group for the 2022 San Mateo County Self-Assessment. Ms Stauffer noted that SMC Probation have been assessed as being 'a little bit below' the national standard for youth being returned home within a 12 month period. This focus group will reach out to stakeholders to learn more about how to prevent youth from going into care, and also how to assist with returning youth home as quickly as possible to their families.

Note: The CSA is a comprehensive review of each county's child welfare and probation placement programs and allows the county to learn about strengths, challenges and promising practices with the goal of developing a five-year system improvement plan as a result of the assessment. A key component of the assessment is gathering feedback from stakeholders including young adults, parents, services providers, the community and resource families through focus groups. Areas of concern are the recurrence of maltreatment for child welfare and timely permanency for Juvenile Probation, along with improving prevention efforts so more families receive the support they need to prevent child maltreatment and youth entering the juvenile justice system.

The focus group will take place on Thursday, June 16, 6:00-7:30pm by virtual meeting with a consultant (a flyer with sign-up details was circulated with this agenda).

Commissioner Wilson noted a sign at a public library, in multiple languages, that said, in short, "we speak your language", and inquired whether something similar is or can be posted in interview rooms at Probation to reinforce the message that families can be served in their native language. Ms Stauffer agreed to find out if similar signs are posted in Probation interview rooms.

Commissioner Bocanegra inquired as to services provided to youth returning to SMC from DJJ. Ms Stauffer noted such youth are referred to services with FLY and Success Centers (vocational training); currently, youth that are released from DJJ are re-entering back into the community, not returning to YSC. They are being paroled and will be on probation supervision for about a year after which time, if they are doing well, the court will be asked to terminate the parole. However, there is programming for youth that will be in the YSC facility for extended periods of time, especially under our new secure track program. There are no youth in secure track at this time, but for a youth like that probation would certainly connect them to programs and services under contract with FLY and Success Centers.



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Status of Youth at Institutions, Youth Services Center/Camp Kemp (Clark): 20 youth in custody:

- **YSC:** 19 (male youth)
- **Camp Kemp:** 1 (female youth from Sonoma County); 3 girls attending Girls Empowerment Program (GEP) daily.

Ms Clark noted that a graduation for 2 youth was held today, attended by representatives of COE. One youth will be continuing on to College of San Mateo, and other youth from out of county intends on pursuing higher education with ultimate plan for a masters degree.

Commissioner Bocanegra commended Probation for the sensitive and compassionate service to youth in our county.

Total youth in SMC juvenile justice system: 301 (last month: 290)

b. HSA, Children and Family Services (Fong)

A written update on relevant metrics was provided by Mr. Fong to this meeting (attached to agenda packet).

- Case-loads had dropped significantly over past two years, and have seen these rising steadily over past three months. Overall 142 young people are in their care.
- Have provided data regarding youth placed in county/out of county – approximately 84% in Bay Area counties/16% out of county overall. Need to help to keep young people in their counties of origin.
- Minors in placement looks a bit different and they have ‘moved the needle’ with a higher percentage of these youth staying in county.
- The main issue is lack of resource families in our county – many families are reaching out to gain information regarding being a resource (formerly referred to as ‘foster’) family and attend orientation, but many families are not taking the next steps to be available to take youth into their home.
- Key priority is to inquire at any stage of process whether there are any relatives or non-relative extended family members (including coaches, mentors, teachers).
- Majority of SMC youth placed out of county are not placed with relatives, they are placed with Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) run by CBOs. SMC is at a disadvantage by not having more ‘brick and mortar’ locations in SMC to place these young people. Children and Family Services have developed their own FFA (only one in State run by government entity) and want to grow this.
- Need to find ways to incentivize people to provide the resource family service. They are continuing with outreach and would appreciate any referrals. Teen girls are at highest risk and most difficult to place at times; tweens and teens are most vulnerable populations.

c. County Office of Education (Littrell)

Students currently enrolled in County schools - 46 students:

Canyon Oaks: 9 students
Gateway: 17 students
Hillcrest: 16 students
Camp Kemp: 4 students



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One student graduated at Gateway this month, as well as one in December. The two students mentioned earlier by Ms Clark graduated from Hillcrest and Camp Kemp, after finishing their course work there: they received their diplomas from their home schools (Sequoia (SMC) and in Yuba County).

Further update on Gateway School: the COE board recently voted to postpone the closure of Gateway for a further two years. During this time, Superintendent McGee will be running a process with all districts, first focusing on high school districts, to look at a county-wide approach to support students in their neighborhood schools as much as possible, bringing in experts to help guide this process. The process will also consider how other counties, and districts within our county, are keeping students with these issues in their home schools.

Note: No significant updates or changes to report from the DA's Office or BHRS, so no verbal updates were provided at the meeting this month.

V. Commission Updates & Actions:

a. **Inspections** (Rasmussen):

Resources are available on the Commission shared Google drive for the 2022 inspections. Inspection leads should now proceed to schedule their team visits, and coordinate any training/support needed for their team. An updated guide to visiting juvenile court is also on the drive.

b. **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, SB 823 Subcommittee, Reimagine Juvenile Hall Committee** (Labouisse, Bocanegra):

JJCC – Chaired by Chief Keene; oversees two state grants which support juvenile justice system and delinquency prevention services.

SB 823 Subcommittee – formed pursuant to legislation passed last year to close DJJ, to realign juvenile justice services to keep youth in their home counties and not send them to DJJ.

Reimagine Juvenile Hall Committee - arose out of the resolution sponsored by the JJDCP which was passed last year by the SMC Board of Supervisors to 'reimagine juvenile hall'; to look at ways to improve the living conditions at our Youth Services Center in SMC.

These efforts are all closely related, and connected to the state budget.

SB 823 created the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), the director of which is Katherine Lucero (a Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge for 20 years), housed within California's Health and Human Services Agency, rather than the state's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, signaling new emphasis on a more holistic approach to rehabilitating youth in custody.

The OYCR and the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC, the regulatory body that that oversees juvenile halls) is meeting now to discuss regulations.

As the CA state budget is being put together, we are provided with monthly updates from Chief Keene (head of the association of Chiefs of Probation for the State this year), who is regularly in Sacramento speaking about the governor's proposed budget, regarding progress on the expected guidelines and state budget. The current budget proposal is for \$100M for juvenile hall renovation projects, to be spread over 58 counties. The final budget should be approved by end of summer/beginning of fall. In the meantime, while awaiting guidance on changes to be made to



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juvenile halls and final budget for that work, Chief Keene supported the Commissioners' suggestion to brainstorm and identify smaller projects that may be completed right now to improve living conditions in Juvenile Hall.

c. **Grant Opportunity - County Office of Arts & Culture** (Bocanegra):

Ms Robin Rodricks is the executive director of the County Office of Arts & Culture, housed under the County Executive's Office, which as of June '21 has staff and a real office. Ms Rodricks has in the past managed a pilot arts and culture program for the SMC women's facility, as well as one for Each One Reach One, which was incorporated into a playwriting program at Camp Kemp. The mission of her office is to use arts and culture for the benefit of those in the county correctional system.

Ms. Rodricks asked for support from JJDC in applying for a grant from the State of California Arts Council (Jump StArt Grants), which will be offered in two cycles, twice per year on an ongoing basis in the form of either a planning or program grant. The next grant application date is June 23rd, for planning or execution of a program for youth in system held at community spaces or a correctional facility. Grants are for amounts of up to \$50k, for either planning (\$2,500) or program (\$50,000), or both (for up to \$52,500). She looks forward to working closely with JJDC on an ongoing basis to access these grant funds and put programs in place in county juvenile detention facilities.

d. **Meeting with Steve Wagstaffe** (Bocanegra, Rasmussen):

Commissioners Bocanegra and Rasmussen met with DA Wagstaffe in their personal capacity as community leaders and residents of Redwood City to request that he institute a moratorium on trying youths as adults in San Mateo County. DA Wagstaffe shared his personal lived experience and, although he agreed with the resolution, did not commit to a moratorium. DA Wagstaffe indicated he is open to change and the conversation will continue. He agreed that trying youth as adults decreases opportunities for youth to be rehabilitated.

Commissioners Bocanegra and Rasmussen will be touring DJJ to understand the programs currently offered there and to ensure that the same level of therapeutic services and programs are available to SMC youth.

e. **Legislative** (Huber-Levy):

Bills of legislative priority which we are following have progressed from Assembly into Senate. Resources to track bills currently in legislature include: CA Legislative Information @ <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>; and Commonweal, the Juvenile Justice Program @ <https://comjj.org/updates/legislation/> (most recent update is April 15/22).

f. **BSCC Listening Sessions** (Wilson):

As part of their full review of the laws that govern detention facilities, BSCC is hosting a series of listening sessions whereby the public can provide input on the upcoming regulations; information on the upcoming sessions was included in the agenda packet. The public may provide written comments directly by email as well.



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g. **PeerPoint Youth Diversion Project** (Huber-Levy, Newton, Willis, Wilson)

Commissioner Wilson provided an update on funding raised in support of launching PeerPoint, a restorative justice-based diversion program for youth that would ultimately be accessible county-wide. In summary, grants have been successfully obtained for: \$130,000 (Year 1), \$20,000 (Year 2), and \$20,000 (Year 3). The team has also applied for a large grant from the Gilead Foundation, Creating Possible Fund to support the launch and operation of the program over 3 years. The team will learn whether this grant application is successful on June 1.

The team has also begun to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration and partnership to operate this program with FLY. The PeerPoint program is well-aligned with FLY's goals and objectives and would be a very positive step in ensuring its long term.

To clarify, it was noted that all funds raised for PeerPoint are held by a registered 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor (San Francisco Study Center), and while the program has been incubated and nurtured by the JJDPC Commissioners and volunteers on the project team, the PeerPoint program once launched will be operated by independent employees, or through an independent community organization, not the JJDPC.

h. **Gang Intervention and Prevention Project** (Bocanegra, Flores, Labouisse, S. Nori, Rasmussen):

The project team have identified four groups to interview to gather information: (1) schools; (2) law enforcement/probation, district attorney/private defenders; (3) former and current gang members; and (4) service providers, community leaders, and journalists. The goal is to have a report to present to the Commission in late fall 2022.

Chair Labouisse provided opportunity for any members of public who wish to speak or make comments on agenda items to do so:

- Zach Kirk of Silicon Valley DeBug provided public comment on the Gang Intervention and Prevention project. Silicon Valley DeBug has been working on gang issues and the application of gang enhancements for years, and they were part of a coalition which advocated to change the gang enhancements law.

They use the Racial Justice Act to go to court and address racial harm using data. From a public records request statewide, they learned that 97% of gang enhancements are against non-white people (3% against white people). Unfortunately, the disparity was found to be worse in San Mateo County. Out of 291 convictions, individuals were: 245 (84%) Hispanic, 28 (9%) Black, one American Indian, and 6 Pacific Islanders. Of 11 persons listed as 'white' – 8 had Latino co-defendants and were of Middle Eastern descent, additionally 2 had co-defendants alleged to be in Hispanic gangs. For the remaining one white person, no gang involvement was found and punishment was stayed at sentencing. Overall, no white person has been sentenced with a gang enhancement in San Mateo County for the past 34 years.

The statistics to prove what they have been saying for a decade now, so they are happy to share this with the project team and would like to remain in close contact with the team.

- Allen Bustos, Daly City Resident and SFSU student in health education provided public comment regarding resources for youth transitioning from juvenile justice system, as a re-entry scholar and formerly incarcerated youth:



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- There are re-entry scholarships offered by a restorative justice ministry, with open scholarship fund stipends offered all year long. This is a resource for any youth that are transitioning into college, and who may apply if on active probation; and
- Would like to highlight a potential opportunity to work together on a future arts project, in collaboration with Daly City Public Library Association, for an public event in November where system-impacted youth could present works of music or art or poetry or any crafts that could be sold for fundraising.

Thank you to our community attendees at this meeting – your input is invaluable!

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 28, 2022