



**Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention  
Commissions**

**April 30, 2024, 5:15 p.m.  
FINAL 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 (online<sup>1</sup>).

**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

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



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**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.



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**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.



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