



Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
June 29, 2021 | 5:15pm – 7:15pm  
Remote Access Only – Public participation instructions 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 so that they may be recognized at the appropriate time.*

**Hon. Susan Etezadi**  
Presiding Juvenile Court  
Judge, Superior Court

**Judith Holiber**  
Deputy County Counsel

### Commissioners

**Antoinette Barrack**  
Co-Chair

**Debora Telleria**  
Co-Chair

**Rebecca Flores**  
Vice Chair,  
Administration

**Melissa Wilson**  
Vice Chair, Membership

**Paul Bocanegra**

**Rocsana Enriquez**

**Karin Huber-Levy**

**Monroe Labouisse**

**Victor Lecha III**

**Sathvik Nori**

**Johanna Rasmussen**

**Susan Swope**

**Austin Willis**

**Douglas Winter**

### **I. Administrative Business (5:15-5:25)**

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call and Establish Quorum
- c. Welcome and Introductions
- d. Agenda Review and Approval
- e. Approval of Minutes of May 25, 2021

### **II. Oral Communications (5:25-5:30)**

*This item provides an opportunity for public comment on items not on the agenda (Time limit – two (2) minutes per person). There will be opportunity for public comment on agenda items as they are considered.*

### **III. Pacific Islander Youth Community (5:30-5:55)**

**Malissa Netane-Jones, Managing Director of Initiatives and Services  
Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center**

### **IV. Updates (5:55-6:15)**

- a. Court (Jakubowski)
- b. Private Defender Program (Rayes)
- c. District Attorney's Office (Cho)
- d. Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (Pena)
- e. County Office of Education (Littrell)
- f. Probation (Clark, Stauffer)
- g. HSA, Children and Family Services (Fong)

### **V. 2021 Project Plan Updates (6:15-7:05)**

- a. Truancy Project (Enriquez, Lecha, Swope) Review Plan & Vote to Approve
- b. Diversion Programs in San Mateo County (Swope, Telleria, Willis, Winter)
- c. Communicate with Elected Officials (Bocanegra, Enriquez, Labouisse)
- d. Alternatives to Incarceration (Bocanegra, Labouisse)
- e. Analyze After School Programs (Barrack, Huber-Levy)
- f. Create Dashboard to Monitor Data (Barrack, Lecha, Telleria, Willis)
- g. Outreach to Underserved Youth/Families (Rasmussen, Telleria)
- h. Peer Court (Lecha, Willis, Wilson)
- i. Lessons Learned During COVID-19 (Nori, Rasmussen, Wilson)



## **VI. Commissioner Report Outs (7:05-7:15)**

- a. Youth Commission (Nori & Willis)
- b. Membership (Wilson)
- c. Legislation (Bocanegra, Huber-Levy)
- d. Marketing (Rasmussen)
- e. Police Liaison (Rasmussen)
- f. Community Ambassadors (all)

## **Public Participation Instructions**

Pursuant to the Shelter in Place Orders issued by the San Mateo County Health Officer and the Governor, and the CDC's social distancing guidelines which discourage large public gatherings, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Commission's meetings will be held remotely with public access available by videoconference.

### **Join JJPDC Monthly Meeting via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89923451111?pwd=akZYZVBNT3pXMm5FbG53VVA3T0poZz09>

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,89923451111#,,,,\*496144#

Dial-in

+1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 899 2345 1111

Passcode: 496144

We highly recommend you use a computer or iPad type device and activate the camera feature vs. calling in only on audio. See instructions to call in via phone (preferably, but not necessarily with a camera).

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 27, 2021, 5:15 – 7:15 p.m.  
Location: Online via Zoom**

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 SECRETARY TONY BURCHYNS (650) 312-8878 AT LEAST 72 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING AS NOTIFICATION IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING WILL 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 MAY BE SENSITIVE TO VARIOUS CHEMICAL BASED PRODUCTS.

If you wish to speak to the Committee, please fill out a speaker's slip. If you have anything that you wish distributed to the Committee and included in the official record, please hand it to the County Manager who will distribute the information to the committee members.



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 25, 2021 | 5:15-7:15 pm  
Remote Meeting

### MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Toni Barrack, Co-Chair; Debora Telleria, Co-Chair; Rebecca Flores, Vice Chair-Administration; Melissa Wilson, Vice Chair-Membership; Paul Bocanegra; Monroe Labouisse; Sathvik Nori; Johanna Rasmussen; Susan Swope; Austin Willis, Doug Winter

**Commissioners Absent:** Sonoo Thadaney (leave of absence)

#### Additional Attendees:

Judge Susan Edezadi – Juvenile Court  
Ron Rayes – Private Defender Program  
Jehan Clark – Probation  
Kate Hiester – Fresh Lifelines for Youth  
Victor Lecha III – Potential Commissioner  
M J Hart – Potential Commissioner  
Melanie Stauffer – Probation  
Mary Lynn Fitton – Art of Yoga  
John Fong – HSA  
Ameya Nori – Youth Commissioner  
Karen Huber-Levy – Potential Commissioner

Aurora Pena – Behavioral Health & Recovery Services  
Lulu David – Potential Youth Commissioner  
Chris Woo – Project Change  
Ligia Andrade Zúñiga – SMUHSD Board of Trustees  
Joseph Huber – Community Member  
Armaan Khare-Arora – Potential Youth Commissioner  
Lee Ann – Community Member  
Alexis Eskenazi – Potential Youth Commissioner  
Sharon Godinez – CASA  
Mike Jones – Boys & Girls Club  
Rocsana Enriquez – Potential Commissioner  
Jeneé Littrell – County Office of Education

#### I. Administrative Business

- a. **Call to Order:** Co-Chair Barrack called meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
- b. **Roll Call and Establish Quorum:** A quorum was established at 5:15 p.m.
- c. **Welcome and Introductions**
- d. **Agenda Review:** approved as distributed
- e. **Approval of Minutes:** approved as distributed
- f. **Commissioners Sworn in:** Enriquez, Huber-Levy and Lecha
- g. **Commissioner Resignation:** Sonoo Thadaney



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

**II. Oral Communication:** *None*

**III. Updates**

- a. Juvenile Court (Judge Edezadi)
  - Most youth are appearing in court remotely but there have been more lawyers in the courtroom recently.
  - Checking in with justice partners about how to move forward with families coming to court to make the process more flexible.
  - CASA volunteers are constantly training and coming into court to observe; commissioners are welcome to join as well.
- b. Private Defender Program (Reyes)
  - Conversations continue around the new laws SB92 and closure of DJJ.
  - Currently working on Assembly Bill 624, the right of appeal when there is a transfer order from Juvenile to Adult Court and AB 1127, prohibiting use of juvenile strikes in adult court.
- c. District Attorney Office (Cho)
  - No Updates
- d. Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (Pena)
  - Continue to have a hybrid schedule. Some staff are on site and see youth in person. Community clients are also welcome to have in person meetings. Telephone is still preferred by families.
- e. Probation (Melanie, Clark)
  - Continue to see youth in the field and in the office.
  - There are 189 youth on court ordered informal and formal probation, 85 youth processed through assessment center, 6 youth on informal contracts, 17 youth on EMP, 1 youth in placement, 9 minor dependents, and 5 youth in DJJ.
  - There are 12 youth in the hall, 11 males, 1 female. Six girls are in Camp Kemp and 4 in GEP.
  - Working closely with correctional health for the reopening plan in June.
- f. County Office of Education (Littrell)
  - Will restructure the referral process at Gateway and will bring in partners that have experience training with trauma informed practices and supporting students as they transition to home districts.



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

- Schools returning to in-person have many students who need mental and emotional support. There are still not enough services to meet the needs of the schools.

**g. HSA, Children and Family Services (Fong)**

- Continue to be in full operation as a child welfare agency. Still offer clients a virtual option for meetings.
- During the pandemic there was a huge decrease in calls to the child abuse hotline, due to the absence of mandated reporters.
- Overall caseloads have declined to 307 children and youth. They still monitor 21 to 24-year-olds for supportive transitional services. 18 youth are graduating to independent care.

**IV. Inspections (Flores)**

- All commissioners have signed up for inspections and the inspection leads will be sent resources necessary to complete the inspections.
- Inspection training will be provided to commissioners who sign up.
- Inspections should start after June 15.

**V. Social Media Update (Rasmussen)**

- Will meet with the County on Thursday and should have the accounts ready by next meeting.

**VI. STRTP Update (Swope)**

- In 2014 the STRTP was introduced to promote normal childhood experiences without any feedback from JJC or JJDP. AB403 was passed into law in 2015 requiring all group homes to close or transform into short term residential treatment programs.
- All group homes in San Mateo County have now closed except Canyon Oaks which only has a 12-person capacity. Currently there are not enough foster homes available for pre-teens and teens.

**VII. 2021 Project Plan Updates**

**a. Peer Court (Lecha, Wilson, Willis)**

- Met with staff from the Office of Education. There is broad support developing for a peer court. Sequoia district is very interested.

**b. Communicate with Elected Officials (Labouisse)**

- Continue to have meetings with elected officials around the county.



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

- Sent in our resolution, meetings are going well, and we hope to have enough support from Supervisors. Will hear more in July.
- c. Diversion Programs in San Mateo County (Swope)
  - The next meeting is on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Debora will join the team..
- d. Truancy Project (Swope)
  - There will be a meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Schools will collaborate with Everyday Labs who will send the students nudges and reminders to attend school.
- e. Analyzing After School Project (Barrack)
  - Completed the catalog/list of providers and now focusing on the role of school districts in after school care.
- f. Dashboard Project (Barrack)
  - Currently looking for BHRS data and diversion statistics from Police Departments.
- g. Outreach to Underserved Youth and Families (Rasmussen)
  - Focused on what to do once COVID ends. Once restrictions are lifted by the governor, we may need to go back to in person meetings.
  - The commission will try to host meetings in underserved areas.
- h. Lessons learned about COVID-19 (Rasmussen)
  - The project is nearing completion and team should have a draft for the next meeting. Will interview youth in early June.

### **VIII. Community Ambassador and Coordinator Reports**

- Youth Commission update – Year is wrapping up soon, the last show case meeting is this Thursday and the JJDPC are invited to attend.
- Membership – We will be conducting interviews in the next month to fill the position created by Sonoo’s resignation.
- Legislation – Paul and Karin will provide updates on legislation that is relevant to the commission. Will also be looking into bills we want to support. Currently there are three assembly bills and 12 senate bills.
- Community Ambassadors – Johanna sent a copy of our strategic plan to all law enforcement partners and is inviting them to our meetings

Meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 29, 2021**

# Journeying to Advance Equity in San Mateo County

Shireen Malekafzali (she/her) | Chief Equity Officer

6-04-21 | Diversity & Equity Council



# Presentation Overview

Understanding equity

State of equity in San Mateo County (needs to be updated)

Early equity efforts

What's required of us

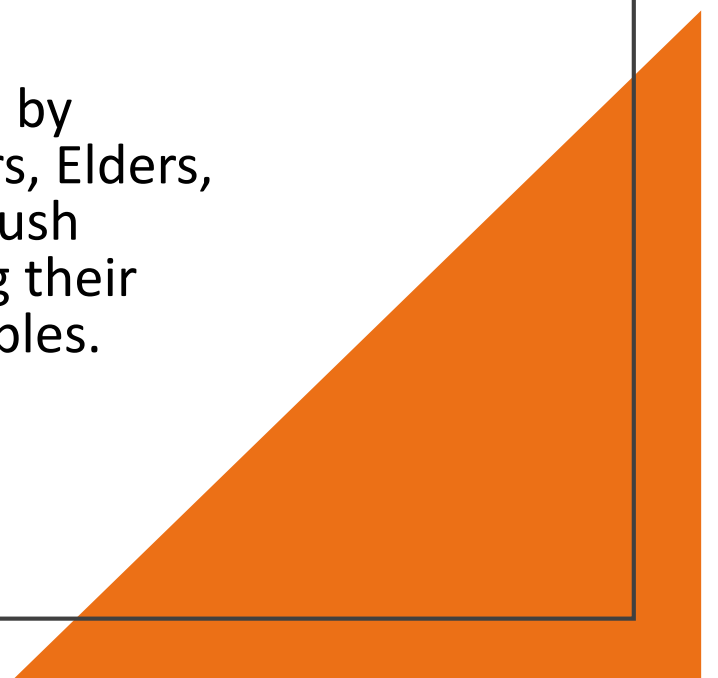
Discussion (if time allows)



Acknowledging  
the land our  
County sits on.  
Land of the  
Ramaytush  
Ohlone People

We acknowledge that San Mateo County is located on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone people who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula.

We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders, and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.



# Bringing our heads and our hearts to this work.

This presentation may feel focused on structures and systems, but it's about people. People operate institutions, make decisions about systems, and create the culture.

Injustice has inflicted pain on people, on places, and on communities, generationally. Inequitable outcomes are born from many small and large experiences of discrimination, racism, aggressions (micro and macro), exclusion, lack of opportunity, and much more.

Talking and working on equity requires us to recognize the harm, the pain, the resilience of our community siblings. This requires our hearts and our heads to be present and open.





# Understanding Equity

# Defining Equity

Equity is the goal of *just and fair inclusion* into a society in which *all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential*.

- PolicyLink

To achieve equity, we must *create the conditions* that allow all to reach their full potential.

# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion - Belonging

---

**Diversity:** a fact –people being different from one another. Can relate to ability, capacity, race/ethnicity, ideology, gender, communication styles, or other characteristic or identity.

---

**Equity:** a goal and a process –where everyone can reach their full potential

---

**Inclusion:** a practice –to make space for people and ensure people are included

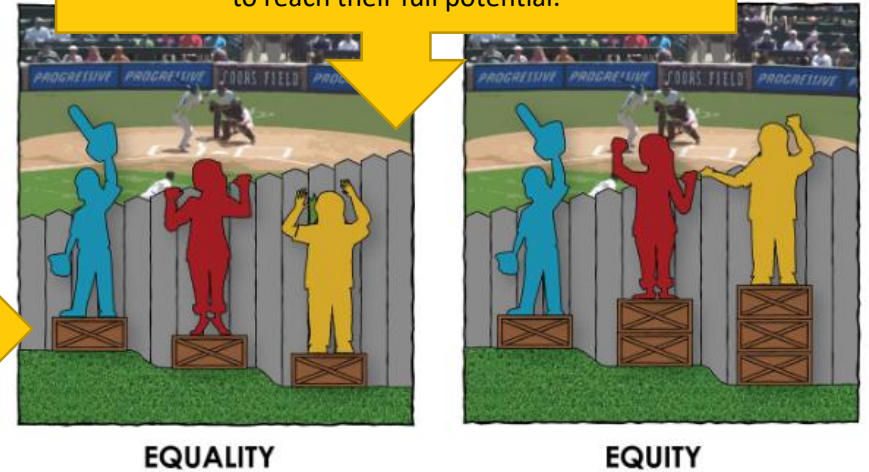
---

**Belonging:** a sense of authentic participation and power in the design or development - to not just be included in other people's spaces but to be a welcomed agent in the creation of the space with equitable distribution of power

# Equity versus Equality

- Everyone doesn't start with the same resources and advantages
- Equality doesn't allow everyone to succeed
- Equity requires us to consider what is needed for everyone to succeed
- Equity can be measured when a person's identity including race/ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or expression, immigration status, does not determine their life outcomes or opportunities.

We don't start with the same advantages and opportunities. There are generational differences in opportunity. These disadvantages limit opportunity from the beginning of a person's life.



# State of Equity in San Mateo County



# Root Causes of Inequities:

Important to remind ourselves before we look at disparate outcomes because many often blame personal responsibility without a reminder of historic and recent inequities

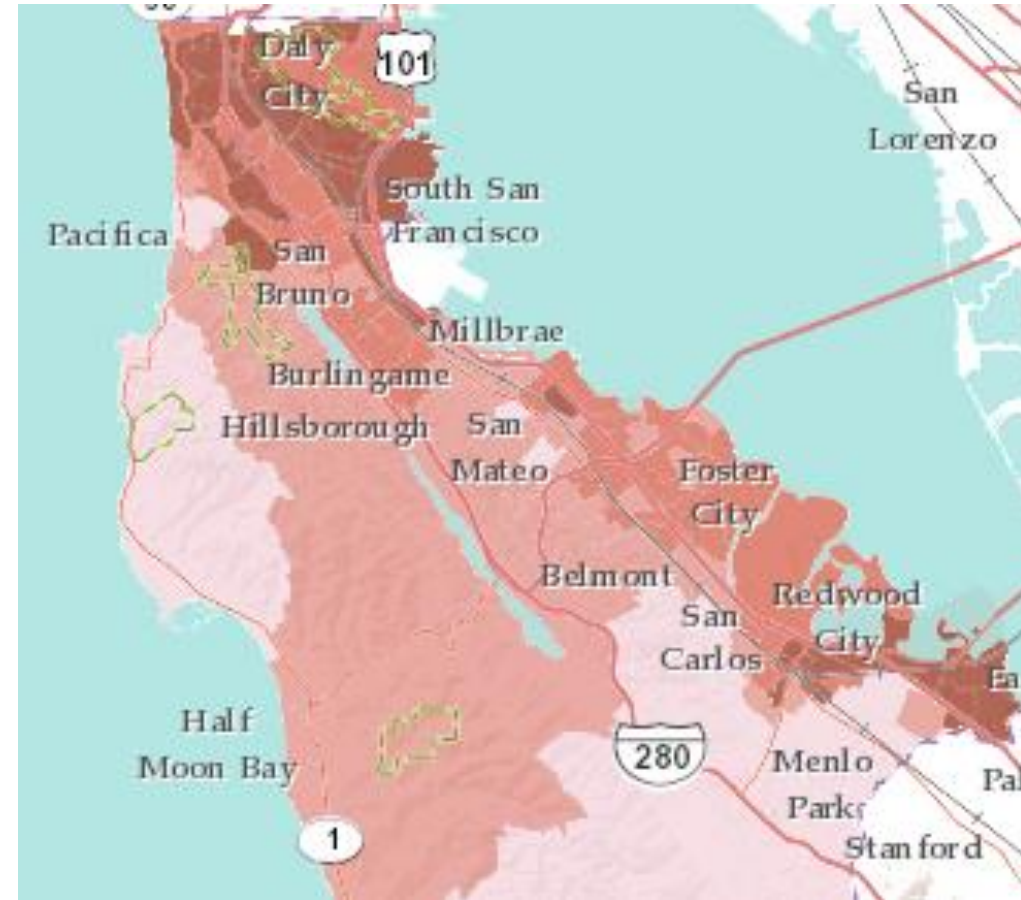


- Slavery
- Indigenous Genocide
- Racial property deed restrictions
- Home loan discrimination (redlining)
- Urban renewal
- Exclusion from the GI Bill Benefits
- Deindustrialization
- Housing discrimination
- Employment Discrimination
- School segregation
- Residential segregation
- Funding disparities
- Structural poverty
- Incarceration inequities
- Implicit bias
- Zero tolerance disciplinary policies
- Predatory lending
- Loan discrimination
- Residential segregation
- Housing and employment discrimination
- Complaint-based systems
- Voter suppression
- Limited pipelines into leadership
- Voter Suppression
- Internment camps



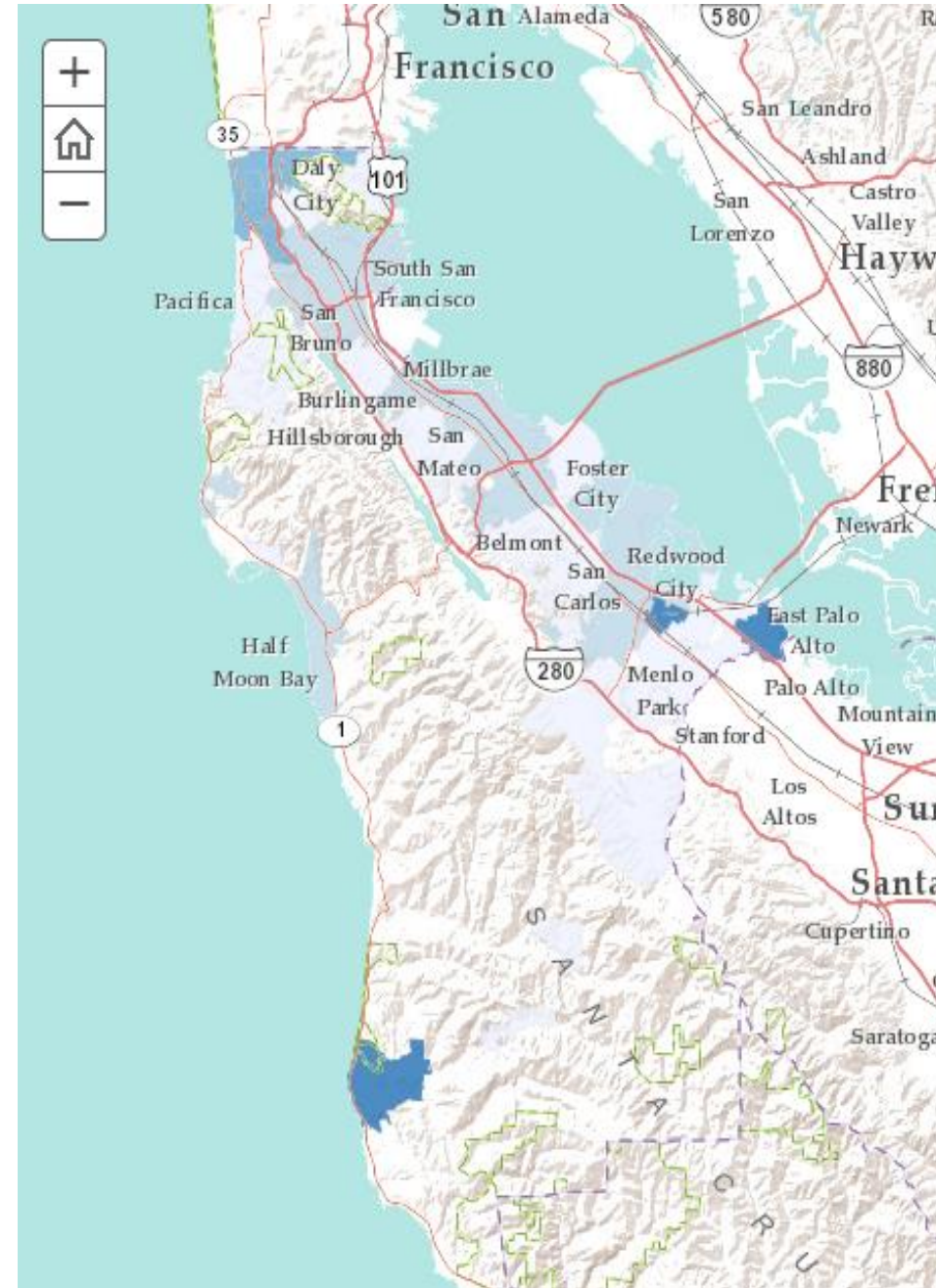
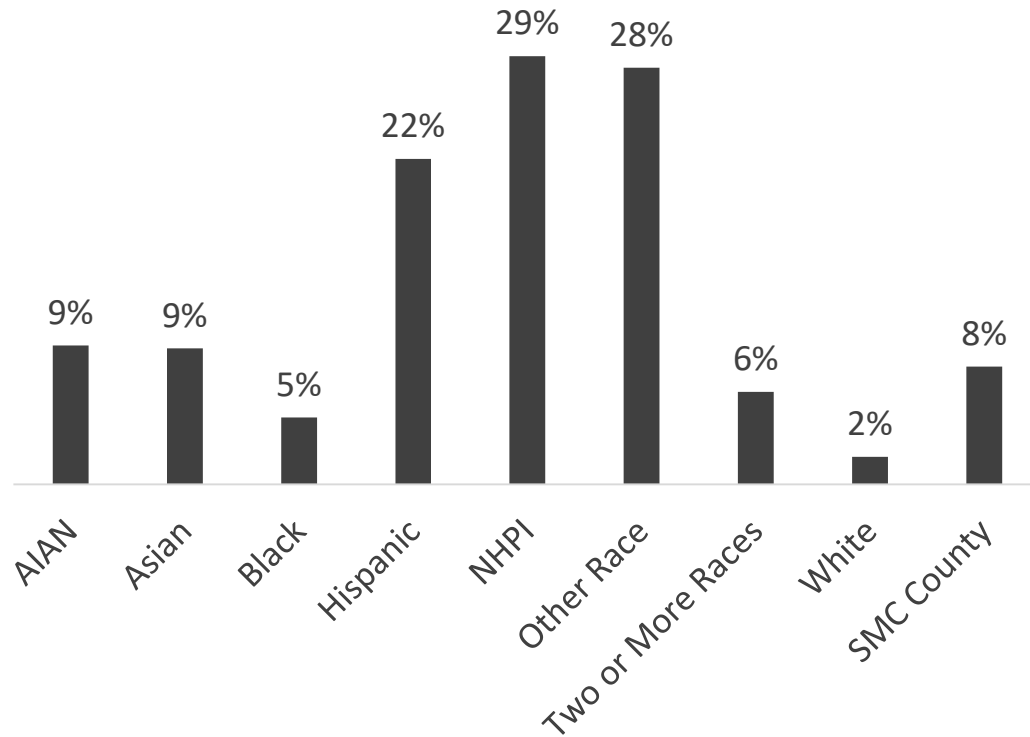
# County Context

- Over 60% People of Color
- Median rent for a 1-bedroom apartment has increased 126%
- Median household income in Atherton is about 4 times that of East Palo Alto
- Median HH income for White and Asian households is 2x that of Black and Latinx HHs
- San Mateo County life expectancy gap between Black and White is 4 years
- 18% of EPA does not have computer or broadband access



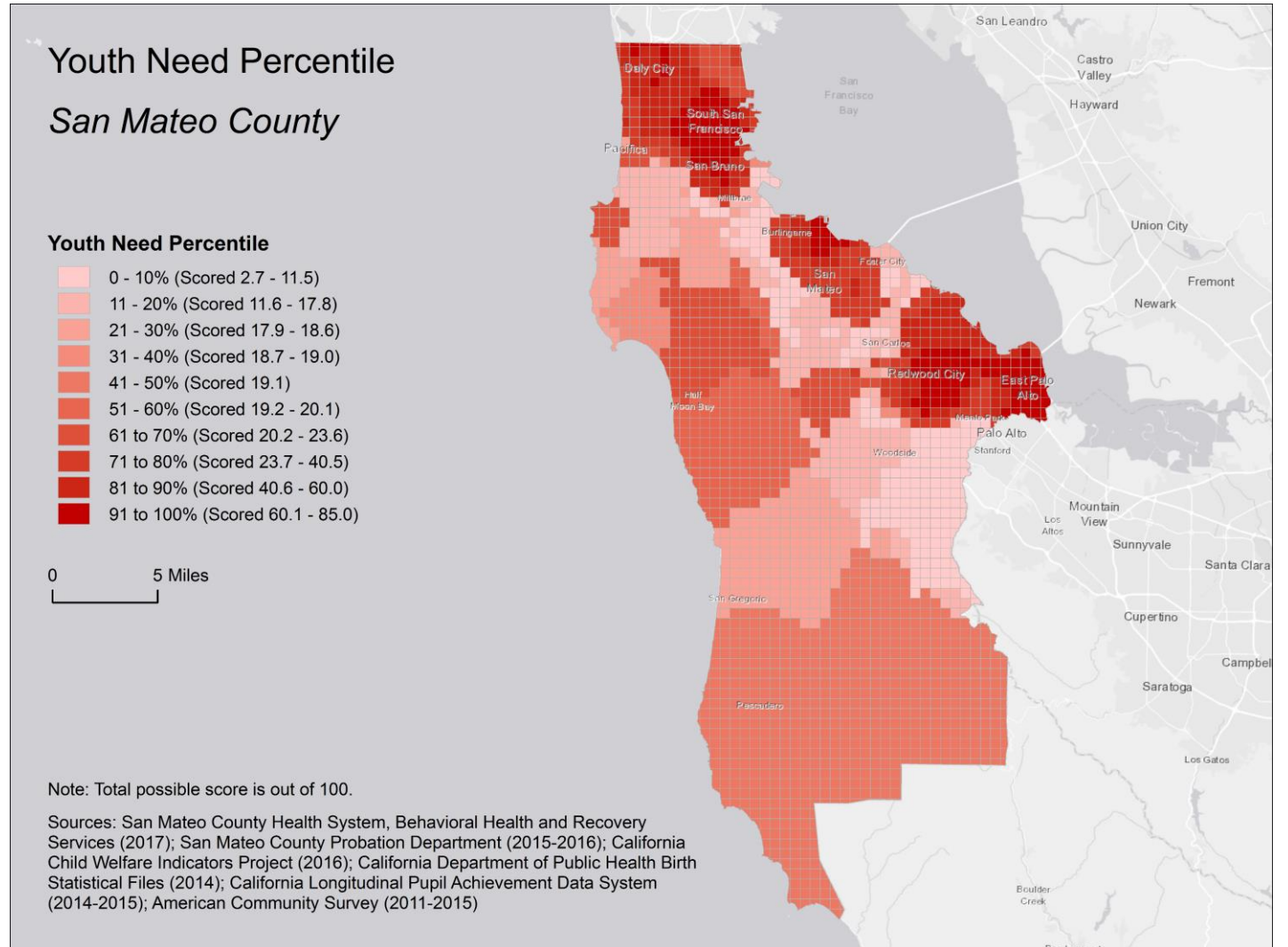
# Place & Race matter

## Overcrowding in San Mateo County, 2014-2018



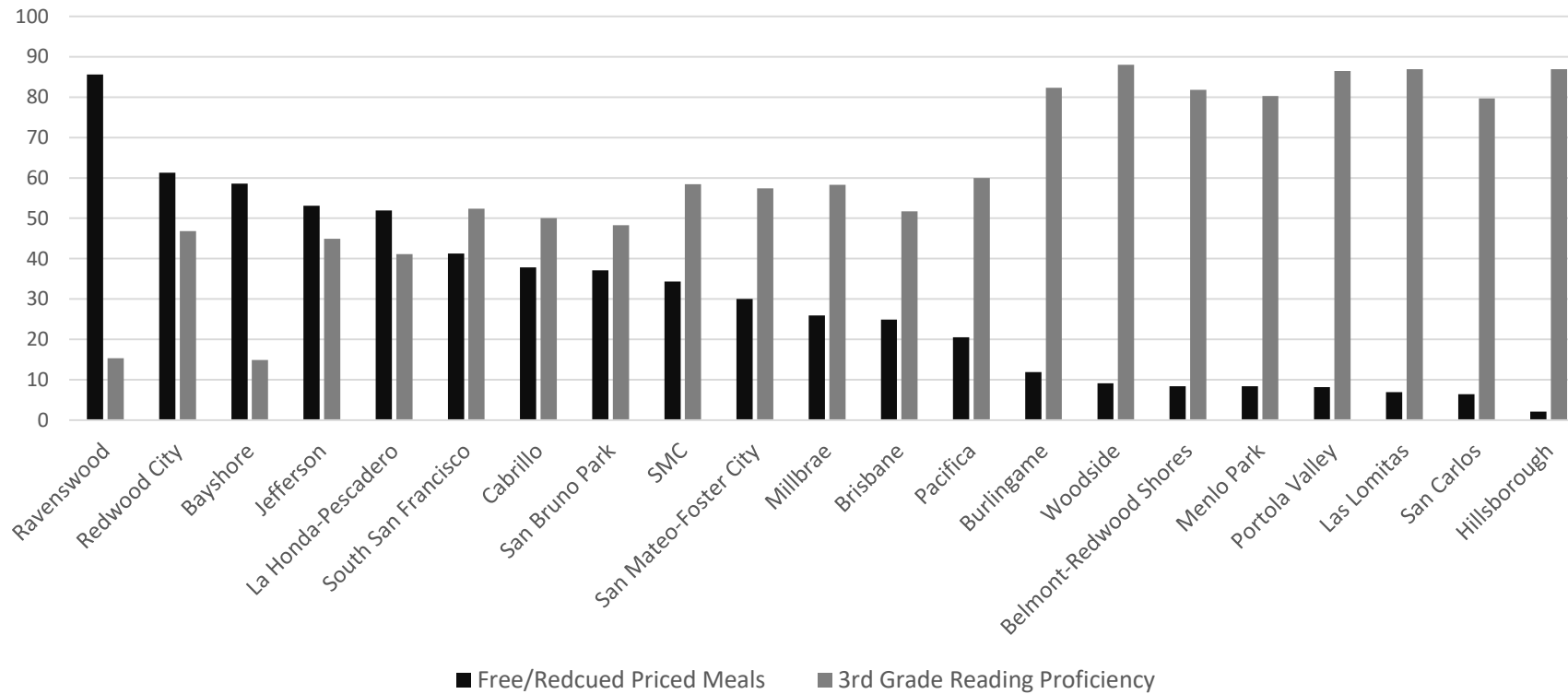
# Youth Need Index

- Juvenile Probation
- Youth Behavioral Health
- Child Abuse allegations
- Low birthweight
- Reading proficiency
- Suspension
- Poverty



# School Challenges: Cycle of Inequity

Free/Reduced Price Meal Participation and 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency by Elementary School District, 2018-2019



Source: California Department of Education. Free and Reduced Meal Participation (2018-2019), California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (2019)

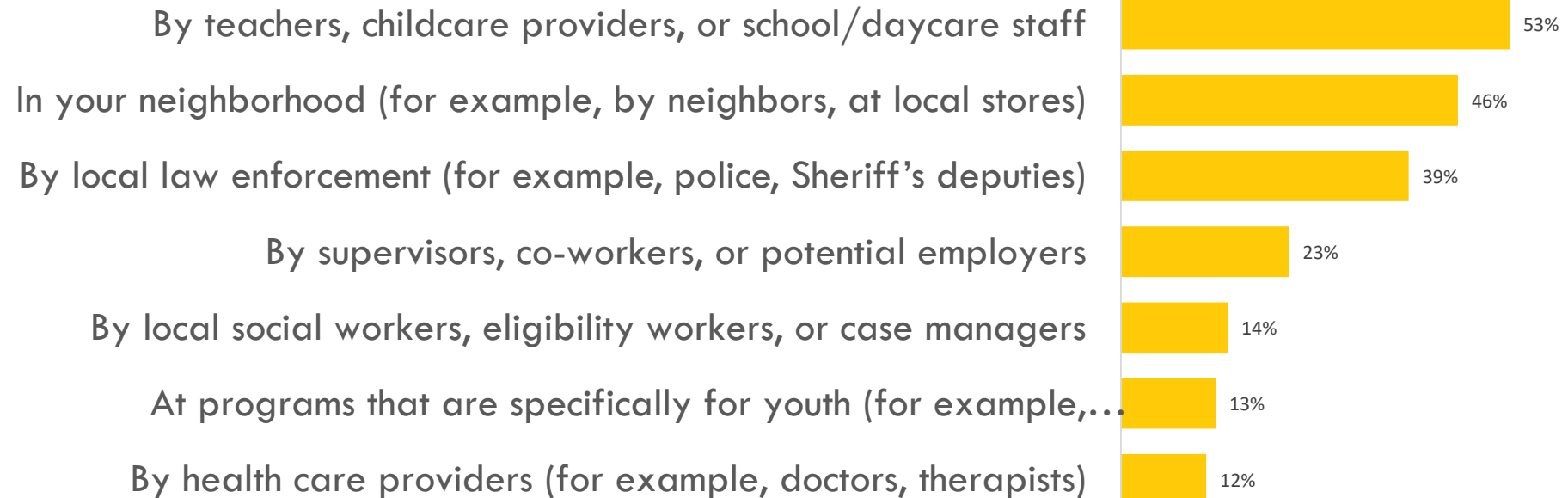
# NFO/RWC

## Structural and Institutional Racism

[My experience in school would have been better] if teachers supported and believed in everyone the same.

Youth living in NFO/RWC

**Youth of Color who reported that they had been discriminated against Always, Most of the Time, or Sometimes in the past year...**



# Community Assets Run Deep & Wide

- Deep social capital
- Ownership of the community
- Community leadership
- Activism
- Family connections
- Power from the people
- Recognition of our fates being tied together
- Diversity of rich ancestral knowledge
- Resilience
- Culture and Art
- History
- Community Organizing - Organizers



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

An illustration of numerous hands of various skin tones raised in support against a purple background. The hands are wearing different colored sleeves and some have jewelry like rings and bracelets. The text 'Chief Equity Officer Efforts: A Start' is overlaid in white.

# Chief Equity Officer Efforts: A Start

# Purpose & Key Pathways for Chief Equity Officer

**Purpose:** Support and engage San Mateo County to build and drive more equitable and accountable systems, in order to produce more equitable outcomes for our communities.

**Pathways to achieve purpose:**

- Support development of a vision, values and framework for an equitable San Mateo County structure with stakeholders
- Support development of a plan for workforce education and training to build staff capacity to identify, create and strengthen equitable practices
- Support County leaders in their review of policies, procedures, and protocols to improve equity in process and outcome
- Support development of accountability structures and systems
- Develop plan for a new Office of Racial and Social Equity
- Creating pathways for partnership, council, and support to advance equity amongst staff and with community



# Some of the values I bring into this

- **Structural Transformation:** We will achieve equity and racial justice by working collaboratively across sectors and with community leaders to transform systems and institutions across our County structure.
- **Centering the Heart:** We lead with our humanity and the centrality of our relationships, making space to acknowledge how our bodies and hearts feel. We seek to build a sense of belonging and healing from the traumas of living in systems of advantage and oppression.
- **Racial Justice:** We create conditions for people of color to be healthy and free. We will all only be truly free when we dismantle White supremacy, anti-Blackness, and other forms of intersecting oppression — so that our racial identity, income, gender, sexuality, or ability do not limit our potential to thrive.
- **Authentic Democracy:** We focus on building systems that are responsive to community power so that all people can collectively shape the policies and systems that impact our lives.
- **Partnership:** It will take many people and organizations. Partnering is a necessity and a moral force. People closest to the impact and work can best identify solutions that work.
- **Emergent Practice:** We must be adaptive and take strategic risk to get to fundamental transformation. We will always have much to learn, and as conditions change, we change.

# Theory of Change to Achieving Equity

## Input: County Transformation

County of San Mateo brings an equity lens into all its operations and transforms its systems with explicit intention to advance equity.

San Mateo County's biggest assets to advance equity lives within the existing staff, budgets, and departments.

County systems and structures make a deep commitment to advancing equity and implement strategies to operationalize equity across all County operations.

**External Influences:**  
Community requests and expertise;  
Resource requirements;  
State and Federal laws;  
City requests and expertise.

## KEY AREAS OF IMPACT WITHIN THE COUNTY

### Equitable Culture

Equitable Resource Allocation

Equitable Policies

Equitable Service Provision

Equitable Processes

Equitable Democracy

which individually and collectively support

**Community Outcomes**  
Shift in narrative and sense of belonging in SMC.

Other jurisdictions and organizations also commit to equity.

All have power and space to share their aspirations and needs.

## EQUITY

People experience the conditions they need to reach their full potential

Disparities by race, income, and other characteristics are eliminated.

which help achieve equitable outcomes in key priority areas

# Theory of Change to Achieving Equity

## County Transformation: Implementation **DRAFT** strategies:

### • **NORMALIZE**

- Listen and learn
- Build County staff capacity to understand and implement equity
- Hold discussions and learning opportunities on race and equity
- **Outcome:** Staff are trained across departments and actively engaged on advancing equity

### • **ORGANIZE**

- Understand and track data on inequities
- Learn from County staff and community leaders on challenges, needs, and priorities for equity
- **Outcomes:** Vision and values, Racial Equity Action Plan

### • **OPERATIONALIZE**

- Develop structures and systems for inclusion of equity into everyday operations
- Review and add policies, procedures, and practices for opportunities to advance equity
- **Outcomes:** Office of Racial and Social Equity, Diversify boards/commission, Racial Equity Tools, & Many distributed actions

### • **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Performance metrics
- Community participation
- Continued learning and improvement
- **Outcomes:** Equity metrics in operations & Community Equity Advisory Council

## KEY AREAS OF IMPACT WITHIN THE COUNTY

### Equitable Culture

Equitable Resource Allocation

Equitable Policies

Equitable Service Provision

Equitable Processes

Equitable Democracy

which individually and collectively support

### Community Outcomes

Shift in narrative and sense of belonging in SMC.

Other jurisdictions and organizations also commit to equity.

All have power and space to share their aspirations and needs.

## EQUITY

People experience the conditions they need to reach their full potential

Disparities by race, income, and other characteristics are eliminated.

which help achieve equitable outcomes in key priority areas



# Right now: Learning and Exploring

---

- Listening and learning
- Developing core purpose and pathways for position
- Working with HR on workforce education/training opportunities
- Working with HR and Procurement on strengthening alignment between business practices and County mission
- Opportunities to diversify County Boards and Commissions
- Support for state legislation on CA State Office of Racial Equity
- Working with Supervisor Canepa on Racial Equity Resolution
- Developing stakeholder collaboration processes – staff and community
- Identifying options for data sources
- Providing support to existing efforts where requested:
  - Immigrant Inclusion Strategic Plan
  - Departmental Efforts: Parks, District Attorney's office, Health
- Vaccine equity efforts continue in partnership with County Health
  - Vaccine Communication Equity Working Group
  - Coordinating vaccine outreach/engagement efforts



# What's Required?

# Key ingredients towards success

---

## 1. **Strong, committed, and steady leadership**

- Change requires taking risks, providing clear direction, and staying the course

## 2. **Clear vision and values of equity**

- A collective vision and clarity of purpose ensures continued direction

## 3. **Strong, trusted, and engaged partnerships**

- Those closest to the impact and work are necessary co-designers and partners

## 4. **Organizational transformation**

- Intentional and focused change is needed across the organization

## 5. **Time**

- Transformation and culture shift takes time so it can be sustainable – but there is an urgency to this work that must be recognized

## 6. **Accountability**

- A clear plan, performance metrics, and stakeholder engagement

# Transformation is necessary

“Instead of holding back we must have the courage to step forward, take our bureaucratic structures down to the studs and rebuild them through the lens of racial and social equity.”

- Marc Ott, Executive Director of Institute for International City/County Management Association (ICMA). December 2020, from forward to “Governing for Equity: Implementing an Equity Lens in Local Government”

CYCLE



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

# Reflections and Feedback

Questions:

General reactions/reflections

What are ways to partner with community in shaping this work?

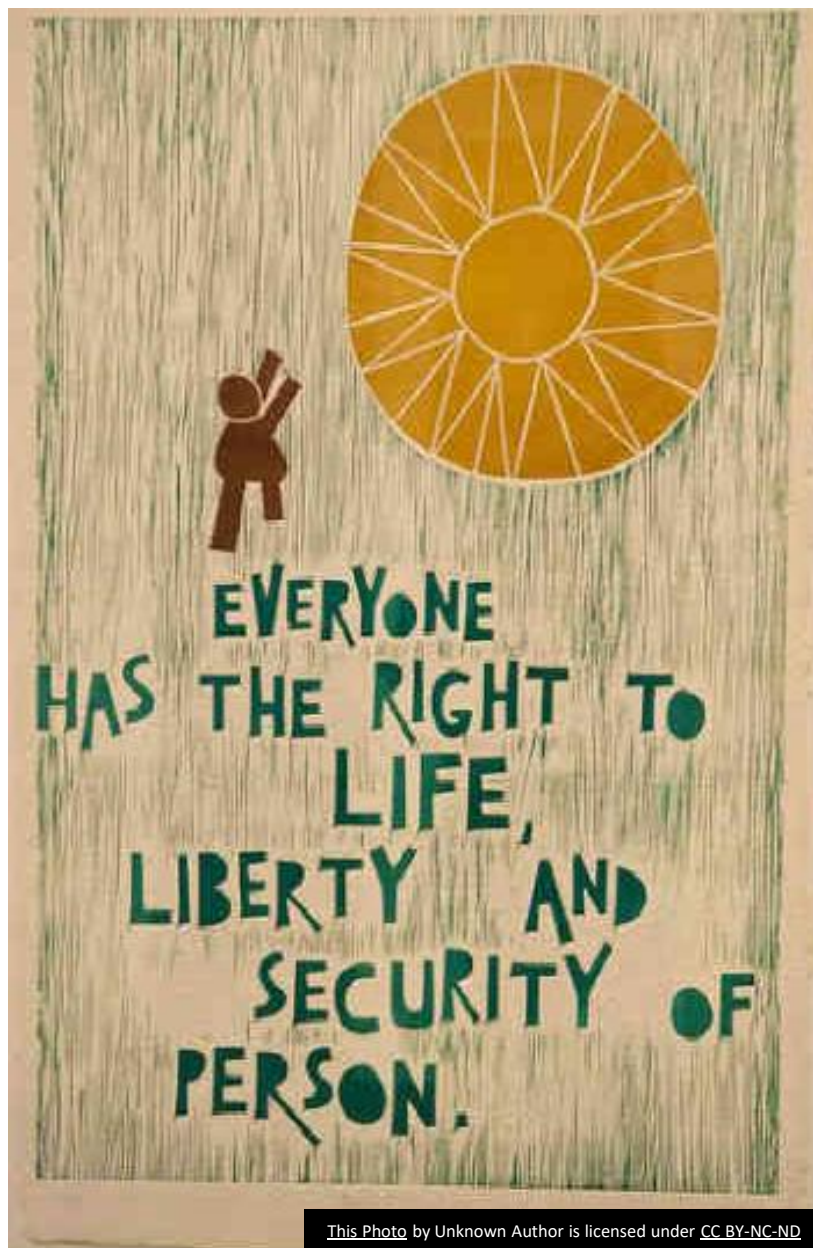
What are ways to be accountable as we develop structures and systems?

.



# S. Canepa: Racial Equity Resolution – Action Items

- An accountable structure for community and stakeholder engagement to support and inform equity efforts in the County in the form of a racial equity community council; and
- Sustainable structures in the County, including the chief equity officer position, Office of Racial and Social Equity, Racial Equity Action Plans, utilization of Racial Equity Tools, and/or other structures and systems.
- San Mateo County Equity Data Profile, County workforce education, and capacity building on equity, and development of equity performance metrics as part of County budgeting process; and
- Board remains committed to our mission of promoting racial equity, inclusion, and diversity in all aspects of county government and program structure;
- **RESOLVE** that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County advances racial equity through all policies of the county and enhances educational efforts aimed at understanding, addressing, and combating racism in all forms to promote fairness and justice for our most impacted communities.



# Thank you

---

Shireen Malekafzali

[smalekafzali@smcgov.org](mailto:smalekafzali@smcgov.org)

# Increasing School Attendance in San Mateo County

(Project Plan Rev. as of 6 June 2021)

## Mission/Goal

- Reduce structural barriers currently preventing students from attending school, recognizing that older students may need to work or have other demands on their time that conflict with school attendance.
- Work to create conditions that help students increase their school attendance
- Address the needs of the full range of school-age youth, with the goal of preventing school disconnection.

## Short Description

This project seeks to increase school attendance in San Mateo County. To accomplish this, the committee will work to:

- Understand current policies and practices around student attendance including structural barriers to attendance.
- Identify the conditions that enable each student to attend school, including individualized approaches acknowledging the needs of the individual students and their families.
- Propose multi-tiered system of support that breaks down silos of services to create those conditions.
- Build network of stakeholders (including student, parent, teacher, administrator and trustee voices, service providers and community members) and resources to advance these approaches.
- Provide guidance or frameworks of best practices to make appropriate changes.
- Work with allies to reduce structural barriers that prevent students from attending school by advancing restorative, over punitive, approaches.
- 

Our concerns are not limited to juvenile-justice-involved youth, but include foster youth, homeless youth, youth with special education needs, and any other youth at risk of push-out from our educational system, along with their families.

## Tasks

No.	Description	Assigned	Due Date
1.	Determine current State requirements. Carrie will invite the State SARB Coordinator to present at our July 23 meeting	Carrie	July 23

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                           |                                          |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Ask other counties' JJC's and JJDC's for any input they have.<br>a. Send request<br>b. Ask for response by<br>c. Collate results                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Susan                                     | June<br><br>June 28<br>June 30<br>July 9 |
| 3. | Review latest submissions to and evaluations of<br>a. Healthy Kids and Panorama Surveys<br>b. The Big Lift<br>c. Other SM CoE initiatives<br>d. YELP Report from Stanford<br>e. Half-Day symposium with Stakeholders from 42 districts—recommendations and implementation status.                                                                  | Karen<br>?<br>Jenee<br>Tara<br>Jenee/Mary | June –<br>August<br>2021                 |
| 4. | Gather information about current school conditions across the County including:<br>a. Current truancy rates<br>b. Suspension/expulsion rates<br>c. Use of SARBS (committee observe one?)<br>d. Current state of implementation of RP, SEL, and PBIS across County school districts<br>e. Other school climate questions                            | ?<br>?<br>Mary<br>Bettina<br>?            | September -<br>October<br>2021           |
| 5. | Hold focus group with Schools' Student Services folks @ COE to get input on subcommittee's goals (as part of regularly scheduled meeting or special meeting?)<br>a. Their perspectives and needs<br>b. How we can support Student Services staff to get their needs met<br>c. How to deal with family-instigated barriers, e.g., family vacations. |                                           | January-<br>February<br>2022             |
| 6. | Hold focus group with Dropout Prevention Specialists to learn current practices, their effectiveness, what they would like to change, building relationships with families, identifying and addressing needs.                                                                                                                                      |                                           | January-<br>February<br>2022             |
| 7. | Focus groups and interviews of youth and families who have experienced attendance-related policies/practices (including SARBS).                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                           | January –<br>February<br>2022            |
| 8. | Design/hold summit of stakeholders in student attendance policies and practices (including all                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                           | April 2022                               |

school levels, legislators, mental health, parents, students, faith community, media)

- a. Share data, best practices, and case studies
- b. Vet WRAP (Whole Child Resources and Prevention) service concept?
- c. Propose Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- d. Prepare and disseminate a report-out of discussions and conclusions.

9. Draft WRAP service rubric and gather feedback from stakeholders.

August –  
September  
2022

10. Prepare and distribute recommendations
- a. Changes to State regulations/requirements
  - b. Changes to school districts' funding:
    - i. Offer more social services for students and their families
    - ii. Provide continuing professional development, including ongoing trauma-informed training for all school staff
    - iii. Other resources needed to provide needed services that are currently not available.
  - c. How to connect students and family to basic needs and resources for immediate and long-term support to complete high school successfully
  - d. For school districts on recommended interventions and a rubric on how to coordinate interventions and include all relevant service providers (break down silos).
  - e. For Board of Supervisors asking for support for changes we are recommending for other entities.
  - f. Identify pathways to post-secondary opportunities, including degree completion, job opportunities, and access to financial aid for basic needs as well as school.
  - g. Campaign to reframe and restructure how people view and think about these students—a strength-based approach, versus a deficit approach; decriminalizing truancy, providing mental health supports instead of school resource officers. Change language from drop-outs to push-outs.

October -  
November  
2022

## **Project Committee**

**Lead:** Susan Swope, Commissioner, JJDPC

### **Core Committee:**

- Katie Bliss, CA Higher Education Coordinator, Youth Law Center
- Carrie DuBois, Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees
- Roczana Enriquez, Commissioner, JJDPC
- Tara Ford, Clinical Supervising Attorney, Youth and Education Law Project, Stanford, U
- Kate Hiester, Associate Director, Programs & Partnerships, Fresh Lifelines for Youth
- Victor Lecha, III, ASW, Commissioner, JJDPC
- Karen Li, Director of School Health, Sequoia Healthcare District
- Jenee Littrell, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Student Services Division, SMC Office of Education
- Mary McGrath, Executive Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, SMC Office of Education
- Alexandra Papa, M.S., AMFT 100143, Transition Therapist, Acknowledge Alliance