



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

January 25, 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; Rebecca Flores; Sathvik Nori; Johanna Rasmussen; Susan Swope; Debora Telleria; Melissa Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Austin Willis

Incoming Commissioners: Steve Duddy, Armaan Khare-Arora

Additional Attendees:

Judge Chinhayi Cadet – Juvenile Court

Jehan Clark – Probation

Melanie Stauffer - Probation

Ameya Nori – Liaison, Youth Commission

Alex Parikh-Briggs – Liaison, Youth Commission

Sasha Newton – Commission Volunteer

Wesley Liu – Commission Volunteer

Jennifer Martinez – Juvenile & Family Specialist,
Redwood City PD

Nkia Richardson – CASA of SMC

Wendy Gwyn – The Art of Yoga

Leah Sherman – Community Member

Benjamin Africk – Community Member

Ron Rayes – Private Defender Program

Sharon Cho – District Attorney’s Office

Aurora Pena – Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Jeneé Littrell – SMC Office of Education

Karen Gnusti – SMC Office of Education

Ligia Andrade Zúñiga– SMUHSD Board of Trustees, Liaison,
SMC Commission on Disabilities

Chelsea Bonini – Liaison, SMC Commission on Disabilities

Kate Hiester – Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Chris Woo – Project Change

Kelsey Reedy – Humboldt County JJDPC

Dennis McBride – Community Member

I. Administrative Business

- a. **Call to Order:** Chair Labouisse called meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
- b. **Roll Call and Establish Quorum:** A quorum was established at 5:18 p.m.
- c. **Motion to Adopt Resolution:** Meeting Location Change for Brown Act Compliance (AB361).

MOTION by Commissioner Swope to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Huber-Levy. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- d. **Welcome remarks** (Labouisse). Chair Labouisse asked Commissioners to lead with humility in 2022.
- e. **Approval of November 2021 Minutes:** By unanimous consent, hearing no objections, it was agreed that the November meeting minutes be corrected and redistributed for approval at the February meeting.
- f. **Agenda Review & Approval:** Current agenda adopted by unanimous consent, hearing no objections, with one amendment requested by Commissioner Swope: to Section VII, add two items to Commissioner Updates - Diversion, and Increasing School Attendance projects.



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- g. 2021 Inspection Wrap Up (Flores):** All inspections are complete, all reports and letters have been mailed to appropriate agencies. Commissioner Flores thanked everyone who participated in the inspections. Commissioner Rasmussen confirmed that all final reports have been posted on JJDP website.
- h. Swearing in of new Commissioners; Reappointment of Commissioner**
- Judge Cadet swore in new Commissioners, Khare-Arora and Duddy, as well as current Commissioner Flores, reappointing her to the Commission for a second term.
- i. Resignation of Commissioner Barrack & Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2022-01:**
- Chair Labouisse reported that Commissioner Barrack resigned from the Commission effective December 31, 2021. Chair Labouisse presented Resolution 2022-01 to express the heartfelt gratitude of the Commission for her many years of service both as Commissioner and Co-Chair, recognizing her leadership and many contributions to the work of the Commission and her commitment to the youth of San Mateo County.
- MOTION** by Commissioner Swope to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Duddy. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

III. System Updates and Trends:

- a. Juvenile Court (Judge Cadet)**
- Regarding impact of Omicron surge, the court's preference is for all hearings to be on Zoom. Persons wishing to attend in person are allowed to do so with masks and social distancing. Over the past weeks, most, including witnesses, have elected to be on Zoom however a few have chosen to appear in person. Adoption hearings are continuing fully in person on Friday mornings.
- b. Private Defender Program (Rayes)**
- Court is currently permitting Zoom appearances for contested hearings; counsel attend in person if client prefers to do so.
- c. District Attorney's Office (Cho)**

All staff of juvenile division are working in person, in office; COVID has not impacted workflow or services. No new items to report. Commissioner Enriquez requested an update on current matters regarding youth; Ms Cho provided a general summary of how the DA's office works on youth cases. "

- d. Probation (Stauffer, Clark)**
- As noted earlier, most families and youth are attending court via Zoom. Probation continues to check in with youth and families, but field visits limited to essential visits in order to limit exposure to all. Staff may work remotely if they choose.
 - Overview of data:
 - No youth currently in 'placement' (no youth removed from homes to congregate care/group homes)
 - 6 youth transitioned from placement to non-minor dependent status (extended foster care services up to age 21, receiving financial, housing and case management support)



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- 3 youth on ‘informal contract’ (6 months) without court ordered probation involvement, receiving case management and counseling
- Number of youth in supervision units trending down: 124 youth currently on court ordered probation of either: (i) 6 months informal probation, (ii) deferred entry of judgement (one year), and (iii) formal probation (6 months to year or more) – all youths in supervised probation receive counseling and case management services
- Intake: 107 youth served in assessment center investigations unit; this number has increased slightly, likely due to issues arising out of returning to in-person school
- 19 youth on EMP (some on probation, some not, pending hearings)
- four youth currently in DJJ, and will eventually return to SMC Youth Services Center
- 18 juvenile probation officers
- Race: 56% of youth of Hispanic/Latino descent (highest percentage of youth served)

Commissioners Enriquez, Bocanegra and Rasmussen requested information on youth with gang involvement: youth are mostly from Daly City, SSF, Redwood City and East Palo Alto; further demographic information provided in Local Action Plan:

https://probation.smcgov.org/sites/probation.smcgov.org/files/SAN%20MATEO%20LAP%202020-2025%20FINAL%20REPORT_v2.pdf

- Not many cases of youth with adult co-defendants; no formal tracking system, but noted in police report. Probation is aware of any youth with gang-related orders – Ms. Stauffer undertook to report back with number of youth with noted gang involvement.
- **Youth Services Center/Camp Kemp:** 15 youth at YSC (14 male/1 female); no girls currently residing at Camp Kemp, however Girls Empowerment Program, school and therapeutic programming continue daily onsite. All youth from Sonoma County have graduated from this part of program; are now looking at MOU from Santa Cruz County to serve in particular youth with therapeutic needs (not DJJ youth).

Continuing to follow guidance from correctional health re COVID – Omicron surge: No youth have been impacted; youth have been issued KN95 masks. Staying on virtual platform for outside visitors (including family) as of this time and will continue for another week or two; attending school in person.

e. Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (Pena)

- Provide individual and family therapy for youth in juvenile hall; reverted to telehealth/phone for services until Correctional Health approves return to in person services. Doing outreach (Health Dept) to encourage vaccination – answering questions and providing resources (connecting them with vaccination sites) which has had success with youth and parents who continue to be very affected by COVID (re-infections).



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f. County Office of Education (Littrell)

- Omicron in general – as distanced learning no longer an option, all 115 SMC schools are open and functioning, but dealing with increased cases in schools and not able to operate at full capacity due to decrease in staffing. PPE and home tests have been deployed to school sites.
- Re County schools: 16 youth enrolled in Hillcrest; 4 students enrolled in GEP at Camp Kemp, 12 students at Canyon Oaks, and 19 students at Gateway Community School (serving districts who refer students on expulsion/disciplinary pathway).
- Re Gateway (capacity for 60), districts must ‘opt’ into services and refer students to Gateway. Unfortunately, as level of referrals remains low, it is not cost effective to continue Gateway program after end of this school year. Silver lining is to work with districts to provide broader range support services to youth back in their home district. Students benefit from being in their own community, close to friends and family.
- Request for longer update in February regarding re-envisioning a therapeutic model for the remaining schools (Commissioner Wilson).

g. HSA, Children and Family Services (Fong - absent)

- A written update was provided to this meeting (attached to minutes).

IV. Adoption of Operating Policies and Annual Report

- **Operating Policies:**
 - **MOTION** by Commissioner Wilson to adopt Operating Policies (revised July 28, 2020), seconded by Commissioner Swope. **DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Wilson requested revisions to address issues with attendance at meetings and at project subcommittee meetings. Commissioner Rasmussen noted she has suggested revisions.
 - **Further MOTION** by Chair Labouisse to form ad hoc subcommittee to review Operating Policies and bring suggested revisions back to Commission in February; seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- **2021 Annual Report:**
 - Chair Labouisse adopted the 2021 Annual Report with general consent, with the following noted amendments:
 - Commissioner Swope: note that Commission has achieved its objective of having two youth commissioners on Commission, which is commendable. Also, note that the Identify Diversion Programs project is in fact 80% complete, as further analysis work required.
 - Commissioner Rasmussen: note that Commission created a Social Media Working Group this year. Also revise second Aspiration (Strategy section, page 5) to include access to gang intervention and prevention programs for youth coming into contact with the juvenile justice system in San Mateo County.



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V. Discussion: Strategic Plan and Projects for 2022

• **Strategic Plan, Mission Statement:**

MOTION by Chair Labouisse to have ad hoc subcommittee provide revisions to Mission statement, taking into consideration specific suggestions made by Commissioners at this meeting, with further input from all commissioners, and to bring proposed revised Mission statement back to the Commission at February meeting; seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- **2022 Projects:** Commissioner Enriquez requested that a subcommittee also be formed to consider other programs and services needed to serve the Mission.
- **Aspirations:** Chair Labouisse proposed that the ad hoc subcommittee formed to consider Operating Policies and the Mission statement also consider revisions to the Aspirations and Projects; hearing no objections to this proposal, the remit of the ad hoc subcommittee referred to above is expanded to include Aspirations and Projects.
- **Public comment:** Ms Hiester (SMC FLY) noted may wish to consider that there are conversations across the state about how to define “youth” and what age counts as youth vs adult. Ms Newton (Commission volunteer) noted the importance of considering, more broadly, the transition from youth, as well as the link between disabilities and juvenile justice involvement. Mr. Liu (Commission volunteer) proposed consideration of the term ‘students’ to be used instead of ‘children’ in the Aspirations.

VI. Trying Youth as Adults in San Mateo County – Resolution No. 2022-02

- **Resolution No. 2022-02** was presented by Commissioners Bocanegra and Rasmussen. Commissioner Bocanegra shared his lived experience as a youth sentenced as an adult, and the accompanying trauma and lack of treatment. He asked the Commission to take a formal position on this issue, demonstrating faith that youth are capable of being rehabilitated as youth in our County. This Resolution is meant to incorporate the Commission’s core principles, Mission, and Aspirations in a living document to clarify position and guide actions moving forward.

MOTION by Commissioner Bocanegra to adopt Resolution No. 2022-02, seconded by Commissioner Swope. **DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Telleria recommended that future resolutions focus on issues directly affecting youth today in our County, and include action items. No public comment. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

VII. Commissioner Updates:

- Chair Labouisse noted that written updates have been included in the agenda packet. In addition, Commissioner Huber-Levy submitted to the meeting a written update on the After School Programs Project, to be included with these meeting minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 (2.22.22)

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Update on Projects:

After School Programs – Advocacy (Huber-Levy, Telleria, Barrack, Nori)

The goal of the second phase of our project is to:

1. distribute our research report analyzing the availability and accessibility of after school programs for elementary and middle school students in underserved communities in our county, and
2. communicate with elected officials, community leaders, education experts and advocates about unmet needs in these areas (SSF, Daly City, San Bruno, San Mateo, Redwood City/North Fair Oaks, and East Palo Alto)

We have distributed our research report to all of the individuals we interviewed during our research. In addition, the report was distributed:

- through Thrive Alliance, to their contact list for the Advocacy Group: Children & Education Peer Learning;
- to the contact list of the Child Care Partnership Council of San Mateo County (CCPC) (Commissioner Huber-Levy serves as JJDPC liaison to this Council);
- to the cohort of Leadership Council, San Mateo County, including public, private and non-profit leaders across our county; and
- through the JJDPC website and social media accounts.

We continue to participate in the monthly meetings for both Thrive Alliance and CCPC, and have been invited to present our research findings and discuss opportunities for action with both groups. We also continue to participate in monthly information sessions of California Department of Education, Expanded Learning Division (“Fireside Chats” in collaboration with California Afterschool Network).

On January 19, we presented to Thrive Alliance TAG Children & Education Peer Learning series. We are looking forward to continuing to work with this advocacy group and the County Office of Education on opportunities identified through our research.

On January 18, we were invited to speak with SMFCSD trustees (Watkins, Corzo) and Superintendent Ochoa to discuss our research and the potential for positive impact of new ongoing state funding through the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program on after school programming in their district. Superintendent Ochoa has invited us to present our research at the All Superintendents’ meeting this summer ’22.

Next steps:

- Meeting with Director of Operations, Newton Learning Centers
- Meeting with City of SSF Councilmember
- Meeting with Daly City school board trustee, Daly City Councilmember
- Presentation to CCPC general meeting in May
- Presentation to All Superintendents’ meeting summer 2022
- Continuing to seek opportunities to bring together stakeholders from non-profit CBOs and district leaders to seek increased collaboration and optimize programming with the unprecedented state funding now available for after school programs going forward.