



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

**Minutes of the Regular Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission
Tuesday, July 26, 2016
455 County Center, Room 402, Redwood City**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair – Susan Swope, Vice Chair - Michele Gustafson, Rebecca Flores, Valerie Gibbs, Nicholas Jasso, Lara Montoya, Al Serrato, Sonoo Thadaney

Commissioners Excused: Mieke Barrows, Irv Rollins, and Richard Boitano, Commissioner Emeritus

Staff Present:

Christine Villanis, Deputy Chief (Institutions)

Additional Attendees:

Joey Gallo – FLY

Alex Shoor - FLY

Andrew Paiva – Research Intern

Douglas Winter – Research Intern

Loriann Villanis – SMCOE

Darci Freeman – StarVista’s Your House South

I. Administrative Business:

- Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:15p.m.
- Roll Call and Establish Quorum: A quorum was established.
- Agenda Review: The agenda was amended to include Item I.e. to swear in Al Serrato for his second term, Item V.a. to delete MacAvoy and add Winter and Paiva, and IX.b. for Grand Jury Report.
- Approval of Minutes: **M:/** Thadaney, **S:/** Montoya to approve the Minutes of June 28, 2016 as distributed. **Approved** unanimously.
- Deputy Chief Christine Villanis swore-in Commissioner Al Serrato for a second term

II. Oral Communications: None.

III. Private Defender Program Evaluation Report (Swope and Gustafson)

Commissioners Swope and Gustafson attended the Private Defender Program review sessions and gave their opinions on a report on the PDP from the County Manager’s office. They shared their experiences.

San Mateo County is the largest county in California with a Private Defender Program; most counties have public defenders. Commissioner Gustafson reported that few community members attended the feedback session.

There were several recommendations for change in the report:

- The Private Defender Program should be open to any attorney that practices in San Mateo County. Both Commissioners pointed out to their groups that not all attorneys are qualified to serve on the PDP. Dependency law and criminal law are both very specialized areas. Commissioner Gustafson suggested instead that there be a documented process for applying to PDP that is available to the public.

- Have the managing juvenile justice attorney carry a caseload. Currently, he reviews and assigns the cases, and advises the PDP attorneys as requested. Several attendees pointed out the potential conflict of interest as he has access to all of the information on all cases.

Commissioner Gustafson noted that PDP clients are confused by the justice system. She suggested having a ‘cheat sheet’ to inform families of what to expect. Commissioner Gustafson will prepare a JJDC perspective and present it for a commission vote at the next meeting.

IV. Project Updates

- a. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Prevention Initiative (Sonoo Thadaney, Douglas Winter and Andrew Paiva)

Mr. Winter presented his research on prevention of ACEs and resources available in the community. He reviewed studies with data on youth with ACE. He also provided information on different approaches to providing appropriate resources to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Mr. Paiva looked at three evidenced-based programs to prevent ACEs. His research included two Washington based programs – a Head Start/Early Head Start model of primary prevention and the Nurse Family Partnership, which pairs up low income first-time mothers with a nurse during their pregnancy.

- b. Group Homes/Dependency Youth Project (Swope)
Deferred to August meeting.

V. Probation Remarks (Villanis)

Deputy Chief Villanis distributed the current population statistics for Juvenile Hall, Camp Kemp and Camp Glenwood. The Hall currently has a population of 65 (one girl).

Commissioner Gustafson praised the department for temporarily housing and providing program/meals for fifteen direct files from San Joaquin County during their labor strike. The youth were housed at our Juvenile Hall for 25 hours.

Commissioner Montoya asked Deputy Chief Villanis if the Victim Impact Awareness Program is being discontinued. Deputy Chief Villanis will check whether that is true and report back at the next meeting.

VI. San Mateo Office of Education Remarks (Magee)

No report.

VII. Liaison/Study Group Reports

- a. **Inspections Committee (Gustafson)**

Commissioner Gustafson reported that three police stations held youth in secure detention in 2015 – South San Francisco Bart Station, San Bruno Police Department and Menlo Park Police Department. She asked the commissioners to sign up to conduct inspections.

Commissioner Montoya presented the Receiving Home inspection, conducted on June 24, 2016. The only recommendation was to conduct regular earthquake drills. The Commissioners spoke to one youth who was present during the inspection. The supervisor at the Receiving Home stated youth are allowed to eat when they are hungry; however, the

youth said the food is locked up and they cannot eat whenever they want. The supervisor clarified and said if the youth requests a snack and it's close to mealtime, the youth is asked to wait until then. Otherwise, they are allowed a snack. Residents can appeal any grievance to higher management; however, most are handled internally.

M://Gibbs, S://Thadaney to approve the Receiving Home inspection as written. Approved unanimously.

b. Community Schools Advisory Committee (Gibbs)

No report. Next Committee meeting is in October 2016.

c. Educational Advisory Committee (Rollins)

No report.

d. Court and Probation Liaison (Gustafson)

Commissioner Gustafson met with Judge Cretan. Judge Cretan has no concerns about the inspection reports and is satisfied with them. He said they have been very helpful in highlighting issues that have also been issues with the court.

e. Annual Report (Swope)

No progress. Current focus is on getting inspection reports completed.

f. Nominations (Barrows)

Commissioner Gustafson has identified a potential commissioner, a volunteer from Each One Reach One who tutors at juvenile hall. She will attend the next meeting. She has also talked with a past president of the San Mateo County Bar Association who is on the PDP. Currently, there are five commissioner vacancies; one is reserved for a 14-21yr old.

g. Legislative Committee (Swope)

1. Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act Initiative – No new developments.
2. AB403 – Limitations on Use of Group Home – Deferred to August.

VIII. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Gustafson reported that Alameda County has suspended all fines and fees in Juvenile Court and Santa Clara County is looking into doing that as well.

Commissioner Nick Jasso recently returned from his time with AmeriCorps and gave the Commission a brief description of his experience. He will attend the College of San Mateo in the Fall.

a. Visit to Santa Clara County JJC (Gustafson)

Commissioner Gustafson reported on her visit to the Santa Clara County JJC. The meeting had multiple county staff in attendance. In their court, they created a health program. When youth assemble for their juvenile court appearances, they have a nurse come in to see if they had any mental health or physical health issues. They are doing a lot of outreach to parents. There is concern about losing funding for parent education programs. They also discussed the

fees/fines that were collected from the youth and were considering a removal of the fees/fines.

b. Grand Jury Report

The commission briefly discussed the Grand Jury Report on the underutilization of the Hall and the camps. The Grand Jury Report expressed concern about the high expenses to maintain Juvenile Hall. It was noted that the report does not consider all of the State-required staffing, programs and regulations. The Probation Department has 90 days to respond to the Grand Jury Report. At the August meeting, the commission will consider providing a response to the Grand Jury Report in support of Juvenile Hall.

IX. Meeting Adjourned 7:18pm.

The Next JJDPC Meeting: Tuesday, August 30, 2016
Location: 455 County Center, Room 402, Redwood City, CA