



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

Aug. 29, 2017

5:15-7:15pm

455 County Center, 4th Floor, Room 402, Redwood City

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Co-Chair Susan Swope; Co-Chair Michele Gustafson; Co-Vice Chair Sonoo Thadaney; Co-Vice Chair Rebecca Flores; Melissa Wilson; Irv Rollins; Nick Jasso; Mary Oleksy; Valerie Gibbs; and Al Serrato.

Commissioners Excused: None

Staff Present:

Roy Brasil, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Services

Additional Attendees:

Tom Mohr – San Mateo Community College

District Board of Trustees

Katie Bliss – Project Change

Daniel Casillas – Project Change

Kody Lizana – FLY Program

Rick Boitano – Commissioner Emeritus

Keiko Smith – 17th District PTA

Hon. Elizabeth K. Lee – Superior Court
Juvenile Supervising Judge

Jan Ellard – Deputy County Counsel

Michael DeMoss – Community Member

Alba Rosales – Probation Services Manager II

Ruth Laya – Probation Services Manager II

I. Administrative Business:

- a. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.
- b. Roll Call and Establish Quorum: A quorum was established.
- c. Introductions
- d. Agenda Review: Item VI deferred to future meeting.
- e. Approval of Minutes: July 25, 2017: **Approved unanimously** as distributed (M:/Gustafson, S:/Gibbs)
- f. Move October meeting from 10/31 (Halloween) to 10/24: **Approved unanimously** (M:/Gustafson, S:/Thadaney). Add November meeting to JJDPC schedule, for Nov. 28, 2017: **Approved unanimously** (M:/Wilson, S:/Seratto)

II. Oral Communications:

None.

III. Swearing In of New Commissioner (Mary Oleksy)

Mary Oleksy was sworn into office by Judge Elizabeth K. Lee.

IV. Presentation on Project Change (Katie Bliss)

Project Change director Katie Bliss gave a presentation on the program's work with incarcerated youth in San Mateo County. Launched four years ago, Project Change provides opportunities to incarcerated youth for career and postsecondary attainment. The program is

the result of a partnership between the San Mateo Community College District, the Probation Department, San Mateo County Superior Court, San Mateo County Office of Education, and other local partners. It provides in-person college instruction to incarcerated youth at the Youth Services Center as well as on-campus support at College of San Mateo. Bliss said the program has served more than 248 students, and she continues to hear from other counties expressing interest in starting similar programs.

Bliss said the San Mateo County Community College District and the Youth Law Center will host a statewide conference in the coming months on college for youth in the juvenile justice system. Registration details have not yet been released.

Tom Mohr, president of the San Mateo Community College District Board of Trustees, said he thinks very highly of the program. He told the Commission the program has the full support of the chancellor, governing board and faculty.

Bliss said Project Change's fall semester program will include classes from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the YSC. The courses will include psychology, English and a "Keys to Success" college readiness course. She said high school students will have the opportunity to earn dual credit.

Commissioner Wilson asked how the dual enrollment component of the program works. Bliss said high school students take general education classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and Project Change classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She added that some of the Project Change courses count as general education "credit recovery" as well as college credit.

Commissioner Thadaney congratulated Bliss and her team on their leadership and asked if they could provide annual performance data reports to the commission. Co-Chair Gustafson agreed, and said she would like to have continuing conversation with Project Change leaders about what system and community partners could do to reach younger at-risk students.

Commissioner Jasso, a Project Change student enrolled at College of San Mateo, stated that the program is helping him prepare to transfer to a four-year school in fall 2018.

Daniel Casillas, also a Project Change student, said the program has many academic and social benefits, such as connecting students to learning communities like Puenta, Umoja and MANA.

Commissioner Rollins congratulated Project Change's leadership team. He commented that he has a keen interest in incarcerated students achieving basic reading and math skills, and assumes the program works closely with the County Office of Education to meet that goal.

Commissioner Wilson asked about the length of the classes at the YSC. Bliss responded that the Project Change semester programs run eight weeks and are offered in the fall, spring and summer. Bliss added that discussions are ongoing about other programming opportunities to fill in the gaps between semesters and she welcomes Commission input.

Co-Chair Swope thanked Bliss for the report. She said the Commission would like to be kept informed of Project Change's work because it is important to the success of young people coming through the juvenile justice system.

V. BSCC Draft Three-Year Strategic Plan

Commissioner Swope said written public comments are due Sept. 7 for the Board of State and Community Corrections' draft three-year strategic plan. Given that the next JJDPC meeting is Sept. 26, there isn't time for the Commission to prepare an official response.

Commissioner Michele Gustafson said she plans to submit her own comments as an individual and encouraged the other commissioners to consider doing the same. She said she would make it clear in her comments that she was not speaking on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Gustafson also mentioned the BSCC's Juvenile Regulations Revision Executive Steering Committee is accepting public comment on pending titles 15 and 24 revisions. The proposed revisions are available on the BSCC's website. Commissioner Swope added that the committee is set to meet Sept. 6 and Sept. 7 in Sacramento and agenda information regarding public comments can be found on its website. Both days of the meeting will be live streamed.

Commissioner Thadaney asked if the Commission could do more to stay informed of BSCC planning efforts so as to have time to respond to requests for public comment. Commissioner Swope stated that she is now on the BSCC's email distribution list. Commissioner Thadaney asked if the Commission could create an official, standing email address to receive important communications. Deputy County Counsel Jan Ellard advised agendaizing that discussion for another meeting.

Commissioner Rollins asked if the BSCC could provide any guidance as far as what's expected in the JJDPC's annual inspection reports, specifically whether the Commission's role is to assess compliance alone or to provide an evaluative component. Commissioner Swope responded that BSCC field representative Michael Bush informed her the BSCC is not authorized to assess the JJDPC's inspection reports.

VII. Probation Updates (Brasil)

- a. Deputy Chief Probation Officer Roy Brasil said he is still digesting the most recent grand jury reports and will report back at a future meeting.
- b. Brasil reported the population in the juvenile hall was 54 as of Aug. 29, including 47 boys and 7 girls. Last week the population fell as low as 43, he said, reflecting a statewide trend of declining juvenile hall populations. He added Glenwood's population as of Aug. 29 was 11 and Kemp's was 13, including four out-of-custody girls in the Girls Empowerment Program.
- c. Regarding Continuum of Care Reform efforts, Brasil said the Probation Department is set to start using child and family teaming in October to deliver child welfare services as required by the state's mandate. The child and family teams (CFTs) will consist of the child, family members, professionals, and other interested parties invested in the child and family's success. Brasil said model poses a logistics problem for the Probation Department because all 18 of its placement youth are placed out of county, including three out of state. He said the Department still plans to implement the CFTs during monthly probation officer visits and could use video conferencing to help facilitate the meetings.

Commissioner Swope asked how the JJDPC could participate in countywide CCR planning efforts. Brasil responded there are no in-county steering committee

meetings, but the Bay Area counties hold regional meetings focused on implementing the state mandate. He further commented that local and state officials are still struggling to figure out how to implement the reforms.

Judge Elizabeth Lee commented that implementing the CCR with respect to probation youth will be a challenge. Placing youth probationers in foster homes will be difficult because many of these youth are seriously traumatized. At the same time, short-term treatment residential treatment centers don't offer a permanent solution. Judge Lee said she's talked to Chief Probation Officer John Keene about convening a group of community stakeholders to talk about building resources to address the challenge. She said she's not quite sure at this point what the best solutions will be.

Brasil suggested inviting Probation Services Manager I Coralia Molina to give a more detailed report to the Commission on the placement of delinquent youth into the foster care system.

Commissioner Rollins asked how many probation youth in foster homes are identified as disabled with an IEP. Brasil said he didn't know but could follow up by email.

VIII. San Mateo County Office of Education

No report.

IX. Liaison/Study Group Reports

- a. Inspections Committee Update
 - i. Inspection Status: All reports complete except for Canyon Oaks and Camp Kemp.
 - ii. Review and Approval of Inspection Reports:

YSC

Commissioner Al Serrato reported that he and Commissioner Wilson conducted the YSC inspection on May 30, 2017. He said he was impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm of the staff. Commissioner Wilson echoed Serrato's comments, adding she interviewed 19 youth during the inspection.

Commissioner Gustafson requested the following changes:

- Remove line on page 3 reading, "Staff did not know why four [suicide] attempts were listed last year."
- Create separate lines on page 16 for number of youth on independent study and number of youth on credit recovery.
- Remove the first sentence of the "School Summary and Comments" section on page 17.

Commissioner Wilson requested adding the words "not accuracy" to end of the second sentence in the Credit Recovery section on page 25.

Commissioner Wilson expressed disappointment that her request for a return visit to Hillcrest school wasn't accommodated. She also said the school denied her request for student writing samples, citing privacy concerns.

Commissioner Rollins commented that he was impressed by the Hillcrest school program at the YSC. He noted that Hillcrest has evolved from what appeared to be a school focused on the operational requirements of a detention center to one that operates more like an independent school. He credited the leadership of the San Mateo County Office of Education and Associate Superintendent Nancy Magee. He also commended the Juvenile Hall's partnership with College of San Mateo, and said he's looking forward to learning more next year about how school deficient youth are having their needs addressed through the individualized learning program.

Commissioner Rollins also requested agendaing a discussion on whether "evaluation" as opposed to "inspection" of the court schools program is within the JJDPC's purview.

Approval of YSC inspection report **deferred** to Sept. 26 meeting to confirm the number of full-time instructors, aids and special education teachers at Hillcrest listed on page 16 of the report.

Camp Kemp

Review and approval of the Camp Kemp inspection report **deferred** to the September 26 JJDPC meeting.

Camp Glenwood school program

Commissioner Rollins said Camp Glenwood's intimate setting provides unique and exciting opportunities for teaching and learning to occur. But, he added, recruiting and maintaining fully qualified teachers in some core subjects has been an ongoing challenge. As a result, the science program had a series of temporary instructors during the past academic year, with each teaching assignment limited to 20 school days (as required by regulations). Commissioner Rollins noted that his report will suggest the school consider working with the San Mateo County Office of Education to prepare a series of 20-day units of instruction to ensure that science curriculum is accessed and students are exposed to mandated curriculum concepts. He inquired whether the County Office of Education could partner with La Honda School District and/or Cabrillo Unified School District for fully credentialed subject specialists so that the 20-day substitute teacher rotation was no longer needed.

In addition, Commissioner Rollins encourages the County Office of Education in his report to think creatively about teacher recruitment, including possibly recruiting teacher interns from area universities to provide instruction as needed.

Despite the staffing challenges and concerns about the science program, Commissioner Rollins noted he was impressed with Glenwood's education program overall.

Commissioner Gustafson requested the following changes:

- Change the wording of the response to "Frequency of Substitute Teachers" on page 1 to "Every 20 days."
- Create separate lines on page 1 for "Number of youth on independent study" and "Number of Youth on Credit Recovery."

M:/Rollins to approve the Glenwood education program report. **Approved unanimously.**

San Bruno Police Department

Commissioner Thadeney reported the San Bruno Police Department inspection was conducted July 20, 2017. She commended the staff on their cooperation and policing processes. M:/Thadeney to approve the SBPD inspection report. **Approved unanimously.**

San Mateo County Group Home

Commissioner Wilson reported on the Group Home inspection conducted on June 12, 2017. She commended the staff, adding she thought the youth felt lucky to be there given the stressful circumstances they faced.

M:/Wilson, S:/Thadeney to approve the Group Home report. **Approved unanimously.**

b. Court and Probation Liaison Update

Judge Lee introduced herself and spoke briefly about her experience in juvenile court.

Commissioner Wilson reported that she and Commissioner Gustafson would follow up with Judge Lee about setting regular court-liaison meetings.

X. Commissioner Comments/Announcements (Commissioner Swope)

- a. A JJDPC training scheduled for Sept. 14, 2017, at the CPPCA annual conference in Long Beach. More information is available at www.cppca.org. Commissioner Swope said she has put in a request with Chief Probation Officer John Keene to see if the county could help with the cost of sending a couple of commissioners to this meeting.
- b. JJC/JJDPC Workshop, sponsored by Sonoma County JJC, is set for Nov. 4, 2017, in Sebastopol. Registration deadline is Sept. 15, 2017. Commissioners Gustafson and Flores said they plan to attend.
- c. National Conference for Higher Education in Prison: Building Community, Promoting Excellence, November 2-5, 2017, Dallas, TX. Daniel Casillas of Project Change reported that a scholarship is available for youth to attend and that he has applied for it.

Meeting Adjourned 7:15 p.m.

The Next JJDPC Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017
Location: 455 County Center, Room 402, Redwood City, CA